BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT – EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTION

LESSON PLAN

COURSE TITLE: 2026 In Service Training, UOF – UOF, Crime Scenes, and Community Policing

LESSON TITLE: Air Support: Drones and Foxtrot

New or Revised Course **[X] New** **[ ] Revised**

Written By: P/O Travis Ryckman I620 **Date:** 10/21/25

Academic Director Approval: **Date:**

PARAMETERS	Lesson hours: 1 Hour	[ ] Entry-level
	Class size: 42 students	[**X**] Continuing Education
	Space needs: Classroom	[ ] Other

STUDENT/COURSE PREREQUISITES/QUALIFICATIONS (if any)
N/A

LESSON HISTORY (previous versions, titles if applicable)
N/A

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES	ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES
1. Given a lecture and facilitated discussion, students will be able to explain the key provisions of Policy 1512 governing sUAS operations	1. Facilitated Discussion
2. Given a lecture and facilitated discussion, students will be able to identify the rules and restrictions, and FAA requirements for lawful drone use	2. Facilitated Discussion
3. Given a lecture and facilitated discussion, students will be able to apply the core principles of sUAS deployment in realistic operational scenarios	3. Facilitated Discussion

4. Given a lecture and facilitated discussion, students will be able to describe the roles and responsibilities of authorized personnel (RPIC, VO, Program Coordinator)	4. Facilitated Discussion

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to equip Officers with knowledge related to the use of sUAS and the roles officers might perform when a sUAS is used.

MPCTC OBJECTIVES (if applicable)

(Include all enabling and terminal State objectives addressed by this lesson. Ensure that all objectives mentioned here are also added to the left "Instructional Input" column preceding their supporting content.)

N/A

INSTRUCTOR MATERIALS

- Lesson Plan

TECHNOLOGY/EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Computer
- PowerPoint

STUDENT HANDOUTS

None

METHODS/TECHNIQUES

Lecture
Facilitated Discussion

REFERENCES

Policy 1512

GENERAL COMMENTS

In preparing to teach this material, the instructor should take into consideration the following comments or suggestions.

Instructors should be familiar with relevant Baltimore Police Department policies and procedures as well as have a general understanding of the rules and regulations when it comes to sUAS.

Lesson Plan Checklist (Part 1)

Format	Yes	No	N/A
1. All sections and boxes are completed.	X		
2. Performance objectives are properly worded and included in content.	X		
3. Assessment techniques are aligned with performance objectives.	X		
4. Copies of handouts and other instructional aids (if any) are included.	X		
5. References are appropriate and up-to-date.	X		
6. Instructions to facilitators are in the right-hand column.			X
7. Content is in the left-hand column.			X
8. Timing of instructional content and activities is specified.	X		
9. Instructional content and PowerPoint slides are consistent & properly aligned.	X		
10. Student engagement/adult learning techniques are included.	X		
a. Instructional content is not primarily lecture-based.	X		
b. Questions are posed regularly to engage students and ensure material is understood.	X		
c. Case studies, role-playing scenarios, and small group discussions are included where appropriate.	X		
11. Videos are incorporated.		X	
a. Video introductions set forth the basis for showing the video and key points are highlighted in advance for students.			X
b. Videos underscore relevant training concepts.			X
c. Videos do not contain crude or offensive language or actions that are gratuitous or unnecessary.			X
d. Videos portray individuals of diverse demographics in a positive light.			X
12. Meaningful review/closure is included.	X		
a. Important points are summarized at the end of lesson plan.	X		
b. Assessments are provided to test knowledge of concepts.	X		

Integration	Yes	No	N/A
13. Does the lesson incorporate BPD technology?	X		
14. Does the lesson plan integrate BPD policies?	X		
15. Does the lesson reinforce BPD mission, vision, and values?	X		
16. Does the lesson reinforce the Critical Decision Making Model?			X
17. Does the lesson reinforce peer intervention (EPIC)?			X
18. Does the lesson incorporate community policing principles?			X
19. Does the lesson incorporate problem solving practices?			X
20. Does the lesson incorporate procedural justice principles?			X
21. Does the lesson incorporate fair & impartial policing principles?			X
22. Does the lesson reinforce de-escalation?			X
23. Does the lesson reinforce using most effective, least intrusive options?			X
24. Does the lesson have external partners involved in the development of training?		X	
25. Does the lesson have external partners in the delivery of training?		X	

Subject Matter Expert: P/O Travis Ryckman I620	**Last Reviewed:** 11/17/25
Curriculum Specialist: Kelsey Dziedzic	**Last Reviewed:** 12/5/25
Curriculum Supervisor: Danalee Potter	**Last Reviewed:**
Reviewing Supervisor: Sgt. Shawn Parlett I609	**Last Reviewed:** 11/17/25
Reviewing Commander: Lt. Joshua Rosenblatt	**Last Reviewed: 1/11/26**

I. ANTICIPATORY SET

Time: 5 min

Slide 1

> ***NOTE:*** *The instructor should briefly introduce themselves to the class and provide a brief summary of their history in the department (if they haven't already done so).*

SAY: Good morning/afternoon. I'm Officer ____ here at E&T and I will be your instructor for this next module. Welcome to the next lesson on Policy 1512: Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). This course will provide you with essential guidance on how drones—also known as small unmanned aircraft systems—are used by the Baltimore Police Department. We'll discuss the responsibilities, procedures, and operational requirements associated with deploying sUAS in accordance with Policy 1512. Before we get into the specifics, let's take a moment to gauge what you already know.

