



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Office of the General Counsel
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400



July 11, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

John Greenewald
The Black Vault
27305 W. Live Oak Rd., Suite 1203
Castaic, CA 91384-4520
john@greenewald.com

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This letter is the final response to your January 16, 2024, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The Department of Energy transferred your request to this office on January 19, 2024, and we received it in this office on the same day.

You requested the following:

I respectfully request a copy of records (which includes videos/photos), electronic or otherwise, that pertain to “Unidentified Aerial Phenomena”, “Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena”, UAP, “Unidentified Flying Objects” or UFOs. It is believed responsive documents, including at least a video, exist due to at least one UAP/UFO event at Pantex.

I ask that you include all photos, videos, documents, reports, etc., pertaining to this topic. I also ask that you include all communications between Pantex, and the UAP Task Force (UAPTF), or the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO).

On January 24, 2024, via email, you agreed to an amendment of your request to include a search date range of January 2004 to January 2024.

Upon receipt, we contacted the Pantex Field Office (NA-PFO) to conduct a search for records pertaining to your request. NA-PFO and their Management and Operating (M&O) contractor, PanTeXas Deterrence, LLC (PXD), searched and located seven (7) records responsive to your request.

The following responsive records were located:

The following two (2) records are responsive to your request and are provided with deletions pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), Exemptions 6 and 7(C) of the FOIA.

3. PX22-112 – 20230905164330
7. PPH-19-111338

The following five (5) records are responsive to your request and are provided with deletions pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E), and 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(F), Exemptions 6, 7(C), 7(E), and 7(F) of the FOIA.

1. PX23-002; Report
2. PX23-122 Report Narrative – AMI
4. PX23-173
5. NNSA-2015-009581 - COR-NPO-20 SS-992015-642025
6. Pantex Night Note

Exemption 6 permits the withholding of personnel and medical files and similar files when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The purpose of Exemption 6 is to protect individuals from the injury and embarrassment that can result from the unnecessary disclosure of personal information. To determine whether disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, the public interest in disclosure, if any, must be balanced against the privacy interests that would be invaded by disclosure of the information. In this case, the names, signatures, phone numbers, duty titles, and email addresses of federal and/or contractor employees have been withheld. Release of the information pertaining to these individuals will cause inevitable harassment and unwarranted invasion of personal privacy for them and could cause unwarranted scrutiny by persons or entities harboring political, philosophical, or other objections to the mission of the Nuclear Security Enterprise and our agency. In addition, NNSA has experienced a rise in phishing attempts as threat actors aim to obtain access to sensitive information as well as to Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) networks, and release of employee names/email addresses will assist these threat actors in their efforts to gain access and exploit the agency's IT and OT systems. Release of this information would not shed light on the operations of the federal government since the underlying information related to the agency's actions is being provided. Since its release will not reveal anything of significance to the public, the interest in protecting against the invasion of privacy that would result to the individuals in question far outweighs the public interest in such disclosure.

Exemption 7(C) provides protection for law enforcement information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exemption 7(C) is the law enforcement counterpart to the privacy protection afforded under Exemption 6. Exemption 7(C) of the FOIA provides protection for, among other things, records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes and may be withheld from disclosure, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The information withheld under Exemption 7(C) includes names, and other personally identifiable information of federal and/or contractor employees who author, process and publish federal law enforcement records, in addition to non-federal or contractor individuals who are the subjects of the law enforcement records. Release of this information could cause harm by directly revealing the identification of personnel information in law enforcement records to the public and conceivably subject those individuals to harassment and annoyance in the performance of their official duties and in their private lives.

Exemption 7(E) of the FOIA provides protection for all information compiled or for law enforcement purposes when release would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law. The term “law enforcement” can include activities associated with preventing breaches to national security.

The portions redacted pursuant to Exemption 7(E) contain security-sensitive information about specific investigation techniques and procedures not available to the public regarding protection of critical nuclear facilities. If this information were released, it could reveal specific security force locations, posture details, security technology and equipment in use at Pantex Plant. If revealed this would allow individuals wishing to cause harm to discern security procedures that would not otherwise be publicly released.

Exemption 7(F) of the FOIA protects from disclosure records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes to the extent that disclosure “could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.” The ordinary meaning of law enforcement includes not just the investigation and prosecution of offenses already committed but also proactive steps designed to maintain security.

