

Jacksonville District UAS News

THIS EDITION: Hurricane Response, Image Service, USACE Topo Meeting UAS Session, DJI Army Ban, and the New USACE Aviation Program Manager.

Hurricane Irma UAS Support

With all the hurricane activity in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, we expected to be busier with UAS collections supporting these operations; however, we haven't seen much activity. This is a good thing! UAS is not the silver bullet for geospatial problems, it is one more tool complementing traditional platforms such as satellites and traditional aviation.

We did get a little hurricane related work in south Florida. This particular project is located west of Miami and borders the Everglades. Although the area had its

share of debris and tarp covered roofs, the area was not hit particularly hard from Irma. Our data collection was needed by Jacksonville District Water Managers to support observation of water discharge impacts through a partially completed project necessitated by heavy rainfall from hurricane Irma. Inundation effects are easily observed in the imagery and compliment limited gauge data in the vicinity of the project.

While this was a routine project for us (with the exception of an unexpected water landing), the information from the UAS proved extremely valuable to our customer. Lan Do, Senior Hydraulic Engineer remarked that "Our UAV team did an exceptional job and provided very high quality products at the time we needed the most. Their work was instrumental in providing a big picture

of our current flood control operations for the Las Palmas Community and validate the need to take the necessary emergency actions."



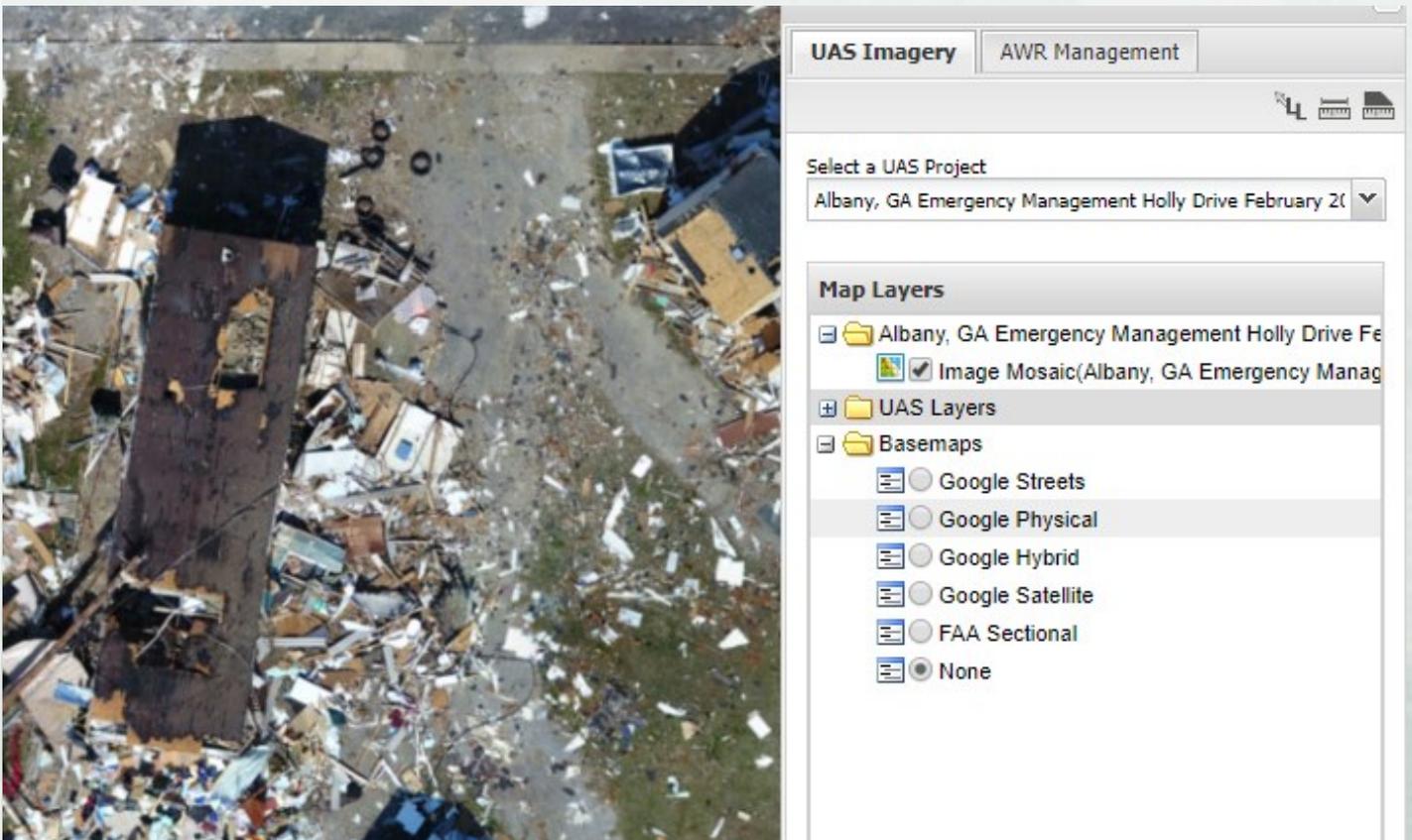
Victor Wilhelm recovers a UAS that unintentionally landed in the water.



