Higher Airspace Operations Questionnaire

**Air Traffic Services (AJT) requests your participation in this questionnaire to better understand your experience in handling higher airspace operations (defined in this study as FL520 and above). The questions are organized into five sections focused on the type of higher airspace operations:**

**· Space launch/reentry (e.g., orbital and sub-orbital launch operation)**

**· Supersonic (e.g., Concorde, SR-71)**

* **High-altitude unmanned aircraft system (UAS) (e.g., Global Hawk, Predator)**
* **High-altitude unmanned free balloons (e.g., Loon, Radiosonde weather balloon)**

**· Other operations that transit to altitude FL520 and above (e.g., U-2, high-altitude long endurance [HALE] Airship).**

**The questionnaire ranges from 1 to 30 questions per high-altitude operation type. Each operation type has its own section and relevant questions, and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.**

**Questions with an asterisk (\*) require a response.**

**No identifying information will be captured and only summary information will be compiled.**

*If you experience technical difficulties with this questionnaire, please contact* [*ajthigher-airspace-survey-list@mitre.org*](mailto:ajthigher-airspace-survey-list@mitre.org)*. For other questions, please contact Michael Wood or Mack Horton, UAS and Commercial Space Operations Integration Team (AJT-3120) at* [*michael.j-ctr.wood@faa.gov*](mailto:michael.j-ctr.wood@faa.gov) *or* [*mack.p-ctr.horton@faa.gov*](mailto:mack.p-ctr.horton@faa.gov).

\* Required

# Participant Information

Please list all the facilities and positions where you handled higher airspace operations.

1. Please list the air traffic control facility(ies) where you handled higher airspace operations. \*

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2. Please select the position(s) you held when you handled higher airspace operations. \*

Other – participant can enter text

Traffic Management Coordinator

Military Operations Specialist

Certified Professional Controller (domestic operations)

Certified Professional Controller (oceanic operations)

Operations Supervisor (Front Line Manager)

Operations Manager

Airspace Office - Support Specialist

# Space Launch/Reentry Operations

**Space launch/reentry** operations involve vehicles that typically follow a high-speed ballistic trajectory that allows them to escape gravity and enter (or exit) Earth’s orbit. These vehicles are generally propelled by rockets and have minimal tactical maneuvering capabilities. Examples include orbital and sub-orbital spacecraft.

3. Have you been involved in planning or providing air traffic control services for **space launch/reentry** operations? Examples of operations include orbital and sub-orbital launch operations. \*

Yes Go to Question 4

No Go to Question 38

4. What type(s) of **space launch/reentry** operations have you been involved in?

Please check all that apply. \*

Other – participant can enter text

Launch



Reentry



Sub-orbital



Captive carry



5.How recent was your latest involvement? Please include the launch/reentry site associated with it. \*

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6.Approximately how many **space launch/reentry** operations have you been involved in? \*

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## Space Launch/Reentry Operations: Planning Phase

In this questionnaire, the **planning phase** is defined to be greater than 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled operation.

7.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **planning phase** of **space launch/reentry** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 8

No Go to Question 13

8.During the **planning phase**, how were you notified of an upcoming **space launch/reentry** operation? Please include how much advance notice you received. \*

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9.Was the timing of the notification sufficient? \*

Yes Go to Question 11

No Go to Question 10

10.What is your preferred notification timing (number of days)? \*

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11.During the **planning phase** of a **space launch/reentry** operation, what preparations were you involved in? Please include any pre-operation discussions, facility and stakeholder coordination, and/or material development/review. \*

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12.Please provide recommendation for improving the **planning phase** of **space launch/reentry** operations.

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## Space Launch/Reentry Operations: Real-Time Phase

In this questionnaire, the **real-time phase** is defined to be 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled operation through completion of the operation.

13.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **real-time phase** of **space launch/reentry** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 14

No Go to Question 30

14.What actions have you taken during the **real-time phase** of a **space launch/reentry** operation? \*

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15.What adjustments have you made to your day-to-day operations to support **space launch/reentry** operations?

\*

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16.What information have you been provided to support **space launch/reentry** operations? Please include who (facility position) provided the information. \*

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17.Was the information sufficient?

Yes Go to Question 19

No Go to Question 18

18.Please explain what made the information you received insufficient. \*

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19.Please list the positions within your facility, other facilities, and stakeholders you coordinated with during **space launch/reentry** operations. \*

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20.How did you maintain situational awareness of the **space launch/reentry** operation? \*

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21.Did you receive sufficient **real-time** information during **space launch/reentry** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 23

No Go to Question 22

22.Please describe additional information you would like or need to conduct these operations. \*

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23.What specific processes and/or tools did you use to handle **space launch/reentry** operations? \*

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24.What actions did you take when the airspace associated with the **space launch/reentry** was released back to air traffic control? \*

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25.How were you notified of an anomaly/mishap/unplanned situation associated with a **space launch/reentry** operation?

