

Interview with FLIR after taking the sUAS Thermography Class 1 course.

1. Can you tell me about your military service

I was in a two year program for Air Force ROTC, at Iowa State University. I graduated with a BS in Aerospace Engineering, September 1974. I went to pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma, as a 2nd Lieutenant. From 1975-1980, I was assigned to 317th TAW, 40th TAS at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, flying the C-130 (Hercules). I flew as a copilot, then aircraft commander and instructor pilot for those five years at Pope Air Force Base. Assignments included, flights to Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Continental US. I was aircraft commander in the first operational test of night vision helmets for the C-130. This eventually led to the night vision equipment used by our military soldiers today.

2. When did you first become interested in drone technology?

I have been a pilot for over 40 years. I have flown more than 30,000 flight hours on a variety of aircraft. I retired from commercial aviation in 2016. I was inspired about drone technology in a seminar I attended on aerial photography. I have an ardent interest in photography and with my background in aviation drone technology was a perfect match.

3. Can you tell me about the company you founded, American Drone Solution?

American Drone Solution, LLC (ADS) was started by me and my wife, Debbie, in 2017. As a Professional photographer and with skills on how to establish and operate a business, Debbie helped me to start ADS. We started with a DJI Mavic Air then quickly invested in the Phantom 4 Pro. We both took training in how to fly drones and I was certified FAA 107 pilot in 2017.

4. You recently attended the ITC Thermography Class 1 sUAS

For our Infrared Inspections we have the Matrice 210 RTK with the XR2 640/19mm and the Z30. We are developing our business model to concentrate on solar farms and flat roof inspections. After attending a short introduction to thermography, ADS quickly saw that it needed a better understanding of thermal imaging. As a company, the goal of ADS is to provide clients with accurate detailed infrared analysis.

5. What was your experience in the class?

The class experience met and exceeded all my expectations. The instructor, William (Bill) Schwahn, taught a thorough program in a relaxed, positive learning environment. The sUAS Level 1 curriculum, study manual and power point presentation all flowed together to bring us a realistic understanding of thermography. In addition, the workbook exercises and drone flights gave the class a realistic overview of what can be seen thru the infrared lens.

6. What are the benefits you received from taking the class?

Because of this course, a level 1 certificate allows ADS to assure the client that we can give them accurate interpretation in a detailed report.

7. Do you believe that taking the sUAS ITC Thermography course made you a better pilot?

Absolutely, 100% yes. Infrared photos are meaningless without the science and ability to analyze infrared thermography. If your company does infrared inspections, you simply must have a certificated FLIR Level 1, FAA 107 pilot.