FAA
Aviation Safety

FY 2020

AUS QUARTERLY REPORT

Q1

Introduction

This document provides an overview of the UAS Integration Office's high-level accomplishments in FY 2020, Quarter 1 (October – December, 2019). When available, links to further information are supplied.

Announcements & Regulations

Oct. 10, 2019
UAS Safety Risk Management (SRM) Policy

On October 10, FAA Order 8040.6 – UAS SRM Policy – was published. The new order establishes the methods by which the FAA manages applicants' requests to operate UAS, and the methods by which AVS performs SRM in accordance with FAA Order 8040.4, SRM Policy Requirements.

https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Order/FAA_Order_8040.6.pdf

Oct. 28, 2019
Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Panel (RPASP)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has accepted the nomination of Chris Swider as the new U.S. Member to RPASP, taking over the position due to the retirement of Randy Willis. Chris has participated in the RPASP since its inception in 2013 and also served as JARUS Vice-Chair since 2014.

Oct. 29, 2019
UAS Operations Restricted At More Federal Facilities

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) airspace restrictions over additional national security sensitive locations, effective November 7.

In cooperation with its federal partners, the FAA will restrict UAS operations in the airspace over 60 additional Department of Defense and Department of Justice facilities to address concerns about malicious drone activity. An FAA Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), FDC 9/7752, defines these special security instructions. The FAA has published a new NOTAM, FDC 9/1278, which alerts UAS operators and others in the aviation community to this change and points to FDC 9/7752.

Nov. 12, 2019
FAA and NASA Drone Industry Workshop

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and NASA will hold the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Traffic Management (UTM) Pilot Program (UPP) Phase 2 Industry Workshop in December. Building on UPP Phase 1, UPP Phase 2 will showcase additional technologies, including Remote Identification (ID) and operations with increasing volumes and density. The UPP's success is dependent upon the ability to work with industry, various FAA Test Sites and IPP participants.

https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94734

Nov. 21, 2019
LAANC Drone Program Expansion Continues

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced two important expansions of the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC), which automates the application and approval process for drone operators to obtain airspace authorizations.

Four airports – Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, Dulles International Airport, William P. Hobby Airport in Houston and Newark Liberty International Airport – joined the list of approximately 400 air traffic facilities covering about 600 airports where LAANC is available.

https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94750

Announcements & Regulations, cont.

Dec. 9, 2019
Recreational Drone Flying Aeronautical Test (Section 44809) Moves Forward

To advance public safety of the largest segment of drone operations, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced the organizations selected to advise the agency in developing test administration requirements for the recreational Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) aeronautical knowledge and safety test.

A law passed in 2018 requires that recreational drone flyers pass an online aeronautical knowledge and safety test and carry proof of test passage with them while operating a drone. There are more than one million FAA registered recreational drone flyers. To ensure that flight operations are conducted safely, the FAA is developing a test to increase the aeronautical knowledge of recreational drone flyers.

https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=94805

Dec. 26, 2019
U.S. Department of Transportation Issues Proposed Rule on Remote ID for Drones

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced a proposed rule that would continue the safe integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly called drones, into the nation's airspace by requiring them to be identifiable remotely.

"Remote ID technologies will enhance safety and security by allowing the FAA, law enforcement, and Federal security agencies to identify drones flying in their jurisdiction," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=24534

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

Oct. 17, 2019
Drone Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting

A DAC meeting was held on October 17, 2019. During the meeting, the DAC presented the FAA with their recommendations on three DAC taskings from the June 6, 2019 meeting (remote ID, UAS security issues, and 107 waiver process). In addition, DOT Acting Under Secretary for Transportation Policy, Joel Szabat, gave the Committee an update on behalf of the Secretary, the FAA provided updates on several topics (remote ID, UAS security, National Drone Safety Awareness Week, and Section 349), and the FAA gave the DAC three new taskings on UAS facility maps, beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) challenges, and UAS Traffic Management.

Nov. 4 – 10, 2019
National Drone Safety Awareness Week.