Tom Spencer eats lunch while transferring data. He's not enthusiastic about sharing...



SAJ UAS Image Service Working Again



This example data set hosted on the image service features the remnants of a trailer park that was completely destroyed by tornados in Georgia in early 2017.

Working with our colleagues in Jacksonville District Geomatics section, we've finally been able to restore our SAJ UAS image service. The service has migrated to a new URL here:

<https://sajgis.saj.usace.army.mil/uas/>

Using MBTile datasets, the viewer is fast and responsive hosting 100+ mosaic datasets from our portfolio of projects. Please note that this service is only available on the USACE network and requires users to authenticate their identity using the email certificate from their Common Access Card. When using the service, select "none" as the basemap layer to enable full zoom levels to inspect mosaics to the greatest detail possible.

The plan is to eventually migrate the datasets into USACE's Corpsman 3 which is the enterprise platform for USACE's geospatial data products. The end state is to have an option for our customer's to host their data on a web based platform so that they can easily access and use their data without specialized software and training. Access and dissemination of finished data products is one of the crucial elements to the customer that cannot be overlooked if one's team is going to be successful in meeting customer expectations.

USACE Topographic COP UAS Session

At last year's USACE Geospatial Community of Practice (COP) meeting, Jacksonville District helped to facilitate a dedicated UAS track as an option to participants. The session was well attended with positive feedback from participants.

The USACE Geospatial COP will be holding separate meetings and a UAS session is scheduled for the Topo COP meeting. The Topo COP meeting will be held November 28-30 in New Orleans. Mark Huber (Mark.W.Huber@usace.army.mil) of the Surveying and Mapping Technical Center of Expertise is organizing the meeting. Mark also publishes an excellent newsletter that is the source of inspiration for our own Jacksonville's UAS News.



Dillo hopes to see you at the Topo COP meeting to learn about UAS.

This year's UAS track will be lead by Dr. Robert Fischer of ERDC's Geospatial Research Lab. Dr. Fischer is a trusted colleague and one of the leading UAS practitioners helping others in USACE and the Army find ways to use UAS technology more effectively.

DJI Army Ban. What's Next?



DJI UAS capability and price point has found many users reliant on this vendor for their UAS operations.

Opportunity to become more resilient in the solutions we are bringing to customer's problems.

If you're an Army user of UAS, hopefully you have already come across the stop use memorandum regarding DJI products.

Bottom line, if you are an Army user of UAS and are not operating under an **official** exception, PLEASE STOP!

Lots of information on the public domain speculating about the reasons and security implications. What's next? User impacts from this news depends on the your organization and risk exposure.

One of the lessons that we're taking away in Jacksonville is resiliency and finding ways avoid overreliance on any one piece of equipment or vendor to continue meeting our customer's needs. We're using this opportunity to become more resilient in the solutions we are bringing to customer's problems.



USACE Aviation Program Manager



Did you know that there's a USACE Aviation Program Manager (APM)? The APM is housed under the G4/Directorate of Logistics (DOL) in Headquarters USACE with the responsibility for oversight and management of all USACE Aviation assets to including UAS. The APM provides overall Aviation Management for the command, advice and oversight on aviation operations, maintenance, and aircraft systems.

The APM has full technical authority in concert with the Headquarters (HQ) Chief of Health and Occupational Safety on all aviation matters.

The APM will also be the person identified in Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) ACT Section 1124 as the principal approving official for developing process and procedures by which USACE will utilize UAS. The G4/DOL has just hired a full time APM to

TENTATIVE Jacksonville UAS Meeting! We're tentatively planning our annual UAS meeting in Jacksonville TENTATIVELY 6-8 February 2018; HOWEVER, there is a distinct possibility our personnel will be deployed for emergency management operations in response to hurricane Irma, Maria, and Nate.



TEAM PROFILE: Edward Massimo
Mr. Massimo retired from USACE in 2005 after 35 years of combined federal service and is also retired from the Army Reserves as a Senior Aviator/ Instructor pilot. Ed is a graduate of University of Southern California certified in Aviation Safety PM. For the past 12 years, Ed has supported USACE in various capacities as a rehired annuitant, in recent years as the APM.

What is UAS?

Community focus is on air vehicles, sensors, control software, etc. when thinking about Unmanned Aircraft SYSTEMs. A critical component of the SYSTEM is the human element. People, processes, and experience impact results.

Contact us today to see if we can find solutions to your challenges.

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Jacksonville District