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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1400 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1400

23 SEP 1997

Ref: 97-F-1677

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This letter responds to your September 2, 1997, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Enclosed are all the documents that this Directorate has on "UFOs" and they are provided as responsive to your request.

There may be additional records on "UFOs" at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Their address is:

Director  
Records Declassification Div (NND)  
Room 6350  
The National Archives at College Park  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Also, the Department of the Air Force's World Wide Web address has a fact sheet on "UFOs." That address is:

<http://www.dtic.mil/airforcelink/pa/factsheets/>

You can purchase two reports, "The Roswell Report: Fact vs Fiction in the New Mexico Desert" and "The Roswell Report: Case Closed," through the Government Printing Office. That address is:

U.S. Government Printing Office  
Superintendent of Documents  
Mail Stop: SSOP  
Washington, DC 20402-9328

There are no assessable fees for this response.

Sincerely,



A. H. Passarellla  
Director  
Freedom of Information  
and Security Review

Enclosures:  
As stated





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22217

IN REPLY REFER TO

Information Sheet

Philadelphia Experiment; UFO's

Over the years the Navy has received innumerable queries about the socalled "Philadelphia Experiment" or "Project" and the alleged role of the Office of Naval Research (ONR) in it. The majority of these inquiries are directed to the Office of Naval Research or to the Fourth Naval District in Philadelphia. The frequency of these queries predictably intensifies each time the experiment is mentioned by the popular press, often in a science fiction book.

The genesis of the Philadelphia Experiment myth dates back to 1955 with the publication of The Case for UFO's by the late Morris K. Jessup.

Some time after the publication of the book, Jessup received correspondence from a Carlos Miguel Allende, who gave his address as R.D. #1, Box 223, New Kensington, PA. In his correspondence Allende commented on Jessup's book and gave details of an alleged secret naval experiment conducted by the Navy in Philadelphia in 1943. During the experiment, according to Allende, a ship was rendered invisible and teleported to and from Norfolk in a few minutes, with some terrible aftereffects for crew members. Supposedly, this incredible feat was accomplished by applying Einstein's "unified field" theory. Allende claimed that he had witnessed the experiment from another ship and that the incident was reported in a Philadelphia newspaper. The identity of the newspaper has never been established. Similarly, the identity of Allende is unknown, and no information exists on his present address.

In 1956 a copy of Jessup's book was mailed anonymously to ONR. The pages of the book were interspersed with hand written comments which alleged a knowledge of UFO's, their means of motion, the culture and ethos of the beings occupying these UFO's, described in pseudo-scientific and incoherent terms.

Two officers, then assigned to ONR, took a personal interest in the book and showed it to Jessup. Jessup concluded that the writer of the comments on his book was the same person who had written him about the Philadelphia Experiment. These two officers personally had the book retyped and arranged for the reprint, in typewritten form, of 25 copies. The officers and their personal belongings have left ONR many years ago, and ONR does not have a file copy of the annotated book.

Review  
of the  
University of Colorado Report on Unidentified Flying Objects  
by a  
Panel of the National Academy of Sciences

The Panel was appointed in the latter part of October and early November 1968. The charge to the Panel was "to provide an independent assessment of the scope, methodology, and findings of the (University of Colorado) study as reflected in the (University's) Report." While the Panel largely restricted its review to this charge, it was thought both appropriate and necessary that the Panel become familiar with various scientific points of view as presented in other publications and reports by technically trained persons.

It was not the task of the Panel to conduct its own study of UFOs or to invite advocates, scientifically trained or not, of various points of view to hearings. The task was to study the University's Report and to assess: First, its scope; namely, did the Report, in the opinion of the Panel, cover those topics that a scientific study of UFO phenomena should have embraced? Second, its methodology; namely, did the Report, in the opinion of the Panel, reveal an acceptable scientific methodology and approach to the subject? Third, its findings; namely, were the conclusions and interpretations warranted by the evidence and analyses as presented in the Report and were they reasonable?

In the course of its review the Panel consulted papers on the same subject by technically trained persons (for example, William Markowitz, "The Physics and Metaphysics of Unidentified Flying Objects," *Science*, 157 (1967), pp. 1274-79. James E. McDonald, "Science, Technology, and UFOs," presented January 26, 1968, at a General Seminar of the United Aircraft Research Laboratories, East Hartford, Connecticut. James E. McDonald, "UFOs - An International Scientific Problem," presented March 12, 1968, at the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute Astronautics Symposium, Montreal, Canada. James E. McDonald, "Statement on International Scientific Aspects of the Problems of Unidentified Flying Objects," sent to the United Nations on June 7, 1967. Donald H. Menzel, Flying Saucers, Harvard University Press (Cambridge, 1952). Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd, The World of Flying Saucers, Doubleday (New York, 1963). Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects, January 14-18, 1953. Special Report of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board ad hoc Committee to Review Project "Blue Book," March, 1966. Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, U.S. House of Representatives, Ninetieth Congress, Second Session, July 29, 1968).

Personnel at the Fourth Naval District believe that the questions surrounding the so-called "Philadelphia Experiment" arise from quite routine research which occurred during World War II at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Until recently, it was believed that the foundation for the apocryphal stories arose from degaussing experiments which have the effect of making a ship undetectable or "invisible" to magnetic mines. Another likely genesis of the bizarre stories about levitation, teleportation and effects on human crew members might be attributed to experiments with the generating plant of a destroyer, the USS TIMMERMANN. In the 1950's this ship was part of an experiment to test the effects of a small, high frequency generator providing 1,000hz instead of the standard 400hz. The higher frequency generator produced corona discharges, and other well known phenomena associated with high frequency generators. None of the crew suffered effects from the experiment.

ONR has never conducted any investigations on invisibility, either in 1943 or at any other time (ONR was established in 1946.) In view of present scientific knowledge, ONR scientists do not believe that such an experiment could be possible except in the realm of science fiction.

Log  
J #174

### UFO FACT SHEET

The Air Force investigation of UFOs began in 1948 and was known as Project Sign. Later the name was changed to Project Grudge, and in 1953 it became Project Blue Book. Between 1948 and 1969, the Air Force investigated 12,618 reported sightings.

The following is a statistical listing of reported UFO sightings during the Air Force investigation:

#### UFO SIGHTINGS 1947 - 1969

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL SIGHTINGS</u>	<u>UNIDENTIFIED</u>
1947	122	12
1948	156	7
1949	186	22
1950	210	27
1951	169	22
1952	1,501	303
1953	509	42
1954	487	46
1955	545	24
1956	670	14
1957	1,006	14
1958	627	10
1959	390	12
1960	557	14
1961	591	13
1962	474	15
1963	399	14
1964	562	19
1965	887	16
1966	1,112	32
1967	937	19
1968	375	3
1969	146	1
 <b>TOTAL</b>		
<b>12,618</b>		<b>701</b>

Of these total sightings, 11,917 were found to have been caused by material objects (such as balloons, satellites and aircraft), immaterial objects (such as lightning, reflections and other natural phenomena), astronomical objects (such as stars, planets, the sun and the moon), weather conditions and hoaxes. As indicated, only 701 reported sightings remain unexplained.

On December 17, 1969, the secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book.

On December 17, 1969 the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book.

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects;" a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; past UFO studies; and Air Force experience investigating UFO reports for two decades.

As a result of these investigations and studies, and experience gained from investigating UFO reports since 1948, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: (1) no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

With the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force regulation establishing and controlling the program for investigating and analyzing UFOs was rescinded. All documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20408, and is available for public review and analysis.

In 1977, President Carter asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to look into the possibility of resuming UFO investigations. After studying all the facts available, they decided that nothing would be gained by further investigation. The Air Force agrees with that decision. If, however, firm evidence is found justifying further investigation, an appropriate agency will be directed to undertake the effort.

There are a number of universities and professional scientific organizations such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which have considered UFO phenomena during periodic meetings and seminars. In addition, a list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena may be found in Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations (Edition 8, Vol I, pp. 432-3). Such timely review of the situation by private groups insures that sound evidence will not be overlooked by the scientific community.

For further reference material, two documents are available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22151:

Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. Study conducted by the University of Colorado under contract F44620-76-C-0035. Three volumes, 1,465 p. 68 plates. Photoduplicated hard copies of the official report may be ordered for \$6 per volume, \$18 the set of three, as AD 680:975, AD 680:976, and AD 680:977.

Review of University of Colorado Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. Review of report by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences. National Academy of Sciences, 1969, 6p. Photoduplicated hard copies may be ordered for \$3 as AD 688:541.

REVIEW  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS  
BY A  
PANEL OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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The Panel began its review immediately after the Report became available on November 15, 1968, by an initial reading of the Report by each member of the Panel during a two-week period. The Panel convened on December 2 for a discussion of members' initial assessments, for consideration of the Panel's charge (scope, methodology, and findings in the Report), and for delineation of further steps in its review. The latter included the study of other documents presenting views and findings of technically trained persons (e.g., the documents cited above), further examination of the Report's summary and findings, and further directed study of specialized chapters of the Report by appropriate members of the Panel. Extensive discussion, both by correspondence and by telephone, occurred during this period. The Panel met again on January 6, 1969, to conclude its deliberations and to prepare its findings, which are presented below.

## I. SCOPE

The study by the University of Colorado commenced in October 1966 and continued for about two years. Case studies of 59 reports of UFOs are presented in detail, with 68 plates; of these, ten reports predated the project, but were so well documented that they were included. A chapter is devoted to UFOs in history, one to UFO study programs in foreign countries, and one to UFOs reported in the 20 years preceding the study. Ten chapters are devoted to perceptual problems, processes of perception and reporting, psychological aspects of UFO reports, optics, radar, sonic boom, atmospheric electricity and plasma interpretations, balloons, instrumentation for UFO searches, and statistical analyses. (Twenty-four appendixes add detailed technical background to the study. Volume 4 concludes with an index of 27 pages.)

