



A Study of Sub-MMW Systems and Component requirements

H. Bruce Wallace
ORSA Corporation
mmw@orsacorp.com
Mark Rosker
DARPA/MTO
mrosker@darpa.mil

Presented at MATRIX 2005, Oberammergau, Germany 10 May, 2005

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE 01 MAY 2005		2. REPORT TYPE N/A		3. DATES COVERED -	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE A Study of Sub-MMW Systems and Component Requirements				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) ORSA Corporation 1003 Old Philadelphia Road Aberdeen, MD 21001 USA				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release, distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES See also ADM202152., The original document contains color images.					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UU	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 29	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			



Purpose of Study



- Assess system concepts that drive developers to the 100-500 GHz RF band.
- Evaluate key issues by successfully demonstrating, through analysis, the system concepts
- Define requirements for components to make these system concepts realizable.

Three system concepts were identified that require a significant component development effort above 100 GHz



Sub-MMW Sensor Applications That Cannot Be Done Any Other Way



All-Weather Terrain Avoidance*



* radome-limited aperture



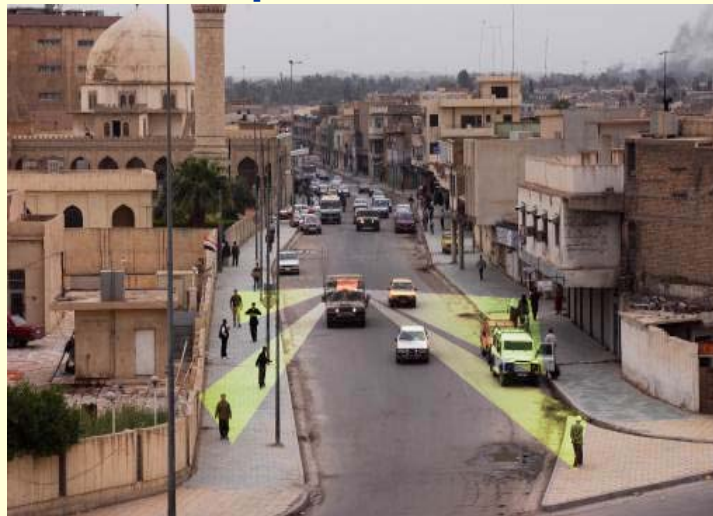
All-Weather Look-Down[†] ISR

Most stressing component requirements



[†] scan angles > 60°

Concealed Weapons Detection at Range**

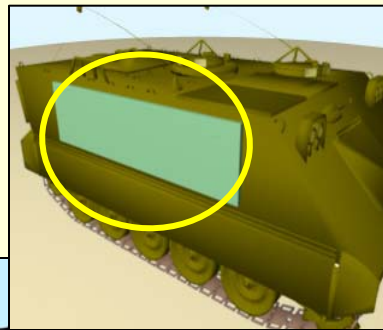
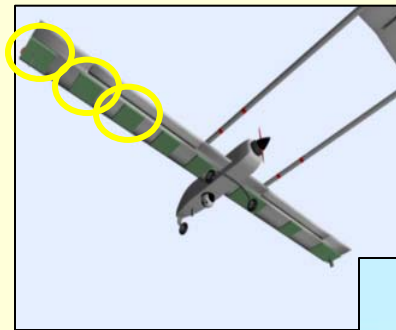
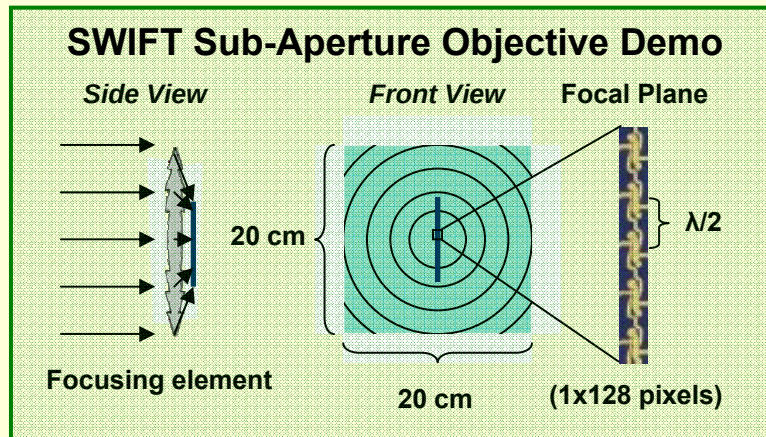


**at least 100m

A common sub-aperture at 340GHz will provide the building block for these imaging applications



SWIFT Objective and Impact



Program Objective

- Develop a sub-aperture transceiver to enable imaging at sub-MMW frequencies

Impact

- Look-down ISR into urban canyons
- All-weather obstacle avoidance
- Concealed weapons detection beyond the blast range

SWIFT will drive development of extremely high speed electronics "World's Fastest Transistors / MMICs"



Questions to be Examined



- What is the optimum frequency?

This depends on:

- Resolution requirements and antenna restrictions
 - Atmospheric effects
 - If the system is passive, the sky temperature
 - Material properties
- What source power is required?
 - What system noise figure is required?
 - What type of architecture will be required to provide “video” frame rate imaging?
 - What type of commonality can be developed to solve multiple needs?



Human Eyeball Resolution



The starting point for resolution will be "See" as well as the human eye. A search on the Internet, a various text books results in different answers.

Starting with Skolnick and Jenkins and White: The pupil can change size from 2 to 8 mm, depending on the brightness and age of the individual. For this exercise we assume a pupil of 5 mm.

$$D_{\text{iris}} := .005 \cdot \text{m}$$

$$\lambda := 0.55 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot \text{m}$$

$$\theta_{\text{eye}0} := 1.22 \cdot \frac{\lambda}{D_{\text{iris}}}$$

$$\theta_{\text{eye}0} = 1.342 \times 10^{-4}$$

From Clarke(Clarkvision.com: 0.3 arc-min):

$$\theta_{\text{eye}1} := 0.3 \cdot 2.91 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

From W.J.Donnelly and A. Roorda,: "Optical pupil size in the human eye for axial resolution," J. Opt. Soc.Am. A, Vol. 20, No. 11, Nov. 2003

$$\theta_{\text{eye}2} := 4.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

From Popa (Internet:1 minute of arc):

$$\theta_{\text{eye}3} := 2.91 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

