

RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Cc: "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Date: Thu, 02 Jan 2020 12:35:58 -0500

Thanks for the explanation, Bam.
Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Cc: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

FBI from North Platte advised the strange items referred to as space potatoes have been identified as SOILPAM Tracklogs (pictures attached). Basically they are dropped from pivot machines to solidify the tracks and ruts the machine makes. A pivot machine is the very large center or lateral pivot agriculture watering apparatus. The gel is made up of poly-chloride tablets in a mesh stocking. When they get wet form a log which replaces the dirt that was displaced by the pivot machines wheels.

The deputies located the items in the fields while pursuing the drones.

R,
Bam

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA)
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 6:35 AM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Cc: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <Leesa.J.Papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

I will be heading into the office and will be offline for about 1 to 2 hours. I can be reached on my cell phone (b) (6). If you cannot reach me please give Craig a call.

R,
Bam

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 5:42 AM
To: Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Cc: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <Leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thanks Craig. This "mystery" has certainly gotten national attention so not surprised if this goes international or viral on the internet.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 8:20 AM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Cc: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

I was helping Bam monitor this all day yesterday and came across this Facebook page: DRONE over northeastern COLORADO. It's a public group so it can be read. I gave him the info.

Spoke to him last night and he was receiving a number of calls

On another note, it appears Reuters and some other feeds have picked up the story. I would assume it's gone international.

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Law Enforcement Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 5:45 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Cc: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

For your SA. I am not sure whether the FSDOs are "coordinating" with LE or just LE are sending them reporting. Definitely need to ensure we are plugged into as much of the LE reporting as we can. Thanks.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration
Cell:
Cell: (b) (6)
Office:
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA)" <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>
Date: January 2, 2020 at 07:35:48 EST
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>, "Manno, Claudio (FAA)" <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Please read summary below. A lot of LE engagement by FSDO—hope it is coordinated with Bam/Craig. This description of a woman in a hijab and the "sack" situation are new wrinkles.

R/
Angela

Sent from my iPad

Angela Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
FAA
202-267-7576 office
(b) (6) cell

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)" <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
To: "Domingo, Rick (FAA)" <Rick.Domingo@faa.gov>, "Carty, Robert (FAA)" <Robert.Carty@faa.gov>, "Fields, Lawrence (FAA)" <lawrence.fields@faa.gov>, "Hayes, Randa (FAA)" <randa.hayes@faa.gov>, "Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA)" <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Fyi

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
202-267-3060

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sanford, Michael (FAA)" <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Date: December 31, 2019 at 6:54:20 PM EST
To: "Winston, Thomas (FAA)" <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>, "Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)" <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>.

"Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)" <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
Cc: "Thomas, Eric A (FAA)" <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>, "Fry, Wayne P (FAA)" <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>, "DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA)" <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>, "Kerns, Julie (FAA)" <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>, "Ogden, Dale (FAA)" <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>, "Thurston, Kyle (FAA)" <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>, "Osborn, Daniel R (FAA)" <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Mr. Winston,

I am doing a "Reply All" to get all of the below information out to as many folks who may need it as quickly as possible.

The information concerning the drone activity in Eastern Colorado and Western Nebraska has been flowing into the office all day in starts and stops. Following is a synopsis of the information we currently have. A lot of the information is mostly identical and from multiple sources so I will do some generalities.

There have been reports of strange drone activities in multiple counties in Eastern Colorado and Western Nebraska, all describing roughly the same activity. From what we understand, the first potential reports were around December 17.

The Lincoln FSDO now has reports where witnesses describe the same type of activity in 4 Nebraska counties that border Colorado and Kansas. Those counties are: Perkins and Chase that both boarder Colorado. Dundy which boarders Colorado and Kansas. Hitchcock which boarders Kansas.

All of the reports concern large numbers of drones operating at night (some estimates from last night of 30-50) in "clusters" or formations and that they are operating in coordination. Most indicate they seem to be following a grid pattern. Some citizens have reported that they felt threatened by the drones when they started to observe them. Some reports state the drones are hovering over vehicles.

The drones are reported to have 6' wingspans and there are several reports that indicate the drones are operating in coordination with a "Big Drone" that may be stationary in the area. There is also an unverified report of the larger "drone" potentially landing and taking back off from an airport in Imperial, Nebraska. (Chase County). This larger drone, also described as a "Mother Ship", is said to hover while all the others fly around in close proximity. The large drone, as described, is about 5-6 feet in diameter with a cylindrical shape and a red front.

A Sheriff in Sterling Colorado reported: "Citizen reported seeing 2 white panel vans at gas station along interstate (in that area). (I-75) Person said saw drones in van. Went inside and started talking about drones. Person inside seemed to get nervous and left. Woman wearing hajib came inside to pay and vans left. They are trying to get security video from gas station dealing with a different county."

The Chase County, Nebraska Sheriff's office reported running the plate on a white panel van seen in the area of drone activity. The tag came back as registered to a wholesale florist in Denver, Colorado. They did not pull the van over.

We received another report from the Sheriff of Hitchcock County, Nebraska in the Lincoln, FSDO general mailbox: "On December 30, 2019, the Hitchcock County Sheriff's Office received a citizens report of a cluster of drones numbering up to 20 flying a v shape formation near mile marker 55 above US Highway 34 between Stratton and Trenton, Nebraska. The time frame was 6:20 P.M. C.S.T. There have been several other "facebook" posts from citizens throughout Hitchcock County claiming to have seen several drones in formation on the evening of the 30th. Sincerely, (b) (6), Hitchcock County Sheriff."

The Chase County Sheriff's Office sent us photographs of odd plastic nets filled with gelatin substance said to have been found along roads where drones were operating, spaced about 100' apart. They are unsure if there are any in nearby fields. (Photos attached) The Perkins County, Nebraska Sheriff has some of the material for the FBI to collect for lab analysis. The "sacks" are reported to weigh approximately 20lb each. We have no confirmation the "sacks" are related to the drone activity. Local law enforcement in the affected areas are suspicious of them and their placing.

I just received another report from our AST, Julie Kerns, who has a contact in Perkins County, Nebraska. Citizens are getting somewhat agitated. The contact stated: "Sorry to bother you late, but if you get on Perkins County, Nebraska Facebook, there are two videos. Can't see much other than blinking light but you can hear the sound on one video pretty good. It appears there could have been 50-60 or more between all the reports. Now people are thinking military and maybe the FAA won't fess up. Nothing else can explain the dollars required to pull it off. NOTAMs, center has nothing on radar, and to do this on the sly at night. It's on all the major news networks so I guess we'll see if they are brave enough to try again tonight"

We have received only one media call and we referred the caller to Public Affairs.

My apologies for the long read. There is a lot of information moving around and I wanted to include as much as possible in the shortest format possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time.

Best Regards,
Mike

Michael W. Sanford
Aviation Safety
LNK FSDO CE-09
Front Line Manager - A
402-458-7807 (Desk) (b) (6) (Cell)

"In flying, I have learned that carelessness and overconfidence are usually far more dangerous than deliberately accepted risks."
— Wilbur Wright in a letter to his father, September 1900.

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 12:45 PM
To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thanks Roger, Happy New Year.

From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:47 AM
To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>>; Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>>
Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov<<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov<<mailto:michael.sanford@faa.gov>>>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
Importance: High

John and Thomas,

We contacted (b) and they DO NOT operate drones in the winter. So, this was a bust. If we learn of any other leads we will be in touch. I'm the remainder of today to AST Julie Kerns, FLMs Daniel R Osborn and Mike Sanford.

Roger

From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 10:33 AM
To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>>; Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>>
Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov<<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thanks Roger and Julie. Please keep us posted on what you learn from (b) (5), (b) (6).

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov<<mailto:john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
202-267-3060

From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:28 AM
To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>>
Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov<<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
Importance: High

Mr. Winston and Mr. Linsenmeyer,

I believe we may have tracked the Drone operator, thanks to our terrific investigative work by AST Julie Kerns. See attached.

Roger Zimmerman
Office Manager
Lincoln FSDO

From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>>; Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>>
Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA)

<wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA)
<Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
Importance: High

Just received from our AST reference the "Drone Activity";

Received a call regarding multiple, larger sized drones flying over rural western Nebraska in Perkins County, between Ogallala and Grant, NE. Gentleman reported there were maybe 12 or more drones with a 6 foot wingspan flying approximately 200 feet AGL, in a grid pattern. From his contacts, the drones seem to have covered 10 to 20 square miles. Some farmers/ranchers reported the drones flying over their farmsteads. The caller stated he saw the drones December 29th approximately from 7:00 pm to 10 or 10:30 MST. He was unable to get a photo or video.

Reports of (b) (5), (b) truck being in Grant, NE on Sunday, December 29th has led to speculation the drones may be associated with the company and possibly be mapping for gas or oil.

The caller stated he would provide a statement. I asked if he talked to other witnesses to have them reach out to this office as well. The caller does have an aviation background; he is a private pilot. Grant is the county seat of Perkins County had a population of 1,165 in 2010. The county population was 2,970 in 2010.

This was reported to AST Julie Kerns.

Have a blessed day.

Roger Zimmerman
Office Manager
Lincoln FSDO

From: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:36 PM
To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
<Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA)
<Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA)
<wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thomas,

The first we heard of anything of this issue was from an initial report on December 20th, and then Denver FSDO received a few more reports from Law Enforcement two days ago. As of right now we do not have any actionable information or evidence to move forward with any kind of investigation. If anyone else has something, we will look into the matter. I will reach out to the personnel in the FSDO to see if they have heard anything and not brought it to our attention.

Thanks,

Dale Ogden
Aviation Safety
Flight Standards Service
Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Standards Field Office
303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176; Cell (b) (6)
dale.ogden@faa.gov<mailto:dale.ogden@faa.gov>

Denver FSDO Values
SERVICE
Provide polite and timely service to public and colleagues
EXCELLENCE
Reflect on today and seek improvement tomorrow
INTEGRITY
Do the right thing even when it is difficult

We are committed to service, please take a few minutes to visit the website below and provide your feedback on our performance. Use the Flight Standards Office drop down to select "Flight Standard District Office (FSDO), Denver FSDO (NM03)" and enter your comments. Please select "Service Provided" if one of these areas applies, otherwise omit it. Thank you.

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/qms/

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:07 PM
To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA)
<Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

FYI

From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 2:02 PM
To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Kramer, Mark E (FAA)
<Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>; Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>;
Marshall, Tony (FAA) <tony.marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony.marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin (FAA)

<erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes, Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>; Morra, Joseph (FAA) <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thanks Thomas. AOA chief of staff is requesting ASAP priority on this, need a quick turn if possible.

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
202-267-3060

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:30 PM
To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>; Kramer, Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>; Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>; Marshall, Tony (FAA) <tony.marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony.marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin (FAA) <erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes, Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>; Morra, Joseph (FAA) <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Hi John:
I will check with our Denver and Des Moines FSDO.

From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Kramer, Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>; Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>; Marshall, Tony (FAA) <tony.marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony.marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin (FAA) <erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes, Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>; Morra, Joseph (FAA) <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>
Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Hello GASA, please advise and cc: all if you have any info to share.
Thanks!

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
202-267-3060

From: Morra, Joseph (FAA) <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:11 PM
To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Joe Morra, Director AUS-400
Federal Aviation Administration
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office
Safety & Integration Division
202-267-6521

AUS appreciates your feedback<http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/stakeholder_feedback/aus/>
(Please select: UAS Safety and Integration Division AUS-400)

From: Forro, Elizabeth (FAA) <elizabeth.forro@faa.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:56 PM

To: Morra, Joseph (FAA) <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Marks, Julie (FAA) <julie.marks@faa.gov<mailto:julie.marks@faa.gov>>; Hartman, Nicole (FAA) <nicole.hartman@faa.gov<mailto:nicole.hartman@faa.gov>>; Cruz, Emanuel (FAA) <Emanuel.Cruz@faa.gov<mailto:Emanuel.Cruz@faa.gov>>
Cc: Amend, Erik (FAA) <Erik.Amend@faa.gov<mailto:Erik.Amend@faa.gov>>; Crozier, Bill (FAA) <Bill.Crozier@faa.gov<mailto:Bill.Crozier@faa.gov>>
Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

400 team – any ideas?

Elizabeth Forro
Special Assistant
FAA UAS Integration Office
O: 202-267-7239
C: (b) (6)
Elizabeth.Forro@faa.gov<mailto:Elizabeth.Forro@faa.gov>
www.faa.gov/uas<http://www.faa.gov/uas>

From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov<mailto:Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>>

Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:53 PM

To: Hayes, Randa (FAA) <randa.hayes@faa.gov<mailto:randa.hayes@faa.gov>>; Carty, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Amend, Erik (FAA) <Erik.Amend@faa.gov<mailto:Erik.Amend@faa.gov>>; Forro, Elizabeth (FAA) <elizabeth.forro@faa.gov<mailto:elizabeth.forro@faa.gov>>
Subject: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.foxnews.com/us/colorado-nebraska-sheriffs-puzzled-by-nocturnal-drone-flights.amp>

The Chief of Staff for Senator Gardner from Colorado is asking about this. ASH LEAP and ATO are checking their data—would AUS or AFS have any info on this activity? Please let me know soonest as I may have a call with them today.

R/
Angela
Angela H. Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
FAA
Work: 20
Mobile: (b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone
<Odd Sack in vicinity of drone activity.JPG>
<Odd Sack in vicinity of drone activity2.JPG>

FW: New York Times inquiry

From: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Thu, 02 Jan 2020 14:19:40 -0500

See below.

Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(424) 405-7007 (o)
(b) (6) (c)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:
Twitter: @FAANews
Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration
Instagram: FAA

From: Smith, Mitch <mitchell.smith@nytimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: New York Times inquiry

All I know of it is what the Yuma County sheriff posted on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/YumaCountySheriff/posts/2736704199755606>
The sheriff isn't talking to the press at all, though, so I haven't been able to figure out the nature of the meeting.

On Thu, Jan 2, 2020 at 1:06 PM Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov> wrote:

What meeting?

Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(424) 405-7007 (o)
(b) (6) (c)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:
Twitter: @FAANews
Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration
Instagram: FAA

From: Smith, Mitch <mitchell.smith@nytimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: New York Times inquiry

Thanks again for your help yesterday. Do you know whether the inter-agency meeting on 1/6 that the Yuma County sheriff mentioned will be open to the public? If not, are any public meetings planned?

On Wed, Jan 1, 2020 at 3:34 PM Smith, Mitch <mitchell.smith@nytimes.com> wrote:

Thanks. If there are any updates, please let me know.

On Wed, Jan 1, 2020 at 2:57 PM Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov> wrote:

Yes, we're trying to determine who the operator is and what the purpose of the flights are.

Ian Gregor
Public Affairs Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(424) 405-7007 (o)
(b) (6) (c)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:
Twitter: @FAANews
Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration
Instagram: FAA

On Jan 1, 2020, at 11:14 AM, Smith, Mitch <mitchell.smith@nytimes.com> wrote:

Thanks, Ian.

One more thing: I realize you can't give specifics on what you're finding in the investigation, but can you say anything about the scope of the probe. Are investigators looking into the origin point of the flights, the reason for the flights, the owner of the drones?

On Wed, Jan 1, 2020 at 11:54 AM Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov> wrote:

Totally coincidental. We've been working on the proposed rule for quite some time.

Ian Gregor
Public Affairs Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(424) 405-7007 (o)
(b) (6) (c)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:
Twitter: @FAANews
Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration
Instagram: FAA

On Jan 1, 2020, at 9:29 AM, Smith, Mitch <mitchell.smith@nytimes.com> wrote:

Thanks, Ian. Appreciate your help on a holiday. Was the new proposed rule for remotely identifying drones a response to the CO incidents, or is that timing coincidental?

On Wed, Jan 1, 2020 at 11:27 AM Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov> wrote:

Hi Mitch -

Multiple FAA divisions and government agencies are investigating these reports. We do not comment on the details of open investigations.

Also, please note we just announced a proposed rule for remotely identifying drones: https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=24534

Best,

Ian Gregor
Public Affairs Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(b) (6) (c)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:
Twitter: @FAANews
Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration
Instagram: FAA

On Jan 1, 2020, at 8:59 AM, Smith, Mitch <mitchell.smith@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hi Ian,
Forwarding these questions on the Colorado drone sightings per the instructions in Allen's bounceback email.
Would be grateful for any help today.
Thanks and happy new year.
-Mitch

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Smith, Mitch** <mitchell.smith@nytimes.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 1, 2020 at 10:58 AM
Subject: New York Times inquiry
To: <allen.kenitzer@faa.gov>

Hi Allen,
My apologies for bothering you on the holiday. I'm a New York Times reporter writing today about the recent drone sightings in parts of Colorado and Nebraska.
I was wondering if you had any information about the operator of those drones, whether there's any sort of FAA investigation and whether there's any indication that laws or regulations are being broken. Also, can you say whether the proposed FAA rule requiring drones to be remotely identifiable had anything to do with the Colorado sightings, or is that timing coincidental?
Thanks and all the best.
-Mitch

Mitch Smith
The New York Times, Chicago bureau
mitch.smith@nytimes.com
O: (b) (6)
C: (b) (6)

FW: FBI TELCON

From: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Thu, 02 Jan 2020 15:29:46 -0500

FYI

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Law Enforcement Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Bamberger, Jim <Jim.Bamberger@tsa.dhs.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Cc: Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Roberson, Jennifer (FAA) <jennifer.roberson@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: FBI TELCON

Bam –

The read out of the FBI telecom below. Kudos to you and Craig for working this over the holiday and for taking point on this topic. As you can imagine, we are starting to get some Congressional attention on this. As always, the work LEAP does has a big impact on the world we live in. Thank you.

Best, Brett

BRETT J. FEDDERSEN | Acting Director for National Security Programs and Incident Response | Federal Aviation Administration | 202.267.8075

From: Manno, Claudio (FAA) <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Cc: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: FBI TELCON

Great! Thanks Josh. Claudio

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 2, 2020, at 2:05 PM, Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov> wrote:

<image001.jpg>
Angela/Claudio:

FBI field offices in Omaha and Denver as well as FBI CIRG (who control the C-UAS resources) in FBI HQ were on the call along with DHS and FAA.

No one had any further information to share on the drones or operators. Nebraska State Patrol is planning to launch a helo tonight to conduct ISR - FBI Omaha will share the results of the flight.

CIRG indicated they were standing by to support their field offices, pending a review of their authorities and determination what systems would need to be deployed. CIRG also noted that the field offices would need to request CIRG assistance. The field offices were not ready to ask and one actually asked for more time for FAA to take regulatory action. I explained we needed LE and the FBI to identify the drones and the operators before we could take any "action" so the field offices should request CIRG support. When a question was raised about setting a precedence by deploying CIRG assets, I pointed out that this was a unique situation – no one had seen this level of UAS activity (duration and number of drones) before. Given Congressional interest already, we could also expect the

Committees to start asking questions if this mystery was not resolved/explained very shortly.

We did get clarification the meeting next Monday will only be LE and the FAA – no press allowed. Bam will be there representing FAA.

Brett requested and FBI Denver concurred we all needed a SharePoint site where all pictures and other information could be stored – they will coordinate with the Colorado Fusion Center, which is already involved, to assist by setting up a SharePoint site and request the Fusion Center map out all of the activity.

More to follow after tonight's flight.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O) 202-267-7980

(M) (b) (6)

(M) (b) (6)



Re: Yuma County "Mysterious Drones"

From: (b) (6) @yahoo.com>
To: michael.bumberger@faa.gov
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 06:24:22 -0500

Agent Bumberger,

Contact information I provided to FAA did not include this email. This email was used in case of contacting Sheriff because as all the other Sheriff offices they for some unforeseen have contact information that does not pan out or in this case a contact form on their webpage that says error when you send, leaving only other option of recorded contact as their Facebook Messenger App which I don't partake in leaving me on a device with Facebook Messenger and this particular email. In which case when I'm not in area to communicate with expected contact Unusually can only see the email who sent it to me, this one being FAA and title to guess at what they want. That is what produced my earlier response. Telling me this is a federal investigation to answer truthfully and without hesitation is like me asking you to answer a call at your office phone while your at home when you gave me your office phone to communicate with. I want to make note of that as naturally this is now able to be submitted as federal government evidence.

I'll save my thoughts on how I have been treated and fulfill my federal legal obligation.

As I stated in my contact I believe that most if not all the drone stories are misidentified or flat big fish stories.

First a link : [Mysterious drone swarms over Colorado and Nebraska - Chasing Venus?](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/mysterious-drones-swarm-over-colorado-nebraska-unleashes-origin-theories-n1108941)

Mysterious drone swarms over Colorado and Nebraska - Chasing Venus?

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/mysterious-drones-swarm-over-colorado-nebraska-unleashes-origin-theories-n1108941> The strange lights began appearing in the night sky a week before Christmas. A formation of unidentified drones, some in groups o

As with all big fish stories their is some truth. What was in the air were toy drones, which means they are not registered. Do they have flashing lights yes do they work in unison yes you lay them out in a grid and control movement from one controller. I've attached a few photos.

My comment to Sheriff offices manager at front desk was that rented was a more fitting description not that they were rented. They continually wanted me to call and I did not just so I have record of what was said not what they remember or is assumed. As an agent who starts out an email with a statement such as yours you must be aware that something being rented is completely different from rented is a better description as legal reference from previous cases will establish that my statement is like but not exactly the definition. Again I want to mark that as a concern from my point of view. There is no drone rental company or receipt.

Purpose as you have seen if you have referenced my file is all things UFO. Never have I ran into a case like this place. Common methods of exploring anything UFO is to follow grids or parallel, longitude lines hence the NY Times top 10 selling book 37th parallel which in turns makes it look like a mapping grid operation.

I saw plenty of drones in the air as well as birds and so on. I never seen a giant formation of 6 foot plus drones and people chasing them down highway at 70 mph.

That should conclude all my legal obligation to federal government investigation. Due to my view on this which I won't waste your time with I'll only be providing my legal obligation from here further.

In advance today is Friday and I'll be hard to reach until Monday should another email show up to me with specific instructions on answer now and tell the truth as I'm the guy who volunteered for everything from a polygraph to drug testing.

(b) (6)





[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Thu, Jan 2, 2020 at 5:25 PM, Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov> wrote:

I am the Special Agent in charge of the investigation for the Federal Aviation Administration. I have been advised you have contacted the Yuma County Sheriffs Office, informing them the drones in question belong to you but were rented out.

As this is part of a Federal Investigation it is imperative you reply to my questions truthfully and without hesitation.

Under what name or company are the drones registered to?

What type are they?

Who did you rent them to?

What is it they are looking for?

Look forward to your response.

Mike

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent

Federal Aviation Administration

National Security Programs and Incident Response

Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830

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UPDATE ON NEBRASKA STATE POLICE HELO FLIGHT

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 08:51:36 -0500

Morning Bam and Craig: When folks come to life in the west, can you check and see if the helo flight was executed last night and, if so, what were the results of the ISR flight? We are a bit busy today with Iraq/Iran. Thanks,
Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

FW: Swarms of Giant UAS in the Colorado and Nebraska areas

From: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Cc: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 09:05:47 -0500

Manny,

Please click on the last link below in Josh's message. Please ensure that you contact LEOs. You can check with Mike Bumberger and Craig Burns as they are working the Colorado piece.

Thanks,

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800
781-238-7703 (office)
(b) (6) (cell)
781-238-7716 (fax)**

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From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 5:13 PM
To: 9-AWA-ASH-WOC (FAA) <9-AWA-ASH-WOC@faa.gov>
Cc: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>; 9-AWA-ASH-EIC (FAA) <FAA-EIC@faa.gov>; 9-ASH-AXE-CITE-Watch (FAA) <9-awa-ash-aeo-cite-watch@faa.gov>; Anderson, John A (FAA) <John.A.Anderson@faa.gov>; Arroyo, Javier (FAA) <Javier.Arroyo@faa.gov>; Beauchamp, Dale (FAA) <dale.beauchamp@faa.gov>; Bell, Arthur (FAA) <Arthur.Bell@faa.gov>; Brandon, Skip (FAA) <skip.brandon@faa.gov>; Carter, Jonathan (FAA) <Jonathan.Carter@faa.gov>; Coates, Elizabeth (FAA) <Elizabeth.Coates@faa.gov>; Faulkner, Don (FAA) <don.faulkner@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Few, Debra (FAA) <Debra.Few@faa.gov>; Gordon, Garland (FAA) <garland.gordon@faa.gov>; Gray, Katrina L (FAA) <Katrina.L.Gray@faa.gov>; Johnson, Dennis A (FAA) <Dennis.A.Johnson@faa.gov>; Kemens, Victor (FAA) <Victor.Kemens@faa.gov>; Kenny, Thomas L (FAA) <Thomas.L.Kenny@faa.gov>; Manno, Claudio (FAA) <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>; McBurrows, Walter (FAA) <Walter.McBurrows@faa.gov>; Mitchell, Karlesta (FAA) <karlesta.mitchell@faa.gov>; Moore, Gerald (FAA) <Gerald.Moore@faa.gov>; Owerhohle, Kurt (FAA) <kurt.owerhohle@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Pausch, Patricia (FAA) <Patricia.Pausch@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>; Root, Michelle (FAA) <Michelle.Root@faa.gov>; Sinder, Aaron (FAA) <Aaron.Sinder@faa.gov>; Supko, Ben (FAA) <ben.supko@faa.gov>; Thompson, Leshia (FAA) <lesha.thompson@faa.gov>; Turner, Guy (FAA) <Guy.Turner@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Swarms of Giant UAS in the Colorado and Nebraska areas

Thanks. Special Agent Bumberger has been working with local sheriffs where the alleged sightings have taken place to track down ground truth.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration
Cell: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)
Office: 202-267-7980
Sent from my iPad

On Dec 30, 2019, at 16:43, 9-AWA-ASH-WOC (FAA) <9-AWA-ASH-WOC@faa.gov> wrote:

FYSA,

Received a call from Mr. Arjuna Fields (Arjuna.CTR.Fields@faa.gov) (work) 817-222-4639 reference these reports.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/news/nobody-knows-mysterious-drone-swarms>

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/giant-drone-swarm-mystery-in-colorado-nebraska-skies-2019-12-1028787104>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=drone%20swarms%20in%20nebraska&cad=h#spf=1577741818691>

Regards,

Garland Gordon

Washington Operations Center AXE-100
Phone: 202-267-3333
Fax: 202-267-5289
VIPER Phone: 202-267-5290
<Outlook-44kqrnk1.png>



Read: Swarms of Giant UAS in the Colorado and Nebraska areas

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 09:07:22 -0500

FW: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 09:10:45 -0500

I know you are plugged in but sharing just in case...

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Carty, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Carty@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Anderson, John A (FAA) <John.A.Anderson@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

For your SA.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)" <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
Date: January 3, 2020 at 7:21:04 AM EST
To: "Carty, Robert (FAA)" <Robert.Carty@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
202-267-3060

From: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Cc: Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov>; Kramer, Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>; Ruiz, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Ruiz@faa.gov>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>
Subject: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

All,

Here is some additional information concerning the UAS activity: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Please note the Highlighted area:

(U//FOUO) At this moment, we know that there have been numerous sightings of drones, approximately 4 to 6 ft in size, with reports of night flying operations of illuminated and unlit aircraft. All sightings have consisted of rotary-wing aircraft operating at speeds of 5 to 50 mph, with some reports indicating that the drones flew approximately 40-50 miles in distance. There is the possibility that these types of night flights can be done with a waiver from the FAA; but if that is the case, the FAA has not correlated those waivers with this activity.

(U//FOUO) The drones have been seen at elevations as low as 10 ft and have been reported as high as 1000 ft. A drone has, on at least one occurrence, been sighted hovering outside of a private residential window. These sightings were also made by law enforcement officials. The drones are reported to be flying in a grid pattern, which suggests they have a pre-scheduled flight plan that does not require the use of a controller or pilot. Such software is available commercially.

(U//FOUO) Additionally, some reports indicate that the drones have been flying in formations with approximately 8-15 drones in each formation. Simultaneously, other drones have been reported to hover over towns located at great distances from these formations.

(U//FOUO) There have been several sightings of these drones flying over law enforcement communication centers, and cell and radio towers. They have also been spotted over agricultural infrastructure, which makes up a large portion of the region's critical infrastructure. The region is also known to house some of the Minutemen III and Peacekeeper missiles connected to F.E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, WY. but so far there have been no reports of sightings over these locations.

(U//FOUO) (b) (5)

(U//FOUO) Throughout the Christmas holiday the CIAC connected with representatives from the TSA, FAA, FBI JTTF, DHS, OEM, and Law enforcement officials from Phillips and Yuma County, (b) (5), multiple oil and gas partners, and DFPC's Center of Excellence.

(U//FOUO) The CIAC is currently mapping out the incidents and have mapped approximately 52 separate reports."

The only thing to add is that over the last several nights we have been getting reports of hybrid VTOL UAS with fixed wingspans of 7 to 10 feet. Additionally, these aircraft appear to have an airfoil located at the rudder of the aircraft and may have a fuselage.

I hope this helps, and sorry for the canned email. Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Best regards,

(b) (6) | IP/UAS Intelligence Analyst



Work | 720.576.8757 Fax | 720.852.6768
690 Kipling St. Suite 2100, Lakewood, CO 80226

Dale Ogden
Aviation Safety
Flight Standards Service
Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Flight Standards Field Office
303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176; Cell (b) (6)
dale.ogden@faa.gov

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http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/qms/

From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 8:22 AM

To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>

Cc: Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov>; Kramer, Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>; Ruiz, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Ruiz@faa.gov>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>

Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thanks Thomas-
JL

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
202-267-3060

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 10:21 AM

To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>

Cc: Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov>; Kramer, Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>; Ruiz, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Ruiz@faa.gov>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>

Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

John:
Denver FSDO will be contacting ASH on the where about's of the government agency meeting and participate if possible. As we know more I will keep you in the loop on the developments.

Regards,

From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 10:00 AM

To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>

Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Mysterious drones are flying around the Midwest, Great Plains and no one has answers

USA TODAY, [Adrianna Rodriguez](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Local and federal authorities are investigating confirmed reports of mysterious drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska that appeared in the night sky earlier this week.

Sheriff's offices in Lincoln, Washington and Sedgwick counties have been getting calls this week about the unknown winged devices after initial reports came out of Phillips and Yuma counties, sheriffs said.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot wingspans and fly between 7 and 10 p.m. in grid-like patterns 150 to 200 feet in the air in groups of six to 10, the [Denver Post](#) reported.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs [said in a Facebook post](#) Tuesday that the drones are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government, however, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Forces Command

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office said it doesn't have jurisdiction over that airspace and shooting it out of the sky could break federal laws because drones are recognized as aircrafts.

Combs said on Facebook that local sheriff's offices, police departments and federal government agencies have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 6 to develop a plan to identify who or what is controlling these drones.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are," he wrote. "I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now."

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
202-267-3060

-----Original Message-----

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Hi Dale:

Let's talk, give me a call.

Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 9:39 AM
To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thomas,

Just for clarity, are you going to coordinate a multi-agency meeting or are you delegating this to someone else?

Dale Ogden
Aviation Safety
Flight Standards Service
Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Flight Standards Field Office 303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176; Cell (b) (6)
(b) dale.ogden@faa.gov

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http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/qms/

-----Original Message-----

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 7:36 AM
To: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Hi Dale:

I agree, just make sure that ASH is involved when contacting law enforcement agencies.

Regards,

-----Original Message-----

From: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thomas,

I am thinking it might be time to have a multi-agency telecon to provide clarity on where we are all at and what we can do collaboratively going forward. Also determine if we have data to be predictive in our surveillance.

My2 cents

Thanks,

Dale Ogden
Aviation Safety
Flight Standards Service
Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Flight Standards Field Office 303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176; Cell (b) (6)
(b) dale.ogden@faa.gov

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http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/qms/

-----Original Message-----

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 6:51 PM
To: Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thanks Mike, appreciate the detailed information.

Regards,

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 31, 2019, at 6:54 PM, Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov> wrote:
>
> Mr. Winston,
>
> I am doing a "Reply All" to get all of the below information out to as many folks who may need it as quickly as possible.
>
> The information concerning the drone activity in Eastern Colorado and Western Nebraska has been flowing into the office all day in starts and stops. Following is a synopsis of the information we currently have. A lot of the information is mostly identical and from multiple sources so I will do some generalities.
>
> There have been reports of strange drone activities in multiple counties in Eastern Colorado and Western Nebraska, all describing roughly the same activity. From what we understand, the first potential reports were around December 17.
>
> The Lincoln FSDO now has reports where witnesses describe the same type of activity in 4 Nebraska counties that border Colorado and Kansas. Those counties are: Perkins and Chase that both boarder Colorado. Dundy which borders Colorado and Kansas. Hitchcock which borders Kansas.
>
> All of the reports concern large numbers of drones operating at night (some estimates from last night of 30-50) in "clusters" or formations and that they are operating in coordination. Most indicate they seem to be following a grid pattern. Some citizens have reported that they felt threatened by the drones when they started to observe them. Some reports state the drones are hovering over vehicles.
>
> The drones are reported to have 6' wingspans and there are several reports that indicate the drones are operating in coordination with a "Big Drone" that may be stationary in the area. There is also an unverified report of the larger "drone" potentially landing and taking back off from an airport in Imperial, Nebraska. (Chase County). This larger drone, also described as a "Mother Ship", is said to hover while all the others fly around in close proximity. The large drone, as described, is about 5-6 feet in diameter with a cylindrical shape and a red front.
>
> A Sheriff in Sterling Colorado reported: "Citizen reported seeing 2 white panel vans at gas station along interstate (in that area). (I-75) Person said saw drones in van. Went inside and started talking about drones. Person inside seemed to get nervous and left. Woman wearing hajib came inside to pay and vans left. They are trying to get security video from gas station dealing with a different county."
>
> The Chase County, Nebraska Sheriff's office reported running the plate on a white panel van seen in the area of drone activity. The tag came back as registered to a wholesale florist in Denver, Colorado. They did not pull the van over.
>
> We received another report from the Sheriff of Hitchcock County, Nebraska in the Lincoln, FSDO general mailbox:
> "On December 30, 2019, the Hitchcock County Sheriff's Office received a citizens report of a cluster of drones numbering up to 20 flying a v shape formation near mile marker 55 above US Highway 34 between Stratton and Trenton, Nebraska. The time frame was 6:20 P.M. C.S.T. There have been several other "facebook" posts from citizens throughout Hitchcock County claiming to have seen several drones in formation on the evening of the 30th. Sincerely, (b) (6), Hitchcock County Sheriff."
>
> The Chase County Sheriff's Office sent us photographs of odd plastic nets filled with gelatin substance said to have been found along roads where drones were operating, spaced about 100' apart. They are unsure if there are any in nearby fields. (Photos attached) The Perkins County, Nebraska Sheriff has some of the material for the FBI to collect for lab analysis. The "sacks" are reported to weigh approximately 20lb each. We have no confirmation the "sacks" are related to the drone activity. Local law enforcement in the affected areas are suspicious of them and their placing.
>
> I just received another report from our AST, Julie Kerns, who has a contact in Perkins County, Nebraska. Citizens are getting somewhat agitated. The contact stated: "Sorry to bother you late, but if you get on Perkins County, Nebraska Facebook, there are two videos. Can't see much other than blinking light but you can hear the sound on one video pretty good. It appears there could have been 50-60 or more between all the reports. Now people are thinking military and maybe the FAA won't fess up. Nothing else can explain the dollars required to pull it off. NOTAMS, center has nothing on radar, and to do this on the sly at night. It's on all the major news networks so I guess we'll see if they are brave enough to try again tonight"
>

> We have received only one media call and we referred the caller to Public Affairs.
>
> My apologies for the long read. There is a lot of information moving around and I wanted to include as much as possible in the shortest format possible.
>
> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time.
>
> Best Regards,
> Mike
>
> Michael W. Sanford
> Aviation Safety
> LNK FSDO CE-09
> Front Line Manager - Airworthiness
> 402-458-7807 (Desk) (b) (6) (Cell)
>
> "In flying, I have learned that carelessness and overconfidence are usually far more dangerous than deliberately accepted risks."
> — Wilbur Wright in a letter to his father, September 1900.
>
> From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
> Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 12:45 PM
> To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Thanks Roger, Happy New Year.
>
> From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:47 AM
> To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>; Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov<mailto:michael.sanford@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
> Importance: High
>
> John and Thomas,
>
> We contacted (b) (6) and they DO NOT operate drones in the winter. So, this was a bust. If we learn of any other leads we will be in touch. I'm handing the remainder of today to AST Julie Kerns, FLMs Daniel R Osborn and Mike Sanford.
>
> Roger
>
> From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 10:33 AM
> To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>; Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Thanks Roger and Julie. Please keep us posted on what you learn from (b) (5), (b) (6).
>
> John Linsenmeyer
> FAA Flight Standards Service
> john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> 202-267-3060
>

> From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:28 AM
> To: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Linsenmeyer,
> John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Kerns,
> Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>; Ogden,
> Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Thurston,
> Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
> Importance: High

> Mr. Winston and Mr. Linsenmeyer,

> I believe we may have tracked the Drone operator, thanks to our terrific investigative work by AST Julie Kerns. See attached.

> Roger Zimmerman
> Office Manager
> Lincoln FSDO

> From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 3:00 PM
> To: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>;
> Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Thurston,
> Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>;
> Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Kerns,
> Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
> Importance: High

> Just received from our AST reference the "Drone Activity";

> Received a call regarding multiple, larger sized drones flying over rural western Nebraska in Perkins County, between Ogallala and Grant, NE. Gentleman reported there were maybe 12 or more drones with a 6 foot wingspan flying approximately 200 feet AGL, in a grid pattern. From his contacts, the drones seem to have covered 10 to 20 square miles. Some farmers/ranchers reported the drones flying over their farmsteads. The caller stated he saw the drones December 29th approximately from 7:00 pm to 10 or 10:30 MST. He was unable to get a photo or video.

> Reports of (b) (5), (b) truck being in Grant, NE on Sunday, December 29th has led to speculation the drones may be associated with the company and possibly be mapping for gas or oil.

> The caller stated he would provide a statement. I asked if he talked to other witnesses to have them reach out to this office as well.

> The caller does have an aviation background; he is a private pilot.

> Grant is the county seat of Perkins County had a population of 1,165 in 2010. The county population was 2,970 in 2010.

> This was reported to AST Julie Kerns.

> Have a blessed day.

> Roger Zimmerman
> Office Manager
> Lincoln FSDO

> From: Ogden, Dale (FAA)
> <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:36 PM
> To: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman,
> Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>;
> Thurston, Kyle (FAA)
> <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

> Thomas,

> The first we heard of anything of this issue was from an initial report on December 20th, and then Denver FSDO received a few more reports from Law Enforcement two days ago. As of right now we do not have any actionable information or evidence to move forward with any kind of investigation. If anyone else has something, we will look into the matter. I will reach out to the personnel in the FSDO to see if they have heard anything and not brought it to our attention.

> Thanks,

>
> Dale Ogden
> Aviation Safety
> Flight Standards Service
> Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Flight
> Standards Field Office 303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176;
> Cell (b) (6) dale.ogden@faa.gov<mailto:dale.ogden@faa.gov>
>
> Denver FSDO Values
> SERVICE
> Provide polite and timely service to public and colleagues EXCELLENCE
> Reflect on today and seek improvement tomorrow INTEGRITY Do the right
> thing even when it is difficult
>
> We are committed to service, please take a few minutes to visit the website below and provide your feedback on our performance. Use the Flight
Standards Office drop down to select "Flight Standard District Office (FSDO), Denver FSDO (NM03)" and enter your comments. Please select "Service
Provided" if one of these areas applies, otherwise omit it. Thank you.
>
> http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/a
> fs/qms/
>
> From: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:07 PM
> To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>; Ogden,
> Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Thurston,
> Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> FYI
>
> From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 2:02 PM
> To: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Kramer, Mark
> E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>; Viola,
> James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>;
> Marshall, Tony (FAA)
> <tony.marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony.marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin
> (FAA) <erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA)
> <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger
> N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>;
> Osborn, Daniel R (FAA)
> <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale
> (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes,
> Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>;
> Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K
> (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>;
> Thurston, Kyle (FAA)
> <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Thanks Thomas. AOA chief of staff is requesting ASAP priority on this, need a quick turn if possible.
>
> John Linsenmeyer
> FAA Flight Standards Service
> john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> 202-267-3060
>
> From: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:30 PM
> To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>; Kramer,
> Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>;
> Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>;
> Marshall, Tony (FAA)
> <tony.marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony.marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin
> (FAA) <erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA)
> <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger
> N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>;
> Osborn, Daniel R (FAA)
> <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale
> (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes,
> Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>;
> Morra, Joseph (FAA)

> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K
> (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>;
> Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>;
> Thurston, Kyle (FAA)
> <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Hi John:
> I will check with our Denver and Des Moines FSDO.
>
> From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:21 PM
> To: Kramer, Mark E (FAA)
> <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>; Winston, Thomas
> (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Viola,
> James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>;
> Marshall, Tony (FAA)
> <tony.marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony.marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin
> (FAA) <erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA)
> <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger
> N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>;
> Osborn, Daniel R (FAA)
> <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale
> (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes,
> Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>;
> Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K
> (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>
> Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Hello GASA, please advise and cc: all if you have any info to share.
> Thanks!
>
> John Linsenmeyer
> FAA Flight Standards Service
> john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> 202-267-3060
>
> From: Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:11 PM
> To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
>
> Joe Morra, Director AUS-400
> Federal Aviation Administration
> Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office Safety & Integration
> Division
> 202-267-6521
>
> AUS appreciates your
> feedback<[http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/
> stakeholder_feedback/aus/](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/stakeholder_feedback/aus/)> (Please select: UAS Safety and Integration
> Division AUS-400)
>
>
>
> From: Forro, Elizabeth (FAA)
> <elizabeth.forro@faa.gov<mailto:elizabeth.forro@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:56 PM
> To: Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Marks, Julie
> (FAA) <julie.marks@faa.gov<mailto:julie.marks@faa.gov>>; Hartman,
> Nicole (FAA) <nicole.hartman@faa.gov<mailto:nicole.hartman@faa.gov>>;
> Cruz, Emanuel (FAA)
> <Emanuel.Cruz@faa.gov<mailto:Emanuel.Cruz@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Amend, Erik (FAA) <Erik.Amend@faa.gov<mailto:Erik.Amend@faa.gov>>;
> Crozier, Bill (FAA)
> <Bill.Crozier@faa.gov<mailto:Bill.Crozier@faa.gov>>
> Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> > 400 team – any ideas?
>
> Elizabeth Forro
> Special Assistant
> FAA UAS Integration Office
> O: 202-267-7239
> C: (b) (6)
> Elizabeth.Forro@faa.gov<mailto:Elizabeth.Forro@faa.gov>

> www.faa.gov/uas<<http://www.faa.gov/uas>>
>
> From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA)
> <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov<<mailto:Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:53 PM
> To: Hayes, Randa (FAA)
> <randa.hayes@faa.gov<<mailto:randa.hayes@faa.gov>>>; Carty, Robert (FAA)
> <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>>; Amend, Erik (FAA)
> <Erik.Amend@faa.gov<<mailto:Erik.Amend@faa.gov>>>; Forro, Elizabeth
> (FAA) <elizabeth.forro@faa.gov<<mailto:elizabeth.forro@faa.gov>>>
> Subject: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.foxnews.com/us/colorado-nebraska-she-iffs-puzzled-by-nocturnal-drone-flights.amp>
> iffs-puzzled-by-nocturnal-drone-flights.amp
>
> The Chief of Staff for Senator Gardner from Colorado is asking about this. ASH LEAP and ATO are checking their data—would AUS or AFS have any info on this activity? Please let me know soonest as I may have a call with them today.
>
> R/
> Angela
> Angela H. Stubblefield
> Chief of Staff
> FAA
> Work: 202-267-7576
> Mobile: (b) (6)
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> <Odd Sack in vicinity of drone activity.JPG> <Odd Sack in vicinity of
> drone activity2.JPG>

FW: Drones Nebraska 2020

From: "Buchanan, Derek (FAA)" <derek.buchanan@faa.gov>
To: "Wylie, Wendy (FAA)" <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 09:18:00 -0500

Wendy and Mike, below are notes from three calls the ROC took this week.

