

## POLICY OR PRECEDENT

SUBJECT: United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) DATE: 13 FEB 2024  
Organically Manufactured Unmanned Systems (UMS)

POLICY NUMBER:	ORIGINATING SECTION:	ORIGINATOR:	PHONE#:
24-05	AOFM-ASORD (738-751m)	MAJ Reynolds	908-9391

APPROVED BY: JASON A. JOHNSTON, COLONEL, GS, Chief of Staff

### SYNOPSIS:

1. Purpose. To establish: guidance, compliance with laws/directives, parameters for the development and manufacturing of organic UMS acquisition, employment, test and evaluations, training, and operational requirements across USASOC formations. This policy does NOT address the modification of Program of Record (PoR) UMS nor addition of kinetic effects nor organically fabricating kinetic effect delivery mechanisms.

2. Scope. This policy applies to Headquarters (HQ), USASOC, and its command support commands/command support units, for all activities involving the use of UMS.

3. General. The rapid evolution of robotic and autonomous systems technology is changing the dynamic of warfare on the current battlefield. UMS are an increasingly utilized tool, but risks are present and must be mitigated.

#### 4. Policy Implications.

a. The procurement and supply capacity for source materials to "Organically Fabricate" UMS is limited due to prohibition of buying materials from foreign covered nations and a limited U.S. industrial base. Due to complications with validating the country of origin for source materials when supplied through third party entities with the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Section 817, "Prohibition on Operation or Procurement of Foreign-Made Unmanned Aircraft Systems." Decentralized and unregulated efforts to

PRESCRIBING DIRECTIVES: Deputy Secretary of Defense Memo on Guidance for Procedures for the Operation and Procurement of Unmanned Aircraft System to Implement Section 817 of the NDAA for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023; 128\_3, USSOCOM JSOC Procure and Operate OCONUS Unmanned Aircraft; Exception to Policy (ETP) to Procure and Use Certain Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Uncontrolled Operational Environments Requiring OUSD (A&S) Approval; DoD CIO and USD (A&S) Memorandum, "Procedures for the Operation or Procurement of Unmanned Aircraft Systems to Implement Section 848 of the NDAA for FY 2020"; AR 750-1, Army Material Maintenance Policy; DA PAM 750-1, Army Material Maintenance Procedures; USASOC Reg 700-1, USASOC Logistics Policy and Procedures; DA Form 7752-1, Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Inventory, Status, and Flying.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

This publication is available in electronic media and is intended for A5 distribution. Paper copies will be provided for those not having access to e-media.

#### OTHER POLICIES AFFECTED:

N/A

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manufacture Organically Fabricated UMS introduces potential vulnerabilities that compromise the system, the operator, and open commands to increased risk for non-operational legal considerations if foreign covered nation materials are utilized during fabrication process.

b. AR 750-1/DA Pam 750-1, categorize additive manufacturing, known as 3D printing or local manufacturing from unit innovation, into six tiers. Tiers 4-5 cover manufacturing parts for Aviation. Commands will not additively manufacture any repair parts, system enhancements, tools, jigs or fixtures for use with aviation systems without approval from the Army Airworthiness Authority, Commander, Army Aviation and Missile Command.

c. All UMS must be reported and accounted for IAW AR 700-138 and USASOC Reg 700-1. This reporting requirement identifies platform usage, configuration, and flight hours. This reporting system is used to further support future requirements in sUAS, and aid USASOC in the acquisitions and procurement decision making process. Furthermore, USSOCOM uses the reporting system during development of the USSOCOM COTs waivers to determine sUAS platforms for inclusion in the ETP based on inventory and usage rates, i.e. if a platform is not used it is removed from the ETP application.

5. Responsibilities and procedures:

a. The Commanding General, USASOC has designated the USASOC Force Modernization Center (UFMC) Director to:

(1) Appoint a compliance advocate. Compliance Advocate is responsible for review of waiver/exceptions to policy applications for development, acquisition, manufacturing, and employment of non-Program of Record UMS including components, control units, software, payloads, and complete systems, in which USASOC personnel may be engaged. Compliance Advocate will also provide risk analysis and recommendations for consideration in the approval for use of organically manufactured UMS for training, operational employment, or otherwise.

(2) Implement a program of active compliance oversight for all training and operational employment, or otherwise, that is conducted and/or supported by USASOC involving the use of organically manufactured UMS.

(3) Ensure activities involving organically manufactured UMS comply with the requirements set forth in this policy and all requests for waivers/ETPs, Air Worthiness Reviews, and Cyber Vulnerability Assessments are submitted through appropriate controlling proponents for review and approval.

b. UFMC Army Special Operations Robotics Division (ASORD) is:

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(1) Proponent of this policy, the designated compliance advocate, and responsible for the oversight and use of organically manufactured UMS in training and operational employment within the USASOC enterprise.

(2) Responsible of facilitating reporting of problems when discovered as identified above to any agency determined appropriate by regulation.

(4) Responsible for management, processing, and archiving all waivers and ETPs. This includes processing of Air Worthiness Releases, additions to the COTs Ban Waiver, conducting Cyber Vulnerabilities Assessments and processing NDAA waivers.

c. Component subordinate commanders will:

(1) Ensure compliance with this policy and develop procedures and guidelines defining requirements and standards IAW policy and supporting regulations for compliance at each unit location, training site, collaborating institution, or operational element involved.

(2) Review, validate, and recommend approval/disapproval of ETP/waiver submissions as determined appropriate and necessary, requests for the modification or fabrication of UMS in support of activities within their organizations such as training and operational requirements appropriate to the unit mission, assessment of risk, and other impacts prior to procurement of components, fabrication of, or modification of UMS.

(3) Ensure all submissions for activities involving the modification or fabrication of UMS are reviewed and validated to be legally sufficient, possess merit of scientific or technical soundness to justify the use of modified or fabrication of UMS, and that no alternative systems are authorized for use and are suitable for the intended purpose.

(4) Ensure all submissions for activities involving the modification or fabrication of UMS are reviewed and validated to be legally sufficient, possess merit of scientific or technical soundness to justify the use of modified or fabrication of UMS, and that no alternative systems are authorized for use and are suitable for the intended purpose.

(5) Ensure that activities involving the modification or fabrication of unmanned systems comply with the requirements described herein, and the request for ETPs/waivers are submitted through the ASORD USASOC to the UPMC Director, USASOC, for review and approval **no later than 90-days\* prior** to training event start date.

Note: \*90 days is the current processing timeline for an ETP through SOCOM to OUSD.

6. Effective Date. This policy is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded.

(END)