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**2Nov19**

**[All DJI drones in US Interior Department’s fleet grounded amid review](https://dronedj.com/2019/10/31/all-dji-drones-grounded-by-us-interior-department-amid-review/)** [Haye Kesteloo](https://dronedj.com/author/hayekesteloo/) Oct. 31st 2019

On Wednesday, the same day that DJI launched the DJI Mavic Mini, the US Department of the Interior announced that all DJI drones and other Chinese-made unmanned aircraft or UAVs that contain Chinese-made parts in its fleet are to be grounded as part of a review of the department’s drone program.

The department said the decision does not apply to drones currently being used for emergency purposes such as fighting wildfires, search and rescue operations, and dealing with natural disasters that may threaten life or property. A report from 2018 states that the Interior Department owns 531 drones as of last year, and that it has completed more than 10,000 drone flights across 42 states and territories.

The *New York Times* reports that the data drones from the US Department of the Interior have at least some potential for abuse as they gather information about critical infrastructure, including mines and dams, and study rapid-response situations and emergency routes. However, the newspaper also reports that so far, there is little evidence that Chinese-made drones are used to send sensitive data back to China or that they are involved in some form of cyber-espionage.

Drone manufacturer DJI has argued that “[your data is not their business](https://dronedj.com/2019/06/19/dji-jan-gasperic-customers-data/).” The company has also made repeated efforts to explain to its customers how they can make sure that no data is transmitted online or to DJI’s servers. DJI went as far as proposing to start assembling drones in the United States and has offered a special “Government Edition” that stops any data from going online at all. <https://dronedj.com/2019/10/31/all-dji-drones-grounded-by-us-interior-department-amid-review/>

**UH Researchers Assist Navy in Developing Drone Deliveries To Subs At Sea** [November 1, 2019](https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/01/) [Military](https://uasweekly.com/category/military/) | [News](https://uasweekly.com/category/news/)

The [University of Hawaiʻi](https://www.hawaii.edu/) played a key role in an important milestone for the [U.S. Navy](https://www.navy.com/). For the first time ever, an unmanned aerial vehicle delivered supplies to an underway submarine, the USS Hawaiʻi, a mile off the coast of Oʻahu.

The project is a collaboration between the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force and the UH [Applied Research Laboratory](https://www.hawaii.edu/arl/) that owns and operates the UAV. A five-pound payload consisting of circuit cards, medical supplies and food was successfully delivered.

“A large percentage of parts that are needed on submarines weigh less than five pounds, so this capability could alleviate the need for boats to pull into ports for parts or medical supplies,” said U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Keithley in a [recent U.S. Navy online story](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/349544/comsubpac-and-uh-use-drone-deliver-supplies-submarine).

Rear Adm. Blake Converse, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, agreed and commended the joint effort saying it “has resulted in delivering necessary supplies to submarines that can save time and money, allowing us to stay in the fight.” <https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/01/uh-researchers-assist-navy-in-developing-drone-deliveries-to-subs-at-sea/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=uasweekly_daily_newsletter_11_01_2019&utm_term=2019-11-01>

**Volocopter Expands Into Utility Drone Business with Heavy-lift VoloDrone** [November 1, 2019](https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/01/) [Drones At Work](https://uasweekly.com/category/drones-at-work/) [News](https://uasweekly.com/category/news/)

Volocopter, the pioneer in Urban Air Mobility, presented the demonstrator of its VoloDrone today. This marks the company’s expansion into the logistics, agriculture, infrastructure and public services industry. It is an unmanned, fully electric, heavy-lift utility drone capable of carrying a payload of up to 440 lbs.

It can carry a payload of 440 lbs for 25 miles. The rotor area has a diameter of 9.2 m and sits at 2.3 m height. It can be remotely piloted or flown in automated mode on pre-set routes.

It has been engineered to serve missions across industries ranging from agriculture, logistics, and infrastructure to public services, offering time and cost advantages. Use cases include transporting heavy packages to remote locations, protecting crops in agriculture, lifting parts on buildings on construction sites, and ohers. <https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/01/volocopter-expands-into-utility-drone-business-with-heavy-lift-volodrone/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=uasweekly_daily_newsletter_11_01_2019&utm_term=2019-11-01>

**Swift UAV Services Team Assists Bahamian Ministry Support Efforts** [October 31, 2019](https://uasweekly.com/2019/10/31/) [News](https://uasweekly.com/category/news/)

Following the Category 5 Hurricane that caused damage along with parts of its archipelago, the government of the Bahamas engaged Swift to conduct 98 day and night mapping missions over two weeks. The team utilized its unmanned aerial vehicles to gather fast, real-time intelligence, 3D terrain modeling, damage assessments, fire containment analysis and situational mapping for the Bahamian Ministry of National Security. Swift is also providing government officials with analysis and reporting to support those who are rebuilding parts of the Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands.

 “Our team of UAV pilots and services specialists were ready on a moment’s notice to support the relief efforts in the Bahamas,” says Rick Heise, CEO of Swift Engineering. “We were able to assess the overall situation on the ground and provide status updates for areas that are difficult to access, enabling government officials to make more informed real-time decisions,” adds Heise. <https://uasweekly.com/2019/10/31/swift-uav-services-team-assists-bahamian-ministry-support-efforts/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=uasweekly_daily_newsletter_11_01_2019&utm_term=2019-11-02>

**3Nov19**

**Swarm of tiny drones finds 'disaster victims' with minimal computing power** 24 Oct 2019 Professional Engineering

[](https://www.imeche.org/images/default-source/default-album/214501-copy.jpg?sfvrsn=0)A swarm of tiny drones autonomously found two ‘disaster victims’ despite each machine having extremely limited sensing and computing, showing how machines could save human lives by combining to be more than the sum of their parts.

