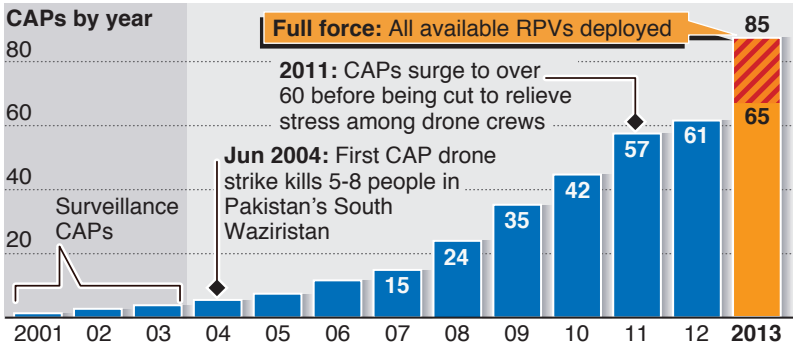


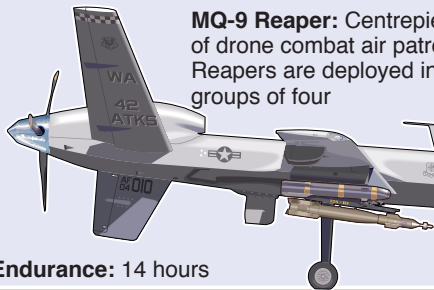
U.S. to expand global drone operations

The Pentagon plans to expand its fleet of Remotely Piloted Vehicles to enable it to mount 65-85 simultaneous drone Combat Air Patrols. One CAP represents a 24-hour, 365-day patrol with three to four RPVs



MQ-9 Reaper: Centrepiece of drone combat air patrols. Reapers are deployed in groups of four

Remote crew: One pilot and one sensor operator working in shifts. Air Force has some 350 drone crews

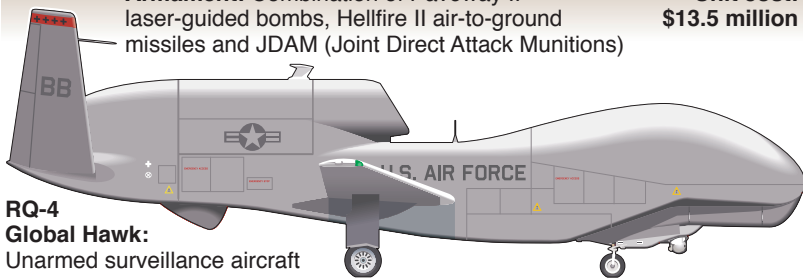


Endurance: 14 hours



Armament: Combination of Paveway II laser-guided bombs, Hellfire II air-to-ground missiles and JDAM (Joint Direct Attack Munitions)

Unit cost: \$13.5 million



RQ-4 Global Hawk:
Unarmed surveillance aircraft

Endurance: 36 hours. **Remote crew:** As Reaper

Unit cost: \$200 million