In our opinion the scope of the study was adequate to its purpose: a scientific study of UFO phenomena.

## II. METHODOLOGY

As a rule, field trips were made to investigate UFO reports only if they were less than a year old. The Report states that nearly all UFO sighting are of short duration, seldom last an hour and usually for a few minutes. Thus most investigations consisted of interviews with persons who made reports. Three teams, usually consisting of two persons each (a physical scientist and a psychologist, were employed in field investigations where telephonic communication with UFO-sighting individuals gave hope of gaining added information. The aim was to get a team to the site as quickly as possible after a reported sighting. (It was found that nearly all cases could be classified in such categories as pranks, hoaxes, naive interpretations, and various types of misinterpretations. A few events, which did not fit these categories, are left unexplained.)

Materials and conditions amenable to laboratory approaches were investigated -- e.g., alleged UFO parts by chemical analysis, automobile ignition failure by simulation studies, and UFO photography by photogrammetric analyses. (Of 35 photographic cases investigated, nine are said to give evidence of probable fabrication, seven are classified as natural

or man-made phenomena, twelve provided insufficient data for analysis, and seven were considered to be possible fabrications; none proved to be "real objects with high strangeness.")

Technically trained personnel were utilized by the University. The University group included a sub-group on field investigations of UFO reports; their narration and interpretations of cases are reasonable and adequate. Leading groups were engaged under contract for specialized work -- e.g., Stanford Research Institute on radar anomalies and a subsidiary of the Raytheon Corporation for photogrammetric analyses. Divergent views of those few scientists who have looked into UFOs were taken into account. The history of the subject was also surveyed, including the experiences in some other nations. Finally, extensive use was made of many specialists in various public and private laboratories.

The Report makes clear that with the best means at our disposal, positive correlation of all UFO reports with identifiable, known phenomena is not possible. No study, past, current or future, can provide the basis for stating categorically that a familiar phenomenon will necessarily be linkable to every sighting. The Report is free of dogmatism on this matter. It is also clear, as one goes through the descriptions of UFO sightings, whether in the Report or in other literature, that while some incidents have no positive identification with familiar phenomena, they also have no positive identification with extraterrestrial visitors or artifacts.

We think the methodology and approach were well chosen, in accordance with accepted standards of scientific investigation.

### III. FINDINGS

The study concludes (a) that about 90 percent of all UFO reports prove to be quite plausibly related to ordinary phenomena, (b) that little if anything has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge, and (c) that further extensive study of UFO sightings is not justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby. At the same time it is emphasized in the Report that (c) is an opinion based on evidence now available.

The Report's findings and evaluations -- essentially eight in number, presented in its first section -- are concerned with official secrecy on UFOs, UFOs as a possible defense hazard, the future governmental handling of UFO-sighting reports, and five of them relate to the question of what if any further investigation of UFOs appear warranted in the light of the study. We paraphrase and summarize these findings and evaluations below, appending our comments.

1. On secrecy. Is the subject "shrouded in official secrecy"? The study found no basis for this contention.

We accept this finding of the study.

2. On defense. (a) Is there evidence that UFO sightings may represent a defense hazard? No such evidence came to light in the study. This, however, was not an objective of the study and was properly construed as a Department of Defense matter. (b) The Report states: "The history of the past 21 years has repeatedly led Air Force officers to the conclusion that none of the things seen, or thought to have been seen, which pass by the name of UFO reports, constituted any hazard or threat to national security."

We concur with the position described in (a). As to (b), we found no evidence in the Report or other literature to contradict the quoted statement.

3. On future UFO sightings. "The question remains as to what, if anything, the federal government should do about the UFO reports it receives from the general public?" The Report found no basis for activity related to such sighting reports "in the expectation that they are going to contribute to the advance of science," but the Department of Defense should handle these in its normal surveillance operations without need for such special units as Project Blue Book.

We concur in this recommendation.

4-8. On further investigation. (4) should the federal government "set up a major new agency, as some have suggested for the scientific study of UFOs"? The study found no basis for recommendation of this kind. (5) Would further extensive study of UFO sightings contribute to science? "Our general conclusion is that nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge. The Report then notes that specific research topics may warrant consideration: (6) "There are important areas of atmospheric optics, including radio wave propagation, and of atmospheric electricity in which present knowledge is quite incomplete. These topics come to our attention in connection with the interpretation of some UFO reports, but they are also of fundamental scientific interest, and they are relevant to practical problems related to the improvement of safety of military and civilian flying. Research efforts are being carried out in these areas by the Department of Defense, the Environmental Science Services Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and by universities and nonprofit research organizations such as the National Center for Atmospheric Research, whose work is sponsored by the National Science Foundation."

The Report also observes (7) that UFO reports and beliefs are also of interest to "the social scientist and the communications specialist." In these areas particularly -- i.e., (6) and (7) -- the study suggests (8) that "scientists with adequate training and credentials who do come up with a clearly defined, specific proposal" should be supported, implying that normal competitive procedures and assessments of proposals should be followed here as is customary.

We concur with these evaluations and recommendations.

#### IV. PANEL CONCLUSION

The range of topics in the Report is extensive and its various chapters, dealing with many aspects of the subject, should prove of value to scholars in many fields. Its analyses and findings are pertinent and useful in any future assessment of activity in this field. We concur in the recommendation suggesting that no high priority in UFO investigations is warranted by data of the past two decades.

We are unanimous in the opinion that this has been a very creditable effort to apply objectively the relevant techniques of science to the solution of the UFO problem. The Report recognizes that there remain UFO sightings that are not easily explained. The Report does suggest, however, so many reasonable and possible directions in which an explanation may eventually be found, that there seems to be no reason to attribute them to an extraterrestrial source without evidence that is much more convincing. The Report also shows how difficult it is to apply scientific methods to the occasional transient sightings with any chance of success. While further study of particular aspects of the topic (e.g., atmospheric phenomena) may be useful, a study of UFOs in general is not a promising way to expand scientific understanding of the phenomena. On the basis of present knowledge the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings.

--Gerald M. Clemence, chairman; H. R. Crane, David M. Dennison, Wallace O. Fenn, H. Keffer Hartline, E. R. Hilgard, Mark Kec, Francis W. Reschelderier, William W. Rubey, C. D. Shane, Oswald G. Villar, Jr.

Attachments:

--List of Panel Members

**MEMBERS OF THE REVIEW PANEL**

Gerald M. Clemence, Chairman

Yale University

H.R. Crane

Mark Kac

University of Michigan

The Rockefeller University

David M. Dennison

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The Rockefeller University

Santa Cruz, California

E.R. Hilgard

Oswald G. Villard, Jr.

Stanford University

Stanford University

## Section 4—SCIENTIFIC, ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS

\*4845\*

AMALGAMATED FLYING SAUCER CLUBS OF AMERICA (Phenomena) (AFSCA)  
P.O. Box 84  
Northridge, CA 91324  
Phone: (213) 885-0436  
Gabriel Green, Pres.  
Founded: 1959. Members: 5000. Local Groups: 110. "World-wide research organization with members in all 50 states and in 23 foreign countries to inform the general public about the reality of flying saucers (extraterrestrial spacecraft piloted by advanced men and women from other planets and star systems) and of their plan for imparting their advanced knowledge to the people of the Earth in order to resolve present world problems." AFSCA serves as a source of "contactee-oriented" flying saucer information, including books, photographs, contactee reports, and space tapes ("tapes recorded messages from space people"). Local units hold public meetings to promote knowledge of the saucer subject and serve as sources for information and literature in their areas. Publications: Flying Saucers International, quarterly.

\*4846\*

INTERNATIONAL FORTEAN ORGANIZATION (Phenomena) (INFO)  
P.O. Box 367  
Arlington, VA 22210  
Phone: (703) 920-7120  
Paul J. Willis, Dir.  
Founded: 1965. Members: 1500. Scientists, scholars, and laymen concerned with new and unusual scientific discoveries, philosophic problems pertaining to the criteria of scientific validity, and theories of knowledge. Maintains library of 5000 volumes in the physical, biological, and psychological sciences. Named after Charles Hoy Fort (1874-1932), an American journalist who was interested in researching and documenting unusual and unexplained natural phenomena. Publications: (1) Fortean Times, bimonthly; (2) The Info Journal, bimonthly; (3) Occasional Papers. Subsidiaries: Fortean Society. Conventions/ Meetings: annual.

\*4847\*

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA (NICAP)  
735 University Blvd. W., Suite 23  
Washington, MD 20795  
Phone: (301) 949-1267  
John L. Acuff, Pres.  
Founded: 1956. Members: 4000. Staff: 5. Persons interested in aerial phenomena, particularly unidentified flying objects (UFOs); panel of advisers includes scientists, engineers, aviation experts, clergymen, retired military officers, and professors. To gather, analyze, evaluate, and disseminate reliable information on aerial phenomena. Promotes scientific investigation. Field investigations carried out by technically oriented subcommittees (35 U.S.). Provides bibliographic and source materials to students, exchange data to scientific societies and individual scientists, and semi-technical reports to scientists, Congress, and the press. Maintains large library on aerial phenomena, aviation, astronomy, and collection of magazine articles, newspaper clippings, letters, and other documents. Sponsors a lecture program and an exhibit. Involved with a computer study, Project ACCESS. Publications: The U.F.O. Investigator, monthly; also publishes UFO Evidence; UFO Wave of 1947; Strange Effects from UFOs. Board of governors meets quarterly.

\*4848\*

SAUCER AND UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY  
(Phenomena) (SAUCERS)

P.O. Box 2228  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
Phone: (304) 269-2719  
Gray Barker, Exec. Officer  
Founded: 1954. Members: 6000. Staff: 3. Persons interested in UFO's (unidentified flying objects, popularly called flying saucers). Sponsors monthly lectures in New York City and speeches to colleges and other institutions throughout the United States. Conducts research. Maintains library of several thousand UFO books and periodicals. Publications: Newsletter, irregular. Takes part in annual convention known as the Congress of Scientific Ufologists. Conventions/ Meetings: annual.