Mike, as discussed on the phone, I'd like to create special ROC procedures so that the Ops Officers are all similarly responding to these calls. Please let us know how we can support.

Derek

Derek Buchanan
Regional Operations Center/Emergency Operations, ASW-40
Office: 81
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 8
VIPR: 817-222- 5963

From: Bono, Steve (FAA) <steve.bono@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 7:30 AM
To: Buchanan, Derek (FAA) <Derek.Buchanan@faa.gov>
Subject: Drones Nebraska 2020

Here's the details on my Drone report from Thursday Jan. 2, 2020 approx. 0840C

Red Willow County Sheriff Dept.
Deputy (b) (6)
308-340-2300

Several people called Sheriff dept. and reported seeing 2 to 3 drones.
One Sheriff also reported seeing a drone.
Not over any populated area. All below 400ft AGL.
No danger to acft or public reported.

Call came in 5min later from Cheyenne County.
Similar to call above.
Not related since county is 150 miles N.W. of Red Willow County.
Contact:

Cheyenne County Sheriff Dept.
Deputy (b) (6)
308-254-5878

On January 1, 2020 @ 2055C
Call came in from Nebraska State Patrol reported
4 Drones, unknown type or size, flying near Mc Cook Airport. (MCK).

Contact:

Nebraska State Police
Sgt. (b) (6)
308-520-6591 or 308-535-8047

Steve Bono

C-ROC ASW-40
Steve.bono@faa.gov
817-222-5006

RE: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 09:26:24 -0500

Thank you.

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 6:11 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

I know you are plugged in but sharing just in case...

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Carty, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Carty@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Anderson, John A (FAA) <John.A.Anderson@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

For your SA.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)" <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
Date: January 3, 2020 at 7:21:04 AM EST
To: "Carty, Robert (FAA)" <Robert.Carty@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
202-267-3060

From: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Cc: Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov>; Kramer, Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>; Ruiz, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Ruiz@faa.gov>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>
Subject: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

All,

Here is some additional information concerning the UAS activity: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE: Please note the Highlighted area:

(U//FOUO) At this moment, we know that there have been numerous sightings of drones, approximately 4 to 6 ft in size, with reports of night flying operations of illuminated and unlit aircraft. All sightings have consisted of rotary-wing aircraft operating at speeds of 5 to 50 mph, with some reports indicating that the drones flew approximately 40-50 miles in distance. There is the possibility that these types of night flights can be done with a waiver from the FAA, but if that is the case, the FAA has not correlated those waivers with this activity.

(U//FOUO) The drones have been seen at elevations as low as 10 ft and have been reported as high as 1000 ft. A drone has, on at least one occurrence, been sighted hovering outside of a private residential window. These sightings were also made by law enforcement officials. The drones are reported to be flying in a grid pattern, which suggests they have a pre-scheduled flight plan that does not require the use of a controller or pilot. Such software is available commercially.

(U//FOUO) Additionally, some reports indicate that the drones have been flying in formations with approximately 8-15 drones in each formation. Simultaneously, other drones have been reported to hover over towns located at great distances from these formations.

(U//FOUO) There have been several sightings of these drones flying over law enforcement communication centers, and cell and radio towers. They have also been spotted over agricultural infrastructure, which makes up a large portion of the region's critical infrastructure. The region is also known to house some of the Minutemen III and Peacekeeper missiles connected to F.E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, WY. but so far there have been no reports of sightings over these locations.

(U//FOUO) (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(U//FOUO) Throughout the Christmas holiday, the CIAC connected with representatives from the TSA, FAA, FBI JTTF, DHS, OEM, and Law enforcement officials from Phillips and Yuma County, (b) (5), multiple oil and gas partners, and DFPC's Center of Excellence.

(U//FOUO) The CIAC is currently mapping out the incidents and have mapped approximately 52 separate reports."

The only thing to add is that over the last several nights we have been getting reports of hybrid VTOL UAS with fixed wingspans of 7 to 10 feet. Additionally, these aircraft appear to have an airfoil located at the rudder of the aircraft and may have a fuselage.

I hope this helps, and sorry for the canned email. Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Best regards,

(b) (6) | IP/UAS Intelligence Analyst



Work | 720.576.8757 Fax | 720.852.6768
690 Kipling St. Suite 2100, Lakewood, CO 80226

Dale Ogden
Aviation Safety
Flight Standards Service
Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Flight Standards Field Office
303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176; Cell (b) (6)
dale.ogden@faa.gov

Denver FSDO Values

SERVICE

Provide polite and timely service to public and colleagues

EXCELLENCE

Reflect on today and seek improvement tomorrow

INTEGRITY

Do the right thing even when it is difficult

We are committed to service, please take a few minutes to visit the website below and provide your feedback on our performance. Use the Flight Standards Office drop down to select "Flight Standard District Office (FSDO), Denver FSDO (NM03)" and enter your comments. Please select "Service Provided" if one of these areas applies, otherwise omit it. Thank you.

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/qms/

From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 8:22 AM

To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>

Cc: Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov>; Kramer, Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>; Ruiz, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Ruiz@faa.gov>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>

Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thanks Thomas-
JL

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
202-267-3060

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 10:21 AM

To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>

Cc: Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov>; Kramer, Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>; Ruiz, Robert (FAA) <Robert.Ruiz@faa.gov>; Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>

Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

John:

Denver FSDO will be contacting ASH on the where about's of the government agency meeting and participate if possible. As we know more I will keep you in the loop on the developments.

Regards,

From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 10:00 AM

To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>

Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Mysterious drones are flying around the Midwest, Great Plains and no one has answers

USA TODAY, [Adrianna Rodriguez](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Local and federal authorities are investigating confirmed reports of mysterious drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska that appeared in the night

sky earlier this week.

Sheriff's offices in Lincoln, Washington and Sedgwick counties have been getting calls this week about the unknown winged devices after initial reports came out of Phillips and Yuma counties, sheriffs said.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot wingspans and fly between 7 and 10 p.m. in grid-like patterns 150 to 200 feet in the air in groups of six to 10, the [Denver Post](#) reported.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs [said in a Facebook post](#) Tuesday that the drones are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government, however, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Forces Command

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office said it doesn't have jurisdiction over that airspace and shooting it out of the sky could break federal laws because drones are recognized as aircrafts.

Combs said on Facebook that local sheriff's offices, police departments and federal government agencies have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 6 to develop a plan to identify who or what is controlling these drones.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are," he wrote. "I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now."

John Linsenmeyer
FAA Flight Standards Service
john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
202-267-3060

-----Original Message-----

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Hi Dale:

Let's talk, give me a call.

Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 9:39 AM
To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thomas,

Just for clarity, are you going to coordinate a multi-agency meeting or are you delegating this to someone else?

Dale Ogden
Aviation Safety
Flight Standards Service
Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Flight Standards Field Office 303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176; Cell (b) (6)
(b) dale.ogden@faa.gov

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http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/qms/

-----Original Message-----

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 7:36 AM
To: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Hi Dale:

I agree, just make sure that ASH is involved when contacting law enforcement agencies.

Regards,

-----Original Message-----

From: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA)

<Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thomas,

I am thinking it might be time to have a multi-agency telecon to provide clarity on where we are all at and what we can do collaboratively going forward. Also determine if we have data to be predictive in our surveillance.

My2 cents

Thanks,

Dale Ogden
Aviation Safety
Flight Standards Service
Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Flight Standards Field Office 303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176; Cell (b) (6)
(b) dale.ogden@faa.gov

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http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/qms/

-----Original Message-----

From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 6:51 PM
To: Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
Cc: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>; Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

Thanks Mike, appreciate the detailed information.

Regards,

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 31, 2019, at 6:54 PM, Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov> wrote:
>
> Mr. Winston,
>
> I am doing a "Reply All" to get all of the below information out to as many folks who may need it as quickly as possible.
>
> The information concerning the drone activity in Eastern Colorado and Western Nebraska has been flowing into the office all day in starts and stops. Following is a synopsis of the information we currently have. A lot of the information is mostly identical and from multiple sources so I will do some generalities.
>
> There have been reports of strange drone activities in multiple counties in Eastern Colorado and Western Nebraska, all describing roughly the same activity. From what we understand, the first potential reports were around December 17.
>
> The Lincoln FSDO now has reports where witnesses describe the same type of activity in 4 Nebraska counties that border Colorado and Kansas. Those counties are: Perkins and Chase that both border Colorado. Dundy which borders Colorado and Kansas. Hitchcock which borders Kansas.
>
> All of the reports concern large numbers of drones operating at night (some estimates from last night of 30-50) in "clusters" or formations and that they are operating in coordination. Most indicate they seem to be following a grid pattern. Some citizens have reported that they felt threatened by the drones when they started to observe them. Some reports state the drones are hovering over vehicles.
>
> The drones are reported to have 6' wingspans and there are several reports that indicate the drones are operating in coordination with a "Big Drone" that may be stationary in the area. There is also an unverified report of the larger "drone" potentially landing and taking back off from an airport in Imperial, Nebraska. (Chase County). This larger drone, also described as a "Mother Ship", is said to hover while all the others fly around in close proximity. The large drone, as described, is about 5-6 feet in diameter with a cylindrical shape and a red front.
>
> A Sheriff in Sterling Colorado reported: "Citizen reported seeing 2 white panel vans at gas station along interstate (in that area). (I-75) Person said saw drones in van. Went inside and started talking about drones. Person inside seemed to get nervous and left. Woman wearing hajib came inside to pay and vans left. They are trying to get security video from gas station dealing with a different county."
>
> The Chase County, Nebraska Sheriff's office reported running the plate on a white panel van seen in the area of drone activity. The tag came back as registered to a wholesale florist in Denver, Colorado. They did not pull the van over.
>
> We received another report from the Sheriff of Hitchcock County, Nebraska in the Lincoln, FSDO general mailbox:
> "On December 30, 2019, the Hitchcock County Sheriff's Office received a citizens report of a cluster of drones numbering up to 20 flying a v shape formation near mile marker 55 above US Highway 34 between Stratton and Trenton, Nebraska. The time frame was 6:20 P.M. C.S.T. There have been several other "facebook" posts from citizens throughout Hitchcock County claiming to have seen several drones in formation on the evening of the 30th. Sincerely, (b) (6), Hitchcock County Sheriff."
>
> The Chase County Sheriff's Office sent us photographs of odd plastic nets filled with gelatin substance said to have been found along roads where drones were operating, spaced about 100' apart. They are unsure if there are any in nearby fields. (Photos attached) The Perkins County, Nebraska Sheriff has some of the material for the FBI to collect for lab analysis. The "sacks" are reported to weigh approximately 20lb each. We have no confirmation the "sacks" are related to the drone activity. Local law enforcement in the affected areas are suspicious of them and their placing.

>
> I just received another report from our AST, Julie Kerns, who has a contact in Perkins County, Nebraska. Citizens are getting somewhat agitated. The contact stated: "Sorry to bother you late, but if you get on Perkins County, Nebraska Facebook, there are two videos. Can't see much other than blinking light but you can hear the sound on one video pretty good. It appears there could have been 50-60 or more between all the reports. Now people are thinking military and maybe the FAA won't fess up. Nothing else can explain the dollars required to pull it off. NOTAMs, center has nothing on radar, and to do this on the sly at night. It's on all the major news networks so I guess we'll see if they are brave enough to try again tonight"
>
> We have received only one media call and we referred the caller to Public Affairs.
>
> My apologies for the long read. There is a lot of information moving around and I wanted to include as much as possible in the shortest format possible.
>
> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time.
>
> Best Regards,
> Mike
>
> Michael W. Sanford
> Aviation Safety
> LNK FSDO CE-09
> Front Line Manager - Airworthiness
> 402-458-7807 (Desk) **b) (6)** (Cell)
>
> "In flying, I have learned that carelessness and overconfidence are usually far more dangerous than deliberately accepted risks."
> — Wilbur Wright in a letter to his father, September 1900.
>
> From: Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>
> Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 12:45 PM
> To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer, John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA) <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA) <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA) <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>; Sanford, Michael (FAA) <michael.sanford@faa.gov>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Thanks Roger, Happy New Year.
>
> From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov><<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>>
> Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:47 AM
> To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov><<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>>; Winston, Thomas (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov><<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov><<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov><<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov><<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov><<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov><<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov><<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>>; Osborn, Daniel R (FAA)
> <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov><<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>>; Sanford, Michael (FAA)
> <michael.sanford@faa.gov><<mailto:michael.sanford@faa.gov>>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
> Importance: High
>
> John and Thomas,
>
> We contacted Peragon and they DO NOT operate drones in the winter. So, this was a bust. If we learn of any other leads we will be in touch. I'm handing the remainder of today to AST Julie Kerns, FLMs Daniel R Osborn and Mike Sanford.
>
> Roger
>
> From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov><<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>>
> Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 10:33 AM
> To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov><<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>>;
> Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov><<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov><<mailto:eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>>>; Fry, Wayne P (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov><<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>>; DeGuzman, Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov><<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>>; Kerns, Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov><<mailto:Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>>>; Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov><<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>>; Thurston, Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov><<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska

>
> Thanks Roger and Julie. Please keep us posted on what you learn from Paragon Geophysical.
>
> John Linsenmeyer
> FAA Flight Standards Service
> john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov
> 202-267-3060
>
> From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>
> Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:28 AM
> To: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>; Linsenmeyer,
> John (FAA) <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns,
> Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>; Ogden,
> Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>; Thurston,
> Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
> Importance: High
>
> Mr. Winston and Mr. Linsenmeyer,
>
> I believe we may have tracked the Drone operator, thanks to our terrific investigative work by AST Julie Kerns. See attached.
>
> Roger Zimmerman
> Office Manager
> Lincoln FSDO
>
>
> From: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 3:00 PM
> To: Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>;
> Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>; Thurston,
> Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>;
> Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>; Kerns,
> Julie (FAA) <Julie.Kerns@faa.gov>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
> Importance: High
>
> Just received from our AST reference the "Drone Activity";
>
> Received a call regarding multiple, larger sized drones flying over rural western Nebraska in Perkins County, between Ogallala and Grant, NE. Gentleman reported there were maybe 12 or more drones with a 6 foot wingspan flying approximately 200 feet AGL, in a grid pattern. From his contacts, the drones seem to have covered 10 to 20 square miles. Some farmers/ranchers reported the drones flying over their farmsteads. The caller stated he saw the drones December 29th approximately from 7:00 pm to 10 or 10:30 MST. He was unable to get a photo or video.
>
> Reports of Pegasus Energy truck being in Grant, NE on Sunday, December 29th has led to speculation the drones may be associated with the company and possibly be mapping for gas or oil.
>
> The caller stated he would provide a statement. I asked if he talked to other witnesses to have them reach out to this office as well.
> The caller does have an aviation background; he is a private pilot.
> Grant is the county seat of Perkins County had a population of 1,165 in 2010. The county population was 2,970 in 2010.
>
> This was reported to AST Julie Kerns.
>
> Have a blessed day.
>
> Roger Zimmerman
> Office Manager
> Lincoln FSDO
>
> From: Ogden, Dale (FAA)
> <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:36 PM
> To: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>; Zimmerman,
> Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>;
> Thurston, Kyle (FAA)
> <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>
> Cc: Thomas, Eric A (FAA)
> <eric.a.thomas@faa.gov>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>

> Thomas,
>
> The first we heard of anything of this issue was from an initial report on December 20th, and then Denver FSDO received a few more reports from Law Enforcement two days ago. As of right now we do not have any actionable information or evidence to move forward with any kind of investigation. If anyone else has something, we will look into the matter. I will reach out to the personnel in the FSDO to see if they have heard anything and not brought it to our attention.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Dale Ogden
> Aviation Safety
> Flight Standards Service
> Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office & Casper Flight
> Standards Field Office 303-342-1101; 800-847-3808; FAX 303-342-1176;
> Cell (b) (6) dale.ogden@faa.gov<mailto:dale.ogden@faa.gov>
>
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> Reflect on today and seek improvement tomorrow INTEGRITY Do the right
> thing even when it is difficult
>
> We are committed to service, please take a few minutes to visit the website below and provide your feedback on our performance. Use the Flight Standards Office drop down to select "Flight Standard District Office (FSDO), Denver FSDO (NM03)" and enter your comments. Please select "Service Provided" if one of these areas applies, otherwise omit it. Thank you.
>
> http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/a/fs/qms/
>
> From: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:07 PM
> To: Zimmerman, Roger N (FAA)
> <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>; Ogden,
> Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Thurston,
> Kyle (FAA) <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> FYI
>
> From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 2:02 PM
> To: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Kramer, Mark
> E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>; Viola,
> James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>;
> Marshall, Tony (FAA)
> <tony.marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony.marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin
> (FAA) <erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA)
> <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger
> N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>;
> Osborn, Daniel R (FAA)
> <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale
> (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes,
> Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>;
> Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K
> (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>;
> Thurston, Kyle (FAA)
> <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Thanks Thomas. AOA chief of staff is requesting ASAP priority on this, need a quick turn if possible.
>
> John Linsenmeyer
> FAA Flight Standards Service
> john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> 202-267-3060
>
> From: Winston, Thomas (FAA)
> <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:30 PM
> To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>; Kramer,
> Mark E (FAA) <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>;
> Viola, James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>;
> Marshall, Tony (FAA)
> <tony.marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony.marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin
> (FAA) <erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA)
> <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger
> N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>;

> Osborn, Daniel R (FAA)
> <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale
> (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes,
> Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>;
> Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K
> (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>;
> Ogden, Dale (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>;
> Thurston, Kyle (FAA)
> <Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov<mailto:Kyle.Thurston@faa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Hi John:
> I will check with our Denver and Des Moines FSDO.
>
> From: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:21 PM
> To: Kramer, Mark E (FAA)
> <Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov<mailto:Mark.E.Kramer@faa.gov>>; Winston, Thomas
> (FAA) <Thomas.Winston@faa.gov<mailto:Thomas.Winston@faa.gov>>; Viola,
> James (FAA) <James.Viola@faa.gov<mailto:James.Viola@faa.gov>>;
> Marshall, Tony (FAA)
> <tony_marshall@faa.gov<mailto:tony_marshall@faa.gov>>; Cappel, Erin
> (FAA) <erin.cappel@faa.gov<mailto:erin.cappel@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Carty, Robert (FAA)
> <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Zimmerman, Roger
> N (FAA) <Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov<mailto:Roger.N.Zimmerman@faa.gov>>;
> Osborn, Daniel R (FAA)
> <Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov<mailto:Daniel.R.Osborn@faa.gov>>; Ogden, Dale
> (FAA) <Dale.Ogden@faa.gov<mailto:Dale.Ogden@faa.gov>>; Fry, Wayne P
> (FAA) <wayne.p.fry@faa.gov<mailto:wayne.p.fry@faa.gov>>; DeGuzman,
> Hardie H (FAA)
> <Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov<mailto:Hardie.H.DeGuzman@faa.gov>>; Holmes,
> Craig (FAA) <craig.holmes@faa.gov<mailto:craig.holmes@faa.gov>>;
> Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Todd, Jennifer K
> (FAA) <Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov<mailto:Jennifer.K.Todd@faa.gov>>
> Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> Hello GASA, please advise and cc: all if you have any info to share.
> Thanks!
>
> John Linsenmeyer
> FAA Flight Standards Service
> john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:john.linsenmeyer@faa.gov>
> 202-267-3060
>
> From: Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:11 PM
> To: Linsenmeyer, John (FAA)
> <John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov<mailto:John.Linsenmeyer@faa.gov>>
> Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
>
> Joe Morra, Director AUS-400
> Federal Aviation Administration
> Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office Safety & Integration
> Division
> 202-267-6521
>
> AUS appreciates your
> feedback<[http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/
> stakeholder_feedback/aus/](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/stakeholder_feedback/aus/)> (Please select: UAS Safety and Integration
> Division AUS-400)
>
>
>
> From: Forro, Elizabeth (FAA)
> <elizabeth.forro@faa.gov<mailto:elizabeth.forro@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:56 PM
> To: Morra, Joseph (FAA)
> <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov<mailto:Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>>; Marks, Julie
> (FAA) <julie.marks@faa.gov<mailto:julie.marks@faa.gov>>; Hartman,
> Nicole (FAA) <nicole.hartman@faa.gov<mailto:nicole.hartman@faa.gov>>;
> Cruz, Emanuel (FAA)
> <Emanuel.Cruz@faa.gov<mailto:Emanuel.Cruz@faa.gov>>
> Cc: Amend, Erik (FAA) <Erik.Amend@faa.gov<mailto:Erik.Amend@faa.gov>>;
> Crozier, Bill (FAA)
> <Bill.Crozier@faa.gov<mailto:Bill.Crozier@faa.gov>>
> Subject: FW: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>

> 400 team – any ideas?
>
> Elizabeth Forro
> Special Assistant
> FAA UAS Integration Office
> O: 202-267-7239
> C: (b) (6)
> Elizabeth.Forro@faa.gov<mailto:Elizabeth.Forro@faa.gov>
> www.faa.gov/uas<http://www.faa.gov/uas>
>
> From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA)
> <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov<mailto:Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>>
> Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:53 PM
> To: Hayes, Randa (FAA)
> <randa.hayes@faa.gov<mailto:randa.hayes@faa.gov>>; Carty, Robert (FAA)
> <Robert.Carty@faa.gov<mailto:Robert.Carty@faa.gov>>; Amend, Erik (FAA)
> <Erik.Amend@faa.gov<mailto:Erik.Amend@faa.gov>>; Forro, Elizabeth
> (FAA) <elizabeth.forro@faa.gov<mailto:elizabeth.forro@faa.gov>>
> Subject: Drone activity in Colorado/Nebraska
>
> <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.foxnews.com/us/colorado-nebraska-sheer-iffs-puzzled-by-nocturnal-drone-flights.amp>
>
> The Chief of Staff for Senator Gardner from Colorado is asking about this. ASH LEAP and ATO are checking their data—would AUS or AFS have any info on this activity? Please let me know soonest as I may have a call with them today.
>
> R/
> Angela
> Angela H. Stubblefield
> Chief of Staff
> FAA
> Work: 202-267-7576
> Mobile: (b) (6)
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> <Odd Sack in vicinity of drone activity.JPG> <Odd Sack in vicinity of drone activity2.JPG>

RE: Drones Nebraska 2020

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Buchanan, Derek (FAA)" <derek.buchanan@faa.gov>, "Wylie, Wendy (FAA)" <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 09:29:08 -0500

Thank you Sir.

Wendy,
I have been working with closely with Josh, Brett, and Leesa reference these reports in NE Colorado since 12/26. Give me a call please (b) (6) so we can discuss we would like to proceed forward from our level.

R,
Bam

From: Buchanan, Derek (FAA) <Derek.Buchanan@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 6:18 AM
To: Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Drones Nebraska 2020

Wendy and Mike, below are notes from three calls the ROC took this week.

Mike, as discussed on the phone, I'd like to create special ROC procedures so that the Ops Officers are all similarly responding to these calls. Please let us know how we can support.

Derek

Derek Buchanan
Regional Operations Center/Emergency Operations, ASW-40
Office 81
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 8
VIPR: 817-222- 5963

From: Bono, Steve (FAA) <steve.bono@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 7:30 AM
To: Buchanan, Derek (FAA) <Derek.Buchanan@faa.gov>
Subject: Drones Nebraska 2020

Here's the details on my Drone report from Thursday Jan. 2, 2020 approx. 0840C

Red Willow County Sheriff Dept.
Deputy (b) (6)
308-340-2300

Several people called Sheriff dept. and reported seeing 2 to 3 drones.
One Sheriff also reported seeing a drone.
Not over any populated area. All below 400ft AGL.
No danger to acft or public reported.

Call came in 5min later from Cheyenne County.
Similar to call above.
Not related since county is 150 miles N.W. of Red Willow County.
Contact:

Cheyenne County Sheriff Dept.
Deputy (b) (6)
308-254-5878

On January 1, 2020 @ 2055C
Call came in from Nebraska State Patrol reported
4 Drones, unknown type or size, flying near Mc Cook Airport. (MCK).

Contact:

Nebraska State Police
Sgt. (b) (6)
308-520-6591 or 308-535-8047

Steve Bono

C-ROC ASW-40
Steve.bono@faa.gov
817-222-5006

FW: Swarms of Giant UAS in the Colorado and Nebraska areas

From: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 09:31:33 -0500

You might want to let them know you were acting for everyone when this started an that you have been working with Nebraska as well.

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Law Enforcement Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 7:06 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Cc: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Swarms of Giant UAS in the Colorado and Nebraska areas
Importance: High

Manny,

Please click on the last link below in Josh's message. Please ensure that you contact LEOs. You can check with Mike Bumberger and Craig Burns as they are working the Colorado piece.

Thanks,

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800
781-238-7703 (office)
(b) (6) (cell)
781-238-7716 (fax)

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From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 5:13 PM
To: 9-AWA-ASH-WOC (FAA) <9-AWA-ASH-WOC@faa.gov>
Cc: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>; 9-AWA-ASH-EIC (FAA) <FAA-EIC@faa.gov>; 9-ASH-AXE-CITE-Watch (FAA) <9-awa-ash-aeo-cite-watch@faa.gov>; Anderson, John A (FAA) <John.A.Anderson@faa.gov>; Arroyo, Javier (FAA) <Javier.Arroyo@faa.gov>; Beauchamp, Dale (FAA) <dale.beauchamp@faa.gov>; Bell, Arthur (FAA) <Arthur.Bell@faa.gov>; Brandon, Skip (FAA) <skip.brandon@faa.gov>; Carter, Jonathan (FAA) <Jonathan.Carter@faa.gov>; Coates, Elizabeth (FAA) <Elizabeth.Coates@faa.gov>; Faulkner, Don (FAA) <don.faulkner@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Few, Debra (FAA) <Debra.Few@faa.gov>; Gordon, Garland (FAA) <garland.gordon@faa.gov>; Gray, Katrina L (FAA) <Katrina.L.Gray@faa.gov>; Johnson, Dennis A (FAA) <Dennis.A.Johnson@faa.gov>; Kemens, Victor (FAA) <Victor.Kemens@faa.gov>; Kenny, Thomas L (FAA) <Thomas.L.Kenny@faa.gov>; Manno, Claudio (FAA) <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>; McBurrows, Walter (FAA) <Walter.McBurrows@faa.gov>; Mitchell, Karlesta (FAA) <karlesta.mitchell@faa.gov>; Moore, Gerald (FAA) <Gerald.Moore@faa.gov>; Oweremohle, Kurt (FAA) <kurt.oweremohle@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Pausch, Patricia (FAA) <Patricia.Pausch@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>; Root, Michelle (FAA) <Michelle.Root@faa.gov>; Sinder, Aaron (FAA) <Aaron.Sinder@faa.gov>; Supko, Ben (FAA) <ben.supko@faa.gov>; Thompson, Leshia (FAA) <lesha.thompson@faa.gov>; Turner, Guy (FAA) <Guy.Turner@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Swarms of Giant UAS in the Colorado and Nebraska areas

Thanks. Special Agent Bumberger has been working with local sheriffs where the alleged sightings have taken place to track down ground truth.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration
Cell: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)
Office: 202-267-7980
Sent from my iPad

On Dec 30, 2019, at 16:43, 9-AWA-ASH-WOC (FAA) <9-AWA-ASH-WOC@faa.gov> wrote:

FYSA,

Received a call from Mr. Arjuna Fields (Arjuna.CTR.Fields@faa.gov) (work) 817-222-4639 reference these reports.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/news/nobody-knows-mysterious-drone-swarms>

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/giant-drone-swarm-mystery-in-colorado-nebraska-skies-2019-12-1028787104>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=drone%20swarms%20in%20nebraska&cad=h#spf=1577741818691>

Regards,

Garland Gordon

Washington Operations Center AXE-100

Phone: 202-267-3333

Fax: 202-267-5289

VIPER Phone: 202-267-5290

<Outlook-44kqrnki.png>



RE: Access to Hotline Complaints

From: "Beauchamp, Dale (FAA)" <dale.beauchamp@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Root, Michelle (FAA)" <michelle.root@faa.gov>, "Cole, Ken (FAA)" <ken.cole@faa.gov>
Cc: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 10:07:55 -0500
Attachments: S20200102005.pdf (124.96 kB)

Correction on the document from the new year. [here is the correct one same PW](#)

Thank you

Dale Beauchamp
Deputy Director Office of Investigations (AXI)
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Office: 404-305-6751
iPhone: (b) (6)
[dale.beauchamp@faa.gov](#)

From: Beauchamp, Dale (FAA)
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>; Root, Michelle (FAA) <Michelle.Root@faa.gov>; Cole, Ken (FAA) <Ken.Cole@faa.gov>
Cc: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <Leesa.J.Papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Access to Hotline Complaints

Hot line attached

Thank you

Dale Beauchamp
Deputy Director Office of Investigations (AXI)
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Office: 404-305-6751
iPhone: (b) (6)
[dale.beauchamp@faa.gov](#)

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 7:49 AM
To: Beauchamp, Dale (FAA) <dale.beauchamp@faa.gov>; Root, Michelle (FAA) <Michelle.Root@faa.gov>; Cole, Ken (FAA) <Ken.Cole@faa.gov>
Cc: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Access to Hotline Complaints

Thanks Dale.

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Beauchamp, Dale (FAA) <dale.beauchamp@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 7:20 AM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>; Root, Michelle (FAA) <Michelle.Root@faa.gov>; Cole, Ken (FAA) <Ken.Cole@faa.gov>
Cc: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Access to Hotline Complaints

We will look as well AAE owns the hotline and they would be the best source for details on the hotline.

Thank you

Dale Beauchamp
Deputy Director Office of Investigations (AXI)
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Office: 404-305-6751
iPhone: (b) (6)
[dale.beauchamp@faa.gov](#)

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 8:04 PM
To: Root, Michelle (FAA) <Michelle.Root@faa.gov>; Beauchamp, Dale (FAA) <dale.beauchamp@faa.gov>; Cole, Ken (FAA) <Ken.Cole@faa.gov>
Cc: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Access to Hotline Complaints

Michelle/Dale/Ken - need your assistance. Not sure which hotline this complaint may have been registered but we have a report number below. Can you assist?

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration
Cell: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)
Office: 202-267-7980
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: January 2, 2020 at 19:06:44 EST
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
CC: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: Access to Hotline Complaints

Does anyone have access to the hotline complaint database? I am chasing a lead out of Yuma County. The individual in question claims to have made a report claiming responsibility. The report # is S20200102005. I sent an email to the individual who claims to be (b) (6) asking a few questions. (b) (6) replied "After you review your own department's information let me know. Good place to start". He is probably screaming for attention and the claim might not have substance, but I would like to try and identify the person. This way the FBI is willing, they can pay a visit.

R,
Bam



Reporter: (b) (6) **Open Date:** 01/02/2020
Case Status: Under Investigation **Assigned Date:** 01/02/2020
Disposition: **Due Date:** 03/09/2020
Closed Date: **Appeal Date:**

Summary: Complainant alleges they have information on the "Mystery Drones" reported in Colorado, Nebraska

Hotline Contact Info

Lead Analyst: Charles McCrea
Analyst Email: charles.mccrea@faa.gov
Analyst Phone #: +14043056054

Primary Case Assignment

Assigned Group: SAFETY-AFS-QC & Investigations (AFB-470)(All non-SUP Safety)
Assignment Type: Action

Reporter Contact Info

Privacy Level: Non-Confidential
Reporter is a: General Public
Name: (b) (6)
Address:
City, State, Zip: Wichita KS null
Contact Phone #:
Email Address: (b) (6)@yahoo.com
Int. Phone #:

Subject Party Details

Name:
Company / Org:
Address:
Phone #:
City, State, Zip:

Event Info

Event Date:
Event Time:
Event Location
City, State:
Airline Name:
Flight #:
Departure Location:
Arrival Location:
Aircraft Registration:

Additional Case Assignments (Multi-Assigned):

Assigned Group	Assignment Type	Assigned Individual
SAFETY-HQ-LEAP	Action	

Case Description:

We want to arrange a polygraph test on supplied information on this form. We will also sign legal documents pertaining to acknowledgement of laws and charges of making false statements to FAA before taking polygraph test for two different people. This should put the scientific independent accuracy of our statements at above 90% when looking at statistics for two people passing polygraph test on same information.

We are aware of the who, what, how, and why of the "Mystery Drones" reported in Colorado, Nebraska, as well as the ones not reported in Arizona, Kansas, and other locations. Naturally no crimes were committed and no laws were broke so that information is as a curtsey. I will make you aware that as of now you will be only dealing with copycats and fabricated stories of drone interactions.

We have one condition for providing that information. That condition is that we are allowed to take a government issued polygraph test that we can provide the aircraft that resides under the TicTac formation from the USS Nimitz ship encounter. We want questions to include details to show we have covered the craft at detail including its power source and are able to provide a model, that we can track it, and that we have seen this craft silently Hoover with no noise and means of propulsion at less then 50 foot away for over 10minutes, among other questions we want documented. This polygraph test and results has to be made public. We will subject to drug and psychology testing, and release all personal lifetime medical records to you.

After polygraph test results to your satisfaction we will detail further information we have including pictures, video, and pieces of this aircraft.

WARNING: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PUBLIC AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED UNDER 5 USC 552

This record contains information that belongs to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and may only be used for official Government purposes. The information contained in this record may not be released without the express permission of the FAA.



Related Items

Label	Type	Relationship	Description	Email / Phone
(b) (6)	Person	Complainant/Reporter		(b) (6)@yahoo.com

WARNING: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PUBLIC AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED UNDER 5 USC 552

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Journal Entries

Journal Class	Create Date	Submitter	Category	Summary
Note	01/01/2020 03:18 AM		General Information	Hotline Form Submission - FHIS-0018187

Details

*I am a(n): General Public
What Are You Reporting: Potential Violation*

Information Related To Your Report

*Event Date:
Event Time:
Event Location:
Event City:
Event State:
Aircraft Registration N-
Airline:
Flight Number:
Departure Location:
Arrival Location:*

Responsible Party

*First Name:
Last Name:
Email:
Company/Organization:
Street Address:
Street Address 2:
City:
State:
Zip:
Country: US
Phone:
Web Address:*

Description: We want to arrange a polygraph test on supplied information on this form. We will also sign legal documents pertaining to acknowledgement of laws and charges of making false statements to FAA before taking polygraph test for two different people. This should put the scientific independent accuracy of our statements at above 90% when looking at statistics for two people passing polygraph test on same information.

We are aware of the who, what, how, and why of the "Mystery Drones" reported in Colorado, Nebraska, as well as the ones not reported in Arizona, Kansas, and other locations. Naturally no crimes were committed and no laws were broke so that information is as a curtsey. I will make you aware that as of now you will be only dealing with copycats and fabricated stories of drone interactions.

We have one condition for providing that information. That condition is that we are allowed to take a government issued polygraph test that we can provide the aircraft that resides under the TicTac formation from the USS Nimitz ship encounter. We want questions to include details to show we have covered the craft at detail including its power source and are able to provide a model, that we can track it, and that we have seen this craft silently Hoover with no noise and means of propulsion at less then 50 foot away for over 10minutes, among other questions we want documented. This polygraph test and results has to be made public. We will subject to drug and psychology testing, and release all personal lifetime medical records to you.

After polygraph test results to your satisfaction we will detail further information we have including pictures, video, and pieces of this aircraft.

Other Reports on the Same Subject Matter

*To which division or office within the FAA have you reported this matter? No
To which other federal or state agencies or other organizations have you reported this matter? Yes Several.
Hung up on.*

*Contact Info
First Name: (b) (6)
Last Name: (b) (6)
Company:
Street Address:
City: Wichita*

WARNING: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PUBLIC AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED UNDER 5 USC 552

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Journal Class

Create Date

Submitter

Category

Summary

State: KS

Zip:

Contact Phone:

Email Address: (b) (6) @yahoo.com

International Number:

WARNING: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PUBLIC AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED UNDER 5 USC 552

This record contains information that belongs to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and may only be used for official Government purposes. The information contained in this record may not be released without the express permission of the FAA.

Fwd: Drones Perkins Co.

From: "Wylie, Wendy (FAA)" <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 10:47:27 -0500

FYSA

Wendy Wylie
Special Agent, Law Enforcement [REDACTED] ogram (LEAP)
Office: [847-294-7521](tel:847-294-7521) Mobile: (b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@nebraska.gov>
Date: [REDACTED]
To: "Wylie, Wendy (FAA)" <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drones Perkins Co.

Good Morning Wendy! Do you know if a representative from the FAA will be attending a meeting on Monday in Colorado reference the drone sightings?

Thank You!

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 31, 2019, at 4:24 PM, Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov> wrote:

Thank you!

If you need anything over the next few days please let me know.... Manny will be back in the office next week.

Wendy Wylie
Special Agent, Law Enforcement [REDACTED] ogram (LEAP)
Office: [847-294-7521](tel:847-294-7521) Mobile: (b) (6)

On Dec 31, 2019, at 3:38 PM, (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@nebraska.gov> wrote:

Good Af [REDACTED] Please see the below email. I have CC'd Perkins County Chief Deputy (b) (6) and Chase County Deputy (b) (6) on this as well in the event you need to contact them directly.

In addition to the Perkins County sightings, multiple drones have reportedly flown over and one touched down at the airport in Imperial, NE (Chase County).

Thank You!!

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@nebraska.gov>
Sent: [REDACTED] AM
Subject: Drones

Perkins County Chief Deputy (b) (6) contacted me today in reference to large drone sightings in their county and Chase county. He advised the drones are approximately 6 ft in length, [REDACTED] the number of propellers, and fly pretty low. He expressed his concern that they are starting to harass some residents. Several of them followed one of the reporting parties within 50 yards for some time. He received a report of one that had crashed, but was unable to locate it later. Some of them fly in a grid-like pattern, as the ones in Colorado have been reported.

(b) (6) advised they are reportedly flying between 1900 – 2200 MT. He suggested we have some units out in the area during this timeframe to try and get eyes on His email is below. A message he sent me via MACH is also below.

Also, I spoke with Yuma County SO and they said they received a call from (b) (6) saying it was not their drones (I'm guessing it stemmed from a citizen complaint direct to them). Also, the FAA is aware of the situation and are being asked to monitor it. I am going to speak with a special agent when I get back to the office and give him details. I think the concerning thing is that they are so large and there are so many of them. Additionally, a company called (b) (6) out of Denver asked YCSO to send out a public notification because they are doing survey work for CDOT on the 385 corridor between Wray and Holyoke, but they will be doing so during the daytime and didn't want people to shoot their drones down.

(b) (6) [@perkinscountyne.gov](mailto:perkinscountyne.gov)

Trp. (b) (6)

Nebraska State Patrol, Troop D

Drug Recognition Expert # (b) (6)

300 West S River Rd

North Platte, NE 69101

(b) (6)

(b) (6) [@nebraska.gov](mailto:nebraska.gov)

Statepatrol.nebraska.gov

FAA POC

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: (b) (6) y@nebraska.gov
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 10:53:48 -0500

Good Morning,

I have been working the drone issue since Thursday 12/26 and have been assigned the lead for the FAA. I will be attending the meeting on Monday.

Mike

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: (310) 725-6660

WARNING: This document may be LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE (LES) & may be designated FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It may contain information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) & controlled under the provisions of 49 CFR 1520. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

RE: Drones Perkins Co.

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Wylie, Wendy (FAA)" <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 10:54:00 -0500

Thank you.

From: Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Drones Perkins Co.

FYSA

Wendy Wylie
Special Agent, Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)
Office: [847-294-7521](tel:847-294-7521) Mobile: (b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nebraska.gov>
Date: January 2, 2020 at 1:11 PM
To: "Wylie, Wendy (FAA)" <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drones Perkins Co.

Good Morning Wendy! Do you know if a representative from the FAA will be attending a meeting on Monday in Colorado reference the drone sightings?

Thank You!

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 31, 2019, at 4:24 PM, Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov> wrote:

Thank you!

If you need anything over the next few days please let me know.... Manny will be back in the office next week.

Wendy Wylie
Special Agent, Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)
Office: [847-294-7521](tel:847-294-7521) Mobile: (b) (6)

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In addition to the Perkins County sightings, multiple drones have reportedly flown over and one touched down at the airport in Imperial, NE (Chase County).

Thank You!!

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 9:59 AM
Subject: Drones

Perkins County Chief Deputy (b) (6) contacted me today in reference to large drone sightings in their county and Chase county. He advised the drones are approximately 6 ft in length, have a large number of propellers, and fly pretty low. He expressed his concern that they are starting to harass some residents. Several of them followed one of the reporting parties within 50 yards for some time. He received a report of one that had crashed, but was unable to locate it later. Some of them fly in a grid-like pattern, as the ones in Colorado have been reported.

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(b) (6) [@perkinscountyne.gov](mailto:perkinscountyne.gov)

Trp. (b) (6)

Nebraska State Patrol, Troop D
Drug Recognition Expert # (b) (6)
300 West S River Rd
North Platte, NE 69101

(b) (6) [@nebraska.gov](mailto:nebraska.gov)

Statepatrol.nebraska.gov

FW: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 11:47:54 -0500
Attachments: Colorado Drone Update Details1.docx (26.43 kB)

Gents,

I have been working this issue since 12/26, which started in NE Colorado. The sightings have spread to SW Nebraska and Western Kansas. It is believed some of the recent sightings in CO, NE, and KS have been hysteria reporting, because this has gotten national media attention. Attached is for your situational awareness and I will include you from here on out. Since I have been working this from ground zero I would like all information to flow through me so we have one LEAP voice to leadership. I will make sure you are included from here on out. This issue has a lot of moving part, if you have any questions please give me a call.

