Rules for operating small UAS (“Drones”) in and around USAFA

UAS flight over Military Installations

In the interest of national security, the FAA, under 14 CFR § 99.7 - Special Security Instructions (SSI), has restricted UAS - Drone flights within airspace defined under UAS NOTAM FDC 7/7137. The implementation of SSIs restricts UAS - drone flights from the surface up to 400 feet within the lateral boundaries of multiple designated government installations to include the U. S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) and Bullseye Auxiliary Airfield (~32 miles SE of Academy Airfield). If you have any questions about SSI UAS - Drone restrictions please contact us at usafa.drone.uas.request@us.af.mil or visit http://uas.faa.opendata.arcgis.com for an interactive map of the restrictions over USAFA and the rest of the United States.

![Map of U.S. Air Force Academy and Bullseye Auxiliary Airfield restriction areas](image)

Part 101 Model Aircraft/Recreational small UAS (sUAS) Operations

Current guidelines requires a recreational model aircraft/sUAS operator to contact the airport and the Air Traffic Control Tower, if there is one at that airport, before flight if they will be operating within 5 miles of the airport. This notification is critical to ensuring the safety of all flight traffic in the National Airspace System. For more information on current recreational model aircraft/sUAS rules please visit https://www.faa.gov/uas.

Remember, you may be closer than you think. The intersections of N. Nevada Ave. and Austin Bluffs Parkway to the south and N. Powers Blvd and Research Parkway to the east are both within 5 miles of Academy Airfield. To contact the U. S. Air Force Academy about model aircraft/sUAS operations within 5 miles of Academy Airfield or if you are unsure about your proximity to Academy Airfield please contact us at usafa.drone.uas.request@us.af.mil.
Part 107 Commercial sUAS Operations

All commercial sUAS users must get approval before flying in USAFA’s Class D airspace. If you are a Part 107 operator interested in operating within USAFA’s Class D airspace visit www.faa.gov/uas. If you have questions about the boundary of our Class D airspace or when it is active contact us at usafa.drone.uas.request@us.af.mil.

Section 333 and Public (Commercial/Governmental UAS Ops)

Section 333 commercial operations and all public operations require a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA) with the FAA. For Section 333 or Public UAS operations within USAFA’s Class D Airspace, approval requests must be pre-coordinated using established FAA processes. If you wish to operate under section 333 or you are requesting an operation as a governmental entity (Public COA) please visit www.faa.gov/uas or for more insight regarding USAFA Class D operating hours or for processes to gain approval to operate in the USAFA Special Security Instructions (SSI), aka; drone restricted airspace, contact us at usafa.drone.uas.request@us.af.mil.