



# NJ cUAS Task Force Brief

# State of New Jersey OEM



# Introduction

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# New Jersey Office of Homeland Security Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force UAS Sub-Committee

- Formed in 2017 to address emerging technology threats and capabilities
- 2020 Federal Government listed Countering UAS and Emerging Technologies as a priority in their grant NOFO's
  - 2020 Ratified the States UAS Defense Strategy

# UAS Defense Strategy

## GOALS

- Develop a cUAS Task Force
- Expand Coordination Efforts with Government and Private Sector Partners
- Establish Public Information Sharing and Outreach



# New Jersey cUAS Task Force



# Partnerships

- Board of Public Utilities
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Department of Community Affairs
- Department of Criminal Justice
- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services
- Department of the Treasury
- Office of Information Technology
- New Jersey Air National Guard
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Liberty State Park Police
- US Coast Guard
- US Air Force Air National Guard
- Federal Air Marshals
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Morris County Office of Emergency Management
- Ocean County Sheriff's Department
- Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG)
- Academy of Model Aeronautics

**AND GROWING!!**

# Public Outreach

## Press Releases

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### NJOHSP Launches Drone Dashboard to Promote Safer Skies in New Jersey

Post Date: 04/26/2023

**Hamilton, NJ** – In advance of the Federal Aviation Administration’s Drone Safety Day, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, in collaboration with State law enforcement partners, will launch an Unmanned Aircraft Systems dashboard on its website Wednesday, bringing greater visibility of safety standards and resources to the public.

To reduce reckless or unintentional misuse of drones, NJOHSP partnered with New Jersey State Police and the New Jersey Department of Corrections, to develop the dashboard and provide novice and experienced operators and the general public with support tools and guidance regarding FAA regulations and applicable laws.

SCAN ME



# cUAS Legal Considerations

## Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

- Regulates the National Airspace (NAS)
- Legally considers drones as aircraft cannot take over or “down”

## Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

- Regulates transmissions between drone and controller
- Communications Act of 1934 – Pen Wire Tap
- Cannot Legally intercept signal to obtain Serial # and Location
- Recent Remote ID Law – Requires Drones to broadcast location and identifying information



# Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018

Grants specific federal agencies the authority to counter unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) posing a credible threat to safety or security. Empowers the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to take action against drones.

- Detect, track, and monitor UAS without consent.
- Identify and access communications used to control UAS.
- Disable, disrupt, or seize control of drones deemed threats.

Does not extend authority to state, local, or tribal law enforcement!!

# Domestic Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems National Action Plan April 2022

- The plan is a whole-of-government approach by the Biden Administration that contains 8 key recommendations.
- Build off existing authorities to address the threat and expand where we can protect against nefarious UAS activity, who is authorized to take action, and how it can be accomplished lawfully.
- Extend authorities to SLTT, establish a National cUAS Training Center, and standardized equipment list.
- Calls on Congress to introduce Bills to achieve these goals.

# US Senate Bill S.1631/H.R. 4333

## Safeguarding the Homeland from Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023

The bills would reauthorize existing authorities for both the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS), as well as expand the capabilities of state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement as well as the owners and operators of critical infrastructure to use radio frequency (RF) detection equipment that would otherwise violate certain provisions of federal law.

The bill would also expand the number of agencies with the authority to mitigate drones as part of their counter-UAS mission. This bill would authorize DHS and DOJ to assess the viability of an SLTT pilot program for countering drones posing credible threats to covered facilities or assets.