ASK: What comes to mind when you hear the word "drone?"

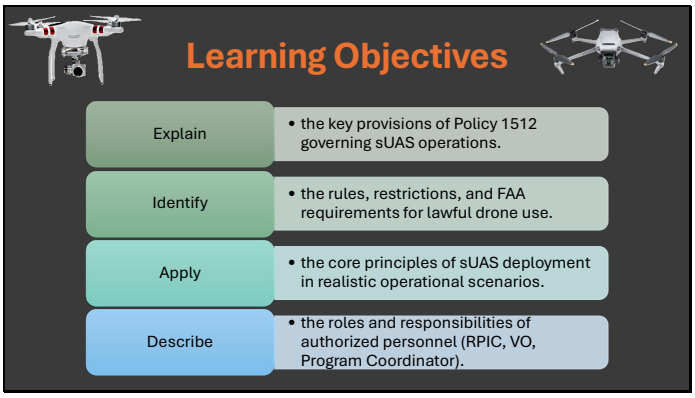
- **Desired Response:**
  - ***NOTE:*** *Elicit responses: aerial cameras, surveillance tools, hobby aircraft, etc.*

ASK: How do you think drones can be applied in law enforcement operations?

- **Desired Response:**
  - ***NOTE:*** *Elicit responses: scene documentation, search and rescue, crowd monitoring, tactical support, etc.*

SAY: Those are great insights. As we move through this lesson, we'll connect your ideas with the official BPD policy and examine how sUAS can enhance safety, efficiency, and accountability during police operations.

Slide 2



SAY: The learning objectives for this lesson are designed to give you a solid understanding of how drones are used responsibly and effectively under Policy 1512.

During today's lesson, students will:
- Explain the key provisions of Policy 1512 governing sUAS operations.
- Identify the rules, restrictions, and FAA requirements for lawful drone use.
- Apply the core principles of sUAS deployment in realistic operational scenarios.
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of authorized personnel (RPIC, VO, Program Coordinator).

By the end of this session, you should have a clear understanding of how Policy 1512 supports safe, ethical, and effective drone use within the Baltimore Police Department.

Slide 3

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ASK: Before we get into the policy side of things, what are some different types of drones you've seen or heard about — and what are they typically used for?

- **Desired Response:**
  - ***NOTE:*** *Elicit responses: hobby drones, delivery drones, law enforcement drones, military drones, etc.*

Click to reveal hidden content.

SAY: Drones come in all shapes and sizes depending on their purpose and capabilities. They can range from recreational drones used by hobbyists, to commercial drones used for deliveries or light shows, all the way up to military-grade drones used for surveillance or defense operations.

ASK: What about the controls — do you know what kinds of devices are used to operate drones?

- **Desired Response:**
  - ***NOTE:*** *Elicit responses: handheld controllers, mobile devices, laptops, etc.*

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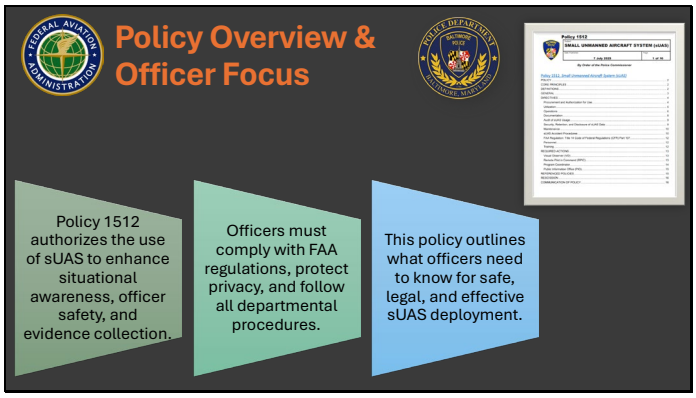
SAY: Depending on the type of drone, the control systems can vary. Some use handheld controllers or tablet-based systems, while larger or more advanced drones can be operated through computer-based command stations. If you're trying to locate a drone operator in the field, look for individuals who are within line of sight of the aircraft and holding a control device or tablet.

One important reminder — do not shoot at or attempt to disable a drone while it's in flight.

Doing so is a federal offense unless there are exigent circumstances involving an imminent threat to life or serious physical injury. Always follow department guidance and federal regulations regarding drone encounters.

Slide 4



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SAY: Policy 1512 authorizes the use of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) to enhance situational awareness, officer safety, and evidence collection.

