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

For more information, visit the CBP.gov website or contact the Office of Public Affairs at (202) 344-1780.