

**Donald E
Grampp/AWA/FAA**

AIR-160, Unmanned
Aircraft Program
Office

11/13/2009 08:51
AM

ToJames Sizemore/AWA/FAA@FAA, Ardyth
Williams/AWA/FAA@FAA, John
Page/AWA/FAA@FAA, Richard
Prosek/AWA/FAA@FAA, Marcello
Mirabelli/AWA/FAA@FAA, Ben
Walsh/AWA/FAA@FAA

cc

SubjectAnother Lost-Link UAS Incident.

N Little Rock....suspended ops thru remainder of CY 09.

Don

Donald E. Grampp
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----- Forwarded by Donald E Grampp/AWA/FAA on 11/13/2009 08:47 AM -----

"Montgomery, Leonard L."
<Leonard.Montgomery@nlrpolicy.org>

11/12/2009 11:59 AM

ToDonald E
Grampp/AWA/FAA@FAA

cc

SubjectUAS

We had an incident yesterday.

We flew 8 flights, from 9 to 30 minutes each. During the last scheduled flight of the day we had some GCS link issues. The UA experienced lost link, and began to pitch nose up as it began transition to the preprogrammed lost link recovery point. The safety pilot established manual control of the UA and landed. The safety pilot had problems establishing positive control of the UA which resulted in a hard landing and caused some damage to the tail boom and landing skids. The engine worked correctly during the incident and power was never lost.

The UA should not have pitched nose up after loss link. Due to the behavior of the UA upon loss link, I have ordered the UA grounded until replacement of the AFCS hardware is complete. This is the same AFCS hardware that was involved in the earlier accident. It was tested by Rotomotion and cleared for flight. It has executed loss link recovery correctly in past tests of loss link behavior (prior to the earlier accident). With the AFCS being involved in one accident, a hard landing, and exhibiting incorrect lost link behavior after working flawlessly prior to the accident, I do not intend to allow the UA to fly again until the AFCS hardware is replaced.

I will get the flight data report for November completed prior to the end of the month and submitted to you. There will be no further flights under the COA in 2009.

Leonard L. Montgomery, Captain
Professional Development Division Commander
North Little Rock Police Department
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North Little Rock, AR 72114-2222
Office: (501)771-7136

Expect the best

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