

New Cold War Propaganda: About China's Spy Balloon and the US Spy Planes That Have Violated the Airspace of Sovereign Nations

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Washington's political establishment says China was spying on US sovereign territory with what China has called their 'weather balloon'. [China's Foreign Affairs Ministry](#) Spokesperson issued a statement:

The airship is from China. It is a civilian airship used for research, mainly meteorological, purposes. Affected by the Westerlies and with limited self-steering capability, the airship deviated far from its planned course. The Chinese side regrets the unintended entry of the airship into US airspace due to force majeure. The Chinese side will continue communicating with the US side and properly handle this unexpected situation caused by force majeure

However, the Western mainstream-media has been non-stop with the hysteria on China's "spy balloon" invading US sovereign territory, but when it comes to the US government and its Military-Industrial Complex (MIC) who has consistently invaded the airspace of many sovereign countries, it is barely mentioned and forgotten. The bottom line is that the China balloon story is all about war propaganda. The US and its allies are setting the stage for another war, this time against China.

The Associated Press (AP)

['China balloon: Many questions about suspected spy in the sky'](#) reported on what the Pentagon has claimed regarding China's spy balloon, "The Pentagon says the balloon, which is carrying sensors and surveillance equipment, is maneuverable and has shown it can change course. It has loitered over sensitive areas of Montana where nuclear warheads are siloed, leading the military to take actions to prevent it from collecting intelligence." Brigadier General Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's press secretary said, "the balloon was not a military or physical threat" and that "once the balloon was detected, the U.S. government acted immediately to protect against the collection of sensitive

information.”

CNN also jumped in on the propaganda bandwagon and published [‘What is a suspected Chinese spy balloon doing above the US?’](#), and surprisingly asked a legit question, “Don’t spies use satellites now?”

But CNN switched back to its propaganda mode when they reported on what Peter Layton, a fellow at the *Griffith Asia Institute* in Australia and former Royal Australian Air Force officer had said, “Using balloons as spy platforms goes back to the early days of the Cold War. Since then, the US has used hundreds of them to monitor its adversaries.”

So, the US has used these types of balloons in the past, “But with the advent of modern satellite technology enabling the gathering of overflight intelligence data from space, the use of surveillance balloons had been going out of fashion. Or at least until now.”

They mention the advancement of “miniaturization of electronics” which complements the idea of “floating intelligence platforms.” Layton said that “Balloon payloads can now weigh less and so the balloons can be smaller, cheaper and easier to launch.” An article published by *The Washington Post* [‘How do stratospheric Balloons Work? Here’s a Visual Guide’](#) said that “Experts in national security and aerospace said the craft appears to share characteristics with high-altitudes balloons used by developed countries around the world for weather forecasting, telecommunications and scientific research.”

The Democrats and Republicans are united against a common adversary and that is China. They say how dare the Chinese Communist Party release a surveillance balloon on our sovereign territory and defy international law. Well, it is true that a foreign object that invades a sovereign country’s airspace does violate international law, but for decades, the US has invaded the sovereign airspace of many countries around the world including Nicaragua, Venezuela, Iran, and others.

So let’s go back to November 11th, 1984, the *United Press International* (UPI) headlined with [‘Nicaragua said U.S. spy planes Sunday broke the sound...’](#) reported that “Nicaragua said U.S. spy planes Sunday broke the sound barrier twice over the country, causing minor damages and fueling the leftist Sandinista government’s fears of an American invasion.”

The SR-71 or its more accurate name, “The SR-71 “Blackbird” is used for “strategic reconnaissance” or in other words, to spy on its adversaries. The SR-71 Blackbird is manufactured by Lockheed Martin, a heavyweight in the MIC was identified by the Sandinistas during the time of the [Iran-Contra affair](#) “Within two hours of each other, what the Nicaraguans identified as a U.S. SR-71 ‘Blackbird’ jets flew over Managua and other cities, breaking the sound barrier with a loud boom.”



Another incident happened on December 5th, 2011, this time in Iran. Lockheed Martin's RQ-170 *Sentinel* unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was noticed in the city of Kashmar, located in northeastern Iran and was seized by a cyberwarfare unit from Iranian forces. [The Cyberwarfare unit gained control](#) of the UAV spy drone and landed the plane although the western media reported that the spy plane was shot down. [The Obama regime](#) initially denied Iran's claims but later admitted that the aircraft that was supposedly shot down, was a US drone. Iran did file a complaint to the United Nations over the US violating its airspace shortly after. The RQ-170 *Sentinel* Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is described in [Airforce-technology.com](#) as

"a high altitude and long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) designed and manufactured by Skunk Works, a division of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the United States Air Force (USAF)"

and that *"The UAV can capture real-time imagery of the battlefield and transfer the data to the ground control station (GCS) through a line of sight (LOS) communication data link."*

It was also used against various countries, *"The low-observable design enables the aircraft to fly on the borders of Iran, China, India and Pakistan for capturing real-time information regarding missile tests, telemetry and multispectral intelligence."*