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SAY: Officers must comply with all FAA regulations, safeguard individual privacy, and follow departmental procedures when operating or assisting with sUAS missions.

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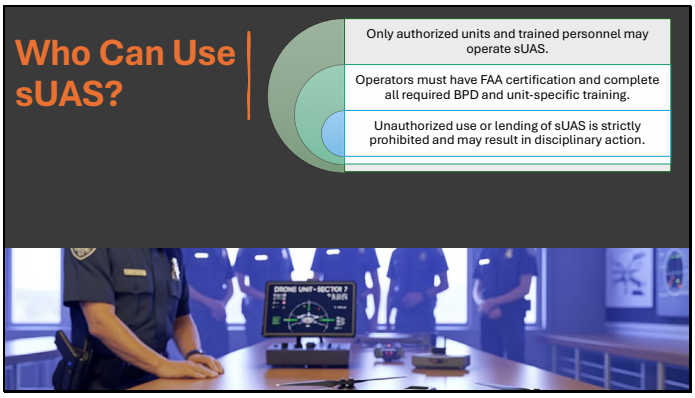
SAY: This policy provides officers with the knowledge and expectations needed to ensure safe, legal, and effective drone deployment.

In short, Policy 1512 ensures that our drone operations not only improve safety and efficiency but also maintain public trust by following both federal and departmental standards.

Slide 5



ASK: Before we move on—who do you think is authorized to operate a small Unmanned Aircraft System in the department?

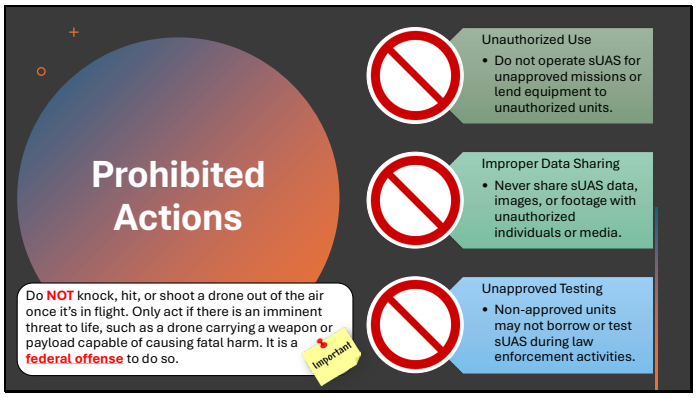
- **Desired Response:**
  - ***NOTE:*** *Elicit responses: trained officers, SWAT, Air Support, etc.*

SAY: That's a great question, and it's important to understand that not everyone can operate a drone. Only authorized units and trained personnel are permitted to use sUAS under Policy 1512.

Officers who operate drones must hold FAA certification and complete all required BPD and unit-specific training before flying any department-owned sUAS. This ensures that operators understand both the technical requirements and the legal responsibilities tied to drone use.

Unauthorized operation or lending of a department-owned sUAS is strictly prohibited and may lead to disciplinary action. Every deployment must follow proper authorization channels to ensure safety, accountability, and compliance.

Slide 6



SAY: Now let's go over the prohibited actions we always need to keep in mind when it comes to sUAS operations. First, Unauthorized Use — drones are only to be deployed for approved missions. Officers may not use sUAS for personal purposes, unrelated investigations, or lend them to unauthorized units under any circumstance.

Next, Improper Data Sharing — any photos, videos, or flight data captured by a department drone are considered digital evidence. They may not be shared with unauthorized individuals, the public, or media outlets without proper clearance. Finally, Unapproved Testing — non-approved units are not permitted to borrow or test drones during training or law enforcement operations unless they've gone through proper authorization and training channels.

And just as we discussed earlier, it is extremely important that no one knocks, hits, or shoots a drone out of the air once it's airborne. The only exception is if there's an imminent threat to human life, such as a drone carrying a weapon or dangerous payload. Otherwise, taking down a drone is a federal offense and can result in criminal charges. These rules exist to ensure every operation remains safe, controlled, and compliant with both federal law and departmental policy.

Slide 7

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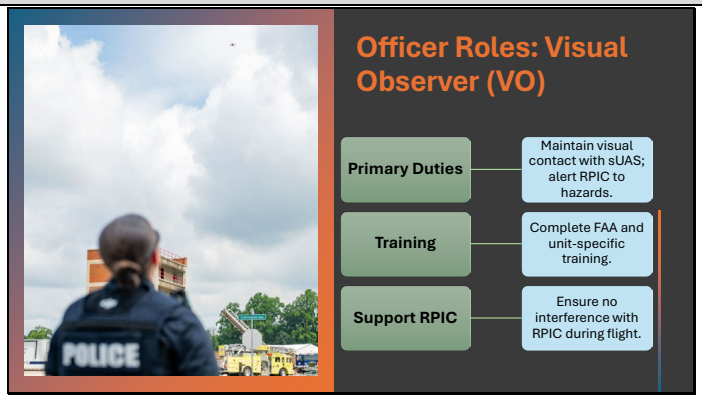


SAY: Let's talk about the Visual Observer, or VO, role. At times, officers may be asked to assist a Remote Pilot in Command (RPIC) as a VO during a mission. Even if you're not the one flying, the VO position carries major responsibility for flight safety and situational awareness.

