



Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee

April 26, 2023 AAAC Meeting

Detailed Minutes

Introduction

An Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee (AAAC) meeting was held at the Federal Aviation Administration Headquarters Building, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C., on April 26, 2023, from 1:30 PM to 4:46 PM EDT. 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 which may be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_TlZjvWQfg

Committee Management Officer Mr. Gary Kolb opened the session and provided the public meeting announcement published in the Federal Register on April 6, 2023, and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Mr. Kolb turned the meeting over to the AAAC Committee Chairperson Captain Houston Mills, for a motion for approval of the October 20, 2022, meeting minutes. There were no objections and the motion passed. Captain Mills turned the meeting over to the Designated Federal Officer, FAA Deputy Administrator, Mr. Bradley Mims.

Designated Federal Officer Opening Remarks

Mr. Mims began the session of the meeting by welcoming the audience and provided opening remarks. Mr. Mims' remarks included: aviation is (at) an exciting time coupled with the need for collaboration among all participants to further Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) efforts in a safe and efficient manner. Mr. Mims acknowledged the industry momentum to implement advanced aviation but emphasized the need for continued collaboration while ensuring the safety of all aviation operations, which is the responsibility of the FAA. Mr. Mims emphasized the need for the traveling public to have confidence in the safety of the nation's transportation system and lead the world in safe and efficient aviation operations. In his remarks, Mr. Mims discussed the FAA's progress by releasing a blueprint for AAM, along with the Agency's efforts to publish a rule for pilot certification standards for the operation of aircraft with helicopter and fixed wing characteristics. Additionally, Mr. Mims highlighted the FAA plans to release the FAA's AAM Implementation Plan. Finally, Mr. Mims discussed that as technology and policy continues to develop, it is equally important to develop a diverse and competent workforce to support the future of aviation to run safely, efficiently and smoothly. The AAAC has been invaluable, providing important input on this topic and continues to further these efforts as this is an important topic in order to create an environment where people feel comfortable as a career choice. Most importantly, entering the field of aviation must be affordable and accessible to pursue as a career and the drone industry offers a unique opportunity for more individuals to enter into the industry. A diverse workforce that provides fresh ideas and perspectives from a



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wide range of backgrounds and experiences will be important to help solve the integration challenges for advanced aviation efforts. Mr. Mims provided several examples of opportunities available by the FAA for people to enter the field of aviation, acknowledged this exciting period in aviation and encouraged all attendees to make AAM part of the fabric of their everyday lives. Mr. Mims thanked everyone for their hard work to realize AAM and turned the meeting to AAAC Chairperson, Captain Houston Mills.

View the DFO's remarks (link is timestamped for DFO Opening Remarks):
https://youtu.be/n_TlZjvWQfg?t=237

AAAC Chair Opening Remarks

Captain Mills thanked Mr. Mims and outlined the efforts and accomplishments by the AAAC to work integration challenges to further drone and AAM operations. These efforts include: remote identification, uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) security, part 107 waivers, un-crewed air traffic management, the Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Aviation Rule Making Committee (ARC) recommendations, zoning maps, safety culture, gender neutral tasking, acceptable levels of risk, strategic framework, continued progress on career development initiatives through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) outreach as well as on community engagement. Captain Mills was appreciative of the AAAC membership and their continued commitment to further drone and AAM efforts and turned the meeting over to Mr. Jeffrey Vincent, Executive Director, UAS Integration Office, Federal Aviation Administration, for a brief on the FAA's Responses to AAAC Task Group #13: Strategic Framework for AAM Near Term Operations Recommendations.

View the remarks from the AAAC Chair's remarks: (link is timestamped for AAAC Chair Opening remarks): https://youtu.be/n_TlZjvWQfg?t=600

FAA Response to FAA Task Group 13: Strategic Framework for Advanced Air Mobility Near-Term Operations Recommendations

Presenter:

Jeffrey Vincent, Executive Director, FAA UAS Integration Office, Aviation Safety

Mr. Vincent began the presentation by including the background on this effort, which include the FAA presenting this task to the AAAC on February 23, 2022, to both serve as an opportunity and inform the FAA as industry prepares for near-term AAM plans as well as provide comments on the FAA's draft strategic Framework for FAA Near-Term Operations.



