



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Lockheed P-3 Orion Airborne Early Warning (AEW)

FACT SHEET



U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations (AMO) operates the P-3 AEW aircraft to perform a wide variety of operational missions, especially those that require long station time overhead, hemispheric range, and inclement 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.

It is the only dedicated law enforcement AEW aircraft in the world. It was developed to provide wide area search, increased command, control and communications capabilities.

P-3 AEW aircraft often fly in tandem with the P-3 LRT. To best take advantage of each aircraft's strengths, the P-3 AEW detects and tracks multiple targets and the accompanying P-3 LRT intercepts, identifies, and tracks those targets.

In Fiscal Year 2020, AMO P-3 crews contributed to the seizure or disruption of 111,134 pounds of cocaine.

Performance and Weights:

- **Maximum Speed**
330 knots (380 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
28,000 feet
- **Range**
4,000 nautical miles (4,603 miles)
- **Endurance**
12 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
135,500 pounds
- **Crew**
Eight (pilot, copilot, flight engineer, and radar/sensor operators)

Features:

- Electro-optical/infrared sensor, which allows for crewmembers to maintain awareness of targets in all environments.
- AN/APS-145 radar, used for detecting and tracking targets of interest.