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26.How were you notified when a **space launch/reentry** operation was scrubbed/canceled or delayed? Please explain the notification process and timing.

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|  |

27.Have you experienced any inefficiencies in the communication/notification process associated with the **real-time phase** of **space launch/reentry** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 28

No Go to Question 29

28.Please explain any inefficiencies. \*

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|  |

29.Please provide recommendations for changes to processes, tools, and/or methods associated with the **real-time** handling of **space launch/reentry** operations.

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## Space Launch/Reentry Operations: Post-operation Phase

In this questionnaire, the **post-operation phase** occurs after the completion of the operation.

30.Please select with whom you have been involved in **post-operation** discussions/debriefs (check all that apply): \*

Other – participant can enter text

Your own facility



Other ATC facility(ies)



Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC)



None



31.If you have been involved in **post-operation** discussions/debriefs, please check all the situations that apply.

Nominal/as expected operation



Off-nominal/mishap/unplanned situation



Scrubbed/cancelled/delayed operation



32.Please explain any **post-operation** discussions that you previously were not involved in but would like to be in the future.

## Space Launch/Reentry Operations: Other

The questions in this section address other topics related to **space launch/reentry** operations. This is the last section on this type of operation.

All questions are optional, but feedback is appreciated.

33.Please provide details on additional training you would like to receive associated with **space launch/reentry** operations.

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34.To accommodate an increase in the demand of **space launch/reentry** operations, please provide recommended modifications to air traffic directives, tools, local procedures and/or processes.

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35.Please share best practices you/your facility follow when handling **space launch/reentry** operations.

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36.Please add other comments and/or suggestions related to **space launch/reentry** operations.

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37.Have you been involved in any other high-altitude operation type? \*

Yes Go to Question 38

No Go to end of questionnaire

# Supersonic Operations

**Supersonic** operations involve aircraft traveling at speeds from one to five times the speed of sound (i.e., from Mach 1 to Mach 5) in air. Examples include the Concorde and SR-71.

38.Have you been involved in planning or providing air traffic control services for **supersonic** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 39

No Go to Question 67

39.What phase(s) of **supersonic** operations have you been involved in? Please check all that apply \*

Departure



Arrival



Enroute



Other – participant can enter text

40.How recent was your latest involvement? \*

Within the last 10 years

Over 10+ years ago

|  |
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|  |

41.Approximately how many **supersonic** operations have you been involved in? \*

## Supersonic Operations: Planning Phase

In this questionnaire, the **planning phase** is defined to be greater than 16 hours prior to the start of the scheduled operation.

42.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **planning phase** of **supersonic** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 43

No Go to Question 46

43.During the **planning phase**, how were you notified of an upcoming **supersonic** operation? Please include how much advance notice you received. \*

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44.During the **planning phase** of a **supersonic** operation, what preparations were you involved in? Please include any pre-operation discussions, facility and stakeholder coordination, and/or material development/review. \*

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45.Please provide recommendation for improving the **planning phase** of **supersonic** operations. \*

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## Supersonic Operations: Real-Time Phase

In this questionnaire, the **real-time phase** is defined to be 16 hours prior to the start of the scheduled operation through completion of the operation.

46.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **real-time phase** of **supersonic** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 47

No Go to Question 59

47.What actions have you taken during the **real-time phase** of **supersonic** operations? \*

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48.What information was provided prior to a **supersonic** operation? Please include who (facility position) provided the information. \*

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49.What adjustments have you made to your day-to-day operations to support **supersonic** operations?

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50.Please list the positions within your facility, other facilities, and stakeholders you have coordinated with during **supersonic** operations. \*

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51.How did you maintain situational awareness of the **supersonic** operation? \*

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52.Did you receive sufficient **real-time** information during **supersonic** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 54

No Go to Question 53

53.Please explain what made the information you received insufficient. \*

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54.What specific processes and/or tools have you use to aid in the handling of **supersonic** operations? \*

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55.How were you notified that the **supersonic** operation was no longer in your area of responsibility? \*

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56.How were you notified when a **supersonic** operation was canceled or delayed? Please explain the process and timing for receiving the information.

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57.How were you notified of an anomaly/mishap/unplanned situation associated with a **supersonic** operation?

