**Snake River Search, sUAS Standard Operating Procedures**

Overview: The purpose of this document is to provide basic guidance on the operation of sUAS (Small Unmanned Aerial Systems) by Snake River Search personnel in support of searches for missing persons or other emergency situations.

General Presentation:

Be professional and appear professional.

Be courteous and polite.

Always check in with the IC/Staff.

Do not speak to the media unless authorized.

Exercise restraint in discussing the operation around non-team personnel.

Regulations:

All flight operations shall be conducted in accordance with FAA regulations.

All flight operations shall be conducted under the direction of an FAA-certified Remote Pilot in Command (PIC).

The Remote PIC shall have full authority over flight operations and any ground crew during the operations.

Operating Environment:

Airspace restrictions – check B4Ufly and other assets, also check with IC/Staff on Air Operations.

Airspace hazards – check for towers, power lines, structures and terrain that impact operations.

Weather – Current and forecast conditions and their impact on operations.

Takeoff/Landing Zone is clear of personnel and obstructions and remains so during operations.

Mission Planning:

The PIC will work with the IC/Staff to develop an operational plan that takes into consideration: System capabilities, Safety, Weather, Terrain, Operational goals and objectives.

Team Briefing:

The PIC will coordinate with the IC/Staff on operations.

The PIC will brief the team on the operations to be conducted:

 Roles and responsibilities, Safety, Emergency procedures, and operational goals.

 Ensure that all team members are rested and prepared for the operation.

The PIC will ensure that any personnel in the operations area are briefed on safety/operations.

Pre-flight:

Check all systems for readiness for the proposed operation.

 All batteries fully charged.

 All storage devices cleared.

 Check sUAS for structural integrity/damage.

 Ensure that pre-planned routes are loaded and ready.

 Follow individual sUAS checklist for Pre-Flight.

Flight:

 Clear takeoff zone and announce system startup.

 Ensure that the airspace is clear.

Announce intent to takeoff. (Contact IC/Staff also with intent to launch)

 Takeoff to an altitude clear of any local obstructions.

 Stabilize sUAS and check system status.

 Check camera systems and ensure full functionality.

 Ensure that support crew are in place and communications functioning.

 Announce to crew that you are ready to start the mission.

 Ensure that the airspace is clear.

 Begin the mission either in pre-planned or manual mode.

 Always be prepared to take action to respond to emergency situations.

 (Safety is paramount and the sUAS is expendable)

 Monitor mission to ensure objectives are being met.

 Monitor systems to ensure adequate endurance remains to recover.

 Maintain visual at all times and immediately respond to any deviations from plan.

 Notify IC/Staff immediately of any significant deviations and any items of interest.

 Announce to crew when the sUAS is returning for recovery.

 Return the sUAS to the takeoff/landing point at an altitude clear on any local obstructions.

 Stabilize the sUAS over the landing point.

 Announce to crew when you are ready to land.

 Land the sUAS and immediately power down.

Post-Flight:

 Remove data storage and send for analysis.

 Log items of interest and flight data.

 Debrief Crew

 Debrief IC/Staff

 Check systems and prepare for next flight. (Repeat operational cycle)

 Utilize sUAS specific checklists for Post-Flight