Air Force Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Flight Plan
2009-2047

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AF ISR Transformation

- New challenges, new adversaries mandate new role for ISR
  - Collectively necessitated **AF ISR Transformation**
  - Expanded role and reach of AF ISR
  - Requires changing the culture regarding ISR

- Approach:
  - **ORGANIZATION:** Organize AF ISR as a holistic AF-wide enterprise to optimize presentation of ISR capabilities to service, joint, & national users
  - **PERSONNEL:** Develop ISR career paths to build viable “bench” of AF ISR senior leaders to meet 21st Century demands
  - **CAPABILITY:** Plan, guide, and orchestrate AF/ISR from a capability-based perspective as a consolidated functional area
1) **AF ISR Strategy**: AF ISR’s long-range plan that provides overall guidance and philosophy

2) **AF ISR Flight Plan**: Identifies options to resource the AF ISR strategy

3) **AF UAS Flight Plan**: Action plan to guide AF UAS development

4) **ISR CONOPs**: Describes how we envision integrating and optimizing ISR day-to-day operations

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**Timeline**: Decades

**Timeline**: Years

**Timeline**: Today

**Strategy**

**Flight Plans**

**CONOPS**

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**Integrity - Service - Excellence**
What do UAS’s Bring to Operations?

- Persistence—ability to loiter over a target for long time periods for ISR and/or opportunity to strike enemy target
- Undetected penetration / operation
- Operation in dangerous environments
- Can be operated remotely, so fewer personnel in combat zones—projects power without projecting vulnerability
- Integrates “find, fix, finish” sensor and shooter capabilities on one platform
Result: High Demand Asset

Growth in Air Force medium-altitude MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper Combat Air Patrols

- 2004 = 5
- 2005 = 8
- 2006 = 11
- 2007 = 18
- 2008 = 33
- 2009 = 38

660% Increase in 6 years!
USAF UAS Vision: What We Believe

...A Joint approach to:

Get the most out of UAS to increase joint warfighting capability, while promoting service interdependency and the wisest use of tax dollars

Requires:

- Optimal Joint Concept of Operations (CONOPS)
- Airspace Control Resulting in Safe/Effective UAS Operations
- Air Defense Architecture to Achieve Security w/o Fratricide
- Increased Acquisition Effectiveness, Efficiency, Standardization
AF UAS Flight Plan: Vision for the future

An Air Force with…

- Unmanned aircraft that are fully integrated with manned aircraft across the full range of military operations
- UAS that use automated control and modular “plug-and-play” payloads to maximize combat capability, flexibility and efficiency
- Joint UAS solutions and teaming
- An informed industry and academia – knowing where we are going and what technologies to invest in

Capabilities-based Air Force UAS vision thru 2047: Defines DOTMLPF way forward

Integrity - Service - Excellence