UAS in VORTEX 2 Update



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VORTEX 2 PI Meeting Pennsylvania State University 11-12 November 2009







University of Colorado

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Eric Frew
Jack Elston
Tom Aune
Jason Roadman

University of Nebraska

Adam Houston Jamie Lahowetz

University of Oklahoma Jerry Straka

Rasmussen Systems
Erik Rasmussen





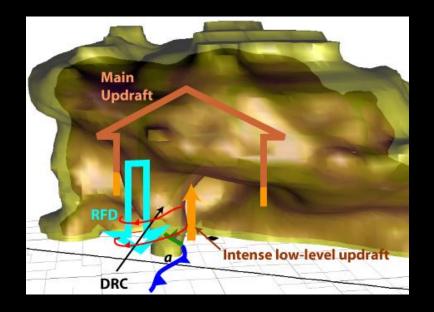
Engineering Objectives

- Demonstrate low-cost, robust UAS deployments
- Develop accurate UAS simulations in weather
- Acquire high-impact data with manageable risk



Science Objectives

 (P, T, RH, V) for air mass boundaries, supercell rear-flank downdraft(s)





Ground Station

- Commander/SO: Argrow
- Meteorologist: Houston
- Pilot in Command: Aune
- Pilot at Controls: Elston

Tracker Vehicle

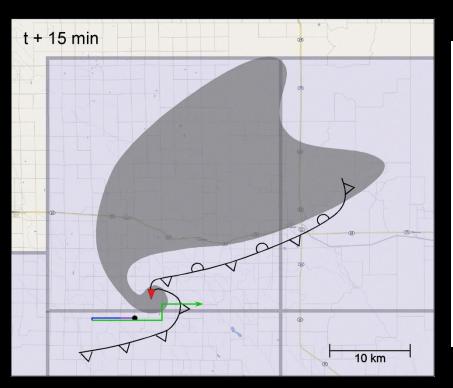
- Driver: Frew
- Meteorologist: Lahowetz
- UA Observer: CU team member
- Mobile Operator: Roadman