\*4849\*

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION CENTER FOR SHORT LIVED PHENOMENA  
185 Alewife Brook Pky.  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone: (617) 868-4793  
Robert Citron, Dir.  
Founded: 1968. Funded by Smithsonian Institution. Serves as a clearing house for receipt and dissemination of information concerning rare or infrequent natural events which might go unobserved or uninvestigated, such as remote volcanic eruptions, birth of new islands, fall of meteorites and large fireballs, sudden changes in biological and ecological systems. Observers all over the world including news media, private citizens, individual scientists, and scientific observatories report on any such short-lived events. Rapid team mobilization will enable research teams, with instruments and equipment, to get into event areas in as short a time as possible to collect data that might otherwise be lost to science. Publications: (1) Event Information Reports, daily; (2) Event Notification Reports, daily; (3) Annual Report; (4) Event Reports, irregular.

\*4850\*

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED (Phenomena) (SITU)  
P.O. One  
Columbia, NJ 07332  
Phone: (201) 496-4368  
Albena Zwerger, Exec. Sec.  
Founded: 1965. Members: 1250. An organization "for the acquisition, investigation and dissemination of information on reports of all tangible items in the fields of chemistry, astronomy, geology, biology and anthropology, that are not readily explained." Encourages field work and on-the-spot investigation by offering advice, helping to raise funds and arranging contacts for members who are planning field trips and expeditions. Field work and research are reviewed by a panel of twenty scientists. Disseminates information on findings through its quarterly journal, papers and reports. Current investigations conducted by Society members include such areas as ancient Egyptian television, ringing rocks, entombed toads and poltergeist manifestations. The Society maintains information files of original material, a map collection and a specialized library. Committees: Activities; Library. Publications: (1) Pursuit, quarterly; (2) Annual Report; also publishes occasional papers and special reports.

\*4851\*

UFO INFORMATION RETRIEVAL CENTER (Phenomena) (UFOTRC)  
P.O. Box 57  
Ridewood, MD 21139  
Phone: (301) 435-0705  
Thomas M. Olsen, Pres.  
Founded: 1966. To collect, analyze, publish and disseminate information on reports of unidentified flying objects. Publications: Reference for Outstanding UFO Sighting Reports, irregular.

\*4854\*

AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (APRO)  
3910 E. Kiendale Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85712  
Phone: (602) 793-1825  
Coral E. Lorenzen, Sec.-Treas.  
Founded: 1952. Members: 3000. Staff: 5. To conduct investigations and research into the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and to find a scientifically acceptable solution to this phenomenon. Has special representatives in over 50 countries. Uses services of over thirty staff consultants in fields ranging from biochemistry to astronomy. Maintains COMCAT, computer catalog of all available UFO reports. Publications: Bulletin, monthly.

PROJECT

BLUE

BOOK

1 FEBRUARY 1966

## PROJECT BLUE BOOK

The United States Air Force has the responsibility under the Department of Defense for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The name of this program, which has been in operation since 1948, is Project Blue Book. It has been identified in the past as Project Sign and Project Grudge.

Air Force interest in unidentified flying objects is related directly to the Air Force responsibility for the air defense of the United States. Procedures for conducting this program are established by Air Force Regulation 200-2.

The objectives of Project Blue Book are two-fold: first, to determine whether UFOs pose a threat to the security of the United States; and, second, to determine whether UFOs exhibit any unique scientific information or advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical research. In the course of accomplishing these objectives, Project Blue Book strives to identify and explain all UFO sightings reported to the Air Force.

## HOW THE PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED

The program is conducted in three phases. The first phase includes receipt of UFO reports and initial investigation of the reports. The Air Force base nearest the location of a reported sighting is charged with the responsibility of investigating the sighting and forwarding the information to the Project Blue Book Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

If the initial investigation does not reveal a positive identification or explanation, a second phase of more intensive analysis is conducted by the Project Blue Book Office. Each case is objectively and scientifically analyzed, and, if necessary, all of the scientific facilities available to the Air Force can be used to assist in arriving at an identification or explanation. All personnel associated with the investigation, analysis, and evaluation efforts of the project view each report with a scientific approach and an open mind.

The third phase of the program is dissemination of information concerning UFO sightings, evaluations, and statistics. This is accomplished by the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Information.

The Air Force defines an unidentified flying object as any aerial object which the observer is unable to identify.

Reports of unfamiliar objects in the sky are submitted to the Air Force from many sources. These sources include military and civilian pilots, weather observers, amateur astronomers, business and professional men and women, and housewives, etc.

Frequently such objects as missiles, balloons, birds, kites, searchlights, aircraft navigation and anticollision beacons, jet engine exhaust, condensation trails, astronomical bodies and meteorological phenomena are mistakenly reported as unidentified flying objects.

The Air Force groups its evaluations of UFO reports under three general headings: (1) identified, (2) insufficient data, and (3) unidentified.

Identified reports are those for which sufficient specific information has been accumulated and evaluated to permit a positive identification or explanation of the object.

Reports categorized as Insufficient Data are those for which one or more elements of information essential for evaluation are missing. Some examples are the omission of the duration of the sighting, date, time, location, position in the sky, weather conditions, and the manner of appearance or disappearance. If an element is missing and there is an indication that the sighting may be of a security, scientific, technical, or public interest value, the Project Blue Book Office conducts an additional investigation and every attempt is made to obtain the information necessary for identification. However, in some instances, essential information cannot be obtained, and no further action can be taken.

The third and by far the smallest group of evaluations is categorized as Unidentified. A sighting is considered unidentified when a report apparently contains all pertinent data necessary to suggest a valid hypothesis concerning the cause or explanation of the report but the description of the object or its motion cannot be correlated with any known object or phenomena.

#### **TYPES OF UFO IDENTIFICATIONS AND EVALUATIONS**

There are various types of UFO sightings. Most common are reports of astronomical sightings, which include bright stars, planets, comets, fireballs, meteors, auroral streamers, and other celestial bodies. When observed through haze, light fog, moving clouds, or other obscurations or unusual conditions, the planets, including Venus, Jupiter, and Mars have been reported as unidentified flying objects. Stellar mirages are also a source of reports.

Satellites are another major source of UFO reports. An increase in satellites reported as UFOs has come about because of two factors. The first is the increase of interest on the part of the public; the second is the increasing number of satellites in the skies. Positive knowledge of the location of all satellites at all times enables rapid identification of satellite sightings. Keeping track of man-made objects in orbit about the earth is the responsibility of the North American Air Defense Command Space Detection and Tracking System. This sophisticated electronic system gathers complex space traffic data instantly from tracking stations all over the world.

Other space surveillance activities include the use of ballistic tracking and large telescopic cameras. ECHO schedules are prepared by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Maryland, and schedules of the South/North equator crossings are prepared by the Smithsonian Institution at Cambridge, Massachusetts. From the data produced by these agencies, satellites mistakenly reported as UFOs can be quickly identified. Some of these are visible to the naked eye.

Aircraft account for another major source of UFO reports, particularly during adverse weather conditions. When observed at high altitudes and at some distance, aircraft can have appearances ranging from disc to rocket shapes due to the reflection of the sun on their bright surfaces. Vapor or condensation trails from jet aircraft will sometimes appear to glow fiery red or orange when reflecting sunlight. Afterburners from jet aircraft are often reported as UFOs since they can be seen from great distances when the aircraft cannot be seen.

The Project Blue Book Office has direct contact with all elements of the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Agency civil air control centers. All aerial refueling operations and special training flights can be checked immediately. Air traffic of commercial airlines and flights of military aircraft are checked with the nearest control center, enabling an immediate evaluation of aircraft mistakenly reported as UFOs. However, since many local flights are not carried, these flights are probable causes of some reports.

Balloons continue to be reported as UFOs. Several thousand balloons are released each day from military and civilian airports, weather stations, and research activities. There are several types of balloons - weather balloons, rawinsondes, radiosondes, and the large research balloons which have diameters up to 300 feet. At night, balloons carry running lights which cause an unusual appearance when observed. Reflection of the sun on balloons at dawn and sunset sometimes produce strange effects. This usually occurs when the balloon, because of its altitudes, is exposed to the sun. Large balloons can move at speeds of over 100 miles per hour when moving in high altitude jet windstreams. These balloons sometimes appear to be flattened on top. At other times, they appear to be saucer-shaped and to have lights mounted inside the bag itself due to the sun's rays reflecting through the material of the balloon. The Balloon Control Center at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, maintains a plot on all Military Upper Air Research Balloons.

Another category of UFO evaluations labeled Other includes missiles, reflections, mirages, searchlights, birds, kites, spurious radar indications, hoaxes, fireworks, and flares.

Aircraft, satellites, balloons, and the like should NOT be reported since they do not fall within the definition of an unidentified flying object.

## CONCLUSIONS

To date, the firm conclusions of Project Blue Book are: (1) no unidentified flying object reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as unidentified represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as unidentified are extraterrestrial vehicles.

The Air Force will continue to investigate all reports of unusual aerial phenomena over the United States. The services of qualified scientists and technicians will continue to be used to investigate and analyze these reports, and periodic reports on the subject will be made.

The former Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. Carl Vinson, recently commented on the conduct of the UFO program by the Air Force and stated that Congressional hearings on this subject are unnecessary.

