

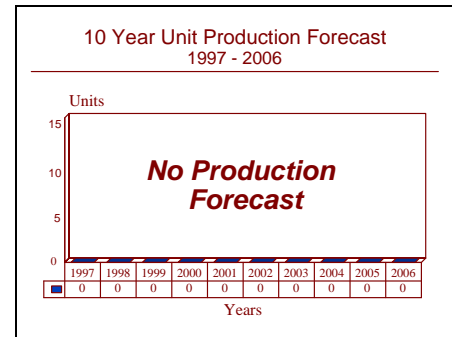
# ARCHIVED REPORT

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## PRC-90 - Archived 7/98

### Outlook

- Production has likely ceased
- Being replaced by the newer PRC-112(V)
- Activity has transitioned to spares



### Orientation

**Description.** Hand-held survival radio.

**Sponsor**

US Air Force  
San Antonio Air Logistics Center  
Kelly AFB, Texas (TX)  
USA

**Contractors**

GTE Corp  
GTE Government Systems Corp  
Strategic Systems Group  
77 A Street  
Needham Heights, Massachusetts (MA) 02194  
USA  
Tel: +1 617 449 2000  
Fax: +1 617 455 5222  
(Original development/production)

Oklahoma Aerotronics Inc  
Hartshorne, Oklahoma (OK)  
USA  
(Production and spares)

Resdel Engineering Corp  
Arcadia, California (CA)  
USA  
(Production and spares)

**Status.** Production has likely transitioned to spares support.

**Total Produced.** Approximately 58,000 radios have been produced.

**Application.** Aircrew emergency tactical communications for air-sea rescue

**Price Range.** Unit cost is estimated at less than US\$1,000.

### Technical Data

**Design Features.** The PRC-90 is a survival radio used by downed airmen to vector search aircraft to the crash location. The set's guard channel at 243 MHz is used for voice, modulated CW, or beacon operation. The channel at 292.2 MHz is for voice conversation. The set weighs

24 ounces and has a power output of 325 MW. The unit has a voice range of more than 45 miles, and a beacon range of more than 85 miles. The PRC-90 unit, however, is nonrepairable and, therefore, expendable.

## Variants/Upgrades

The production variant is the PRC-90-2.

## Program Review

**Background.** The PRC-90 was developed originally in the late 1960s for NASA's recovery of Apollo crewmen. It subsequently was ordered by the Navy for crewmen in Vietnam to replace their PRC-63s. The PRC-90 became a standard triservice item by the mid-1970s, with the Air Force often acting as procurement agent.

## Funding

US military spares funding for the PRC-90 program has been contained within each service's Operations & Maintenance accounts.

## Recent Contracts

| Contractor           | Award (\$ millions) | Date/Description  |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| Oklahoma Aeronautics | 16.1                | Sep 1988 — FFP Indefinite Quantity Contract for 22 PRC-90-2 Survival Radios applicable to Life Support. Includes FMS to Korea, Greece, Pakistan, Norway, Bahrain, Egypt and Thailand (F41608-88-D-3631) |

## Timetable

|     |       |                         |
|-----|-------|-------------------------|
| Mid | 1960s | Development began       |
|     | 1970  | PRC-90 entered service  |
|     | 1993  | FMS contracts completed |

## Worldwide Distribution

The PRC-90 is in service with armed forces of **Bahrain, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Korea, Norway, Pakistan, South Korea, Thailand,** and the **United States.**

## Forecast Rationale

Existing radios have been brought up to the PRC-90-2 configuration. While GTE Corp was the original producer of the radio, Oklahoma Aeronautics and Resdel Engineering received a US\$16 million contract in 1988 to fill FMS orders out through mid-1993. Since then, no contract activity has been reported. At this time, the US military is procuring the newer PRC-112(V) which supersedes the PRC-90.

## Ten-Year Outlook

Production of the PRC-90 is believed complete. Further activity consists of spares support for the remainder of the unit's service life, until it is replaced by the PRC-112(V). Thus, the forecast chart is omitted; the report will likely be deleted from future supplements.

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