



**UNITED STATES ANTARCTIC PROGRAM  
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230



**PROGRAMMATIC NOTICE**

Date: September 15, 2014

Subject: Restrictions for Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in the United States Antarctic Program

Due to the potential operational, environmental and safety hazards posed to Antarctic activities by the operation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), the use of any UAV, drone, or remotely piloted aircraft in Antarctica by U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) personnel is prohibited without specific authorization from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This prohibition includes the operation of commercially available or custom designed "quad copters", remote controlled camera systems, and any other unmanned airborne systems.

The point of contact for approved use requests is Mr. Mike Scheuermann, Aviation Program Manager, Division of Polar Programs. ([mscheuer@nsf.gov](mailto:mscheuer@nsf.gov) ; Tel: 703/292-7453)

A formal policy will be developed in the near future which will outline the process for acceptable use of UAVs for research and/or operational purposes.

A blue ink signature of Scott Borg, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal stroke.

Scott Borg  
Antarctic Sciences

A blue ink signature of Brian Stone, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal stroke.

Brian Stone  
Antarctic Infrastructure & Logistics