



2013-04

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS
IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

WHEREAS, our nation and communities continue to face an ever evolving public safety concern and criminal threat, America's law enforcement community must continue to evolve and encourage the use and utilization of the most agile and responsive technologies and capabilities, and;

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association is a national leader in the effort to lead, protect, and serve our communities and is committed to doing our part to keep our people and communities safe and secure, and;

WHEREAS, emerging technology has allowed for the development of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), which allow for quick and immediate deployment and subsequent enhancement of search, rescue, and tactical situational awareness for law enforcement officers, and which allow officers to improve their decision-making and save lives while simultaneously improving officer safety, and;

WHEREAS, unmanned aircraft systems can be operated safely away from other air traffic, coordinated with local air traffic control, and allow for the quick establishment of a restricted operating zone below 400 feet above ground level using standardized policies and procedures approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and;

WHEREAS, this Resolution supports the Airborne Law Enforcement Association (ALEA), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Sheriffs' Association to work in concert to support the use of unmanned aircraft systems and develop a model policy for the use and deployment of UAS assets, and;

WHEREAS, unmanned aircraft systems provide invaluable use for mandated search and rescue responsibilities for Sheriffs in 44 of the 50 States in this country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association will bolster and encourage efforts by the Federal Aviation Administration and other relevant Federal executive branch agencies to immediately evaluate, field, and allow the employment of unmanned aircraft systems in support of America's law enforcement.