Bam

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA)
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:20 PM
To: Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <Leesa.J.Papier@faa.gov>
Cc: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Turner, Guy (FAA) <Guy.Turner@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

Please call if anything needs explaining. I have spent a vast majority of today trying to run this down.

R,
Bam

12/30/2019

Phone calls, interviews, and outreach were completed with Sheriffs from Washington, Yuma, Phillips, Sedgwick, and Lincoln County. Reports of drone activity have been from both LE personnel and local citizens. Each agency contact advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. As reported in the media and to me by LE, most reports indicate the drones have been flying in a grid pattern and have not been operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger.

All the LE personnel interviewed have stated the activity has been primarily between 1800 and 2200 MST.

The number of drones reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length.

Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous.

All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds.

Sheriff (b) (6) from Washington County advised the drones were operating in adverse weather conditions with winds over 25 mph.

Sheriff (b) (6) also state he could not confirm what he saw was drone activity because he could not hear a noise from the motor and could not identify anything more than a bright white light. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights.

Reports since Thursday indicate a southern movement of the activity. Lincoln County is the latest to receive reports from citizens. Sheriff (b) (6) from Sedgwick County (where some of the first activity was observed) advised there have not been flights reported in the county for two nights. This is consistent with southern movement trend.

Possible explanation to the activity; a new pipeline has been proposed in the Julesburg Basin. The area is northeast Colorado on the Colorado/Nebraska boarder. The counties where the sighting have taken place neighbor the basin. Additionally, there are several existing gas pipeline running through eastern Colorado flight could be infrared gas detection. Still doesn't explain why a company would not step up and advised of inspection activity.

A list of pipeline co-op user was located. Calls are being made to inquire about inspection activity.

To date no operator has been identified. SA Burns mentioned an aerial survey company he ran across at Kit Carson airport several years ago. Several attempts have been made to call and email (b) (5), (b) (b) (5), no response has been received. (b) (5), (b) (6) is located out of Greenwood Village, Colorado.

NORTHCOM and NORAD do not have any information, other than they are aware of the reports.

AXE830 is collaborating with Denver FSDO and continues the share information.

Re: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

From: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 12:05:04 -0500

Bam-

Thanks for the updated information. I'll follow up with you next week.

Regards,

Manny Martinez Jr.
Special Agent
816-365-3820

On Jan 3, 2020, at 10:47 AM, Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov> wrote:

Gents,

I have been working this issue since 12/26, which started in NE Colorado. The sightings have spread to SW Nebraska and Western Kansas. It is believed some of the recent sightings in CO, NE, and KS have been hysteria reporting, because this has gotten national media attention. Attached is for your situational awareness and I will include you from here on out. Since I have been working this from ground zero I would like all information to flow through me so we have one LEAP voice to leadership. I will make sure you are included from here on out. This issue has a lot of moving part, if you have any questions please give me a call.

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Subject: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

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Bam

<Colorado Drone Update Details1.docx>

RE: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

From: "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 12:08:27 -0500

Manny –

Just FYI, from 12/25/19 to 1/3/2020 Nebraska had only 2 UAS incidents reported on ITS and were unfounded. No ITS entries for Kansas.

Gio

From: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

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Thanks for the updated information. I'll follow up with you next week.

Regards,

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Special Agent

(b) (6)

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Cc: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Turner, Guy (FAA) <Guy.Turner@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

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Bam
<Colorado Drone Update Details1.docx>

RE: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>, "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 12:12:25 -0500

Excellent point Gio. The reports the FAA has not been the contacted until after the fact.... The FTW ROC received two reports last night.

From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

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Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

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Special Agent

(b) (6)

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Subject: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

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R,
Bam
<Colorado Drone Update Details1.docx>

Colorado UAS Activity

From: "Gold, Andrew (FAA)" <andrew.gold@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 12:19:10 -0500

Good morning Michael,

I received your contact info from Ian Gregor (FAA public affairs). I had a quick question for you if you have a moment.

I can be reached at 303-651-4248.

Thanks,

-Andy

V/R,

//SIGNED//

[Andrew Gold](#)

Operations Manager, Denver Center

(p) 303-651-4248

(c) (b) (6)

FAA LEAP - Drone cards for LE

From: "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
To: (b) (6)@nebraska.gov
Cc: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 12:36:21 -0500
Attachments: LE drone reference.pdf (1.93 MB); 1 LE DRONE Card.pdf (1.9 MB); DRONE LE Response.pdf (484.36 kB); Label your drone.pdf (1.45 MB); Register small UAS.pdf (112.09 kB)

Good Morning Sir,

It was a pleasure speaking with you. I've attached a few documents pertaining to your request. In addition, please visit our FAA website at www.faa.gov/uas and click on "Public Safety & Government Users" Once you are on that page, on the far left you will see "Public Safety and Law Enforcement Toolkit" you will see multiple documents and reference on UAS.

Also, I carbon copied our FAA LEAP Agent, many Martinez, who covers the Nebraska area. If your agency does encounter a drone operator, please let us know so we may take appropriate action that may be needed. Agent Martinez is off this week, but you may contact me anytime today or this weekend. Thank you.

Regards,

Gianfranco Medina ("Gio") Special Agent / FAA
Law Enforcement Assistance Program / AXE-820
Arkansas, Louisiana, & Oklahoma
Office: 817-222-5742 Cell: (b) (6) Fax: 817-222-5990
Email: gianfranco.medina@faa.gov

[Learn more about the FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program](#)

*"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."
-Henry Ford*

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**NO DRONE
ZONE**

PUBLIC SAFETY SMALL DRONE PLAYBOOK



**Federal Aviation
Administration**

01 OVERVIEW

We are at an exciting time in aviation, where drones are being safely integrated into our national airspace for recreational and commercial use, and for public safety uses. However, unauthorized operations can cause potential hazards to people and property both in the air and on the ground. This ***Public Safety Small Drone Playbook*** is intended to be used as an informational resource to public safety officials conducting investigations regarding drones. The Playbook can assist in determining the difference between authorized and non-authorized drone operations and what potential actions public safety might take. We encourage you to research local rules and regulations and add them to this document (page 13) so that they are available when needed.

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03

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO PROHIBITED DRONE OPERATIONS UNDER PART 107 (SMALL UAS RULE)



Drone flights within 3.45 miles of a qualifying event at a stadium or sporting venue without an FAA authorization.



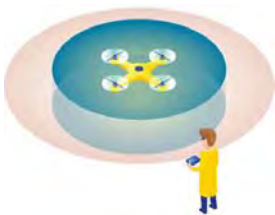
Flights over people without an FAA waiver.



Night operations without an FAA waiver.



Failure to give right-of-way to manned aircraft without an FAA waiver.



Operations beyond visual line of sight without an FAA waiver.



- Operation while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.



- Hazardous and/or unsafe operations.



- The carriage of illegal narcotics.



- The carriage of hazardous materials.



- Operation of a drone that is equipped or armed with a dangerous weapon (section 363 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018).

04 SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS

Law enforcement may apply their already existing authorities to interview and/or detain pilots who conduct prohibited drone operations.

TYPES OF DRONE OPERATIONS:

1. Recreational Flyers

The FAA issued interim safety guidance for recreational flyers that reinforces recent changes to how, when and where users can fly drones for recreational purposes.

Users must comply with the following eight conditions in order to fly under the exception for recreational flyers:

- 1) Fly strictly for recreational purposes.
- 2) Follow the safety guidelines of a community based organization.
- 3) Keep your drone within your visual line of sight, or within the visual line-of-sight of an observer who is co-located and in direct communication with you.
- 4) Operate in a manner that does not interfere with, and gives way to, any manned aircraft.
- 5) Do not fly in controlled airspace (such as the airspace around many airports) unless you have an airspace authorization.
- 6) Fly your drone at or below 400 feet when in uncontrolled or “Class G” airspace.
- 7) Pass an aeronautical knowledge and safety test, when available (the FAA is currently developing the test).
- 8) Register and externally mark your drone with the FAA-issued registration number, and carry proof of registration with you.

Note: As the FAA works to implement the provisions listed above, please refer to [AC 91-57B](#) (as amended or superseded) for current guidance on compliance. Recreational flyers are required to register drones that weigh more than 0.55 lbs. Part 107 operators must register all drones, regardless of weight.

05

2. Part 107 Operation (also known as the small UAS rule)

Part 107 operations will most likely comprise the majority of operations that law enforcement will encounter. This document is specifically written to provide a resource to law enforcement as it relates to Part 107 operations. The quick reference guide on page 3 provides information on Part 107 operations.

3. Public Aircraft Operation

Public Aircraft Operations are conducted by recognized government entities as a function of government. Only those operations that meet specific requirements qualify as public aircraft operations. For further information see [faa.gov/go/dronepublicsafety](https://www.faa.gov/go/dronepublicsafety)

4. Operating a Drone 55 lbs. or Larger

The operation of a drone that is 55 lbs. or larger requires regulatory approval prior to an operation. This may include obtaining special airworthiness approval and Certificate of Authorization and/or obtaining an Airworthiness Type Certificate and a manned aviation pilot's license (14 CFR Part 61). Specific questions about these operations can be directed to your regional Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) Special Agent or to the FAA Regional Center (contact information is provided later in this document). Note: A recreational drone may weigh more than 55 lbs. but its operation is restricted to a fixed site of a FAA approved community-based organization.

06

Operations in the Vicinity of Certain Stadium Events

The FAA issues Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) limiting aircraft operations, including drones, at stadiums hosting large sporting events. These restrictions are in place starting one hour before the scheduled time of the event until one hour after the end of the event.

Any person who knowingly or willfully violates the rules pertaining to operations in a TFR may be subject to certain civil and criminal penalties under 49 U.S.C. 46307.

The TFR Point of Contact (POC) is listed on the TFR and, in coordination with the FAA, will have control over access to the airspace and should have a list of approved FAA waivers for operations within the TFR.



The TFR applies to all aircraft operations, including unmanned aircraft systems, unless the aircraft operator meets at least one of the following requirements:

- A)** The aircraft operation has been authorized by Air Traffic Control (ATC) for operational or safety purposes;
- B)** The aircraft operation is being conducted for operational, safety, or security purposes supporting the qualifying event, and is authorized by an airspace security waiver approved by the FAA;
- C)** The aircraft operation is enabling broadcast coverage for the broadcast rights holder for the qualifying event and is authorized by an airspace security waiver approved by the FAA;
- D)** The aircraft operation has been authorized by ATC for national security, homeland security, law enforcement, or air ambulance purposes.

07 WHAT IS MY AUTHORITY?

FEDERAL LAWS that might apply, include, but are not limited to:

If law enforcement comes in contact with a drone pilot/operator, they can:

- + Ask the pilot/operator to see proof of registration of the aircraft
- + Ask to see the waiver for drone operations within the TFR

While law enforcement can ask, a UAS or drone pilot IS NOT required by federal regulation to make their UAS FAA Remote Pilot Certificate available.

If law enforcement officials suspect the operator of a drone of violating any federal law, they should pass the information on to the FAA for investigation. Examples of regulatory violations include reckless operations, operating beyond visual line of sight without approval, operating a drone while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, operating over people without approval, flying at night without approval, failing to yield the right-of-way to manned aircraft without approval, and flying in restricted airspace (including TFRs).

Interfering with first responders during wildfire suppression, law enforcement, or emergency response efforts is a violation of federal law and carries a civil penalty of up to \$20,000.

LOCAL REGULATIONS that might apply, include, but are not limited to:

- + Trespassing on property from which the drone is operated
- + Disorderly and/or unsafe conduct
- + Interfering with public safety operations
- + Privacy/harassment laws

08 WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

CONTACT YOUR FAA LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SPECIAL AGENT FOR ASSISTANCE

Special agents from the FAA’s Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) are your point of contact for federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and international law enforcement agencies. LEAP special agents can provide information on drone enforcement and registration matters. Providing a LEAP special agent with reports of suspected unauthorized UAS incidents in a timely manner increases the FAA’s ability to take enforcement action when appropriate. (NOTE: You may contact any LEAP agent if your assigned agent is not available.) You can contact either a LEAP special agent (they are responsible for public safety coordination) or one of the FAA’s regional operation centers (they are responsible for aviation safety in the region).

DOCUMENT AND PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO FAA

- Identity of operators and witnesses (name, contact information)
- Type of operation (recreational, commercial, public/governmental)
- Type of device(s) and registration information (number/certificate)
- Event location and incident details (date, time, place)
- Other evidence (photos, video, device confiscation)

Your local LEAP Special Agent’s Name & Number: Jason Antin (781) 238-7073

** Note: You may contact any LEAP agent if your assigned agent is not available.*

CONTACT YOUR FAA LEAP AGENT OR AN FAA REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER FOR ASSISTANCE

Regional Operations Centers (ROCs) are staffed 24/7 and should be contacted if you observe a drone that may potentially interfere with the safety or security of the National Airspace System. The ROC will ensure notification is made to manned air traffic in the vicinity as well as appropriate FAA offices.

FACILITY	STATES	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
Western ROC	AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY	206-231-2089	9-WAS-OPSCTR@FAA.GOV
Central ROC	AR, IA, IL, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, NM, OH, OK, SD, TX, WI	817-222-5006	9-CSA-ROC@FAA.GOV
East ROC	AL, CT, FL, GA, KY, MA, MS, NC, NH, PR, PI, SC, TN, VI, VT	404-305-5180	9-ESA-ROC@FAA.GOV
	DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV	404-305-5150	9-ESA-ROC@FAA.GOV

09 REMOTE PILOT CERTIFICATE SAMPLE

Law enforcement and public safety officials may ask pilots operating under Part 107 (typically aircraft weighting under 55 lbs and not operated as a recreational or public/government aircraft) for their FAA Remote Pilot Certificate; however, they are not currently required by federal regulation to make their certificate available.



10 REGISTRATION SAMPLE

Law enforcement officials may ask drone operators for the aircraft’s registration documentation. Failure to provide the document for inspection is unlawful and the operation or proposed operation should cease. Generally, FAA registration numbers for drones start with “FA” and have eight additional numbers. For example: FA12345678. An aircraft over 55 lbs may have a number that starts with the letter “N”.

Small UAS Certificate of Registration	<i>For U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and certain non-citizen U.S. corporations, this document constitutes a Certificate of Registration. For all others, this document represents a recognition of ownership.</i>
Name:	<i>For all holders, for all operations other than as a model aircraft under sec. 336 of Pub. L. 112-95, additional safety authority from FAA and economic authority from DOT may be required.</i>
Manufacturer:	<i>This Small UAS Certificate of Registration is not an authorization to conduct flight operations with an unmanned aircraft. Operations must be conducted in accordance with the applicable FAA requirements. The operator of the aircraft is responsible for knowing and understanding what those requirements are. For more information on flying for non-model purposes, please visit the FAA website at www.faa.gov/uas</i>
Model:	
Serial Number:	
Certificate Number:	
Issued: Expires:	
	 Federal Aviation Administration

11 COA SAMPLE

Law enforcement may ask to see a UAS operator’s FAA approved Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA).

The COA must be specific to the type of operation and the event. The second standard provision of a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization is, “This certificate shall be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized representative of the Federal Aviation Administration, or of any state or municipal official charged with the duty of enforcing local laws or regulations.”

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION	
CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION	
ISSUED TO	(self-explanatory)
ADDRESS	(self-explanatory)
<p>This certificate is issued for the operations specifically described hereinafter. No person shall conduct any operation pursuant to the authority of this certificate except in accordance with the standard and special provisions contained in this certificate, and such other requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations not specifically waived by this certificate.</p>	
OPERATIONS AUTHORIZED	(Indicate in detail all operations authorized. Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)
<p>LIST OF WAIVED REGULATIONS BY SECTION AND TITLE (This section not used for Unmanned Air Vehicle authorizations.)</p>	
STANDARD PROVISIONS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A copy of the application made for this certificate shall be attached to and become a part hereof. 2. This certificate shall be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized representative of the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, or of any State or municipal official charged with the duty of enforcing local laws or regulations. 3. The holder of this certificate shall be responsible for the strict observance of the terms and provisions contained herein. 4. This certificate is nontransferable. 	
<p>Note: - This certificate constitutes a waiver of those Federal rules or regulations specifically referred to above. It does not constitute a waiver of any State law or local ordinance.</p>	
SPECIAL PROVISIONS	
<p>Special Provisions Nos. <u> 1 </u> to <u> 4 </u>, inclusive, are set forth on the reverse side hereof.</p>	
<p>This certificate is effective from <u> (Beginning date/time) </u> to <u> (Ending date/time) </u>, inclusive, and is subject to cancellation at any time upon notice by the Administrator or his authorized representative.</p>	
BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR	
(self-explanatory)	(Signed by Appropriate Waiver Authority)
(Region)	(Signature)
(Enter date the waiver was signed)	(self-explanatory)
(Date)	(Title)

12 WEB RESOURCES

+ faa.gov/go/DronePublicSafety



+ www.faa.gov/uas/resources/policy_library/section_352_responses/



13

INVESTIGATIVE NOTES AND/OR LOCAL STATUES

If your county or state has developed regulations specific to the operation of drones, please list here:

Some suggestions for questions you can ask the drone operator:

1. Ask to see License and Registration (you can document and/or photograph the information).
 - ✦ For the registration document, it should have a registration number that should also be legibly marked on the exterior of the drone.
 - ✦ For the license, they should have either a paper temporary airman certificate or a plastic remote pilot certificate from the FAA. (Note: While law enforcement can ask, a UAS or drone pilot IS NOT required by federal regulation to make their UAS FAA Remote Pilot Certificate available.)
2. “What was the purpose of the flight?”

If the operator says the purpose was public aircraft operation or commercial/business, (or any other nexus to commercial operations,) skip to question 3.

2A. If the operator says modeler/hobby/recreation, ask what they were doing specifically.

Answers should be along the lines of: practicing, just flying for fun, taking pictures/video, showing my friend how it works, etc...
3. “Who was the remote pilot in command?”

If there is only one individual, the answer can be presumed and therefore skipped.
4. “What company do you work for or what is the name of your company?”

The person may be operating in a freelance capacity, on a contract basis, or something similar. In most of these cases, the person who hired them is less likely to be the subject of an investigation, but they may provide evidence.

4A. Ask if there is a copy of the contact/work order.

4B. Ask the name and contact information for the person who hired them.

4C. Ask if they have done other work, have a website, etc...

5. Visual line-of-sight (VLOS) of the aircraft and Visual Observers.
 - 5A. Make note of operators using first-person Point of View (POV) technologies, operating the UAS on the opposite side of buildings, or down other streets obstructed from view, etc. (something other than standing there looking at the UAS, essentially).
 - 5B. If there are other individuals assisting (Visual Observers), ask how they assisted or how they were in communication with the operator.
6. Ask how high and where they flew the UAS. If law enforcement observed the flight, include descriptors or estimation of the altitude, when possible. Examples: aircraft was approximately level with the 10th floor of the building at 1400 Main Street; the aircraft flew over the stadium as it returned to the operator, etc.
7. Make note of operations at night or of unlit UAS operated after sunset to before sunrise.
8. Document all operations conducted while the operator was under the influence.
9. Document interference with law enforcement/emergency response efforts. Provide impacts, when applicable.
10. If any of the following situations may have occurred, inquire/document:
 - + Operating from a moving vehicle (may be allowed in certain instances, but the FAA investigation can make that determination)
 - + Operation of multiple unmanned aircraft by the same individual
 - + Carriage of hazardous material
 - + Operation over human beings (most likely, crowds of people; estimate/use descriptors to illustrate crowd density)
 - + Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) violations
 - + Object dropped from the UAS

11. Note any other characteristics of the operation that were not in the interest of public safety. Examples include:

- + Operating low over the heads of non-participating persons (notably if individuals moved out of the way to avoid the UAS)
- + Flying between vehicles or operating over a roadway in use
- + Chasing people or pets
- + Attaching a firearm or weapon to the UAS
- + Injuries to people or damage to property



**Federal Aviation
Administration**

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY



Understanding Your Authority with Drones

Law enforcement and other public safety agencies have an important role in protecting the public from unsafe and unauthorized drone operations. As a law enforcement officer, you are often in the best position to deter, detect and investigate unsafe or unauthorized drone operations.

UNSAFE AND/OR UNAUTHORIZED DRONE

The FAA's Law Enforcement Checklist helps you identify the necessary steps you need to take to respond to a situation involving an unsafe or unauthorized drone.

- **Detect** all available elements of the situation; attempt to locate and identify individuals operating the drone. (Look at windows/balconies/rooftops).
- **Report** the incident to the FAA Regional Operations Center (ROC). Follow-up assistance can be obtained through FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program special agents (see below).
- **Observe** the drone and maintain visibility of the device; look for damage or injured individuals. Note: Battery life is typically 20 to 30 minutes.
- **Notice** features: Identify the type of device (fixed-wing/multi-rotor), its size, shape, color, payload (i.e., video equipment), and activity of device.
- **Execute** appropriate police action: Maintain a safe environment for general public and first responders. Conduct field interviews; request proof of drone registration; document ALL details of the event per the guidance provided by the FAA.

Learn more at faa.gov/go/DronePublicSafety

Always follow your agency policies: Take appropriate action based on the facts and circumstances of the incident and site/area-specific laws and rules. Any action taken by the FAA should not preclude law enforcement from taking action to enforce state and local laws regarding drone operations. Local laws or ordinances that may apply include, but are not limited to: reckless endangerment, criminal mischief, voyeurism, interference with law enforcement, trespassing.

Document and provide the following information to the FAA:

- Identity of operators and witnesses (name, contact information)
- Nature of the operation (for fun, to support a business, governmental)
- Type of device(s) and registration information (number/certificate)
- Event location and incident details (date, time, place)
- Evidence collection (photos, video, registration information, device confiscation)

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISRUPTING DRONE OPERATIONS

State and local law enforcement entities, private-sector stakeholders, and even individuals may be interested in methods for disrupting the operation of drones believed to pose a hazard to privacy, safety or security. However, the FAA cautions all non-federal entities against pursuing the testing, evaluation or use of technologies to detect and/or mitigate drone activity, whether involving kinetic or non-kinetic capabilities, without consulting legal counsel for a thorough evaluation of the legal risks.

November 2018



Federal Aviation
Administration

CONTACT YOUR FAA LEAP AGENT OR FAA ROC FOR ASSISTANCE

Special Agents from the FAA's **Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)** are your point of contact for Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial and international law enforcement agencies. LEAP Special Agents can provide information on drone enforcement and registration matters. Providing a LEAP Agent with reports of suspected unauthorized UAS incidents in a timely manner increases the FAA's ability to take enforcement action when appropriate. (NOTE: You may contact any LEAP agent if your assigned agent is not available.) **Washington Headquarters Program Office and D.C. drone incidents:** 202-267-4641 LEAP@faa.gov.

WEST

LEAP Branch Manager
206-231-2093

- WA, ID, OR, MT and WY
Special Agent: 425-495-1972
- Northern CA
Special Agent: 916-956-8830
- Southern CA, NV, CO and GU
Special Agent: 310-725-3737
- AZ, UT and HI
Special Agent: 602-721-6091

CENTRAL

LEAP Branch Manager
405-954-8569

- IL, IN, MI, MN, OH and WI
Special Agent: 847-294-7512
- IA, KS, MO, NE, ND and SD
Special Agent: 816-329-3717
- OK, AR and LA
Special Agent: 817-222-5742
- TS and NM
Special Agent: 817-222-5713

EAST

LEAP Branch Manager
404-305-6816

- CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT
Special Agent: 781-238-7704
- DE, MD, NJ, NY and PA
Special Agent: 781-238-7073
- AL, MS, TN, KY and NC
Special Agent: 404-305-6759
- GA, SC, VA and WV
Special Agent: 404-305-6807
- North and Central FL
Special Agent: 404-430-1365
- South FL, PR and VI
Special Agent: 786-778-5923

Regional Operations Centers (ROCs) are staffed 24/7 and should be contacted if you observe a drone, which may potentially interfere with the safety or security of the National Airspace System. The ROC will ensure notification is made to manned air traffic in the vicinity as well as appropriate FAA offices.

Eastern: DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, WV, VA
404-305-5150 / 9-ESA-ROC@faa.gov

AL, CT, FL, GA, KY, MA, ME, MS, NC, NH, PR, RI, SC, TN, VI, VT
404-305-5180 / 9-ESA-ROC@faa.gov

Western: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY
206-231-2089 / 9-wsa-opsctr@faa.gov

Central: AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, NM, OH, OK, SD, TX, WI
817-222-5006 / 9-csa-roc@faa.gov

Washington: National
202-267-3333 / 9-awa-ash-woc@faa.gov



Detect all available elements of the situation; attempt to locate and identify individuals operating the drone.
(Look at windows/balconies/roof tops).

Report incident to the FAA Regional Operations Center (ROC). Follow-up assistance can be obtained through FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program (**LEAP**) special agents.

Observe the UAS and maintain visibility of the device; look for damage or injured individuals. Note: Battery life is typically 20 to 30 minutes.

Notice features: Identify the type of device (**fixed-wing/multi-rotor**), its size, shape, color, payload (i.e., video equipment), and activity of device.

Execute appropriate police action: Maintain a safe environment for general public and first responders. Conduct a field interview and document ALL details of the event per the guidance provided by the FAA.
faa.gov/uas/resources/law_enforcement/

Always follow agency policies: Take appropriate action based on the facts and circumstances of the incident and site/area specific laws and rules. The FAA's enforcement action does NOT impact ANY enforcement action(s) taken by law enforcement.

Local ordinances that may apply include, but are not limited to: Reckless endangerment, criminal mischief, voyeurism, inciting violence.



Document and provide the following information to FAA:

- Identity of operators and witnesses ([name, contact information](#))
- Type of operation ([hobby, commercial, public/governmental](#))
- Type of device(s) and registration information ([number/certificate](#))
- Event location and incident details ([date, time, place](#))
- Evidence collection ([photos, video, device confiscation](#))

Contact your FAA LEAP agent or an FAA ROC for assistance:

Western ROC	AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY	206-231-2089	9-WSA-OPSCTR@faa.gov
Central ROC	AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, NM, OH, OK, SD, TX, WI	817-222-5006	9-CSA-ROC@faa.gov
East ROC	AL, CT, FL, GA, KY, MA, ME, MS, NC, NH, PR, RI, SC, TN, VI, VT	404-305-5180	9-ESA-ROC@faa.gov
	DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV	404-305-5150	9-ESA-ROC@faa.gov

How to Label Your UAS

Registration #
FA-000-001

Find registration number
on the confirmation screen
& in your user profile.



Mark all aircraft with your registration number before you operate them. You can use:

FA-000-001

Engraving

FA-000-001

Permanent Label

FA-000-001

Permanent Marker

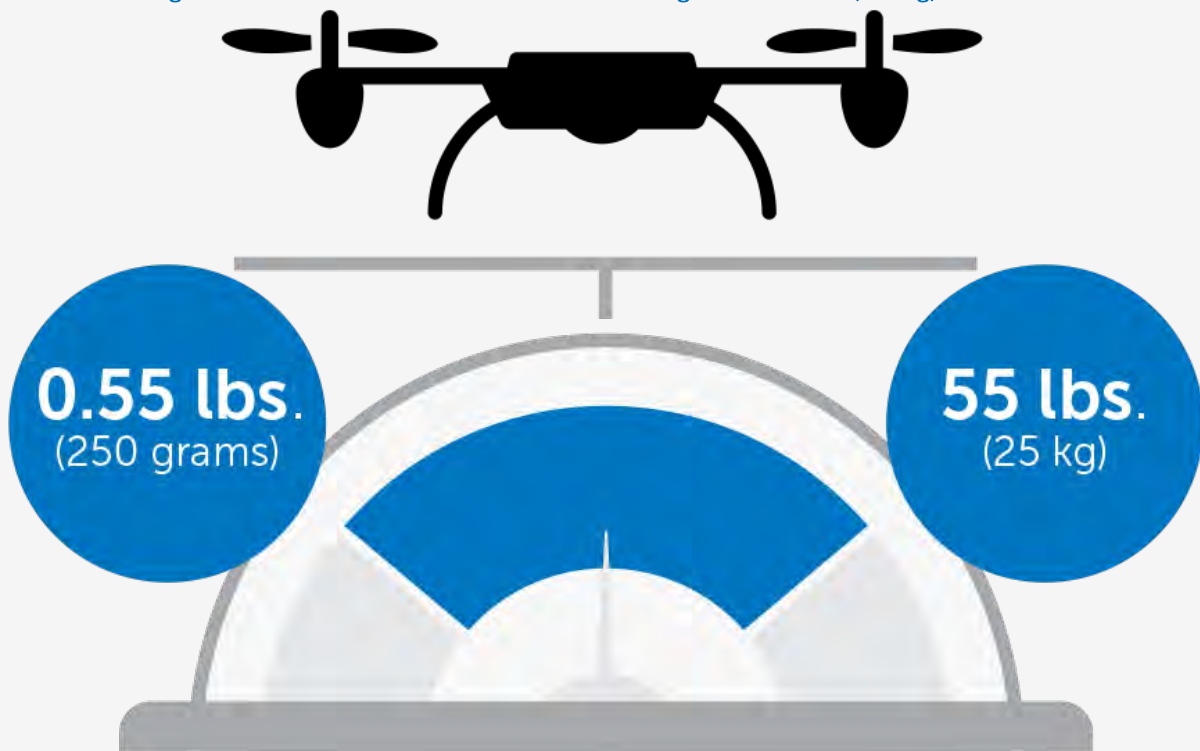


Number must be visible
(You can mark inside the battery compartment if it doesn't require a tool to open.)

Where do I register my Unmanned Aircraft?

Register your aircraft using the FAA website if it weighs more than **0.55 lbs.** (250 grams) and less than **55 lbs.** (25 kg).

Register an unmanned aircraft that weighs 55 lbs. (25 kg) or more.



You will be subject to civil and criminal penalties if you meet the criteria to register an unmanned aircraft and do not register.

www.faa.gov/uas

Getting Started

Whether you're a novice drone pilot or have many years of aviation experience, rules and safety tips exist to help you fly safely in the national airspace. Think of these tips as a pre-flight checklist to help you fly safely.

Drone Safety Tips

- Register your drone
- Fly your drone at or below 400 feet
- Keep your drone within your line of sight
- Be aware of FAA Airspace Restrictions
- Respect privacy
- Never fly near other aircraft, especially near airports
- Never fly over groups of people, public events, or stadiums full of people
- Never fly near emergencies such as fires or hurricane recovery efforts
- Never fly under the influence of drugs or alcohol

2 Options for Flying Your Drone

There are two options to fly your drone legally. Each option has different requirements depending on how you want to fly.

2 Options for Flying Your Drone

Fly under the Special Rule for Model Aircraft (Section 336)	Fly under the FAA's Small UAS Rule (Part 107)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly for hobby or recreation ONLY • Register your model aircraft • Follow community-based safety guidelines and fly within the programming of a nationwide community-based organization • Fly a model aircraft under 55 lbs. unless certified by a community-based organization • Fly within visual line-of-sight • Never fly near other aircraft • Notify the airport and air traffic control tower prior to flying within 5 miles of an airport • Never fly near emergency response efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly for recreational OR commercial use • Register your drone • Get a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA • Fly a drone under 55 lbs. • Fly within visual-line-of-sight* • Don't fly near other aircraft or over people* • Don't fly in controlled airspace near airports without FAA permission* • Fly only during daylight or civil twilight, at or below 400 feet* <p>* These rules are subject to waiver.</p>
<p>For more information, see: Fly under the Special Rule for Model Aircraft</p>	<p>For more information, see: Fly under the Small UAS Rule</p>

RE: UAS News 1/2

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 12:49:25 -0500

Bam/Craig/Geo: Just got asked if we have any updates by the FAA COS – The Administrator now has a telcon with Senator Gardner from Colorado later this afternoon. Anything you have collected since yesterday would be appreciated. Bam, we will want to add in the FSDO plan for this evening – which FSDO and where in Colorado were they intending to operate? Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Please be advised that Gio is working with Bam concerning the drone incidents. Bam will take the lead as to any briefing that occur.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(b) (6) (fax)

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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Cc: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Pamela,

As of DEC 25, 2019 to JAN 3, 2020 Nebraska had 2 UAS entries in ITS which were unfounded and No ITS entries for Kansas. I advised BAM to have NE Law Enforcement Agencies and KS Law Enforcement Agencies to contact me if they receive any reports and I will follow-up and provide BAM with an update.

BAM will be taking lead of this incident to report all matters to HQ.

Regards,

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Gio,

Thank you. Please check with Mike Bumberger ((b) (6)).

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Good Morning Pamela,

I will inquire about this and respond promptly.

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

It appears that all but Shawn are out of the office. I sent several emails to Manny regarding the drone incidents in Nebraska. This is a very hot topic. Mike Bumberger is working on the drone incidents in his AOR with the assistance of Craig Burns. **Action and Response from someone would be greatly appreciated!!**

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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From: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:54 AM
To: 'AOC-UASnooze' <AOC-UASnooze@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Mysterious drones are flying around the Midwest, Great Plains and no one has answers

USA TODAY, [Adrianna Rodriguez](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Local and federal authorities are investigating confirmed reports of mysterious drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska that appeared in the night sky earlier this week.

Sheriff's offices in Lincoln, Washington and Sedgwick counties have been getting calls this week about the unknown winged devices after initial reports came out of Phillips and Yuma counties, sheriffs said.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot wingspans and fly between 7 and 10 p.m. in grid-like patterns 150 to 200 feet in the air in groups of six to 10, the [Denver Post](#) reported.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs [said in a Facebook post](#) Tuesday that the drones are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government, however, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Forces Command

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office said it doesn't have jurisdiction over that airspace and shooting it out of the sky could break federal laws because drones are recognized as aircrafts.

Combs said on Facebook that local sheriff's offices, police departments and federal government agencies have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 6 to develop a plan to identify who or what is controlling these drones.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are," he wrote. "I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now."

'Fly higher and soar proudly': [Trump administration pushes state, local governments to experiment with drones to spur industry](#)

'Never, ever try to shoot at a drone': [Neighborhoods buzz with complaints over pesky drones](#)

Amazon, Paragon Geophysical Services, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Colorado Department of Transportation and [UAV Recon](#) have all denied connections to the drones, according to the Denver Post.

In an emailed statement to the Denver Post Monday, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the agency will be proposing a rule change that would allow law enforcement and federal security agencies to remotely identify drones that fly through their jurisdictions.

According to [the FAA website](#), more than 1.5 million drones are registered with the FAA as of Dec. 10, 2019.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/01/02/nebraska-colorado-drone-sightings-puzzle-midwest-government-agencies/2793815001/>

Drones flying in rural Colorado and Nebraska have residents freaking out. No one knows who's behind them

CNN, Nicole Chavez and Jamiel Lynch, Jan. 1, 2020

Mysterious drones have been flying over Colorado and Nebraska in recent weeks and authorities can't figure out who's behind the aircraft.

Deputies have spotted more than 16 unmanned drones flying in northeast Colorado after authorities received multiple reports of drone sightings last month, the sheriff's offices in Colorado's Yuma and Phillips counties said.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor told CNN that multiple FAA divisions and government agencies are investigating reports of drones in Colorado and Nebraska.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs said in a Facebook post Tuesday it appears the drones were staying at least 150-200 feet away from buildings and people and are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government.

The aircraft, Combs said, are operating within federal guidelines but are making residents "very nervous and anxious."

"People do not like the unknown as it upsets the balance of our lives," Combs wrote.

Yuma and Phillips county officials have said they don't believe the drones are malicious in nature.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are. I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now. All I can say is don't live your life in the fear of the unknown," the sheriff wrote.

Several agencies are expected to be attending a meeting about the drones incident on Monday, Combs said.

Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said he is closely monitoring the situation.

"I've been in contact with the FAA regarding the heavy drone activity in Eastern Colorado and I'm encouraged that they've opened a full investigation to learn the source and purpose of the drones," he [tweeted Tuesday](#).

The incidents come as the [FAA proposed new rules](#) that will require most drones to use remote ID technology that will allow the FAA, law enforcement and federal security agencies to identify drones flying in their jurisdiction.

Nearly 1.5 million drones and 160,000 remote pilots are registered with the FAA, [the agency said](#).

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/01/us/colorado-nebraska-drones-faa-tmd/index.html>

Drone risks causing sky-high headaches for insurers

Insurance Business America, Bethan Moorcraft, Jan. 2, 2020

A recreational drone pilot has been fined US\$20,000 after he lost control of his drone while flying it illegally near McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. In June of 2018, pilot Rueben Burciaga lost control of his DJI Phantom 3 drone while operating it in Class B airspace – a no-go zone surrounding the nation's busiest airports. The drone then drifted more than two miles towards the international airport before landing next to an active runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) slapped Burciaga with a hefty \$20,000 fine in November 2019 for committing "a litany of serious violations" and flying his drone "carelessly and recklessly". The FAA added that the incident could have turned out much worse. FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor said: "An incident like this could've resulted in a plane hitting the drone or in disruption of airport operations or in injuries to people walking on the strip if it had crashed there. It was very fortunate that it ended up crashing where it did and didn't cause any damage or injury."

People operating drones where they shouldn't be is just one of the challenging risks that aviation insurers face in the booming drone market. While the Burciaga case was one of carelessness and recklessness, insurers are well aware of the potential for bad actors to operate drones with criminal intent or for terrorism.

"It's a risk we're watching very closely," said James Van Meter, head of aviation programs & product development at AGCS. "Outside of North America, we've seen criminals use drones to deliver explosives. There was one case that involved a chemical weapon being strapped onto a drone. We are seeing low-end consumer drones being used for terrorist activity because they're very capable pieces of technology. They can be operated remotely, and they're sophisticated – even in the \$1,000 range."

The potential for drones to be used for malicious purposes has resulted in the rise of the so-called anti-drone industry. This is made up of companies focused on the detection of drones, and developing solutions to bring drones down safely if they're operating where they shouldn't be.

"Unauthorized operation of drones is a big issue at things like music festivals and concerts. People bring drones in their backpacks or they launch them from a nearby parking lot, and then they fly them illegally over crowds of people. That's certainly a risk to the innocent bystanders that are underneath these drones," Van Meter told *Insurance Business*. "As a result, we've seen big public events like music concerts or the Super Bowl, where the venues themselves are deploying anti-drone technology to keep drones away from airspace that they shouldn't be operating in."

A prime example of illegal drone operation would be the December 2018 London Gatwick drone crisis. During a three-day incident, which started on December 19, two drones were used to completely cripple the international airport, disrupting a total of 1,000 flights and affecting more than 140,000 passengers just before Christmas.

"The Gatwick incident shows that a drone operator can disrupt hundreds of thousands of people through malice," Van Meter commented. "This new anti-drone technology that's in development, and some people already have in use today, jams the drone's radio frequency, enabling the technology to take over the drone and bring it down to ground in a safe and controlled manner. Shooting a drone out of the sky is not a practical solution in most cases because it's not safe for whoever's underneath or nearby the drone."

One risk that insurers are aware of in the drone operation sphere is cyber spoofing. This is when criminals hack into the Wi-Fi signal or the radio signal that's being used to operate a drone and they interfere with its flight plan. Successful spoofing could result in another drone/airport situation but with even more severe, and possibly even fatal consequences. Luckily, that's a risk that Van Meter and the AGCS team have not seen come into fruition on the claims side - but they're not ruling it out as a possibility.

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/technology/drone-risks-causing-skyhigh-headaches-for-insurers-195522.aspx>

The New York Police Department has made use of surveillance drones at the Times Square New Year's Eve party for the first time in its history.

Commercial Drone Professional, Sam Lewis, Jan. 2, 2020

The department planned on using a drone at the world famous celebrations 12 months ago but on that occasion poor weather conditions left its UAV grounded.

In the wake of this event, New York City police commissioner Demot Shea said that his team began plans for the following year's celebration only the next day, on Jan. 1, 2019.

Approximately 1 million attendees saw in 2020 under the watchful eye of the drones. The FBI were also present, along with police helicopters and bomb-detection units.

The police were also using drone mitigation technology that could detect and disable other drones in the area.

NYPD currently utilises 14 DJI drones of three different kinds, all catered to a variety of tasks. Former NYPD detective Joe Giacalone explained: "When policing large crowds, [drones] can spot areas where trouble might be brewing."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/nypd-flies-in-surveillance-drones-for-times-square-bash/>

Proposed FAA Rule Would Kickstart New Economy For IDing Drones

OODALOOP.com, Jan. 2, 2020

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is planning on proposing a rule to require drone manufacturers to include remote ID tags in all systems. The proposed rule was published on Tuesday, and outlines the process of remote identification of unmanned aircraft systems in hopes of developing a policy for identifying drones in flight.

1.5 million small drones have already been registered with the FAA, but the FAA wants to ensure that air traffic controllers, law enforcement and the general public can identify all of the machines flying overhead as the use of drones expands in both the public and private industries. The FAA lists three ways in which the drones could be identified in the proposed bill.

<https://www.oodaloop.com/briefs/2020/01/02/proposed-faa-rule-would-kickstart-new-economy-for-iding-drones/>

CAA ADDRESSES NERVOUS FIRT-TIME DRONE USERS

Commercial Drone Professional, Andrew Seymour, Jan. 2, 2020

With new registration laws and ever-increasing attention being paid to drones, the CAA said it expected many new drone users to be "apprehensive" about flying their new machine.

It said that new users could enjoy flying drones safely and legally by following some "simple" actions.

Its advice includes how to register with the CAA for owners of drones over 250 grams and details of its online education package, which requires users to pass a short multiple-choice test to get their flyer ID.

The CAA added that news users can access safety information in the [Dronocode](#), as this provides all the basic safety rules and advice that drone owners need to comply with.

Key to this is remaining below 400ft, keeping clear of aircraft and airfields, and not flying too close to people and property, it noted.

The CAA pointed out that there is a fine of up to £1,000 for anyone found guilty of not complying with the drone registration requirements.

UK airspace is some of the busiest in the world and even while keeping below the 400ft maximum flying height, users may well be sharing the skies with other aircraft, such as emergency helicopters.

The CAA acknowledged that there are a number of free apps that you can use to check the airspace in your location and recommends using one of the approved apps listed [HERE](#).

Individual airfields also have restricted zones around them that it is illegal to fly a drone in without permission of the airfield or air traffic control. Airfield maps can be accessed [HERE](#).

Many new drone users may already be thinking about how use their skills commercially, such as for photography or building inspections.

The CAA stressed that new drone users considering that route must first gain a commercial approval from the CAA, as only people with that permission can make money from their drone flying.