The Air Force does not deny the possibility that some form of life may exist on other planets in the universe. However, to date, the Air Force has neither received nor discovered any evidence which proves the existence and intra-space mobility of extraterrestrial life. The Air Force continues to extend an open invitation to anyone who feels that he possesses any evidence of extraterrestrial vehicles operating within the earth's near space envelope to submit his evidence for analysis. Initial contact for this purpose is through the following address:

PROJECT BLUE BOOK INFORMATION OFFICE  
SAFOI  
WASHINGTON, D C 20330

Anyone observing what he considers to be an unidentified flying object should report it to the nearest Air Force Base. Persons submitting a UFO report to the Air Force are free to discuss any aspect of the report with anyone. The Air Force does not seek to limit discussion on such reports and does not withhold or censor any information pertaining to this unclassified program.

### NON AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS

The following items are for internal use only and are not available for distribution to the public. These concern internal management and procedures for forwarding UFO reports to the appropriate agency:

1. Air Force Regulation 200-2
2. JANAP 146

The Air Force has no films, photographs, maps, charts, or graphs of unidentified flying objects. Photographs that have been submitted for evaluation in conjunction with UFO reports have been determined to be a misinterpretation of natural or conventional objects. These objects have a positive identification.

The Air Force no longer possesses, and thus does not have for distribution, outdated reports on Project Sign, Project Grudge, Blue Book Special Report No. 14, and outdated Project Blue Book press releases. Non-military UFO publications should be requested from the publisher, not the Air Force.

## SUGGESTED READING MATERIAL

Books listed below deal with facts and theories about our solar universe, the sun, planets, comets, meteorites, the universe, stars, constellations and galaxies; telescopes, the computation of time as it relates to astronomy, star maps and charts, and the history of astronomy.

SKY & TELESCOPE, by Sky Publishing Corporation, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. Monthly Magazine, 60 cents per copy.

WEATHER ELEMENTS, by BLAIR, published Prentice Hall. Has an excellent chapter on often mis-identified weather phenomena.

PLANETS, STARS, AND SPACE, by CHAMBERLAIN, JOSEPH M. & NICHOLSON, THOMAS D. An illustrated, non-technical explanation of the earth, planets, stars, and the universe. Prepared in co-operation with the American Museum of Natural History.

JUNIOR SCIENCE BOOK OF STARS, by CROSBY, PHOEBE. An easy-to-read, exciting story of what scientists know about the stars, planets, the moon, and the MILKY WAY.

CHALLENGE OF THE UNIVERSE, by HYNEK, J. ALLEN & ANDERSON, NORMAN. Discusses the nature of the universe; astronomy and cosmology, published by Scholastic Press.

THE STORY OF THE STARS, by MALONEY, TERRY. An introduction to the universe; our solar system, our galaxy, and other galaxies. Many interesting illustrated analogies help build concepts of size and distance. Includes references to the Van Allen radiation belts and zodiacal light observation of 1960.

THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS, by MENZEL & BOYD. A scientific examination of the classic UFO reports.

THE MOON, METEORITES, AND COMETS, Dtd 1963, by MIDDLEHURST & KUIPER. Continuous analysis of Soviet moon photos. Chapter on Siberian meteorite and photos of comets computation of various comet orbital photos.

THE NATURE OF LIGHT AND COLOR IN THE OPEN AIR, by MINNAERT, Dover Publications. This is an excellent paperback written in understandable lay language.

METEORS, by OLIVIER. Standard text by foremost authority on meteors.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF MARS, 1905-1961, by SLIPHER, E. C., published by Lowell Observatory.

ANATOMY OF A PHENOMENON, by VALLE, JACQUES.

FIRST MAN TO THE MOON, by VON BRAUN, WERNHER.



# Fact Sheet

# United States Air Force

Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20330

## INFORMATION OF UFOs

Thank you for your request for information on the Air Force's investigation of unidentified flying objects, or UFO's.

The Air Force investigation of UFO's began in 1948 and was known as Project Sign. Later the name was changed to Project Grudge, and in 1953, it became Project Blue Book. Between 1948 and 1969 we investigated 12,618 reported sightings.

Of these sightings, 11,917 were found to have been caused by material objects (such as balloons, satellites, and aircraft), immaterial objects (such as lightning, reflections, and other natural phenomena), astronomical objects (such as stars, planets, the sun, and the moon), weather conditions, and hoaxes. As indicated, only 701 reported sightings remain unexplained.

On December 17, 1969, the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book. The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects;" a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; past UFO studies; and the Air Force's two decades of experience investigating UFO reports.

As a result of these investigations, studies, and experience, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: (1) no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

With the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force regulation establishing and controlling the program for investigating and analyzing UFOs was rescinded. All documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Record Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC 20408, and is available for public review and analysis.

In 1977, President Carter asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to look into the possibility of resuming UFO investigations. After studying all the facts available, NASA decided that nothing would be gained by further investigation. The Air Force agrees with that decision. If, however, firm evidence is found justifying further investigation, an appropriate agency will be directed to undertake the effort.

UFO SIGHTINGS BY YEAR		
YEAR	TOTAL	UNIDENTIFIED
1947	112	12
1948	156	7
1949	186	22
1950	210	27
1951	169	22
1952	1501	303
1953	509	42
1954	487	46
1955	545	24
1956	670	14
1957	1006	14
1958	627	10
1959	390	12
1960	557	14
1961	591	13
1962	474	15
1963	399	14
1964	562	19
1965	887	16
1966	1112	32
1967	937	19
1968	375	3
1969	146	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>701</b>

There are a number of universities and professional scientific organizations such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which have considered UFO phenomena during periodic meetings and seminars. In addition, a list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena may be found in Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations. Such timely review of the situation by private groups insures that sound evidence will not be overlooked by the scientific community.

For further reference material, two documents are available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161.

## AERIAL PHENOMENA STUDY ORGANIZATIONS

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED  
Box 263 Phone: (201)842-5299  
Little Silver, NJ 07739

Organized "for the acquisition, investigation and dissemination of information on reports of all tangible items in the fields of chemistry, astronomy, geology, biology and anthropology, that are not readily explained." Encourages field work and on-the-spot investigation by offering advice and arranging contacts for members who are planning field trips and expeditions. Field work and research are reviewed by a panel of 15 scientists. Disseminates information on findings through its quarterly journal. Society members have currently investigated Bigfoot, Bermuda Triangle, cattle mutilations, ghost and poltergeist manifestations. The Society maintains information files of original material, a map collection and a specialized library.

PROJECT STALLIGHT INTERNATIONAL  
P.O. Box 5370 Phone: (512)456-2031  
Austin, TX 78763

To gather and disseminate a broad range of instrumented UFO hard data to the scientific community. Utilizes magnetometers, a gravimeter, spectrometer, radar, laser-telescope-video system and other electronic and optical systems for recording physical effects, optical images and location of UFOs. Upon a UFO sighting, the ARGO system (Automated Ring-up on Geological UFO Sightings), now under development, will begin "UFO-event sharing," an automated telephoning of all volunteers (laymen, engineers, scientists), using several lines simultaneously, so they may locate the UFO, acquire photos, notes and data. Maintains a specially equipped mobile laboratory unit.

AMALGAMATED FLYING SAUCER CLUB OF AMERICA  
P.O. Box 19 Phone: (710)369-1141  
Tucson Valley, CA 92284

"Worldwide research organization with members in all 50 states and in 23 foreign countries to inform the general public about the reality of flying saucers (extraterrestrial spacecraft piloted by advanced men and women from other planets and star systems) and of their plan for imparting their advanced knowledge to the people of the Earth in order to remove present world pretensions." AFSCA serves as a source of "contactee-oriented" flying saucer information, including books, photographs, "contactee" reports, and space tapes ("tapes recorded messages from space people").

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS  
7970 Woodman Ave., Suite 207 Phone: (213)781-7704  
Van Nuys, CA 91402

Individuals interested in investigating "the truth concerning UFOs and associated phenomena." Probes UFO reports and relates findings to governmental agencies and the general public via the press, radio, television and newsletters. Holds seminars; produces and distributes books and cassettes. Bestows awards. Maintains library of 1700 volumes.

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SPACE AND UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 2229 Phone: (304)269-2719  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Persons interested in UFOs (unidentified flying objects, popularly called flying saucers). Sponsors monthly lectures in New York City and speeches to colleges and other institutions throughout the United States. Conducts research. Maintains library of over 10,000 UFO books and periodicals.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA  
One Bank St., Suite 307 Phone: (301)296-9066  
Gaithersburg, MD 20760

Persons interested in aerial phenomena, particularly identified flying objects (UFOs); panel of advisors includes scientists, engineers, aviation experts, clergymen, retired military officers, and professors. To gather, analyze, evaluate, and disseminate reliable information on aerial phenomena. Promotes scientific investigation. Provides bibliographies and source materials to students, exchange data to scientific societies and individual scientists, and semi-technical reports to scientists, Congress and the press. Maintains large library on aerial phenomena, aviation, astronomy, and collection of magazine articles, newspaper clippings, letters and other documents.

GROUP SAUCER WATCH  
11238 N. Seventh Dr. Phone: (602)942-7216  
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Scientists, engineers, professionals and educated laymen interested in taking scientific action to resolve the controversial elements in UFO reports. Objectives are: to provide an accessible outlet for all interested persons who wish to report any aerial phenomena experiences without fear of ridicule or undue publicity; to "identify a confused media" with factual press releases, lectures, conferences and interviews; to research and evaluate all UFO cases to which scientific criteria can be applied and analyzed with the use of specialized talents and instrumentation; to continue to pursue legal action against the federal government with lawsuits and Freedom of Information Act requests for release of UFO materials; to bring forth the workable hypotheses and theories of UFO origin and the reasons for their continuing surveillance.

AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION  
3916 E. Kiehldale Rd. Phone: (602)323-1823  
Tucson, AZ 85712

Conducts investigations and research into the phenomena of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and to find a scientifically acceptable solution to this phenomenon. Has Special representatives in over 50 countries. Uses services of over 40 staff consultants in fields ranging from biochemistry to astronomy. Maintains computer-accessed library of monographs and publications from all over the world. Jointly produces public UFO exhibit located in the IDS Center, Minneapolis, MN.

