

Helicopter Integrated Defensive Aids Suite - HIDAS

Helicopters are vital to frontline operations and play a more important role than ever before particularly in moving equipment, search and rescue and in supporting ground forces. Though, because they fly at low altitude, are slower than jet aircraft and are inherently more vulnerable, they are more likely to be targeted by enemy forces.

The **Helicopter Integrated Defensive Aids System (HIDAS)** has been designed to detect, identify, prioritise and counter threats automatically without the need for crew intervention thanks to advanced sensors and intelligent software. It can be used in automatic, semi-automatic and manual mode which greatly increases situational awareness at times when crew workload is at its highest.

HIDAS uses multi-spectral threat warning sensors to provide situational awareness and features a threat library with over 5,000 items which provide enhanced survivability for helicopters when deployed in the modern battlefield.

HIDAS was developed to meet the requirements of the British Army for its Apache Longbow Helicopters. Subsequently in Kuwait (2002) and Greece (2003) ordered the HIDAS integrated electronic warfare suite/defensive systems for their Apache Longbow helicopters through the US Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program.

Combat Proven

The efficiency of HIDAS has been operationally proven in Afghanistan and it is widely recognised as offering the highest level of platform protection; the system enjoys a high level of confidence from those who fly the UK Apache.

HIDAS comprises a suite of products which includes:

- Radar Warning Receiver
- Laser Warning Receiver
- Missile Warning System
- Countermeasures dispensing system
- Defensive Aids System Controller
- Directional Infra-red countermeasures (optional)
- Radio Frequency Countermeasures (optional)

Integration

The high level of integration between HIDAS sensors and countermeasures provides the system with greatly increased survivability in hostile threat environments and enhances the tactical awareness of the crew. Integration into the aircraft mission system optimises a co-ordinated response to threatening weapon systems.

Rapid Reaction

HIDAS has optimised sensor architecture to ensure rapid reaction to helicopter threats. The crew has the ability to adopt manual, semi-automated or fully automated response modes. The system initiates optimal countermeasures to individual threat systems whilst also taking into account the dynamics of the host aircraft.

User Programmable

HIDAS utilises mission specific data entered by the user at the flight line. Independent EW data ownership and management is crucial for achieving national independence from equipment suppliers and foreign nations. Proprietary operational support tools allow the user to prepare and analyse mission data.

Intelligent

HIDAS is a knowledge-based system that processes detected signals to produce real-time intelligence for aircrew. The intelligence recorded by HIDAS during a mission can be quickly downloaded and analysed using the operational support tools.

Identification

The ability to reference intercept data against comprehensive threat emitter and weapons system libraries means detected threats can be uniquely identified. The continual referencing of live data allows threat systems to be prioritised, providing the crew with a comprehensive tactical picture of the EW environment.

Scalable

At the core of HIDAS is its smart suite controller which allows configuration to meet the requirements of all helicopter platforms through scaling the sensor capability and incorporating appropriate advanced countermeasure systems.

Operational

HIDAS has completed several years of development, followed by extensive testing and trials on airborne platforms. The system is in full operational service in a variety of roles providing the benefits of enhanced situational awareness, reduced crew workload and enhanced platform protection in today's demanding and ever-changing battlefield.

Summary:

- Advanced integrated defensive aids system tailored for helicopters
- Rapidly detects, identifies, prioritises and counters threats to helicopters, without the need for crew intervention
- Greatly enhances helicopter survivability, even in dense threat environments
- Long term, cost effective electronic warfare solution for helicopters
- Selected by the British Army, Kuwaiti Air Force, and Hellenic Army to protect their Apache helicopters.



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