

Launch and Recovery

The typical flight agenda at 31VA Aberdeen Airfield will consist of takeoff, traffic pattern maneuvers, and landing. All flight operations will be conducted in day and VFR “see and avoid” conditions within the confines of the airfield property. Flight operation can be easily accomplished at altitudes between the surface and 1,500 feet AGL and ~ 2.5 mile radius of the airfield. The closest operational airfields are Newport News Williamsburg Airport (PHF) and Felker Army Airfield (FAF), of Fort Eustis, Virginia. 31VA Aberdeen Airfield is located within the Class-“G” uncontrolled airspace and the Class “E” overhead airspace. The Army and Navy rotary wing aircraft routinely operate within the local airspace in addition to occasional incoming and outgoing corporate fixed wing aircraft missions.

The NASA AirSTAR Flight Operation utilizes operation management procedures for conducting and coordinating UAS flights with key airfield personnel of the Smithfield Foods, Inc., Flight Department to obtain scheduled use of the airfield. These procedures also require the filing of a NOTAM for Norfolk International Airport (ORF) through the Leesburg Flight Service Station, in addition to contacting the tower at Ft. Eustis (FAF). All NASA AirSTAR Flight Operation procedures have been reviewed and approved by the Airworthiness and Safety Review Board (ASRB) at NASA Langley Research Center.