



Transparency with Public Safety Drone Programs

This presentation aims to discuss the importance of transparency and public engagement in the deployment of drone technologies by public safety agencies.

Introduction to Public Safety Drone Programs



ENHANCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Drones can provide a bird's-eye view of incident scenes, allowing first responders to assess situations more effectively and make informed decisions.



SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS

Drones can be used to collect aerial footage and data during investigations, providing valuable evidence and insights to law enforcement agencies.



IMPROVE SEARCH AND RESCUE

Drones can be deployed to locate and track missing persons or victims in difficult-to-reach areas, increasing the chances of successful rescue operations.



ENHANCE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Drones can be used to monitor public events, natural disasters, and other critical situations, enabling real-time information sharing and decision-making for public safety personnel.

PUBLIC SAFETY DRONE PROGRAMS OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF BENEFITS, FROM ENHANCING EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO IMPROVING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND SUPPORTING INVESTIGATIONS. BY LEVERAGING DRONE TECHNOLOGY, PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES CAN BETTER PROTECT THEIR COMMUNITIES AND SAVE LIVES.

“"Transparency is the
cornerstone of public trust."”

Stakeholder Engagement in Public Safety Drone Programs



COMMUNITY

Those living in and visiting your area



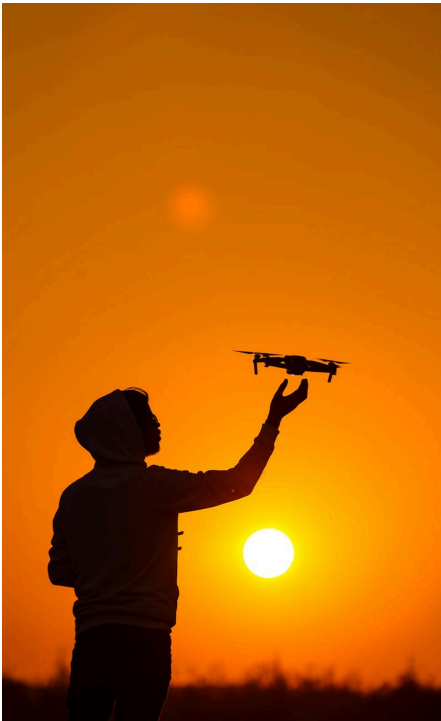
LAWMAKERS

State and Federal



LOCAL LEADERS

City & County



DRONE OPERATORS

Drone Operators, for Municipal Agencies



JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Prosecution, Defense and Civil Liberties

Federal Aviation Administration

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the United States government agency responsible for the regulation and oversight of civil aviation.



Privacy Considerations in Public Safety Drone Programs

Reality vs Myths.....Let's Debunk Some of These Concerns



1. DRONES HOVERING OVER RESIDENTIAL AREA

Fear that a drone may capture aerial footage of a residential neighborhood, raising concerns about privacy and surveillance of private homes.



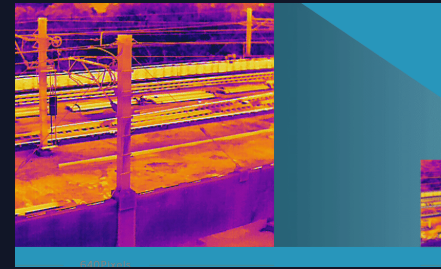
2. FACIAL RECOGNITION WITH A DRONE

Fear that a drone equipped with facial recognition technology, could potentially be used to identify and track individuals without their consent.



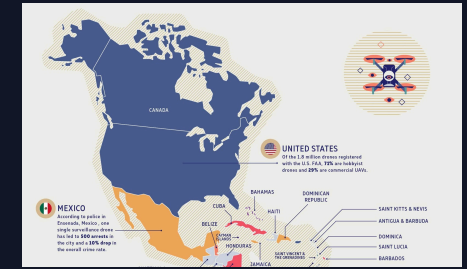
3. DRONE MONITORING A PUBLIC PROTEST

Fear that a drone is monitoring a public protest, sparking debates about the balance between public safety and the right to privacy and free assembly.



4. DRONE EQUIPPED WITH THERMAL IMAGING

Fear that a drone with a thermal imaging camera, which could be used to monitor private activities inside homes, raising concerns about invasions of privacy.



5. DRONE MAPPING A NEIGHBORHOOD

Fear that a drone will capture detailed aerial maps of a neighborhood, which could be used for various purposes, including surveillance and monitoring, without the residents' knowledge or consent.