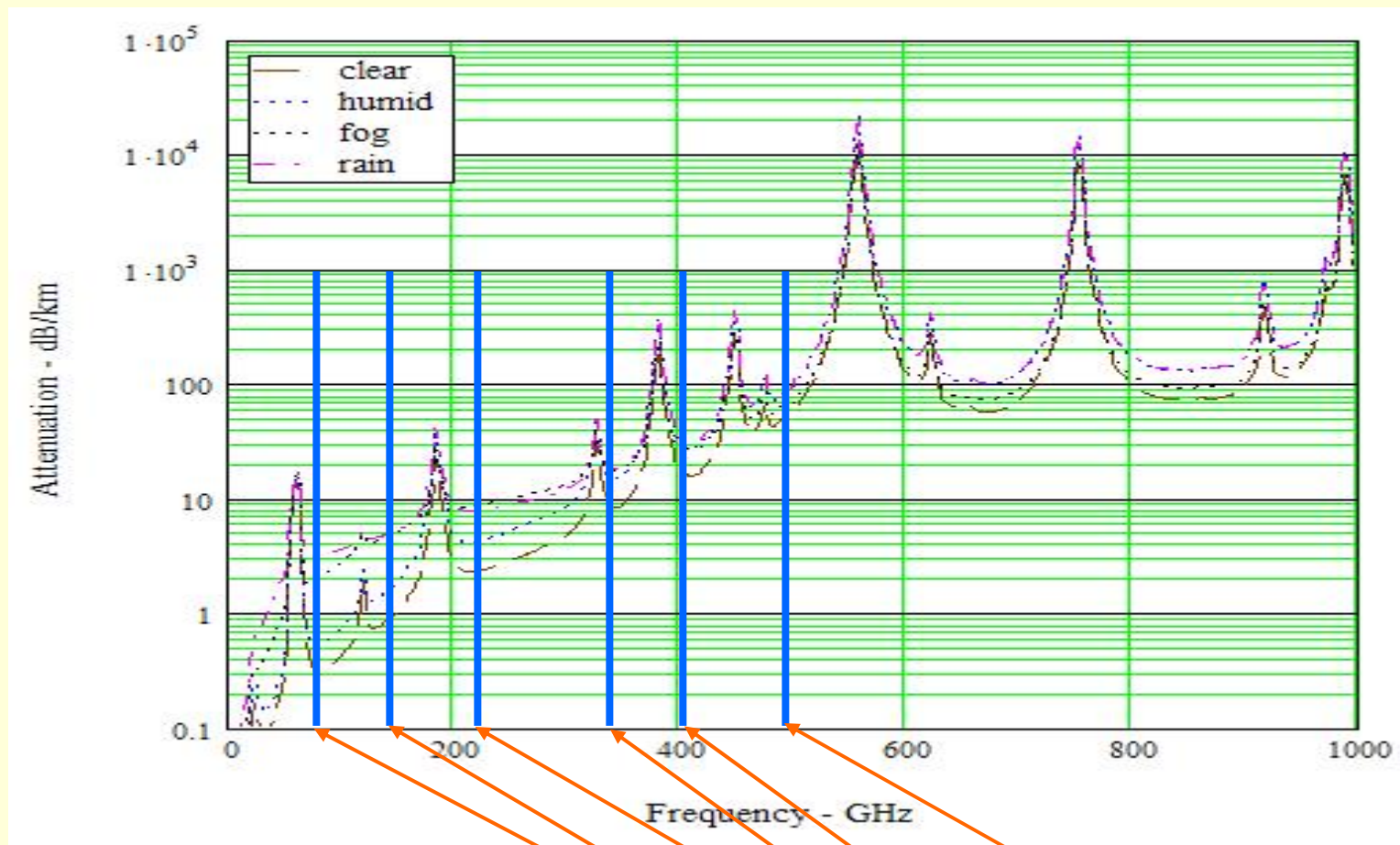
The paper by Donnelly demonstrates that the eye is far from be diffraction limited. For this exercise, I am going to choose a resolution that is twice the diffraction limited value which is also close to that of Popa.

$$\theta_{\text{eye}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.342 \times 10^{-4} \\ 8.73 \times 10^{-5} \\ 4.5 \times 10^{-4} \\ 2.91 \times 10^{-4} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\theta_{\text{eye}3\text{dB}} = 2.684 \times 10^{-4}$$



The Atmosphere and Frequencies of Interest



For the first part of the study, only 95,140,220,340,410, and 500 GHz were selected



Basic System Characteristics



- Defining the basic system parameters for the system.
 - NF is based on published data
 - Antenna loss of 3 dB for lack on anything else
- The “required” antenna sizes for eyeball resolution become:

$$F_{\text{req}} := \begin{pmatrix} 95 \cdot 10^9 \\ 140 \cdot 10^9 \\ 220 \cdot 10^9 \\ 340 \cdot 10^9 \\ 410 \cdot 10^9 \\ 500 \cdot 10^9 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \text{Hz}$$

$$NF := \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 9 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$L_{\text{ant}} := \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$D_{\text{ia}} = \begin{pmatrix} 14.344 \\ 9.734 \\ 6.194 \\ 4.008 \\ 3.324 \\ 2.725 \end{pmatrix} \text{ m}$$

These antenna dimensions imply that some form of array processing will be required



Selected Atmospheric Conditions



- Clear atmosphere with sky condition 3 (4.67 g/m³)
- Humid with sky condition 4 (12.8 g/m³)
- Fog + humid with sky condition 4
- Rain + humid with sky condition 5

It is also assumed the atmospheric particulates do not change the sky temperature. Fog is also considered to be 0.3 km deep.

We therefore have to redefine the sky temperatures and atmospheric attenuations

$$\text{SKY} = \begin{pmatrix} 60.374 & 106.162 & 106.162 & 238.58 \\ 114.121 & 171.423 & 171.423 & 268.953 \\ 212.599 & 254.973 & 254.973 & 280.197 \\ 274.137 & 282.114 & 282.114 & 282.972 \\ 274.137 & 282.114 & 282.114 & 282.972 \\ 274.137 & 282.114 & 282.114 & 282.972 \end{pmatrix} \text{ K}$$

$$\text{ATT} := \begin{pmatrix} .015 & .35 & .71 & 2.15 \\ .093 & .7 & 1.39 & 3.3 \\ .259 & 2 & 2.9 & 4.6 \\ 2.48 & 9.5 & 10.58 & 12 \\ 6.06 & 15 & 16.2 & 17.5 \\ 26.5 & 50 & 51.5 & 52.5 \end{pmatrix} \bullet \text{ km}^{-1}$$



Background Emissivities



Typical emissivities in the EHF are (from Wikner, USARL):

- Clean Metal = 0
- Concrete = .905
- Asphalt = .914
- Gravel = .921
- Water = 0.5
- Dirt = 1.0
- Deciduous Trees = .95
- Coniferous trees = 1.0
- Wet concrete/asphalt = 0.8
- Wet dirt 0.9
- Wet metal = 0.25
- Snow = 0.7 (depending on depth)
- Wood = 0.95 (depending on thickness)
- Grass = 0.95 (depending on height)

For this study these values were assumed to be constant through 500 GHz. This assumption is not strictly correct for dielectrics, and is also a function of the relative surface roughness and scattering angle.



UAV Based Look Down Sensor



Objective

- Extend high resolution in lookdown scenario to environments where no current system can operate
- Image terrain
- Maintain same resolution as existing sensors in all weather

