



## U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## *Guardian UAS Maritime Variant Predator B*

# FACT SHEET



U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Air and Marine Operations (AMO) operates the highly capable and proven Predator B unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to further enhance operational capabilities and increase domain awareness. In partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, AMO developed a maritime variant of its Predator B UAS, called the Guardian, to increase reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting, and acquisition capabilities in maritime operating environments.

The Guardian was modified from a standard Predator B with structural, avionics, and communications enhancements, as well as the addition of a Raytheon SeaVue marine search radar and an electro-optical/infrared sensor that is optimized for maritime operations.

AMO pilots operate the Guardian to conduct long-range surveillance for joint counter-narcotics operations in the Southern California coastal and Gulf of Mexico border regions and drug source and transit zones, where maritime radar is necessary to detect a variety of threats. Video recorders document suspect activities for evidentiary use.

### **CBP UAS Operations**

- Aircrews operate the UAS to enhance law enforcement missions in the Southwest, Southeast and Northern Regions, and Joint Inter-agency Task Force South, to include the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean Transit Zones.

### **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, which allow for crewmembers to maintain awareness of targets in all environments