

Y-8G Cub [GX4] - 2008, PLAAF, 9x, 10th Air Div

China

Type: Electronic Warfare

Min Speed: 210 kt

Max Speed: 410 kt

Commissioned: 2008

Length: 33.1 m

Wingspan: 38.0 m

Height: 10.5 m

Crew: 6

Empty Weight: 28000 kg

Max Weight: 61000 kg

Max Payload: 20000 kg

Propulsion: 4x AI-20M [WJ-6]



Sensors / EW: - Generic Weather Radar - Radar, Radar, Weather, Max range: 64.8 km
- Generic OECM [Advanced] - (1980s) ECM, OECM, Offensive ECM, Max range: 0 km
- Generic ESM [Advanced] - (1990s, Precise Emitter ID) ESM, ELINT, Max range: 926 km
- Generic DECM [Advanced] - (2010s) ECM, DECM, Defensive ECM, Max range: 0 km

A license copy of the Antonov An-12 “Cub”, the Y-8 is used for many roles in Chinese service. Production started in the late 1960s and continues today; more than 125 have now been built plus additional examples for export and civilian (Y-8B & Y-8F100) use. The original design had a twin NR-23 gun in a manned tail turret; this is not included on the civilian versions, the specialized versions described below, nor recent examples of the military cargo version.

The Y-8J's project code name was "515" and it gave the PLA Navy a primary Early Warning capability. The Y-8J's most remarkable feature is its big nose, where the Skymaster Radar, purchased from British electronics manufacturer Racal, is installed. Skymaster Radar provides air and naval surveillance in 360 degrees in azimuth. The radar also let PLA Navy have capability to detect small target and operate anti-submarine watch. Some sources state it can provide mid-course guidance for anti-ship missiles. PLA imported about 8 Skymaster Radars and the number of Y-8J is limited. Besides, the performance of Skymaster cannot match contemporary requirements. Most of these Y-8Js are in PLA Northern Fleet naval aviation Independence First Regiment (Laiyang Airport, Yantai, Shandong Province).

Original Author: Jason W. Henson, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/>