



# Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)

## Air Guard Highlights

- RPAs provide critical data for the Joint Warfighter - 24/7/365 disseminating more than 1,000 hours of full motion video every day to joint force commanders and warfighters on the ground allowing unmatched persistence and flexibility.
- The ANG is fully engaged with 4 MQ-1 Predator squad-rons and 8 MQ-9 Reaper Squadron.
- The ANG's increasing contribution to RPA operations embodies the National Guard's role as a vital warfighting component able to support the spectrum of combat operations.

## Army Guard Highlights

- The ARNG has 128 Shadow (RQ-7B) aircraft (32 systems) in 27 States and 2,946 Raven (RQ-11) aircraft (982 systems) in 53 states and US territories.
- Unmanned systems operate through all echelons of altitude and airspace; interoperability will continue to provide the most complete coverage to the warfighter and in the future for emergency response in the homeland
- UAS will continue to contribute and influence how the ANG and ARNG fight through innovative tactics, techniques and proce-dures (TTPs) to enhance manned & unmanned teaming -- both air-to-air and air-to-ground.



**Air National Guard (ANG) RPA Mission:** The primary mission of the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper is to provide intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and strike capability to joint force commanders engaged in the area of operations. This capability affords far greater visibility of the battlefield than they would have otherwise and the ability to strike critical, time-perishable targets when needed.

## MQ-1 Predator/MQ-9 Reaper Information

- The Air Force (AF) currently flies 60 Predator and Reaper Combat Air Patrols (CAPs) on which 14 are flown by the ANG
- Predators and Reapers provide more than 1000 hours of full motion video every day (greater than 33,000 hours per month) to joint force commanders and warfighters on the ground providing unmatched persistent strike capability and flexibility
- The fully operational system consists of an air vehicle (with sensors and weapons), a ground control station (GCS), a squadron operations center (SOC) and the satellite earth terminal sub-station
- The USAF will train nearly 600 Predator/Reaper pilots in FY16 and every year through FY21 in order to meet the demand and maintain a healthy Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) force

**Army National Guard (ARNG) RPA Mission:** The Primary mission of the RQ-11 Raven and the RQ-7B Shadow is to provide ground forces with visual reconnaissance of the immediate vicinity. They do not have a strike capability.

## Raven RQ-11/Shadow RQ-7B Information

- The ARNG Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) units have flown over 225,000 total flight hours in support of OIF (Iraqi Freedom), OEF (Enduring Freedom), and OND (New Dawn) operations.
- The ARNG UAS units return from combat operations and continue to face challenges with operating aircraft for training in the National Airspace System (NAS).
- Due to Federal Aviation Administration issues when operating outside of military controlled airspace, the ARNG has not been able to use unmanned aircraft for domestic operations, but we expect that will change as the FAA develops procedures to integrate UAS into the National Airspace System.