Developed by researchers at TU Delft and Radboud University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands and the University of Liverpool, the group of six drones explored an office environment with no human control and captured two dummies on camera.

In the demonstration, the tiny 33g drones were equipped with cameras and sent into an indoor office environment to find the two dummies representing victims in a disaster scenario. The six drones explored about 80% of the open rooms in six minutes, much quicker than would be possible with one drone.

Swarming was also useful for redundancy, the researchers said. One drone found a victim but could not bring back images because of a camera failure. Luckily, another drone captured the victim on camera as well. <https://www.imeche.org/news/news-article/swarm-of-tiny-drones-finds-%27disaster-victims%27-with-minimal-computing-power?utm_source=Airborne+International+Response+Team+%28AIRT%29+News+List&utm_campaign=ecaa24d764-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_03_01_29&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2ecada6f57-ecaa24d764-33089729>

**Aerial EMT? Drones May Become First Responders** HEALTH NEWS

Imagine this scary but not uncommon scenario: Someone you know goes into cardiac arrest. So you call 911. An ambulance is immediately dispatched, only to be mired in traffic. As the minutes tick by, the person’s chance at survival slowly dwindles. So you wait and hope. Now, imagine the same scenario, but within just a few minutes of the 911 call, an aerial drone zips over the skyline with lifesaving medication and a defibrillator.

In a new [study](https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/Research-tests-speed-of-drones-in-responding-to-medical-emergency-scenarios.aspx) presented today at the [American Academy of Pediatrics 2019 National Conference & Exhibition](https://aapexperience.org/), researchers found that drones arrived faster than ambulances during rush hour conditions in Brooklyn, New York.

In the drone scenario, you may be able to use your phone, Skype, or FaceTime to get instructions from medical professionals to administer the medication and use the equipment.

Now, instead of minutes waiting on the sidelines, you become the EMT. You begin to do as instructed. You stabilize the patient. A few minutes later, the ambulance shows up to take them to the hospital. “We found that overall velocity of travel was faster with drones and that time to arrival on average based on distance was also faster,” <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/untitled-4?utm_source=Airborne+International+Response+Team+%28AIRT%29+News+List&utm_campaign=ecaa24d764-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_03_01_29&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2ecada6f57-ecaa24d764-33089729>

**Using drone technology to locate and rescue avalanche victims** [Johns Hopkins Engineering](https://www.studyinternational.com/news/author/johns-hopkins-university-john-whiting-school-of-en/) October 24, 2019

Doug Smith’s [Backcountry Avalanche victim Recovery Drone System](https://ep.jhu.edu/files/se-seminar-series-d-smith.pdf) (BARDS)—created for his final Systems Engineering project—combines existing technologies—drones, backcountry avalanche receivers and associated beacons—into a system easily carried by skiers, snow-machine riders, ice climbers, and hunters on their backcountry adventures.

Each member of a backcountry adventure party carries an avalanche transceiver, a probe and a shovel, as well as a backpack containing a fully charged drone in a small, crush-proof case. That drone is equipped with a small, single-board computer and software-defined radio to receive victim beacon transmissions. BARDS also comes with a small, hand-held remote-control that can operate in either autonomous, manual or hybrid modes.

Upon entering the adventure area but before starting to ski, each member powers up their avalanche transceiver and places it on the front of their body, while the transport case (containing the drone and remote) goes into their backpack. If a member of the group is caught in an avalanche, all other party members will remove their drones from their carrying cases, activate them, confirm initial system operation, initiate search parameters on the interface devices to include direction and radius and release the drones so they can start searching. They may perform the search in autonomous mode or manual mode. Software allows two or more drones to swarm search.

“Once the person is found, the drone fires a paint marker at the victim location, then auto-recovers to either the remote-control location (with the party member performing the search), or at the victim’s location.” “As conceived, BARDS enables the search party to home in on victim location in less than five minutes,” he said. <https://www.studyinternational.com/news/using-drone-technology-to-locate-and-rescue-avalanche-business/?utm_source=Airborne+International+Response+Team+%28AIRT%29+News+List&utm_campaign=ecaa24d764-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_03_01_29&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2ecada6f57-ecaa24d764-33089729>

**4Nov19**

**Police to use AI recognition drones to help find the missing** Ken Macdonald BBC Scotland Science Correspondent November 4, 2019

The remotely-piloted aircraft system can see things we can't to try to work out where people are. It uses cameras and neural computer networks to spot someone it is looking for - from "a speck" up to 150 metres away.

Its recognition software is compact enough to be run on a phone, with the technology learning as it goes. "There's a very highly-powered optical camera which can allow us to see things quite clearly from a good height. Also, there's a thermal imaging sensor which detects heat.

"We're there to find people. People who need our help or people who are lost."

The system is the result of a collaboration involving Police Scotland, the technology multinational Thales and the University of the West of Scotland. The matchmaker in the partnership is CENSIS, one of Scotland's eight not-for-profit innovation centres. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50262650>

**Drone taxi business lists $100m IPO** [DRONES AT WORK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/application-news/drones-at-work/) [INNOVATION](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/innovation/) [INTERNATIONAL](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/international/) [NEWS](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/) [TECHNOLOGY](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/technology/) [MATTHEW TRASK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/author/matthew-trask/) 1NOVEMBER 4, 2019

[](https://2e2de02um3hsz26s7iwe817v-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ehang-drones2.png)EHang has filed paperwork to go public on the Nasdaq with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. It is the manufacturer of the two-seater, 16-rotor autonomous aerial vehicle Ehang 216 and was recently granted approval by regulators to launch an urban air mobility service in Guangzhou, China.

