



The Use of FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Research Outputs – A Few Examples

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REDAC SAS – August 10, 2021

UAS/AAM Integration Research



UAS/AAM Integration Research is the foundation for addressing challenges and informing decisions to enable safety driven policies, procedures, and regulations.



Informing Rulemaking – Small UAS (sUAS) Ground Collision Severity for Operations Over People

- ASSURE Research (Phases 1 & 2: 2015-2019)
 - Over 512 impact tests and simulations were conducted
 - 16 different fixed-wing and multi-rotor UAS, as well as various objects and payloads
 - Determined thresholds of serious but non-lethal injury utilizing Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS)
 - Developed a test methodology for assessing the level of risk of sUAS to persons on the ground



- The ASSURE results were used to show that injury caused by a rigid object at kinetic energy levels (Cat 2/Cat 3) in the Operations Over People Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is equivalent to the injury caused by a sUAS at a higher kinetic energy
- ASSURE developed simplified test methods that are informing potential means of compliance for the Operations Over People rule







Informing Rulemaking – BVLOS Aviation Rulemaking Committee

- The FAA has initiated an Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Operations which is underway now
- AUS-300 has provided a compilation of all relevant research that might inform the ARC Recommendations including, but not limited to:
 - Develop Test Methods and Performance Requirements for small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Detect and Avoid (DAA) Systems - ASSURE
 - Develop Recommendations for Well-Clear Compliance for small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Terminal Area Flight Operations – Science and Research Panel (SARP)
 - Validate Visual Detection and Avoidance Operations Standards for sUAS ASSURE
 - Evaluate Multi-Sensor Data Fusion Strategies for Detect & Avoid (DAA) Technology William J. Hughes Technical Center







Evaluating Concepts – UAS Traffic Management (UTM) Pilot Program (UPP) Phase 1 Demonstration

- UAS Research program developed and tested UTM architecture and technical infrastructure to enable UPP Phase 1 demo
- UPP Phase 1 was successfully completed in August 2019 and demonstrated the following:
 - FAA connectivity and data exchange with UAS Service Suppliers
 - Sharing of information between UAS Service Supplier
 - Creation & Sharing of UAS Volume Reservations
 - Tested Discovery Services
- Results from UPP Phase 1 informed the regulatory guidance to support the FAA with industry standardization of
 Operational procedures





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Standards Development – RTCA Large UAS C2 & DAA Standards

- Research to *Evaluate the Command and Control (C2) Link Compatibility with* UAS, including the assessment and validation of interoperability, safety, security, and performance informed development and validation of RTCA Special Committee 228 (SC-228) C2 Standards:
 - C2 Link Systems Minimum Aviation System Performance Standards
 - C2 Data Link Minimum Operational Performance Standards
- Detect and Avoid Research including *Detect and Avoid Multi-Sensor Data Fusion Strategies*, informed development and validation of RTCA SC-228 DAA Standards:
 - Minimum Operational Performance Standards for DAA Systems
 - Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Air-to-Air Radar for Traffic Surveillance







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Standards Development – ASTM sUAS standards supporting BVLOS

- UAS research to inform test methods and performance metrics to support approval of Beyond Visual Line of Sight operations:
 - Airborne collision encounter modelling MIT-Lincoln Laboratories
 - Test Methods and Performance Requirements for small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Detect and Avoid (DAA) Systems ASSURE
 - Evaluation of ASTM Remote Identification (ID) standards to verify compliance with final Remote ID Rule
- As research continues, results are being shared with ASTM groups to inform the development and validation of industry consensus standards for BVLOS



Safety Analysis – Waiver Trend Analysis to Inform Operators

- UAS Researchers evaluated the sufficiency and insufficiency of data provided to the FAA for the assessment of risks in approving UAS Part 107 Waiver Requests.
 - Identify data characteristics needed for operators to establish a viable safety case and provide the FAA with a sufficient dataset for the assessment of risk in the waiver approval process.
 - Provide information on common areas of insufficiency in waiver applications
- Trend analysis results were published on the FAA's public website to help future applicants learn from past approvals and denials
 - https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/part_107_waivers/waiver_trend_analysis/



	Beyond Visual Line of Sight (107.31) Waiver Trend Analysis			
Waiver Application Elements	Command and Control (C2) Link and Emitters Performance Capabilities	Detect-and-Avoid (DAA) Methods	Weather Tracking and Operational Limitations	Training Requirements for Pilots and Other Participating Persons
Sufficient Information Characteristics of the Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) applications approved after requests for additional information	-States and demonstrates max range and envelope that C2 can operate in, taking into account geographic area, environment, and terrain -Provides a complete description of each emitter, including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) grant of authorization and FCC ID number for each transmitter/emitter on the sUA and ground control station	-Detailed descriptions and procedures for risk mitigations to avoid collisions with aircraft (ex. Visual Observers, and technology)	-Details when weather reports will be gathered, what will be gathered, and where they will be taken from. -States weather limitations, such as small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) manufacturer's limitations or wind speed	-Details and provides means for validating effectiveness of employee training and testing program. Example: -Lists out courses/subjects covered -Tests corrected to 100% and stored for easy retrieval later
Insufficient Information Characteristics of the Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) applications after requests for additional information	-C2 operational capabilities not evident -Not demonstrating C2 can operate at stated max range or stating the envelope. i.e. lacking data -Application did not include FCC grant of authorization or FCC identification number for each emitter on the small unmanned aircraft system (sUAs) and ground control station	-Detailed methods or procedures to see and avoid or detect and avoid participating or non-participating aircraft and non-participating persons/moving vehicles are not evident or adequately described Examples: -If used, a video feed alone may not be sufficient, because detection would be limited to the direction the camera is pointing (i.e. not 360 degree detection) and does not address avoidance. -If used, Automatic dependent surveillance - broadcast (ADS-B) in alone may not be sufficient because ADS-B in only provides data for cooperative traffic and does not address avoidance.	-Providing general, or no statements Examples: -'We only fly on clear days' -'Weather is to be of Visual Flight Rules in nature' - Multiple applications not addressing weather requirements	-Provision of a method of assuring all required persons participating in operation have knowledge in all aspects of BVLOS not evident -Not stating who will have the training what the training will consist of, or a method of assuring all required persons have been successfully trained



Aviation Forecasts

- UAS research efforts studying UAS "hotspots", growth projections, and traffic trends inform Aerospace forecasts, enable modeling, and predict future demand
 - Aerospace Forecast: https://www.faa.gov/data-research/aviation/
 - Internal FAA UAS Trends and Forecast platform provides visualization and reporting of data and various UAS metrics (including registration, operations, and applications)







Questions?



