Eyes in the Sky: Public Attitudes Towards Police Use of Drone Technology

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Law Enforcement UAV Applications
- Border Patrol
- Search and Rescue
- Tactical Operations
- Surveillance and Monitoring Crime in Public Settings
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Crowd Management and Monitoring
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Current Study
Assess public perceptions about various ways police departments use drone technology
- Context specific applications
- Impact of geographic and social factors

National online survey
- n = 481

Context Specific

Findings
Public support for drone use in domestic policing applications is highest for:
- Applications involving protection of life (vs. applications involving surveillance-like monitoring)
- Across geographic factors (city size and region)
- Across social factors (political party affiliation, views about government, and level of technological knowledge)

Publicly Released
Approved Law Enforcement UA V Applications
March 2016

Policing Strategies

Geographic Factors

Policy Implications
Agencies looking to implement drone technology should:
- Start with reactive applications and avoid using drones within proactive activities
- Provide public with education and awareness of technology to increase transparency and overall knowledge of police use of UAV's