WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system, comprising:

a fleet of three or more unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) (101A-E), wherein each UAV of the fleet of UAVs comprise a respective flight control computer (FCC) (110);

at least one computing device (108) at a ground control station (104), wherein each computing device is in communication with each FCC of the fleet of three or more UAVs, and wherein each computing device is associated with at least one operator (106A-C) of a set of operators (106A-C);

wherein upon the descent of a first UAV (101A) below a threshold altitude (118), a first computing device triggers a second computing device to operate the descent of the first UAV (101A);

wherein the fleet of UAVs above the threshold altitude (118) are in communication with the first computing device monitored by at least one operator such that a ratio of operators to UAVs above the threshold altitude exceeds a 1:1 ratio; and

wherein the first UAV below the threshold altitude is in communication with the second computing device monitored by at least one operator such that a ratio of operators to UAVs below the threshold altitude does not exceed the 1:1 ratio;

wherein the descent of the first UAV is determined based on wind conditions and operator availability.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computing device (108) transmits a descend signal to the first UAV (101A) of the fleet of three or more UAVs (101A-E) to cause the first UAV (101A) to descend.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computing device (108) transmits an ascend signal to a second UAV (101B) of the fleet of three or more UAVs (101A-E) to cause the second UAV (101A) to ascend.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein upon the launch of the second UAV (101B) from a landing area (102), the first computing device triggers a third computing device to operate the launch and ascent of the second UAV (101B).

5. The system of claim 4, wherein upon the ascent of the second UAV (101B) above the threshold altitude (118), the third computing device triggers the first computing device to operate the second UAV (101A) as part of the fleet of three or more UAVs.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the threshold altitude is 65,000 feet.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein each UAV in the fleet of three or more UAVs is a High Altitude Long Endurance Aircraft.

8. A method, comprising:
   sending, by a first computing device (108) of at least one computing device (108) at a ground control station (104), a descend command signal for a first unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) (101A) of a fleet of three or more UAVs (101A-E);
   triggering, by the first computing device, a second computing device to operate the descent of the first UAV (101A) upon the descent of the first UAV (101A) below a threshold altitude (118);
   wherein the fleet of UAVs above the threshold altitude (118) are in communication with the first computing device monitored by at least one operator such that a ratio of operators to UAVs above the threshold altitude exceeds a 1:1 ratio; and
   wherein the first UAV below the threshold altitude is in communication with the second computing device monitored by at least one operator such that a ratio of operators to UAVs below the threshold altitude does not exceed the 1:1 ratio;
   wherein the descent of the first UAV is determined based on wind conditions and operator availability.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein each UAV of the fleet of UAVs comprise a respective flight control computer (FCC) (110), wherein each computing device is in communication with each FCC of the fleet of three or more UAVs, and wherein each computing device is associated with at least one operator (106A-C) of a set of operators (106A-C).

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:
    receiving, by the respective FCC of the first UAV, the sent descend command signal; and

descending, by the first UAV controlled by the respective FCC, in response to the sent descend command signal.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
sending, by the first computing device, an ascend command signal for a second unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) (101B) located on a landing area (102).

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
triggering, by the first computing device, a third computing device to operate the launch and ascent of the second UAV (101B) up to the threshold altitude (118).

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
triggering, by the third computing device, the first computing device to operate the second UAV (101B) upon the ascent of the second UAV (101B) above the threshold altitude (118) as part of the fleet of three or more UAVs.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the threshold altitude is 65,000 feet.

15. The method of claim 8, wherein each UAV in the fleet of three or more UAVs is a High Altitude Long Endurance Aircraft.