DRONES: I THINK WE NAILED ONE!

fran ridge

See for yourself, Edmond, OK, 2/23/2025
Scroll down to the bottom of this link
https://nuforc.org/sighting/?id=187926

While investigating two NUFORC cases in Oklahoma in March, we obtained video images of what look like things from New Jersey's wanted posters. And MADARs had spot-on magnetometer spikes! But first, let's make some things clear after several years news stories, both good and bad.

After over a year and a half of serious incursions, just in the United States alone, law enforcement and military officials are admitting that the drone problem is pretty serious, and that hobbyists and businesses are not the source. And by now there are many reasons why foreign adversaries don't seem to make sense either. What does make sense is, bringing down a drone, either with an anti-drone system, gunfire, or missiles in most cases could be very dangerous to the local population.

WHAT IS AND WHAT ISN'T A DRONE?

Any remotely piloted, autonomously operated, or pre-programmed flying vehicle, often called a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle), used for surveillance, communication, delivery, inspection, or military missions. Persons reporting UAPs that range in size from a small orb to a large lighted object now call them, drones.

HOW LONG CAN A DRONE FLY?
The flight time of a drone depends heavily on its type, size, power source, and purpose. Here's a general breakdown:
1. Consumer Drones (e.g., DJI, Parrot):
Typical flight time: 20–40 minutes
Example: DJI Mavic Air 2 (~34 minutes)

2. Racing Drones:
Typical flight time: 3–10 minutes
Optimized for speed and agility, not endurance

3. Commercial/Enterprise Drones: Typical flight time: 30–60 minutes. Used for mapping, inspection, agriculture, etc. Some with hybrid power (gas + electric) can go 2–4 hours

4. Military Drones (e.g., MQ-9 Reaper): Typical flight time: 14–40 hours. Long-endurance surveillance or combat drones

5. Experimental/High-Endurance Drones: Solar-powered drones: Can stay aloft for days or even weeks. Example: Airbus Zephyr – has stayed airborne for over 25 days

WHAT ABOUT THE EAST COAST DRONES?
These "drones" are reportedly the size of an SUV, can remain aloft for for over 6 hours, can't be brought down by normal means, and appear in numbers. Who in the world would fly as many as 40, million-dollar drones, especially over a military base, and for what purpose? A single similarly sophisticated drone could do wonders, and apparently without a single loss. Nobody has explained why the east coast has had so much apparent drone activity, but the activity has really NOT been restricted to the east coast. People all over the U.S., also in areas where overflights ARE restricted are seeing and photographing and video-recording what anybody would refer to as mysterious "drones." And as of now, all of our superpowers, including Russian, China and Korea are in the same boat as everyone else: they’ve seen the intrusions, tracked them, and studied them—but they can’t control, catch, or explain them.

BRIEFLY
Reports of mysterious drones—unidentified aerial vehicles behaving unusually or violating restricted airspace—have occurred for at least two decades, but the most intense public and military concern began around 2014–2015.

2004-2013 - KEY MILESTONES

Sporadic sightings by civilians and pilots, often chalked up to hobby drones or misidentified aircraft. Some reports during this time describe highly maneuverable, silent, or high-altitude craft, but data is scarce.

2014–2015 – NAVY ENCOUNTERS
U.S. Navy pilots from the USS Theodore Roosevelt reported unidentified objects off the East Coast nearly daily for months, captured in FLIR and radar systems. Some were described as sphere-inside-a-cube shaped—an early echo of what some now call "drone-like" UAPs.

2019–2020 – COLORADO/NEBRASKA DRONE SWARMS
Dozens of reports emerged of large drone formations flying at night over rural areas. Witnesses included sheriff's departments and FAA investigators. Despite federal investigation, no origin was identified.

2020s – MILITARY BASE INTRUSIONS
U.S. nuclear facilities (e.g., Palo Verde, Los Alamos) and Navy ships have experienced swarms of unknown drones, often untrackable by radar and not responsive to countermeasures. The Department of Defense has not confirmed the origin in many cases.

2020–2025 - CURRENT
Reports of “transmedium” craft, spherical drones, and high-speed objects with no visible propulsion are now under the U.S. Department of Defense’s All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO). Many remain unresolved.

SUMMARY
While consumer drones have existed for about 20 years, mysterious or advanced drone-like UAP activity—especially near sensitive locations—have been increasingly documented since 2014, with classified incidents likely going back even further.

SO WHERE ARE WE?
1) We DO have ways to track drones. At first it had to be decided if the drones might be a potential threat. After all these months there has been enough time to bring in an AEGIS-type radar that can track anything.
2) We do have ways to bring drones down. This would include hobbyists drones but should include business and other types.

