
Shield AI Goes Global

Logbook | September 2026. What the FAA registry said this month.

Terminal provided by the Marble Institute of Technology.

Data licenses now available: Riley@marbletech.us

Shield AI doesn't publish delivery numbers. The registry does.

The Headline

From 2020 through 2025, three V-BAT drones were cancelled from the FAA registry for export. Three.

In 2026: 73.

Sixty-eight left in eleven days of late August. Nine countries. Netherlands 14. India 13. UAE 11. Norway 9. Greece 6. Japan 6. Romania 5. Indonesia 2. South Korea 2.

September added five more. Three went to Bulgaria, a new flag on the map.

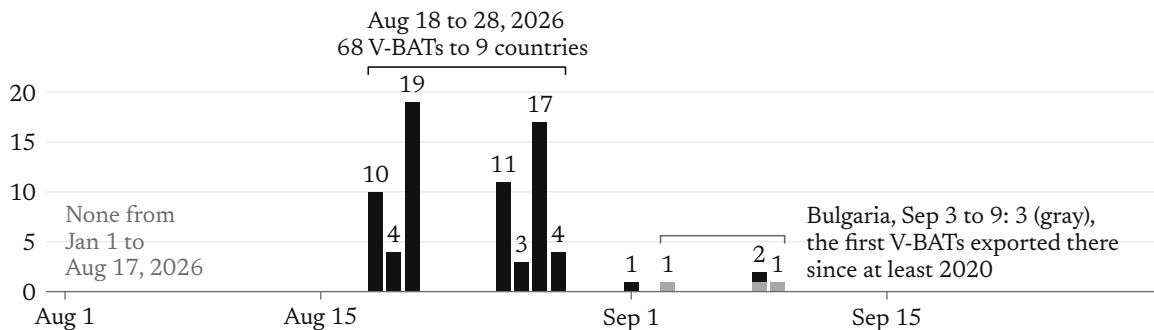
Then Shield AI refilled the hangar. 43 new V-BATs hit the registry in September.

For scale: the best full year for US military drone exports on the registry since 2020 was 63. This year we're at 95. It's September.

An export cancellation isn't a sales receipt. Sold or leased, it looks the same on paper. But 73 V-BATs don't wander overseas by accident.

Shield AI exported 73 V-BATs in 2026. It exported 3 from 2020 to 2025.

V-BAT registrations cancelled for export, by day, Aug 1 to Sep 29, 2026



Source: FAA registry deregistration file, captured by Terminal through Sep 29, 2026, by FAA cancel date. Includes misspelled Shield AI registrant names. The 3 earlier exports (Jul 25 and Aug 2, 2023) were registered to Martin UAV LLC, owned by Shield AI since Jul 30, 2021.

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The Tape

FAA file of Aug 29, 2026 against the FAA file of Sep 29, 2026

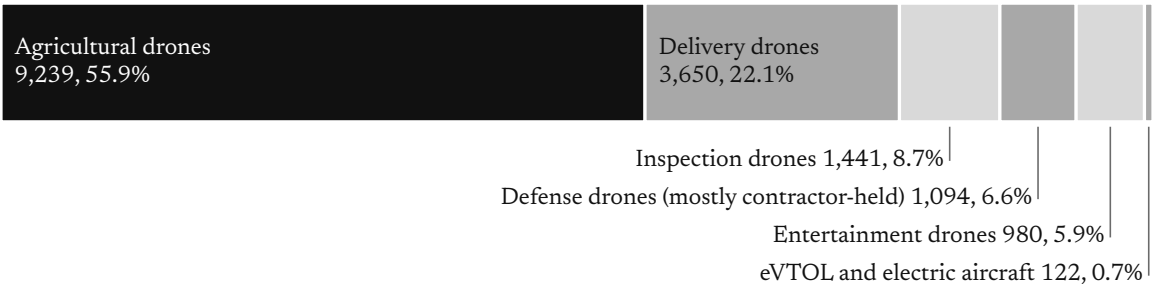
	August	Sep 29	Change	%
Aerial economy fleet	16,027	16,526	+499	+3.1%
Delivery drones	3,461	3,650	+189	+5.5%
Ag drones	8,975	9,239	+264	+2.9%
Defense drones, mostly contractor-held	1,051	1,094	+43	+4.1%
eVTOL and electric	119	122	+3	+2.5%
Business jets	16,280	16,300	+20	+0.1%
Exports, year to date	1,297	1,467	+170	+13.1%
Deregistrations, monthly	387	334	-53	-13.7%
Going Dark	3,560	3,651	+91	+2.6%

Defense and eVTOL rows include model codes added this month.

Source: FAA Civil Aircraft Registry. Terminal provided by the Marble Institute of Technology.