Jonathan Nicholson, assistant director at the Civil Aviation Authority, said: "Getting a drone for Christmas is an exciting present, but drones aren't toys and we understand that you may be apprehensive about how and where to fly it.

"This is also the first Christmas that drone registration has been required. So, our short handy set of tips is designed to get you into the air and enjoying your new drone as quickly and safely as possible."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/caa-addresses-nervous-first-time-drone-users/>

Thousands of drones fill skies above China to create giant running man

The Independent, Anthony Cuthbertson, Jan. 2, 2020

Shanghai shunned traditional firework displays to celebrate the New Year, instead filling the skies with thousands of synchronised [drones](#).

Nearly 2,000 drones flew above [China's](#) largest city, creating giant spheres, text, and even a figure of a man that appeared to run across the skyline.

The traditional midnight countdown was also performed by the drone swarm above the Huangpu River in the east of the city.

State-run media outlet CCTV said the running man configuration illustrated "the huge changes and glorious achievements Shanghai has made in the past 40 years of reform and opening up".

It was achieved through vast programming efforts to coordinate the drones, rather than by individual drone pilots.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/drones-china-running-man-shanghai-fireworks-a9267391.html>

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RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

From: "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>
To: "Howard, Katherine (FAA)" <katherine.howard@faa.gov>, "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Dermody, John (FAA)" <john.dermody@faa.gov>
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Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 12:59:03 -0500

+ SA Bumberger "Bam"

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Many thanks!

Kate

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Our LEAP agent is touching base with each of the Nebraska Sheriffs to ensure they know about the meeting.

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Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
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A County Sherriff in Colorado is hosting a law enforcement only meeting with other sheriffs, FBI, and FAA LEAP on Monday to discuss the drone sightings and next steps. ASH' Special Agent Michael Bumberger is the FAA lead at the meeting. Due to law enforcement sensitive materials and discussions, this meeting will not be open to the public or Congressional Members or staff.

Hope that helps. We will pass more info out after the meeting. Thanks

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Sorry.... what meeting is on Monday?

John R. Dermody, P.E.
Director
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Federal Aviation Administration
(202) 267-3053



Advancing the safest, most efficient airport system in the world!

On Jan 3, 2020, at 11:10 AM, Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov> wrote:

Hi, guys – Senator Fischer’s (R-NE) office asked about the meeting next week. Specifically they asked if “FAA has reached out to any Nebraska agencies to attend the meeting?” I’m assuming the answer is that FAA is not reaching out to local jurisdictions individually but wanted to confirm that. Has the FAA LEAP agent told the local law enforcement entities he’s heard from about the Monday meeting? If not do you think that would be appropriate/possible?

Not necessarily to “invite them” but to say something like, “Hey I know you’ve called FAA to note specific sightings/concerns and wanted you to know about this meeting on Monday which will be conducted as the law enforcement sensitive level. If you are interested in attending who is the person you should contact at the Morgan County Sheriff’s office.”

Angela and ASH do you feel like that’s a reasonable path or would you prefer a different response?

Kate

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At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

- **We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the UAS operator(s) on the ground.**
- **We remain engaged with local law enforcement in the affected areas and are participating in a meeting with several sheriffs’ offices next week to share information about how to react if they see UAS and/or the UAS operator(s) as well as discuss other investigative leads.**
- **We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).**
- **We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.**

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

Phil, let me know if/when you plan to send this to the Hill.

Thanks,
Angela

Sent from my iPad

Angela Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
FAA
202-267-7576 office
(b) (6) cell

On Jan 2, 2020, at 4:48 PM, Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov> wrote:

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Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:00:35 -0500

No, there are only a couple of counties which were impacted – he is reaching out to those sheriffs. I am working to collect any updates – I owe them to Angela by 1400.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
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(O) 202-267-7980
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BRETT J. FEDDERSEN | Acting Director for National Security Programs and Incident Response | Federal Aviation Administration | 202.267.8075

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· **We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.**

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

Phil, let me know if/when you plan to send this to the Hill.

Thanks,
Angela

Sent from my iPad

Angela Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
FAA
202-267-7576 office
(b) (6) cell

On Jan 2, 2020, at 4:48 PM, Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov> wrote:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

- **We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the operator(s) on the ground.**
- **We remain engaged with local law enforcement in the affected areas and are participating in a meeting with several sheriff's next week to share information about how to react if they see UAS and/or the UAS operator(s).**
- **We are in contact with other federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).**
- **We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas but to date none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.**

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

RE: UAS News 1/2

From: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:01:18 -0500

I have no new solid info.

Came across a new FB group. It's public "CO/NE mystery drone chasers". Lots of videos and locations of sightings. Seem like mostly Nebraska and flying in pairs, sometimes followed by another pair. A lot of folks talking about shooting them down etc.

Agree with Leesa, I believe that said it. Not sure if there is more sightings due to heightened awareness.

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Bam/Craig/Geo: Just got asked if we have any updates by the FAA COS – The Administrator now has a telcon with Senator Gardner from Colorado later this afternoon. Anything you have collected since yesterday would be appreciated. Bam, we will want to add in the FSDO plan for this evening – which FSDO and where in Colorado were they intending to operate? Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Please be advised that Gio is working with Bam concerning the drone incidents. Bam will take the lead as to any briefing that occur.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>

Cc: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Pamela,

As of DEC 25, 2019 to JAN 3, 2020 Nebraska had 2 UAS entries in ITS which were unfounded and No ITS entries for Kansas. I advised BAM to have NE Law Enforcement Agencies and KS Law Enforcement Agencies to contact me if they receive any reports and I will follow-up and provide BAM with an update.

BAM will be taking lead of this incident to report all matters to HQ.

Regards,

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Gio,

Thank you. Please check with Mike Bumberger (b) (6)).

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
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(b) (6) (cell)
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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Good Morning Pamela,

I will inquire about this and respond promptly.

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

It appears that all but Shawn are out of the office. I sent several emails to Manny regarding the drone incidents in Nebraska. This is a very hot topic. Mike Bumberger is working on the drone incidents in his AOR with the assistance of Craig Burns. **Action and Response from someone would be greatly appreciated!!**

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
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From: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:54 AM

To: 'AOC-UASnooze <AOC-UASnooze@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Mysterious drones are flying around the Midwest, Great Plains and no one has answers

USA TODAY, [Adrianna Rodriguez](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Local and federal authorities are investigating confirmed reports of mysterious drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska that appeared in the night sky earlier this week.

Sheriff's offices in Lincoln, Washington and Sedgwick counties have been getting calls this week about the unknown winged devices after initial reports came out of Phillips and Yuma counties, sheriffs said.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot wingspans and fly between 7 and 10 p.m. in grid-like patterns 150 to 200 feet in the air in groups of six to 10, the [Denver Post](#) reported.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs [said in a Facebook post](#) Tuesday that the drones are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government, however, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Forces Command

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office said it doesn't have jurisdiction over that airspace and shooting it out of the sky could break federal laws because drones are recognized as aircrafts.

Combs said on Facebook that local sheriff's offices, police departments and federal government agencies have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 6 to develop a plan to identify who or what is controlling these drones.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are," he wrote. "I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now."

'Fly higher and soar proudly': [Trump administration pushes state, local governments to experiment with drones to spur industry](#)

'Never, ever try to shoot at a drone': [Neighborhoods buzz with complaints over pesky drones](#)

Amazon, Paragon Geophysical Services, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Colorado Department of Transportation and [UAV Recon](#) have all denied connections to the drones, according to the Denver Post.

In an emailed statement to the Denver Post Monday, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the agency will be proposing a rule change that would allow law enforcement and federal security agencies to remotely identify drones that fly through their jurisdictions.

According to [the FAA website](#), more than 1.5 million drones are registered with the FAA as of Dec. 10, 2019.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/01/02/nebraska-colorado-drone-sightings-puzzle-midwest-government-agencies/2793815001/>

Drones flying in rural Colorado and Nebraska have residents freaking out. No one knows who's behind them

CNN, Nicole Chavez and Jamiel Lynch, Jan. 1, 2020

Mysterious drones have been flying over Colorado and Nebraska in recent weeks and authorities can't figure out who's behind the aircraft.

Deputies have spotted more than 16 unmanned drones flying in northeast Colorado after authorities received multiple reports of drone sightings last month, the sheriff's offices in Colorado's Yuma and Phillips counties said.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor told CNN that multiple FAA divisions and government agencies are investigating reports of drones in Colorado and Nebraska.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs said in a Facebook post Tuesday it appears the drones were staying at least 150-200 feet away from buildings and people and are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government.

The aircraft, Combs said, are operating within federal guidelines but are making residents "very nervous and anxious."

"People do not like the unknown as it upsets the balance of our lives," Combs wrote.

Yuma and Phillips county officials have said they don't believe the drones are malicious in nature.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are. I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now. All I can say is don't live your life in the fear of the unknown," the sheriff wrote.

Several agencies are expected to be attending a meeting about the drones incident on Monday, Combs said.

Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said he is closely monitoring the situation.

"I've been in contact with the FAA regarding the heavy drone activity in Eastern Colorado and I'm encouraged that they've opened a full investigation to learn the source and purpose of the drones," he [tweeted Tuesday](#).

The incidents come as the [FAA proposed new rules](#) that will require most drones to use remote ID technology that will allow the FAA, law enforcement and federal security agencies to identify drones flying in their jurisdiction.

Nearly 1.5 million drones and 160,000 remote pilots are registered with the FAA, [the agency said](#).

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/01/us/colorado-nebraska-drones-faa-trnd/index.html>

Drone risks causing sky-high headaches for insurers

Insurance Business America, Bethan Moorcraft, Jan. 2, 2020

A recreational drone pilot has been fined US\$20,000 after he lost control of his drone while flying it illegally near McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. In

June of 2018, pilot Rueben Burciaga lost control of his DJI Phantom 3 drone while operating it in Class B airspace – a no-go zone surrounding the nation's busiest airports. The drone then drifted more than two miles towards the international airport before landing next to an active runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) slapped Burciaga with a hefty \$20,000 fine in November 2019 for committing "a litany of serious violations" and flying his drone "carelessly and recklessly". The FAA added that the incident could have turned out much worse. FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor said: "An incident like this could've resulted in a plane hitting the drone or in disruption of airport operations or in injuries to people walking on the strip if it had crashed there. It was very fortunate that it ended up crashing where it did and didn't cause any damage or injury."

People operating drones where they shouldn't be is just one of the challenging risks that aviation insurers face in the booming drone market. While the Burciaga case was one of carelessness and recklessness, insurers are well aware of the potential for bad actors to operate drones with criminal intent or for terrorism.

"It's a risk we're watching very closely," said James Van Meter, head of aviation programs & product development at AGCS. "Outside of North America, we've seen criminals use drones to deliver explosives. There was one case that involved a chemical weapon being strapped onto a drone. We are seeing low-end consumer drones being used for terrorist activity because they're very capable pieces of technology. They can be operated remotely, and they're sophisticated – even in the \$1,000 range."

The potential for drones to be used for malicious purposes has resulted in the rise of the so-called anti-drone industry. This is made up of companies focused on the detection of drones, and developing solutions to bring drones down safely if they're operating where they shouldn't be.

"Unauthorized operation of drones is a big issue at things like music festivals and concerts. People bring drones in their backpacks or they launch them from a nearby parking lot, and then they fly them illegally over crowds of people. That's certainly a risk to the innocent bystanders that are underneath these drones," Van Meter told *Insurance Business*. "As a result, we've seen big public events like music concerts or the Super Bowl, where the venues themselves are deploying anti-drone technology to keep drones away from airspace that they shouldn't be operating in."

A prime example of illegal drone operation would be the December 2018 London Gatwick drone crisis. During a three-day incident, which started on December 19, two drones were used to completely cripple the international airport, disrupting a total of 1,000 flights and affecting more than 140,000 passengers just before Christmas.

"The Gatwick incident shows that a drone operator can disrupt hundreds of thousands of people through malice," Van Meter commented. "This new anti-drone technology that's in development, and some people already have in use today, jams the drone's radio frequency, enabling the technology to take over the drone and bring it down to ground in a safe and controlled manner. Shooting a drone out of the sky is not a practical solution in most cases because it's not safe for whoever's underneath or nearby the drone."

One risk that insurers are aware of in the drone operation sphere is cyber spoofing. This is when criminals hack into the Wi-Fi signal or the radio signal that's being used to operate a drone and they interfere with its flight plan. Successful spoofing could result in another drone/airport situation but with even more severe, and possibly even fatal consequences. Luckily, that's a risk that Van Meter and the AGCS team have not seen come into fruition on the claims side - but they're not ruling it out as a possibility.

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/technology/drone-risks-causing-skyhigh-headaches-for-insurers-195522.aspx>

The New York Police Department has made use of surveillance drones at the Times Square New Year's Eve party for the first time in its history.

Commercial Drone Professional, Sam Lewis, Jan. 2, 2020

The department planned on using a drone at the world famous celebrations 12 months ago but on that occasion poor weather conditions left its UAV grounded.

In the wake of this event, New York City police commissioner Demot Shea said that his team began plans for the following year's celebration only the next day, on Jan. 1, 2019.

Approximately 1 million attendees saw in 2020 under the watchful eye of the drones. The FBI were also present, along with police helicopters and bomb-detection units.

The police were also using drone mitigation technology that could detect and disable other drones in the area.

NYPD currently utilises 14 DJI drones of three different kinds, all catered to a variety of tasks. Former NYPD detective Joe Giacalone explained: "When policing large crowds, [drones] can spot areas where trouble might be brewing."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/nypd-flies-in-surveillance-drones-for-times-square-bash/>

Proposed FAA Rule Would Kickstart New Economy For IDing Drones

OODALOOP.com, Jan. 2, 2020

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is planning on proposing a rule to require drone manufacturers to include remote ID tags in all systems. The proposed rule was published on Tuesday, and outlines the process of remote identification of unmanned aircraft systems in hopes of developing a policy for identifying drones in flight.

1.5 million small drones have already been registered with the FAA, but the FAA wants to ensure that air traffic controllers, law enforcement and the general public can identify all of the machines flying overhead as the use of drones expands in both the public and private industries. The FAA lists three ways in which the drones could be identified in the proposed bill.

<https://www.oodaloop.com/briefs/2020/01/02/proposed-faa-rule-would-kickstart-new-economy-for-iding-drones/>

CAA ADDRESSES NERVOUS FIRT-TIME DRONE USERS

Commercial Drone Professional, Andrew Seymour, Jan. 2, 2020

With new registration laws and ever-increasing attention being paid to drones, the CAA said it expected many new drone users to be "apprehensive" about flying their new machine.

It said that new users could enjoy flying drones safely and legally by following some "simple" actions.

Its advice includes how to register with the CAA for owners of drones over 250 grams and details of its online education package, which requires

users to pass a short multiple-choice test to get their flyer ID.

The CAA added that news users can access safety information in the [Dronecode](#), as this provides all the basic safety rules and advice that drone owners need to comply with.

Key to this is remaining below 400ft, keeping clear of aircraft and airfields, and not flying too close to people and property, it noted.

The CAA pointed out that there is a fine of up to £1,000 for anyone found guilty of not complying with the drone registration requirements.

UK airspace is some of the busiest in the world and even while keeping below the 400ft maximum flying height, users may well be sharing the skies with other aircraft, such as emergency helicopters.

The CAA acknowledged that there are a number of free apps that you can use to check the airspace in your location and recommends using one of the approved apps listed [HERE](#).

Individual airfields also have restricted zones around them that it is illegal to fly a drone in without permission of the airfield or air traffic control. Airfield maps can be accessed [HERE](#).

Many new drone users may already be thinking about how use their skills commercially, such as for photography or building inspections.

The CAA stressed that new drone users considering that route must first gain a commercial approval from the CAA, as only people with that permission can make money from their drone flying.

Jonathan Nicholson, assistant director at the Civil Aviation Authority, said: "Getting a drone for Christmas is an exciting present, but drones aren't toys and we understand that you may be apprehensive about how and where to fly it.

"This is also the first Christmas that drone registration has been required. So, our short handy set of tips is designed to get you into the air and enjoying your new drone as quickly and safely as possible."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/caa-addresses-nervous-first-time-drone-users/>

Thousands of drones fill skies above China to create giant running man

The Independent, [Anthony Cuthbertson](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Shanghai shunned traditional firework displays to celebrate the New Year, instead filling the skies with thousands of synchronised [drones](#).

Nearly 2,000 drones flew above China's largest city, creating giant spheres, text, and even a figure of a man that appeared to run across the skyline.

The traditional midnight countdown was also performed by the drone swarm above the Huangpu River in the east of the city.

State-run media outlet CCTV said the running man configuration illustrated "the huge changes and glorious achievements Shanghai has made in the past 40 years of reform and opening up".

It was achieved through vast programming efforts to coordinate the drones, rather than by individual drone pilots.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/drones-china-running-man-shanghai-fireworks-a9267391.html>

Marcia Alexander-Adams
Office of Communications
Headquarters, Public Affairs Manager
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591
T (202) 267-3488
M (b) (6)
E marcia.adams@faa.gov

RE: UAS News 1/2

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:02:06 -0500

Roger. Thanks Craig.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O)

(M) (b) (6)

(M) (b) (6)

From: Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

I have no new solid info.

Came across a new FB group. It's public "CO/NE mystery drone chasers". Lots of videos and locations of sightings. Seem like mostly Nebraska and flying in pairs, sometimes followed by another pair. A lot of folks talking about shooting them down etc.

Agree with Leesa, I believe that said it. Not sure if there is more sightings due to heightened awareness.

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Incident Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
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Bam/Craig/Geo: Just got asked if we have any updates by the FAA COS – The Administrator now has a telcon with Senator Gardner from Colorado later this afternoon. Anything you have collected since yesterday would be appreciated. Bam, we will want to add in the FSDO plan for this evening – which FSDO and where in Colorado were they intending to operate? Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O) 2

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Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2

Importance: High

Please be advised that Gio is working with Bam concerning the drone incidents. Bam will take the lead as to any briefing that occur.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**

(b) (6) [redacted]
(office)
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(fax)

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Cc: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Pamela,

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BAM will be taking lead of this incident to report all matters to HQ.

Regards,

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From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Gio,

Thank you. Please check with Mike Bumberger (310-363-9435).

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**

(b) (6) [redacted]
(office)
(cell)
(fax)

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Mysterious drones are flying around the Midwest, Great Plains and no one has answers

USA TODAY, [Adrianna Rodriguez](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Local and federal authorities are investigating confirmed reports of mysterious drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska that appeared in the night sky earlier this week.

Sheriff's offices in Lincoln, Washington and Sedgwick counties have been getting calls this week about the unknown winged devices after initial reports came out of Phillips and Yuma counties, sheriffs said.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot wingspans and fly between 7 and 10 p.m. in grid-like patterns 150 to 200 feet in the air in groups of six to 10, the [Denver Post](#) reported.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs [said in a Facebook post](#) Tuesday that the drones are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government, however, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Forces Command

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office said it doesn't have jurisdiction over that airspace and shooting it out of the sky could break federal laws because drones are recognized as aircrafts.

Combs said on Facebook that local sheriff's offices, police departments and federal government agencies have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 6 to develop a plan to identify who or what is controlling these drones.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are," he wrote. "I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now."

'Fly higher and soar proudly': [Trump administration pushes state, local governments to experiment with drones to spur industry](#)

'Never, ever try to shoot at a drone': [Neighborhoods buzz with complaints over pesky drones](#)

Amazon, Paragon Geophysical Services, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Colorado Department of Transportation and [UAV Recon](#) have all denied connections to the drones, according to the Denver Post.

In an emailed statement to the Denver Post Monday, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the agency will be proposing a rule change that would allow law enforcement and federal security agencies to remotely identify drones that fly through their jurisdictions.

According to [the FAA website](#), more than 1.5 million drones are registered with the FAA as of Dec. 10, 2019.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/01/02/nebraska-colorado-drone-sightings-puzzle-midwest-government-agencies/2793815001/>

Drones flying in rural Colorado and Nebraska have residents freaking out. No one knows who's behind them

CNN, Nicole Chavez and Jamiel Lynch, Jan. 1, 2020

Mysterious drones have been flying over Colorado and Nebraska in recent weeks and authorities can't figure out who's behind the aircraft.

Deputies have spotted more than 16 unmanned drones flying in northeast Colorado after authorities received multiple reports of drone sightings last month, the sheriff's offices in Colorado's Yuma and Phillips counties said.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor told CNN that multiple FAA divisions and government agencies are investigating reports of drones in Colorado and Nebraska.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs said in a Facebook post Tuesday it appears the drones were staying at least 150-200 feet away from buildings and people and are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government.

The aircraft, Combs said, are operating within federal guidelines but are making residents "very nervous and anxious."

"People do not like the unknown as it upsets the balance of our lives," Combs wrote.

Yuma and Phillips county officials have said they don't believe the drones are malicious in nature.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are. I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the

intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now. All I can say is don't live your life in the fear of the unknown," the sheriff wrote.

Several agencies are expected to be attending a meeting about the drones incident on Monday, Combs said.

Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said he is closely monitoring the situation.

"I've been in contact with the FAA regarding the heavy drone activity in Eastern Colorado and I'm encouraged that they've opened a full investigation to learn the source and purpose of the drones," he [tweeted Tuesday](#).

The incidents come as the [FAA proposed new rules](#) that will require most drones to use remote ID technology that will allow the FAA, law enforcement and federal security agencies to identify drones flying in their jurisdiction.

Nearly 1.5 million drones and 160,000 remote pilots are registered with the FAA, [the agency said](#).

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/01/us/colorado-nebraska-drones-faa-trmd/index.html>

Drone risks causing sky-high headaches for insurers

Insurance Business America, Bethan Moorcraft, Jan. 2, 2020

A recreational drone pilot has been fined US\$20,000 after he lost control of his drone while flying it illegally near McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. In June of 2018, pilot Rueben Burciaga lost control of his DJI Phantom 3 drone while operating it in Class B airspace – a no-go zone surrounding the nation's busiest airports. The drone then drifted more than two miles towards the international airport before landing next to an active runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) slapped Burciaga with a hefty \$20,000 fine in November 2019 for committing "a litany of serious violations" and flying his drone "carelessly and recklessly". The FAA added that the incident could have turned out much worse. FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor said: "An incident like this could've resulted in a plane hitting the drone or in disruption of airport operations or in injuries to people walking on the strip if it had crashed there. It was very fortunate that it ended up crashing where it did and didn't cause any damage or injury."

People operating drones where they shouldn't be is just one of the challenging risks that aviation insurers face in the booming drone market. While the Burciaga case was one of carelessness and recklessness, insurers are well aware of the potential for bad actors to operate drones with criminal intent or for terrorism.

"It's a risk we're watching very closely," said James Van Meter, head of aviation programs & product development at AGCS. "Outside of North America, we've seen criminals use drones to deliver explosives. There was one case that involved a chemical weapon being strapped onto a drone. We are seeing low-end consumer drones being used for terrorist activity because they're very capable pieces of technology. They can be operated remotely, and they're sophisticated – even in the \$1,000 range."

The potential for drones to be used for malicious purposes has resulted in the rise of the so-called anti-drone industry. This is made up of companies focused on the detection of drones, and developing solutions to bring drones down safely if they're operating where they shouldn't be.

"Unauthorized operation of drones is a big issue at things like music festivals and concerts. People bring drones in their backpacks or they launch them from a nearby parking lot, and then they fly them illegally over crowds of people. That's certainly a risk to the innocent bystanders that are underneath these drones," Van Meter told *Insurance Business*. "As a result, we've seen big public events like music concerts or the Super Bowl, where the venues themselves are deploying anti-drone technology to keep drones away from airspace that they shouldn't be operating in."

A prime example of illegal drone operation would be the December 2018 London Gatwick drone crisis. During a three-day incident, which started on December 19, two drones were used to completely cripple the international airport, disrupting a total of 1,000 flights and affecting more than 140,000 passengers just before Christmas.

"The Gatwick incident shows that a drone operator can disrupt hundreds of thousands of people through malice," Van Meter commented. "This new anti-drone technology that's in development, and some people already have in use today, jams the drone's radio frequency, enabling the technology to take over the drone and bring it down to ground in a safe and controlled manner. Shooting a drone out of the sky is not a practical solution in most cases because it's not safe for whoever's underneath or nearby the drone."

One risk that insurers are aware of in the drone operation sphere is cyber spoofing. This is when criminals hack into the Wi-Fi signal or the radio signal that's being used to operate a drone and they interfere with its flight plan. Successful spoofing could result in another drone/airport situation but with even more severe, and possibly even fatal consequences. Luckily, that's a risk that Van Meter and the AGCS team have not seen come into fruition on the claims side - but they're not ruling it out as a possibility.

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/technology/drone-risks-causing-skyhigh-headaches-for-insurers-195522.aspx>

The New York Police Department has made use of surveillance drones at the Times Square New Year's Eve party for the first time in its history.

Commercial Drone Professional, Sam Lewis, Jan. 2, 2020

The department planned on using a drone at the world famous celebrations 12 months ago but on that occasion poor weather conditions left its UAV grounded.

In the wake of this event, New York City police commissioner Demot Shea said that his team began plans for the following year's celebration only the next day, on Jan. 1, 2019.

Approximately 1 million attendees saw in 2020 under the watchful eye of the drones. The FBI were also present, along with police helicopters and bomb-detection units.

The police were also using drone mitigation technology that could detect and disable other drones in the area.

NYPD currently utilises 14 DJI drones of three different kinds, all catered to a variety of tasks. Former NYPD detective Joe Giacalone explained: "When policing large crowds, [drones] can spot areas where trouble might be brewing."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/nypd-flies-in-surveillance-drones-for-times-square-bash/>

Proposed FAA Rule Would Kickstart New Economy For IDing Drones

OODALOOP.com, Jan. 2, 2020

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is planning on proposing a rule to require drone manufacturers to include remote ID tags in all systems. The proposed rule was published on Tuesday, and outlines the process of remote identification of unmanned aircraft systems in hopes of developing a policy for identifying drones in flight.

1.5 million small drones have already been registered with the FAA, but the FAA wants to ensure that air traffic controllers, law enforcement and the general public can identify all of the machines flying overhead as the use of drones expands in both the public and private industries. The FAA lists three ways in which the drones could be identified in the proposed bill.

<https://www.oodaloop.com/briefs/2020/01/02/proposed-faa-rule-would-kickstart-new-economy-for-iding-drones/>

CAA ADDRESSES NERVOUS FIRT-TIME DRONE USERS

Commercial Drone Professional, Andrew Seymour, Jan. 2, 2020

With new registration laws and ever-increasing attention being paid to drones, the CAA said it expected many new drone users to be “apprehensive” about flying their new machine.

It said that new users could enjoy flying drones safely and legally by following some “simple” actions.

Its advice includes how to register with the CAA for owners of drones over 250 grams and details of its online education package, which requires users to pass a short multiple-choice test to get their flyer ID.

The CAA added that news users can access safety information in the [Dronecode](#), as this provides all the basic safety rules and advice that drone owners need to comply with.

Key to this is remaining below 400ft, keeping clear of aircraft and airfields, and not flying too close to people and property, it noted.

The CAA pointed out that there is a fine of up to £1,000 for anyone found guilty of not complying with the drone registration requirements.

UK airspace is some of the busiest in the world and even while keeping below the 400ft maximum flying height, users may well be sharing the skies with other aircraft, such as emergency helicopters.

The CAA acknowledged that there are a number of free apps that you can use to check the airspace in your location and recommends using one of the approved apps listed [HERE](#).

Individual airfields also have restricted zones around them that it is illegal to fly a drone in without permission of the airfield or air traffic control. Airfield maps can be accessed [HERE](#).

Many new drone users may already be thinking about how use their skills commercially, such as for photography or building inspections.

The CAA stressed that new drone users considering that route must first gain a commercial approval from the CAA, as only people with that permission can make money from their drone flying.

Jonathan Nicholson, assistant director at the Civil Aviation Authority, said: “Getting a drone for Christmas is an exciting present, but drones aren’t toys and we understand that you may be apprehensive about how and where to fly it.

“This is also the first Christmas that drone registration has been required. So, our short handy set of tips is designed to get you into the air and enjoying your new drone as quickly and safely as possible.”

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/caa-addresses-nervous-first-time-drone-users/>

Thousands of drones fill skies above China to create giant running man

The Independent, [Anthony Cuthbertson](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Shanghai shunned traditional firework displays to celebrate the New Year, instead filling the skies with thousands of synchronised [drones](#).

Nearly 2,000 drones flew above China’s largest city, creating giant spheres, text, and even a figure of a man that appeared to run across the skyline.

The traditional midnight countdown was also performed by the drone swarm above the Huangpu River in the east of the city.

State-run media outlet CCTV said the running man configuration illustrated “the huge changes and glorious achievements Shanghai has made in the past 40 years of reform and opening up”.

It was achieved through vast programming efforts to coordinate the drones, rather than by individual drone pilots.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/drones-china-running-man-shanghai-fireworks-a9267391.html>

Marcia Alexander-Adams
Office of Communications
Headquarters, Public Affairs Manager
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591
T (202) 267-3488
M (b) (6)
E marcia.adams@faa.gov

RE: UAS News 1/2

From: "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:05:39 -0500

Likewise, I do not have any information to pass along. Currently conducting social media research on drone activities where the incident is taking place in the Central Region.

Gianfranco Medina ("Gio") Special Agent / FAA

Law Enforcement Assistance Program / AXE-820
Arkansas, Louisiana, & Oklahoma
Office: 817-222-5742 Cell: (b) (6) Fax: 817-222-5990
Email: gianfranco.medina@faa.gov

[Learn more about the FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program](#)

*"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."
-Henry Ford*

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From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Bam/Craig/Geo: Just got asked if we have any updates by the FAA COS – The Administrator now has a telcon with Senator Gardner from Colorado later this afternoon. Anything you have collected since yesterday would be appreciated. Bam, we will want to add in the FSDO plan for this evening – which FSDO and where in Colorado were they intending to operate? Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
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Importance: High

Please be advised that Gio is working with Bam concerning the drone incidents. Bam will take the lead as to any briefing that occur.

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Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said he is closely monitoring the situation.

"I've been in contact with the FAA regarding the heavy drone activity in Eastern Colorado and I'm encouraged that they've opened a full investigation to learn the source and purpose of the drones," he [tweeted Tuesday](#).

The incidents come as the [FAA proposed new rules](#) that will require most drones to use remote ID technology that will allow the FAA, law enforcement and federal security agencies to identify drones flying in their jurisdiction.

Nearly 1.5 million drones and 160,000 remote pilots are registered with the FAA, [the agency said](#).

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/01/us/colorado-nebraska-drones-faa-trnd/index.html>

Drone risks causing sky-high headaches for insurers

Insurance Business America, Bethan Moorcraft, Jan. 2, 2020

A recreational drone pilot has been fined US\$20,000 after he lost control of his drone while flying it illegally near McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. In June of 2018, pilot Rueben Burciaga lost control of his DJI Phantom 3 drone while operating it in Class B airspace – a no-go zone surrounding the nation's busiest airports. The drone then drifted more than two miles towards the international airport before landing next to an active runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) slapped Burciaga with a hefty \$20,000 fine in November 2019 for committing "a litany of serious violations" and flying his drone "carelessly and recklessly". The FAA added that the incident could have turned out much worse. FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor said: "An incident like this could've resulted in a plane hitting the drone or in disruption of airport operations or in injuries to people walking on the strip if it had crashed there. It was very fortunate that it ended up crashing where it did and didn't cause any damage or injury."

People operating drones where they shouldn't be is just one of the challenging risks that aviation insurers face in the booming drone market. While the Burciaga case was one of carelessness and recklessness, insurers are well aware of the potential for bad actors to operate drones with criminal intent or for terrorism.

"It's a risk we're watching very closely," said James Van Meter, head of aviation programs & product development at AGCS. "Outside of North America, we've seen criminals use drones to deliver explosives. There was one case that involved a chemical weapon being strapped onto a drone. We are seeing low-end consumer drones being used for terrorist activity because they're very capable pieces of technology. They can be operated remotely, and they're sophisticated – even in the \$1,000 range."

The potential for drones to be used for malicious purposes has resulted in the rise of the so-called anti-drone industry. This is made up of companies focused on the detection of drones, and developing solutions to bring drones down safely if they're operating where they shouldn't be.

"Unauthorized operation of drones is a big issue at things like music festivals and concerts. People bring drones in their backpacks or they launch them from a nearby parking lot, and then they fly them illegally over crowds of people. That's certainly a risk to the innocent bystanders that are underneath these drones," Van Meter told *Insurance Business*. "As a result, we've seen big public events like music concerts or the Super Bowl, where the venues themselves are deploying anti-drone technology to keep drones away from airspace that they shouldn't be operating in."

A prime example of illegal drone operation would be the December 2018 London Gatwick drone crisis. During a three-day incident, which started on December 19, two drones were used to completely cripple the international airport, disrupting a total of 1,000 flights and affecting more than 140,000 passengers just before Christmas.

"The Gatwick incident shows that a drone operator can disrupt hundreds of thousands of people through malice," Van Meter commented. "This new anti-drone technology that's in development, and some people already have in use today, jams the drone's radio frequency, enabling the technology to take over the drone and bring it down to ground in a safe and controlled manner. Shooting a drone out of the sky is not a practical solution in most cases because it's not safe for whoever's underneath or nearby the drone."

One risk that insurers are aware of in the drone operation sphere is cyber spoofing. This is when criminals hack into the Wi-Fi signal or the radio signal that's being used to operate a drone and they interfere with its flight plan. Successful spoofing could result in another drone/airport situation but with even more severe, and possibly even fatal consequences. Luckily, that's a risk that Van Meter and the AGCS team have not seen come into fruition on the claims side - but they're not ruling it out as a possibility.

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/technology/drone-risks-causing-skyhigh-headaches-for-insurers-195522.aspx>

The New York Police Department has made use of surveillance drones at the Times Square New Year's Eve party for the first time in its history.

Commercial Drone Professional, Sam Lewis, Jan. 2, 2020

The department planned on using a drone at the world famous celebrations 12 months ago but on that occasion poor weather conditions left its UAV grounded.

In the wake of this event, New York City police commissioner Demot Shea said that his team began plans for the following year's celebration only the next day, on Jan. 1, 2019.

Approximately 1 million attendees saw in 2020 under the watchful eye of the drones. The FBI were also present, along with police helicopters and bomb-detection units.

The police were also using drone mitigation technology that could detect and disable other drones in the area.

NYPD currently utilises 14 DJI drones of three different kinds, all catered to a variety of tasks. Former NYPD detective Joe Giacalone explained: "When policing large crowds, [drones] can spot areas where trouble might be brewing."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/nypd-flies-in-surveillance-drones-for-times-square-bash/>

Proposed FAA Rule Would Kickstart New Economy For IDing Drones

OODALOOP.com, Jan. 2, 2020

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is planning on proposing a rule to require drone manufacturers to include remote ID tags in all systems. The proposed rule was published on Tuesday, and outlines the process of remote identification of unmanned aircraft systems in hopes of developing a policy for identifying drones in flight.

1.5 million small drones have already been registered with the FAA, but the FAA wants to ensure that air traffic controllers, law enforcement and the general public can identify all of the machines flying overhead as the use of drones expands in both the public and private industries. The FAA lists three ways in which the drones could be identified in the proposed bill.

<https://www.oodaloop.com/briefs/2020/01/02/proposed-faa-rule-would-kickstart-new-economy-for-iding-drones/>

CAA ADDRESSES NERVOUS FIRT-TIME DRONE USERS

Commercial Drone Professional, Andrew Seymour, Jan. 2, 2020

With new registration laws and ever-increasing attention being paid to drones, the CAA said it expected many new drone users to be "apprehensive" about flying their new machine.

It said that new users could enjoy flying drones safely and legally by following some “simple” actions.

Its advice includes how to register with the CAA for owners of drones over 250 grams and details of its online education package, which requires users to pass a short multiple-choice test to get their flyer ID.

The CAA added that news users can access safety information in the [Dronecode](#), as this provides all the basic safety rules and advice that drone owners need to comply with.

Key to this is remaining below 400ft, keeping clear of aircraft and airfields, and not flying too close to people and property, it noted.

The CAA pointed out that there is a fine of up to £1,000 for anyone found guilty of not complying with the drone registration requirements.

UK airspace is some of the busiest in the world and even while keeping below the 400ft maximum flying height, users may well be sharing the skies with other aircraft, such as emergency helicopters.

The CAA acknowledged that there are a number of free apps that you can use to check the airspace in your location and recommends using one of the approved apps listed [HERE](#).

Individual airfields also have restricted zones around them that it is illegal to fly a drone in without permission of the airfield or air traffic control. Airfield maps can be accessed [HERE](#).

Many new drone users may already be thinking about how use their skills commercially, such as for photography or building inspections.

The CAA stressed that new drone users considering that route must first gain a commercial approval from the CAA, as only people with that permission can make money from their drone flying.

Jonathan Nicholson, assistant director at the Civil Aviation Authority, said: “Getting a drone for Christmas is an exciting present, but drones aren’t toys and we understand that you may be apprehensive about how and where to fly it.

“This is also the first Christmas that drone registration has been required. So, our short handy set of tips is designed to get you into the air and enjoying your new drone as quickly and safely as possible.”

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/caa-addresses-nervous-first-time-drone-users/>

Thousands of drones fill skies above China to create giant running man

The Independent, [Anthony Cuthbertson](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Shanghai shunned traditional firework displays to celebrate the New Year, instead filling the skies with thousands of synchronised [drones](#).

Nearly 2,000 drones flew above [China's](#) largest city, creating giant spheres, text, and even a figure of a man that appeared to run across the skyline.

The traditional midnight countdown was also performed by the drone swarm above the Huangpu River in the east of the city.

State-run media outlet CCTV said the running man configuration illustrated "the huge changes and glorious achievements Shanghai has made in the past 40 years of reform and opening up".

It was achieved through vast programming efforts to coordinate the drones, rather than by individual drone pilots.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/drones-china-running-man-shanghai-fireworks-a9267391.html>

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RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

From: "Dermody, John (FAA)" <john.dermody@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Howard, Katherine (FAA)" <katherine.howard@faa.gov>
Cc: "Hiatt, Patricia (FAA)" <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>, "Newman, Philip (FAA)" <philip.newman@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:13:18 -0500

Josh – will you be sending any updates broadly to FAA senior management as well? Just asking since I will be talking to ACI-NA as well.

Thanks
John

John R. Dermody, P.E.
Director
Office of Airport Safety and Standards
Federal Aviation Administration
(202) 267-3053



Advancing the safest, most efficient airport system in the world!

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>; Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

No, there are only a couple of counties which were impacted – he is reaching out to those sheriffs. I am working to collect any updates – I owe them to Angela by 1400.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:59 PM
To: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
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Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

+ SA Bumberger "Bam"

Bam –

Could you please answer Kate's questions below. Thanks

Best, Brett

From: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>; Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

Hi – two questions

- Just to make sure I understand - is he contacting every Nebraska Sheriff or you just mean the Sheriffs in counties that have contacted him?
 - o If it is every Nebraska Sheriff is he going through some central contact? There are 93 counties in Nebraska so was figuring if he's reaching out to all of them it is through some kind of central contact rather than each individually.
 - o If he is contacting specifically those who have reached out to FAA about sightings/concerns – could you tell me which counties those are?

o Bottom line is I just need to tell Fishcer's office who FAA is reaching out to.

• Also – are there generally any updates on the UAS issue out there? Any new information to share? I believe AOA and Senator Gardner are going to touch base on the phone later today so AOA will need an update. Josh I'm going to loop you and Brett in on the email thread on that one.

Many thanks!

Kate

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Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

Our LEAP agent is touching base with each of the Nebraska Sheriffs to ensure they know about the meeting.

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Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

John –

A County Sherriff in Colorado is hosting a law enforcement only meeting with other sheriffs, FBI, and FAA LEAP on Monday to discuss the drone sightings and next steps. ASH' Special Agent Michael Bumberger is the FAA lead at the meeting. Due to law enforcement sensitive materials and discussions, this meeting will not be open to the public or Congressional Members or staff.

Hope that helps. We will pass more info out after the meeting. Thanks

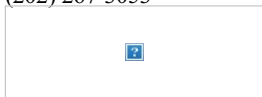
Best, Brett

BRETT J. FEDDERSEN | Acting Director for National Security Programs and Incident Response | Federal Aviation Administration | 202.267.8075

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Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drone RFI in Colorado

Sorry.... what meeting is on Monday?

John R. Dermody, P.E.
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On Jan 3, 2020, at 11:10 AM, Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov> wrote:

Hi, guys – Senator Fischer's (R-NE) office asked about the meeting next week. Specifically they asked if "FAA has reached out to any Nebraska agencies to attend the meeting?" I'm assuming the answer is that FAA is not reaching out to local jurisdictions individually but wanted to confirm that. Has the FAA LEAP agent told the local law enforcement entities he's heard from about the Monday meeting? If not do you think that would be appropriate/possible?

Not necessarily to "invite them" but to say something like, "Hey I know you've called FAA to note specific sightings/concerns and wanted you to know about this meeting on Monday which will be conducted as the law enforcement sensitive level. If you are interested in attending who is the person you should contact at the Morgan County Sheriff's office."

Angela and ASH do you feel like that's a reasonable path or would you prefer a different response?

Kate

From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>

Cc: Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Manno, Claudio (FAA) <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Manzelli, Brianna (FAA) <Brianna.Manzelli@faa.gov>; Shiffer, Jeannie (FAA) <Jeannie.Shiffer@faa.gov>; Jones, Tammy L (FAA) <tammy.l.jones@faa.gov>; Amend, Erik (FAA) <Erik.Amend@faa.gov>; Brooks, Deandra (FAA) <deandra.brooks@faa.gov>; Orquina, Jessica A (FAA) <Jessica.A.Orquina@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Gore, Scott (FAA) <Scott.Gore@faa.gov>; Langdon, Brian (FAA) <brian.langdon@faa.gov>; Roberson, Jennifer (FAA) <jennifer.roberson@faa.gov>

Subject: Re: Drone RFI in Colorado

Not sure if I am too late, but here are a few tweaks in underlined text:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

- **We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the UAS operator(s) on the ground.**

- **We remain engaged with local law enforcement in the affected areas and are participating in a meeting with several sheriffs' offices next week to share information about how to react if they see UAS and/or the UAS operator(s) as well as discuss other investigative leads.**

- **We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).**

- **We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.**

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

Phil, let me know if/when you plan to send this to the Hill.

