



Bullfrog - the Marines' Cannon Against Drone Swarms

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The fight against drones, especially those of small and very small sizes, represents the main challenge for the air defenses of today's armed forces. The conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East have shown how these assets pose a concrete threat to infrastructure, ground forces, naval units, and even traditional air defense systems themselves. Having the ability to perform what is called in jargon **C-UAS (Counter - Unmanned Air System)** effectively is an absolute priority for troops on the ground. The key principle is high mobility combined with effectiveness to drastically reduce or eliminate the threat of small drones and *loitering munitions*.

The Marines choose an automatic targeting “cannon”

To meet this need, the United States Marines have selected the autonomous weapon station “**Bullfrog**” from [Allen Control Systems](#). The system was chosen as part of the *Ground Based Air Defense* program to be integrated into the **L-MADIS** (*Light Marine Air Defense Integrated System*), the most versatile anti-drone platform currently in service in the Corps.

The “Bullfrog” turret is not a new weapon in the strict sense, but a **robotic targeting system** that transforms an existing firearm into an autonomous device, capable of detecting, tracking, and engaging a target with minimal human intervention compared to manual firing.

The system weighs about 136 kilograms (without ammunition), fires standard NATO 7.62 x 51 millimeter rounds at a maximum rate of 850 rounds per minute, and uses a **completely passive sensor suite**. This means it detects targets using cameras and advanced data processing, without emitting radar or radio signals that could betray the weapon's position on the battlefield.



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Integration and contracts

The L-MADIS consists of two Polaris MRZR off-road vehicles operating in tandem: one serves as a command center, while the other carries an electronic warfare suite to disrupt and neutralize hostile drones. The “Bullfrog” turret will integrate into this architecture through a Pentagon prototype agreement (*Other Transaction Agreement*), a flexible contractual formula designed to accelerate the transition of technologies from the demonstration phase to operational use.

The initial value of the contract with the Marines is around 6.2 million dollars, against a comprehensive ground-based air defense program that allocates about 1.27 billion dollars in the budget for the fiscal year 2027. The United States Army and Navy have already tested and validated the system through the *Joint Interagency Task Force 401*, and the company has also initiated export contracts with South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, and a memorandum of

understanding with Romania for local co-production.

Countering the economic imbalance of drones

The “Bullfrog” is available in various configurations that can mount different armaments (from the heavy M2 machine gun, to the M230 automatic cannon, to the M134 rotary machine gun in *Gatling* style) to adapt to different targets, from small commercial quadcopters to fixed-wing drones up to 599 kg, with an effective range of up to 1,500 meters.

One of the main objectives of the system is to **rebalance the brutal economic imbalance** that has emerged in recent conflicts: the use of expensive missile interceptors (costing hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars) to shoot down drones of negligible cost.

The mixed solution: kinetic and electronic warfare

The Marines have paired the “Bullfrog” with a non-kinetic effector (the electronic warfare component installed on the twin vehicle). This **“kinetic-non-kinetic”** solution is considered the ideal strategy to neutralize swarm attacks by small drones. A traditional kinetic system alone might not guarantee a sufficient success rate against massive attacks, but the combination with electromagnetic jamming or directed energy weapons allows maximizing defensive effectiveness while maintaining the compactness and mobility essential for rapid deployment in the field.

News link: <https://breakingdefense.com/2026/07/marine-corps-selects-new-robotic-weapon-system-for-l-madis-integration/>