



April 30, 2019

# Unmanned Aircraft System



El Paso Police Department

## City Council Strategic Goals

Goal 2 : Set the Standard for a Safe and Secure City

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# Mission Statement

The El Paso Police Department EPPD Unmanned Aircraft Systems Unit (UAS) shall support other elements of the El Paso Police Department, other law enforcement and first responder agencies, by providing a safe and efficient aerial observation perspective on law enforcement and other public safety incidents.

Missions will be accomplished efficiently and safely while respecting the law and the privacy of the citizens we serve.



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# Training

- sUAS training is provided through UTEP by Dr. Michael McGee. Dr. McGee is considered an expert in both manned and unmanned aviation and is well versed on FAA regulations.
- All pilots operating a UAS must have a current remote pilot certificate under 14 CFR Part 107 of the FAA Rules and Regulations.
- Application fee of \$150.00 for the license.
- Monthly training



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## EPPD Pilots

- Currently there are **6** El Paso Police personnel who have completed the training and obtained the FAA Remote pilot Certifications/Licenses.
- Fifteen personnel have attended the training.
- Specialized Team - Collateral Duty Assignment



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# sUAS Equipment

Currently have 4 drones:

- 2 - TR-01 DJI Phantom 4 Pro
- 1 - TR-03 DJI Phantom 3 Pro
- 1 - DJI Inspire 2

All drones have extra batteries and chargers for extended usage.



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# Purpose

- Search & Rescue Operations
- Accident Reconstruction
- Crime Scene Documentation
- Monitoring Security Threats
- High Risk Tactical Responses



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# Deployment

## Three-Person Team

- FAA Licensed Pilot
- Visual Observer
- Camera Operator

## Documentation

- Inspection logs
- Flight logs
- Maintenance logs





# Benefits

1. Efficient  
Hurricane Harvey, drones were used to quickly locate trapped people and deploy resources
2. Force Multiplier  
Can cover a lot of space in a little time; assist in mapping large crime or accident scenes.
3. Enhance officer and public safety  
Assist officers in recognizing dangers and prevent injury; useful in hazardous material investigations
4. Allow access to difficult to reach locations  
Roof tops, remote areas



# Drone Video



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# Public Safety Threat

Government Code: Chapter 423. Use of Unmanned Aircraft

- Class C Misdemeanor if person uses an unmanned aircraft to *capture an image of an individual or privately owned real property* in this state with the intent to conduct surveillance on the individual or property captured in the image.
- Class B Misdemeanor if a person *operates an unmanned aircraft over a correctional facility, detention facility, or critical infrastructure facility* and the unmanned aircraft is not higher than 400 feet above ground level; allows an unmanned aircraft to come within a distance of a correctional facility, detention facility, or critical infrastructure facility that is close enough to interfere with the operations of or cause a disturbance to the facility.
- Class B Misdemeanor if a person *operates an unmanned aircraft over a sports venue* (30,000 or more) and the unmanned aircraft is not higher than 400 feet above ground level.

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# Public Safety Threat

- Reports are investigated by the El Paso Police Department's Special Investigations Unit.
- Currently coordinating with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies as well as UTEP to develop strategies to address these issues.



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# PSA Video

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# Discussion / Questions



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