



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO
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QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO:
13000
B 037
21 Jun 17

POLICY LETTER 4-17 CHANGE 1

From: Commander, Marine Corps Installations National Capital Region-Marine
Corps Base Quantico
To: Distribution

Subj: POLICY FOR PRIVATELY OWNED SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (sUAS)
ABOARD MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO

Ref: (a) DoD Instruction 5200.08 Ch 3, Security of DoD Installations and
Resources
(b) Section 336 of Public Law 112-95 (FAA Modernization and Reform Act
of 2012)
(c) ALNAV 052/16 Guidance on Procurement and Operation of Unmanned
Aircraft Systems
(d) FAA JO 7200.23 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
(e) FAA Advisory Circular Number 107-2 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems
(sUAS)
(f) Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 101 and
107
(g) Training and Education Command Safety of Use Memorandum 8-16
(h) Federal Aviation Administration NOTAM 6/1117, 17 Oct 2017

Encl: (1) MCBQ Authorized Areas for Recreational sUAS

1. Situation

a. Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS), often called "Drones", which are operated by governmental agencies, commercial entities, and hobbyists introduce new safety and security challenges to Installation Commanders. SECNAV policy, reference (c), establishes the operating regulations for all small unmanned aircraft systems which are owned, leased, tested, operated, demonstrated, designed, or modified by the U.S Navy and U. S. Marine Corps. Those DoD and government sponsored sUAS aircraft may be authorized, via formal request, to operate within the restricted airspace associated with the range training areas located on the west side of the base. In accordance with references (f) and (g), operation of personal sUAS is prohibited in restricted airspace. In accordance with references (a) through (g), this policy establishes the restrictions for operating privately owned small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico.

b. In response to the emerging popularity of sUAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has affected policy to allow sUAS hobbyists to operate within the National Airspace System, reference (e). Additionally, the FAA has restricted commercial drones from operating over certain military bases, reference (h). However, the FAA did not address the Installation Commanders' responsibility to establish restricted or controlled areas to safeguard property, equipment, resources, and sensitive/secure areas for which the commander is responsible, reference (a).

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c. Due to the popularity of sUAS/drone operations, and in accordance with enclosure (1), the Commander MCINCR-MCBQ establishes two operating areas for sUAS/drones aboard MCBQ.

2. Mission. In accordance with references (a) through (g), MCINCR-MCBQ restricts the operation of privately owned sUAS aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico except in designated areas.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent. The purpose of this policy is to ensure base security, safeguard tenant activities, and separate manned and unmanned flight operations. It is also the intent of the Commander to allow permanent personnel and dependents to operate privately owned drones in a safe and controlled manner aboard base.

b. Concept of Operations. MCINCR-MCBQ will ensure all personnel are informed of this policy and that the restrictions on sUAS are appropriately enforced.

c. Tasks

(1) Commanding Officer, Security Battalion

(a) Respond to reports of suspected or observed sUAS or drone activity occurring outside the authorized flying areas. Take appropriate action to enforce this policy.

(b) Maintain a record of all unauthorized sUAS/drone activity aboard MCINCR-MCBQ.

(2) Public Affairs Officer. Ensure widest dissemination of this regulation to subordinate units, tenants, housing, and local communities.

(3) Commands and Tenant Activities. Ensure personnel are aware of this policy.

d. Coordinating Instructions

(1) This policy applies to all privately owned sUAS and will remain in effect until revised or when indicated by appropriate authority.

(2) Any suspected or observed unauthorized sUAS/Drone activity will be reported to the Security Battalion Desk Sergeant at (703) 784-2251/2252/2253 or via Eagle Eyes at (703) 432-EYES (3937).

4. Administration and Logistics. This Policy Letter will be reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary.

5. Command and Signal. Point of contact for this policy is the Aviation Branch Head, G3, Operations Division at (703) 784-2811.


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MCBQ Authorized Areas for Recreational sUAS

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has identified two distinct categories for recreational small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) (drones). Micro-drones have an operating weight of .55 pounds and below, and small drones with an operating weight between .55 pounds (250 grams) and 55 pounds.

