IWG-Facilities & Infrastructure (IWG-FI), Task Force on Unmanned Systems (TFUS) Overview

Co-Chairs,
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OFCM UAS Mini-Workshop
04 February 2011

Task Force on Unmanned Systems (TFUS)

Established Jan 2010, renewed Jan 2011

Provides advice on policies, procedures, and plans relating to unmanned system uses, upgrades, and investments

The Scope of the TFUS includes:

- Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV)
- Gliders
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
- Unmanned Surface Vessels (USV)
- Lagrangian Platforms (floats, drifters)
- Animal-Borne-Sensors (ABS, Jan '11)

TFUS Functions

1. Collect and review the operations, management methods, and capabilities of the growing federal usage of unmanned systems and, when appropriate, recommend common standards and lifecycle infrastructure approaches to assist federal oceanographic and atmospheric sponsors and facility managers;
2. Provide a forum for the exchange of information on long-range plans regarding the acquisition, operation, or development of new capabilities of unmanned systems;
3. Improve planning, coordination, and communication among federal sponsors and facility managers in the conduct of joint field programs and technology demonstrations utilizing unmanned systems;
4. Address interagency governance and policy questions of unmanned systems;
5. Monitor national and international oceanographic and atmospheric unmanned system activities for potential application to the federal facility mix; formulate and hold community workshops as needed.
6. Serve as a single Federal point of contact for coordinating between operating agencies and legal entities at the state or federal level involving unmanned system usage.

TFUS Activities to Date

2010 Identified Priority Issues:

- An inventory of unmanned systems:
  - Ownership: Government / Academic / Private
  - Application: Research / Operations
  - In - Hand / Planned Acquisition
- March 2011 Workshop on Common Lifecycle Infrastructure – Opportunities for joint Federal Activities and/or Facilities (Handout)
- Identification of Challenges to Full Utilization of UAS (Letter)
- A Federal Unmanned Systems Strategy Document
- Coupled Atmospheric-Ocean and Air-Sea Interface Modeling Unmanned Systems for Routine and Adaptive Sampling
- Unmanned Systems in other countries' EEZs
- Collision Avoidance Liability

2011

- Unmanned Systems Strategy Document
- Input to NOC Priority #9, Unmanned Systems

Identification of Challenges to Full Utilization of UAS

TFUS wrote and provided a letter to IWG- FI identifying four challenges:

1. FAA Resources
2. Airspace Access
3. UAS Infrastructure and Personnel Training
4. Interagency Coordination

The IWG – FI will consider further transmittal up the SOST chain

TFUS

- **Serve as a single Federal point of contact for coordinating between operating agencies and legal entities at the state or federal level involving unmanned system(s) usage.**
- **We meet every 2 months, with regular participation by 11 federal groups, including: NSF, ONR, NASA, NAVY, NOAA, BOEMRE, USCG, USGS, DoS, DoC, OFCM and UNOLS**
- **ALL ARE WELCOME!**