INTERNATIONAL FORTRESS ORGANIZATION  
7317 Baltimore Ave. Phone: (301)779-1873  
College Park, MD 20740

Scientists, scholars and laymen concerned with new and unusual scientific discoveries, philosophical problems pertaining to the criteria of scientific validity and theories of knowledge. Maintains library of 5000 volumes in the physical, biological and psychological sciences. Named after Charles Hoy Fort (1874-1932), an American journalist who was interested in researching and documenting unusual and unexplained natural phenomena.

FESTICIA  
56 Brookwood Road Phone: (201)347-3836  
Stanhope, NJ 07874

Scientists, engineers, technicians, and interested individuals. Established to investigate and conduct research into unexplained scientific phenomena. Trains members in investigative techniques; supplies speakers to universities and organizations. The group's name is the Latin word for "investigate," which, in itself, means "fingerprint." Sponsors exfiltrate program. Maintains library and biographical archives; compiles statistics.

UFO INFORMATION RETRIEVAL CENTER  
1652 N. 31st Ave., C7 Phone: (602)997-1523  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

To collect, analyze, publish and disseminate information on reports of unidentified flying objects. Compiles statistics; conducts research programs; maintains library, children's and students' services and speakers bureau.



# Fact Sheet

# United States Air Force

Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20330-1000

87-34

## Unidentified Flying Objects

### History

The Air Force began investigating UFOs in 1948 under a program called Project Sign. Later the program's name was changed to Project Grudge, and in 1953 it became known as Project Blue Book. On Dec. 17, 1969, the secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book.

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on a number of factors, including reports and studies by the University of Colorado and the National Academy of Sciences, as well as past UFO studies and the Air Force's two decades of experience investigating UFO reports.

As a result of these investigations, studies, and science, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were:

No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security.

• There has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge.

- There has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

Between 1948 and 1969 the Air Force investigated 12,618 reported UFO sightings. Of these, 11,917 were found to have been caused by material objects such as balloons, satellites, and aircraft; immaterial objects such as lightning, reflections, and other natural phenomena; astronomical objects such as stars, planets, the sun, and the moon; weather conditions; and hoaxes. Only 701 reported sightings remain unexplained.

### More Information Available

All documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Reference Branch, National Archives and Records Administration, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20408, and is available for public review. A list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena can be found in Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations, available in the reference section of most libraries.



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON D.C. 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 1969

NO. 1077-69

Oxford 7-5131 (Info.)

Oxford 7-3189 (Copies)

## AIR FORCE TO TERMINATE PROJECT "BLUE BOOK"

Secretary of the Air Force Robert C. Seamans, Jr., announced today the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force program for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

In a memorandum to Air Force Chief of Staff General John D. Ryan, Secretary Seamans stated that "the continuation of Project Blue Book cannot be justified either on the ground of national security or in the interest of science," and concluded that the project does not merit future expenditures of resources.

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on:

- An evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects."
- A review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences.
- Past UFO studies.
- Air Force experience investigating UFO reports during the past two decades.

Under the direction of Dr. Edward U. Condon, the University of Colorado completed an 18-month contracted study of UFOs and its report was released to the public in January, 1969. The report concluded that little if anything has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge, and that further extensive study of UFO sightings is not justified in the expectation that science will be advanced.

The University of Colorado report also states that, "It seems that only so much attention to the subject (UFOs) should be given as the Department of Defense deems to be necessary strictly from a defense point of view....It is our impression that the defense function could be performed within the framework established for intelligence and surveillance operations without the continuance of a special unit such as Project Blue Book, but this is a question for defense specialists rather than research scientists."

A panel of the National Academy of Sciences made an independent assessment of the scope, methodology, and findings of the University of

MORE

Colorado study. The panel concurred in the University of Colorado's recommendation that "no high priority in UFO investigations is warranted by data of the past two decades." It concluded by stating that, "On the basis of present knowledge, the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings."

Past UFO studies include one conducted by a Scientific Advisory Panel of UFOs in January, 1953 (Robertson Panel); and, a review of Project Blue Book by the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee, February-March, 1966 (Dr. Brian O'Brien, Chairman). These studies concluded that no evidence has been found that any of the UFO reports reflect a threat to our national security.

As a result of investigating UFO reports since 1948, the conclusions of Project Blue Book are: (1) no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles and the range of present-day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

Project Blue Book records will be retired to the USAF Archives, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Requests for information will continue to be handled by the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Information (SAFOI), Washington, D.C. 20330.

END

## UFO FACT SHEET

The Air Force investigation of UFO's began in 1948 and was known as Project Sign. Later the name was changed to Project Grudge, and in 1953, it became Project Blue Book. Between 1948 and 1969 we investigated 12,618 reported sightings.

The following is a statistical listing of reported UFO sightings during the Air Force investigation:

### TOTAL UFO SIGHTINGS, 1947 - 1969

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL SIGHTINGS</u>	<u>UNIDENTIFIED</u>
1947	122	12
1948	156	7
1949	186	22
1950	210	27
1951	169	22
1952	1,501	303
1953	509	42
1954	487	46
1955	545	24
1956	670	14
1957	1,006	14
1958	627	10
1959	390	12
1960	557	14
1961	591	13
1962	474	15
1963	399	14
1964	562	19
1965	887	16
1966	1,112	32
1967	937	19
1968	375	3
1969	146	1
<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,618</b>	<b>701</b>

Of these total sightings, 11,917 were found to have been caused by material objects (such as balloons, satellites, and aircraft), immaterial objects (such as lightning, reflections and other natural phenomena), astronomical objects (such as stars, planets, the sun and the moon), weather conditions and hoaxes. As indicated only 701 reported sightings remain unexplained.

# THE SCIENCE CONFLICT

## UFO UPDATE

By James Oberg

Fiction between science and flying saucers has generated a blizzard of sparks over the years. The sides are well defined: Establishment scientists traditionally dismiss UFO data as fanciful fiction, while UFO enthusiasts portray themselves as outcast Galileos, prophets of a new scientific revolution.

Advocates of Unidentified Flying Objects insist that they are onto some extraordinary phenomenon unaccountable by contemporary science. The favorite theory involves alien spacecraft, but growing splinter groups promote various psychic, interdimensional, cross-temporal, conspiratorial, or even more bizarre hypotheses. Whatever it is, UFO enthusiasts assert, the confirmation of extraterrestrial things could be a key to the next great breakthrough in human knowledge.

few could argue such a premise.

Early in 1977, the wire services reported that astronomers now favor scientific studies of UFOs. According to *The New York Times*, "unidentified flying objects should be investigated further; a majority of trained astronomical observers said in a survey disclosed recently."

Closer analysis showed that the private pro-UFO survey actually meant that only one-quarter of those polled responded that UFOs "certainly" or "probably" deserved study, with a few more agreeing

that they "possibly" deserved study. More to the point, only one-quarter of 1 percent of the astronomers thought that UFOs were important enough to warrant their personal attention.

But the poll did nevertheless seem to bestow some measure of scientific respectability to this topic, previously ranked among the lunatic fringe. The poll was symptomatic of the changing image of UFOs, and the new status of UFO researchers.

After three decades of exuberant if amateurish fieldwork, furious propagandizing, and aimless theorizing, a number of UFO groups have finally begun to play the game using rules of science. Accepting the burden of proof, they have mounted an impressive scientific program designed to demonstrate, finally, that UFOs exist.

On a dark hillside in Texas, white-uniformed men monitor a battery of instruments, hoping to catch and record the subtle physical effects alleged to accompany UFO visitations. In photographic laboratories across the country, data processing specialists analyze computerized images of alleged UFO photographs, seeking evidence of forgery and potential proof of authenticity. A computerized data base in Chicago prints out pattern analyses of UFO sightings, seeking a signal behind the noise of thousands of annual

reports. Pieces of metal picked up near alleged landing sites undergo spectroscopic examination in well-equipped laboratories.

These are the techniques of science, applied to a subject long regarded as beyond the fringes of science. But these are the techniques that will produce proof, if proof is possible.

Standards are now tighter and the experience of UFO investigators greater, so that many "unknowns" have diminished. More and more cases have been solved, but always a fraction remain unsolved, unexplained, unidentified. This residue of unknowns is the basis for UFO enthusiasts' hope. Skeptics disagree, saying that inherent limitations in human perception, memory, and knowledge will always introduce a small artificial residue of unknowns.

So what kind of data will stand up to scientific standards, not as a leftover residue of mysteries but as a definitive list of recorded events?

Laying aside the possibilities that alien ambassadors will land at the White House or that the fabled "secret captured flying saucer" will ever be rescued from alleged governmental oblivion, hard evidence for the reality and respectability of UFOs must come from laboratories now engaged in scientific research.

The "Project Starlight International" team, privately but generously funded by some Texas millionaires, has assembled an array of instruments that could produce incontrovertible evidence. They have cameras, radar, spectrometers, magnetometers, radiation sensors, gravimeters, and a small laser beam to communicate with extraterrestrials should they happen by.

The Starlight UFO trap has now been in full operation for nearly three years. New equipment continues to be added, including a radar set and computerized alert system that automatically telephones volunteer skywatchers in the vicinity of a computed UFO position. The system works well in drills—but nothing substantive has resulted.

The most exciting recent events have dealt with a fierce wood tick infestation on



Spectacular glowing UFO was photographed from a Concorde during 1973 solar eclipse.

the hillside where the Starlight equipment is mounted. White-clad UFO watchers bend to their technical tasks amid the fumes of sulfur bombs. They watch a sky full of airplanes, meteors, satellites, kites, birds, ball lightning, migrating birds, blown spiders, and maybe, just maybe, something else. But, as Starlight project director Ray Stanford told colleagues at a 1976 UFO conference, "If we search for ten years with what we've got and we don't find anything, then we're going to have to admit that nothing is there."

