

# MQ-5B Hunter

## Providing Tactical Warfighters with State-Of-The-Art, Combat-Proven RSTA and Armed Reconnaissance

MQ-5B Hunter is a multimission, medium altitude endurance tactical unmanned aerial system (UAS) optimized to provide Army division and corps commanders with a dedicated reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) capability. Operated and maintained in the field by enlisted soldiers, the legacy RQ-5A Hunter accomplished its missions with distinction in peace and war, setting Department of Defense (DoD) standards for reliability and availability. With more than 20 years of service, the MQ-5B Hunter surpassed 100,000 flight hours in December 2010.

The MQ-5B conducts battlefield surveillance using its multimission 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 situational awareness and the ability to proactively plan and execute decisive combat operations. The MQ-5B Hunter is distinguished by its heavy fuel engine, 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. In late summer 2009, Hunter gained another capability with a differential GPS Automatic Takeoff and Landing System, which has since been fielded to the Army's UAS Training Battalion, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

### 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" and one to "pull" the air vehicle. A unique Hunter capability is its relay mode, which allows one Hunter to control another at extended ranges or over terrain obstacles typical of those found in the Balkans and Afghanistan.



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"For more than a dozen years the Hunter Unmanned Aircraft System has been the most versatile tool in the Army UAS inventory, undergoing continual upgrades and improvements to meet the needs of the warfighter more effectively in several theaters of war."

**Col. Greg Gonzalez,**  
*Program Manager for the Army's Unmanned Aircraft Systems*

## Heavy Fuel Engine

To meet the Army's goal of a single battlefield fuel, Northrop Grumman adapted a commercial off-the-shelf heavy fuel engine that allows the MQ-5B Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) to climb faster, operate at a higher altitude, and increase its endurance while reducing maintenance time and operation and support costs.

## 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. The Army recently fielded Hunter with Northrop Grumman's GPS-guided Viper Strike munition, which is a precision-kill, low collateral damage capability.

## Modern Avionics

To increase readiness and reduce the Soldier's logistics burden, Northrop Grumman developed a new suite of avionics for Hunter, including upgraded flight and mission computers, an auxiliary power distribution unit, the LN-251 inertial navigation system with GPS, an APX-118 IFF transponder, and a downsized data link system. The avionics suite improves UAV performance by reducing the 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 United States and overseas locations. Northrop Grumman's Unmanned System Sustainment Center in Sierra Vista, Ariz., is the Army's Hunter depot support facility.

## Specifications

Wingspan	34.25 ft (10.44 m)
Length	23 ft (7.01 m)
Maximum GTOW	1,950 lbs (884.50 kg)
Power Plant	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	C-Band or TCDL LOS Data Link, UAV Airborne Relay, and Voice Communications



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Technical Services, a sector of Northrop Grumman, has more than 17,000 employees and annual revenues of more than \$3 billion. With nearly 50 years of experience supporting all phases of process and systems integration, Technical Services helps organizations manage their increasingly complex requirements.

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