AUS
Quarterly Report

FAA Aviation Safety

FY 2021
Q3
APRIL — JUNE

This document provides a high-level overview of the Federal Aviation Administration's Unmanned Aircraft Systems-related accomplishments in FY 2021, Quarter 3 (April – June 2021). When available, links to additional information are provided.

Thursday, April 8, 2021
Recurrent Training Courses for Drone Pilots Available Online
Drone pilots who have Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification can now take their required training courses online. The training ensures that they have the knowledge necessary to operate in accordance with the Operations Over People rule when it becomes effective on April 21, 2021.

The training is free and available on the FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) website. There are three courses:

Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Initial (ALC-451) – Current Part 61 certificate holders are eligible to take this course.

Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Recurrent (ALC -515) – Part 107 remote pilots who are also certificated and current under Part 61 are eligible to take this course.

Part 107 Small UAS Recurrent Non-Part 61 Pilots (ALC-677) – Part 107 remote pilot certification holders (regardless of currency) are eligible to take this course.

https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/recurrent-training-courses-drone-pilots-available-online

Wednesday, April 21, 2021
New Drone Rules Take Effect Today
Final rules take effect today for remotely identifying drones and allowing operators of small drones to fly over people and at night under certain conditions.

"Today's rules are an important first step in safely and securely managing the growing use of drones in our airspace, though more work remains on the journey to full integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. "The Department looks forward to working with stakeholders to ensure that our UAS policies keep pace with innovation, ensure the safety and security of our communities, and foster the economic competitiveness of our country."

"Drones can provide virtually limitless benefits, and these new rules will ensure these important operations can grow safely and securely," said FAA Administrator Steve Dickson. "The FAA will continue to work closely with other Department of Transportation offices and stakeholders from across the drone community to take meaningful steps to integrate emerging technologies that safely support increased opportunities for more complex drone use."

https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/new-drone-rules-take-effect-today

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
FAA Administrator Steve Dickson: Episode III Keynote
On June 9, FAA Administrator Steve Dickinson spoke at the FAA's sixth annual Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Symposium. Read the full text of his speech at the address below.

https://www.faa.gov/speeches/faa-administrator-steve-dickson-episode-iii-keynote

April 12, 2021
Aviation Safety Reporting Program
Advisory Circular AC-00-46, Aviation Safety Reporting Program, has been published and now includes guidance for UAS operators to report discrepancies in aviation safety. The FAA UAS Integration Office is working with NASA to have the reporting form go live.

April 13 – 15, 2021
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Drone Symposium
On April 14, Ali Bahrami, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, provided keynote remarks during ICAO's Drone Enable Symposium. He highlighted the FAA's **Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC)** program, UTM Pilot Program, and remote identification (ID), and emphasized the importance of collaborating with international partners and industry. On April 15, Jay Merkle, Executive Director of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office, moderated a panel on UAS Traffic Management (UTM) system certification requirements. Panelists included representatives from Regent Craft, Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation, Amazon Prime Air, Resilenx, Airbus UTM, and EuroUSC.

April 15, 2021
Understand Transition between Using Manned Aircraft for Cargo Delivery and UAS for Cargo Delivery
The FAA and the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE) convened to kick off research to "Understand Transition between Using Manned Aircraft for Cargo Delivery and UAS Cargo Delivery." This research will enable understanding and identification of infrastructure and technologies needed to integrate UAS into cargo operations. The next steps involve the FAA and ASSURE convening to discuss the application of findings from the related peer review.

April 26 – 30, 2021
Joint Authorities for Rulemaking on Unmanned Systems (JARUS) Spring Plenary and Working Group Meetings
On April 26 and 30, the international arm of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office and other FAA representatives attended these spring JARUS virtual plenary meetings. The plenary approved minor terms of reference changes, current work programs and schedules (automation concept, airworthiness, and safety risk management), and the publication of several JARUS work products, and it concluded with a video on FAA regulatory developments from the Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety.

April 27, 2021
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC):
On April 27, representatives from FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office, along with the Deputy Director for the Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety, gave a presentation to the IAFC entitled, "UAS 101: Public Safety UAS." Approximately 250 fire agencies across the U.S. participated in the webinar.

