

WEAPONRY

AN/PVS2 STARLIGHT (PASSIVE) NV



Generation 1 (GEN I)



A 5RAR soldier familiarising himself with the Starlight Scope during the battalion's 1st tour.

First generation passive devices, introduced during the Vietnam War, were an adaptation of earlier active GEN 0 technology, and rely on ambient light instead of an infrared light source. Using an S-20 photocathode, their image intensifiers produce a light amplification of around 1000×,[8] but are quite bulky and require moonlight to function properly.

Examples:

* AN/PVS-2 Starlight scope

5RAR Message Form detailing the allocation and maintenance of the Starlight Scope (Click on thumbnail)



this is an AN/PVS2 starlight, passive scope, the basic difference between the earlier AN/PAS4 IR (active) scope & the AN/PVS (1-3) (passive) scopes are:

Active IR NV devices produce (emit) their own light source which can be easily detected by electronics countermeasures, the AN/PVS series starlight scopes (these are termed 1st generation scopes & there was the AN/PVS1, 2, 2B &3) do not emit a light source, they use an electronic devise in the scope body to amplify what available light there is, the more light, usually moon or starlight (hence the term starlight scope) the better they work, on a moonless, very dark night they're very ineffective, the good point of course is they're not detectable w/countermeasures (at least at the time of the Vietnam war.