



PATROL GUIDE

Section: Command Operations		Procedure No: 212-124	
USE OF DEPARTMENT UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS)			
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PURPOSE To inform uniformed members of the service of the circumstances under which a Department unmanned aircraft system (UAS) may be utilized.

SCOPE There are limited circumstances in which a UAS can be used. A UAS may be used for the following purposes:

- a. Search and rescue operations
- b. Documentation of collisions and crime scenes
- c. Evidence searches at large or inaccessible scenes
- d. Hazardous material incidents
- e. Monitoring vehicular traffic and pedestrian congestion at large scale events
- f. Visual assistance at hostage/barricaded suspect situations
- g. Rooftop security observation at shootings or large scale events at the direction of the Incident Commander
- h. Public safety, emergency, or other situation with the approval of the Chief of Department.

DEFINITION UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) - An aircraft without a human pilot onboard which is controlled remotely by an operator by use of a transmitter. Commonly referred to as a drone.

PROCEDURE When necessary to utilize a Department unmanned aircraft system (UAS):

COMMANDING OFFICER/ EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ DUTY CAPTAIN

1. Request response of trained TARU member via telephone, in circumstances dictating the feasibility of utilizing a UAS.

MOS ASSIGNED TO TARU

2. Act as operator of UAS.
 - a. UAS operator must hold a remote pilot certificate with a small UAS rating.
3. Make determination as to whether to utilize UAS, based on the totality of the circumstances.
 - a. Confer with TARU supervisor, if there is a disagreement concerning permissible uses of UAS.
 - (1) If disagreement cannot be resolved, the duty chief will make final determination.
 - b. If other operational concerns arise, such as weather, airspace, or safety, confer with TARU supervisor who will make final determination.

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MOS ASSIGNED TO TARU (continued)

4. Operate UAS within the guidelines of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 107, or the Certificate of Authorization (COA) issued to the Department by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and in compliance with all other applicable FAA, federal, state, and local laws.
5. Contact FAA and request emergency COA, if exigent circumstances exist and operating parameters are outside of existing COA.
 - a. Await authorization prior to commencing operation.
6. Make notifications, as necessary, including:
 - a. Aviation Unit of time, location, and flight path prior to deployment of UAS in order to avoid any airspace conflict with Department aircraft operating in the area
 - b. Operations Unit of time, location, and flight path prior to deployment, when appropriate
 - c. Radio dispatcher to alert responding members of the service of Department UAS operations in the area, when practical.
7. Maintain log of each UAS flight by date, time, location, purpose, flight time, pilot name, and authorizing member.
8. Prepare **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) DEPLOYMENT REPORT (PD620-151)** for all UAS flights and enter information into the Finest Online Records Management System (FORMS).

ADDITIONAL DATA

Recorded images will be retained for 30 days. Images that contain evidence of a crime will be preserved for criminal prosecution. The Legal Bureau may extend the retention period, if the images are needed for civil litigation, subpoena production, FOIL requests or other legal processes.

Furthermore, certain restrictions apply to the use of a UAS, consistent with the mission of the Department and privacy considerations for the public. These include:

- a. *A UAS cannot be used for the following purposes:*
 - (1) *Warrantless surveillance*
 - (2) *Routine patrol*
 - (3) *Traffic enforcement*
 - (4) *Immobilizing vehicles or suspects.*
- b. *Absent exigent circumstances, a UAS will **NOT** be deployed in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., to look inside of residences), without first obtaining a search warrant that explicitly authorizes the use of a UAS. After the search warrant is issued, a UAS may be used for a pre-warrant execution safety survey*
- c. *A UAS will **NOT** be used as a weapon or equipped with any weapons*
- d. *A UAS will **NOT** be equipped with facial recognition software*
- e. *UAS footage will not be subject to facial recognition analysis, absent a public safety concern*
- f. *Use of a UAS must be consistent with the Handschu Guidelines outlined in P.G. 212-71, "Guidelines for the Use of Video/Photographic Equipment by Operational Personnel at Demonstrations."*

The Legal Bureau is also available to assist members of the service in determining permissible uses of UAS.

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RELATED PROCEDURES *Conferral with Department Attorney (P.G. 211-20)*
Guidelines for the Use of Video/Photographic Equipment by Operational Personnel at Demonstrations (P.G. 212-71)

FORMS AND REPORTS **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) DEPLOYMENT REPORT (PD620-151)**

