



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 96TH TEST WING (AFMC)  
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA**

**MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS OPERATORS**

**FROM:** 96 TW/CC  
101 West D Avenue, Ste 118  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542

**SUBJECT:** Guidelines for Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) on Property Controlled by Eglin AFB and within Airspace Administered by Eglin AFB

**References:** (a) Public Law 112-95, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Modernization and Reform Act of 2012  
(b) 14 CFR Part 107, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems  
(c) 14 CFR Part 101, Subpart E, Special Rule for Model Aircraft  
(d) 14 CFR Part 93, Subpart F, Special Air Traffic Rules; Valparaiso, FL Terminal Area  
(e) FAA Order JO 7200.23, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)  
(f) FAA Advisory Circular AC 107-2, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS)  
(g) FAA Advisory Circular AC 91-57A Change 1, Model Aircraft Operating Standards  
(h) 96 TW/CC Memorandum, 02 May 2016, Recreational UAS Operations on Eglin AFB, Duke Field Cantonment Areas, 7th SFG(A) and Camp Rudder  
(i) Memorandum of Understanding, 25 April 2005, Between Eglin AFB and Eglin Aero Modellers  
(j) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), 16 September 2013, Concerning the Operation of DoD UAS in the National Airspace System (NAS)

1. **INTRODUCTION:** Eglin AFB, as a designated DoD Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB) Activity, includes an extensive land range complex and a unique and busy airspace structure that serves test and training missions as well as safeguards civilian air traffic access to a number of airports in the northwest Florida region. With the proliferation in the use of sUASs, commonly known as “drones”, it is necessary to provide all sUAS operators within the Eglin AFB local area with guidance on safely and responsibly navigating the airspace and avoiding those activities prohibited by law or regulation.

a. The local area includes a large complex of restricted airspace designed to contain hazardous activity over the Eglin land range. In general, the boundaries of the land range may be described as the Choctawhatchee Bay and Santa Rosa Sound to the south; the East Bay on the west; US Highway 331 on the east; and the Yellow River and US Highway 90 to the north. The 96 Test Wing (96 TW) administers Special Use Airspace which overlay the land range and extends beyond the eastern range boundary to the Panama City area. The land range includes the Eglin AFB, Duke Field, Camp Rudder, and 7th Special Forces Group (SFG) cantonment areas. Hurlburt Field is also located within the range boundary but is responsible

for their own sUAS guidance.

b. To safely accommodate civilian air traffic access to the coast and local civil airports, the FAA integrated two Special Air Traffic Rules (SATR) corridors defined in reference (d), otherwise referred to as Part 93 airspace: a North/South corridor facilitates air traffic movement between Crestview and Destin; and an East/West corridor facilitates access along the coast between Pensacola and Panama City. The 96 TW administers this Part 93 airspace. Due to the high volume of aerial activity in the area, aircraft operators are required to maintain two-way radio communication with the Eglin Radar Control Facility (ERCF) while in the corridors unless otherwise authorized. The North/South corridor overlies portions of the land range and also requires aircraft have an Air Traffic Control (ATC) clearance.

2. **AUTHORITIES:** Guidelines for the use of sUASs on Eglin AFB controlled property are based on the installation commander's authority to regulate activities on his installations and property under his control. Federal Aviation Regulations and FAA guidelines define authorizations for the use of aircraft, to include sUASs, in the NAS and in the vicinity of airfields.

a. **AUTHORITY:** DoDI 5200.08, *Security of DoD Installations and Resources and the DoD Physical Security Review Board (PSRB)*, authorizes commanders to issue regulations for the protection or security of the property and places under their command IAW 50 U.S.C. 797. AFI 31-101, *Integrated Defense*, further specifies installation commanders' authority to regulate activities on their installations.

b. **NOTICE:** Eglin AFB is committed to ensuring that the airspace it administers remains safe. Military personnel who engage in unsafe or illegal sUAS operations may be prosecuted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Civilians who engage in unsafe or illegal sUAS operations on Eglin AFB controlled property or within Eglin-Administered airspace may be referred to state or federal law enforcement for prosecution.