Ag drones are more than half the visible aerial economy.

Registered aircraft by type, Sep 29, 2026 FAA file. Total 16,526.



Source: FAA registry, Sep 29, 2026 file, captured by Terminal. Visible aircraft only.
Defense includes 41 V-BATs filed under model code 061010V; companies hold 1,055 of the 1,094. Shares are rounded.

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Where the Aircraft Went

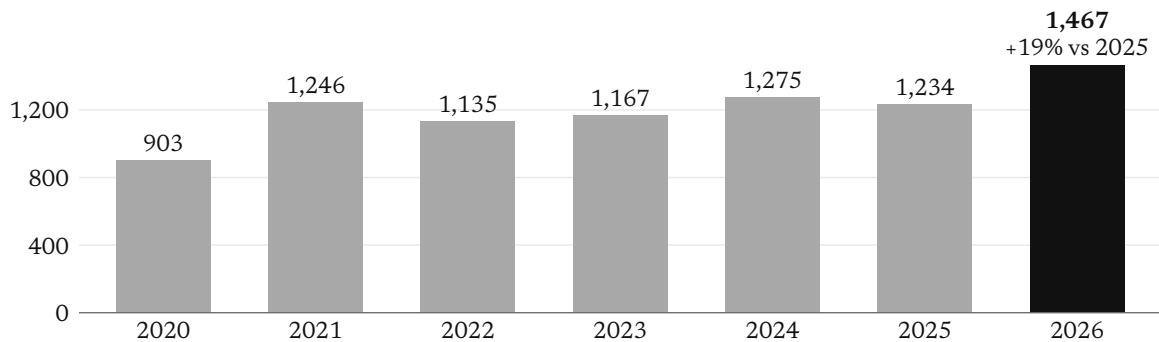
Shield AI wasn't alone.

Through September 29, 1,467 aircraft left the US registry for export. 114 countries and territories. Up 19% from last year. The most since at least 2020.

Brazil took 317 this year. India's monthly pace has roughly quadrupled, and a lot of it is trainers: 15 Piper PA-28-181s since August.

More US aircraft were exported by Sep 29 this year than in any year since 2020.

US aircraft registrations cancelled for export, Jan 1 to Sep 29 of each year



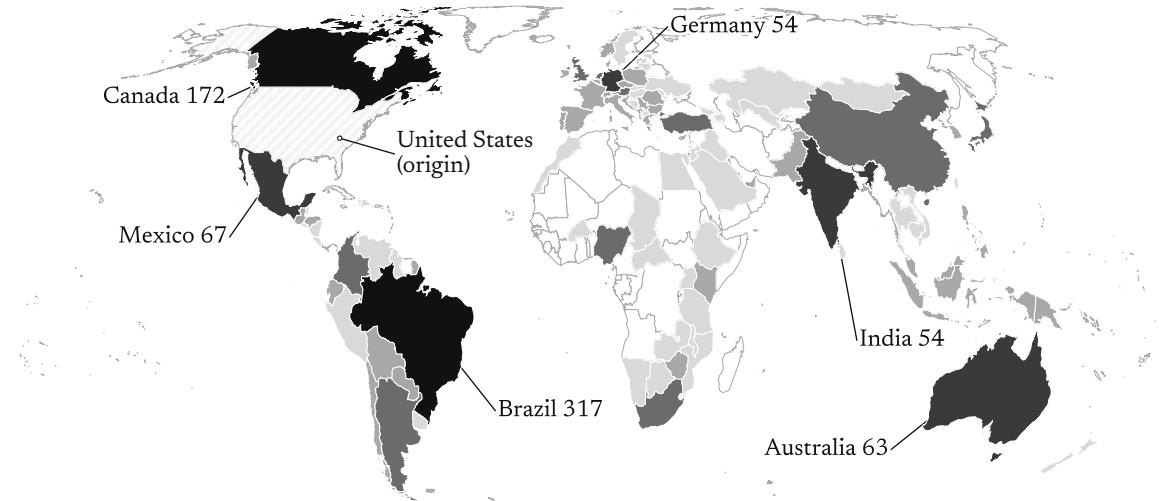
Source: FAA registry deregistration file, captured by Terminal, by FAA cancel date. Each bar is Jan 1 to Sep 29 of that year. Prior years are rebuilt from FAA cancellation dates in file copies held since Jul 5, 2026; rows the FAA removed earlier are not counted. 2026 as known on Sep 29, 2026.

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Brazil took more than one in five US aircraft exports in 2026.

