



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, WOODFILL HALL
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

AFZX-CG

11 Jun 25

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Policy 19 - Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) / Remote Control (RC) Aircraft

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 95-1 – Flight Regulations.
- b. AR 95-2 – Air Traffic Control, Airfield/Heliport, and Airspace Operations.
- c. AR 190-13 – The Army Physical Security Program.
- d. FAA AC 91-57A, 2 September 2015. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Advisory Circular: Model Aircraft Operating Standards.
- e. FAA UAS-PO LEA Guidance, Law enforcement guidance for suspected unauthorized UAS operations.
- f. 18 U.S.C. § 795, Photographing and sketching defense installations.

2. Purpose. This policy establishes standards, guidance, and procedures for gaining authorization to operate UAS and RC aircraft within JRTC (Joint Readiness Training Center) and Fort Polk and the surrounding local area. Recreational use of UAS on JRTC and Fort Polk is prohibited. The official use of UAS, including the official use of nonstandard UAS is governed by AR 95-1 and AR 95-2. Personally procured UAS are not authorized for official use.

3. Scope. This policy governs all unmanned aircraft that can achieve sustained flight to include, but not limited to, UAS, RC aircraft, kites and model rockets.

4. Applicability. This policy is applicable to all military personnel, civilians, contractors, technical representatives and their family members residing at or granted access to Fort Polk.

5. General Information. UAS and remote-controlled aircraft are increasingly used for both recreational and professional purposes, such as surveillance and data gathering. However, their operation near military installations can pose security risks and interfere with military operations. Therefore, recreational use of these aircraft on Fort Polk and within a 5-mile radius of Maks Army Airfield is not authorized. Special uses may be authorized with approval from the Commanding General.

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6. Prohibited Areas: Operating within Restricted Airspace at JRTC, which includes R-3804 A/B/C, R-3803 A/B, R3801 A/B

7. Summary of Requirements and Procedures.

a. If approved, RC, kites, and model rockets must comply with the following specifications:

(1) Request approval from Fort Polk Air Traffic and Airspace Officer at 337-531-1151. Approval will be on case-by-case basis.

(2) Operators will read this policy and sign an agreement stating they understand it.

(3) Must be flown within sight, within the designated flight area, and below 150 feet above ground level (AGL).

b. If approved, commercial and recreational UAS must comply with the following specifications:

(1) All UAS must be registered with the FAA through Drone Zone prior to operation on JRTC and Fort Polk. The registration number must be visibly marked on the aircraft at all times.

(2) Must be submitted through Drone Zone (<https://faadronezone-access.faa.gov/#/>) or LAANC (https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/laanc#approved). UAS not listed on the Defense Innovation Unit Blue UAS Cleared List (<https://www.diu.mil/blue-uas-cleared-list>) are unlikely to be approved.

(3) Operators will read this policy and sign an agreement stating they understand it.

(4) Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) must be submitted 24 hours prior to operation with Airfield Operations at 337-531-4831.

(5) Operators conducting flights for commercial purposes must maintain their FAA Part 107 License on their person through the duration of their flight.

(6) UAS aircraft must be flown within sight, within the designated flight area, and below 200 feet above ground level (AGL).

(7) In the event a UAS aircraft is lost during flight, the operator will immediately report the loss to the Air Traffic and Airspace Officer at 337-531-1151, DSN 863-1151.

8. General Flight Rules.

a. UAS, RC aircraft, kites, and model rockets aircraft **will not be flown:**

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- (1) In a careless or reckless manner.
 - (2) Between the hours of official sunset and sunrise.
 - (3) With cameras or surveillance equipment without written permission from the Commanding General. If approved by the Commanding General, security and PAO will review footage prior to release.
 - (4) UAS: Without assigned registration numbers affixed to the outside of the aircraft.
 - (5) With a turbine-powered model aircraft engines or gaseous boosters.
 - (6) With metal-blade propellers.
 - (7) With an overall weight of 55 pounds or greater outside of the restricted area, these aircraft must apply for a Certificate of Authorization from the FAA.
 - (8) With pyrotechnic devices that explode/burn or any device that propels a projectile or drops any object that creates a hazard to persons or property.
 - (9) Under the influence of alcohol or any drug that may have an adverse effect on the operator's ability to safely operate the aircraft.
 - (10) Near power lines, street and airfields.
 - (11) Kites: Make every attempt to recover their kite and/or kite materials if their kite string breaks and it flies without control until landing in or out of the designated flight area.
- b. UAS, RC aircraft, kites, and model rockets aircraft operators will:
- (1) Avoid military and civil aircraft.
 - (2) Use an observer at all times. The observer will scan horizon for manned aircraft and terminate the aircraft operation immediately upon observance of manned aircraft.
 - (3) Be age 16 or older to operate a UAS or RC aircraft without the presence of a parent or legal guardian.
 - (4) Be solely responsible for any damage, injuries or other type of mishaps that occur.
 - (5) Be solely responsible for their actions and actions of their dependents.
 - (6) Notify DPW at 531-1379 if caught in any electrical wires.

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(7) Kites: Make every attempt to recover their kite and/or kite materials if their kite string breaks and it flies without control until landing in or out of the designated flight area.

