

Outstanding Recovery Team Tasks and IREC Compliance Checklist

June 2025

Introduction

This document outlines remaining technical tasks for the Recovery Team as per the *Recovery Team Orientation Guide – June 2025*. These tasks are essential to achieving full subsystem readiness, safety, and flight qualification under IREC standards. The tasks are grouped by category, and an appendix provides a summary of IREC rules for reference.

1 Outstanding Tasks from Recovery Guide

1.1 1. FSM Transition Validation

- Simulate and verify Finite State Machine (FSM) transitions: `PRE_FLIGHT_GROUND` to `POST_FLIGHT_GROUND`.
- Log each transition and verify correct logic for Drogue/Main deployment.
- **Reference:** Section 1.1, Figure 21 – Recovery Orientation Guide.

1.2 2. SPI Flash & SD Logging Verification

- Test telemetry data logging to SPI Flash and SD Card during simulated flights.
- Validate post-landing data integrity.
- **Reference:** Section 2.2.1 – Onboard Logging.

1.3 3. Base Station Telemetry Display

- Confirm the base station interface displays telemetry (FSM state, battery, GPS, altitude).
- Simulate full MQTT stream and verify dashboard rendering.
- **Reference:** Section 2.3.1 – N4-Basestation.

1.4 4. Alarm System Module Testing

- Verify alarm module activation (buzzer/lights) before ignition.
- Ensure hardware connections follow safety schematic.
- **Reference:** Section 2.2.2 – Alarm System Module.

1.5 5. Key-Switch Failsafe Testing

- Confirm both igniter and trigger modules reject commands unless key is turned ON.
- Perform safe ignition simulation to verify.
- **Reference:** Section 2.2.2 – Failsafe Mechanism.

1.6 6. Shear Pin Validation

- Test that ejection charge exceeds minimum shear pin loads:
 - Drogue = 380 N
 - Main = 285 N
- Adjust pin or charge mass as needed.
- **Reference:** Section 2.4 – Pyrotechnic Deployment.

1.7 7. Full Recovery System Simulation

- Conduct dry-run recovery test via drone drop or tethered test.
- Track deployment stages, telemetry logs, and beacon feedback.
- **Reference:** Sections 1.3, 2.4 – Full System Integration.

1.8 8. Pi Camera Streaming and SD Logging

- Test live video stream to base station and simultaneous SD card recording.
- Validate hardware/software reliability over test duration.
- **Reference:** Section 2.3.2 – Video Recording Subsystem.

2 Categorized Task Breakdown

2.1 1. Hardware Diagnostics & Fixes

- Check which flight computer boards have working flash memory and fix the ones that don't.
- Check the Cansat and design dummy payloads for mass balancing.
- Inspect and revise bulkhead and coupler designs.
- Redesign parachute cords using available nylon for better strength.
- Fix the beacon code initialization bug (improper use of `#define`).

2.2 2. Mechanical Design & Simulation

- Design a protective casing for the Pi video streamer.
- Redesign the camera casing with clear shield and reduced turbulence (simulate CFD).
- Design 3-piece recovery system (split rocket into stringed segments).
- Simulate and account for vibration, range, interference, and power supply effects.

2.3 3. Parachute System

- Procure new parachutes (ask for exact number needed).
- Work with a tailor to fabricate parachutes.
- Conduct deceleration tests (e.g., using car towing).
- Test parachute deployment using pyrotechnics or static launches.
- Research parachute folding and packing.
- Design parachute enclosures.
- Test crimson vs black powder for deployment.
- Fix or implement ejection code in flight computer firmware.
- Design safe connection for 3-piece recovery with strings.

2.4 4. Electronics & Software Integration

- Assemble avionics bays and validate prints.
- Add port holes for Pi camera ribbon.
- Validate parachute ejection logic in firmware.
- Implement communication switching (WiFi <-> beacon).
- Improve filtering of barometer and IMU data using a Kalman filter.
- Study FreeRTOS configuration for improved task scheduling.
- Explore use of ESP32 promiscuous mode for extended range.

2.5 5. Video Telemetry & Storage

- Validate camera dimensions and fit into CFD-optimized housing.
- Integrate video stream into N4-Basestation.
- Ensure robust onboard data logging (SPI Flash, SD, etc.).
- Improve resilience to vibration and power loss.

2.6 6. Documentation & Research

- Review IREC and Spaceport guidelines thoroughly.
- Study:
 - N3.5 Recovery Report
 - N4-FC Pi Stream Report
 - N4-Basestation code
- Research modern parachute folding strategies.
- Deepen knowledge of FreeRTOS and embedded communication.

3 Task Distribution by Team

Avionics Team

- Assemble avionics bays and validate against current design prints.
- Implement and simulate FSM transition logic (`PRE_FLIGHT_GROUND` to `POST_FLIGHT_GROUND`).
- Develop and test parachute ejection logic within the flight computer firmware.
- Fix beacon initialization logic and communication bugs.
- Program communication switching between WiFi and beacon protocols.
- Integrate Kalman filtering for barometer and IMU sensor data.
- Validate SPI Flash and SD Card logging of telemetry packets.
- Study and apply FreeRTOS configuration for task scheduling.
- Explore ESP32 promiscuous mode for extended telemetry range.
- Verify alarm system module functionality (buzzer, lights).
- Validate key-switch failsafe logic on igniter and trigger modules.

Telemetry Team

- Stream and log video data from Raspberry Pi to base station.
- Validate live video streaming and simultaneous SD card recording.
- Integrate video telemetry with the N4-Basestation dashboard.
- Test MQTT-based telemetry communication end-to-end.
- Display FSM state, battery level, GPS, and altitude on the dashboard.
- Confirm accurate logging of telemetry data during simulation flights.
- Monitor and assess system performance under signal interference and power variability.
- Simulate MQTT stream using mock data for visualization verification.
- Ensure backup of all telemetry and video feeds for recovery.

Parachute Team

- Procure new parachutes and confirm required dimensions and strength.
- Coordinate with tailor to fabricate parachutes to specification.
- Design and fabricate parachute enclosures for mechanical restraint.
- Design and validate shear pin setups (Drogue: 380 N, Main: 285 N).
- Test parachute deployment using pyrotechnic ejection tests.
- Conduct deceleration testing using car tow method.
- Test and compare crimson vs black powder for ejection performance.
- Research and implement proper parachute folding and packing methods.
- Design and assemble string-based 3-piece recovery layout.
- Validate system for preventing collision and maintaining CG during recovery.
- Support drone-based full recovery system simulations and log data.

Appendix A: IREC Key Technical Requirements (Summary)

Note: Refer to the IREC 2025 Rulebook for complete definitions and procedures.