

MQ-9 Reaper (formerly Predator B)

Users: U.S. Air Force, DHS/Customs & Border Protection

Manufacturer: General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.

Inventory: 10 Delivered/60 Planned (USAF only) (2006)



Background: The MQ-9 is a medium-to-high altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft system. Its primary mission is as a persistent hunter-killer for critical time sensitive targets and secondarily to act as an intelligence collection asset. The integrated sensor suite includes a moving target capable synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and a turret containing electro-optical and mid wave infrared sensors, a laser range finder, and a laser target designator. The USAF proposed the MQ-9 system in response to the Department of Defense request for GWOT initiatives, in October 2001. In June 2003, Air Combat Command (ACC) approved the MQ-9 Concept of Operations. ACC approved the final basing decision to put the MQ-9 squadron at Creech Air Force Base in February 2004. As an R&D project, the Navy plans to acquire one Predator B for demonstrating sensor capabilities and related tactics, techniques and procedures. Air and Marine Operations of DHS operates its own MQ-9s for border surveillance from Ft Huachuca, AZ.

http://www.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet_print.asp?fsID=122&page=1.

Characteristics:

	MQ-9A		MQ-9A
Length	36 ft	Wing Span	64 ft
Gross Weight	10,500 lb	Payload Capacity	*750 lb
Fuel Capacity	4,000 lb	Fuel Type	JP
Engine Make	Honeywell TPE 331-10	Power	900 shp
Data Link(s)	BLOS	Frequency	Ku-band
	LOS		C-band

* Up to 3,000 lb total externally on wing hardpoints.

Performance:

Endurance	30 hr/clean 16-20 hr/external stores	Max/Loiter Speeds	225/TBD kt
Ceiling	50,000 ft	Radius	2,000 nm
Takeoff Means	Runway	Landing Means	Runway
Sensor(s)	EO/IR/LRF/LD SAR/MTI	Sensor Model(s)	MTS-B AN/APY-8
Weapons	4x500-lb class or 10x250-lb class		

