

## CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION

ISSUED TO

Headquarters  
United States Special Operations Command

ADDRESS: 210 Hartson Street  
Hurlbert Field, Florida 32544

This certificate is issued for the operations specifically described hereinafter. No person shall conduct any operation pursuant to the authority of this certificate except in accordance with the standard and special provisions contained in this certificate, and such other requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations not specifically waived by this certificate.

OPERATIONS AUTHORIZED

Operation of the Raven UAS in Class D airspace at Southern California Logistics Airport (VCV) under the jurisdiction of the VCV Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) in accordance with the Letter of Agreement effective 1 January 2008 (see attachment 1). All operations will be within a one-half (1/2) NM ring centered at 34° 34.9' N, 117° 21.67' W from the surface to 1000' AGL (see attachment A of the LOA). See Special Provisions.

LIST OF WAIVED REGULATIONS BY SECTION AND TITLE

N/A

STANDARD PROVISIONS

1. A copy of the application made for this certificate shall be attached and become a part hereof.
2. This certificate shall be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized representative of the Federal Aviation Administration, or of any State or municipal official charged with the duty of enforcing local laws or regulations.
3. The holder of this certificate shall be responsible for the strict observance of the terms and provisions contained herein.
4. This certificate is nontransferable.

Note-This certificate constitutes a waiver of those Federal rules or regulations specifically referred to above. It does not constitute a waiver of any State law or local ordinance.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Special Provisions are set forth and attached.

This certificate (2007-115303) is effective from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, and is subject to cancellation at any time upon notice by the Administrator or his/her authorized representative.

BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

FAA Headquarters, AJR-36  
(Region)

  
Ardyth Williams  
(Signature)

January 15, 2008  
(Date)

Air Traffic Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems  
(Title)

**ATTACHMENT to FAA FORM 7711-1**

**ISSUED TO:** Headquarters  
United States Special Operations Command

**ADDRESS:** 210 Hartson Street  
Hurlbert Field, Florida 32544

**NAME:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certificate of Authorization (COA) for Raven Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the National Airspace System (NAS) outside of restricted/warning area airspace.

**ACTIVITY:** Operation of the Raven UAS in Class D airspace at Southern California Logistics Airport (VCV) under the jurisdiction of the VCV Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) in accordance with the Letter of Agreement effective 1 January 2008 (see attachment 1). All operations will be within a one-half (1/2) NM ring centered at 34° 34.9' N, 117° 21.67' W from the surface to 1000' AGL (see attachment A of the LOA).

**PURPOSE:** To prescribe operating requirements in the NAS (outside of restricted and/or warning area airspace) for the purpose of training and/or operational flights.

**DATES OF USE:** This COA (2007-115304) is valid from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008. Should a renewal become necessary, the proponent shall advise the FAA, in writing, no later than 60 days prior to the requested effective date.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

- The review of this activity is based on our current understanding of the UAS operations, and the impact of such operations in the NAS, and therefore should not be considered a precedent for future operations. As changes occur in the UAS industry, or in our understanding of it, there may be changes to the limitations and conditions for similar operations.
- All personnel connected with the UAS operation must comply with the contents of this authorization and its special provisions.
- This COA will be reviewed and amended as necessary to conform to changing UAS policy and guidance.

**SAFETY PROVISIONS:**

Unmanned Aircraft (UA) have no on-board pilot to perform see-and-avoid responsibilities, and therefore, when operating outside of restricted/warning/Class A airspace areas, special provisions must be made to ensure an equivalent level of safety exists for operations had a pilot been on board. In accordance with 14 CFR Part 91, General Operating and Flight Rules, Subpart J-Waivers, 91.903, Policy and Procedures, the following provisions provide acceptable mitigation of 14 CFR Part 91.113 and must be complied with:

- Visual Observers, either ground-based or airborne, must be used.

- The applicant and/or its representatives are responsible for collision avoidance with all aircraft, other aviation operations, and the safety of persons or property on the surface.

#### **AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATION PROVISIONS:**

- UA must be shown to be airworthy to conduct flight operations in the NAS.
- Public Use Aircraft applications must contain one of the following:
  - A civil airworthiness certification from the FAA, or
  - A statement specifying that the Department of Defense Handbook "Airworthiness Certification Criteria" (MIL-HDBK-516), as amended, was used to certify the aircraft or equivalent method of certification.