3. **sUAS CATEGORIES:** The FAA defines sUASs as unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds. The FAA further categorizes sUASs as model aircraft, public sUASs, or civil sUASs. Model aircraft are defined in reference (a) as sUASs used within visual line of sight of the operator for hobby or recreational purposes only. Public sUASs are those used or contracted for use by federal, state, or local government entities. Civil sUASs are those that do not fit the statutory definition of model or public sUASs and are typically associated with a commercial purpose.

4. **GUIDELINES FOR sUAS OPERATIONS:** The laws and regulations applicable to sUAS flight are numerous and change frequently. The FAA considers sUAS operators pilots and expects them to plan safe and legal flights. The following guidance is based on laws and regulations and is intended to assist sUAS operators operating on Eglin AFB property and within the airspace administered by Eglin AFB. However, because the laws are constantly changing and evolving, operators should verify the guidance is current before relying upon it.

a. **Model Aircraft Guidelines:**

(1) Model aircraft WILL NOT be operated on Eglin AFB property or within restricted airspace with the following exceptions:

(a) Model aircraft use by the Eglin Aero Modellers IAW reference (i).

(b) Model aircraft use IAW reference (h), covering on-installation use of UASs weighing less than 0.55 lbs.

(2) Model aircraft use is discouraged in the Choctawhatchee Bay south of Eglin AFB and north of Destin Executive Airport in the area known as the no-parasail zone. Model aircraft use is also discouraged in Valparaiso, south of College Boulevard, west of State Road 85 and John Sims Parkway due to proximity to approach/departure corridors at Eglin AFB. Similarly, model aircraft use is discouraged in Destin, north of Highway 98 between Main Street and Henderson Beach Drive due to the area's proximity to Destin Executive Airport. This guidance for Destin will remain valid until Destin Executive Airport publishes their own guidance. For areas where model aircraft use is permissible, hobbyist and recreational users must comply with FAA guidelines:

(a) The FAA requires sUAS operators notify the tower and airport operator when operating within 5 statute miles (SM) of an airport. For operations within 5 SM of Eglin AFB and Duke Field, and within 5 SM of Destin Executive Airport until Destin guidance is published, operators must submit Eglin's sUAS Request Form (Attachment 2) to [96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil](mailto:96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil). Submission of the form is used to satisfy the FAA requirement to provide notice and provides a means of administering the Part 93 airspace. Per FAA guidelines, the operation may be denied if deemed unsafe.

(b) The FAA requires model aircraft users operate IAW a community-based set of safety guidelines and within the programming of a Community Based Organization (CBO) such as the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). The Eglin Aero Modellers is a local chapter of the AMA and can be reached through their website <http://www.eglinaeromodellers.org>.

b. Public sUAS Guidelines: Public sUAS use will be administered IAW reference (e) with DoD organizations also required to comply with reference (j). Unless operating under a 96 TW Test, Training, or Task Directive, potential public sUAS operations on Eglin AFB property or within Eglin AFB administered airspace are permitted on a case by case basis and require coordination through the 96 TW Plans office (96 TW/XPO). Emergency sUAS use by a public agency is administered by a Special Governmental Interest (SGI) addendum, formerly an Emergency COA, as outlined in reference (e). Non-DoD government organizations may elect to operate as civil sUASs under the provisions of reference (b) and the applicable portions of this document.

c. Civil sUAS Guidelines: Unless operating under a 96 TW Test, Training, or Task Directive, potential civil sUAS use on Eglin AFB property or within Eglin AFB administered airspace is permissible on a case by case basis and requires coordination through the 96

Operations Support Squadron's Airspace Management office. Proponents may apply for authorization by submitting the Eglin sUAS Request Form to [96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil](mailto:96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil).

(1) All operations under a Section 333 Exemption require a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA). A Standard (site-specific) COA is required for routine civil sUAS use on Eglin AFB property within restricted airspace and IVO airfields as outlined in reference (e). The general use COA (Blanket COA) issued with the section 333 Exemption is sufficient for use in all other circumstances.

(2) Operations under 14 CFR Part 107 does not require a COA but does require specific FAA authorization for activity in other than Class G airspace. Proponents may apply for required airspace authorization through the FAA's UAS website, <http://www.faa.gov/uas>.

5. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF EGLIN AFB: Certain areas of the Eglin cantonment and land range may be subject to the prohibition against photography (including live-streaming video) of certain vital military installations and equipment IAW 18 U.S.C. §§ 795-796. To avoid inadvertent violation of this Federal law, sUAS operators are strongly encouraged to coordinate any planned photography in advance.

a. Requests must be coordinated with the 96 TW Public Affairs Office, Media Operations Division at (850)882-3931.

b. If granted, approval will be provided in writing and will identify the time, date, and location of the flight and any other limitations imposed by the installation commander or their designee. Operators should have the written approval in their physical possession when engaged in such photography.

6. For further information regarding Eglin AFB administered airspace and associated sUAS guidelines, visit the Eglin AFB Facebook page or public website (<http://www.eglin.af.mil/index.asp>). More information regarding FAA guidelines can be found at <http://www.faa.gov/uas>. sUAS users are encouraged to review the FAA's Know Before You Fly pamphlet and use the smartphone app to maximize safe, enjoyable sUAS activity (<http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org>). For questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the Airspace Management office at [96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil](mailto:96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil).

EVAN C. DERTIEN  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander

2 Attachments:

1. Operating Areas Maps and Guideline Tables
2. Eglin AFB Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Request Form



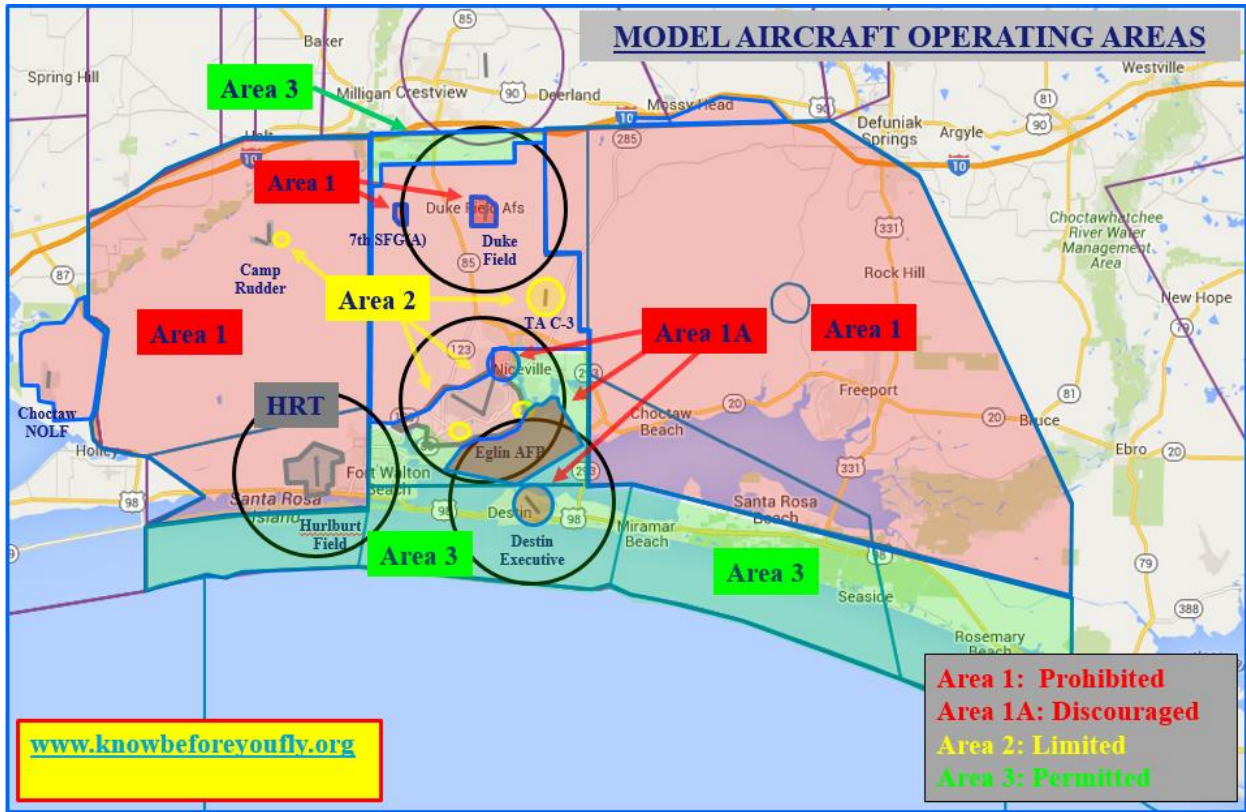


Figure 1.1: Model Aircraft Operating Areas

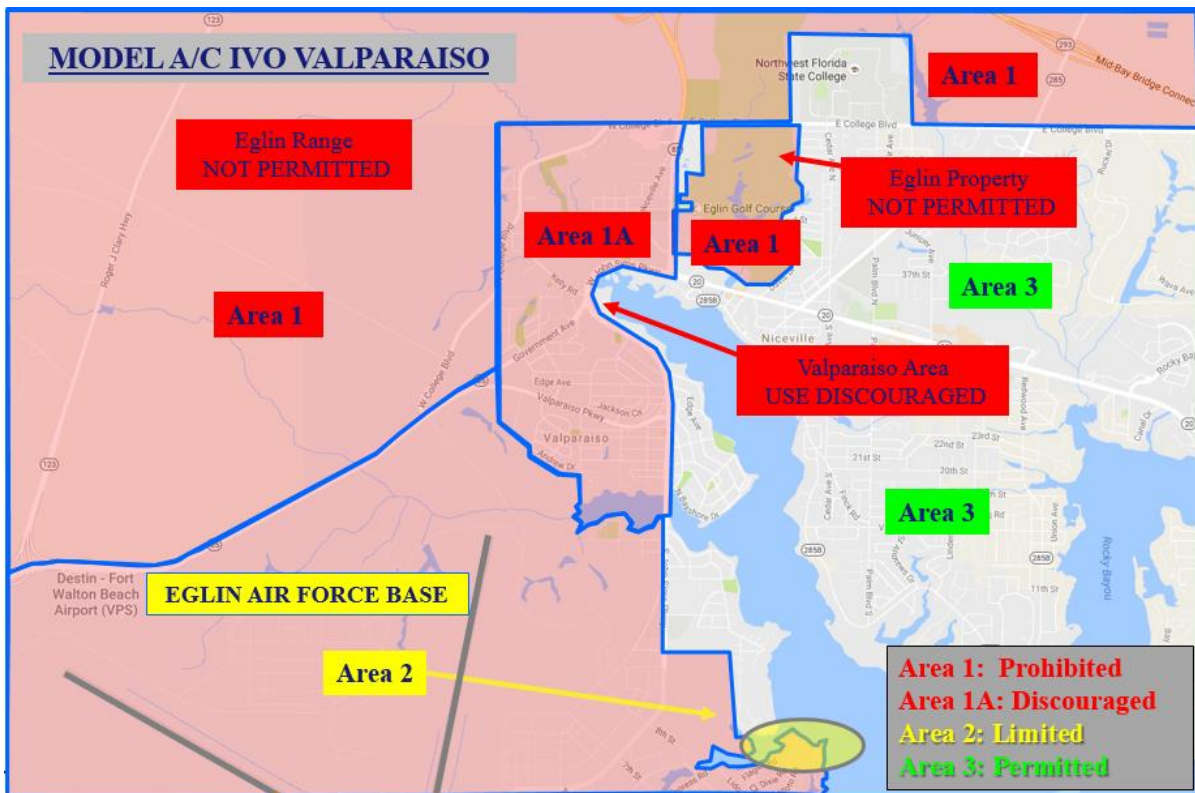


Figure 1.2: Valparaiso Model Aircraft Operating Areas

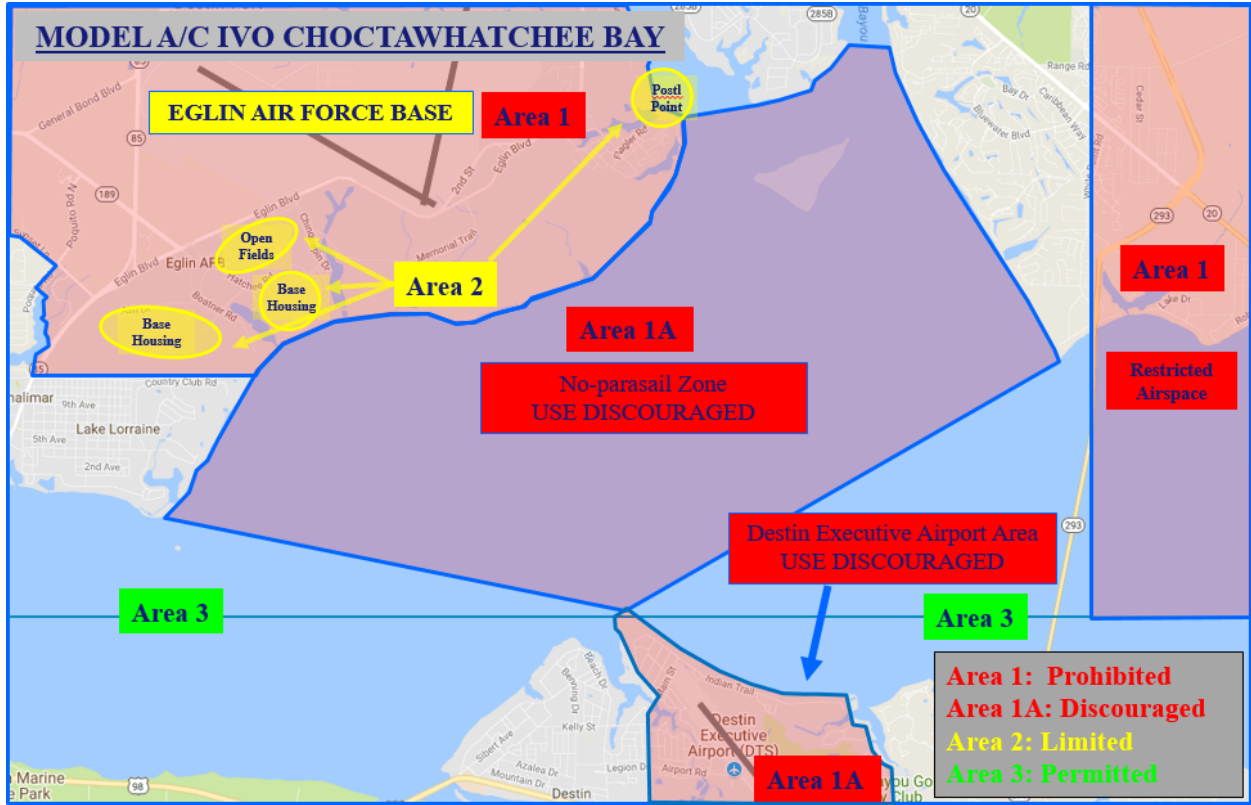


Figure 1.3: Choctawhatchee Bay Model Aircraft Operating Areas

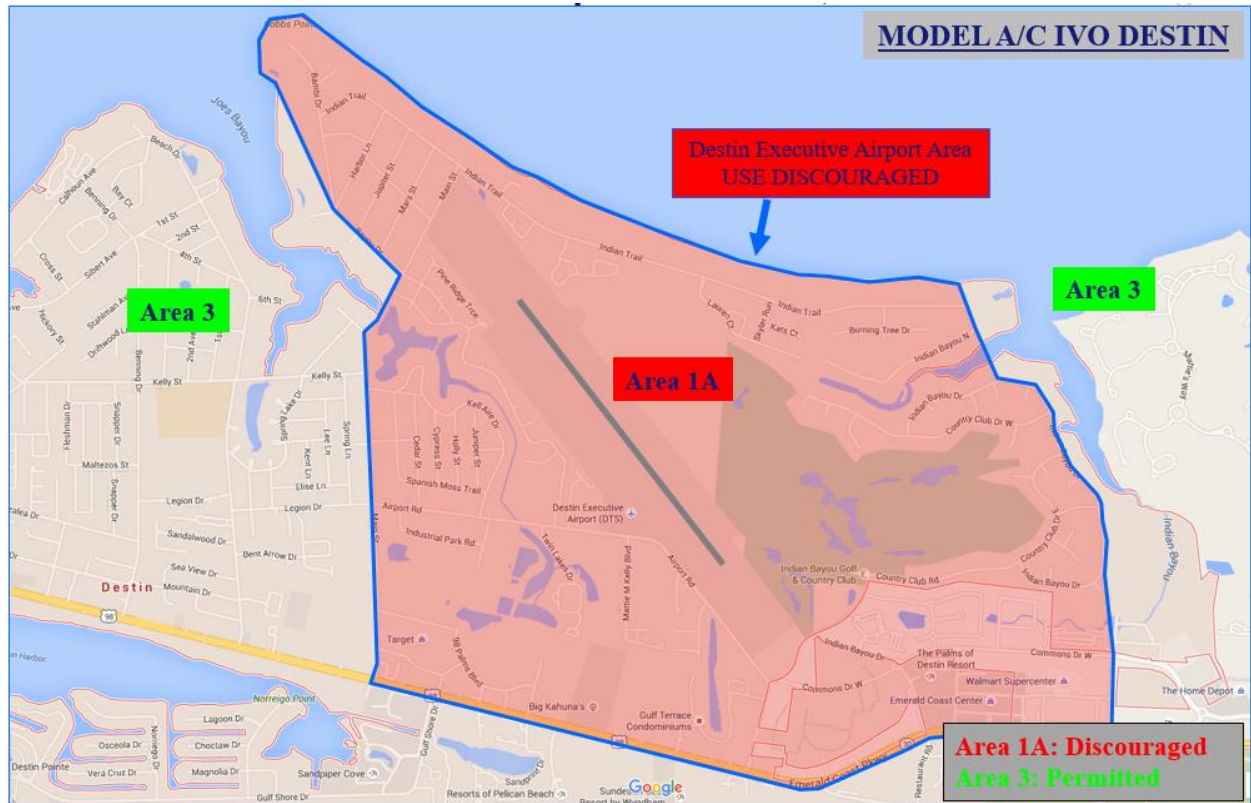


Figure 1.4: Destin Executive Model Aircraft Operating Areas

Table 1.1 Model Aircraft Guidelines

<p>References:                      1) PL 112-95                      2) 14 CFR Part 101                      3) FAA AC 91-57A, Change 1                      4) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Eglin AFB and Eglin Aero Modellers                      5) 96 TW/CC Memorandum, Recreational UAS Operations on Eglin AFB, Duke Field Cantonment Areas, 7th SFG(A) and Camp Rudder</p>	
