

## **Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence (UAS CoE)**

### **What is it?**

The UAS CoE is the Army UAS proponent that provides intensive integration and coordination within all Army, Joint and Department of Defense (DOD) institutional and operational agencies. The Army UAS CoE reports directly to the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) Capability Development and Integration Directorate and serves as the proponent and integrating agency for all Army UAS strategy and policy.

### **What has Army Aviation done?**

The Army Vice Chief of Staff approved in June 2003 the formal transfer of unmanned aircraft systems to the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Ala. To facilitate the integration of UAS throughout the Army, the Aviation Center established the office of the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) System Manager for UAS (TSM-UAS). The Army developed its concept in 2005 for the Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence. During this time, the TSM-UAS changed from a “systems” manager to a “capabilities” manager (TCM-UAS) while working Army UAS issues. The Army formally recognized the Army UAS CoE when TRADOC issued the Development Directive in March 2007. The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Army UAS CoE headquarters in April 2008. Later on July 14, 2009, the USAACE commanding general issued the “Development Directive” to the Army UAS CoE, which includes the following 10 key tasks:

- Develop a flexible, coherent, comprehensive and actionable UAS strategy for the Army.
- Synchronize the efforts of all UAS related issues that support current, emerging and future forces.
- Serve as the executive agent for the Army UAS Board of Directors (BoD).
- Chair the Training and Doctrine Command’s directed monthly UAS BoD Working Group to inform, support and facilitate the development of the UAS Concept Capabilities Plans, Capability Documents and the DOTMLPF-P (doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership & education, personnel, facilities and policy) change requirements.
- Coordinate with Joint UAS Center of Excellence, DOD, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), and other agencies to facilitate interoperability and system integration.
- Develop and implement the Army’s UAS strategic communications plan.
- Represent the Army on national airspace integration, joint command and control, and spectrum management issues.
- Represent the Army on the OSD’s UAS Task Force Integrated Process Teams (IPT).
- Participate as required in Army UAS accident and mishap investigations, joint UAS experiments, exercises, simulations and studies.
- Represent the Army to joint, coalition and other U.S. government and non-government agencies.

The overarching mission of the Army UAS CoE is to provide Army-level direction towards systematically improving unmanned aircraft systems on the modern battlefield and the battlefields of the future. The Army UAS CoE's primary purpose is to provide both vertical and horizontal integration to achieve a coherent and sustainable UAS strategy. Their mission statement is: "The U.S. Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence provides integration and coordination with all Army organizations, the joint services, and other Defense Department agencies, to achieve the U.S. Army UAS strategy that includes concepts for current, emerging, and future UAS interoperability with all manned and unmanned systems."

#### **What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?**

The Army UAS CoE is leading the synchronization effort to write an informative, comprehensive and actionable UAS strategy for the Army. The Army's UAS Strategy, referred to as the "UAS Roadmap," is nested under the OSD unmanned systems roadmap. The draft Army UAS Strategy covers from 2010 to 2035 and has an anticipated dissemination to the rest of the Army in early April. The Army will review, reevaluate and update the UAS Roadmap every two years to stay relevant with changing technologies and capabilities, tactical requirements, and defense policies.

#### **Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?**

The appearance of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in the mid-1990s brought unmanned aerial vehicle technology to the forefront as an essential capability to accomplish the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions and provide actionable intelligence to the tactical commander. Since then the roles, missions and numbers of UAS have continued to expand at unprecedented rates. Today, Army UAS are in very high demand by the Soldiers who employ them. UAS were born out of necessity to reduce Soldier risk and to protect the force. The focus of all of the Army UAS efforts is to support Soldiers on the ground and to provide them with the best available information whenever and wherever needed. UAS will continue to serve as the "Eyes of the Army!"

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