

General Order 20-001

DRONE POLICY

I. PURPOSE:

This policy establishes an unmanned Air Support Unit within the Greenfield Police Department. It is the primary mission of the GPD Air Support Unit (ASU) to utilize small unmanned aircraft system (UAS) platforms to assist various police operations and enhance both public and officer safety. The GPD ASU may assist other city departments with non-criminal justice survey missions as authorized by law.

II. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the GPD to provide accountability and transparency of the department's UAS program. The GPD shall comply with the legal requirements surrounding UAS operations, including all applicable FAA National Airspace System regulations, State and Federal laws and State and Federal constitutional guarantees. The mission of the UAS program is to provide aerial support and assistance to the GPD in a multitude of situations including, but not limited to, surveying natural disasters, hazardous material scenes, locating lost or missing persons, crime scene investigations, accident investigations, emergency situations and training.

III. DEFINITIONS:

A. Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS): Refers to the small unmanned aircraft itself and its associated peripherals.

B. Air Support Unit (ASU): Comprised of GPD officers selected and trained to conduct small UAS operations and a supervisor.

C. Part 107 Rules: Refers to the general FAA regulations promulgated in 2016 under 14 CFR Part 107 governing the use of small UAS by non-hobbyists, including guidelines for flight operations by government entities and the certification of UAS pilots, and all amendments thereto.

D. Remote Pilot in Command (RPIC): The RPIC will function as the operator of the small UAS and is ultimately responsible for the safe operation of the UAS before and during the mission. RPICs will obtain and maintain a valid FAA-issued Remote Pilot Certificate or valid Part 61 pilot certificate as specified in Part 107 rules unless the department has obtained a COA or Part 333 Exemption that allows the ASU to self-certify its pilots with its own training course.

E. Visual Observer (VO): The VO will be responsible for monitoring the UAS and work as a team with the RPIC to identify and avoid obstacles and hazards during flight. The VO will assist the RPIC with pre-flight, launch and landing procedures, as well as maintain situational awareness and communications with other on scene law enforcement personnel.

F. ASU Supervisor: The ASU supervisor will be responsible for overall unit readiness as well as managing the department-approved UAS management platform. The ASU supervisor shall coordinate the unit's overall evolution, mission readiness, personnel staffing and capital needs with the approval of the Chief or Deputy Chief

IV. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

The GPD ASU shall operate under the following authorities:

- A. 14 CFR Part 107 Rules and/or Part 107 Waivers
- B. Indiana Code 35-33-5-9. Unmanned aerial vehicles; search warrant exceptions

The GPD ASU shall only be used for departmental law enforcement missions and under the authority of a search warrant except under the following circumstances:

1. Exigent circumstances;
2. The substantial likelihood of a terrorist attack;
3. Search and rescue or recovery operations;
4. Natural disaster or any other disaster responses;
5. Geographical, environmental or other survey purposes unrelated to criminal justice purposes;
6. Aerial photographs or video images of a motor vehicle accident site on a public street or public highway;
7. With the consent of any affected property owner.

V. AUDIO/VISUAL RECORDINGS:

1. The primary goal of GPD ASU flights is to enhance public and officer safety through increased tactical situational awareness on scene and not to create flight video recordings.

2. The RPIC shall decide if and when any part of the flight is recorded by the UAS depending on the circumstances of the mission and the potential evidentiary value of such a recording. The RPIC shall record the mission, or any portion thereof, if requested to do so by an Incident Scene Commander.
3. UAS video recordings occur under a variety of circumstances including inadvertent recordings during both missions and training (accidentally turning the camera on).
4. Inadvertent Recordings are recordings that were turned on by mistake and hold no operational or evidentiary value. An example of an Inadvertent Recording is an accidental activation of a camera at the police station while maintaining or preparing equipment. These recordings will be erased at the next opportunity.
5. Training Recordings are recordings used for the purposes of training or created during training. After review, they will be erased at the next opportunity.
6. Operational Recordings are recordings that occurred during a flight operation. These recordings shall be uploaded to the department's video storage
7. Operational recordings that occur as part of SRT/FACT callouts will be uploaded to the department's video storage.
8. Operational recordings of a non-criminal justice nature conducted at the request of other city departments shall be delivered to that department and not retained in department storage.

Effective Date January 14, 2020



Jeff Rasche, Chief of Police