

ALERT BULLETIN

AB 2025:13/8-4

7/1/2025

2223224

TO: FAA (ATM ZLA ARTCC, AUS-400)

INFO: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, AFS-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations, WSA), A4A, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, ATSAP, ATSG, CAPA, IATA, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

FROM: Becky L. Hooey, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

SUBJ: ZLA Airborne Conflict Between UAS and Large Transport Aircraft

We recently received ASRS reports describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the following:

ASRS received a report from a ZLA Controller describing an airborne conflict between a military UAS and a Large Transport aircraft. Reporter stated the UAS was operating in airspace adjacent to the Controller's sector, and was not pointed out, nor was there any coordination of operations. Reporter expressed concern that UAS operations in close proximity to ZLA airspace pose a hazard to flights under ZLA control.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov.



Aviation Safety Reporting System
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



ACN 2223224**DATE / TIME**

Date of Occurrence	202503
Local Time Of Day	1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale	ZLA.ARTCC
State	CA
Altitude - MSL	18000

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Center	ZLA
Make Model Name	Large Transport
Operating Under FAR Part	121

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT Y

Make Model Name	UAV: Unpiloted Aerial Vehicle
-----------------	-------------------------------

PERSON 1

Function - Air Traffic Control	Enroute
ASRS Report Number	2223224

EVENTS

Anomaly	Airspace Violation - All Types
Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly	Conflict - Airborne Conflict
Detector - Person	Air Traffic Control
Result - Air Traffic Control	Issued Advisory / Alert

NARRATIVE 1

I was working ZLA Sector XX/XY combined. The Military had taken the Ocean to a configuration that leaves us with one control extension to work all planes into and out of Southern California to/from the Pacific Ocean. South of this only control extension is W291, controlled by Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC) San Diego. FACSFAC was working a Drone right on the border of their airspace and Sector XY, and never called me with any kind of Point Out, Coordination, or Whisky Alert. The Drone indicated FL186. Aircraft X was descending out of FL190 to cross GOATZ at 160, when it started flashing conflict alert with this Drone that was now violating my airspace, in direct conflict with Aircraft X. I keyed up to give Aircraft X a traffic alert. This control extension is so narrow that vectoring Aircraft X is not possible without violating Warning airspace on either side.

Taking ZLA down to 1 Control Extension, where all traffic into and out of SoCal from the Pacific Ocean is Climb and Dive in a narrow extension that we cannot vector in is already unsafe. Allowing the military to run drones right on the border of this airspace, when they have thousands of miles of open airspace, is ludicrous. There will be a collision one day between a passenger jet and a Navy Operation if this does not change, and the quality of "controller" at FACSFAC allowed to work by themselves does not improve. FACSFAC needs to be held to a much higher standard, and make pointouts on aircraft that are going to enter my airspace. Luck is the only reason that Aircraft X did not crash into this drone.

SYNOPSIS

A Center Controller reported a military drone spilled out of Special Use Airspace and caused a conflict with a descending air carrier. Controller expressed concern that operation of drones near the Control Extension is unsafe and could result in a collision.