
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Operations

606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and for the storage, retrieval and dissemination of images and data captured by the UAV.

606.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) - An unmanned aircraft of any type that is capable of sustaining directed flight, whether preprogrammed or remotely controlled (commonly referred to as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)), and all of the supporting or attached systems designed for gathering information through imaging, recording or any other means.

606.2 POLICY

Unmanned aerial vehicles may be utilized to enhance the Department's mission of protecting lives and property. Any use of a UAV will be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, and Redding Police Department policy.

606.3 PRIVACY

The use of a UAV potentially involves privacy considerations. Absent a warrant or exigent circumstances, operators and observers shall adhere to FAA altitude regulations. Operators and observers shall take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

606.4 PROGRAM MANAGER

The Field Operations Division Commander will appoint a program manager who will be responsible for the management of the UAV program. The program manager will designate a supervisor to assist and ensure that policies and procedures conform to current laws, regulations and best practices.

- The UAV program manager and supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that the department's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA) is current.
- All UAVs and related equipment will be maintained per the manufacturer's instructions. The UAV program supervisor shall keep records of the maintenance for the UAV units.
- The UAV program manager and supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed and will provide periodic reports regarding program enhancements, particularly regarding safety and information security, to the Field Operations Division Commander.
- The UAV supervisor will be responsible for submitting periodic reports on UAV usage to the FAA as required by the COA.

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606.5 USE OF UAV

All UAV deployments will be in accordance with the guidelines provided in the FAA COA. The FAA COA includes procedures governing safety oversight, use of visual observers, lost link procedures, and communication with air traffic control facilities.

UAVs shall only be operated by department personnel who have received department-approved training in the operation, applicable laws, policies, and procedures regarding the use of the UAV.

UAV deployment will be considered when an aerial view would enhance situational awareness and assist officers or incident commanders during the following occurrences:

- Arrest / Search Warrant
- CBRNE Incident (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives)
- Crowd Control / Special Events
- Dignitary Protection Detail
- Disaster Management
- Ongoing Criminal Investigation
- Explosive Ordinance Disposal / Investigation
- Fire
- Forensic / Crime Scene
- Missing Person Investigation
- Perimeter Search and Security
- Search and Rescue
- SWAT Operation
- Traffic Collision
- Training
- Public Relations / Multimedia Productions
- Assisting outside agencies in any of the above situations

All deployments of the UAV shall be approved by a Redding Police Department supervisor. This includes training or media/public relations flights. Requests for use of the UAV from outside agencies will be considered by the on-duty supervisor, or the UAV program manager or supervisor, on a case-by-case basis.

All UAV deployments, including training or media/public relations flights, shall be documented using the Redding Police Department UAV deployment report form (RPD-UAV1).

606.6 PROHIBITED USE

The UAV video surveillance equipment shall not be used:

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- To conduct random surveillance activities.
- To target a person based solely on individual characteristics, such as, but not limited to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation.
- The UAV shall not be weaponized.

606.7 RETENTION OF UAV DATA

Any video or photographic evidence that is collected by the deployment of a UAV shall be retained in the same manner as any other digital evidence.

All UAV records shall be maintained in accordance with the established City of Redding Records Retention Schedule.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 6254(f), UAV deployment records relating to criminal investigations will not be disclosed. The only exception will be through a valid court order.