

Surveillance LEAPS across the U.S.

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Last November, GovWin [reported on an initiative](#) in Lancaster, Calif., called the Law Enforcement Platform System, or LEAPS. The ambitious program plans to launch a plane dedicated to in-air video surveillance this May. In the midst of looking for more information on that one-of-a-kind program, we came across an [article](#) noting that there are actually more than 60 drone aircrafts in the United States alone. If you've driven on a major highway and noticed a sign that says something like "Speed Limit Enforced By Aircraft," this is where these planes come in.

While these drone aircrafts can be used to curtail speeding motorists on the freeway, their primary role is surveillance, often along border states. For example, in Florida, the Miami-Dade County Police Department uses these planes to monitor the areas surrounding the city. Universities including Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi and the University of Connecticut also use these planes.

Analyst's Take

Although these drone aircrafts may be a bit outside the norm of what many state and local vendors are typically selling to agencies, it is quite possible that they will include surveillance and video equipment that may require some type of connectivity to decipher them once on the ground. Video analytics is a technology that continues to spread as agencies increase their video footprint on cities and counties across the country, and being able to use the video in a constructive way is essential. A recent report by [Analyst Joanna Salini](#), titled [Predictive Policing: Improving Police Operations](#), goes more in depth on this technology.