

Rover UAV LOST GROUND COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Summary: These procedures outline actions to be taken in the event the Pilot-in-Command (PIC) and Observer(s) lose radio communication. During typical operations, however, the aircraft never leaves visual range of the PIC and Observer and does not require remote Observers.

Case 1. Loss of Communication Prior to or During Launch

Description:

PIC and a co-located assistant/Observer will be present at the launch and recovery site. One or more Observers may be at the far end of the flight area to ensure that visual contact is maintained with the aircraft. Radio communications will be used via FRS radios (walkie talkies).

Action:

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

1. PIC's assistant will attempt to communicate using the spare radio. If not successful, then:
2. PIC's assistant will contact the spotter via cellular telephone. Note that the area of operations in Menlo, GA has full cell phone coverage. If this is not successful, then:
3. PIC will keep the UAV well within his/her visual range until communications are restored, or if necessary, the PIC will land the aircraft.

Case 2. Loss of Communication During Flight

Description:

After launch, the PIC, co-located 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's assistant will attempt to communicate using the spare radio. If not successful, then:
2. PIC's 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. Since the UAV will be well within visual range of the PIC during landing, lost radio comms will not be an issue.

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