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58.Please provide recommendations for changes to processes, tools, and/or methods associated with the **real-time phase** of **supersonic** operations.

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## Supersonic Operations: Post-operation Phase

In this questionnaire, the **post-operation phase** occurs after the completion of the operation.

59.Please select with whom you have been involved in **post-operation** discussions/debriefs (check all that apply): \*

Other – participant can enter text

Your own facility



Other ATC facility(ies)



Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC)



None



60.If you have been involved in **post-operation** discussions/debriefs, please check all the situations that apply.

Nominal/as expected operation

Off-nominal/mishap/unplanned situation

Cancelled/delayed operation

61.Please explain any **post-operation** discussions that you previously were not involved in, but would like to be in the future.

## Supersonic Operations: Other

The questions in this section address other topics related to **supersonic** operations. This is the last section on this type of operation.

All questions in this section are optional, but feedback is appreciated.

62.Please provide details on additional training you would like to receive associated with **supersonic** operations.

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63.To accommodate an increase in the demand of **supersonic** operations, please provide recommended modifications to air traffic directives, tools, local procedures and/or processes.

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64.Please share best practices you/your facility follow when handling **supersonic** operations.

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65.Please add any other comments and/or suggestions related to **supersonic** operations.

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66.Have you been involved in any other high-altitude operation type? \*

Yes Go to Question 67

No Go to End of questionnaire

# High-Altitude Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operations

**High-altitude UAS** involve aircraft operated in higher airspace without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft. Examples include Global Hawks and Predators.

67.Have you been involved in planning or providing air traffic control services for **high-altitude unmanned aircraft system (UAS)** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 68

No Go to Question 100

68.What phase(s) of **high-altitude UAS** operations have you been involved in?

Please check all that apply \*

Other – participant can enter text

Departure



Arrival



Enroute



69.How recent was your latest involvement? \*

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70.Approximately how many **high-altitude UAS** operations have you been involved in? \*

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## High-Altitude Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operations: Planning Phase

In this questionnaire, the **planning phase** for **high-altitude UAS** operations is defined to be greater than 2 hours prior to the scheduled operation.

71.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **planning phase** of a **high-altitude UAS** operation? \*

Yes

No Go to Question 77

72.During the planning phase, how were you notified of an upcoming **high-altitude UAS** operation? Please include how much advance notice you received. \*

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73.Was the timing of the notification sufficient? \*

Yes Go to Question 75

No

74.What is your preferred notification timing (number of days)? \*

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75.During the **planning phase** of a **high-altitude UAS** operation, what preparations were you involved in? Please include any pre-operation discussions, facility and stakeholder coordination, and/or material development/review. \*

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76.Please provide recommendation for improving the **planning phase** of **high-altitude UAS** operations. \*

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## High-Altitude Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operations: Real-Time Phase

In this questionnaire, the **real-time** **phase** is defined to be 2 hours prior to the scheduled operation through completion.

77.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **real-time phase** of **high-altitude UAS** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 78

No Go to Question 92

78.What actions have you taken during the **real-time phase** of **high-altitude UAS** operations? \*

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79.What information was provided prior to a **high-altitude UAS** operation? Please include who (facility position) provided the information. \*

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80.Was the information sufficient? \*

Yes Go to Question 82

No Go to Question 81

81.Please explain what made the information you received insufficient. \*

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82.What adjustments have you made to your day-to-day operations to support **high-altitude UAS** operations?

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83.Please list the positions within your facility, other facilities, and stakeholders you have coordinated with during **high-altitude UAS** operations. \*

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84.How did you maintain situational awareness of **high-altitude UAS** operations? \*

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85.Did you receive sufficient **real-time** information during **high-altitude**

**UAS** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 87

No Go to Question 86

86.Please explain what made the information you received insufficient. \*

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87.What specific processes and/or tools did you use to aid in the handling of **high-altitude UAS** operation? \*

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88.How were you notified that the **high-altitude UAS** operation was no longer in your area of responsibility? \*

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89.If a **high-altitude UAS** operation was canceled or delayed, how was the information relayed to you? Please explain the process and timing for receiving the information.

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90.How were you notified of an anomaly/mishap/unplanned situation associated with a **high-altitude UAS** operation?

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91.If you have recommendations for changes to processes, tools, and/or methods associated with the real-time phase of **high-altitude UAS** operations, please explain.

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## High-Altitude Unmanned Aircraft System

**(UAS) Operations: Post-Operation Phase**

In this questionnaire, the **post-operation phase** occurs after the completion of the operation.

