

Field Testing and Developing uses of
the Nighthawk Unmanned Air Vehicle

Raymond Von Wahlde
Weapons Technology Analysis Branch
Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland

Cadet Richard W. Ellsworth
United States Military Academy
West Point, New York

ABSTRACT:

The Nighthawk Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) is a squad level UAV, and its predecessor the TAC-MAV, has seen wide use in Iraq and Afghanistan. After redesigning the system Applied Research Associates, Inc provided ARL with the Nighthawk system for field testing. Major testing was conducted at Fort Dix, NJ with C4ISR in conjunction with a New Jersey National Guard Unit. From the testing the Nighthawk has proven to be a capable intelligence gathering asset from the squad level to company level. It is an extremely durable machine and simple to use. With minimal training, a soldier can operate the UAV as a forward observer, in multiple scenarios. With future upgrades possible, the Nighthawk is comparatively cheap for the types of missions it can accomplish in the effort to save lives.

KEYWORDS: Nighthawk, intelligence gathering asset, simple to use, cheap, durable

CONTACT: Raymond Von Wahlde, Weapons Technology Analysis Branch, Attn:
AMSRD-ARL-WM-BF, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD,
Tel: (410)-278-9738, Email: vonwahlde@arl.army.mil

CDT Richard W. Ellsworth, United States Military Academy, West Point,
NY, Tel: (845) 515-5633, Email: Richard.Ellsworth@usma.edu