

## AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder Weapon Locations System



The compact, mobile, combat proven AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder radar accurately, rapidly and automatically locates medium range enemy mortars, artillery and rocket launches.

### AN/TPQ-36

The AN/TPQ-36 handles simultaneous fire from weapons at multiple locations, detecting and reporting their positions on the first round.

No longer must front-line troops and armor be exposed to long periods of enemy mortar, artillery, and rocket attacks. The AN/TPQ-36 directs accurate counterfire to neutralise enemy positions.

The AN/TPQ-36's automatic detection, tracking, and locating process is so fast that an enemy weapon's position can often be pinpointed before its projectile impacts. Locations of enemy weapon positions are automatically corrected for altitude differences, using computer-stored digital maps, and presented to the operator in northing, easting, and altitude coordinates.

The system is so automatic and simple to operate that, once set up, the operator need not be present in the operation control shelter to determine a weapon's location.

Rounds from friendly weapons can also be tracked, for more accurate delivery.

The AN/TPQ-36 Radar was introduced into service with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in 1987 under LAND 58. A total of seven radars, a simulator, plus support and test equipment were purchased.

### LAND 58 Phase 3

Raytheon Australia has recently completed LAND 58 Phase 3. Phase 3 extended the life of type of the ADF AN/TPQ-36.

The upgraded radars are capable of locating (detecting and providing targeting data) mortars, guns and rockets in the tactical land environment.

The project addressed obsolescence and reliability issues, and also completed additional maintenance, modifications, and capability enhancements.

### Capabilities include:

- Replacement of existing map drums in the WLRs with a flat panel screen and a computer based Human Machine Interface to improve operator usability and to enhance system functionality;
- Replacement of obsolete circuit cards and other parts and the performance of essential maintenance on the WLRs;
- Provision and installation of a new WLR simulator at the School of Artillery;
- Provision of laptop based deployable simulator;
- Updating and editing of publications for existing and new equipment (operations and maintenance);
- Continued provision by Raytheon Australia of in-country Maintenance and Engineering Support;
- Provision of training courses for operators and maintainers on the modified WLRs and simulator; and
- Capable of future interoperability with the Battle Management System - Fires (BMS-F) and AFATDS through the digital exchange of Target Location Data as well as Command and Control parameters using the Variable Message Format (VMF) protocol.

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