Skydio X10D: the new tactical ISR Drone of the U.S. Army

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San Mateo (California) Skydio, the leading U.S. drone manufacturer and world leader in autonomous flight technology, has announced the delivery of systems for the **Short Range Reconnaissance (SRR) Program** of the U.S. Army. With this achievement, the **X10D** model is the first—and to date only—system to have effectively entered service within the reference program of the American Army, reinforcing the company's position as a benchmark for innovation in the field of remotely piloted aerial systems.

A delivery in record time

The news is significant not only for the technological quality of the drone but also for the speed with which it was delivered. Skydio has equipped a **Transforming in Contact (TiC)** unit, in the phase of imminent operational deployment, with hundreds of X10D systems. The delivery took place in just **five days** from the signing of the contract, demonstrating the production and logistical capacity achieved by the Californian company.

"Production readiness is deterrence," emphasized Adam Bry, co-founder and CEO of Skydio. "By investing in our production lines, we can accelerate the delivery of decisive capabilities and confront our adversaries with a higher cost in attempting any hostile action."

The Hayward (California) factory—one of the largest drone production facilities outside China—has reached the capacity to produce over **1,000 units per month**, with assembly times reduced to just **9 minutes per drone**. With the recent delivery of its **55,000th system**, Skydio demonstrates having reached industrial maturity capable of supporting large-scale operations.

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Cutting-edge technological features

The **Skydio X10D** was designed with the aim of offering a complete ISR package at the tactical level, equipping infantry units with tools previously available only at higher command levels.

Main features include:

- **Next-generation sensor package**: 48 MP telephoto camera, 50 MP wide-angle module, and **Teledyne FLIR Boson+** thermal sensor, capable of detecting temperature differences with sensitivity below 30 mK.
- **Resilience against electronic warfare**, thanks to the combined use of artificial intelligence and autonomous navigation, with the possibility of "vision-only" return even in the absence of GPS.

- **NightSense night autonomy**, for operations in total darkness, thanks to integrated visible or IR lighting modules.
- **Modular and open architecture**, with four slots for additional payloads, compatibility with RAS-A and MAVLink protocols, and the possibility of integrating third-party controllers.
- **IP55 certified robustness**, allowing operation even in adverse weather conditions.

With a maximum speed of 45 mph (over 70 km/h) and a deployment time of less than 40 seconds, X10D is designed for fast-paced and high-tempo operations.

Organic ISR for every team

One of the strengths of the SRR program is the ability to put advanced ISR capabilities directly into the hands of small operational units.

The X10D indeed allows for **immediate surveillance and reconnaissance** on the ground, even in scenarios characterized by **GPS denial** and strong radio interference. High-resolution images and thermal data allow for threat identification, movement monitoring, and rapid information sharing through tactical networks.

As stated by **Lieutenant Colonel Frank P. Mease**, commander of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division:
"*The integration of small autonomous drones will give our unit commanders a unique advantage, increasing situational awareness and providing Marines with a clear combat edge.*"

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Portable and compact, the system can be carried in a team backpack and launched on-demand. In this way, each unit can rely on its own "eye in the sky" without having to depend on higher resources, ensuring greater flexibility and rapid decision-making.

Focus on base defense

The capabilities of the Skydio X10D are not limited to supporting maneuver units. The company has indeed developed specific solutions for the **defense of military and governmental installations**.

Thanks to automatic patrol flights, sensor-triggered takeoff functions, and continuous monitoring capabilities, the X10D can cover large and complex areas 24/7, reducing response times to potential threats.

A single operator can manage multiple drones simultaneously, ensuring simultaneous surveillance of different areas from a central station. This function multiplies the effectiveness of base protection and reduces risks for personnel.

The use of perimeter ISR technology represents a paradigm shift: from physical patrols to integrated systems that cover every corner of an installation, day and night, with real-time thermal and visual images.

Autonomy and ease of use

Another distinctive element of the X10D is its **ease of use**. The onboard artificial intelligence manages navigation, obstacle avoidance, and flight in complex environments, reducing the cognitive load on operators. After a few hours of training, any soldier can conduct complex missions with the same confidence as an experienced pilot.

Mission capabilities include:

- **Scout**, to provide mobile overwatch for convoys or patrols.
- **Subject Tracking**, to automatically follow subjects of interest.
- **Crosshair Coordinates**, to identify and geolocate points of interest.
- **Onboard 2D/3D Mapping**, to generate real-time maps without additional systems.

These functions transform the drone into a force multiplier, enhancing the operational efficiency of units.

A capability already global

Skydio has already delivered drones to all branches of the U.S. Department of Defense and to **25 allied nations**. The combination of **large-scale production**, **dual-use architecture**, and compliance with security requirements (NDAA and Blue UAS) ensures that X10D is a platform ready not only for American armed forces but also for NATO and international partners.

In a context where electronic warfare and access denial (A2/AD) represent a growing threat, the system offers resilience and ISR continuity, strengthening the ability of Western forces to maintain informational and tactical superiority.

Conclusion

With the delivery of the first X10D within the Tranche 2 of the SRR Program, Skydio confirms itself as a central player in the development of next-generation tactical drones. The system combines advanced ISR capabilities, modularity, and robustness with rapid deployment times and unprecedented ease of use.

From **tactical reconnaissance** to **base defense**, to integration with command and control systems, X10D presents itself as a tool designed for modern warfare, capable of ensuring **informational superiority and force protection** even in the most contested scenarios.

News link: https://www.skydio.com/solutions/national-security