

U.S. troops get lethal mini-drones

U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan have been issued with a new class of lightweight, unmanned drone known as the *Switchblade*, which can be carried in a backpack and used in place of an air strike

Twin tail rudders

Propeller

Backpackable

Electric motor

Wings: Unfold upon launch

Camera and GPS sensors

Hand grenade-sized warhead

SWITCHBLADE

Weight 2.7kg

Length 60cm

Speed 150km/h

Range 5km radius

Duration 20 mins

Aerial

View finder cover: Protects from sunlight

Handheld controller: Drone sends live colour video to control unit.

Upon identifying target, decision to kill is made at level of platoon commander or soldier