

Week commencing 24 August 2026

COVERAGE

10 – 23 August
2026

AUDIENCE

Security directors · C-UAS programme leads · airport and critical site
operators

HANDLING

Internal use — not for onward
distribution

IF YOU JUST REMEMBER ONE THING FROM THIS BRIEFING...

NATO fighter jets shot down a drone over Latvia on 14 August — physical intercept, not detection, is now the default Baltic response.

Two Eurofighters and two F-16s scrambled after the drone crossed into Latvia; an Italian jet destroyed it near Balvi. Finland tightened airspace and maritime restrictions off its south coast. Ask your team this week whether your escalation plan distinguishes a sighting from a confirmed hostile track, and who can call for interdiction.

FORTNIGHT IN REVIEW

Incidents and sector activity

PRIORITY

14 AUG

NATO fighter jets shoot down drone in Latvian airspace

Two Italian Eurofighters and two Turkish F-16s scrambled from Šiauliai and Ämari on 14 August after a drone crossed into Latvia; an Italian jet destroyed it near Rugaji, Balvi Municipality. Finland tightened airspace and maritime restrictions off its south coast.

So what: physical intercept is now NATO's default response to Baltic incursions. Reassess how fast your site can escalate a sighting to a confirmed hostile track.

PRIORITY

11 AUG

Drone forces repeated closures at Hanover-Langenhagen Airport; hybrid activity suspected

An unidentified drone shut runways and airspace at Hanover-Langenhagen for over an hour on 11 August, a week after the Leipzig/Halle explosives find. Six flights were delayed and a Paris cargo flight diverted. Police have not ruled out state-linked hybrid activity.

So what: German airports beyond Leipzig are now in scope. Confirm your site's protocol names who declares a device-find versus a sighting, and who alerts police.

WATCH

22 AUG

Ukraine opens first single-standard tender for jam-proof fibre-optic FPV drones

Ukraine's Defence Procurement Agency issued its first fibre-optic FPV purchase to a common Defence Ministry specification, opening the field to any manufacturer that meets it, not just bespoke suppliers. Fibre-linked drones resist RF jamming entirely — they carry no radio signal to disrupt.

So what: RF-only detection and jamming assumptions do not hold against fibre-linked drones. EO/IR and acoustic layers matter more as this control method spreads to civil-adjacent use.

WATCH

14 & 21 AUG

Fresh drone incursions at HMP Pentonville and HMP Channings Wood

A drone crashed over HMP Pentonville on 14 August; a second was seized mid-flight the same day, both carrying drugs and phones. Six drones were spotted over HMP Channings Wood on 21 August. Neither has produced a named operator.

So what: prisons remain the UK's highest-frequency drone incursion site and a proving ground for CNI detection lessons. Compare your night coverage against this pattern.

ACTION TABLE

Developments to track this fortnight

DEVELOPMENT	TYPE	WHY IT MATTERS FOR A PROTECTED SITE	ACT BY / WATCH
NATO shoot-down over Latvia	Incident	Baltic response now includes intercept, not just monitoring.	Watch: rules of engagement
Hanover-Langenhagen closure	Incident	German hub disruption widens beyond Leipzig/Halle.	Act: device-find protocol
Ukraine fibre-optic FPV tender	Capability	RF-only detection and jamming assumptions no longer hold.	Watch: EO/IR, acoustic layers
Pentonville / Channings Wood incursions	Incident	Proving ground for CNI-wide night detection gaps.	Act: audit night coverage
EU Counter-UAS Action Plan	Regulation	Registration and geo-fencing rules will reach UK-adjacent suppliers.	Watch: implementing acts

Vendor performance claims and attribution reports are as stated by the source; neither is independently verified here.

REGULATORY AND SECTOR WATCH

What changed, and what is coming

In force now

- UK 400m/400ft flight restriction zones around every closed prison and YOI remain in force under SI 2023/1101.
- Defeat measures — jamming, kinetic — stay restricted to police and authorised bodies under the 2021 Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Act; site operators may only detect and track.

Approaching

- EASA's NPA 2026-103 "U-space light" addendum continues after a 15 July industry session; next milestone is the IAM Forum, 27–28 October 2026.
- The EU's February Counter-UAS Action Plan is moving toward implementing measures: a proposed 100g registration threshold and a 2027 geo-fencing requirement.

Standing watch — Baltic and Nordic airspace incursions. Finland has restricted airspace and shipping off its south coast since late July; stray Ukrainian and Russian drones keep crossing NATO members' borders with no sign of let-up.

RECOMMENDED

Three things to do before the next edition

- Confirm who at your site can escalate a sighting to a confirmed hostile track.
- Check detection coverage handles fibre-linked drones that carry no RF signal to jam or detect.
- Audit night-time detection coverage against the Pentonville and Channings Wood prison incursion pattern.

OUTLOOK — NEXT FORTNIGHT

We assess it is likely that further unattributed drone activity disrupts a German or Baltic airport before the next edition, and a realistic possibility of a further NATO intercept. Fibre-optic control spreading into civil-adjacent smuggling and surveillance use is a realistic possibility.

NEXT EDITION

Monday 7 September 2026. Send additions, corrections or sector intelligence to your ClearPath engagement lead.

