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## U.S. investigates after mysterious Mexican government drone crashes in Texas

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

**UPDATED:** 07:51 EST, 18 December 2010

A small unmanned drone, owned by the Mexican government, has crashed near the Texas city of El Paso, triggering an investigation by U.S. federal authorities.

No one was injured when the aircraft came down on Tuesday, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway said the drone was an Orbiter Mini UAV, operated by Aeronautics Defense Systems and owned by the Mexican government.



**An unmanned drone, belonging to the Mexican government, crashed near El Paso. File picture**

'We are collecting data on the incident, really at the moment we don't have a lot of information.'

'It was Mexican-government owned ... though we don't know what mission it was on,' he added.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency said Border Patrol agents recovered the drone after receiving a call from a 'concerned citizen.'

CBP spokesman Roger Maier said the agents worked with Mexican authorities to return the vehicle to the Mexican government.

The lightweight drone is designed for use in military and homeland security missions, as well as low intensity conflicts and urban warfare operations, according to the manufacturer's website.

It is launched from a rail, and can stay aloft for 3-4 hours, carrying a payload of up to 3.3 pounds.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security uses several Predator B drones equipped with day and night vision cameras and radar to search for smugglers and other intruders along US land and sea borders.

The Predator is a much larger aircraft than the Orbiter and can stay aloft for more than 20 hours.

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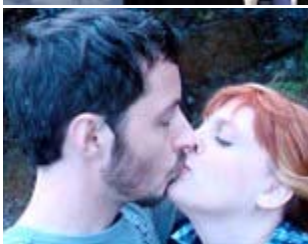
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More likely a drugs cartel drone. If the Mexican govt was serious they would stop the cartels from running the country.

- Lucee, Sydney, 18/12/2010 14:54

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Seriously, is there such a shortage of SERIOUS/REAL news that something not much larger than a child's toy gets blown out of proportion? Let the experts investigate, discuss, debate, whatever, the merits of whatever event actually occurred. Until the facts are clear, people, on both sides of the border, are being used as pawns in a media war to gain more attention for whatever particular thing the media controllers think will get them more notoriety or attention. "News sells. Bad news sells BIG."

- DMFrost, Plattsburgh, NY, USA, 18/12/2010 14:29

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Perhaps the Mexican government is also concerned about illegal border activity and used its less capable little brother for the same task. Of course if it dropped a hellfire missile upon "dissidents" I wonder if the US would have the same reaction as when it does that to Pakistan? Sauce for the Goose, Mr Obama.

- Michael, Manchester, Great Britain, 18/12/2010 14:23

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What's good for the goose is good for the gander, BUT! Not as far as America is concerned, Talk about dictatorship?

- Right a bit!, Mid France, 18/12/2010 14:04

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The irony of some one watching the watchers

- Shaun, Wisbech U.K., 18/12/2010 13:37

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It has already been returned to the Mexican Government, (probably to have a new rubber band fitted), nothing secret about this mission just on a joint border patrol.

- Lord of all that he surveys, Which are mere opinions & I am entitled to mine also, 18/12/2010 13:37

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