92.Please select with whom you have been involved in **Post-Operation**  discussions/debriefs (check all that apply): \*

Other – participant can enter text

Your own facility



Other ATC facility(ies)



Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC)



None



93.If you have been involved in **post-operation** discussions/debriefs, please check all the situations that apply.

Nominal/as expected operation

Off-nominal/mishap/unplanned situation

Cancelled/delayed operation

94.Please explain any **post-operation** discussions that you previously were not involved in, but would like to be in the future.

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## High-Altitude Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operations: Other

The questions in this section address other topics related to **high-altitude UAS** operations. This is the last section on this type of operation.

All questions in this section are optional, but feedback is appreciated.

95.Please provide details on additional training you would like to receive associated with **high-altitude UAS** operations.

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96.To accommodate an increase in the demand of **high-altitude UAS** operations, please provide recommended modifications to air traffic directives, tools, local procedures and/or processes.

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97.Please share best practices you/your facility follow when handling **high-altitude UAS** operations.

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98.Please add any other comments and/or suggestions related to **high-altitude UAS** operations.

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99.Have you been involved in any other high-altitude operation type? \*

Yes Go to Question 100

No Go to end of questionnaire

# High-Altitude Unmanned Free Balloon Operations

Unmanned free balloons involve lighter-than-air aircraft that are unmanned, not engine driven, and that sustain flight through the use of either gas buoyancy or an airborne heater, and are in free flight. Examples of high-altitude unmanned free balloon vehicles include Loon and Radiosonde weather balloons.

100.Have you been involved in planning or providing air traffic control services for **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 101

No Go to Question 132

101.What phase(s) of **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations have you been involved in? Please check all that apply \*

Other – participant can enter text

Departure



Arrival



Enroute



102.How recent was your latest involvement? \*

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103.Approximately how many **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations have you been involved in? \*

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## High-Altitude Unmanned Free Balloon Operations: Planning Phase

In this questionnaire, the **planning phase** is defined to be greater than 6 hours prior to the start of the scheduled operation.

104.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **planning phase** of **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 105

No Go to Question 110

105.During the planning phase, how were you notified of an upcoming **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operation? Please include how much advance notice you received. \*

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106.Was the timing of the notification sufficient? \*

Yes Go to Question108

No Go to Question107

107.What made it insufficient? Please include your preferred notification timing (number of days). \*

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108.During the **planning phase** of a **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operation, what preparations were you involved in? Please include any pre-operation discussions, facility and stakeholder coordination, and/or material development/review. \*

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109.Please provide recommendation for improving the **planning phase** of **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations.

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## High-Altitude Unmanned Free Balloon Operations: Realtime Phase

In this questionnaire, the **real-time** **phase** is defined to be 6 hours prior to the start of the scheduled operation through the completion of the operation.

110.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **real-time phase** of **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 111

No Go to Question 125

111.What actions have you taken during the real-time phase of **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations? \*

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112.What information was provided prior to a **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operation? Please include who (facility position) provided the information. \*

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113.Was the information sufficient? \*

Yes Go to Question 114

No Go to Question 115

114.Please explain what made the information you received insufficient. \*

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115.What adjustments have you made to your day-to-day operations to support **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations?

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116.Please list the positions within your facility, other facilities, and stakeholders you have coordinated with during **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations. \*

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117.How did you maintain situational awareness of **high-altitude free balloon** operations? \*

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118.Did you receive sufficient real-time information during **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations? \*

Yes Go to Question 120

No Go to Question 119

119.Please explain what made the information you received insufficient. \*

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120.What specific processes and/or tools did you use to aid in the handling of **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations? \*

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121.How were you notified that the **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operation was no longer in your area of responsibility? \*

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122.If a **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operation was canceled or delayed, how was the information relayed to you? Please explain the process and timing for receiving the information.

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123.How were you notified of an anomaly/mishap/unplanned situation associated with a **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operation?

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124.If you have recommendations for changes to processes, tools, and/or methods associated with the real-time phase of **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations, please explain.

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## High-Altitude Unmanned Free Balloon Operations: Post-Operation Phase

In this questionnaire, the **post-operation phase** occurs after the completion of the operation.

125.Please select with whom you have been involved in **post-operation** discussions/debriefs (check all that apply): \*

Your own facility



Other ATC facility(ies)



Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC)



None



Other – participant can enter text

126.If you have been involved in **post-operation** discussions/debriefs, please check all the situations that apply.

Nominal/as expected operation

Off-nominal/mishap/unplanned situation

Cancelled/delayed operation

127.Please explain any **post-operation** discussions that you previously were not involved in, but would like to be in the future.

