

## ➤ Thermal Weapon Sight (TWS)

### DESCRIPTION

The TWS is a lightweight, low-power, high-performance forward-looking infrared (FLIR) device. The TWS will augment existing crew-served night vision sights. It does not rely on visible light for operation, and is virtually unaffected by weather and obscurants (both natural and manmade). The TWS operates by discerning the temperature variation between targets and their background. It is completely passive and, although designed for target detection and engagement with Marine Corps crew-served weapons, it can be used for all weather surveillance.

### OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The 24-hour capability of the Thermal Weapon Sight significantly enhances the Marine Corps' day- and night-fighting

capability through improved target detection and engagement. The system can "see" through obscurants that impair sighting systems operating in the visible and near-visible spectrum. The TWS has the ability to acquire targets under most atmospheric conditions at ranges comparable to the maximum effective range of the weapon system with which it is employed.

### PROGRAM STATUS

The U.S. Army (the lead service) and the U.S. Marine Corps have successfully completed separate operational test and evaluations. The Marine Corps will procure 2,743 Thermal Weapon Sights (Medium). In FY 2002, more than 400 TWSs were fielded early to the Fleet Marine Force to meet urgent requirements.

#### PROCUREMENT PROFILE: FY03 FY04

Quantity: 1,000 1,031

#### DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Raytheon Systems Company, Dallas, TX