

# ***Headquarters U.S. Air Force***

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## **Air Force Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Flight Plan 2009-2047**



**Lt Gen Dave Deptula  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence,  
Surveillance and Reconnaissance**

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# AF ISR Transformation

- New challenges, new adversaries mandate new role for ISR
  - Collectively necessitated AF ISR Transformation
  - Expanded role and reach of AF ISR
  - Requires changing the culture regarding ISR
- Approach:
  - ORGANIZATION: *Organize AF ISR as a holistic AF-wide enterprise to optimize presentation of ISR capabilities to service, joint, & national users*
  - PERSONNEL: *Develop ISR career paths to build viable “bench” of AF ISR senior leaders to meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century demands*
  - CAPABILITY: *Plan, guide, and orchestrate AF/ISR from a capability-based perspective as a consolidated functional area*

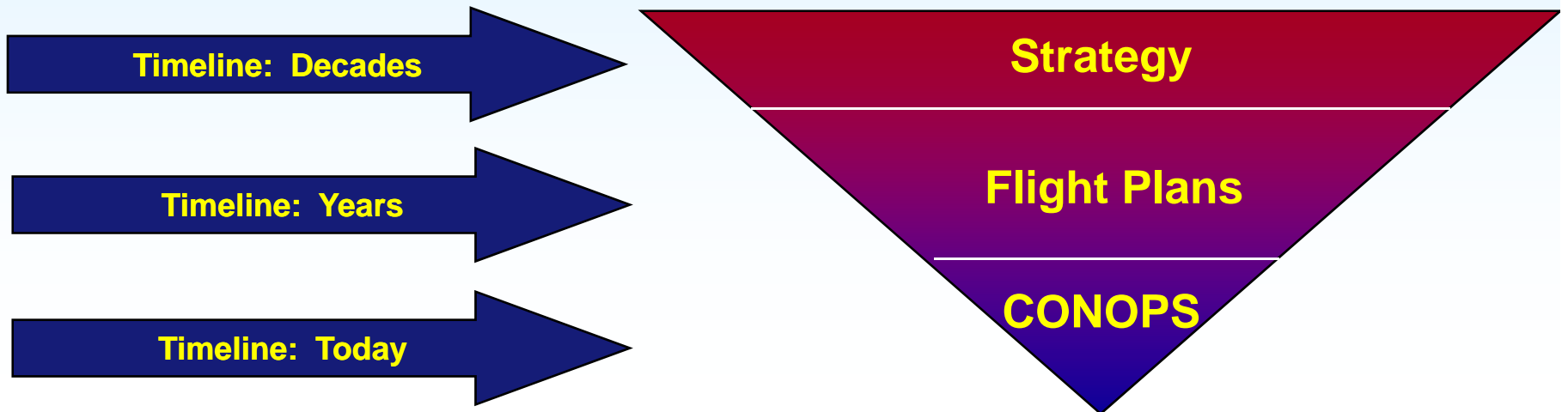
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# Codifying AF ISR for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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- 1) AF ISR Strategy: AF ISR's long-range plan that provides overall guidance and philosophy
- 2) AF ISR Flight Plan: Identifies options to resource the AF ISR strategy
- 3) AF UAS Flight Plan: Action plan to guide AF UAS development
- 4) ISR CONOPs: Describes how we envision integrating and optimizing ISR day-to-day operations



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# *What do UAS's Bring to Operations?*

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- **Persistence—ability to loiter over a target for long time periods for ISR and/or opportunity to strike enemy target**
- **Undetected penetration / operation**
- **Operation in dangerous environments**
- **Can be operated remotely, so fewer personnel in combat zones—projects power without projecting vulnerability**
- **Integrates “find, fix, finish” sensor and shooter capabilities on one platform**



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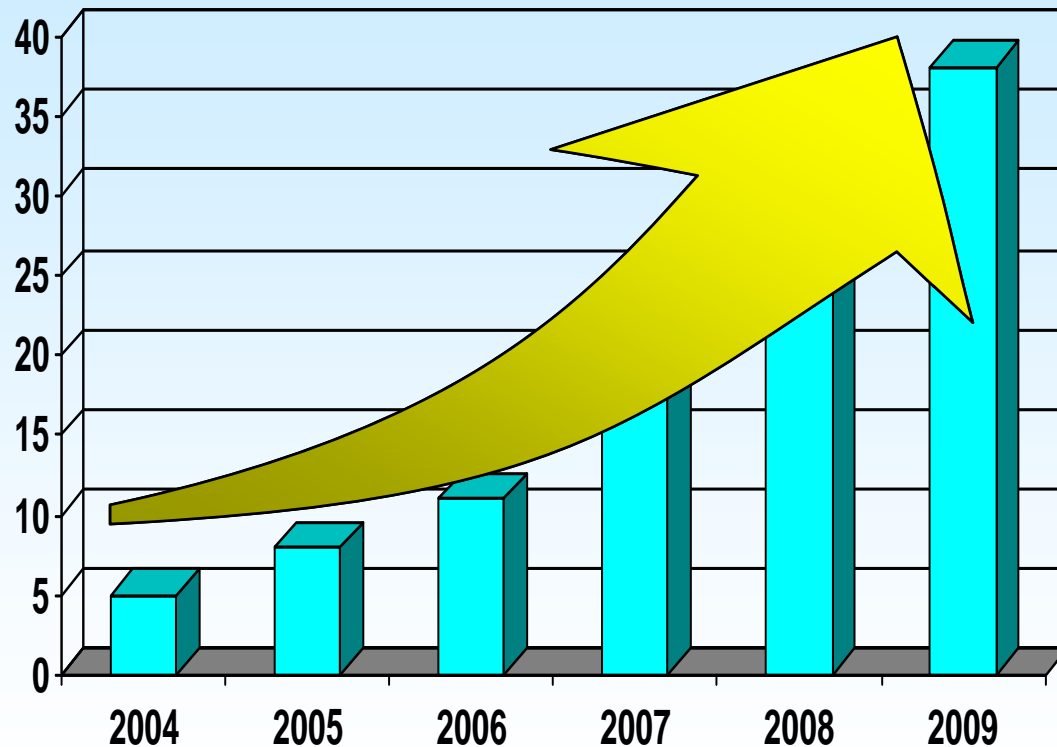


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# Result: High Demand Asset

## Growth in Air Force medium-altitude MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper Combat Air Patrols

- 2004 = 5
- 2005 = 8
- 2006 = 11
- 2007 = 18
- 2008 = 33
- 2009 = 38



**660% Increase in 6 years!**

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# USAF UAS Vision: What We Believe

...A Joint approach to:

**Get the most out of UAS to increase joint warfighting capability, while promoting service interdependency and the wisest use of tax dollars**

Requires:

- Optimal Joint Concept of Operations (CONOPS)
- Airspace Control Resulting in Safe/Effective UAS Operations
- Air Defense Architecture to Achieve Security w/o Fratricide
- Increased Acquisition Effectiveness, Efficiency, Standardization



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# ***AF UAS Flight Plan: Vision for the future***

## **An Air Force with...**

- **Unmanned aircraft that are fully integrated with manned aircraft across the full range of military operations**
- **UAS that use automated control and modular “plug-and-play” payloads to maximize combat capability, flexibility and efficiency**
- **Joint UAS solutions and teaming**
- **An informed industry and academia – knowing where we are going and what technologies to invest in**

***Capabilities-based Air Force UAS vision thru 2047:  
Defines DOTMLPF way forward***