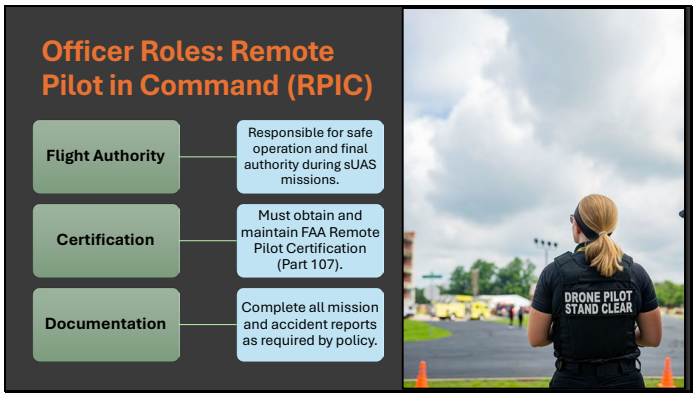
Your primary duty as a VO is to maintain constant visual contact with the drone — not through the monitor, but with your eyes. That means keeping track of obstacles, weather conditions, other aircraft, and any ground-level hazards. If you see anything unsafe, immediately alert the RPIC.

The VO also supports the RPIC by reducing distractions and helping manage the operational environment. Your communication with the RPIC should be clear, concise, and continuous — remember, you are their "eyes in the field."

Must receive training on FAA regulations, communication standards, and BPD-specific flight procedures. Until then, when assisting as a VO, follow the RPIC's direction and adhere to the mission's safety protocols.

The VO may not control the aircraft, but they play a critical part in maintaining compliance, preventing incidents, and ensuring that every flight runs smoothly and safely.

Slide 8



SAY: The Remote Pilot in Command, or RPIC, is the individual with full authority and accountability for any sUAS flight operation. This role carries both operational and legal responsibility under FAA regulations.

The RPIC is responsible for the safe operation of the aircraft and has final decision-making authority during any mission.
That means they determine whether flight conditions are acceptable, when to launch or abort, and how to respond to unexpected issues in real time.

Every RPIC must obtain and maintain a valid FAA Remote Pilot Certificate under Part 107. This certification verifies that the pilot understands airspace classifications, weather considerations, emergency procedures, and regulatory limits such as altitude, VLOS, and operating environments.

NOTE: *Only ask this question IF someone in the class holds a Part 107 certification.*

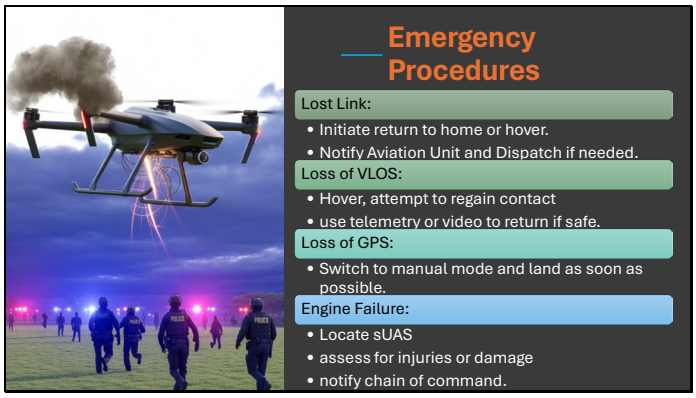
ASK: For those who are already certified under Part 107, what's one aspect of the exam or ongoing certification process that you think most officers underestimate?

- **Desired Response:**
  - ***NOTE:*** *Answers will vary based on individual experience and opinion.*

SAY: The RPIC must also ensure that all required documentation is completed—this includes mission approvals, post-flight reports, and any incident or accident forms required by BPD policy or the FAA. In short, the RPIC owns the entire operation from pre-flight planning to post-flight documentation.

Ultimately, the RPIC is the cornerstone of compliance and operational integrity. Every successful flight depends on their situational awareness, judgment, and adherence to FAA and departmental standards.

Slide 9



SAY: Let's talk about the emergency procedures that apply when an sUAS is in flight. Every operator must know how to respond quickly and safely to unexpected issues — these are critical steps to prevent injury, property damage, or loss of the aircraft.

The first situation is a Lost Link — when the drone loses connection with the controller. In this case, the operator should immediately initiate a return-to-home or hover function. Notify the Aviation Unit and Dispatch if needed, especially if the drone is over an active scene or public area. Next, we have a Loss of VLOS, or Visual Line of Sight. If you lose sight of the drone, hover in place and attempt to regain contact. You can also use telemetry or live video to guide the aircraft back if it's safe to do so. A Loss of GPS requires switching to manual flight mode and landing as soon as possible. Manual control requires additional skill, so operators must practice this regularly to maintain readiness.

