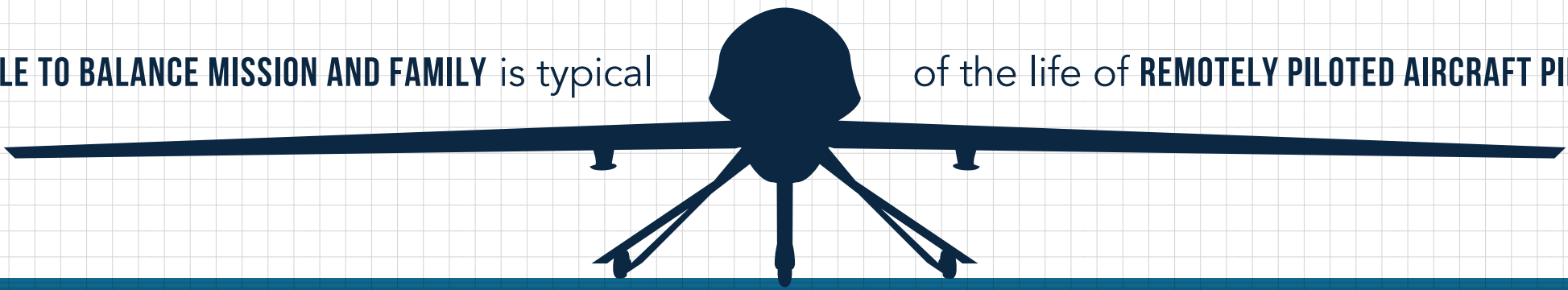


GET-WELL PLAN

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

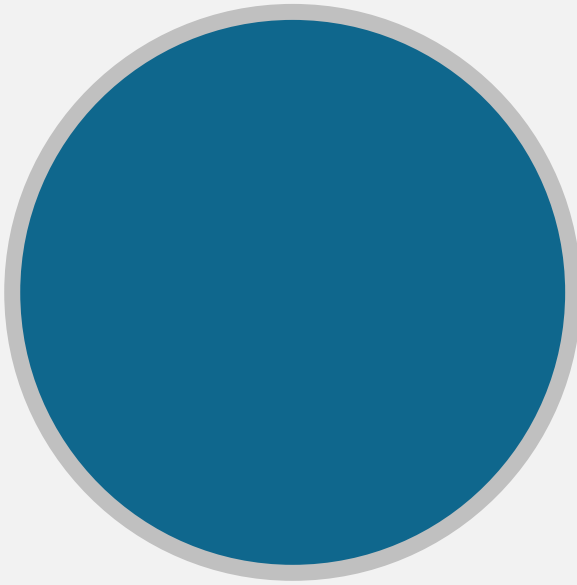
as MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9
Reaper operations have surged
nine times in eight years.

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.

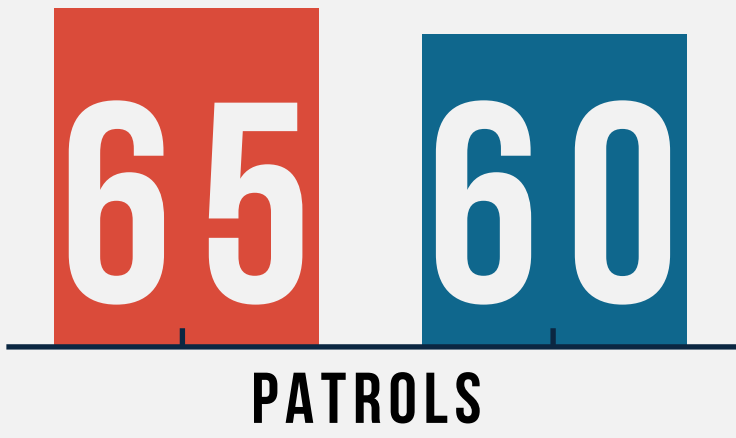


Earlier this year, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James announced short-term actions in an

“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



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