



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
42D AIR BASE WING (AETC)  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE ALABAMA



MEMORANDUM FOR MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE

FROM: 42 ABW/CC

SUBJECT: Recreational use of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) and Model Aircraft

1. By order of the Commander, 42d Air Base Wing, this policy letter provides initial instruction that will later be established in MAFBI 13-202, *Airfield Operations*. This policy establishes procedures for recreational use of sUAS and model aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds conducted within Maxwell AFB perimeter to include Gunter Annex. For the purpose of this document "Maxwell" refers to Maxwell AFB proper and "Gunter" refers specifically to Gunter Annex. The term sUAS encompasses all remote-controlled aircraft and includes, but is not limited to, model aircraft, rotocopters, multicomputer, lighter than air systems, quadcopters, helicopters, etc. 42d Operations Support Squadron (42 OSS) is the designated OPR who manages installation military/government and recreational sUAS use. Operator who violate this local policy are subject to permanent loss of on-base privileges and/or may be subject to FAA fines.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Users will:

- (1) Operators must be 18 or older; an FAA registered member must accompany those under 18.
- (2) Notify Maxwell Command Post (CP) at (334) 953-7474, 15 minutes prior to flight and immediately once recreational use is complete.
- (3) Contact CP or Airfield Management (AMOPS, (334) 953-6961) if system control is lost. Operators may be held responsible for damages incurred to base property.
- (4) Remain inside the designated sUAS areas identified in Attachment 1. These are the only areas authorized for operator use on Maxwell and Gunter.
- (5) Will fly no higher than 200 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) at Maxwell and Gunter.
- (6) Maintain physical line of sight with their flight system.
- (7) Only fly their systems from sunrise to sunset, nighttime operations are not allowed.
- (8) Remain clear of surrounding obstacles as well as not fly over or within 25 feet of nonparticipating personnel/groups.

(9) On Maxwell – cease operations if piloted aircraft operations are observed. Users may contact AMOPS to determine if operations should cease for an extended period.

(10) In accordance with federal law, users will register their system (recreational UAS, drone, model aircraft weighing .55 pounds up to 55 pounds) before flight via the FAA at <https://registermyuas.faa.gov> and present registration when requested.

(a) Use of nitro/fuel boosters for engine propulsion is not authorized.

(11) Only photograph or film from sUAS while in the designated areas on Maxwell and Gunter.

(12) Not operate sUAS carrying pyrotechnic devices that explode or burn, or any device which propels a projectile or drop any object that creates a hazard to persons or property.

(13) Not operate the sUAS while under the influence of alcohol or while using any drug that could adversely affect the pilot's ability to safely control the sUAS.

b. 42 OSS shall:

(1) Deny/stop recreational sUAS operations when installation safety or security concerns exist.

(2) Remain vigilant for unmanned/model aircraft systems during airfield operating hours.

(3) Report unmanned system activity to Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) upon identification.

(4) Report unmanned system activity to aircraft under their control and follow checklist IAW HHQ guidance.

c. 42 Security Forces Squadron (42 SFS) shall:

(1) Remain vigilant for unmanned/model aircraft systems during airfield operating hours.

(2) Report any sUAS activity/incident to 42 OSS upon identification.

(3) Report/follow applicable unit level checklist for unmanned system activity IAW HHQ guidance.

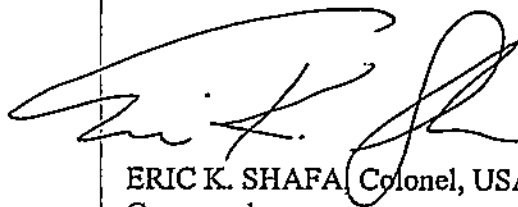
(4) When sUAS are operating, conduct random checks to ensure operators have a FAA registration.

(5) When notified or observe sUAS aircraft operations not in compliance with this policy the following will take place:

- i. Detain the individual for questions.
- ii. Contact Command Post to initiate their reporting procedures.
- iii. Seize the sUAS if federal/state laws are violated.
- iv. Other actions as determined by 42 MSG/CC.

d. Maxwell AFB Command Post shall:

- (1) Contact Tower, AMOPS, and BDOC when notified of recreational area use.
  - (2) Report IAW AFI10-206 OPREP-3B CSAF MATRIX rule 9B (Unauthorized Air Vehicle/Military Installation Airspace violation/Intrusion) when an event is not coordinated.
  - (3) Notify 42 MSG/CC and 42 OSS/CC of an unauthorized event on Maxwell or Gunter.
  - (4) Notify 42 SFS and 42 OSS/OSAM, if Maxwell Command Post receives the information from another source.
3. Users are highly encouraged to review the FAA's website [www.knowbeforeyoufly.org](http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org) that list additional safety precautions and measures prior to flying these systems. The Air Force is not responsible for damage, nor damage or injury caused by recreational sUAS/model aircraft.
4. This policy is for recreational sUAS aircraft use only. Guidance for official sUAS use by Air Force personnel is governed by AFI 11-502 and AFI 11-5FTseries publications. Governmental or commercial sUAS or model aircraft use requires special licenses and authority to operate IAW Title 49 U.S.C. § 40102(a)(41) and § 40125.



ERIC K. SHAFAL Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Attachment:  
Designated Areas

Attachment 1 – Designated Areas

MAXWELL



GUNTER ANNEX

