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DAYS SINCE OUR LAST ECOLOGICAL

DISASTER

## **US Adopts Anti-Balloon Tactics**

DJ Benjamin

After the fourth "national threat" balloon spotted and downed over the US, the Pentagon has announced a shift in military focus to anti-balloon tactics. Being accustomed to fighting insurgent groups with the weapons to fight a global superpower, the US is somehow under-prepared to fight balloons. Thus, top military experts have been examining balloon popping tactics and the properties of the balloons themselves.

"So far we've seen white balloons, and as far as we know they aren't camouflaged," One

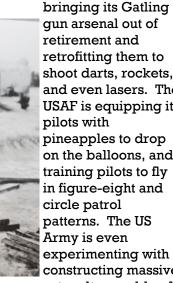
strategist reported in an interview. "But they do seem to be invulnerable to cold, and move very quickly when first popped." Most of the balloons have been found at altitudes of 60,000 feet, requiring special equipment to even reach. However, meteorologists have so far said that the paths of the balloons can be mostly predicted, as they follow known wind

currents. Strategic advisors suggest that the US could place defenses along these paths in the form of towers, to help equipment reach the balloons. The range of such defenses would need to cover the critical points of the balloon paths. Yet, just having range coverage doesn't mean they will be able to down the balloons.

"We haven't seen it so far, but intelligence suggests balloons could be equipped with stealth technology to make them undetectable by our equipment," the strategist commented. "There can also be self-repairing balloons, balloons that are puncture resistant, and balloons that are explosive-resistant. Hell, they could even send a

blimp next". The FBI reports that, with more local headquarters near the towers, they could help the towers pop these special balloons. Skeptics claim the FBI is only trying to expand their influence.

In the meantime, the Pentagon is putting out several new defense contracts. Elmers has put in a bid for one contract for a "deployable balloon impeding material", Home Depot and Lowes are competing on bids for a "balloon shredding device", and the Army Corp of Engineers has put up a contract for 20,000 nail guns. The USMC is



gun arsenal out of retirement and retrofitting them to shoot darts, rockets, and even lasers. The USAF is equipping its pilots with pineapples to drop on the balloons, and training pilots to fly in figure-eight and circle patrol patterns. The US Army is even experimenting with constructing massive catapults capable of

launching large spiked balls capable of popping multiple balloons at once.

To fund all these anti-balloon programs, members of the US Congress have floated the idea of investing in banana farms and banks. Despite the pushback from funding banana plantations, Representatives argue that investing now will provide more profit in the future, and they could hire banana farmers to actually do all the hard work of harvesting the bananas, and with the correct investments can even make the farms produce premium bananas that make 25% more profit. After all, they argue, the biggest balloons are likely yet to come.



## The Steaming Pile

Straight from you-know-where!



## Potential replacements for the national anthem

- Free Bird
- Boombastic
- CBAT
- Vending Machine of Love -- \*
  The Stupendum
- American Pie
- · Born in the USA
- Sweet Home Alabama
- American Idiot
- Country Roads
- Ram Ranch

- That one song from westerns that would play at high noon and be like "bwadada bwahhh... bwah bwah bwahhhh"
- Clint Eastwood
- Hey Ya
- Hash Pipe Weezer
- Say It Aint So Weezer
- That one song from How To Train Your Dragon. You know the one
- · Cupid Shuffle
- Literally any song by ABBA
- The Duck Song

- Fallen Kingdom— CaptainSparklez
- Subway Surfers music
- That one annoying piano song that the movie clip tiktokers constantly use
- E.T by Katy Perry





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