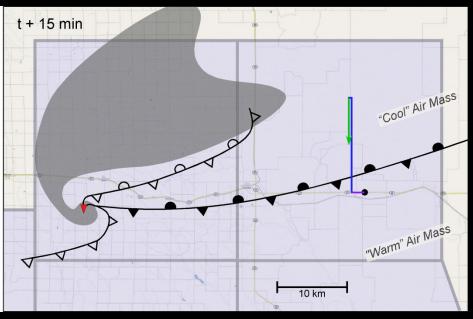
Scout

- Driver: CU/NU team member
- Meteorologist: NU team member





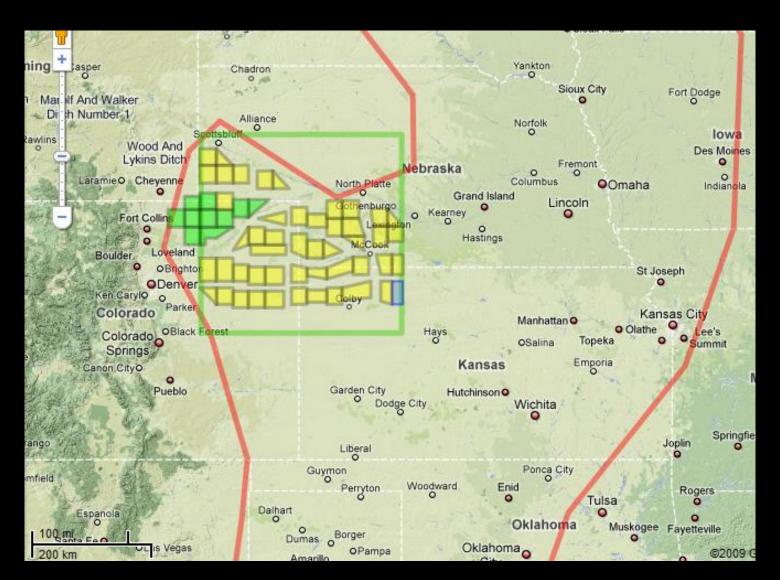






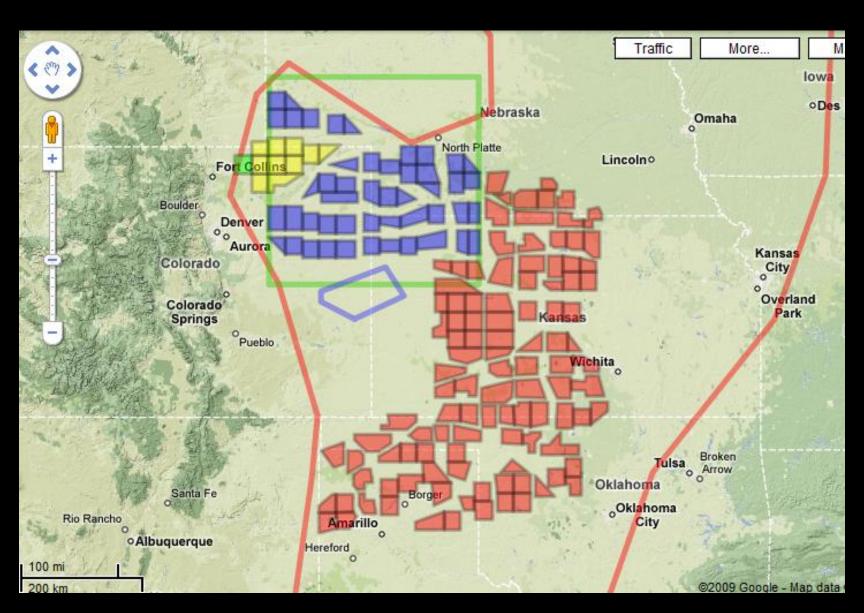


Blue: Committed Yellow: Validated Green: Active





Expanded COA Region







Issues Resolved

- Airframe internal cooling
- Tracking/offset algorithm
- LOS UAS communication
- Voice communications
- COA approvals

In-Progress Enhancements

- GS van to replace trailer
- Autopilot upgrade
- UA launch mechanism
- Improved wind measurement







