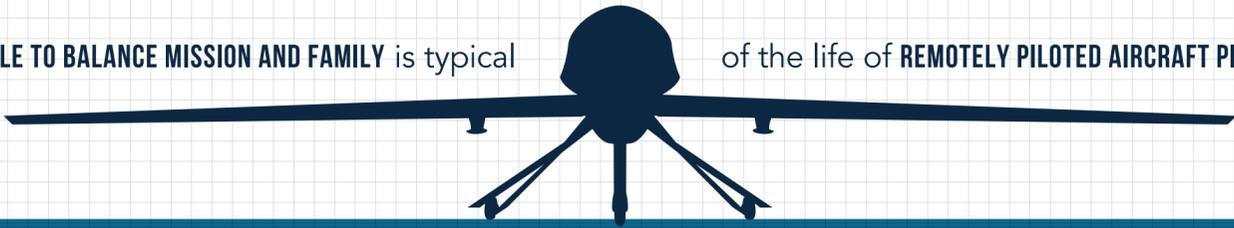


GET-WELL PLAN

AF SECRETARY ANNOUNCES PLAN TO ALLEVIATE STRESS ON RPA CREWS

THE STRUGGLE TO BALANCE MISSION AND FAMILY is typical of the life of REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT PILOTS.



MANNING REMAINS A CRITICAL ISSUE FOR THE AIR FORCE

as MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper operations have surged nine times in eight years.

9 TIMES

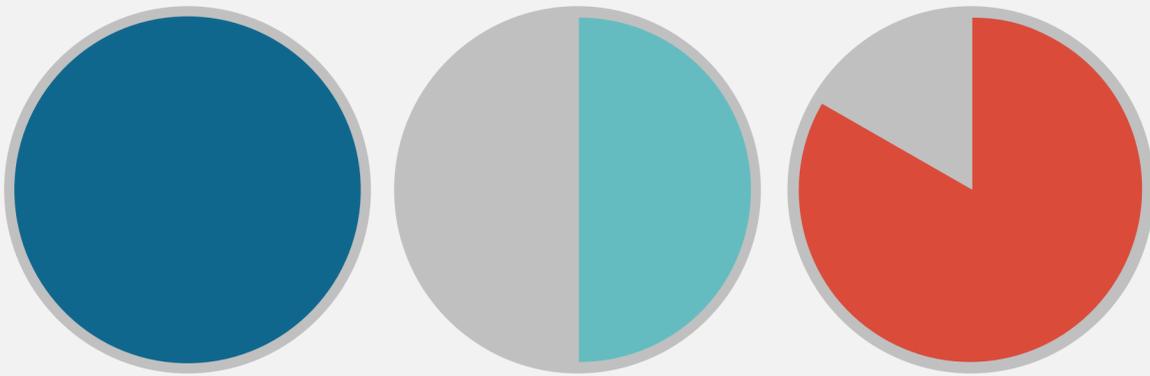
8 YEARS

The Air Force needs 1,700 pilots but only has 1,000 fully trained, according to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III.



The service needs

**300 NEWLY TRAINED PILOTS ANNUALLY,
BUT IS ONLY GETTING ABOUT 150,
WITH ALMOST 250 LEAVING THE FIELD EACH YEAR,**
Welsh said.



Earlier this year, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James announced short-term actions in an

“RPA GET-WELL PLAN.”

Those actions included

- ✓ INCENTIVE PAY INCREASES & BONUSES FOR CREWS
- ✓ DIRECTING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE MISSION
- ✓ AUGMENTING CURRENT CREW MANNING
- ✓ INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PILOT GRADUATES
- ✓ INCREASING THE USE OF GUARD AND RESERVE AIRMEN, AS WELL AS CONTRACTORS

65

60

PATROLS

Also, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter approved resetting the combat air patrol planning guidance to show the decrease in patrols from 65 to 60 to alleviate the RPA community's state of constant surge.

The Air Force also plans to mobilize reserve component forces to take on three patrols and is working on funding actions to relieve RPA crewmembers' stress. The service recently added almost \$8 million into the RPA program to increase technical school capacity, increase reserve component manpower augmentation days and contract some downrange and recovery efforts.



- TECH SCHOOL CAPACITY
- RESERVE COMPONENT MANPOWER AUGMENTATION DAYS
- CONTRACT ASSISTANCE