

# COUNTERING THREATS FROM UNCREWED AERIAL SYSTEMS

A senior executives guide to making your site ready

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# INTRODUCTION

There has been significant growth in the legitimate use of Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS). Growth is likely to continue as new and innovative applications are found, and UAS capabilities develop. As their use expands and evolves, security risks are emerging.

The incident at Gatwick Airport in December 2018 highlighted the disruption that can be caused by a UAS.

Guidance is now available that sets out the key steps that should be taken to understand the risk and identify the measures needed to protect a site. The guidance recommends the development of a Counter Uncrewed Aerial Systems (C-UAS) strategy and plan.

The delivery of a C-UAS plan is a complex task that will require decisions to be made at the highest level. Decisions will include the acceptance of risk and the commitment of resources.

Well-defined governance is essential to enable decision making during the planning, delivery and operational phases.





# KEY STEPS



Identify the components of a C-UAS strategy and plan

Understand the risks posed by UAS and conduct a site vulnerability assessment

Determine what can be done to reduce reckless/negligent use and deter hostiles

Identify the role that physical hardening can play

Ascertain the appropriateness of deploying C-UAS technology

Develop reporting and response procedures

Review the C-UAS strategy and plan







## 1 THE STRATEGY AND PLAN

Develop a C-UAS strategy and plan. It will define the response to the risk and support the delivery of a safe and secure site. It will set out:

- Who owns the risk?
- Who is responsible for the delivery of the plan?
- Who will make key decisions?
- How are roles and responsibilities split?

## 2 ASSESSING THREAT AND RISK

Complete a site vulnerability assessment for UAS threats which will inform:

- The understanding of the threat and risk from UAS to a site
- Decisions regarding the potential need for additional C-UAS mitigations
- The potential selection of C-UAS technology
- The response procedures triggered in the event of a suspected incident.



## 3 REDUCE NEGLIGENT AND RECKLESS USE

Identify the security measures to reduce the risk of negligent and reckless use and deter hostile activity, including:


- Local business and community engagement
- Security minded communications
- Airspace restrictions and geofencing.

## 4 PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES

Straightforward and less expensive measures to mitigate the risk of negligent and reckless use should be adopted at the first opportunity. These may include protecting assets by:

- Using concealment or disguise
- Moving the asset to a location where it can't be seen
- Removing sensitive information from view.





## 5 C-UAS TECHNICAL COUNTER MEASURES

Only consider the use of technical counter measures once other mitigations are identified. C-UAS technology is intended to gather accurate and useful information to inform decision making. The design, delivery and operation of C-UAS technical solutions are complex, and must be informed by a thorough understanding of the legalities associated with their use.

## 6 C-UAS OPERATIONS

Prepare and be ready to respond to incidents. Ensure proactive measures are in place and will detect and deter hostile activity. Reporting and response procedures must be in place.

A UAV can cover a considerable distance in a very short space of time, providing limited time to decide what to do and implement actions. A delay in seeking authority to act may have serious consequences.



## 7 REVIEW

Once a C-UAS strategy and plan has been implemented and tested it should be regularly reviewed. A review process will ensure that the measures in place continue to remain effective against a rapidly evolving threat. An ongoing review process should cover both the operational deployment of the plans and periodic strategic reviews to make certain that the plan continues to mitigate the developing risk

## FURTHER GUIDANCE

Further guidance can be obtained from:

- ▣ Your NPSA adviser or your local Counter Terrorism Security Adviser (CTSA)
- ▣ Visiting the NPSA public web pages, searching for “Countering Threats from Uncrewed Aerial Systems”
- ▣ Reading the detailed NPSA guidance document titled “Countering Threats From Uncrewed Aerial Systems - Making Your Site Ready”. Also available from the NPSA public web pages.