



**Organization**  
San Antonio PD  
San Antonio, Texas



**Drone Program Established**  
2018



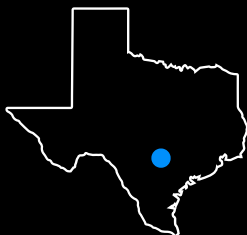
**Number of Drones**  
11



**Number of Pilots**  
9



**DroneSense User Since**  
2019



## **Bridging the Gap Between Crewed and Uncrewed Operations: How One Agency Redefined Law Enforcement Using DroneSense**

In a landscape defined by uncertainty and risks, the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) stands out as a pioneer in embracing cutting-edge technology to better serve and protect its community of over 1.4 million residents, covering 504 square miles.

Their journey with aviation is not new, but over five years ago, they embarked on a flight that would reshape their approach to public safety through the integration of drones into their operations.

Founded in 1971, SAPD's Eagle helicopter unit has a long-standing history of adopting innovation in law enforcement. The department has consistently sought ways to enhance its capabilities and better fulfill its mission of community-based policing.

### **Just a Few of the Missions Flown**

- Murder/suicide hazmat incident
- Crowd overwatch at the Alamodome
- Search for an assault suspect fleeing from officers into a rain culvert
- Assisting with major crashes on U.S. Hwy 281

## Advancing Policing from Above

In the heart of Texas, where tradition meets innovation, the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) found itself at the epicenter of change. As one of the ten largest cities in the US, SAPD recognized that their journey needed to reflect the stature of the community they served.

Driven by a commitment to excellence, SAPD understood that integrating advanced technology was not just an option—it was the key to staying ahead in a rapidly evolving space.

Enter DroneSense's Drone as First (DFR) program, a solution that became SAPD's way to leverage drones as an extension of their aviation assets. In a mere 30 seconds from launch, these small aircrafts provided real-time data, video feeds, and invaluable feedback to officers on the ground as well as the dispatch center.

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## Where Innovation Meets Integration

What sets SAPD apart is its commitment to seamlessly integrate its crewed and uncrewed operations. By bridging the helicopter and drones units, SAPD has established a coordinated response mechanism. This includes the ability to stream helicopter video feeds directly into the DroneSense platform, enhancing situational awareness and strategic decision-making. Such integration ensures a swift and calibrated reaction to unfolding situations, elevating their overall responsiveness.

Currently handling over 300 calls per month, SAPD's RAVEN drone program continues to witness increasing usage. The DroneSense software plays a pivotal role in streamlining communication and information-sharing during tactical scenarios, enabling SWAT, hostage teams, patrol assets, and command staff to collaborate seamlessly through a unified data stream.

The San Antonio Police Department's involvement with drones reflects a dedication to innovation and community-oriented policing. By embracing the DroneSense Drone as First Responder program and integrating crewed and uncrewed operations, SAPD has not only addressed critical challenges but also set a benchmark for other agencies. As they continue to evolve and expand their drone program, SAPD remains at the forefront of leveraging technology to enhance public safety and serve their city with unparalleled efficiency.

**5,882**  
Flights

**950+**  
Flight Hours

“We feel like DroneSense is the catalyst for our DFR program and really the future of DFR across the country.”

- Scott Clark, Officer, Lead Drone Pilot | SAPD

[Learn more at  
dronesense.com](https://dronesense.com)

