

Tier II UAV

Purpose: To develop and field a Tier II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) system.

Background: During recent combat operations, the Marine Corps has realized a significant gap in its reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition capability, and has confirmed the need for close range UAV coverage in order to enhance timely situational awareness and decision making. This gap stems from the shortfall of close range UAV systems needed to support operations at regiment, applicable combat service support unit, and Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable battalion levels. The current Tier I UAV satisfies the platoon / company commander's close battle point reconnaissance and surveillance needs while Tier III UAV systems will primarily support JTF/MAGTF level requirements. The limited number of Tier III assets precludes their dedicated and sustained use at the regiment and below levels of command. An organic Tier II system is required to support regiment and below ground maneuver operations within their applicable mission areas of influence. The Marine Expeditionary Force has requested that such a system be procured and demonstrated in an effort to validate the system in a configuration suitable for fielding, and eventually for providing this capability to Marine elements deployed overseas.



Description: The requirement for persistent surveillance at the Regimental level will be satisfied by a Tier II UAV system. Persistent surveillance is defined as a combination of endurance and system reliability, capable of sustained, 12-hour per day operations for 30 days and one surge capability of 24 hours per day for a 10-day period during any 30-day cycle. The system will be HMMWV-transportable (no individual component of the system will require no more than a Two-Marine lift) and consist of: Air Vehicles, a Ground Control Station, Data Link, Remote Receive Terminals, Modular Mission Payloads, and support equipment for the operations and maintenance of the system.

Deliverable Product: Tier II UAV Concept Demonstrator LTAs Winter/Spring '06, and Extended User Assessment OCONUS Summer '06.

Milestones:

TASK	FY05	FY06	FY07
Request for Information	▲		
Request for Proposal	▲		
Test and Experiment	▲	▲	
User Assessment		▲	▲

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