Observer Qualifications/Responsibilities

For all flights, a dedicated observer is a part of the field crew. The observer must be able to obtain a Class II Medical Certificate and must be able to visually locate the plane at a range of 1 nautical mile against a clear sky in full sunlight. Additionally the observer should be trained on FAR Part 91 regulations. The observer is responsible for regularly scanning the UAV airspace for potential safety threats. On identification, the observer signals the field crew and then maintains visual contact with the incoming aircraft, audibly providing the estimated distance and bearing to the PIC. In addition to monitoring the airspace, the observer is also responsible for monitoring the takeoff and landing zones during operation to ensure the plane has a clear path to return to ground in an emergency. The observer must be in constant voice contact with the PIC.

For missions launched from a boat, the observer is co-located with the PIC on the same airboat. There is no possibility of communication loss between the pilot and observer. The launch occurs from the airboat and the landing is within 100 feet of the airboat. The UAV’s flight profile will not be any further than 1nm of the airboat, and the airboat will remain anchored from its launch or “home” position so that the observer will remain within 1nm line of sight at all times.