Lincoln Military Housing:

Small Unmanned Aerial systems weighing .55 pounds (250 grams) or less (AKA Micro-Drones) are permitted to be flown in the Lincoln Military Housing areas under the following conditions:

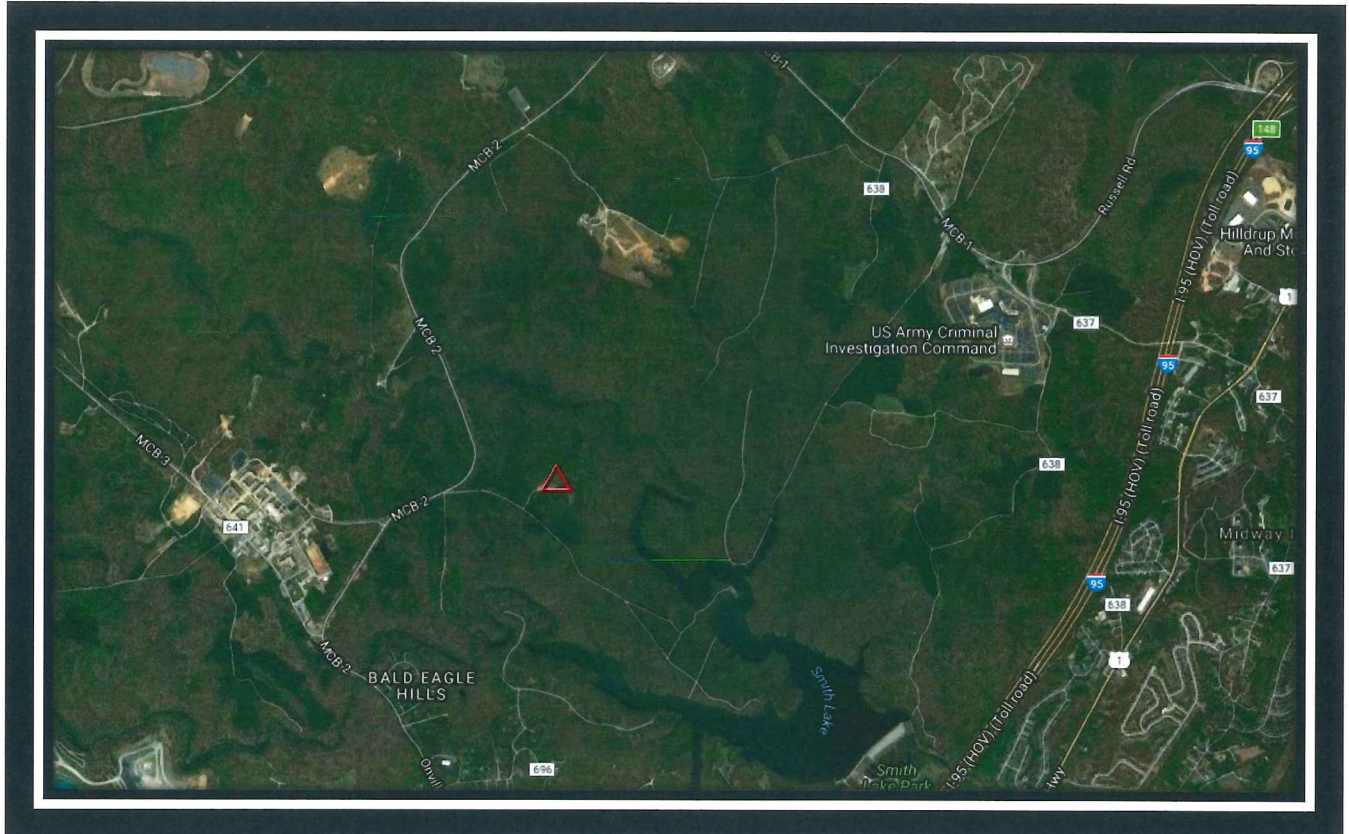
- (1) Micro drones weighing less than .55 pounds (250 grams) may be operated in the base housing areas and shall not be flown higher than 50 ft.
- (2) The operator is responsible to avoid colliding with other micro-drones, people, structures, and vehicles.
- (3) Micro-drones shall not be operated on the roadways.
- (4) Operators shall maintain visual line of sight (VLOS) with the micro-drone at all times.
- (5) Drones shall not be flown over persons uninvolved with drone operations.
- (6) Drones shall only be flown between the hours of sunrise and sunset.
- (7) Micro-drones with camera and video capability may be used as long as the privacy of other residents is protected. Video and photos of people or property not associated with micro-drone operations shall not be published or posted to social media.