#### **PILOT / OBSERVER PROVISIONS:**

- **Pilot Qualifications:** UA pilots interacting with Air Traffic Control (ATC) shall have sufficient expertise to perform that task readily. Pilots must have an understanding of and comply with Federal Aviation Regulations and Military Regulations applicable to the airspace where the UAS will operate. Pilots must have in their possession a current third class (or higher) airman medical certificate that has been issued under 14 CFR 67, Medical Standards and Certification, or a military equivalent. 14 CFR 91.17, Alcohol or Drugs, applies to UA pilots.
- **Observer Qualifications:** Observers must have been provided with sufficient training to communicate clearly to the pilot any turning instructions required to stay clear of conflicting traffic. Observers will receive training on rules and responsibilities described in 14 CFR 91.111, *Operating Near Other Aircraft*, and 14 CFR 91.113, *Right-of-Way Rules*. Observers must have in their possession a current third class (or higher) airman medical certificate that has been issued under 14 CFR 67, Medical Standards and Certification, or a military equivalent. 14 CFR 91.17, Alcohol or Drugs, applies to UA observers.
- **Pilot-in-Command (PIC) – Visual Flight Rules (VFR):**
  - The PIC is the person directly responsible for the operation of the UA. The responsibility and authority of the pilot in command as described by 14 CFR 91.3 (or military equivalent), applies to the UAS PIC.
  - The PIC must pass the required knowledge test for a private pilot certificate, or military equivalent, as stated in 14 CFR 61.105, and must keep their aeronautical knowledge up to date.
  - There is no intent to suggest that there is any requirement for the UAS PIC to be qualified as a crewmember of a manned aircraft.

#### **Pilot Proficiency – VFR:**

- Pilots will not act as a PIC unless they have had three qualified proficiency events within the preceding 90 days.



- The term “qualified proficiency event” is a UAS-specific term necessary due to the diversity of UAS types and control systems.
  - A qualified proficiency event is an event requiring the pilot to exercise the training and skills unique to the UAS in which proficiency is maintained.
- Pilots flying UA on other than instrument flight plans must pass the required knowledge test for a private pilot certificate, or military equivalent, as stated in 14 CFR 61.105.

**PIC Responsibilities:**

- Pilots are responsible for a thorough preflight inspection of the UAS. Flight operations will not be undertaken unless the UAS is airworthy. The airworthiness provisions of 14 CFR 91.7, Civil Aircraft Airworthiness, or the military equivalent, apply.
- One PIC must be designated at all times and is responsible for the safety of the UA and persons and property along the UA flight path.
- The UAS pilot will be held accountable for controlling their aircraft to the same standards as the pilot of a manned aircraft. The provisions of 14 CFR 91.13, *Careless and Reckless Operation*, apply to UAS pilots.

**Pilot/ATC Instructions:** The PIC will maintain direct two-way communications with ATC and have the ability to maneuver the UA per their instructions as applicable.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS:**

The FAA recognizes that, by nature, UAS have no on-board pilot to perform see-and-avoid responsibilities. Therefore, when operating outside of Restricted Airspace, special provisions must be made to ensure an equivalent level of safety exists for operations had a pilot been on board. Listed below are the special provisions that must be complied with. All personnel connected with this UAS operation shall comply with the contents of this authorization and its special provisions.

1. All UAS operations shall be conducted under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) in Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) in accordance with CFR 14 Part 91.
2. All parties involved in the UAS operation shall be briefed on and comply with the provisions of the letter of agreement between the VCV Airport Traffic Control Tower, VCV Airport and the U.S. Special Operations Command effective 1 January 2008.
3. For the purpose of see-and-avoid, visual observers must be utilized at all times when operating outside of restricted, prohibited or warning area airspace. The visual observers must remain within 1 mile laterally and/or 1000 feet vertically of the Raven UAS during all operations. Pilot/observers must not operate the Raven at a distance beyond that at which see-and-avoid responsibilities can be exercised. The visual observers may be either ground based or in a chase aircraft. The observer(s) must keep the UAS in sight at all times.
4. Operations outside of restricted airspace may only be conducted during daylight hours.

5. The UAS transponder and position/navigation/anti-collision strobe lights shall be activated at all times during flight, if equipped.
6. In the event of a lost link the aircraft will follow the procedures listed in paragraph 5a(6) of the LOA (see attachment 1).
7. Operations shall not be operated over populated areas, heavily trafficked roads, or an open-air assembly to include lost link procedures.
8. Special VFR operations are not authorized.

**NOTAM:** A distance (D) Notice to Airman shall be issued when UA operations are being conducted. Contact the Automated Flight Service Station not more than 72 hours in advance, but not less than 48 hours prior to the operation and provide:

- Name and Address of the Using Facility
- Location, Altitude or the operating Area
- Time and nature of the activity

**INCIDENT / ACCIDENT REPORTING:** The following information is required to document unusual occurrences associated with UAS activities in the NAS.

