Current and Near Future Application of Drones to Munitions Projects

Prepared for: USACE Huntsville M2S2 Webinar June 2018



Overview of Drone Applications

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (i.e. Drones) offer increased safety and cost savings
- Drones becoming more common on environmental related projects industries
- Concerns on FAA and DOD approval have prevented widespread use
- Acceptance rapidly increasing with new applications in variety of fields

Jobs for Drones

As more industries look at drone technology, the list of jobs drones can do—or could do is growing. But what's real?

DEVELOPMENT STAGE

Early

Mail/small package delivery Construction/ real estate images and monitoring

Mid

Aerial photography

Late

Border patrol

Precision agriculture

Public safety

other media Infrastructure monitoring

Emergency

management

Filmmaking/

Oil and gas exploration

Weather forecasting/ meteorological research

Wildlife/ environmental monitoring

SOURCE "DRONE INDUSTRY REPORT,"



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Current FAA Guidance/Restrictions

FAA Small UAS Rule (Part 107)

- Drones under 55 lbs
- Remote Pilot Certificate from FAA
- Fly within line-of-sight
- Do not fly over people
- Fly below 400 feet
- Outside controlled airspace
- Section 333 Exception Process
 - Drones over 55 lbs
- LAANC: New FAA/Private program
 - Provide access to restricted airspace near airports
 - "Near real-time basis"



FAA Home ► Unmanned Aircraft Systems ► Where to Fly ► Airspace Restrictions

Airspace Restrictions

There are many types of airspace restrictions in the United States. Below is a list of restrictions that commonly affect UAS flights, including:

- Security Sensitive Airspace Restrictions
- Temporary Flight Restrictions
- ✤ <u>Restricted or Special Use Airspace</u>
- $\ensuremath{\clubsuit}$ Stadiums and Sporting Events
- Wildfires
- Airports





Agenda for Drone Applications Presentation

- Drone applications on M2S2 projects by KEMRON
- Drone applications on HTRW projects directly applicable to M2S2 projects
- Near future developments for drones with application to M2S2
 - Larger drones with increased payloads
 - Increased instrumentation









Aerial Photography on Project Sites

- Initial use of drones for site photos & videos on project sites
 - Demonstrate progress on major elements
 - Develop panoramic or promotional/ marketing materials



Drones continue to offer perspective on project sites and provide great marketing materials for M2S2 projects







Remote Observation of Detonation

- Confirmation non-essential personnel are outside safety arc
- Observation of setup for consolidated shot or Blow in Place (BIP)
- Initial inspection of items after detonation





Increased safety from remote observation/inspection and cost savings over traditional security measures





Remote Observation of OB/OD Activities

AMROI

- Observe OB/OD process from ignition through burning process
 - Ensure personnel/vehicles do not enter EZ
 - Confirm ignition at all pans with appropriate delay
 - Inspection of pans after burning to ensure fire out
 - Real-time verification fire does not spread to vegetation

Observe OB/OD process real time without endangering personnel and ensure personnel/vehicles do not enter EZ





Inspection of Targets and MEC Hazards

- Complete observation of ranges often not feasible during Operational Range Clearance site visits
 - Distance between targets, location of targets or number targets
- Inspect target condition and evaluate MEC hazards with drones
 - Evaluate condition prior to mobilization of UXO crew
 - Utilize as UXO crew approaches target

Increased safety from remote inspection and optimize crew size/equipment during planning







Suggestion - Incorporate Drone Surveys into Bidding Process

- Quantities currently based on notes and limited site photos
- Provide drone survey to bidders during RFP process
 - Reduce uncertainty on condition and quantities





Reduce B&P costs for contractors and increase accuracy of bids for Government





Site Inspection on HTRW Projects

- Routine inspections of slope stability, liner and surface water levels on tailings pile
 - Complete routine inspections in ¼ time
 - Video documentation of condition
- Personnel not required to traverse steep slopes for inspection



Utilize drones to inspect land use controls (fencing and signage) and document conditions on 5 Year Site Reviews on M2S2 projects





Observation of Hazardous Operation on HTRW Project

- Drilling conducted in Level B
 - Install vapor extraction system below landfill with drummed waste
- Observation of drilling activities conducted by drone
- Reduce personnel in exclusion zone



Utilize drones to observe operations in hazardous environments and increase on M2S2 projects





Topographic Surveys on HTRW Project

- Developed topographic survey to evaluate man made features
 - Ponds and dams on abandoned property
- Utilized topographic survey to evaluate grading alternatives in 3D rendering
 - Drone based photogrammetry prior to detailed topographic survey during remedial design





Develop topographic surveys early in process to evaluate munitions related features at a reduced cost on M2S2 projects





Volume Estimates on HTRW Projects

- Topographic survey of stockpiles or excavations
- Calculated volume after postprocessing
- Estimated volumes within 15% to 20%
 - Supported budgetary estimate for client

Develop volume estimates for small arms cleanups or during sifting/sieving operations M2S2 projects









Near Future Use of Drones – Prescribed Burns

- Development of drone for small prescribed burn
- Helicopters required for larger burns due to payload
 - Helicopters also provide burn suppression





helicopters

Cost savings from drones for ignition of

smaller prescribed burns compared to



This drone is designed to start controlled burns of grassland. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Near Future Use of Drones - Remote Monitoring & Testing

- Development/ testing for fire fighting applications
- Extend technology to monitoring
 - Air monitoring in hazardous environment
 - Collect air samples
 - Testing building exterior for explosive residues



Significant increase in safety to allow air monitoring and sampling in hazardous environments





Near Future Use of Drones – Delivery of Materials

- Testing for delivery of goods and medical equipment
 - Not ready for packages or pizza
- Larger drones to move materials on project sites
 - Increased payload from larger drones





Delivery/retrieval of materials from remote areas or hazardous environments





Any Questions?

Safety:



Observations, inspections and monitoring using drones increases safety on M2S2 project sites by limiting access in hazardous environments.

Cost & Quality:



Drone applications reduce manpower for inspections and observations with digital data and offer cost-effective topographic and volume estimates.

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