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## RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SAFETY DRONE PROGRAM

**Name of Department/Agency:**

Sacramento CA Metropolitan Fire District

**Your Full Name:**

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**Department URL:**

Metrofire.ca.gov

**How long program in operation?**

5 years total

**How many aircraft in program?**

17 aircraft

**What types of aircraft in fleet?**

DJI Phantoms, Mavics, Mavic 2 Duals, Inspire 1 & 2s, Matrice 210, Skydio2

**How many remote pilots in program?**

28 (about 14 fully qualified, several others in training)

**Do you operate with COA, Part 107 or both? If outside the U.S., tell what regulations you operate under.**

Blanket and Jurisdictional COA and part 107

**How has your drone program been innovative for your department?**

Our UAV program's primary mission is provided streaming, real time situational awareness to the Incident Commander. Being able to live stream the information is new and very compelling, and has allowed us to branch off away from purely tactical missions to those including Arson Investigation and Public Education support. The use of UAS in these areas continues to propel Metro Fire further into the future of innovation. We've also worked very hard to establish the Sacramento Regional UAV Operators Group, which is a collection of 28 law and fire agencies in the greater Sacramento Area that use (or are starting to use) UAS in their operations. This conglomeration has proved to be greater than the sum of its parts for all agencies involved by creating a new level of daily, regional cooperation and mutual aid to incidents we would normally not be involved in. Its also proven beneficial to all agencies by allowing UASI grant money to be used within the Region as well as providing greater, more established training and operating standards. The

Regional Group is so successful that it has spurred the creation of two other Regional Groups, one in the greater Tahoe/Truckee area and one in the North San Francisco Bay area.

**How has your drone program enhanced safety for your department?**

Enhanced situational awareness has allowed incident commanders to make better decisions overall, as well as giving them the new and unique opportunity to scout potential access sites near the parkway and the cliff faces when choosing whether or not to deploy resources.

**How has your drone program improved operational effectiveness?**

Many of our most challenging calls are over the bluff faces on the Sacramento River, including river rescues and fires. Using the UAVs to scout areas before and during a call has helped the IC make more effective and efficient decisions. We've also found success using the UAVs to overfly incidents after they have concluded to be used for training videos and review, bringing more valuable information to the firefighters in the field.

**If you have news stories of success of your program or missions, please provide links to stories (More than one link is OK):**

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article232906997.html>

This is one of my favorite news stories about our program. Specifically because it was such a unique fire with so many access issues and the UAV made a huge difference in how the incident came to conclusion.