F₄

E₁

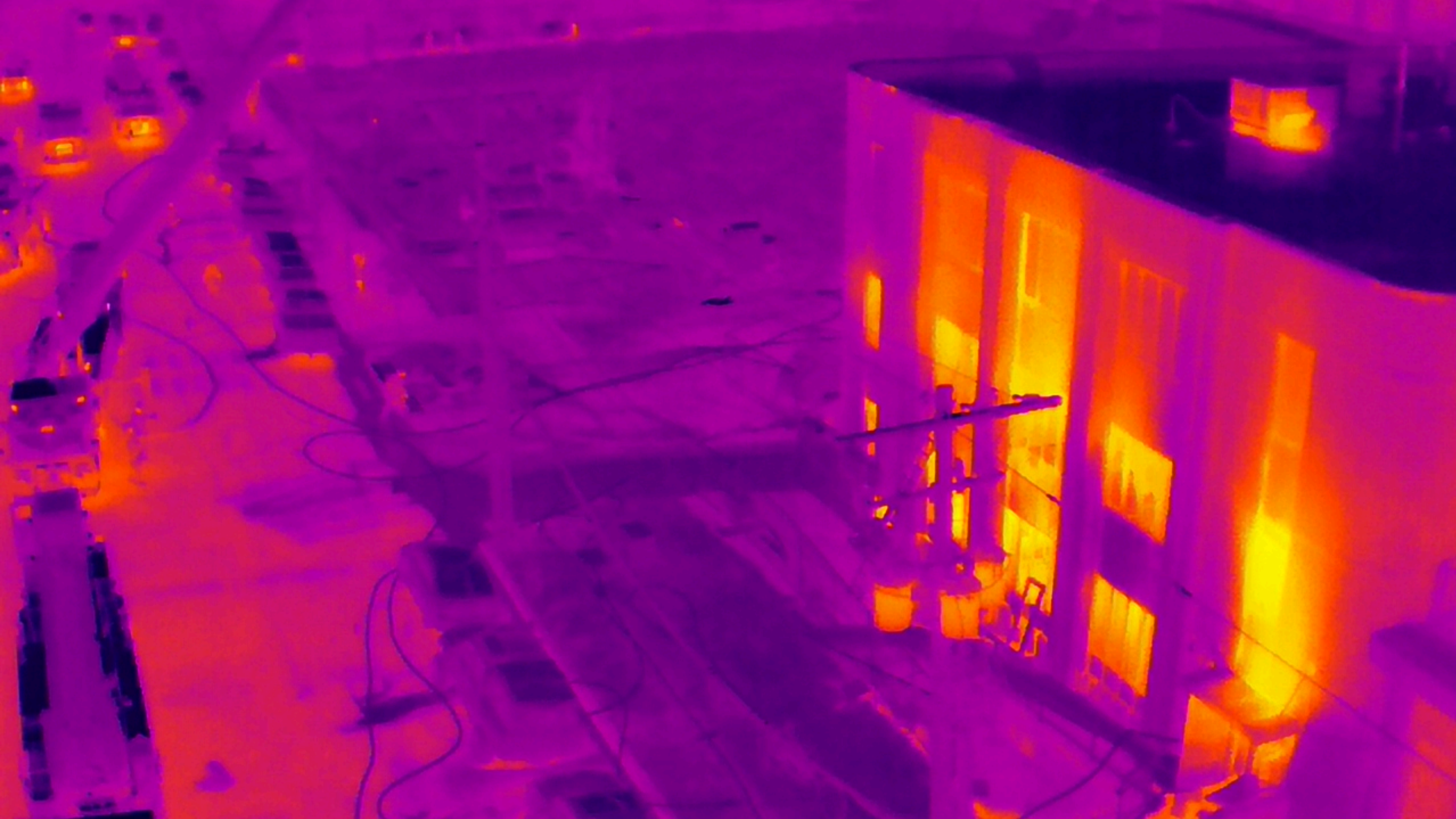
A₁

R₁









Nikon Z9

8256x5504
45.4 mgeapixels

CZ C30N
1280x1024

Axial 640T
Mavic 3T
640x512

78 x 48 x 128
320 x 256



MAPPING?

WHY WE FOCUS ON TRANSPARENCY

Capital City Challenge



How Salt Lake City Police Address Transparency

1 | **FLIGHT LOGS**

All pilots maintain a flight log

2 | **FLEET MANAGMENT**

All flights, telemetry and flight characteristics documented in a fleet management system

3 | **WEBPAGE**

Public facing webpage with details about the program and information about how to reach out for questions or complaints

*Public Facing Dashboards

4 | **DIGITAL DATA**

Any recorded media (video & photos) is removed from the drone. If it is evidence, it is subject to all laws and policies regarding evidence

5 | **DOCUMENTATION**

Our pilots either write a report or note the use of a drone in the call log.

