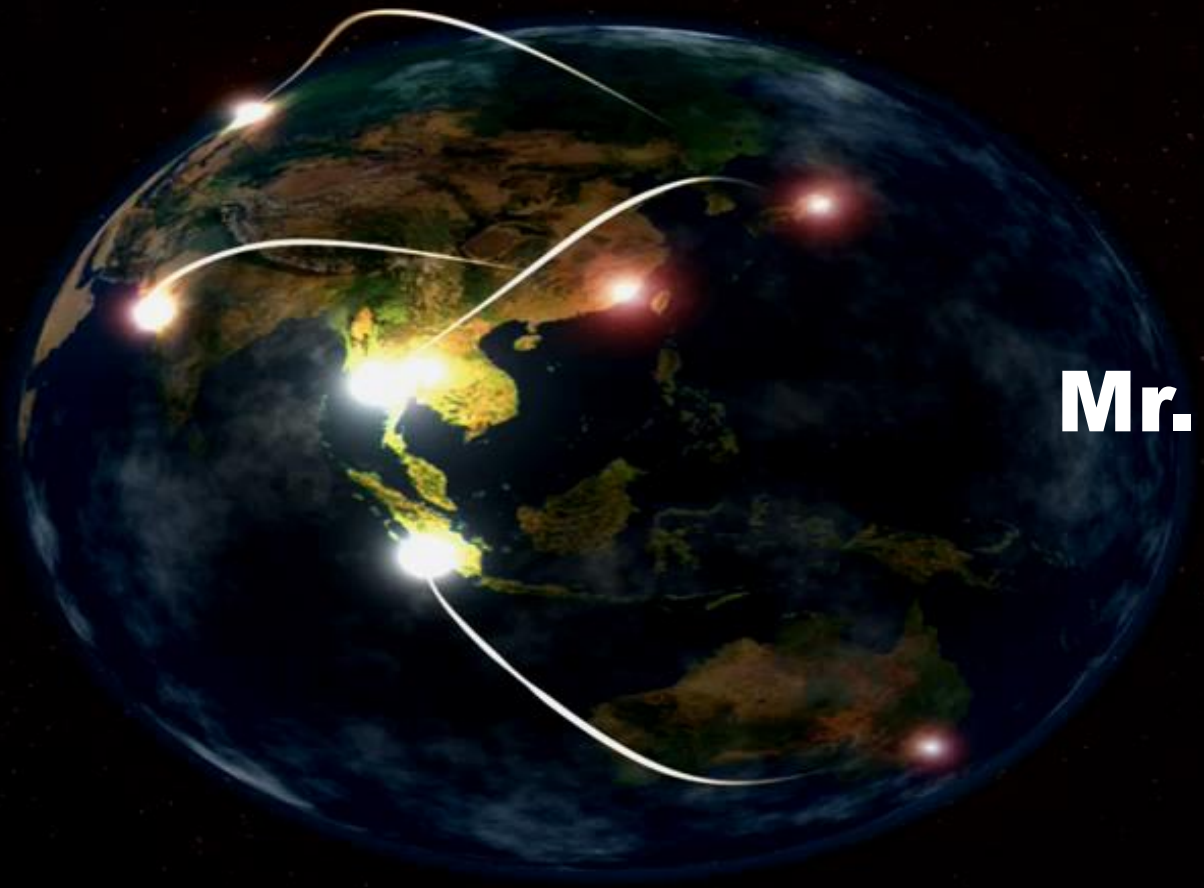

Mr. James “Snake” Clark

STIDS 2026

Air University Gathering of Eagles Experience V5

LEGACY

INNOVATION

LEADERSHIP

To Snake Clark
Thanks for setting the
tone for Aralton and
standing in for Gabreski
Best
Ollie Crawford
To Snake Clark
Thanks for your
friendship.
Jeff Hill

It’s an Remotely Piloted Aircraft
NOT a Drone

There’s nothing unmanned about unmanned systems

"The Godfather of Predator"

Tazar AB Hungary 1996

Kandahar AB
Afghanistan 2008

"You don't have to be good…Just do it longer than anyone else"

Precision Predator

OPERATION PRECISION PREDATOR

2 APR	CSAF Tasking
7 APR	Col Clark at CAOC
11 APR	Equipment in Theater Maj Kuchar and NIMA-in-a-box at Aviano Mr. Wiedemann at Tuzla ESD Predator modification
14 APR	Decision to put Laser on Predator
27 APR	1st Successful Precision Coordinates
1 MAY	1st Tank Kill NIMA-in-a-box on ABCCC HAMMER 34 C-MNS Laser
4 MAY	Laser Predator 1st Flight Indian Springs
23 MAY	Laser Predator Delivered to Tuzla
2 JUN	1st Laser Predator Drop in Kosovo

First Precision Coordinates in 3 Minutes

"An experiment brought to combat"

"Evolved the system one MORE time...very quickly"

"Amazing how quickly it was integrated into concept of operations"

Tail 3034, 23 January 2001

Nov 96

5 Aircraft

4,571.8 combat hours

~104.4 hrs/week

27 Oct 15

367 Aircraft

3,000,000+ combat hours

~ 12,000 hrs/week

"...you will never see it coming"

Smithsonian NASM
Dedication 23 Apr 2008

16 Sep 01 thru 25 Jul 03

Combat Sorties 196

Combat Hours 2606

1st Hellfire Test	**16 Jan 01**
1st Hellfire Combat Shot	**07 Oct 01**

"…an Amazing Story of Innovation"

Predator Innovations

Laser Designator	*Kosovo*	*38 Days*
Hellfire	*2001*	*61 Days*
Remote Split Ops	*2001*	*5 Days*
Stinger	*2002*	*91 Days*
ROVER	*2002*	*4 Days*
Hellfire Sleeve	*2002*	*21 Days*
GBU-12	*2003*	*9 Months*
Link-16/SADL	*2004*	*8 Months*

FalconView Multi-Predator Tool, Super Splitter, Cursor on Target, UAS Mission Information System, Blue Force Tracking, Civil Air Tracks, ISR Information Services, Wing/Squadron C2, Predictive Control Displays, Predator FalconView enhancements . . .

California
Aim Fire

SOUTHWEST

2026: The Coming of Age of Drones

- Current War
- RPA/Drones
- Future