



**FAA**  
Aviation Safety

FY 2019

**AUS**

QUARTERLY  
REPORT



**Q4**



# Introduction

This document provides an overview of the UAS Integration Office's high-level accomplishments in FY 2019, Quarter 4 (July – September, 2019). When available, links to further information are supplied.

## Announcements & Regulations

**July 5, 2019**

### **FAA Establishes Restrictions on Drone Operations over Additional Military Facilities**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced today new airspace restrictions effective July 11, 2019 on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) attempting to fly over national security sensitive locations.

The FAA has been cooperating with federal partners to address concerns about malicious drone operations by using the agency's existing authority under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 99.7 (14 CFR § 99.7), *Special Security Instructions*, to establish UAS specific flight restrictions over select, national security sensitive locations.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94034>

**July 23, 2019**

### **FAA to Further Expand Opportunities for Safe Drone Operations**

The FAA beginning on July 23 will expand the Low Altitude Authorization and Capability (LAANC) system to include recreational flyers. This action will significantly increase the ability of drone pilots to gain access to controlled airspace nationwide.

LAANC, a collaboration between the FAA and industry that directly supports the safe integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into the nation's airspace, expedites the time it takes for a drone pilot to receive authorization to fly under 400 feet in controlled airspace.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94105>

**July 31, 2019**

### **Redesigned B4UFLY App Available Now**

The FAA, in partnership with Kittyhawk, relaunched its B4UFLY mobile application that allows recreational drone flyers know where they can and cannot fly in the national airspace system (NAS). The new B4UFLY app is now available to download for free at the [App Store for iOS](#) and [Google Play store for Android](#).

"As we continue our efforts to safely integrate drones into the NAS, working with our industry partners to provide innovative technology is critical," said then FAA Acting Administrator Dan Elwell. "The B4UFLY app is another tool the FAA can provide recreational drone flyers to help them fly safely and responsibly."

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94204>

**Aug 15, 2019**

### **FAA Seeks Stakeholder Input on Drone Tests**

The FAA issued a Request for Information (RFI) this week seeking to work with stakeholders on the administration of a new aeronautical knowledge test for recreational drone operators.

Section 349 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 requires new conditions to operate recreational small UAS. Many drones can be flown today with minimal training or knowledge of aviation rules or safety practices. The new statute is an opportunity to educate recreational flyers on UAS safety and to bring new flyers into the existing aviation safety culture. The law requires that flyers of recreational drones pass an aeronautical knowledge and safety test. The test will demonstrate a recreational flyer's understanding of aeronautical safety knowledge and rules for operating a UAS.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94325>

## Announcements & Regulations, cont.

**Aug 22, 2019**

### **Drones and Weapons, a Dangerous Mix**

The FAA is warning the general public that it is illegal to operate a drone with a dangerous weapon attached.

Perhaps you've seen online photos and videos of drones with attached guns, bombs, fireworks, flamethrowers, and other dangerous items. Do not consider attaching any items such as these to a drone because operating a drone with such an item may result in significant harm to a person and to your bank account.

Operating a drone that has a dangerous weapon attached to it is a violation of Section 363 of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act enacted Oct. 5, 2018. Operators are subject to civil penalties up to \$25,000 for each violation, unless the operator has received specific authorization from the Administrator of the FAA to conduct the operation. "Dangerous Weapon" means any item that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94424>

**August 29, 2019**

### **FAA Eases Restrictions on Drone Operations Over Some Federal Facilities**

The FAA announced today that it is working with other federal agencies to minimize the impact of flight restrictions on drone operators flying near select federal facilities.

The FAA is working with the U.S. Department of Defense to establish intermittent restrictions on drone flights within the lateral boundaries of select federal facilities during specified times. Currently, drone operators are prohibited from flying at these locations at all times. The FAA is working to ensure that these restrictions are narrowly tailored and remain in effect only when necessary.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94484>

**Sept 4, 2019**

### **FAA, UAS Partners Complete Successful Demos**

The FAA, NASA and their partners in a pilot program that is laying the groundwork for an UAS traffic management (UTM) system successfully demonstrated how such a system can work in the future.

The demonstrations, conducted at three separate test sites selected by the FAA for the UAS Traffic Management Pilot Program (UPP), showed that multiple, Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone operations can be safely conducted at low altitudes (below 400 feet) in airspace where FAA air traffic services are not provided.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94507>

**Sept 23, 2019**

### **Think Drone Safety as We Share the Sky**

The FAA is encouraging the drone community to help spread the word on drone safety with the first National Drone Safety Awareness Week taking place, Nov. 4-10, 2019. The FAA's highest priority is to ensure the safety of the NAS, and during National Drone Safety Awareness Week, the FAA reminds drone pilots and stakeholders that airspace safety is everyone's responsibility.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94664>

**Sept 26, 2019**

### **FAA Updates DroneZone**

Upgrades to the FAA's DroneZone now allow recreational flyers to request airspace authorizations in controlled airspace where the LAANC is not available.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94668>

## Speeches & Meetings

**July 8, 2019**

**UAS Executive Committee (ExCom)**

The ExCom met on July 8, 2019 and was co-chaired by Ali Bahrami (AVS-1). ASH provided briefs on data security and UAS detection at airports, Jay Merkle (AUS-1) provided an FAA rulemaking update, and Sabrina Saunders-Hodge (AUS-300) led a discussion on Science and Research Panel (SARP) continued engagement. The meeting concluded with a discussion on the establishment of a Counter-UAS Senior Steering Group, and a discussion on Blue UAS Architecture and Policy.

