

MQ-5B Hunter

Next Generation Tactical Unmanned Aerial System



Unmanned. Unmatched.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN DEFINING THE FUTURE™



The Future Takes Flight
 MQ-5B provides persistent Tactical RSTA and Strike Capability to the Warfighter.

MQ-5B Hunter

Providing Tactical Warfighters with State-of-the-Art, Combat-Proven RSTA and Armed Reconnaissance

MQ-5B Hunter is a multi-mission, medium altitude endurance tactical unmanned aerial system (UAS) optimized to provide division and corps commanders with a dedicated reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition (RSTA) capability. It builds upon the successful combat heritage of the workhorse RQ-5A Hunter; the U.S. Army's first fielded UAV system (1996). Operated and maintained in the field by enlisted soldiers, the RQ-5A has accomplished its missions with distinction in peace and war, setting Department of Defense (DoD) standards for reliability and availability.

The MQ-5B conducts battlefield surveillance using its multi-mission optronic payload. Flying over the battlefield, it gathers RSTA and battle damage information in real time, then relays it via video link to commanders and soldiers on the ground. The payload also broadcasts its sensor data to ground control and mission monitoring stations, providing commanders with enhanced situation awareness and the ability to proactively plan and execute decisive combat operations.

The MQ-5B Hunter is distinguished by its heavy fuel engine, a DoD first, its "wet" (fuel-carrying) extended center wing with weapons capable hard points, and the most modern avionics suite in the DoD inventory. The MQ-5B Hunter system uses the Army's One System ground control station and remote video terminal. A differential GPS automatic takeoff and landing system is under development.

Air Vehicle. The MQ-5B features a robust, fixed-wing, twin tail-boom design with redundant control systems powered by two heavy fuel engines, one to "push", one to "pull" the air vehicle. A unique Hunter capability is its relay mode that allows one Hunter to control another at extended ranges or over terrain obstacles typical of those found in the Balkans and Afghanistan.

Heavy Fuel Engine. To meet the Army goal of a single battlefield fuel, Northrop Grumman adapted a COTS heavy fuel engine that allows MQ-5B AV to climb faster, operate at higher altitude and increase its endurance while reducing maintenance time and operation and support costs. Flight testing demonstrated that an MQ-5B can maintain altitude and operating characteristics with only a front or rear engine operating – a significant advantage.

Wet (Fuel-Carrying) Extended Center Wing. To increase Hunter's payload capacity, Northrop Grumman produced a longer, fuel carrying center wing featuring two hard points. Northrop Grumman's Viper Strike laser-guided munition, a precision kill-low collateral damage capability, was extensively demonstrated using the RQ-5A Hunter System.

Modern Avionics. To increase readiness and reduce the Soldier's logistics burden, Northrop Grumman developed a new suite of avionics for Hunter including upgraded mission computers, an auxiliary power distribution unit, the LN-251 inertial navigation system and GPS units and an APX-118 IFF transponder. The avionics suite improves AV performance by reducing size, weight, and power consumption of the equipment used to control the aircraft and manage its critical subsystems.



Infrastructure. Northrop Grumman is the U.S. Army's Hunter prime contractor. Hunter UAVs are deployed at various Army facilities in the U.S. and overseas locations. Northrop Grumman's Sierra Vista, Arizona site is the Army's Hunter depot support facility.

Specifications

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| Wingspan | 34.25 ft (10.44 m) |
| Length | 23 ft (7.01 m) |
| Maximum GTOW | 1,950 lbs (884.50 kg) |
| Power Plant | Heavy Fuel Engine (HFE) |
| External Payload (Max Per Wing) | 130 lbs (59.97 kg) |
| Total Payload (Fuel + Payloads) | 500 lbs (226.80 kg) |
| Loiter Velocity | 60-80 knots |
| Maximum Velocity | 120 knots TAS |
| Maximum Altitude | 18,000+ ft (5.49 km) |
| Endurance | 21 Hours |
| Sensors | EO/IR and EO/IR with Laser Designator |
| Communication | LOS Data Link, UAV Airborne Relay, and Voice Communications |