<p><b>Area 1 Prohibited Use</b></p>	<p>USE NOT PERMITTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Within the Eglin land range                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Except Test Area (TA) C-3 by Eglin Aero Modellers IAW reference 4</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Within restricted airspace                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Except Camp Rudder for model aircraft less than 0.55 pounds IAW reference 5</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Area 1A Discouraged Use</b></p>	<p>USE DISCOURAGED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the Choctawhatchee Bay south of Eglin AFB, north of Destin Executive Airport (no-parasail zone)</li> <li>- In Valparaiso: South of College Blvd, west of SR85 and John Sims Pkwy</li> <li>- In Destin: North of Hwy 98 between Main St and Henderson Beach Dr</li> </ul>
<p><b>Area 2 Limited Use</b></p>	<p>Eglin AFB and Camp Rudder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited use permitted for model aircraft less than 0.55 pounds IAW reference 5.</li> </ul> <p>Test Area C-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited use permitted for Eglin Aero Modellers IAW reference 4.                              -- <a href="http://www.eglinaeromodellers.org">www.eglinaeromodellers.org</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Area 3 Permitted Use</b></p>	<p>USE PERMITTED within FAA Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FAA Guidelines available at <a href="http://www.faa.gov/uas">www.faa.gov/uas</a> or <a href="http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org">www.knowbeforeyoufly.org</a></li> <li>- Submit Eglin sUAS Request Form to <a href="mailto:96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil">96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil</a>                              (Used to notify tower/airport operator and acknowledge use within Part 93 airspace)</li> </ul> <p>NOTE1: Proposed operations may be denied if deemed unsafe.</p> <p>NOTE2: It is against the law to photograph or take video of a military installation.</p>
<p><b>HRT Hurlburt Field on-base area</b></p>	<p>Use on Hurlburt Field is governed by Hurlburt Field guidance.</p>





