

The logo for DISC 2026 features the text "DISC" in a large, bold, dark blue font above "2026" in a similar font. The text is set against a background of several interlocking gears of various sizes, rendered in a light blue, semi-transparent style. The overall background is a light blue gradient with a subtle pattern of circuit lines and dots.

# DISC 2026

**MARCH 18-19**

**CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Hosted by**

Office of US Senator Thom Tillis

Office of US Senator Ted Budd

North Carolina Military Business Center

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# Drone Dominance Sustainment: Building North Carolina's Industrial Base for Next-Generation Unmanned Systems

## Speakers:

- Moderator: **Bob Burton**, Director of Defense Technologies, North Carolina Military Business Center
- Robert Braun, Chief Technology Officer, XVIII Airborne Corps
- Pavlo Horiachev (Ukraine)
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# DIGNITAS

6

CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION



# Olena Kozlova-Pates

- Founder and Executive Director of Ukrainians in the Carolinas, NC Lead for Dignitas
- Driving awareness and sustained support for Ukraine's fight for freedom
- Building strong partnerships with NC businesses, universities, and leaders
- Linking U.S. capabilities with Ukraine's frontline innovation and operational insight



## The War in Ukraine and the Rise of Battlefield Robotics

- The war in Ukraine has become the world's first large-scale **conflict defined by robotics and autonomous systems**
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are used daily for reconnaissance, targeting, logistics, and strike operations
- Ground Robotic Systems (UGVs) are increasingly deployed for casualty evacuation, supply delivery, reconnaissance, and de/mining
- Robots allow to conduct **dangerous missions** while reducing risk to personnel
- Situation in Ukraine demonstrated that **technology shapes the battlefield**



## Technology and Skills Are Critical to Ukraine's Defense

- Effective use of **unmanned systems** requires skilled operators, engineers, and technicians
- The war has created **urgent demand for training** in drone and robotics technologies
- Veterans, defenders, and civilians need new technical skills to support the war effort
- These technologies also create **pathways for rehabilitation, education, and future careers**
- Building a **trained ecosystem** of operators and engineers is essential for long-term resilience

9



# Dmytro Kavun

- Co-Founder and President, Dignitas in the US
- 20+ years in IT and cybersecurity, leading teams in security, infrastructure, and emerging technologies
- Leads programs delivering technology, training, and operational support to Ukrainian defenders
- Advocates internationally for Ukraine, engaging policymakers and partners in Washington, D.C.



1  
0



**Dignitas** is a nonprofit supporting Ukraine's defense through technology, innovation, and advanced technical capabilities.

Our mission is to **provide technological support** to the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Ukrainian people through essential supplies, advanced technologies, training programs, and expert guidance. Dignitas operates primarily through teams in the United States and Ukraine, with additional presence and partnerships in Canada and across Europe.



<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>  
**DIGNITAS**   
WITH UKRAINIAN DIGNITY

# Dignitas Training Initiatives

## Training



Unmanned Systems  
Training  
(UAV, UGV, USV)



## Supply and Maintenance



Supply, Repair, and  
Maintenance of  
Drone Systems and  
Related  
Technologies

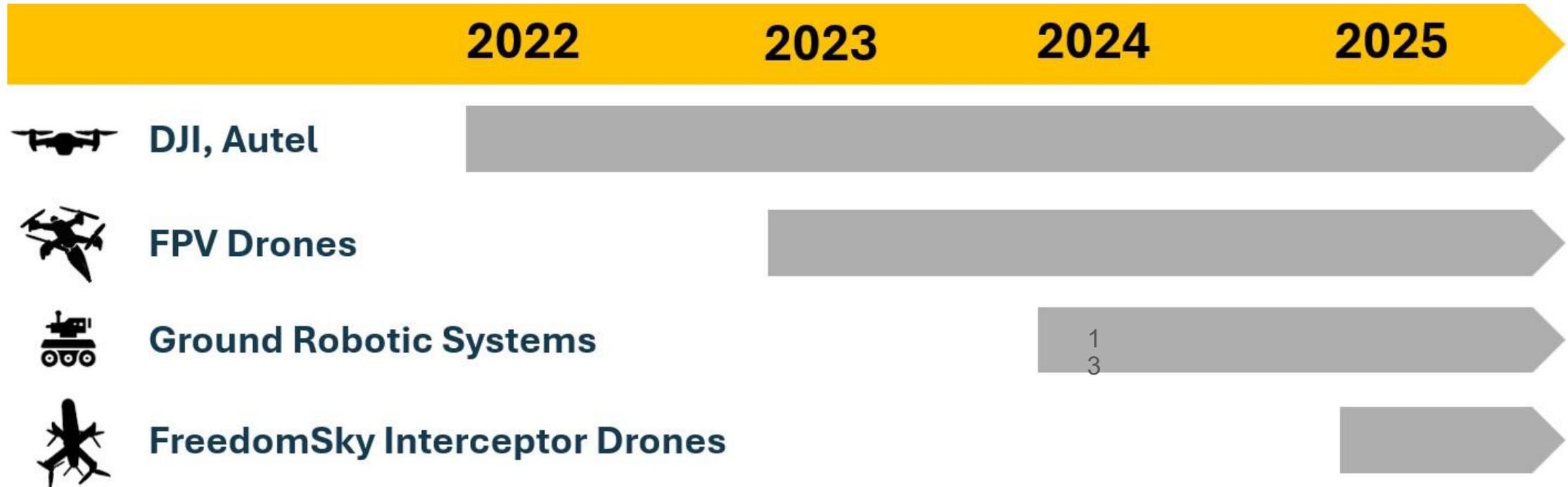
## Advocacy



1  
2

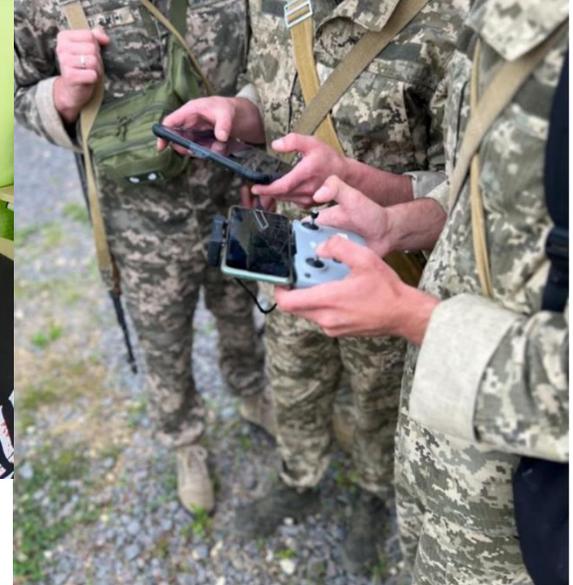
Advancing the Use  
of Drone Systems in  
Ukraine and Globally  
to Defend Freedom

# OUR FOCUS



# TRAIN

- **260 000+** Ukrainian Defenders  
UAV Training - Victory Drones  
UGV Training - Victory Robots  
Shahed Interceptors - FreedomSky  
Mission planning, software, other tech
- **250+** Ukrainian wounded Veterans
- **100+** Ukrainian youths of UA Defenders



# SUPPLY

Once trained, we know the technology we supply will be used *effectively*.

## In 2025 we supplied:

- 600+ UAV drones
- 11 UGV drones
- 9200+ drone accessories
- 276 drone detection devices
- 51 vehicles
- 10 mobile shower laundry units
- 1 mobile drone repair workshop



# ADVOCATE: For Ukrainian Victory



In **Ukraine** we advocate for technological changes and improvements on the battlefield.

Outside of **Ukraine** we meet with elected officials to advocate for Ukraine to have the right tools to win this war.

**The World needs Ukraine as a partner!**



# Pavlo Horyachev

- Engineering expert and lead trainer, Dignitas in UA
- Victory Robots, UGV instructor
- Killhouse academy, UGV engineering specialist
- Victory Drones, UAV instructor
- Telecom companies, software engineer, database & software architect, business analyst



1  
7



# ANTI-SHAHED - FREEDOM SKY

THREAT DEFEAT TECHNOLOGY



# SCALE OF THE THREAT

Russia launches dozens, often hundreds, of shahed drones every day

On some nights — **up to 600+ devices**

In the month of December 2025 alone **6,529 shahed drones were recorded**

Analysts warn: in the future up to **~2,000 drones may be launched per night**



# THREE-LEVEL ANTI-SHAHED FRONTIER

Each shahed follows the same routine:

**launch zone → frontline → target**

**Most can be stopped earlier** - on the flight through the line of contact

Interception on this line = destroyed enemy plans, cities preserved, lives saved.



# HOW DOES THE ANTI-SHAHED FRONTIER WORK?

- 1 Start from the launch zone**  
The enemy launches a group of drones.
- 2 Level 1 - Intelligence Blocking:**  
Intercept tactical reconnaissance drones → the enemy loses adjustment.
- 3 Level 2 — destruction of intermediate "fixed wings":**  
Elimination of enemy reconnaissance drones that clarify targets → there are no exact coordinates.
- 4 Level 3 — interception of attack drones:**  
Destruction of the "shahed-wave" once it crosses the contact line → most targets do not reach the rear.



**The final effect:** Reduce the load on the rear air defense and minimize destruction.

# IMPACT SUMMARY

**38 units** of the Ukrainian Defense Forces were directly supported through this project.

These units received **110 newly trained crews (440 personnel)**, strengthening their ability to detect, track, and intercept enemy UAVs.

The project delivered a structured, standardized training program that improved tactical coordination, mission planning, and nighttime interception effectiveness under real combat conditions.



# DIGNITAS

**Dignitas looks forward to building strong partnerships with North Carolina's business and military communities to help defend freedom and build a safer, more secure future for all who cherish liberty around the world.**

[info@dignitas.fund](mailto:info@dignitas.fund)

# Appendix Slides

2  
4



# Victory Drones

160K+ operators trained

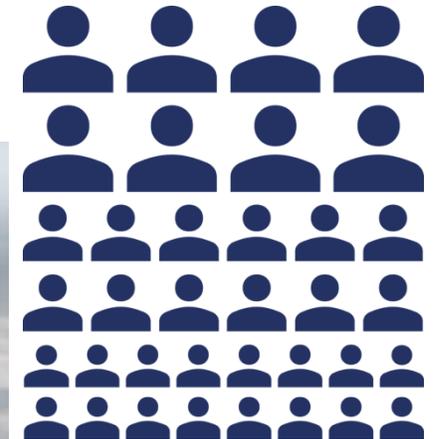
Victory Drones is a Dignitas initiative dedicated to strengthening the combat readiness of Ukrainian defenders through training in modern defense technologies and the provision of essential equipment. The initiative has been recognized by NATO as a “Strategic Level Initiative.”