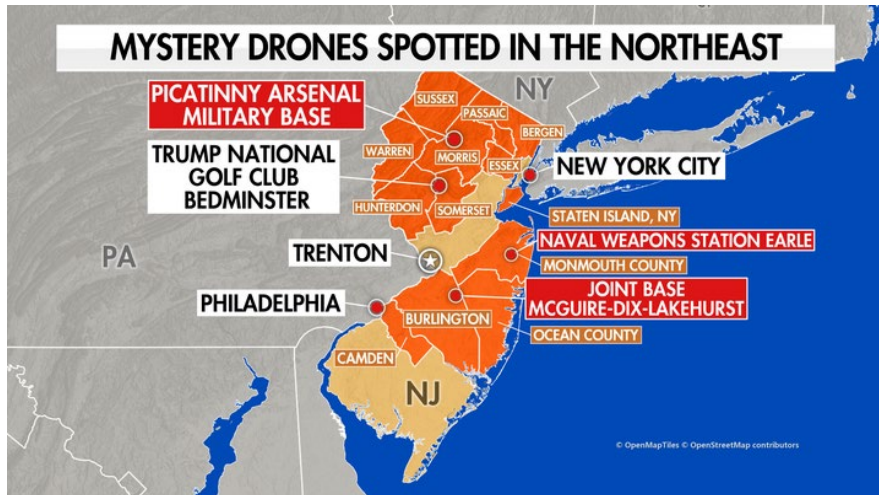
The pilot program allows up to 12 SLTT agencies per year for a five-year period, with direct oversight by either DOJ or DHS. These agencies must regularly report in writing to the relevant Congressional committees on mitigation authorities granted, including details of privacy or civil liberties complaints known to DHS or DOJ. Equipment authorization is limited to that approved by DHS and DOJ in coordination with the FCC, NTIA, and DOT (acting through the FAA).

# Authorized Detection Equipment for SLTT

- Passive Radio Frequency Sensors
  - DeDrone RF
  - DroneShield RF
  - Aerial Armor (DJI AeroScope)
- Radar
  - Echodyne
  - Fortem
  - Robin Radar
- EO/IR Cameras



