

RQ-4 Operations in Japan

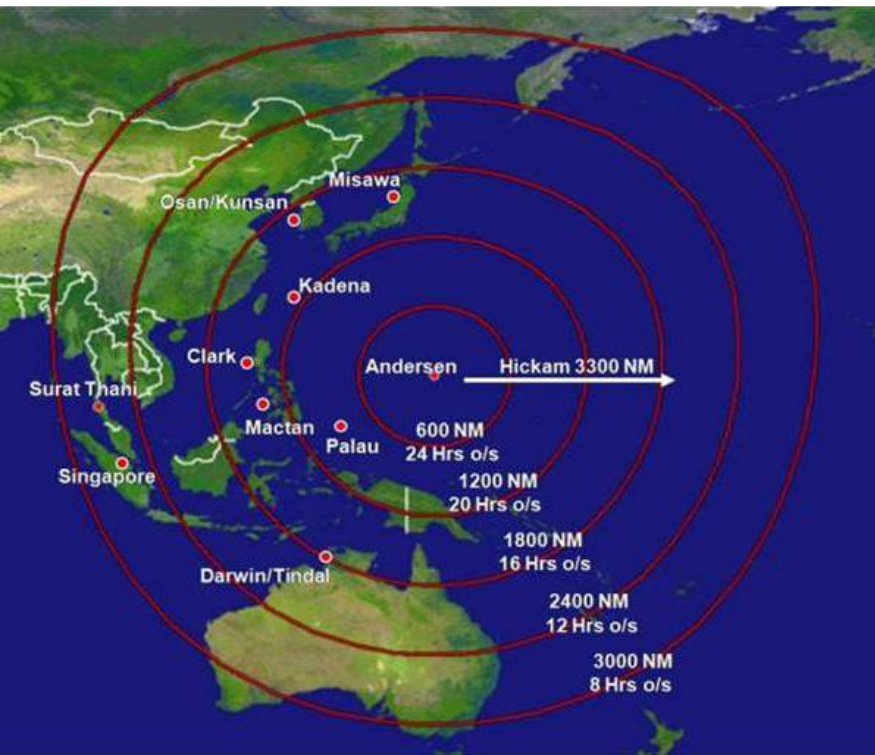


5AF A3A

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO



Background



- In 2010, full time deployment to Guam, ideal strategic location for RQ-4 operations
- However, during summer months, many missions were lost due to severe en route turbulence
- PACAF started to research alternative locations

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO



Background



Fukushima nuclear facility (Mar 2011)

- The 2011 East Japan earthquake and nuclear crisis interrupted the study
- RQ-4 was a valuable asset during the crisis
- Late 2011, Misawa was selected as an ideal alternative location for summer ops
- GoJ briefed that Misawa would be a viable location for summer ops

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO



Challenges



- **GoJ has no legal regulations for RPAs**
- **Airworthiness certificate initial issue**
- **No RPA operational experience**
- **GoJ had concerns about backup com**
- **Mil-Civ co-used congested airfield**
- **JASDF runway strip stand-by/barriers**
- **How to fly and where to fly in local area**

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO



Misawa deployment



- **Early 2013 GoJ agrees to Misawa deploy**
- **Subsequently 2013 deployment was cancelled due to budget cut**
- **A LOA was signed on 20 Mar 2014 for summer ops at Misawa**
- **Key element of the LOA is that GH would fly like any other aircraft at Misawa**