Figure 1.5: Civil Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operating Areas



Table 1.2: Civil Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Guidelines

<p>Reference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PL 112-95</li> <li>2) 14 CFR Part 107</li> <li>3) FAA Order JO 7200.23</li> <li>4) FAA AC 107-2</li> </ol> <p>NOTE: Most civil sUAS operations will be administered under 14 CFR Part 107. The FAA may authorize operations under a Section 333 Exemption for unusual circumstances.</p>	
<p><b>Area 1</b> <b>Class D Airspace</b></p>	<p>Permitted on a case by case basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FAA authorization required</li> <li>-- Under Part 107, apply for authorization at <a href="http://www.faa.gov/uas">www.faa.gov/uas</a></li> <li>-- Under Section 333, a Standard (Site-specific) COA required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Area 2</b> <b>Land Range Restricted Airspace On-Base</b></p>	<p>Permitted on a case by case basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operations coordinated through the Airspace Management office (<a href="mailto:96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil">96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil</a>)</li> <li>-- Under Part 107, FAA authorization required for use in Class D</li> <li>-- Under Section 333, a Standard COA is required for routine use in restricted airspace</li> </ul>
<p><b>Area 3</b> <b>Part 93 Airspace</b></p>	<p>Permitted IAW FAA guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comply with Part 93 requirements</li> <li>-- If unable to comply, submit Eglin sUAS Request Form to <a href="mailto:96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil">96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil</a> to request authorization</li> </ul>

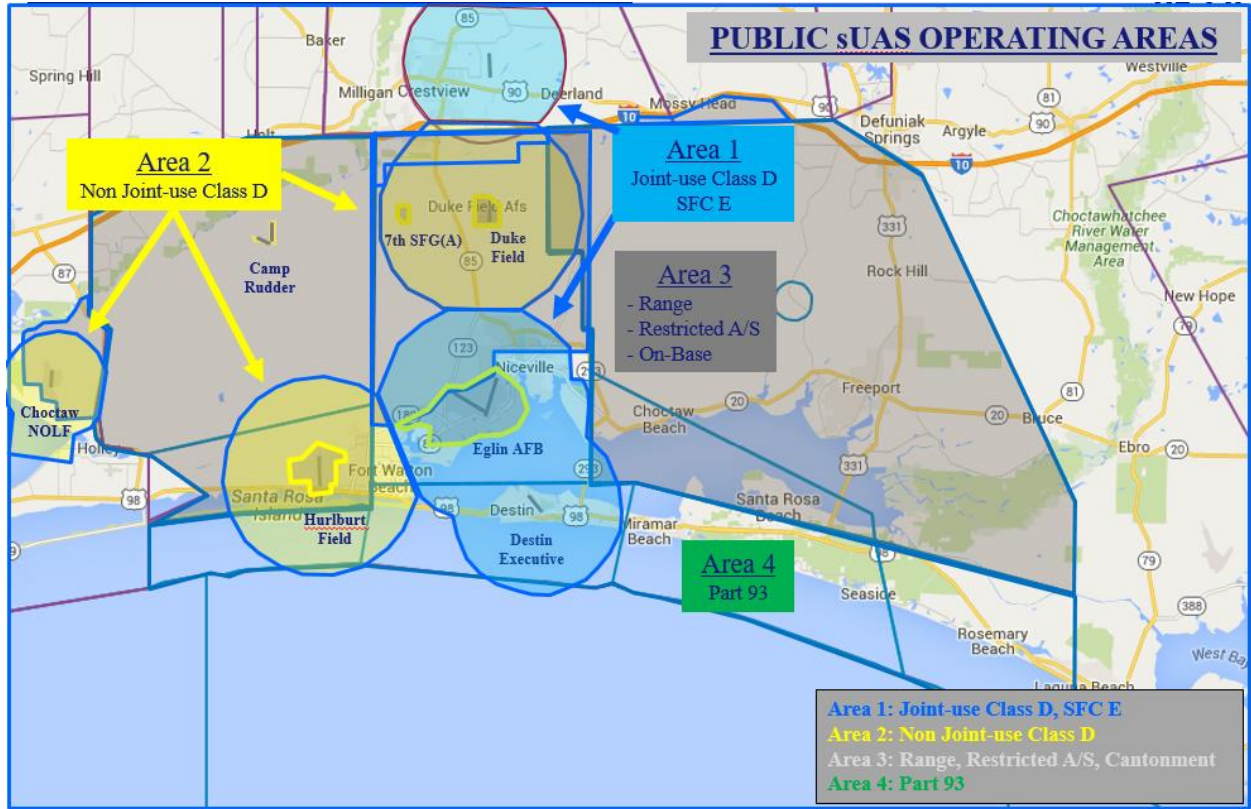


Figure 1.6: Public Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operating Areas

Table 1.3: Public Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Guidelines

<p>Reference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PL 112-95</li> <li>2) 14 CFR Part 91</li> <li>3) FAA Order JO 7200.23</li> <li>4) FAA AC 107-2</li> <li>5) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Concerning the Operation of DoD UAS in the NAS</li> </ol> <p>NOTE: Non-DoD government organizations may elect to operate as civil sUASs under 14 CFR Part 107 and the applicable portions of this document.</p>	
<p><b>Area 1</b>  <b>Joint-use Class D</b>  <b>Surface Area Class E</b></p>	<p>Permitted on a case by case basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FAA COA required</li> <li>- Coordination with 96 TW/XP required unless operating under a 96 TW Test, Training, or Task Directive</li> </ul>
<p><b>Area 2</b>  <b>Non Joint-use Class D</b></p>	<p>Permitted on a case by case basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COA or COA via Notification required IAW reference 5</li> <li>- Coordination with 96 TW/XP required unless operating under a 96 TW Test, Training, or Task Directive</li> </ul>
<p><b>Area 3</b>  <b>Land Range</b>  <b>Restricted Airspace</b>  <b>On-Base</b></p>	<p>Permitted on a case by case basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COA required for operations within Class D, outside restricted airspace</li> <li>-- DoD operations may use a COA via Notification for operations within non joint-use Class D, outside restricted airspace</li> <li>- Coordination with 96 TW/XP required unless operating under a 96 TW Test, Training, or Task Directive</li> </ul>
<p><b>Area 4</b>  <b>Part 93 Airspace</b></p>	<p>Permitted IAW FAA guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comply with Part 93 requirements or submit Eglin sUAS Request Form to 96oss.oso.eglinairspacemgt@us.af.mil to request authorization</li> <li>-- DoD operations require a COA or Class G COA via Notification IAW reference 5</li> </ul>

## Eglin AFB Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Request

*PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION MUST BE PROTECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRIVACY ACT OF 1974*

Type of Operation: (Recreation, Government, or Commercial)	Date of Request: (dd/Mmm/yyyy)
Name: (Last, First, MI)	Contact Phone: (Cell preferred)
Company Name: (if applicable)	Company Address: (if applicable)
FAA Registration #:	Sec 333 Exemption #: (if applicable)
	Certificate of Authorization (COA) #: (if applicable)
UA type/model:	UA weight (including payload):
UAS Control Frequency:	Video Downlink Frequency: (if applicable)
Is UA Geo-fence capable: - Laterally (Y/N): - Altitude (Y/N): - Alt readout (Y/N):	Describe lost-link action:  Describe battery drain warning features/actions:
Date(s) of Operation:	Times of Operation: (start/stop)
If operation is periodic, characterize frequency of occurrence:	
Location(s): (Addresses, Intersections, Coordinates)	
Requested Altitude(s): (if applicable)	
Will Activity include Photo and/or Video? (If yes, briefly Describe)	
Remarks:	
<b>Note: Photography of certain areas of Eglin AFB is prohibited</b>	