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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR POLICE UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) OPERATIONAL GOVERNANCE BY UNIT EXECUTIVE OFFICER/UAS SAFETY OFFICER

PREAMBLE

1. The ultimate liability for the safe operation of Police Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAS) lies with the Chief Constable of the employing Force, or lead Force if acting in a formal consortium of Forces, as nominated on the UAS 'Aerial Work Certificate'.
2. Unlike other forms of aerial activity undertaken by Forces, the distributed nature of UAS operations makes independent oversight of safety an essential element of the overall operation.
3. The responsibility for safety oversight of the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), comprising the vehicle(s), ground station(s) and nominated operator(s) should be delegated through the appropriate Department to the Unit Executive Officer, for Forces with air support capability.
4. For Forces without air support capability, this responsibility should be delegated to a nominated, suitably experienced officer of supervisory rank (or police staff equivalent) who will be qualified to perform this role through attending the UAS module of the UEO Course. These individuals will be referred to as UAS Safety Officers (UASSO).

PURPOSES

5. Primary Purpose: To provide safety oversight of UAS operations within a Force or consortium of Forces.
6. Secondary Purpose:
 - a. To provide advice to the Command on all aspects of UAS operations and their interaction with other aerial activity;
 - b. To act as the Force single point of contact for external agencies regarding the regulation and use of Force UASs;
 - c. To initiate:
 - a. A Safety Management System (SMS) that provides for the risk assessment and mitigation of potential operations and interfaces with other Force aviation activity (where appropriate);
 - b. A UAS safety culture based on Crew Resource Management (CRM) principles. Civil Air Publication CAP737 (Crew Resource Management) is available through the CAA Website www.caa.co.uk;
 - d. To monitor:
 - a. Interaction with other Force aerial activity;
 - b. Certification of Force UASs;
 - c. Training of Force UAS operators;
 - d. Insurance provision, specific to Force aerial activity.

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AUTHORITY

7. It is appropriate for the UAS etc to be:
 - a. Given functional authority over staff involved in UAS operations;
 - b. Authorised to convene and chair meetings in relation to the achievement of their purposes.
 - c. Authorised to liaise and correspond directly with Regulators (CAA), Manufacturers, End Users and other Service and civilian authorities as required in the achievement of their purposes.

PRINCIPAL TASKS

8. The UEO/UASSO is:
 - a. To advise the command on UAS policy relating to safety requirements;
 - b. To act as the Force subject matter expert on UAS regulation and advise the command on the concept of operations from a safety viewpoint;
 - c. To ensure that a robust Safety Management System (SMS) is in place that allows for risk assessment and mitigation to as low as reasonably practical;
 - d. To ensure that the principles of Crew Resource Management (CRM) are instilled in the UAS operators and command team;
 - e. To monitor the training and qualification of Force UAS operators through an appropriate audit system;
 - f. To attend, contribute to and convene UAS-related meetings as required;

COMPETENCES

Courses:

UEO Course (Forces with air support)

UEO Course UAS Module (Forces without air support)

Signature of Job Holder

Signature of Line Manager

Date

Date

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