

Electronic Surveillance/Detection Capability Ground Based

NAS Operational Capability

The use of radar to assist (not as a sole source) in providing situational awareness to the pilot of an unmanned aircraft is invaluable. Radar surveillance, in most instances, is capable of detecting other air traffic operating in the area before visual observers (airborne or surface) see other aircraft. An early alert to the visual observer of the location of an aircraft detected by the radar monitor provides the visual observer with increased potential for seeing that aircraft earlier than when radar monitoring is not employed. Therefore, NMSU/PSL, to the maximum extent possible, will use its PSTAR G1 radar system and any other radar system that is available (Albuquerque ARTCC or WSMR) to further enhance operational safety. NMSU/PSL personnel that will conduct the radar monitoring function have many years of ATC experience and are familiar with the operation of these radar systems. Whenever there is over 90 days between radar monitoring activity, the radar monitor will obtain refresher training on the equipment prior to the flight operations to ensure currency.