



Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

June 30, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

Detailed Minutes

Introduction

An Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee (AAAC) meeting was held at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac, MD on June 30, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM EST. This meeting was held in a hybrid format and livestreamed across FAA social media for the general public. The full meeting is archived on the FAA's YouTube channel and is broken up into two sessions.

Both sessions can be found here: First session:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iplu0xRID8>. Second session:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss7RLW0ZP4s>.

Designated Federal Officer Opening Remarks

Mr. Jay Merkle began the morning session of the meeting by welcoming the audience and reading the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) opening statement. After reading the opening statement, Mr. Merkle then discussed the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Merkle proceeded to ask for a motion for approval of the February 23, 2022 meeting minutes. There were no objections and the motion passed.

Mr. Merkle then turned the meeting over to the AAAC Chair for his remarks.

View the DFO's remarks (link is timestamped for DFO Opening Remarks):

<https://youtu.be/Iplu0xRID8?t=131>

AAAC Chair Opening Remarks

AAAC Chair, Captain Houston Mills, began his remarks by welcoming all attendees and viewers to the meeting. Capt. Mills expressed that the continued work of the Committee, under the new Charter, will help us to better achieve full integration of drones and advanced air mobility (AAM) vehicles into the National Airspace System (NAS). He then provided examples of recent data and calculated projections related to the growth of the small UAS community to demonstrate the impact and importance of the Committee's work.

After thanking the scheduled presenters for their hard work in preparing their recommendations, Capt. Mills turned the meeting over to Abby Smith, Deputy Executive Director for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office to present the first briefing.

View the AAAC Chair's remarks: (link is timestamped for AAAC Chair Opening Remarks):



Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

June 30, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

<https://youtu.be/llplu0xRID8?t=318>

FAA Initial Response to Task Group #12: Recommendations for Integrating Uncrewed Aircraft Operations into K-12 Curriculums

Presenter:

Abby Smith, Deputy Executive Director, FAA UAS Integration Office

Ms. Abby Smith began the presentation by providing a brief background on Task Group #12's Recommendations for Integrating Uncrewed Aircraft Operations into K-12 Curriculums, which were provided to the FAA at the February 2022 AAAC Meeting, and thanking the Committee for their thoughtful and thorough recommendations. Ms. Smith specified that at this time, the FAA would be providing an initial response to the Committee. The FAA concurred with all recommendations and revealed that the agency intends to dedicate resources to each.

There was a brief discussion following the presentation.

The AAAC eBook provides the official initial report of the FAA's response to Task Group #12: Recommendations for Integrating Uncrewed Aircraft Operations into K-12 Curriculums.

View the presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for FAA Initial Response to Task Group 12: Recommendations for Integrating Uncrewed Aircraft Operations into K-12 Curriculums):

<https://youtu.be/llplu0xRID8?t=589>

Advanced Air Mobility Infrastructure Update

Presenter:

Keri Lyons, Technical Advisor, FAA Office of Airports

Ms. Keri Lyons began the presentation by explaining what AAM is and providing examples of notional use cases. Ms. Lyons proceeded to discuss the FAA's expectations and plans regarding initial and future AAM operations, before providing the Committee with a brief introduction into the FAA Office of Airports. She then addressed vertiport standards and the agency's plans to develop them, including describing the FAA's approach to vertiport research, partnerships, and early adopters.



Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

June 30, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

Lastly, Ms. Lyons explained that a draft Engineering Brief (available for viewing on the FAA website) will serve as interim guidance as the agency continues to work towards a performance based advisory circular. The FAA plans to issue a final Engineering Brief later this summer.

There was a discussion period following the presentation.

View this presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for AAM Infrastructure Update presentation):

<https://youtu.be/llplu0xRID8?t=2474>

Task Group #13: Strategic Framework for Advanced Air Mobility Near-Term Operations Interim Recommendations

Presenters:

David Silver, Vice President, Civil Aviation Aerospace Industries Association
Seleta Reynolds, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Transportation

Mr. David Silver opened the presentation by providing an overview of the tasking provided to the group at the February 23, 2022 AAAC Meeting and explaining how the task group worked together to formulate their interim recommendations in sub-groups: Aircraft, Airspace, Operations, Infrastructure, and Community. Mr. Silver specified that the task group would need to request additional time to complete the final report.

There was a brief discussion following the presentation.

View the presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for Task Group #13: Strategic Framework for Advanced Air Mobility Near-Term Operations Interim Recommendations presentation):

<https://youtu.be/llplu0xRID8?t=5204>

Remarks from the FAA Deputy Administrator

FAA Deputy Administrator, Mr. Brad Mims, began the afternoon session of the meeting with welcoming remarks to the Committee and audience. Mr. Mims acknowledged some of the major milestones that have taken place since the last AAAC meeting, including the publishing of the Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) report, the publishing of the draft interim guidance on vertiport standards, and the issuing of new airworthiness criteria for special class category drones.



Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

June 30, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

The meeting was then turned over to Capt. Mills to introduce the next presentation.

