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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

JUL 17 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (NETWORKS & INFORMATION INTEGRATION)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENGIES

SUBJECT: Unmanned Systems Safety Guidance

In March 2006, the Defense Safety Oversight Council Acquisition and Technology Programs Task Force (ATP TF) initiated a study to identify the unique safety challenges of unmanned systems (UMSs), especially those systems carrying and deploying weapons in a joint environment. These safety challenges significantly increase as more UMSs are fielded and used in the same warfighting environment.

Using a collaborative process with experienced personnel from all Services, the ATP TF developed the "Unmanned Systems Safety Guide for DoD Acquisition" to provide programmatic, operational, and design guidelines to support the development and fielding of safe UMSs. Please you use the Guide, found at http://www.acq.osd.mil/atptf/, to help identify and mitigate hazards and their associated risks for all UMS types.

For those UMSs that are ACAT 1D program, the UMS safety guidelines will be a special interest item during OSD Program Support Reviews. UMS-specific guidelines have been added to the Defense Acquisition Program Support methodology to guide the evaluation of how successfully programs have engineered UMSs to reduce safety risks to acceptable levels.

Kenneth J. Krieg