## **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 CAPs by year 85 Full force: All available RPVs deployed 80 2011: CAPs surge to over\_ 60 before being cut to relieve 60 65 stress among drone crews Jun 2004: First CAP drone 40 strike kills 5-8 people in 42 Surveillance Pakistan's South 35 CAPs Waziristan 20 24 2001 03 02 Ω4 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 2013 MQ-9 Reaper: Centrepiece Remote crew: One pilot of drone combat air patrols. and one sensor operator Reapers are deployed in working in shifts. Air Force groups of four has some 350 drone crews Endurance: 14 hours Armament: Combination of Paveway II Unit cost: \$13.5 million laser-guided bombs, Hellfire II air-to-ground missiles and JDAM (Joint Direct Attack Munitions) LS. AIR FORCE RQ-4 Global Hawk:

Endurance: 36 hours. Remote crew: As Reaper

Unarmed surveillance aircraft

Unit cost: \$200 million

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