# “NJ DroneGate”



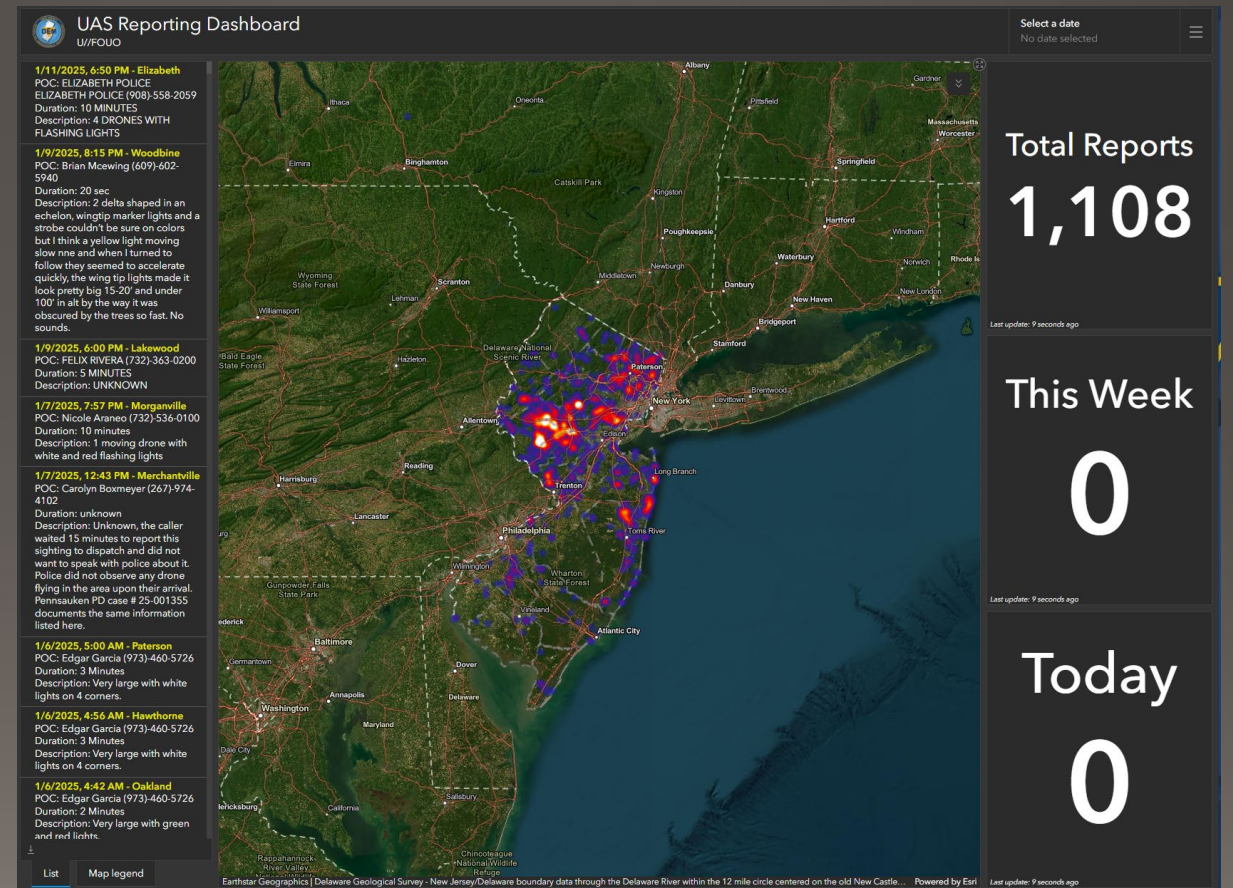
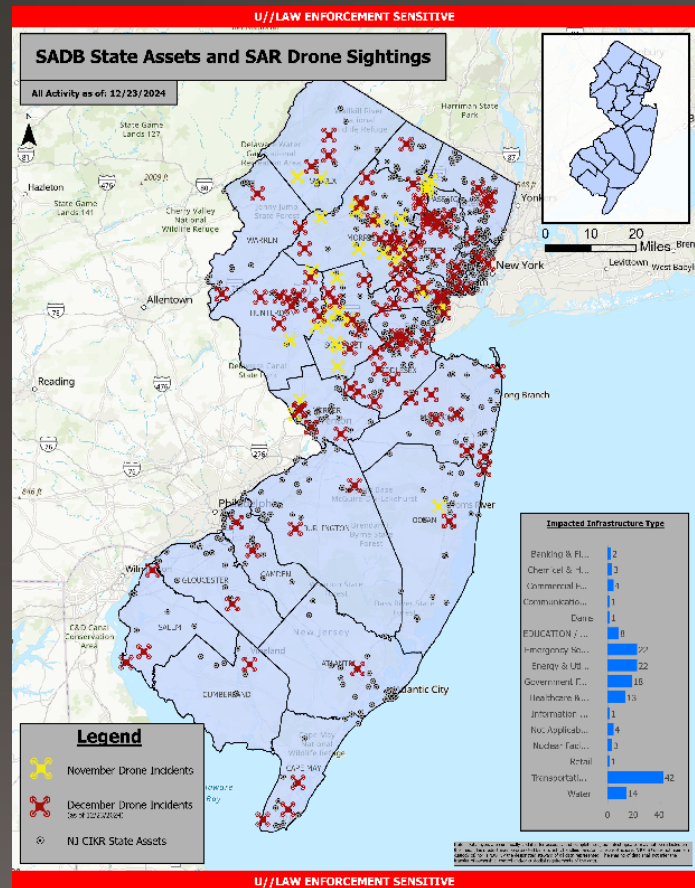
- Unauthorized drone activity, described as "swarms", were first observed in Morris and Somerset counties on Nov 18, 2024.
- There were incursions detected at Picatinny Arsenal, Trump National Golf Course in Bedminster and Somerset County. Activity was reported near critical infrastructure including several local police headquarters and public safety communications towers.
- Activity was repeatedly reported nightly beginning at dusk
- 2 Reports of Concern that led to an FBI Guardian Report
  - Drones observed near NJSP Aviation going dark
  - Drones observed in the area of a MedEvac

