





Global Security

Global Security Operations West (GSOW)

The Nevada National Security Sites' (NNSS) counter UAS range location protects national security by offering a premier testbed for uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) and counter-UAS (cUAS) technologies.

The rapid global development of UAS poses a serious threat to the U.S., and the nation must pursue flexible solutions to handle current and future UAS situations. This continuously evolving threat drives the need for an extensive and agile outdoor testbed. With support from the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, the NNSS identified the counter UAS range as a safe and secure environment to develop and test UAS/ cUAS technologies.

In early 2020, coordination for the counter UAS range began, which included servicing two base camp trailers, upgrading power systems,

and installing fiber for secure data transmission. Since then, the addition of an Emergency Communication Network System has also been installed. Located approximately 1.5 hours from Las Vegas and 30 minutes from the NNSS' Mercury basecamp, the counter UAS range is strategically situated in a remote area, clear of high- traffic highways and communities.

NEVADA NATIONAL

SECURITY SITES

The counter UAS range provides a private airspace without any Federal Aviation Administration restrictions. Alternatively, the NNSS holds an Experimental Station License, issued by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result, NNSS controls the airspace and offers a controlled and secured area for UAS/cUAS testing and research and development efforts. For more than 60 years, Port Gaston, part of GSOW, has been an integral testing facility for national security and development of technologies.





Since the counter UAS range airspace is regulated by the NNSS, verification required for UAS flights can occur more quickly than other testing sites. Daily, NNSS and its strategic partners schedule complex, high-hazard flight testing and tracking. With a line of sight of 16 miles one-way, pilots have unique capabilities for training and testing, without facing typical restrictions, including commercial runways or limited testing timeframes. To date, more than 3,000 test flights have

taken place at Port Gaston and more than 5,000 test flights in the GSOW.

Additional capabilities at the counter UAS range include verification of UAS/ cUAS capabilities, customized sensors, and modular UAS payloads for sensors and communications. The many different capabilities of facilities inside GSOW afford a variety of potential users multiple means of secure testing and technological validation.







For more information, visit:

www.nnss.gov

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