

Lost Communications Procedures NMNG Mar08

Communications Executive Summary: As referenced above, Mission Commanders shall ensure reliable cellular phone, satellite phone, and VHF/UHF communications are established between the UAS pilot/operator, the ground observers and NMNG Army National Guard Aviation Flight Operations prior to launch. The UAS pilot/operator shall remain in contact with the ground observers and NMNG Army National Guard Aviation Flight Operations for the duration of the mission. For operational purposes, all Fort Bliss UAS Regulations and policies will be adhered to for any UAS being conducted at that facility. UAS operational missions within the UAS COA Airspace are not authorized when phone or radio contact cannot be made with the NMNG Army National Guard Aviation Flight Operations.

The following procedures were extracted from the NMNG UAS SOP:

1-6. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. All organizations operating UAS at the State of New Mexico's National Guard UAS COA Airspace will comply with all aspects of this SOP and all other pertinent FAA and DoD regulations.

(4) Integrate an airspace safety plan into the operational plan.

(5) Coordinate with Albuquerque Center for CD Operations being conducted within the State of New Mexico UAS COA Airspace Zones Alpha and Bravo; Tombstone Military Operations Area (MOA).

(6) Coordinate with the controlling ATC agency for continued operations in the State of New Mexico's National Guard UAS COA Airspace.

(7) Ensure all UAS information is forwarded to Albuquerque Center/ International Airport Authority Base Operations for inclusion in NOTAMs.

(3) Define the responsibilities of the Mission Commander (MC) and delegate decision-making authority to act decisively in case of an emergency or deviation of the UAS from the programmed flight path.

2-3 GENERAL PROCEDURES.

c. Communications must exist between the controlling ATC agency for the COA airspace and units operating the UAS for the entire duration of the UAS flight. If communications are lost the UAS will be immediately recovered via the approved recovery route and altitude.

2-4 RAVEN COMMUNICATIIONS PROCEDURES.

a. Units will make initial contact with New Mexico Army National Guard Army Aviation Flight Operations via cellular phone, satellite phone or via VHF/UHF communications NLT 30 minutes prior to Raven launch and provide the flight log information specified in 2-3, f. above.

b. New Mexico Army National Guard Army Aviation Flight Operations will grant the unit clearance to take-off at a designated time and operate at in the approved airspace. If required, New Mexico Army National Guard Army Aviation Flight Operations will then

contact Albuquerque Center for broadcast of a activation warning NLT 5 minutes prior to the scheduled launch time to inform any aircraft operating within the area

c. The following reports by the NMNG CD Ops Raven Teams to New Mexico Army National Guard Army Aviation Flight Operations are mandatory:

- (1) Take-off and actual departure time.
- (2) Arrival at mission altitude or mission area.
- (3) Wheels down and time.

d. When launch and recovery is the primary objective the launch and recovery area will remain active for the duration of the UAS mission.

e. The Raven UAS will climb to mission altitude as quickly as possible and report when established and verify their operational altitude. Normally, Raven lateral maneuver will be unrestricted within the confines of the State of New Mexico UAS COA Airspace.

f. Raven UAS will be conducted within the boundaries of the launch and recovery area.

g. The standard lost link point is the takeoff point landing strip in the operations area. Upon notification of lost link, New Mexico Army National Guard Army Aviation Flight Operations will attempt radio contact with units and/or aircraft training to relay information. The UAS platoon will dispatch a vehicle immediately to the lost link point in the event of a lost link.