One of the most visible aspects of the phenomenon is a growing collection of UFO photographs. While the vast majority of UFO sighting reports are made by honest, perplexed, often reluctant witnesses, most photographs are hoaxes. To separate out the possibly authentic photos, if any at all, experts use photoanalysis.

For example, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a researcher for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), has made densitometric scans of a famous 1950 photo from McMinnville, Oregon. The scans support the skeptical "Condon Committee" conclusion that the photo could in fact be of a large structured disk 50 feet or more in diameter. But another expert, computer specialist Robert Sheaffer, concluded that the photo was made with a smudged lens and that the object appears to be hanging from an overhead power line. Condon Committee investigators later changed their minds and agreed with Sheaffer.

Specialists at the "Ground Saucer Watch" (GSW) office in Phoenix also apply advanced data processing techniques to photographs. Their work has raised howls of protest from traditional UFO groups because many of the more famous photos have been denounced by GSW as frauds. However, GSW has compiled a small list of photos that they suggest could be genu-

ine. Again, other researchers disagree, and scientific debate is raging on the validity of such processing techniques.

Computer scientists have a favorite proverb: "Garbage in, garbage out." It means that bad input data can be manipulated to produce nearly any output desired, but it will be useless. That, so far, seems to be the fate of UFO computerized data banks, since data processing specialists have criticized them for not having sufficient control over the validity of input data. UFO proponents, appealing to mathematical formulas from information theory, claim that a proper computer program can filter out the garbage and sift through to the authentic residue.

Nor have laboratories produced any specimen that could not have been obtained from ordinary sources on earth. Exotic space metals or artifacts continue to be reported, but none have passed the investigation of professional laboratories.

Yet these debates have changed markedly from the days when UFOs were the topic for screwball religious cults, nasty insinuations about witnesses' sanity and/or sobriety, and knee-jerk gullibility. Today's arguments must stand up to the time-tested standards of scientific research. Perhaps they will reveal something, perhaps not. But it's the only way to find out for sure.

In light of the need for better scientific research about UFOs, it is particularly frustrating to read published reports that "NASA has rejected a White House request to reopen the government-sponsored research program." But the real story is not so open-and-shut as these pessimistic accounts would indicate.

Actually, the story began when President Carter promised to release all UFO data, if elected. Once elected, he discov-

ered that the Air Force's "Blue Book" files were already being declassified, and everybody denied having any other files. Carter's science adviser, Dr. Frank Press, was assigned the task of answering UFO-related mail from the public. A flood of mail arrived, demanding that the "real secret files" be released.

Overwhelmed with queries, Press asked NASA director Dr. Robert Frosch if NASA might handle the mail. In the letter, one paragraph innocently asked if NASA would consider convening a panel to decide if a new official investigation was warranted.

Following several months of consideration, NASA said that it could see no reason to undertake a new investigation. However, Frosch offered to make NASA laboratories available to analyze any UFO "physical evidence" that might be submitted.

Six months later, nothing has been officially submitted.

• • •

If UFOs are alien spacecraft (and while this is the leading theory, many other schools of thought have come and gone), it's likely that earth's spaceships may have been able to encounter them in outer space. Stories have sprung up about how "our astronauts have seen them too!"

In fact, each story can be traced back to authors' misunderstandings, distortions, exaggerations, or just plain fabrications. There does not appear to be a single case on record of American or Soviet spacemen encountering anything extraordinary in terms of normal space occurrences.

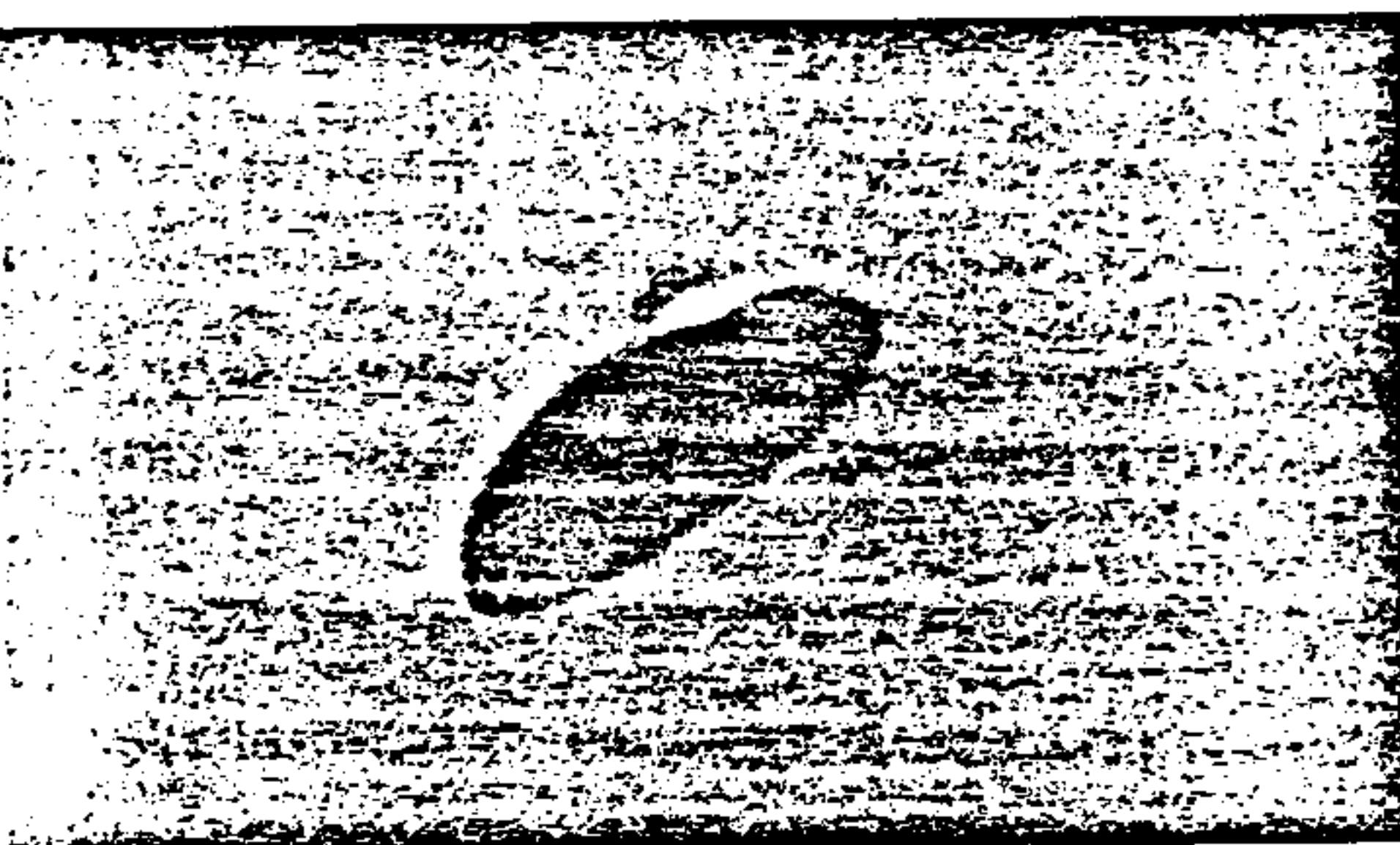
The most famous case, however, continues to thrive. It deals with a UFO seen by astronaut James McDivitt on the Gemini-4 mission in June 1965. McDivitt insists that the beer-can shaped object was just another man-made satellite, but some observers have suggested that it was a glimpse of his own booster rocket in a nearby orbit.

A "tadpole" photograph was released by NASA soon after the flight, taken from a series of movie frames. McDivitt claims he shot a few exposures with two still cameras, but they did not turn out. He didn't touch the movie camera, and the blob of light released by an overeager photo technician shows only a window reflection, he insists.

APRO's Dr. Harder, however, insists that the "tadpole" really was the UFO, despite what McDivitt thinks, and that it was being propelled by a plasma jet. Dr. Harder chooses to disregard the astronaut's testimony and build his case on a few frames of reflections. UFO believers can only hope that most UFO evidence is not so insubstantial.

• • •

Positive proof of a genuine UFO encounter



UFO experts give "the benefit of the doubt" to this Yungay, Peru photo and believe it genuine.

could be extremely valuable for the entire human race. It could be financially rewarding for the owners of that proof. And it could spell financial ruin for one prominent UFO skeptic—unless, of course, he was delivering the proof.

*National Enquirer*, a weekly tabloid newspaper with a circulation in the millions, has a standing offer of \$1 million for "positive proof." The London-based whisky bottler Cutty Sark, Ltd., recently unveiled an even bigger prize of one million pounds Sterling, or about \$1,800,000 at the present exchange rate.

Lesser awards also are available in the absence of positive proof. The *Enquirer* annually grants up to \$10,000 to witnesses of a UFO incident judged "most scientifically valuable" by an independent panel of UFO specialists (the "Blue-Ribbon Panel," see box). And Cutty Sark has announced plans to award £1000 to the best-written essay on the UFO problem.

Moreover, a number of London betting houses have accepted various wagers on the imminent visitations of extraterrestrials. But the world's most famous "anti-UFO bet" has been set forth in the book *UFOs Explained*.

Author Philip J. Klass, a senior editor of *Aviation Week* magazine and the nation's leading UFO skeptic, claims he has challenged UFO believers "to put their money where their mouths are." Klass has offered to pay \$10,000 to anyone who agrees to, if and when certain criteria are met, that a true UFO visitation has

occurred. Every year until that happens, the wagerer must pay Klass the sum of \$100 (up to a maximum of \$1000, after which payments cease but the bet remains in force).

Less than a dozen UFO enthusiasts have signed up to date, usually on inside information that "this year the government is going to announce UFO contacts...." Such predictions have appeared in print nearly every year for a quarter of a century, but people still seem to believe them. Klass has become a little richer because of them.