Thanks,
Angela

Sent from my iPad

Angela Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
FAA
202-267-7576 office
(b) (6) cell

On Jan 2, 2020, at 4:48 PM, Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov> wrote:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

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RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Howard, Katherine (FAA)" <katherine.howard@faa.gov>, "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Dermody, John (FAA)" <john.dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: "Hiatt, Patricia (FAA)" <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>, "Newman, Philip (FAA)" <philip.newman@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:30:14 -0500

- Just to make sure I understand - is he contacting every Nebraska Sheriff or you just mean the Sheriffs in counties that have contacted him? Only the counties reporting activity have been contacted. Since this is a meeting is being sponsored by Morgan County Sheriff Martin and space is limited I didn't want to overextend the FAA invite. Contact has been made through myself or my FBI POC in Nebraska.
 - o If it is every Nebraska Sheriff is he going through some central contact? There are 93 counties in Nebraska so was figuring if he's reaching out to all of them it is through some kind of central contact rather than each individually.
 - o If he is contacting specifically those who have reached out to FAA about sightings/concerns – could you tell me which counties those are

The follow Sheriff Departments have been notified by either FAA LEAP or the FBI

Kimball
Cheyenne
Deuel
Keith
Lincoln
Perkins
Chase
Dundy
Red Willow

Bottom line is I just need to tell Fishcer's office who FAA is reaching out to.

- Also – are there generally any updates on the UAS issue out there? Any new information to share? I believe AOA and Senator Gardner are going to touch base on the phone later today so AOA will need an update. Josh I'm going to loop you and Brett in on the email thread on that one.

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To: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
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Joshua Holtzman
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BRETT J. FEDDERSEN | Acting Director for National Security Programs and Incident Response | Federal Aviation Administration | 202.267.8075

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Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>
Cc: Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Manno, Claudio (FAA) <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Manzelli, Brianna (FAA) <Brianna.Manzelli@faa.gov>; Shiffer, Jeannie (FAA) <Jeannie.Shiffer@faa.gov>; Jones, Tammy L (FAA) <tammy.l.jones@faa.gov>; Amend, Erik (FAA) <Erik.Amend@faa.gov>; Brooks, Deandra (FAA) <deandra.brooks@faa.gov>; Orquina, Jessica A (FAA) <Jessica.A.Orquina@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Gore, Scott (FAA) <Scott.Gore@faa.gov>; Langdon, Brian (FAA) <brian.langdon@faa.gov>; Roberson, Jennifer (FAA) <jennifer.roberson@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drone RFI in Colorado

Not sure if I am too late, but here are a few tweaks in underlined text:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western

Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

- **We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the UAS operator(s) on the ground.**
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- **We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).**
- **We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.**

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

Phil, let me know if/when you plan to send this to the Hill.

Thanks,
Angela

Sent from my iPad

Angela Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
FAA
202-267-7576 office
(b) (6) cell

On Jan 2, 2020, at 4:48 PM, Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov> wrote:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

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RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

From: "Howard, Katherine (FAA)" <katherine.howard@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Dermody, John (FAA)" <john.dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: "Hiatt, Patricia (FAA)" <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>, "Newman, Philip (FAA)" <philip.newman@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:36:53 -0500

Thank you!

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>; Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

- Just to make sure I understand - is he contacting every Nebraska Sheriff or you just mean the Sheriffs in counties that have contacted him? Only the counties reporting activity have been contacted. Since this is a meeting is being sponsored by Morgan County Sheriff Martin and space is limited I didn't want to overextend the FAA invite. Contact has been made through myself or my FBI POC in Nebraska.
 - o If it is every Nebraska Sheriff is he going through some central contact? There are 93 counties in Nebraska so was figuring if he's reaching out to all of them it is through some kind of central contact rather than each individually.
 - o If he is contacting specifically those who have reached out to FAA about sightings/concerns – could you tell me which counties those are

The follow Sheriff Departments have been notified by either FAA LEAP or the FBI

Kimball
Cheyenne
Deuel
Keith
Lincoln
Perkins
Chase
Dundy
Red Willow

Bottom line is I just need to tell Fishcer's office who FAA is reaching out to.

- Also – are there generally any updates on the UAS issue out there? Any new information to share? I believe AOA and Senator Gardner are going to touch base on the phone later today so AOA will need an update. Josh I'm going to loop you and Brett in on the email thread on that one.

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>; Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

+ SA Bumberger "Bam"

Bam –

Could you please answer Kate's questions below. Thanks

Best, Brett

From: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>; Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

Hi – two questions

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Many thanks!

Kate

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

Our LEAP agent is touching base with each of the Nebraska Sheriffs to ensure they know about the meeting.

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

John –

A County Sherriff in Colorado is hosting a law enforcement only meeting with other sheriffs, FBI, and FAA LEAP on Monday to discuss the drone sightings and next steps. ASH' Special Agent Michael Bumberger is the FAA lead at the meeting. Due to law enforcement sensitive materials and discussions, this meeting will not be open to the public or Congressional Members or staff.

Hope that helps. We will pass more info out after the meeting. Thanks

Best, Brett

BRETT J. FEDDERSEN | Acting Director for National Security Programs and Incident Response | Federal Aviation Administration | 202.267.8075

From: Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drone RFI in Colorado

Sorry.... what meeting is on Monday?

John R. Dermody, P.E.
Director
Office of Airport Safety and Standards
Federal Aviation Administration
(202) 267-3053



Advancing the safest, most efficient airport system in the world!

On Jan 3, 2020, at 11:10 AM, Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov> wrote:

Hi, guys – Senator Fischer’s (R-NE) office asked about the meeting next week. Specifically they asked if “FAA has reached out to any Nebraska agencies to attend the meeting?” I’m assuming the answer is that FAA is not reaching out to local jurisdictions individually but wanted to confirm that. Has the FAA LEAP agent told the local law enforcement entities he’s heard from about the Monday meeting? If not do you think that would be appropriate/possible?

Not necessarily to “invite them” but to say something like, “Hey I know you’ve called FAA to note specific sightings/concerns and wanted you to know about this meeting on Monday which will be conducted as the law enforcement sensitive level. If you are interested in attending who is the person you should contact at the Morgan County Sheriff’s office.”

Angela and ASH do you feel like that’s a reasonable path or would you prefer a different response?

Kate

From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>
Cc: Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA)

<Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Manno, Claudio (FAA) <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Manzelli, Brianna (FAA) <Brianna.Manzelli@faa.gov>; Shiffer, Jeannie (FAA) <Jeannie.Shiffer@faa.gov>; Jones, Tammy L (FAA) <tammy.l.jones@faa.gov>; Amend, Erik (FAA) <Erik.Amend@faa.gov>; Brooks, Deandra (FAA) <deandra.brooks@faa.gov>; Orquina, Jessica A (FAA) <Jessica.A.Orquina@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Gore, Scott (FAA) <Scott.Gore@faa.gov>; Langdon, Brian (FAA) <brian.langdon@faa.gov>; Roberson, Jennifer (FAA) <jennifer.roberson@faa.gov>

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Phil, let me know if/when you plan to send this to the Hill.

Thanks,
Angela

Sent from my iPad

Angela Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
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(b) (6) cell

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FW: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

From: "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:59:15 -0500

Bam –

This is a good base to build on for Claudio's update due back to Josh and I NLT 1000 EST on Monday, January 6, 2019. Thanks

Best, Brett

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue . Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. *Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:*

1. **LE Engagement:** ASH Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) agent has spoken with Sheriffs from Washington, Lincoln, and Yuma Counties to gather additional information and provide assistance. From this interaction, we have learned that reports have been received from both law enforcement and local citizens with Washington County Sheriff (b) (6), and his Deputy providing first-hand accounts. Each agency contacted advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. The activity reported occurs primarily between the hours of 1800 and 2200 MST and demonstrate the pattern of multiple "drones" flying a grid type pattern and remaining airborne for several hours at a time in less than optimum flying conditions (high winds and storm-like conditions). The number of drones reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length. Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous. All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights. They have not been described as operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger. Reports are extending in a southerly direction with activity continuing in the original two counties. Lincoln County is the latest county to report activity.

—Since the reports are now in the national news, the sheriffs and other law enforcement have been inundated with calls. Law Enforcement has been consistent in stating that no Colorado criminal codes have been violated, and there is no confirmation that these observables are UAS.

—The Sheriffs are having a Conference next Monday in Lynnwood, CO. FAA, DHS, and FBI will attend the Conference and work with the Local Law Enforcement on training and education as well as additional investigative actions.

— No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.

—The two leading potential explanations point to possible survey work:

- 1) A new pipeline has been proposed in the Julesburg Basin, an area northeast Colorado on the Colorado/Nebraska border and the counties where the sightings have taken place are adjacent to that basin; and
- 2) Colorado recently enacted more strict EPA-related laws leaving some to speculate that the aircraft are conducting IR surveillance for gas leak detection.

—FAA suggested flying a helo asset in the area of the observed operations. Local LE will conduct such operations tonight and Monday.

—FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

2. **DOD Engagement:** NORTHCOM/NORAD has been contacted and does not have any information, other than they are aware of the reports.

3. **Air Traffic and UAS Office Checks:** ATO System Operations indicated they have not given any authorizations matching this area. The Western Service Center reported they have no "swarm" COAs for that area and are not aware of any special DoD missions of this nature. There are no Part 107's approvals for this type of operation.

—Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.

4. **GA Airport engagement:** FAA Airports District Offices that cover these areas have contacted GA airports in the vicinity of the reported UAS flights to make sure they are aware of them, that they brief pilots, and that pilots/airport authorities call LE and FAA if they see anything of significance.

5. **Congressional interest:** As the press reporting increases and the persistence of these reports extends, we are getting inquiries from congressional members on what FAA is doing. Below is what we are preparing to send them:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

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From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Joshua Holtzman
 Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
 Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O) 2
 (M) (b) (6)
 (M) (b) (6)

From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Josh,
 Senator Gardner wants to have a call with Steve on the drone sightings today. Can I get updates about the LE op, FBI deployment, and anything else NLT 1430 TODAY?

Use the update below as base talking points. Thanks!

R/
 Angela

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R/
Angela

Angela H. Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
Federal Aviation Administration
Office: 202-267-7576
Mobile: (b) (6)

RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 14:05:19 -0500
Attachments: Drone.avi (2.57 MB)

FBI in Nebraska advised Nebraska State Patrols Flight scheduled for last night was cancelled.... No reason was given.

Last night was fairly quiet. One call from Kit Carson County but that was more questions in reference to the items that were believed to be dropped from the drone. I advised the items were actually agricultural and explained the nature and purpose of the substance.

Attached is a video first believed to be a fixed wing UAS. After analysis from the Colorado Information Analysis Center it was determine the video is of a small high wing GA aircraft.

Generally reporting is considerably down since earlier in the week. No new counties reporting activity that I am aware of. FTW ROC received two reports of activity both in Nebraska one in Cheyenne County and the other in Red Willow.

R,
Bam

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 10:01 AM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>; Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

No, there are only a couple of counties which were impacted – he is reaching out to those sheriffs. I am working to collect any updates – I owe them to Angela by 1400.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:59 PM
To: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>; Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

+ SA Bumberger "Bam"

Bam –

Could you please answer Kate's questions below. Thanks

Best, Brett

From: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>; Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

Hi – two questions

- Just to make sure I understand - is he contacting every Nebraska Sheriff or you just mean the Sheriffs in counties that have contacted him?
 - o If it is every Nebraska Sheriff is he going through some central contact? There are 93 counties in Nebraska so was figuring if he's reaching out to all of them it is through some kind of central contact rather than each individually.
 - o If he is contacting specifically those who have reached out to FAA about sightings/concerns – could you tell me which counties those are?
 - o Bottom line is I just need to tell Fishcer's office who FAA is reaching out to.
- Also – are there generally any updates on the UAS issue out there? Any new information to share? I believe AOA and Senator Gardner are going to touch base on the phone later today so AOA will need an update. Josh I'm going to loop you and Brett in on the email thread on that one.

Many thanks!

Kate

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

Our LEAP agent is touching base with each of the Nebraska Sheriffs to ensure they know about the meeting.

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 202-267-7980
(M) (b) (6)
(M) (b) (6)

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drone RFI in Colorado

John –

A County Sherriff in Colorado is hosting a law enforcement only meeting with other sheriffs, FBI, and FAA LEAP on Monday to discuss the drone sightings and next steps. ASH' Special Agent Michael Bumberger is the FAA lead at the meeting. Due to law enforcement sensitive materials and discussions, this meeting will not be open to the public or Congressional Members or staff.

Hope that helps. We will pass more info out after the meeting. Thanks

Best, Brett

BRETT J. FEDDERSEN | Acting Director for National Security Programs and Incident Response | Federal Aviation Administration | 202.267.8075

From: Dermody, John (FAA) <John.Dermody@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Cc: Hiatt, Patricia (FAA) <patricia.hiatt@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drone RFI in Colorado

Sorry.... what meeting is on Monday?

John R. Dermody, P.E.
Director
Office of Airport Safety and Standards
Federal Aviation Administration
(202) 267-3053



Advancing the safest, most efficient airport system in the world!

On Jan 3, 2020, at 11:10 AM, Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov> wrote:

Hi, guys – Senator Fischer’s (R-NE) office asked about the meeting next week. Specifically they asked if “FAA has reached out to any Nebraska agencies to attend the meeting?” I’m assuming the answer is that FAA is not reaching out to local jurisdictions individually but wanted to confirm that. Has the FAA LEAP agent told the local law enforcement entities he’s heard from about the Monday meeting? If not do you think that would be appropriate/possible?

Not necessarily to “invite them” but to say something like, “Hey I know you’ve called FAA to note specific sightings/concerns and wanted you to know about this meeting on Monday which will be conducted as the law enforcement sensitive level. If you are interested in attending who is the person you should contact at the Morgan County Sheriff’s office.”

Angela and ASH do you feel like that’s a reasonable path or would you prefer a different response?

Kate

From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>

Cc: Newman, Philip (FAA) <Philip.Newman@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Manno, Claudio (FAA) <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Manzelli, Brianna (FAA) <Brianna.Manzelli@faa.gov>; Shiffer, Jeannie (FAA) <Jeannie.Shiffer@faa.gov>; Jones, Tammy L (FAA) <tammy.l.jones@faa.gov>; Amend, Erik (FAA) <Erik.Amend@faa.gov>; Brooks, Deandra (FAA) <deandra.brooks@faa.gov>; Orquina, Jessica A (FAA) <Jessica.A.Orquina@faa.gov>; Howard, Katherine (FAA) <katherine.howard@faa.gov>; Gore, Scott (FAA) <Scott.Gore@faa.gov>; Langdon, Brian (FAA) <brian.langdon@faa.gov>; Roberson, Jennifer (FAA) <jennifer.roberson@faa.gov>

Subject: Re: Drone RFI in Colorado

Not sure if I am too late, but here are a few tweaks in underlined text:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

- **We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the UAS operator(s) on the ground.**
- **We remain engaged with local law enforcement in the affected areas and are participating in a meeting with several sheriffs' offices next week to share information about how to react if they see UAS and/or the UAS operator(s) as well as discuss other investigative leads.**
- **We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).**
- **We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.**

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

Phil, let me know if/when you plan to send this to the Hill.

Thanks,
Angela

Sent from my iPad

Angela Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
FAA
202-267-7576 office
(b) (6) cell

On Jan 2, 2020, at 4:48 PM, Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov> wrote:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

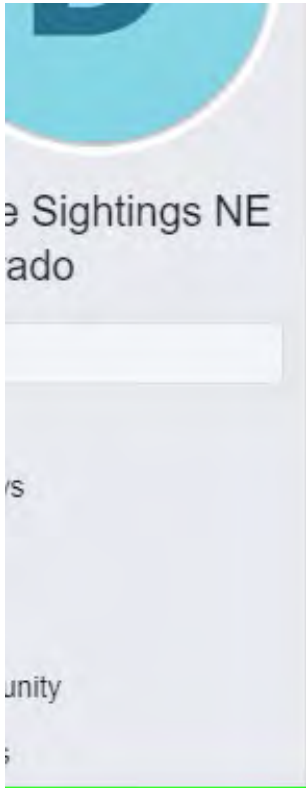
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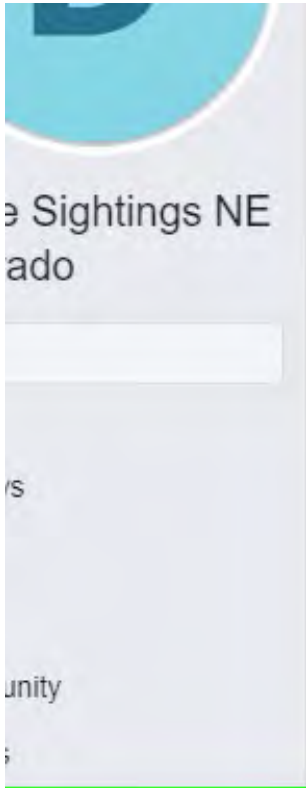
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... Sightings NE
ado

...s

...unity

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...

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RE: FAA POC

From: (b) (6)@nebraska.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 16:29:58 -0500

Awesome – I look forward to meeting you!!

(b)

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:54 AM
To: (b) (6)@nebraska.gov>
Subject: FAA POC

Good Morning,

I have been working the drone issue since Thursday 12/26 and have been assigned the lead for the FAA. I will be attending the meeting on Monday.

Mike

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: (310) 725-6660

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RE: FAA POC

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: (b) (6) @nebraska.gov
Date: Fri, 03 Jan 2020 16:33:03 -0500

[Same here](#)

From: (b) (6) @nebraska.gov
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: FAA POC

Awesome – I look forward to meeting you!!

(b)

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Connelly, Latisha <Latisha.Connelly@nebraska.gov>
Subject: FAA POC

Good Morning,

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Mike

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 0

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FLIGHT OPS UAS Newsletter | January 5, 2020

From: Airborne Response <news@airborneresponse.com>
To: Michael Bumberger <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 08:59:55 -0500

FLIGHT OPS

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) news for public safety, emergency management, and disaster response professionals presented by Airborne Response



By Airborne Response

[Read paper](#)

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020

Drones, fireworks, countdowns: Cities around the world ring in 2020

latimes.com - Shared by Airborne Response



A joyful crowd of Parisians and tourists walked, biked and used scooters to reach the Champs-Elysees for New Year's celebrations, in a city with almost no public transport amid massive strikes. Revel...

Colorado Drone Mystery Deepens as Nighttime Flights Expand to Nebraska

dronelfe.com - Shared by DroneShare



Editor's Note: A number of media reports covering these sightings have included a stock photo of a quadcopter drone. This is an inaccurate depiction. The reports have stated the aircraft are fixed-wi...

Mysterious Drone Sightings The Subject Of Private Meeting

denver.cbslocal.com - Shared by Airborne Response



DENVER (CBS4)– It's a mystery in the night skies over Colorado– drones spotted flying over rural towns in the Eastern Plains. Now the Federal Aviation Administration is investigating. Experts are try...

SF Fire Department expects maiden voyage of drone next year - The San Francisco Examiner

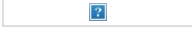
sfoxaminer.com - Shared by Airborne Response



After years of planning, San Francisco's fire department finally expects to purchase a drone and send it soaring into the skies early next year. In 2017, The City's technology committee adopted a cit...

ANSI Unmanned Aircraft Systems Standardization Collaborative (UASSC)

ansi.org - Shared by Airborne Response



The UASSC's mission is to coordinate and accelerate the development of the standards and conformity assessment programs needed to facilitate the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) – ...

Read paper

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Fwd: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Cc: "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 10:02:06 -0500

Just in case you did not see

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(b) (6)
(o)
(GOVT cell)
(cell)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: FAA Incident Notifications <Alert-1784281-290494861@athocalerts.com>
Date: January 5, 2020 at 09:28:28 EST
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

PRELIM INFO FROM FAA OPS: WHITNEY, NE/UAS INCIDENT/LATE REPORT 12/4-2030M/E-ROC ADVISED DAWES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORTED 10 LARGE UAS APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES SOUTH OF WHITNEY, NE TRAVELING SW BOUND ABOVE 400 FEET. UAS HAD RED, GREEN, AND WHITE LIGHTS TRAVELING AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED. NO IMPACT TO OPERATIONS REPORTED. DEPUTY SHERIFF REPORTED INCIDENT, CONTACT INFO 308-615-9343. WOC 7-3333 EF/EC
[HTTPS://WWW.CBSNEWS.COM/LIVE/VIDEO/20200105033920-MYSTERIOUS-DRONES-SPOTTED-IN-RURAL-COLORADO-AND-NEBRASKA-AT-NIGHT/](https://www.cbsnews.com/live/video/20200105033920-mysterious-drones-spotted-in-rural-colorado-and-nebraska-at-night/)

Published on: 01/05/2020 09:28:10 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) By: EON ENS Alert.

Sent By: Federal Aviation Administration



Re: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
Cc: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 10:31:10 -0500

Thank you. At the airport heading to Denver.

R,
Bam

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)

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Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 5, 2020, at 7:02 AM, Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov> wrote:

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Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
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Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 12:23:43 -0500

Bam, I just ran into Jay Merkle, head of AUS, in the grocery store. I will be asked to update everyone at the UAS Hot Topics meeting at 0900 my time on Monday. Anything you might have from the weekend, can you push my way Monday morning first thing? Thanks and definitely looking forward to hearing how Mondays meeting goes. Ian should be there as well. Safe travels,
Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
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(b) (6) (o)
(GOVT cell)
(cell)

Sent from my iPhone

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Thank you. At the airport heading to Denver.

R,
Bam

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
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Cell: (b) (6)

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Cc: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 15:25:28 -0500

Wilco

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)

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Special Agent
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Cell: (b) (6)

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Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
2 (o)
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Subject: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

PRELIM INFO FROM FAA OPS: WHITNEY, NE/UAS INCIDENT/LATE REPORT 12/4-2030M/E-ROC ADVISED DAWES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORTED 10 LARGE UAS APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES SOUTH OF WHITNEY, NE TRAVELING SW BOUND ABOVE 400 FEET. UAS HAD RED, GREEN, AND WHITE LIGHTS TRAVELING AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED. NO IMPACT TO OPERATIONS REPORTED. DEPUTY SHERIFF REPORTED INCIDENT. CONTACT INFO 308-615-9343. WOC 7-3333 EF/EC
[HTTPS://WWW.CBSNEWS.COM/LIVE/VIDEO/20200105033920-MYSTERIOUS-DRONES-SPOTTED-IN-RURAL-COLORADO-AND-NEBRASKA-AT-NIGHT/](https://www.cbsnews.com/live/video/20200105033920-mysterious-drones-spotted-in-rural-colorado-and-nebraska-at-night/)

Published on: 01/05/2020 09:28:10 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) By: EON ENS Alert.

Sent By: Federal Aviation Administration



Statement

From: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 22:02:42 -0500

Mike -

This is what I am planning to provide to media tomorrow. See you at 0700!

We take every drone-sighting report seriously. Multiple FAA divisions are working closely with federal, state and local stakeholders to try to determine whether the reported sightings in Colorado and Nebraska are drones and, if so, who is operating them and for what reason. The purpose of today's meeting was for the various agencies to share information and to discuss how we can most effectively collaborate in our efforts

To date, the FAA has undertaken a number of actions:

- ***We have contacted UAS test sites, drone companies, and companies that have received authorization to operate drones in these areas. To date, we have not been able to determine that any of these operators were the source of the reported drone flights.***
- ***We have contacted General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings; to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings; and to report any people they see operating drones on the ground.***
- ***We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to discuss potential ways they can assist in identifying who may be operating these aircraft.***

We will continue to collaborate closely with our safety and security partners at the federal, state and local levels on our identification efforts.

Ian Gregor
Public Affairs Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:

Twitter: @FAANews

Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration

Instagram: FAA

RE: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 22:51:42 -0500

Brett,

This is what I have as of Sunday evening. I made some changes in addition to adding to new information and have highlighted them. Please call me 310-363-9435 if this isn't what we are looking for. I will be up early tomorrow 0500 mst. If we need to make changes.

R,
Bam

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue. Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:

1. LE Engagement: ASH Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) agent has spoken with Sheriffs from Washington, Lincoln, Yuma, Moraan, Sedgwick, Kit Carson, and Phillips Counties in Colorado and Kimball, Cheyenne, Deuel, Keith, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Red Willow, and Lincoln Counties in Nebraska to gather additional information and provide assistance. In this interaction, we have learned that reports have been received from both law enforcement and local citizens with Washington County Sheriff, (b) (6), and his Deputy providing first-hand accounts. Each agency contacted advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. The activity reports primarily between the hours of 1800 and 2200 MST and demonstrate the pattern of multiple "drones" flying a grid type pattern and remaining airborne for several hours at a time in less than optimum flying conditions (high winds and storm-like conditions). The number of UAS reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length. Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous. All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights. They have not been described as operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger. Reports are extending in a southerly direction with activity continuing in the original two counties. Lincoln County is the latest county to report activity.

—Since the reports are now in the national news, the sheriffs and other law enforcement have been inundated with calls. Law Enforcement has been consistent in stating that no Colorado criminal codes have been violated, and there is no confirmation that these observables are UAS.

—The Sheriffs are having a Conference next Monday in Brush, CO. FAA, DHS, and FBI will attend the Conference and work with the Local Law Enforcement on training and education as well as additional investigative actions. Meeting has generated local, national, and international attention. FAA Public Affairs Los Angeles will be at the meeting in anticipation of media presence.

—No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.

—The two leading potential explanations point to possible survey work:

- 1) A new pipeline has been proposed in the Julesburg Basin, an area northeast Colorado on the Colorado/Nebraska border and the counties where the sightings have taken place are adjacent to that basin; and
- 2) Colorado recently enacted more strict EPA-related laws leaving some to speculate that the aircraft are conducting IR surveillance for gas leak detection. Calls have been made to dozens of energy sector companies (gas, oil, and electric) throughout the region all have denied operating UAS.

—FAA suggested flying a helo asset in the area of the observed operations. Local LE will conduct such operations tonight and Monday. No operation were conducted using rotary or fixed winged aircraft. A flight has been proposed for Monday evening. A fixed wing aircraft with sensors from Colorado Fire is scheduled to fly in the area and will be working with Colorado State Patrol. Detail to be confirmed at the meeting in Brush on Monday.

—FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

2. DOD Engagement: NORTHCOM/NORAD has been contacted and does not have any information. other than v are aware of the reports. F.E. Warren AFB (Wyoming) and Colorado National Guard J2 intends on personnel to the meeting on 1/6. According to Sheriff (b) (6) (meeting organizer) DOD has not been invited to participate.

3. Air Traffic and UAS Office Checks: ATO System Operations indicated they have not given any authorizations matching this area. The Western Service Center reported they have no "swarm" COAs for that area and are not aware of any special DoD missions of this nature. There are no Part 107's approvals for this type of operation.

—Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.

4. GA Airport engagement: FAA Airports District Offices that cover these areas have contacted GA airports in the vicinity of the reported UAS flights to make sure they are aware of them, that they brief pilots, and that pilots/airport authorities call LE and FAA if they see anything of significance.

5. Congressional interest: As the press reporting increases and the persistence of these reports extends, we are getting inquiries from congressional members on what FAA is doing. Below is what we are preparing to send them:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

· We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the UAS operator(s) on the ground.

· We remain engaged with local law enforcement in the affected areas and are participating in a meeting with several sheriffs' offices next week to share information about how to react if they see UAS and/or the UAS operator(s) as well as discuss other investigative leads.

· We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).

· We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.

6. FSDO Surveillance Operation: Three, two person teams performed surveillance in Yuma and Moraan County from 1730 to 2230mst on 1/3. No sightings were reported. Note: A tweet from Senator Gardner earlier that day stated, "I just spoke with the Administrator of the FAA – they have people on the ground and are working with federal law enforcement to track down the operator".

7. Sightings over the weekend: No new counties have reported activity and activity has been considerably down with very few Counties reporting activity. Reporting is isolated to a single county vice multiple counties, which took place earlier in the week. The calls local sheriff offices are receiving have not been consistent with what has previously been reported. Mostly single aircraft sightings, not the large swarms with a reported larger "mothership". However, LEAP is aware of 3 reports in different counties of swarms up of up to 10. Two took place on Friday, one on Saturday and zero on Sunday. All were citizen reports and not validated by law enforcement. Deputies have been responding throughout the weekend to sightings, in many cases deputies have not been able to observe the activity.

8. Activity reporting: Several independent private websites have been developed to track reporting. The accuracy of the reporting has not been validated by

LEAP.

9. Public reaction: Blog and social media posts suggests a growing sentiment justifying shooting "drones" down. Nebraska State Patrol responded to a sighting in McCook upon arrival. Officer reported shots being fired at what was believed to be a UAS. No reports of shots fired over the weekend.

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Bam –

This is a good base to build on for Claudio's update due back to Josh and I NLT 1000 EST on Monday, January 6, 2019. Thanks

Best, Brett

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue. Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. *Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:*

1. LE Engagement: ASH Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) agent has spoken with Sheriffs from Washington, Lincoln, and Yuma Counties to gather additional information and provide assistance. From this interaction, we have learned that reports have been received from both law enforcement and local citizens with Washington County Sheriff (b) (6), and his Deputy providing first-hand accounts. Each agency contacted advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. The activity reported occurs primarily between the hours of 1800 and 2200 MST and demonstrate the pattern of multiple "drones" flying a grid type pattern and remaining airborne for several hours at a time in less than optimum flying conditions (high winds and storm-like conditions). The number of drones reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length. Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous. All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights. They have not been described as operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger. Reports are extending in a southerly direction with activity continuing in the original two counties. Lincoln County is the latest county to report activity.

—Since the reports are now in the national news, the sheriffs and other law enforcement have been inundated with calls. Law Enforcement has been consistent in stating that no Colorado criminal codes have been violated, and there is no confirmation that these observables are UAS.

—The Sheriffs are having a Conference next Monday in Lynnwood, CO. FAA, DHS, and FBI will attend the Conference and work with the Local Law Enforcement on training and education as well as additional investigative actions.

— No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.

—The two leading potential explanations point to possible survey work:

- 1) A new pipeline has been proposed in the Julesburg Basin, an area northeast Colorado on the Colorado/Nebraska border and the counties where the sightings have taken place are adjacent to that basin; and
- 2) Colorado recently enacted more strict EPA-related laws leaving some to speculate that the aircraft are conducting IR surveillance for gas leak detection.

—FAA suggested flying a helo asset in the area of the observed operations. Local LE will conduct such operations tonight and Monday.

—FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

2. DOD Engagement: NORTHCOM/NORAD has been contacted and does not have any information, other than they are aware of the reports.

3. Air Traffic and UAS Office Checks: ATO System Operations indicated they have not given any authorizations matching this area. The Western Service Center reported they have no "swarm" COAs for that area and are not aware of any special DoD missions of this nature. There are no Part 107's approvals for this type of operation.

—Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.

4. GA Airport engagement: FAA Airports District Offices that cover these areas have contacted GA airports in the vicinity of the reported UAS flights to make sure they are aware of them, that they brief pilots, and that pilots/airport authorities call LE and FAA if they see anything of significance.

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safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

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- We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).
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We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O)
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Josh,
Senator Gardner wants to have a call with Steve on the drone sightings today. Can I get updates about the LE op, FBI deployment, and anything else NLT 1430 TODAY?

Use the update below as base talking points. Thanks!

R/
Angela

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue. Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. *Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:*

1. **LE Engagement:** ASH Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) agent has spoken with Sheriffs from Washington, Lincoln, and Yuma Counties to gather additional information and provide assistance. From this interaction, we have learned that reports have been received from both law enforcement and local citizens with Washington County Sheriff, (b) (6), and his Deputy providing first-hand accounts. Each agency contacted advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. The activity reported occurs primarily between the hours of 1800 and 2200 MST and demonstrate the pattern of multiple "drones" flying a grid type pattern and remaining airborne for several hours at a time in less than optimum flying conditions (high winds and storm-like conditions). The number of drones reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length. Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous. All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights. They have not been described as operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger. Reports are extending in a southerly direction with activity continuing in the original two counties. Lincoln County is the latest county to report activity.

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2) Colorado recently enacted more strict EPA-related laws leaving some to speculate that the aircraft are conducting IR surveillance for gas leak detection.

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—FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

2. **DOD Engagement:** NORTHCOM/NORAD has been contacted and does not have any information, other than they are aware of the reports.

3. **Air Traffic and UAS Office Checks:** ATO System Operations indicated they have not given any authorizations matching this area. The Western Service Center reported they have no “swarm” COAs for that area and are not aware of any special DoD missions of this nature. There are no Part 107’s approvals for this type of operation.

—Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.

4. **GA Airport engagement:** FAA Airports District Offices that cover these areas have contacted GA airports in the vicinity of the reported UAS flights to make sure they are aware of them, that they brief pilots, and that pilots/airport authorities call LE and FAA if they see anything of significance.

5. **Congressional interest:** As the press reporting increases and the persistence of these reports extends, we are getting inquiries from congressional members on what FAA is doing. Below is what we are preparing to send them:

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- We remain engaged with local law enforcement in the affected areas and are participating in a meeting with several sheriffs’ offices next week to share information about how to react if they see UAS and/or the UAS operator(s) as well as discuss other investigative leads.
- We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).
- We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

R/
Angela

Angela H. Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
Federal Aviation Administration
Office: 202-267-7576
Mobile: (b) (6)

RE: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
Cc: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 22:51:57 -0500

Josh,

Here is what transpired since Friday evening. It was a relatively quiet weekend.

Three, two person teams performed surveillance in Yuma and Morgan County from 1730 to 2230mst on 1/3. No sightings were reported. Note* A tweet from Senator Gardner earlier that day stated, "I just spoke with the Administrator of the FAA – they have people on the ground and are working with federal law enforcement to track down the operator".

Calls have been made to dozens of energy sector companies (gas, oil, and electric) throughout the region all have denied operating UAS.

No new counties have reported activity and activity has been considerably down with very few Counties reporting activity. Reporting is isolated to a single county vice multiple counties, which took place earlier in the week. The calls local sheriff offices are receiving have not been consistent with what has previously been reported. Mostly single aircraft sighting, not the large swarms with a reported larger "mothership". However, LEAP is aware of 3 reports in different counties of swarms up of up to 10. Two took place on Friday, one on Saturday and zero on Sunday. All were citizen reports and not validated by law enforcement. Deputies have been responding throughout the weekend to sightings, in many cases deputies have not been able to observe the activity.

Several independent private websites have been developed to track reporting. The accuracy of the reporting has not been validated by LEAP.

Blog and social media posts suggests a growing sentiment justifying shooting "drones" down. Nebraska State Patrol responded to a sighting in McCook upon arrive Officer reported shots being fired at what was believed to be a UAS.

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 05, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

Bam, I just ran into Jay Merkle, head of AUS, in the grocery store. I will be asked to update everyone at the UAS Hot Topics meeting at 0900 my time on Monday. Anything you might have from the weekend, can you push my way Monday morning first thing? Thanks and definitely looking forward to hearing how Mondays meeting goes. Ian should be there as well. Safe travels,
Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(b) (6) (o)
(GOVT cell)
(cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 5, 2020, at 10:31, Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov> wrote:

Thank you. At the airport heading to Denver.

R,
Bam

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: [REDACTED]

WARNING: This document may be LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE (LES) & may be designated FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It may contain information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) & controlled under the provisions of 49 CFR 1520. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 5, 2020, at 7:02 AM, Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov> wrote:

Just in case you did not see

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
202-267-7980 (o)
(b) (6) (GOVT cell)
(cell)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: FAA Incident Notifications <Alert-1784281-290494861@athocalerts.com>
Date: January 5, 2020 at 09:28:28 EST
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

PRELIM INFO FROM FAA OPS: WHITNEY, NE/UAS INCIDENT/LATE REPORT 12/4-2030M/E-ROC ADVISED DAWES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORTED 10 LARGE UAS APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES SOUTH OF WHITNEY, NE TRAVELING SW BOUND ABOVE 400 FEET. UAS HAD RED, GREEN, AND WHITE LIGHTS TRAVELING AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED. NO IMPACT TO OPERATIONS REPORTED. DEPUTY SHERIFF REPORTED INCIDENT, CONTACT INFO 308-615-9343. WOC 7-3333 EF/EC [HTTPS://WWW.CBSNEWS.COM/LIVE/VIDEO/20200105033920-MYSTERIOUS-DRONES-SPOTTED-IN-RURAL-COLORADO-AND-NEBRASKA-AT-NIGHT/](https://www.cbsnews.com/live/video/20200105033920-mysterious-drones-spotted-in-rural-colorado-and-nebraska-at-night/)

Published on: 01/05/2020 09:28:10 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) By: EON ENS Alert.

Sent By: Federal Aviation Administration

RE: Statement

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 22:59:20 -0500

Excellent, I like it!

This is another FAA outreach I sent Josh for when he briefs the administrator.

FAA has reached out to dozens of energy sector companies (gas, oil, and electric) throughout the region all have denied operating UAS.

We have also contacted the military throughout the region same results.

Not sure if any of that is relevant, just thought I would share.

See you in the morning,
Mike

From: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 05, 2020 7:03 PM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: Statement

Mike -

This is what I am planning to provide to media tomorrow. See you at 0700!

We take every drone-sighting report seriously. Multiple FAA divisions are working closely with federal, state and local stakeholders to try to determine whether the reported sightings in Colorado and Nebraska are drones and, if so, who is operating them and for what reason. The purpose of today's meeting was for the various agencies to share information and to discuss how we can most effectively collaborate in our efforts

To date, the FAA has undertaken a number of actions:

- We have contacted UAS test sites, drone companies, and companies that have received authorization to operate drones in these areas. To date, we have not been able to determine that any of these operators were the source of the reported drone flights.***
- We have contacted General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings; to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings; and to report any people they see operating drones on the ground.***
- We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to discuss potential ways they can assist in identifying who may be operating these aircraft.***

We will continue to collaborate closely with our safety and security partners at the federal, state and local levels on our identification efforts.

Ian Gregor
Public Affairs Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(424) 405-7007 (office)
(b) (6) (cell)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:

Twitter: @FAANews

Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration

Instagram: FAA

Re: Statement

From: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2020 23:05:58 -0500

Thanks!

Ian Gregor
Public Affairs Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(b) (6) (o)
(c)

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From: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 05, 2020 7:03 PM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: Statement

Mike -

This is what I am planning to provide to media tomorrow. See you at 0700!

We take every drone-sighting report seriously. Multiple FAA divisions are working closely with federal, state and local stakeholders to try to determine whether the reported sightings in Colorado and Nebraska are drones and, if so, who is operating them and for what reason. The purpose of today's meeting was for the various agencies to share information and to discuss how we can most effectively collaborate in our efforts

To date, the FAA has undertaken a number of actions:

- ***We have contacted UAS test sites, drone companies, and companies that have received authorization to operate drones in these areas. To date, we have not been able to determine that any of these operators were the source of the reported drone flights.***
- ***We have contacted General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings; to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings; and to report any people they see operating drones on the ground.***
- ***We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to discuss potential ways they can assist in***

identifying who may be operating these aircraft.

We will continue to collaborate closely with our safety and security partners at the federal, state and local levels on our identification efforts.

Ian Gregor
Public Affairs Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(424) 405-7007 (office)
(b) (6) (cell)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:

Twitter: @FAANews

Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration

Instagram: FAA

Re: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 07:00:16 -0500

Thanks Bam - great update.
Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration
Cell: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)
Office: (b) (6) 80
Sent from my iPad

On Jan 5, 2020, at 22:51, Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov> wrote:

Josh,

Here is what transpired since Friday evening. It was a relatively quiet weekend.

Three, two person teams performed surveillance in Yuma and Morgan County from 1730 to 2230mst on 1/3. No sightings were reported. Note* A tweet from Senator Gardner earlier that day stated, " I just spoke with the Administrator of the FAA – they have people on the ground and are working with federal law enforcement to track down the operator".

Calls have been made to dozens of energy sector companies (gas, oil, and electric) throughout the region all have denied operating UAS.

No new counties have reported activity and activity has been considerably down with very few Counties reporting activity. Reporting is isolated to a single county vice multiple counties, which took place earlier in the week. The calls local sheriff offices are receiving have not been consistent with what has previously been reported. Mostly single aircraft sighting, not the large swarms with a reported larger "mothership". However, LEAP is aware of 3 reports in different counties of swarms up of up to 10. Two took place on Friday, one on Saturday and zero on Sunday. All were citizen reports and not validated by law enforcement. Deputies have been responding throughout the weekend to sightings, in many cases deputies have not been able to observe the activity.

Several independent private websites have been developed to track reporting. The accuracy of the reporting has not been validated by LEAP.

Blog and social media posts suggests a growing sentiment justifying shooting "drones" down. Nebraska State Patrol responded to a sighting in McCook upon arrive Officer reported shots being fired at what was believed to be a UAS.

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 05, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

Bam, I just ran into Jay Merkle, head of AUS, in the grocery store. I will be asked to update everyone at the UAS Hot Topics meeting at 0900 my time on Monday. Anything you might have from the weekend, can you push my way Monday morning first thing? Thanks and definitely looking forward to hearing how Mondays meeting goes. Ian should be there as well. Safe travels,

Josh

Joshua Holtzman

Acting Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

202-267-7980 (o)

(b) (6) (GOVT cell)

(b) (6) (cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 5, 2020, at 10:31, Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov> wrote:

Thank you. At the airport heading to Denver.

R,

Bam

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent

Federal Aviation Administration

National Security Programs and Incident Response

Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830

Cell: (b) (6)

WARNING: This document may be LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE (LES) & may be designated FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It may contain information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) & controlled under the provisions of 49 CFR 1520. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 5, 2020, at 7:02 AM, Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov> wrote:

Just in case you did not see

Joshua Holtzman

Acting Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

202-267-7980 (o)

(b) (6) (GOVT cell)

(b) (6) (cell)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: FAA Incident Notifications <Alert-1784281-290494861@athocalerts.com>
Date: January 5, 2020 at 09:28:28 EST
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

WOC - UAS INCIDENT 01-04-2020

PRELIM INFO FROM FAA OPS: WHITNEY, NE/UAS INCIDENT/LATE REPORT 12/4-2030M/E-ROC ADVISED DAWES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORTED 10 LARGE UAS APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES SOUTH OF WHITNEY, NE TRAVELING SW BOUND ABOVE 400 FEET. UAS HAD RED, GREEN, AND WHITE LIGHTS TRAVELING AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED. NO IMPACT TO OPERATIONS REPORTED. DEPUTY SHERIFF REPORTED INCIDENT, CONTACT INFO 308-615-9343. WOC 7-3333 EF/EC [HTTPS://WWW.CBSNEWS.COM/LIVE/VIDEO/20200105033920-MYSTERIOUS-DRONES-SPOTTED-IN-RURAL-COLORADO-AND-NEBRASKA-AT-NIGHT/](https://www.cbsnews.com/live/video/20200105033920-mysterious-drones-spotted-in-rural-colorado-and-nebraska-at-night/)

Published on: 01/05/2020 09:28:10 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) By: EON ENS Alert.

