



MQ-9B Sky Guardian

Recently, the US State Department has approved a possible foreign military sale of [31 MQ-9B Sky Guardian](#) to India.

- The MQ-9B Predator drone is an **unmanned aerial vehicle**. MQ-9B SeaGuardian is a maritime-focused version of the **SkyGuardian remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS)**.
- The MQ-9B drones are also known as "**Predators**". They are **High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) drones** that can fly for **over 40 hours using a satellite**.
 - Out of the **31 MQ-9B Predator drones**, of which the [Navy](#) will get **15 SeaGuardian drones**, while the [Army](#) and the [Indian Air Force](#) will get eight each of the land version – **SkyGuardian**.
- They can be used for offensive missions, reconnaissance, surveillance, and intelligence operations.

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MQ-9B

Predator Drones



Max Gross Takeoff Weight: **5,670 kg**

Fuel Capacity: **2,721 kg**

Payload Capacity: **2,177 kg across 9 hardpoints (8 wing, 1 centerline)**



Crew:

Two pilots in ground control stations



Weapons

Laser guided missiles

Anti-tank missiles

Anti-ship missiles



Missions

- **Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief**
- **Search and Rescue**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Border Enforcement**
- **Defensive Counter Air**
- **Airborne Early Warning**

Missions

- **Electronic Warfare**
- **Anti-Surface Warfare**
- **Anti-Submarine Warfare**
- **Airborne Mine Counter Measures**
- **Long-Range Strategic ISR**
- **Over-the-Horizon Targeting**



Read more: [India Approves Acquisition of MQ-9B Armed Drones from the US](https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/mq-9b-sky-guardian)

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