



Press Release

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La Vista Police Unmanned Aircraft System Pilot Training

The La Vista Police Department is preparing to begin deploying a small unmanned aerial system (sUAS) to aid officers responding to numerous situations where critical information can be provided from previously inaccessible vantage points. Potential uses for the sUAS include searching for missing persons, traffic crash investigations, fire investigations, and event planning. Department policy prohibits the use of the sUAS for surveillance of criminal activity without obtaining a valid search warrant prior to flight.

Six La Vista police officers will be trained to pilot the sUAS in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration rules and department policy. The department has obtained FAA registration for the sUAS and is in the process of gaining a Certificate of Waiver/Authorization (COA) from the FAA for Public Safety operations.

Pilot training will be held at the La Vista Police Department February 21 and 22, which will be conducted by a certified fixed wing aircraft flight instructor from Husker Drones. The course will cover FAA regulations, understanding national airspace, weather considerations, sUAS operating skills, emergency procedures, maintenance, and inspection, as well as law enforcement specific considerations. Upon successful completion of the course, each officer will be required to pass the FAA Part 107 Aeronautical Knowledge test and obtain a Commercial sUAS certification.

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