

## Small Unit Remote Scouting System (SURSS)

### DESCRIPTION

The SURSS is a small, unmanned aerial vehicle that will be employed at the battalion level and below to provide “over-the-hill” day and night reconnaissance. The UAVs operate autonomously after launch and gather and transmit video imagery of the tactical situation, in near-real time, at a range of up to ten kilometers. The Dragon Eye (DE) air vehicle is the key component of SURSS. DE is a five-pound UAV that flies at 35 knots at altitudes of 300 to 500 feet above the ground.



### OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The mission of the SURSS vehicle (Dragon Eye) is to provide day and night reconnaissance and surveillance of a target or small area, and relay this information in near-real time back to a company-level or smaller unit. The vehicle is hand-launched

by two Marines. DE requires no additional personnel resources to field the system. Existing user organization personnel will operate the DE system as a collateral duty, not a primary duty or occupational specialty. DE will be supported by a three-level maintenance concept (organizational, intermediate, and depot) and a mix of organic and contractor logistics support for the life of the system. This small UAV will provide information that heretofore could only be provided (within the battalion’s organic capabilities) via patrolling or outpost activities. Marine lives and time will be saved through employment of this asset.

### PROGRAM STATUS

The program is in the system design and development phase in which two competitive contracts were awarded. A final operational assessment will occur in March/April 2003. Source selection will follow and a production contract award, to one contractor, is planned for mid-FY 2003 test and evaluation. Initial operational capability is planned for late FY 2003.

#### PROCUREMENT PROFILE: **FY03** **FY04**

Quantity: 36 23

#### DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

AeroVironment, Inc, Monrovia, CA  
BAI Aerosystems, Inc., Easton, MD