EHang has carried out over two thousand flight tests on its way to proving the viability of AAVs.

With traffic congestion becoming an increasing issue in urban environments, companies like EHang are keen to take to the skies in search of new highways that alleviate traffic in today’s crowded cities. <https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/drone-taxi-business-lists-77m-ipo/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-316414-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2019-11-04>

**Drone taxi business li****sts $100m IPO** [DRONES AT WORK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/application-news/drones-at-work/) [INNOVATION](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/innovation/) [INTERNATIONAL](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/international/) [NEWS](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/) [TECHNOLOGY](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/technology/) [MATTHEW TRASK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/author/matthew-trask/) 1NOVEMBER 4, 2019

[](https://2e2de02um3hsz26s7iwe817v-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ehang-drones2.png)EHang has filed paperwork to go public on the Nasdaq with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. It is the manufacturer of the two-seater, 16-rotor autonomous aerial vehicle Ehang 216 and was recently granted approval by regulators to launch an urban air mobility service in Guangzhou, China.

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**Drones in Public Safety: Real Life Crime Scene Investigations at Night** [Miriam McNabb](https://dronelife.com/author/miriam-mcnabb/) November 04, 2019

*[](https://dronelife.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-AVS-042_National_Drone_Safety_Awareness_Week_Visual_Identity_Stacked_JK01-2-e1572890627540.png)*An inside look as a team of drone and law enforcement experts explain the real life challenges of capturing precise aerial images of crime scenes at night.

**Choose the Right Aircraft, Lighting and Post-Processing** Lighting is crucial – and not just any lighting will do.  The goal is evenly matched lighting, elimination of shadow, true color, and lighting all areas of the scene where possible.  To meet those goals, headlights must be dimmed prior to capturing the scene, and there must be no vehicle movement, flashlight movement, or other light sources.

When the lights are set up around the scene – and to eliminate shadows, they need to be positioned low – the lighting positions must be logged and documented.   React provides an almost instant 2D map of the scene using any computer equipment available and not requiring an internet connection: the images can later be processed with Pix4D to create 3D modeling.

Precision is critical so the data can be used for accurate measurements.   The Las Vegas law enforcement team pointed out that drones were used during the Las Vegas mass shooting event that took place during a music festival on October 1, 2017 and resulted in one of the largest crime scenes ever documented.  From measurements provided by aerial imagery, law enforcement teams were able to get better estimates of the shooter’s range and uncover critical new evidence. <https://dronelife.com/2019/11/04/drones-in-public-safety-real-life-crime-scene-investigations-at-night/>

**Cygnus Cargo Ship Arrives at Space Station with Cookie Dough, Mice and More** [Tariq Malik](https://www.space.com/author/tariq-malik) 9 hours ago [Spaceflight](https://www.space.com/spaceflight)

An uncrewed Cygnus cargo ship arrived at the International Space Station early Monday (Nov. 4) to deliver more than 4 tons of fresh supplies, [including some cookie dough for one tasty experiment](https://www.space.com/ng12-launch-doubletree-cookies.html).

The Cygnus NG-12 mission is delivering 8,200 lbs. of fresh supplies to the International Space Station. Its cargo includes a host of science hardware for experiments ranging from a 3D printing recycling demonstration to robotics in space.

Hilton Doubletree has launched a batch of cookie dough to the space station as part of a [Zero G Oven experiment](https://www.space.com/cookies-space-limited-edition-doubletree.html) by Zero Gravity Kitchen and Nanoracks.

Other experiments include AstroRad Vest, a new vest designed to protect astronauts from the harsh radiation environment of deep space, as well as a crew of intrepid space mice (technically called Rodent Research-14) that will be used to help scientists study how phases of light and dark affect liver health. On the space station, astronauts see 16 sunrises and sunsets every day as they orbit the Earth. They keep Greenwich Mean Time as they repeatedly shift between Earth's day and night sides.

Cygnus is also carrying cubesats built by students and the National Reconnaissance Office, as well as some much needed to gear to repair the $2 billion Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer 2 on the station. <https://www.space.com/cygnus-cargo-ship-space-station-arrival-ng-12.html?utm_source=Selligent&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=9617&utm_content=20191104_SDC_Newsletter+-+adhoc+&utm_term=3417707&m_i=G3e1Rr0fIYOzYVMvuccHlH391nZwLgXQZCeuYru8UFF99w1XT8ltsTv6W1hEyPxTbiWgNnzwHljEea2TAYVr1dUeKZ7wZNeGGF>

[](https://2e2de02um3hsz26s7iwe817v-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Intel-AFAcademy-Drones-2.jpg)**Drones light up the sky at Air Force Academy** [DRONES AT WORK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/application-news/drones-at-work/" \o "Drones at Work) [INNOVATION](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/innovation/) [NEWS](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/) [SOFTWARE](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/software-2/) [TECHNOLOGY](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/technology/) [UNITED STATES](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/united-states/) [MATTHEW TRASK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/author/matthew-trask/) NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Intel put on a spectacular drone light show in collaboration with the US Air Force Academy in Colorado on Friday 1st November.

The hardware giant made use of its Shooting Star drone technology to ensure that, under the cover of darkness, the only thing viewers could see was the spectacular light formations of over 500 drones on display.

