



**PIPER MEMORIAL AIRPORT
353 PROCTOR STREET
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For Immediate Release:

Lock Haven Flight Instructor Becomes Nation's First Licensed Commercial Drone Operator

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Lock Haven, PA, 15 September 2016 – Commercial operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (commonly called Drones) has emerged just recently as a major growth segment of the aviation industry. In late June of this year, the Federal Aviation Administration published rules for licensing of commercial drone pilots, a process which began on 29 August. Flight instructor H. Paul Shuch has reason to believe that at zero dark eighteen (6:18 AM CDT) that morning, he became the first person in the country to receive an FAA Remote Pilot certificate with a Small Unmanned Aircraft System rating.

According to FAA Administrator Michael Huerta, the new FAA policies are expected to generate more than \$82 Billion in economic activity, and generate over 100,000 new jobs, over the next ten years. "Whereas the early 20th Century ushered in the Air Age," notes Prof. Shuch, founder and Chief Flight Instructor at AvSport of Lock Haven on the historic Piper Memorial Airport, "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."

Anthony Foxx, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, said "we are part of a new era in aviation, and the potential for unmanned aircraft will make it safer and easier to do certain jobs, gather information, and deploy disaster relief." The FAA states "the rule's provisions are designed to minimize risks to other aircraft and people and property on the ground."

In preparation for the anticipated technological and economic revolution which drones promise, Prof. Shuch has spent much of the past year developing curriculum for the country's premier commercial drone operator training program. AvSport's first such course, which graduated its first five Remote Pilots on 8 September, was announced the day the FAA first published its proposed commercial drone operator rules, and was fully enrolled within a matter of hours. The school is already accepting reservations for monthly courses, with the next three scheduled to begin on 18 October, 15 November, and 6 December 2016.

AvSport offers potential commercial drone pilots an invitation to get involved on the ground floor of what promises to be aviation's next Great Frontier.

For further information, browse to www.drone-training.org, or visit the school on social media at [facebook.com/DroneTrainingOrg](https://www.facebook.com/DroneTrainingOrg).

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS:

- <http://AvSport.org/photos/UAS/UASflying.jpg>
CAPTION: Prof. H. Paul Shuch, founder and Chief Flight Instructor of AvSport of Lock Haven, demonstrates commercial drone operation on the Piper Memorial Airport.
- <http://avsport.org/photos/UAS/classroom.jpg>
CAPTION: Prof. Shuch and his first five Remote Pilot graduates in the classroom
- <http://avsport.org/photos/UAS/107class1a.jpg>
CAPTION: Drone's-eye view of the first Remote Pilot class receiving flight training at AvSport