The AN/ZPY-1 STARLite is a small, lightweight SAR/GMTI/DMTI radar used for supporting tactical operations. Developed by Northrop Grumman, STARLite is now under contract to the U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command for the MQ-1C Gray Eagle. STARLite offers superior performance at low cost.

Weighing just 65 pounds, this compact radar system is ideal for equipping a variety of manned and unmanned aerial system platforms for mission-critical tactical reconnaissance, including:

- Through the weather surveillance
- Stationary and moving target detection and tracking
- Maritime search
- Dismounted personnel detection

STARLite leverages Northrop Grumman’s experience in creating airborne surveillance radars for a range of manned and unmanned platforms. STARLite incorporates imaging and processing techniques refined over thousands of hours of operation in combat environments.

By providing precise battlefield intelligence in all types of weather and in battlefield obscurants, day and night, STARLite significantly improves battlefield situational awareness and optimizes force maneuver and engagement for mission success.
Radar Modes
STARLite’s radar offers four flexible modes for tactical reconnaissance:

- Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)
- Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI)
- Dismount Moving Target Indicator (DMTI)
- Maritime Moving Target Indicator (MMTI)

The radar provides two SAR modes: Strip and Spot. In Strip mode, the radar imagery is either parallel to the aircraft flight vector or along a specified ground path independent of the aircraft flight path. In Spot mode, the radar produces a high-resolution image at a specific geographic patch.

In the GMTI mode, the radar provides moving target locations overlaid on a digital map. The MMTI mode performs a similar function for targets over water. The DMTI mode provides detection of personnel movement on the ground.

Ground Control Station Compatibility
STARLite is designed to be compatible with a standard ground control station. The ground station has the hardware and software tools necessary to control the radar and record and display the downloaded SAR imagery and GMTI/MMTI targets for increased situational awareness and battlefield management.

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