

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office  
2019 Year End Report – sUAS Unit

During the course of 2019, members of the sUAS Unit conducted (11) live operations and completed (6) bi-monthly trainings. This represents a slight increase over 2018 (10). As of the close of 2019, the unit has a total of (6) remote pilots licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Two additional sUAS, DJI Mavic Enterprise series, were put into service at the start of the year, bringing the agency's present total to four. These two smaller, more portable, sUAS are able to be maintained in patrol vehicles and have allowed for more rapid deployment when needed. They have increased the capabilities of the unit in numerous ways, most notably regarding flight time, range, and nighttime operations.

The 11 live operations included; multiple crime and traffic accident scene documentations, multiple critical missing person incidents, security overwatch during the annual County Fair, assistance of outside local and federal agencies, terrain searches for suspects and other community events. Reporting documentation for all operations has been accounted for. Training objectives for 2019 included nighttime operations, search and rescue, reconnaissance, situational awareness and communication, K9 familiarization, and FAA regulation review among others.

Narrative from Blue Team Report #8017 on January 29, 2020.