

FINAL RELEASE FOR FLIGHT CERTIFICATE		1. MODIFICATION NUMBER N/A	2. DATE 20051116
3. MDS/TMS RQ-1/MQ-1	4. SERIAL NUMBER All	5. PROJECT NUMBER N/A	6. LOCAL USE
7. PROJECT TITLE RQ-1/MQ-1 Remotely Piloted Aircraft			
8. STATEMENT OF CONDITION/REMARKS <p>The Predator Systems Squadron declares USAF owned and operated RQ-1 and MQ-1 remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) safe and airworthy based on a continuous product improvement program and over 141,000 flight hours. Predator RPAs have been operating in the United States since 1994, used in worldwide combat operations in conjunction with manned platforms since 1996, and its continued operation in national airspace is necessary to fulfill missions in the interest of national security.</p> <p>RQ-1/MQ-1 airworthiness criteria have been developed by the original equipment manufacturer, and corresponding MIL-HDBK-516 airworthiness criteria are currently being developed. When completed, a final airworthiness certification will be released.</p> <p>Flight manuals and technical orders for the RQ-1/MQ-1 weapon system are accurate, validated, verified, and current. There are no open deficiency reports, safety recommendations, or other system indicators to suggest that the RQ-1/MQ-1 weapons system is not operating within acceptable levels of risk or in accordance with approved technical data.</p> <p>DoD systems engineering practices and procedures have been applied to the RQ-1/MQ-1 program. Weapon systems hardware and software upgrades are approved through a configuration control process prior to being release for operational use.</p> <p>RQ-1/MQ-1 engineering development and system integration testing has been performed by GA-ASI at the main facility in San Diego, CA. Ground and flight-testing have been conducted from GA-ASI flight operations facilities located at El Mirage, CA, and Grey Butte, CA.. Developmental and operational flight tests, as well as training and tactics development, have been performed in the established flight test areas in and around Edwards AFB, CA, NAS China Lake, CA, Creech AFB, NV, Nellis AFB, NV, and associated ranges.</p>			
9. FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS IN ADDITION TO THOSE IN THE PARTIAL FLIGHT MANUAL - Flight operations shall be conducted using validated and verified technical data, or authorized preliminary technical data that address items under development.			
10. NAME AND GRADE OF SAFETY OFFICER (b) (6) (b) (6)	SIGNATURE // SIGNED //	DATE 17 Nov 05	
11. NAME AND GRADE OF OPERATIONS OFFICER (b) (6) (b) (6)	SIGNATURE // SIGNED //	DATE 17 Nov 05	
12. NAME AND GRADE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER (b) (6) (b) (6)	SIGNATURE // SIGNED //	DATE 21 Nov 05	
13. NAME AND GRADE OF ENGINEERING OFFICER (b) (6) (b) (6), Predator Systems Squadron	SIGNATURE // SIGNED //	DATE 17 Nov 05	
14. OTHER (Specify)	SIGNATURE	DATE	
15. OTHER (Specify)	SIGNATURE	DATE	
16. NAME AND GRADE OF CCB CHAIRPERSON (b) (6) (b) (6), Predator Systems Squadron	SIGNATURE (b) (6)	DATE 21 Nov 05	

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REPLACES AFM FORM 273, MAY 69 WHICH IS OBSOLETE