



RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING DRONE PROGRAM

Name of Department/Agency: Omaha Police Department

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How long program in operation? Implemented 2020

How many aircraft in program? 13

What types of aircraft in fleet? Mavic Mini, Autel EVO 2, DJI M300

How many remote pilots in program? 24 pilots in various stages of certification and training. Ancillary assignment

Do you operate with COA, Part 107 or both? COA and Part 107

How has your drone program been innovative for your department?

We use the NIST standard test methods to both select and train pilots in basic operation.

The immediate impact was seen in mapping. Shortly after implementation we had a home explosion that covered a full block and later a homicide scene that was nearly 6 blocks long. Partnering with Pix4D REACT, we were able to provide working images very quickly. Our traffic unit accident reconstruction has been very active as well, finding immediate advantages to the implementation of drone technology. During protests, we also used the sUAS to document activities from a great vantage point. Thermal capabilities have also been a great addition to allow our vision into dark areas or wide area searches like the recent search for an autistic child that had gone missing.

How has your drone program enhanced safety for your department? We have been able to use the sUAS to search large areas quickly. For example an auto theft suspect ran into a large car lot area and with the sUAS we could quickly search from the air with thermal to identify potential danger to officers if a suspect was still present.

How has your drone program improved operational effectiveness? Our operations fall into 4 areas: SWAT, Forensics, Traffic Investigations, and Mobile Technology (at-large requests and special events). Having a different perspective to approach emergency operations adds improved decision making within the operation. We can also live stream as needed and provide decision making as we provide data to a command post. We continue to improve operational efficiency as we slowly expand our response.

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

Our program has started with a low profile as we strive to improve program logistics and continue to train and get pilots experience. We have a potential media release coming soon.