Dakota UAS Lost Link Procedures

Upon declaration of lost command link by the UAV ground station, the flight computer continues safe autopilot control of the UAV to a pre-defined Return To Base (RTB) waypoint. For the purposes of this COA, the RTB will be within sight of the R/C operator (in fact, all operations will be conducted within sight of the R/C operator) . The air vehicle will loiter at the RTB until commanded by the R/C operator to initiate recovery. In the case that the redundant R/C link cannot be established at the RTB waypoint, then a Flight Termination System (FTS) command will be sent to the air vehicle through a separate system and the air vehicle will deploy a parachute and descend to the ground. The team would then initiate an off-field recovery of the air vehicle. The FTS would be activated if at any time the air vehicle fails to respond to control inputs and leaves the flight box or establishes an un-commanded heading toward the airfield.