



Issue 5
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ICUAS Association, Inc.

www.icuas.com

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers:

Welcome to the Winter 2020/21 issue of the ICUAS Association Newsletter.

In this Issue we welcome an article by Dawn M.K. Zoldi, Colonel, USAF, Retired, who is one of the legal experts in UAS, and one of the most active and contributing members to ICUAS. Our collaboration initiated and has brought a new dimension to the annual conference: the legal and policy component to using UAS.

As for ICUAS 2021, we proceed as planned. The conference will take place on June 15-18 in Athens, Greece, see www.uasconferences.com for details. As last year, ICUAS'21 will be hybrid, allowing for physical and virtual presentations. We will continue with regular updates via e-mails and on the conference web, and we are certain that we will run a successful conference following all safety rules and protocols that will be in place this coming June.

We encourage you to submit your papers, and to actively engage and participate in the conference. Moreover, do not hesitate to reach out to us for any information you may need.

ICUAS - Launching Drones and Dreams!

By Dawn M.K. Zoldi



ICUAS has been many things to many people. For me, it was my inspiration.

I have been affiliated with ICUAS for half a decade. In 2015, after meeting with Dr. Kimon Valavanis, together, we injected the first Law and

Policy content into ICUAS as a full one-day separate track. Over the past several years, this track expanded and formed the Legal and Policy component that became an increasingly integral part of ICUAS. There were times we even experimented with a stand-alone legal track to encourage attorneys and policy makers who create, or later interpret, relevant guidance to engage directly with the engineers, academics and operators who design and directly use UAS. Today, the content of that legal track has been essentially integrated into the general conference content, educating attendees on the critical importance of mission-enabling rules and regulation to the future of autonomous flight.

Every year, after the completion of the annual conference concluded, I came away with so much more than education. In addition to the ICUAS disk drive full of research, I took with me the amazing relationships I forged with experts from across the globe. ICUAS also inspired me to launch my new company, P3 Tech Consulting, the mission of which I present next – for details you may also visit the web, <https://www.p3techconsulting.com>.

Our mission at P3 Tech is to connect people and companies who are passionate about tech platforms with the policies, programs, and services they need to succeed. Our vision is to be *the* premier international resource within the advanced tech ecosystem, developing policy, planning, and programming solutions to fuel the innovation that will forge a better future for us all through:

- Strategic Planning & Policy Development
- Conference Planning & Execution
- Law-Tech Connect™ Continuing Legal & Other Education
- Expert Presentations & Publications
- Editorial Services & Writing Enhancement

In just little more than a year, I have had the privilege to work with many amazing organizations and companies throughout the drone ecosystem, providing:

- A Law-Tech™ connect column for Inside Unmanned Systems (IUS) magazine, <https://insideunmannedsystems.com>.
- A Washington View column for Inside GNSS magazine, <https://insidegnss.com>.
- Contributions to the Commercial UAV News
- Contributions to InterDrone Newsletters, <https://interdrone.com/newsletters>.
- Adjunct Conference planning expertise to InterDrone 2020 and also 2021; for more information, see <https://interdrone.com>.
- Strategic consulting to the highly successful Women & Drones' Women to Watch in UAS Global Awards 2020 initiative, <https://womenanddrones.com/2020-women-to-watch-global-awards>. Note that I am the lead for the 5th Anniversary awards program. This year we plan to provide microgrants to individual award recipients - please consider donating to our fund: <https://fundly.com/women-to-watch-global-awards-2021-fund>. The nomination portal will open on March 8th on the W&D website. Nominations are free. Consider nominating an amazing woman or team for this prestigious and life changing recognition.
- Drone education with Airavat Solutions, including the Arizona DroneFest 2020, <https://airavatsolutions.com>.

I have worked with many other organizations to bring legal and policy content to their conferences, webinars, webcasts, and podcasts, including the Vertical Flight Society, the U.S. National Association of State Aviation Officials and the Energy & Drone Robotics Coalition, to name a few – more information is provided in the company's website.

I also act in an advisory capacity to several non-profits and other companies including: InterDrone (Advisory Board), Urban Low Altitude Transport Association (Advisory Board); UAS Colorado (Advisory Board) and DRONERESPONDERS (Legal/Policy Chair).

In all these engagements, I am often asked how, as a community, we can prepare the future workforce for the autonomous industry. My top 5 answers are:

1. **Read.** Read everything you can get your hands on about drone law & policy, especially primary sources. ICUAS and the Journal of Intelligent and Robotic Systems is a great place to obtain this content.

2. **Learn.** Attend the right conferences, workshops, and expos.
3. **Subscribe.** Sign up for drone-related information services and online newsletters. ICUAS launched this newsletter, which provides helpful information.
4. **Get Social.** Social media, such as Facebook or LinkedIn are great places to find drone forums and experts.
5. **Research & Write.** Do your own research and writing. ICUAS provides a platform for this.

Technology cannot advance without the proper laws, regulations, and policies in place, which maximize operational potential, while protecting safety, security, and civil liberties.

I look forward to continuing to work together to make this industry fly! I hope to see you in ICUAS'21.

*The views and opinions in this article are those of the author and do not reflect those of the DOD, do not constitute endorsement of any organization mentioned herein and are not intended to influence the action of federal agencies or their employees.

Dawn M.K. Zoldi (Colonel, USAF, Retired) is a licensed attorney and a 25-year Air Force veteran. She is an internationally recognized expert on unmanned aircraft system law and policy, a recipient of the Woman to Watch in UAS (Leadership) Award 2019, and the CEO of P3 Tech Consulting LLC.

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