May 6, 2021
AUVSI XPONENTIAL
On May 6, the Executive Director of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office, Jay Merkle, participated in the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International's (AUVSI) XPONENTIAL on a panel called "How Assured Autonomy Impacts Drone Regulations: Unlocking the Potential of Unmanned Flight." A representative from AUVSI moderated the panel, while members from Skydio, Hogan Lovells, and Wing served as other panelists. FAA's primary focus was to encourage industry to focus on outcome and performance levels when it comes to seeking regulations on automation, as the FAA does not regulate autonomy, but rather regulates safety outcomes. Additionally, the FAA is interested in what function automation satisfies and how well it performs.

May 12, 2021
Global UTM Association (GUTMA) Harmonized Skies 2021 Webinars
On May 12, the Executive Director of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office, Jay Merkle, participated in the "Emerging Global UTM Trends" meeting hosted by GUTMA. Moderated by a GUTMA representative, the panel consisted of other government and industry leaders. The discussion provided a high-level overview of the latest trends in UTM technologies and regulations, including the adoption of U-space, FAA's rules on remote ID and operations over people, the exponential growth of drone delivery, and the importance of mobile network operators' connectivity with UTM systems.

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

May 12, 2021
CanaDAC

On May 12, the international arm of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office attended the inaugural meeting for Canada's newly formed Drone Advisory Committee, CanaDAC, serving as one of four international observers. Transport Canada's Director General discussed Canada's need to work on further airspace integration (vs. current segregation), privacy-related concerns, public acceptance, engagement, and the importance of using gender-neutral remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) terminology. Transport Canada also discussed their collaborative work with the FAA on research and development through ASSURE.

May 26, 2021
Texas Public Safety Response Robot Summit

On May 26, the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office presented to the Texas Public Safety Response Robot Summit to about 100 public safety agencies primarily from Texas. The presentation was on UAS integration for public safety.
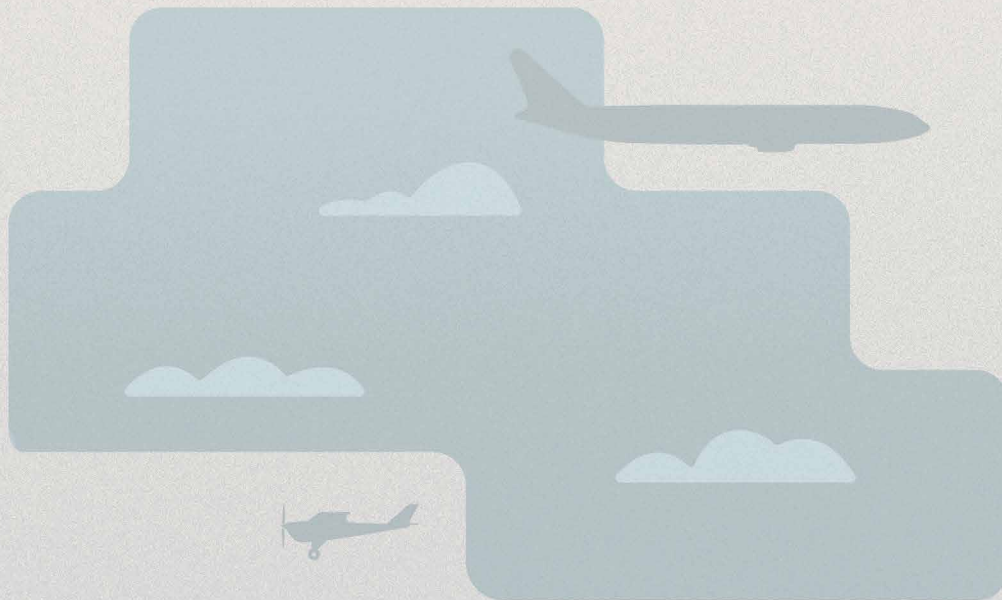
May 27, 2021
ASTM F38 Virtual Spring Meeting

On May 27, Jay Merkle, Executive Director of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office, provided a keynote presentation and discussion on recent FAA's rulemaking for remote identification (ID) and operations over people. The committee's workgroups shared status updates on UAS standards under development, including standards that support the remote ID and operations over people rules.

June 3, 2021
European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) Coordinating Committee

On June 3, members of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office attended the 25th Meeting of the ECAC Coordinating Committee. Executive Office Director Jay Merkle spoke on a UAS panel with the Directors General of Spain and Portugal. FAA Administrator Steve Dickson provided remarks at the start of the day's session, and stated that with the advance of UAS, we are entering a chapter of aviation not seen since the Wright Brothers.