## Victory Drones project staff:

- 150+ experienced instructors
- 30+ volunteers providing support services

## Our capabilities:

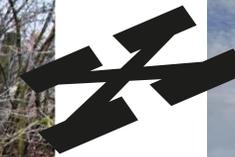
- 4K trained pilots a month, 50K annually



# Victory Robots

**3K+ operators trained, 15 UGV R&D centers established**

- First Ground Robotic Systems (GRS) training school in Ukraine, and possibly the world
- GRS enable casualty evacuation, supply delivery, demining, reconnaissance, and fire support while reducing risk to personnel
- After UAV, GRS are the next major technological disrupter on the battlefield

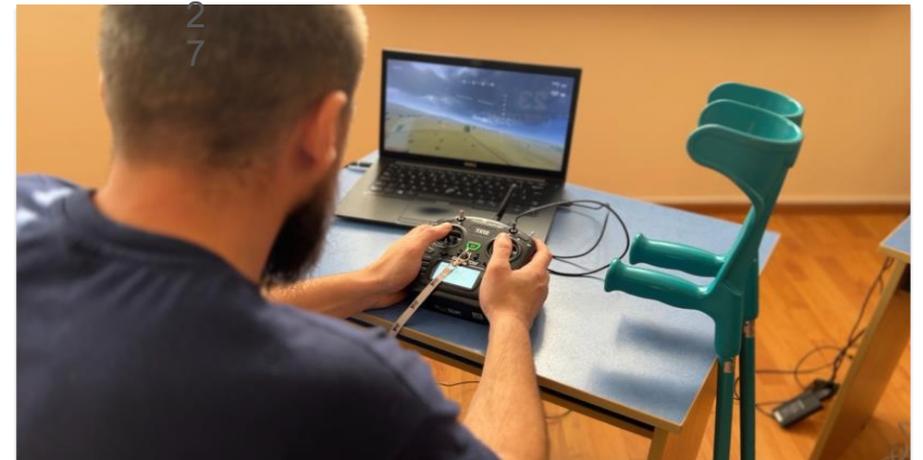
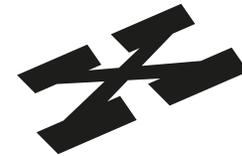


## Veteranius

4K+ veterans participated, 18% found jobs in MilTech

This training initiative supports veteran rehabilitation through advanced technical training, including:

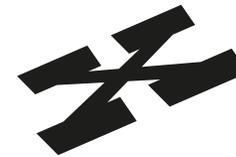
- FPV drone operations
- FPV drone engineering and assembly
- Technical and cybersecurity skills



# TechExplorers

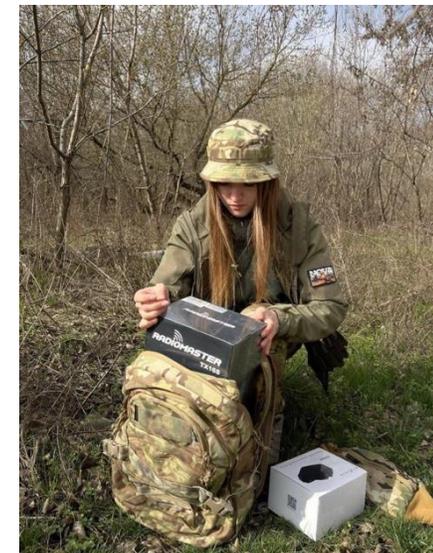
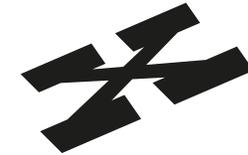
This initiative develops technical skills among Ukrainian youth through:

- FPV drone operation
- FPV drone engineering and assembly



# Girls Protect

- Recruiting and training female UAV and UGV pilots
- Providing essential equipment (drones, FPV goggles, controllers, antennas, and related gear)
- Supporting and strengthening the female drone operator community



# Supply: Drone EcoSystem

We provide the technologies for those who we train:

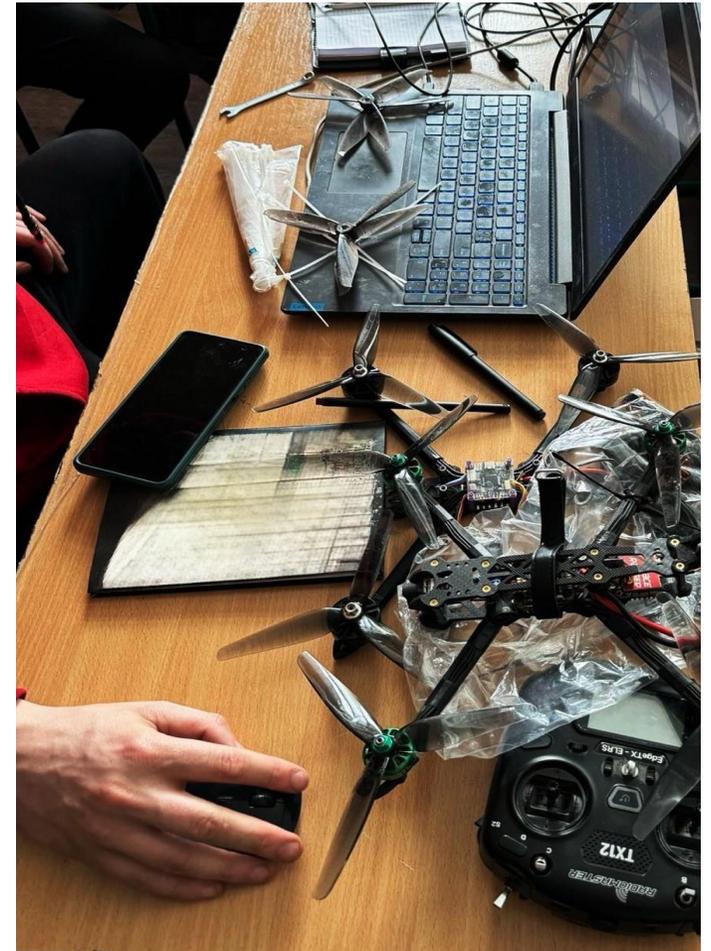
- Consumer and commercial multirotor drones
- FPV drones
- Fixed-wing drones
- Ground robotic systems (UGV)
- Communication systems (Starlink terminals, radios, and related equipment)
- Radio-electronic systems (antennas, repeaters, spectrum analyzers, and signal equipment)



# Maintain: Fix&Fly - Mobile Engineering Units

Fix&Fly mobile and semi-permanent repair workshops support Ukrainian defenders by repairing, upgrading, and preparing drone systems for operational use.

- Repair drones and critical components
- Replace outdated or damaged hardware
- Reprogram and update drone firmware
- Conduct testing and field experimentation
- Prepare drones for operational missions



3  
1

# References

“Ukraine Wants to Be a School for Drone Operators”

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/ukraine-wants-to-be-a-school-for-drone-operators>

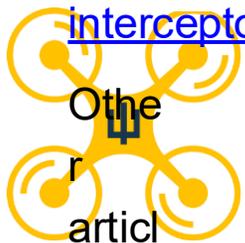
“Inside Ukraine’s Effort To Train Drone Pilots Defending The Country”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidkirichenko/2026/03/09/inside-ukraines-effort-to-train-drone-pilots-defending-the-country/>

Ukraine Turns To Autonomous Drone Interceptors As Shahed Attacks Surge

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidkirichenko/2026/03/08/ukraine-turns-to-autonomous-drone-interceptors-as-shahed-attacks-surge/>

3  
2



Other  
articles:

DIGNITAS 

What can you do?

Volunteer

Advocate

Partner

Donate

Spread the word



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**FIRST FLIGHT**  
VENTURE CENTER

## Turnkey Infrastructure for Drone Development

Hangar6 is First Flight Venture Center's **in-house prototyping studio**, purpose-built to help early-stage drone and hardware teams rapidly design, prototype, and validate systems — from first concept to pilot-scale manufacturing.

As part of NC's leading deep tech incubator, we offer **accessible, affordable engineering and fabrication resources** that bridge the gap between an early idea and a flight-ready drone platform.

# Built for Drone Builders

Three flexible engagement models designed to accelerate your drone development cycle — from rapid part fabrication to fabrication to subsystem integration and small-batch pilot runs.



## Prototyping Lab Membership

Access professional-grade fabrication equipment through our membership program starting at just \$300/month — ideal for solopreneurs and early-stage drone teams iterating fast.



## Prototype Design & Fabrication

Hire us for one-off or small-batch drone component and enclosure projects, leveraging Hangar6's full suite of equipment and engineers for rapid build-test cycles.



## Fractional Engineering Services

Get drone design and fabrication expertise without a full-time hire. Our engineers become your extended team for avionics, airframe, and subsystem integration — helping you stay lean.

# Precision Fabrication Tools for Drone Hardware

From lightweight structural frames to custom flight electronics enclosures, Hangar6's equipment lineup supports the full range of drone component development and small-batch pilot manufacturing.



## Advanced 3D Printing

**Bambu Labs X1C** FDM printers small print farm

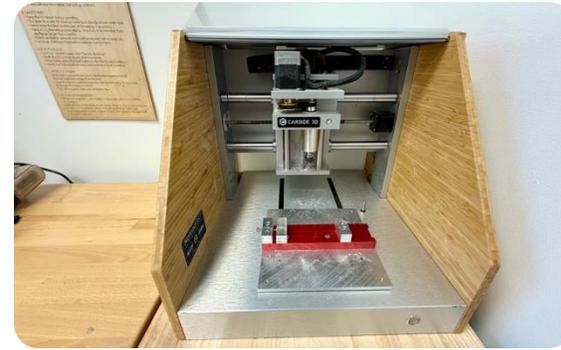
**Formlabs Form4 + Form3** high-res resin resin

**Markforged Mark II** continuous carbon fiber printer for structural components.



## Precision Laser Cutting

**Xtool P2S CO<sub>2</sub> Laser Cutter** (55W) for precision cutting and engraving of drone frames, mounts, and panels in wood, acrylic, and various sheet materials.



## CNC Milling & Machining

**Carbide 3D Nomad 883** desktop CNC mill for precision milling of small drone parts, brackets, and housings in plastics, wood, and soft metals.



## Advanced Modeling Software

Professional CAD and simulation tools including Siemens NX, SimCenter, SolidWorks, and Vcarve Pro — for drone airframe design, structural analysis, and flight system modeling.

# Digital Fabrication Lab

Integrated lab space, prototyping tools, and small-batch fabrication and assembly capacity — all under one roof at First Flight. Plug in and start building on day one.

## Base Membership Plan

**\$300/month**



- Access to all equipment and software
- Up to 2 hours/month of staff consultation
- Includes coworking membership at First Flight

## Annual Membership Plan

**\$3,000/year**



- Save 17% when paying upfront
- All benefits of monthly package
- Priority equipment booking



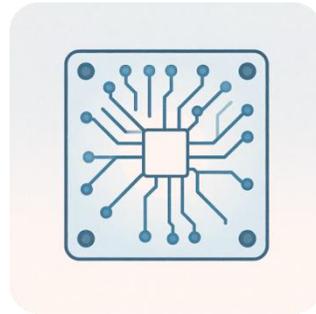
# Prototyping Projects & Engineering Services

From idea or sketch to functional prototype, our engineers work alongside your team to bring your vision to life. Whether you need one-off prototyping, small batch production run, or ongoing fractional engineering support — Hangar6 helps you design, build, and iterate faster.



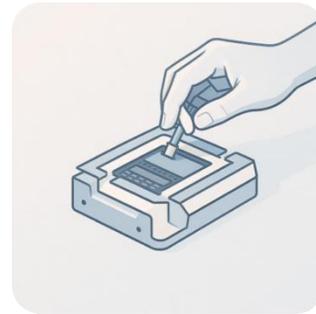
## Airframe & Mechanical Design

CAD modeling, structural simulation, and enclosure development for drone systems and subsystems.



## Avionics & PCB Design

Electrical engineering support from schematic design to PCB layout, flight controller integration, integration, testing, and assembly.



## Pilot-Batch Fabrication

One-off or small-batch drone fabrication using Hangar6 equipment and engineering expertise.



## Funding & Validation Support

High-quality prototypes, renderings, and flight-ready demos that strengthen SBIR/STTR applications and investor pitches.



