

FINAL RELEASE FOR FLIGHT CERTIFICATE		1. MODIFICATION NUMBER N/A	2. DATE 20060210
3. MDS/TMS YMQ-9/MQ-9	4. SERIAL NUMBER Tail #s -001 through -021	5. PROJECT NUMBER N/A	6. LOCAL USE
7. PROJECT TITLE YMQ-9/MQ-9 Predator B UAS Weapons System Experimental Category Airworthiness Certificate			
8. STATEMENT OF CONDITION/REMARKS <p>The Air Force has evaluated the YMQ-9/MQ-9 Predator unmanned aircraft system using accepted DoD technical and safety review board processes and have released it to flight and have found it to be airworthy and safe to operate in National Airspace System with the restrictions noted in section 9 below.</p> <p>Predator UASs have been operating in the United States since 2001 and have accumulated over 4,100 flight hours. Continued operation of YMQ-9 and MQ-9 in national airspace is necessary to fulfill missions in the interest of national security. This airworthiness statement is applicable to flight operations that include training, flight test, flight test support, tactics and procedures development, functional/operational check flights, and ferry flights.</p> <p>Preliminary flight manuals and technical orders for the YMQ-9/MQ-9 weapon system are being used. There are no open deficiency reports, safety recommendations, or other system indicators to suggest that the YMQ-9/MQ-9 weapon system is not operating within acceptable levels of risk or in accordance with technical data. YMQ-9/MQ-9 engineering designs have been reviewed and documented using established DoD systems engineering and safety review processes. All risks identified to date have been mitigated to a low or medium level before initial flight testing, and are typically rated low after initial testing is completed. All additional flight test operations will follow the same process. The configuration of the design is controlled using AF and contractor processes</p> <p>YMQ-9/MQ-9 engineering development and system integration testing has been performed by GA-ASI facilities in San Diego, CA, and Adelanto, CA. Ground and flight-testing have been conducted from GA-ASI flight operations facilities located at El Mirage, CA, and Grey Butte, CA.. Developmental & operational flight tests, as well as training and tactics development, have been performed in restricted areas in and around Edwards AFB, CA, NAS China Lake, CA, and will expand to Creech AFB, NV, Nellis AFB, NV, and associated ranges in 2006.</p>			
9. FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS IN ADDITION TO THOSE IN THE PARTIAL FLIGHT MANUAL 1. The UAS must be operated within approved limitations and with approved procedures. 2. Flights above densely populated areas are allowable as documented in the specific COA. 3. This certificate applies to YMQ-9/MQ-9s owned, operated or under contract with the USAF.			
10. NAME AND GRADE OF SAFETY OFFICER (b) (6), (b) (3) 10 USC 130b		SIGNATURE // SIGNED //	DATE 20060210
11. NAME AND GRADE OF OPERATIONS OFFICER (b) (6), (b) (3) 10 USC 130b		SIGNATURE // SIGNED //	DATE 20060210
12. NAME AND GRADE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER (b) (6), (b) (3) 10 USC 130b		SIGNATURE // SIGNED //	DATE 20060210
13. NAME AND GRADE OF ENGINEERING OFFICER (b) (6), (b) (3) 10 USC 130b		SIGNATURE // SIGNED //	DATE 20060210
14. OTHER (Specify) (b) (6), (b) (3) 10 USC 130b		SIGNATURE (b) (6), (b) (3) 10 USC 130b	DATE 20060210
		SIGNATURE	DATE
16. NAME AND GRADE OF CCB CHAIRPERSON (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)		SIGNATURE (b) (6)	DATE 20060210