UAS Facility Maps (UASFM)s & Low Altitude Authorization & Notification Capability (LAANC)

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Workshop Objectives:

- Understand what a UAS Facility Map (UASFM) is
- Know when and how to use them
- Understand how to navigate FAA ArcGIS Site
- Understand the fundamental basics of the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC)
What is a UAS Facility Map?

- Maximum altitude approved for flight
- Controlled airspace
- Below 400 feet AGL
- Data updated regularly
- NOT AN AIRSPACE AUTHORIZATION
Flights above UASFM altitudes:

– “Further coordination”
  • Flights above UASFM value, but below 400’ AGL

– Flights around/above structures above designated altitude
  • Part 107.51(b): Not applicable. UASFM values are absolute

Note:

– Additional safety mitigations are helpful if applying for further coordination.
When to use UASFM:

- Preflight planning
- Applying via Drone Zone
- Operations in Class B, Class C, Class D, & E airspace designated for an airport
  - (UASFM do not apply in Class E Extensions; airspace authorization not required)
SURFACE ECHO - E4
No ATC Authorization

SURFACE ECHO - E2
ATC Authorization Needed
How to access UASFMs:

- FAA ArcGIS platform
- Online map viewer
- Data download environment
Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC):

- Collaboration between FAA and industry
- Directly supports integration of drones into the national airspace system
What Does LAANC Do?

– Access to controlled airspace near airports

– Near real-time processing of airspace authorizations below approved altitudes in controlled airspace.
LAANC Architecture:

UAS Users -> UAS Services Suppliers -> FAA Air Traffic

FAA Airspace Data
- TFRs
- NOTAMs
- Facility Maps

FAA's UAS Data Exchange
Approved UAS Service Suppliers of LAANC:

– Known as LAANC USS
– Completed technical steps required and entered into agreement with the FAA to provide LAANC Services
– FAA provides airspace data including, but not limited to:
  • Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR)
  • Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)
  • UAS Facility Maps (UASFM)
Airspace Authorizations via LAANC:

– Available at most FAA Facilities
– Near real-time when qualifying criteria is met
  • UASFM altitude
  • Time of day requirements
  • Flight restrictions
– Valid for up to 12 hours
– Can be submitted up to 90 days in advance
Airspace Authorizations via LAANC:

- “Further coordination” requests
  - When requesting to operate above UASFM value
  - ATC has the option to approve or deny
  - Workload permitting
  - Auto-cancel within 24hrs od operation start time

- Not all USSs provide further coordination service
Airspace Authorizations via LAANC:

- Pilots must use Drone Zone if:
  
  • LAANC is not available
  
  • Requesting airspace authorization in conjunction with an approved operational waiver
  
  • ATC workload doesn’t allow for further coordination
Thank You!