View the Remarks from the Deputy Administrator (link is timestamped for Remarks from the Deputy Administrator):

<https://youtu.be/ss7RLW0ZP4s?t=25>

NASA Programs Update

Presenter:

Robert Pearce, Associate Administrator, NASA

Mr. Robert Pearce began his presentation by providing a broad overview of NASA aeronautics, sharing some of NASA's significant achievements for both UAS commercial missions and UAS traffic management. He then continued with his presentation by providing a brief introduction into AAM, describing NASA's role in addressing AAM related challenges, before moving on to discuss NASA's national campaign objectives and partnerships.

Mr. Pearce then went on to discuss the agency's approach to noise research, advanced concepts for wildfire managers in the field, and the success of the agency's university leadership initiative.

Following the presentation, there was a discussion period.

View the presentation and discussion: (link is timestamped for NASA Programs Update):

<https://youtu.be/ss7RLW0ZP4s?t=697>

New Business/Agenda Topics

Mr. Mills opened the floor to Committee members to raise any new business or agenda items. Capt. Mills cataloged all new business items received ahead of the meeting and discussed each individually.

Topics for the FAA to consider for future taskings included:

- Mr. Vic Moss brought up UAS and AAM operator security measures, citing instances where drones and/or drone operators are being attacked in both recreational and non-recreational operations.
- Mr. Mills raised a question regarding the priorities of tasks remaining from the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act. Mr. Merkle stated that the FAA will provide an update at the next AAAC meeting.
- Mr. Mills raised a question regarding what the FAA can do to speed up the rulemaking process. Mr. Merkle stated that the FAA is interested in possibly taking an approach that



Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

June 30, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

would allow for the community to provide feedback that would be taken into consideration to improve the rulemaking process.

- Ms. Cathy Cahill raised a question regarding how drones can operate in Class E over Class A airspace. Mr. Merkle took an action item to think about a tasking and determine where the FAA, NASA, and ICAO are with this item.
- Mr. Hsu raised a discussion regarding alternative fuel, as his team is working with the military to produce 100% synthetic jet fuel. He would like to see if the FAA and AAAC could play a bigger role in this carbon neutral fuel solution.

Lastly, Capt. Mills raised the possibility of an FAA tasking that focused on the Committee reviewing the FAA five-year plan for integrating UAS into the NAS and assessing the document for root causes of successes, shortfalls, and future opportunities for this sector, with recommendations for the FAA to adjudicate accordingly. Capt. Mills also raised the possibility of an FAA tasking that focused on the Committee conducting an analysis of the short-term BVLOS ARC recommendation to determine what can be put into place as rules within the next 12 months.

View the discussion (New Business/Agenda Topics):

<https://youtu.be/ss7RLW0ZP4s?t=3978>

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Mr. Merkle began his closing remarks by thanking all of the presenters, as well as those who help make the AAAC possible, and praised the Committee for their work with gender-neutral language and the K-12 tasking. Mr. Merkle iterated that by the next Committee meeting, he expects there to be new members joining in the conversation.

He then turned the meeting over to Capt. Mills, who thanked the AAAC for all of their hard work, thought, and leadership, before turning the meeting over to Mr. Gary Kolb.

Mr. Kolb, UAS Stakeholder & Committee Officer, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

View the closing remarks (Closing Remarks and Adjourn):

<https://youtu.be/ss7RLW0ZP4s?t=5120>



Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

June 30, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

Appendix A: FAA Meeting Attendees

FAA Designated Federal Officer, Presenters, and Speakers

Name	Title	Org.
1. Jay Merkle	Executive Director, UAS Integration Office (DFO)	FAA
2. Bradley Mims	Deputy Administrator	FAA
3. Robert Pearce	Associate Administrator, Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)	NASA
4. Abby Smith	Deputy Executive Director, UAS Integration Office	FAA
5. Keri Lyons	Technical Officer, Airports	FAA
6. Gary Kolb	UAS Stakeholder & Committee Officer, UAS Integration Office	FAA

FAA/DOT Observers and Stakeholders

Name	Title	Org.
1. Laurence Wildgoose	Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy, International Affairs and Environment	FAA
2. Shannetta Griffin	Associate Administrator, Airports	FAA
3. Claudio Manno	Associate Administrator, Security and Hazardous Materials Safety	FAA
4. Marc Nichols	Chief Counsel	FAA
5. Tim Arel	Acting Chief Operating Officer, Air Traffic Organization	FAA
6. Winsome Lenfert	Deputy Associate Administrator, Airports	FAA
7. Tonya Coultas	Deputy Associate Administrator, Security and Hazardous Materials Safety	FAA
8. Vinn White	Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary of Transportation	DOT
9. Ryan Steinbach	Aviation Policy Coordinator	DOT
10. Sabrina Saunders-Hodge	Director, Research, Engineering, and Analysis, UAS Integration Office	FAA
11. Leesa Papier	Executive Director, Security and Hazardous Materials Safety	FAA
12. Jessica Orquina	Acting Manager, UAS Integration Office	FAA
13. Adrienne Vanek	Director, International Division, UAS Integration Office	FAA
14. Martha Christie	Deputy Director, Safety & Integration Division, UAS Integration Office	FAA



Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

June 30, 2022 • Virtual Meeting

Name	Title	Org.
15. Elizabeth Forro	Special Assistant, UAS Integration Office	FAA
16. Kamisha Walker	Management Assistant, UAS Integration Office	FAA
17. Deandra Brooks	Senior Communications Specialist, UAS Integration Office	FAA

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