

ALERT BULLETIN

AB 2026:8/9-2

3/24/2026

2313724

TO: FAA (ATM ZLA ARTCC, AUS-400, AUS-440)

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. Hooley, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

SUBJ: ZLA UAS/Air Carrier Traffic Conflict Concerns

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 Air Traffic Controller expressing concern about conflicts between government UAS operations and commercial air traffic near the Mexican border. Reporter stated that the UAS pattern of operations "is a daily conflict for all SAN departures." Reporter further stated that commercial aircraft have to be re-routed from their cleared departure procedure, and if that doesn't happen then conflicts occur.

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 Hooley at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooley@nasa.gov.



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



ACN 2313724

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202512
Local Time Of Day 0001 to 0600

PLACE

Locale ZLA.ARTCC
State CA
Altitude - MSL 21000

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

Make Model Name Large UAS, Fixed Wing

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT Y

ATC / Advisory - Center ZLA
Make Model Name Medium Transport, Low Wing, 2 Turbojet Eng
Operating Under FAR Part 121

PERSON 1

Function - Air Traffic Control Enroute
ASRS Report Number 2313724

EVENTS

Anomaly ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly Conflict - Airborne Conflict
Detector - Person Air Traffic Control
Result - Air Traffic Control Issued New Clearance
Result - Air Traffic Control Provided Assistance

NARRATIVE 1

Aircraft X [Large UAS] was at FL210 holding over top of the San Diego/Mexico international border area conducting government operations. This pattern is a daily conflict for all SAN departures. Aircraft Y was a departure climbing to FL190 northeastbound. SCT [TRACON] usually clears these aircraft direct PIEZZ waypoint to get them away from the Aircraft X conflict but Aircraft Y was still on the departure. I made the wrong assumption that Aircraft Y was direct PIEZZ and climbed to FL230. I observed the aircraft just inside the 5 mile radius of Aircraft X for one update.

SYNOPSIS

Air Traffic Controller reported an airborne conflict between a commercial flight on departure climb from SAN and a Government UAS that was maneuvering nearby. Reporter stated the area where UAS operations are conducted poses daily conflicts with SAN departures