The portions redacted pursuant to Exemption 7(F) contain information about protection and security measures used to protect federal buildings and personnel. Specifically, the information redacted includes security measures of federal building and other properties where hazardous materials are used and protected. This information could enable anyone, including terrorists, to more easily plan operations that would target these facilities. Without question, uncontrolled release or access to this information by an unauthorized person could endanger the life or physical safety of NA-PFO and PXD employees as well as the general public.

The Department of Energy (DOE) regulation 10 C.F.R. § 1004.1 provides that documents exempt from mandatory disclosure under the FOIA shall be released regardless of their exempt status, unless DOE determines that disclosure is contrary to public interest. For the reasons described above, NNSA has determined that release of the information described above is not in the public interest.

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(2), I am the individual responsible for the withholding of information pursuant to Exemptions 6, 7(C), 7(E), and 7(F) of the FOIA.

You may appeal our withholding of information pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Such an appeal must be made in writing within 90 calendar days after receipt of this letter, addressed to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, L’Enfant building, Washington, DC 20585. Your appeal must contain a concise statement of the grounds for the appeal and a description of the relief sought. **Please submit a copy of this letter** with the appeal and clearly mark both the envelope and the letter “Freedom of Information Appeal.” You may submit your appeal by email (preferred method) to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase “Freedom of Information Appeal” in the subject line. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the District of Columbia or in the

district where (1) you reside, (2) you have your principal place of business, or (3) the Department's records are situated.

You may also contact me, NNSA's FOIA Public Liaison, Office of the General Counsel, at 1-866-747-5994, or by mail to Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of the General Counsel, PO Box 5400, Albuquerque, NM 87185, for further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

There are no charges to you for processing your FOIA request. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Lora Bright by e-mail at lora.bright@nnsa.doe.gov or write to the address at the top of the first page. Please reference Control Number FOIA 24-00120-LB in your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Annie Maxfield
FOIA Officer

Enclosures

Official Use Only

Incident of Security Concern Report

Incident #	Description:	
PX23-002	(U) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)	
Date of Discovery:	Division:	Department:
October 5, 2022	N/A	N/A
Employee Name:	Employee Badge #:	Area:
N/A	N/A	N/A
Supervisor Name:	Supervisor Badge #:	
N/A	N/A	

Significance/Category:	Inquiry Official(s):	
A/MI	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	
IOSC Program Lead	Signature:	Date:
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)		
Non-Reportable Incident: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occurrence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Infraction: <input type="checkbox"/>

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at approximately 1000 hours, an employee reported observing a UAS moving over the North west side of Pantex Property from Farm-to-Market (FM) Road 293. After the UAS traveled onto Pantex property from the north, it began moving southwest toward FM 683 approximately 120-150 feet above the ground. (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

No other reports were received from plant personnel. Both the Protective Force and the Carson County Sheriff's department were immediately notified, but found no activity or evidence of the UAS in the area. The reporting employee described the drone as being black in color and having four rotors with no other distinguishing marks. (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

This incident has been categorized as an A-Management Interest (AMI) per the Consolidated Nuclear Security Incidents of Security Concern Program Plan, E-SD-0005, Rev.4.

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May be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)
Exemption Number and Category: Category 7-Law Enforcement Department of Energy review
required before public release.

Name/Org. (b)(6) PX-4348 Date: 10/17/2022 Guidance: CG-SS-5

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Incident of Security Concern Report

II. CLASSIFIED MATTER DESCRIPTION

☒ The protection of information was NOT involved in this incident. Proceed to Section IV.

Disclosure Type:

- ☐ **Unsecured/Improperly Secured**
 - ☐ In Use
 - ☐ Reproduction
 - ☐ Storage
 - ☐ Destruction
- ☐ **Unclassified Computer used to process/store**
- ☐ **Improper Transmission**
 - ☐ E-Mail
 - ☐ Facsimile
 - ☐ Hand Carry
 - ☐ Mail/Shipping/Express Delivery
- ☐ **Unapproved Facility (including private residences) used to process/store**
- ☐ **Verbal**
- ☐ **Media Leak**
- ☐ **Classification Issue**
 - ☐ Failure to Receive Classification Review
 - ☐ Information Compilation
 - ☐ Guidance Issue
 - ☐ Classifier did not have Authority to Make Classification
 - ☐ Misclassification

Form(s) of Matter Involved in the Incident:

- ☐ **E-Mail** ☐ Inside Firewall ☐ Outside Firewall
- ☐ **Electronic Storage Media**
- ☐ **Hard Copy**
- ☐ **Internet**
- ☐ **Visual**

