

MQ-8B Fire Scout Lost Communications Procedure

Upon loss of communication with ATC, the UAS pilot will switch radios to re-establish communications. The Ground Control Station has three radios available for external communication (the fourth radio is used as backup command and control with the UAS).

The UAS pilot will attempt to reestablish communications by attempting contact:

1. With the chase aircraft for relay to ATC; or
2. On the previously assigned frequency; or
3. Via telephone.

If communications are established with an FSS or ARINC, the UAS pilot will advise that radio communications on the previously assigned frequency has been lost giving the aircraft's position, altitude, last assigned frequency and then request further clearance from the controlling facility.

If the UAS pilot loses or cannot maintain reliable two way communication with ATC, the pilot will adjust the transponder to reply on Mode A/3, Code 7600.

If comms are not restored between AVO and Chase, the AVO will keep the UAS loitering in the vicinity of the ship while troubleshooting, but eventually command the UAS to divert to shore per predetermined route. While the UAS is enroute to Mayport NS, all efforts to restore comms and notify the chase aircraft, ATC, and/or Mayport base ops will be made.

CHASE/GROUND OBSERVER COMMUNICATION:

If the chase or ground observer loses or cannot maintain reliable two-way communication with the UAS pilot, the UAS pilot will first switch radios to re-establish communications, then if unsuccessful, use the pre-briefed backup frequency to re-establish communications. If still unsuccessful, the UAS pilot will notify ATC and proceed as instructed. The UAS will not transit out of the SUA until communication has been re-established with the Chase aircraft.