Christopher Swider

Unmanned Aircraft Systems, FAA
Manager, UAS Integration Office, Research Division

Christopher Swider is the Manager of the UAS Research Division within the FAA UAS Integration Office. He is responsible for managing UAS research sponsored by the FAA's Aviation Safety line of business and for integrating UAS research from the FAA Air Traffic Organization and all government and industry partners to support UAS integration requirements in the U.S. National Airspace System. Chris has over 10 years of experience developing FAA operational and airworthiness approval standards, policies and procedures for emerging flight technologies, including flight systems for all-weather operations, RNP/RNAV, enhanced flight vision, and ADS-B and TCAS II surveillance. Chris also works on the development of international standards, policies and practices for UAS as both Vice-chairman of the Joint Authorities for Regulating Unmanned Systems and as an advisor to the U.S. Member of the ICAO RPAS Panel for detect and avoid. Chris supports the development of FAA concepts and plans for UAS in working groups that revise the FAA's UAS Civil Integration Roadmap and develop existing and emerging concepts of operation. Chris retired from U.S. Air Force active duty in 2003 with over 5000 flight hours in a variety of aircraft, piloting strategic nuclear deterrence missions, tests of space, missile and avionics systems, and operational airlift missions. Other Air Force experience included operational testing and evaluation of new aircraft, space and missile systems and the development of Air Force flight rules and instrument procedures for worldwide operations. Mr. Swider holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy, a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the University of Dayton, and a Master of Science in Operations Research from the Air Force Institute of Technology.