# **Drone Dominance Sustainment: Building North Carolina's Industrial Base for Next-Generation Unmanned Systems**

## ***Breakout 1: Top Operational Requirements to Field and Sustain Drones at Scale***



# Drone Dominance Sustainment: Building North Carolina's Industrial Base for Next-Generation Unmanned Systems

## Speakers:

- **David Whitmire**, Ph.D., Senior Commercial Advisor, Wireless Research Center and RiOT Labs
- Mihail Sichitiu, Professor ECE, Co-PI, Aerial Experimentation and Research Platform for Advanced Wireless (AERPAW), North Carolina State University
- Sheeba Dawood, Founder and CEO of Minerva Lithium
- Bob Skillen, Founder and Chief Engineer, VX Aerospace
- Paul "Buck" Chambers, MMEC and CEO, Heightened Senses, LLC





# WRC Organization

Mission : Advance Communication Technologies and Promote Economic Development

## Activities and Initiatives

## Mission Impacts

### WRC Technologies

Technical: 90 -100%  
Economic Development: 0 - 10%

- Engineering
- Testing
- Commercial Business Development
- Government/DoD Support



### WRC DARPA CA

Technical: 50 - 75%  
Economic Development: 25 - 50%

- Government/DoD Support
- Government/DoD Business Development



### RIoT/RIoT Labs

Technical: 50 - 75%  
Economic Development: 25 - 50%

- Community/Smart-City Programs & Activities
- Government/DoD Dual-use Development

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PAWR Project Office

<https://aerpaw.org/>



# AERPAW: Aerial Experimentation and Research Platform for Advanced Wireless





LW-5

LW-4

LW-1

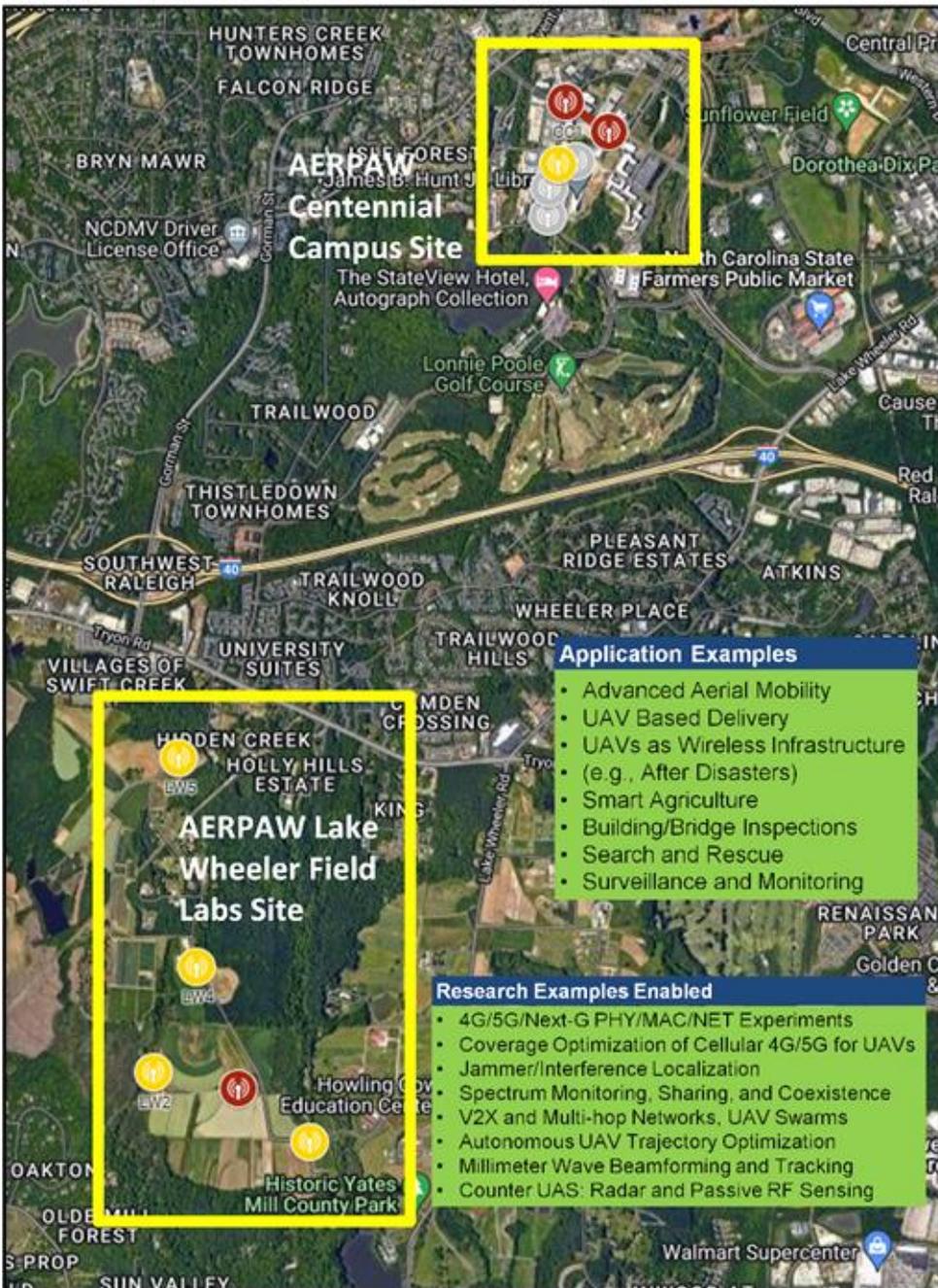
Animal Health  
Building,  
NCSU

LW-2

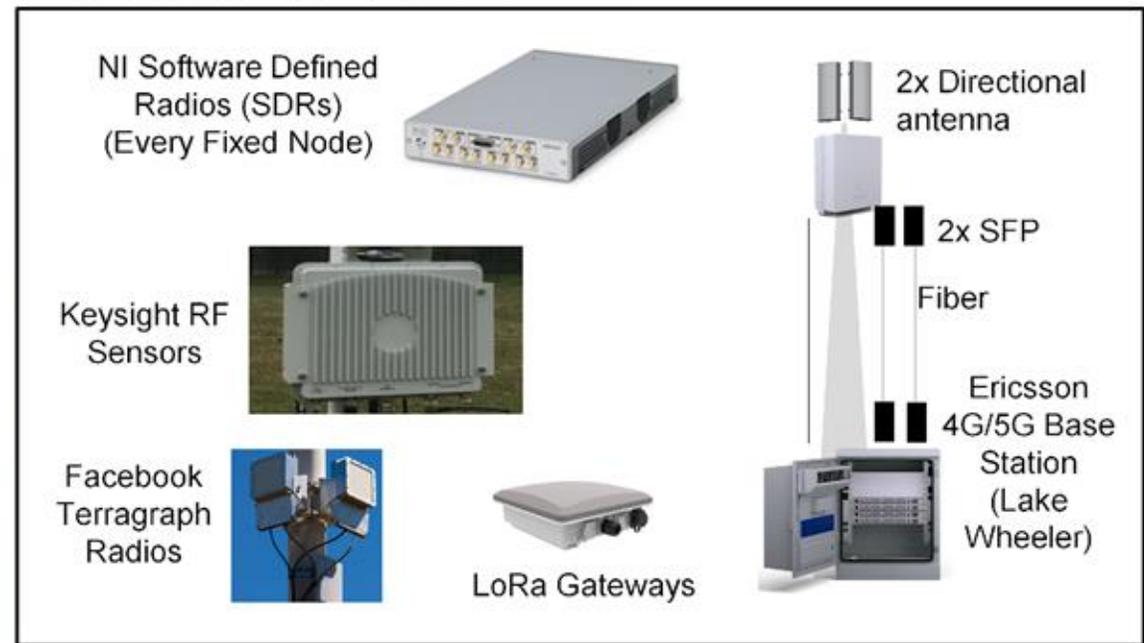
~400 meters

LW-3

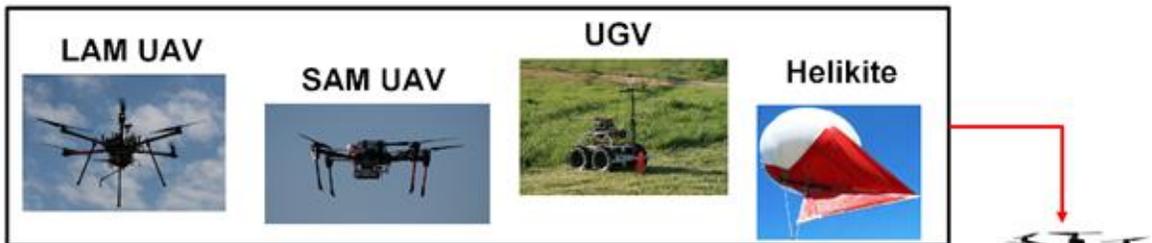
## Deployment Map for AERPAW Fixed Nodes



