
Wicklow Civil Defence

Operation of Drones and UAV's

4th November 2020



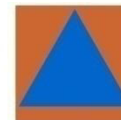
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- 20 Operational Units Nationally



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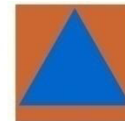


Craft in Service with Wicklow Civil Defence

- Wicklow Civil Defence Operates a Matrice 210 with dual Gimble capability (1 x 30 Optical Zoom Camera, 1 x Thermal Imaging Camera)
- Only 2 of these are in Ireland within Civil Defence, the other is operated by Galway Civil Defence
- All weather craft

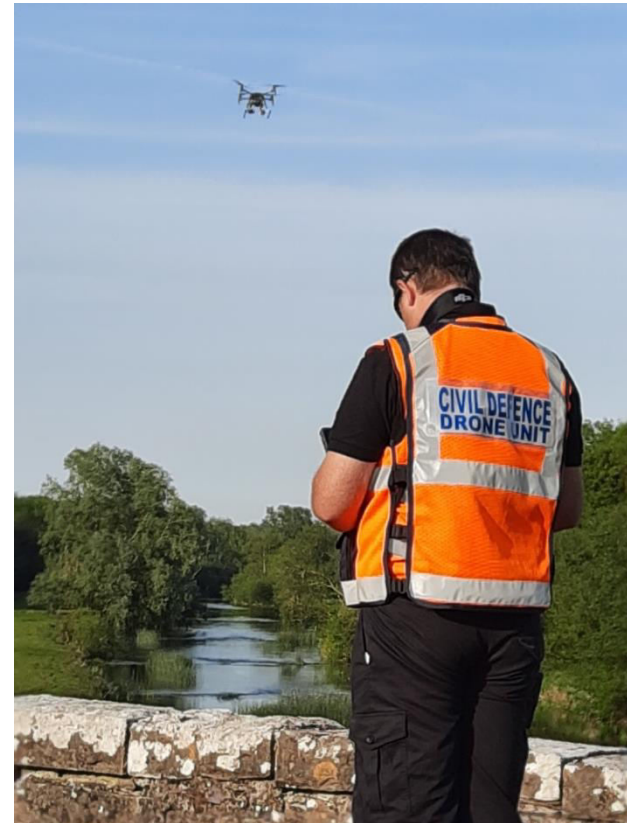


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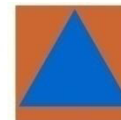


Pilots

- Wicklow Civil Defence has 3 Certified Drone Pilots qualified under the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)
- Wicklow Drone Unit is not only used within the county but can be called on to assist and deploy nationally.



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Types of Operations

- The Wicklow Civil Defence Drone unit is capable of supporting not only Civil Defence activities but can be utilized by the following agencies

An Garda Siochana

- Search for Missing Persons

Fire Service

- Thermal mapping of fire grounds
- Forest Fire Situational Awareness

Local Authority

- Site Surveys, area reports after severe weather events/flooding

Coast Guard

- Assist in missing persons offshore



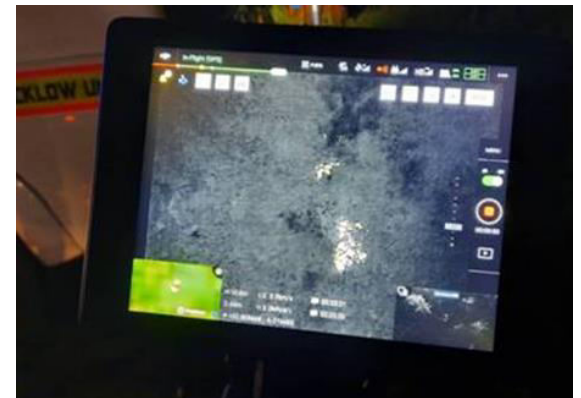
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Operations completed 2020

August 2020

- At approximately 1840hrs a member of the public requested Civil Defence assistance through Garda to use drone to find a horse that was believed to have fallen into an inaccessible area.
- Vertical access systems were set up by Coast Guard rescue team, drone team using thermal imaging was used to direct vet and rope access team to injured horse.



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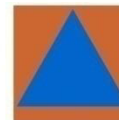
Operations completed 2020

September 2020

- 22nd September Drone Unit assisted units from Wicklow Fire Service at a Gorse Fire located at Sugar Loaf Mountain. Drone was used to provide thermal imaging of the fire ground and crews to the on scene Station Officer.

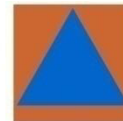


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GDPR

- In relation to GDPR there is one dominant policy and that is "**Do not press the record button**" unless you require the imagery.



Future Technology Plans

- Wicklow Civil Defence is in the process of increasing its Technical Search capabilities with the acquisition of the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y Platform
- Will be the only one operated in Ireland



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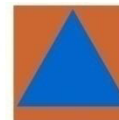


What is E.M.I.L.Y

- The Sonar E.M.I.L.Y provides high resolution bottom imagery for locating drowning victims, submerged vehicles and sunken boats
- Can be used manually or autonomously
- Due to its size is rapidly deployable and be operated by 1 person
- Can be used by An Garda Siochana to locate submerged evidence



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Questions?



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