# From Sea to Sky: Anti-Submarine Warfare and Ocean Surveillance

Still fresh from the success of the Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS), UNIVAC became the choice to create similar digital computers for ocean surveillance aircraft for the U.S. Military. In 1963, in conjunction with the Navy's ANEW program, UNIVAC began developing computers for the Navy's P-3C airplanes. With the Cold War still underway, these were launched into service to meet the threat of the Soviet Union's expanded submarine fleet. The company's involvement in the program continued over the years with numerous iterations of P-3 systems.

Above: An image of a P-3C airplane flying over North Island Naval Air Station. Lockheed California Aircraft Company designed and produced the airplanes themselves while Univac oversaw production of the digital computers used inside the aircraft.
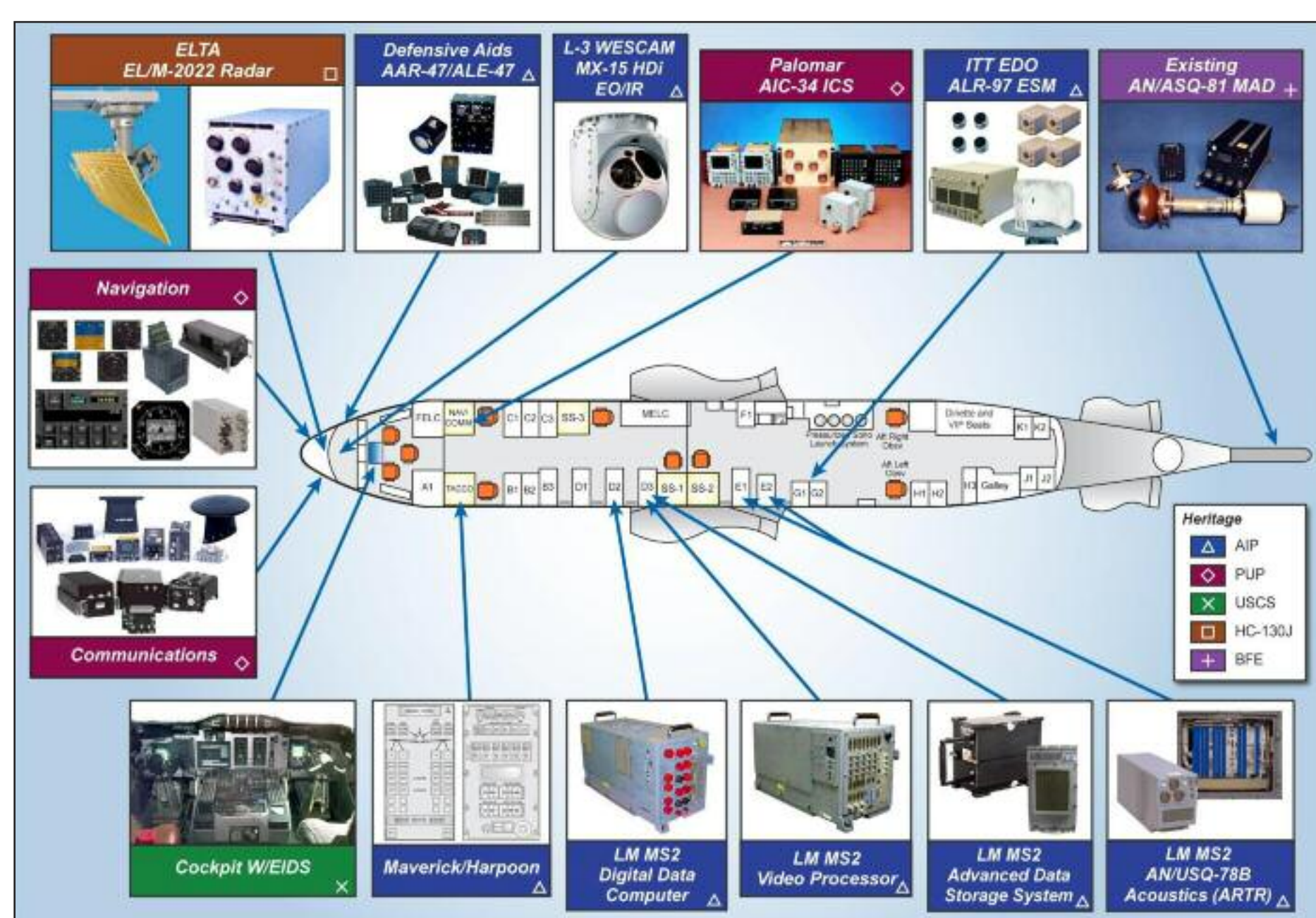
Left: A diagram of a typical P-3 system configuration during the aircraft's later years. Computer design, software and systems integration were all the responsibllity of the Eagan employees. The company produced many P-3 systems for the U.S. government as well as systems for many other countries.

The P-3C [was] the first digital airborne anti-submarine warfare system.

Jim Rapinac
UNIVAC Defense Systems Division General Manager

In 1975 the U.S. Navy launched a jet powered version of the P-3C: the S-3A. This became one of the company's more successful Naval programs. Like the P-3C, its mission was anti-submarine warfare and ocean surveillance, except it operated from aircraft carriers. Completed within Navy target costs and schedule, the $200 million contract was the company's largest single award at the time. An upgraded version, the S-3B, was still in service 25 years later.

Below left: An image of an S-3 airplane (front) with its wings folded, sitting atop an aircraft carrier.
Below right: The "T" shaped UNIVAC 1832 airborne computer installed in the rear of an S-3A airplane.