

# **Guidance for Small Unmanned Aircraft System Operation on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar**

The increasing popularity of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), or “drones,” by military and non-military operators highlights the need for information and guidance regarding operations aboard Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar. UAS are defined as any airplane, rotorcraft, glider, or airship that does not carry people, is controlled autonomously or remotely by an operator or programmed autopilot, and is either purchased or constructed. Under federal law, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has regulatory jurisdiction over UAS operations, regardless of location.

This MCAS Miramar Guidance applies to all persons, military and civilian, seeking to operate a UAS aboard MCAS Miramar. All such persons must comply with federal law (Section 336 of Public Law 112-95 FAA Modernization and Reform Act), FAA regulations, and MCAS Miramar Policy Letter 1-16 (Guidance for Small Unmanned Aircraft Operation on MCAS Miramar). No person may operate a UAS larger than 55 pounds aboard MCAS Miramar. Operations of small UAS (.55 to 55 pounds) are subject to the following restrictions and procedures:

- 1) The UAS operator must register the UAS with the FAA per FAA (14 C.F.R. Part 47).
- 2) The UAS operator must register the UAS with the Provost Marshal’s Office (PMO) at the Visitor Registration Center, Building 6200, prior to flight.
- 3) The UAS operator must contact MCAS Miramar Operations at (858) 577-4277 prior to flight.
- 4) All other flights are limited to the confines of Mills Park unless specifically authorized by the Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar.
- 5) Flights shall not be conducted more than 50 feet above ground level.
- 6) Only daytime flights are authorized (sunrise to sunset).
- 7) The UAS operator must maintain line-of-sight contact with the UAS at all times.
- 8) All personnel are encouraged to report immediately all unauthorized UAS operations on MCAS Miramar to PMO at (858) 577-4068.

Military personnel who fail to comply with FAA regulations or MCAS Miramar Policy Letter 1-16 are subject to punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Military personnel or civilians who fail to comply may also be subject to criminal penalties under the San Diego Municipal Code, and administrative action to include civil enforcement action by the FAA, as appropriate.