# Top-Secret US Underwater Drone 'Manta Ray' Spotted on Google Earth



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A top-secret US underwater drone named "Manta Ray" was recently spotted on Google Earth at Port Hueneme naval base in California. The drone, identified thanks to its distinctive diamond-shaped body and wing-like fins, was discovered by online users, causing satellite images to go viral. Some users reported the images being replaced by what appeared to be edited boats, but as of now, the drone remains visible on Google Earth.

Developed by Northrop Grumman Corporation for the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) program, the Manta Ray is designed for long-duration, long-range undersea missions without requiring on-site human logistics. Its modular design allows for dismantling and transport in standard shipping containers, enabling quick deployment.

The Manta Ray completed full-scale testing off the coast of Southern California earlier this year, with successful tests demonstrating the vehicle’s hydrodynamic performance, including submerged operations utilizing multiple propulsion and steering modes. Dr. Kyle Woerner, Manta Ray program manager at DARPA, confirmed the vehicle's readiness for real-world operations, citing its ability to hibernate on the sea floor without refueling.

The appearance of the Manta Ray on Google Earth has raised interest in advanced underwater drone technology, which experts suggest may influence future naval combat.