



Safety Center RPA Branch

Who we are & how we help you!

Operations Research

The Air Force Safety Center is a center of excellence for acquiring and maintaining safety information with the purpose of preventing future mishaps. With a significant data portion attributed to Remotely Piloted Aircraft, AFSEC employs an Operations Research Analyst to help make sense of all the information.

With more than 30 years aviation experience spanning the military, airline, and general aviation spectrum including a 20 plus year Air Force operational flying career, Greg Grigson serves as AFSEC's RPA Branch ORA subject matter expert. The SME responsibilities include support for operational forecasting tools, mishap trend analysis, airworthiness risk assessment reviews, NAS integration safety studies, RPA loss trends and causes, higher headquarters and Congressional inquiries on high visibility interest, and Freedom of Information Act requests.

Grigson's eight years of system engineering experience plus five years of safety engineering expertise had a direct impact on AFSEC's RPA integration into the NAS by developing a Safety

Assessment Report at Cannon AFB, N.M. The resultant FAA flight operations approval allowed MQ-1 and MQ-9 aircraft to safely transit into the NAS without a visual observer or chase aircraft; which resulted in increased training opportunities and manpower cost savings. Additionally, as a contributor to the Science and Research Panel (SaRP) and working with government and civilian entities, Grigson helped establish data requirements for verifying and validating RPA safety standards for flights in the NAS. Overall, Grigson is the go-to SME for RPA safety data that examines trends and is used to develop or amend Air Force policy by decision makers.

The center's ORA SME can provide customers direction on where to find needed RPA data and analysis to meet staff goals—quite often just knowing where to look for existing data solves the problem at hand. Grigson can also assist in the identification, creation, analysis and presentation of special purpose RPA statistical safety products. Additionally, he can assist customers with the safety review and approval of Risk Management Assessments developed for RPAs and small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) platforms. For more information contact HQAfsc.SEFQ@us.af.mil or call: (505)846-0629, DSN: 246-0629.