

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) / Drone Incidents

On January 28, 2023, from 1000 hours EST to 2000 hours EST, a **NO DRONE** Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) will be in effect throughout the parade staging area, parade route, parade disbanding area, and maritime area for the 2023 Gasparilla Day parade (see attached map).

Officers encountering a violation of the Temporary Flight Restriction, should initiate a consensual encounter with the UAS /drone operator, and attempt to identify all pertinent information.

Officers should call the JOC, advise them of their location (Parade Route Division and cross streets) to request assistance from the Field Intelligence Team (FIT Team) assigned to that Division. A FIT Team will respond if feasible.

Flying in a TFR, without an FAA waiver is a federal misdemeanor. Using an unregistered drone is a federal felony. Additionally, the FAA will issue civil penalties for drone operators violating the TFR, from information obtained by the initiating officer's police report.

Drone Investigations

A Drone is considered an aircraft by the FAA and it must be:

- Capable of sustained flight.
- Flown within visual line of sight of operator.
- Must register ALL drones with FAA that are .55 pounds and less than 55 pounds.
- Must be flown below 400 feet.
- Cannot be flown in a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) without an FAA waiver.

An Information report will be initiated on all drone encounters. The report will be referred to the Criminal Intelligence Bureau.

- If a drone is observed by an officer, notify dispatch of its location, direction of travel and approximate altitude.
- Locate owner/operator and make a consensual encounter.
- Officers may ask them to land the UAS / Drone safely.
- If the drone operator is not cooperative, follow the guidelines of a consensual encounter and gather as much information as possible.
- Request FAA Certificate.
- Record drone make, model and serial number.
- Record drone registration number
- Identify and record owner information.
- EOD should inspect the drone if it appears to be suspicious.
- Contact the JOC to request FIT Team assistance with the investigation.

Drone TFR Map:

