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Electronic Warfare Technology - Trends and Visions

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Abstract: The design, development of effective and affordable electronic warfare systems has become a difficult challenge which requires full exploitation of the most advanced technology. Recent history has demonstrated that cost, effectiveness and reliability factors have almost driven on-board self-protection ECM systems to the edge of operational viability. The future must include aggressive and innovative use of new technology to produce penetration aids that are operationally useful and supportable. In the mean time, threat density and sophistication make the basic problem of finding, identifying, and countering all types of threat signals very difficult. The operational choices, as a result, have expanded to include 'smart jamming', support jamming in several different forms (stand-off, UAV), expendables (**chaff**, decoys) and a greater dependence on threat awareness and avoidance. These choices make it imperative to exploit technology to its fullest and in turn they provide an opportunity whereby technologies can be shown to impact the real capability needed operationally. As a result, trends of evolving technologies and visions of what they can mean for the future of electronic warfare are shaping present-day EW research. (RH)

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