Shooting Star allows drones to be synchronized to perform complex aerial choreography presenting images of everything from aliens to UFOs before culminating in a tribute to the Air Force Academy. Air Force cadets were involved in the setup and testing of the show in advance of its launch.

The Air Force Academy is the latest in a long line of locations to implement Intel’s Shooting Star system as part of elaborate entertainment as Time Magazine previously made use of the technology to create an elaborate ‘world’s first’ magazine cover. <https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/drones-light-up-the-sky-at-air-force-academy/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-316414-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2019-11-04>

**5Nov19**

**UK drone pilots have 25 days to register with regulator** 7 hours ago

[**The mandatory requirement to register**](https://www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft/Our-role/Drone-and-model-aircraft-registration/) covers owners of drones or model aircraft weighing more than 250g (8.8oz). Owners of unregistered drones could then face the threat of a fine. At the same time, the CAA is starting a service it hopes will reunite owners with their lost drones.

Most lost drones go missing because of malfunctions in flight. This includes losing battery power, loss of signal or technology failures. But a quarter of cases involve pilots making mistakes.

"Our aim is for the Drones Reunited platform to become an essential service for the drone community - the first port of call for anyone who has lost, or found, a drone."

Pilots who lose a drone will be able to record the loss via the CAA's drones-reunited site. Anyone who finds a downed drone bearing an ID number will be able to look it up on the site and inform its owner it has been located.

Registering craft weighing between 250g and 20kg costs £9 a year. Registered drone owners, who must be over 18, will need to pass an online test that quizzes them on using their device safely. <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-50293106>

**Lack of Training, Certification Standards Top Challenge For Public Safety Drone Operations** DRONERESPONDERS

**MIAMI, FL** – The lack of standardized training and certification is the top issue hampering public safety drone operations, according to DRONERESPONDERS – the world’s fastest growing non-profit organization supporting public safety UAS. The determination stems from a double-validated research initiative based on survey data, as well as live focus group feedback conducted during last week’s *U.S. Public Safety UAS Summit* held at Commercial UAV Expo Americas in Las Vegas.

Released on Monday, the new DRONERESPONDERS report *Commercial Vendors and the Public Safety UAS Sector* highlights the top five most important issues affecting the public safety drone sector as: airspace authorizations and COA’s; beyond visual line of sight operations, training; standards, procedures and certifications; and program budgeting. These findings were based on the *DRONERESPONDERS Public Safety UAS Survey* conducted between August 25 and September 16, 2019.

DRONERESPONDERS then conducted focus group testing with attendees of the *U.S. Public Safety UAS Summit* to additionally validate the research findings. These results pointed to the lack of UAS training and certification standards as being the most pressing issue facing first responders operating drones. Rounding out the top five were: tactical BVLOS waivers; public outreach and education of drone operations; budgeting and grant funding; and data management. <https://www.droneresponders.org/post/lack-of-training-certification-standards-ranked-top-challenge-facing-public-safety-drone-operations>

**General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Predator Series Aircraft Pass Six Million Flight Hours** [November 5, 2019](https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/05/) [Military](https://uasweekly.com/category/military/) | [News](https://uasweekly.com/category/news/)

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. today announced that its Predator®-series of Remotely Piloted Aircraft has surpassed six million flight hours. The milestone was achieved on October 31, 2019 with GA-ASI aircraft having completed 430,495 total missions with close to 90 percent of those missions flown in combat.

 The identification of the specific aircraft and customer that achieved the milestone is unknown as every second of every day, 69 Predator-class Medium-altitude, Long-endurance RPA are airborne throughout the world. Flight hours have continued to grow at unprecedented rates in recent years, with 500,000 flight hours achieved from 1993 to 2008, one million hours in 2010, two million hours in 2012, three million hours in 2014, four million hours in 2016 and five million in 2018.

GA-ASI aircraft average more than 60,000 hours per month supporting the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, NASA, the Italian Air Force, the Royal Air Force, the French Air Force, the UAE Armed Forces, and other customers. Missions include helping protect ground units on the battlefield; supporting U.S. Customs & Border Protection operations, and first responders in the wake of natural disasters. <https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/05/general-atomics-aeronautical-systems-predator-series-aircraft-pass-six-million-flight-hours/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=uasweekly_daily_newsletter_11_05_2019&utm_term=2019-11-05>

**6Nov19**

**[Cinewhoop, Toothpick, Twig. So many FPV drones](https://dronedj.com/2019/11/05/cinewhoop-toothpick-twig/)** [Jack Towne](https://dronedj.com/author/jack/) Nov. 5th 2019

If you are new to flying FPV drones then you very well may be wondering what the heck everyone is talking about. There are cinewhoops, tiny whoops, and power whoops. There are toothpicks and twigs. A five-inch drone is clearly bigger than five inches. What are people talking about? There seem to be endless drone options. And FPV pilots rarely refer to their crafts as drones. They are quads or sometimes kwads.

We will take a look at what all of these different drones are and hopefully figure out which one would be the best one for you. Flying FPV or First Person View is a unique experience and very different from flying a GPS drone like a DJI Mavic or Phantom. DJI has recently entered the field with its all-new [digital FPV system](https://dronedj.com/2019/07/31/dji-digital-fpv-ecosystem/) and the FPV hobby is progressing at a rapid rate. If you want to get into flying FPV I’d suggest taking a look at our [three-part series](https://dronedj.com/2018/12/17/fpv-1/) that will walk you through what you need to know.

