



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

WASP III MICRO UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM

Mission

The United States Air Force's WASP III Small Unmanned Aircraft System provides real-time direct situational awareness and target information for Air Force Special Operations Command Battlefield Airmen. The WASP III falls into the class of Air Force small UAS known as micro UAS.



Features

The WASP III UAS features the expendable WASP III Air Vehicle (AV), a Ground Control Unit (GCU), and Communications Ground Station (CGS). WASP III is a collapsible lightweight AV with a two-bladed propeller driven by a small electric motor. The WASP III is equipped with an internal Global Positioning System / Inertial Navigation System, autopilot and two onboard cameras. The entire system can function autonomously from takeoff to recovery, or be controlled by one operator using a handheld remote control unit.

Background

The WASP III originated from a combat need for Combat Controllers and Tactical Air Control Party Airmen to carry equipment needed to engage enemy forces and protect themselves.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Day/night reconnaissance and surveillance with low altitude operation

Contractor: AeroVironment, Inc. (Increment III)

Power Plant: Electric motor, rechargeable lithium ion batteries

Wingspan: 2.375 ft (72 cm)

Length: 1.25 ft (38 cm)

Weight: 0.95 lb (430 grams)

Max Speed: 40+ mph (35+ knots)

Operating Altitude: Altitude: 50–1,000 ft AGL, 15–300 m AGL

Payload: High resolution, day/night camera

Point of Contact

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