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Incident of Security Concern Report

- ☐ Multimedia
- ☐ Discussion (Audio/Verbal)
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ Other (Describe)

Classification Level of Matter

- ☐ Top Secret
- ☐ Secret
- ☐ Confidential
- ☐ Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information
- ☐ Import/Export Controlled

Classification Category

- ☐ Restricted Data
- ☐ Formerly Restricted Data
- ☐ National Security Information
- ☐ Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information

Classification Guide

N/A

III. RECIPIENTS OF THE INFORMATION

N/A

IV. NARRATIVE

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at approximately 1000 hours, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) a Protective Force employee reported observing a Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) moving over the North west side of the Pantex Property from Farm-to-Market (FM) road 293. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated that the UAS traveled onto Pantex property from the north, it began moving southwest toward FM 683 approximately 120-150 feet above the ground. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F) described the drone as being black in color, having four rotors and with no other distinguishing marks that he could identify. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

"On 10/05/2022 at approximately 1000 hours, I was the Officer In Charge on Range 1 conducting Live Fire Semi-Annual Qualification activities. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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Incident of Security Concern Report

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) While waiting on the student to arrive, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) noticed something in the sky and asked "What is that?". I looked to where he was pointing and observed what appeared to be a "quad" copter style drone, black in color with no discernable markings. The drone was traveling from the north and headed in a south westerly direction directly overhead. It appeared to be 100-120 yards in altitude. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F) I lost sight of the object after approximately 30 seconds. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F) We did not see the drone again."

Both the Protective Force and the Carson County Sheriff's department were immediately notified, but found no activity or evidence of the UAS in the area. While the reporting employee described the drone as having four rotors, no other distinguishing marks were seen. No other reports were received from plant personnel, nor additional UAS activity in sighted. (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

V. CONTAINMENT

(b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

VI. MITIGATING/AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Mitigating Factors:

- UAS remained above the range 1 area for 20-30 seconds after sighting

Aggravating Factors:

- UAS sighting moving 120-150 feet above the ground on the North West side of Pantex

VII. DETERMINATION OF UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Compromise did not Occur | Evidence is provided that there is no possibility that information was compromised. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Likelihood of Compromise is Remote | Although protection and control measures are violated, the circumstances associated with the incident indicate that there is a low possibility that information was disclosed to unauthorized personnel. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suspected Compromise | Evidence is provided that there is a high probability that information was compromised. Although there is no clear |

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Incident of Security Concern Report

indication of compromise, the circumstances associated with the incident indicate there is an obvious possibility that unauthorized disclosure did occur.

☐

Compromise

Evidence is provided that information was disclosed to an unauthorized person(s).

Rationale for the Determination of Unauthorized Disclosure:

(b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

Property Protection Area (PPA):

The PPA is a security area that is established to protect employees and Government buildings, facilities and property. The PPA is configured to protect Government owned property and equipment against damage, destruction, or theft provides a means to control public access. Protection includes physical barriers, access control systems, biometric systems, Protective Force personnel, intrusion detection systems, locks and keys, etc.

VIII. CATEGORIZATION

This incident has been categorized as an A-Management Interest (AMI) per the Consolidated Nuclear Security Incidents of Security Concern Program Plan, E-SD-0005, Rev.4.

IX. TIMELINE

October 5, 2022

- **1000 hours** – Pantex employee sighted a UAS over Pantex property
- **1240 hours** – Incident of Security notified
- **1250 hours** – NPO notified, FFA contacted, Carson county contacted

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Incident of Security Concern Report

Incident #	Description:	
PX23-122	Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)	
Date of Discovery:	Division:	Department:
6/25/2023	Safeguards & Security	Protective Force Operations & Training
Employee Name:	Employee Badge #:	Area:
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)		Limited Area (LA)
Supervisor Name:	Supervisor Badge #:	
(b)(6), (b)(7)		

Significance/Category:	Inquiry Official(s):	
AMI	(b)(6), (b)(7)	
IOSC Program Lead	Signature:	Date:
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)		
Non-Reportable Incident: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occurrence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Infraction: <input type="checkbox"/>

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Sunday, June 25, 2023 at approximately 0640 hours, Protective Force personnel reported observing what was believed to be a UAS at approximately 200 feet moving in a North West trajectory across Pantex property. Following the initial report, a Protective Force patrol reported observing the potential UAS as it exited the area in the Northern sector of the Pantex site. The Carson County Sheriff's department was immediately notified, but found no activity or evidence of the UAS in the area. The reporting employee described the potential UAS as being white in color with a flashing green light visible on the underside.