# Actions Taken

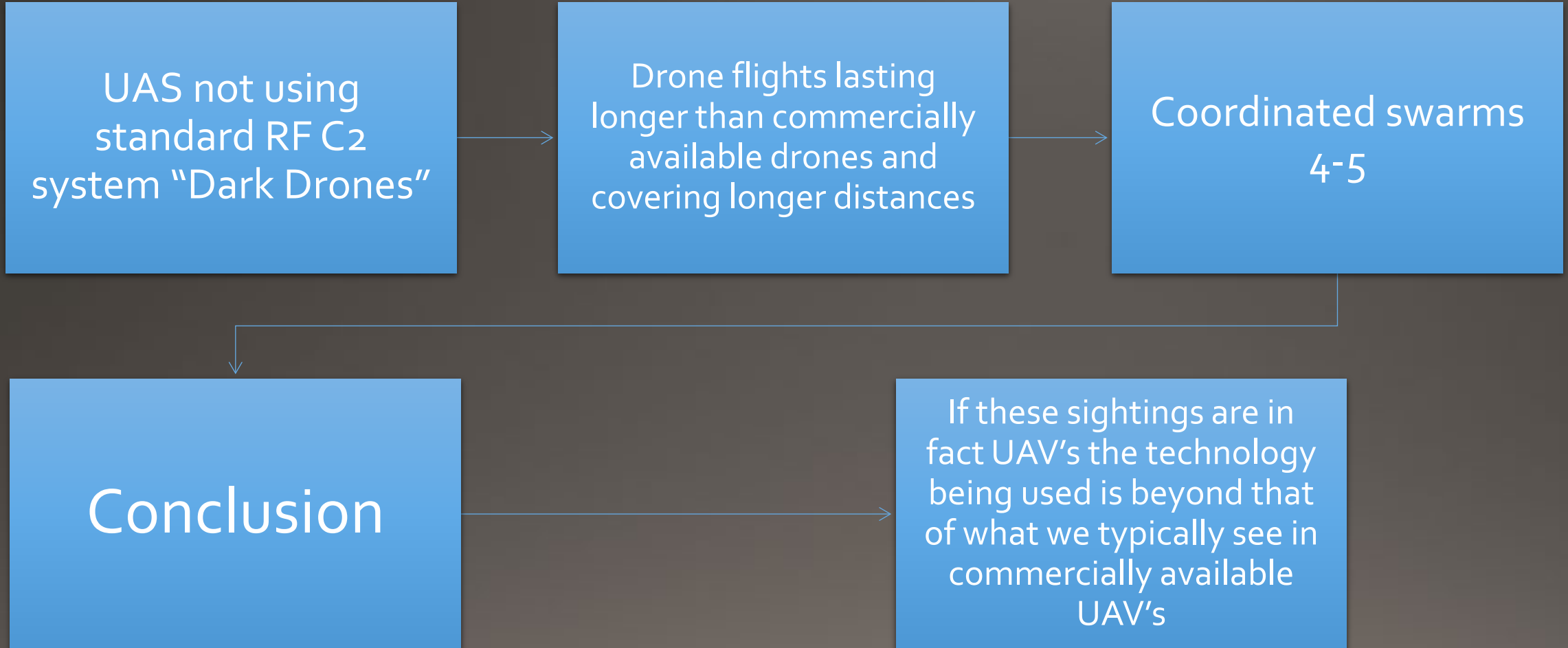
- State cUAS Task Force Deployed on 18Nov24-23Dec24
- Deployed multiple sensors in Morris and Somerset County
- Deployed Ground Interception Teams (NJSP,FBI,FAMS) with trained UAS operators to try and assist with deconfliction of manned aviation and attempt to gain a better visual of observed aircraft
- No detections were made utilizing our RF sensors
- 10 days of active response strategies with negative results in obtaining positive UAS ID, points of origin, pilots/actors

# MAPPING

- In an attempt to gain “pattern of life” the task force requested the assistance of GIS specialists to assist in mapping the reported sightings to aid in intelligence-based deployment of assets.



