



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Lockheed P-3 Orion Airborne Early Warning (AEW)

FACT SHEET



The P-3 Airborne Early Warning (AEW) detection and monitoring aircraft are the only dedicated law enforcement AEW aircraft in the world. They were developed to provide wide area search, as well as increased command, control, and communications capabilities.

CBP's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) operates the P-3 AEW and Long Range Tracker (LRT) aircraft, that perform a wide variety of operational missions, especially those that require long station time overhead, hemispheric range, and missions throughout all weather and environmental conditions. The versatile P-3 also serves as a force multiplier in joint operations with local, state, and federal partners for National Special Security Events and consequence management efforts.

P-3 AEW aircraft often fly in tandem with the P-3 LRT. Deployed in this manner, the P-3 AEW detects and tracks multiple targets and the accompanying P-3 LRT intercepts, identifies, and tracks those targets.

In Fiscal Year 2016, CBP's P-3s operating from Corpus Christi, Texas, and Jacksonville, Florida, directly contributed to 145 drug seizure or disruption incidents in the transit zone, resulting in the interdiction of 34,108 pounds of marijuana and 193,197 pounds of cocaine.

Performance and Weights:

- **Maximum Speed**
260 knots (299 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
26,000 feet
- **Range**
3,000 nautical miles (4,452 miles)
- **Endurance**
12 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
135,000 pounds
- **Crew**
Eight (pilot, copilot, flight engineer, and radar/sensor operators)

Features:

- AN/APS 145 radar, used for detecting and tracking targets of interest