

**Unmanned Aircraft System COA**  
**Public Agency**  
2024-WSA-15646-COA

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<small>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA)</small> <b>CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION (COA)</b>	
<small>ISSUED TO</small> University of Colorado-Boulder	Part 91
<small>ADDRESS</small> 3100 Marine Street, Room 653 Boulder, CO 80309	
<p>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.</p>	
<small>OPERATIONS AUTHORIZED</small> Operation of the BlackSwift S2 INSTAAR, unmanned aircraft system (UAS) in Class D, E, and G Airspace, at or below 1,200 feet Above Ground Level (AGL), near Fairbanks, Alaska, under jurisdiction of Fairbanks Airport Traffic Control Tower and Fairbanks Terminal Radar Approach Control (FAI). See Attachment 1.	
<small>LIST OF WAIVED REGULATIONS BY SECTION AND TITLE</small>  N/A	
<b>STANDARD PROVISIONS</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A copy of the application made for this certificate shall be attached and become a part hereof.</li><li>2. This certificate shall be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized representative of the FAA or of any state or municipal official charged with the duty of enforcing local laws or regulations.</li><li>3. The holder of this certificate shall be responsible for the strict observance of the terms and provisions contained herein.</li><li>4. This certificate is nontransferable.</li></ol>	
<b>Note:</b> 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.	
<b>SPECIAL PROVISIONS</b>	
Special provisions A through H are set forth on the reverse side hereof.	
This certificate is effective from _____ to _____ and is subject to cancellation at any time upon notice by the Administrator or his/her authorized representative.	
<b>BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR</b>	
<u>FAA Western Service Area</u> (Region)	<u>Adam Vetter</u> (Signature)
_____ (Date)	<u>Tactical Operations Manager</u> (Title)

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**Purpose:** To prescribe UAS operating requirements in the National Airspace System (NAS) for the purpose of Public Aircraft Operations. The holder of this COA will be referred herein as the “Proponent.”

Public Aircraft

1. A public aircraft operation is determined by statutes 49 U.S.C. § 40102(a)(41) and § 40125.
2. All public aircraft flights conducted under a COA must comply with the terms of the statute.
3. All flights must be conducted per the declarations submitted in the application and as specified in the following standard/special provisions.
4. This COA provides an alternate means of complying with Title 14 CFR § 91.113(b) for unmanned aircraft operations.
5. All operations will be conducted in compliance with Title 14 CFR § 91 and the conditions of the authorization issued herein. If the operator cannot adhere to any of these requirements, a separate FAA Form 7711-2 waiver application may be required.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

**A. General.**

1. All personnel connected with the UAS operation must read and comply with the contents of this authorization and its provisions.
2. A copy of the COA including the special limitations must be immediately available to all operational personnel at each operating location whenever UAS operations are conducted.
3. This authorization may be canceled at any time by the Administrator, the person authorized to grant the authorization, or the representative designated to monitor a specific operation. As a general rule, this authorization may be canceled when it is no longer required, if there is an abuse of its provisions, or when unforeseen safety factors develop. Failure to comply with the authorization is cause for cancellation. The proponent will receive a written notice of cancellation.
4. During the time this COA is approved and active, a site safety evaluation/visit may be accomplished to ensure COA compliance, assess any adverse impact on air traffic control (ATC) or airspace, and ensure this COA is not burdensome or ineffective. Deviations accidents/incidents/mishaps, complaints, etc., will prompt a COA review or site visit to address the issue. Refusal to allow a site safety evaluation/visit may result in cancellation of the COA.

**Note:** This section does not pertain to agencies that have other existing agreements in place with the FAA.

5. Radiofrequency spectrum authorization is independent of the COA process and requires the proponent to obtain Federal Communications Commission (FCC) equipment certification (47 CFR Part 2, Subpart J and 47 CFR Part 87, Subpart D) and frequency licenses (47 CFR Part 87) in the Aeronautical Radionavigation, Aeronautical Mobile (Route), or Aeronautical Mobile Services, as appropriate, for the control link, ATC radios, transponders, detect and avoid systems, and navigation systems used to support this COA. For systems operating exclusively below 400 feet, and within visual line of sight, the control link equipment may be licensed under 47 CFR Part 15 (Radio Frequency Devices).

Equipment licensed under 47 CFR Part 5 (Experimental) does not provide the protection necessary for NAS operations.

**B. Operations.**

1. Unless otherwise authorized as a special provision, a maximum of one UA will be controlled:
  - a. From a single control station; and
  - b. By one pilot at a time.
2. When necessary, transit of airways and routes must be conducted as expeditiously as possible. The UAS should not plan to loiter on Domestic VOR Federal airways (Victor airways), Jet Routes, United States Area Navigation Routes (Q and T routes), or IFR and VFR Military Training Routes (IRs and VRs).
3. For flights operating on an instrument flight rules (IFR) clearance, the pilot in command (PIC) must ensure positional information in reference to established National Airspace System (NAS) fixes, navigational aids (NAVAID), and/or waypoints are provided to ATC. The use of latitude/longitude positions is not authorized, except oceanic flight operations.
4. Unless installed as part of a detect and avoid (DAA) system, the use of a traffic collision avoidance system in traffic advisory or traffic advisory/resolution advisory modes while operating an UA is prohibited.

