

From: Sarah Mearhoff <smearhoff@████████████████████>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2019 12:03 PM
To: MediaRelations <MediaRelations@████████████████████>
Subject: Re: Media: Pentagon surveillance balloons in Midwest

One more question to add, please, in addition to my email above: Are you able to say what will be done with the vehicle data collected in these Midwestern states? Will it be stored by government agencies or will it be deleted? Thank you.

On Fri, Aug 2, 2019 at 10:23 AM Sarah Mearhoff <smearhoff@████████████████████> wrote:

Hello,

I'm Sarah Mearhoff, Forum News Service's South Dakota Capitol correspondent based in Pierre, SD. I hope you're well!

I'm reaching out because I saw a story reported by The Guardian regarding the Pentagon's test of a surveillance balloon program being commissioned by the U.S. Southern Command, aimed at tracking and intercepting drug trafficking. Per The Guardian's report, the balloons will be launched from South Dakota, and will travel 250 miles through Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri and Illinois.

I'm reaching out to, first of all, confirm that this is indeed the case. Second, I'd just like to clarify this [document](#). Am I interpreting this correctly to mean that the launch point will be Baltic, SD? Will all 25 balloons be launched from this same location?

Additionally, if you could please direct me to all other documentation filed with the FCC regarding this test, I would very much appreciate your assistance.

I am writing to get a story up online ASAP, and I have a hard print deadline of 3 p.m. CT.

Thank you for your assistance,

--

Sarah Mearhoff
South Dakota Capitol Correspondent
Forum News Service
smearhoff@████████████████████
████████████████████
@sarah_mearhoff