

The Lost Link Point is located over an unpopulated area in R-6601 at N 34 37 35 W 86 41 52. The minimum altitude preprogrammed to the UAS for lost link is 4500ft MSL. In the event of a Lost Link, the UAS will fly direct to the Lost Link Point while climbing or descending to the preprogrammed altitude. The UAS will fly to the Lost Link Point regardless as to where the UAS happens to be at the time (i.e., within Class E or in R-6601). The UAS will perform a 1.2-kilometer radius orbit around the Lost Link Point until Link is regained. If Link is not regained the UAS will deploy the parachute after the engine quits from fuel starvation.

Emergency procedure

Bold Face Procedures are listed in the UAS operator checklist.

‘Specific emergency procedures are situation dependent. The RQ-7B has lost link recovery procedures, lost communication recovery procedures and parachute recovery that will be tracked. In general, the aircraft will be flown over unpopulated or low density populated areas and utilize the restricted area for the majority of flight. The aircraft will be visually and radar (when available) tracked and all parties have direct communications with the GCS. The GCS has the ability to take direct (manual) control of the aircraft or terminate the engine power, which will result in an immediate parachute deployment. Written emergency procedure checklists for the UAS operators have been established for lost link and mission abort, engine failure, electrical failure and rolling landings.’