



## U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## *Unmanned Aircraft System MQ-9 Predator B*

# FACT SHEET



U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations (AMO) operates the Predator B unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to increase domain awareness in the land and maritime environments.

Aircrews use cutting edge systems technology and real-time networked data dissemination and exploitation to detect, classify, monitor, and appropriately respond to threats at the nation's border regions and approaches to the United States.

In 2012, AMO added Vehicle and Dismount Exploitation Radar (VADER), a strategic and tactical operations sensor that provides comprehensive situational awareness for an expanded area. It is designed to detect moving targets or perform coherent change detection. VADER-equipped UAS in association with the on board camera is effective in detecting, classifying, and tracking moving targets.

AMO also deploys the UAS to aid in disaster relief and emergency response efforts of its Department of Homeland Security partners, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Fiscal Year 2020, AMO's UAS recorded 17,351 confirmed detections of illegal activity. UAS missions also led to the seizure of 6,698 pounds of marijuana.

### **Performance and Weight:**

- **Maximum Speed**  
240 knots (276 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**  
50,000 feet
- **Endurance**  
Up to 20 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**  
10,500 pounds

### **Other System Components**

- Fixed and mobile ground control stations
- Electro-optical/infrared sensors
- Surface search radar/ground moving target indicator