CONOPS

- Persistent sensing
- Depression angles up to vertical

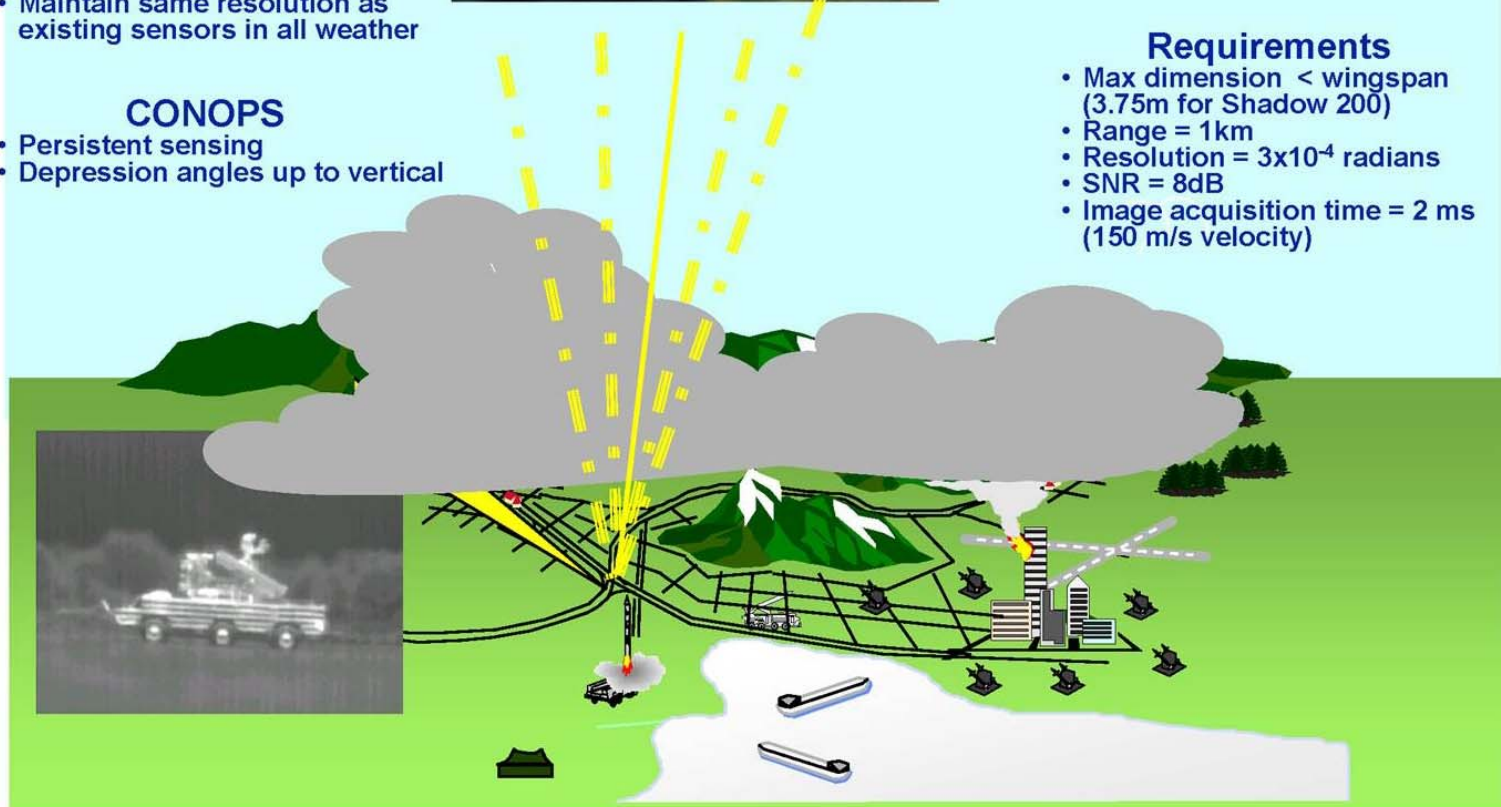


Approach

- SAR/Illuminator/Sparse array
- 340 GHz
- Wing conformal
- Standard sub-aperture

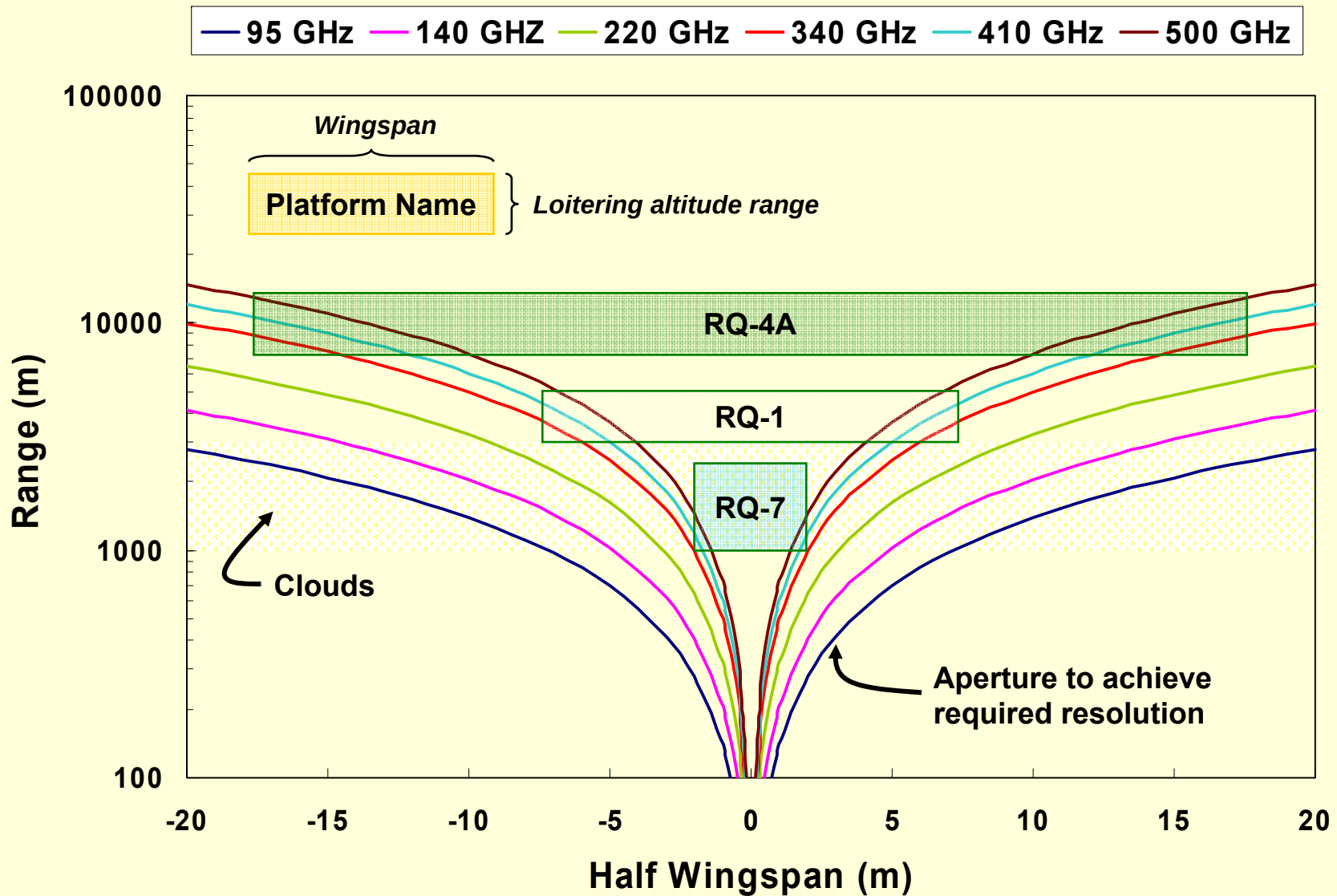
Requirements

- Max dimension < wingspan (3.75m for Shadow 200)
- Range = 1km
- Resolution = 3×10^{-4} radians
- SNR = 8dB
- Image acquisition time = 2 ms (150 m/s velocity)





