VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY PROTOCOLS GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS OWNED BY THE UNIVERSITY THAT DO NOT OCCUR ON UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

I.   Purpose

This document is supplemental to the *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Policy Governing the Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)* and serves to outline the Protocol for conducting operations utilizing UAS owned by Virginia Tech but do not occur on University-controlled property. This protocol document establishes the <u>minimum</u> qualifications to operate, specific flight authorizations may require additional qualifications.

II.   Protocol

Operations of UAS owned by the University that do not occur on University-controlled Property

All UAS operations that are conducted utilizing UAS owned by the University must be conducted in accordance with federal regulations, and applicable state laws and local ordinances. University approval for operation of University owned aircraft that does not occur on University property is not required, however the operator must hold at least a FAA Remote Pilot certification or meet specific FAA flight authorization qualifications. The University is <u>not</u> responsible for an operator's failure to comply with any reviews or requirements that may be imposed by the FAA. Strict compliance by the operator with FAA requirements is necessary for aviation safety.

Any University authorization of UAS operations will not replace or supersede any technical or safety reviews of flight operations (such as reviews relating to aviation safety, qualifications of operators, and feasibility of the operations) as may be required by the FAA. The University is <u>not</u> responsible for an operator's failure to comply with any reviews or requirements that may be imposed by the FAA. Strict compliance by the operator with FAA requirements is necessary for aviation safety.

Operations of UAS owned by University that do not occur on University controlled property checklist

- ✓ FAA Pilot Certificate or meet the specific FAA flight authorization qualifications
- ✓ Compliance with federal, state and local laws
- ✓ Aircraft registration with Virginia Tech Risk Management Office
- ✓ VT UAS Training completion

Please submit inquiries concerning UAS operations to the UAS Safety Office at uassafety@vt.edu or (540) 231-7484 / 7303.

This Protocol has been reviewed and approved by the Virginia Tech Unmanned Aircraft Systems Oversight Committee.

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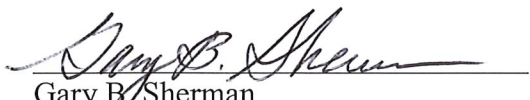Aerospace and Ocean Engineering

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