



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
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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 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