## AERPAW Fixed Node Equipment

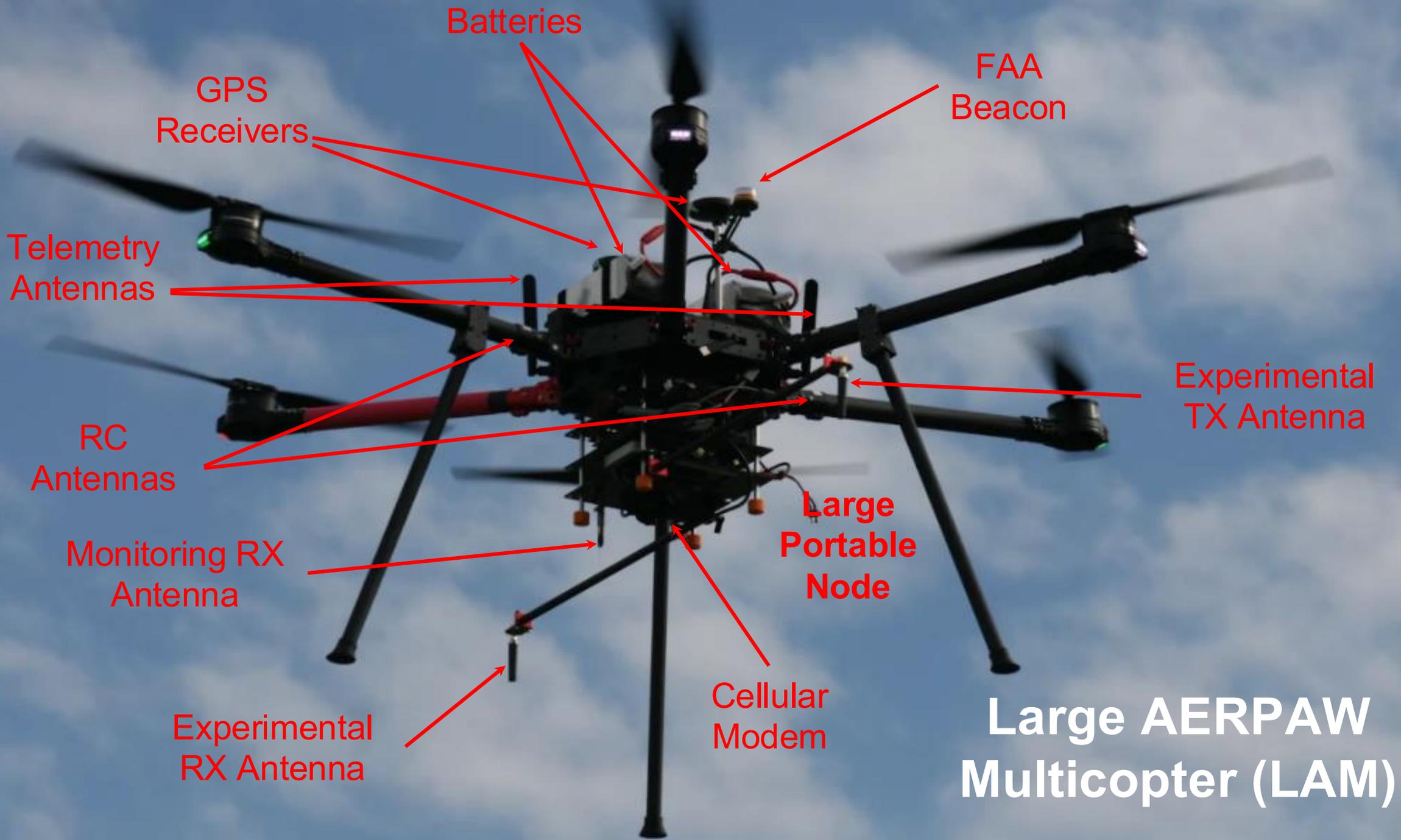


## AERPAW Vehicles



## AERPAW Portable Node Equipment





Batteries

GPS  
Receivers

FAA  
Beacon

Telemetry  
Antennas

Experimental  
TX Antenna

RC  
Antennas

Large  
Portable  
Node

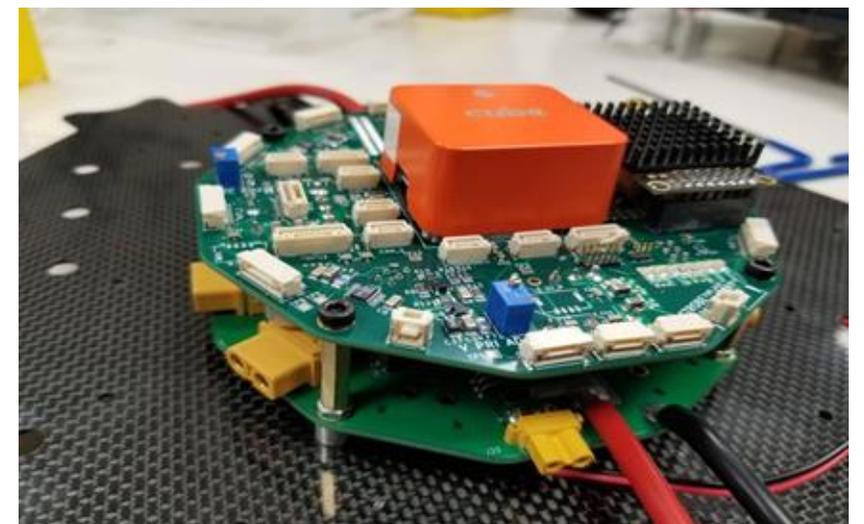
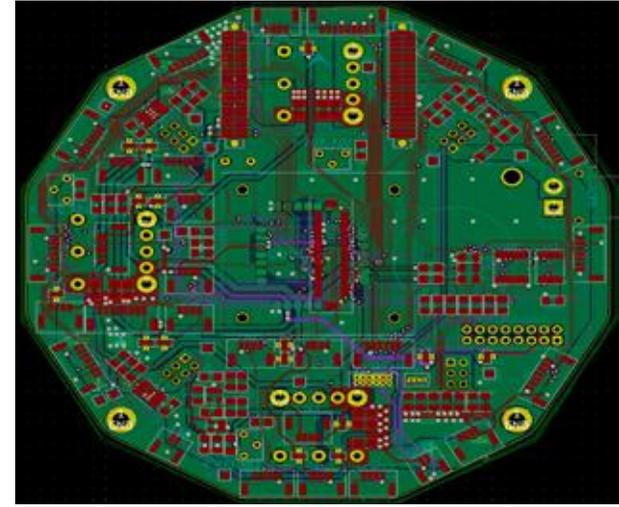
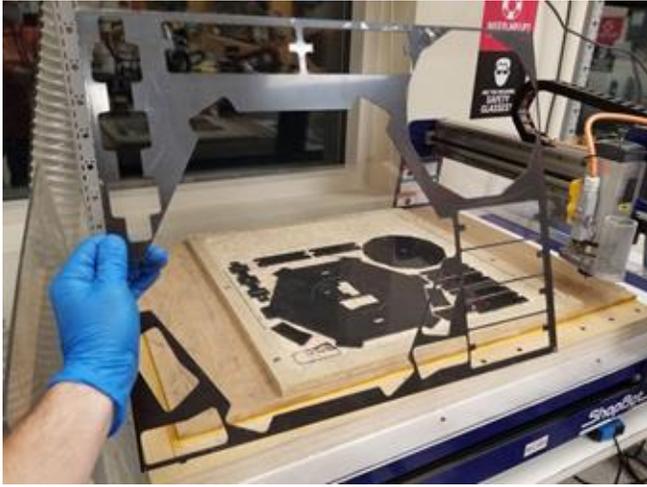
Monitoring RX  
Antenna

Cellular  
Modem

Experimental  
RX Antenna

**Large AERPAW  
Multicopter (LAM)**

# AERPAW LAM Frame and Electronics

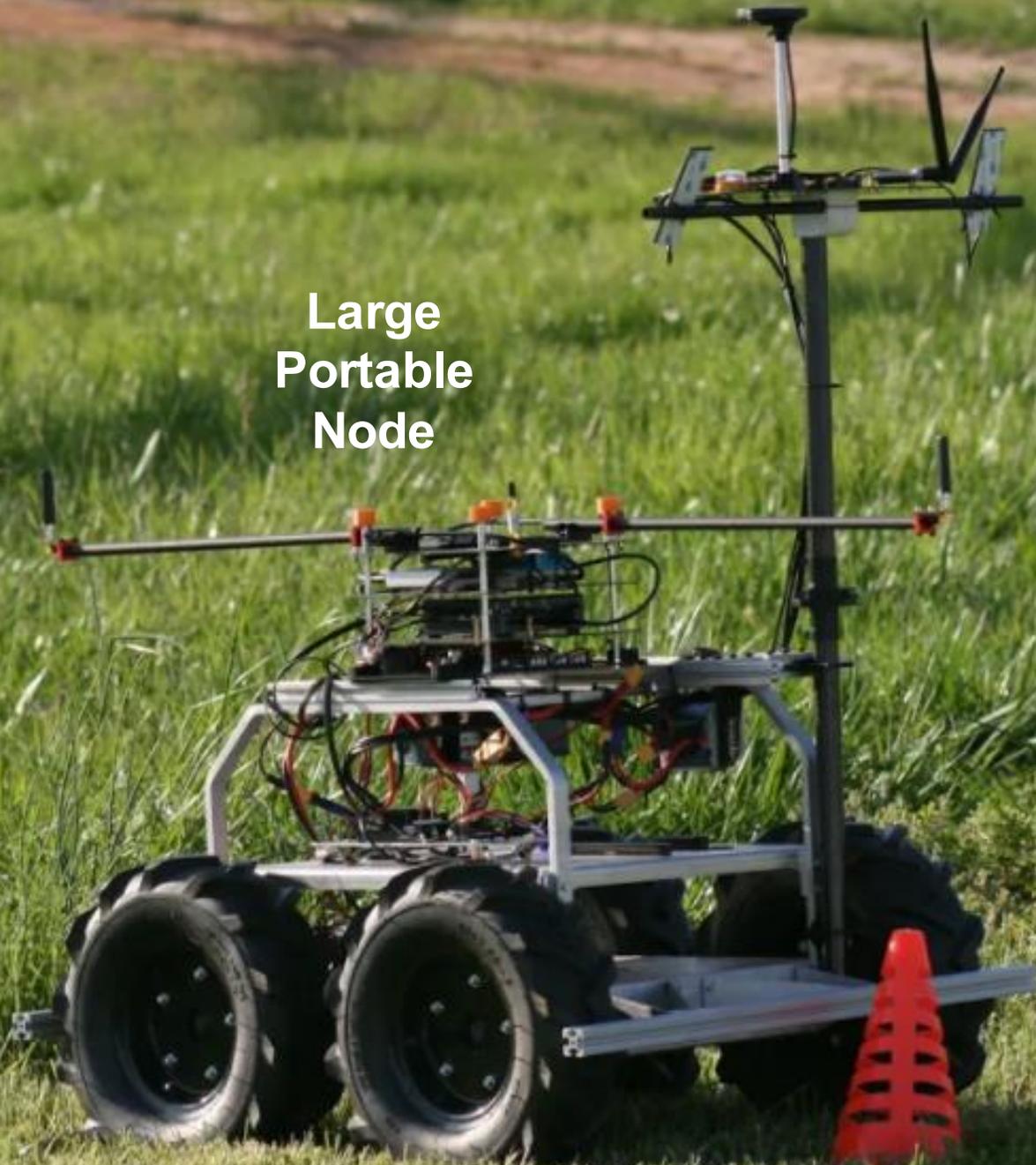


# Small AERPAW Multicopter (SAM)



**Small  
Portable  
Node**

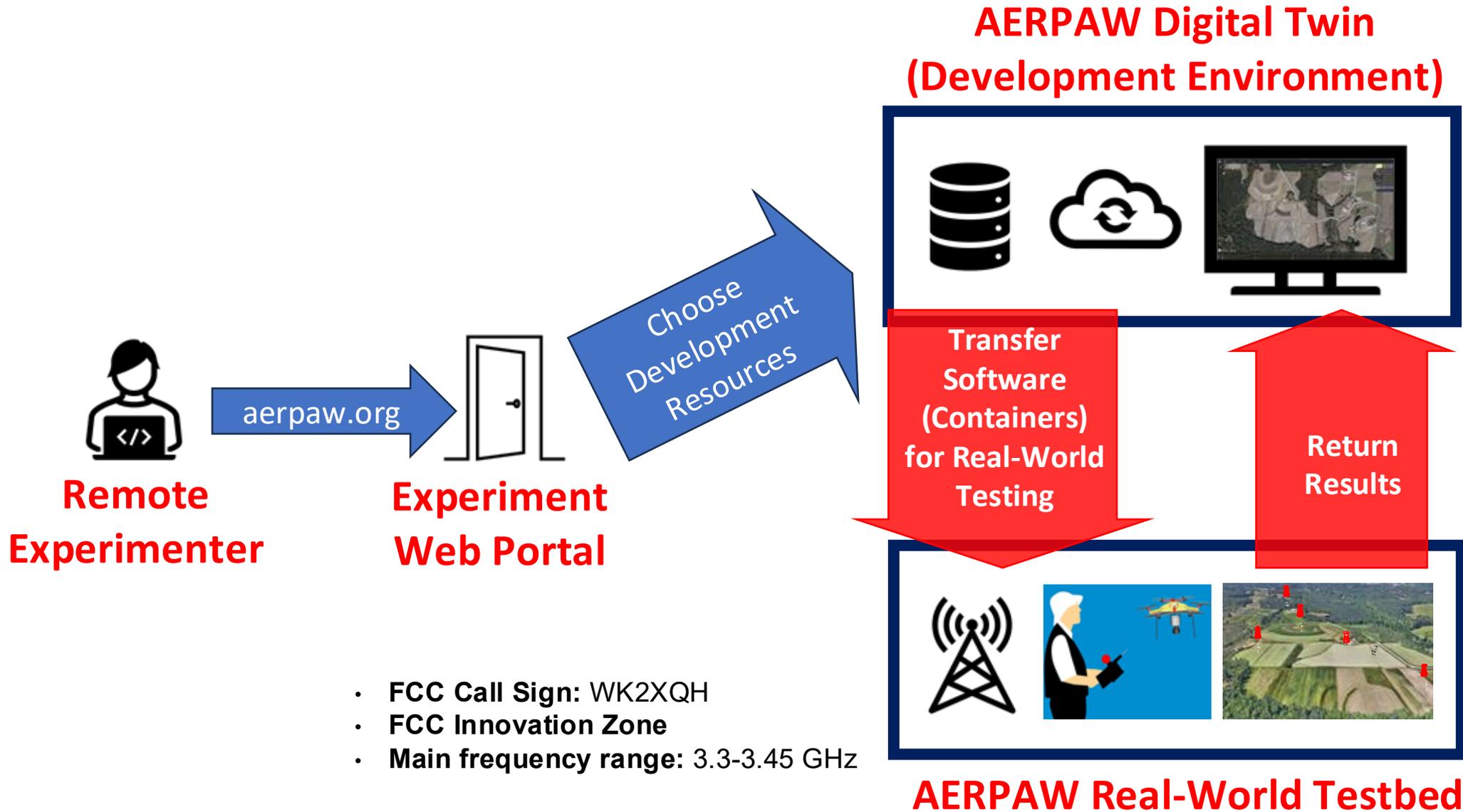
Large  
Portable  
Node



# Helikite Measurements During NC State Packapalooza (Aug. 2022, Aug. 2023)



# AERPAW Digital Twin and Real-World Testbed



# Are you a DoD Organization or Contractor?



We can do testing of your drones and/or radios on our field. Or on your field (if you prefer)



We can develop (especially drone and radio) applications and test them (e.g., remote landmine detection)



# Are you a DoD organization or contractor?

- We can provide training for:



Drones



Flying drones



Building drone



Programming drones



Radios



Digital signal processing



Cellular networks, IoT,  
etc.