- The proponent for the COA shall provide the following information to Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov on a monthly/annual basis:
  - Number of flights conducted under this COA.
  - Pilot duty time per flight.
  - Unusual equipment malfunctions (hardware/software).
  - Deviations from ATC instructions.
  - Operational/coordination issues.
  - All periods of Loss of Communications.
- The following shall be submitted to Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov within 24 hours:
  - Deviations from the "Special Provisions" contained in the COA.
  - All periods of Loss Link, including duration.
  - All incidents involving the UAS as defined in 49 CFR 830.
  - All accidents involving the UAS as defined in 49 CFR 830.

This COA does not, in itself, waive any Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) nor any state law or local ordinance. Should the proposed operation conflict with any state law or local ordinance, or require permission of local authorities or property owners, it is the responsibility of the United States Special Operations Command to resolve the matter. This COA does not authorize flight within Special Use Airspace without approval from the Using Agency. The United States Special Operations Command is hereby authorized to operate the Raven UAS in the operations area depicted in "Activity" above and attachment A of the LOA (see attachment 1).



**Attachment 1 of Certificate of Authorization**

LETTER OF AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
VICTORVILLE AIRPORT TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER AND UNITED STATES SPECIAL  
OPERATIONS COMMAND

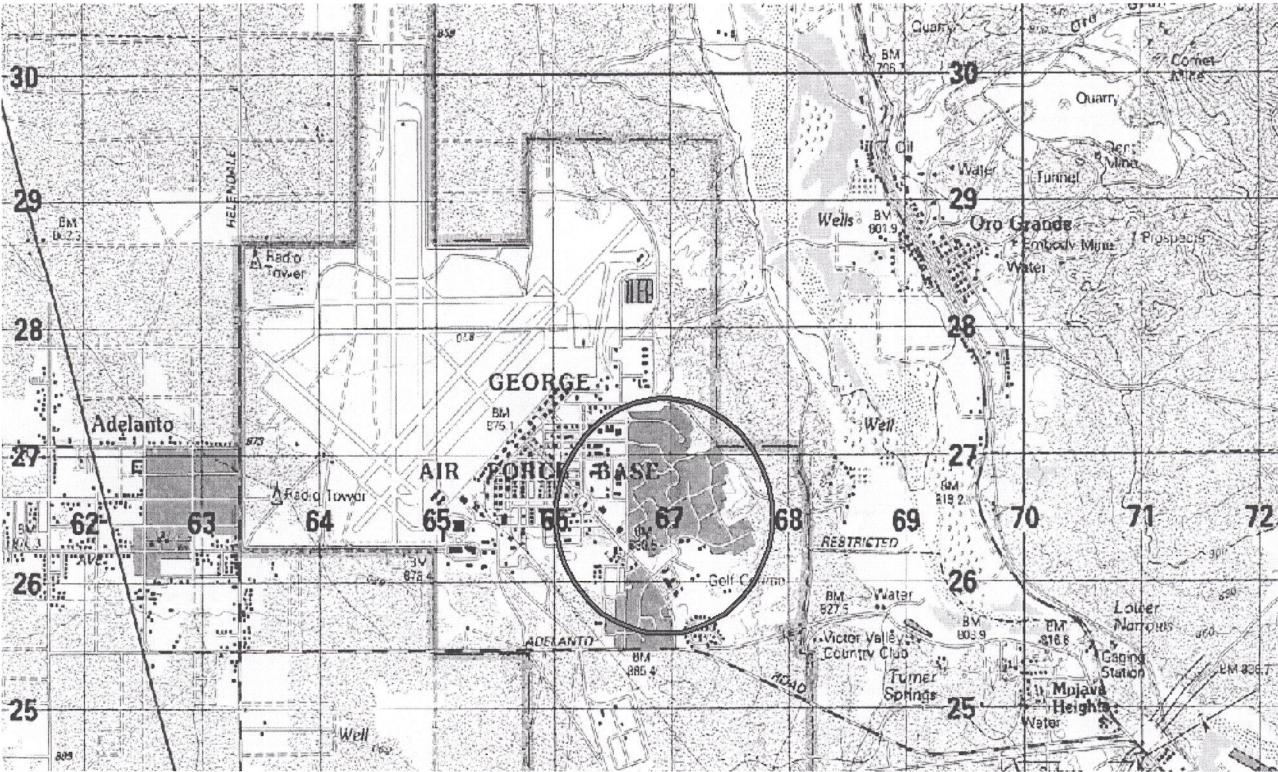
**EFFECTIVE: 1 JANUARY 2008**

**SUBJECT: Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS):** UAS operations at the Southern California Logistical Airport (VCV) Class "D" airspace.