**July 9-10, 2019**

**UTM Pilot Program (UPP) Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS) Demonstration Day.**

The second of three UPP demonstration days was successfully completed at the Northern Plains UAS Test Site in North Dakota July 10-11, 2019. Due to weather conditions, the July 10 event took place via simulations. On July 11, weather allowed for successful live flight demonstrations. The 55 stakeholders participating in the NPUASTS demonstration included representatives from the offices of Senator John Hoeven and Congressman Kelly Armstrong, Lieutenant Governor Brent Sanford, and FAA Executives from the Office of NextGen, including Deputy Director John Maffei. The final UPP flight demonstration is on track and scheduled for August 1 in Nevada.

**July 31**

**FAA Oversight Hearing (July 31):** On July 31, Carl Burleson (ADA), Ali Bahrami (AVS-1), Winsome Lenfert (APR-2), and Angela Stubblefield (ASH-2) testified in front of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies on a variety of topics, including UAS and Boeing 737-Max.

The recorded hearing can be viewed here:

<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/oversight-of-the-federal-aviation-administration>

**August 13, 2019**

**North Carolina Drone Summit & Flight Expo**

On August 13, Jay Merkle, Executive Director of the FAA's UAS Integration Office, spoke at the North Carolina Drone Summit on "The State of UAS Integration."

**August 16, 2019**

**UAS Test Sites**

FAA fully executed a task order award to the Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS) to support the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). NPUASTS will evaluate new UAS detection equipment using manned and unmanned aircraft.

**August 20 – 22, 2019**

**UAS Workshop for Latin America:**

On August 20-22, the AUS International team hosted delegates from Colombia and Mexico for a three-day workshop that covered UAS issues in many areas, including flight safety, operations, airworthiness, air space access, and UAS traffic management. AUS-1 welcomed the delegates on the first day and also participated in a session with FAA executives from ASH, ATO, AFS, and AIR to share how each office contributes to the Agency's goal of integrating UAS into our NAS. Key messages given to the delegates was integration, not segregation, and "operations now."

## Speeches & Meetings, cont.

**September 23 – 26, 2019**

### **Vietnam Delegation FAA HQ Visit**

The AUS International team and API coordinated extensively across the US government (State, Defense, DHS, US Embassy-Hanoi) and with several FAA offices to arrange three days of UAS-related technical briefings for the senior-level Vietnamese delegation including twelve representatives from their Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Ministry of National Defense, Air Traffic Management Corporation and various city Public Safety offices. Following a UAS integration executive overview session with Jay Merkle, Angela Stubblefield, and Dr. Mike Romanowski, the delegation received detailed presentations on UAS integration-related topics including rulemaking, UTM, Part 107, IPP, PSP, UAS test sites, registration, research, public and international engagement, standards organizations, certification and counter-UAS (c-UAS). The c-UAS briefing was provided by FAA (ASH, ARP, ATO), DHS, and TSA. This event fulfilled all the delegation's objectives and allowed the FAA to demonstrate global leadership by sharing how we safely integrate new users and technologies into our aviation system.

**September 26, 2019**

### **House Aviation Subcommittee Hearing**

The FAA Deputy Administrator was a witness in a House Aviation Subcommittee hearing covering on implementation of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

## Webinars & Facebook Live Events

- How to Navigate UAS Facility Maps
- Drone Safety at OSH19
- FAA Drone Guy
- LAANC
- How to Fly Drones in an Emergency

## No Fly Tweets

- Fleet Week (Seattle, Los Angeles)
- Wildfires
- Tropical Storm Barry
- All Star Baseball Game
- Hurricane Dorian
- Thunder Over Michigan
- Pro Football Hall of Fame
- UN General Assembly
- Nevada Special Events
- Connecticut Maritime Festival

## Other Tweets

- LAANC Expansion for Recreational Pilots
- New Airspace Restrictions over National Security Locations
- Drones and Fireworks Don't Mix
- Buzzy the Drone
- Drones at Work in Kansas
- Attaching Weapons to Drones is Illegal and Dangerous
- Xcel Energy Will Use a Drone to Inspect Power Lines
- FAA is Seeking Recreational Flyer Aeronautical Knowledge Test Help
- Advancing Safe Drone Integration
- Public Safety Drone Program Information
- Alaska Pipeline Inspection
- DroneZone Update for Recreational Flyers
- National Drone Safety Week
- SAND Challenge
- Integration Progress
- UTM Pilot Program