

## **MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM DIVISION #32**

### **Policy and Procedure Statement #6** **Division 32 Unmanned Aircraft System Strike Team**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE**

It is the intent of this statement to provide UAS assets to fire departments or other first responder agencies that do not possess such resources or require additional UAS capabilities to support ongoing mission requirements.

#### **2.0 SCOPE**

This statement applies to all members of MABAS Division #32.

#### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

A UAS may be utilized to enhance the mission of protecting lives and property when other means and resources are not available or are less effective. Any use of a UAS will be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

#### **4.0 POLICY**

1. The Division President shall appoint a committee to develop and maintain a UAS Strike Team. The committee assigned to oversee the UAS Strike Team shall be responsible for an annual update of the Strike Team. During the annual update, the committee shall add and/or rotate assigned assets to the Strike Team.
2. Each Strike Team shall consist of (3) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, (3) Pilots, and (3) Visual Observers. UAVs shall only be operated by personnel who are trained or qualified in the operation of the system.
3. In the event multiple UAVs are flying or manned aircraft will also operate in support of the assigned mission, (1) Air Branch Director (ABD) will be attached to the Strike Team. The ABD will serve as the point of contact for all UAV operations and will communicate with the manned aircraft via the "IReach" radio channel.
4. The operation of each UAV will be conducted based on the authorized allowances of the owning department as determined by each department's FAA Certificate of Authorization (COA) and/or Waivers.
5. The Pilot reports to the Incident Commander, Air Branch Director or the Division/Group Supervisor as determined by the Incident Commander. The Pilot will accept or decline the mission and has final authority and responsibility for the operation and safety of flight.

6. The Visual Observer reports to the Pilot and is responsible for radio communications between the Pilot and Incident Commander, Air Branch Director or the Division/Group Supervisor as determined by the Incident Commander, when face-to-face communication is not possible.
7. The ABD and/or Pilot shall make all necessary and appropriate notifications to airport towers within 5 miles of flight operations per COA and FAA requirements.
8. All flights shall be documented in the UAS/Drone Pilot Logbook. The flight times, objective, type of mission and name of the supervisor approving the operation shall be documented.

## **5.0 Procedure**

1. Requests for a UAS Strike Team shall be forwarded to the Division 32 Dispatch Center (MECOMM-O'Fallon Dispatch).
2. MECOMM will inquire with the requesting agency the address of the incident, the staging area (if applicable) and the fireground communications channel being (to be) utilized.
3. MECOMM will notify the appropriate dispatch centers for the UAV asset listed and provide all information about the request.
4. Upon going enroute, responding UAV assets shall notify MECOMM via IFERN that they are enroute, as well as when they arrive on the scene and when they clear the scene.
5. Normal operational status checks shall be the responsibility of the stricken agencies dispatch center.
6. Should a department not be available to respond, it shall be the responsibility of that department or that department's dispatch center to notify MECOMM that they are not available to allow MECOMM to assign another asset.
7. Should a department not be available, MECOMM shall select the next UAV asset to respond.
8. At the request of the incident commander, a second Strike Team may be dispatched. Any requests for additional UAV platforms beyond Division 32's two organic Strike Teams be forwarded to the Division 32 Incident Management Team, who will coordinate the additional request.
9. The first arriving UAS Pilot to arrive on the scene will become the Strike Team Leader. The Strike Team Leader shall contact Incident Command for assignment and confirm on scene communications.

## **6.0 Privacy**

The use of the UAS potentially involves privacy considerations. Absent a law enforcement warrant or exigent circumstances, operators and observers shall adhere to FAA altitude regulations and shall not intentionally record or transmit images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., residence, yard, enclosure). Operators and

observers shall take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Reasonable precautions can include, for example, deactivating or turning imaging devices away from such areas or persons during UAS operations.

### **7.0 Adoption**

This policy and procedure was adopted by MABAS Division #32, according to Bylaws Article IX at its regular meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2023.

## **MABAS 32 UAS Strike Team Response list for 2023**

<b>Strike Team 1</b>		<b>Strike Team 2</b>
Signal Hill		Smithton
O'Fallon		Columbia
Swansea		Mehlville