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## High-Altitude Unmanned Free Balloon Operations: Other

The questions in this section address other topics related to **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations. This is the last section on this type of operation.

All questions in this section are optional, but feedback is appreciated.

128.Please provide details on additional training you would like to receive associated with **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations.

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129.To accommodate an increase in the demand of **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations, please provide recommended modifications to air traffic directives, tools, local procedures and/or processes.

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130.Please share best practices you/your facility follow when handling **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations.

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131.Please add any other comments and/or suggestions related to **high-altitude unmanned free balloon** operations.

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# Other High-Altitude Operations

This category includes aircraft that were not previously discussed and operate above FL520. Examples include U-2 and high-altitude long endurance (HALE) airships. An airship is defined as an engine-driven lighter than-air aircraft that can be steered.

132.Have you been involved in planning or providing air traffic control services for any **other high-altitude** operation type not previously addressed? \*

Yes Go to Question 133

No Go to end of questionnaire

133.What type of operation? \*

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|  |

134.What phase(s) of the operation were you involved in? Please check all that apply \*

Departure



Arrival



Enroute



Other – participant can enter text

135.How recent was your latest involvement? \*

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|  |

136.Approximately how many operations were you involved in? \*

## Other High-Altitude Operations: Planning Phase

In this questionnaire, the **planning phase** is defined to be greater than 24 hours prior to the scheduled operation.

137.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **planning phase** of the specified high-altitude operation? \*

Yes Go to Question 138

No Go to Question 143

138.During the planning phase, how were you notified of the upcoming operation? Please include how much advance notice of the operation you received. \*

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139.Was the timing of the notification sufficient? \*

Yes Go to Question 141

No Go to Question 140

140.What is your preferred notification timing (number of days)? \*

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141.During the **planning phase** of the operation, what preparations were you involved in? Please include any pre-operation discussions, facility and stakeholder coordination, and/or material development/review. \*

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142.Please provide recommendation for improving the **planning phase** of the specified operation type. \*

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## Other High-Altitude Operations: Real-Time Phase

In this questionnaire, the **real-time** **phase** is defined to be 24 hours prior to the scheduled operation through completion.

143.Have you been involved in any aspect of the **real-time phase** of the specified high-altitude operation? \*

Yes Go to Question 144

No Go to Question 156

144.What actions did you take during the **real-time phase** of the operation? \*

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145.What information were you provided prior to the operation? Please include who (facility position) provided the information. \*

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146.What adjustments have you made to your day-to-day operations to support the operation?

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147.Please list the positions within your facility, other facilities, and stakeholders you have coordinated with during the operation. \*

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148.How did you maintain situational awareness of the specified high-altitude operation? \*

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149.Did you receive sufficient real-time information during the operation? \*

Yes Go to Question 151

No Go to Question 150

150.Please explain what made the information you received insufficient. \*

|  |
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|  |

151.What specific processes and/or tools did you use to aid in the handling of the operation? \*

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152.How were you notified that the operation was no longer in your area of responsibility? \*

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153.If the operation was canceled or delayed, how was the information relayed to you? Please explain the process and timing for receiving the information.

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154.How were you notified of an anomaly/mishap/unplanned situation associated with the operation?

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155.If you have recommendations for changes to processes, tools, and/or methods associated with the **real-time phase** of the specified high-altitude operation, please explain.

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## Other High-Altitude Operations: Post-Operation Phase

In this questionnaire, the **post-operation phase** occurs after the completion of the operation.

156.Please select with whom you have been involved in **Post-Operation**  discussions/debriefs (check all that apply): \*

Your own facility



Other ATC facility(ies)



Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC)



None



Other – participant can enter text

157.If you have been involved in **post-operation** discussions/debriefs, please check all the situations that apply.

Nominal/as expected operation

Off-nominal/mishap/unplanned situation

Cancelled/delayed operation

158.Please explain any **post-operation** discussions that you previously were not involved in, but would like to be in the future.

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## Other High-Altitude Operations: Other

The questions in this section address other topics related to the specified high-altitude operation. This is the last section on this type of operation.

All questions in this section are optional, but feedback is appreciated.

159.Please provide details on additional training you would like to receive associated with the specified high-altitude operation.

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160.To accommodate an increase in the demand of the specified high-altitude operation, please provide recommended modifications to air traffic directives, tools, local procedures and/or processes.

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161.Please share best practices you/your facility follow when handling the specified high-altitude operation.

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162.Please add any other comments and/or suggestions related to the specified high-altitude operation.

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**End of questionnaire**

**Thank you for your participation!**