

Lost link/mission procedures

Lost link procedures involve a preprogrammed lost link schedule for the air vehicle to navigate to and loiter around a predetermined lost link waypoint in restricted area R-5802. The Shadow's flight control system will be pre-programmed to autonomously fly to this designated orbit point at a specified altitude of 3000 to 10,000 feet MSL. The waypoint will be located approximately 4 nautical miles northwest of the GCS, a geographic location where the potential for reacquiring direct control of the UAV is enhanced. A direct flight route to the lost link waypoint will be utilized at a flight altitude acceptable to air traffic control. If the re-establishment of data link is not accomplished, the air vehicle will remain in loiter until a flight termination command is autonomously executed and the parachute deployed. If lost link procedures are executed, the Mission Commander or AVO will immediately broadcast recovery intentions to ATC.

Contingencies in the event of lost command/control link

The ground station maintains a constant uplink with the UAV. If the uplink signal is not received for a specified length of time, the aircraft performs its lost link protocol, including returning to land at a pre-designated position that will be designated to be within R-5802.