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In response, on October 20, 2022 the AAAC formulated a Task Group whom collaborated to formulate final recommendations into five sub-groups: Aircraft, Airspace, Operations, Infrastructure, and Community. Mr. Vincent provided the FAA responses for each of the five sub-groups, comprised of eleven recommendations and a breakdown is as follows: Aircraft; two items, Airspace; three items, Operations; one item, Infrastructure; one item, and Community; four items. Mr. Vincent turned the meeting over to Captain Mills.

There was a brief discussion period following the presentation.

The AAAC eBook provides the official report of Task Group #13: Strategic Framework for Advanced Air Mobility Near-Term Operations Final Recommendations.

View this presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for Task Group #13: Strategic Framework for Advanced Air Mobility Near-Term Operations Final Recommendations):
https://youtu.be/n_TlZjvWQfg?t=689

Task Group #14 - Accelerating Implementation of BVLOS Operations

Presenter:

Sean Cassidy, Director, Safety, Flight Ops & Regulatory Affairs, Amazon Prime Air, substituting for David Carbon, Vice President, Amazon Prime Air

Captain Mills turned the meeting over to Mr. Cassidy, who provided an overview of Task #14 aimed at reflecting the current state of the industry and engagement which included various rulemaking activities. Under Task #14, the AAAC examined the BVLOS ARC recommendations and identify opportunities where industry can assist and accelerate implementation of BVLOS regulatory actions. Mr. Cassidy provided an overview of the membership of Task Group #14, which included 19 organizations and at least 28 professionals, who participated in the effort. Mr. Cassidy reviewed the BVLOS ARC objectives, approach to the tasking, and boundaries to the concepts of operations for the Task Group. This included: long-line linear infrastructure inspections, industrial aerial data gathering, small package delivery and precision agriculture operations, including crop spraying. Mr. Cassidy turned the briefing over to Task Group Member, Mr. Ben Ivers, Boeing, who detailed the steps taken by the group and how they applied a value stream mapping approach. Mr. Ivers shared the results of the value stream mapping approach chart as part of his briefing, which detailed the waiver and exemption process from both the FAA and applicant perspectives. Mr. Ivers then turned the briefing to Mr. Cassidy who shared the positive aspects of the in-depth review of the value mapping stream effort and turned the briefing to Task Group Member, Mr. Vic Moss, Moss Photography, who provided insights, findings and examples of the waiver and exemption process. Mr. Moss



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returned the briefing to Mr. Cassidy, who provided detailed results of the value stream mapping approach which included eight areas as opportunities for improvement along with providing detailed reviews of the six recommendations from the Task Group, supported by Mr. Dallas Brooks, Wing, for recommendation #4, and Ms. Jen Player, Skydio, for recommendation #6. At the conclusion of the briefing, which included discussion and exchanges on the tasking efforts, Mr. Cassidy turned the meeting over to Captain Mills, who thanked the group for their hard work and brought forth a motion to present the recommendations of Task Group #14 to the FAA, which was approved by the members. Captain Mills turned the meeting over to Mr. Kolb, who provided notice of a 15-minute break.

The AAAC eBook provides the official report of Task Group #14: Accelerating Implementation of BVLOS Operations.

View this presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for Task Group #14: Accelerating Implementation of BVLOS Operations: https://youtu.be/n_TlZjvWQfg?t=1416)

After a 15-minute break, the AAAC meeting resumed, and Mr. Kolb introduced Mr. Kenji Sugahara.

