

Appendix D

Small Unmanned Aircraft System Utilization

D–1. Purpose

The purpose of this appendix is to establish regulatory guidance for small unmanned aircraft systems (SUAS) (group 1) operations. UASs designed for use by other than MOS-qualified unmanned AOs and categorized as group 1 (0.55 to 20 pounds) are to be governed by provisions of this appendix and this regulation. SUAS ATP, training, qualification, and currency will be according to the appropriate MTL. All SUAS operator personnel will receive familiarization training in airspace structure and airspace management and/or coordination and will comply with paragraph 2–11 of this regulation. Only this appendix and specifically cited references of this regulation are intended to control SUAS operations.

D–2. Army small unmanned aircraft systems personnel

The following personnel may fly and/or operate Army SUASs:

- a. The operators who—
 - (1) Are members of the Regular Army, USAR, ARNG, or Civilian employees of the U.S. Army.
 - (2) Have complied with qualification, training, evaluation, and currency requirements of this appendix for the UAS to be flown and/or operated.
 - (3) Meet the medical standard as outlined in AR 40–501 (but are not required to maintain a class IV physical).
- b. Civilian employees of government agencies and government contractors who have—
 - (1) Appropriate military or civilian certifications or ratings in the system(s).
 - (2) Written authorization from the owning ACOM, ASCC, DRU, ARNG, or CG, U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE).
- c. The operators in other U.S. services and/or USSOCOM who have—
 - (1) Complied with qualification; training approved by MCOE; evaluation and currency requirements of this regulation; the provisions of AR 95–20; and the contract and/or statement of work for the UAS to be flown.
 - (2) Obtained written authorization from their Service and the senior MC (no lower than O–5).
- d. The operators of foreign military services who have—
 - (1) Complied with qualification; training approved by MCOE; evaluation; and currency requirements of their Service or of this regulation for the UAS to be flown.
 - (2) Properly completed a Foreign Service disclaimer.
- (3) Obtained written authorization, including a disclaimer from their government, absolving the U.S. Government from liability. The appropriate host ACOM, ASCC, DRU, or ARNG must provide written authorization which includes the purpose and duration of the authorization.

D–3. Small unmanned aircraft systems training program

The SUAS ATP will be established and operated in accordance with the appropriate MTL.

D–4. Currency

- a. Currency requirements will be according to the appropriate ATP.
- b. The operator whose currency has lapsed must complete a PFE according to the appropriate ATM. Simulators may not be used to reestablish currency.
- c. Night currency requirements will be according to the appropriate ATP.
- d. In areas where extreme environmental conditions may preclude safe operation of UAS for periods exceeding 120 consecutive days, authorization for the use of compatible simulators for maintaining AO currency up to 180 days may be granted by—
 - (1) Commanders of ACOMs, ASCCs, DRUs, and USSOCOM.
 - (2) Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command.
 - (3) Director, Army National Guard.

D–5. Semi-annual proficiency and readiness test

The semi-annual proficiency and readiness test measures an operator's proficiency and readiness. Conduct in accordance with TC 3–04.11.

D-6. Small unmanned aircraft systems aircrew training program waivers and extensions

a. These authorities may grant unit waivers and/or extensions to SUAS ATP requirements detailed in paragraphs D-3, D-4, D-5 and D-9 to units under their authority:

(1) ACOM, ASCC, DRU, ARNG, and USSOCOM. This authority will not be delegated below the first general officer in the chain of command.

(2) DARNG.

b. The first commander, O-6 or above, in the individual's chain of command or the state Army aviation officer for ARNG operators may grant individual waivers to aircraft ATP requirements.

D-7. Airspace usage

a. SUAS operations will be conducted in accordance with paragraph 2-11 and applicable FAA UAS and SUAS orders. If ground observers are required see 14 CFR 91.17 for more information.

b. When the qualifications listed in this appendix are met, the FAA agrees to provide access to the National Airspace System for DOD UAS outside restricted areas and warning areas as follows:

(1) All categories of DOD UAS operations conducted wholly within Class D airspace that has as associated DOD-controlled, non-Joint-use airfield provided operations are not conducted over populated areas or within airspace covered in 14 CFR 91.215(b)(2).

(2) The DOD UASs that weigh 0.55 pounds to 20 pounds, under the following conditions:

(a) Operations are conducted within Class G airspace below 1,200 feet AGL (not applicable to airspace identified by 14 CFR 91.215(b)(2) over military bases, reservations, or land protected by purchase, lease, or other restriction).

(b) The UAS remains within the clear visual range of the operator or a certified observer in immediate contact with the operator to ensure separation from other aircraft.

c. The DOD will make sure that the UAS remains more than 5 miles from any civil use airport or heliport. The DOD components operating under this paragraph will notify the FAA of the proposed operation in advance and publish NOTAMs as required to alert nonparticipating aircraft of the operation. For non-recurring operations, notification will be accomplished, and NOTAM published, no later than 24 hours in advance. For recurring operations (for example, training) standing "blanket" notifications and/or standing NOTAMs should not be used.

D-8. Minimum crew requirements

The minimum crew to operate a SUAS will be a qualified operator unless specifically stated otherwise in the operator's manual.

D-9. Certification of operators and master trainers

Personnel that complete the approved master trainer (MT) course and are designated by the first O-6 in the chain of command are authorized to certify new operators at their home station. The SUAS operator and MT course qualification courses will be conducted at TRADOC-approved locations. The product or project manager (PM) may implement equipment and upgrade training.

a. To become qualified as an MT, an operator must complete one of the following:

(1) A DA approved MT course.

(2) An MT equivalency evaluation administered by an MT selected by MCOE in the SUAS in which MT duties are to be performed. Commanders will coordinate with DES before submitting a request for equivalency evaluation through the chain of command to DCS, G-3/5/7 (DAMO-AV).

b. Operators can be authorized to conduct MT duties in accordance with TC 3-04.62.

c. Upon completion of the DA approved MT qualification course or equivalency evaluation, O-5 commanders with organic SUAS assets may appoint MTs as unit aircrew training managers.

d. MTs must be current, qualified, and mission qualified in the system in which they will be performing their duties.

D-10. Nonstandard small unmanned aircraft systems with a non-tactical mission

Group 1 UAS procured per chapter 9 of this regulation for non-tactical missions, for example, Corps of Engineers dam inspections, research and academic activities within Army research laboratories, RDECOM, military academies, or public affairs events, are exempt from the qualification, evaluation, and currency requirements of this regulation. Owning organization is responsible for safe operations and compliance with applicable FAA circulars.