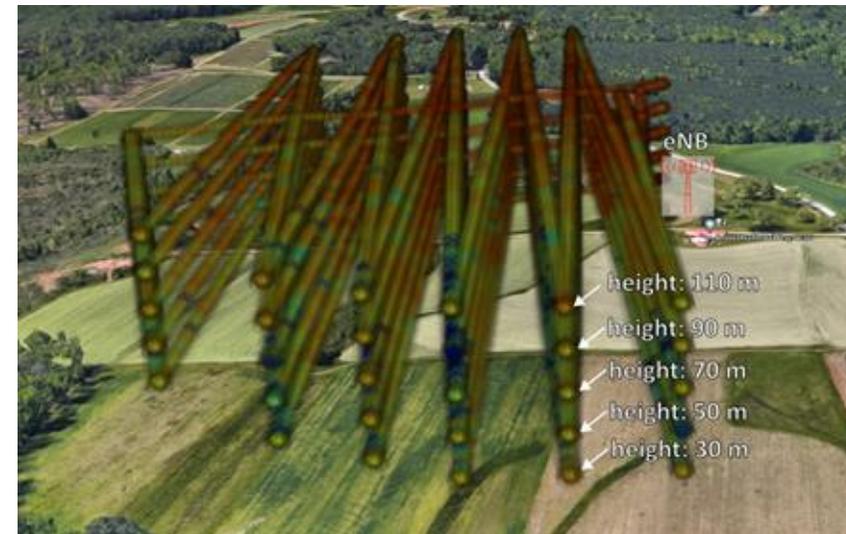
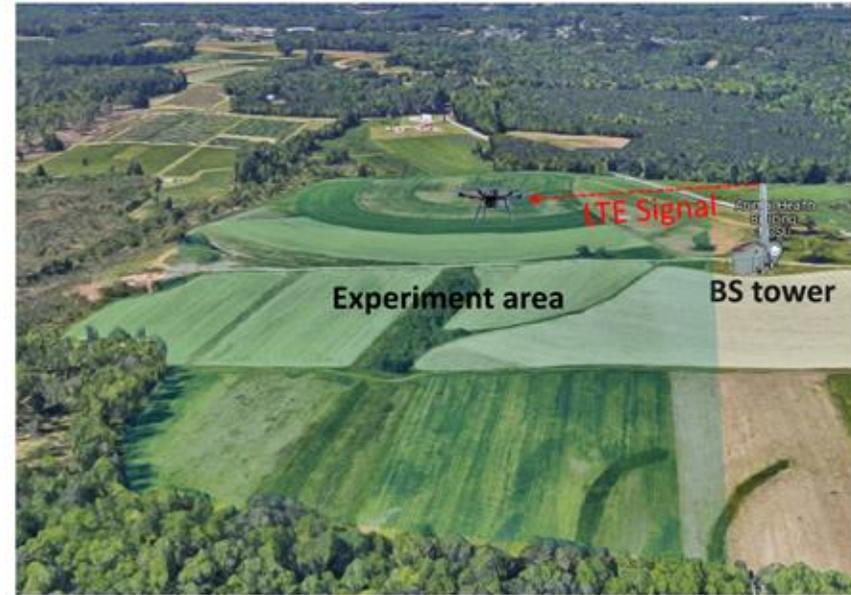


Programming radios



# Are you a Researcher or Commercial Organization?

- We can provide research development (drones and radios) support and testing services:
  - in the digital twin
  - in the testbed



# Do you need a special payload?

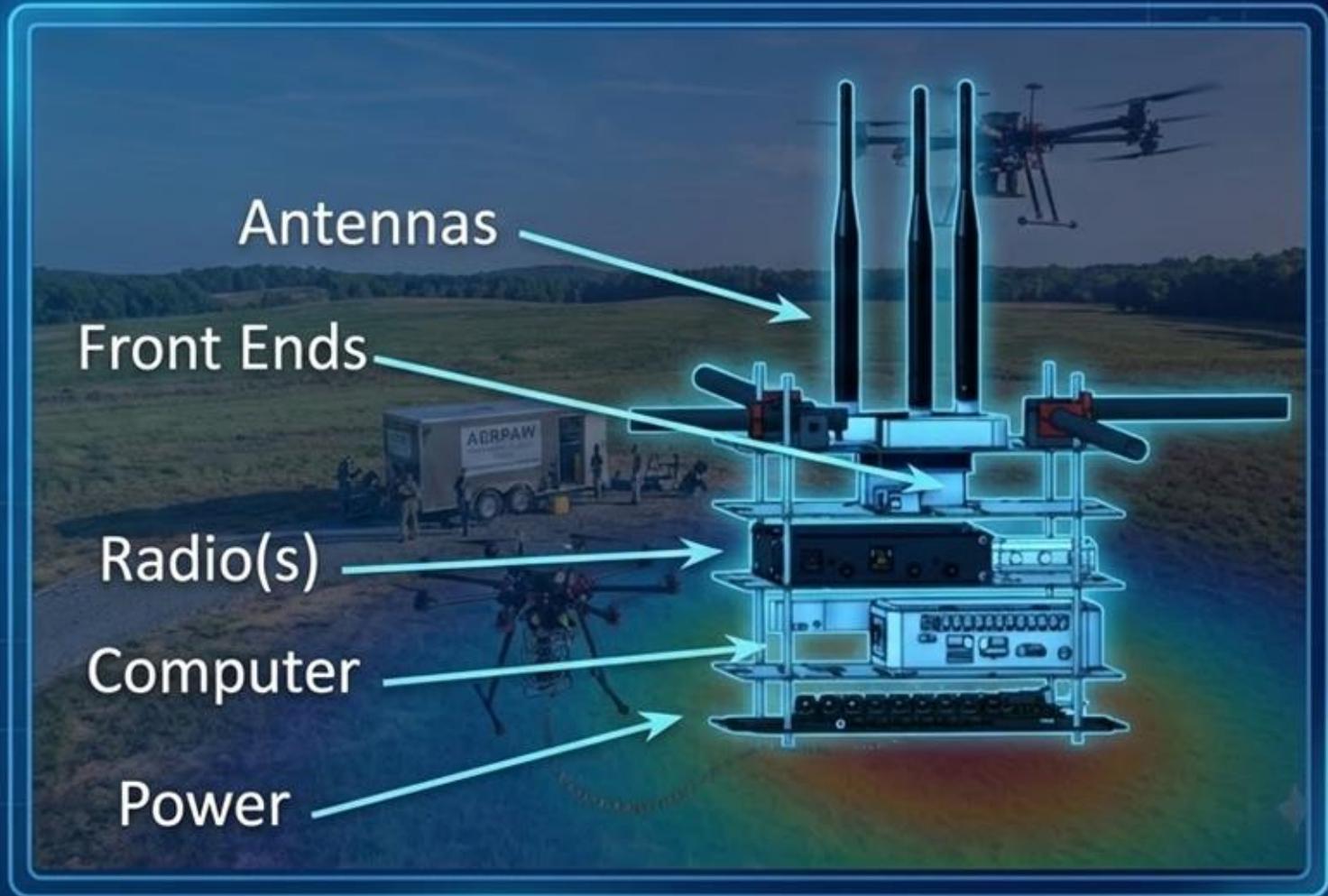


- Flexible design



- Custom radios, antennas, and sensors are easy to integrate

## AERPAW Large Portable Node



# Questions?



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*Minerva  
Lithium*

Nano Mosaic

# Minerva Lithium: Enabling Drone Dominance

Sheeba Dawood  
Chief Executive Officer  
March 2026



# Drone Market & National Security Impact



## Why It Matters

Critical for surveillance & reconnaissance  
Enables autonomous warfare systems  
Reduces risk to human soldiers  
Drives next-gen defense strategy

## Global Drone Market

- ~\$100B+ by 2030

## Defense Share

- Military segment dominates high-value applications (~\$60B+ scale)

## Military Drone Market

- ~\$20–30B today
- ~12–15% CAGR growth

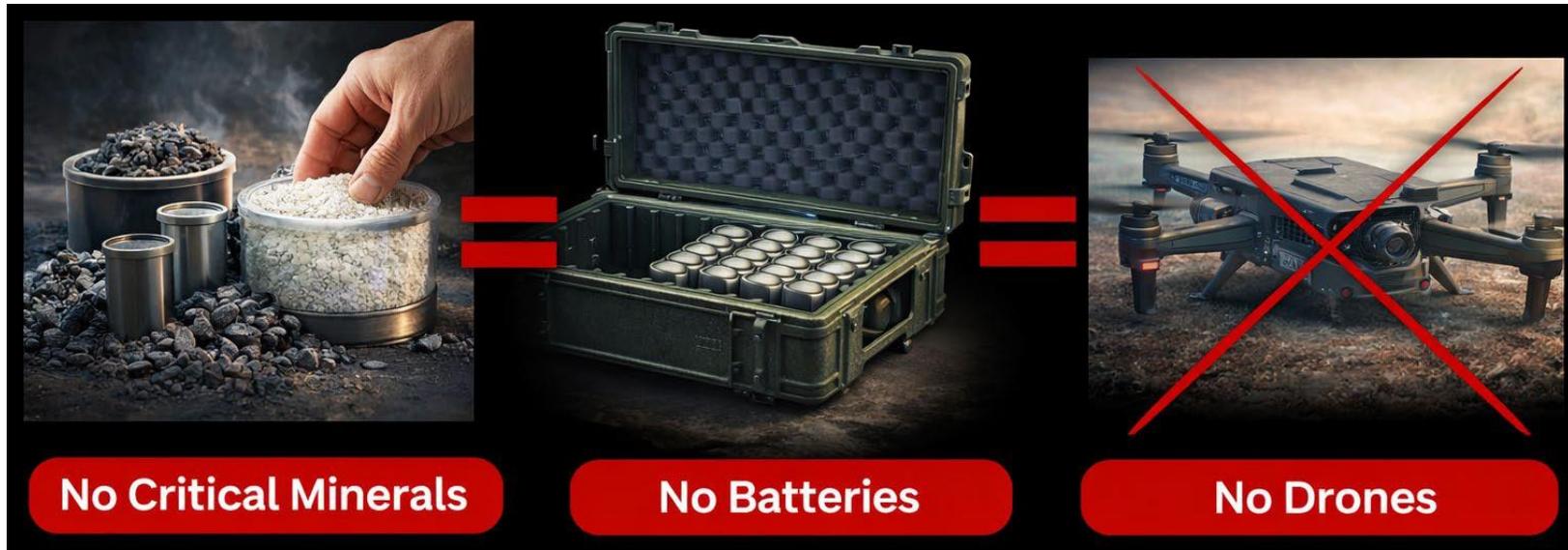
## Battery Dependence

High energy density required  
Lightweight materials essential  
Direct demand for Li, Ni, Co, Mn, Rare Earths