Finally, if there's an Engine Failure, locate the aircraft immediately, assess for any injuries or property damage, and notify your chain of command. Document the incident according to departmental procedures.

ASK: What might be some real-world examples where these emergency procedures could come into play?

- **Desired Response:**
  - Losing signal in dense areas
  - GPS interference near building
  - Sudden battery failure, or
  - Strong wind gusts

SAY: These procedures keep both the public and operators safe, and following them demonstrates professionalism and control during critical incidents.

Slide 10

ASK: When do you think it's appropriate for the department to deploy a small Unmanned Aircraft System?

- **Desired Response:**
  - ***NOTE:*** *Answers will vary, but should be geared towards the desired response below. If they aren't reiterate the key points in the desired response*
  - Tactical incidents
  - Missing persons, or
  - Crime scene documentation.

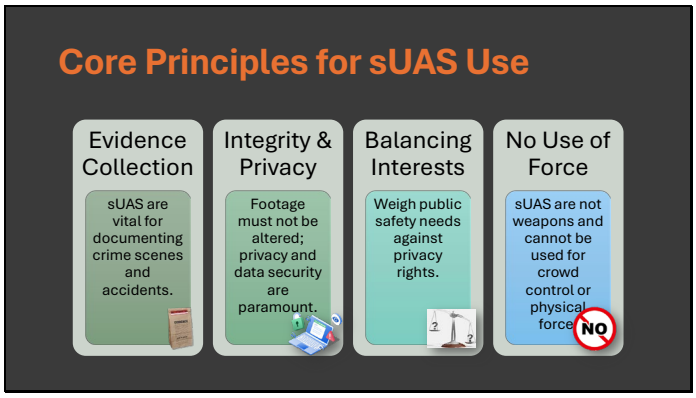
SAY: There are specific, approved situations where drones may be deployed under Policy 1512. They may be used for search and rescue missions, particularly when time or terrain makes ground searches difficult. They can assist during high-risk situations such as barricades, armed subjects, or active-shooter incidents, helping maintain officer safety and provide real-time situational awareness.

sUAS may also support evidence collection when access is hazardous or not possible on foot — for example, in large-scale accident scenes, hazardous materials incidents, or rooftops. Additionally, drones can assist approved units within BPD or out-of-jurisdiction agencies, but only with proper authorization through the chain of command.

Finally, every deployment must respect privacy and civil rights, and operators must ensure that footage is limited to areas directly relevant to the mission.

Maintaining this balance helps the department leverage technology effectively while preserving public trust.

Slide 11



SAY: Next, let's look at the core principles that guide the department's use of small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or sUAS. The Baltimore Police Department operates drones under strict FAA regulations and departmental guidelines to ensure that every use is safe, legal, and accountable.

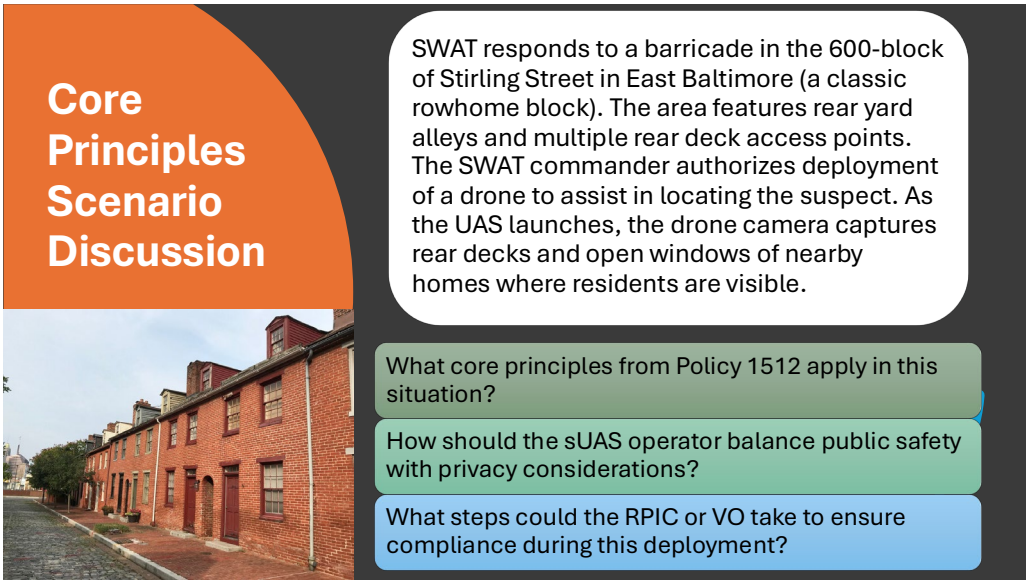
One of the primary ways sUAS are used is for evidence collection. Drones allow investigators to document crime scenes, traffic collisions, and other incidents from above—capturing valuable imagery that improves accuracy while keeping personnel safe.

