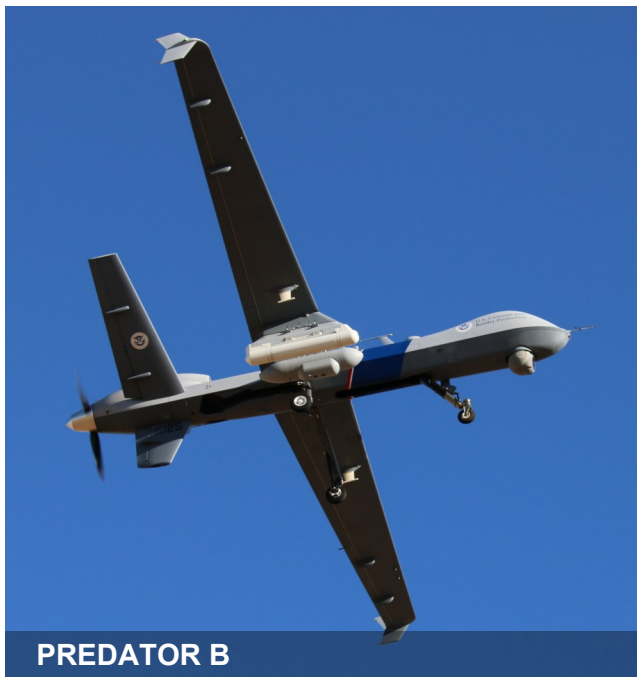




U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Unmanned Aircraft System MQ-9

FACT SHEET



U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Air and Marine Operations (AMO) operates the MQ-9 Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) to increase domain awareness in the land and maritime environments.

Aircrews use cutting edge 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 U.S.

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 and perform coherent change detection. VADER-equipped UAS are an effective tool to help crews detect, classify, and track moving targets over land.

AMO also utilizes SeaVue sensors on UAS, effective for detecting, classifying, and tracking maritime surface targets in coastal areas surrounding the U.S. and extending operations into the maritime transit zone of bulk quantities of illicit substances.

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

During fiscal year 2021, AMO UAS crews reported 72,836 detections of cross-border and maritime traffic suspected of illegal activity. Additionally, missions conducted by AMO UAS crews in FY 2021 led to the seizure of 9,541 pounds of marijuana and 9,773 pounds of cocaine.

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

- Mobile ground control stations
- Electro-optical/infrared sensors
- VADER sensor / Ground Moving Target Indicator
- SeaVue Marine Search Radar