# Supply Chain Challenge

**Drone dominance depends on battery materials —and battery materials depend on critical mineral supply chains.**

**No critical minerals = No batteries = No drones**



# Minerva Lithium advantage

Batteries/magnets → **Minerva Refining** → Battery & Rare earth Materials  
→ Batteries and Magnets → Drone Systems





*Minerva  
Lithium*

**Nano Mosaic**

# Thank you

Contact:

[Sheeba.dawood@minervalithium.com](mailto:Sheeba.dawood@minervalithium.com)

[info@minervalithium.com](mailto:info@minervalithium.com)

[www.minervalithium.com](http://www.minervalithium.com)



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- Mihail Sichitiu, Professor ECE, Co-PI, Aerial Experimentation and Research Platform for Advanced Wireless (AERPAW), North Carolina State University
- Sheeba Dawood, Founder and CEO of Minerva Lithium
- **Bob Skillen**, Founder and Chief Engineer, VX Aerospace
- Paul "Buck" Chambers, MMEC and CEO, Heightened Senses, LLC

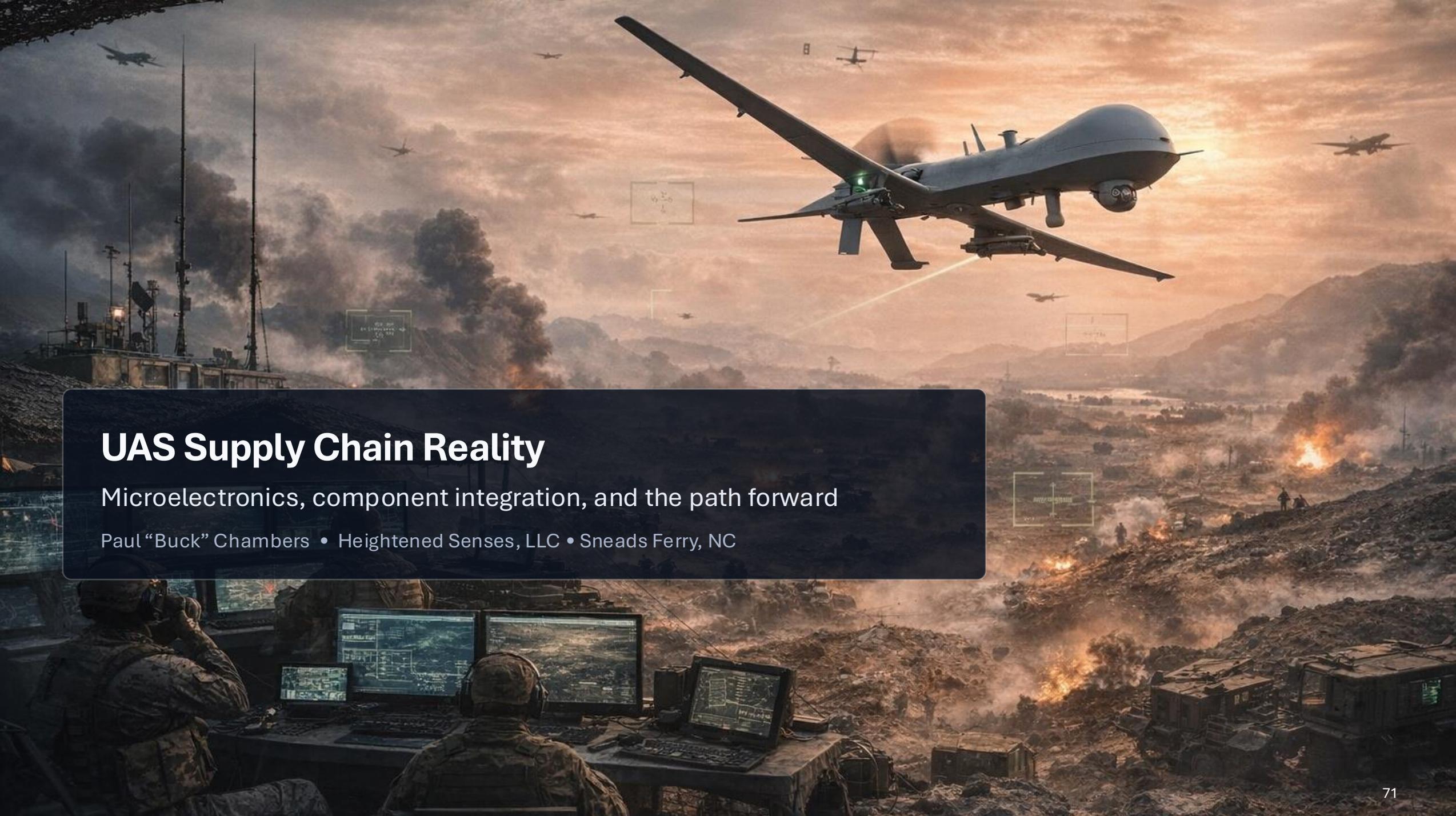


# Drone Dominance Sustainment: Building North Carolina's Industrial Base for Next-Generation Unmanned Systems

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# UAS Supply Chain Reality

Microelectronics, component integration, and the path forward

Paul "Buck" Chambers • Heightened Senses, LLC • Sneads Ferry, NC

# Uncrewed Systems Are Now Operational Infrastructure

- Uncrewed systems are now central to defense operations and mission assurance.
- Demand for capability is accelerating faster than supply-chain resilience.
- The ecosystem must move beyond platforms toward integrated capability.

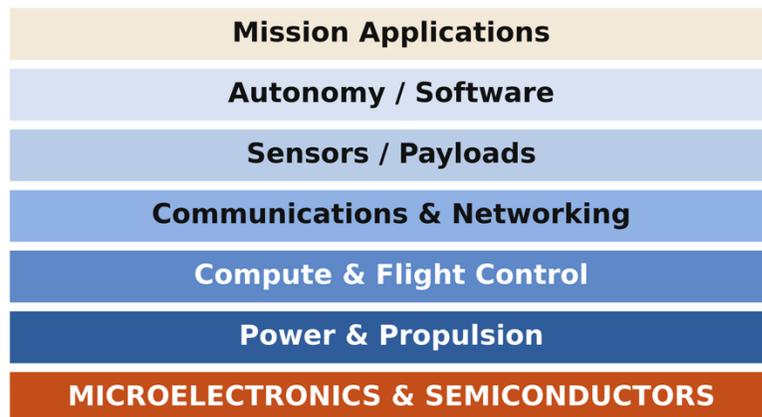
*Operational demand has outpaced trusted component depth.*



**Scale without trusted supply becomes fragility.**

# The UAS Capability Stack

## UAS Capability Stack



All UAS capability ultimately depends on trusted microelectronics and resilient component supply chains.

**Drone capability is a semiconductor problem disguised as an aviation problem.**

- Airframes are only the visible layer.
- Sensors, comms, compute, and propulsion all rest on microelectronics.
- If the component supply chain is fragile, the mission stack is fragile.

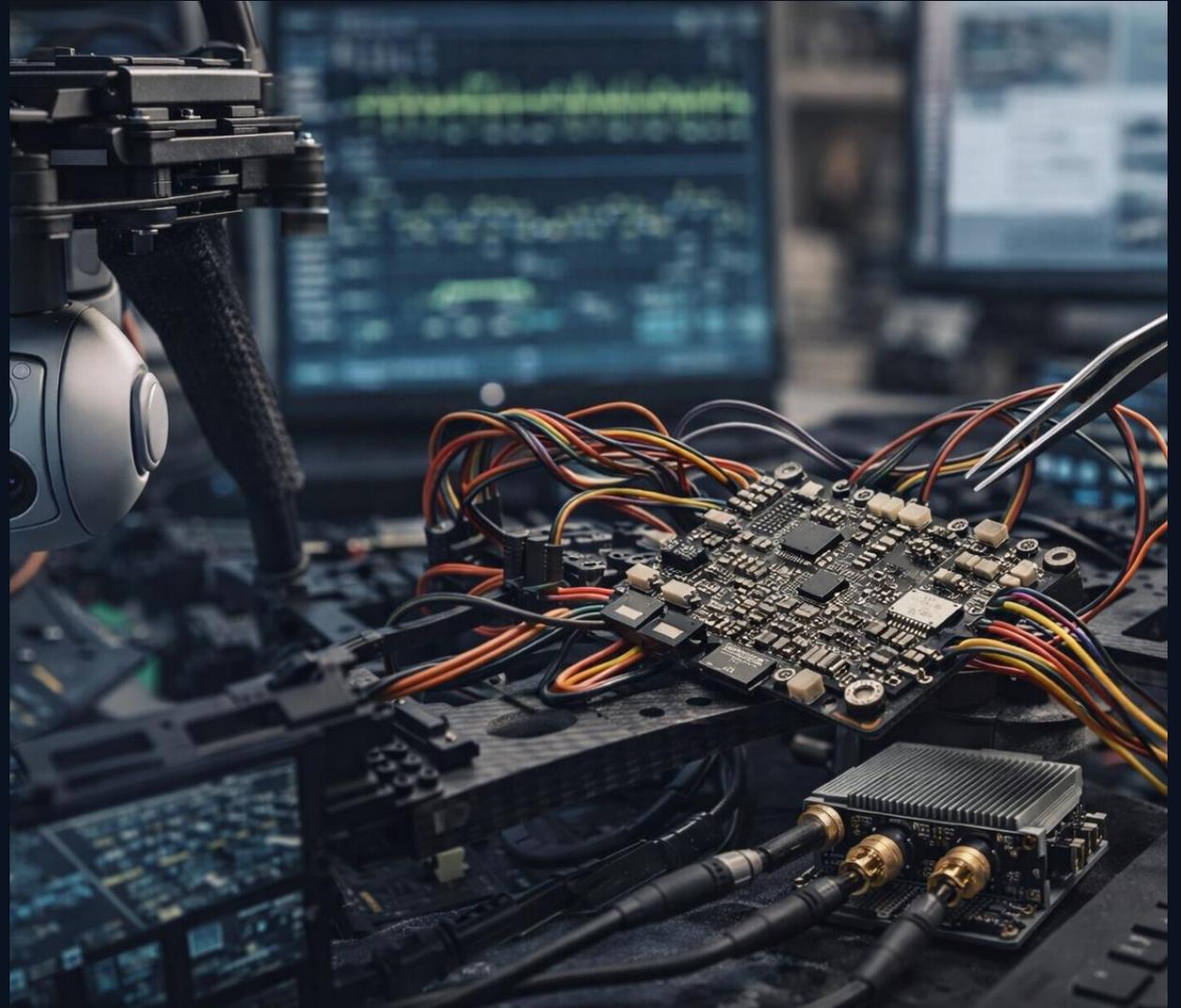
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Every layer above depends on the semiconductor foundation.

# Integration Is the Bottleneck

- Innovation across sensors, radios, propulsion, and autonomy is strong.
- The constraint is trusted sourcing plus reliable component integration.
- Strategic advantage comes from assembling mission-ready systems at scale.

**Integration capacity determines  
time-to-operator.**



## Drone Dominance Will Be Determined Below the Airframe

- Control of microelectronics supply chains
- Trusted component ecosystems
- Integration capability at scale

---

Strategic takeaway: the future belongs to those who can source, integrate, and deliver.