Platform Wingspan and Resolution





UAV Passive Imager Performance

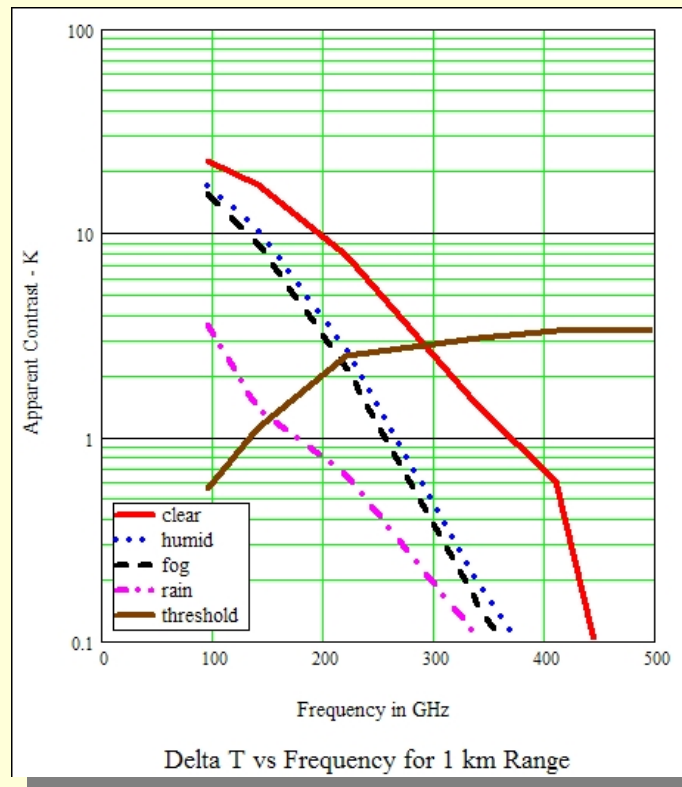


Contrast of a fully filled pixel

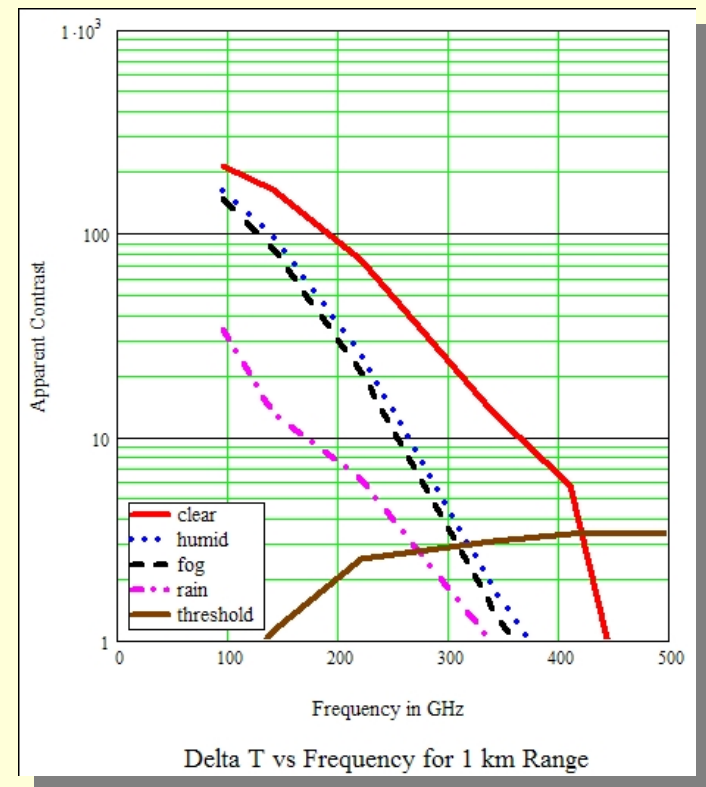
System
NEDT:

$$\Delta T = \begin{pmatrix} 0.093 \\ 0.186 \\ 0.418 \\ 0.511 \\ 0.558 \\ 0.558 \end{pmatrix} \text{ K}$$

Threshold=
6 X NEDT



10% Emissivity



Metal Target

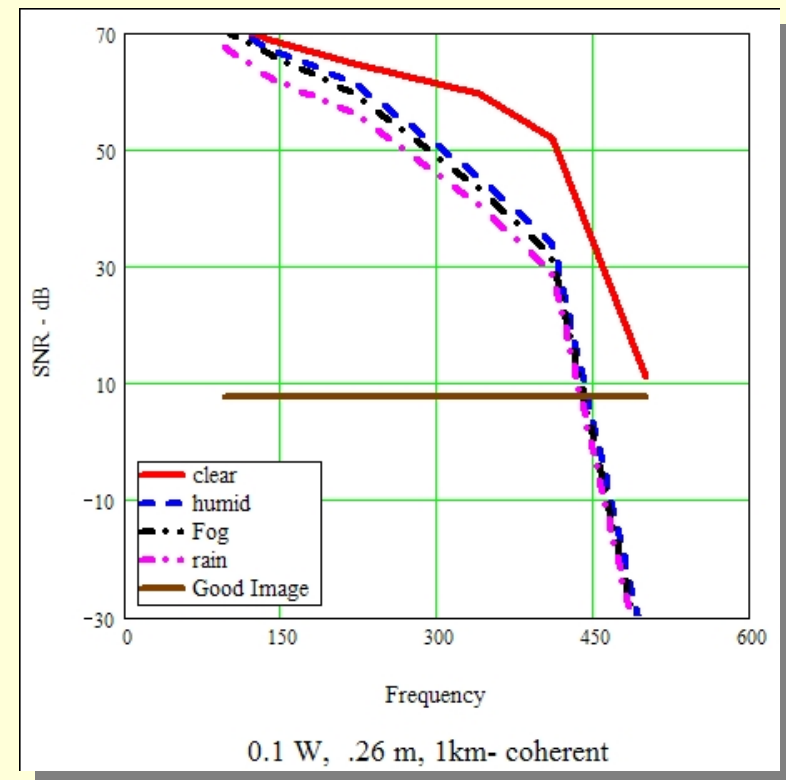
In bad weather, passive operation will not provide sufficient contrast for mapping if the desired resolution is maintained



Active System using Coherent Processing and Array Beamforming



- This chart is for a 0.26m sub-aperture that may be integrated into a wing borne array
- Total power requirement will be based on required Field of Regard (FOR)
- Coherent processing will be used to perform array processing along the wing and SAR processing along the flight path.
- To cover a FOR of ± 20 deg from the vertical, a 128x1 pixel FPA would be required for each sub-aperture
- There is also sufficient SNR to allow thinning the wing array

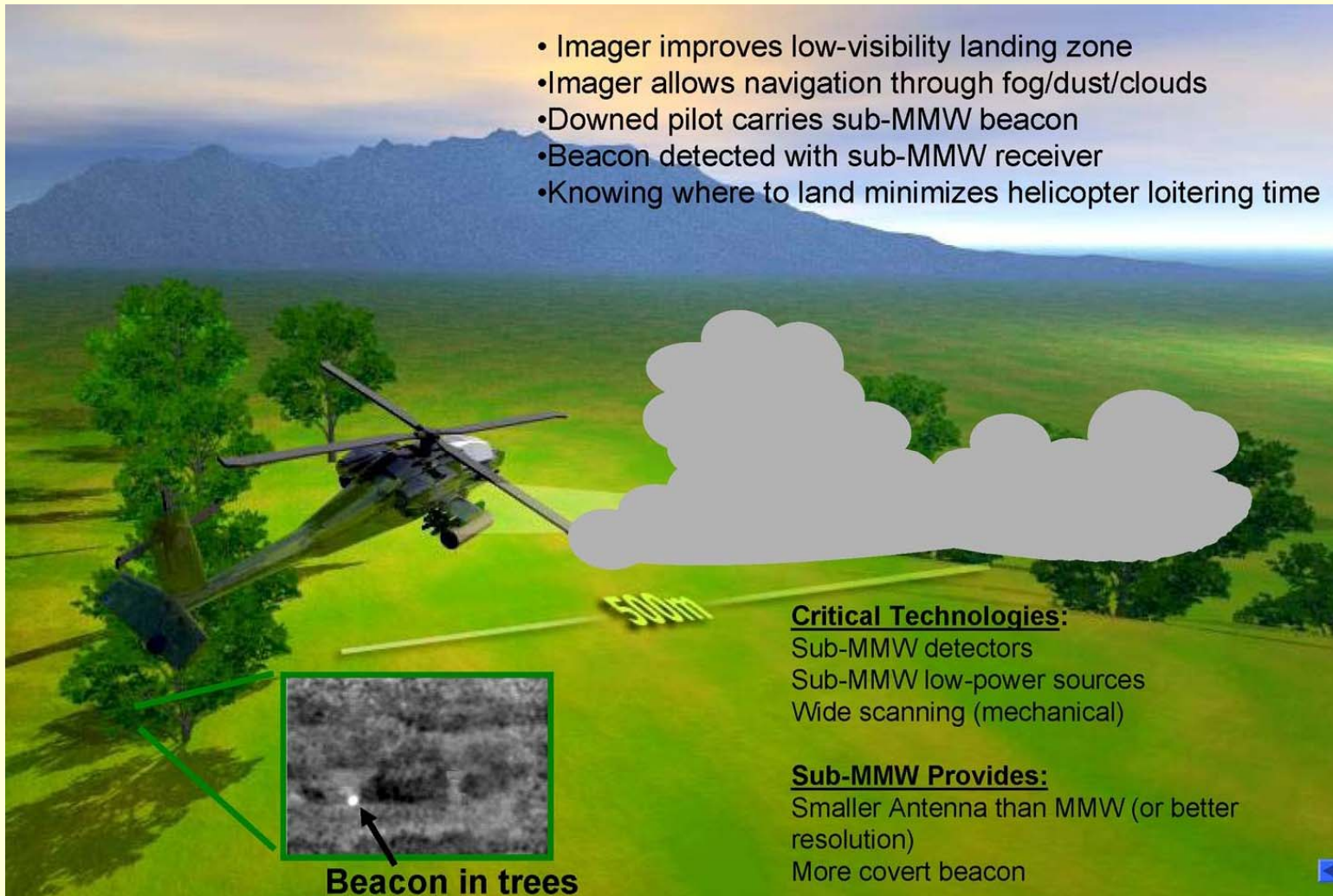




Terrain Avoidance



- Imager improves low-visibility landing zone
- Imager allows navigation through fog/dust/clouds
- Downed pilot carries sub-MMW beacon
- Beacon detected with sub-MMW receiver
- Knowing where to land minimizes helicopter loitering time



Critical Technologies:

Sub-MMW detectors
Sub-MMW low-power sources
Wide scanning (mechanical)

Sub-MMW Provides:

Smaller Antenna than MMW (or better resolution)
More covert beacon



Terrain Avoidance



We will set the required resolution to 1 meter and for this application we will set the max range at 500 meters as the aviation community has suggested that the minimum required range for obstacle avoidance for helicopters is 400 meters.