**C. Safety of Flight.**

1. The operator or delegated representative is responsible for halting or canceling activity in the COA area if, at any time, the safety of persons or property on the ground or in the air is in jeopardy, or if there is a failure to comply with the terms or conditions of this authorization.
  - a. Any crew member responsible for performing see-and-avoid requirements for the UA must have and maintain instantaneous communication with the PIC.
  - b. Visual observers must be used at all times except in Class A airspace, active restricted areas, and warning areas designated for aviation activities, or as authorized in the special provisions. Observers may either be ground-based or airborne in a chase plane. Visual Observers:
    - (1) Must be able to communicate distinctly to the pilot any instructions required to remain clear of conflicting traffic, using standard phraseology as listed in the Aeronautical Information Manual when practicable.
    - (2) The PIC is responsible to ensure visual observers are able to see the aircraft and the surrounding airspace throughout the entire flight.
    - (3) The PIC is responsible to ensure visual observers are able to provide the PIC with the UA's flight path, and proximity to all aviation activities and other hazards (e.g., terrain, weather, structures) sufficiently to exercise effective control of the UA to:
      - (a) Comply with 14 CFR § 91.111, § 91.113, and § 91.115;
      - (b) Prevent the UA from creating a collision hazard; and
      - (c) Comply with all conditions of this COA.

**D. Notice to Air Missions (NOTAM).**

1. A Distant (D) NOTAM must be issued, not less than 24-hours but not more than 72-hours, in advance of conducting routine UAS operations, unless operations are contained within Class A airspace, active restricted areas, or warning areas that are designated on the appropriate aeronautical chart or airport directory. This requirement may be accomplished:
  - a. Through the operator's local base operations or (D) NOTAM issuing authority; or
  - b. By contacting the NOTAM Flight Service Station at 1-877-4-US-NTMS (1-877-487-6867). The issuing agency will require:
    - (1) Name and contact information of the pilot filing the (D) NOTAM request;
    - (2) Location, altitude, and operating area; and
    - (3) Time and nature of the activity.
2. The area of operation defined in the (D) NOTAM must only be for the actual area to be flown for each day defined by a point and the minimum radius required to conduct the operation.
3. Operator must cancel (D) NOTAMs when UAS operations are completed or will not be conducted.

**E. Reporting Requirements.**

1. Documentation of all operations associated with UAS activities is required regardless of the airspace in which the UAS operates.
2. The proponent must submit the number of flights on a monthly basis through the COA application processing system (CAPS).

**F. Special Use Airspace.**

1. Coordination and de-confliction between Military Training Routes (MTR) and Special Use Airspace (SUA) is the operator's responsibility. When identifying an operational area, the operator must evaluate whether an MTR or SUA will be affected. In the event the UAS operational area overlaps an MTR or SUA, the operator will contact the scheduling agency in advance and as soon as practicable to coordinate and de-conflict. Approval from the scheduling agency is required for regulatory SUA, but not for MTRs and non-regulatory SUA. If there is no response to coordination efforts, the operator must exercise extreme caution and remain vigilant of all MTRs and/or non-regulatory SUAs.
2. Scheduling agencies for MTRs are listed in the Area Planning AP/1B, *Military Planning Routes, North and South America*. If unable to gain access to the AP/1B, contact the FAA with the instrument routes/visual routes affected at the following email address: [9-AJV-115-UASOrganization@faa.gov](mailto:9-AJV-115-UASOrganization@faa.gov). The FAA will provide the scheduling agency information. Scheduling agencies for SUAs are listed in the FAA Order JO 7400.10, *Special Use Airspace*.

**G. Air Traffic Control Requirements.**

1. Coordination Requirements:
  - a. Proponent must contact FAI at 907-474-0452 no less than 15 minutes prior to commencing operations and provide operational details, including (D) NOTAM number. Direct, real-time telephone contact information including primary and backup

methods must be provided in the (D) NOTAM.

- b. Proponent must notify FAI within 15 minutes of terminating operations.
- 2. Communication Requirements: PIC shall include this COA number in the NOTAM and must be accessible at the phone number provided in NOTAM, or during initial coordination, for direct real-time communication and coordination purposes for the duration of UAS operations.
- 3. Flight Planning Requirements: It is the responsibility of the PIC to comply with all Federal, Tribal, State, and Local requirements when operating over publicly owned or controlled land and waterways (i.e., National Park, National Seashores, etc.).
- 4. Procedural Requirements:
  - a. ATC may delay, limit, prohibit, or terminate UAS operations when the safety of manned aircraft operations are a concern.
  - b. UAS operations must remain clear of airport traffic patterns and not cross over any runway or taxiway unless otherwise coordinated.
  - c. PIC must monitor Fairbanks Airport Traffic Control Tower frequency 118.3 while operating in Fairbanks Class D Airspace.
  - d. Daisy-Chaining of Visual Observers (VO):
    - (1) VO's are briefed on the aircrafts flight path and prepositioned before takeoff.
    - (2) VO's must have direct communications with the PIC and communications with all observers must be verified before takeoff.
    - (3) VO's will perform positive hand-off of responsibilities between each subsequent VO along flight path. If the receiving VO cannot visually acquire the UA after coordination with PIC, the UA will be tasked to reverse course and return for landing.

