9/30/2026 **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** 2026-340/9-9

2401163

To: FAA (ATM ZLC ARTCC)

Info: FAA (AFS-200, AFS-260, AVP-1, AVP-200, AFS-900, Director of Air Traffic Operations - CSA), A4A, ATSG, ALPA, IFALPA, APA, ASAP, ATSAP, IATA, CAPA, ICASS, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA, TWU

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: High Altitude Balloon Hazard

We recently received ASRS reports describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov.

Aviation Safety Reporting System
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189

ACN 2401163

DATE / TIME	
Date of Occurrence	202608
Local Time Of Day	1201 to 1800
PLACE	
Locale	ZLC.ARTCC
State	UT
Altitude - MSL	33000
ENVIRONMENT	
Flight Conditions	VMC
AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X	
ATC / Advisory - Center	ZLC
Make Model Name	Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part	121
PERSON 1	
Function - Flight Crew	First Officer
Function - Flight Crew	Pilot Not Flying
ASRS Report Number	2401163
EVENTS	
Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - FAR
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy
Detector - Person	Air Traffic Control
Result - Flight Crew	Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification
Result - Air Traffic Control	Issued Advisory / Alert
Result - Air Traffic Control	Issued New Clearance
Result - Air Traffic Control	Provided Assistance

NARRATIVE 1

Salt Lake Center notified us of balloons from our 11 o'clock to 2 o'clock that had 33 lb. payloads with no transponders. Center had very little data about the balloons except the general area where they were scheduled to be released. Eventually they said the planned profile was for the balloons to climb to FL330, loiter for data collection, then descend. With so little to go on and with the catastrophic severity of hitting a 33 lb. object at 500 KTAS we asked for (and were given) a climb to FL340 (wrong way) as we were still too heavy for FL350.

SYNOPSIS

Air carrier First Officer reported there were balloons in the area that had no transponders and as ATC had little data to provide about the balloons, the flight crew requested a climb to avoid them.