Define antenna sizes:

$$\text{range} := .5 \cdot \text{km}$$

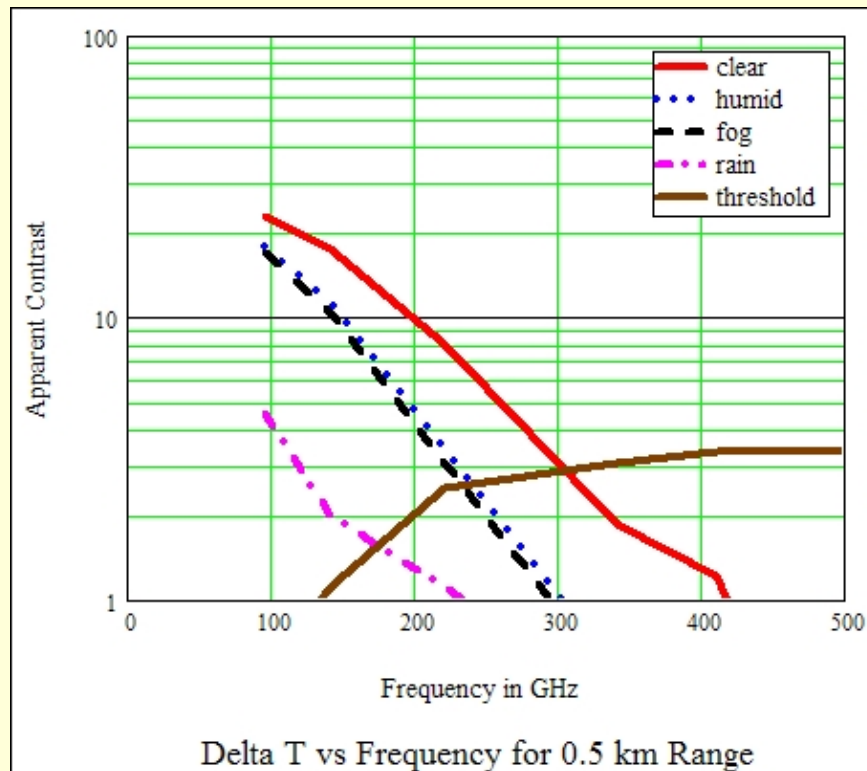
$$D_{ia_f} := 1.22 \cdot \frac{c}{F_{\text{req}_f} \cdot \left(\frac{1 \cdot \text{m}}{\text{range}} \right)}$$

$$D_{ia} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.926 \\ 1.307 \\ 0.832 \\ 0.538 \\ 0.446 \\ 0.366 \end{pmatrix} \text{ m}$$

The antenna sizes for this resolution are becoming reasonable and provide some room for system trades. The following curves were generated for a 1 meter aperture

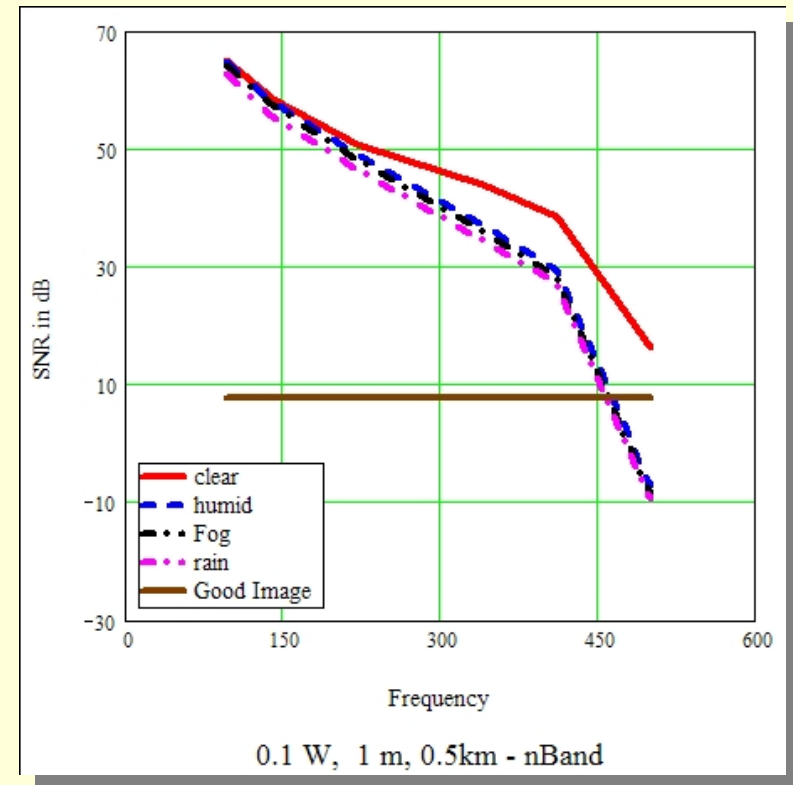


System Performance for both Passive and Non-coherent Active Modes



Passive – 10% Emissivity Variation

$\sigma_0 = -20$ dB Transmit Power/Pixel = 0.1 W



Active – narrow band Non-coherent

Passive performance is inadequate while active non-coherent offers sufficient SNR at 500m for a narrow Field of Regard. For large Field of Regard, either more transmitter power will be needed or coherent processing



Weapons Detection



Sub-MMW system scans through cardboard and canvas for IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices)

Critical Technologies:

- Sub-MMW detectors
- Large depth of focus antennas
- Micro-antennas

Sub-MMW Provides:

- Smaller antenna than MMW for same standoff distance
- Large bandwidth – lower NETD
- More scene energy – better S/N

