

➤ Litening II Targeting Pod

DESCRIPTION

The Litening II precision targeting pod incorporates the first third-generation targeting FLIR in the Naval Aviation inventory. In addition to the advanced FLIR, the capabilities of the Litening include a laser-spot tracker, laser designator/rangefinder, infrared pointer, two charged-coupled device (CCD) TV cameras, and an onboard video-recording capability for improved battle damage assessment.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The Litening II provides a significant operational benefit by substantially increasing the lethality and survivability of the AV-8B. The combination of precision weapons such as JDAM and the Litening II with its superior

target-detection capabilities dramatically improves AV-8B lethality. Together, they increase the Harrier's ability to detect and attack targets from greater standoff ranges. These improvements in lethality also make the aircraft more survivable by reducing its exposure to threat defenses. Finally, Litening II fulfills rule of engagement requirements that demand precision targeting in order to minimize collateral damage and reduce the risk of fratricide.

PROGRAM STATUS

Initial operational capability occurred in early 2002 with the 22nd and 15th MEU (SOC). AV-8Bs in Bagram, Afghanistan are currently deployed with Litening II pods.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY03	FY04
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<i>Quantity:</i>	10	0
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DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Northrop Grumman/Rafael
