



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Group
800 Independence Avenue SW.
Washington, DC 20591

JUN 20 2011

(b) (6)

Air Traffic and Airspace Officer
Robert Gray Army Airfield
90067 Clark Road Bldg 90067
Fort Hood, TX 76544-5040

Dear (b) (6)

Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA) 2009-CSA-74, for operation of the Hunter Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) at the Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, Texas, is extended for 2 weeks, June 21, 2011, to July 4, 2011.

Specifically, COA 2009-CSA-74 has been extended with a set of very specific requirements, outlined below, that must be met within this 2-week extension. If these requirements are not met, the COA will expire on July 4, 2011, and your requested replacement application will be returned to you with no action taken.

These actions are being taken because the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has reason to believe that unmanned aircraft operating at the Robert Gray Army Airfield, Texas, under COA 2009-CSA-74 may be in violation of the terms of the COA. In August 2010, we received information that operations at the airfield had included the mixing of UAS with civil aircraft in the traffic pattern, the straying of a UA outside of the authorized COA area resulting in a near midair collision with another aircraft, and the lack of COA-related training in the air traffic control (ATC) facility. The FAA has, on three occasions between September 2010 and April 2011, attempted to schedule visits to Fort Hood to audit this COA and to ensure COA compliance. Unfortunately those audits were denied by the Department of Defense (DOD).

The following requirements must be met on or before July 4, 2011:

- An FAA-designated team will be granted access to the Robert Gray Army Airfield and any associated Fort Hood areas or facilities required for completing a safety evaluation of UAS operations at Fort Hood authorized by COA 2009-CSA-74, and
- A written or verbal response to each of the subject allegations contained in the third paragraph of this letter will be provided to the FAA. Your written or verbal statement should contain all pertinent facts and any mitigating circumstances you believe may have a bearing on these incident allegations.

Unmanned aircraft operations outside of the provisions of COA 2009-CSA-74 and failure to allow audits of the COA constitute a serious breach of discipline and a potential threat to the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS). Evaluation of UAS operations by the FAA is necessary to ensure safety within the NAS and is a vital and integral aspect of FAA's approach to integrating UAS operations into the NAS.

The COA evaluation team is specifically tasked to ensure that each UAS operator is conforming to all general, safety, standard, and special provisions of the issued COA. The evaluation team is also tasked to assess the impact of authorized UAS operations on servicing ATC facilities and the airspace for which they have jurisdiction. Additionally, the FAA needs to ensure that risk mitigations provided for in UAS authorizations are neither unduly burdensome nor insufficient in ensuring the safety of UAS operations.

The results of the FAA site evaluation and the written or verbal statements will be considered in the possible reinstatement of COA 2009-CSA-74 and in the processing of the replacement application for this COA. If you do not completely answer the allegations or allow the site evaluation to take place within the specified time, the current COA will expire and there will be no replacement processed.

In submitting a request to operate in the NAS under a COA (FAA Form 7711-1), the DOD has, in fact, agreed to surveillance of these activities. Failure to allow surveillance of the COAs held by the DOD may require the FAA to reconsider its COA policy for all DOD operations in the NAS.

Should you have any questions, the FAA point of contact in this matter is Mr. Randy Willis. He can be reached at (202) 385-4661 or by electronic mail at randy.willis@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. E. Fulmer".

FOR
Dean E. Fulmer
Acting Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Group
Airspace Services

cc: (b) (6)