This incident has been categorized as an A-Management Interest (AMI) per the Consolidated Nuclear Security Incidents of Security Concern Program Plan, E-SD-0005, Rev.5.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

May be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) Exemption Number and Category: Category 7—Law Enforcement. Department of Energy review required before public release.
Name/Org. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PX-4348 Date: 6/25/2023 Guidance: CG-SS-5, 07/2016, DOE OC

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Incident of Security Concern Report

II. CLASSIFIED MATTER DESCRIPTION

☒ The protection of information was NOT involved in this incident. Proceed to Section IV.

Disclosure Type:

- ☐ **Unsecured/Improperly Secured**
 - ☐ In Use
 - ☐ Reproduction
 - ☐ Storage
 - ☐ Destruction
- ☐ **Unclassified Computer used to process/store**
- ☐ **Improper Transmission**
 - ☐ E-Mail
 - ☐ Facsimile
 - ☐ Hand Carry
 - ☐ Mail/Shipping/Express Delivery
- ☐ **Unapproved Facility (including private residences) used to process/store**
- ☐ **Verbal**
- ☐ **Media Leak**
- ☐ **Classification Issue**
 - ☐ Failure to Receive Classification Review
 - ☐ Information Compilation
 - ☐ Guidance Issue
 - ☐ Classifier did not have Authority to Make Classification
 - ☐ Misclassification

Form(s) of Matter Involved in the Incident:

- ☐ **E-Mail** ☐ Inside Firewall ☐ Outside Firewall
- ☐ **Electronic Storage Media**
- ☐ **Hard Copy**
- ☐ **Internet**
- ☐ **Visual**

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Incident of Security Concern Report

- ☐ Multimedia
- ☐ Discussion (Audio/Verbal)
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ Other (Describe)

Classification Level of Matter

- ☐ Top Secret
- ☐ Secret
- ☐ Confidential
- ☐ Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information
- ☐ Import/Export Controlled

Classification Category

- ☐ Restricted Data
- ☐ Formerly Restricted Data
- ☐ National Security Information
- ☐ Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information

Classification Guide

N/A

III. RECIPIENTS OF THE INFORMATION

N/A

IV. NARRATIVE

At approximately 0643 hours on Sunday, June 25, 2023, Protective Force (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported having observed what was believed to be an Unmanned Ariel System (UAS), or drone, white in color with green blinking lights, in a hovering pattern located over the Pantex Limited Area (LA). At approximately 0643 hours, following (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) initial reporting, Protective Force personnel were directed to initiated site security UAS protocols, which included the notification of local Law enforcement. Protective Force and Law Enforcement personnel conducted an in-depth search of both inside and outside of the Pantex perimeter until approximately 0805 hours when, based on the absence of additional UAS platform sightings, the search concluded.

NOTE: Central Alarm Station (CAS) personnel reported limited visibility at the time of the initial observation due to fog / low hanging clouds.

The following statements were provided by PF personnel associated with the potential UAS sighting.

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Incident of Security Concern Report

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

On June 25th, 2023, at approximately 0640 am while working out on the track. There was a white drone hovering over the track, it had a green blinking light underneath. It was headed in a northwest movement toward zone 4. At approximately 0643 I reported what I saw to

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I changed out of P.T. gear and went on the perimeter to assist in the search for an operator. We never located anything else.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

At approximately 0640 am 6/25/2023 (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised us of a white drone sighting in the LA. He gave us a route of travel and description. At that time, myself and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) went out on a PC. When I headed west on 293, I spotted what looked like a white drone / plane. It was north of the plant. The clouds rushed in and the item was gone. I linked up with Carson County deputy and followed directions from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F) . I finished the PC, and came back to plant site. Carson County stayed out patrolling. No further sighting of the object was reported again.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

On June 25, 2023 I Security Police Officer (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was notified by CAS that there was reports of a possible drone flying over the plant at a direction of northwest over zone 4. I

(b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F) observed an object flying north. I lost the object due to the thick fog. I can't positively identify if the object was a drone.

V. CONTAINMENT

Immediately following initial observation of what was believed to be a UAS platform, Protective Force personnel reported the sighting after which UAS security protocols were activated.