AAAC Task Group #15 Community Engagement Lessons Learned Recommendations

Presenter:

Kenji Sugahara President and Chief Executive Officer Drone Service Providers Alliance

Mr. Sugahara, provided an overview of the tasking from the October 2022 meeting and noted the Task Group was comprised of twelve organizations with support provided by multiple AAAC members and subject matter experts. Mr. Sugahara stated the tasking for the group was to identify best practices and lessons learned regarding community engagement methods. Mr. Sugahara stated the subgroup was focused on both UAS and AAM communities regarding community engagement and the process and outcomes which are not technical in nature. Mr. Sugahara described the basic approach used, as creating a “cookbook” for an outreach plan that could be scalable and adapted to the context being used for the stakeholder and audience using key principles, concerns, and areas to address in the outreach plan. Mr. Sugahara noted the document is a living document and should be easy to understand, identify stakeholders, interest groups and emphasize safety and privacy concerns as well as noise and environmental topics along with economic and overall public impacts. Mr. Sugahara shared the need to include information for contingency situations, coupled with the need to engage the public and provided suggestions to foster stakeholder and community engagement. The Task Group recommended (the) outreach plan should be hosted by a neutral party involved in aviation, be publicly available, and updated at regular intervals through an established process.



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There was a brief discussion following the presentation. After the discussion, Mr. Sugahara turned the meeting over to Captain Mills, who thanked the group for their hard work and brought forth a motion to present the recommendations of Task Group #15 to the FAA, which was approved by the members. Captain Mills turned the meeting over to Mr. Bernstein.

The AAAC eBook provides the official report of Task Group #15: Community Engagement Lessons Learned Recommendations.

View this presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for Task Group #15: Community Engagement Lessons Learned Recommendations: https://youtu.be/n_TIZjvWQfg?t=4282

FAA – Innovate28 Information Briefing

Presenter:

Mitchell Bernstein, Innovate28 Project Manager, FAA Office of NextGen

Mr. Bernstein provided an overview on FAA efforts to operationalize an AAM ecosystem, entitled Innovate 28, which focuses on implementing AAM operations at one or more key sites by 2028. Mr. Bernstein outlined internal and external groups engaged, the extent of activities conducted and provided an overview of recent efforts. This includes: FAA subgroups, repeatable near term and longer term operational goals, implementation plan schedule, projected implementation elements as well as next steps to realize this effort. Mr. Bernstein emphasized the extensive engagement with industry and standards organizations, Federal interagency partners as well as with local and community organizations. Mr. Bernstein also noted how the subgroups are tied into the U.S. Department of Transportation Advanced Air Mobility Interagency Working Group (AAM IAWG) sub-groups to ensure coordination. Mr. Bernstein noted an Innovate28 draft implementation plan is scheduled to be released in May 2023, which will include a high-level strategy of AAM operational evolution in the document.

There was a brief discussion following the presentation. As part of this discussion, Mr. Peter Irvine, Deputy Director, Office of Aviation Analysis, Office of Secretary of Transportation (OST), provided an overview of efforts underway to realize AAM efforts, including recent momentum on the AAM Coordination and Leadership Act, which was signed into law by President Biden in October 2022. As a result, working groups were created in February 2023 to serve as a means of coordinating Federal agencies and industry to support the future of aviation. Mr. Irvine stated the effort is coordinated by OST, with a report expected to be provided by February 2024, followed by a National Strategy planned to be released by August 2024. Mr. Irvine provided an overview of the subgroup membership with their focus and emphasized the need for input from stakeholder and industry groups. Mr. Irvine announced that a request for



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information is expected to be released from OST in the May 2023 timeframe, and strongly encouraged responses from the AAAC membership.

Mr. Bob Brock, Kansas DOT, made comments regarding the need to make provisions to accommodate vertiports at airports with responses provided by Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Irvine.

Ms. Jessica Sypniewski, Deputy Assistant Administrator, FAA Office of NextGen, requested input from industry to determine AAM priorities for both the mid-term and longer-term strategy efforts.