1. Purpose: To establish procedures for operations of the Raven UAS within VCV Class "D" airspace.
2. Scope: The procedures herein apply to VCV Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) and United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).
3. Responsibilities: Parties of this Letter of Agreement (LOA) shall ensure their respective personnel comply with its provisions.
4. Scheduling/Cancellation:
  - a. USSOCOM UAS operators will submit a request for issuance of a Notice to Airman (NOTAM) to VCV Airport Operations no later than one business day prior to UAS flight within VCV Class "D" airspace.
  - b. A current Letter of Agreement and FAA 7711-1 on file with ATCT and airport operations is the prerequisite for NOTAM consideration.
5. Procedures:
  - a. General:
    - (1) All UAS operations will be conducted within a one-half (1/2) NM ring centered at 34° 34.9' N, 117° 21.67' W from the surface to 1000' AGL. See attachment "A."
    - (2) It is the responsibility of the Pilot in Command (PIC) or Mission Commander (MC) to ensure VCV ATCT is informed of completion of UAS flight operations.
    - (3) It is the responsibility of USSOCOM to deconflict operation schedules with other UAS operators. VCV ATCT will not be involved with deconfliction of proposed flight schedules.
    - (4) All flight communications for launch and recovery at VCV, or VCV Class "D" airspace shall be accomplished on VCV ATCT assigned frequencies.

- (5) If voice communications between the PIC and VCV ATCT are lost, VCV ATCT will be notified immediately via recorded telephone line. The UAS can continue to operate as originally cleared, as long as alternate direct two-way communications are maintained between VCV ATCT and the PIC.
- (6) Loss link procedures. VCV ATCT will be notified immediately of any loss of link. The UAS will proceed to a predetermined point within the approved operating area in attachment "A" and orbit at or below 300' AGL while attempting to reestablish link. In the event link is not established, the UAS will autonomously set itself to auto land and will land at the rally point (normally over the Ground Control Station (GCS)). In the event of errant or dangerous behavior of the UAS, the operator will shut down the motor forcing the UAS to auto land or land now.
- (7) Ground observers shall maintain visual contact with the UAS during all phases of flight. If the ground observers lose sight of the UAS while in operation, the following methodologies shall be employed:
  - (a) The ground observer shall communicate directly to the PIC that visual contact has been lost and that attempts to regain visual observation are being employed.
  - (b) Subsequently, the PIC shall contact VCV ATCT to inform that visual contact has been lost by the ground observers and that the UAS will orbit at 300' AGL over the operating site until visual contact can be reacquired. If visual contact is not acquired within three minutes, the PIC will fly the UAS to the rally point (normally over the GCS) and land.
  - (c) Once visual contact of the UAS is reacquired, the observer will communicate to the PIC that visual contact has been re-established.
  - (d) If loss of visual contact of the UAS occurs during the recovery phase of flight, the UAS will continue in its landing process.
- (8) In the event of an UAS emergency, the PIC shall contact VCV ATCT immediately to advise of the situation and intentions. Manned aircraft emergencies shall take priority over unmanned aircraft emergencies. The UAS PIC shall comply with all VCV ATCT instructions that may include returning to rally point, holding, or land now to accommodate a manned aircraft emergency.
- (9) All UAS flights shall be conducted in visual flight rules (VFR) conditions.





**UAS Operating Area:** All UAS operations will be conducted within the one-half (1/2) NM ring, the center being located at 34° 34.9' N 117° 21.67' W from the surface to 1000' AGL.



(10) VCV ATCT will segregate all known manned and unmanned aircraft within the Class "D" airspace. Specifically, left downwind traffic to runway 17 and 21 or right downwind traffic to runway 3 and 35 should not be authorized during UAS operations.

(11) USSOCOM UAS operator will notify VCV ATCT 15 minutes prior to beginning launch activity.

NOTE: The Airport Director is the final authority for all ground based operations onboard Southern California Logistics Airport.

(b) (6)

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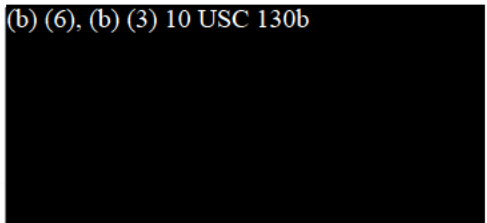
Southern California Logistics Airport

(b) (6)

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Victorville Airport

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