For Immediate Release

Promoting Safety in Unmanned Aircraft Systems: The Aviators Code Initiative and University Aviation Association Release

The UAS Pilots Code

January 30, 2018 – In an effort to address safety concerns arising from the widespread use of small unmanned aircraft, the Aviators Code Initiative (formerly the Aviators Model Code of Conduct Initiative) and the University Aviation Association released guidance aimed at advancing safety, airmanship, and professionalism among UAS pilots and operators.

The *Unmanned Aircraft Systems Pilots Code* (*UASPC*) is the product of extensive research and peer review within the manned and unmanned aviation communities. The *UASPC* provides a set of principles and practices to help a pilot interpret and apply standards and regulations, and confront real world challenges and avoid mishaps.

The *UASPC* is designed to help UAS pilots develop and implement standard operating procedures, effective risk management, and safety management systems. It encourages UAS pilots to consider themselves aviators and participants in the broader aviation community.

The growth of unmanned aircraft operations has been so rapid that safety technologies and regulations are not yet fully developed. Nevertheless, UAS pilots bear the same obligation to operate safely as do manned pilots for whom training and safety programs are well defined and rigorously implemented. The *UASPC* provides a set of recommended best practices that both new and experienced UAS pilots can integrate into their operations.

The guidance is organized in seven sections:

- General Responsibilities of UAS Pilots
- Manned Aircraft and People on the Surface
- Training and Proficiency
- Security and Privacy
- Environmental Issues
- Use of Technology
- Advancement of UAS Aviation

The *UASPC* is available in three versions: *the annotated version* (with endnotes and supporting materials), *the condensed version* (for pilot implementation), and *the abbreviated version* (for introduction to and promotion of the *UASPC*). The *UASPC* is a living document and will be updated periodically to reflect changes in standards and practice. The UAS-related materials are available free of charge at **www.secureav.com/UAS**.

"The *UAS Pilots C*ode is a comprehensive guide to assist both experienced and new remote pilots in the responsible use of unmanned aircraft. With lots of uncertainty as to when, where and how one can and should operate unmanned aircraft, the *UASPC* is an invaluable resource to consult before any operation." Frank Mathus, Dir. Strategy and Business Development, Thales.

"The *UAS Pilots Code* is a handbook the bridges the gap between manned aviation and aspiring drone pilots. It is a must read for drone pilots seeking to learn and operate safely in the national airspace." Brandon Montellato, University Relations Manager, DJI.

The *UASPC* builds upon the Aviators Code Initiative's 16-year foundation of creating a family of aviators' codes of conduct for general aviation pilots, flight instructors, aviation maintenance technicians, glider pilots, helicopter pilots, light sport pilots, seaplane pilots, and student pilots, as well as guidance for manned aircraft pilots operating near drones. Developed through a volunteer effort, each is available as a free public service along with supporting materials at www.secureav.com. For more information about the *UASPC*, contact PEB@secureav.com.

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