June 9 – 10, 2021
FAA Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Symposium – Episode III

On June 9-10, the 6th FAA UAS Symposium took place via a virtual format. Entitled "Remotely Piloted Edition – Episode III," the Symposium featured 25 sessions and 80 speakers, including Administrator Dickson and Representative Rick Larsen, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Aviation. Attendees from the U.S. and 33 other countries had the opportunity to hear discussions on recreational and commercial operations, STEM, international developments, and public safety, as well as participate in a variety of networking channels, and hear the announcement of the formation of a new Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) to help the Agency develop a regulatory path for routine beyond visual line-of-sight (BVLOS) drone operations.

June 15, 2021
Japan UAS Industrial Development Association (JUIDA) Drone Expo 2021

On June 15, FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office Executive Director, Jay Merkle, provided a virtual keynote speech – focusing on FAA's efforts related to rulemaking, BVLOS, UAS Traffic Management (UTM), Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), Public-Private Partnerships and global collaboration – for more than 12,500 attendees during JUIDA's sixth annual Drone Expo event. It was the first time the FAA participated in the event. Participants including Japanese government officials, industry, academia, and other foreign regulatory authorities and experts.

June 17, 2021
Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) Western Hemisphere Regional Webinar

On June 17, the international arm of the FAA Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Integration Office hosted the first in a series of five regional LAANC webinars. Eighteen participants from 11 countries attended the webinar, including Brazil's lead for Military Operations Subdivision and UAS Planning Section. The UAS Integration Office coordinated the webinar while the FAA's Air Traffic Organization provided the briefing. The webinar provided an opportunity to highlight why the FAA developed LAANC and how the capability may expand in the future as the nation develops a UAS Traffic Management (UTM) System.

June 23, 2021
Drone Advisory Committee (DAC)

The FAA Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Integration Office held the fourth virtual DAC meeting on June 23. The meeting began with remarks from Deputy Administrator Brad Mims welcoming the new DAC Chair, Houston Mills, and new DAC member, Jeffrey Brown, who represents the Airports and Airport Communities stakeholder group. DAC Task Groups 9 and 10 presented their recommendations on how remote identification might be used to increase situational awareness among all aviation operators in low altitude airspace, and on "Gender Neutral Language for the Drone Community," respectively. The FAA then presented the DAC with two new taskings: A review of an "Acceptable Level of Risk for UAS Operations" white paper and integrating UAS operations into K-12 curriculums.

June 24, 25, & 29, 2021
Beyond Visual Line-of-Sight (BVLOS) Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC)

The BVLOS ARC held virtual plenary meetings on June 24, 25, and 29. Plenary speakers included industry co-chairs Eileen Lockhart of Xcel Energy, Sean Cassidy of Amazon Prime Air, and FAA Administrator Steve Dickson. Jay Merkle, Executive Director of the FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office, provided an overview of the FAA and the UAS integration journey.
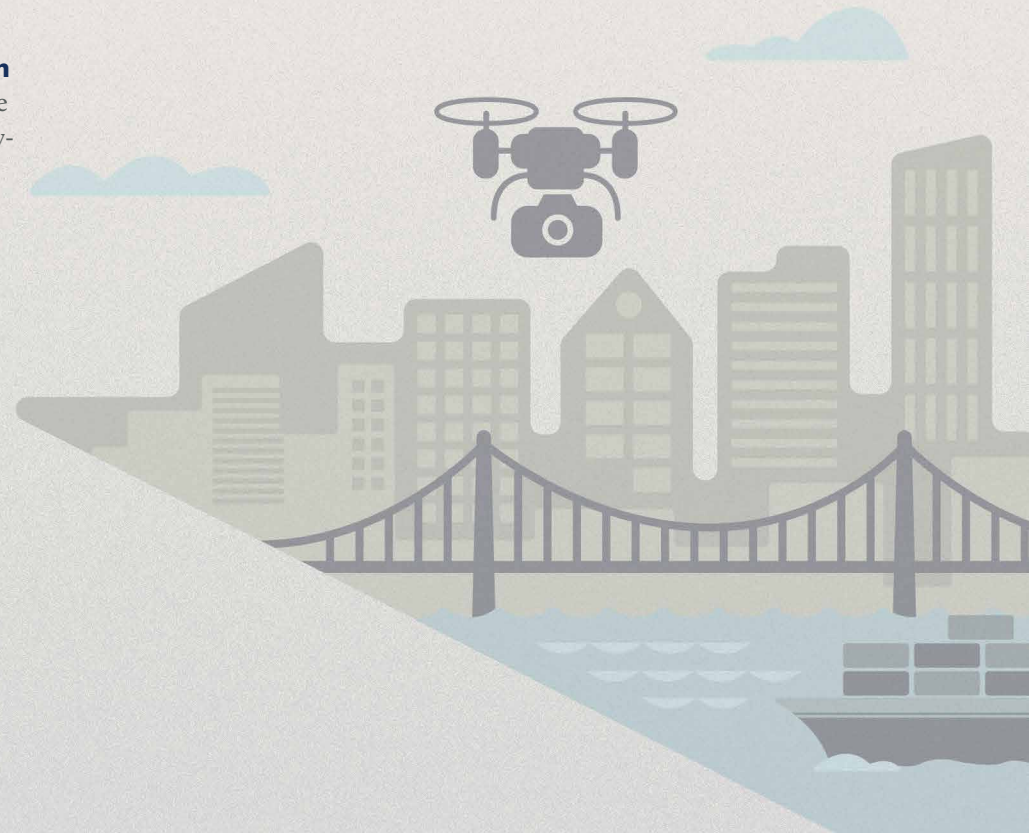
June 24, 2021
Live Engine Ingestion Interagency Agreement (IAA) Execution

