

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1358258-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 5

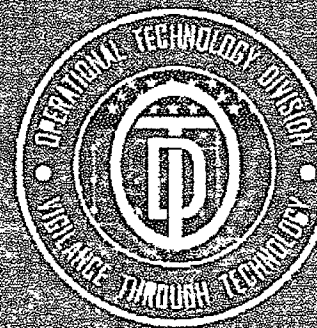
- Page 7 ~ b7E;
- Page 8 ~ b7E;
- Page 9 ~ b7E;
- Page 10 ~ b7E;
- Page 11 ~ b7E;

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~~UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE~~

# FBI's UAV Program

July 20, 2012

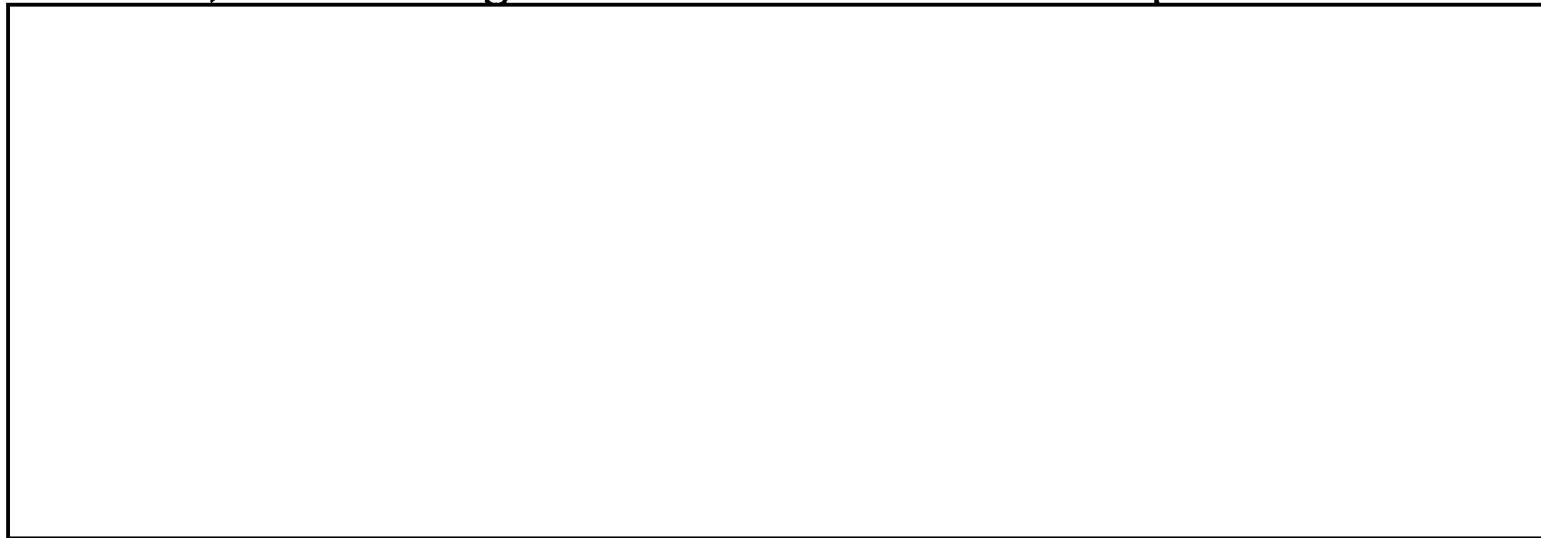


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# FBI UAV History



- The FBI first expressed interested in UAVs in 1995. The FBI experimented with model helicopters and model planes but discarded the program as it did not prove to be a useful surveillance tool.
- In 2005, The FBI again looked into UAVs and purchased



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# FBI UAV Present



- The FBI's current inventory is comprised of [redacted] and [redacted] UAVs. Each set consist of [redacted] UAVs and [redacted] controllers.
- [redacted] UAVs are on order:
- [redacted] UAV pilots. (FAA Class II Medical, FAA Ground School, UAV Certified School)
- Flown over [redacted] missions since 2005 in support of FBI cases

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# FBI UAV Future



- The FBI will continue using the UAVs as a surveillance tool to supplement our surveillance teams, as well as:



- Search tool for fugitives;
- Command and Control tool for SWAT Missions and Special Event Functions.
- Establish an East Coast and West Coast Operational Hub.
- Establish program in every major field office that has a Aviation Unit.

