MQ-5B

Providing warfighters with relevant, reliable and adaptive combat-proven reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition (RSTA) capability.
The MQ-5B Hunter is a multimission unmanned aircraft system (UAS) optimized to provide Army corps and division commanders with persistent dedicated RSTA capability. With more than 120,000 flight hours, Hunter has set DoD standards for reliability and adaptability for more than 22 years.

The MQ-5B, using multimission payloads, gathers RSTA and battlefield information in real time relaying it via secure video link to commanders and soldiers on the ground. The system allows the payloads to broadcast sensor data to ground control and mission monitoring stations providing commanders with enhanced situational awareness and enabling the ability to proactively plan and execute decisive combat operations.

The MQ-5B 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 DoD’s inventory. The Hunter system uses the Army’s One System Ground Control Station (Block II Shelter) and remote video terminal. Also, the Hunter will be one of DoD’s first programs to integrate the Army’s Universal Ground Station.

Unmanned Aircraft
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 aircraft. A unique capability is its relay mode, which allows one Hunter to control another at extended ranges.

Heavy Fuel Engine
Northrop Grumman met the Army’s goal of utilizing a single battlefield fuel by adapting a commercial-off-the-shelf heavy fuel engine that allows the Hunter to climb faster, operate at higher altitudes, and increase its endurance while reducing maintenance time and operation support costs.

Infrastructure
Northrop Grumman is the U.S. Army’s Hunter prime contractor. Hunter UAS are deployed at numerous facilities in the U.S. 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
- Control: BLK II OSGCS with ATLS
- Communication: C-Band or TCDL LOS Data Link, UAS Airborne Relay, and Communication Relay Package

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