VI. MITIGATING/AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Mitigating Factors:

- UAS security protocols were immediately initiated.
- Local Law Enforcement notified.

Aggravating Factors:

- A potential UAS platform overflight was observed by Protective Force personnel.
- A report of foul weather potentially obstructed additional observations of the perceived UAS.

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Incident of Security Concern Report

VII. DETERMINATION OF UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Compromise did not Occur | Evidence is provided that there is no possibility that information was compromised. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Likelihood of Compromise is Remote | Although protection and control measures are violated, the circumstances associated with the incident indicate that there is a low possibility that information was disclosed to unauthorized personnel. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suspected Compromise | Evidence is provided that there is a high probability that information was compromised. Although there is no clear indication of compromise, the circumstances associated with the incident indicate there is an obvious possibility that unauthorized disclosure did occur. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Compromise | Evidence is provided that information was disclosed to an unauthorized person(s). |

Rationale for the Determination of Unauthorized Disclosure:

Unauthorized disclosure is not identified in regards to this incident.

CATEGORIZATION

Per the *Consolidated Nuclear Security Incidents of Security Concern Program Plan*, E-SD-0005, Rev.5, incidents involving confirmed Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) overflight shall meet categorization of an A, Management Interest (AMI) incident of security concern.

TIMELINE

June 25, 2023

- **0640 Hours** - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) observes what he believes to be a white drone with green blinking lights approx. 200' AGL in the Pantex Limited Area.
- **0643 Hours** - Sighting is reported to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) that a potential drone flew over the track heading NW toward Zone 4.
- **0644 Hours** - Patrols report drone over firing sites heading North, Northwest off plant site.
- **0645 Hours** - CAS initiates UAS mitigation activity.
- **0649 Hours** - Carson County Sheriff Office (CCSO) notified.
- **0651 Hours** - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advises located drone / or airplane north of site heading west.
- **0653 Hours** - CAS ceases UAS mitigation activity.
- **0805 Hours** - (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) lifted 10-17 all areas

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Incident of Security Concern Report

Incident #	Description:	
PX22-112	(U) Low Flying Aircraft; UAS	
Date of Discovery:	Division:	Department:
May 26, 2022	Pantex Operations	Nuclear Safety / Action Office
Employee Name:	Employee Badge #:	Area:
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)		JCDC
Supervisor Name:	Supervisor Badge #:	
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)		

Significance/Category:	Inquiry Official(s):	
Non	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	
IOSC Program Lead	Signature:	Date:
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	6-27-22
Non-Reportable Incident: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occurrence: <input type="checkbox"/>	Infraction: <input type="checkbox"/>

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Thursday, May 26, 2022, at approximately 2315 hours, Pantex employee (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported observing a UAS hovering over Department of Energy Property near the John C. Drummond Center (JCDC). (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated that while in the JCDC parking lot, he observed what appeared to be a drone near the parking lot, north of the JCDC in the Property Protection Area bordering county road FM2373. The Protective Force was notified and responded but saw no evidence of the UAS.

After it was determined through FAA concurrence that no unmanned aircraft system (UAS) activity had occurred in the area within the timeframe of the UAS sighting, but did confirm that air traffic was occurring near but not in Pantex airspace this has been categorized as a non-incident.

OUO	
OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
May be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)	
Exemption Number and Category: <u>Category 7-Law Enforcement</u> Department of Energy review required before public release.	
Name/Org. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	PX-4348 Date: 06/20/2022 Guidance: CG-SS-5

Official Use Only

Incident of Security Concern Report

II. CLASSIFIED MATTER DESCRIPTION

☒ The protection of information was NOT involved in this incident. Proceed to Section IV.

Disclosure Type:

- ☐ **Unsecured/Improperly Secured**
 - ☐ In Use
 - ☐ Reproduction
 - ☐ Storage
 - ☐ Destruction
- ☐ **Unclassified Computer used to process/store**
- ☐ **Improper Transmission**
 - ☐ E-Mail
 - ☐ Facsimile
 - ☐ Hand Carry
 - ☐ Mail/Shipping/Express Delivery
- ☐ **Unapproved Facility (including private residences) used to process/store**
- ☐ **Verbal**
- ☐ **Media Leak**
- ☐ **Classification Issue**
 - ☐ Failure to Receive Classification Review
 - ☐ Information Compilation
 - ☐ Guidance Issue
 - ☐ Classifier did not have Authority to Make Classification
 - ☐ Misclassification

