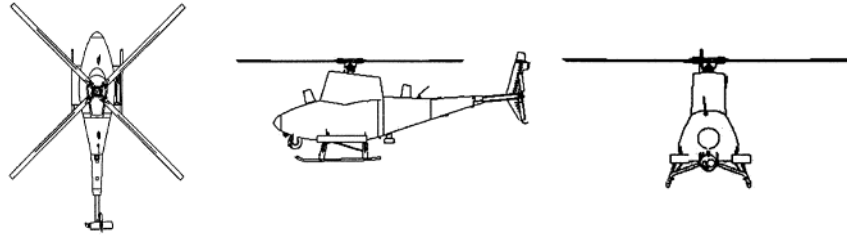


MQ-8 Fire Scout

Users: U.S. Army and Navy

Manufacturer: Northrop Grumman

Inventory: 1 Delivered/506 (360 Army and 146 Navy) Planned (2006)



Background: The Fire Scout Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) Tactical UAV (VTUAV) program is currently in EMD. It is based on the manned Schweizer S333 helicopter. Five RQ-8A air vehicles and four ground control stations are now in developmental testing. Over 210 successful test flights have been accomplished demonstrating autonomous shipboard operations, autonomous flight, and ground control station operations. The Army selected the four-bladed MQ-8B model as its category IV UA for its future combat system (FCS) in 2003. The Navy has selected the MQ-8B to support the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) class of surface vessels. The Navy's VTUAV system will operate the MQ-8B using Tactical Control System (TCS) software, and features standards-based interoperability through implementation of STANAG 4586 and Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL). Planned IOC for the Navy MQ-8B is in 2008. <http://uav.navair.navy.mil/>.

Characteristics:

	MQ-8B		MQ-8B
Length	22.9 ft	Wing Span	27.5 ft
Gross Weight	3,150 lb	Payload Capacity	600 lb
Fuel Capacity	1,292 lb	Fuel Type	JP-5/JP-8
Engine Make	Rolls Royce 250-C20W	Power	320 shp continuous
Data Link(s)	LOS C2	Frequency	Ku-band/UHF
	LOS Video		Ku-band

Performance:

Endurance	6+ hr	Max/Loiter Speeds	117/60 kt
Ceiling	20,000 ft	Radius	150 nm
Takeoff Means	Vertical	Landing Means	Hover
Sensor	EO/IR/LDRF	Sensor Make	FSI Brite Star II