MCBQ Authorized Areas for Recreational sUAS

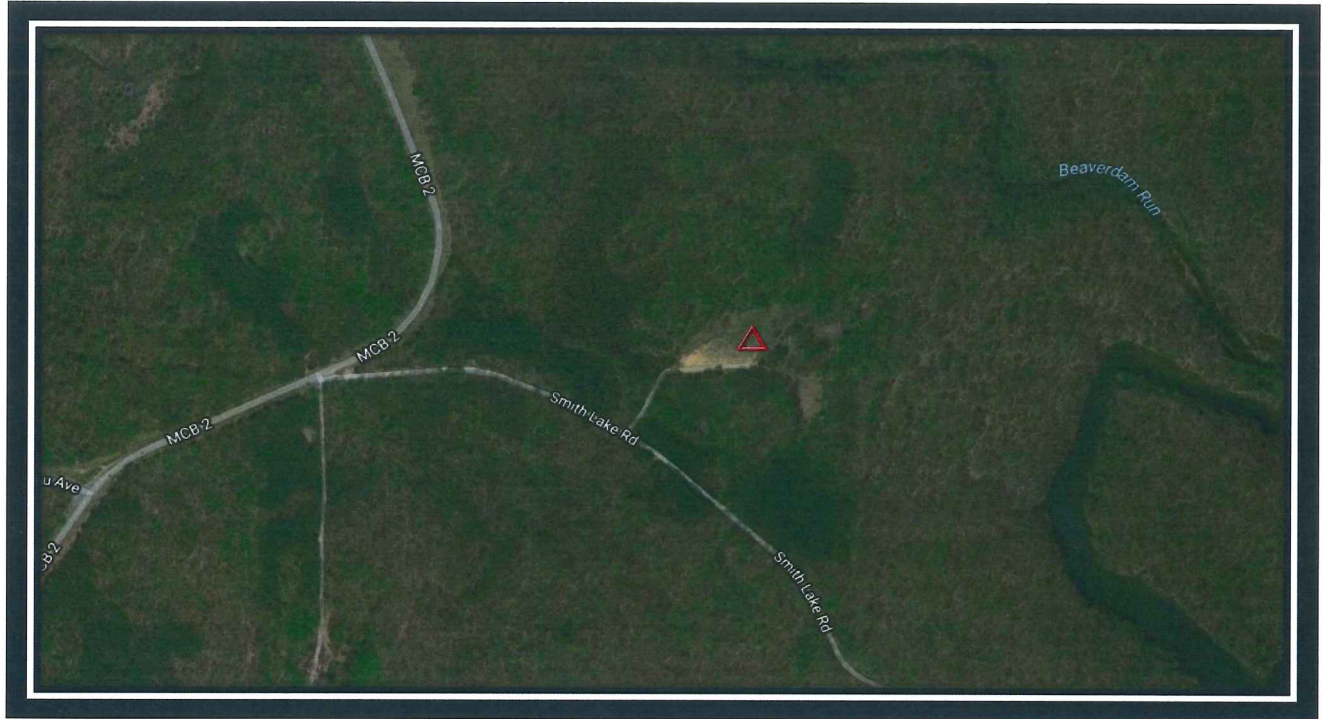
LZ Thrush:

The Commander MCINCR-MCBQ authorizes LZ Thrush for recreational sUAS operations for systems with operating weights between .55 pounds and 55 pounds.

LZ Thrush is located on the west side of base off MCB2 and Smith Lake Road.



LZ Thrush



sUAS Systems with operating weights below 55 pounds are permitted to operate in LZ Thrush. The following rules apply:

(1) LZ Thrush and the surrounding area is part of Quantico's Guadalcanal Training Complex. Military training has priority and LZ Thrush will be closed to recreational drone operations when military training is scheduled. Drone operators will depart the area if military units are present. Recreational drone operations are not permitted to co-operate with military training.

(2) All sUAS systems operating in the area (with the exception of micro-drones) must be registered with the FAA before flight.

(3) The operator must keep the sUAS within the perimeter of LZ Thrush.

(4) The operator is responsible to avoid colliding with other drones, people, structures, and vehicles.

(5) Operators shall maintain visual line of sight (VLOS) with the drone at all times.

(6) Drones shall not be flown over persons uninvolved with drone operations.

(7) Drones shall only be flown between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

(8) Drones with camera and video capability may be used as long as the privacy of others is protected. Video and photos of people or property not associated with drone operations shall not be published or posted to social media.

(9) Fixed wing sUAS/drone operations are not authorized in this areas.

(10) All drones will be flown in a safe manner.

(11) No drone with an operating weight over 55 pounds may be operated on MCBQ.

(12) Drone operations shall be limited to 100 feet above the ground (just over tree top height).

(13) Drone operators will give right of way to low-level manned aircraft.