

U.S. GOVERNMENT WANTS AUTHORITY TO SHOOT DOWN DRONES

(ANOTHER DRONE ARTICLE, BUT THIS ONE COULD KILL-- HERE IN THE U.S.!)

Many of us have drones that we play around with. Some use drones as part of a business, such as showing or surveying properties. Others use drones to track down survivors and stranded animals in a hurricane. It was announced on May 26, 2017 that the Trump administration is circulating draft legislation that would give the government sweeping powers to track and destroy drones over the U.S., according to *The New York Times*. According to the draft bill, the government would be authorized to track, seize or destroy any unmanned aircraft it deems to post a security threat to areas identified for special protection. "While the government would have to respect privacy, civil rights and liberties in pursuing such enforcement, courts would have no jurisdiction to hear lawsuits arising from its anti-drone actions."



However, without any legislation, this has already started. AvWeb reported that by military decree, any drones flying over military airspace can now be shot down. This includes the entire area encompassing Fort Gordon, for example. Personnel at military bases can shoot down private or commercial drones that are deemed a threat, Pentagon spokesman Capt. Jeff Davis said at a press briefing on August 7, 2017. The bases "retain the right of self-defense when it comes to UAVs or drones operating over [them]," Davis said. "The increase of commercial and private drones in the United States has raised our concerns with regards to the safety and security of our installations, aviation safety and the safety of people." The FAA had announced in April, 2017 that drones were banned from flying over military bases and testing sites. "Protecting our force remains a top priority, and that's why DOD issued this very specific — but classified — policy, developed with the FAA and our interagency partners, that details how DOD personnel may counter the unmanned aircraft threat," Davis said. The "rules of engagement" include taking steps such as "tracking, disabling or destroying" the drones, depending on the assessment of the threat, he said.

It is unclear whether a MOA (Military Operations Area) or MOAs like the ones over Jefferson, Burke, and parts of Richmond county, Georgia, are part of "military airspace." An AOPA 1999 on-line article seems to indicate that MOAs are part of military airspace. "Military airspace sends shock waves of fear through the spines of some pilots, while other pilots could not care less about it. The ones who have had a close encounter of the scary kind were probably involved in a close call or near-midair collision with a high-speed fighter or giant transport in a military operations area (MOA). The rest have probably traversed military airspace unscathed several times without seeing another airplane at all." In [ORDER JO 7400.2H](#) Effective Date: March 10, 2011 published by the FAA, it is still not clear. The words "military" and "airspace" are in the ORDER but not used together. But some will find that the words "military airspace" do not need to be adjacent to each other since the meaning of "military airspace" is definitely implied in the FAA order. Of course we might obtain more clarity after the first private drone is shot down in a MOA and the issue goes to court.

(Information adapted from AVweb Flash May 26, 2017→[Administration Wants Drone Shoot Down Authority](#), New York Times→[authority to shoot down drones](#), AVweb Flash August 11, 2017→[New Policy: Drones In Military Airspace May Be Shot Down](#), AOPA News and Media September 5, 1999→[Military Airspace - Craniums Up!](#), FAA Chapter 25.→[Military Operations Areas](#))

SHORT FINAL

AVweb April 10, 2017

Heard on a scanner:

Jet Blue: "Jet Blue 123 climbing to eight thousand".

No response

Jet Blue: "Jet Blue 123 how do you hear?"

Bradley Approach: "With my ears: turn left direct Norwich VOR".

AVweb May 22, 2017

Heard on a scanner:

JetBlue: Tower, is our speed compatible with the aircraft ahead of us?

Tower: As long as you don't go to warp factor 6, you should be fine.

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EAA 172 member Larry Garner sold his Cherokee aircraft. He has many aircraft related items for sale. Larry wrote on February 4, 2016: "Since I sold my Cherokee , been going thru what airplane stuff I've accumulated over the years and this is some of what I have. I am very open to offers, just have to start somewhere. I did research current selling prices."

Larry Garner e-mail: garner49@comcast.net SEE THE LIST AT: [Garner's Airplane Stuff](#)
