

LOST COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Summary: These procedures outline actions to be taken in the event the Pilot-in-Command (PIC) and Observer(s) lose radio communication.

Case 1. Loss of Communication Prior to or During Launch

Description:

A typical flight will have the PIC and an assistant/Observer at the launch and recovery site, with one or more Observers at the far end of the flight area. This will place the UAV into the line-of-sight of one as it leaves the other, maintaining visual contact with the UAV. Radio communication will be via FRS radios (walkie talkies).

Action:

In the event of a loss of communication prior to or during launch, the PIC and spotter will take these actions:

1. PIC assistant will attempt to communicate using the spare radio. If not successful, then:
2. PIC assistant will contact the spotter via cellular telephone. Note that the area of operations in Menlo, GA has adequate cell phone coverage. If this is not successful, then:
3. PIC will abort the launch until communications are restored, or if already launched, the PIC will land the aircraft in a safe and controlled manner.

Case 2. Loss of Communication During Flight

Description:

After launch, the PIC, assistant, and observer(s) will be in radio contact, describing turns, GCS vs. observed positions, and scheduled check-in.

Action:

In the event of a loss of communication during flight, the PIC and spotter may take these actions:

1. PIC assistant will attempt to communicate using the spare radio. If not successful, then:
2. PIC or assistant will contact the spotter via cellular telephone. If this is not successful, then:
3. PIC will terminate the flight and land.

Case 3. Loss of Communications During Recovery

Description:

A typical recovery will have the UAV descend to 100 ft AGL, whereupon the PIC will announce "Landing," enter landing pattern and land the UAV.

Action:

In the event of a loss of communications during recovery, the PIC and spotter will take these actions:

1. PIC will continue landing procedures as planned.
2. PIC and spotter(s) will investigate the communications problem and suspend further flights until communications have been restored. Additional radios will be on hand as backup.

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