Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program (SEWIP) – Block 1A

This report is on the Block 1A Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program (SEWIP) upgrade. The ultimate goal of SEWIP is to upgrade the defense of Navy ships from electronic warfare attack and from attack by anti-ship missiles. The SEWIP upgrades components of a larger system, the AN/SLQ-32 Electronic Warfare (EW) System. It is the AN/SLQ-32 that collects signals from emitters, analyzes them, and displays the trajectory and emitter identification to the operator for further processing and possible tactical action. The SEWIP is an evolutionary development program providing block upgrades to the AN/SLQ-32 system with the SEWIP Block 1A being the first. The Block 1A upgrade examined in this report focuses only on the replacement of the AN/SLQ-32's digital signal processor, presorter, and the operator's control and display console. These components are 1977-vintage, have been out of production for years, and have become obsolete and unsupportable.

By itself, the SEWIP Block 1A upgrade does not make the AN/SLQ-32 operationally effective or suitable. On the other hand, it enhances the ability to protect Navy ships by improving situational awareness and engagement support in addition to laying a good foundation for future upgrades. An evaluation of the full AN/SLQ-32 EW System will be conducted in conjunction with the operational evaluation (OPEVAL) of a future SEWIP block upgrade that includes improvements to the antenna/receiver systems. Resolution of the SEWIP Block 1A test limitations prior to that future block upgrade OPEVAL is required before DOT&E can fully evaluate the AN/SLQ-32's operational effectiveness and suitability.

The SEWIP Block 1A's enhancement of the AN/SLQ-32's performance and the use of logistically supportable equipment provides a solid basis for future SEWIP Block upgrades. In that context, further procurement of the SEWIP Block 1A upgrade is warranted.