



## **HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS** **FALCON WIDE AREA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**



The FALCON Wide Area Communications (WAN) system replaced Cormorant and the earlier Ptarmigan systems that had proved in the long run unable to deliver what was required by Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) assets. ISTAR is a key military capability that generates and delivers specific

information and intelligence to decision makers at all levels in support of the planning and conduct of operations. The ability to convert information into intelligence that decision makers can act upon is a crucial aspect of the capability. ISTAR can be characterised as the co-ordinated direction, collection, processing and dissemination of timely, accurate, relevant and reliable information and intelligence. This process is of course fundamental to Network Enabled Capability and specifically, for example, to targeting and the integration of military effects, situational awareness (and hence Combat Identification and the minimisation of the risk of fratricide) and force protection. Complex terrain and agile adversaries, for example, increase the requirement for capable ISTAR.

This means that if a WAN is to be fit for purpose it has to be capable of delivering huge quantities of video imagery, data and information using robust, reliable and secure equipment. The previous systems were unable to meet this huge increase in network capacity that is now required during modern operations. FALCON was rolled out across the Corps after 2013 and has been deployed on hundreds of exercises and with several formations, including the Joint Expeditionary Task Force and the Joint Helicopter Command in all theatres of operations. The system is continually updated and modified, including the Falcon Early Entry Capability (FEEC). This FEEC is smaller, lighter and more efficient and offers increased capability, in the form of 4G and Wi-Fi. FALCON has so far delivered what is required of it by the Services ISTAR assets.