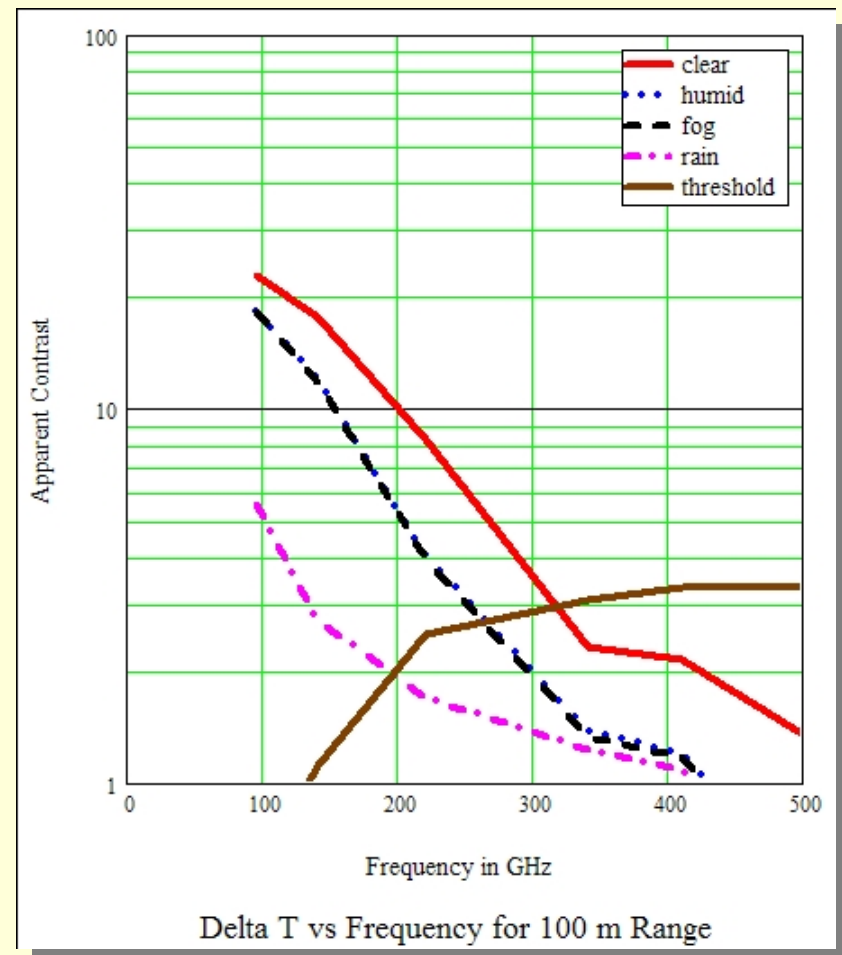




Performance



- Only passive sensing was examined for this application
- This chart uses the sky as the illumination function
- While the trends are the same as previously, the attenuation is not quite as severe.
- Eyeball resolution is assumed.
- The $NE\Delta T$ is assumed as previously for this curve
- Bandwidth is 5 GHz at all frequencies





Model of Concealed Weapon



$$T_{matill} = T_{mat} * \epsilon_{mat} + T_{ill} * L_{mat}$$

where

ϵ_{mat} = the emissivity of the material = $1 - L_{mat}$

T_{mat} = the material physical temperature

T_{ill} = the apparent temperature illuminating the out side of the material

L_{mat} = the loss in the material

The apparent temperature (under the material) of the weapon would then be:

$$T_{gun} = \epsilon_{weap} * T_{weap} + \rho_{weap} * T_{matill}$$

and since $\epsilon = 1 - \rho$

$$T_{gun} = \epsilon_{weap} * T_{weap} + T_{matill}(1 - \epsilon_{weap})$$

where

ϵ_{weap} = the emissivity of the weapon

T_{weap} = the weapon physical temperature

Then looking back through the material at the weapon would yield:

$$T_{appgun} = (L_{mat} * T_{gun} + (1 - L_{mat}) * T_{mat}) * (1 - \rho_{mat}) + \rho_{mat} * T_{ill}$$

where the third term is the reflection off of the surface of the material.



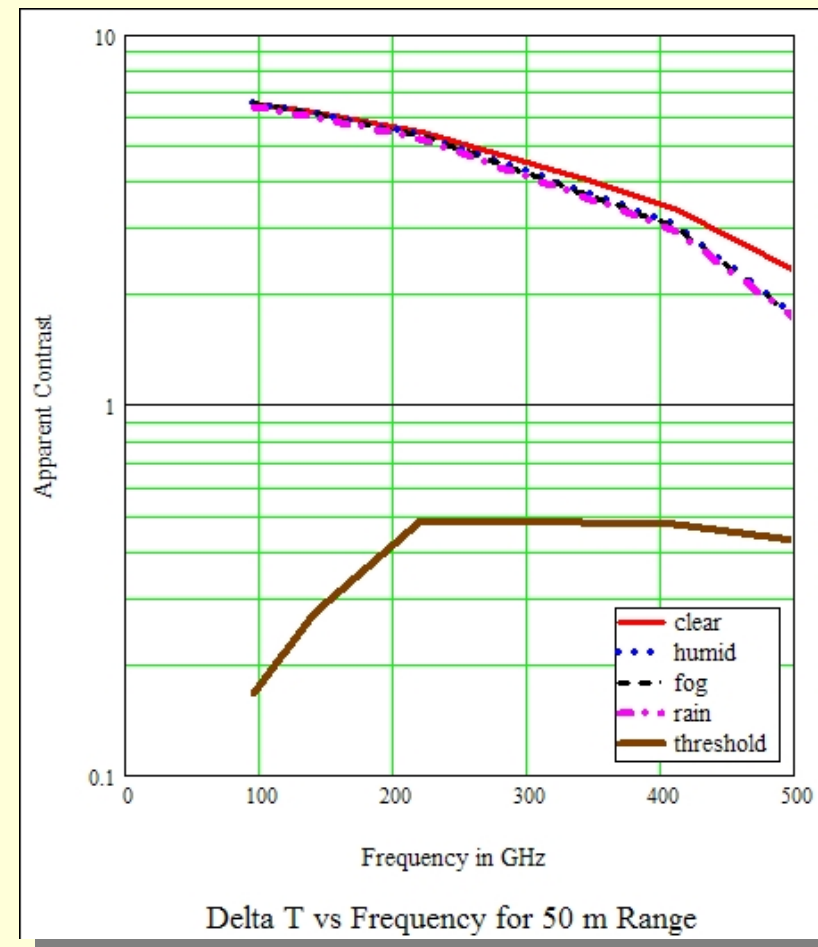
Performance vs. Modeled Concealed Weapon



- Material Losses are from E. Brown, UCSB.
- Skin emissivities are from QinetiQ
- Ambient Temperature=289K
- Clothing Temperature=294K
- Weapon Temperature=299K
- Body Temperature=304K
- Bandwidth = 5%
- NF = 8dB
- Threshold = 3:1
- Frame rate = 10Hz

$$L_{\text{mat}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.804 \\ 0.724 \\ 0.603 \\ 0.457 \\ 0.389 \\ 0.316 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{skin}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.644 \\ 0.69 \\ 0.768 \\ 0.822 \\ 0.855 \\ 0.92 \end{pmatrix}$$



Trade space for weapons detection looks large enough to investigate phenomenology and components in more detail



Selected Sub-Aperture Characteristics



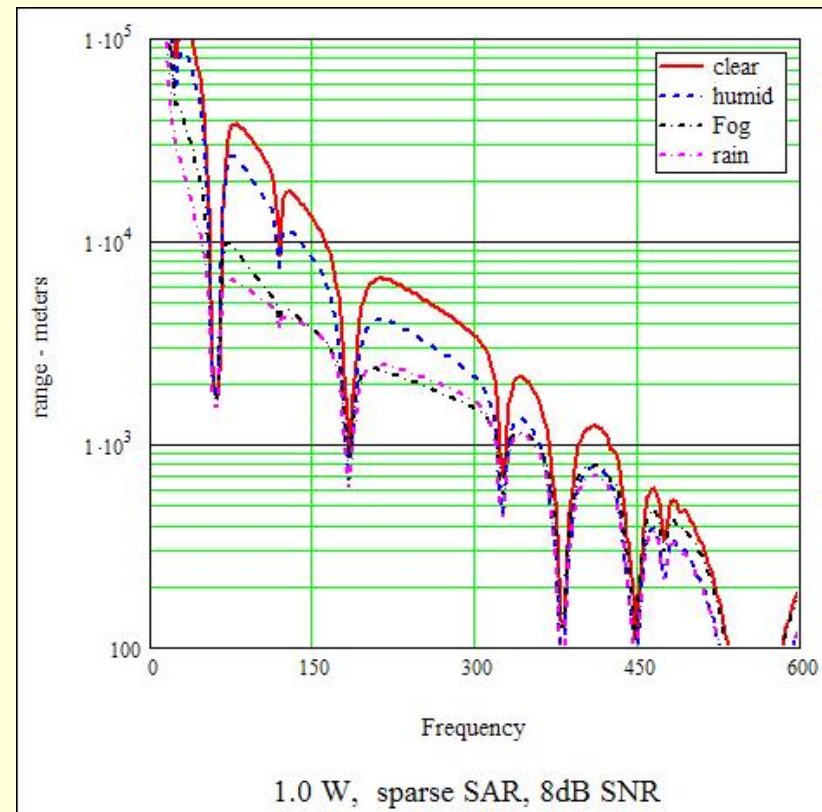
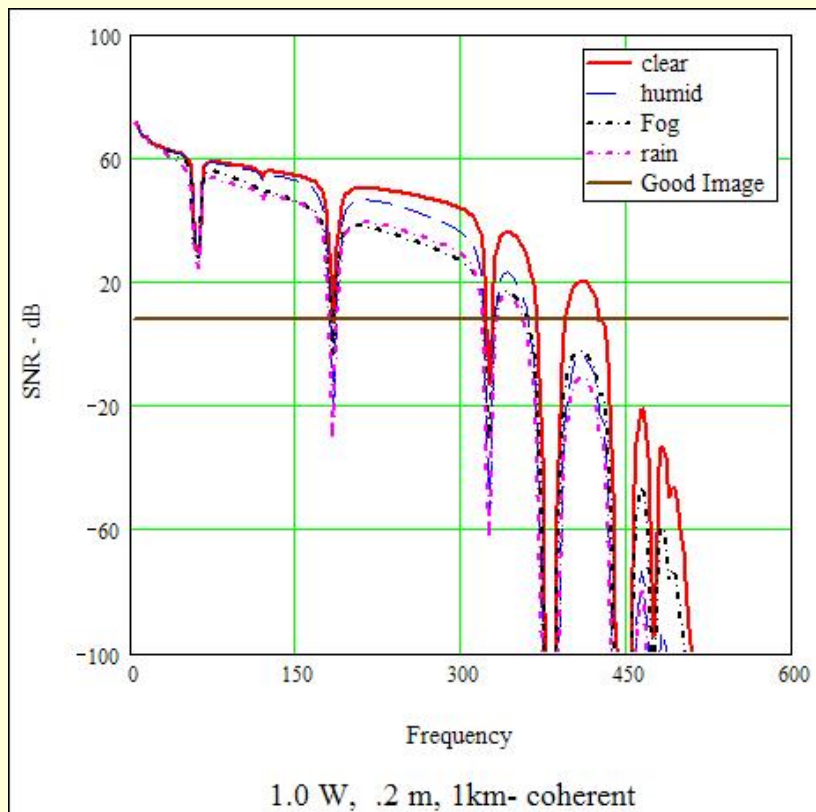
These characteristics differ from those used in the previous work but were selected to balance requirements

