The Camp Strike

Four MQ-9 reapers were selected to strike a remote jihadi training facility located in a deep canyon with a valley floor just 15 feet wide. The jihadi were in two camps, A and B, two to three miles apart. To ensure surprise, both camps had to be struck simultaneously.

1. Reapers One, Two, and Three were flown by squadrons in the same location. Reaper Four was controlled by a squadron in another location. Together they were armed with two 500-pound GBU-12 laser-guided bombs and 16 Hellfire missiles.

2. Reapers One and Four attacked Camp A with 500-pound bombs.

3. Reaper One passed bombs-on-target information to Reapers Two and Three, which were targeting Camp B with four Hellfire missiles. During the initial strike, all six munitions struck within a second of each other.

4. Prior planning, near real-time data sharing, and follow-on attacks enabled the four Reapers to eliminate 85 percent of the enemy group and wound the other 15 percent.