Starting to fly FPV tends to be a little more complicated than grabbing a new [DJI Mavic Mini](https://dronedj.com/guides/dji-mavic-mini/) and getting in the air. There are a few other steps to follow before you can get flying. If you aren’t familiar with Betaflight or don’t have a hobby-grade remote, then definitely check out [this article](https://dronedj.com/2018/12/17/fpv-1/). <https://dronedj.com/2019/11/05/cinewhoop-toothpick-twig/#more-20940>

**[Local law enforcement powerless to stop drones used in crime](https://dronedj.com/2019/11/05/local-law-enforcement-powerless-stop-drones-used-in-crime/)** [Haye Kesteloo](https://dronedj.com/author/hayekesteloo/) Nov. 5th 2019

The NYT published a great and lengthy article on drones used in crime and the fact that [local law enforcement](https://dronedj.com/guides/police/) is almost powerless in fighting these crimes. Vanessa Swales writes for the NYT:

*Drones are widely available, lightly regulated and can be flown remotely by an operator far away from the crime scene. They have already been put to a host of nefarious uses, from smuggling contraband into prisons to swarming F.B.I. agents who were preparing for a raid. And local and state authorities are restricted by federal law from intercepting drones in flight.*

*There have long been concerns about the use of drones for smuggling. The Border Patrol caught two people flying 28 pounds of heroin over the border near Calexico, Calif., in 2015. In 2017, a Utah couple was charged with voyeurism for using a drone to spy on people in their bedrooms and bathrooms.*

*Audio sensors can listen for the distinctive sound of a drone, but a drone’s sound signature can be altered by changing its propellers. Cameras have limited reach and may not be able to tell a drone from a bird. Commercially manufactured drones are typically made largely of plastic and run on battery power, so they do not give off much heat or show up strongly on radar. Picking up a drone’s radio signal is the most reliable way to detect one — but that does not mean the drone is easy to catch.*

*Local and state authorities are often the ones dealing with crimes committed using drones, but they have no power to charge suspects for drone-use violations.*

*What about using jamming systems to interfere with drones in flight or keep them from flying where they do not belong? The only agencies allowed to do that are the federal departments of Defense, Justice, Energy and Homeland Security. For everyone else, it is illegal in all but the most exceptional circumstances — and so is taking down a drone in flight.* You can read the entire article [here](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/03/us/drones-crime.html) [paywall]. <https://dronedj.com/2019/11/05/local-law-enforcement-powerless-stop-drones-used-in-crime/#more-21032>

**[Drone footage helps scientists study killer whale behavior](https://dronedj.com/2019/11/05/drone-footage-helps-scientists-killer-whale-behaviour/)** [Haye Kesteloo](https://dronedj.com/author/hayekesteloo/) - Nov. 5th 2019

Drone footage helps scientists from the University of British Columbia study killer whale behavior as the unmanned aircraft provide a rare glimps into the underwater world off the coast of B.C. The video footage represents the first time that drones have been used to study the behavior of the killer whales. Luise Alvarez writes for CTV News Vancouver:

*“What struck me most was to discover how tactile the whales are. They are constantly rubbing into each other and touching one another,” said Andrew Trites, project lead and director of the Marine Mammal Research Unit at UBC’s Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries.It’s all part of a five-year research project that is setting out to answer the crucial question of whether there are enough fish here for southern resident killer whales.*

*“We were very lucky with conditions the whole trip and came back with ten hours of footage,” said Keith Holmes, drone pilot for the Hakai Institute. “Normally, we were flying between 100 and 200 feet above the whales, often higher. They didn’t seem to notice the drone at all.”*

*“We observed a northern resident mother with her new calf,” said Trites. “From the boat, we could tell they were swimming near each other. But it was only from the drone that we could see how much they were constantly touching and socializing with each other.”* You can read the entire article [here](https://bc.ctvnews.ca/scientists-using-drone-footage-to-help-study-resident-killer-whale-behaviour-1.4670347). <https://dronedj.com/2019/11/05/drone-footage-helps-scientists-killer-whale-behaviour/>

**Zanzibar tests drones spraying rice fields to fight malaria** ALI SULTAN yesterday

ZANZIBAR, Tanzania (AP) — For the first time, drones are being tested to help fight malaria on the island of Zanzibar, off the coast of Tanzania.

[](https://apnews.com/b2131aa51d4b4043a7c18e6923646447/gallery/09bc212dc9b2476fbf27d3856c5fa0de)The drones will spray a silicone-based liquid on rice paddies, where there are large expanses of stagnant water where malaria-carrying mosquitoes lay their eggs. The substance will spread across the water and prevent the eggs from hatching. It is a test to see if it will help the government of Zanzibar reach its goal of eliminating malaria on the archipelago by 2023.

The drone will spray Aquatain, a liquid gel that will spread over a section of water and kill mosquitoes’ larvae. It has been tested internationally and found to be harmless to non-target organisms, non-toxic and biodegradable.

In the initial test, in the Cheju area of southern Zanzibar, the drone flew over and sprayed the shallow, sunlit water bodies in the rice paddies teeming with mosquito larvae which were trapped as the gel spread across the water. Without the gel, the larvae would have emerged as adult mosquitoes in search of a blood meal. When those mosquitoes bite humans infected with malaria, they become vectors for the disease and continue its deadly transmission cycle. <https://apnews.com/b2131aa51d4b4043a7c18e6923646447>

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma tests drones in power line inspections** [DRONES AT WORK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/application-news/drones-at-work/" \o "Drones at Work) [FAA](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/regulation/faa/) [INNOVATION](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/innovation/) [NEWS](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/) [TECHNOLOGY](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/technology/) [UNITED STATES](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/united-states/) [MATTHEW TRASK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/author/matthew-trask/) NOVEMBER 6, 2019

[](https://2e2de02um3hsz26s7iwe817v-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/cno-drone.png)The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) has completed transmission power line inspections using drones in collaboration with AiRXOS and the Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO).

