



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

NOV 03 2009

(b) (6)

DOD Policy Board on Federal Aviation  
HQ USAF A/30 (50756)  
1480 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1480

Dear Mr. Pease:

We are sorry to inform you the Certificates of Waiver or Authorization (2009-WSA-87 and 2009-WSA-88) for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations at the 2009 Nellis Air Force Base (AFB) Air Show have been disapproved.

After careful review of the applications, it has been determined the proposed operation presents an unacceptable risk. The disapproval is based on current guidance in the Federal Aviation Administration Interim Operational Approval Guidance 08-01, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operating in the U.S. National Airspace System document, stating UAS operations shall avoid an open-air assembly of people.

Specifically, a large gathering of aviation enthusiasts at an air show constitutes an open-air assembly of people. If flight in such an area is required the proponent must support proposed operations with mitigations, an appropriate hazard analysis, and risk assessment. These documents must demonstrate that injury to persons or property near and along the flight path is extremely improbable. The risk proposed for this operation has not been appropriately addressed in the application.

Should you have any questions, my point of contact in this matter is Ardyth Williams, Manager, UAS Group, and she can be reached at (202) 497-7688 or via electronic mail at [ardyth.williams@faa.gov](mailto:ardyth.williams@faa.gov).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth L. Ray  
Director of System Operations Airspace and Aeronautical Information Management  
Air Traffic Organization