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- ☐ **Hard Copy**
- ☐ **Internet**
- ☐ **Visual**

Official Use Only

Incident of Security Concern Report

- ☐ Multimedia
- ☐ Discussion (Audio/Verbal)
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ Other (Describe)

Classification Level of Matter

- ☐ Top Secret
- ☐ Secret
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- ☐ Import/Export Controlled

Classification Category

- ☐ Restricted Data
- ☐ Formerly Restricted Data
- ☐ National Security Information
- ☐ Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information

Classification Guide

N/A

III. RECIPIENTS OF THE INFORMATION

N/A

IV. NARRATIVE

On May 26, 2022, the Pantex Incidents of Security Concern (IOSC) office was notified that an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) had been sighted flying near the John C. Drummond Center (JCDC) in the parking lot area by Pantex Operations employee (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). Based on the height and distances of other structures in the area, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) estimated the UAS was approximately 50 to 60 feet above ground and around 125 feet west of FM 2373 near the north driveway entrance, which is inside of the Pantex property line. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) believes that the UAS was around two to three feet in diameter with at least two rotors and a single yellow light, which was underneath the main UAS body. Before leaving the JCDC parking lot, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said that he looked around the area, searching for anyone who could potentially be operating the UAS but saw no one in the area. While speaking with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) he said that he had no doubt the UAS was over government property. This due to seeing the UAS both as he was leaving the JCDC parking lot to the south of its location, his moving onto FM 2373 to the East of it and ultimately to the North of it as he approached Station 709 (East Gate). As he made his way around the UAS, while it did adjust slightly, remained mostly fixed in place for several minutes.

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Incident of Security Concern Report

The on duty Protective Force shift commander (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated that after being notified of the UAS, they responded in accordance with "SSPLN-0042 Shift Commander Response Checklist." While an exact timeline was not recorded (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported that no issues, anomalies or additional UAS sightings were reported to the Central Alarm Station (CAS).

After video footage was found by Physical Security Systems around the time (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported the UAS sighting (Video-02-22213-05-26-2022 Extended) it appears as though there were two (2) aircraft within view on May 26th. These were later confirmed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as aircraft flying in approved airspace, and not unmanned aircraft system's (UAS). The UAS that (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported could not be confirmed by on site detection systems nor by the FAA.

V. CONTAINMENT

Because the sighting of the UAS could not be confirmed to be on site, nor by the FAA who believed it could have been nearby aircraft. Government assets and information were not compromised.

VI. MITIGATING/AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Mitigating Factors:

- FAA reported that they detected no UAS activity in the area
- On sight detection systems detected no UAS activity

Aggravating Factors:

- Pantex employee reported that he had spotted a drone flying over Pantex property

VII. DETERMINATION OF UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Compromise did not Occur | Evidence is provided that there is no possibility that information was compromised. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Likelihood of Compromise is Remote | Although protection and control measures are violated, the circumstances associated with the incident indicate that there is a low possibility that information was disclosed to unauthorized personnel. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suspected Compromise | Evidence is provided that there is a high probability that information was compromised. Although there is no clear indication of compromise, the circumstances associated with the incident indicate there is an obvious possibility that unauthorized disclosure did occur. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Compromise | Evidence is provided that information was disclosed to an unauthorized person(s). |

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Rationale for the Determination of Unauthorized Disclosure:

Because the sighting of the UAS could not be confirmed to be on site, nor by the FAA who believed it could have been nearby aircraft. Government assets and information were not compromised.

Property Protection Area (PPA):

The PPA is a security area that is established to protect employees and Government buildings, facilities and property. The PPA is configured to protect Government owned property and equipment against damage, destruction, or theft provides a means to control public access. Protection includes physical barriers, access control systems, biometric systems, Protective Force personnel, intrusion detection systems, locks and keys, etc.

Limited Area (LA):

The LA is a security area inside the PPA and is designated for the protection of classified matter and Category III and higher quantities of SNM and serves as a concentric layer of protection for the Protection Area. The LA boundaries are defined by physical barriers encompassing the designated space with access controls to ensure that only appropriately cleared and authorized personnel are permitted unescorted access to the LA. Access is based on an individual's need to know to perform official duties, validation of the individual's security clearance, and the presentation of a DOE security badge. Protection includes physical barriers, access control systems, biometric systems, Protective Force personnel, intrusion detection systems, locks and keys, etc.

