

## Defense agencies develop small, unmanned aerial vehicles

- ▶▶ Current DOD inventory of UAVs: 90
- ▶▶ Planned enhancements: Noiseless fuel-cell propulsion and rotors capable of 24-hour-plus flight
- ▶▶ Some uses: Spying, airborne communications nodes, Global Positioning System mini-satellites, missile targeting, smart bombs, biochemical or radiological sensing
- ▶▶ Claim to fame: In November 2002, a CIA Predator UAV killed six suspected al-Qaida operatives with a Hellfire missile as they rode in a vehicle in Yemen.

UAV/DEVELOPER	PROJECTED COST PER UNIT	FEATURES
<b>Dragon Eye Backpack</b> Naval Research Laboratory	\$5,000	4-pound, hand-launched reconnaissance vehicle with ground control unit
<b>Dragon Warrior</b> Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory	\$250,000	Reconnaissance and targeting vehicle with 1.5-hour loiter time
<b>Extender</b> Office of Naval Research	\$350	Parachute-deployed electronic warfare jamming device with radio link
<b>Finder</b> Defense Threat Reduction Agency	\$100,000	Predator-dropped flying sensor for smoke plume sampling
<b>Micro Air Vehicle</b> Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, ONR	\$1,000	Camera- and sensor-loaded vehicle with 18-inch wingspan
<b>Predator B</b> NASA	Unknown; \$4.2 million in fiscal 2002	64,000-pound turboprop vehicle for 24-hour reconnaissance above 40,000 feet