



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

January 4, 2016

321D-IR-A7788

MEMORANDUM FOR Deputy Attorney General

FROM: Gregory Cox, Assistant Director, Critical Incident Response Group *GC*
 Ernest J. Babcock, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel *EJB*

SUBJECT: CY2015 Annual Report on the Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

As required in your memorandum, Department Policy Regarding the Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), dated May 22, 2015, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is forwarding the following information regarding its UAS operations for calendar year 2015.

UAS Operational Deployments

During calendar year 2015, the FBI had a total of [redacted] operational UAS deployments.¹ Although a UAS and operator were deployed [redacted] deployments, [redacted] actual flights occurred upon arriving at the mission location.² A total of [redacted] UAS flights occurred in connection with the [redacted] operational deployments in which flight operations were conducted.³

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[redacted] operational deployments were in support of [redacted] deployments involved a total of [redacted] flights, and [redacted] involved a total of [redacted] flights.

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¹ An operational deployment [redacted]

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² On occasion, a UAS flight [redacted]

[redacted]

³ A flight, for purposes of this report, is defined as one UAS takeoff and recovery.

UAS Assistance

The FBI did not request UAS assistance from any other federal, state, local, tribal or territorial agency. The FBI did provide assistance [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was included in the overall statistics reported above.

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UAS Privacy Reviews

Prior to conducting each mission, as required in your memorandum on UAS operations, the Attorney General Guidelines for Domestic FBI Operations, and Chapter 4 of the FBI's Domestic Investigations & Operations Guide (DIOG), the reviewing and approving authorities conducted a "least intrusive method" analysis to ensure the protection of privacy and civil liberties.

Additionally, DGC Babcock, the FBI's Senior Component Official for Privacy (SCOP), conducted an annual privacy review of the FBI's use of UAS on December 18, 2015, and has ensured that the FBI's operations are compliant with existing privacy laws, regulations and Department policy. Further, the FBI SCOP had no privacy concerns about the FBI UAS program based on the information provided during the review.