Special Missions

Rapid Response
Proven Solutions
Development of a “Soft” Mount Capable of Supporting the Mk 48 MOD 0/1 Light Weight Machine Gun

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Presented by: Joseph Burkart for
Crew Served Weapons Gun Mount Project Lead: Dennis Trump
Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC Crane)

Com (812) 854-5831
DSN 482-5831
dennis.trump@navy.mil
NSWC Crane Division

NSWC Crane Mission Focus Areas:
Special Missions
Strategic Missions
Electronic Warfare / Information Operations

Stewards of
14 NAVSEA Technical Capabilities

NSWC Crane
• Located on 3rd Largest Navy Installation in the World
• No Encroachment & Unencumbered
  • Detachment at Fallbrook, CA

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Philadelphia, PA

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NSWC Keyport
Keyport, WA

NUWC Newport
Newport, RI

NUWC Keyport
Keyport, WA

NUWC Headquarters
Newport, RI

NUWC Headquarters
Washington, DC

EODTECHDIV
Indian Head, MD

Four Outputs:
- Knowledge
- Contracts
- Hardware
- Software

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Small Arms Air Platform Integration

• **Who are we?**
  – We are a team of engineers, logisticians, and technicians with vast crew served weapons and electronics integration experience.
  – We have the capability to support the full life cycle of the systems we deploy.
  – We support multiple platform offices and team with industry partners.
  – We take great pride in providing high quality support to our customers in a timely manner.

• **What do we do?**
  – Design and integrate weapon systems for various combatant craft, vehicles and US Navy warships.
  – Fabricate prototype parts for fit checks and testing.
  – Provide Finite Element Analysis (FEA) modeling for fatigue and crash loads.
  – Procure production hardware through GOV contracts.
  – Receive, inspect, and deploy high quality systems.
  – Provide interim supply support.
  – Provide depot support
  – Capability to support OEM designed weapon systems
  – Provide engineering and logistics support to fielded systems

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Background

• Mk 48 MOD 0 / 1
  – Light weight 7.62 MM machine gun
  – Gas operated, open bolt
  – Shoulder fired, Hand-held or Bipod fired
  – Replacement for the MK 43 MOD 0 / 1
Characteristics

• PRO’s
  – Lighter and shorter than the M240 Machine Gun
  – Increased reliability compared to the M60 and Mk 43

• CON’s
  – No mount currently designed and in service to support the Mk 48 MOD 0 / 1 Light Weight Machine Gun
  – Mk 48 Ammo feed tray is located in a different location than the M240B (commonality).
Why mount the Mk 48?

• Better weapon control
  – Vehicle mounted in the gun turret ring

• Mission planning flexibility
  – Carrying a single weapon for multiple missions rather than multiple weapons for multiple missions.
Drawbacks of Mounting the Mk 48

• Without a recoil reduction (soft mount) design
  – Wear and tear
    • When the MK48 is hard mounted the recoiling velocities are increased. With the increased velocities comes increased stress on the recoiling components. The end result is lower bolt and slide reliability thresholds.
Mounting Capabilities

- **Navy Mounts currently in service**
  - **Mk 97 MOD 0 Single M240 Mount**
    - Mk 48 will pin up in the Mk 97 Mount, but the ammunition tray is not oriented to feed ammunition to the gun.
    - The mount has no mechanical buffer and does not provide recoil reduction.
  - **Mk 93 MOD 2 / MOD 4 w/M240 Adapter**
    - Mk 48 will pin up in the M240 Adapter, but the ammunition tray is not oriented to feed ammunition to the gun.
    - The M240 Adapter connects to the mount hard points and has no mechanical buffer to provide recoil reduction.
Design concept

• Simple mechanical buffer

• Cradle Assembly
  o Upper and lower cradle assembly utilizes a sliding design that reacts with the recoil/counter recoil movements of the gun to compress the mechanical springs when fired.
  o This allows the recoil to be dissipated, preventing potential damage (if hard mounted in an existing M240 Mount) to the Mk 48 slide and bolt while still allowing the operator to maintain control of the gun/mount and have accurate and effective round placement.
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Thank you for your time and attention!

For more information on NSWC Crane, please visit www.crane.navy.mil

Images were downloaded via publically accessible websites

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