



FAA UAPO and COA Update

Presented by:

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to

ICCAGRA

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FAA UAPO: Current Activities



- Small UAS ARC
 - Flight demonstrations in August
 - Draft recommendations due last week
 - Final due March 2009
- International Activities:
 - EuroControl/EASA Small UAS Committee
 - ICAO UAS Working Group
 - NATO UAS Working Group (VNAS)
 - Simulation/Demonstration in Sweden planned
 - AMAP Arctic Airspace Meeting, Norway
- Other activities
 - Class A Airspace guideline development
 - Reviewing 08-01 Guidance document
 - New Mexico Testbed
 - Experimental Certification
 - Roadmap exercise



NASA COA Status



- Lots of COAs in system! Most NASA COAs processed
- Ames
 - 3 or 4 active
 - 2 in review (recent submittals)
- Dryden
 - Fire COA granted
 - Grey Butte in review
- Langley
 - Blackstone and Aberdeen granted
 - Aberdeen currently suspended but will be reinstated
- Wallops
 - Main Base ops granted
 - Hurricane in review



Integrated NASA UAS Working Group



- Established to:
 - improve Agency wide communication and coordination of UAS information
 - promote integration between NASA and other agencies
 - improve customer interfaces
 - optimize safety
- Provide policy and procedure recommendations to the Inter-Center Aviation Operations Panel (IAOP) Chair for adoption in Agency wide policy guidance.
- First meeting October 15-16 at NASA Ames
 - Overview of current agency UAS policy
 - Reviewed activities at each center
 - Toured Ames and Dryden
- Follow-on telecon October 21
 - Action items and focus points



COA Data Reporting: General Flight Information



- New language in all COAs
 - **DATA REPORTING:** The proponent for the COA shall provide the following information via email to Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov on a monthly basis:
 - Number of flights
 - Pilot duty time per flight
 - Aircraft operational hours per flight
 - Ground station operational hours per flight
 - Periods of lost communication with ATC
 - Deviations from ATC instructions
 - All periods of loss of link (telemetry, command and/or control)
- Ensure data is reported **MONTHLY**, flights or no flights!
- Old language unclear on frequency
- Data reporting under old COA language still required



COA Data Reporting: Incidents and Accidents



- New language in all COAs
 - **INCIDENT/ACCIDENT REPORTING:** The following shall be submitted via email or phone (202-385-4542, cell 443-569-1732) to Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov within 24 hours:
 - All accidents or incidents involving UAS activities
 - Deviations from the “Special Provisions” contained in the COA
- Reporting to occur **within 24 hours** of incident
- What happens when an Accident is reported?
 - COA will be suspended pending an investigation
 - Once all data and findings have been reviewed, COA may or may not be reinstated
 - Sometimes COA not suspended (e.g. lost link)



COA Data Reporting: Accident Case Study



- LARC GTM AirStar King Cat Aircraft Mishap
 - Aircraft crashed during autopilot testing (Sept 30)
 - Accident reported to FAA with preliminary data (Oct 2)
 - Crash occurred within hazard area
 - FAA suspended COA and issued letter (Oct 3)
 - Langley team conducted mishap investigation per NASA processes
 - Report sent to FAA with detailed data and findings (Oct 8)
 - Human error identified as primary cause
 - Mitigations outlined to prevent similar error
 - Report reviewed by FAA
 - Email sent out by FAA stating that the COA will be reinstated once mitigations have been implemented (Oct 10)



Contact Information



Any questions, please contact me:

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Thank You!