

ROUTINE

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FM HQ ACC LANGLEY AFB VA//CC//

TO HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC//CC/CV//  
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//CC//  
HQ AFMC WPAFB OH//CC//  
HQ PACAF HICKHAM AFB HI//CC//  
SAF WASHINGTON DC//AQ//

INFO HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC//XO/XP/IL//  
HQ ACC LANGLEY AFB VA//CV/XO/XP/XR//  
ASC WPAFB OH//CC//  
ASC2ISRC LANGLEY AFB VA//CC//

UNCLAS

SUBJ: RQ-1, PREDATOR, PROGRAM DIRECTION

1. CHIEF, ACC HAS INTERNALIZED THE PREDATOR LESSONS LEARNED FROM OPERATION ALLIED FORCE AND IS CHANGING THE DIRECTION FOR THE PREDATOR PROGRAM WHICH IMMEDIATELY IMPROVES THE JFACC'S WARFIGHTING CAPABILITY. THE ORIGINAL CONSTRUCT OF PREDATOR AS JUST A RECONNAISSANCE SURVEILLANCE TARGET ACQUISITION ASSET NO LONGER APPLIES. ACC WILL EMPLOY PREDATOR AS A FAC-LIKE RESOURCE, WITH LOOK-OUT, TARGET IDENTIFICATION, AND TARGET DESIGNATION ROLES USING THE INHERENT AND PROPOSED EO/IR/LASER TARGETING/DESIGNATION CAPABILITIES AND UPGRADES. ALSO, ACC, AFMC, AND THE AIR ARMAMENT CENTER (EGLIN) ARE MOVING OUT ON THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP FOR USAF UAVS USING PREDATOR--WEAPONIZING UAVS.

2. ACC, IN COORDINATION WITH SAF/AQ AND ASC, WILL IMMEDIATELY IMPROVE THE JFACC'S WARFIGHTING CABAILITY BY ACCELERATING THE DELIVERY/ACCEPTANCE OF THE UPGRADED PREDATOR SYSTEMS WHICH COINCIDENTLY ACCELERATES DEPLOYMENT CAPABILITY BY SIX MONTHS. ACC WILL DECLARE PREDATOR'S INITIAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY UPON THE INITIAL SYSTEM ACCEPTANCE. THE UPGRADED PREDATOR SYSTEMS ADD UHF RADIOS, IFF, ICE MITIGATION VIA WET WINGS ON THE AERIAL VEHICLE FOR SAFELY CLIMBING OR DESCENDING THROUGH ICING CONDITIONS, AND A 25 PERCENT MORE POWERFUL ENGINE. ACC WILL COMPLETE TD&E USING THE THREE EXISTING LASER DESIGNATOR SENSORS FROM OAF AND TD&E THE PROBABLE PRODUCTION SOLUTION, A SINGLE INTEGRATED EO/IR/LASER DESIGNATOR SENSOR THIS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER. ACC WILL ALSO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING CY2000 EXPERIMENTS THAT REQUIRE PREDATOR SUPPORT: WEAPONIZING UAVS, POWER SCENE (MTI TARGET COORDINATES/TARGETING), JOINT STARS/PREDATOR CROSS-CUEING, AND STINGRAY (UAV BATTLE LAB MTI SAR INITIATIVE).

3. REDIRECTION OF THE PREDATOR PROGRAM COMES AT A COST. FIRST, PREDATOR OT&E IS SCHEDULED FOR OCT 2000 WHICH TIES UP THE INITIAL UPGRADED SYSTEM FOR SIX MONTHS. ACCOMPLISHING OT&E AT THIS LATE DATE DOES NOT MAKE SENSE BASED UPON PREDATOR'S PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF WARFIGHTING SUPPORT TO THE CINCS SINCE 1995. THE HIGHEST COST OF OT&E TODAY IS PREDATOR AVAILABILITY GIVEN THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT, ACCESS TO PREDATOR BY THE LASER DESIGNATOR TD&ES, AND CY2000 EXPERIMENTS. NORMALLY, OT&E WOULD DETERMINE ACQUISITION MILESTONE III

DECISIONS HOWEVER THE USD SIGNED PREDATOR'S ACQUISITION DECISION MEMORANDUM 18 AUG 1997 AND ALL PREDATOR SYSTEMS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT AS NEW DELIVERIES OR RETROFITS WHICH ARE JROCM COMPLIANT. ACC AND AFMC WILL FLY FIRST, FIX LATER, WHICH MEANS THAT TECHNICAL ORDERS WILL LAG BEHIND THE CY2000 DELIVERIES. THE CONCEPT OF MAINTENANCE HAS NOT CHANGED AND ACC WILL REQUIRE SOME MINIMUM CONTRACTOR SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT VIA AFMC UNTIL THE APPLICABLE TECHNICAL ORDERS CATCH UP.

4. ACC REQUESTS THAT THE CSAF DETERMINE PREDATOR OPERATIONAL TESTING & EVALUATION IS COMPLETE BASED UPON PROVEN WARFIGHTING SUPPORT TO THE THEATER CINCS SINCE 1995.

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