US aircraft registrations cancelled for export, by destination, Jan 1 to Sep 29, 2026

Aircraft exported ☐ None ☐ 1 to 4 ☐ 5 to 14 ☐ 15 to 49 ☐ 50 to 99 ☐ 100 or more



Source: FAA registry deregistration file, captured by Terminal, as known on Sep 29, 2026: 1,467 aircraft to 114 countries and territories, all shaded; some are too small to see. Natural Earth boundaries, Equal Earth projection.

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Three Numbers

188 of 189. The US added 189 visible delivery drones. Zipline accounted for 188.

+99. American spray drone maker Hylio grew its fleet from 615 to 714. 13 shipped to customers.

3. Wisk, Beta, and Harmony each put a new electric aircraft on the registry in September. The eVTOL row didn't sit still.

What Surprised Us

The tariffs didn't bite. Section 232 drone tariffs took effect September 3. Chinese-made ag drone registrations, September 1 to 25: 170. Same window last year: 148.

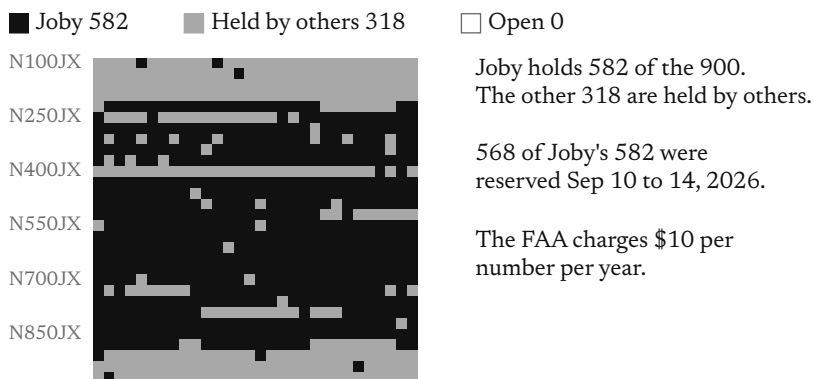
Two dealers shrank in a growing market. Visible ag drones rose 2.9%. Agri Spray Drones fell from 289 to 271. Terraplex Ag dropped from 160 to 145.

On Watch

Joby's 1,461 tail numbers. NEW. In September, Joby Aviation reserved 1,461 tail numbers. Its registered fleet went from 16 to 17. This isn't a fleet order. It's a land grab. Joby took every open three-digit number ending in JX and JE. JX is already on its first conforming test aircraft. At \$10 a number, the whole block cost about \$14,600. Then there are 46 ending in HY. Hydrogen? Hybrid? Joby hasn't said. The next tell is renewal. Nobody renews 1,461 numbers for kicks.

Joby took every open JX number.

Every N-number from N100JX to N999JX on the Sep 29, 2026 FAA file. One square per number, in order, 30 per row.



Source: FAA RESERVED and MASTER files, Sep 29, 2026, captured by Terminal.
Joby: Joby Aero, Inc., Joby Aviation's operating subsidiary (JOBY). Held by others: reserved by another registrant, or on an aircraft or assignment; holders not named.

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DoorDash Air. NEW. DoorDash earned its FAA air carrier certificate in July and is building its own drone. It says its own deliveries start this fall. Nothing on the registry yet. If it clears 55 pounds, it hits the public file. You'll see it here first.

The tariff test. NEW. One month isn't a verdict. October and November tell us if September was stockpiling or demand.

Hylio: inventory or demand? NEW. The fleet grows about 100 a month. Most of it stays with Hylio. When those drones reach farms, we'll know.

Defense drone exports. NEW. Ten countries took V-BATs this year. 43 new ones just landed on the registry. Watch where they go next.

One More Thing

Five days a week, the FAA publishes every aircraft in America. Then it overwrites it.

I keep every one.

The paperwork moves before the press release.

That's Terminal. Every aircraft in America, tied to the company and ticker behind it.

I'm opening five founding seats. For early adopters who want this data first. We dig in together. Make sense of what the sky is saying. Track where transportation goes next.

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We watch the sky. You see the trends.

Godspeed,
Riley Rosebee

The Fine Print

An export cancellation names a country. It doesn't prove a sale.

A reservation isn't an aircraft.

Military-owned aircraft don't appear in the civil registry. The defense row counts drones held by manufacturers and contractors.

Drones under 55 pounds don't appear in the public file.

Defense and eVTOL rows include model codes added to our taxonomy this month.

Every number in this report traces to a row in Terminal. Licensees get the rows.

Source: FAA Civil Aircraft Registry, captured since March 20, 2026, with every FAA publication captured since August 28, 2026. September compares the FAA files of August 29 and September 29, 2026. Year-ago comparisons are rebuilt from FAA dates. Terminal provided by the Marble Institute of Technology.