On June 24, an IAA was executed with the Navy to begin research on the live engine ingestion effort. This is the final stage of the Congressionally-mandated Airborne Collision Research to explore the impact dynamics and associated risks of an ingestion event of a small UAS with a commercial turbofan engine.

June 30, 2021
UAS Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI)

As of June 30, 2021, 82 memoranda of understanding have been signed and certificates have been sent to each school designating them as part of the UAS-CTI. The Unmanned Aircraft Systems – CTI program has expanded to include Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal College and Universities (TCUs) to ensure that the pipeline of the UAS workforce is diverse. To date, there are two HBCUs and 12 HSIs participating in the program.

Select Social Media Notices

Read about the latest Drone Advisory Committee recommendation: "Removing the Man from Unmanned Aviation."

https://medium.com/faa/removing-the-man-from-unmanned-aviation-bfa1855f59db

Mark your calendar — Join the FAA Drone Guy and Danielle Corbett for a live Q & A on the new Operations Over People rule for drones on 4/27 from 2 - 3 PM ET.

https://t.co/6Z8FLfmKdr

In his latest blog, Jay Merkle, the FAA's Executive Director of UAS Integration, discusses the impact of Remote ID on a future UAS Traffic Management System (UTM) and reinforces the FAA's commitment to the development of a safe, robust #UTM. #Drones4Good

https://t.co/qqRixRj2HA

On this week's highly requested episode of "The Air Up There" podcast, we're talking about drones through the eyes of a soon-to-be drone pilot

https://bit.ly/2Rcs5Jg

The Declaration of Compliance website is now available at https://t.co/ZnezUXTUmv! Users may submit Means of Compliance and Declarations of Compliance documents for #RemoteID under Part 89 and operations over people under Part 107. #Drones #FlySafe

https://t.co/BG45z2dkh5

In the #UTMPilotProgram Phase 2, the FAA, NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership and NUAIR demonstrated how potential Remote ID technologies could enable a future UAS Traffic Management System (UTM). The progress report reviews the approach, execution and findings. #OneidaCounty #NYUASTS

https://bit.ly/3bmMkuv

We asked Kenji Sugahara, member of the Drone Advisory Committee, to share his thoughts on the importance of the committee for every drone pilot. Curious? Watch his video and join the livestream on June 23! #DAC For more details visit:

http://bit.ly/38IYc6I

We asked Cathy Cahill, member of the Drone Advisory Committee, to share why the committee is important for drone pilots. Curious? Watch her video and join the livestream here on June 23! #DAC For more details visit: https://t.co/GhqlhE9g6e

https://t.co/96AWrKAnTq

From "unmanned" to "remotely piloted" aviation? The Drone Advisory Committee recommended the FAA start using gender-neutral language in the drone industry to impact the larger aerospace industry. Curious to learn more? Check out our latest blog: https://t.co/ocLQUMgOa8. #diversity

https://t.co/IwsYJWl6Ek

In our latest episode of "The Air Up There" podcast, we're talking about the Drone Advisory Committee's work to create a more inclusive aviation community. Listen to the full episode at https://bit.ly/3d7KDlk