U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Lockheed P-3 Orion Long Range Tracker (LRT)

FACT SHEET

The P-3 Long Range Tracker (LRT) aircraft are high-endurance, all-weather, tactical turbo-prop aircraft used to intercept and track airborne smuggling threats. The P-3 LRT is used by CBP's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) to perform missions such as aerial patrol and surveillance. With the escalation of terrorist threats and the commitment of Department Defense P-3 aircraft in other regions of the world, AMO P-3s have assumed a larger role in homeland security efforts.

Key to the success of the P-3s are their endurance, small deployment footprint, and extensive sensor array. P-3s are able to take off from runways as short as 8,000 feet and LRT aircraft often fly in tandem with the P-3 AEW. Used in this manner, the P-3 AEW detects and tracks multiple targets and the accompanying P-3 LRT intercepts, identifies, and tracks those suspect targets.

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**
  405 knots (466 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
  28,000 feet
- **Range**
  4,000 nautical miles (4,603 miles)
- **Endurance**
  12 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
  135,000 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.
- APG 66 radar, used for detecting and tracking targets of interest.
- SeaVue marine search radar, which provides increased scanning capability to detect targets from great distances.