Integrity and privacy are also paramount. All footage gathered through sUAS must remain unaltered, and officers are required to safeguard data privacy and maintain information security throughout the process.

Specialized units, such as SWAT, also use drones to survey locations and assess threats before entry when safety concerns exist. However, every operation must carefully balance public safety needs with individual privacy rights. It's essential that we uphold both safety and constitutional protections.

Finally, it's critical to remember that sUAS are not weapons. They cannot be used for crowd control, physical force, or equipped with any harmful devices. Their role is to support observation, intelligence gathering, and documentation—not enforcement through force. Together, these principles ensure that drone operations remain professional, transparent, and aligned with the department's commitment to safety and public trust.

Slide 12



SAY: To bring these principles to life, let's walk through a quick scenario.

Scenario: *The Alleyway Search*

SAY: SWAT responds to a barricade in the 600-block of Stirling Street in East Baltimore (a classic rowhome block). The area features rear yard alleys and multiple rear deck access points. The SWAT commander authorizes deployment of a drone to assist in locating the suspect. As the UAS launches, the drone camera captures rear decks and open windows of nearby homes where residents are visible.

Click to reveal content

Take a moment to consider these three questions:
- What core principles from Policy 1512 apply in this situation?
- How should the sUAS operator balance public safety with privacy considerations?
- What steps could the RPIC or VO take to ensure compliance during this deployment?

Talk with your table group partners for a few minutes about this scenario, review Policy 1512, and be prepared to share out.

NOTE: *The instructor should circulate the room and listen to discussions ensuring students are on track with Policy 1512 and the principles. Afte a few minutes, call them to discuss.*

SAY: Ok, let's see what you came up with. I'll call on a few table group to share out.

ASK: What core principles from Policy 1512 apply in this situation?

- **Desired Response:**
  - Balancing of Interests (Core Principles): The sUAS can be deployed under exigent circumstances—an armed robbery suspect posing an immediate threat—but its use must still respect constitutional protections of privacy and limit collection to areas relevant to the mission Policy 1512.
  - Privacy Protection: Operators must avoid intentionally recording areas that are not pertinent, such as inside residences or private yards not related to the search Policy 1512.
  - Evidence Collection & Integrity: Any footage gathered must be preserved in original, unaltered form; altering or sharing footage outside authorized channels violates policy Policy 1512.
  - Non-Application of Force: The sUAS is strictly an observation and documentation tool—never a means of control or force.

ASK: How should the RPIC and VO balance public safety with privacy concerns during this deployment?

- **Desired Responses:**
  - Camera Control: The RPIC must angle or position the drone's camera to avoid unnecessary capture of private areas while still maintaining operational awareness of the suspect's possible flight path
  - Role of VO: The VO should help maintain visual line of sight (VLOS) and alert the RPIC to any conditions that might endanger flight safety or risk privacy violations
  - Mission Limitation: The flight path should remain focused on locating the suspect within the lawful search area; do not expand the search simply because technology allows it
  - Documentation & Oversight: Both must ensure that the flight plan, footage, and communication follow documentation standards for supervisory and FAA review

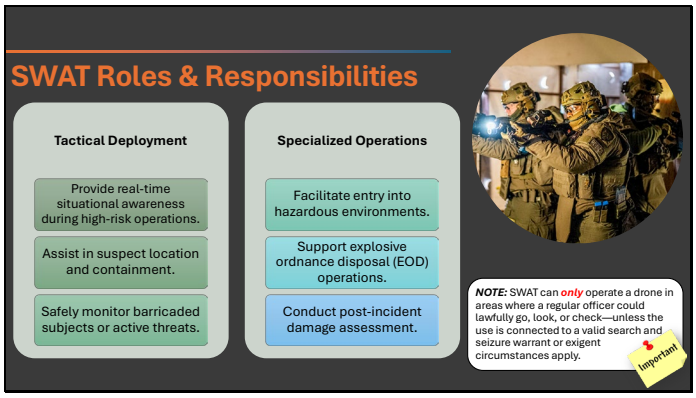
ASK: What steps should the RPIC or VO take to ensure compliance during and after this mission?

- **Desired Responses:**
  - Authorization & SOP Compliance: Confirm the operation has supervisory approval per the unit's sUAS SOP before launch
  - Operational Conduct: Maintain continuous VLOS, keep within authorized airspace, and ensure anti-collision lighting if operating near civil twilight
  - Post-Flight Documentation: Complete all required reports — pre-/post-flight checklists, incident documentation, and mission details including RPIC / VO names, duration, and location

- Data Handling: Securely upload sUAS data to BPD-approved systems; no personal devices, editing, or sharing outside proper legal channels
- Public Interaction: If questioned by residents, respond using procedural-justice principles—be transparent about lawful purpose and safeguards

SAY: Exactly. Even in high-pressure incidents, every drone flight must balance operational necessity with the public's right to privacy. We're not just operating technology — we're representing the department's professionalism and integrity in every frame we capture. So, as we continue through the lesson, keep these principles in mind. They're not just guidelines — they're safeguards for the department, the operator, and the community.