Protection Area (PA):

The PA is located within the LA and are established to protect Category II or greater quantities of SNM and may also contain classified matter. The PA serves as a concentric layer of security for the Material Access Area. In addition to meeting LA requirements, the PA also has its own requirements. The PA is encompassed by physical barriers that identify the boundaries, surrounded by a perimeter intrusion detection and assessment system (PIDAS), and equipped with access controls that ensure only authorized personnel are allowed to enter and exit. Access control is administered by armed PF personnel and automated access control systems. An inspection program ensures prohibited and controlled articles are detected before being brought into PA facilities. All personnel, vehicles, packages, and hand carried articles are subject to inspection before entry into a security area. Likewise, the inspections ensure safeguards and security interests are not removed. Access requires a personal identification number (PIN) and biometric passage.

Material Access Area (MAA):

The MAA is a security area that is established to protect Category I quantities of Special Nuclear Material. In addition to requirements for a PA, the MAA has its own requirements. The MAA is located within the PA and is defined with boundaries with barriers that provide sufficient delay time to impede, control, or deter unauthorized access. Access control is administered by armed PF personnel and automated access control systems. An inspection program ensures prohibited and controlled

Incident of Security Concern Report

articles are detected before being brought into PA facilities. All personnel, vehicles, packages, and hand carried articles are subject to inspection before entry into a security area. Likewise, the inspections ensure safeguards and security interests are not removed. Access requires a personal identification number (PIN) and biometric passage.

VIII. CATEGORIZATION

After it was determined through FAA concurrence that no unmanned aircraft system (UAS) activity had occurred in the area within the timeframe of the UAS sighting, but did confirm that air traffic was occurring near but not in Pantex airspace this has been categorized as a non-incident.

TIMELINE

May 26, 2022

- **2318 hours** – Unmanned aerial vehicle spotted by a plant employee at the JCDC parking area

May 27, 2022

- **0006 hours** – Pantex Operations Center (OC) notified Incident of Security Concerns
- **1842 hours** – Protective Force reported they responded as directed by SSPLN-0042

SEP 09 2015

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NNSA Production Office
Post Office Box 2050
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-8009

Dear (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Pantex Unidentified Object Report

Enclosed for your review is the complete report for the Pantex Unidentified Object that occurred on September 2, 2015. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) or (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Sincerely yours,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Pantex SS&ES Operations

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Enclosure: As stated

c/enc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Document transmitted herewith
contains UCNi.

When separated from
attachments, handle this
document as **Unclassified**.

**UNCLASSIFIED CONTROLLED NUCLEAR
INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

Unauthorized dissemination subject to civil and criminal sanctions
under section 148 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended
(42 U.S.C. 2168)

Reviewing Official: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CNS Pantex

Date: September 8, 2015

Guidance Used: CG-SS-4, Sept 2000, Chg. 7, HQ OC

Pantex Unidentified Object Incident Report

September 2, 2015

Pantex Plant
Amarillo, TX 79120-0020

**UNCLASSIFIED CONTROLLED NUCLEAR INFORMATION
NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

Unauthorized dissemination subject to civil and criminal sanctions under
Section 148 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2168)

Reviewing Official: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PTX VA

Date: 9/2/2015

Guidance Used: CG-SS-4, 9/2000, Chg. 7, DOE OC



Pantex Unidentified Object Incident Report

On September 1, 2015 at approximately 0710 hours, the Pantex Ground Surveillance Radar (GSR) detection system identified an unknown object flying in a non-threatening manner west of Pantex facilities in a northerly trajectory. The Protective Force (PF) responded in accordance with the NPO approved *Security Incident Response to Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)* plan. The object was initially identified just north of Highway 60 and was traveling in a northerly trajectory approximately 10-15mph. PF personnel were alerted to the object and subsequently dispatched to follow it in an effort to obtain as much information about the object as possible. PF personnel on the ground confirmed the presence of the object and maintained observation via PF vehicle. PF personnel followed the object for several miles north of the plant until it was no longer visible. (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

[REDACTED]

A subsequent comprehensive review of the incident was immediately initiated. The following text describes actions taken by Central Alarm Station (CAS) and Secondary Alarm Station (SAS) GSR operators, PF officers and Security Police Officers (SPOs) during the event.

