

Robot spy plane gets stealthy upgrade

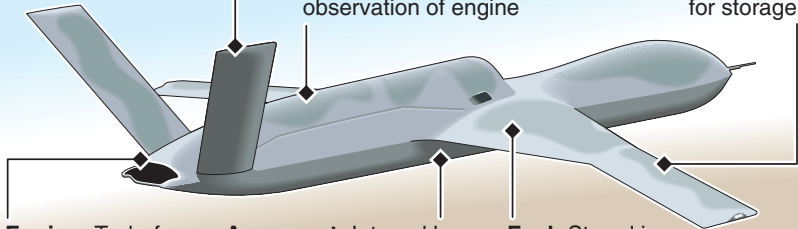
The *Predator C Avenger* is a potential major new upgrade to the U.S. Air Force's most combat-proven unmanned aircraft, featuring enhanced performance and weapons, jet propulsion and stealth technology

V-tail: Deflects radar and shields engine exhaust's infrared signature

Hump-backed design

Allows room for S-shaped exhaust to prevent radar observation of engine

Wings: 17° sweep for higher airspeed. Outer wings fold for storage



Engine: Turbofan, 21.3kN thrust

Armament: Internal bay for laser-guided bombs

Fuel: Stored in wide inner wing sections

PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

Predator A *Predator C*

Length	8.22m	12.5m
Wingspan	14.8m	20m
Top speed	217km/h	740km/h
Altitude	7,620m	18,290m
Endurance	40 hours	20 hours



MQ-1 Predator A: Original version introduced in 1995. Improved **B** version entered service in 2007