TRACKING DRONES
Well, that is mostly correct — Aegis-type radar systems, especially those integrated into advanced platforms like the U.S. Navy's Aegis Combat System, are capable of detecting, tracking, and engaging hundreds of targets simultaneously, including low-altitude drones and sea-skimming threats. Here's a breakdown:

AEGIS COMBAT SYSTEM CAPABILITIES
Radar Type:

The core radar is usually the AN/SPY-1 (or newer SPY-6), a powerful phased-array radar. It can detect and track over 100+ targets simultaneously, from ballistic missiles to small, low-flying drones.
Low-Altitude Tracking:
Designed to counter sea-skimming missiles, Aegis radars are optimized for low-altitude detection, even against cluttered backgrounds like waves or terrain. This makes them well-suited to detect small drones flying just above the ground or water.
Undersea Detection?
Aegis itself does not directly detect undersea targets, but: it can integrate with sonar and towed array systems (like AN/SQQ-89) for anti-submarine warfare. If a drone (UUV – unmanned underwater vehicle) surfaces or emits a signal, Aegis could potentially track it via integrated sensors or satellite/relay data.

MASS DRONE SWARMS
Advanced Aegis variants - (especially those deployed with SPY-6) are designed to handle saturation attacks, including drone swarms, using machine learning-assisted target recognition

Electronic warfare systems - hard kill (missiles) and soft kill (jamming, deception) response.

DISABLING
The systems used by law enforcement or the military to jam or bring down suspicious drones generally fall under Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) or Anti-Drone Systems. Here are some of the most recognized names and technologies in this domain:

1. DroneDefender (Battelle) - A rifle-shaped, man-portable device that uses radio frequency disruption to disable drones by jamming GPS and command-and-control signals. Popular among U.S. military and some law enforcement agencies.

2. DroneGun Tactical / DroneGun MkIII (by DroneShield) - Uses directional RF jamming to interrupt drones' control signals, forcing them to land or return to base. Widely used internationally, especially in military and VIP protection scenarios.

3. SkyWall Patrol / SkyWall Auto (by OpenWorks Engineering)
Instead of jamming, this is a net-based capture system — often combined with electronic measures.
Can physically bring down drones intact for forensic investigation.

4. Raytheon Coyote and High-Energy Laser Systems. Raytheon has developed kinetic and energy-based systems, including missile-like drones to intercept rogue UAS, and laser weapons to disable them mid-air. Used by the U.S. military.

5. Black Sage Defense C-UAS (and similar modular systems) - Integrates radar, EO/IR cameras, RF detection, and electronic warfare jammers.Can both detect

and neutralize multiple types of drones.

6. DedroneDefender (by Dedrone) - Offers RF and protocol-specific jamming, often integrated with airspace security platforms.

LEGAL NOTE (U.S.)
Civilian law enforcement in the U.S. has limited authority to use jamming due to FCC and FAA restrictions. However, military and federal agencies operating under specific authorizations (e.g., DHS, DoD) may legally deploy these systems in certain scenarios.

IS MADAR HELPING?
It MAY BE helping, but it depends on the person studying the data. There have been over 60 correlations by MADAR and UAPs since MADAR-III became operational. The last 16 cases have been very interesting. Five of them were image cases - two of those (videos). I really believe some of these are examples of the drones we are concerned with. The Oklahoma City and Edmond (both Oklahoma) are of objects "scanning" or moving in flat-falling leaf patterns as if looking for something. One of them appeared to have knocked out a street light. All backed up by MADAR!!!!

But with all the news media coverage with the drones on the east coast, and the saturation of MADAR sites in that area I had hoped for more. No doubt most of the sightings were OF drones and MADAR will not pick up anything conventional, so that's a good litmus test. So when we get magnetometer spikes and see a "drone", you can bet it's the real thing – the mystery “drones”, which almost everyone now believes are under the control of non-human intelligence. So is the UAP/drone affecting the MADAR or is the craft that launched the probe/drone the initiator? We're not sure. We are literally learning on a monthly basis.

SOME RECENT GOOD EXAMPLES
We all know that Arizona is a “hot spot”. I watched a News Nation episode just this morning:

Watch the complete 'Hunting UFOs: The Desert Sky Mystery,' a NewsNation special report
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KKlsOpZhM4

Strange flying objects reported near Arizona Air Force ranges: FAA | NewsNation Prime
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1onaAinPvo

Arizona is a hotspot, and an Allsky cam-equipped MADAR site picked up a target in March at Mesa, and there was a documented MADAR spike.

In April, one of our MADAR sites at Indianapolis had a full-scale code blue alert.

The op didn't have a sighting then or reported later, so he assumed it was going to go down as an "uncorrelated target." A few days later he was checking his Reolink skycam footage. On the north camera, AT THE EXACT SAME TIME, in broad daylight, two objects showed up. Two cube-shaped objects, that looked for all practical purposes like cubes with internal spheres! These cubes could be unmanned UAP/drones for all we know, that drop down to lower levels when they perform drone-like maneuvers.

Twelve days later a similar situation occurred, same MADAR site, again in broad daylight. Three code blues occurred while the Op was watching his camera monitor. This time it wasn't time for the automatic cameras to begin recording so he over-rid the automatic sequence just in time to catch a black triangle in the clouds.

If this is just a preview of what we might encounter during the rest of the year, it would pay to be prepared. The point is, the alleged drone activity has not subsided. It has increased, and they are being reported all over the U.S. in restricted airspace. And since no manmade drone or aircraft can affect MADAR, if it triggers a MADAR site, we know what it s and we know what it isn't.

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