Slide 13



SAY: Let's look at how SWAT integrates the use of sUAS technology into tactical and specialized operations. While drones have become essential for real-time intelligence and safety, their use is still governed by the same legal and policy restrictions that apply to all other law enforcement activities.

ASK: By show of hands, who here has used, or been part of, drone support during a SWAT call out?

NOTE: *Look for a show of hands.*

SAY: Under Tactical Deployment, drones provide immediate situational awareness during high-risk operations. They can give the command team a live view of a suspect's movement, potential ambush locations, or entry points without putting officers in unnecessary danger.

They're also a critical tool for locating and containing suspects in dynamic situations—particularly when visibility is limited or when the layout of a structure poses risks to personnel. Additionally, sUAS can safely monitor barricaded subjects or active threats, allowing command to make informed tactical decisions before deploying personnel.

NOTE: *Only ask this question IF someone in the class has used drone support during a SWAT call out.*

ASK: For those who have used or observed drone support during a SWAT callout, how has having that overhead view changed your team's approach to containment or entry?

- **Desired Response:**
  - ***NOTE:*** *Reponses will vary based on individual experience and opinion.*

SAY: Now under Specialized Operations, drones help SWAT teams assess hazardous environments—such as chemical spills, compromised structures, or areas with limited access—before officers make entry. They also play a supporting role during explosive ordnance disposal

operations, providing visual coverage to ensure safety and containment. After an incident, drones can be used to document and assess structural or environmental damage without exposing officers to residual dangers.

It's important to note that SWAT can only operate a drone in areas where a regular officer could lawfully go, look, or check. Any operation beyond that—such as entering private property or restricted spaces—requires a search and seizure warrant, unless exigent circumstances apply. This ensures that all sUAS use aligns with legal standards and department policy.

ASK: Why is maintaining this limitation—only flying where officers can legally go—so critical to our overall program integrity and community trust?

- **Desired Response:**
  - To protect Fourth Amendment rights
  - Maintain transparency
  - Prevent legal challenges, and
  - Uphold public trust in how law enforcement uses drone technology

SAY: Ultimately, SWAT's use of sUAS is about enhancing tactical precision and officer safety, while still operating within strict legal and ethical boundaries.

Slide 14

SAY: Let's look at the use of a drone as it makes entry and assists SWAT officers during an SSW. It starts off by SWAT officers breaking a window to make entry for the drone, As the drone is flown inside the home you will see how it keeps and checks the location for any threats before any entry is made into the location.
During the flight, there is no audio, but the RPIC is constant communication with the team letting them know what is being seen and any areas that are a concern.

ASK: Any questions?
Desired Response:

NOTE: *Address any questions pose by students.*

ASK: What did you notice?

Desired Response:

NOTE: *Reponses will vary based on individual experience and opinion.*

Slide 15

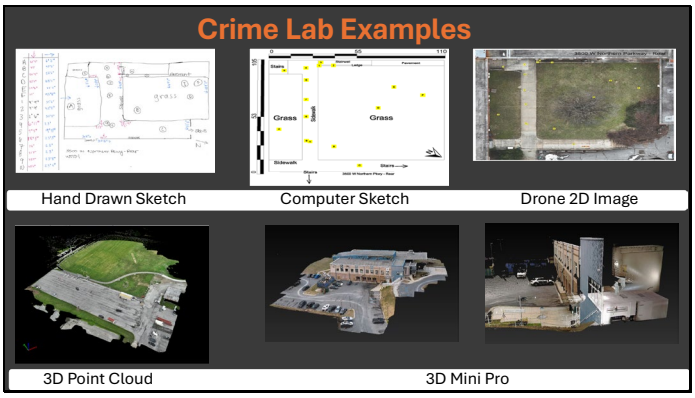
SAY: The Crime Lab plays a critical role in the lifecycle of sUAS data once it transitions from operational use to evidentiary handling. Their expertise ensures that imagery and footage collected in the field hold up under the scrutiny of court and investigative review.

Under Data Analysis and Forensics, crime lab technicians are responsible for processing and analyzing all imagery and video collected by sUAS units. This includes identifying evidentiary material, confirming its authenticity, and preparing it for investigative use. A major focus here is data integrity. Every piece of sUAS data must be handled according to strict chain-of-custody procedures to preserve its admissibility. That means documented transfers, restricted access, and secure storage systems are non-negotiable parts of the process.

Crime Lab staff also produce detailed forensic reports summarizing their analysis and findings. They may be called upon to testify in court as expert witnesses to verify the authenticity of sUAS data or explain how the evidence was captured, stored, and analyzed. Under Protocol Development, the lab works closely with operational units and the sUAS Program Coordinator to establish and refine best practices for collecting, preserving, and transferring data from the field.

They also play a key role in validating new technologies — for example, evaluating whether a new type of drone camera or mapping software produces evidence that meets forensic standards. The Crime Lab ensures that as the department's drone capabilities evolve, our evidentiary standards evolve right along with them — maintaining professionalism, accuracy, and credibility in every investigation.

Slide 16



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SAY: Here are some examples crime lab has used when documenting a crime scene.

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First, we see the hand drawn sketch and all the measurements that are required.

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Next to it, we see the computer sketch.

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Now with the use and help of a sUAS the techs can create a 2D Image of a scene for a more accurate layout.

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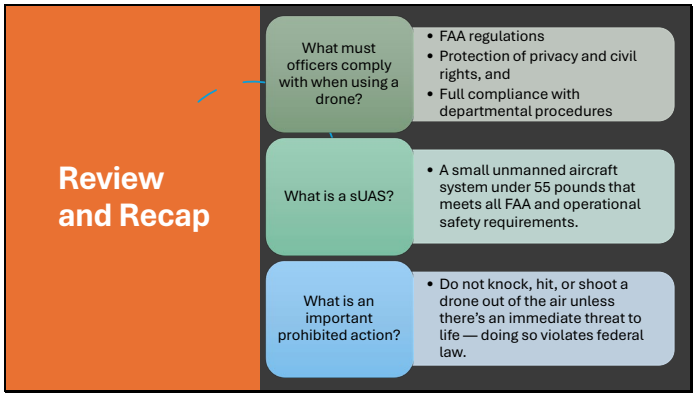
Next the sUAS can capture a 3D point cloud and or

Click to reveal hidden content.

An Integration of a sUAS and 3d laser scanner for a real-life walkthrough of the scene itself.

Slide 17



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SAY: We've covered a lot of information today, so let's take a moment to review some of the key takeaways from the lesson. These are the foundational points every officer involved in sUAS operations needs to remember and apply in the field.

ASK: What must officers comply with when using a drone?

- **Desired Response:**
  - FAA regulations
  - Protection of privacy and civil rights, and
  - Full compliance with departmental procedures

Click to reveal hidden content.

ASK: What is a sUAS?

- **Desired Response:**
  - A small, unmanned aircraft system under 55 pounds that meets all FAA and operational safety requirements.

Click to reveal hidden content.

ASK: What is an important prohibited action?

- **Desired Response:**
  - Do not knock, hit, or shoot a drone out of the air unless there's an immediate threat to life — doing so violates federal law.

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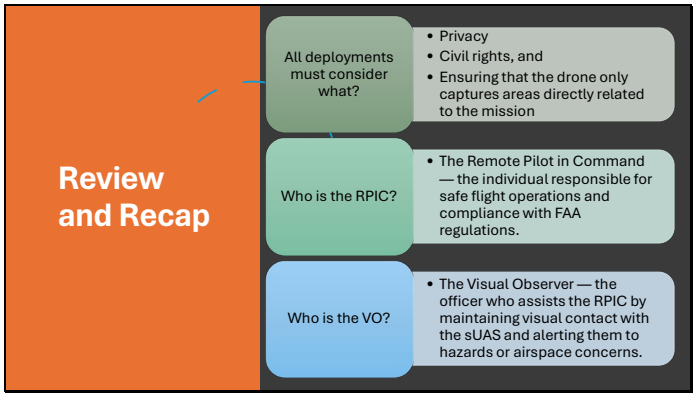

NOTE: *Content on this slide is hidden. Click to reveal it when directed to do so.*

ASK: All deployments must consider what?

- **Desired Response:**
  - Privacy
  - Civil rights, and
  - Ensuring that the drone only captures areas directly related to the mission

Click to reveal hidden content.

ASK: Who is the RPIC?

- **Desired Response:**
  - The Remote Pilot in Command — the individual responsible for safe flight operations and compliance with FAA regulations.

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ASK: Who is the VO?

- **Desired Response:**
  - The Visual Observer — the officer who assists the RPIC by maintaining visual contact with the sUAS and alerting them to hazards or airspace concerns.

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SAY: These points summarize the operational, legal, and ethical framework that governs our drone program. Remember, every sUAS mission — whether tactical, investigative, or training — must uphold FAA standards, department policy, and public trust.

Before we close out, remember that drone operations extend beyond just piloting — they

represent our department's professionalism and integrity in the public eye. Every deployment, whether tactical, forensic, or operational, reflects our commitment to lawful, ethical policing.

As technology continues to evolve, so must our discipline and awareness. The FAA, the courts, and the community all expect that every BPD drone launch follows the same precision and accountability that define any other law enforcement action.

If we follow policy, document accurately, and respect civil rights in every mission, sUAS will continue to strengthen both officer safety and community trust.

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ASK: Are there any questions, comments or concerns?

NOTE: *Address any questions or comments posted by students.*

SAY: You are now on a 10 min break.