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US ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND
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RDMR-AEV

07 DEC 2009 R3

03 OCT 2008 R2

AWR RQ-7B20070727R3

27 JUL 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Project Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SFAE-AV-UAS),
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000

SUBJECT: Airworthiness Release (AWR) for Operation of RQ-7B Shadow Unmanned
Aircraft System (UAS) (AWR RQ-7B20070727R3) (TN 47435B)

1. Scope: This memorandum constitutes Airworthiness Release Qualification Level 3 authorizing operation of the RQ-7B Shadow Unmanned Aircraft System within active restricted airspace (R-2104) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved Certificate of Authorization (COA) area at Redstone Airfield, Huntsville AL.
2. Validity: This AWR terminates 07 DEC 2011, upon changes in configuration of the subject equipment, or upon issuance of a later AWR, whichever occurs first. This AWR is valid only for operations within active restricted airspace (R-2104) and the FAA approved COA area at Redstone Airfield, Huntsville AL.
3. Appendices: This memorandum and its appendices shall be carried in the logbook, controlling Ground Control Station (GCS), and aircraft historical record file.

Appendix A - Restrictions and Operating Information

Appendix B - Configuration and Installation Detail

Appendix C - Inspections, Maintenance, and Logbook Instructions

Appendix D - Reference List

4. The points of contact (POCs) are (b) (6) commercial (256) 313-5364, or
e-mail: (b) (6) @us.army.mil or (b) (6) commercial (256) 313-5375, or
e-mail: (b) (6) @us.army.mil. (b) (6)

(b) (6) of Aviation Engineering

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Appendix A - Restrictions and Operating Information:

WARNING

The RQ-7B Shadow UAS has not completed full airworthiness qualification. All flight operations shall be conducted in a manner to minimize exposure to manned aircraft and populated ground areas.

WARNING

Accidental operation of the RQ-7B Shadow UAS outside of active restricted airspace and/or the FAA approved COA shall be immediately reported to Air Traffic Control (ATC) / Range Control. The operator shall make immediate actions to correct the flight path and/or follow ATC/Range Control direction.

WARNING

The RQ-7B Shadow UAS has not undergone testing to determine Electromagnetic Interference/Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMI/EMC) or susceptibility to internal or external electromagnetic fields. The aircraft may experience erroneous data reports, and/or loss of control of aircraft. Operators shall avoid sources of electromagnetic fields such as but not limited to transmitters, power lines, and cell towers.

WARNING

The RQ-7B Shadow UAS has not undergone Explosive Atmosphere testing. A serious fire or explosion may result if the aircraft is powered while flammable vapors are present during ground or flight operations. The precautions in paragraph 3 of this appendix shall be observed in order to ensure safe operations.

WARNING

The RQ-7B Shadow UAS does not have a sense and avoid system. Mid-air collision is a risk. All flight operations shall be conducted to ensure that minimum separation standards are maintained.

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WARNING

The RQ-7B Shadow UAS Airborne Computing Equipment (ACE) II may experience erroneous reboots (warm boots) in flight. Multiple warm boots in flight have resulted in loss of aircraft control. The precautions in paragraph 18 of this appendix shall be observed in order to ensure safe operations.

CAUTION

The RQ-7B Shadow UAS has not been tested for the effects of lightning. Flight operations shall be restricted to no less than 25 nautical miles from lightning activity.

1. The aircraft operating instructions, procedures, and limitations shall be in accordance with references D-1 through D-5 and this AWR. In the event of conflict between these documents, the information in this AWR shall prevail.
2. Flight of the RQ-7B Shadow UAS is restricted to Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC).
3. Due to lack of SOF Explosive Atmosphere testing, the following precautions shall be observed in order to ensure safe flight:
 - a. The aircraft shall be un-powered and grounded IAW reference D-1, D-2 and D-3 during refueling operations.
 - b. Ground operations of the aircraft shall be conducted at the greatest distance practical (no less than 50 feet) from all other aircraft and fuel depots.
4. Data link frequencies shall be de-conflicted through the local frequency manager/coordinator prior to conducting operations.
5. The Return Home Point shall be over a suitable ditch point and within range of the omni-antenna.
6. In the event of an engine failure or other catastrophic failure, local ATC/Range Control will be notified immediately. If possible the aircraft may be recovered by the external pilot otherwise the aircraft shall be ditched over the Return Home Point in active restricted airspace. If not possible to make the Return Home Point, every effort shall be made to visually inspect the probable impact area with the payload prior to parachute deployment.
7. The flight path of the aircraft shall be within a 4:1 glide ratio of a suitable ditching point.

