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What we know about the Langley Air Force Base drone incident



Aerial photo of Langley Air Force Base, Jan 22, 2018. Photo by Senior Airman Nicolas Myers. Aerial photo of Langley Air Force ... more >

By The Washington Times Newsroom
Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Langley Air Force Base officials are in the market for special anti-drone nets to protect their tactical aircraft from prying eyes after waves of still-unexplained uncrewed aerial vehicles buzzed the base.

Incident Details:

- In December 2023, Langley Air Force Base experienced drone overflights for more than two weeks
 - A dozen or more drones were involved in the incident
 - The number of aerial incursions fluctuated daily
 - The drones did not appear to exhibit hostile intent
 - The identity of the drone operators remains unknown
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Military Response:

- Military commanders have the authority to protect forces, facilities, and infrastructure
- No action was taken to destroy or disable the drone swarms
- Coordination with interagency partners was required due to the incident occurring on U.S. soil
- The Department of Defense is continuing to analyze the incident

Protective Measures:

- Langley Air Force Base is now seeking anti-drone nets to protect tactical aircraft
- The nets are intended to cover up to 42 aircraft shelters on the flight line
- The goal is to deter and prevent drone intrusions near airmen and aircraft

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- A Chinese national, Fengyun Shi, was arrested for drone activities near Newport News shipyard
 - Mr. Shi captured drone footage of U.S. Navy vessels, including submarines and aircraft carriers
 - The incident occurred on January 6, 2024, about 10 miles from Langley Air Force Base
 - Mr. Shi pleaded guilty under the Espionage Act and was sentenced to six months in prison

Ongoing Concerns:

- The Pentagon is keeping a close watch on such drone incursions
- The incidents highlight potential security vulnerabilities at military installations
- There's increased focus on protecting sensitive military assets from unauthorized aerial surveillance

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