

AN/ASQ-228 ATFLIR – Targeting Pod Basics

The **AN/ASQ-228 ATFLIR** is the Hornet’s primary targeting pod in DCS World. It provides infrared and electro-optical imaging, laser designation, laser spot tracking, and precision coordinate generation. Mounted on the **left cheek station**, the pod is essential for precision-strike missions and is especially useful in night ops, low visibility, and beyond visual range (BVR) targeting.

☐☐ What the ATFLIR Can Do

Capability	Description
FLIR + TV Imaging	IR (thermal) and EO (TV) modes
Zoom	2 zoom levels + 3 fields of view (WIDE, MEDIUM, NARROW)
Laser Designation	LTD/R for guiding laser-guided munitions
Laser Spot Tracking (LST)	Track another unit’s laser spot for buddy lasing
Coordinate Generation	For JDAMs and JSOWs
Tracking Modes	Area track, point/auto track, INR (Inertial Hold)

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☐☐ Zoom Levels and Field of View

ATFLIR has **two zoom levels** and **three fields of view** (FOV), but zoom behavior depends on the FOV setting:

FOV	Description	Zoom Level Support
WIDE	Broad view, large area scanning	Only Zoom Level 1
MEDIUM	Moderate zoom for ID and tracking	Zoom Levels 1 and 2
NARROW	High magnification, precise tracking	Zoom Levels 1 and 2

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- You switch FOV using the RAID/FLIR button.
 - Zoom level is toggled using **radar elevation** while the FLIR page is SOI.
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☐☐ Sensor Imaging Modes

Mode	Use Case
IR (FLIR)	Best for night ops or thermal contrast
TV (EO)	Best in daylight or clear weather
BH/WH	Toggle black-hot/white-hot in IR mode for contrast preference

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Use the **IR/TV** OSB to switch modes. IR is the default when the pod powers on.

☐☐ Compatible Ordnance

ATFLIR is required or strongly recommended for these weapons:

Weapon	Type	Notes
GBU-12/16/10	Laser-guided bombs	Requires laser designation (LTD/R)
AGM-65E	Laser Maverick	Requires buddy or self-lasing
AGM-65F	IR Maverick	Use FLIR to identify and lock before handoff
AGM-154A/B/C (JSOW)	GPS glide bomb	Use pod to generate precision coordinates
JDAM (GBU-38/32/31)	GPS bomb	Same as above — designate or manually enter coordinates

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“ While JDAMs/JSOWs do **not require** the pod to guide during flight, the pod is essential for finding, designating, and accurately feeding targets to these weapons.

☐☐ Pod Controls Summary

Function	How to Use
TDC Slew	Move the pod crosshairs
TDC Press	Designate, change zoom level
SCS Toward FLIR DDI	Give pod TDC priority
LTD/R Boxed	Arms the laser designator
TRIG Boxed	Enables manual lasing (requires trigger press)
LST	Enables search for buddy laser
UFC → LSTC / LTD/R Code	Set or change laser codes

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⚠ Limitations and Tips

- Laser has effective range of ~**8-10 nm** but accuracy drops beyond 6 nm.
- Clouds, dust, smoke, and terrain can block the laser or FLIR image.
- Maintain good aircraft trim when slewing the pod — sudden rolls or Gs can break lock.
- Use **Area Track** for static targets and **Auto Track** for movers or exact aimpoints.

☐☐ Final Notes

The ATFLIR is a vital part of the Hornet’s CAS and strike toolbox. It’s not just for lasing — it’s your **long-range eyes**, your **night vision**, and your **precision coordinator** for standoff weapons like JSOWs and JDAMs. Mastering pod control will drastically improve your lethality and flexibility in multi-role operations.