

Balloons & Buffoons

A balloon usually consists of a flexible outer shell filled with gas, which rises in altitude until its weight is equal to the weight of the atmosphere it displaces. The Chinese balloon that recently invaded U.S. air space was spherical, about 250 feet in diameter, and maintained an altitude of approximately 60,000 feet.

Knowing the density of the air at 60,000 feet and the dimensions of the balloon, it would be a simple exercise to determine the approximate weight of the electronic equipment on-board. That might have revealed its mission -- if it weren't *really* a weather balloon -- but this doesn't appear to have been done.



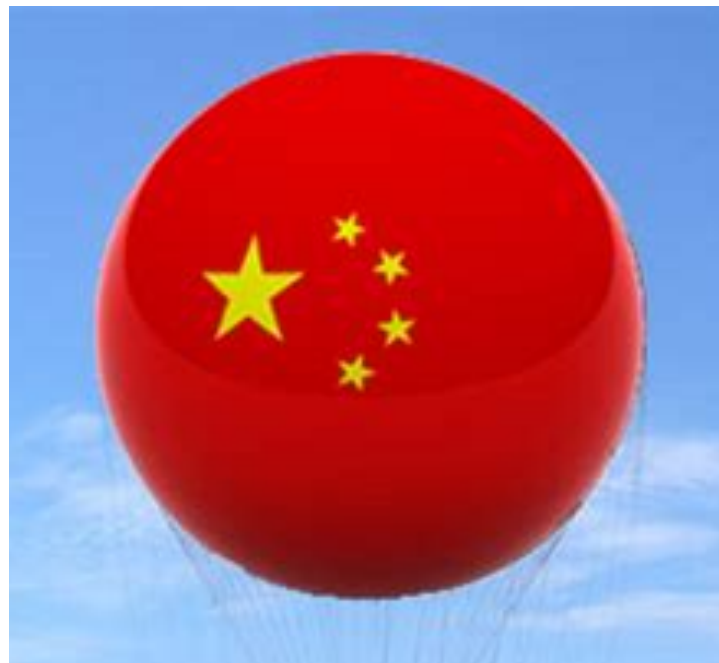
China's "*Weather*" Balloon

Once a weather balloon is aloft, it will typically move in the direction of the surrounding wind currents. That doesn't appear to be the case with the Chinese balloon, which seems to have moved independently of its surrounding air.

It began a **northeast** path across the Pacific from China to Alaska, and then changed direction to **east** after crossing over Alaska into Canada. It then turned **southeast** over Montana and eventually Kansas, when it again turned **east** on a path from Missouri to South Carolina before it was finally shot down over the Atlantic.

It did not appear to follow the upper-air streams or *Jet-Stream*. In fact, it seemed to be propelled against the prevailing wind direction for much of its voyage. Not coincidentally, its direction appeared to coincide with America's ICBM installations and Strategic Air Force bases.

The public was deceived when told that President Biden had originally ordered the balloon shot down, but was dissuaded by his military advisors because of the danger to civilians from falling debris. So, our Commander-in-Chief -- who never wore the uniform -- waited until the Chinese balloon's mission was completed before it was brought down.



More Accurate Depiction

The debris from the balloon fell over a seventy square mile area, and into 45 feet of water. Recovering its electronic components will be difficult, but of course, that may have been the Biden Administration's rationale for waiting until its mission was completed before bringing it down.

Shooting down the Chinese balloon over the sparsely inhabited ranchland of Montana -- or farmland of Kansas or Missouri -- posed little risk to their inhabitants. Moreover, it could have been brought to Earth slowly and in one piece by shooting it with non-explosive projectiles, thus allowing it to deflate and slowly descend. Instead, it was obliterated with a \$400,000 *air-to-air* missile.

Our Commander-in-Chief seems to have a curious aversion to antagonizing Red China, America's most dangerous and aggressive economic and strategic rival. Go figure!

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