2009 UAS Mock Deployments Lessons Learned

6 June NW Nebraska





8 June NW Missouri





9 June SW Kansas

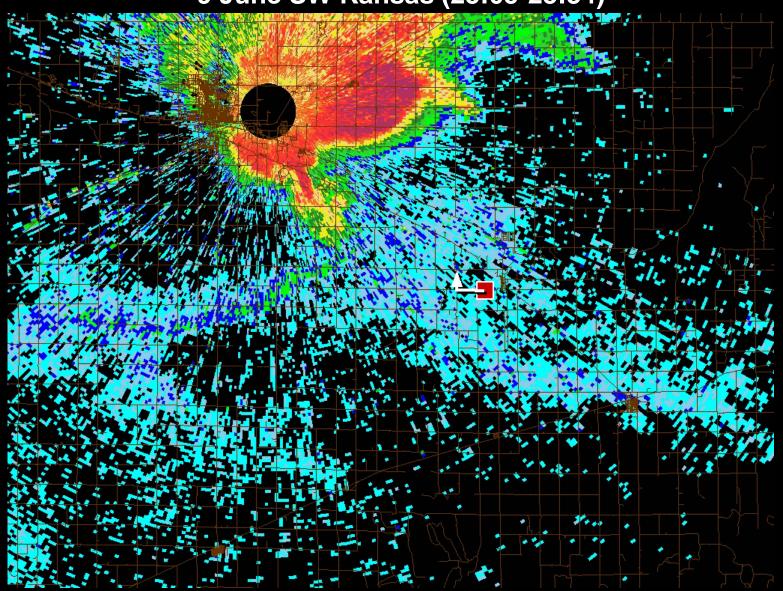






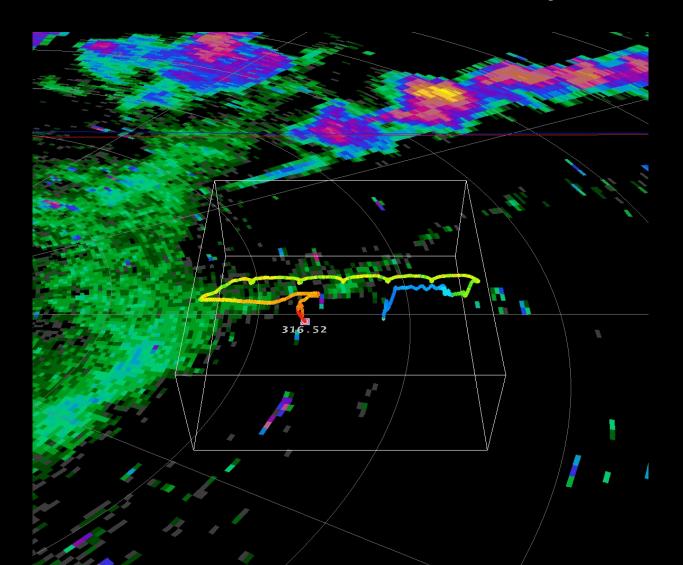
UAS Team Deployment Lessons Learned

9 June SW Kansas (23:05-23:34)



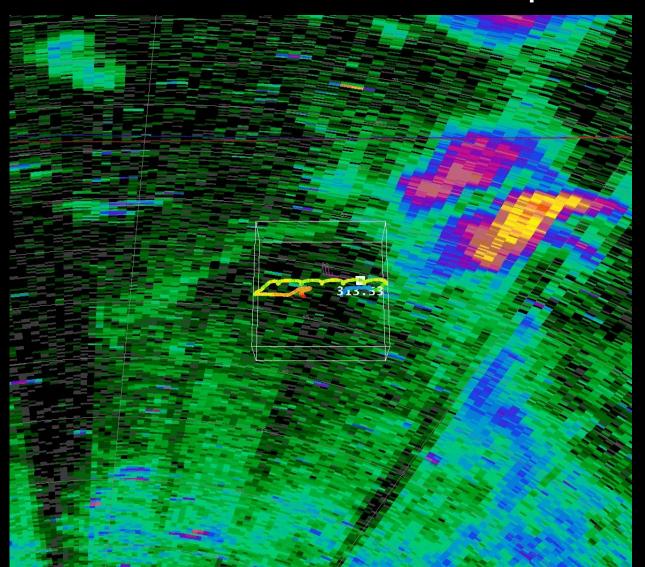


Colorado-Nebraska Collaborative UAS Experiment





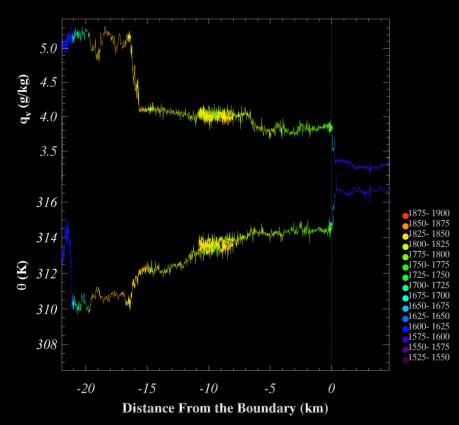
Colorado-Nebraska Collaborative UAS Experiment

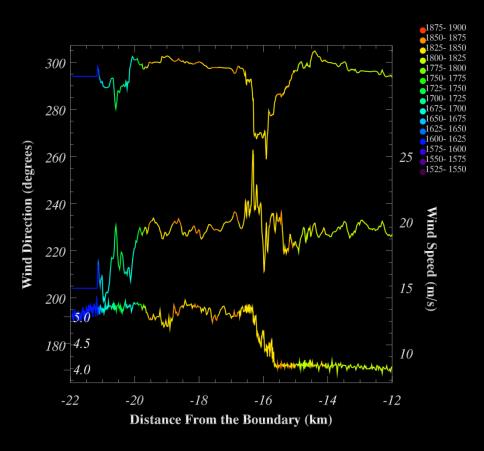






Colorado-Nebraska Collaborative UAS Experiment







- Mobile mesonet shadowing
 - Bias correction prior to launch
 - Juxtaposed surface measurements
- Soundings for airmass boundary intercepts