Sent By: Federal Aviation Administration

RE: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

From: "Fedderson, Brett (FAA)" <brett.fedderson@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 08:27:09 -0500

Perfect. Thanks Bam!

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2020 10:52 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Fedderson@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Brett,

is what I have as of Sunday evening. I made some changes in addition to adding to new information and have highlighted them. Please call me (b) (6) if this isn't what we are looking for. I will be up early tomorrow 0500 mst. If we need to make changes.

R,
Bam

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue. Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:

1. LE Engagement: ASH Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) agent has spoken with Sheriffs from Washington, Lincoln, Yuma, Morgan, Sedgwick, Kit Carson, and Phillips Counties in Colorado and Kimball, Cheyenne, Deuel, Keith, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Red Willow, and Lincoln Counties in Nebraska to gather additional information and provide assistance. In this interaction, we have learned that reports have been received from both law enforcement and local citizens with Washington County Sheriff, (b) (6), and his Deputy providing first-hand accounts. Each agency contacted advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. The activity reports primarily between the hours of 1800 and 2200 MST and demonstrate the pattern of multiple "drones" flying a grid type pattern and remaining airborne for several hours at a time in less than optimum flying conditions (high winds and storm-like conditions). The number of UAS reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length. Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous. All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights. They have not been described as operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger. Reports are extending in a southerly direction with activity continuing in the original two counties. Lincoln County is the latest county to report activity.

—Since the reports are now in the national news, the sheriffs and other law enforcement have been inundated with calls. Law Enforcement has been consistent in stating that no Colorado criminal codes have been violated, and there is no confirmation that these observables are UAS.

—The Sheriffs are having a Conference next Monday in Brush, CO. FAA, DHS, and FBI will attend the Conference and work with the Local Law Enforcement on training and education as well as additional investigative actions. Meeting has generated local, national, and international attention. FAA Public Affairs Los Angeles will be at the meeting in anticipation of media presence.

—No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.

—The two leading potential explanations point to possible survey work:

- 1) A new pipeline has been proposed in the Julesburg Basin, an area northeast Colorado on the Colorado/Nebraska border and the counties where the sightings have taken place are adjacent to that basin; and
- 2) Colorado recently enacted more strict EPA-related laws leaving some to speculate that the aircraft are conducting IR surveillance for gas leak detection. Calls have been made to dozens of energy sector companies (gas, oil, and electric) throughout the region all have denied operating UAS.

—FAA suggested flying a helo asset in the area of the observed operations. Local LE will conduct such operations tonight and Monday. No operation were conducted using rotary or fixed winged aircraft. A flight has been proposed for Monday evening. A fixed wing aircraft with sensors from Colorado Fire is scheduled to fly in the area and will be working with Colorado State Patrol. Detail to be confirmed at the meeting in Brush on Monday.

—FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

2. DOD Engagement: NORTHCOM/NORAD has been contacted and does not have any information, other than they are aware of the reports. F.E. Warren AFB (Wyoming) and Colorado National Guard J2 intends on personnel to the meeting on 1/6. According to Sheriff (b) (6) (meeting organizer) DOD has not been invited to participate.

3. Air Traffic and UAS Office Checks: ATO System Operations indicated they have not given any authorizations matching this area. The Western Service Center reported they have no "swarm" COAs for that area and are not aware of any special DoD missions of this nature. There are no Part 107's approvals for this type of operation.

—Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.

4. GA Airport engagement: FAA Airports District Offices that cover these areas have contacted GA airports in the vicinity of the reported UAS flights to make sure they are aware of them, that they brief pilots, and that pilots/airport authorities call LE and FAA if they see anything of significance.

5. Congressional interest: As the press reporting increases and the persistence of these reports extends, we are getting inquiries from congressional members on what FAA is doing. Below is what we are preparing to send them:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

• We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the UAS operator(s) on the ground.

• We remain engaged with local law enforcement in the affected areas and are participating in a meeting with several sheriffs' offices next week to share information about how to react if they see UAS and/or the UAS operator(s) as well as discuss other investigative leads.

• We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).

• We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.

6. FSDO Surveillance Operation: Three, two person teams performed surveillance in Yuma and Morgan County from 1730 to 2230mst on 1/3. No sightings

were reported. Note* A tweet from Senator Gardner earlier that day stated, " I just spoke with the Administrator of the FAA – they have people on the ground and are working with federal law enforcement to track down the operator".

7. Sightings over the weekend: No new counties have reported activity and activity has been considerably down with very few Counties reporting activity. Reporting is isolated to a single county vice multiple counties, which took place earlier in the week. The calls local sheriff offices are receiving have not been consistent with what has previously been reported. Mostly single aircraft sightings, not the large swarms with a reported larger "mothership". However, LEAP is aware of 3 reports in different counties of swarms up of up to 10. Two took place on Friday, one on Saturday and zero on Sunday. All were citizen reports and not validated by law enforcement. Deputies have been responding throughout the weekend to sightings, in many cases deputies have not been able to observe the activity.

8. Activity reporting: Several independent private websites have been developed to track reporting. The accuracy of the reporting has not been validated by LEAP.

9. Public reaction: Blog and social media posts suggests a growing sentiment justifying shooting "drones" down. Nebraska State Patrol responded to a sighting in McCook upon arrival Officer reported shots being fired at what was believed to be a UAS. No reports of shots fired over the weekend.

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 10:59 AM

To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>

Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>

Subject: FW: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Bam –

This is a good base to build on for Claudio's update due back to Josh and I NLT 1000 EST on Monday, January 6, 2019. Thanks

Best, Brett

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue. Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. *Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:*

1. **LE Engagement:** ASH Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) agent has spoken with Sheriffs from Washington, Lincoln, and Yuma Counties to gather additional information and provide assistance. From this interaction, we have learned that reports have been received from both law enforcement and local citizens with Washington County Sheriff, (b) (6) and his Deputy providing first-hand accounts. Each agency contacted advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. The activity reported occurs primarily between the hours of 1800 and 2200 MST and demonstrate the pattern of multiple "drones" flying a grid type pattern and remaining airborne for several hours at a time in less than optimum flying conditions (high winds and storm-like conditions). The number of drones reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length. Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous. All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights. They have not been described as operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger. Reports are extending in a southerly direction with activity continuing in the original two counties. Lincoln County is the latest county to report activity.

—Since the reports are now in the national news, the sheriffs and other law enforcement have been inundated with calls. Law Enforcement has been consistent in stating that no Colorado criminal codes have been violated, and there is no confirmation that these observables are UAS.

—The Sheriffs are having a Conference next Monday in Lynnwood, CO. FAA, DHS, and FBI will attend the Conference and work with the Local Law Enforcement on training and education as well as additional investigative actions.

— No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.

—The two leading potential explanations point to possible survey work:

1) A new pipeline has been proposed in the Julesburg Basin, an area northeast Colorado on the Colorado/Nebraska border and the counties where the sightings have taken place are adjacent to that basin; and

2) Colorado recently enacted more strict EPA-related laws leaving some to speculate that the aircraft are conducting IR surveillance for gas leak detection.

—FAA suggested flying a helo asset in the area of the observed operations. Local LE will conduct such operations tonight and Monday.

—FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

2. **DOD Engagement:** NORTHCOM/NORAD has been contacted and does not have any information, other than they are aware of the reports.

3. **Air Traffic and UAS Office Checks:** ATO System Operations indicated they have not given any authorizations matching this area. The Western Service Center reported they have no "swarm" COAs for that area and are not aware of any special DoD missions of this nature. There are no Part 107's approvals for this type of operation.

—Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.

4. **GA Airport engagement:** FAA Airports District Offices that cover these areas have contacted GA airports in the vicinity of the reported UAS flights to make sure they are aware of them, that they brief pilots, and that pilots/airport authorities call LE and FAA if they see anything of significance.

5. **Congressional interest:** As the press reporting increases and the persistence of these reports extends, we are getting inquiries from congressional members on what FAA is doing. Below is what we are preparing to send them:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

- We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the UAS operator(s) on the ground.
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- We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).
- We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O)
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Josh,
Senator Gardner wants to have a call with Steve on the drone sightings today. Can I get updates about the LE op, FBI deployment, and anything else NLT 1430 TODAY?

Use the update below as base talking points. Thanks!

R/
Angela

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue. Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. *Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:*

1. **LE Engagement:** ASH Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) agent has spoken with Sheriffs from Washington, Lincoln, and Yuma Counties to gather additional information and provide assistance. From this interaction, we have learned that reports have been received from both law enforcement and local citizens with Washington County Sheriff, (b) (6), and his Deputy providing first-hand accounts. Each agency contacted advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. The activity reported occurs primarily between the hours of 1800 and 2200 MST and demonstrate the pattern of multiple "drones" flying a grid type pattern and remaining airborne for several hours at a time in less than optimum flying conditions (high winds and storm-like conditions). The number of drones reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length. Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous. All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights. They have not been described as operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger. Reports are extending in a southerly direction with activity continuing in the original two counties. Lincoln County is the latest county to report activity.

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—FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

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3. Air Traffic and UAS Office Checks: ATO System Operations indicated they have not given any authorizations matching this area. The Western Service Center reported they have no “swarm” COAs for that area and are not aware of any special DoD missions of this nature. There are no Part 107’s approvals for this type of operation.

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We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

R/
Angela

Angela H. Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
Federal Aviation Administration
Office: 202-267-7576
Mobile: (b) (6)

INFO for Claudio: Update of Colorado/Nebraska Drone Sightings

From: "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>
To: "Manno, Claudio (FAA)" <claudio.manno@faa.gov>
Cc: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Owermohle, Kurt (FAA)" <kurt.owermohle@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Thompson, Lesha (FAA)" <lesha.thompson@faa.gov>, "Roberson, Jennifer (FAA)" <jennifer.roberson@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>, "Anderson, John A (FAA)" <john.a.anderson@faa.gov>, "Few, Debra (FAA)" <debra.few@faa.gov>, "Brandon, Skip (FAA)" <skip.brandon@faa.gov>, "Fortney, Henry (FAA)" <henry.fortney@faa.gov>, "Irvin, Mickey (FAA)" <mickey.irvin@faa.gov>, "Heibeck, Wayne (FAA)" <wayne.heibeck@faa.gov>, "Edner, Sean E (FAA)" <sean.e.edner@faa.gov>, "Soltys, Elizabeth (FAA)" <elizabeth.soltys@faa.gov>, "Gibbs, Meredith (FAA)" <meredith.gibbs@faa.gov>, 'ASH-AXE-U00-ONLY-ALL <ash-axe-u00-only-all@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 08:46:52 -0500

Claudio –

In advance of your Management Board meeting and any engagements with the Administrator, Bam has provided the below summary updating you on efforts to identify the drones/operators flying over Colorado and Nebraska.

BL: Bam will represent the FAA at a law enforcement only meeting today with several sheriff's departments and FBI. Bam will provide a detailed read out of today's meeting tomorrow.

- No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.
- Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.
- FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

Best, Brett

BRETT J. FEDDERSEN | Acting Director for National Security Programs and Incident Response | Federal Aviation Administration | 202.267.8075

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue. Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:

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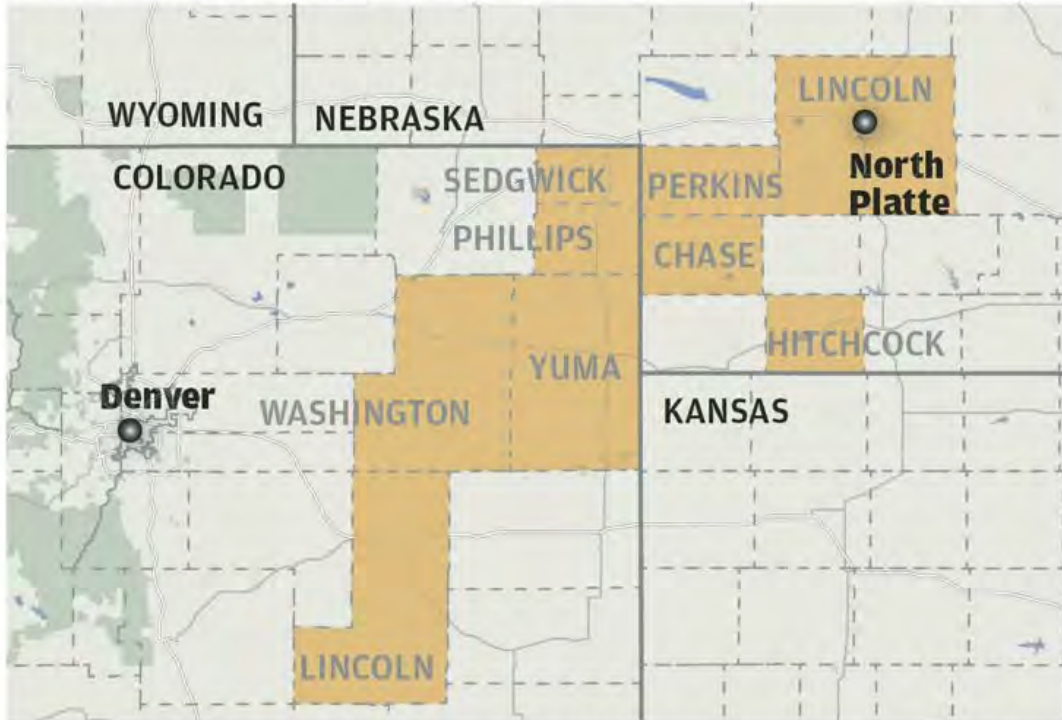
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Drones on the border

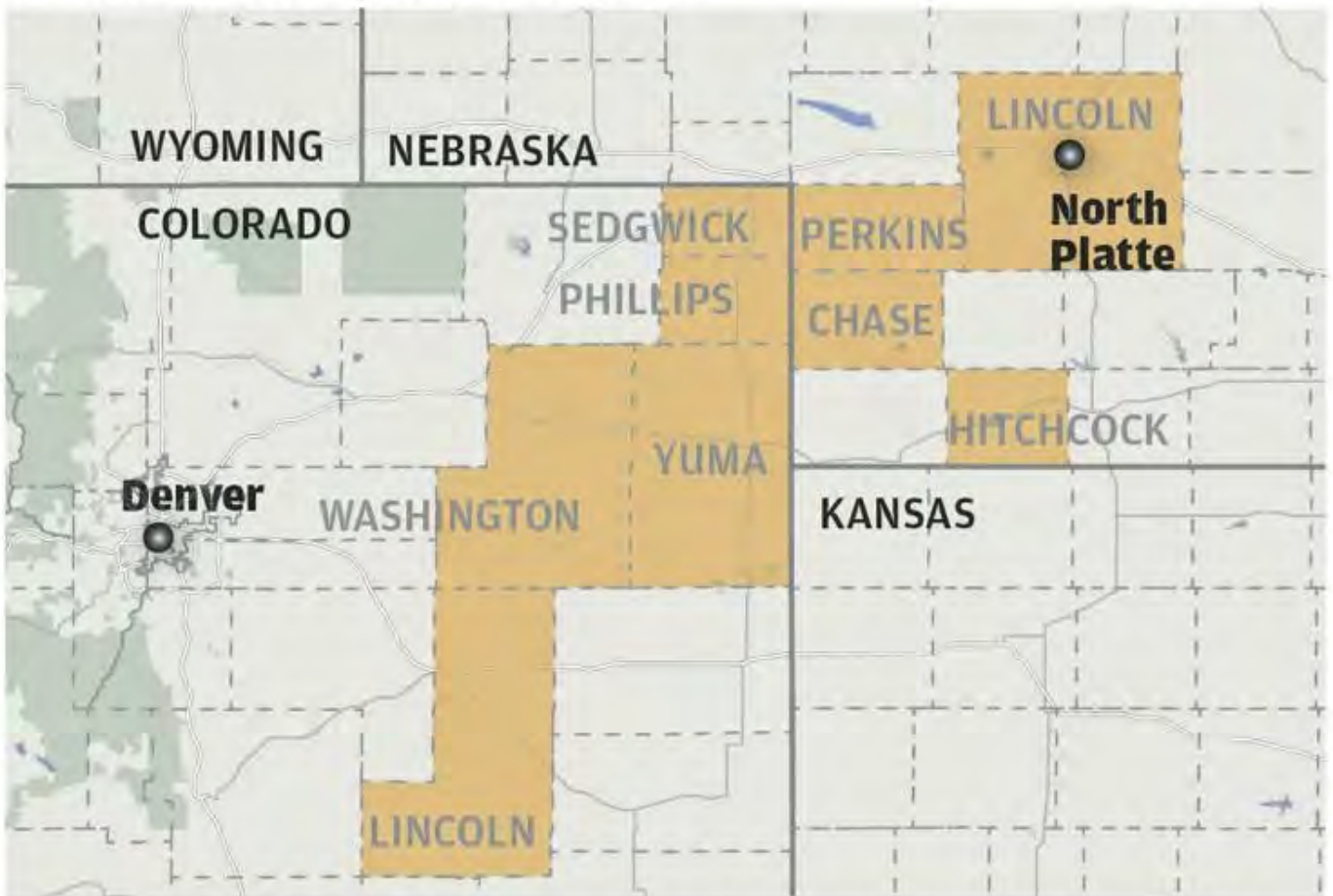
Officials have reported mysterious nighttime drone sightings in five Colorado and four Nebraska counties.



maps4news.com/©HERE, Lee Enterprises graphic

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maps4news.com/©HERE, Lee Enterprises graphic

RE: INFO for Claudio: Update of Colorado/Nebraska Drone Sightings

From: "Manno, Claudio (FAA)" <claudio.manno@faa.gov>
To: "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>
Cc: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Owermohle, Kurt (FAA)" <kurt.owermohle@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Thompson, Leshia (FAA)" <lesha.thompson@faa.gov>, "Roberson, Jennifer (FAA)" <jennifer.roberson@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>, "Anderson, John A (FAA)" <john.a.anderson@faa.gov>, "Few, Debra (FAA)" <debra.few@faa.gov>, "Brandon, Skip (FAA)" <skip.brandon@faa.gov>, "Fortney, Henry (FAA)" <henry.fortney@faa.gov>, "Irvin, Mickey (FAA)" <mickey.irvin@faa.gov>, "Heibeck, Wayne (FAA)" <wayne.heibeck@faa.gov>, "Edner, Sean E (FAA)" <sean.e.edner@faa.gov>, "Soltys, Elizabeth (FAA)" <elizabeth.soltys@faa.gov>, "Gibbs, Meredith (FAA)" <meredith.gibbs@faa.gov>, 'ASH-AXE-U00-ONLY-ALL <ash-axe-u00-only-all@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 08:50:41 -0500

Great! Thank you. claudio

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Manno, Claudio (FAA) <Claudio.Manno@faa.gov>
Cc: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Owermohle, Kurt (FAA) <kurt.owermohle@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Thompson, Leshia (FAA) <lesha.thompson@faa.gov>; Roberson, Jennifer (FAA) <jennifer.roberson@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>; Anderson, John A (FAA) <John.A.Anderson@faa.gov>; Few, Debra (FAA) <Debra.Few@faa.gov>; Brandon, Skip (FAA) <skip.brandon@faa.gov>; Fortney, Henry (FAA) <Henry.Fortney@faa.gov>; Irvin, Mickey (FAA) <Mickey.Irvin@faa.gov>; Heibeck, Wayne (FAA) <wayne.heibeck@faa.gov>; Edner, Sean E (FAA) <Sean.E.Edner@faa.gov>; Soltys, Elizabeth (FAA) <elizabeth.soltys@faa.gov>; Gibbs, Meredith (FAA) <Meredith.Gibbs@faa.gov>; 'ASH-AXE-U00-ONLY-ALL <ASH-AXE-U00-ONLY-ALL@faa.gov>
Subject: INFO for Claudio: Update of Colorado/Nebraska Drone Sightings

Claudio –

In advance of your Management Board meeting and any engagements with the Administrator, Bam has provided the below summary updating you on efforts to identify the drones/operators flying over Colorado and Nebraska.

BL: Bam will represent the FAA at a law enforcement only meeting today with several sheriff's departments and FBI. Bam will provide a detailed read out of today's meeting tomorrow.

- No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.
- Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.
- FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

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RE: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

From: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
To: "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 08:50:44 -0500

Bam and Craig,

Thank you for all of your hard work. It is greatly appreciated.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**

(b) (6) (office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(b) (6) (fax)

WARNING: This document may be LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE (LES) and may be designated FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It may contain information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and controlled under the provisions of 49 CFR 1520. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Perfect. Thanks Bam!

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2020 10:52 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
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Brett,

This is what I have as of Sunday evening. I made some changes in addition to adding to new information and have highlighted them. Please call me 310-363-9435 if this isn't what we are looking for. I will be up early tomorrow 0500 mst. If we need to make changes.

R,
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From: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 10:59 AM

To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>

Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>

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—The Sheriffs are having a Conference next Monday in Lynnwood, CO. FAA, DHS, and FBI will attend the Conference and work with the Local Law Enforcement on training and education as well as additional investigative actions.

— No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.

—The two leading potential explanations point to possible survey work:

1) A new pipeline has been proposed in the Julesburg Basin, an area northeast Colorado on the Colorado/Nebraska border and the counties where the sightings have taken place are adjacent to that basin; and

2) Colorado recently enacted more strict EPA-related laws leaving some to speculate that the aircraft are conducting IR surveillance for gas leak

detection.

—FAA suggested flying a helo asset in the area of the observed operations. Local LE will conduct such operations tonight and Monday.

—FAA has engaged FBI locally and in DC on the possible deployment of their detection assets in an effort to locate the operators. FBI is internally coordinating on those options.

2. DOD Engagement: NORTHCOM/NORAD has been contacted and does not have any information, other than they are aware of the reports.

3. Air Traffic and UAS Office Checks: ATO System Operations indicated they have not given any authorizations matching this area. The Western Service Center reported they have no “swarm” COAs for that area and are not aware of any special DoD missions of this nature. There are no Part 107’s approvals for this type of operation.

—Five of the seven UAS test sites have reported back that they are not involved in these operations. We are waiting to hear back from two others.

4. GA Airport engagement: FAA Airports District Offices that cover these areas have contacted GA airports in the vicinity of the reported UAS flights to make sure they are aware of them, that they brief pilots, and that pilots/airport authorities call LE and FAA if they see anything of significance.

5. Congressional interest: As the press reporting increases and the persistence of these reports extends, we are getting inquiries from congressional members on what FAA is doing. Below is what we are preparing to send them:

At this time, we are supporting Federal, state, and local stakeholders in identifying the operator(s) of the UAS reported in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. The FAA understands the interest in identifying the operator(s) and mitigating any potential risks these UAS could pose to the safety of other aircraft and people and property on the ground. We have taken a number of actions with those concerns in mind.

- We have connected with General Aviation (GA) airports in the affected counties to ensure they are aware of the sightings and to ask the pilots using their airports to be cautious and to report sightings or if they see what may be the UAS operator(s) on the ground.
- We remain engaged with local law enforcement in the affected areas and are participating in a meeting with several sheriffs’ offices next week to share information about how to react if they see UAS and/or the UAS operator(s) as well as discuss other investigative leads.
- We are in contact with federal law enforcement and national security partners to potentially utilize assets that may help to locate the UAS operator(s).
- We have contacted entities (UAS companies, pipeline operators, colleges, etc.) that have received permission to operate UAS in these areas, but to date, none of these approved operators have been determined to be the source of the UAS operations.

We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Stubblefield, Angela H (FAA) <Angela.H.Stubblefield@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: URGENT--need updates by 1430 TODAY on CO/NE drone situation

Josh,
Senator Gardner wants to have a call with Steve on the drone sightings today. Can I get updates about the LE op, FBI deployment, and anything else NLT 1430 TODAY?

Use the update below as base talking points. Thanks!

R/
Angela

Multiple FAA offices have been working together to investigate this issue . Here are the actions FAA has taken and what we have found to date. *Please note the information about LE engagement is sensitive and should not be protected:*

1. **LE Engagement:** ASH Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) agent has spoken with Sheriffs from Washington, Lincoln, and Yuma Counties to gather additional information and provide assistance. From this interaction, we have learned that reports have been received from both law enforcement and local citizens with Washington County Sheriff, (b) (6), and his Deputy providing first-hand accounts. Each agency contacted advised at least one deputy has witnessed the activity. The activity reported occurs primarily between the hours of 1800 and 2200 MST and demonstrate the pattern of multiple “drones” flying a grid type pattern and remaining airborne for several hours at a time in less than optimum flying conditions (high winds and storm-like conditions). The number of drones reported operating at one range from between 2 and 16 and appear to be approximately 6 feet width and length. Flight time has been 2 to 3 hours continuous. All reports indicate flight is between 200 and 300 feet. However several people interviewed stated it was hard to determine height due to the darkness and lack of clouds. Other sightings lights were also reported to be either flashing or steady white, red, or green. One report mentioned flashing blue lights. They have not been described as operating in a manner that place persons on the ground in danger. Reports are extending in a southerly direction with activity continuing in the original two counties. Lincoln County is the latest county to report activity.

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—The Sheriffs are having a Conference next Monday in Lynnwood, CO. FAA, DHS, and FBI will attend the Conference and work with the Local Law Enforcement on training and education as well as additional investigative actions.

— No operators have been identified yet, but LEAP and FSDOs continue to research possible operator options.

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- 1) A new pipeline has been proposed in the Julesburg Basin, an area northeast Colorado on the Colorado/Nebraska border and the counties where the sightings have taken place are adjacent to that basin; and
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We will continue working with local, state, and federal stakeholders to determine the source of these UAS operations and will update you as we know more.

R/

Angela

Angela H. Stubblefield
Chief of Staff
Federal Aviation Administration
Office: 202-267-7576
Mobile: (b) (6)

RE: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

From: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 09:01:16 -0500

Good Morning Bam-

Happy New Year!

I'm back in the saddle please let me know if you need anything from me regarding KS or NE.

Thanks,

Manny Martinez Jr.
Special Agent, Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)
Office: 816-329-3717 Mobile: (b) (6)

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From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

Excellent point Gio. The reports the FAA has not been the contacted until after the fact.... The FTW ROC received two reports last night.

From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

Manny –

Just FYI, from 12/25/19 to 1/3/2020 Nebraska had only 2 UAS incidents reported on ITS and were unfounded. No ITS entries for Kansas.

Gio

From: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

Bam-

Thanks for the updated information. I'll follow up with you next week.

Regards,

Manny Martinez Jr.
Special Agent
(b) (6)

On Jan 3, 2020, at 10:47 AM, Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov> wrote:

Gents,

I have been working this issue since 12/26, which started in NE Colorado. The sightings have spread to SW Nebraska and Western Kansas. It is believed some of the recent sightings in CO, NE, and KS have been hysteria reporting, because this has gotten national media attention. Attached is for your situational awareness and I will include you from here on out. Since I have been working this from ground zero I would like all information to flow through me so we have one LEAP voice to leadership. I will make sure you are included from here on out. This issue has a lot of moving part, if you have any questions please give me a call.

Bam

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA)
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:20 PM
To: Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <Leesa.J.Papier@faa.gov>
Cc: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Turner, Guy (FAA) <Guy.Turner@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Subject: NE Colorado Drone Detailed Report 1

Please call if anything needs explaining. I have spent a vast majority of today trying to run this down.

R,
Bam
<Colorado Drone Update Details1.docx>

RE: UAS News 1/2

From: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 09:01:56 -0500

Social Media/Internet update.

The DRONES over northeastern COLORADO Facebook page has grown from 200 to 1900+ over the past week. They are posting some videos and lots of "theories"

A new webpage has showed up called nightdrones.net "a webpage to capture information about the Colorado/Nebraska drone sightings." It allows people to post their sightings and how on map, post videos etc.

"We are Colorado residents who want to know about the mystery drones.

If all the government agencies can't figure it out, we the people can figure it out by coordinating together.

Reach us at nightdrones@gmail.com if you need to reach us directly."

I know CIAC was looking for a means to track and plot all of these sightings but not sure where that is at.

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Incident Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Bam/Craig/Geo: Just got asked if we have any updates by the FAA COS – The Administrator now has a telcon with Senator Gardner from Colorado later this afternoon. Anything you have collected since yesterday would be appreciated. Bam, we will want to add in the FSDO plan for this evening – which FSDO and where in Colorado were they intending to operate? Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O) 2

(M) (b) (6)

(M)

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Please be advised that Gio is working with Bam concerning the drone incidents. Bam will take the lead as to any briefing that occur.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(cell)

(b) (6)

781-238-7716 (fax)

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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Cc: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Pamela,

As of DEC 25, 2019 to JAN 3, 2020 Nebraska had 2 UAS entries in ITS which were unfounded and No ITS entries for Kansas. I advised BAM to have NE Law Enforcement Agencies and KS Law Enforcement Agencies to contact me if they receive any reports and I will follow-up and provide BAM with an update.

BAM will be taking lead of this incident to report all matters to HQ.

Regards,

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Gio,

Thank you. Please check with Mike Bumberger (b) (6).

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Good Morning Pamela,

I will inquire about this and respond promptly.

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

It appears that all but Shawn are out of the office. I sent several emails to Manny regarding the drone incidents in Nebraska. This is a very hot topic. Mike Bumberger is working on the drone incidents in his AOR with the assistance of Craig Burns. **Action and Response from someone would be greatly appreciated!!**

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800
781-238-7703 (office)**

(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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From: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:54 AM
To: 'AOC-UASnooze' <AOC-UASnooze@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Mysterious drones are flying around the Midwest, Great Plains and no one has answers

USA TODAY, [Adrianna Rodriguez](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Local and federal authorities are investigating confirmed reports of mysterious drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska that appeared in the night sky earlier this week.

Sheriff's offices in Lincoln, Washington and Sedgwick counties have been getting calls this week about the unknown winged devices after initial reports came out of Phillips and Yuma counties, sheriffs said.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot wingspans and fly between 7 and 10 p.m. in grid-like patterns 150 to 200 feet in the air in groups of six to 10, the [Denver Post](#) reported.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs [said in a Facebook post](#) Tuesday that the drones are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government, however, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Forces Command

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office said it doesn't have jurisdiction over that airspace and shooting it out of the sky could break federal laws because drones are recognized as aircrafts.

Combs said on Facebook that local sheriff's offices, police departments and federal government agencies have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 6 to develop a plan to identify who or what is controlling these drones.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are," he wrote. "I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now."

'Fly higher and soar proudly': [Trump administration pushes state, local governments to experiment with drones to spur industry](#)

'Never, ever try to shoot at a drone': [Neighborhoods buzz with complaints over pesky drones](#)

Amazon, Paragon Geophysical Services, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Colorado Department of Transportation and [UAV Recon](#) have all denied connections to the drones, according to the Denver Post.

In an emailed statement to the Denver Post Monday, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the agency will be proposing a rule change that would allow law enforcement and federal security agencies to remotely identify drones that fly through their jurisdictions.

According to [the FAA website](#), more than 1.5 million drones are registered with the FAA as of Dec. 10, 2019.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/01/02/nebraska-colorado-drone-sightings-puzzle-midwest-government-agencies/2793815001/>

Drones flying in rural Colorado and Nebraska have residents freaking out. No one knows who's behind them

CNN, Nicole Chavez and Jamiel Lynch, Jan. 1, 2020

Mysterious drones have been flying over Colorado and Nebraska in recent weeks and authorities can't figure out who's behind the aircraft.

Deputies have spotted more than 16 unmanned drones flying in northeast Colorado after authorities received multiple reports of drone sightings last month, the sheriff's offices in Colorado's Yuma and Phillips counties said.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor told CNN that multiple FAA divisions and government agencies are investigating reports of drones in Colorado and Nebraska.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs said in a Facebook post Tuesday it appears the drones were staying at least 150-200 feet away from buildings and people and are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government.

The aircraft, Combs said, are operating within federal guidelines but are making residents "very nervous and anxious."

"People do not like the unknown as it upsets the balance of our lives," Combs wrote.

Yuma and Phillips county officials have said they don't believe the drones are malicious in nature.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are. I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now. All I can say is don't live your life in the fear of the unknown," the sheriff wrote.

Several agencies are expected to be attending a meeting about the drones incident on Monday, Combs said.

Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said he is closely monitoring the situation.

"I've been in contact with the FAA regarding the heavy drone activity in Eastern Colorado and I'm encouraged that they've opened a full investigation to learn the source and purpose of the drones," he [tweeted Tuesday](#).

The incidents come as the [FAA proposed new rules](#) that will require most drones to use remote ID technology that will allow the FAA, law enforcement and federal security agencies to identify drones flying in their jurisdiction.

Nearly 1.5 million drones and 160,000 remote pilots are registered with the FAA, [the agency said](#).

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/01/us/colorado-nebraska-drones-faa-trnd/index.html>

Drone risks causing sky-high headaches for insurers

Insurance Business America, Bethan Moorcraft, Jan. 2, 2020

A recreational drone pilot has been fined US\$20,000 after he lost control of his drone while flying it illegally near McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. In June of 2018, pilot Rueben Burciaga lost control of his DJI Phantom 3 drone while operating it in Class B airspace – a no-go zone surrounding the nation's busiest airports. The drone then drifted more than two miles towards the international airport before landing next to an active runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) slapped Burciaga with a hefty \$20,000 fine in November 2019 for committing "a litany of serious violations" and flying his drone "carelessly and recklessly". The FAA added that the incident could have turned out much worse. FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor said: "An incident like this could've resulted in a plane hitting the drone or in disruption of airport operations or in injuries to people walking on the strip if it had crashed there. It was very fortunate that it ended up crashing where it did and didn't cause any damage or injury."

People operating drones where they shouldn't be is just one of the challenging risks that aviation insurers face in the booming drone market. While the Burciaga case was one of carelessness and recklessness, insurers are well aware of the potential for bad actors to operate drones with criminal intent or for terrorism.

"It's a risk we're watching very closely," said James Van Meter, head of aviation programs & product development at AGCS. "Outside of North America, we've seen criminals use drones to deliver explosives. There was one case that involved a chemical weapon being strapped onto a drone. We are seeing low-end consumer drones being used for terrorist activity because they're very capable pieces of technology. They can be operated remotely, and they're sophisticated – even in the \$1,000 range."

The potential for drones to be used for malicious purposes has resulted in the rise of the so-called anti-drone industry. This is made up of companies focused on the detection of drones, and developing solutions to bring drones down safely if they're operating where they shouldn't be.

"Unauthorized operation of drones is a big issue at things like music festivals and concerts. People bring drones in their backpacks or they launch them from a nearby parking lot, and then they fly them illegally over crowds of people. That's certainly a risk to the innocent bystanders that are underneath these drones," Van Meter told *Insurance Business*. "As a result, we've seen big public events like music concerts or the Super Bowl, where the venues themselves are deploying anti-drone technology to keep drones away from airspace that they shouldn't be operating in."

A prime example of illegal drone operation would be the December 2018 London Gatwick drone crisis. During a three-day incident, which started on December 19, two drones were used to completely cripple the international airport, disrupting a total of 1,000 flights and affecting more than 140,000 passengers just before Christmas.

"The Gatwick incident shows that a drone operator can disrupt hundreds of thousands of people through malice," Van Meter commented. "This new anti-drone technology that's in development, and some people already have in use today, jams the drone's radio frequency, enabling the technology to take over the drone and bring it down to ground in a safe and controlled manner. Shooting a drone out of the sky is not a practical solution in most cases because it's not safe for whoever's underneath or nearby the drone."

One risk that insurers are aware of in the drone operation sphere is cyber spoofing. This is when criminals hack into the Wi-Fi signal or the radio signal that's being used to operate a drone and they interfere with its flight plan. Successful spoofing could result in another drone/airport situation but with even more severe, and possibly even fatal consequences. Luckily, that's a risk that Van Meter and the AGCS team have not seen come into fruition on the claims side - but they're not ruling it out as a possibility.

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/technology/drone-risks-causing-skyhigh-headaches-for-insurers-195522.aspx>

The New York Police Department has made use of surveillance drones at the Times Square New Year's Eve party for the first time in its history.

Commercial Drone Professional, Sam Lewis, Jan. 2, 2020

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The police were also using drone mitigation technology that could detect and disable other drones in the area.

NYPD currently utilises 14 DJI drones of three different kinds, all catered to a variety of tasks. Former NYPD detective Joe Giacalone explained: "When policing large crowds, [drones] can spot areas where trouble might be brewing."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/nypd-flies-in-surveillance-drones-for-times-square-bash/>

Proposed FAA Rule Would Kickstart New Economy For IDing Drones

OODALOOP.com, Jan. 2, 2020

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CAA ADDRESSES NERVOUS FIRT-TIME DRONE USERS

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With new registration laws and ever-increasing attention being paid to drones, the CAA said it expected many new drone users to be “apprehensive” about flying their new machine.

It said that new users could enjoy flying drones safely and legally by following some “simple” actions.

Its advice includes how to register with the CAA for owners of drones over 250 grams and details of its online education package, which requires users to pass a short multiple-choice test to get their flyer ID.

The CAA added that news users can access safety information in the [Dronecode](#), as this provides all the basic safety rules and advice that drone owners need to comply with.

Key to this is remaining below 400ft, keeping clear of aircraft and airfields, and not flying too close to people and property, it noted.

The CAA pointed out that there is a fine of up to £1,000 for anyone found guilty of not complying with the drone registration requirements.

UK airspace is some of the busiest in the world and even while keeping below the 400ft maximum flying height, users may well be sharing the skies with other aircraft, such as emergency helicopters.

The CAA acknowledged that there are a number of free apps that you can use to check the airspace in your location and recommends using one of the approved apps listed [HERE](#).

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Many new drone users may already be thinking about how use their skills commercially, such as for photography or building inspections.

The CAA stressed that new drone users considering that route must first gain a commercial approval from the CAA, as only people with that permission can make money from their drone flying.

Jonathan Nicholson, assistant director at the Civil Aviation Authority, said: “Getting a drone for Christmas is an exciting present, but drones aren’t toys and we understand that you may be apprehensive about how and where to fly it.

“This is also the first Christmas that drone registration has been required. So, our short handy set of tips is designed to get you into the air and enjoying your new drone as quickly and safely as possible.”

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/caa-addresses-nervous-first-time-drone-users/>

Thousands of drones fill skies above China to create giant running man

The Independent, [Anthony Cuthbertson](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Shanghai shunned traditional firework displays to celebrate the New Year, instead filling the skies with thousands of synchronised [drones](#).

Nearly 2,000 drones flew above China's largest city, creating giant spheres, text, and even a figure of a man that appeared to run across the skyline.

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It was achieved through vast programming efforts to coordinate the drones, rather than by individual drone pilots.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/drones-china-running-man-shanghai-fireworks-a9267391.html>

Marcia Alexander-Adams
Office of Communications
Headquarters, Public Affairs Manager
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591
T (202) 267-3488
M (b) (6)
E marcia.adams@faa.gov

RE: UAS News 1/2

From: "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
To: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>, "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 09:47:15 -0500

Thank you Craig.

I really hope the meeting today is fruitful. This has potential to be even more disruptive.

Thanks,
Leesa

From: Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Social Media/Internet update.

The DRONES over northeastern COLORADO Facebook page has grown from 200 to 1900+ over the past week. They are posting some videos and lots of "theories"

A new webpage has showed up called nightdrones.net "a webpage to capture information about the Colorado/Nebraska drone sightings." It allows people to post their sightings and how on map, post videos etc.

"We are Colorado residents who want to know about the mystery drones.

If all the government agencies can't figure it out, we the people can figure it out by coordinating together.

Reach us at nightdrones@gmail.com if you need to reach us directly."

I know CIAC was looking for a means to track and plot all of these sightings but not sure where that is at.

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Ident Assistance Program

(b) (6)

WARNING: This document may be LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE (LES) & may be designated FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It may contain information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and controlled under the provisions of 49 CFR 1520. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Bam/Craig/Geo: Just got asked if we have any updates by the FAA COS – The Administrator now has a telcon with Senator Gardner from Colorado later this afternoon. Anything you have collected since yesterday would be appreciated. Bam, we will want to add in the FSDO plan for this evening – which FSDO and where in Colorado were they intending to operate? Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O)
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>;

Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Please be advised that Gio is working with Bam concerning the drone incidents. Bam will take the lead as to any briefing that occur.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Cc: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Pamela,

As of DEC 25, 2019 to JAN 3, 2020 Nebraska had 2 UAS entries in ITS which were unfounded and No ITS entries for Kansas. I advised BAM to have NE Law Enforcement Agencies and KS Law Enforcement Agencies to contact me if they receive any reports and I will follow-up and provide BAM with an update.

BAM will be taking lead of this incident to report all matters to HQ.

Regards,

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Gio,

Thank you. Please check with Mike Bumberger (b) (6)

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Good Morning Pamela,

I will inquire about this and respond promptly.

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>

Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

It appears that all but Shawn are out of the office. I sent several emails to Manny regarding the drone incidents in Nebraska. This is a very hot topic. Mike Bumberger is working on the drone incidents in his AOR with the assistance of Craig Burns. **Action and Response from someone would be greatly appreciated!!**

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
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From: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:54 AM
To: 'AOC-UASnooze' <AOC-UASnooze@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Mysterious drones are flying around the Midwest, Great Plains and no one has answers USA TODAY, [Adrianna Rodriguez](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Local and federal authorities are investigating confirmed reports of mysterious drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska that appeared in the night sky earlier this week.

Sheriff's offices in Lincoln, Washington and Sedgwick counties have been getting calls this week about the unknown winged devices after initial reports came out of Phillips and Yuma counties, sheriffs said.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot wingspans and fly between 7 and 10 p.m. in grid-like patterns 150 to 200 feet in the air in groups of six to 10, the [Denver Post](#) reported.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs [said in a Facebook post](#) Tuesday that the drones are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government, however, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Forces Command

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office said it doesn't have jurisdiction over that airspace and shooting it out of the sky could break federal laws because drones are recognized as aircrafts.

Combs said on Facebook that local sheriff's offices, police departments and federal government agencies have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 6 to develop a plan to identify who or what is controlling these drones.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are," he wrote. "I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now."

'Fly higher and soar proudly': [Trump administration pushes state, local governments to experiment with drones to spur industry](#)

'Never, ever try to shoot at a drone': [Neighborhoods buzz with complaints over pesky drones](#)

Amazon, Paragon Geophysical Services, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Colorado Department of Transportation and [UAV Recon](#) have all denied connections to the drones, according to the Denver Post.

In an emailed statement to the Denver Post Monday, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the agency will be proposing a rule change that would allow law enforcement and federal security agencies to remotely identify drones that fly through their jurisdictions.

According to [the FAA website](#), more than 1.5 million drones are registered with the FAA as of Dec. 10, 2019.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/01/02/nebraska-colorado-drone-sightings-puzzle-midwest-government-agencies/2793815001/>

Drones flying in rural Colorado and Nebraska have residents freaking out. No one knows who's behind them

CNN, Nicole Chavez and Jamiel Lynch, Jan. 1, 2020

Mysterious drones have been flying over Colorado and Nebraska in recent weeks and authorities can't figure out who's behind the aircraft.