# Threat Assessment



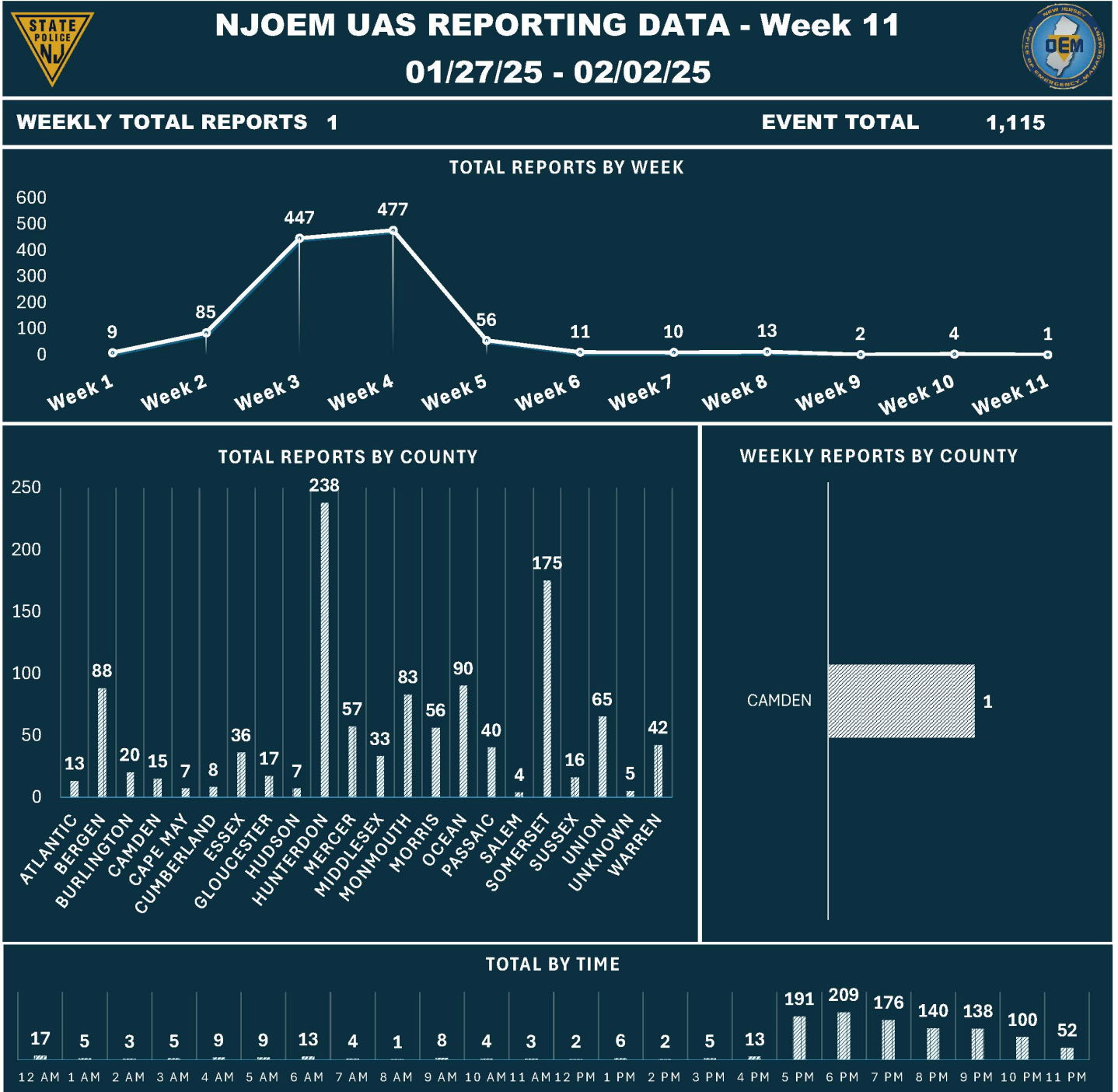
# Federal Assistance



- Following several weeks of incidents that garnered significant media attention and public scrutiny, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) deployed technical assets to assist with the detection and tracking of reported sightings.
- As media coverage increased, the number of reports surged. In response, DHS assets were operational within the state from December 13th to December 22nd, conducting daily operations between 4:00 PM and midnight. These operations included SIGINT (Signals Intelligence) and RF/Radar surveillance to enhance situational awareness and address the growing concerns.
- Activation of NJ AHIMT to help manage incident
- The delay in federal assistance likely missed the window of opportunity to detect and track the original observations.

# Intel Collection and Cleansing

- SARS (Suspicious Activity Report)
- QR Code for LEO (GIS mapping)
- HSIN (Homeland Security Information Network)
- NJSEOC (New Jersey State Emergency Operation Center) collecting and publishing daily reports
- FAMS (Federal Air Marshall Service) and ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast) overlays



# Questions?

