

(U//~~FOUO~~/LES)

[Redacted]

[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) For your situational awareness: In order to operate a UAV in US airspace, the FBI must first obtain a Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the FAA. In matters of life and death, the FBI may apply for an Emergency COA for the utilization of UAVs, which may be approved in 24 hours or less. In non-emergency matters, obtaining a COA can take several weeks or even months. All communication with the FAA regarding UAVs, including COAs and Emergency COAs, is conducted solely by the Field Flight Operations Unit (FFOU), Surveillance and Aviation Section, CIRG.

(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)
Jim Yacone (CIRG)

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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CLASSIFIED BY NSICG F54M93K42
REASON: 1.4 (c)
DECLASSIFY ON: 11-07-2038
DATE: 11-07-2013

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[Redacted] (OTD)(FBI)

From: BEAN, W L SCOTT III (OTD) (FBI)
Sent: Friday, July 05, 2013 5:12 PM
To: [Redacted] (OTD)(FBI)
Subject: RE: Proposed Talking Points re UAVs --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~
SentinelCaseId: TRANSITORY RECORD

Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~Classified By: J79J18T11
Derived From: FBI NSISC-20090615
Declassify On: 20381231~~

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TRANSITORY RECORD

Disregard. The mistake was on my end when I cut and pasted the chart. For some reason, it repeated one of the lines. I am good to go, now.

SB

From: BEAN, W L SCOTT III (OTD) (FBI)
Sent: Friday, July 05, 2013 5:07 PM
To: [Redacted] (OTD)(FBI)
Subject: RE: Proposed Talking Points re UAVs --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~Classified By: J79J18T11
Derived From: FBI NSISC-20090615
Declassify On: 20381231~~

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TRANSITORY RECORD

The number of deployments don't add up. We have consistently stated 34 deployments in 13 cases. This table shows 35 deployments.

From: [Redacted] (OTD)(FBI)
Sent: Friday, July 05, 2013 4:50 PM
To: BEAN, W L SCOTT III (OTD) (FBI); DICLEMENTE, ANTHONY P. (OTD) (FBI)
Cc: [Redacted] (OTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (OTD) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Proposed Talking Points re UAVs --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~Classified By: F56M23K20
Derived From: FBI NSISC-20090615~~

~~SECRET~~

Cc: [redacted] (IR) (FBI)
Subject: UAVs --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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

Jim,
To address several concerns we've had with the deployment & use of UAVs over the past year, I had my folks draft a paragraph we could send out to all SACs, ASACs, TTAs, & MST/MST-As. When you get a minute, could you or your designee review the below & make any edits/additions you deem appropriate? Let me know if you want to discuss further. Thanks.

~~(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 as a development effort within the Technical Surveillance Section. In coordination with CIRG, OTD has operationally deployed UAVs on a handful of [redacted] and criminal surveillance missions.

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~~(S//NF)~~ Given the recent interest in UAVs, OTD is providing this e-mail as a reminder of the sensitivity of the FBI UAV program. Utilization of UAVs in criminal matters is considered UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE [redacted]

b7E

[redacted] Please keep these classification designations in mind when responding to inquiries from your state and local law enforcement partners, and especially the media.

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~~(U//FOUO/LES)~~ Program management of the operational UAV fleet will transition from OTD to CIRG in the coming months. 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. A separate notification will be sent when the program management transition to CIRG has been finalized.

~~(U//FOUO/LES)~~ If you have any 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).

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Derived From: ~~Multiple Sources~~
Declassify On: ~~20381231~~

Scott - Since this email never made it out the first time & in light of recent events, I'd like you to coordinate with your counterpart at CIRG & update it to reflect recent events. The point of the message should be to remind SACs of the LES nature of this technology, as they are likely receiving inquiries from their LE & IC partners, the media, congressional reps, civil orgs, & private sector.

The below info is still applicable, but just needs tweaked to address recent concerns/inquiries raised by the Director's testimony & resulting QFRs. I'd like to get this turned around to AD Yacone by COB tomorrow, if possible, as I will recommend a joint OTD-CIRG communication (which is why I need you to coordinate with the CIRG SC up front). Hopefully, we can get the DD's blessing to send it out by the end of the week, while the topic is still fresh & before some SAC somewhere discloses more than they should about the program.

Thanks.

From: YACONE, JAMES F (IR) (FBI)
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2013 10:14 AM
To: HESS, AMY S (OTD)(FBI)
Subject: FW: UAVs --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classified By: ~~J22J87T32~~
Derived From: ~~Multiple Sources~~
Declassify On: ~~20381231~~

Amy,

(U) Below is our recommended language. Changes/Additions are highlighted. [Redacted]

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~~(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 as a development effort within the Technical Surveillance Section. In coordination with CIRG, OTD has operationally deployed UAVs on a handful of [Redacted] and criminal surveillance missions.

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for the utilization of UAVs, which may be approved in 24 hours or less. In non-emergency matters, obtaining a COA can take several weeks or even months. All communication with the FAA regarding UAV's, including COA's and Emergency COA's, is conducted solely by the Field Flight Operations Unit (FFOU), Surveillance and Aviation Section, CIRG.

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Thanks, Amy

Regards,

AD Jim Yacone
Critical Incident Response Group

[redacted]

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b7C

From: YACONE, JAMES F (IR) (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 5:38 PM
To: THORNTON, RICHARD T. (IR) (FBI); [redacted] (IR) (FBI)
Subject: FW: UAVs --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~
Importance: High

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classified By: J22J87T32
Derived From: Multiple Sources
Declassify On: 20381231

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Gents, I need your input on the below email that will be sent by AD Hess to all SACs, ASACs, TTAs, and MST/MST-As. Please add or delete language as deemed appropriate. As an example, I think it should clearly state that all Certificates of Authorization to operate the UAVs must come through the field Aviation Coordinators to SAS (Unit?). Please provide me your comments via email by COB tomorrow or Thursday and I'll forward to AD Hess. It would be helpful if you highlighted your changes in the body of the email for ease of identification. Thanks. Jim

From: HESS, AMY S (OTD)(FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 9:56 AM
To: YACONE, JAMES F (IR) (FBI)

(S) Section. In coordination with CIRG, OTD 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 [redacted]

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[redacted] Please keep these classification designations in mind when responding to inquiries from your state and local law enforcement partners, and especially the media.

~~(U//FOUO/LES)~~ [redacted]

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Scott

From: THORNTON, RICHARD T. (IR) (FBI)
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2013 3:43 PM
To: BEAN, W L SCOTT III (OTD) (FBI); [redacted] (IR) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted] (OTD)(FBI)
Subject: RE: UAVs --- ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classified By: J85J63T23
Derived From: Multiple Sources
Declassify On: 20381231
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Scott,