

	KANSAS CITY MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT	DATE OF ISSUE	EFFECTIVE DATE	NO.
	PROCEDURAL INSTRUCTION	12/31/2025	12/31/2025	25-09
SUBJECT			AMENDS	
Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)				
REFERENCE		RESCINDS		
FAA- Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR part 107) P.I. - Internally Recorded Digital Media Records		PI 19-05		

*I. INTRODUCTION

This directive establishes guidelines for the use of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) during an active response to an emergency or other call for police assistance. The Department's policy will be front-facing, and provide community outreach related to the program.

II. TERMINOLOGY

- *A. **Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS)** – The operation of a UAS that is flown outside the direct visual range of the remote pilot in command (RPIC).
- *B. **Certificate of Waiver (COW)** – Approval issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) granting a public entity permission to operate a UAS in the national airspace under defined conditions.
- *C. **Drone as First Responder (DFR)** – A program designed to provide rapid deployment and real-time situational awareness, enabling members to quickly and safely get eyes on the scene to provide immediate on-scene information for emergencies, and assist with clearing non-priority calls.
- D. **FAA 14 CFR Part 107** – The federal regulations set forth by the FAA regarding small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) operations in the National Air Space (NAS).
- *E. **Remote Pilot In Command (RPIC)** – An authorized member who has the final authority and responsibility for the operation and safety of a sUAS operation conducted under approved FAA regulations.
- *F. **Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS)** – An unmanned aircraft under 55 lbs. and its associated elements that are required for the safe and efficient operation of the small, unmanned aircraft in the NAS that includes the necessary equipment, network, and personnel to control a small, unmanned aircraft.

- G. **UAS Commander** – An authorized member at the rank of Captain or above responsible for all FAA reporting and administrative responsibilities associated with the operation of the UAS per FAA guidelines. This authorized member is selected by the Chief of Police.
- *H. **Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)** – An unmanned aircraft of any type that is capable of sustaining directed flight, whether preprogrammed or remotely controlled, and all of the supporting or attached systems designed for gathering information through imaging, recording, or any other means.
- I. **Visual Observer (VO)** – An authorized member who will assist the RPIC in maintaining visual and navigational awareness of the airspace and advise the RPIC of any imminent hazards including, but not limited to, other aircraft, terrain or adverse weather conditions when required by FAA regulations.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Only authorized members who have completed the required training will be permitted to operate the UAS as a RPIC.
- B. All operators and observers will take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.
- *C. The RPIC will ensure all deployments comply with Federal Aviation Regulations and state laws to include, but not limited to:
 - 1. Responding to emergency calls for service (e.g., priority 1 and priority 2).
 - 2. Search and Rescue – To assist missing person investigations, AMBER Alerts, and any other search and rescue situation.
 - 3. Situational Awareness – To assist decision makers (e.g., incident command staff, first responders, city, county, and state officials) in understanding the nature, scale, or scope of an incident, and for planning and coordinating an effective response.
 - 4. Scene Documentation – Mapping, photography of scenes, traffic collision scenes, and other scenes as needed.
 - 5. Tactical Deployment – To support the tactical deployment of sworn members and equipment in emergency situations (e.g., Operation 100, large-scale tactical operations, and other temporary perimeter security situations).

6. Visual Perspective – To provide an aerial visual perspective to assist sworn members in providing direction for crowd control, traffic accident management, special circumstances, and temporary perimeter security.
- *D. Any equipment malfunction will immediately be reported to the Supervisor, the UAS Commander, or designee, for repair or replacement.
- E. Only the Department-issued UAS will be used, unless approved by the UAS Commander.
- *F. The Remote Pilot in Command (RPIC) while operating as a DFR will:
 1. Maintain a current remote pilot certificate or equivalent FAA license for BVLOS operations using other than VOs to detect and avoid other aircraft.
 2. Adhere to the operational procedures outlined in the current COW, specifically requirements specified under “BVLOS Using Other than VOs to Detect and Avoid Other Aircraft.” These guidelines will be followed during all DFR operations.
 3. Maintain a daily log of all DFR flights.
- G. Administration
 1. The UAS Commander, or designee, will:
 - a. Approve any requests for mutual aid assistance from outside agencies.
 - b. Monitor and maintain all authorizations, permits, or certificates required by the FAA prior to deploying or operating the sUAS.
 - *c. Maintain current FAA certifications of COW for BVLOS operations.
 - d. Report on issues, concerns, training needs, and any other business pertaining to the UAS program.
 - e. Appoint an authorized sworn member to serve as the designee, if not available at any specific time.
 2. Audit the flight documentation on a quarterly basis and document the results.

H. Transparency

All audio/video recordings generated by the use or deployment of a UAS are the property of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. Members will refer to the current written directive entitled, "Internally Recorded Digital Media Records" for information in regard.

IV. PROHIBITIONS

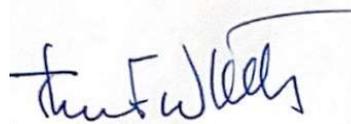
The UAS equipment will not be used:

1. To conduct random surveillance activities.
2. To target a person based solely on individual characteristics, such as gender or sexual orientation.
3. To harass, intimidate or discriminate against any individual or group.
4. To collect audio/video recordings, or for the purposes of facial recognition.
5. To conduct personal business of any type.



Stacey Graves
Chief of Police

Adopted by the Board of Police Commissioners this 16th day of December, 2025.



Thomas Whittaker
Board President

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