

# NOTICE

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

### Air Traffic Organization Policy

**N JO 7110.780**

**Effective Date:**  
May 21, 2021

**Cancellation Date:**  
December 2, 2021

**SUBJ:** Supervisory Notification of Suspicious UAS Activity

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- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides additional guidance to FAA Order JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, paragraph 2-1-26, Supervisory Notification and the pilot controller glossary.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations, Safety and Technical Training; Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; William J. Hughes Technical Center; and Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, and all associated air traffic control facilities.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee website at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) and on the air traffic publications website at [http://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/).
- 4. Cancellation.** This notice cancels the previously issued N JO 7110.778, which was effective December 31, 2020.
- 5. Explanation of Policy Change.** This change adds suspicious Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) activity to the existing list contained in paragraph 2-1-26, which directs all personnel performing ATC duties to notify the operational supervisor (OS)/controller-in-charge (CIC) of flight activities that could have an impact to sector/position operations. In addition, the term “suspicious UAS” is added to the pilot controller glossary.
- 6. Procedures/Action.** Please amend FAA Order JO 7110.65 by changing paragraph 2-1-26 and the pilot controller glossary to read as follows:

#### **2-1-26. SUPERVISORY NOTIFICATION**

Title through e., No change

f. Aircraft/pilot activity, including Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operation that is considered suspicious, as prescribed in FAA Order JO 7610.4, paragraph 7-3-1, and for information more specific to UAS, FAA Order JO 7210.3, paragraph 2-1-32.

#### **REFERENCE-**

*Pilot Controller Glossary Term- Suspicious UAS.*

## Pilot Controller Glossary

**SUSPICIOUS UAS** – Suspicious UAS operations may include operating without authorization, loitering in the vicinity of sensitive locations, (e.g., national security, law enforcement facilities, and critical infrastructure), or disrupting normal air traffic operations resulting in runway changes, ground stops, pilot evasive action, etc. The report of a UAS operation alone does not constitute suspicious activity. Development of a comprehensive list of suspicious activities is not possible due to the vast number of situations that could be considered suspicious. ATC must exercise sound judgment when identifying situations that could constitute or indicate a suspicious activity.

No further changes to paragraph

**7. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations, and Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service, the William J. Hughes Technical Center, and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

**8. Background.** Unauthorized or suspicious UAS operations potentially pose the same hazardous conditions as manned aircraft to the safety of flight. Therefore, it is imperative air traffic control personnel report any suspicious aircraft or pilot activity whether it involves manned or unmanned flights.

Natasha A.  
Durkins

Digitally signed by  
Natasha A. Durkins  
Date: 2021.04.20  
16:26:42 -04'00'

Natasha A. Durkins  
Director, Policy, AJV-P  
Air Traffic Organization