9/30/2026 **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** 2026-336/11-70

2402020

To: FAA (ATM ZHU ARTCC, AJV-A)

Info: FAA (AFS-260, AFS-200, AVP-1, AVP-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations, CSA), A4A, AAAE, ALPA, APA, ASAP, ATSAP, ATSG, CAPA, IATA, IBT, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, NATCA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

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

Re: Border Patrol Weapons Testing Concern

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 enclosed deidentified report.

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 2402020

DATE / TIME	
Date of Occurrence	202608
Local Time Of Day	0601 to 1200
PLACE	
Locale	ZHU.ARTCC
State	TX
Altitude - MSL	1000
ENVIRONMENT	
Flight Conditions	VMC
AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X	
Make Model Name	Helicopter
Operating Under FAR Part	91
PERSON 1	
Function - Flight Crew	Pilot Flying
ASRS Report Number	2402020
EVENTS	
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy
Detector - Person	Flight Crew
Result - Flight Crew	Became Reoriented
Result - Flight Crew	Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification

NARRATIVE 1

While flying a helicopter, patrolling the Rio Grande River west of McAllen, TX, near the town of La Grulla, TX, I overheard Person A on the radio asking Person B about the time frame of planned weapon testing in the area. We had not been briefed on any testing that day. After inquiring, I was informed that the military had planned to test their weapon near La Grulla, and also farther west, near the Fronton, TX area, from XA:30 to XH:00. No personnel had been briefed, by the military or organization, about the exercise. No NOTAM was filed. We remained clear of the area for the rest of the flight. I informed Approach Control after landing.

SYNOPSIS

Government helicopter pilot reported military weapons testing along their route had not been coordinated or published in a NOTAM.