

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

MC-12W Liberty Project Aircraft (LPA)

Current as of: 9 Jun 09



Mission

The MC-12W is a medium-altitude manned aircraft. The primary mission is providing Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance support directly to ground forces. The MC-12W is a Joint Forces Air Component Commander-owned asset in support of the Joint Forces commander.

Features

The MC-12W LPA is not just an aircraft, but a complete Collection, Processing, Analysis and Dissemination system. The planes are military versions of the Hawker Beechcraft Super King Air 350 and 350ER. A fully operational system consists of a modified aircraft (with sensors), a ground exploitation cell, line-of-sight and SATCOM datalinks, along with a robust voice communications suite. Sufficient manpower for 24-hour deployed operations.

The basic crew for the MC-12W is two pilots and two sensor operators.

The aircraft is equipped with an Electro Optical Infrared (EO/IR) sensor and other sensors as the mission requires. The EO/IR sensor also includes a laser illuminator and designator in a single sensor package.

The MC-12 system is capable of worldwide operations.

Background

The "M" is the Department of Defense designation for a multi-role version of the well known C-12 series. In April 2008, the Secretary of Defense established a DoD-wide ISR Task Force to identify and recommend solutions for increased ISR in USCENTCOM AOR. On 1 Jul 08, the SecDef tasked the Air Force to proceed with procurement of 37 "C-12" class aircraft to augment unmanned systems. The MC-12 system is being procured in response to a requirement to provide persistent ISR information to joint force commanders. Medium-altitude ISR is a core mission for the Air Force and the MC-12 capability supports all aspects of AF Irregular Warfare mission (Counter Insurgency, Foreign Internal Defense and Building Partnership Capacity).

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

Contractor: Hawker Beechcraft Corporation

Power Plant: Pratt & Whitney PT6A-60A, Shaft-Horsepower per Engine: 1,050 SHP

Wingspan: 57 ft 11 in

Length: 46 ft 8 in

Height: 14 ft 4 in

Weight: 12,500 lbs empty; Maximum Takeoff Weight: 350: 15,000 lbs; 350 ER: 16,500 lbs

Fuel Capacity: 350: 539 gallons / 3,611 lbs; 350 ER: 5,192 lbs

Speed: Cruise speed approx. 312 knots

Range: 350: Approx. 1500 nautical miles; 350 ER: Approx 2400 nautical miles

Ceiling: 35,000 ft

Armament: None

Crew: Two pilots and two sensor operators

Initial operational capability: June 2009

Unit Cost: \$17 million includes aircraft and all sensor and communications equipment modifications

Inventory: Active Force, 37 planned; ANG, 0; Reserve, 0