



Description

This unmanned drone is designed for low-altitude, photographic or electronic surveillance missions. Its prime purpose is to locate targets where it is inadvisable to send manned aircraft or to perform other forms of reconnaissance. It travels up to 140 mph and has a range of 400 nautical miles. It transmits images without landing and can stay airborne for 24 hours.

The CIA uses an armed version that can find and destroy targets using a missile. The CIA used a weaponised RQ-1 to fire an AGM-114 missile to assassinate a carload of suspects in Yemen in 2002.

Wars and other Military Operations

RQ-1s were used in at least the following wars and military operations: Bosnia (1995), Yugoslavia (1999), Afghanistan (2001-2003), Yemen (2002) and Iraq (2003). (See page 31.)

Weapons

The CIA's "weaponised" version of the RQ-1 (called an MQ-1), is equipped with the AGM-114. (For details, see "Bombs, Guns and Missiles," pp. 32-37.)

Prime Contractor: General Atomics (USA)

Canadian Parts and Services

The following is a partial list of Canadian companies and the parts and/or services they provided for the RQ-1:

CAE: courseware development, simulated operator training, using the Predator Mission Task Trainer

DY 4 Systems: Computer boards

Wescam Inc.: long-range surveillance camera and gyro-stabilization turrets

Description

This high-altitude reconnaissance drone is the size of a large business jet. It carries one ton of imaging technology and can photograph targets with one foot of resolution from 200 kilometres away. It produces high-resolution, near-real-time images of areas up to 40,000 square nautical miles. It flies at an altitude of 17 km, has a range of 26,000 km and can stay aloft for 41 hours. In April 2001, an RQ-4A was the first unmanned aircraft to fly non-stop across the Pacific Ocean (i.e., 13,840 km). Its prime contractor, Northrop Grumman, says the RQ-4A "will significantly enhance the U.S. military's ability to prevail in all types of operations, from sensitive peacekeeping missions to full-scale combat."



Wars and other Military Operations

RQ-4As were used in at least the following wars and military operations:

Afghanistan (2001-present), Philippines (2003) and Iraq (2003). (See page 31.)

Prime

Contractor

Northrop Grumman Corp (USA)

CPP Investment ✓

(See pp. 6-7)

Principal suppliers include:

Raytheon Systems (USA) (sensors), **Allison** (USA) (turbofan engine), **Boeing North American** (USA) (wings) and **L-3 Communications** (USA) (communications system).

Canadian Parts and Services

The following Canadian company and the parts and/or services they provided for the RQ-4A:

Héroux Inc.: Landing gear

RQ-4A Flight Tests over Canada

Following in the longstanding Canadian tradition of allowing the U.S. military to test its weapons and war technologies in this country, the Liberal government allowed at least four test flights of the RQ-4A. Two tests were done over Alberta in January 2000, and two over BC that March.

A Canadian Defence Research and Development Branch (DRDB) press release on December 9, 1999, described these four test flights as "a technical exercise to ensure that all systems are functioning properly."

The DRDB "has had a long and distinguished track record of developing and testing equipment for the Canadian Forces and, more recently, for Canadian industry." The Canadian government paid \$200,000 to participate in the RQ-4A test flights.

For more info. on the Canadian government's involvement in the RQ-4A, see: www.dnd.ca/site/Newsroom/view_news_e.asp?id=547 and www.drdc-rddc.dnd.ca/newsevents/newstand/release/991209hawk_e.asp