The inspections were carried out on the Pittsburg-Valliant 345-kilovolt transmission at a CNO-owned property in the southeast of the state as part of the FAA’s UAS Integration Pilot Program.

These recent inspections have focused on safe, automated flights that make use of visual observers and data capture where future planned tests will incorporate Beyond Visual Line of Sight without any visual observer in operation.

The inspection marks the latest attempt to test the use cases for drones in a range of tasks including emergency response and storm damage assessment of transmission lines.

AiRXOS CEO, Ken Stewart, added: “Choctaw Nation and PSO have worked well together in this effort — proving that advanced operations like BVLOS, and at night, will deliver significant value for future transmission and distribution inspection operations.

Future drone missions for the CNO IPP team will include testing agricultural applications, public safety and infrastructure inspections and additional night operations over tribal property. <https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/choctaw-nation-of-oklahoma-tests-drones-in-power-line-inspections/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-316591-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2019-11-06>

**7Nov19**

**UPS drone makes first home prescription deliveries for CVS** [Lisa Baertlein](https://www.reuters.com/journalists/lisa-baertlein" \t "_blank) [TECHNOLOGY NEWS](https://www.reuters.com/news/archive/technologyNews) NOVEMBER 5, 2019

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - United Parcel Service Inc Flight Forward drones have flown prescription medications to the front lawn of a private home and to a retirement center, the UPS unit’s first revenue-generating deliveries for drugstore chain CVS Health Corp.

Flight Forward’s maiden delivery flight on Friday in Cary, North Carolina, beat rivals in one phase of the race for the nascent market. The second drone flight delivered medications to a public space at a retirement community.

The packages, roughly the size of small shoeboxes, were lowered from drones hovering at an altitude of about 20 feet.

UPS and CVS said on Tuesday the deliveries were the first of their kind under a program approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. Regulators are still hammering out rules for how the unmanned winged vehicles will operate in U.S. airspace and guidelines are expected in 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ups-drones/ups-drone-makes-first-home-prescription-deliveries-for-cvs-idUSKBN1XF2JC>

**US Army starts testing LASER weapon on four armored Stryker vehicles** [MILLY VINCENT FOR MAILONLINE](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Milly+Vincent+For+Mailonline) 6 November 2019

A laser so powerful it can melt through drones, helicopters, aircraft and incoming enemy missiles is to be tested by the U.S. Army. In a 'laser-off' scheduled by a recent report, the 50-kilowatt laser weapon will be installed on four Stryker vehicles and tested on 'targets' as part of the Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense mission.

Using enough energy to power several homes the lasers are hoped to provide extra protection from aerial threats for on the ground armored vehicles. The Stryker vehicles have eight wheels and are much more likely to withstand the weight and vibrations caused by the use of the laser - a failed attempt was previously made to install it in planes.

U.S. military has spent hundreds of billions trying to build a Star Wars style 'Death Ray,' but the plans have barely made it off the drawing board until now.

Lieutenant General L. Neil Thurgood, Director of Hypersonics, Directed Energy, Space and Rapid Acquisition, said in the U.S. Army [**report**](https://www.army.mil/article/225276/army_awards_laser_weapon_system_contract): 'The time is now to get directed energy weapons to the battlefield. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-7655661/US-Army-test-50-kilowatt-laser-weapon-incinerates-drones-helicopters-planes-missiles.html?ito=1490>

**Uber Releases a New Look for Food Delivery Drones** [Jess Brown](https://www.coverdrone.com/author/jess/)November 6, 2019

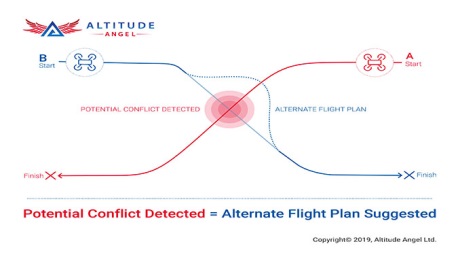
[Uber](https://www.uber.com/gb/en/) has released its latest design for a food delivery drone that will not replace their existing driver-focused delivery service but will contribute instead. The new service is set to launch in San Diego in 2020 which utilizes ‘innovative rotating wings with six rotors’ to better enable the transition between vertical take-off and forward flight.

The company plans for restaurant staff to load a meal container into the drone’s compartment, then send it off to a nearby ‘staging area’ where delivery drivers will receive the food and complete the last-mile hand-off. It’s an additional step in the process, but one that Uber believes will add value for customers and allows the company to complete more deliveries.

“The main value proposition is the speed that the drones give us helping restaurants get food to customers faster. Using drones allows us to cover a significantly larger area from each restaurant, giving customers access to more choices when using the app”.

