

# Sky View

## Program Narrative

Growing crime is a national problem in the United States of America. Technology's positive impact on our society as an educational tool for our citizens has created internet pathways to knowledge of anything and everything available. It would appear that street crime would lessen and more sophisticated crime would occur, given the nature of computer hacking and the ability to create websites to entice internet users to all sorts of criminal activity. Yet this generation has learned how to skateboard through their computers with ease, casually accessing cell phones cameras and videos, Wi-Fi access giving constant connection (now even in vehicles), and this technology continues to grow creating street criminals that now threaten through text messaging, harass via social media and utilize cyberstalking. This century's technology frenzy has the criminal mind destroying the positivity of internet and using it as a playground for mischievous deeds that often lead to illegal activity. Social media sights are everywhere on the internet displaying violent videos of gang activity, racially motivated hate speeches, attacks on Law Enforcement through signs and songs as we listen to our nation's youths chant about killing cops.

Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office fights this battle every day using the same paths of internet access to identify, communicate and solve crimes. Technology has become an intricate part of providing information to our deputies assisting in their safety and preservation. Body worn cameras that protect both the deputies and the citizens have recently become our most prized form of technology. GPS programs, iPads, web-based programs to identify locations on known sex offenders, crime stopper hotlines, and Facebook pages for Law enforcement are all viable and valuable uses of technology to support our efforts in the battle against crime. Our needs still grow.

Technology is key in winning this battle by providing Law Enforcement with visual layouts of land, looking through crowds from an aerial view, assisting with search and rescue, and assessing natural and or man-made disasters. Small UASs (Unmanned Aerial Systems) equipped with flir cameras can assist law enforcement with a multitude of tasks utilizing technology for positive reinforcement in the search for lost children and Alzheimer’s patients, as well as stranded or sunken boats. The race against time in finding lost people saves life and limb, expeditiously serving our citizens and assisting other agencies in times of distress.

The initial use of Drones, or UAS’s (unmanned aerial systems), began as military predator vehicles used to drop bombs in foreign lands. ***‘The first recorded usage of drones was by Austrians on August 22, 1849. Pilotless balloons were launched mounted with bombs against the city of Venice.’ Years later, the origins of the electronic drone can be traced to the “target drones” used in the early twentieth century. These were used to test and train combat pilots and anti-aircraft gunners.*** In today’s world drones are sold for a variety of reasons and uses. Law Enforcement ‘Sky View” program’s design is to utilize this technology for search and rescue, disaster assessment (both man-made and natural), and for tactical assessment of land layouts.

Should our agency receive an award for this purchase, there will be two deputies assigned as “operators’ to work and maintain the UAS. These deputies will receive proper training for maneuvering these small air crafts to assess land damage after storms, hurricanes and floods, utilize the camera technology during major events to assist those deputies working in large crowds (such as Mardi Gras), and the proper uses of search and rescue. Policies identifying specific uses for the drones will be implemented into the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff’s policy manual, defining proper logging of hours for flight time and data storage. Policies will clearly state that the most important duty of an “operator” is maintaining professionalism while protecting the privacy of our

citizens. Once these policies are implemented and training is complete, our deputies will utilize the technology of the UAS to assist our deputies.

Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office has been fortunate to work with our neighboring jurisdictions, our local police and fire departments and other government agencies such as Terrebonne's Levee district, the City Marshal's Office, and our local Department of Homeland Security, just to mention a few. We look forward to assisting these other agencies with their needs utilizing UAS technology, as well. Levee breaches, searching for a suspect immediately following a hot crime, and getting much-needed pictures following a natural disaster all are things that can be accomplished using a UAS, at a much lesser expense than calling out a helicopter.

The capabilities of these Unmanned Aerial Systems endless. In Terrebonne Parish alone there are five bayou areas that flood during tropical storms and hurricanes. In the aftermath, it is the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office to keep people from hurting themselves by making impulsive decisions based on emotion instead of common sense. Everyone wants to get into those areas to check their homes, but impassible roads make travel into flooded zones risky, to say the least. UAS's can help assess the areas safely to see the extent of flooding without risking a deputy's life by sending him to check it out.

Our agency has received calls from families of Alzheimer's patients in the middle of the night. A missing, elderly person suffering from this tragic disease out wandering alone needs to be found immediately, time is critical. Flir cameras in the hands of the deputies are a great tool to find a lost individual. Put that technology to an aerial view, quickening the results of rescue.

A recent hostage situation in a small neighborhood where houses are close, yards are fenced, entrance and exit gates run oddly through the properties. Early in the morning before the

sun is up, our deputies assist the local police department with a S.W.A.T. call. The secured perimeter to the house where the perpetrator has a 5-year-old child held, but under the cover of darkness, the layout of the surrounding area is, at best, an obstacle course for the deputies. The presence and use of a UAS would have made this situation safer and easier to communicate to law enforcement officers by assisting with positioning, visually seeing obstacles or movement of any kind, movement that could pose a threat to their lives.

To measure the success of our program, Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office will compare incidences that occurred prior to the use of a UAS and determine the time management of these situations and how they differ. Documentation through our report system will describe the response time and efforts of the operators of the UAS and the results of their use.

Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office is also seeking to purchase AEDs, defibrillators that come with verbal instructions on use. As we are a large parish, many times deputies arrive to urgent scenes prior to first responders such as fire department and ambulances. With this technology we can keep citizens alive until medical help arrives. Serious accidents, oil rigs in outlying areas and elderly patients living 35 to 40 minutes away from hospitals creates a time distance that can mean the difference between life or death. Rendering first aid is crucial when it comes to the heart.

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<sup>i</sup> Understanding Empires, [understandingempires.wordpress.com](http://understandingempires.wordpress.com), article "History of Drones," by Ian Shaw, 2013.