6 | **GRAMA REQUESTS**

All drone activity is connected to a case number for GRAMA purposes



Fleet Management

Website

Dashboard Example from Sacramento PD

Dashboard Example from Chula Vista PD

Drone Program

Mission Statement

The mission of the Salt Lake City Police Drone Program is it to provide airborne support to police operations in a safe, responsible, and transparent manner. We strive to reduce response times, deescalate dangerous situations and increase the quality of life for Salt Lake City residents and visitors.



Equipment

Our current fleet has a variety of aircraft with capabilities such as indoors flight, 3D models, spotlights, speakers, and thermal

History

The Salt Lake City Police Drone Program officially began in the Summer of 2022. We conducted years of research into best practices, transparency models and privacy concerns prior to purchasing drones. After working with our community partners and creating policies that match the values of the Salt Lake City Police Department, we purchased drones to start our initial fleet.

The department presently has 26 pilots/officers who are licensed through the FAA. These pilots work various

Digital Evidence

UTAH CODE

72-10-803

WHAT DOES REMOVE FROM DRONE MEAN?

Formatting the digital captures from memory card or internal storage

EVIDENCE

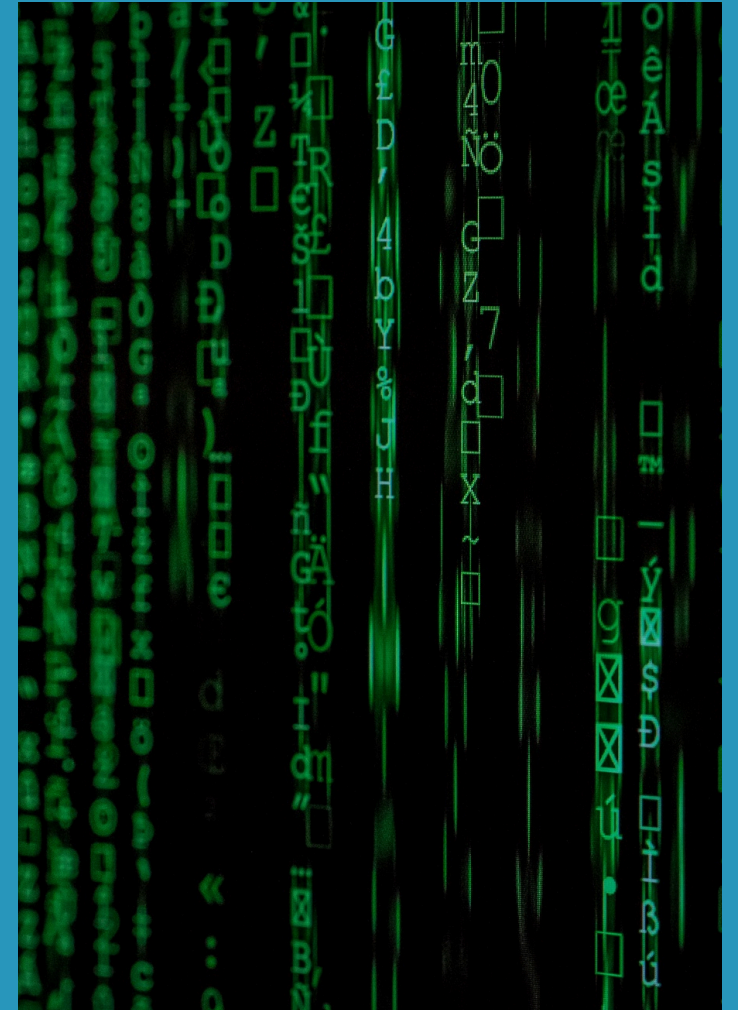
Pilots record the flights, but only upload actual evidence. Everything else is deleted and noted

TRAINING FLIGHTS

Pilots will retain training flight data but still remove this from the memory card or internal memory. This is noted in documentation

HOW IS EVIDENCE HANDLED

The same as body worn cameras, crime scene images and police reports.



QUERY CALL:

SL2024-278512 to -

Initial: **7399 PUB ORD - FREE TEXT**

Final: **7399 PUB ORD - FREE TEXT**

Received on: **Nov-25-2024 1235 Hrs**

Report: **Nov-25-2024 1235 Hrs**

Address: **475 S 300 E, SL**

Remarks: DEMONSTRATING DRONES OUT FRONT OF THE PSB FOR LEGISLATORS

Cleared at 00:16:21 hours Report:Y Founded:Y Cleared:NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

Clear Remarks:

List of Remarks:

2024-11-27 06:48:17 DEMONSTRATION FOR UTAH STATE AUDITOR. SPARKS AND ASHDOWN AS RPIC, GUESTS FLEW AIRCRAFT. LAAN #ALTFCZQDCTT0. AIRDATA AND FLIGHT LOG COMPLETED. NO EVIDENCE CAPTURED SO NO DATA ON DRONE. ALL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS CLEAR FOR FLIGHT.

