



Pennsylvania
State Police

Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS) Program

Public Summary

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) has adopted a Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS) Implementation Policy (Policy) to support the safe and lawful use of authorities provided under the federal SAFER SKIES Act, 6 U.S.C. § 124n, as implemented by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations, 6 C.F.R. §§ 124.1–22, and Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations, 28 C.F.R. §§ 124.1–22, for addressing threats posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

The SAFER SKIES Act, 6 U.S.C. § 124n(a)(2), authorizes PSP to detect, assess, and respond to drone activity in the Commonwealth that presents a credible threat to public safety, critical infrastructure, correctional facilities, or large public events. The Policy, pursuant to 6 C.F.R. § 124.6 and 28 C.F.R. § 124.6, establishes the framework under which PSP may exercise this statutory authority. PSP is publishing this public summary to promote public awareness and will provide additional public notifications regarding the potential use of C-UAS authorities when appropriate.

The Policy emphasizes that any use of C-UAS authority is limited to protecting public safety and security. It is not intended to serve as a general law enforcement surveillance tool or to replace existing criminal investigative authorities. PSP may only exercise these authorities when authorized by federal law and when specific legal standards are met, including the determination of a credible threat as defined in 6 C.F.R. § 124.2 and 28 C.F.R. § 124.2. Any mitigation action taken shall comply with the PSP's Field Regulation 9-1 "Use of Force."

The Policy requires that all Members conducting C-UAS operations receive and maintain specialized training and certification before participating in such operations, in compliance with 6 U.S.C. § 124n(d)(2)(A), 6 C.F.R. § 124.5, and 28 C.F.R. § 124.5. The Policy also establishes oversight, accountability, and operational approval requirements to ensure activities are conducted professionally and in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

Protecting constitutional rights is a central component of the Policy. Consistent with 6 C.F.R. § 124.14 and 28 C.F.R. § 124.14, PSP is committed to safeguarding privacy and civil liberties by complying with the First and Fourth Amendments to the United States Constitution, minimizing the collection of information unrelated to legitimate public safety purposes, limiting data retention, and restricting the sharing of information except as authorized by law.

The Policy also establishes requirements for documentation, auditing, reporting, and periodic review to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with federal regulations. PSP will maintain records of C-UAS activities and participate in required oversight and compliance processes, including those set forth in parts 124.13 (relating to post-operation reporting), 124.14(g) (relating to audit trails), and 124.16(a) (relating to compliance audits) of the DHS/DOJ regulations and the Policy.

PSP remains committed to balancing public safety with the protection of individual rights while responsibly addressing emerging threats involving unmanned aircraft systems. The Policy will be updated as needed to ensure ongoing compliance with federal law.