

SKYSAFE CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

California State Prison

Correctional Sergeant,
Investigative Services Unit
California State Prison

Special Agent
Correctional Intelligence
Task Force



While originally designed to house over 2,600 incarcerated persons, this California state prison currently houses over 3,000. The medium-security prison comprises five yards that span over 640 acres in total. Correctional staff must ensure the safety and security of incarcerated persons, staff, and visitors, keep the facility compliant with relevant laws and standards, and deal with emergent crises—such as the sharp rise in the frequency and quantity of contraband drops by drone.

The Challenge

Drones have evolved into a unique and distressing threat to prison security. New models are fast, powerful, and discreet, with the capacity to deliver up to 6 kg of dangerous drugs and other contraband for every successful flight. Drug-related deaths in the U.S. are up 623% over the past two decades – with an estimated 9 overdoses in California state prisons every month – making it one of the most dangerous and concerning threats facing prison officials.

The costs are not to human life alone. Recent statistics indicate that one drug overdose can cost a prison over \$24,000 in related expenses, putting an additional burden on already-strained budgets.

The state prison knew they had to swiftly get ahead of the threat before the situation worsened. They sought out a solution to detect, apprehend, and prosecute unauthorized drone operators to address unauthorized incursions once and for all.

The Solution: SkySafe

SkySafe has enabled this prison to predict unauthorized drone incursions, protect lives, and prosecute drone operators, cutting off threats at their source.



Complete visibility

SkySafe's drone detection network is able to identify 95% of drones on the U.S. market, including non-DJI models that other solutions wouldn't detect.



Actionable insights

Pre-flight, in-flight and post-flight data from SkySafe helps security teams act decisively when lives are on the line. SkySafe's detection network pinpoints the precise location of the drone and the operator behind it.



Maintenance-free

The cloud-based solution means no added hardware or software costs, and no maintenance or downtime with automatic updates.



The Results

Previously, the state prison struggled with identifying drones and alerting the relevant personnel to deal with them. SkySafe's cloud-based solution enabled the prosecution of unauthorized drone operators, and complete airspace awareness to protect everyone on prison grounds.



Coverage

Between November 2023 to mid-April 2024, SkySafe detected over 350 drones, 16 of which were determined to be suspicious contraband flights.



Safety

Over 3 months, a variety of dangerous drugs worth \$250,000, including opioids (M30), methamphetamines, and tobacco, were prevented from reaching incarcerated persons.



Prosecution

When a suspicious drone was powered on, a swift alert to the prison's Investigative Officers led to the arrest of its two operators. Both the drone and its payload were intercepted, and additional contraband was recovered from an operator's car.

Contraband drone deliveries are now one of the most dangerous threats to our prison safety. SkySafe helps keep our facilities and people safe with complete visibility to the drones in our airspace – and has already provided real, actionable intelligence that led to the confiscation of illegal drugs before they got into the wrong hands.

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350+

drones detected

\$250K

worth of contraband seized

2

operators arrested

Key Takeaways

Problem

- Fast, frequent drone incursions
- Delayed reaction times
- Limited resources
- No previous expertise

Solution

- Complete visibility
- Data-driven insights
- Maintenance-free, cloud-based solution
- Ongoing commitment to customer success

Benefits

- Resolve and prosecute with historical and real-time data
- Easy setup and user-friendly
- Enabled operator capture and forensic data extraction
- SkySafe experts available at all times to ensure success

