

Procedures

LOST LINK/MISSION PROCEDURES Capabilities and Procedures

Capabilities

There are two electronic control up-links between the Ground Control Station (GCS) and the Aerostar UA, UHF Omni and C-Band Directional. In order for there to be a total loss of control link between the GCS and the Aerostar UA both of these links must be out of service simultaneously.

The Aerostar's on board Flight Management Control System (FMCS) can be programmed, prior to takeoff or while in flight, to define:

- Lost link waypoint and the associated holding airspace at this waypoint.
- Route of flight from any location along the mission flight route to the lost link waypoint.
- Single or multiple altitudes the Aerostar will operate at between the location where the loss of control link occurred and the lost link waypoint and the altitude to maintain while holding at the lost link waypoint.

Each of these lost link features (waypoint, route, and altitude) can be revised by the Pilot in Command (PIC), once or multiple times, while the Aerostar UA is airborne, as long as either control link is operational.

Procedures

During the development of the mission plan the lost link waypoint, flight route to the lost link waypoint, and altitude(s) to be utilized shall be established. The following criteria shall be used when developing the lost link procedures.

- Lost link waypoint and associated holding airspace shall be of sufficient distance from any airport so the traffic pattern at the airport are not affected.
- The route of flight from the location where the loss of control link occurred to the lost link waypoint will not require the Aerostar to operate within 3 nautical miles of any city or town, nor traverse any SUA.
- The established altitude(s) shall ensure the Aerostar operates at least 1,500 AGL.

PIC Responsibilities

- Prior to takeoff the PIC shall confirm that the appropriate loss of link waypoint, route, and altitude(s) have been entered into the Aerostar's FMCS.
- Ensure the loss of link waypoint, route, and altitude(s) are modified, as appropriate, during the flight.
- Notify ATC as soon as possible of the loss of link situation and provide details on the loss of link waypoint location, route to the waypoint, and holding airspace at the loss of link waypoint.
- Periodically, as appropriate, update ATC on any changes in the loss of link situation.