

October 10, 2006

Mr. Francis T. Jordan, Jr., Airspace
Federal Aviation Administration
Eastern Region Air Traffic Division
Airspace Branch, AEA-520
1 Aviation Plaza
Jamaica, NY 11434-4809

Dear Mr. Jordan:

The Systems Engineering Directorate (SED) of the NASA Langley Research Center desires to fly a "suite" of similar Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) aircraft (Radio Control Models) at the 31VA Aberdeen Airfield of Smithfield, Virginia. This project activity is provided to the NASA Aviation Safety and Security Program (AvSSP) Office request for development of a subscale generic transport aircraft test bed for conducting experiments in support of the Control Upset Prevention and Recovery (CUPR) element of the AvSSP.

Enclosed please find our documentation for renewal of the current Certificate of Authorization (COA) that is required. These attachments include FAA Form 7711-2 and the COA Application Checklist along with additional descriptive details. In addition, based on flight experience over the past two years under the existing COA, we respectfully request that the minimum crew requirements for AirSTAR Operations be changed as follows: "the minimum crew for jet turbine powered UAS vehicles shall be (1) Pilot, (3) Safety Spotters, and (1) Chief Engineer. For the slower propeller driven models with less kinetic energy, only one Safety Spotter is required". The current COA directive is to have (3) Safety Spotters at all times regardless of the type of UAS vehicle.

If you have any questions regarding the technical data provided, please contact the undersigned at (757) 864-6014, or (b) (6) (757) 864-5107 concerning operational issues.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Cordially,

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Director
Systems Engineering Directorate

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