Only one UFO buff has maintained his bet in force, apparently more for publicity than persuasion. Stanton Friedman makes a living off his lecture tours proclaiming the reality of UFOs, and he responded to Klass's needling by formally agreeing to the bet a few years ago.

Additionally, Klass has offered to buy back all copies of his book *UFOs Explained* if events prove his assertions incorrect. But pro-UFO scientist Robert McCampbell has done Klass one better. He has offered to buy back copies of his book *UFOlogy* from anyone not satisfied with it, proof or no proof.

Actually, Philip J. Klass already had been setting off multimegaton detonations among the ranks of UFO believers. Miffed when UFO experts in 1968 ridiculed a serious (and still tenable) suggestion that many UFOs were actually ball lightning, the by nature combative aviation reporter

threw himself into serious investigations of what were regarded as the "best" classic UFO cases. He often dug up startling (and embarrassing) new evidence but has become a pariah in UFO circles (Hynek refuses to appear together with him, and Hynek's "UFO bibliography" handout pointedly ignores Klass's two books).

With the death of astronomer Donald Menzel in 1976, Klass has emerged as the nation's leading UFO skeptic. He spurns the word "debunker," with its connotations of knee-jerk dismissals and unorthodox points of view. Instead, Klass attempts to investigate UFO cases more deeply than might other researchers who have subconscious desires to actually find proof of extraterrestrial visitors. Concentrating only on the generally acclaimed "best cases," Klass often has exposed the superficiality of work done by pro-UFO experts.

In 1977, he joined with other scientists and educators in forming the "Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal," a group that has denounced easy acceptance by the public of allegedly baseless beliefs in astrology, the Bermuda Triangle, ESP, "ancient astronauts," and other so-called modern myths. Klass heads a small but potent band of skeptical investigators called the UFO Subcommittee. At the very least, this group demands the tightening of standards in so-called scientific *UFOlogy*. The level of carelessness of many pro-UFO experts has markedly declined, so progress is being made. DC

## THESE PEOPLE ARE WATCHING AND WAITING

**Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS)**, 1909 Sherman Suite 207, Evanston, IL 60201. Self-styled pinnacle of UFO activities, this small group generally depends on other groups for data. Dr. Allen Hynek does the public appearances and fund raising, while researcher Allan Hendry carries out actual coordination and in-depth investigation. Two publications: *CUFOS Quarterly Bulletin*, \$15/yr.; and *International UFO Reporter*, \$12/yr.

**Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO)**, 3910 E. Kleindale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Among the longest surviving UFO groups (represented in 50 countries), APRO is held together by the dedication of its cofounders Jim and Coral Lorenzen, who have recently led the group to specialize (critics say monopolize) in "UFO abduction cases." *APRO Bulletin*, \$10/yr. for 12 issues.

**National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)**, Suite 23, 3535 University Blvd., Kensington MD 20795. Another old group, unfortunately in a downhill slide following a decade of organizational in-fighting. *NICAP Bulletin*, \$10/yr.

**Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)**, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155. A vigorous, expanding group acting in concert with CUFOS. *MUFON UFO Journal*, \$8/yr.

**Ground Saucer Watch (GSW)**, 13238 North 7th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85029. Highly professional organization (membership by invitation only), which applies vigorous scientific standards to investigations. Quarterly journal free with membership.

**Object Starlight International (PSI)**, PO Box 5310, Austin TX 78763. Somewhat mysterious organization with the best array

of gadgets yet assembled to measure UFOs—if only they could find one. Irregular bulletin sent in exchange for cash donations.

**Committee Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS)**, 191 E. 161st St., Bronx NY 10451. New offshoot of GSW, this small group is using Freedom of Information suits to extract allegedly secret hypothetical government "UFO files." Newsletter \$10/yr.

**20th Century UFO Bureau**, 756 Haddon Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108. This group, associated with Dr. Carl McIntyre's "20th Century Reformation Hour," believes that some UFOs are angels and signs of the imminent Second Coming. However, other UFOs are sent by Satan to confuse people lest they recognize the angels.

**UFO Subcommittee of the "Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal"**, 923 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215. The first formal organization of UFO skeptics, who tackle the "best UFO cases" on record, often with spectacular success, much to the dismay of most UFO buffs. Reports of activities are included in the Committee publication *The Skeptical Inquirer* (formerly *Zetetic*), \$12/yr.

The *National Enquirer*'s Blue Ribbon Panel of UFO experts (who review "best cases" for cash rewards). Two regular members (James Harder and Leo Sprinkle) are joined by a changing cadre of obscure "UFO experts," including this year's Willard Armstrong and John L. Warren. More respected UFOlogists have declined offers of membership. Send contest entries to **UFO REWARD**, *National Enquirer*, Lantana FL, 33464. All entries will be evaluated.

[REDACTED]

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 110600 EST NOV 75

CJCS COMMENTS RE UFO INCIDENT

(U) CJCS, at 10 Nov morning briefing, indicated that when UFO sightings are reported, the NMCC should ask for temperature gradients in the area (i.e., for possible aloft inversions). The CJCS also questioned the advisability of scrambling aircraft against reported UFOs.



N M C C

THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

8 November 1975  
0600 EST

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Unidentified Sightings

1. 0308 EST FONECON from NORAD Command Director: at 0253 EST Malmstrom AFB Montana received seven radar cuts on the height-finder radar at altitudes between 9,500' and 15,500'. Simultaneously, ground witnesses observed lights in the sky and the sounds of jet engines similar to jet fighters. Cross-tell with FAA revealed no jet aircraft within 100NM of the sightings. Radar tracked the objects over Lewistown, Montana at a speed of seven (7) knots. Two F-106 interceptors from the 24th NORAD Region were scrambled at 0254 EST and became airborne at 0257 EST. At the time of the initial voice report personnel at Malmstrom AFB and SAC sites K1, K3, L3 and L6 were reporting lights in the sky accompanied by jet engine noise.

2. 0344 EST FONECON, same source:

Objects could not be intercepted. Fighters had to maintain a minimum of 12,000' because of mountainous terrain. Sightings had turned west, increased speed to 150 knots. Two tracks were apparent on height-finder radars 10-12 NM apart. SAC site K3 reported sightings between 300' and 1,000' while site L-4 reported sightings 5NM NW of their position. Sightings disappeared from radar at position 4650N/10920W at a tracked speed of three (3) knots.

3. At 0440 EST, NMCC initiated contact with the NORAD Command Director who reported the following:

0405 EST: Malmstrom receiving intermittent tracks on both search and height-finder radars. SAC site C-1, 10NM SE of Stanford, Montana, reported visual sightings of unknown objects.

0420 EST: Personnel at 4 SAC sites reported observing intercepting F-106's arrive in area; sighted objects turned off their lights upon arrival of interceptors, and back on upon their departure.

0440 EST: SAC site C-1 still had a visual sighting on objects.

4. NORAD stated that Northern Lights will sometimes cause phenomena such as this on height-finder radars, but their check with weather services revealed no possibility of Northern Lights.

5. NMCC notified Washington FAA at 0445 EST of the incidents described above. They had not received any information prior to this time.

6. 0522 EST FONECON with NORAD Command Director: At 0405 EST SAC Site L-5 observed one object accelerate and climb rapidly to a point in altitude where it became indistinguishable from the stars. NORAD will carry this incident as a FADE remaining UNKNOWN at 0320 EST, since after that time only visual sightings occurred.

  
WILMAN D. BARNES

Brigadier General, USA  
Deputy Director for  
Operations, NMCC

Copy to:

DDO  
ADDO  
CCOC  
ALL AREA DESKS

On December 17, 1969 the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book.

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects;" a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; past UFO studies; and Air Force experience investigating UFO reports for two decades.

As a result of these investigations and studies, and experience gained from investigating UFO reports since 1948, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: (1) no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

With the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force regulation establishing and controlling the program for investigating and analyzing UFOs was rescinded. All documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20408, and is available for public review and analysis.

In 1977, President Carter asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to look into the possibility of resuming UFO investigations. After studying all the facts available, they decided that nothing would be gained by further investigation. The Air Force agrees with that decision. If, however, firm evidence is found justifying further investigation, an appropriate agency will be directed to undertake the effort.

There are a number of universities and professional scientific organizations such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which have considered UFO phenomena during periodic meetings and seminars. In addition, a list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena may be found in Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations (Edition 8, Vol I, pp. 432-3). Such timely review of the situation by private groups insures that sound evidence will not be overlooked by the scientific community.

For further reference material, two documents are available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22151:

Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. Study conducted by the University of Colorado under contract F44620-76-C-0035. Three volumes, 1,465 p. 68 plates. Photoduplicated hard copies of the official report may be ordered for \$6 per volume, \$18 the set of three, as AD 680:975, AD 680:976, and AD 680:977.

Review of University of Colorado Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. Review of report by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences. National Academy of Sciences, 1969, 6p. Photoduplicated hard copies may be ordered for \$3 as AD 688:541.

