

After crash on White House lawn, Obama urges move on drone rules

By JOSH LEDERMAN and CALVIN WOODWARD
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama says the wayward quadcopter that crashed harmlessly on the White House grounds shows that the U.S. must update its laws to manage the expanding frontier of commercial and consumer drones and ensure only good things come in these small packages.

It's his own administration that has lagged on the matter. Both Congress and the drone industry have pressed for rules and clarification as the technology of civilian drone use grows apace and the small unmanned craft become ever cheaper.

Obama, in a CNN interview from India, likened the 2-foot-long quadcopter that crashed on the White House lawn to one that could be bought at Radio Shack, which lists them from \$50 to \$700.

"We don't yet have the legal structures and the architecture both globally and within individual countries to manage them the way that we need to," Obama said Tuesday. Part of his job in his final two years in office "is seeing if we can start providing some sort of framework that ensures that we get the good and minimize the bad."

The Secret Service released no further details on the drone operator whose hapless adventure in the middle of the night Monday set off an emergency White House lockdown. The man stepped forward hours after the episode and appeared to convince investigators that the extraordinary breach of presidential security — and of existing rules for drone flights — was an innocent mistake.

Even so, the errant flight pointed to vulnerabilities in defending against small, low-flying threats as well as the risks, already becoming common, of hobbyist drones going astray in populated places or near airports.

The Federal Aviation Administration, pressed by Congress, had wanted to release proposed rules for small drones by the end of 2014. To the dismay of the



Members of the Secret Service search the grounds of the North Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday.

drone industry, that process is now dragging into 2015. Even after rules are proposed, it is likely to be two or three years before regulations become final.

As it now stands, hobbyists can fly drones if they keep them under 400 feet in altitude, 5 miles from an airport, always within sight and not within a highly populated area. Commercial use is largely banned, with only a small number of companies permitted to use them for inspections and aerial photography.

Lethal drones have become an important part of the U.S. arsenal, used to attack enemy positions. Their civilian cousins can be used for inspecting crops and weather conditions, conducting surveillance in other many forms and even delivering packages. "Incredibly useful functions," Obama said.

Congress wanted rules for small drones in place last year and a larger framework by this September. The FAA has been waiting for the White House to approve a proposal for rules that would clear the way for small, commercial drones flights. Regulations for larger drones aren't expected anytime soon.

Separately, the White House has been



This handout photo provided by the U.S. Secret Service shows the drone that crashed Monday onto the White House grounds in Washington.

working on an executive order to address privacy issues raised by drones and had expected to release that order six months ago. But that has not happened.

Obama told CNN's Fareed Zakaria he's "assigned some of the relevant agencies to start talking to stakeholders and figure out how we're going to put an architecture in place that makes sure that these things aren't dangerous and that they're not violating people's privacy."

Pot shop off limits to military members

OLYMPIA, Wash (AP) — Dozens of recreational marijuana businesses in Washington state have been sent letters from the military saying the shops are off limits to all members of the armed forces, an official said Tuesday.

The letters, dated Jan. 21, say military personnel will be indefinitely prohibited from entering such a business unless its owner agrees to stop selling substances similar to marijuana.

A total of 86 letters have been sent to businesses with licenses to sell recreational marijuana under voter-approved Initiative 502, said Joe Kubistek, a spokesman for Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

"Despite the passage of Initiative 502, the use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of marijuana remains illegal for all service members, at all times and locations," Kubistek said in an email.

Hilary Bricken, a Seattle attorney, said two of the marijuana businesses she represents had received the letters. She said the shops have no responsibility to inquire about the military status of their customers, but noted that some operators were concerned about repercussions if they don't respond.

"The Army is totally powerless to do anything to these businesses, but that doesn't stop my clients from freaking out," she said.

Kubistek stressed that letter is a courtesy notification to the businesses.

"The Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board recognizes these businesses were established for the purpose of selling and distributing marijuana, within state guidelines, and had no intention of interfering with their business operations,"

"Marijuana remains illegal for all service members."

— Joe Kubistek
Spokesman, Joint Base Lewis-McChord

he wrote.

The letter states that shops have 30 days to prevent evidence to the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board at Joint Base Lewis-McChord — which oversees military personnel in the region — that the businesses agree to stop selling the substances to military personnel.

However, Kubistek noted that the letters are similar to ones the military is required to send to any businesses deemed to be harmful to members of the military, and that the onus is on military members to know they should not to go there, not for shops to be required to determine whether their customers are military or not.

A list of off-limit businesses on the base's website range from a payday lending office in Bremerton to a nightclub in Federal Way.

