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, increased command control, and communications capabilities.

CBP's Air and Marine Operations P-3s are high-endurance, all-weather, tactical turbo-prop aircraft, which are utilized primarily for long-range aerial patrols and surveillance along the U.S. border and in drug Transit Zones in Central and South America, which are used by criminal organizations to smuggle contraband toward the United States and other parts of the world.

In Fiscal Year 2014, CBP's P-3s operating from Corpus Christi, Texas, and Jacksonville, Florida, flew more than 5,900 hours in support of counter-narcotic missions resulting in 135 interdiction events of suspected vessel and aircraft. These events led to the total seizure or disruption of 126,489 pounds of cocaine with an estimated value of $9.47 billion.

Video recorders document suspect activities for evidentiary use.

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