- Coherent transmitters and receivers
- 1 Watt total transmitter power defined by UAV
- 40 deg Field of Regard (FOR) in azimuth defined by UAV and Terrain Avoidance
- 10 deg FOR in elevation defined by Terrain Avoidance
- 8 dB noise figure defined by Weapons Detection
- 5% RF Receiver Bandwidth defined Weapons Detection
- <1% transmitter bandwidth defined by UAV and TA
- Pixel output time constant = 1/30 sec
- 33x136 Focal Plane
- Sub-aperture antenna size = 0.2 m defined by required near-field of 100m

This sub-aperture can be used as a building block for all three systems



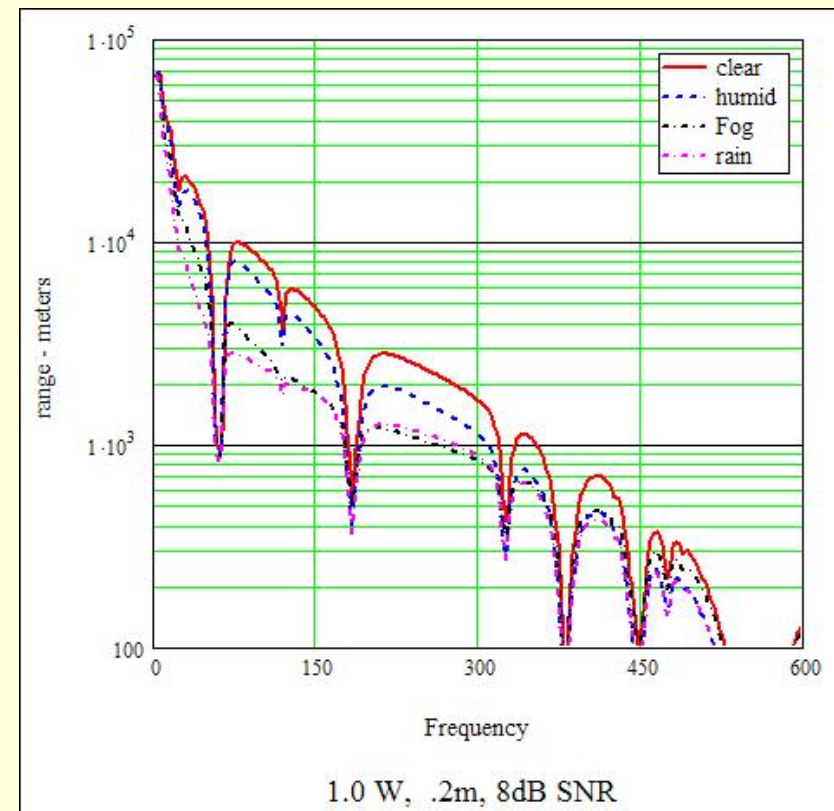
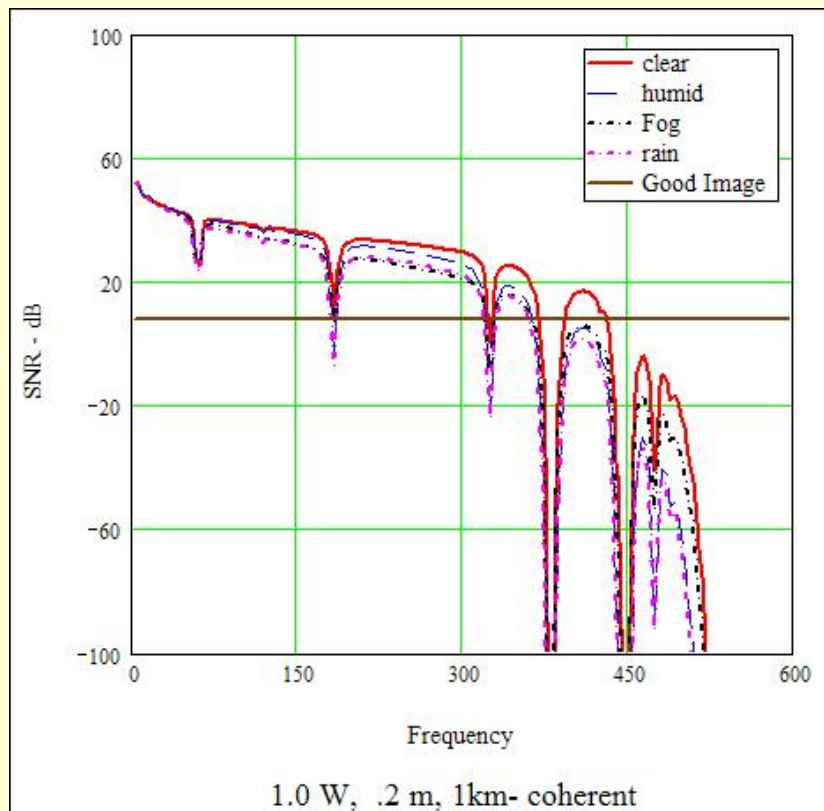
SNR and Range Performance of the UAV Look Down Sensor



