



PRESS RELEASE
For 24 October 2024

Ten years on: Alan Eustace's record high altitude parachute jump

Lausanne, Switzerland, 1 October 2024 – Alan Eustace's parachute jump from the upper stratosphere on 24 October 2014 saw the 57-year-old American set three FAI parachuting records which still stand today, on the tenth anniversary.

Wearing a specially designed suit to protect him from the temperature and air pressure changes in the stratosphere, Eustace departed from Roswell, New Mexico, and rose slowly into the sky for two hours and seven minutes **suspended beneath a 120-metre-tall helium balloon**.

The balloon stabilised, then Eustace and his team at Mission Control concurred to begin the countdown that would release him from the balloon to freefall back to Earth.

The first of Eustace's FAI world records was made there and then: **First record: Exit Altitude: 41,422 m.**

Eustace accelerated rapidly, breaking the speed of sound after just 35 seconds. After 51 seconds he reached his peak speed, an eye-watering 1,320 km per hour. **Second record: Maximum Vertical Speed with drogue.**

After freefalling for 37,623 metres, Eustace activated his parachute system, then four minutes and 27 seconds after being released from the balloon, he landed safely, just over 100km from where he launched. **Third record: Distance of Fall with a Drogue.**

In an interview with FAI to mark the 10-year anniversary, Eustace looks back at his remarkable achievement, commenting: *"I'm the opposite of a daredevil! I don't see it as courageous at all. People ask me what I was most worried about during the record jump, and I tell them that I wasn't worried at all. I was completely relaxed. I was completely confident in the team, the equipment, the preparation, the decision making, the weather, and the recovery team. We had run over 200 tests, and countless dry runs. If anyone on the team had doubts, anyone could have stopped the jump, but nobody did. That's how confident we were. Assembling a team of that quality is very difficult, and I was very, very fortunate, and now I'm extremely grateful. They gave up three years of their life and countless sleepless nights to make sure I was safe. You can't put a price on that!"*

Eustace's jump surpassed the high-altitude parachute jump that Felix Baumgartner made in 2012 by 2,452 m. The Red Bull Stratos project involved a capsule and a much larger balloon.

Eustace also revealed that he is surprised that the record still stands ten years later, saying, *"The record is there to be broken. I think someone will beat it relatively soon."*

Editor's note

- Eustace's [FAI records](#)
- [Images](#) of the jump
- [FAI logo](#)
- [FAI media corner](#)

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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