

United States Navy COA  
Predator RQ-1A

**PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

**Launch and Recovery**

- Operations will be conducted out of and into primarily El Mirage Airport (99CL) with Gray Butte Airport (04CA) as a back-up/Emergency Field. These are both private airfields.
- Predators (RQ-1A) are launched conventionally similar to general aviation. The start, taxi, take-off and flight are accomplished from the Ground Control Station (GCS) with visual awareness through aircraft mounted cameras and aircraft tracking on airfield diagram maps displayed to the pilot.
- Procedures are similar to operations at an uncontrolled airfield with Chase Plane operations being added. Traffic radio calls are made and standard traffic pattern rules are followed.
- Backup recovery ground stations are available.
- Trained visual/ground observers will be utilized during launch and recovery procedures as back-up to aircraft and GCS systems.
- The trained visual/ground observers are “hard wired” to the GCS and direct communications with the UAS pilot.