

Guidance for Small Unmanned Aircraft System Operation on Marine Corps Air Station Yuma

The increasing popularity of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), or “drones,” by military and non-military operators highlights the need for information and guidance regarding operations aboard Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma. UAS are defined as any airplane, rotorcraft, glider, or airship that does not carry people, is controlled autonomously or remotely by an operator or programmed autopilot, and is either purchased or constructed. Under federal law, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has regulatory jurisdiction over UAS operations, regardless of location.

Per FAA regulations, UAS flights are not authorized on MCAS Yuma.

This guidance applies to all persons, military and civilian, seeking to operate a UAS aboard MCAS Yuma. All such persons must comply with federal law (Section 336 of Public Law 112-95 FAA Modernization and Reform Act) and FAA regulations.

All personnel are encouraged to report immediately all unauthorized UAS operations on MCAS Yuma to PMO at (928) 269-2204.

Military personnel who fail to comply with FAA regulations are subject to punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Military personnel or civilians who fail to comply may also be subject to criminal penalties and administrative action to include civil enforcement action by the FAA, as appropriate.