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# Flight Safety for the UAV Program



- Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) – Actively interrogates the transponder of other aircraft.
- Portable Collision Avoidance System (PCAS) – Passive version of TCAS, Listens passively to responses from other interrogations.
- Transponder with Mode “C”
- Ground Radar
- 
- 
- Certification of Authorization or Waiver (COA) from the FAA.

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[Redacted]  
Records Management Division  
Record/Information Dissemination Section  
Legal Administrative Specialist  
FBI-HQ, Winchester

[Redacted]

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Legal Unit/LAFO

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2013 5:24 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Subject:** FOIA REQUEST - 9/25/2013 DEADLINE --- ~~SECRET~~

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Classification: ~~SECRET~~

Classified By: J58J97T22  
Derived From: FBI NSISC-20090615  
Declassify On: 20381231

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[Redacted]

I'm the aviation supervisor for LA Division. I can attest that no UAS have flown in LA territory during my tenure (beginning January of this year) though I'm aware that FBIHQ is experimenting with their deployment to the field. We (LA Division) are being considered [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

There was a Unet chain of emails from a few months ago concerning a complaint about a UAS over Disneyland to which I responded to SAC Garcia and ASAC [Redacted] (if I recall correctly.) The point of the message was that any UAS over Disneyland were 1. Not the FBI, and 2. Illegally being operated due to airspace restrictions and the imperative for public safety that precludes unmanned systems over populated areas.

Hope this helps you!

[Redacted]

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FW: FBI Unmanned  
Aerial Vehicl...

[Redacted]

Supervisory Special Agent  
Los Angeles Aviation Operations

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[Redacted] (mobile)  
[Redacted] (hangar)

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Classification: ~~SECRET~~



[Redacted] (RMD)(FBI)

**From:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 09, 2013 9:44 AM  
**To:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI); [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: FBI Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~Classified By: C42W72B54~~  
~~Derived From: Multiple Sources~~  
~~Declassify On: 20381231~~

FYI

**From:** HESS, AMY S (OTD)(FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 05, 2013 10:36 AM  
**To:** FBI\_ADs and EADs; FBI\_SAC's; FBI\_DAD's  
**Subject:** FBI Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~Classified By: C42W11B73~~  
~~Derived From: Multiple Sources~~  
~~Declassify On: 20381231~~

TRANSITORY RECORD

~~(S//NF)~~ During the past several months, both the media and Congressional representatives have shown increased interest in the FBI's utilization of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The FBI has a small fleet of UAVs currently managed and maintained by the Operational Technology Division (OTD) as a development effort within the Technical Surveillance Section. In coordination with CIRG, OTD ~~(S)~~ has operationally deployed UAVs on a handful of [Redacted] and criminal surveillance missions.

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~~(U)~~ ~~(S//NF)~~ Given the recent interest in UAVs, OTD and CIRG are providing this e-mail as a reminder of the sensitivity of specific information regarding the FBI UAV program. Generally, utilization of UAVs in criminal matters is considered UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.

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[Redacted] Please keep these classification designations in mind when responding to inquiries from your law enforcement partners, other liaison contacts, and especially the media.

(U//FOUO/LES) [Redacted]

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[Redacted] OTD and CIRG are currently coordinating responses to inquiries from Capitol Hill about the FBI's UAV program. If you receive direct communication from your local Senator or Representative, please coordinate through the Office of Congressional Affairs on any proposed response.

(U//FOUO//LES)

[Redacted]

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(U//FOUO) Any public inquiries on the FBI's use of UAVs should be directed to the National Press Office of OPA at 202-324-3691. The National Press Office has previously provided the following public response which may be used by authorized personnel for general response to an inquiry only:

*"We have used surveillance aircraft in very limited circumstances to support operations where there was a specific operational need. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) allow us to learn critical information that otherwise would be difficult to obtain without introducing serious risk to law enforcement personnel. As an example, the FBI utilized a UAV at the crisis site during the Jimmy Lee Dykes hostage barricade situation in Alabama earlier this year.*

*"FBI's UAVs are only utilized to conduct surveillance operations on stationary subjects. In each instance, the FBI must first obtain the approval of the FAA to use the aircraft in a very confined geographic area."*

(U//FOUO//LES) In the coming months, program management of the operational UAV fleet will transition from OTD to CIRG. Once the transition has been completed, divisions should consider UAVs as a resource to support their surveillance needs, integrated as part of CIRG's Surveillance and Aviation Section assets. All requests for UAV operations will come through the Aviation Coordinator to their Program Manager at FFOU. A separate notification will be sent when the program management transition to CIRG has been finalized. When the transition is finalized, the Aviation Policy Guide will reflect any new policies governing the use of UAVs.

