



USAF GLOBAL HAWK

Executive Summary

We strongly urge you and every member of our California Delegation to take proactive leadership in any and all discussions with regard to the Global Hawk fleet to insure strong support for ongoing operations and continued system viability. Based at Beale AFB, with work throughout the Golden State, Global Hawk is the High Altitude, Long Endurance (HALE) platform of the future. It continues to be a revolutionary combination of capabilities, including unparalleled range and endurance. Global Hawk has proven itself invaluable to warfighters and supports critical operations around the globe in all combatant command regions.

We request proactive, continued strong support from the entire California delegation for the USAF Global Hawk fleet, all ongoing operations and the continued viability of the Global Hawk enterprise.

Global Hawk is the nation's only unmanned, high-altitude long-endurance (HALE), intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) system. Global Hawk is an advanced, jet-powered, autonomous unmanned system that offers a revolutionary combination of capabilities, including unparalleled range and endurance.

Global Hawk continues to be invaluable to warfighters and supports critical operations around the globe in all six combatant command regions.

Global Hawk provides critical support to warfighting operations and disaster responses that cannot be achieved using any other system. It remains by far the lowest cost high-altitude ISR platform.

The Air Force currently operates three variants of Global Hawk (Blocks 20, 30 and 40) based on the same airframe yet conducting *unique* missions. In addition, NATO's Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) program is a derivative of the Global Hawk system.

Global Hawk is truly a California program, as it is based at Beale AFB, built, tested, maintained, and modernized in Palmdale, CA and designed and managed in San Diego, CA.

Why support continued fielding, sustainment and growth of the USAF Global Hawk Enterprise?

- Global Hawk aircraft are providing critical support to deployed forces around the world, including providing critical communications to ground forces and essential data to intelligence officials.
- Global Hawk provides support to warfighting operations and disaster responses that cannot be achieved using any other system. Operating from domestic and deployed locations, including Beale AFB, Global Hawk can reach every corner of the globe and, once there, provide hours of ISR coverage.
- Global Hawk is the lowest cost high-altitude ISR platform with declining costs.
- Global Hawk is setting the standard for high altitude mission flexibility by demonstrating an open system architecture to rehost legacy ISR sensors and integrate the latest sensors to meet warfighter requirements via Northrop Grumman's innovative Universal Payload Adapter (UPA). When outfitted with the UPA any Global Hawk is capable of carrying any payload, thereby providing increased payload and mission flexibility to meet warfighter requirements.

We strongly urge you and every member of our California Delegation to proactively and strongly support the USAF Global Hawk fleet and Global Hawk's ongoing worldwide operations. Based at Beale AFB, with Global Hawk jobs throughout the Golden State, California plays a critical role in the Global Hawk program and the protection of our nation's security.