The sparse array results were calculated with 50% thinning



SNR and Range Performance of the Terrain Avoidance System



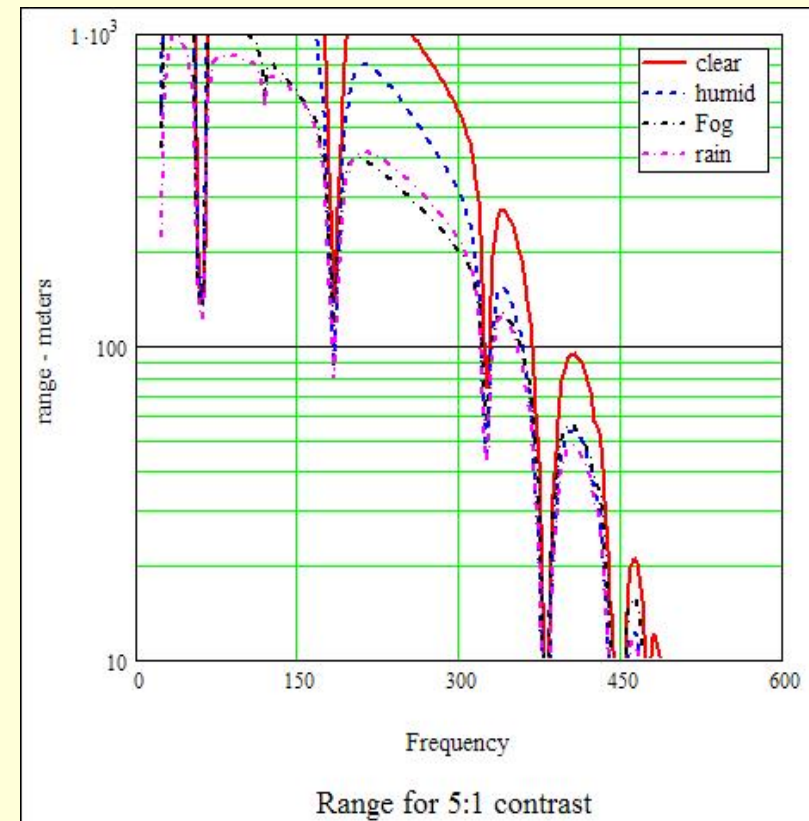
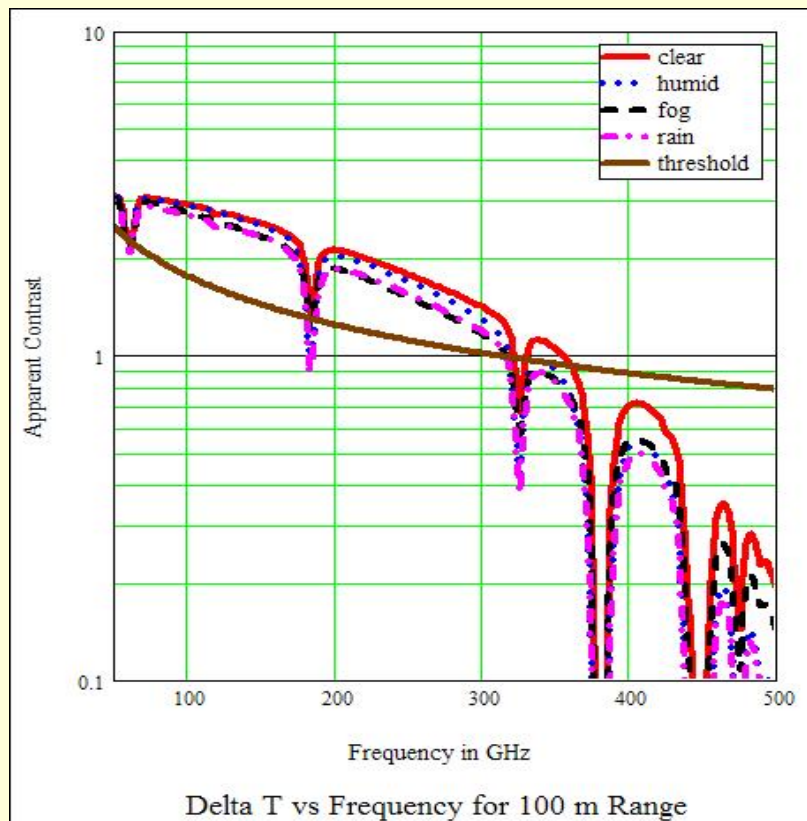
Performance exceeds proposed requirements



SNR and Range performance of the Passive Weapons Detection System



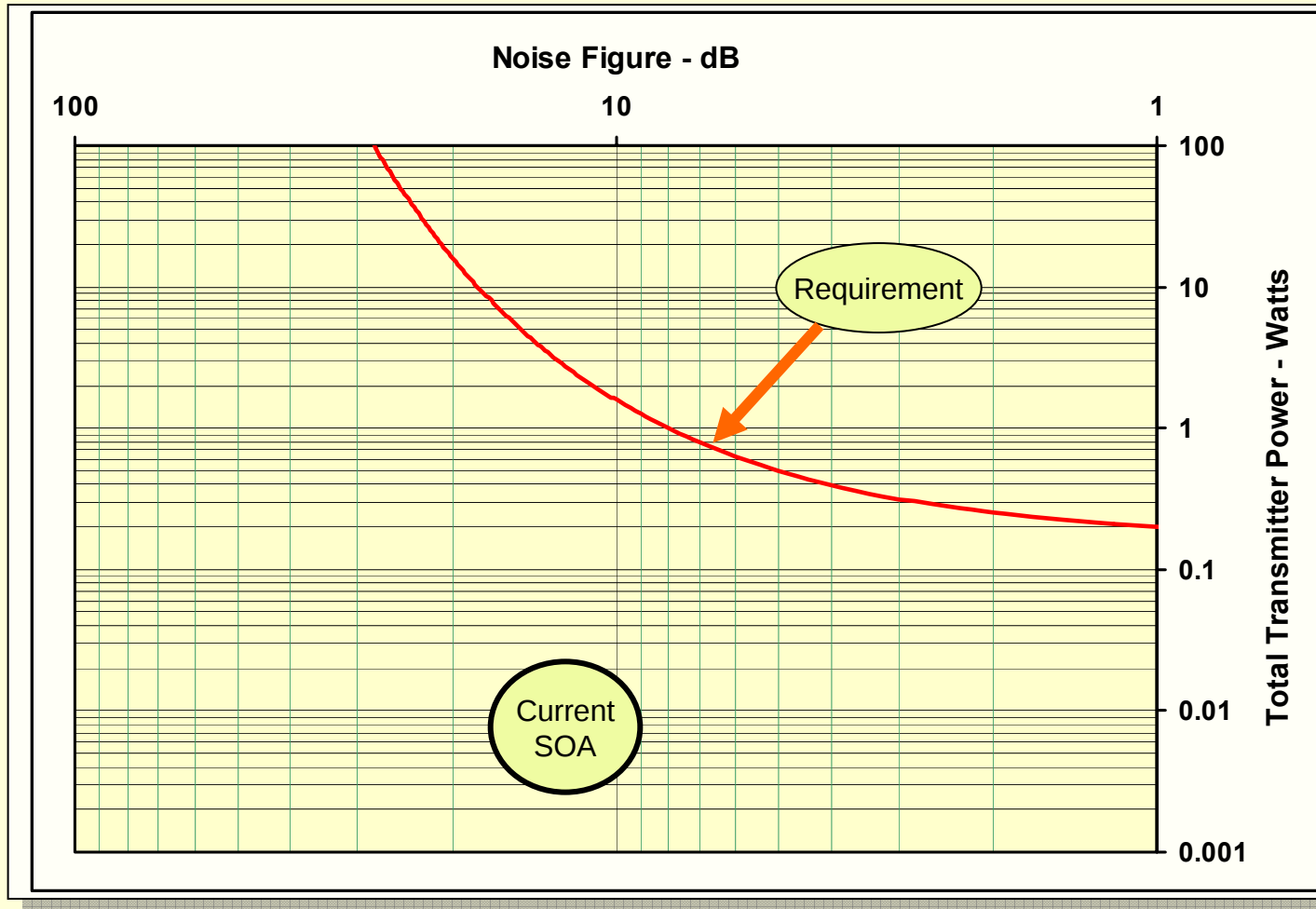
Target is a metal weapon under two layers of wool clothing - 17C environment



Under these conditions performance is very close to proposed requirements



Program Requirements vs the State-of-the-Art





Summary



- Three military applications were investigated that require the development of sub-millimeter wave technology
- A development of a single sub-aperture will allow forming arrays for each application
- Development of receivers with Noise Figures of 8 dB and Transmitters concepts with total power levels of 1 W would enable the concepts

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H. Bruce Wallace

ORSA Corporation
1003 Old Philadelphia Road
Aberdeen, MD 21001
USA

mmw@orsacorp.com

Mark Rosker

DARPA/MTO

mrosker@darpa.mil

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