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

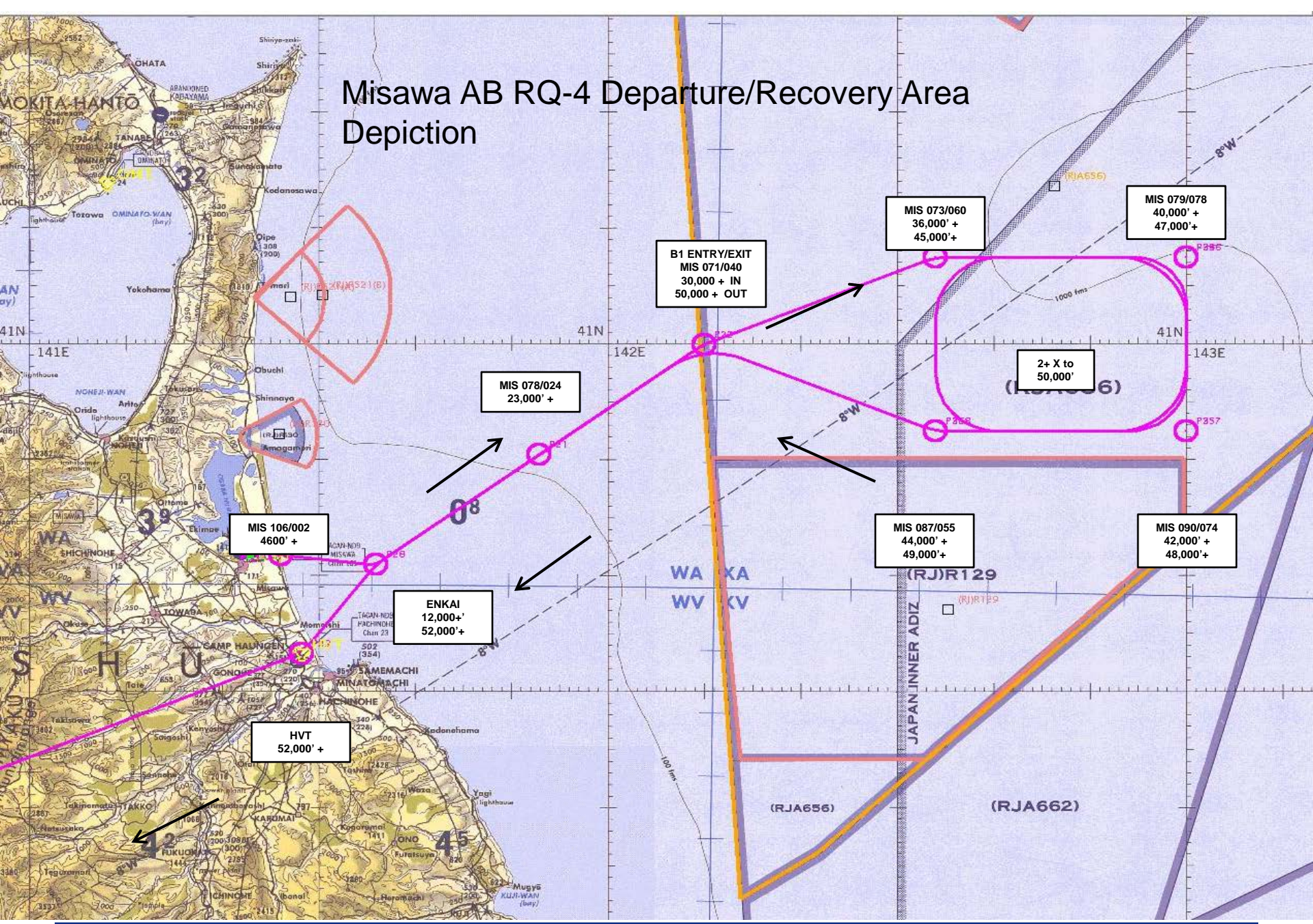


Flight Operations



- File and fly like typical manned aircraft
- 1801 flight plan is filed for every mission
- Aircraft will be dual controlled by LRE aircrews at Misawa AB and MCE aircrews at Beale AFB
- NOTAM for departure and arrival
- No Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR)
- Standard radio calls
- Stereotype departure and arrival

