



## **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Completes Successful Drone Demonstration**

**STRINGTOWN, Okla. (August 16, 2018)** – The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) hosted a successful unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or “drone” demonstration yesterday in Stringtown, Oklahoma as part of the FAA UAS Integration Pilot Program (IPP). The IPP is intended to safely integrate drones into the national airspace system and accelerate economic growth opportunities associated with commercial drone operations. Today’s demonstration focused on important agricultural applications that address the growing problem of feral hogs.

With the help of researchers from Oklahoma State University (OSU), the CNO IPP team operated a small drone, weighing less than 55 pounds - including 10 pounds of feed (dried corn) - to use as bait for an advanced feral hog trap developed by the Noble Research Institute called the BoarBuster™. The operation was conducted within line of sight of the drone pilot. The total roundtrip flight path was around 4,000 feet and demonstrated how drones can be used to improve efficiency and minimize occupational hazards associated with agricultural production. The entire flight operation lasted 10 minutes from take-off (start) to landing (finish).

“It was a history making day at the Choctaw Nation as we began to foster the innovation and utilize a new technology in today’s world,” states Chief Gary Batton.

Feral hogs are a growing problem for the rural and agricultural communities and cause approximately \$2 billion in damage to U.S. land and crops each year. Farmers, ranchers, hunters and national and state parks all feel the effect of this damage. They pose risks for disease transmission among livestock, pets and humans, while competing for resources with native wildlife and contaminating water supplies.

Also, this week the CNO team including Intel - flew night missions over tribal property using a night vision camera mounted on an Intel® Falcon™ 8+ drone. This application could be used to search for lost cattle, as well as learn more about the habits and tendencies of local wildlife. In addition, Intel performed the first public demonstration of

Open Drone ID, an open standard that offers a potential solution for the remote identification and tracking of drones.

Future missions for the CNO IPP team include advanced drone operations – including those beyond visual line of sight of the drone operator - for agricultural applications, public safety and infrastructure inspections, safe operations over people and more night operations. The CNO IPP team also plans to identify the necessary safety infrastructure to enable more advanced operations.

### **About the UAS IPP Program**

The Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Integration Pilot Program (IPP) is an opportunity for state, local, and tribal governments to partner with private sector entities, such as UAS operators or manufacturers, to accelerate safe UAS integration. The program will help the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) craft new enabling rules that allow more complex low-altitude operations by:

- Identifying ways to balance local and national interests related to UAS integration
- Improving communications with local, state and tribal jurisdictions
- Addressing security and privacy risks
- Accelerating the approval of operations that currently require special authorizations.

The Program is expected foster a meaningful dialogue on the balance between local and national interests related to UAS integration, and provide actionable information to the USDOT on expanded and universal integration of UAS into the National Airspace System.



*Photo of drone used at today's demonstration.*

Additional videos and photos are available upon request.

### **About the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**

The Choctaw Nation is the third largest Indian Nation in the United States with close to 200,000 tribal members and 9,000 employees. The first tribe over the Trail of Tears, the historic boundaries are in the southeast corner of Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation's vision, "Living out the Chahta Spirit of faith, family and culture," is evident as it continues to focus on providing opportunities for growth and prosperity. For more information about the Choctaw Nation, its culture, heritage and traditions, please go to [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com).

For more information about the Choctaw Nation UAS IPP program please visit <http://www.cnoaa.biz/>

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