

Date: 18 August 2017

To: Santa Rita Experimental Range Community of Users

From: Mitch McClaran: Director for Research, Santa Rita Experimental Range

Subject: Draft Policy of Best Practices for Unmanned Aerial Systems Use

Given the increasing use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS; i.e. Drones) on the Santa Rita, we are developing some best practices policies to ensure their legal and safe use by researchers and instructors. The last thing we want is a crash of two UASs, or worse yet an incident endangering humans or other aircraft.

Therefore, we are considering a best practices policy that addresses the license status of the UAS pilot, registration status of the UAS, and entry of flight plans in the public domain so that other users can be prepared for possible encounters.

This is the draft of the best practices policy that is being considered. We ask that you review it, and share your comments with me. Most importantly, we ask that you NOW begin to follow it to the best of your ability, especially the flight plan registration to avoid in-flight collisions.

This policy is based on the principles that:

- 1) safe UAS operations is the responsibility of the pilot in command,
- 2) the University of Arizona does not have the resources to police UAS use across the 20,000 ha Santa Rita Experimental Range, and
- 3) the University does have a responsibility to facilitate safe and legal use of UASs through the establishment of best practices and the assistance for achieving those best practices.

We are considering the following requirements when users submit a [Range Use Application](#) for a research or instruction project that includes UAS activity:

Pilot and UAS registration (<https://www.faa.gov/uas/faqs/>):

1. Users need to have a pilot in command with a FAA remote pilot license (e.g., part 107 for small UAS). They must follow all FAA rules regarding the license including flying height limitations and flying over people not involved in the operations (members of the general public).
2. The UAS aircraft must be registered with FAA.
3. Submit license # and registration # to the University of Arizona Range Use Application <https://taac.arizona.edu/SRER/forms-and-applications>.
4. Describe general location and dates of planned flights in the Range Use Application.

Flight Plan registration and day-of-flight check-in:

1. Users should submit a flight plan via 1800wxbrief.com. This flight plan then becomes visible on Skyvector.com.
2. Users should check Skyvector.com before all operations for updates on other UAS activity in the area and possible temporary flight restrictions implemented by the FAA or DoD.
3. See the short User's Guide to 1800wx.brief.com and Skyvector at the end of this document.

General information about Santa Rita airspace:

1. Class G airspace over most of the range (OK for part 107 operations).
2. Class E airspace on northern boundary (700 ft agl floor). This should still be compliant for operations below 400 ft agl.
3. There are two north/south oriented airways where low flying aircraft could exist (as low as 1200 ft agl).
4. There are two separate high tension power lines that bisect the range.
5. There is a marked ultralight flying area on the eastern boundary next to the Santa Rita Mts.