# **Drone Dominance Sustainment: Building North Carolina's Industrial Base for Next-Generation Unmanned Systems**

***Breakout 2: What Can North Carolina Deliver in the Next 90 Days?***

The logo for DISC 2026 features the text "DISC 2026" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is partially overlaid by several interlocking gears of varying sizes, rendered in a light blue color. Below the main text, the dates "MARCH 18-19" and the location "CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA" are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

**DISC  
2026**  
MARCH 18-19  
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

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# **TOUGH STUMP**

*TECHNOLOGIES*

**Corporate Brief**

# ATOS Tracking System

- First Tactical GPS tracking system built specifically within TAK software
- Comprised of three components: Command Link, ATOS Tags & End User Device (EUD)
- No Cellular, No Satellite, No Connectivity, No Problem!
- Operates in UHF spectrum
- Command Link Connects to EUD via Bluetooth and to the Tags via UHF
- Range of 5-30+ km for airborne objects
- Light-Weight (Roughly 2 oz)
- 48-hour Battery Life
- User Configurable in ATAK
- IP68 Battery (Waterproof up to 300 Ft)
- Real-Time GPS Updates
- Withstands Temperatures -40° F to 150° F

## 1. Command Link



## 2. Tracking Tags



## 3. End User Devices



# ATOS Tracking System

## Currently Utilized By:

- USASOC Family of Counter Unmanned Systems
- NIWC USV test directorate
- U.S. Army XVIII Airborne Corps SUAS School
- Customs and Border Patrol
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- DTV Arms
- Red Cat Drones
- AeroVironment
- PDW

## Media links

Parachuting AZ: <https://youtu.be/Qe69Of7sn80>

Parachuting FBNC: <https://youtu.be/0p4a0c9mi9M>

FPV UAS: <https://youtu.be/2UuFVKJKc2k>

Combining ATOS with UAS Video: [https://youtu.be/-Nd05yLby\\_o](https://youtu.be/-Nd05yLby_o)

# Tough Stump University

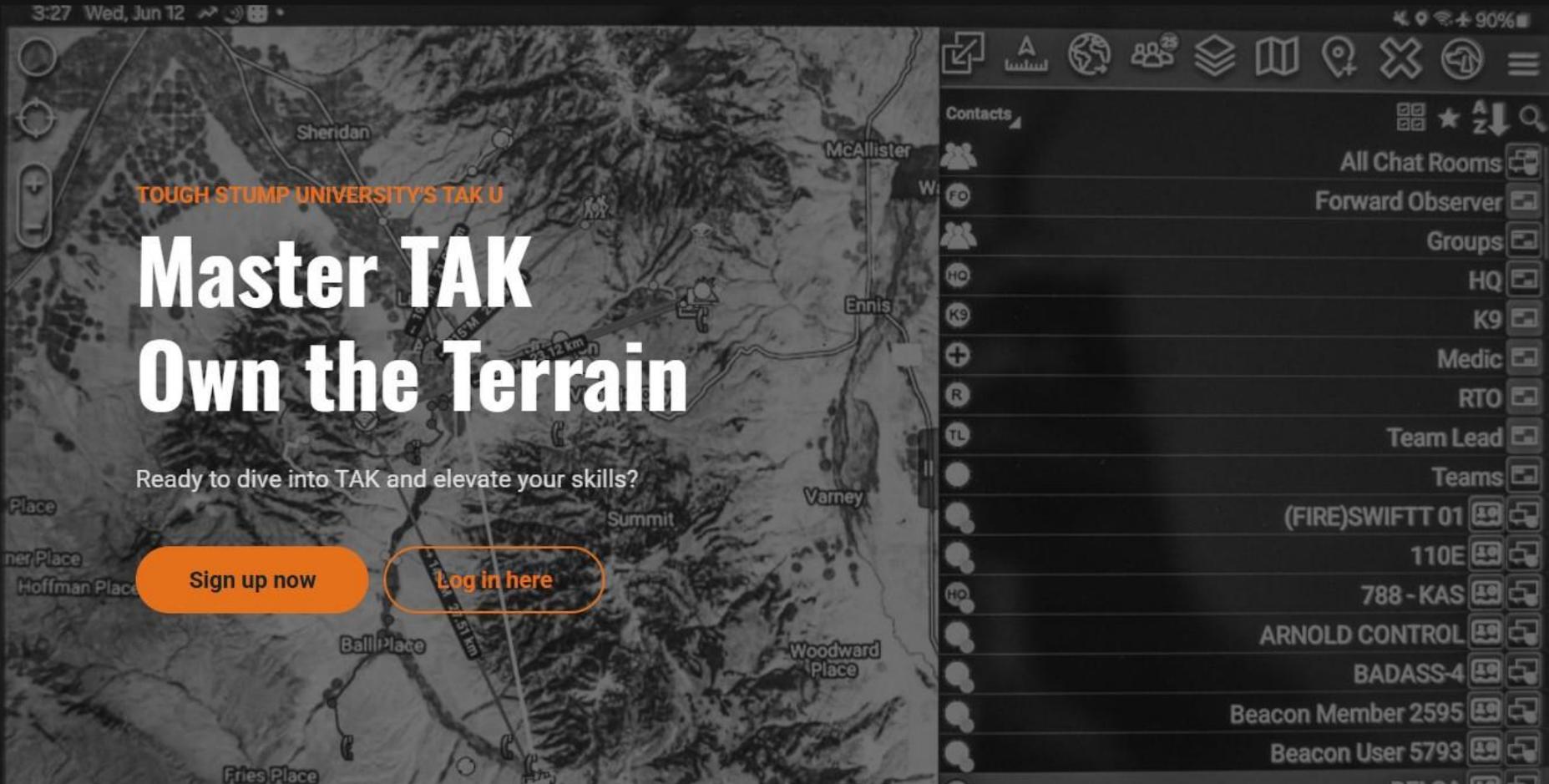


**TOUGHSTUMP** University

[Courses](#)

[Sign in](#)

3:27 Wed, Jun 12 90%



**TOUGH STUMP UNIVERSITY'S TAK U**

## Master TAK Own the Terrain

Ready to dive into TAK and elevate your skills?

[Sign up now](#) [Log in here](#)

Contacts

- All Chat Rooms
- Forward Observer
- Groups
- HQ
- K9
- Medic
- RTO
- Team Lead
- Teams
- (FIRE)SWIFTT 01
- 110E
- 788 - KAS
- ARNOLD CONTROL
- BADASS-4
- Beacon Member 2595
- Beacon User 5793

# Tough Stump University

## Tough Stump University: Where Drones meet ATAK

- 30 + Hours of material
- Courses include ATAK, CIVTAK, and iTAK
- UAS integration instruction through UAS ToolKit
- ATOS tracking system and IFF training
- Sit(x) TAK server training instruction
- Military and civilian parachutist “Jumpman” ATAK training
- New modules from Parrot and EagleNXT coming soon
- Built to scale TAK and UAS training

### COURSES

#### Check out our courses



**iTAK Basic**  
\$49



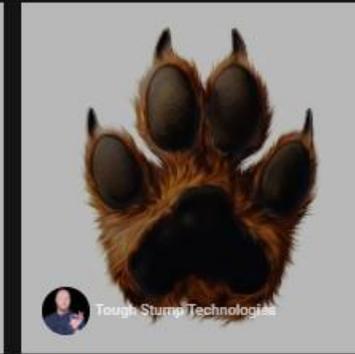
**Jumpman**  
\$25



**UAS Tool for ATAK**  
\$25



**Sit (x)**  
\$99



**ATOS**  
\$25



**TAK U Basic 1 Month Access**  
\$99

# Contact & Follow Us!



For more information visit: [www.toughstump.com](http://www.toughstump.com)  
or  
Email us at: [support@toughstump.com](mailto:support@toughstump.com)

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March 2025



### Raven DOME

(Digital Operations Mobility Environment)

ACUASI (Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration) partnered with Raven Advisory LLC to operate and manage FAA approved UAS Public and Civil COA (Certificate of Authorization) 2024-ESA-15322-COA for training and testing. The COA encompasses 1,100 square miles of airspace.



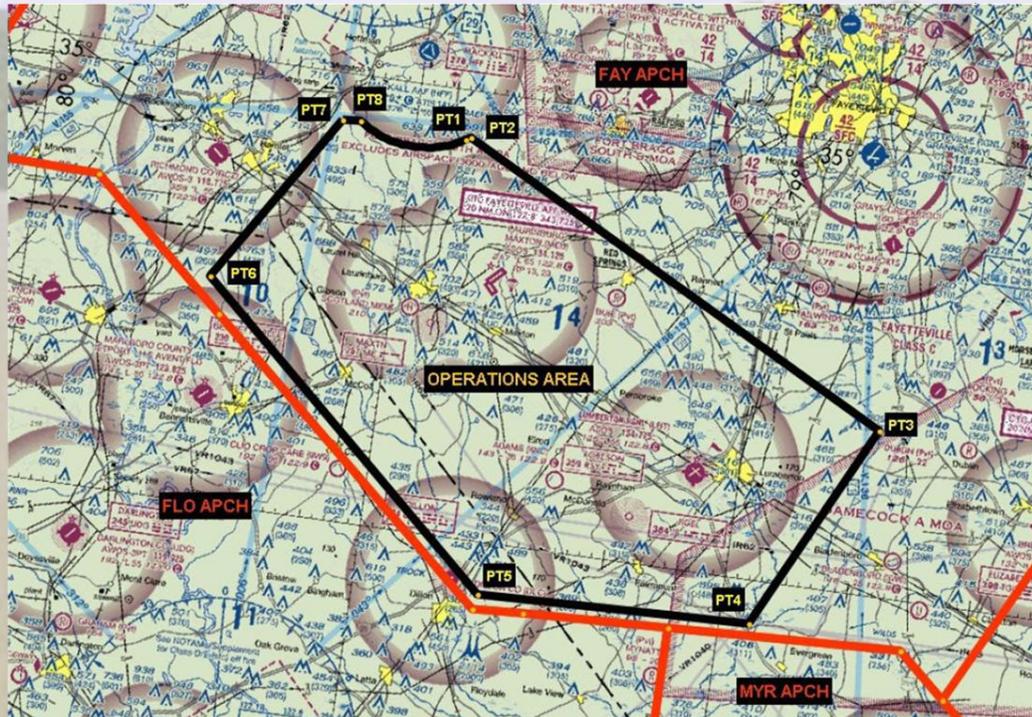
#### Operations Area

Class E and G Airspace

At or Below 6,000 Feet AGL

Within the Area Defined by the Following Points:

- Pt 01 - 34° 56' 36.97"N, 079° 25' 47.56"W
  - Pt 02 - 34° 56' 49.88"N, 079° 25' 21.68"W
  - Pt 03 - 34° 41' 08"N, 078° 49' 14"W
  - Pt 04 - 34° 27' 05"N, 078° 57' 36"W
  - Pt 05 - 34° 26' 30"N, 079° 19' 42"W
  - Pt 06 - 34° 45' 13"N, 079° 44' 51"W
  - Pt 07 - 34° 56' 49"N, 079° 35' 54"W
  - Pt 08 - 34° 56' 55.9"N, 079° 34' 30.14"W
- Then along the HFF Class E Airspace boundary to PT1 as depicted.



### RAVEN DOME

Point of Contact: Sheffield Ford  
[sheffield@ravenadvsvry.com](mailto:sheffield@ravenadvsvry.com)  
(910) 835-5017



Raven manages, uses, and develops the 1,100 square miles of airspace in the DOME for training and testing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) with industry and government agencies providing information through our partnership with ACUASI to the FAA to help them create policy, regulations, and standards that advance the integration of UAS in the National Airspace System.



