



Weaponized Drones Target Baja California Secretary of Public Security's Residence

OE Watch Commentary: On 10 July 2018 two drones equipped with grenades were discovered in the Tecate municipality in Baja California. According to the accompanying excerpted article by a Mexico-state based news outlet, *Jalisco Político*, one of the drones fell in the home of Gerardo Sosa Olachea, leader of the State Secretary of Public Security. Although the grenades did not go off, the State Prevention Police followed emergency protocols and isolated the area. The drones were confiscated, according to the report, and will be analyzed by the Cybernetic Police of the Secretary of Security.

Another state news outlet, *Excelsior*, reported in the accompanying excerpt that Gerardo Sosa released a statement about the incident and described it as “regrettable.” He furthered that these actions are in response to the recent months of major drug and weapons seizures as well as the capturing of criminals. The report notes that the officers who seized the drones stated that one of the drones found in the courtyard of the house was equipped with an audio and video system.

It should be noted that this is the second weaponized drone incident to now have taken place in Mexico. An earlier incident took place in Guanajuato state in October 2017, in which a drone with a “potato bomb” (so called because it is often the size of a potato) improvised IED—consistent with past Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) use of these devices—was recovered from a vehicle during a police pursuit. This latest incident is important to note given the proximity of Tecate to the US-Mexico border (east of the Tijuana-San Diego metropolitan region) and that it is the first known use of weaponized drones to have taken place in Mexico by a cartel group. **End OE Watch Commentary (Keshavarz and Bunker)**

“...it was around 7:00 am on Tuesday when elements of the State Prevention Police assigned to Sosa Olachea’s protection detail reported having seen two drones flying over the property...”

Source: “Envían drones con granadas al secretario de Seguridad Pública de Baja California (Drones with Grenades were Sent to the Secretary of Public Security of Baja California),” *Jalisco Político*, 10 July 2018. <http://jaliscopolitico.com/nacional/justicia/envian-drones-con-granadas-al-secretario-de-seguridad-publica-de-baja-california>

...Gerardo Sosa released a statement stating that they are the product of the strategy against crime. He also said that all three levels of government will work to punish those that violate the law...

Source: “Dron con granadas cae en casa del secretario de Seguridad Pública de Baja California (A Drone with Grenades Falls in the Secretary of Public Security of Baja California’s House),” *Excelsior*, 10 July 2018. <https://www.excelsior.com.mx/nacional/dron-con-granadas-cae-en-casa-del-secretario-de-seguridad-publica-de-baja-california>

...According to the information, it was around 7:00 am on Tuesday when elements of the State Prevention Police assigned to Sosa Olachea’s protection detail reported having seen two drones flying over the property, located in the Los Laureles municipality of Tecate...



Weaponized drone that targeted Baja California Secretary of Public Security's Residence.

Source: SSPE (Mexican Secretariat of Public Security) via Telemundo, <https://www.telemundo47.com/noticias/mexico/Un-dron-con-granadas-aterizo-en-propiedad-del-jefe-de-policia-de-Baja-California-487930411.html>.