DRONESENSE

Organizations
Fairfax County PD
George Mason University PD
Leesburg PD
Manassas Park PD
Spotsylvania County SO
UVT
DroneSense

Number of Drones
15

Number of Pilots
40

Elevating Safety at the 2023 Marine Corps Marathon: The Power of Collaboration in Public Safety

The Marine Corps Marathon, managed by the US Marines in Arlington, VA and the nation's capital, is the fourth largest marathon in the US and the ninth largest in the world.

Hosted annually, the 48th Marine Corps Marathon took place on October 29, 2023 and was set on a scenic course that started halfway between the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery. The course took participants through Rosslyn before journeying into Georgetown and the National Mall, covering 26.2 miles until the finish line at the Marine Corps War Memorial. The marathon attracted 30,000 runners and thousands of spectators from around the world.

Providing safety and security for an event of this size was a top priority for Marine Corps Marathon organizers as well as the event's law enforcement partners.

Drone Operations in a Crowded Airspace

The use of drones during the 2023 Marine Corps Marathon exemplified the growing importance of technological advancements in public safety. Comprised of multiple teams, the MCM drone unit collaborated to provide comprehensive security coverage in Virginia and into the Nation's Capital during the marathon. These uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) showcased an advanced level of situational awareness, contributing significantly to the overall success of the event.

To execute such a wide-scale event, extensive coordination was necessary among public safety agencies, vendors, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The marathon's route through Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia fell within complicated and restricted airspace, and with its close proximity to Reagan National Airport, the UAS team had to secure authorization from Reagan National Tower and obtain waivers in order to run their operations.

Harnessing the Power of DroneSense for Critical Insights

The UAS team, consisting of operators from various public safety departments across the region, played a pivotal role in enhancing security throughout the marathon. Strategically positioned at multiple locations along the race route, the drones provided continuous aerial coverage to the Unified Command Post (UCP) through the use of DroneSense technology.
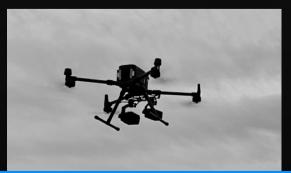
Equipped with a diverse fleet, including the DJI dock, highly skilled pilots observed the event from a unique vantage point, giving them the ability to promptly identify potential threats or hazards that could jeopardize the safety of participants and spectators.

Although the event went off without a hitch, the teams had the ability to rapidly relay critical information to the UCP through the utilization of drones and live, real-time streaming. Had it been needed, the teams could facilitate quick responses and coordinated actions by local, state, and federal public safety personnel. In addition, ground personnel had the ability to request visual confirmation of any incidents before arriving on the scene, enhancing not only their safety but also optimizing the overall effectiveness of the response efforts.

The real-time video feed streamed through DroneSense provided the UCP with the information they needed to make informed decisions based on up-to-the-minute data. At any given moment, the UCP had access to multiple drone feeds, along with additional video streams from cameras and GPS sources within the DroneSense platform. This synergy allowed teams to efficiently mark potential areas of concern and relay incident locations reported by the air boss, displaying them directly on the pilots' controllers.

A Showcase of Safety and Security Excellence

The seamless execution of safety and security operations at the 2023 Marine Corps Marathon was a testament to the exceptional inter-departmental and inter-agency communication and planning. The real-time streaming capabilities offered by DroneSense to the Unified Command Post enabled prompt decision-making and the mitigation of potential threats, ultimately creating a safe and secure environment for the participants and spectators at the marathon. This event served as a shining example of how meticulous planning, data-driven communication, inter-agency cooperation, and cutting-edge technology can combine to deliver unparalleled safety and security at large public gatherings.

"DroneSense provided real-time situational awareness for public safety agencies, ensuring the safety of attendees while the DroneSense Response Team supported five UAS teams, as they operated in the most complex airspace in the United States."

93
Flights

29
Flight Hours

Learn more at dronesense.com