On July 21st, 2019, Venezuela's airspace was also violated by the US military as *Reuter's* headlined with ['U.S. says Venezuelan plane aggressively shadowed a U.S. military aircraft'](#) not mentioning that it was a spy plane, *"The U.S. military on Sunday accused a Venezuelan fighter aircraft of "aggressively" shadowing a U.S. Navy EP-3 Aries II plane over international airspace, in yet another sign of the increasing hostility between the two nations."* Keep in mind that that Obama had imposed sanctions against Venezuela, *"The encounter between the U.S. and Venezuelan planes occurred on Friday, the same day that the Trump administration announced it was sanctioning four top officials in Venezuela's military counterintelligence agency."* The US military had issued a statement about the incident and said that *"it had determined the "Russian-made fighter aggressively shadowed the EP-3 at an unsafe distance in international airspace for a prolonged period of time, endangering the safety of the crew and jeopardizing the EP-3 mission."*

So, what was that mission? To spy on Venezuela's oil fields? This was during the time when the Trump regime's hostilities towards the Maduro government was at an all-time high, *"U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has repeatedly used sanctions in an effort to oust Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whose 2018 re-election has been deemed illegitimate by the United States and most Western nations."* The EP-3 stems from the P-3 Orion. The P-3 Orion is an anti-submarine and surveillance aircraft also developed by

Lockheed Martin in the 1960's for the US Navy. The EP-3 known as ARIES (*Airborne Reconnaissance Integrated Electronic System*) has specific capabilities that can intercept various signals. It is an aircraft that is operated by naval personnel with specific skills that includes cryptographers, technicians and even linguists to translate intercepted messages in foreign languages.

Online news website 'The Drive' is one of the internet's main sources for news, features and guides about modern automotive culture and other technologies has a section called 'The War Zone' published an article titled '[The U.S. Army's Newest Spy Plane in Action in Africa and Latin America](#)' admits that "After almost getting canned in 2012, the enhanced Medium Altitude Reconnaissance and Surveillance System is now snooping abroad." "Rules for thee, and not for me" is the US model, so "snooping abroad" is I guess justified. According to The Drive:

The first version of the U.S. Army's newest spy plane is in action in Africa and Latin America. At the same time, the service is finishing tests of three additional sub-variants in Arizona. On March 12, 2017, Scout Warrior first reported these overseas deployments. The War Zone subsequently learned only some of the four signals intelligence-focused versions of the Enhanced Medium Altitude Reconnaissance and Surveillance System (EMARSS-S) were snooping abroad.

In an Email, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Sean Smith confirmed this particular model was supporting U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) operations. "There are no other EMARSS variants fielded or deployed at this time," he added. Despite its name, the EMARSS-S has a suite of signal-snooping gear to track and listen in on enemy communications, as well as the ability to record full-motion video during the day or at night. Each aircraft also has work stations connected to the controversial Distributed Common Ground System - Army (DCGS-A) intelligence data network, which is supposed to help collect, compile, and distribute information rapidly across units

Not only do they openly admit that the US has spy planes in Africa and Latin America, to them it makes perfect sense!

Sending the aircraft to work with AFRICOM and SOUTHCOM makes perfect sense for early deployments. The regions these commands work are relatively low threat environments for American aircraft, but offer no shortage of work tracking drug smugglers, terrorists, and insurgents in remote areas

Let me get this straight, they are using spy planes "to track drug smugglers, terrorists, and insurgents"? Call me cynical but "*tracking drug smugglers, terrorists and insurgents*" is only a half-truth. Maybe in a small number of cases they have tracked real drug smugglers and others, but the US government has been involved in [drug smuggling](#) operations in the past, just ask the CIA. As for tracking terrorists, the US government and the intelligence community [has supported terrorists](#) in the Middle East and Latin America for decades and as for tracking insurgencies of let's say, in Iraq, it is usually against US and NATO occupiers, so who are they fooling?

In Central and South America and Africa, Army spy planes such as the RC-12X Guardrail Common Sensor (GRCS) and EO-5C Airborne Reconnaissance Low - Multisensor (ARL-M) already fly routine missions, in cooperation with other aircraft and personnel from

the U.S. Air Force, American law enforcement agencies, local security forces, and private contractors. After 9/11, the Pentagon found renewed interest in monitoring terrorist groups and potential hotspots in Africa with a similar mix of assets

To the US establishment, any form of spying on its territory is considered a declaration of war, but any violation of airspace of their perceived enemies anywhere in the Global South is justified because the US government can do whatever they want and bypass international law. The Chinese spy balloon story is to create fear that an enemy is collecting data on its nuclear missile sites and on the American people. Now they are accusing China of spying on Latin America with another balloon which asks the obvious question, why? China has a good relationship with most of Latin America. The US establishment, the MIC and the mainstream media are all pushing for a new war with a nuclear power that has a formidable military that would fight any foreign invasion on its territory. China is not interested in becoming a global empire, it is the US who wants to remain a global empire. It's all war propaganda, nothing more, and nothing less.

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Timothy Alexander Guzman writes on his own blog site, Silent Crow News, where [this article](#) was originally published. He is a regular contributor to Global Research.

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