



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Predator B Update

I understand the subject of Predator B came up at a Round Table discussion last week. Here's an update for you:

- We are working to finalize the details for the standup of as many as 15 Active/Air National Guard (ANG) Predator A/B Squadrons. We've got 3 Active squadrons now, we've announced 2 ANG locations, we're close to announcing another 4 ANG squadrons and we're progressing on identifying the operating locations of another 6. This gives us significantly enhanced opportunities for more orbits in CENTCOM's Area of Responsibility (AOR) as well as new opportunities for PACOM, SOCOM, NORTHCOM, and SOUTHCOM.
- To make all that happen...we're are in the process of asking General Atomics to produce as many Predator A's and B's and as many ground control stations as they can deliver to the USAF.
- We are also looking at the most rapid way to fully man these squadrons with trained pilots, sensor operators, imagery analysts, and maintenance specialists. We're exploring options with ANG and contractors to identify the trained individuals required for these units in the shortest time to provide enhanced combat capability.
- We will continue to make sure that persistent problems we are seeing in the Predator B (engine failures, landing gear, and sensor issues) are fixed before full rate production, but will tell them to get there as fast as we can.
- We will ask for supplemental money to help with this increase.

Peter B. Teets
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

Cc: USD(I)
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