Kubistek said notification letters are sent to businesses when the board determines that certain conditions exist involving such things as drugs, prostitution, discriminatory practices, or liquor violations like serving people who are underage.

"The intention of that notice or timeframe is to give them the opportunity to rebut the off-limits designation, if they want to," Kubistek said during a phone interview.

43k Oregonians still waiting on Medicaid applications

PORTLAND (AP) — About 43,000 low-income Oregonians are waiting for their Medicaid applications to be fully processed, state health officials say.

The Oregon Health Authority says some of the applications came through the federal government's portal and have been determined eligible for benefits but have not been entered in the

state's system; others are still incomplete and stuck in limbo.

About 30,000 applications in the backlog came in through the federal HealthCare.Gov portal. Another 13,000 are new applications that were filed with the state.

The delay in processing, said OHA's Kimberly Mounts, is caused by a larger than normal influx of people

who are applying and re-applying, and by a switch in the state's enrollment system. Oregon previously used software developed as part of its insurance exchange, Cover Oregon, to make eligibility determinations for Medicaid.

Oregon ditched the glitch-filled Cover Oregon software last spring and decided to switch to the federal portal.

As a result, most people who needed to apply or re-apply for the Oregon Health Plan used the federal portal.

Some of the files also are missing income or other key information, so the state must reach those individuals and update their files before determining whether they are eligible for benefits.

About 200 people are processing the applications.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

www.eastoregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255
or go online to www.eastoregonian.com
and click on 'Subscribe'

East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2014, EO Media Group

Subscriber services:

For home delivery, vacation stops or delivery concerns: 1-800-522-0255

Didn't receive your paper? Call 1-800-522-0255 before 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or before 10 a.m. Saturday for same-day redelivery

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings off cover price
EZPay*	\$14 per month	41 percent
One year	\$168.61	41 percent
6 months	\$88.53	38 percent
3 months	\$46.38	35 percent
4 weeks	\$15.00	31 percent

*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit or debit card/check charge

Single copy price:

\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director: Jennine Perkinson
541-364-4531 • jperkinson@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia consultants

• Jeanne Jewett
541-364-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com
• Stephanie Burkenbine
541-564-4538 • sburkenbine@eastoregonian.com
• Dayle Stinson
541-966-0806 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com
• Terri Briggs
541-215-0447 • tbriggs@eastoregonian.com

Classified Advertising:

1-800-962-2819 • classifieds@eastoregonian.com

Legal Advertising: Amanda Jacobs

541-278-2683 • ajacobs@eastoregonian.com

Real Estate Advertising: Jodi Snook

541-278-2670 • jsnook@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

To submit news tips and press releases: • call 541-966-0818 • fax 541-276-8314 • email news@eastoregonian.com

To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News: email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini in Hermiston at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers in Pendleton at 541-966-0818.

To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email rsturthers@eastoregonian.com or visit www.eastoregonian.com/community/announcements

To submit a Letter to the Editor: mail to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.

To submit sports or outdoors information or tips:

541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Director Jake Duquette

541-966-0815 • jduquette@eastoregonian.com

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY

Fog in the morning; cloudy

THURSDAY

Clouds giving way to some sun

FRIDAY

Mostly sunny

SATURDAY

Abundant sunshine

SUNDAY

Cloudy with a shower

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
Today	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
53° 36°	45° 35°	46° 34°	46° 33°	44° 36°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
Today	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
53° 37°	47° 36°	46° 33°	46° 33°	45° 35°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	40°	30°
Normals	43°	28°
Records	69° (1934)	-22° (1957)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace
Month to date 0.72"
Normal month to date 1.24"
Year to date 0.72"
Last year to date 0.38"
Normal year to date 1.24"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	38°	35°
Normals	43°	29°
Records	60° (1983)	-28° (1957)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.44"
Normal month to date 1.22"
Year to date 0.44"
Last year to date 0.27"
Normal year to date 1.12"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:22 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:55 p.m.
Moonrise today 12:04 p.m.
Moonset today 1:57 a.m.

	Full	Last	New	First
	Feb 3	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Rather cloudy today and tonight; a shower in spots across the north.

Eastern Washington: Areas of fog in the morning; otherwise, considerable cloudiness today. Cloudy tonight.

Cascades: Mainly cloudy today and tonight. Sunshine and patchy clouds tomorrow.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today with a shower in spots; areas of morning fog.