Deputies have spotted more than 16 unmanned drones flying in northeast Colorado after authorities received multiple reports of drone sightings last month, the sheriff's offices in Colorado's Yuma and Phillips counties said.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor told CNN that multiple FAA divisions and government agencies are investigating reports of drones in Colorado and Nebraska.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs said in a Facebook post Tuesday it appears the drones were staying at least 150-200 feet away from buildings and people and are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government.

The aircraft, Combs said, are operating within federal guidelines but are making residents "very nervous and anxious."

"People do not like the unknown as it upsets the balance of our lives," Combs wrote.

Yuma and Phillips county officials have said they don't believe the drones are malicious in nature.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are. I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now. All I can say is don't live your life in the fear of the unknown," the sheriff wrote.

Several agencies are expected to be attending a meeting about the drones incident on Monday, Combs said.

Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said he is closely monitoring the situation.

"I've been in contact with the FAA regarding the heavy drone activity in Eastern Colorado and I'm encouraged that they've opened a full investigation to learn the source and purpose of the drones," he [tweeted Tuesday](#).

The incidents come as the FAA proposed new rules that will require most drones to use remote ID technology that will allow the FAA, law enforcement and federal security agencies to identify drones flying in their jurisdiction.

Nearly 1.5 million drones and 160,000 remote pilots are registered with the FAA, [the agency said](#).

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/01/us/colorado-nebraska-drones-faa-trnd/index.html>

Drone risks causing sky-high headaches for insurers

Insurance Business America, Bethan Moorcraft, Jan. 2, 2020

A recreational drone pilot has been fined US\$20,000 after he lost control of his drone while flying it illegally near McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. In June of 2018, pilot Rueben Burciaga lost control of his DJI Phantom 3 drone while operating it in Class B airspace – a no-go zone surrounding the nation's busiest airports. The drone then drifted more than two miles towards the international airport before landing next to an active runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) slapped Burciaga with a hefty \$20,000 fine in November 2019 for committing "a litany of serious violations" and flying his drone "carelessly and recklessly". The FAA added that the incident could have turned out much worse. FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor said: "An incident like this could've resulted in a plane hitting the drone or in disruption of airport operations or in injuries to people walking on the strip if it had crashed there. It was very fortunate that it ended up crashing where it did and didn't cause any damage or injury."

People operating drones where they shouldn't be is just one of the challenging risks that aviation insurers face in the booming drone market. While the Burciaga case was one of carelessness and recklessness, insurers are well aware of the potential for bad actors to operate drones with criminal intent or for terrorism.

"It's a risk we're watching very closely," said James Van Meter, head of aviation programs & product development at AGCS. "Outside of North America, we've seen criminals use drones to deliver explosives. There was one case that involved a chemical weapon being strapped onto a drone. We are seeing low-end consumer drones being used for terrorist activity because they're very capable pieces of technology. They can be operated remotely, and they're sophisticated – even in the \$1,000 range."

The potential for drones to be used for malicious purposes has resulted in the rise of the so-called anti-drone industry. This is made up of companies focused on the detection of drones, and developing solutions to bring drones down safely if they're operating where they shouldn't be.

"Unauthorized operation of drones is a big issue at things like music festivals and concerts. People bring drones in their backpacks or they launch them from a nearby parking lot, and then they fly them illegally over crowds of people. That's certainly a risk to the innocent bystanders that are underneath these drones," Van Meter told *Insurance Business*. "As a result, we've seen big public events like music concerts or the Super Bowl, where the venues themselves are deploying anti-drone technology to keep drones away from airspace that they shouldn't be operating in."

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Commercial Drone Professional, Sam Lewis, Jan. 2, 2020

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OODALOOP.com, Jan. 2, 2020

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The CAA stressed that new drone users considering that route must first gain a commercial approval from the CAA, as only people with that permission can make money from their drone flying.

Jonathan Nicholson, assistant director at the Civil Aviation Authority, said: “Getting a drone for Christmas is an exciting present, but drones aren’t toys and we understand that you may be apprehensive about how and where to fly it.

“This is also the first Christmas that drone registration has been required. So, our short handy set of tips is designed to get you into the air and enjoying your new drone as quickly and safely as possible.”

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/caa-addresses-nervous-first-time-drone-users/>

Thousands of drones fill skies above China to create giant running man

The Independent, [Anthony Cuthbertson](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Shanghai shunned traditional firework displays to celebrate the New Year, instead filling the skies with thousands of synchronised [drones](#).

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The traditional midnight countdown was also performed by the drone swarm above the Huangpu River in the east of the city.

State-run media outlet CCTV said the running man configuration illustrated "the huge changes and glorious achievements Shanghai has made in the past 40 years of reform and opening up".

It was achieved through vast programming efforts to coordinate the drones, rather than by individual drone pilots.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/drones-china-running-man-shanghai-fireworks-a9267391.html>

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Office of Communications
Headquarters, Public Affairs Manager
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591
T (202) 267-3488
M (b) (6)
E marcia.adams@faa.gov

RE: UAS News 1/2

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Riffe, Janet (FAA)" <janet.riffe@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 10:28:03 -0500

Thanks Craig.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O) ?
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2020 9:47 AM
To: Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>; Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Thank you Craig.

I really hope the meeting today is fruitful. This has potential to be even more disruptive.

Thanks,
Leesa

From: Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Social Media/Internet update.

The DRONES over northeastern COLORADO Facebook page has grown from 200 to 1900+ over the past week. They are posting some videos and lots of "theories"

A new webpage has showed up called nightdrones.net "a webpage to capture information about the Colorado/Nebraska drone sightings." It allows people to post their sightings and how on map, post videos etc.

"We are Colorado residents who want to know about the mystery drones.

If all the government agencies can't figure it out, we the people can figure it out by coordinating together.

Reach us at nightdrones@gmail.com if you need to reach us directly."

I know CIAC was looking for a means to track and plot all of these sightings but not sure where that is at.

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
ent Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Bam/Craig/Geo: Just got asked if we have any updates by the FAA COS – The Administrator now has a telcon with Senator Gardner from Colorado later this afternoon. Anything you have collected since yesterday would be appreciated. Bam, we will want to add in the FSDO plan for this evening – which FSDO and where in Colorado were they intending to operate? Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Please be advised that Gio is working with Bam concerning the drone incidents. Bam will take the lead as to any briefing that occur.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Cc: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

Pamela,

As of DEC 25, 2019 to JAN 3, 2020 Nebraska had 2 UAS entries in ITS which were unfounded and No ITS entries for Kansas. I advised BAM to have NE Law Enforcement Agencies and KS Law Enforcement Agencies to contact me if they receive any reports and I will follow-up and provide BAM with an update.

BAM will be taking lead of this incident to report all matters to HQ.

Regards,

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Gio,

Thank you. Please check with Mike Bumberger (310-363-9435).

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Good Morning Pamela,

I will inquire about this and respond promptly.

Gio

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>; Maldonado, Kenny (FAA) <Kenny.Maldonado@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Cc: Grisham, Shawn (FAA) <shawn.grisham@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: UAS News 1/2
Importance: High

It appears that all but Shawn are out of the office. I sent several emails to Manny regarding the drone incidents in Nebraska. This is a very hot topic. Mike Bumberger is working on the drone incidents in his AOR with the assistance of Craig Burns. **Action and Response from someone would be greatly appreciated!!**

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**

(b) (6) (office)
(cell)
(fax)

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From: Adams, Marcia (FAA) <marcia.adams@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:54 AM
To: 'AOC-UASnooze' <AOC-UASnooze@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Mysterious drones are flying around the Midwest, Great Plains and no one has answers

USA TODAY, [Adrianna Rodriguez](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Local and federal authorities are investigating confirmed reports of mysterious drone sightings in northeast Colorado and Nebraska that appeared in the night sky earlier this week.

Sheriff's offices in Lincoln, Washington and Sedgwick counties have been getting calls this week about the unknown winged devices after initial reports came out of Phillips and Yuma counties, sheriffs said.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot wingspans and fly between 7 and 10 p.m. in grid-like patterns 150 to 200 feet in the air in groups of six to 10, the [Denver Post](#) reported.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs [said in a Facebook post](#) Tuesday that the drones are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government, however, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Forces Command

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office said it doesn't have jurisdiction over that airspace and shooting it out of the sky could break federal laws because drones are recognized as aircrafts.

Combs said on Facebook that local sheriff's offices, police departments and federal government agencies have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 6 to develop a plan to identify who or what is controlling these drones.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are," he wrote. "I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now."

'Fly higher and soar proudly': [Trump administration pushes state, local governments to experiment with drones to spur industry](#)

'Never, ever try to shoot at a drone': [Neighborhoods buzz with complaints over pesky drones](#)

Amazon, Paragon Geophysical Services, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Colorado Department of Transportation and [UAV Recon](#) have all denied connections to the drones, according to the Denver Post.

In an emailed statement to the Denver Post Monday, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the agency will be proposing a rule change that would allow law enforcement and federal security agencies to remotely identify drones that fly through their jurisdictions.

According to [the FAA website](#), more than 1.5 million drones are registered with the FAA as of Dec. 10, 2019.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/01/02/nebraska-colorado-drone-sightings-puzzle-midwest-government-agencies/2793815001/>

Drones flying in rural Colorado and Nebraska have residents freaking out. No one knows who's behind them

CNN, Nicole Chavez and Jamiel Lynch, Jan. 1, 2020

Mysterious drones have been flying over Colorado and Nebraska in recent weeks and authorities can't figure out who's behind the aircraft.

Deputies have spotted more than 16 unmanned drones flying in northeast Colorado after authorities received multiple reports of drone sightings last month, the sheriff's offices in Colorado's Yuma and Phillips counties said.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor told CNN that multiple FAA divisions and government agencies are investigating reports of drones in Colorado and Nebraska.

Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs said in a Facebook post Tuesday it appears the drones were staying at least 150-200 feet away from buildings and people and are flying in airspace controlled by the federal government.

The aircraft, Combs said, are operating within federal guidelines but are making residents "very nervous and anxious."

"People do not like the unknown as it upsets the balance of our lives," Combs wrote.

Yuma and Phillips county officials have said they don't believe the drones are malicious in nature.

"There are many theories about what is going on, but at this point, that's all they are. I think we are all feeling a little bit vulnerable due to the intrusion of our privacy that we enjoy in our rural community, but I don't have a solution or know of one right now. All I can say is don't live your life in the fear of the unknown," the sheriff wrote.

Several agencies are expected to be attending a meeting about the drones incident on Monday, Combs said.

Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said he is closely monitoring the situation.

"I've been in contact with the FAA regarding the heavy drone activity in Eastern Colorado and I'm encouraged that they've opened a full investigation to learn the source and purpose of the drones," he [tweeted Tuesday](#).

The incidents come as the [FAA proposed new rules](#) that will require most drones to use remote ID technology that will allow the FAA, law enforcement and federal security agencies to identify drones flying in their jurisdiction.

Nearly 1.5 million drones and 160,000 remote pilots are registered with the FAA, [the agency said](#).

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/01/us/colorado-nebraska-drones-faa-trnd/index.html>

Drone risks causing sky-high headaches for insurers

Insurance Business America, Bethan Moorcraft, Jan. 2, 2020

A recreational drone pilot has been fined US\$20,000 after he lost control of his drone while flying it illegally near McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. In June of 2018, pilot Rueben Burciaga lost control of his DJI Phantom 3 drone while operating it in Class B airspace – a no-go zone surrounding the nation's busiest airports. The drone then drifted more than two miles towards the international airport before landing next to an active runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) slapped Burciaga with a hefty \$20,000 fine in November 2019 for committing "a litany of serious violations" and flying his drone "carelessly and recklessly". The FAA added that the incident could have turned out much worse. FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor said: "An incident like this could've resulted in a plane hitting the drone or in disruption of airport operations or in injuries to people walking on the strip if it had crashed there. It was very fortunate that it ended up crashing where it did and didn't cause any damage or injury."

People operating drones where they shouldn't be is just one of the challenging risks that aviation insurers face in the booming drone market. While the Burciaga case was one of carelessness and recklessness, insurers are well aware of the potential for bad actors to operate drones with criminal intent or for terrorism.

"It's a risk we're watching very closely," said James Van Meter, head of aviation programs & product development at AGCS. "Outside of North America, we've seen criminals use drones to deliver explosives. There was one case that involved a chemical weapon being strapped onto a drone. We are seeing low-end consumer drones being used for terrorist activity because they're very capable pieces of technology. They can be operated remotely, and they're sophisticated – even in the \$1,000 range."

The potential for drones to be used for malicious purposes has resulted in the rise of the so-called anti-drone industry. This is made up of companies focused on the detection of drones, and developing solutions to bring drones down safely if they're operating where they shouldn't be.

"Unauthorized operation of drones is a big issue at things like music festivals and concerts. People bring drones in their backpacks or they launch them from a nearby parking lot, and then they fly them illegally over crowds of people. That's certainly a risk to the innocent bystanders that are underneath these drones," Van Meter told *Insurance Business*. "As a result, we've seen big public events like music concerts or the Super Bowl, where the venues themselves are deploying anti-drone technology to keep drones away from airspace that they shouldn't be operating in."

A prime example of illegal drone operation would be the December 2018 London Gatwick drone crisis. During a three-day incident, which started on December 19, two drones were used to completely cripple the international airport, disrupting a total of 1,000 flights and affecting more than 140,000 passengers just before Christmas.

"The Gatwick incident shows that a drone operator can disrupt hundreds of thousands of people through malice," Van Meter commented. "This new anti-drone technology that's in development, and some people already have in use today, jams the drone's radio frequency, enabling the technology to take over the drone and bring it down to ground in a safe and controlled manner. Shooting a drone out of the sky is not a practical solution in most cases because it's not safe for whoever's underneath or nearby the drone."

One risk that insurers are aware of in the drone operation sphere is cyber spoofing. This is when criminals hack into the Wi-Fi signal or the radio signal that's being used to operate a drone and they interfere with its flight plan. Successful spoofing could result in another drone/airport situation but with even more severe, and possibly even fatal consequences. Luckily, that's a risk that Van Meter and the AGCS team have not seen come into fruition on the claims side - but they're not ruling it out as a possibility.

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/technology/drone-risks-causing-skyhigh-headaches-for-insurers-195522.aspx>

The New York Police Department has made use of surveillance drones at the Times Square New Year's Eve party for the first time in its history.

Commercial Drone Professional, Sam Lewis, Jan. 2, 2020

The department planned on using a drone at the world famous celebrations 12 months ago but on that occasion poor weather conditions left its UAV grounded.

In the wake of this event, New York City police commissioner Demot Shea said that his team began plans for the following year's celebration only the next day, on Jan. 1, 2019.

Approximately 1 million attendees saw in 2020 under the watchful eye of the drones. The FBI were also present, along with police helicopters and bomb-detection units.

The police were also using drone mitigation technology that could detect and disable other drones in the area.

NYPD currently utilises 14 DJI drones of three different kinds, all catered to a variety of tasks. Former NYPD detective Joe Giacalone explained: "When policing large crowds, [drones] can spot areas where trouble might be brewing."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/nypd-flies-in-surveillance-drones-for-times-square-bash/>

Proposed FAA Rule Would Kickstart New Economy For IDing Drones

OODALOO.com, Jan. 2, 2020

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is planning on proposing a rule to require drone manufacturers to include remote ID tags in all systems. The proposed rule was published on Tuesday, and outlines the process of remote identification of unmanned aircraft systems in hopes of developing a policy for identifying drones in flight.

1.5 million small drones have already been registered with the FAA, but the FAA wants to ensure that air traffic controllers, law enforcement and the general public can identify all of the machines flying overhead as the use of drones expands in both the public and private industries. The FAA lists three ways in which the drones could be identified in the proposed bill.

<https://www.oodaloo.com/briefs/2020/01/02/proposed-faa-rule-would-kickstart-new-economy-for-iding-drones/>

CAA ADDRESSES NERVOUS FIRT-TIME DRONE USERS

Commercial Drone Professional, Andrew Seymour, Jan. 2, 2020

With new registration laws and ever-increasing attention being paid to drones, the CAA said it expected many new drone users to be "apprehensive" about flying their new machine.

It said that new users could enjoy flying drones safely and legally by following some "simple" actions.

Its advice includes how to register with the CAA for owners of drones over 250 grams and details of its online education package, which requires users to pass a short multiple-choice test to get their flyer ID.

The CAA added that news users can access safety information in the [Dronecode](#), as this provides all the basic safety rules and advice that drone owners need to comply with.

Key to this is remaining below 400ft, keeping clear of aircraft and airfields, and not flying too close to people and property, it noted.

The CAA pointed out that there is a fine of up to £1,000 for anyone found guilty of not complying with the drone registration requirements.

UK airspace is some of the busiest in the world and even while keeping below the 400ft maximum flying height, users may well be sharing the skies with other aircraft, such as emergency helicopters.

The CAA acknowledged that there are a number of free apps that you can use to check the airspace in your location and recommends using one of the approved apps listed [HERE](#).

Individual airfields also have restricted zones around them that it is illegal to fly a drone in without permission of the airfield or air traffic control. Airfield maps can be accessed [HERE](#).

Many new drone users may already be thinking about how use their skills commercially, such as for photography or building inspections.

The CAA stressed that new drone users considering that route must first gain a commercial approval from the CAA, as only people with that permission can make money from their drone flying.

Jonathan Nicholson, assistant director at the Civil Aviation Authority, said: "Getting a drone for Christmas is an exciting present, but drones aren't toys and we understand that you may be apprehensive about how and where to fly it.

"This is also the first Christmas that drone registration has been required. So, our short handy set of tips is designed to get you into the air and enjoying your new drone as quickly and safely as possible."

<https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/caa-addresses-nervous-first-time-drone-users/>

Thousands of drones fill skies above China to create giant running man

The Independent, [Anthony Cuthbertson](#), Jan. 2, 2020

Shanghai shunned traditional firework displays to celebrate the New Year, instead filling the skies with thousands of synchronised [drones](#).

Nearly 2,000 drones flew above China's largest city, creating giant spheres, text, and even a figure of a man that appeared to run across the skyline.

The traditional midnight countdown was also performed by the drone swarm above the Huangpu River in the east of the city.

State-run media outlet CCTV said the running man configuration illustrated "the huge changes and glorious achievements Shanghai has made in the past 40 years of reform and opening up".

It was achieved through vast programming efforts to coordinate the drones, rather than by individual drone pilots.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/drones-china-running-man-shanghai-fireworks-a9267391.html>

Marcia Alexander-Adams
Office of Communications
Headquarters, Public Affairs Manager
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591
T (202) 267-3488
M (b) (6)
E _____@faa.gov

FW: UAS News 1/2

From: "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 13:42:17 -0500

FYSA

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Incident Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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From: Burns, Craig (FAA)
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: UAS News 1/2

Just spoke with Investigator (b) (6) from Buffalo Co SO in Kearny. My number was given out the Chiefs, Senators Office and ROC over New Years while Bam was tied up with Rose Bowl. He was just looking for updates as people are panicking. Told him about the meeting today in CO and that FBI Nebraska was involved. Told him to hold tight and more info should be coming through FBI and his Chief. Gave him your office number for any follow up

S/A Craig Burns
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of National Security Programs and Incident Response (AXE-830)
Incident Assistance Program

(b) (6)

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RE: Drone Mystery

From: "O'Shea, Michael (FAA)" <michael.o'shea@faa.gov>
To: "Pansky, Steven CTR (FAA)" <steven.ctr.pansky@faa.gov>, "Bear, Dave (FAA)" <dave.bear@faa.gov>, "Meehan, John (FAA)" <john.meehan@faa.gov>, "Hassig, Guido (FAA)" <guido.hassig@faa.gov>
Cc: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 14:54:20 -0500

Steve,

The local FSDO and LEAP (Mike Bumberger and others) are working this. We have been asked by the National Sheriffs' Association for a POC for their Sheriffs' who have questions.

Take care,

Mike

Michael K. O'Shea
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aviation Safety (AVS)
Program Manager, Public Unmanned Aircraft Operations
Safety and Integration Division, AUS-400
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office
490 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 3200
Washington, DC 20024
michael.oshea@faa.gov
O- 202-267-6164

"The Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office is the lead for facilitating the development of regulations, policies, programs, and procedures to advance the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (NAS)." – Aviation Safety: The Year in Review (2017)

[The UAS Integration Office appreciates your feedback](#)

From: Pansky, Steven CTR (FAA) <Steven.CTR.Pansky@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 2:47 PM
To: O'Shea, Michael (FAA) <Michael.O'Shea@faa.gov>; Bear, Dave (FAA) <dave.bear@faa.gov>; Meehan, John (FAA) <John.Meehan@faa.gov>; Hassig, Guido (FAA) <guido.hassig@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Drone Mystery
Importance: High

Has anyone received information on who is involved in these citing's? I wanted to get back to Air Traffic to let them know if someone was working this. They are concerned that the administrator will be asked about the citing's and the FAA has not done it due-diligence.

Steve Pansky/SAIC

Senior Aviation Analyst-AVS Safety Technical Services Support contract
Air Traffic and Public Safety/SAC-EC Liaison
Supporting Federal Aviation Administration Unmanned Aircraft
Systems Operations Section, AUS 430/AJV-115
Phone: (b) (6)
Email: steven.ctr.pansky@faa.gov

[The UAS Integration Office appreciates your feedback](#)

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From: Hunter, Asia L (FAA) <asia.l.hunter@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Maibach, Joseph (FAA) <Joseph.Maibach@faa.gov>
Cc: Montgomery, Clyde CTR (FAA) <Clyde.CTR.Montgomery@faa.gov>; Martin, Kevin W (FAA) <Kevin.W.Martin@faa.gov>; Lautenschlager, Eric (FAA) <Eric.Lautenschlager@faa.gov>; Carper, Timothy T-CTR (FAA) <Timothy.T-CTR.Carper@faa.gov>; Pansky, Steven CTR (FAA) <Steven.CTR.Pansky@faa.gov>; Majette, Langston R (FAA) <Langston.R.Majette@faa.gov>; Morra, Joseph (FAA) <Joseph.Morra@faa.gov>; Batchelder, Steve (FAA) <Steve.Batchelder@faa.gov>
Subject: Drone Mystery
Importance: High

FYSA:

Happy New Year everyone

I'm contacting you guys because of Drone activity in Phillips County, Morgan County, Yuma County, Colorado, Duel County, Perkins County, Nebraska, and Hasting, Rice County, Minnesota. However no one appears to know who they are the drones are operating at below 400 feet in Class G airspace as a swarm. If any operation we have approved or we have been briefed on this type of operation please advise.

Kind Regards

Asia L. Hunter

AJR 2
System Operations Security
600 Independence Avenue, Bldg. 10B
Washington District of Columbia, 20024
(202) 267-0542
Asia.L.Hunter@faa.gov

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."

FW: S20200102005 SAFETY HOTLINE – ACTION (CM)

From: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
To: "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Bates, Scotty (FAA)" <scotty.bates@faa.gov>, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 15:24:58 -0500
Attachments: Spicer.pdf (124.77 kB)

Check out the attached concerning the mystery drones.

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800
781-238-7703 (office)
(b) (6) (cell)
781-238-7716 (fax)

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From: Farris, Lauren (FAA) <Lauren.Farris@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: S20200102005 SAFETY HOTLINE – ACTION (CM)

Did not create a control assignment for this... if you want one, please let me know. Didn't know what exactly we'd do with it... ☺

Lauren Farris
Office of National Security Programs & Incident Response
Enforcement Standards and Policy Division, AXE-900
Federal Aviation Administration
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Phone: 405-954-7612

From: FAA Hotline <fhis@faa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 10:15 AM
To: Farris, Lauren (FAA) <Lauren.Farris@faa.gov>; Riffe, Riffe, Janet (FAA) <Janet.Riffe@faa.gov>
Subject: S20200102005 SAFETY HOTLINE – ACTION (CM)

Attached is a new case for **ACTION**. The passcode is the same as previously assigned.

If this assignment requires re-classification, re-assignment or an extension to the due date, you must send the request to your organization's Hotline POC. The POC will in turn submit the request to our office or the assigned analyst. The request must include a justification or reason.

If you have any questions or need to correspond with our office regarding this matter **please respond ("reply all") directly to this email** and ensure that report number S20200102005 **is included in the "Subject" line** of the email.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- (1) If the Privacy Level is listed as "Confidential" the reporter has agreed to provide their name and contact information to the personnel conducting an inquiry or investigation, but this information will not be released outside the FAA.
- (2) The investigation should be conducted by individuals that have no direct or indirect involvement with the allegations made to ensure impartiality.
- (3) Please indicate whether or not the allegations were substantiated in full or in part. For those instances where the allegations were substantiated please identify corrective action(s) taken.
- (4) Please indicate whether the contributor has been interviewed as part of the investigation process.
- (5) The close-out response should be written in memorandum format with a Manager's signature. AAE will conduct a sufficiency review of the response.

Thank you,

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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Reporter: (b) (6) **Open Date:** 01/02/2020
Case Status: Under Investigation **Assigned Date:** 01/02/2020
Disposition: **Due Date:** 03/09/2020
Closed Date: **Appeal Date:**

Summary: Complainant alleges they have information on the "Mystery Drones" reported in Colorado, Nebraska

Hotline Contact Info

Lead Analyst: Charles McCrea
Analyst Email: charles.mccrea@faa.gov
Analyst Phone #: +14043056054

Primary Case Assignment

Assigned Group: SAFETY-AFS-QC & Investigations (AFB-470)(All non-SUP Safety)
Assignment Type: Action

Reporter Contact Info

Privacy Level: Non-Confidential
Reporter is a: General Public
Name: (b) (6)
Address:
City, State, Zip: Wichita KS null
Contact Phone #:
Email Address: (b) (6)@yahoo.com
Int. Phone #:

Subject Party Details

Name:
Company / Org:
Address:
Phone #:
City, State, Zip:

Event Info

Event Date:
Event Time:
Event Location
City, State:
Airline Name:
Flight #:
Departure Location:
Arrival Location:
Aircraft Registration:

Additional Case Assignments (Multi-Assigned):

Assigned Group	Assignment Type	Assigned Individual
SAFETY-HQ-LEAP	Action	

Case Description:

We want to arrange a polygraph test on supplied information on this form. We will also sign legal documents pertaining to acknowledgement of laws and charges of making false statements to FAA before taking polygraph test for two different people. This should put the scientific independent accuracy of our statements at above 90% when looking at statistics for two people passing polygraph test on same information.

We are aware of the who, what, how, and why of the "Mystery Drones" reported in Colorado, Nebraska, as well as the ones not reported in Arizona, Kansas, and other locations. Naturally no crimes were committed and no laws were broke so that information is as a curtsey. I will make you aware that as of now you will be only dealing with copycats and fabricated stories of drone interactions.

We have one condition for providing that information. That condition is that we are allowed to take a government issued polygraph test that we can provide the aircraft that resides under the TicTac formation from the USS Nimitz ship encounter. We want questions to include details to show we have covered the craft at detail including its power source and are able to provide a model, that we can track it, and that we have seen this craft silently Hoover with no noise and means of propulsion at less then 50 foot away for over 10minutes, among other questions we want documented. This polygraph test and results has to be made public. We will subject to drug and psychology testing, and release all personal lifetime medical records to you.

After polygraph test results to your satisfaction we will detail further information we have including pictures, video, and pieces of this aircraft.

WARNING: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PUBLIC AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED UNDER 5 USC 552

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Related Items

Label	Type	Relationship	Description	Email / Phone
(b) (6)	Person	Complainant/Reporter		(b) (6)@yahoo.com

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Journal Entries

Journal Class	Create Date	Submitter	Category	Summary
Note	01/01/2020 03:18 AM		General Information	Hotline Form Submission - FHIS-0018187

Details

*I am a(n): General Public
What Are You Reporting: Potential Violation*

Information Related To Your Report

*Event Date:
Event Time:
Event Location:
Event City:
Event State:
Aircraft Registration N-
Airline:
Flight Number:
Departure Location:
Arrival Location:*

Responsible Party

*First Name:
Last Name:
Email:
Company/Organization:
Street Address:
Street Address 2:
City:
State:
Zip:
Country: US
Phone:
Web Address:*

Description: We want to arrange a polygraph test on supplied information on this form. We will also sign legal documents pertaining to acknowledgement of laws and charges of making false statements to FAA before taking polygraph test for two different people. This should put the scientific independent accuracy of our statements at above 90% when looking at statistics for two people passing polygraph test on same information.

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After polygraph test results to your satisfaction we will detail further information we have including pictures, video, and pieces of this aircraft.

Other Reports on the Same Subject Matter

*To which division or office within the FAA have you reported this matter? No
To which other federal or state agencies or other organizations have you reported this matter? Yes Several.
Hung up on.*

Contact Info

*First Name: (b) (6)
Last Name: [Redacted]
Company:
Street Address:
City: Wichita*

WARNING: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PUBLIC AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED UNDER 5 USC 552

This record contains information that belongs to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and may only be used for official Government purposes. The information contained in this record may not be released without the express permission of the FAA.



Journal Class	Create Date	Submitter	Category	Summary
	State: KS Zip: Contact Phone: Email Address: (b) (6) @yahoo.com International Number:			

WARNING: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PUBLIC AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED UNDER 5 USC 552

This record contains information that belongs to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and may only be used for official Government purposes. The information contained in this record may not be released without the express permission of the FAA.

Meeting from 1/6 in Brush

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 21:08:01 -0500
Attachments: Note from UAS meeting 1-6.docx (15.66 kB)

The meeting did not provide an answer or new leads. However, several good things came from it. Please see attached. Please give me a call (b) (6) if you have any questions or require clarification.

R,
Bam

Note from UAS meeting 1/6, Brush, CO.

77 people attended the meeting. The group consisted of a representative from Senator Gardner's office, FAA LEAP and Denver FSDO, FBI, DHS, 12 northeast Colorado county sheriff's from Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, and Yuma counties, six southwest Nebraska county sheriff's from Chase, Cheyenne, Deuel, Kimball, Perkins, and Lincoln counties, Nebraska State Patrol, F.E. Warren AFB OSI, Colorado National Guard, Colorado Information Analysis Center, and Colorado Fish and Wildlife.

After an introduction and brief statement of the drone activity by Morgan County Sheriff (b) (6), FAA LEAP SA was asked to brief FAA's role, what has been done to help identify a possible operator, and answer questions from the attendees. After a brief opening statement FAA LEAP explained the following:

- Action taken by the FAA. The explanation consisted of what was outlined in the Administrator's brief sent on 1/6.
- Advised the attendees, based on current information it is unclear what if any laws or regulations have been broken and/or violated.
- The only true way to address the issue is to identify the operator and stated at this point based on the amount of media attention the issue has received, reporting has become somewhat unreliable.

A person in Nebraska claimed responsibility shooting down a drone in connection with a shot fired report in McCook, NE last week. Individual posted a picture of a damaged drone. When interviewed by Nebraska State Police the individual stated he made the story up and the photo was taken from the internet. The photo was authenticated and confirmed to be from the internet and not connected.

Reports of finding a drone in the field, which turned out to be false reporting

Numerous pictures taken by cell phone claiming to be fixed wing drones. Upon further analysis it has been determined the pictures were of fixed wing aircraft.

- Concerns of vigilante justice. Yuma County advised reports of gun shot on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. The attendees were once again advised of the negative outcome of people shooting at aircraft and based on some photos and reports people are seeing fixed wing aircraft. Reminded the LE partners of title 18 and the ramifications of shooting at and/or disabling an aircraft under federal law.
- Questions were asked about detection and mitigation. LEAP SA advised the technology exists, however the FAA does not possess the equipment. A follow on question was asked about Aerial Armor and other private industry drone detection companies. LEAP SA advised the group, based on his experiences, drone detection companies are capable of detecting mostly (b) (6) products. At this point we must consider the description of the drone activity, size of the drone(s) being very large (up to six foot wing span), and multiple reports of drone flying in high winds 20 to 30 mph it does not appear (b) (6) products are being used.

FBI followed LEAP brief, which basically confirmed the activity may be legitimate in nature and requested the LE in attendance provide some type of PSA to their residence about shooting at aircraft.

Nebraska State Patrol advised after addressing safety concerns, an aerial mission took place last night with patrol assets. No activity was observed. The previous scheduled mission from last week was cancelled based on concerns of operating in possible close proximity of drones. There is a possibility more flight might take place throughout the week.

Colorado Information Analysis Center volunteered to collect all the drone reports from LE and work with their counterparts in Nebraska to provide a report of the previous day's drone sightings.

Based on information received during the meeting it appears sightings and reports have decreased in the original counties of northeast Colorado and have moved northeast into Nebraska and further south into Lincoln County, encroaching on El Paso County Colorado.

The biggest take away is a drone task force has been established. Sheriff (b) (6) from Morgan County has agreed to take the lead in the task force. The task force will consist of several sheriff offices in Colorado and Nebraska (not sure of the exact number or who), FAA LEAP and Denver FSDO, FBI, and the Colorado Information Analysis Center. **Local news media is reporting the FAA has established the task force. FAA LEAP played a role in garnering support and interest. However, Sheriff (b) (6) has taken the lead in establishing the task force though mutual cooperation. Basically it is a group collaboration.**

ABC, CBS, and NBC national news and several local news outlet were present, but were not allowed in the meeting. FAA PAO from Los Angeles addressed the group with a statement from the FAA. Followed by a joint sheriff's statement from Sheriff (b) (6). The statements were followed by question and answer session.

Re: Meeting from 1/6 in Brush

From: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2020 21:25:46 -0500

Good evening Bam-

Thanks for the information regarding the meeting today. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance regarding Nebraska and Kansas as they are in my AOR. Happy to assist in anyway.

Regards,

Manny Martinez Jr.

(b) (6)

On Jan 6, 2020, at 8:08 PM, Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov> wrote:

The meeting did not provide an answer or new leads. However, several good things came from it. Please see attached.

Please give me a call (b) (6) if you have any questions or require clarification.

R,

Bam

<Note from UAS meeting 1-6.docx>

RE: Meeting from 1/6 in Brush

From: "McDonald, Mark CTR (FAA)" <mark.ctr.mcdonald@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 07:38:45 -0500

This is link to ABC News item on task force https://abcnews.go.com/US/drone-task-force-investigating-mysterious-sightings-colorado-nebraska/story?id=68102066&cid=clicksource_4380645_null_headlines_hed

s/f
Mark

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 7:12 AM
To: Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>; McDonald, Mark CTR (FAA) <Mark.CTR.McDonald@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting from 1/6 in Brush

I think Ian will cover for AOC so no need to notify them.

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
202-267-7980 (o)
(b) (6) (GOVT cell)
(cell)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2020, at 07:08, Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov> wrote:

Thank you Bam. Interesting, Mark McDonald just told me that he is hearing on the National news that "a TF is being established that includes FAA and FBI." I like your note – that it is really a collaboration.

Josh, think we should notify AOC and let them know. I know Ian was there, maybe he can carry that water; I suspect FAA will receive multiple queries.

Leesa

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 9:08 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Subject: Meeting from 1/6 in Brush

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Please give me a call (b) (6) if you have any questions or require clarification.

R,
Bam

RE: Meeting from 1/6 in Brush

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 08:16:57 -0500

Thank you Manny. I will keep you in the loop. If you hear anything please let me know, appreciate the assistance.

Bam

From: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2020 6:26 PM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>; Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting from 1/6 in Brush

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Special Agent

(b) (6)

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R,
Bam
<Note from UAS meeting 1-6.docx>

Fwd: Drone Update

From: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 10:28:08 -0500

Bam-
FYSA
Thanks,
Manny Martinez Jr.

(b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) @KS.GOV>
Date: [REDACTED]
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: Drone Update

Hi Manuel,

We had another sightings of drones last night. This time it was by one of our K-9 Troopers. I contacted him directly and he told me the drones were about 6 miles west, southwest of Oakley, Kansas last night. He said one of the drones had a really bright light on it, like a spot light. That drone stayed relatively stationary at that location. He then said there were anywhere from 10 to 15 drones that flew all kinds of patterns around that stationary drone. At one point one of those drones flew directly over his house. He had his night vision with him so he tried to look at it. Some of the lights on the drone drowned out a good picture with the NVG's, but he said he thought he saw 4 rotors on the drone as well as a horizontal stabilizer or wing. The wing appeared to be about 10 foot in length. He said the drone was about 200 feet in the air and made absolutely no sound at all, even though the wind was calm. This all occurred around 1900 hours. I called and was talking with him around 2000 hours and they were still flying. I asked him if we should come out with our aircraft and attempt to locate a command vehicle somewhere near the area. He thought they might land prior to us getting there as the main stationary drone was getting lower and lower as time went on and the other drones got closer to it. We decided not to fly last night, but will probably try to go out tonight. We have a busy day today so if tonight doesn't work for us we will go out Wednesday night.

Just as an FYI, the area these drones appeared to be flying was right around the Monument Kansas area west of Oakley. There is a military operations area depicted on the map out there, so I am not sure if the military would be doing something or not. Given that its just an MOA I would have thought they might let you guys or Denver Center know? Also, I know a guy up by Long Island, Kansas (just northwest of Philipsburg, KS) He said he has seen drones flying up there every night since Friday. He describes them much like our Trooper did, however with less numbers. He said there are only about 5 or 6 flying around the main drone. There is no MOA close to that area.

I will keep you posted if we are able to fly tonight or Wednesday night and if we find anything. If you can, and you have any updates on these sightings I would appreciate an email or phone call of the information if you can pass it along.

Thanks,

(b) (6), Lieutenant
Kansas Highway Patrol – Troop T
Aircraft Supervisor/Pilot
1821 Frontier Rd.
Hays, KS. 67601
Office: 785-625-3518
Cell: (b) (6)
(b) (6) @ks.gov
www.kansashighwaypatrol.org



"Truly superior pilots are those who use their superior judgment to avoid those situations where they might have to use their superior skills."

Meeting Summary

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Hunter, Asia L (FAA)" <asia.l.hunter@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 10:38:59 -0500
Attachments: Note from UAS meeting 1-6.docx (15.66 kB)

FYSA, please do not distribute.

Mike

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: (310) 725-6660

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Reports of finding a drone in the field, which turned out to be false reporting

Numerous pictures taken by cell phone claiming to be fixed wing drones. Upon further analysis it has been determined the pictures were of fixed wing aircraft.

- Concerns of vigilante justice. Yuma County advised reports of gun shot on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. The attendees were once again advised of the negative outcome of people shooting at aircraft and based on some photos and reports people are seeing fixed wing aircraft. Reminded the LE partners of title 18 and the ramifications of shooting at and/or disabling an aircraft under federal law.
- Questions were asked about detection and mitigation. LEAP SA advised the technology exists, however the FAA does not possess the equipment. A follow on question was asked about Aerial Armor and other private industry drone detection companies. LEAP SA advised the group, based on his experiences, drone detection companies are capable of detecting mostly (b) (6) products. At this point we must consider the description of the drone activity, size of the drone(s) being very large (up to six foot wing span), and multiple reports of drone flying in high winds 20 to 30 mph it does not appear (b) (6) products are being used.

FBI followed LEAP brief, which basically confirmed the activity may be legitimate in nature and requested the LE in attendance provide some type of PSA to their residence about shooting at aircraft.

Nebraska State Patrol advised after addressing safety concerns, an aerial mission took place last night with patrol assets. No activity was observed. The previous scheduled mission from last week was cancelled based on concerns of operating in possible close proximity of drones. There is a possibility more flight might take place throughout the week.

Colorado Information Analysis Center volunteered to collect all the drone reports from LE and work with their counterparts in Nebraska to provide a report of the previous day's drone sightings.

Based on information received during the meeting it appears sightings and reports have decreased in the original counties of northeast Colorado and have moved northeast into Nebraska and further south into Lincoln County, encroaching on El Paso County Colorado.

The biggest take away is a drone task force has been established. Sheriff (b) (6) from Morgan County has agreed to take the lead in the task force. The task force will consist of several sheriff offices in Colorado and Nebraska (not sure of the exact number or who), FAA LEAP and Denver FSDO, FBI, and the Colorado Information Analysis Center. **Local news media is reporting the FAA has established the task force. FAA LEAP played a role in garnering support and interest. However, Sheriff (b) (6) has taken the lead in establishing the task force though mutual cooperation. Basically it is a group collaboration.**

ABC, CBS, and NBC national news and several local news outlet were present, but were not allowed in the meeting. FAA PAO from Los Angeles addressed the group with a statement from the FAA. Followed by a joint sheriff's statement from Sheriff (b) (6). The statements were followed by question and answer session.

RE: Drone Update

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 10:42:47 -0500

Thank you Manny, if this continues we might have to tag team it.
Bam

From: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 7:28 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Drone Update

Bam-

FYSA

Thanks,

Manny Martinez Jr.
Special Agent

(b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) @KS.GOV>
Date: January 7, 2020 at 9:26:1
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: Drone Update

Hi Manuel,

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I will keep you posted if we are able to fly tonight or Wednesday night and if we find anything. If you can, and you have any updates on these sightings I would appreciate an email or phone call of the information if you can pass it along.

Thanks,

(b) (6) Lieutenant
Kansas Highway Patrol – Troop T
Aircraft Supervisor/Pilot
1821 Frontier Rd.
Hays, KS. 67601
Office: 785-625-3518
Cell: (b) (6)
(b) (6) @ks.gov
www.kansashighwaypatrol.org



"Truly superior pilots are those who use their superior judgment to avoid those situations where they might have to use their superior skills."

FW: Drone Update

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 10:43:08 -0500

FYSA

From: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 7:28 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Drone Update

Bam-

FYSA

Thanks,

Manny Martinez Jr.
Special Agent

(b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) @KS.GOV>
Date: January 7, 2020 at 9:26:15 AM CST
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: Drone Update

Hi Manuel,

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Re: Drone Update

From: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 11:04:16 -0500

Bam-

Do you have an issue with distributing your notes from your meeting yesterday to LE who are looking for an update on these UAS sightings.

Thanks,

Manny Martinez Jr.

(b) (6)

On Jan 7, 2020, at 9:42 AM, Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov> wrote:

Thank you Manny, if this continues we might have to tag team it.

Bam

From: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 7:28 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Drone Update

Bam-

FYSA

Thanks,

Manny Martinez Jr.

Special Agent

(b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) @KS.GOV>
Date: 1/7/2020 11:04 AM
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: Drone Update

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www.kansashighwaypatrol.org

<image001.png>

"Truly superior pilots are those who use their superior judgment to avoid those situations where they might have to use their superior skills."