Misawa AB RQ-4 Departure/Recovery Area Depiction

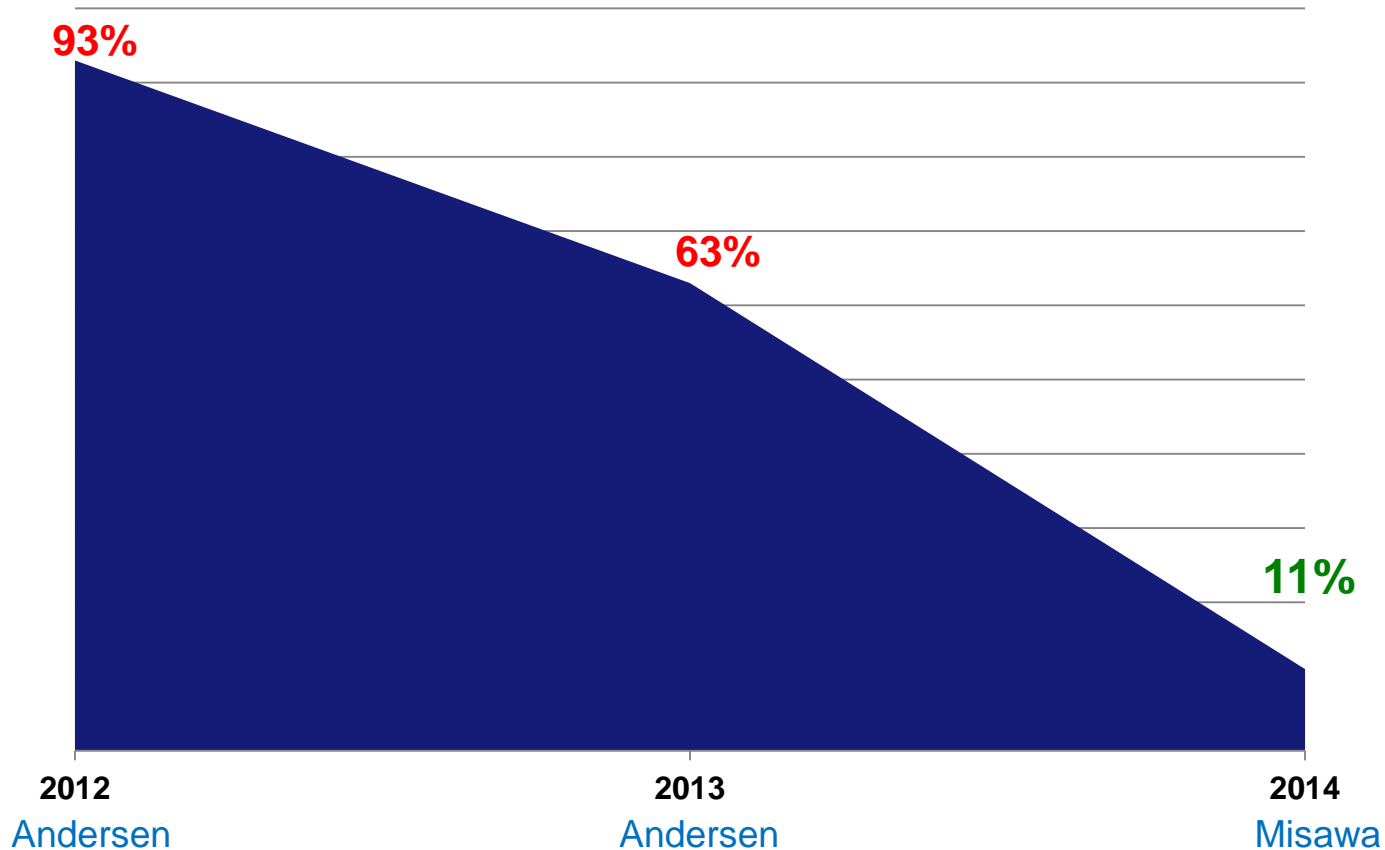




Proven Weather Mitigation!



Weather Cancel Rate (Jun - Aug)



UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO



Reasons for Improvement



- **Great cooperation between the US/GOJ**
- **Focus on the mission by all ops units at Misawa to accomplish mission objectives**
- **Favorable summer weather conditions**
- **Closer to areas of interest and allows for longer station time**
- **GoJ interest in buying GH**

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO



Successes



- **1st ever DOD RPA "file & fly" world-wide**
- **No TFR fly like local based aircraft**
- **1st RQ-4 takeoff from mil/civ dual-use**
 - **Safely integrating w/Civil Air Traffic**
- **Able to fly at Misawa when sea fog cancels manned flights due to low ceiling/visibility**
- **Seamlessly integrating with alert F-2 fighters**
- **Demo'd world-wide deployment capability for Title 10 Congressional report**

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO



The way ahead



- **2015 deployment on track for Misawa**
- **Operators will explore flying later into the year to test winter weather and longer term deployment**
- **We will also assist GoJ on their GH mission**

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO



**“The Global Hawk ‘is a key component’ in
the Pacific shift”
Gen Herbert Carlisle, Commander Pacific
Air Forces, Washington, D.C., 5 May 14**

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

Integrity - Service - Excellence