



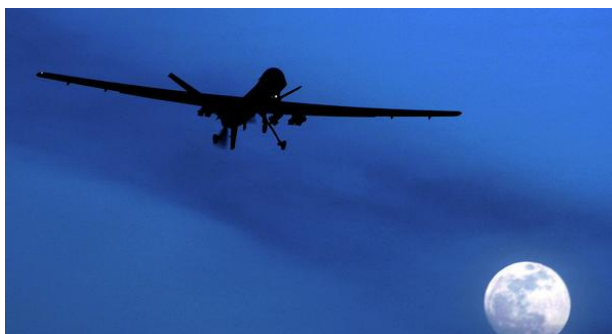
## DHS: Drug Traffickers are hacking surveillance drones on the border

December 30, 2015 By Pierluigi Paganini



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and local law enforcement confirmed that Drug Traffickers are hacking surveillance drones on the border.

Small drones are another powerful tool used by the US Department of Homeland Security to monitor its borders, but drug traffickers already adopting countermeasures. In order to avoid surveillance, drug traffickers are **hacking** US surveillance drones used to patrol the border.



traffickers are using technology to spoof and jam the US surveillance drones.

*“The bad guys on the border have lots of money. And what they are putting money into is **spoofing** and **jamming** of GPSs, so we are doing funding to look at small UAS that we can counter this,” Bennett said during a panel at the Center for Strategic & International Studies.*

The principle behind the GPS spoofing attack is that sending to control system of the drone fake geographic coordinates it is possible to deceive the onboard system hijacking the vehicle in a different place for which it is commanded. Non-military GPS signals are not encrypted, this makes drones vulnerable to this kind of attacks.

Using jamming techniques against drones, it is possible to interrupt the GPS receiving transmitted to the UAVs. In this scenario the aircraft could potentially lose the capability to monitor its route and to calculate its location, altitude, and the direction in which it is traveling.

Both attack techniques are adopted by drug traffickers that belong to well-funded organizations that has access to modern advanced hacking technology.

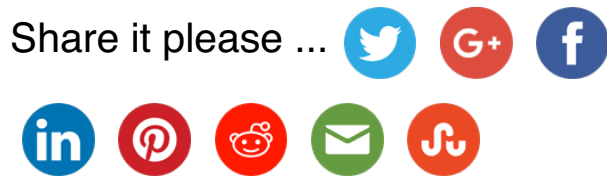
DHS hasn't provided further details on the attacks, but Bennett confirmed that the attacks are interfering with the operations conducted by members of the law enforcement.

*“You’re out there looking, trying to find out this path [they’re] going through with drugs, and we can’t get good coordinate systems on it because we’re getting spoofed. That screws up the whole thing. We got to fix that problem,” Bennett told **Defense***

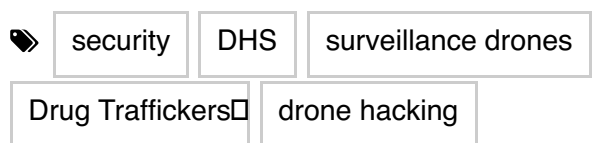
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## Pierluigi Paganini

(Security Affairs – surveillance drones, Drug Traffickers)□



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### Pierluigi Paganini

Pierluigi Paganini is Chief Information Security Officer at□ Bit4Id, firm leader in identity□ management, member of the ENISA (European Union Agency for Network and Information Security) Treat Landscape Stakeholder Group, he is also a Security Evangelist, Security Analyst and Freelance Writer. Editor-in-Chief at "Cyber Defense Magazine", Pierluigi is a cyber security expert with over 20 years experience in the field,□ he is Certified Ethical Hacker at□ EC Council in London. The passion for writing and a strong

belief that security is founded on sharing and awareness led Pierluigi to find the security blog "Security Affairs" recently named a Top National Security Resource for US. Pierluigi is a member of the "The Hacker News" team and he is a writer for some major publications in the field such as Cyber War Zone, ICTTF, Infosec Island, Infosec Institute, The Hacker News Magazine and for many other Security magazines. Author of the Books "The Deep Dark Web" and "Digital Virtual Currency and Bitcoin".

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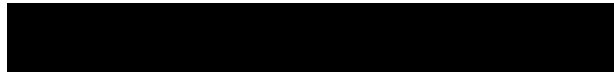
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