



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
BUILDING 237, B AVE, PO BOX 105021
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5000

IMNT-ZA

7 December 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: United States Army Garrison, Fort Irwin Policy Letter #18, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Recreational or Model Radio-Controlled Aircraft)

1. References.

- a. CFR Title 14, Chapter I, Part 107, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SUAS), 28 June 2016 (effective 29 August 2016)
- b. Public Law 112-95, Section 336 – Special Rule for Model Aircraft
- c. FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) registration website, <https://registermyuas.faa.gov>
- d. FAA UAS Information Website, <https://www.faa.gov/uas>
- e. AR 190-13, The Army Physical Security Program, 25 February 2011
- f. 18 USC § 795, Photographing and sketching defense installations

2. Purpose. This policy establishes the instructions, standards, guidance and general information to operate recreational or hobby SUAS at designated locations within Fort Irwin, CA.

3. Scope. This policy governs all non-commercial Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SUAS) capable of sustaining flight in the atmosphere, flown within visual line of sight of the operator for hobby and recreational purposes, and weigh greater than .55 pounds (250 grams). SUAS are also referred to as RC/model/hobby aircraft or drones.

4. Applicability. This policy is applicable to all military, civilians, contractors and family members residing or granted access to Fort Irwin. U.S. Army owned and operated UAS are exempt from this policy letter and will fly IAW applicable regulations.

5. General Information.

- a. The popularity and availability of SUAS/radio controlled aircraft has greatly increased due to the use of durable, inexpensive materials and avionics that make aircraft a lot easier to fly for beginners. There is potential for SUAS operations to

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physically interfere and endanger full scale military and civilian flight operations at Ft. Irwin.

b. Operating SUAS outdoors on Fort Irwin is prohibited except in areas designated by the Garrison Commander.

c. Designated Flight Areas for SUAS are depicted below. These are the only two areas on Ft. Irwin where SUAS operation is permitted, subject to further restrictions outlined below.



Area #1 is near Goldstone Rd and Old Blacky Mtn. in the vicinity of the RV park and 11 ACR Horse Stables. SUAS operation must not disturb patrons of adjacent activities.



Area #2 is the area between Fort Irwin Rd and Barstow Rd, East of the Cactus Corner Child Development Center. SUAS operation must not disturb adjacent activities. Flight unauthorized over Clark Construction and the clean fill yard.

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d. Some SUAS utilize Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to assist in flight. There is potential for GPS signal interference during training rotations. It is recommended that SUAS operators exercise caution if relying upon GPS signals to control flight during training rotations. All risk is assumed by the operator.

6. Summary of Requirements. Note, there are operational limitations set forth by this policy that are more restrictive than FAA regulations. In any such case, this policy supersedes all other applicable regulations.

a. SUAS must:

(1) Be registered with the FAA IAW reference C.

(2) Be properly labeled with the registration number. Acceptable labeling includes legible engraving, a permanent label or permanent marker. The number must be visible on the aircraft or inside a compartment only if the compartment doesn't require a tool to open.

(3) Only be operated within the two designated areas depicted in 5.c. above.

(4) Weigh less than 10 pounds (4.54 kilograms).

(5) Operate at 200 feet (61 meters) above ground level (AGL) or less at all times.

(6) Operate only after official sunrise and before official sunset.

(7) Be powered by battery or wind power (i.e. gliders). SUAS requiring liquid or solid combustible fuel may not be operated anywhere on Fort Irwin.

(8) Not utilize propellers made of metal or use gaseous boosters or solid fuel rockets.

(9) Not carry or use pyrotechnic devices of any kind.

(10) Not drop any object that would create a hazard to persons or property.

(11) Not be flown over persons or flown in a manner which interferes with or harasses wildlife or pets.

b. SUAS operators must:

(1) Contact range control at 760-380-3678 (or 3637) and notify them of the following: Intent to fly SUAS and which designated area will be utilized. Notify range

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control again once flying is completed. Range control and Fort Irwin Police will be notified in the event a SUAS becomes unresponsive and flies away, out of the designated flight area. SUAS operators should report the approximate direction of travel and flight time remaining on the SUAS.

- (2) Operate SUAS in accordance with this policy and the safety/operational instructions supplied by the SUAS manufacturer.
- (3) Keep the SUAS within direct line of sight.
- (4) Discontinue flying if full scale aircraft are being flown in the immediate area.
- (5) Discontinue flying if emergency response efforts are underway at or near the designated flight areas.
- (6) Be solely responsible for their actions and the actions of family members or other persons under their care.
- (7) Be responsible for any injuries, damages, or any other type of mishap that may occur due to SUAS operation.
- (8) Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or other responsible adult if operating a SUAS and under the age of 16.
- (9) Not operate a SUAS while under the influence of alcohol or any drug which may impair the ability to do so safely.
- (10) Not operate a SUAS in a reckless, irresponsible manner.
- (11) Operate SUAS in such a way that if a failure occurs, the SUAS will not become a hazard to persons or property.
- (12) Not operate a SUAS for compensation or hire.
- (13) Not record photographs or video using a SUAS without prior authorization from the garrison commander.
- (14) Observe current FAA guidelines if flying first person view (FPV).

7. Exceptions. SUAS operators may request permission in writing through their chain of command to the Garrison Commander to operate SUAS outside the designated areas and/or to fly higher than 200 feet AGL. Requests must be submitted ten working days prior to the planned flight(s). SUAS flights are not permitted in conjunction with

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other community activities or events outside the designated flight areas unless specifically approved by the Garrison Commander.

8. Enforcement.

a. The Fort Irwin Directorate of Emergency Services will enforce this policy.

b. Violations of this policy, mishaps or accidents will be reported to the Fort Irwin Military Police at 760- 380-2707. For emergencies, dial 911.

c. Violators of this policy may be detained and SUAS equipment may be temporarily confiscated. Violators will be reported to the Garrison Commander and sponsoring chain of command. Violations of this policy may result in disallowing future SUAS operation. Disciplinary and/or administrative action may also be taken action as appropriate.

d. Failure to register an unmanned aircraft may result in regulatory and criminal penalties. The FAA may assess civil penalties up to \$27,500. Criminal penalties include fines of up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for up to three years.

9. The point of contact for this policy is the Director of Emergency Services at 760-380-1258, DSN 470-1258.



G. SCOTT TAYLOR
COL, AR
Commanding