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Radioplane, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Signal Corps, developed and is producing the SD-1 surveillance drone system. Highly mobile, the camera-carrying SD-1 may be zero-length ground launched in rough terrain from a camouflaged position and flown by remote control over enemy installations on photo reconnaissance missions. After the drone's camera has exposed its film by radio command over the target, the SD-1 is then flown to a pre-designated area for parachute recovery. The camera is removed, the film is processed, and prints are delivered to the requesting unit within minutes after the entire operation began and the mission is accomplished without pilot's life or a large man-carrying aircraft.

As SD-1 surveillance drone system is another example of the refinement of the art of producing radio-manufactured target drones exclusively for the field support organization, phases of drone field activities.

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