U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations (AMO) uses Ground Control Stations (GCS) to operate its Predator B unmanned aircraft system (UAS). The GCS design incorporates advanced electronics and software with lessons learned from extensive operational experience. A standard GCS consists of modular software-configurable workstations installed in a ground and air-transportable shelter.

Each GCS contains the following:
- UAS operator workstations
- Center equipment rack
- Multi-function workstations

UAS operator workstations are used to control the aircraft and the mission payloads and to monitor map displays, imagery and system status. The pilot normally uses the left-hand workstation and the payload operator uses the right-hand workstation. The identically configured workstations provide duplication of critical components and functions in the GCS and create an additional level of safety and reliability. Missions may be preprogrammed by pilots in the GCS prior to takeoff. Pilots can change preprogrammed mission parameters during flight or handoff aircraft control to other strategically located GCS.

The center equipment rack houses a variety of supporting equipment including a weather monitoring unit, a VHF/UHF radio interface, and an intercom control unit.

The GCS intercom/radio systems allow operators to communicate through an aircraft-based radio to send and receive voice information to and from command and control networks, air traffic control, ground units, other aircraft and control stations.

Multi-function workstations can be configured to provide numerous capabilities, including:
- Radar and electro-optical/infrared imagery
- Payload control
- System monitoring

GCS to aircraft connectivity is maintained by a line-of-sight data link within 100 nautical miles or satellite data link beyond 100 nautical miles.

For more information, visit https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/air-sea or contact the Office of Public Affairs at (202) 344-1780.