

Extended Range Multi-Purpose (ERMP) Unmanned Aircraft System Quick Reaction Capability

In response to the Secretary of Defense's directive to increase intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army deployed an early version of the Extended Range Multi-Purpose (ERMP) Unmanned Aircraft System for operational use. The Army conducted testing of this Quick Reaction Capability in conjunction with training for unit deployment to Iraq prior to Initial Operational Test and Evaluation. In this early fielding report, I conclude:

- The testing was an excellent example of combining training and testing to support a rapid fielding initiative.
- The unit effectively employed the system during testing and it will provide an increased reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition capability.
- The aircraft and sensor payload met reliability requirements. Use of the redundant Legacy Ground Control Station offsets poor One System Ground Control Station reliability. Overall system availability observed during testing met requirements.

This report does not satisfy the requirement in Section 2399, Title 10, United States Code for a DOT&E Operational Test and Evaluation report prior to the ERMP full-rate production decision. I will submit the required report at the completion of initial operational test.

ANNEX - CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS