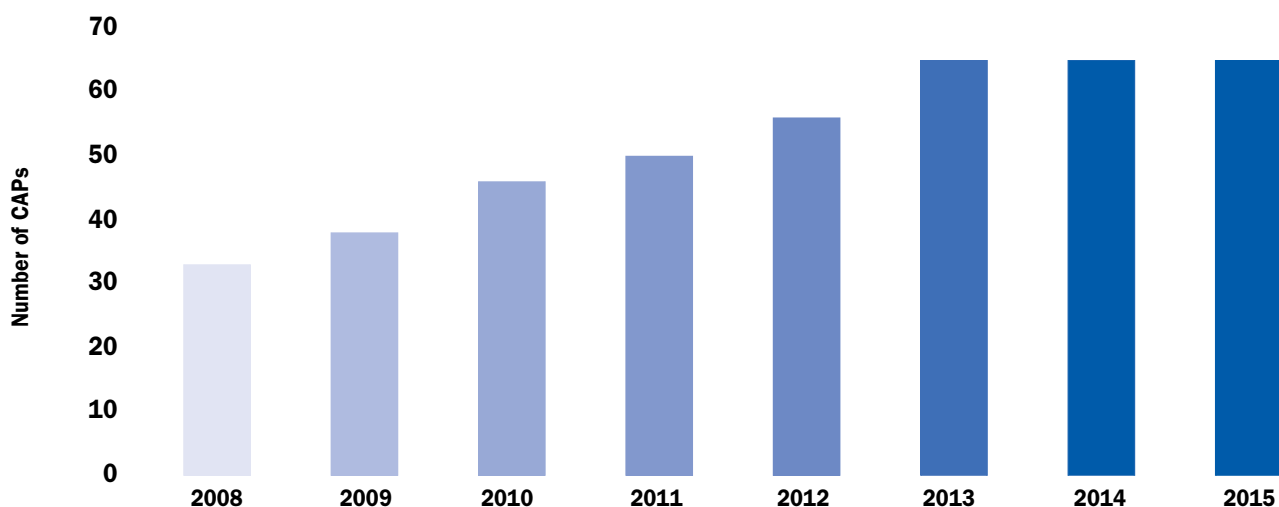


Will the Air Force Drown in Data?

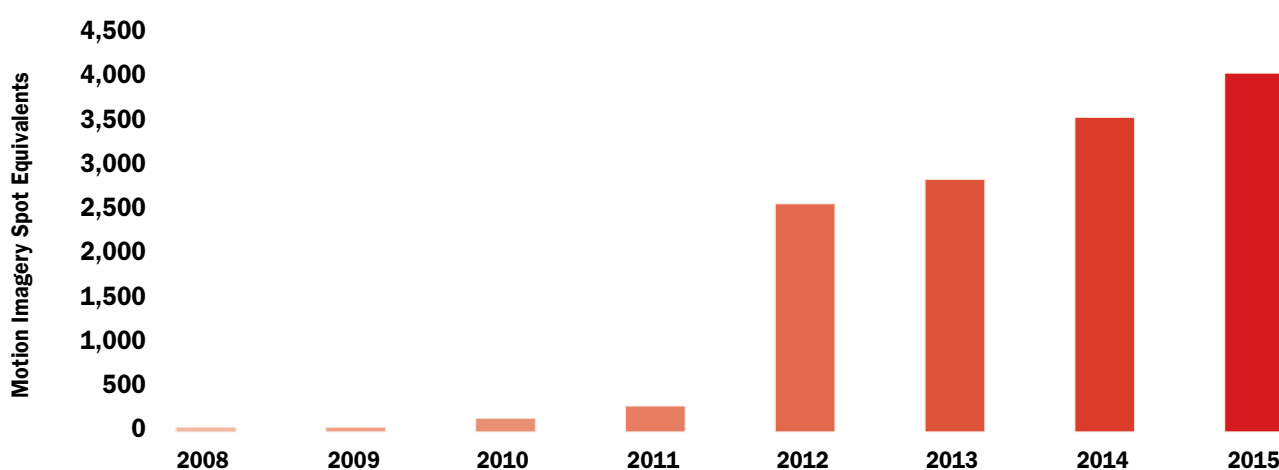
"We're going to find ourselves ... swimming in sensors and drowning in data." The prediction came in 2010 from the Air Force ISR chief, now-retired Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula. It is being borne out. USAF's fleet of remotely piloted aircraft such as Reaper and Predator will produce a tsunami of full-motion video; it threatens to swamp USAF intelligence analysts. As the two

charts show, there will be steep growth in RPA operations, but steeper growth of the video "take" from RPAs (expressed in terms of full-motion imagery "spots," or individual camera views). A new RAND report asserts USAF must bulk up its processing-exploitation-dissemination force—also known as "PED"—if it hopes to convert raw imagery to usable intelligence.

Growth in Predator and Reaper Combat Air Patrols



Growth in Predator and Reaper Full-Motion Imagery



"The Future of Air Force Motion Imagery Exploitation: Lessons from the Commercial World," Lance Menthe, Amado Cordova, Carl Rhodes, Rachel Costello, Jeffrey Sullivan, RAND Corp., Santa Monica, Calif., March 6, 2012. Reproduced with permission. Based on data from Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, USAF (Ret.), and Air Force RPA Task Force.