



U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

DESERT HAWK SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM



Mission

The Desert Hawk Small Unmanned Aircraft System or UAS provides real-time overhead video imagery for Air Force security forces providing force protection, air base defense and convoy protection. Desert Hawk is part of the integrated base defense system.

Features

The Desert Hawk UAS features six air vehicles or AVs, a ground control station, remote video terminal, day-night camera capability, transportation cases, launch equipment and ground spares and equipment. A two-person crew using a bungee-cord catapult system launches the Desert Hawk. Desert Hawk can be autonomously flown using a laptop computer with dynamic re-tasking and on-demand manual steering override. A two-bladed propeller driven by an electric motor powers the Desert Hawk.

Background

Developed by Lockheed Martin, Desert Hawk's original concept was to provide a ring of protection around air bases at forward locations for Air Force security forces. In July 2002, systems were delivered to the Air Force as part of the Force Protection Airborne Surveillance System requirement. Desert Hawk was rapidly fielded to support security forces deployed in U. S. Central Command's area of operations. It has proven its worth supporting not only Air Force assets but also Army forces involved in convoy protection and base defense.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Real-time force protection and reconnaissance, and perimeter assessment

Contractor: Lockheed Martin

Power Plant: Electric motor, rechargeable lithium ion batteries

Wingspan: 4.3 feet (1.31 meters)

Length: 2 feet 10 in (.8 meters)

Weight: (aerial vehicle) 7 lbs (3.2 kilograms)

Speed: 35-55 mph (30-48 knots)

Operating Altitude: 200-1000 ft air ground level (AGL) (60-300meters)

Initial Operating Capability: 2002

System Cost: approximately \$224,000 (2004 dollars)

Payload: High resolution, day/night camera and thermal imager

Inventory: Classified

Point of Contact

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