

# UAS SHAPE THE FUTURE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY



By Jamie Gose, UAS Account Manager, Gresco Technology Solutions



**D**rones have been used by the military and other government agencies for decades. Prior to modern-day drones, they were typically larger, more expensive or difficult to operate. Even in the hobbyist world of radio-controlled fixed-wing or rotorcraft unmanned systems, they took a great deal of time, money and skill to fly.

With the high cost and skill level needed to fly them and capture usable data, it hasn't made sense for the commercial or public safety sectors to utilize drones, until recently. Regulation changes over the last few years and companies like DJI introducing user-friendly hardware and software at affordable prices have led to a dramatic increase in drone use in all commercial markets, especially public safety.

There are several common and easy-to-imagine public safety use-cases for UAS. Some uses include search and rescue, traffic collision reconstruction, active shooter investigation, crime scene analysis, natural disaster

response and surveillance. But operating UAS for these applications takes coordination and cooperation from several departments within one organization, as well as outside agencies.

## WORKING WITH GRESKO

To begin a successful drone program in your organization, Gresco Technology Solutions recommends first establishing best practices. Whether starting a new UAS program or growing an existing one, it's important to select qualified pilots, have standard operating procedures, determine a routine flight time for pilots, and apply standard maintenance practices. Just like in any other specialized division, you want the operators to be committed and excited to work with the technology.

It is essential to have clear standardization on a particular platform. Although different drones will be used to fly different missions, pilots must amass time on the sticks and be comfortable on the drone used for their specific mission.

Battery maintenance, firmware updates and maintaining the overall condition of your equipment is vital for being prepared for any mission and unforeseen circumstances. With manned aircraft being involved in several of the same operations as UAS, it is more important than ever to focus on safety, education and training. Gresco Technology Solutions believes drones will have a huge impact in the days to come, and the company is excited to see how the tools are used to help save lives and make you more successful.

With nearly 60 years of experience in the supply chain and more than 60 years of experience in public safety and aviation, Gresco Technology Solutions brings a unique perspective and set of skills to a complex time in the industry. With the ability to mesh decades of industry expertise with deep technical knowledge on the products the company supports, Gresco Technology Solutions helps its customers and





partners navigate the intricate world of acquiring the correct equipment and knowledge needed to safely and efficiently complete the mission at hand.

### SUPPLY & TRAINING

Whether working with public safety officials, electric utilities, disaster relief personnel or other first responders, time is a resource that cannot be wasted. Fortunately, this is where Gresco thrives. With its own private truck fleet and several large warehouses strategically positioned throughout the southeast, Gresco is fully equipped to serve its customers and partners in a time of emergency.

As a standard practice, the company holds considerable amounts of inventory. This allows Gresco Tehnology Solutions to always be prepared for the unexpected and provide critical items at a moment's notice.

To better support its customers and partners, the company has developed a

robust, instructor-led, one-day, Part 107 UAS Ground School and five-day UAS Ground School and Flight School. The one-day course prepares students for the FAA Part 107 Exam to earn the Remote Pilot's Certificate, which is needed to fly drones commercially. The five-day course encompasses the test prep and takes students through best practices, checklists, common applications, stick controls and real-world scenarios.

### SUPPORTING YOU, THE CUSTOMERS

In addition to carrying everything you need to keep your operation in motion, Gresco Technology Solutions also has in-house technical expertise to support you before, during and after your purchase. Over the last several years, as the company has built its UAS team and interacted with end-users, Gresco Technology Solutions

quickly realized the need for a maintenance and repair center. The company currently has four DJI-certified drone repair technicians who handle both over-the-phone and in-person technical questions, maintenance and repair needs.

In the aviation world, Gresco Technology Solutions understands the importance of time before overhaul standards, general routine maintenance and competent technicians. The company's technicians have been through all DJI-required training and continue to build their skills daily through time-blocked research, practice, and continuing internal education and experience.

Gresco Technology Solutions is well positioned to serve its fellow APSA members and the public safety family. Society expects so much from and leans so heavily on first responders, and Gresco Technology Solutions wants you to hold the company to the same expectations. 