

MSWG HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT OPERATIONS

1. **General:** This supplement prescribes the responsibilities of all Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Mississippi Wing (MSWG) personnel as applicable to the control and management of MSWG hot air balloon flying programs, procedures, and authorizations. At all times, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and requirements will provide for the minimum standards in operations of hot air balloons in MSWG, unless otherwise noted in this supplement. This supplement is published IAW CAPR 60-1 paragraph 1-2 (30 Jan 2009).
2. The MSWG Balloon program has two **main objectives**;
 - a. **Aerospace Education.** To increase aerospace knowledge of Cadets and Senior Members by classroom Instruction and actual hands on training in balloon operations and the duties of a hot air balloon crew.
 - b. **Recruitment.** To increase the exposure of the CAP and encourage retention and new membership by participation of Cadets and Senior Members in local Balloon events.
3. **Hot Air Balloon Qualifications:**
 - a. The MSWG/CC will designate one or more FAA qualified balloon instructor(s) to be MSWG's chief balloon instructor(s). These designated instructors will serve as check pilots for all MSWG balloon operations and as such will be considered qualified to operate balloon flights IAW to FAA Regulations and this supplement. MSWG chief balloon instructors will report to the MSWG/DOV.
 - b. MSWG balloon pilots must have an FAA balloon pilot certificate or be a balloon student pilot under the supervision of one of the MSWG chief balloon instructors.
 - c. MSWG balloon pilots wishing to complete an abbreviated or a standard form 5 or additional aircraft checkout in a CAP Balloon will need to have received instruction in the operation of that specific model balloon and an endorsement in their logbooks by a balloon instructor with at least 4 flights in that model. This endorsement will be valid for 12 months from date of signoff. In addition, they must complete the aircraft questionnaire and have passed the annual CAP form 5 online written exam for powered aircraft within 60 days prior to the flight.
 - d. Balloon checkouts will be conducted only by the MSWG chief balloon instructors. Pilots completing a FAA check ride for the issuance of a Balloon rating may have the FAA representative endorse the CAP form 5 and a MSWG balloon check pilot complete the CAP specific areas as well as model specific items. The check pilot will use his/her best judgment, based on applicants total balloon time and experience operating a balloon, as to what the balloon CAP Form 5 / abbreviated form 5 will entail. This will allow the check pilot to have maximum flexibility to facilitate a balloon checkout of CAP members to operate a CAP balloon.
4. **Request for Balloon use or support.** CAP Pilots with a current CAP Form 5 for Hot Air Balloon with Airborne Heater, may request the support or use of the CAP balloon provided they have received training in the operation of the S55 Raven system. The request will be sent to the MSWG Chief Balloon Pilot and he will forward it to the MSWG Commander with his endorsement for the Commanders decision. The request will be evaluated based on the balloon availability and other wing considerations.

5. Hot Air Balloon Operations:

- a. All balloon operations will be conducted IAW current FAA Regulations.
- b. Smoking is prohibited on and within 100 feet of hot air balloons at all times.
- c. Balloon crews will obtain prior permission from landowners before engaging in hot air balloon setup and departure activities. Hot air balloon aircrews will do everything possible to foster and maintain good relations with landowners, especially when landing and breakdown.
- d. Chase crews will always be used and a method of maintaining two-way communications between chase crews and balloon crews will be established prior to launch.
- e. Flight release will be obtained by a qualified MSWG FRO prior to launch.
- f. Normal hot air balloon activities will be scheduled in WIMRS under mission symbols C15, C16, C17, and C19, however, other mission symbols may be used with appropriate authorization.
- g. Wear of CAP uniforms while operating CAP balloons is not required unless otherwise directed by the wing commander.



Tillman C. Carroll, Col, CAP
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