



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-P

JUL 05 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1124 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016), Corps of Engineers Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

1. Section 1124 of WRDA 2016 was completed and signed on 13 June 2018. The implementation guidance is posted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/Legislative-Links/>.
2. Questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to Jason Kirkpatrick, Aviation Program Manager, Logistics, Headquarters, at 202-761-1993 or [Jason.Kirkpatrick@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jason.Kirkpatrick@usace.army.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dalton".

JAMES C. DALTON, P.E.  
Director of Civil Works

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
CIVIL WORKS  
108 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

JUN 13 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1124 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016), Corps of Engineers Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

1. Section 1124 of WRDA 2016 directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to designate an individual within HQ to serve as the coordinator and principal approving official for developing the process and procedures for operating Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in accordance with FAA regulations. Section 1124 is enclosed.
2. Subject to my review and approval, the Aviation Program Manager will develop processes and procedures that allow the Corps to administer its civil works and emergency response UAS program independent of Army and DoD, as directed by Section 1124. This individual shall ensure that such UAS remain separate from any UAS acquired, operated, or maintained by the Corps for use in support of the DoD or the Army.
4. Questions regarding this implementation guidance may be directed to Gib Owen, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at [gib.a.owen.civ@mail.mil](mailto:gib.a.owen.civ@mail.mil) or 703-695-4641. Technical questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to Jason Kirkpatrick, Civil Works Program Manager for Aviation, at (202) 761-1993 or [Jason.kirkpatrick@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jason.kirkpatrick@usace.army.mil).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. James", is positioned above the typed name.

R.D. JAMES  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)

Encl

**SEC. 1124. Corps of Engineers operation of unmanned aircraft systems.**

(a) In general.—The Secretary shall designate an individual, within the headquarters office of the Corps of Engineers, who shall serve as the coordinator and principal approving official for developing the process and procedures by which the Corps of Engineers—

(1) operates and maintains small unmanned aircraft (as defined in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) systems in support of civil works and emergency response missions of the Corps of Engineers; and

(2) acquires, applies for, and receives any necessary Federal Aviation Administration authorizations for such operations and systems.

(b) Requirements.—A small unmanned aircraft system acquired, operated, or maintained for carrying out the missions specified in subsection (a) shall be operated in accordance with regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration as a civil aircraft or public aircraft, at the discretion of the Secretary, and shall be exempt from regulations of the Department of Defense, including the Department of the Army, governing such system.

(c) Limitation.—A small unmanned aircraft system acquired, operated, or maintained by the Corps of Engineers is excluded from use by the Department of Defense, including the Department of the Army, for any mission of the Department of Defense other than a mission specified in subsection (a).