

DIRECT AIR SUPPORT CENTRAL AIRBORNE SYSTEM

DESCRIPTION

The Direct Air Support Central Airborne System (DASCAS) functions as the principle agency for the coordination and control of offensive air support operations. The DASCAS can operate in either an autonomous mode or in conjunction with other control elements of the Marine Air Command and Control System. The system consists of one shelter that can be mounted in specially modified KC-130F/R/T aircraft or the bed of an M923/925 or MTRV truck. Seven operators within the DASCAS can select from seven radios (3 ultra-high frequency, 2 high frequency, 1 very high frequency, and 1 satellite communications) inside the shelter.



OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The DASC is responsible for the direction of air operations in direct support of the ground forces. It functions in a decentralized mode of operations, but is directly supervised by the Marine Tactical Air Command Center. The DASC processes immediate air support requests, coordinates aircraft employment with other supporting arms, manages terminal control assets that support ground combat and combat service support forces, and controls assigned aircraft transiting its area of responsibility. The Direct Air Support Central Airborne System is a replacement for the AN/UYQ-3A.

PROGRAM STATUS

DASCAS production began in FY 2003, and the system is expected to achieve its initial operational capability in the first quarter of FY 2004. Full operational capability will be achieved by the fourth quarter of FY 2005 with 10 systems.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:

Quantity:

FY 04

2

FY 05

5

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Naval Surface Warfare Center Division, Crane, IN