At approximately 0708 hours, (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

[REDACTED]

CAS/SAS personnel alerted all PF to attempt to locate the object and report its position and direction of travel. A PF Lieutenant (Lt.) and SPO in the area spotted the object and followed it as it traveled north. The Lt. and SPO attempted to intercept the object as it traveled over Pantex Drive in an attempt to view the object directly from below. Although they were unable to catch up to the object, they stopped their vehicle and got out. Once outside, they noted that the object did not make any sound. Furthermore, the Lt. and SPO stated that they were unable to identify any type of propulsion system on the object while using binoculars to assess the object. After viewing it for 1-2 minutes, the object then continued north offsite. The Lt. and SPO then followed the object for several miles north of Pantex before they lost the object due to lack of roadway access. The location where the object was last seen was near County Road G and F.M. 1342. The Carson County Sheriff's office was notified when the object began to traverse off-site and requested to respond to the area and assist in locating the object. A Sheriff's Deputy met the Lt. and SPO at the point where the object was last seen. The Deputy stated that he did not see the object but would perform a search in the area for anything unusual. It was noted that the object seemed to increase in speed and changed direction as it was being followed. The last known direct of the object was that it was heading in an ENE direction. The Lt. and SPO were debriefed upon their return to the

Pantex Unidentified Object Incident Report

plant. Their perspective of the object was that it was a "diamond" type shape with it being more round at the top.

(b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

. The SPOs stated that it was 100-200 ft. above the ground and they were able to track the object for 3-5 minutes. The SPOs location was approximately 75-100 meters from the object.

Other PF personnel that observed the object, including a SPO that was viewing the object through binoculars described it as being approximately 4 ft. tall and 2 ft. wide at the bottom. The object was also described as being thinner at the top. However, there were some discrepancies in the color of the object. Some personnel stated that it was black in color while others noted that it appeared to be silver, red and blue.

Video was obtained from the GSR tower that was closest to the object and subsequently sent to Sandia National Labs for further study (see image below titled, *Image from Ground Surveillance Radar Tower*). The video does not provide much detail of the object due to the distance of the object to the GSR tower. It should be noted that at no time did the object appear to be threatening in nature nor did it come to close proximity to any sensitive assets. The object remained over open unpopulated areas of the plant prior to it proceeding offsite. (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

Pantex Unidentified Object Incident Report

Ground Surveillance Radar Tracks



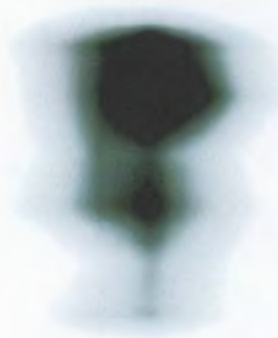
Pantex Unidentified Object Incident Report

Image from Ground Surveillance Radar Tower



Pantex Unidentified Object Incident Report

Sandia National Labs Enhanced Images of the Object



From:
To:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Subject: Pantex Night Note
Date: Thursday, October 6, 2022 9:04:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

(b)(6),
(b)(7)

Below is the Night Note for notification of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS).

Subject: Pantex – Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) over/near Department of Energy property.

Executive Summary: On Wednesday October 5, 2022 a Q-Cleared employee reported observing a UAS above Department of Energy property.

Issue: A UAS was observed over the Property Protection Area of Pantex.

Context: On Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at approximately 1000 hours, an employee reported observing a UAS moving over the North west side of Pantex Property from Farm-to-Market (FM) Road 293. After the UAS traveled onto Pantex property from the north, it began moving southwest toward FM 683 approximately 120-150 feet above the ground. (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

No other reports were received from plant personnel. Both the Protective Force and the Carson County Sheriff's department were immediately notified, but found no activity or evidence of the UAS in the area. The reporting employee described the drone as being black in color and having four rotors with no other distinguishing marks. (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

Significance: A UAS was observed over the Property Protection Area of Pantex.

Path Forward: An Incident of Security Concern (IOSC) inquiry has been initiated and is ongoing.

This incident has been categorized as an A-Management Interest (AMI) per the Consolidated Nuclear Security Incidents of Security Concern Program Plan, E-SD-0005, Rev.4.

This document has been reviewed by a Pantex Plant DC/RO and has been determined to be UNCLASSIFIED and contains no UCNi or OUC. This does not constitute clearance for Public Release.

Name: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CNS Pantex Date: 10/6/2022
Guidance Used: CG-SS-5, 7/2016, DOE OC



(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Pantex Incidents of Security Concern

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @pxy12.doe.gov

Contractor to the Department of Energy

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) **Office**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) **Mobile**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) **Pager**

