- Inside Story about the worst kept secret in America...
- CIA/USAF Predator operations
- 2000-2002 timeframe
MARK COOTER
- Retired Colonel, Intelligence Officer
- 30+ years ISR Experience
- USAF Predator Squadron Operations Officer for Program
- Air Staff Lead Action Officer and Detailed to CIA
- Awarded National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal

ALEC BIERBAUER
- 30+ years of Counterterrorism and Counterterrorism Experience
- CIA Clandestine Service Case Officer
- CIA’s Clandestine Collection and Weaponized Drone Original Program Manager
- Awarded National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal

MICHAEL MARKS
- 30+ years of support to US Intelligence and Special Operations
- Service in austere environments from Nicaragua to Afghanistan
- Best Selling Author in Fiction and Non-Fiction
ORIGINAL DESIGN
TARGET LOCATION UP TO 500 MILES
FROM LAUNCH AIRFIELD / OPERATIONS
BASE. SATCOM LINK
ORIGINAL DESIGN
TARGET LOCATION UP TO 500 MILES FROM LAUNCH AIRFIELD / OPERATIONS BASE. SATCOM LINK

SPLIT-OPS
TARGET LOCATION UP TO 500 MILES FROM LAUNCH AIRFIELD AND 4,000+ MILES AWAY FROM MISSION PILOT & DECISION-MAKERS. MORE COMPLEX SATCOM LINK.
ORIGINAL DESIGN
TARGET LOCATION UP TO 500 MILES FROM LAUNCH AIRFIELD / OPERATIONS BASE. SATCOM LINK

SPLIT-OPS
TARGET LOCATION UP TO 500 MILES FROM LAUNCH AIRFIELD AND 4,000+ MILES AWAY FROM MISSION PILOT & DECISION-MAKERS. MORE COMPLEX SATCOM LINK.

REMOTE SPLIT OPS
TARGET LOCATION UP TO 500 MILES FROM LAUNCH AIRFIELD AND 6,000+ MILES AWAY FROM MISSION PILOT & DECISION-MAKERS. MORE COMPLEX SATCOM AND LONG-HAUL FIBER OPTIC.
2000
- Innovated 1st Predator split operations
- Without any support assets, penetrated and operated in Afghan airspace
- Innovated FMV exploitation
- Dynamic collection management
- Conducted 15 missions
  - Found bin Laden
  - Use of SA/threat tools
  - Multiple incidents with MiG-21 aircraft
  - Within SA-3 range
  - Developed several AQ and Taliban targets
  - HUMINT source vetting
2001-2002

- Developments
  - Hellfire and mods
  - Remote Split Operations
  - ARC-210 radio use
  - Gray paint scheme
  - Initial SIGINT
  - Rover

- Began redeployment prior to 9/11
- Airlift began 12 Sep 2001
- 1st flight 17 Sep 2001
- Survived SA-3 launch
- 1st combat Hellfire shot on OEF first night
- 50+ Hellfire shots and multiple buddy lases, talk-ons, etc.
- AQ CT and Taliban military targets
- Mar 2002, 15 continuous hours over Takur Ghar, “Roberts Ridge”
  - Hellfire shots, buddy lases including French Mirage
- Very little in AF history
Proudest moment in our careers

Our aircraft is in the Smithsonian, but it’s about the people

...“very premise is currently and properly classified”

Took 39 months to get through security review
NEVER MIND, WE’LL DO IT OURSELVES

THE INSIDE STORY OF HOW A TEAM OF RENEGADES BROKE RULES, SHATTERED BARRIERS, AND LAUNCHED A DRONE WARFARE REVOLUTION

ALEC BIERBAUER AND COL. MARK COOTER, USAF (RET)
WITH MICHAEL MARKS

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