

From:
To:

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Subject: NPO Night Note, Friday, January 22, 2021 ~~(OUO)~~
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 4:18:34 PM

NPO Night Note, Friday, January 22, 2021 ~~(OUO)~~

Subject: Y-12 National Security Complex – Unmanned Aerial System Overflight

Issue: On 1/20/2021, at 1902 hours, Y-12 National Security Complex (NSC) Protective Force (PF) reported an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) overflight.

Context: On 1/20/2021, at 1902 hours, Y-12 NSC PF reported a UAS move west to east over the Uranium Processing Facility construction site. There were no visible lights or markings on the aircraft. Using thermal optics, the PF observed the aircraft to be a 4-rotor or “Quad Blade” craft. The flight path was west to east while performing circles and figure-eight patterns. Altitude was estimated to be from 500 ft. to 1000 ft. above ground level. The UAS left the area, turning north over the site’s north ridge.

After review of video surveillance, the UAS was possibly carrying a pay load beneath the craft in a sling-type configuration. Video recording has been saved at the PF Central Alarm Station. The PF initiated appropriate response measures.

Significance: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) in December 2017, directed that drone flights be restricted over all DOE facilities for the welfare of national security. These restrictions include nuclear assembly facilities, laboratories, and research centers.

Path Forward: Notifications have been made to local law enforcement, FAA, FBI, and the Oak Ridge Office of the Inspector General.

Update: On 1/21/2021, at approximately 1940 hours, PF reported a UAS sighting on the North West Tower Security Area camera. The UAS appeared to come from over the North Ridge and traveled over the Protected Area of the site. The UAS flew west to east, then left the site at approximately 1943 hours. Based on the camera used, night sky and the angles, PF was unable to determine size, color or any characteristics of the UAS. It did have lights and appeared to be below the ridge line at one point.

At approximately 2004 hours, two UASs were sighted. Both UASs had lights and were flying in formation one below the other. Again, from the camera view, PF could not determine any other characteristics. Both UASs flew out of sight from the west to the east.

At approximately 2100 hours, a third sighting occurred. One UAS was observed traveling west from the UPF construction site to the east. The UAS left the site approximately at 2105 hours to the east and over the south ridge.

Continued Path Forward:

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