(U//FOUO//LES) If you have specific questions or if you would like to receive additional information about the FBI UAV program, please contact Section Chief Scott Bean, Technical Surveillance Section, OTD, at [Redacted] (desk) or [Redacted] (cell).

V/R  
Amy Hess (OTD)  
[Redacted] (CIRG)

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[Redacted]

(RMD)(FBI)

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Sent: Monday, October 07, 2013 8:05 PM  
Subject: FW: [Redacted] - UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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From: [Redacted] (SF) (FBI)  
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2013 5:42 PM  
To: [Redacted] (SF) (FBI)  
Subject: [Redacted] - UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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[Redacted]

Some comments from a couple years ago. [Redacted] both good but I doubt we will get any money to buy them in current budget environment. [Redacted] is probably our best bet.

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From: [Redacted] (OTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2011 6:03 AM  
To: [Redacted] (OTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (OTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (OTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (PG) (FBI)  
Cc: [Redacted] (OTD) (FBI)  
Subject: RE: Several Things --- UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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SA [Redacted] makes a [Redacted] [Redacted] Currently we do not have those on inventory. ME [Redacted] is [Redacted] contact and is currently testing a more [Redacted] [Redacted] is in the process of making arrangements for testing [Redacted] with HRT in the very near future.

As far as anything that goes airborne, the current technology is increasing but there is really nothing out there that will meet the criteria due to the GPS navigation. We are in the process of testing [Redacted] [Redacted] We are familiar with most of the items on the market but these are not something you would want to deploy at this time. Not to mention Certificate of Authority (COA) requirements from the Federal Aviation Administration for any size. These issues still have to be resolved. We do have a severa [Redacted] which may assist your team. Take a look at our website under Headquarters then Operational Technology then Traditional Tracking and finally under Video Surveillance Unit then UAV Program. You will find a description of [Redacted] currently on inventory, While these [Redacted] are older, they can still be used for surveillance. Please contact me or ME [Redacted] via email or phone, he will guide you in the right direction.

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SSA [Redacted]

UAV [redacted]  
OTD-VSU  
FBI Academy Quantico, VA  
[redacted] desk  
[redacted] cell

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**From:** [redacted] (OTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2011 4:40 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OTD) (FBI); [redacted] (OTD) (FBI); [redacted] (OTD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (OTD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Several Things --- UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
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Guys,  
See comments below on [redacted] from Pittsburgh SWAT Team leader. What do we have with [redacted] to address.  
Who has the lead on [redacted] now?  
[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] (PG) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OTD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Several Things --- UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
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[redacted]

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[redacted] Has technology developed to the point where you have cameras on something little that flies? I am thinking the size of these small model planes or helo's you see in the mall. I know there is an issue with the bigger airframes with the FAA and all. We are a team that tries to gather as much intel and clear the structure remotely before we enter. Also, [redacted] could be used in some of our rural ops where we can send ahead to scout or watch a particular spot.

Again, there may be gear out there that we are not aware of that is available to us.

[redacted]

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[Redacted] (RMD)(FBI)

**From:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2013 2:11 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: FOIA REQUEST - 9/25/2013 DEADLINE --- ~~SECRET~~

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~~Classification: SECRET~~

~~Classified By: F24M52K23  
Derived From: FBI NSISC-20090615  
Declassify On: 20381231~~

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[Redacted]  
I just spoke with [Redacted] the POC for this FOIA Lead.  
[Redacted] considers the email below to be responsive. She says the email transmission is adequate; no need to prepare separate EC.  
[Redacted] says we can just close out the Lead.

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[Redacted]  
Paralegal Specialist  
Legal Unit/LAFO  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2013 2:55 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (RMD)(FBI)  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (LA)(FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: FOIA REQUEST - 9/25/2013 DEADLINE --- ~~SECRET~~

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~~Classification: SECRET~~

~~Classified By: F24M52K23  
Derived From: FBI NSISC-20090615  
Declassify On: 20381231~~

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[Redacted]  
Per my previous email, below is the only reply we received in connection with our poll of LAFO employees regarding the FOIA Lead re UAS. While the reply is negative with regard to LAFO use of UAS, the sender has provided an email from ODT re the FBI UAV program.  
Also, I'm attaching my follow-up email to SSA [Redacted] wherein I ask him about records/information concerning use of UAS prior to his tenure.

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RE: FOIA  
QUEST - 9/25/2013

Please let me know if you have any questions. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]  
Paralegal Specialist