Northern California: Partly sunny today; warmer in central parts. Partly cloudy tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	56	42	c	57	37	s
Baker City	45	28	c	42	25	pc
Bend	52	32	c	50	30	s
Brookings	59	44	c	58	44	s
Burns	51	27	c	47	26	pc
Enterprise	46	31	c	46	28	pc
Eugene	59	42	c	55	39	s
Heppner	54	36	c	48	32	pc
Hermiston	53	37	c	47	36	pc
John Day	48	30	c	47	29	pc
Klamath Falls	51	28	c	54	25	s
La Grande	50	33	c	48	27	pc
Meacham	47	31	c	45	26	pc
Medford	59	37	c	57	35	s
Newport	58	46	c	57	42	s
North Bend	60	44	c	59	42	s
Ontario	46	32	c	45	32	pc
Pasco	50	36	c	47	37	pc
Pendleton	53	36	c	45	35	pc
Portland	55	42	c	55	36	s
Redmond	56	31	c	51	29	s
Salem	60	43	c	57	37	s
Spokane	43	34	c	43	33	pc
Ukiah	50	32	c	49	30	pc
Vancouver	55	39	c	55	34	s
Walla Walla	50	40	c	46	37	pc
Yakima	51	35	c	47	33	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	33	17	pc	41	18	s
Hong Kong	69	60	pc	70	59	c
Jerusalem	56	39	sh	57	38	pc
London	51	36	r	41	35	sn
Mexico City	73	40	s	74	40	s
Moscow	23	21	c	27	26	sn
Paris	48	38	r	44	34	r
Rome	51	32	s	55	51	r
Seoul	35	20	pc	37	21	c
Sydney	75	63	r	75	63	pc
Tokyo	45	33	sn	44	38	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Thursday
Boardman	NNE 3-6	NNE 3-6
Pendleton	WNW 3-6	N 3-6

UV INDEX TODAY

0	0	1	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

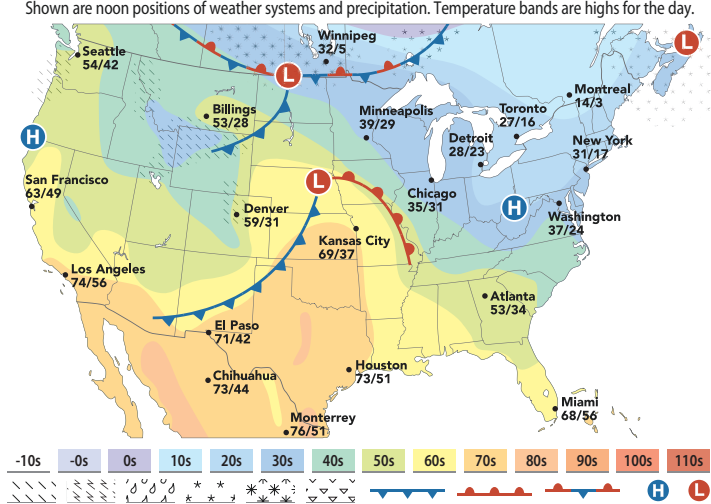
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2015

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Sunshine will expand from the southern Atlantic Seaboard to New England today. As a chill holds in the East, milder air will poke northward over the Central states and will continue in the West.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 85° in Falfurrias, Texas **Low -6°** in Frenchville, Maine

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	61	34	pc	54	35	c
Atlanta	53	34	s	56	36	s
Atlanta City	34	22	s	39	33	pc
Baltimore	33	17	s	34	30	c
Billings	53	28	pc	48	31	pc
Birmingham	54	36	pc	61	36	pc
Boise	46	32	c	46	31	pc
Boston	25	8	pc	31	25	pc
Charleston, SC	48	28	s	58	43	s
Charleston, WV	33	24	s	46	27	sh
Chicago	35	31	pc	40	18	sn
Cleveland	28	12	s	38	16	sn
Dallas	78	52	s	67	40	s
Denver	59	31	pc	45	29	c
Detroit	28	23	pc	38	12	sn
El Paso	71	42	pc	63	41	c
Fairbanks	-19	-34	s	-23	-37	s
Fargo	41	20	c	21	8	c
Honolulu	81	65	pc	80	64	sh
Houston	73	51	s	73	50	s
Indianapolis	37	33	pc	43	21	sh
Jacksonville	55	32	s	64	43	s
Kansas City	69	37	s	47	23	pc
Las Vegas	65	49	pc	66	51	c
Little Rock	65	51	pc	64	35	pc
Los Angeles	74	56	pc	73	55	sh
Louisville	42	34	pc	50	28	c
Memphis	58	48	pc	61	34	pc
Miami	68	56	s	72	59	pc
Millwaukee	35	30	pc	38	17	sf
Minneapolis						