#### **H. Lost Link/Emergency/Contingency Procedures.**

- 1. Lost Link Procedures: ATC does not need to be notified provided the PIC complies with the following provisions:
  - a. The UA must fly back to the home point and land.
  - b. Lost link procedures must be programmed to remain within the operations area / approved altitude and landing location is within the view of the PIC.
- 2. Loss of Sight: If a VO loses sight of the UA, the PIC must be notified immediately. If the UA is visually reacquired promptly, the mission may continue. If not, the PIC must immediately terminate the operation and the UA must return to land at home point.
- 3. Loss of Communication between the PIC and VO: The PIC must execute lost link procedures. If communications are reestablished, the mission may resume. If communication cannot be promptly re-established, the flight must be terminated, and the UA must return to land at home point.

4. Emergency/Fly-Away Procedures:
  - a. In event of an emergency/fly-away toward an area or airport where the PIC determines the UA may create a hazard to aviation, the PIC must immediately notify the appropriate ATC facility.
  - b. Facility Contact: FAI 907-474-0452
  - c. The PIC must provide the following information:
    - (1) Nature of emergency.
    - (2) Last known UA position, altitude, and direction of flight.
    - (3) Maximum remaining flight time.

#### **AUTHORIZATION**

This COA does not, in itself, waive any Title 14 CFR not specifically stated, 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 proponent to resolve the matter. This COA does not authorize flight within Temporary Flight Restrictions, Special Flight Rule Areas, regulatory SUA, or the Washington DC Federal Restricted Zone without pre-approval. The Proponent is hereby authorized to operate UAS in the NAS within the areas defined in the Operations Authorized section of the cover page.

Operating Areas

Class D, E, and G Airspace  
At or below 1,200 feet AGL



Color Coded Airspace and Operating Altitude

Area A Orange	1,200 feet AGL
Area B Light Blue	600 feet AGL
Area C Green	200 feet AGL
Area D Yellow	200 feet AGL



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Attachment 2-1

Operating Areas Defined

User-defined area: Area A		
User-defined area identifier	Flight boundary	
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	64 57' 36.58 "N	147 41' 57.73" W
2	64 58' 28.29" N	147 45' 8.39" W
3	64 59' 43.40" N	147 51' 6.68" W
4	64 59' 36.23" N	147 55' 12.63" W
5	64 58' 12.26" N	147 58' 43.97" W
6	64 57' 12.96" N	147 59' 7.24" W
7	64 56' 14.00" N	147 58' 37.81" W
8	64 54' 33.9" N	147 57' 10.34" W
9	64 54' 17.42" N	147 56' 24.80" W
10	64 54' 34.37" N	147 53' 24.79" W
11	64 54' 39.80" N	147 51' 36.51" W
12	64 54' 37.31" N	147 50' 1.88" W
13	64 54' 31.04" N	147 48' 32.97" W
14	64 54' 21.30" N	147 47' 22.66" W
15	64 55' 48.21" N	147 45' 5.94" W



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Attachment 2-2

Operating Areas Defined

User-defined area: Area B		
User-defined area identifier	Flight boundary	
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	64 57' 36.58 "N	147 41' 57.73" W
2	64 55' 48.21" N	147 45' 5.94" W
3	64 54' 21.30" N	147 47' 22.66" W
4	64 54' 16.88" N	147 46' 55.37" W
5	64 54' 0.47" N	147 45' 25.20" W
6	64 53' 11.41" N	147 42' 46.35" W
7	64 52' 36.17" N	147 40' 7.54" W
8	64 53' 25.88" N	147 37' 16.60" W
9	64 54' 11.60" N	147 34' 19.92" W
10	64 54' 30.05" N	147 34' 10.76" W
11	64 55' 5.05" N	147 34' 41.45" W
12	64 55' 38.02" N	147 35' 45.59" W

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Attachment 2-3

Operating Areas Defined

User-defined area: Area C		
User-defined area identifier	Flight boundary	
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	64 54' 21.30" N	147 47' 22.66" W
2	64 54' 16.88" N	147 46' 55.37" W
3	64 54' 0.47" N	147 45' 25.20" W
4	64 53' 11.41" N	147 42' 46.35" W
5	64 52' 40.75" N	147 41' 48.01" W
6	64 53' 8.13" N	147 46' 22.38" W
7	64 52' 59.32" N	147 49' 32.06" W

User-defined area: Area D		
User-defined area identifier	Flight boundary	
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	64 52' 59.32" N	147 49' 32.06" W
2	64 54' 21.30" N	147 47' 22.66" W
3	64 54' 31.04" N	147 48' 32.97" W
4	64 54' 37.31" N	147 50' 1.88" W
5	64 54' 39.80" N	147 51' 36.51" W