

Unmanned Aerial Systems – What are they?

Abstract

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) - commonly referred to as drones, are becoming ubiquitous in our society. On September 28, 2015, FAA Assistant Administrator-Policy, International Affairs and Environment, Rich Swayze, estimated that as many as one-million small UAS might be purchased during the US 2015 holiday season.

What is an UAS? Our panel proposes to discuss what qualifies as a UAS, and the rules associated with the operation of an UAS (under 55 lbs.) for recreational purposes. We will also discuss proposed FAA rules regarding UAS operation (under 55 lbs.) for commercial purposes. It is anticipated that the proposed FAA rules governing the operation of commercial UAS will be adopted in June or July 2016. If that is the case, the final FAA rule will be discussed. What rules apply if a UAS weighs more than 55 lbs.? What are potential civil and military applications for this emerging technology? In addition, a UAV operational demonstration will be conducted at some point during the panel discussion.