DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The TOW Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS) is the reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition (RISTA) platform, providing long-range heavy antitank and precision assault fire capabilities to Army and Marine Corps light, airborne, and air assault forces. It is a multi-mission weapon system used as a tank killer, precision assault weapons, and the Infantry task force’s long-range surveillance asset.

ITAS is a major product upgrade modification, replacing the existing M220A4 Tube-Launched, Optically Tracked, Wire Guided 2 (TOW 2) system in light infantry units. ITAS operates from the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), the dismount tripod platform, and Stryker anti-tank guided missile vehicles.

The improved design greatly reduces its number of components, minimizing logistics support and equipment requirements. Built-in diagnostics and improved interfaces greatly improve target engagement performance. ITAS performance-based logistics support halves TOW 2 support costs. ITAS’s second-generation infrared sensor technology provides gunners with more than double the range of the AN/TAS TOW sight. ITAS also provides improved probability of hit through aided target tracking, improved missile flight operations, and an elevation brake to minimize launch transients.

The ITAS modification kit consists of an integrated (day/night sight with laser rangefinder) target acquisition subsystem, fire control subsystem, lithium-ion battery power source, and a modified traversing unit. With it, the soldier can detect long-range targets and then either engage them with TOW missiles or direct the employment of other weapon systems to destroy them. With the PAQ-4/PEQ-2 Laser Pointer, ITAS can be used for .50 caliber or 40mm grenade engagements. TOW 2B Aero (extended range) provides an extended maximum range to 4,500 meters for long-range engagement of armored vehicles. TOW Bunker Buster is designed for military operations in urban terrain or bunker engagements during assault operations.

PROGRAM STATUS

• FY98 First unit equipped completed to 1-17th Cav, 82nd Airborne
• Current ITAS has been fielded to 82 Airborne Div; 1st, 2nd and 3rd SBCTs, the 101st Air Assault Division; 2nd Infantry, 105th Mountain, and 25th Infantry Divisions; and 39th Separate Infantry Brigade
• Current The Marine Corps selected ITAS as its Anti-Armor Weapon System-Heavy choice to replace all Marine Corps heavy anti-tank/assault systems.
• Current Hardware fieldings active and National Guard units nine months ahead of schedule per requests from deploying units
• Current ITAS is being considered as a future combat acquisition system
• 2QFY04 Lithium-ion qualification testing completed
• 3-4QFY04 Fielded to 101st Air Assault Division

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

• FY05-06 Integration of far target location and radio frequency transfer of forward-looking infrared imagery
• FY06-11 Production will procure 630 systems
• FY09 Army production continues

CONTRACTORS

Prime: Raytheon (McKinney, TX)
Training Devices: BAE Systems (Austin, TX)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

WEAPON SYSTEMS 2005