Related Narrative Text Documents -----

No related documents found

GRAMA

Without the Data

Trust is Lost

Conspiracy Usually Fills the Void

```
def __init__(self, path):
    self.file = None
    self.fingerprints = set()
    self.logdupes = True
    self.debug = debug
    self.logger = logging.getLogger(__name__)
    if path:
        self.file = open(os.path.join(path, 'fingerprint.txt'), 'w')
        self.file.seek(0)
        self.fingerprints.update(self.fingerprints)

    @classmethod
    def from_settings(cls, settings):
        debug = settings.getbool('debug')
        return cls(job_dir(settings), debug)

    def request_seen(self, request):
        fp = self.request_fingerprint(request)
        if fp in self.fingerprints:
            return True
        self.fingerprints.add(fp)
        if self.file:
            self.file.write(fp + os.linesep)

    def request_fingerprint(self, request):
        return request_fingerprint(request)
```

Recap



✓ **PART 107 LICENSE**

Document license, dates and renewals

✓ **COA & WAIVERS**

Document, keep current, monthly FAA reports

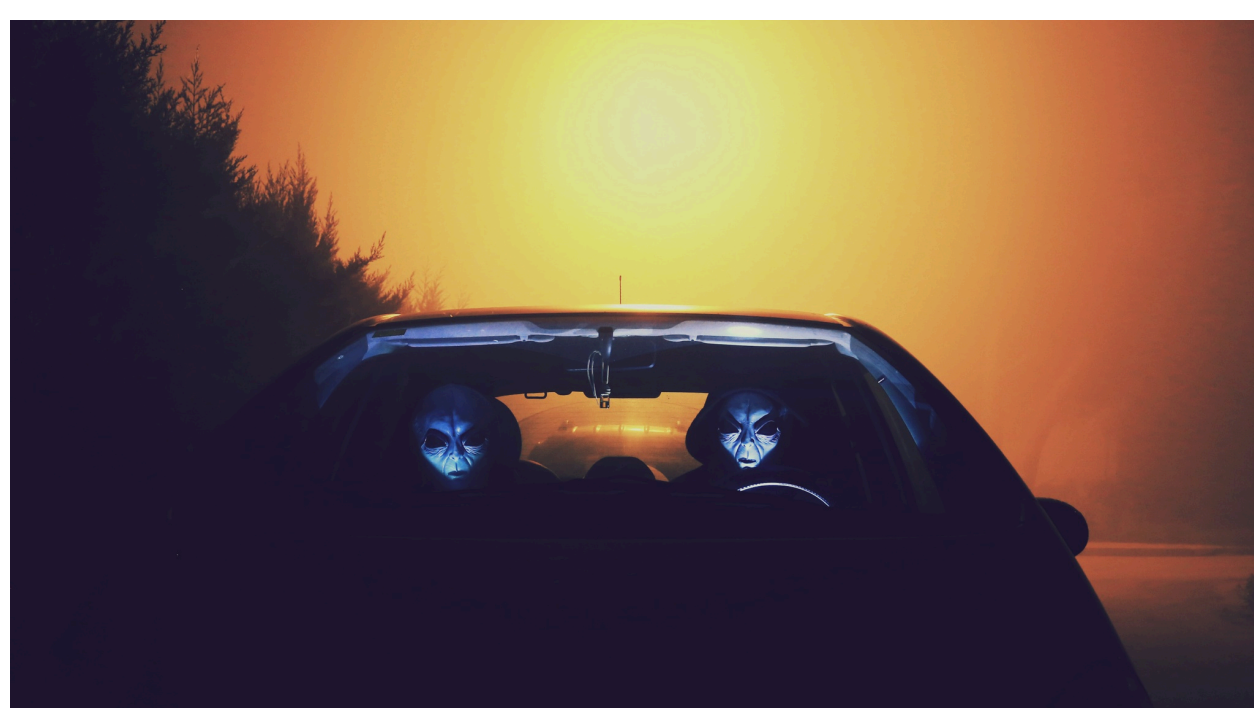
✓ **TRAINING & MAINTENANCE**

Document when you train, what you train and how you maintain equipment.

✓ **FLIGHT RECORDS**

Document when you used a drone, why you used a drone and any necessary information.

Questions?



FLIGHT RADAR 24



WHAT IS TRUE?

**BIG FOOT
XING**

DUE TO SIGHTINGS
IN THE AREA OF A
CREATURE RESEMBLING
"BIG FOOT" THIS SIGN
HAS BEEN POSTED
FOR YOUR SAFETY

Hey, there!

Let's work together.

Contact Information:

Sgt. Josh Ashdown

joshua.ashdown@slc.gov