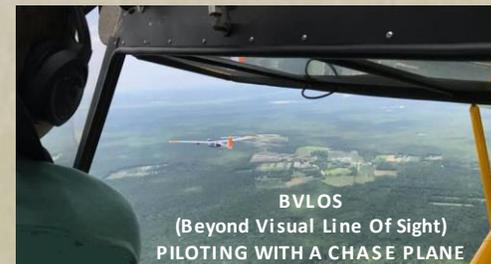
VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT PILOTING



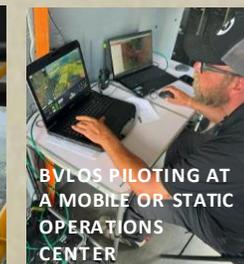
BVLOS DAISY CHAIN PILOTING WITH VO's (VISUAL OBSERVERS) AND OR SENSORS

Point of Contact: Sheffield Ford  
[sheffield@ravenadvsvry.com](mailto:sheffield@ravenadvsvry.com)  
(910) 835-5017  
[www.ravenadvsvry.com](http://www.ravenadvsvry.com)

General Capabilities of the Raven DOME: Raven has ownership of over 1,300 acres of training facilities within the COA; landing areas include dirt, grass, airport paved runways, and an old paved highway in a controlled area; ability to pick-up, transport, and drop objects from flying UAS; training infrastructure that includes multi story buildings, warehouses, fields, wooded areas, small lakes / large ponds, and the Lumber River to support scenarios at multiple locations. In time the DOME will provide layers of digital infrastructure to support a variety of training and testing that will include complex flights such as BVLOS and single operator multi-aircraft operations.



BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line Of Sight) PILOTING WITH A CHASE PLANE



BVLOS PILOTING AT A MOBILE OR STATIC OPERATIONS CENTER



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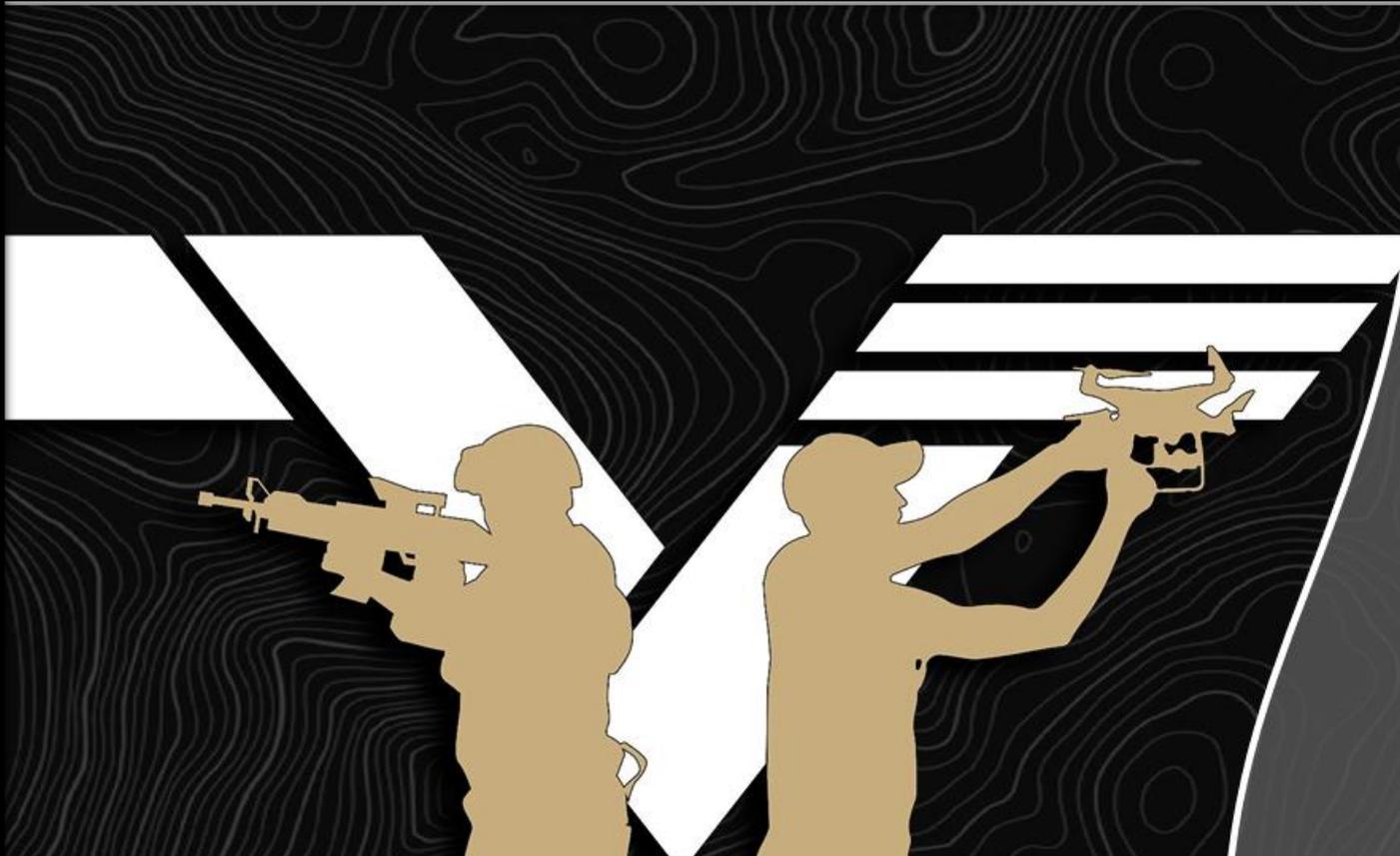


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VETS TO DRONES

## What is the Vets to Drones Program?

Our nonprofit organization is dedicated to helping veterans transition into civilian life by providing them with the skills and training needed to become commercial drone pilots. With the growing demand for drone services, this program will help veterans develop a new skill set that can lead to a successful and rewarding career.

### Our Main Missions.

- Workforce Development
- K-12 Education
- Reforestation
- Disaster Response
- Recreational Therapy

## Workforce Development

Vets to Drones helps veterans prepare to enter the commercial drone industry by providing training and free resources to veterans across the US to ensure their success in the commercial drone industry.

We teach valuable data collection skills including Photogrammetry, LiDAR scanning, Object evaluation, Telephone pole/ tower inspection, Terrestrial surveying, and more to grant each veteran the opportunity to enter into high valued jobs across the US to not only benefit the veterans but also the companies that they will work for.

Our remote pilots are placed at the forefront of many drone companies preferred hire list due to the extensive training provided by Vets to Drones.



## K - 12 Education

Operation STEM Gateway is what we call our commitment to promoting STEM education in K-12 schools by introducing students to the exciting world of drones.

We help to provide hands-on learning opportunities that teach children about the science and technology behind drones, as well as their many practical applications.

We believe that by exposing young students to this emerging technology, we can help spark their interest in STEM fields and encourage them to pursue careers in this growing industry.



## Disaster Response

Our disaster response team provides training, manpower, and support to facilitate quick response and scouting using drones to a variety of natural disasters.

We provide aerial surveillance and scouting for the hardest hit areas as well as views of hard to reach properties to evaluate the extent of any damages. Once the affected areas are targeted we provide boots on the ground support in the recovery efforts.

As the program grows we will continue to deploy to natural disasters. Our most recent response was to Little Rock Arkansas in April 2023.



## Recreational Therapy

Research has demonstrated that drone technology can be a valuable form of recreational therapy for veterans struggling with various mental and physical disorders associated with their military service.

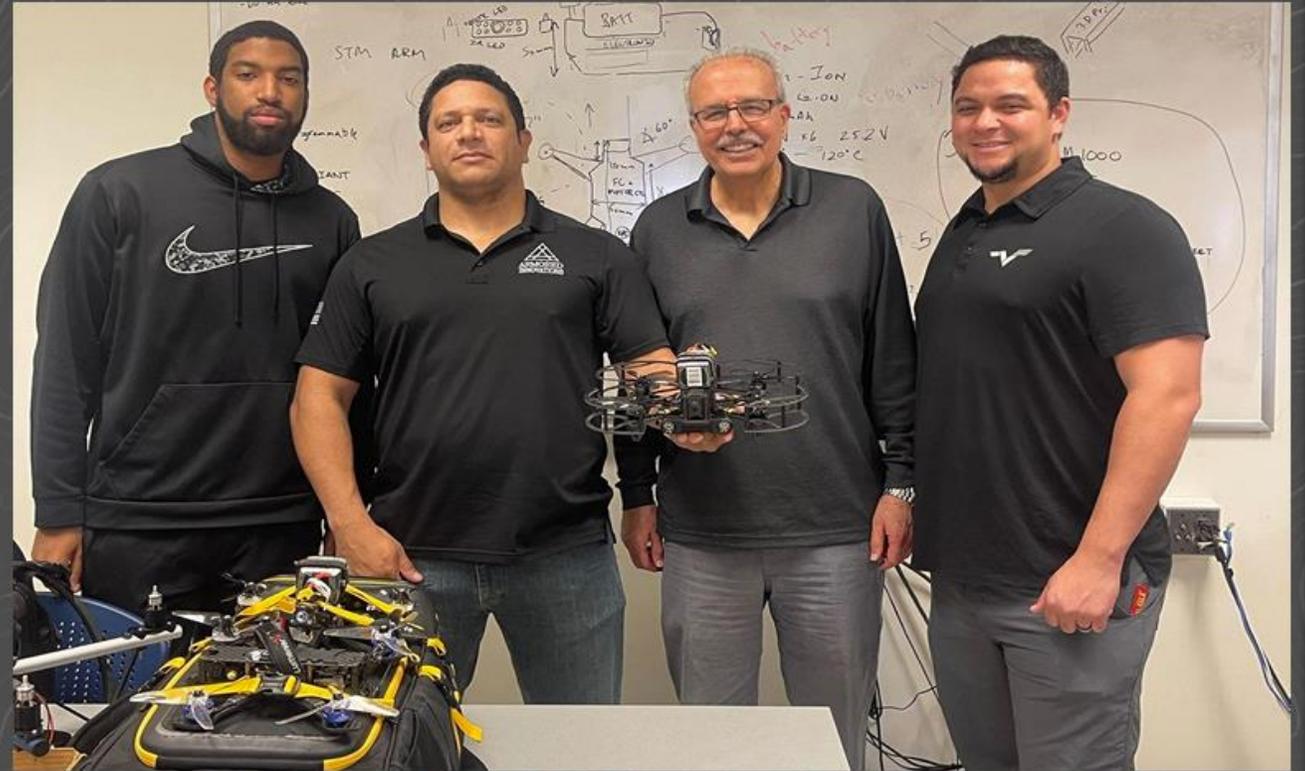
Drones offer a safe and engaging activity that can help alleviate symptoms of PTSD, depression, suicidal ideation, anxiety, loneliness, and other mental and physical health conditions.

Vets to Drones provides an effective method for recreational therapy by providing a safe and engaging environment where veterans can revel in their camaraderie while improving the physical and mental well-being of veterans coping with the after-effects of military service.



## Where do we go from here?

- 1) Expand Our network:** We continuously build relationships with companies, organizations, and individuals who can support and help promote our cause. This includes drone manufacturers, industry partners, government agencies, and other nonprofits working in related fields.
- 2) Leverage technology:** Look towards the future and stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in UAS and surrounding technologies to incorporate them into our training programs. This will ensure that our veterans are receiving the most current and relevant training possible, and will help them stay competitive in the job market.



## Where do we go from here?

### 3) *Build relationships with policymakers:*

Identify and build relationships with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels who are involved in workforce development within their regions and regulating the commercial drone industry. Host and attend meetings and events where they are discussing the latest issues, and engaging with them on social media to help raise awareness of the importance of the UAS industry and the value veterans can bring.

4) *Promote our successes:* We are sharing stories and testimonials from veterans who have completed our training programs and gone on to successful careers across the drone industry. Thus raising awareness of the benefits of drone technology.

**#JustFlyingDrones #VetsToDrones**



# VETS TO DRONES



## **PROBYN 'PROBE' THOMPSON**

- **USAF Pilot: Instructor – Trainer**
- **Univ. of Arizona/NCDPI**
- **Defense: Bus. Dev./ Capture Mgr**
- **CEO: Air Probe UAV (Vet/SB)**

**[PThompson@AirProbeUAV.com](mailto:PThompson@AirProbeUAV.com)**

**Off: 910.325.2415, ext 101**

**Mobile: 910.818.4713**

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## ***Closing Remarks & Next Steps***