Drone delivery is moving from concept to reality with a surge of new trials. A couple of weeks ago, Alphabet’s Wing deployed its first delivery drones in Virginia. Other major companies, like [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/) & [UPS](https://www.ups.com/gb/en/Home.page), are also in the early stages of experimentation – we look forward to seeing how the testing progresses! <https://www.coverdrone.com/uber-releases-a-new-look-for-food-delivery-drones/?utm_source=Coverdrone+email+subscribers&utm_campaign=672de2c212-Coverdrone+Email+Campaign+07.11.19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3033eb7817-672de2c212-113470153>

**Altitude Angel Launches Second Phase Of Its ‘Game-Changing’ Conflict Resolution Service** [November 5, 2019](https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/05/) [News](https://uasweekly.com/category/news/)

. [https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/05/altitude-angel-launches-second-phase-of-its-game-Altitude Angel today announced the launch of the ‘second phase’ of its revolutionary Conflict Resolution Service with the introduction of Tactical deconfliction.](https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/05/altitude-angel-launches-second-phase-of-its-game-changing-conflict-resolution-service-tactical-deconfliction/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=uasweekly_daily_newsletter_11_06_2019&utm_term=2019-11-06)

[CRS is now able to go beyond the pre-flight phase into airborne operations. It will provide live alerts when boundaries between remote ID transmitting drones intersect and also offer alternative flight-plans in real-time – enabling pilots to avoid in-air collisions. As the program expands over the coming few months, it will also help to deconflict drones against aircraft with transponders as well as drones that don’t have remote ID flying in the vicinity of Altitude Angel’s planned sensor network which will come on-line in spring 2020.](https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/05/altitude-angel-launches-second-phase-of-its-game-changing-conflict-resolution-service-tactical-deconfliction/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=uasweekly_daily_newsletter_11_06_2019&utm_term=2019-11-06)

[The inability of drone technology to be able to ‘deal with the unexpected’, such as manned aircraft, drones and obstacles or airspace closures which weren’t foreseeable before the flight happened, or, would previously have been managed by a human pilot, has been widely considered as a road-block to automated drones flying BVLOS.  This in turn has restricted the widespread commercial use of drones.  Now, with the launch of Altitude Angel’s Tactical Deconfliction service, automated day-to-day drone flights flying BVLOS is a significant step closer changing-conflict-resolution-service-tactical-deconfliction/?utm\_source=newsletter&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=uasweekly\_daily\_newsletter\_11\_06\_2019&utm\_term=2019-11-06](https://uasweekly.com/2019/11/05/altitude-angel-launches-second-phase-of-its-game-changing-conflict-resolution-service-tactical-deconfliction/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=uasweekly_daily_newsletter_11_06_2019&utm_term=2019-11-06)

**DJI Drones Grounded by the U.S. Department of the Interior** NOVEMBER 2, 2019 [Danielle Gagne](https://www.commercialuavnews.com/author/danielle-gagne)

**[](https://www.commercialuavnews.com/author/danielle-gagne)**With the U.S. Department of the Interior’s latest decision to [ground](https://dronelife.com/2019/11/01/u-s-department-of-interior-grounds-dji-drones/) its entire fleet of DJI drones, we are starting to see an increasing number of government agencies crackdown on Chinese made UAVs and UAV parts.

The extent to which government policy may end up restricting UAVs and UAV parts from “non-cooperative countries” is still unclear. These details are currently under discussion in the [House](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr4753/text/ih) and the [Senate](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2502/text), and opinions vary on where each will eventually land. This uncertainty has not stopped many from continuing to [build up fleets of DJI drones](https://www.commercialuavnews.com/infrastructure/drones-response-climate-stress).

Many have pointed out that DJI technology is too entrenched in government and commercial operations to realistically be restricted. Because drones are being used in key industries like [infrastructure](https://www.commercialuavnews.com/news/infrastructure-transport),[construction](https://www.commercialuavnews.com/news/construction), [emergency response](https://www.commercialuavnews.com/news/public-safety-emergency-services) and many more, this kind of ban would break down key operations in the public sector. Certain companies that have come to rely almost solely on DJI drones would have to cease operations. They also note that there are too many mission-critical activities being conducted with these drones within the government itself for them to realistically pull these drones from service. Especially restrictive legislation would not only be costly but incredibly risky.

With DJI cornering [over 75% of the drone market](https://www.commercialuavnews.com/infrastructure/increased-drone-business-demand-skylogic-research), many enterprise-level fleets currently working in the U.S. today utilize DJI drones in one way or another. <https://www.commercialuavnews.com/security/dji-drones-grounded-department-of-the-interior?utm_source=marketo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_content=newsletter&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTm1NM09ESTVOekUyTTJWbCIsInQiOiJZTUFKaTRQRE1KQ1ZBWWRkcDdvXC9HWXFtanVmbVh5eTdlRWtKczN4aU5cL0xtbFgrQzZrdkdcL0lZekE5RXNLb0tWYW00RnVYNjVNQzJpWjJuYjdkRDcyR3B0NktLSDkxcnlDaURTK1hMMCtLZ1wvV2NLT3A3MFd4U2pacTNRSm9WUDQifQ%3D%3D>

**DJI Agras deployed to fight malaria** [DJI](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/manufacturer/dji/" \o "DJI) [HEALTH](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/application-news/health/) [INNOVATION](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/innovation/) [INTERNATIONAL](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/international/) [NEWS](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/) [TECHNOLOGY](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/technology/) [MATTHEW TRASK](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/author/matthew-trask/) NOVEMBER 7, 2019

[](https://2e2de02um3hsz26s7iwe817v-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/dji.png)The leading drone manufacturer began a pilot project in Zanzibar using a DJI MG1-S Agras drone modified to allow it to spray mosquito-infested rice fields with a non-toxic, biodegradable silicone-based liquid called Aquatain AMF. The liquid was sprayed over stagnant water, creating a barrier on the surface that prevents pupae and larvae from breathing.

As part of the pilot project, the larvae and emerging mosquito population will be measured before and after the drones spray insecticides to monitor the impact.

