

Aerial Common Sensor (ACS)

Provides global, real-time multi-intelligence precision targeting information to joint land, maritime, and air combat commanders across the full spectrum of military operations.

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance

Description & Specifications

The Aerial Common Sensor (ACS) delivers the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) data required for dominant maneuver, precision engagement, and decision superiority by merging and enhancing the sensor capabilities of current ISR platforms, Airborne Reconnaissance Low (ARL), and Guardrail Common Sensor (GR/CS). ACS provides a larger area of coverage, supporting Future Force operational geometries and the greater lethality ranges of new weapons systems.

ACS transforms Army airborne ISR from a strategic-lift-intensive, maximum-deployment-time asset to a minimum-lift, minimal-deployment-time, global asset capable of operation immediately upon arrival into theater. Mission tailorable and scalable, ACS provides distributed, wide area, persistent surveillance and multi-intelligence precision targeting responsive to the ground tactical commander.

Using robust sensor-to-shooter and reach-back links, ACS provides multi-sensor intelligence throughout a non-linear framework and non-contiguous battlespace providing real-time sensor-to-shooter information. The system will be fully interoperable with joint and national collectors, ground processing facilities, and dissemination systems, meeting transformational, joint net-centric situational awareness requirements, as well as Army requirements for a worldwide, self-deployable single ISR system.

ACS supports warfighter requirements across the full spectrum of operations, from early/denied entry through crisis resolution, including critical precision signal intelligence (SIGINT) linkage into the joint ISR Network and Imagery intelligence (IMINT).

ACS will replace current airborne ISR systems in all five of the Army's Aerial Exploitation Battalions.

Program Status

- **2QFY06:** ACS system development and demonstration contract terminated for convenience of the government
- **4QFY06:** Program assessments via joint ISR study results and requirement validation
- **1QFY07:** Requirements determination

Projected Activities

- **2QFY07:** Acquisition strategy development

ACQUISITION PHASE

Concept & Technology Development

System Development & Demonstration

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support

