

The AeroVironment RQ-20 **Puma** is an American unmanned aircraft system which is small, battery powered, and hand-launched. Its primary mission is surveillance and intelligence gathering using an electro-optical and infrared camera.

### Variants

RQ-20A Puma Military designation for the Puma All Environment variant.

#### Enhanced Puma

Upgrade of the RQ-20A Puma AE with more powerful propulsion system and new batteries that increase endurance by 75 percent to 3.5 hours, auxiliary payload bay to integrate payloads while keeping the video camera, precision navigation system with secondary GPS, and a redesigned durable fuselage with reinforced construction and improved aerodynamics. Available in early 2014.[18]

#### Solar Puma

Puma AE powered by thin solar cells that increases endurance to 9 hours.[19] Production version was planned for early 2014.[20]

#### RQ-20B

Block 2 Puma AE, includes a more powerful and lighter propulsion system, lighter and stronger airframe, long endurance battery, precision inertial navigation system and improved user interface, and the new, all environment Mantis i45 gimbal sensor suite.[1]

#### LRTA Puma

Puma AE upgraded with a long-range tracking antenna (LRTA) that extends range to 60 kilometers (37.28 miles). Available Spring 2018.[21]

#### Puma LE (Long Endurance)

Puma with expanded battery-operated endurance to 5.5 hours, revealed in May 2019.[22]

#### Puma 3 AE

Designed for maritime use, it is capable of landing on water or ground. Includes the Mantis i45 EO/IR sensor suite and extended range. Released in 2021.[23]



AeroVironment RQ-20 Puma and US soldiers

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Role          | Remote controlled UAS   |
| Manufacturer  | AeroVironment   |
| First flight  | 2007  |
| Introduction  | 2008 <sup>[1]</sup>   |
| Primary users | United States Army<br>United States Marine Corps<br>United States Air Force<br>Albanian Air Force |
| Number built  | + 1,000 <sup>[2]</sup>  |

### General characteristics

Length: 4 ft 7 in (1.4 m)

Wingspan: 9 ft 2 in (2.8 m)

Max takeoff weight: 13 lb (5.9 kg)

### Performance

Maximum speed: 52 mph (83 km/h, 45 kn)

Minimum control speed: 23 mph (37 km/h, 20 kn)

Range: 9.3 mi (15 km, 8.1 nmi)

Endurance: 2 hours