The inaugural National Drone Safety Awareness Week kicked off on Monday, November 4. This outreach initiative aims to garner nationwide participation and the FAA has recorded the engagement of 49 states and one territory to date. Within the participating states and territory there have been over 120 voluntarily reported events set to take place throughout the week. AUS has worked cross agency with other offices and lines of business to shape this initiative into what is soon to be a great success.

https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/events_calendar/archive/drone_safety_awareness/

Speeches, Meetings, & Events, cont.

Nov. 7, 2019
Urban Air Mobility (UAM)

The UAS Integration Office Safety and Integration Division attended a meeting hosted at NASA HQ with the Undersecretary of Defense Office for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Whitehouse Office of Science and Technology (OSTP). Attendees conducted an information exchange and discussed emerging UAM requirements, the NASA UAM Grand Challenge, and reviewed existing regulatory gaps and technology barriers. The meeting also included a briefing from NASA and FAA, followed by detailed discussion on UAM activities, emerging UAM requirements and potential for future collaboration between NASA Grand Challenge, FAA and Department of Defense to further UAM activities.

Nov. 8, 2019
UAS Safety Team (UAST)

The UAST held its fourth quarter plenary. Co-chairs Jay Merkle (FAA UAS Integration Office) and Sean Cassidy (Amazon Prime Air) provided a recap of Drone Safety Awareness Week and reviewed the UAST Core Activities, including a risk mitigation SMS white paper that will be published through the UAST in the near future.

Nov. 22, 2019

FAA International UAS Integration Research Roundtable Teleconference.

The UAS Integration Office Research Division hosted a teleconference with attendees from the FAA International UAS Integration Research Roundtable, which was held September 18-19 in Washington, DC. This teleconference allowed the group to start sharing updates and plan for future discussions focused on research topics of shared interest

Nov. 19 – 20, 2019
UAM Concept of Operations Event

The NASA/FAA UAM team held a UAM Concept of Operations (ConOps) Community Event where the jointly developed UAM ConOps was unveiled, discussed, and validated by industry and other UAM stakeholders. The ConOps covers all aspects of the UAM ecosystem, including airspace, aircraft, infrastructure, operations, and community elements.

Nov. 25 – 26, 2019
Unmanned Nordic Conference – Oslo, Norway

Jay Merkle (Executive Director, FAA UAS Integration Office) took part in several events to share UAS-related information, messaging and FAA best practices, while engaging with global stakeholders on UAS traffic management (UTM)/UAS Service Supplier (USS) developments via an opening presentation, TV interview, panel, and bilateral meetings with the Norwegian Air Navigation Service Provider, UAS Norway, and senior US diplomats. Norway has expressed keen interest in future collaboration and coordination with the FAA. The UAS Integration Office International Division is following up on related action items, including further outreach to the US Embassy in Oslo.

https://youtu.be/hMqvJ1XoItI

Dec. 2 – 7, 2019
European Union U-Space Workshop and Drone Conference

Jay Merkle (Executive Director, FAA UAS Integration Office) participated in European Union's U-Space Demonstrator Workshop and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency's (EASA) High Level Conference on Drones in Amsterdam, Netherlands. In addition to participating in two panels on stakeholder engagement and UTM, and a Twitter feed video, Jay held meetings with the European Commission, the Civil Air Navigation Services Organization, EASA, Civil Aviation Authorities, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), and UAS service providers and industry representatives.

No Drone Zone Tweets

- Wildfires (CA, CO, General)
- World Series
- Balloon Fiesta
- Marine Corps Marathon
- NYC Marathon
- Pacific Air Show
- San Francisco Fleet Week

Online Events

- Drone Safety Week Q&A with the Drone Guy
- Drone Advisory Committee Live Streaming

Other Tweets

- NASA SAND Challenge
- Drone Delivery Certifications
- FAA at ATCA 64
- UTM Pilot Program
- Women in Aviation
- Drone Registration
- Dubai Airshow
- Amsterdam Drone Week
- UAS Integration Pilot Program (IPP) / Drone Research
- Drone Advisory Committee (DAC)
- Safe Packing of Drones for Travel
- National Drone Safety Awareness Week
- B4UFLY Mobile App
- Drones as Holiday Gifts
- Recreational Flyer Knowledge Test Administration Cohort
- Remote ID