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8. In case of loss of communications between the aircraft operator and local ATC/Range Control, the aircraft shall be directed to the Return Home Point.
9. Flight over populated areas shall be avoided.
10. The aircraft shall not be flown at altitudes below 2000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) except for launch and recovery activities and Post Maintenance Check Flights (PMCF).
11. During preflight someone other than the operator shall verify that the Return Home Point is entered correctly.
12. Local ATC/Range Control shall be notified with a flight plan or flight strip prior to departure to aid in airspace de-confliction.
13. Verified loss of any aircraft flight-critical subsystem or Ground Control Station (GCS) flight-critical sub-system shall require RTB.
14. Any unexplained anomaly shall initiate RTB or trouble shooting may be performed within the active restricted airspace.
15. All flight operations shall be conducted with a minimum of one controlling GCS or PGCS and one back-up GCS or PGCS.
16. Any procedural deficiencies or flight anomalies detected during operations shall be corrected, annotated, and reported to the POC listed in paragraph 4 of this AWR.
17. Airspace de-confliction outside of the restricted airspace shall be IAW the FAA COA.
18. Simultaneous loss of primary and secondary data link, loss of fuel load indication, unexplained loss of Return Home Point, or Rotor Air Temperature (RAT) indication of “-0” may be indicative of an ACE II warm boot. In the event of a warm boot the operator shall initiate RTB, and report the anomaly to maintenance personnel.
19. Commander's Corner:

The RQ-7B Shadow Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) has not completed full airworthiness qualification testing. Strict adherence to the Operators Manual and this AWR will minimize the hazards of operation. The RQ-7B aircraft may report a flight altitude +/- 200 ft of actual altitude; flight altitude should be planned accordingly.

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Appendix B - Configuration and Installation Detail:

Configuration- This aircraft is a production configuration as identified in references D-1 through D-4. Any deviation to production configuration shall be approved in writing by the Aviation Engineering Directorate (POC in cover memorandum paragraph 4) for this AWR to be valid.

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Appendix C - Inspections, Maintenance, and Logbook Instructions:

1. In the event any operating limit, or limits established by this release, is exceeded in addition to the normal entry on DA Form 2408-13, appropriate inspections shall be performed prior to next flight.

2. Aircraft Logbook Entries:

a. In accordance with Department of the Army (DA) Pamphlet X-Draft-C1, Functional Users Manual for the Army Maintenance Management System – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems (TAMMS-UAVS), the following entries shall be made on the DA Form 2408-13-1 and shall be perpetuated on each form during the period of installation, until superseded by another AWR, or until reason for limitation is removed.

(1). Place a circled "X" on the form IAW TAMMS-UAVS. In the Fault Information Block, make the following entry: "Operate within limitations and restrictions specified in the enclosed airworthiness release dated 07 DEC, 2009."

(2). A weight and balance form DD365 shall be maintained on file in each aircraft's log book and weight and balance book maintained by the operational unit.

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Appendix D - Reference List:

1. Technical Manual 9-5895-YYY-10, Technical Operators Manual for Shadow 200 TUAV System with RQ-7B Air Vehicles, dated 22 October 2004, with latest updates.
2. Technical Manual 9-5895-YYY-20, Maintenance Manual Organizational and Direct Support for Shadow 200 TUAV System, dated 22 October 2004, with latest updates.
3. Technical Manual 9-5895-681-CL, Shadow 200 Operator's and Crewmember's Checklist, dated 28 February 2006, with latest updates.
4. Technical Manual 9-5895-YYY-20P, Unit, Direct Support General Support Maintenance Repair Parts and Special Tools List, dated 22 October 2004, with latest updates.
5. AAI Textron Systems Tactical Unmanned Aircraft Systems (TUAS) Contractor's Procedures, Flight Operations at Redstone Army Airfield, Revision C update 2, dated 1 July, 2008.