



**PIPER MEMORIAL AIRPORT
353 PROCTOR STREET
LOCK HAVEN PA 17745**

For Immediate Release:

Flight School Launches Commercial Drone Pilot Training

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Lock Haven, PA, 15 July 2016 – Commercial unmanned aerial systems (commonly known as drones) represent the next major growth area for General Aviation. Whereas the early 20th Century ushered in the Air Age, and the mid 20th Century represented the start of the Space Age, one could call the early 21st Century the beginning of the Drone Age. The unmanned aerial systems industry is currently in its infancy, with commercial interests just beginning to discover the wealth of applications which can be fulfilled with these small, inexpensive, and very capable remotely piloted vehicles. AvSport of Lock Haven, the flight school on the Piper Memorial Airport, now introduces training to help interested entrepreneurs get in on the ground floor of what promises to be aviation's next Great Frontier.

"On 21 June 2016" reports Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's founder and chief flight instructor, "the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the government agency responsible for regulating flight activities in US airspace, released policies and procedures for commercial drone operation. These rules are now contained in Volume 14, Consolidated Federal Regulations, Part 107, which goes into effect on 28 August 2016. As the volunteer FAA Safety Team Lead Representative for Lock Haven, I've studied these new rules closely. They provide a legal framework for issuance of a new Remote Pilot Certificate for commercial drone operations, and AvSport is proud to be one of the first flight schools in the country to offer training toward obtaining one!"

AvSport's UAS Remote Pilot In Command course, which emphasizes crew resource management and teamwork between players, runs over three consecutive days, and includes nine hours of classroom instruction, and an additional nine hours of hands-on drone flight training. The first training course is tentatively scheduled to begin on 6 September 2016 (the day after Labor day, and just nine days after FAA's new rules become law).

Dr. Shuch, an Air Force veteran and retired professor of physics and aeronautics, started his flight school on Lock Haven's airport in 2009, initially training sport pilots for recreational flying. He now sees a whole new world of commercial flight activity unfolding, and has chosen to embrace it. In fact, if all the paperwork goes smoothly, he himself expects to be one of the very first Commercial Drone Operators licensed on 28 August. After that, with the training he will provide to others, the sky is no longer the limit.

For further details, interested parties are invited to browse to www.AvSport.org/UAS.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: http://www.avsport.org/UAS/typhoon_500+.jpg

CAPTION: Prospective operators in the Lock Haven area are being trained at AvSport in the commercial operation of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) such as this.