There was additional discussion regarding how the FAA is coordinating internally between the UAS Integration Office and the Office of NextGen including: air corridors, efficient use of existing infrastructure and resources, and the need to provide scalable guidance for approval of operators.

Captain Mills thanked the members for their interest and viewpoints as well updates on Innovate28. Captain Mills closed the session with open discussion.

View the presentation and discussion (link is timestamped for Innovate28 Informational Briefing presentation): https://youtu.be/n_TlZjvWQfg?t=6779

New Business/Agenda Topics

Mr. Mills opened the floor to Committee members to raise any new business or agenda items.

Topics for the FAA to consider for future taskings included:

- Dr. Paul Hsu raised the topic to create a task group to coordinate and evaluate a partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense regarding opportunities to identify areas of mutual interest for integration efforts for the nationwide implementation of UAS and AAM.
- Mr. James Grimsley, raised the topic of including areas of opportunities for innovation in infrastructure investment, including technologies for not only aviation based AAM efforts, but to be mindful of other transportation and land based autonomous technologies.
- Mr. Kenji Sugahara raised the topic for the AAAC to include insurance industry requirements in the development and refinement of regulations.
- Mr. Jim Viola, raised the topic of the need to include helicopter operations as technology and regulations evolve and to raise public awareness of current efforts.
- Mr. Vic Moss raised the topic of the need for community engagement regarding UAS operations and to initiate a task group to develop awareness training for future AAM operations.
- Captain Mills encouraged members to submit any new ideas or taskings to him, which he will forward to the FAA.



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View the discussion (New Business/Agenda Topics): https://youtu.be/n_TlZjvWQfg?t=9691

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Mr. Mims acknowledged two new FAA executives who will be working closely with members of the AAAC, Mr. Jeffrey Vincent, Executive Director, FAA UAS Integration Office, as well as Ms. Jessica Sypniewski, Deputy Assistant Administrator, FAA Office of NextGen, and encouraged AAAC members to provide their continued enthusiastic support. Mr. Mims stated the next meeting is planned for late August 2023 and thanked all of the presenters, as well as those who help make the AAAC possible. He then turned the meeting over to Captain Mills, who thanked the AAAC for all of their hard work and thought leadership.

Captain Mills asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

View the closing remarks (link is timestamped for Closing Remarks and Adjourn):
https://youtu.be/n_TlZjvWQfg?t=10382



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Appendix A: FAA Designated Federal Officer, Presenters, and Speakers

Name	Title	Org.
1. Brad Mims	Deputy Administrator and Designated Federal Officer (DFO)	FAA
2. Jeffrey Vincent	Executive Director, UAS Integration Office	FAA
3. Mitchell Bernstein	Innovate 28 Project Manager	FAA
4. Sean Cassidy	Director, Safety, Flight Ops & Regulatory Affairs, Amazon Prime Air	
5. Gary Kolb	UAS Stakeholder & Committee Officer, UAS Integration Office	FAA

FAA/DOT Observers and Stakeholders

Name	Title	Org.
1. Vinn White	Associate Director for Transportation Policy	DOT
2. Peter Irvine	Deputy Director, Office of Aviation Analysis	DOT
3. Hillary Heintz	Senior Advisor to Deputy Administrator	FAA
4. Tonya Coultas	Acting Associate Administrator, Security & Hazardous Materials Safety	FAA
5. Jodi Baker	Deputy Associate Administrator, Aviation Safety	FAA
6. Jessica Sypniewski	Deputy Assistant Administrator, NextGen	FAA
7. Christopher Loring	Chief of Staff, NextGen	FAA
8. Lorelei Peter	Deputy Chief Counsel for Strategic Operations	FAA
9. Tracy Edwards	Acting Deputy Director, UAS Integration Office	FAA
10. Sherita Jones	Acting Chief of Staff, UAS Integration Office	FAA
11. Jennifer Riding	Communications Outreach Specialist	FAA
12. Alexis Smollok	Business Analyst, UAS Integration Office	FAA