9. Safety Guidance and Enforcement.

a. Operators will never fly a UAS, RC aircraft, kites, or model rockets in a negligent or reckless manner that endangers other operators, spectators, property or other aircraft.

b. Operators will remain a safe distance from the general public so that any failure of the aircraft will not be a hazard to people on the ground.


c. RC aircraft, kites and model rockets are not permitted in conjunction with other activities or events being held at the designated flight area.

d. In accordance with AR 95-1 paragraph 2-13, upon the notice or witness of a violation of these policies and procedures, immediately contact the Military Police at 337-531-2677 for response to the violation and the Warrior Operations Center at 337-531-4916. The Warrior Operations Center will report the violation as a UAS breach to IMCOM and FORSCOM IAW HQDA EXORD 149-23.

e. This policy is punitive in nature. In accordance with FAA UAS-PO LEA Guidance, Military Police are responsible for enforcing the procedures outlined in this policy and will take the appropriate action in detaining the operator and confiscating the UAS/Remote Controlled aircraft or kite. They will report violations of this policy to the Air Traffic and Airspace Officer and then the sponsoring unit chain of command, where appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken against violator(s) of this policy.

10. Point of contact for this policy is John Fuselier, Fort Polk Air Traffic and Airspace Officer, at john.e.fuselier.civ@mail.mil and CPT Aaron Lewis, Operations Officer WOC, at aaron.r.lewis21.mil@army.mil.

Encl


JASON A. CURL
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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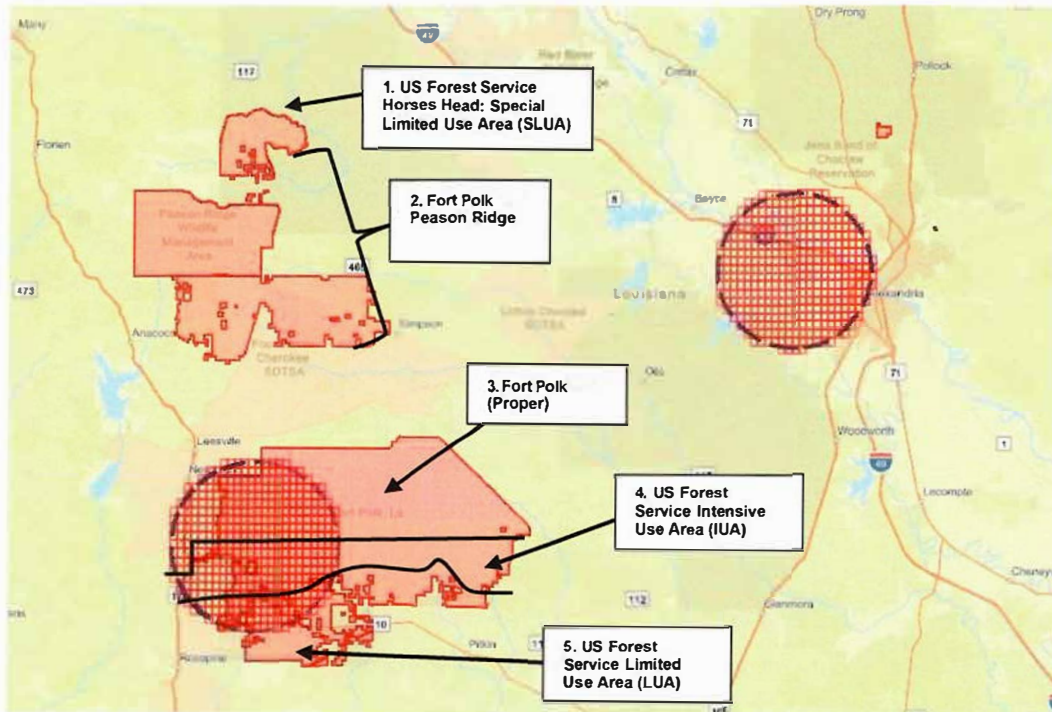


Figure 1. Fort Polk FAA Restricted Airspace and UAS Facility Maps

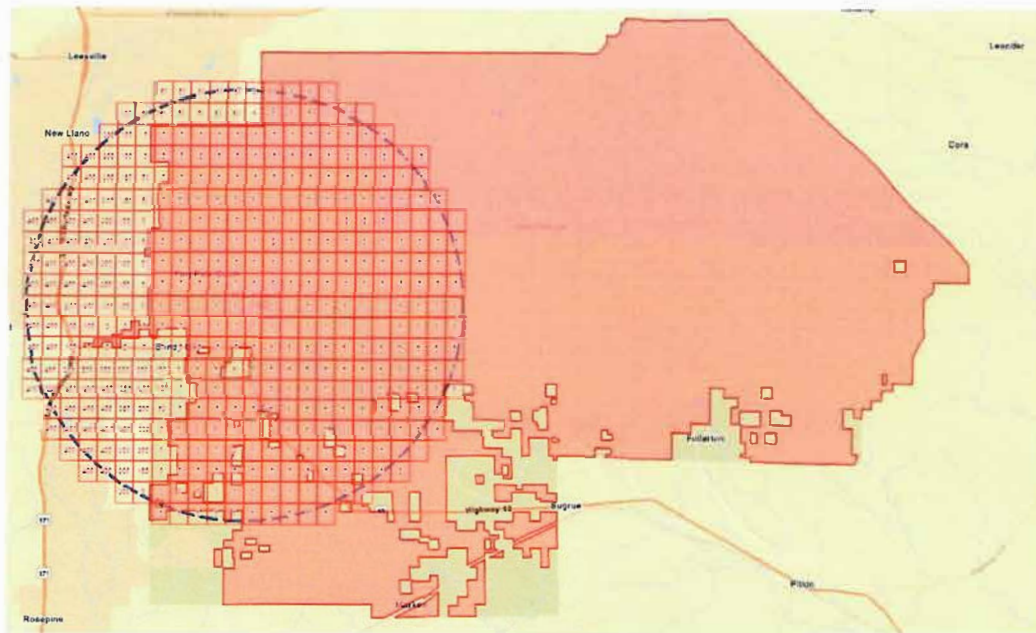


Figure 2. Fort Polk FAA Restricted Airspace R3804 and Fort Polk UAS Facility Map