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UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE PROGRAM

What is a Unmanned Aerial Vehicle?

- An unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) is most commonly known as a drone.
- A UAV is a small aircraft without a pilot, crew, or passenger on board.
- To operate a UAV, all components of the system are required, including a UAV, a ground-based controller, a human operator or pilot, and an internal technology system to allow the controller to communicate with the UAV.

What does a UAV look like?



What are the UAV capabilities?

- Model available to any member of the public for purchase
- Roughly 30 minutes of suspended flight time per battery
- 2 cameras, capable of thermal imaging



What will NSP use UAVs for?

- Public safety emergencies – NSPPD and NSPFD
- Training
- Crash reconstruction and crime scene documentation
- Locating vulnerable or missing persons
- Judicial signed warrant uses
- Fugitive searches
- Community events

What will NSP NOT use UAVs for?

- To conduct random surveillance activities.
- To target a person based solely on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability.
- To harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group.
- To conduct personal business of any type.
- Shall not intentionally record or transmit images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., residence, yard, enclosure). Operators and observers shall take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.
- The UAV shall not be weaponized (Minn. Stat. § 626.19).
- A UAV shall not be deployed with facial recognition or biometric-matching technology (Minn. Stat. § 626.19).
- Unless authorized by a warrant or for purposes of a permitted use outlined in this policy, a UAV shall not be used to collect data on public protests or demonstrations (Minn. Stat. § 626.19).

What Minnesota Statute governs UAV use in law enforcement agencies?

Minnesota State Statute 626.19 - USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

Became effective on August 1, 2020; Agencies may use a UAV for only the following reasons, if no warrant is obtained:

- (1) during or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person;
- (2) over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders;
- (3) to counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if the agency determines that credible intelligence indicates a risk;
- (4) to prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate operational planning, rescue, and recovery operations in the aftermath of these disasters;
- (5) to conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event;
- (6) to collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity;
- (7) to collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road;
- (8) over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes; and
- (9) for purposes unrelated to law enforcement at the request of a government entity provided that the government entity makes the request in writing to the law enforcement agency and specifies the reason for the request and proposed period of use.

What additional oversight is involved with UAVs?

- By January 15 of each year, each law enforcement agency that maintains or uses a UAV shall report to the commissioner of public safety the following information for the preceding calendar year:
 - The number of times a UAV was deployed without a search warrant, including the date of deployment and the authorized use of the UAV.
 - The total cost of the agency's UAV program.
- Sergeant and Chief of Police – all UAV deployments will require an authorization by a Sergeant or the Chief of Police.
- North St. Paul Police Department Policy 606

What additional oversight is involved with UAVs?

- Use of drones is regulated by both the federal government and the state of Minnesota.
- MnDOT is the state-level regulatory agency with responsibility for all aircraft.
 - Drones must be registered with the Minnesota Department of Transportation
- The Federal Aviation Administration is the federal regulatory authority for aviation in the United States. NSP drones will operate under the small aircraft rule (14 CFR §107), which requires:
 - Operator/Pilot must obtain a Remote Pilot certificate
 - Drone must be registered with the FAA
 - Operation must comply with flight restrictions specified in §107, or waivers issued directly to the agency.

What are the FAA Part 107 rules and restrictions for drones?

Just as there are rules of the road when driving a car, there are rules of the sky when operating a drone.

- Always avoid manned aircraft.
- Never operate in a careless or reckless manner.
- Keep your drone within sight. If you use First Person View or similar technology, you must have a visual observer always keep your drone within unaided sight (for example, no binoculars).
- You cannot be a pilot or visual observer for more than one drone operation at a time.
- Do not fly a drone over people unless they are directly participating in the operation.
- Do not operate your drone from a moving vehicle or aircraft
- The maximum allowable altitude is 400 feet above the ground, higher if your drone remains within 400 feet of a structure. Maximum speed is 100 mph (87 knots).

*<https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/small-unmanned-aircraft-systems-uas-regulations-part-107>

What is the program cost?

Initial costs for two drones, pilot training, additional batteries, propeller guards is \$19,300.06

\$6,200.16 annually:

- AXON AIR, E.COM PILOT DATA LIC (5)

- Axon Air Pilot's license, paired to Axon Air. The license is to cover the total number of pilots at the agency while the Axon Air, Class 1 UAS License is served to connect to each drone. The purpose of this Axon Air Pilots license is to allow for unlimited data, data upload/ingestion into Evidence.com and individual data tracking.

- AXON AIR, CLASS 1 UAS BUNDLE (2)

- Device license for Class 1 drones includes piloting, basic live streaming, and program management functionality.

Why are police and fire agencies utilizing drones?

- In 2021, 76 agencies in Minnesota reported using drones for a total of 2,265 deployments in the calendar year.
- The most used reason code (46% / 1,042 deployments) was for training or public relations purposes.
- The second most used reason code (23% / 512 deployments) was during or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person.
- The third most common reason for deployment (12% / 280 deployments) was to collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road.

NSP Police and Fire plan to utilize drones for the same reasons that public safety agencies have been utilizing them. We will fly drones to train, to build relationships with the community at events, to find missing persons or fugitive suspects, to document crime scenes and accidents, to the enhance the efficiency of public safety in our community, and to reduce the potential for uses of force.

*2021, June 15, BCA Legislative Report, 2021 Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles