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FAA's Remote Pilot Certificate

Alan Frazier
University of North Dakota, alan.frazier@UND.edu
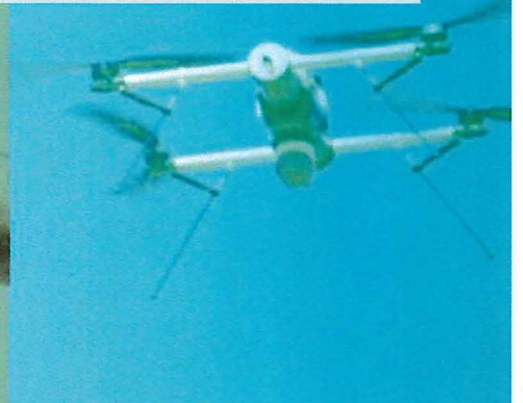
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION · FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
IV NAME
JOHN Q PUBLIC XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
V ADDRESS XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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VI NATIONALITY USA
IVa D.O.B. 18 AUG 1977   SEX HEIGHT WEIGHT HAIR   EYES
                                 M   75   230   BROWN BROWN
IX HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE PROPERLY QUALIFIED TO EXERCISE THE PRIVILEGES OF
II FLIGHT ENGINEER
III CERTIFICATE NUMBER XXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DATE OF ISSUE 16 MAY 2002
CARD 1 of 2   XIV
              VIII   ADMINISTRATOR

Add Class Rating to Current Pilot License:
FAA's Remote Pilot Certificate

By Alan Frazier, *Deputy Sheriff, Grand Forks County (ND) Sheriff's Office, Associate Professor, University of North Dakota's John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences*

Are you interested in easily adding another category and class rating to your pilot certificate? Federal Aviation Regulation 14 CFR Part 107, released on Aug. 29, creates a new aircraft category and class that can be added to a Part 61 certificated pilot's certificate. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, hold a recreational pilot certificate or higher (student pilot certificates do not meet the requirement) and have a current biennial flight review.

If you meet these prerequisites, the process of adding a Remote Pilot Category with Small Unmanned Aircraft System Class Rating to your existing pilot certificate will take less than three hours.

Six Steps to Rating

Following is a quick rundown of the remote pilot application process for individuals with the necessary prerequisites:

❶ Establish a Federal Aviation Administration "Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application" (IACRA) account by completing the registration process at iacra.faa.gov/IACRA/Default.aspx.

❷ Establish a Federal Aviation Administration Wings Program account at www.faasafety.gov.

❸ Log in to your www.faasafety.gov account and navigate to the "Remote Pilot Course," which can be found on the home page. Complete the course and short written exam. This will take approximately two hours. At the conclusion of the course, save your completion certificate as a PDF document.

❹ Log in to your IACRA account and complete a remote pilot application (FAA 8710-13). You will need to upload your remote pilot course completion certificate and answer a question regarding your last biennial flight review date. Make note of your individual IACRA FTN number.

❺ Sit down in front of an internet capable computer with your favorite certified flight instructor (cannot be the applicant) and log in to his or

her IACRA account. The CFI will need to examine your government issued photo ID, remote pilot course completion certificate and biennial flight review endorsement. Accessing your remote pilot application with your FTN, the CFI will populate a portion of your application verifying your identification and electronically sign the application attesting that you meet the prerequisites for the remote pilot certificate. The CFI will then be prompted to have you log back into your IACRA account and electronically sign the application.

❻ After approximately one hour, log back into IACRA and download your temporary remote pilot certificate. You will receive a permanent remote pilot certificate via mail within 120 days.

Yes, it is that easy. Your remote pilot certificate will then be valid for two calendar years. In order to renew the certificate, you must log into your www.faasafety.gov account and complete a short remote pilot certificate refresher course. It is likely you will also have to submit another electronic certificate application using IACRA.

An Alternative Process

If you do not hold an FAA pilot certificate or if you hold an FAA pilot certificate but do not meet the biennial flight review requirement, a relatively simple remote pilot certification process is also available to you:

❶ Establish a Federal Aviation Administration IACRA account by completing the registration process at iacra.faa.gov/IACRA/Default.aspx.

❷ Download the "Part 107 Knowledge Test Prep" and "Small UAS Advisory Circular" at www.faa.gov/uas.

❸ Study the material presented in both documents. Commercial test preparation companies are also publishing Part 107 remote pilot online prep courses. One of the first major companies to publish a course was Gleim. The course is $54.95. You can complete the first module free at www.gleim.com. It is important to note completion of a prep course is not required, nor do you need an endorsement from a CFI or ground school instructor to take the remote pilot knowledge exam.

❹ When you feel you understand the Part 107 required topics, make a test appointment with an FAA authorized knowledge test center. A list of

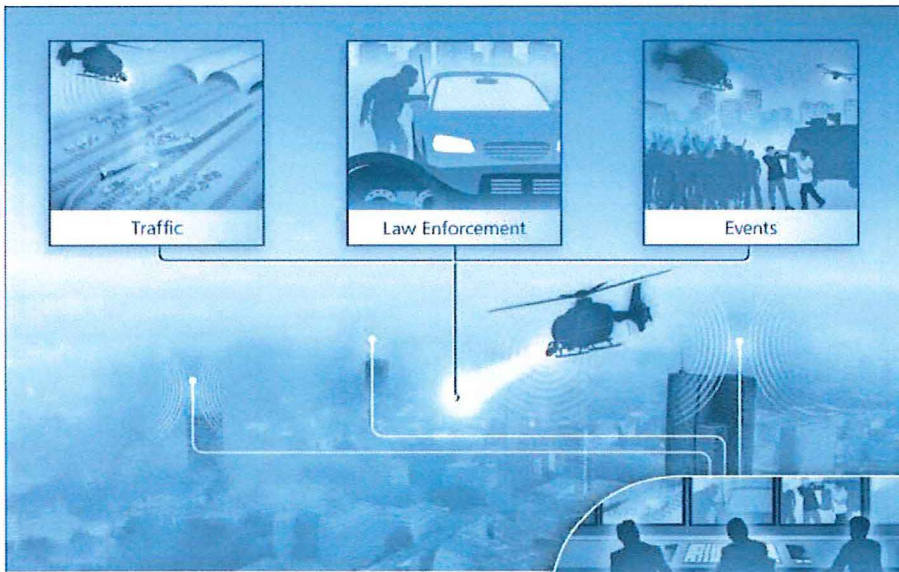knowledge test centers can be found at www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/media/test_centers.pdf.

❺ Upon successfully completing the FAA Remote Pilot Knowledge Exam (minimum passing score 70 percent), log into your IACRA account and complete a remote pilot certificate application (FAA form 8710-13). You will be required to enter your knowledge test ID, which appears on the knowledge test report issued by the FAA knowledge test center. (Note that it may take several days for FAA to receive your knowledge test results.)

❻ Upon submitting your remote pilot application in IACRA, you will be vetted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The vetting process is estimated to take seven to 10 business days.

❼ Upon receiving TSA clearance, you will be able to download a temporary remote pilot certificate by logging into your IACRA account.

The remote pilot certificate (issued to non-Part 61 certificated pilots) is valid for 24 calendar months. You will be required to

retake the remote pilot knowledge exam to renew your certificate (although the FAA is reportedly working on a more streamlined, cost-free alternative).

Public safety agencies operating UAS can continue to operate their UAS as "public aircraft" pursuant to an FAA certificate of authorization or waiver. When operating as a public aircraft, agencies are responsible for self-certifying their UAS pilots. Agencies may also choose to operate pursuant to 14 CFR Part 107. If an agency chooses to operate under 14 CFR Part 107, its UAS pilots must hold FAA Remote Pilot Certificates. As is the case currently for manned public safety aircraft, agencies can declare on a mission-by-mission basis they are operating as public aircraft or in compliance with all Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Part 107 for UAS).

Given the relatively simple process involved in gaining remote pilot certification, agencies should strongly consider making the FAA remote pilot certificate one of the minimum qualifications for their UAS pilots. This standard provides a nationally recognized benchmark and, to a great degree, relieves the agency from the need to establish an internal UAS pilot certification standard. ✈