Fwd: LEAP Report on UAS Sitings

From: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 11:12:37 -0500

Please see msg below and respond. Pls cc me.
Thanks

Pam

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Strabala, Andrew (FAA)" <Andrew.Strabala@faa.gov>
Date: January 7, 2020 at 9:21:56 AM EST
To: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Cc: "Bates, Scotty (FAA)" <Scotty.Bates@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: LEAP Report on UAS Sitings

Hi Pam,

Just one quick question – does John need to contact Michael Bumberger to get himself and the RA added to the distribution list?

Also, as the ASH Senior Rep for Central and alternate for Walter here in ASW....I've been getting a lot of questions about the drone situation in Colorado and Nebraska. There are media reports of a Federal Task Force convening to investigate this issue. Does LEAP of Flight Standards plan to put out any information updating the RA's on this taskforce?

Thanks and hope all is well in Boston!

Drew

Andrew E. Strabala

Manager, Central Infrastructure Protection Division (AXF-500)

10101 Hillwood Parkway

Suite 6N-200

Fort Worth, TX 76177

817-222-5739 v.

(b) (6) c.

"The best do ordinary things better than everyone else" Chuck Noll

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From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Speckin, John (FAA) <john.speckin@faa.gov>
Cc: Miniace, Joseph N (FAA) <Joseph.N.Miniace@faa.gov>; Strabala, Andrew (FAA) <Andrew.Strabala@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: LEAP Report on UAS Sitings

Mr. Speckin,

Michael Bumberger is taking the lead on this and keeping Manny and Gio informed. We can include you and Mr. Miniace on any other findings.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray

Office of National Security Programs

and Incident Response

Manager, Law Enforcement

Assistance Program Division, AXE-800

781-238-7703 (office)

(b) (6) (cell)

781-238-7716 (fax)

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From: Speckin, John (FAA) <john.speckin@faa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Cc: Miniace, Joseph N (FAA) <Joseph.N.Miniace@faa.gov>; Strabala, Andrew (FAA) <Andrew.Strabala@faa.gov>
Subject: LEAP Report on UAS Sitings

Hi Pamela,

The ATO shared with me a copy of one of your LEAP Officer's reports providing status of the UAS Sitings in NE Colorado and SW Nebraska that has been getting so much attention. The report seems to be very comprehensive and only one we have seen within in the Agency. Joe Miniace (Central RA) and myself would like to be added to her/his distribution list, so we can stay informed on the Agency's actions/findings.

Thanks so much for your help,

John Speckin
Deputy Regional Administrator
FAA Central Region
816-329-3053

RE: LEAP Report on UAS Sitings

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 11:27:08 -0500

I am on it.

From: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: LEAP Report on UAS Sitings

Please see msg below and respond. Pls cc me.
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Pam

Sent from my iPhone

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Andrew E. Strabala
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10101 Hillwood Parkway
Suite 6N-200
Fort Worth, TX 76177
8
9 v.
(b) (6) c.

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Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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Thanks so much for your help,

John Speckin
Deputy Regional Administrator
FAA Central Region
816-329-3053

FW: Drone Update

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: (b) (6) @state.co.us>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 11:45:39 -0500

FYSA

We had another sightings of drones last night. This time it was by one of our K-9 Troopers. I contacted him directly and he told me the drones were about 6 miles west, southwest of Oakley, Kansas last night. He said one of the drones had a really bright light on it, like a spot light. That drone stayed relatively stationary at that location. He then said there were anywhere from 10 to 15 drones that flew all kinds of patterns around that stationary drone. At one point one of those drones flew directly over his house. He had his night vision with him so he tried to look at it. Some of the lights on the drone drowned out a good picture with the NVG's, but he said he thought he saw 4 rotors on the drone as well as a horizontal stabilizer or wing. The wing appeared to be about 10 foot in length. He said the drone was about 200 feet in the air and made absolutely no sound at all, even though the wind was calm. This all occurred around 1900 hours. I called and was talking with him around 2000 hours and they were still flying. I asked him if we should come out with our aircraft and attempt to locate a command vehicle somewhere near the area. He thought they might land prior to us getting there as the main stationary drone was getting lower and lower as time went on and the other drones got closer to it. We decided not to fly last night, but will probably try to go out tonight. We have a busy day today so if tonight doesn't work for us we will go out Wednesday night.

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Colorado Drone Task Force

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Speckin, John (FAA)" <john.speckin@faa.gov>, "Miniace, Joseph N (FAA)" <joseph.n.miniace@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 12:27:26 -0500
Attachments: Note from UAS meeting 1-6.docx (15.66 kB)

Mr. Miniace and Mr. Speckin,

The attached is a brief summary of the meeting held in Brush Colorado yesterday. The following is from the brief referencing the task force:

The biggest take away is a drone task force has been established. Sheriff (b) from Morgan County has agreed to take the lead in the task force. The task force will consist of several sheriff offices in Colorado and Nebraska (not sure of the exact number or who), FAA LEAP and Denver FSDO, FBI, and the Colorado Information Analysis Center.

I will make sure you are included in future updates.

R,
Mike

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: (310) 725-6660

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Note from UAS meeting 1/6, Brush, CO.

77 people attended the meeting. The group consisted of a representative from Senator Gardner's office, FAA LEAP and Denver FSDO, FBI, DHS, 12 northeast Colorado county sheriff's from Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, and Yuma counties, six southwest Nebraska county sheriff's from Chase, Cheyenne, Deuel, Kimball, Perkins, and Lincoln counties, Nebraska State Patrol, F.E. Warren AFB OSI, Colorado National Guard, Colorado Information Analysis Center, and Colorado Fish and Wildlife.

After an introduction and brief statement of the drone activity by Morgan County Sheriff (b) (6), FAA LEAP SA was asked to brief FAA's role, what has been done to help identify a possible operator, and answer questions from the attendees. After a brief opening statement FAA LEAP explained the following:

- Action taken by the FAA. The explanation consisted of what was outlined in the Administrator's brief sent on 1/6.
- Advised the attendees, based on current information it is unclear what if any laws or regulations have been broken and/or violated.
- The only true way to address the issue is to identify the operator and stated at this point based on the amount of media attention the issue has received, reporting has become somewhat unreliable.

A person in Nebraska claimed responsibility shooting down a drone in connection with a shot fired report in McCook, NE last week. Individual posted a picture of a damaged drone. When interviewed by Nebraska State Police the individual stated he made the story up and the photo was taken from the internet. The photo was authenticated and confirmed to be from the internet and not connected.

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- Questions were asked about detection and mitigation. LEAP SA advised the technology exists, however the FAA does not possess the equipment. A follow on question was asked about Aerial Armor and other private industry drone detection companies. LEAP SA advised the group, based on his experiences, drone detection companies are capable of detecting mostly (b) (6) products. At this point we must consider the description of the drone activity, size of the drone(s) being very large (up to six foot wing span), and multiple reports of drone flying in high winds 20 to 30 mph it does not appear (b) (6) products are being used.

FBI followed LEAP brief, which basically confirmed the activity may be legitimate in nature and requested the LE in attendance provide some type of PSA to their residence about shooting at aircraft.

Nebraska State Patrol advised after addressing safety concerns, an aerial mission took place last night with patrol assets. No activity was observed. The previous scheduled mission from last week was cancelled based on concerns of operating in possible close proximity of drones. There is a possibility more flight might take place throughout the week.

Colorado Information Analysis Center volunteered to collect all the drone reports from LE and work with their counterparts in Nebraska to provide a report of the previous day's drone sightings.

Based on information received during the meeting it appears sightings and reports have decreased in the original counties of northeast Colorado and have moved northeast into Nebraska and further south into Lincoln County, encroaching on El Paso County Colorado.

The biggest take away is a drone task force has been established. Sheriff (b) (6) from Morgan County has agreed to take the lead in the task force. The task force will consist of several sheriff offices in Colorado and Nebraska (not sure of the exact number or who), FAA LEAP and Denver FSDO, FBI, and the Colorado Information Analysis Center. **Local news media is reporting the FAA has established the task force. FAA LEAP played a role in garnering support and interest. However, Sheriff (b) (6) has taken the lead in establishing the task force though mutual cooperation. Basically it is a group collaboration.**

ABC, CBS, and NBC national news and several local news outlet were present, but were not allowed in the meeting. FAA PAO from Los Angeles addressed the group with a statement from the FAA. Followed by a joint sheriff's statement from Sheriff (b) (6). The statements were followed by question and answer session.

RE: Colorado Drone Task Force

From: "Speckin, John (FAA)" <john.speckin@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Miniace, Joseph N (FAA)" <joseph.n.miniace@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 12:47:56 -0500

Michael,

Thank you so much for the update – well done. We appreciate you including us in this and future updates. Do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance in any way.

FYSA, we are getting inquiries from the NE congressional offices. We are passing along the basic information and info provided by AOC.

Thanks again,

John Speckin
Deputy Regional Administrator
FAA Central Region
816-329-3053

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Speckin, John (FAA) <john.speckin@faa.gov>; Miniace, Joseph N (FAA) <Joseph.N.Miniace@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: Colorado Drone Task Force

Mr. Miniace and Mr. Speckin,

The attached is a brief summary of the meeting held in Brush Colorado yesterday. The following is from the brief referencing the task force:

The biggest take away is a drone task force has been established. Sheriff (b) from Morgan County has agreed to take the lead in the task force. The task force will consist of several sheriff offices in Colorado and Nebraska (not sure of the exact number or who), FAA LEAP and Denver FSDO, FBI, and the Colorado Information Analysis Center.

I will make sure you are included in future updates.

R,
Mike

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: (310) 725-6660

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CIAC Op Monday 1/6

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Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 12:57:28 -0500

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This morning I contacted my POC from the CIAC to get more information. He advised the op did go as planned last night, which included a PC12 and seven ground units from Colorado State Patrol. The aircraft flew in some areas of reported activity but were unable to correlate the reports. A majority of the activity observed was fixed wing aircraft. No drones were identified and nothing new was learned from the flight or ground operation.

On a side note, CIAC believes it was miscommunication as to why the FAA was told the operation was cancelled. I have been told no further operations are scheduled with an aviation asset. There is a possibility Colorado State Patrol may provide more ground assets later in the week. CIAC advised they will inform me if the op takes place.

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Bam

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To: "Miniace, Joseph N (FAA)" <joseph.n.miniace@faa.gov>, "Speckin, John (FAA)" <john.speckin@faa.gov>
Cc: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:05:53 -0500

Sirs,

Last night a coordinated operation was conducted, which included seven ground units from Colorado State Patrol and a PC12 belonging to Colorado Wildfire Prevention. The PC12 is a wildfire command and control, mixed, mission aircraft configured with sensor to include IR. The op area encompassed the effected counties in NE Colorado and portions of SW Nebraska.

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Bam

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)

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RE: Colorado Drone Task Force

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Speckin, John (FAA)" <john.speckin@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:06:50 -0500

Thank you

From: Speckin, John (FAA) <john.speckin@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Miniace, Joseph N (FAA) <Joseph.N.Miniace@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
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FAA Central Region
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Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
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Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)
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Nebraska Drones

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:16:39 -0500

Just got word there were reports in Scottsbluff County and the western edge of Omaha last night. Not sure if the sightings were verified by LE.

Bam

RE: Nebraska Drones

From: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:19:20 -0500

Bam-

Copy all! I'll let you know if I hear anything.

Thanks,

Manny Martinez Jr.
Special Agent, Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)
Office: 816-329-3717 Mobile: (b) (6)

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From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: Nebraska Drones

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Bam

RE: CIAC Op Monday 1/6

From: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:22:23 -0500

Thanks Bam.
Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
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Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:35:59 -0500

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Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O)

(M) (b) (6)

(M)

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Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
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From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:38:55 -0500

Thank you... I will provide an update before I call it quits today of what has been provided to me from last night into today.

R,
Bam

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 10:36 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
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Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
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To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:43:24 -0500

Excellent. USG closed at 1300 in DC in advance of a snow event at evening Rush Hour. I will be getting out of here at 1400 and then operational when I get back to my townhouse. You always know how to reach me by email or either cell.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: CIAC Op Monday 1/6

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To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 13:47:20 -0500

Stay warm and dry. Safe travels home

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: CIAC Op Monday 1/6

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Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: CIAC Op Monday 1/6

Thank you... I will provide an update before I call it quits today of what has been provided to me from last night into today.

R,
Bam

From: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 10:36 AM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: CIAC Op Monday 1/6

Great update, Bam. I packaged in third person and sent to Angela.

For your SA, I sent an email earlier today to the SES at FBI CIRG to stoke the fires on what the FBI is doing, both in the field and at FBI HQ. Prompted an immediate return call from the SES after he sent emails to SACs at FBI Omaha and Denver asking for updates (that could be shared with FAA and with the FBI Director). I will share whatever I get, either verbally or in writing, when gets the field reports. FBI is struggling, at least at HQ, with the conundrum that technically without a criminal nexus, there is not much they can do.

Josh

Joshua Holtzman
Acting Deputy Associate Administrator
Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(O) 2
(M) (b) (6)
(M)

From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Holtzman, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Holtzman@faa.gov>; Feddersen, Brett (FAA) <Brett.Feddersen@faa.gov>; Papier, Leesa J (FAA) <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>; Burns, Craig (FAA) <Craig.Burns@faa.gov>; Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA) <Manuel.Martinez-Jr@faa.gov>
Subject: CIAC Op Monday 1/6

Yesterday I approached a representative from the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) to inquire about a possible mission utilizing a fixed wing aircraft in response to UAS activity and possibly identifying an operator. I was aware of the op based on coordination that took place last Friday. The CIAC rep indicated the op would not take place on Monday, but possibly later in the week. Last night about 1900 mst Craig provided information indicating an aircraft belonging to the state was flight planned to depart Centennial Airport (APA). I logged into AADS and for several hours observe WLDLD27 a PC12 belonging to Colorado Wildfire Prevention fly over the effected counties in NE Colorado and portions of SW Nebraska. The PC12 is a wildfire command and control, mixed, mission aircraft configured with sensor to include IR.

This morning I contacted my POC from the CIAC to get more information. He advised the op did go as planned last night, which included a PC12 and seven ground units from Colorado State Patrol. The aircraft flew in some areas of reported activity but were unable to correlate the reports. A majority of the activity observed was fixed wing aircraft. No drones were identified and nothing new was learned from the flight or ground operation.

On a side note, CIAC believes it was miscommunication as to why the FAA was told the operation was cancelled. I have been told no further operations are scheduled with an aviation asset. There is a possibility Colorado State Patrol may provide more ground assets later in the week. CIAC advised they will inform me if the op takes place.

Last night I was scheduled to ride with Morgan County Sheriff. Due to high winds 40 sustained with gust to 60 that was cancelled.

R,
Bam

LEAP Intro

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Kloskin, Keith (FAA)" <keith.kloskin@faa.gov>, "Wylie, Wendy (FAA)" <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 15:39:18 -0500

Keith,

I stated incorrectly Wendy Wylie is your LEAP POC for Minnesota. I have not briefed Wendy on the drone reports from last week.

Wendy,

Last week (New Year's Day) Rice County SO contacted me to report drone activity similar to what was/is happening in NE Colorado and SW Nebraska. I look into and verified the information through a deputy. Since there have been no other reports I have stored the info for future reference and concentrated on the bulk of the activity in NE Colorado. Keith contacted me today to discuss the info and is looking for a LEAP POC. I incorrectly told him it was Manny. Can you please get with Keith.

So without further ado:

Keith – Wendy
Wendy – Keith

Thank you,
Bam

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)

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RE: LEAP Intro

From: "Kloskin, Keith (FAA)" <keith.kloskin@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, "Wylie, Wendy (FAA)" <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Medina, Gianfranco (FAA)" <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 15:52:07 -0500

Thank you Mike. I left a voice mail with both Manny and Wendy.

Keith R. Kloskin
Aviation Safety Inspector - Dispatch
MidWest CMO, AFC-410/GL62
Minneapolis, MN 55450
612-253-4497
Keith.Kloskin@faa.gov



From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Kloskin, Keith (FAA) <keith.kloskin@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Subject: LEAP Intro

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Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
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MN FSDO

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
Cc: "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 16:01:57 -0500

Pam,

I received a call from Minneapolis FSDO in reference to a drone sighting from New Year's Eve in Rice County. I sent an email to Keith Kloskin introducing him to Wendy.

Keith advised no one in the office along with all their LE contacts knows who their LEAP POC is and didn't know what to do for reporting drone activity. Keith reached out to me because he got my contact info from the Rice County Deputy I spoke with New Year's Day. I am not trying to throw rocks at a glass house, apparently the FSDO has been going out and briefing UAS rules, roles, and responsibilities to LE throughout the state. I advised Keith of the order and FSDO/LEAP roles and told him I would make sure a LEAP agent from the central region contacts him.

R,
Bam

RE: LEAP Intro

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Kloskin, Keith (FAA)" <keith.kloskin@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 16:02:31 -0500

Thank you Keith and sorry for the confusion.

From: Kloskin, Keith (FAA) <keith.kloskin@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: LEAP Intro

Thank you Mike. I left a voice mail with both Manny and Wendy.

Keith R. Kloskin
Aviation Safety Inspector - Dispatch
MidWest CMO, AFC-410/GL62
Minneapolis, MN 55450
612-253-4497
Keith.Kloskin@faa.gov



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Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Kloskin, Keith (FAA) <keith.kloskin@faa.gov>; Wylie, Wendy (FAA) <wendy.wylie@faa.gov>
Cc: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>; Medina, Gianfranco (FAA) <gianfranco.medina@faa.gov>
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So without further ado:

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Wendy – Keith

Thank you,
Bam

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)

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FW: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

From: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
To: dmartin@co.morgan.co.us, "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 16:09:52 -0500

Gents -

Please see the media inquiry below. I have no idea if the sheriff is indeed saying such things, but if he is, it certainly is not helpful for him to be speculating.

(BTW, I am not going to offer any speculation or comment on what the Yuma County Sheriff is supposedly saying.)

Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division

(b) (6) (o)
(c)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:
Twitter: @FAANews
Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration
Instagram: FAA

-----Original Message-----

From: Kenitzer, Allen (FAA) <Allen.Kenitzer@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

Do you want to take this?

-----O
From: (b) (6) @usatoday.com>
Sent: 11:59 AM
To: Kenitzer, Allen (FAA) <Allen.Kenitzer@faa.gov>
Subject: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

This email was sent through the Federal Aviation Administration's public website. You have been contacted via an email link on the following page:
www.faa.gov/news/contact_information/

Message:

Hi Allen,

I'm a reporter with USA TODAY. I was hoping I could get some questions answered regarding the mysterious drones in the Colorado/Nebraska area.

I understand from a statement from the Yuma County Sheriff's Office that agencies believe that a vehicle of some sort is controlling the unmanned drones. Could I get an explanation as to why?

Also, if there are any updates this week about the drones, please let me know. Thanks.

(b)

RE: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 16:25:37 -0500

Can you give me a call when you can (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 1:10 PM
To: dmartin@co.morgan.co.us; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

Gents -

Please see the media inquiry below. I have no idea if the sheriff is indeed saying such things, but if he is, it certainly is not helpful for him to be speculating.

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Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division

(b) (6) (o)
(c)

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To: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

Do you want to take this?

-----O

From: (b) (6) @usatoday.com>
Sent: 1/7/20 11:59 AM
To: Kenitzer, Allen (FAA) <Allen.Kenitzer@faa.gov>
Subject: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

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(b) (6)

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From: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 16:27:07 -0500

Yup. I'm on a telcon but will call you when I'm done.

Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(b) (6) (o)
(c)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:
Twitter: @FAANews
Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration
Instagram: FAA

-----Original Message-----
From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

Can you give me a call when you can (b) (6)

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From: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 1:10 PM
To: (b) (6) @co.morgan.co.us; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
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Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(b) (6) (o)
(c)

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To: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

Do you want to take this?

-----Original Message-----
From: jbote@usatoday.com <jbote@usatoday.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Kenitzer, Allen (FAA) <Allen.Kenitzer@faa.gov>
Subject: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

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Joshua

Re: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 16:29:07 -0500

Ty

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)

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Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2020, at 2:27 PM, Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov> wrote:

Yup. I'm on a telcon but will call you when I'm done.

Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(b) (6) (o)
(b) (6) (c)

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Instagram: FAA

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Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Subject: RE: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

Can you give me a call when you can (b) (6)

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From: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 1:10 PM
To: (b) (6) <[@co.morgan.co.us](mailto:(b) (6)@co.morgan.co.us)>; Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: FW: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

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Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(b) (6) (o)
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Subject: FW: Message from www.faa.gov: Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

Do you want to take this?

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Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 11:59 AM
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Joshua

FW: Message from <http://www.faa.gov> Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

From: "Gregor, Ian (FAA)" <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, (b) (6) @co.morgan.co.us
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 16:30:56 -0500

See below. It is Phillips County, not Yuma. We need to try to coordinate communications through the Task Force instead of individual agencies going off on their own.

Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division
(424) 405-7007 (o)
(b) (6) (c)

Please follow the FAA on Social Media:
Twitter: @FAANews
Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: Federal Aviation Administration
Instagram: FAA

From: (b) (6) @usatoday.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <ian.gregor@faa.gov>
Subject: Re: Message from <http://www.faa.gov> Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

My mistake--it was Phillips County Sheriff's Office. Here's the link: [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2798342946854051&id=651134114908289&_xts__\[0\]=68.ARDOynPy1ozEU60uQm4dYo2_VRHMSpZFdXG6Re8e9F7ZHEcafAfUzwmpULBCJAO-xCx3mQEWG76cmppC03qSDfgHDvOfVT5-cd1aeT-ggoihhh0EbWnhVYmsMlcyjC1N51ME-FOMNn5hPM2fJrr-o5z07kh4FxmPv6zg-L_SxImdApjx7x7tRZbt19t8kfiqvJoTyad39IC5VzRLBKgYX5HBfiZg3hDE9o-GZSrgwnlCjWfjIq5jaCORMwJeuQc7kRDWDt4eIzYdc3gKWT4SuxOfxtE9wTOjFY597MP-gM4bKXI9-htMgId4YrzsNXYwrN7GY73k9kLaxJKxrbELQ&_tn_=-R](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2798342946854051&id=651134114908289&_xts__[0]=68.ARDOynPy1ozEU60uQm4dYo2_VRHMSpZFdXG6Re8e9F7ZHEcafAfUzwmpULBCJAO-xCx3mQEWG76cmppC03qSDfgHDvOfVT5-cd1aeT-ggoihhh0EbWnhVYmsMlcyjC1N51ME-FOMNn5hPM2fJrr-o5z07kh4FxmPv6zg-L_SxImdApjx7x7tRZbt19t8kfiqvJoTyad39IC5VzRLBKgYX5HBfiZg3hDE9o-GZSrgwnlCjWfjIq5jaCORMwJeuQc7kRDWDt4eIzYdc3gKWT4SuxOfxtE9wTOjFY597MP-gM4bKXI9-htMgId4YrzsNXYwrN7GY73k9kLaxJKxrbELQ&_tn_=-R)

(b) (6)

From: Gregor, Ian (FAA) <Ian.Gregor@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Bote, Joshua <JBote@usatoday.com>
Subject: RE: Message from <http://www.faa.gov> Northwest Mountain Region inquiry

(b) (6) -

What statement are you referencing? I have heard no such discussion.

Best,

Ian Gregor
Communications Manager
FAA Pacific Division
7 (o)
(b) (6) (c)

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Update 1-7-2020

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Holtzman, Joshua (FAA)" <joshua.holtzman@faa.gov>, "Feddersen, Brett (FAA)" <brett.feddersen@faa.gov>, "Papier, Leesa J (FAA)" <leesa.j.papier@faa.gov>
Cc: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>, "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>, "Burns, Craig (FAA)" <craig.burns@faa.gov>, "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>, "Miniace, Joseph N (FAA)" <joseph.n.miniace@faa.gov>, "Speckin, John (FAA)" <john.speckin@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 18:32:08 -0500
Attachments: Update 1-7-2020.docx (12.91 kB)

Please give me a call if you have any questions. (b) (6)

R,
Bam

Update 1/7/2020

Monday night 1/6 Colorado Information Analysis Center in conjunction with Colorado State Patrol and Colorado Wildfire Prevention conducted an operation in NE Colorado and SW Nebraska. The op consisted of one fixed wing platform and seven patrol vehicles. No drones or operators were identified and no new leads were developed. As of right now there are no future plans to conduct an op with aviation assets. An op utilizing ground units might possibly take place later this week.

Although reporting in NE Colorado continues to decline, reports from east central Colorado, Nebraska, and western Kansas are increasing. Activity has been reported to the FAA in the following counties: Colorado: Douglas, Lincoln, and Sedgwick. Nebraska: Buffalo, western Douglas, Saline, and Scotts Bluff. Kansas: Logan.

Lack of reporting in NE Colorado last night could possibly be contributed to high winds 40 mph sustained gusting to 60 mph.

County Sheriff's continue to use social media as an outlet to keep their community informed. Although the posting are an attempt to be informational in nature, the FAA has been a topic within their posts. In one instant, Sedgwick County Colorado used Facebook to release FAA PAO Ian Gregor's office and work cellular phone number for the public to call. The sheriff was contacted by LEAP and a request was made to remove the information, he has yet to respond to the request. Additionally, several posts have not only mischaracterized the FAA's message from yesterday's meeting, they have provided an inaccurate account of some of the information discussed by the group. This has resulted in increased media inquiries with the FAA.

Due to no laws being broken several sheriff offices within Colorado are no longer responding to drone sightings. Small offices are unable to respond to the amount of sighting calls received and continue to provide community based policing services.

To date, the activity has remained in rural area and only a few sighting have been made in the vicinity of small uncontrolled airports.

Fwd:

From: (b) (6) @co.washington.co.us>
To: michael.bumberger@faa.gov
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 20:19:25 -0500

From: (b) (6) @yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Jan 7, 2020 at 17:55
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: (b) (6) @co.washington.co.us>

Info on drones

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) @gmail.com>
Date: [REDACTED] PM MST
To: (b) (6) @yahoo.com>

Morgan County Sheriff's Office, Colorado what about this post that was posted earlier in another group by a resident there? "It IS (b) (6) .

Drone Update !!

Be on the lookout for the following !! Please report location and time of sighting.

Last seen in Colby Kansas seen in Levant Ks this am.

Also reported in Genoa Colorado headed north on county road.

Also seen west of Anton Co heading north on County Road

Two gold Ford three-quarter ton trucks, probably 2016ish fitted with antennas.

Two Ford 1 ton trucks, with a large armored back, no windows, satellite antennas on top. Appears to be a surveillance/armored vehicle. Four-man in each vehicle. All wearing tactical clothing, with Kevlar chest kits this am. Ammo on board

One white chevy van heavy duty - no windows, antennas also. 2016ish.

One all terrain unmarked humvee black matte color. Blacked out windows on all vehicles. 4 men in this vehicle.

3 military semis with armored personnel Carrier and humvees and a few black suburbans were on the side road in west of Genoa turned north on the dirt. Approximately 15 vehicles total. No normal military markings

V [REDACTED] rked but they belong to :: paid with fuel with credit card.

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(google

Not known if they are investigating the drones or a part of the drones.

Dr [REDACTED] te Just in. Thanks (b) (6)

@(b) (6) guess what!!!! 4 b [REDACTED] k armored looking vans, no windows, just went past our farm, all together. No markings whatsoever or windows except the [REDACTED] eld and front seat windows. Government plates. I'd love to go chase them down but I cannot currently drive. Hwy 36 between Anton and Lindon. Headed east and turned north the next road over.

Can someone make sure your Sheriff sees this message. Thank you"

(b) (6), Lieutenant
Morgan County Sheriff's Office
26861 US Highway 34
Akron, CO 80720
(970) 345-6865 Ext 2004

RE: Fwd:

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: (b) (6) @co.washington.co.us>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 21:00:23 -0500

Thank you sir...

Mike

Michael Bumberger

Special Agent
Federal Aviation Administration
National Security Programs and Incident Response
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), AXE-830
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: (310) 725-0000

WARNING: This document may be LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE (LES) & may be designated FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It may contain information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) & controlled under the provisions of 49 CFR 1520. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: (b) (6) @co.washington.co.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 5:19 PM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Subject: Fwd:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) @yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Jan 7, 2020 at 17:55
Subject: Fwd:
To: (b) (6) @co.washington.co.us>

Info on drones

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) @gmail.com>
Date: 1/7/20 5:17 PM MST
To: (b) (6) @yahoo.com>

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(b) (6)
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Vehicles are unmarked but they belong to :: paid with fuel with credit card.

(b) (6)
Out of (b) (6)
(google them)

Not known if they are investigating the drones or a part of the drones.

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@(b) (6) guess what!!!! 4 big black armored looking vans, no windows, just went past our farm, all together. No markings whatsoever or windows except the windshield and front seat windows. Government plates. I'd love to go chase them down but I cannot currently drive. Hwy

36 between Anton and Lindon. Headed east and turned north the next road over.
Can someone make sure your Sherrif sees this message. Thank you”

(b) (6) Lieutenant
Washington County Sheriff's Office
26861 US Highway 34
Akron, CO 80720
(970) 345-6865 Ext 2004

Drone sighting report (North West Nebraska)

From: 9-CSA-ROC (FAA) <9-csa-roc@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>, 7-AFS-ACE-LNK-FSDO-09 (FAA) <7-afs-ace-lnk-fsdo-09@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 21:40:05 -0500
Attachments: drone report #1.docx (124.66 kB)

This is a followup police report in regards to an initial report submitted to the C-ROC on Jan 4, 2020.

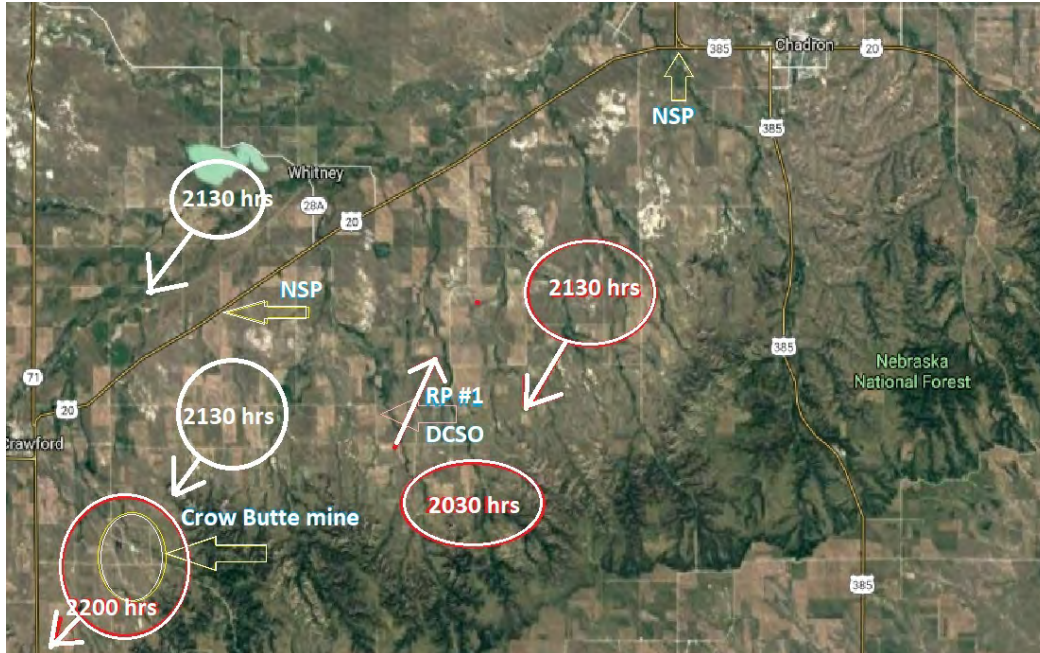
From: (b) (6) @gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 4:28 PM
To: 9-CSA-ROC (FAA) <9-CSA-ROC@faa.gov>
Subject: drone sighting report (North West Nebraska)

attached is the report and map of the sightings...

(b) (6)
Deputy Sheriff / Investigator
Dawes County Sheriff's Office
Crawford Station
248 Main St.
Crawford, NE, 69339
(b) (6)

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Dawes County Sheriff's Office

451 Main St., Chadron, Dawes County, Nebraska

Incident Report

Case # :DC20-0016

Deputy Sheriff: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Date/Time: 1-4-2020 @ 2026 hrs

Incident: Suspicious Circumstance (Drone sighting)

Victim: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Suspect: UKN

Suspect DOB: UKN

Suspect Address: UKN

Suspect Phone: UKN

Citation # : N/A

On above mentioned date, while on duty, I was contacted by Sheriff's Office jail staff in regards to Reporting Party (RP) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Whitney, Dawes County, Nebraska), reporting a sighting of approximately 10 drones, (also known as Unmanned Aircraft Systems, UAS), flying near her residence.

I requested assistance from Nebraska State Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), who traveled East on Highway 20 from Crawford towards the Chadron area (as I had received information from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) that the "swarm" of drones was heading Northeast from her listed Residence at approximately 40 miles an hour).

As I was in route to the RP residence, Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was stationary at mile marker 56 just west of Chadron and Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was stationary at mile marker 42 just west of Whitney.

When speaking with the reporting party, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), it was described to me that several drones up to possibly 10 were hovering a couple miles south of their residence over the tree line on top of table road area (approx 3 miles south and ½ mile AGL – Above Ground Level).

One drone then flew below the Horizon and over near their neighbors barn. The reporting party stated that he could see white and green lights. I asked the reporting party (to his perspective) how far apart were the lights from each other?

The reporting party stated that the white and green lights were about an inch wide apart from each other from his point of view. (It should be noted that his neighbor's barn is approximately half a mile from his residence). In theory, at that distance, the white and green lights would approx be 6 ft apart from each other.

The reporting party stated that the drones loitered in the area and then headed northeast where they lost sight of them.

Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) reported to me that he could see one white light source that was to his Southwest about 1 mile up and appeared to be moving in an erratic fashion (side to side and up/down) but growing smaller suggesting it was possibly heading away from him.

After speaking with the RP and not seeing any drone activity from their location, I relocated to Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) location at mile marker 56. Upon arrival he pointed out the small light source that I could barely see, but it was below the Horizon of stars and several miles Southwest.

Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) reported to have eyes on approximately 8 light sources (2 or 3 South West, 3 North and 1 or 2 North East moving South).

Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) could positively ID the North East light source as a drone that appeared to be about 1 mile AGL and possibly have the same shape as a predator type drone or small plane but was not that large and had approximately a 6-foot wingspan. Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated this drone was back lit by the Moon light and looked to be grey in color. Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated all the light sources were moving in grid patterns, stopping, then moving left/right and repeating.

Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that all at once, all light sources stopped, then began moving in a South West straight line and out of eyesight.

Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had no knowledge of the reporting party's statements at this time.

Upon taking his description plus the reporting party's description and cross-referencing them with other reports from other sightings, they appeared to be the same description of other sighting's and movement characteristics.

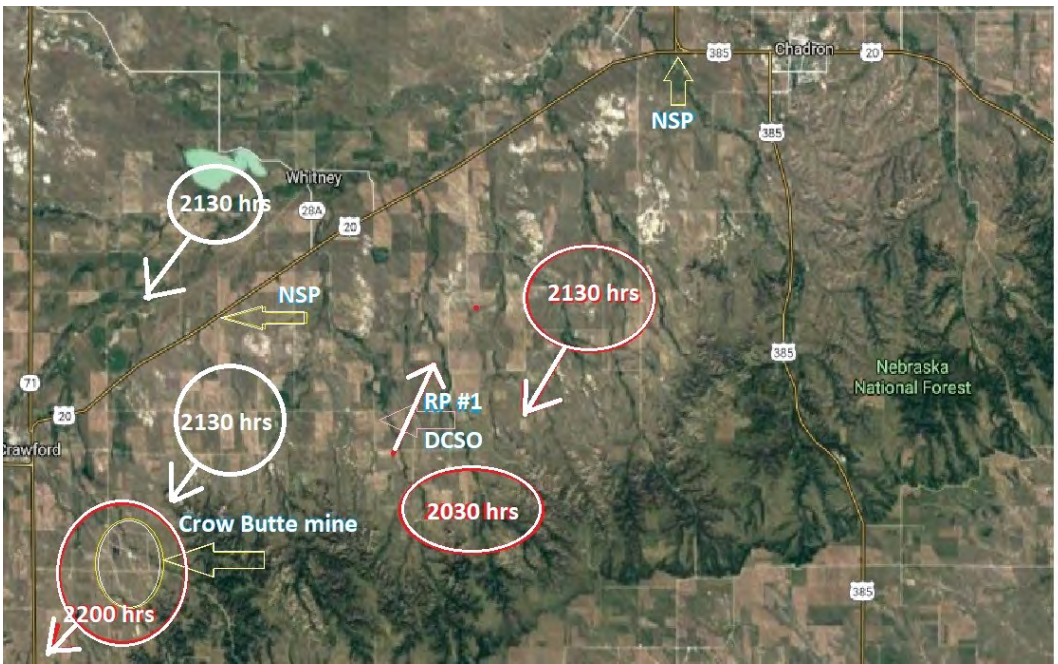
I then drove to mile marker 42 where Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) saw drone activity and was able to use binoculars and located approximately 2 possibly 3 light sources several miles to the Southwest over the tree line that were growing smaller. These appeared to me to be below the Horizon of stars and moving left/right almost in synchronization.

I then drove to the Southwest on Highway 20 and then Highway 2/71 South and stopped on top of a hill near Belmont, Nebraska and proceeded to again scan to the southwest and was unable to locate any further light sources.

Myself and both Troopers did not locate any utility type Vans or vehicles on the roadway that were park or loitering in the area.

It should be noted that 5.5 miles to the southwest of Trooper (b) (6), (b) (7) (C) position (MM 42, Hwy 20) ,when the activity was taking place, is the Crow Butte uranium mine. Also the wind speed, for this area, from 2030 to 2200 hrs (activity time line) was at 30 mph with 40+ mph gusts.

X _____ Deputy Sheriff (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



RE: Drone sighting report (North West Nebraska)

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: 9-CSA-ROC (FAA) <9-csa-roc@faa.gov>
Date: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 22:05:06 -0500

Thank you

From: 9-CSA-ROC (FAA) <9-CSA-ROC@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 6:40 PM
To: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>; 7-AFS-ACE-LNK-FSDO-09 (FAA) <7-AFS-ACE-LNK-FSDO-09@faa.gov>
Subject: Drone sighting report (North West Nebraska)

This is a followup police report in regards to an initial report submitted to the C-ROC on Jan 4, 2020.

From: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 4:28 PM
To: 9-CSA-ROC (FAA) <9-CSA-ROC@faa.gov>
Subject: drone sighting report (North West Nebraska)

attached is the report and map of the sightings...

--
(b) (6) / Investigator
Dawes County Sheriff's Office
Crawford Station
248 Main St.
Crawford, NE. 69339
308-665-2510

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RE: MN FSDO

From: "Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA)" <pamela.whitaker-gray@faa.gov>
To: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
Cc: "Stewart, Ed (FAA)" <ed.stewart@faa.gov>
Date: Wed, 08 Jan 2020 07:12:04 -0500

Bam,

Thank you for the info. I will chat with Wendy.

Pam

Pamela Whitaker-Gray
**Office of National Security Programs
and Incident Response
Manager, Law Enforcement
Assistance Program Division, AXE-800**
(office)
(b) (6) (cell)
(fax)

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controlled under the provisions of 49 CFR 1520. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended
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From: Bumberger, Michael (FAA) <Michael.Bumberger@faa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Whitaker-Gray, Pamela (FAA) <Pamela.Whitaker-Gray@faa.gov>
Cc: Stewart, Ed (FAA) <Ed.Stewart@faa.gov>
Subject: MN FSDO

Pam,

I received a call from Minneapolis FSDO in reference to a drone sighting from New Year's Eve in Rice County. I sent an email to Keith Kloskin introducing him to Wendy.

Keith advised no one in the office along with all their LE contacts knows who their LEAP POC is and didn't know what to do for reporting drone activity. Keith reached out to me because he got my contact info from the Rice County Deputy I spoke with New Year's Day. I am not trying to throw rocks at a glass house, apparently the FSDO has been going out and briefing UAS rules, roles, and responsibilities to LE throughout the state. I advised Keith of the order and FSDO/LEAP roles and told him I would make sure a LEAP agent from the central region contacts him.

R,
Bam

FW: Drone sighting report (North West Nebraska)

From: "Bumberger, Michael (FAA)" <michael.bumberger@faa.gov>
To: "Martinez, Manuel Jr (FAA)" <manuel.martinez-jr@faa.gov>
Date: Wed, 08 Jan 2020 09:27:35 -0500
Attachments: drone report #1.docx (124.66 kB)

FYSA

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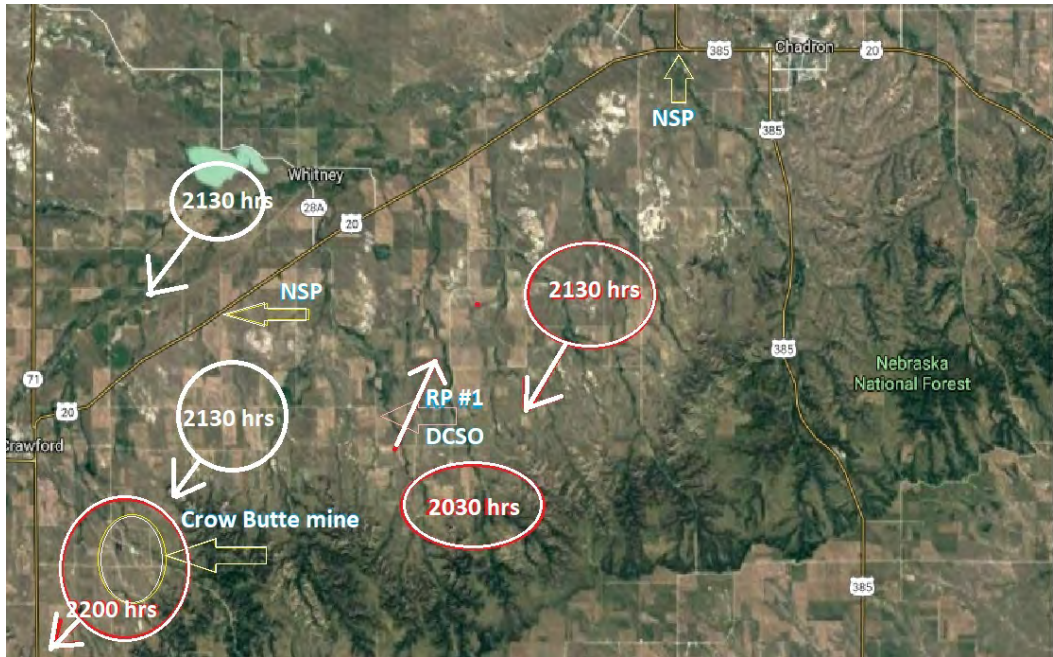
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Crawford Station
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Suspect: UKN

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