DJI Europe’s director of marketing and corporate communication, Dr. Barbara Stelzner, said: “We are proud to be pioneers in this field along with scientific experts using our spray drones against malaria in Africa, and we have great hopes that this approach will significantly contribute towards defeating this fatal disease in affected regions around the world.

“Reducing the cases of new malaria infections will not only put an end to all the suffering of people, but it will also contribute to generating larger harvests, and provide new economic perspectives in Africa.” <https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/dji-developing-malaria-fighting-spray-drones/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-316722-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2019-11-07>

**ResponDrone set to hold ‘Design Thinking’ workshop for First Responders** [APPLICATION](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/application-news/" \o "Application) [EMERGENCY SERVICES](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/application-news/emergency-services/) [EUROPE](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/europe/) [NEWS](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/category/news/) [ALEX DOUGLAS](https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/author/alex-douglas/) NOVEMBER 7, 2019

[](https://2e2de02um3hsz26s7iwe817v-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Brandweer-Haaglanden-Mustafa-Akbulut-2418.jpg)Participants from regional and national authorities, state agencies, rescue services and fire departments will participate in the workshop **in Thessaloniki, Greece from November 12-13** aimed at identifying their needs for the future ResponDrone System.

The international ResponDrone Project, which is developing a situational awareness system for emergency situations, and provides critical information and communication services to first responders, will bring together industrial, technological and end-user partners of the consortium.

ResponDrone has started work on developing an integrated solution for first responders to operate a fleet of drones with multiple synchronized missions to enhance their situation assessment capacity and their own protection.

The company says the system of systems will simplify and accelerate situation assessment and sharing, decision making and operations management, while requiring only a small crew to operate it.

Commenting, project coordinator, Max Friedrich from the German Aerospace Center, said: “The emergency situations addressed by ResponDrone are complex and involve many stakeholders, making it particularly challenging to design a system that satisfies all requirements.” <https://www.commercialdroneprofessional.com/respondrone-set-to-hold-design-thinking-workshop-for-first-responders/?utm_source=Email+Campaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=45819-316722-Commercial+Drone+Professional+DNA+-+2019-11-07>

**8Nov19**

**[DJI plays ‘textbook’ lobbying game in Washington](https://dronedj.com/2019/11/07/dji-plays-textbook-lobbying-game/)** [Haye Kesteloo](https://dronedj.com/author/hayekesteloo/) Nov. 7th 2019

****An article in the Financial Times yesterday said that drone maker [DJI](https://www.dji.com/?from=dap_unique&pbc=qCg1DB1v&pm=custom) plays ‘textbook’ lobbying game in Washington by attaching itself closely to parts of the government and quickly responding to any political concerns. Kiran Stacey writes for the Financial Times:

*“*As the US government ramps up its scrutiny of Chinese technology companies, one in particular is coming under the spotlight: [DJI](https://dronedj.com/guides/dj/), the world’s biggest dronemaker. But DJI appears to have spotted the danger early and has spent years on what its rivals describe as a “textbook” example of lobbying in Washington, attaching itself closely to parts of the government and responding quickly to political concerns.

The Trump administration is now split over whether or not to ban DJI’s drones outright or to take a softer approach. Last week, the US interior department [temporarily grounded its entire fleet of 810 drones](https://dronedj.com/2019/10/31/all-dji-drones-grounded-by-us-interior-department-amid-review/), including 121 made by DJI, while it assessed whether drones made partly in China pose a threat to national security.

Speaking before the fleet was grounded, Mark Bathrick, head of the interior department’s Office of Aviation Services, said: “Pretty much everything we do to manage people’s land, we can do with the help of drones. This includes DJI, which we feel is reasonably secure. Using them takes one-seventh the time and one-tenth of the cost of using manpower.”

People close to DJI admit they are concerned Donald Trump could at any point issue a presidential order to sanction the company, as he did with Huawei. But the company’s rivals say the fact that he has not yet done so is testimony to how successful DJI has been in fostering allies within government.” <https://dronedj.com/2019/11/07/dji-plays-textbook-lobbying-game/#more-21077>

**First part of 50-mile Central NY drone corridor OK’d by FAA** Nov 07, 2019 [Rick Moriarty](http://connect.syracuse.com/staff/rmoriart/posts.html)

*Screenshot from a Nuair video shows the planned 50-mile drone test corridor between Rome and Syracuse.*

Syracuse, N.Y. -- The Federal Aviation Administration has approved the first segment of a 50-mile [drone corridor](https://www.syracuse.com/business/2019/09/drones-over-central-ny-50-mile-test-corridor-to-open-for-business-soon-map.html) between Syracuse and Rome.

The approval allows drones to fly beyond visual line of sight within an 8-by-4-mile section of airspace between Griffiss International Airport and the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services’ State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany.

State officials said they expect the approval to open the door to FAA approval of additional sections of the 50-miles corridor in 2020.

The approval is important because it allows companies developing unmanned aerial vehicles and associated technologies to fly drones within the corridor without the need for chase planes or observers on the ground to constantly watch over them.

Current FAA drone regulations require operators to keep their drones in line of sight unless they have approval from the FAA. “The ability to fly with this new authority will help develop and advance many aspects of an air traffic management system for unmanned aircraft," said Nuair CEO Michael Hertzendorf. State officials said it took 14 months to get the FAA’s approval for the first segment of the corridor. The corridor is utilizing a network of radars and sensors to track drones during their flights. <https://www.syracuse.com/news/2019/11/first-part-of-50-mile-central-ny-drone-corridor-okd-by-faa.html>