

# CENTRE FOR JOINT WARFARE STUDIES



## CENJOWS

### ARMED UAVs – CHINESE WJ-700

1. **China's WJ-700 Armed Reconnaissance UAV Flight Tested.** China is emerging as a major designer and supplier of UAVs of many categories. It's well planned infrastructure and enablement for innovations is creating new and powerful UAVs for multiple applications. Its latest creation in the form of new WJ-700 high-altitude, long-endurance and high-speed armed reconnaissance UAV successfully completed its maiden flight on 11 January 2021. This UAV is capable of executing both attack and reconnaissance missions according to a statement of the Third Academy of the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp (CASIC)<sup>1</sup>. The UAV resembles the US MQ-9 Reaper which is made by General Atomics.

2. This UAV was first displayed at Air show China, in 2018, and is expected to have an endurance of 20 hours and maximum take-off weight of 3,500 kg. It is powered by a jet engine and can fly at altitudes of up to 12 km at a max speed of 700 kmph.



(China's WJ-700 UAV Photo: Weibo)

<sup>1</sup>"China's WJ-700 Armed Reconnaissance Drone Completes Maiden Flight", *Defense World.Net*, 15 January 2021

<https://www.defenseworld.net/news/28768#.YEM6BmgzZPY>. 06 March 2021

3. The UAV is planned to have four under-wing hard points which could carry CM-102 anti-radiation missile, C-701, and C-705KD anti-ship missiles, and land attack munition<sup>2</sup>. WJ-700 reportedly, would be capable of undertaking air-to-surface precision strikes in multiple situations such as stand-off ground attacks, anti-ship, and anti-radiation attacks. In addition, it will be capable of undertaking early-warning and electronic jamming roles when equipped with related equipment. This high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) UAV is expected to be operational within a decade<sup>3</sup>. Designed by Liu Liu, it is being developed by 'Haiying General Aviation Equipment' which is a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC) and is claimed to be the only high-altitude, high-speed, long-endurance combat/reconnaissance UAV in China in future.

4. Employment of UAVs in multiple roles, recently in Armenia-Azerbaijan war and before that in Syria and Saudi Arabia have forced the war planners to take a serious note of these machines. Developments in artificial intelligence and associated sciences are sure to add more versatility to these weapon systems. An indigenous development capacity of UAVs and innovativeness in their employment will be considered an important element of force development by major military powers in the years to come.

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<sup>2</sup> Arun Mathew, "China's WJ-700 HALE UAV Makes Maiden Flight", DEFPOST, 17 January 2021. <https://defpost.com/chinas-wj-700-hale-uav-makes-maiden-flight/?amp>. 06 March 2021.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*