

Department of Justice Summary of UAS Operations for Calendar Year (CY) 2017

During CY 2017, the Department of Justice engaged in four UAS operational deployments in connection with authorized criminal and national security investigations, consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and Department policy. An operational deployment is the sending and tasking of a UAS and an operator in support of an authorized criminal or national security investigation. A flight is defined as one UAS takeoff and recovery. An operational deployment may involve one or more flights, or no flights at all due to weather conditions, a change in investigative needs between dispatch and arrival, or other factors. In CY 2017, flights occurred in connection with only three of the UAS operational deployments for a total of ten flights in all. One operational deployment did not result in any flights.

The above numbers do not include flights of UAS in connection with training, research, development, testing, or evaluation, which occur on a closed range over government property with notice to all individuals in the vicinity. They also do not include deployment of UAS for non-operational purposes, such as the use of UAS to film the Department's own facilities for public relations purposes. Finally, they do not include uses of UAS owned by the Department's partners at other federal, state, local, or tribal agencies, with whom the Department works closely, and provides assistance whenever possible.