

Defence Portfolio

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.2)

Mr Pat Conroy MP asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 15 September 2021:

Mr Conroy: At last year's hearings, we heard there were deficiencies with the C-27J's electronic self-protection system. What are those deficiencies?

Air Vice-Marshal Roberts: The electronic warfare system itself is being retained on the C-27J. We would have liked, in the original concept, to have upgraded and changed the electronic warfare system. It does have a functional electronic warfare system on it; it's just not going to be upgraded to the levels that we need to continue to operate against high-end threats.

Mr CONROY: There were also deficiencies with the attitude direction indicator. Do those still exist and, if so, can you explain what that means?

Air Vice-Marshal Roberts: Mr Conroy, I'd have to get back to you on that. I'm not familiar with that particular deficiency. To my knowledge, it is definitely not a safety issue on the capability, but I'd have to get back to you on the details of that particular report.

Mr Pat Conroy MP – The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

The attitude direction indication issues specifically relate to mis-alignment of the Heads Up Display.

The mis-alignment of the Heads Up Display contributed to some safety issues during introduction to service, specifically a requirement for close and careful crew management of the final stages of the approach to land on short airfields. High priority was given to rectifying the mis-alignment and the issue has been addressed by an innovative Australian-designed calibration procedure developed in collaboration with the aircraft manufacturer.