

Y-8J Cub - 2001, PLANAF, 4x

China

Type: Airborne Early Warning (AEW)

Min Speed: 210 kt

Max Speed: 410 kt

Commissioned: 2001

Length: 34.0 m

Wingspan: 38.0 m

Height: 11.6 m

Crew: 6

Empty Weight: 35488 kg

Max Weight: 61000 kg

Max Payload: 20000 kg

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



Sensors / EW: - Sky Master - (Argus 2000, Sky Guardian) Radar, Radar, Air & Surface Search, 3D Long-Range, Max range: 426 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.

A columned antenna dome, larger than normal Y-8C, is under ELINT Y-8's nose, which looks like a copy of EP-3E's OE-319 "Big Eye" surveillance radar. It is said that the project of ELINT Y-8 had a relation with the EB-3's forced landing on Lingshui Airport, Hainan Province. It is interesting that a similar yellow colored antenna on the Y-8 AEW is also seen on the ELINT Y-8's nose. Their function is perhaps gathering intelligence. A satellite communication antenna is on the root of vertical tail. Above the cockpit, there is another antenna dome which is perhaps a datalink. In order to keep a better condition for the crew and devices, the cargo door was sealed. Now there are two ELINT Y-8 (No. 9352 and 9361) in the PLA Navy Northern Fleet.

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