



Daniel Brewer - NOAA Federal <daniel.brewer@noaa.gov>

question on NOAA balloon tracking

5 messages

(b) (6) USAF HAF NASIC/GSIR <(b) (6)> Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 1:51 PM
To: "daniel.brewer@noaa.gov" <daniel.brewer@noaa.gov>, "thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov" <thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov>

Dan/Tom,

I received your names from Carol McIlwain and believe you had worked with the old UAPTF. We here at NASIC have continued to try to correlate known balloon tracks with those showing up in data collections and overall attempting to database the tracks to form reference in order to discriminate them from unknown objects.

One tool we have used is the NOAA website which reports the information on the weather radiosondes. The website is rather limited, and only reports altitude and some atmospheric conditions. I assume the instruments collect location and time at more frequent intervals. Is there a way this data can be made available?

(not sure if you are the right people to ask, if not please pass me off to another)

V/R,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Principal Intelligence Analyst, Passive GEOINT
NASIC/GSIR

Open: (b) (6)

Secure: (b) (6)

Daniel Brewer - NOAA Federal <daniel.brewer@noaa.gov> Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 2:11 PM
To: (b) (6) USAF HAF NASIC/GSIR (b) (6)
Cc: "thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov" <thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov>, Jay Lawrimore - NOAA Federal <jay.lawrimore@noaa.gov>

Hi (b) (6),

The balloons are tracked live by the local office that releases them and they see the lat/lon/alt points per 1-2 seconds. In a live setting, there is no *centralized* database of balloon location. After the balloon bursts, each office (~91 offices) sends the data to NOAA's NCEI which is a central repository of the data, but I'm not sure what the delay is from balloon burst to data availability at NCEI. I'm including Jay Lawrimore (NOAA NCEI) who was involved in the discussions with Carol Mcilwain to get access to the data.

Jay, could you fill in some of the gaps I'm forgetting and neglecting regarding data availability?

Did Carol share the presentations with you? Her team visited our facility in Sterling, Virginia and we demonstrated how the balloon is tracked live at the local office. We could do the same for you if that would help.

Dan

[Quoted text hidden]

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Daniel Brewer
NWS Sterling Field Support Center
703-661-1208

(b) (6) USAF HAF NASIC/GSIR (b) (6) Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 3:29 PM
To: Daniel Brewer - NOAA Federal <daniel.brewer@noaa.gov>
Cc: "thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov" <thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov>, Jay Lawrimore - NOAA Federal <jay.lawrimore@noaa.gov>

Dan,

Thanks, I will forward that link to the data scientists here and see if that is the same type of data they are attempting to use. I may have Carol's briefings, let me go back and look before asking you to resend.

We are trying to plan a trip to the more local weather office down in Wilmington, OH to see how they do live tracking.

V/R,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
Principal Intelligence Analyst, Passive GEOINT
NASIC/GSIR
Open: (b) (6)
Secure: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel Brewer - NOAA Federal <daniel.brewer@noaa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 2:12 PM
To: (b) (6) USAF HAF NASIC/GSIR <(b) (6)>
Cc: thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov; Jay Lawrimore - NOAA Federal <jay.lawrimore@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: question on NOAA balloon tracking

H (b) (6),
The balloons are tracked live by the local office that releases them and they see the lat/lon/alt points per 1-2 seconds. In a live setting, there is no centralized database of balloon location. After the balloon bursts, each office (~91 offices) sends the data to NOAA's NCEI <<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/>> which is a central repository of the data, but I'm not sure what the delay is from balloon burst to data availability at NCEI. I'm including Jay Lawrimore (NOAA NCEI) who was involved in the discussions with Carol McIlwain to get access to the data.

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Dan

On Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 1:52 PM (b) (6) USAF HAF NASIC/GSIR <(b) (6)>
<mailto:(b) (6)> wrote:

Dan/Tom,

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Principal Intelligence Analyst, Passive GEOINT
NASIC/GSIR

Open: (b) (6)

Secure: (b) (6)

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Daniel Brewer

NWS Sterling Field Support Center <<https://www.weather.gov/soic/>>
703-661-1208

Jay Lawrimore - NOAA Federal <jay.lawrimore@noaa.gov>

Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 4:28 PM

To: (b) (6) USAF HAF NASIC/GSIR" <(b) (6)>

Cc: Daniel Brewer - NOAA Federal <daniel.brewer@noaa.gov>, "thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov" <thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov>

(b) (6)

Here is the link to the upper air sounding data. You will want to use the C BUFR data. If you need the C files before April 2021 I can help you obtain them.

<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data/us-radiosonde-bufr/archive/> .

If you have questions about these please let me know and I will get you in touch with the data experts.

Best regards,

Jay

[Quoted text hidden]

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Jay Lawrimore

Meteorologist, Dataset Section

Climatic Science and Service Division

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

151 Patton Ave

Asheville, NC 28801

828-271-4750

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Follow NCEI on Facebook and Twitter (@NOAANCEI)

Daniel Brewer - NOAA Federal <daniel.brewer@noaa.gov>

Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 1:35 PM

To: Neal Dipasquale - NOAA Federal <neal.dipasquale@noaa.gov>, Hiram Escabi - NOAA Federal <hiram.escabi@noaa.gov>

Hi Neal and Hiram,

This thread is just FYI related to the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force. It sounds like there was a handoff from the old UAPTF that we interacted with to a new UAPTF. No action is needed at this time.

11/8/23, 10 25 AM

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Mail question on NOAA balloon tracking

Dan

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703-661-1208