**TOTAL UFO (OBJECT) SIGHTINGS**

(Compiled 17 Jan 66)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL SIGHTINGS</u>	<u>UNIDENTIFIED</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
1947	122	12	Case Files
1948	156	7	Case Files
1949	186	22	Blue Book, page 108
1950	210	27	Case Files
1951	169	22	Case Files
1952	1,501	303	Blue Book, page 108
1953	509	42	Case Files
1954	487	46	Case Files
1955	545	24	Case Files
1956	670	14	Case Files
1957	1,006	14	Case Files
1958	627	10	Case Files
1959	390	12	Case Files
1960	557	14	Case Files
1961	591	13	Case Files
1962	474	15	Case Files
1963	399	14	Case Files
1964	562	19	Case Files
1965	886	16	Case Files
	<u>10,147</u>	<u>646</u>	

**STATISTICAL DATA FOR YEARS 1953-1964**

**TOTAL CASES BY CATEGORY**

(Compiled 1 Nov 65)

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	TOTAL
Astrocomical	173	137	133	222	341	231	144	233	203	136	85	123	2167
Aircraft	73	80	124	148	218	104	63	66	77	68	73	71	1167
Balloon	78	63	102	93	114	58	31	22	37	18	28	20	663
Insufficient Data	79	103	95	132	181	111	65	105	115	94	56	99	1246
Other	62	58	65	61	120	93	75	94	77	65	58	88	916
Satellite	0	0	0	0	8	18	0	21	89	77	82	142	417
Unidentified	42	48	24	14	14	10	12	14	13	15	14	19	237
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>6817</b>

**ASTRONOMICAL SIGHTINGS**

Meteors	70	92	70	84	170	168	100	187	119	95	57	61	1295
Stars and Planets	101	44	52	131	144	58	40	46	78	36	23	35	503
Other	4	1	4	3	18	7	4	3	6	5	5	7	67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>2167</b>

**OTHER CASES**

Hoaxes, Hallucinations, Unreliable Reports and Psychological Causes	15	6	18	18	37	29	14	13	17	11	16	34	226
Missiles and Rockets	2	1	1	3	2	6	14	12	13	9	13	7	63
Reflections	4	6	4	3	2	7	11	9	3	3	0	2	34
Flares and Fireworks	1	4	0	6	8	3	5	7	4	3	3	7	39
Mirages and Inversions	3	2	4	1	2	2	4	5	6	3	5	2	37
Search and Groundlights	9	6	14	9	12	8	5	6	1	3	3	6	81
Clouds and Contrails	6	3	2	1	9	5	3	4	5	4	5	0	47
Chaff	0	2	0	1	2	6	1	4	3	5	2	1	27
Birds	4	7	2	6	1	1	0	3	2	2	3	4	34
Radar Analysts	15	7	1	8	27	3	8	9	9	0	1	2	87
Photo Analysis	1	1	2	4	1	7	4	6	3	2	3	6	40
Physical Specimens	1	6	3	3	5	10	3	7	4	15	3	8	70
Satellite Decay	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	4	3	23
Other	1	7	4	0	9	3	3	3	4	2	4	6	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>918</b>

**STATISTICS FOR 1965**

(Compiled 18 Jan 1966)

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ASTRONOMICAL	10	8	11	4	2	10	27	82	30	27	22	12	245
AIRCRAFT	11	8	14	11	14	7	32	61	20	13	14	5	210
BALLOON	3	2	1	3	0	3	7	8	2	7	0	2	36
INSUFFICIENT DATA	9	4	2	4	4	2	16	24	15	5	3	1	85
OTHER	11	8	7	8	5	6	9	42	7	9	11	3	126
SATELLITE	4	5	3	5	15	5	42	41	24	3	0	3	152
UNIDENTIFIED	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	4	4	0	1	0	16
PENDING	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	6	4	2	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>387</b>

**ASTRONOMICAL CASES**

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Meteors	8	6	8	2	2	4	14	26	13	6	9	5	101
Stars and Planets	3	1	3	2	0	5	10	55	16	20	13	7	135
Other	1a	1b	0	0	0	1c	3d	1e	1a	1f	0	0	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>245</b>

(a) Solar Image (b) Moon (c) Sun (d) Reflected Moonlight, Parhelion, Moon (e) Reflected Moonlight (f) Comet Ikeya-Seki

**OTHER CATEGORY**

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Hoaxes, Hallucinations, Unreliable Reports and Psychological Causes	5	3	4	1	2	1	2	12	1	3	0	0	34
Missiles and Rockets					1			3	1	1	3	1	10
Reflections						1	1	2	1	1	1		7
Flares and Fireworks						1	1	1			1		4
Mirages and Inversions							2	3					5
Search and Ground Lights	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	9
Clouds and Contrails	1							1	1				3
Chaff											1		1
Birds	1	2			2			3	1	1	1		11
Physical Specimens		1c						1f	1w				3
Radar Analysis					1g	1g		3gmn		1m			6
Photo Analysis			2dI		1d	1j	2k	5x	1j				12
Satellite Decay	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	6
Miscellaneous	2ab			2bd		1h	9	4sbbb	7	9	11	3uvw	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>126</b>

(a) Tracer Bullets (b) Misinterpretation of Conventional Objects (c) Metal Ball (d) Developer Smear (e) Anomalous Propagation  
(f) Kites (g) Electronic Counter Measures (h) Debris in Wind (i) No Image on Film (k) Poor Photo Process (l) Free Falling Object  
(m) False Targets (n) Weather Returns (p) Emulsion Flaws (r) Plastic Bags (s) Man on Ground (t) Lightning (u) Chemical Trails from Research Rocket (v) Missile Launch Activity (w) Gourd

## FIREBALL REPORT

Persons observing a fireball or meteor should report the information to the American Meteor Society. The information desired is contained below.

A very brilliant meteor or fireball is reported to have passed in your vicinity on . . . . at the hour of . . . . Will you please answer as fully as possible the following questions, which are asked on behalf of the American Meteor Society in order that permanent records of such phenomena may be obtained. When these reports are published each contributor whose report is fairly complete will be mentioned, if

possible, and due credit given. It is only by the help of those who can give personal information that data can be secured for the computation of the orbits of meteors. These data are of great scientific value and all reasonable efforts should be made to obtain them. You will be unable probably to answer all questions below, but answer those you can, as they may be of the greatest importance.

- (1) Give your name and address.
- (2) Where were you when you saw the meteor? (If the town is small please give county as well.)
- (3) Give the date, hour and minute when the meteor appeared; also kind of time used.
- (4) In what direction did it appear (or in what direction was it first seen)? This is not asking in what direction it was going!
- (5) In what direction did it disappear (or in what direction was it last seen)? For questions 4 and 5, simply N, E, S, or W is not accurate enough, unless these were the exact directions. If compass is used, state it; also if magnetic correction has been applied to compass reading.
- (6) At what height did it appear? (Use degrees in answering.)
- (7) At what height did it disappear? (Use degrees in answering.)
- (8) Did it pass directly overhead (i.e., through the zenith)?
- (9) If not, to which side of the zenith did it go, and how far from it? (Use degrees in answering.)
- (10) Did it appear to reach the horizon? What sort of a horizon have you?
- (11) What angle did the path of the meteor make with the horizon and in which direction was it then going?
- (12) If you are familiar with constellations describe the path of the meteor through the sky with reference to stars.
- (13) Did the meteor appear to explode?
- (14) What was the duration of its flight in seconds?
- (15) Describe the train if one was left. If it lasted long enough to show drift, most carefully tell in what direction train drifted. Give sketch, if possible, showing this with regard to horizon.
- (16) What was the duration of the train in seconds?
- (17) Did you hear any sound?                  How long after seeing the meteor was it before you heard this sound?
- Did you hear an actual explosion? How long after seeing the explosion was it before you heard it?
- (18) Of what color was the meteor?
- (19) What was the size of the meteor? (Compare it with the Moon or with a planet or star.)
- (20) Was more than one body seen before the explosion (if any)?
- (21) What was condition of sky at time?
- (22) Give names and addresses of others who saw the meteor.
- (23) Please mail this reply to

Charles P. Oliver  
AMERICAN METEOR SOCIETY  
521 N. Wynnewood Ave  
Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 291300 EST OCT 75

WEST NEM

AFB PENETRATION

(b) At approximately 290100 EST Oct 75, one unidentified helicopter was sighted 300 to 500 meters from the weapons storage area at Loring AFB, Maine. The helicopter was at an altitude of 150 feet and penetrated Loring AFB. An attempt to contact and identify the intruding helicopter was made by an Army National Guard helo, and was unsuccessful. At 290300 EST the helicopter was sighted over the weapons storage area and the Army National Guard helicopter again responded to make contact but was unsuccessful. Loring has coordinated with the Maine State Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and plans to pursue into Canada, if necessary, if there is a reoccurrence.  
(SOURCE: 42 BW OP LORING AFB 291140Z OCT 75)..)

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 292200 EST OCT 75

AFB PENETRATION

(1) At approximately 290100 EST Oct 75, one unidentified helicopter was sighted 300 to 500 meters from the weapons storage area at Loring AFB, Maine. The helicopter was at an altitude of 150 feet and penetrated Loring AFB. An attempt to contact and identify the intruding helicopter was made by an Army National Guard helo, and was unsuccessful. At 290300 EST the helicopter was sighted over the weapons storage area and the Army National Guard helicopter again responded to make contact but was unsuccessful. The CSAF (Ops Div) has requested that the Army NG helo be provided until 300800 EST under the following conditions: To track and identify the intruder; no apprehension to take place; the Canadian Border would not be crossed; and civilian police on board will be for commo with ground units only. The request is under consideration by MG Snifin, DA Director of Operations, DCSOPS. Col Bailey, Mil A to Special Asst to SECDEF/DEPSECDEF has been advised of the situation should DoD approval be required. The State Department Canadian Desk Officer has been kept informed. (SOURCE: 42 BW CP LORING AFB 291140Z OCT 75; SAC CP OPS CONTROL 291954Z OCT 75)

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 300600 EST OCT

AFB PENETRATION

(b) At approximately 290100 EST Oct 75, an unidentified helicopter was sighted at an altitude of 150 feet at approximately 300 to 500 meters from a weapons storage area at Loring AFB, ME. At 290300 EST Oct 75, the unidentified helicopter was sighted over the weapons storage area. In both instances, an Army National Guard (NG) helicopter responded, but was unable to contact or identify the intruder. MG Sniffin, DA Director for Ops, DCSOPS, approved the following procedures for any similar incident effective until 300500 EST Oct 75:

- NG helicopter and crew placed in "full time training duty" (FTTD).
- NG helicopter may enter Canadian airspace with consent of Canadian authorities.
- NG helicopter employment limited to tracking and identification.
- Only U.S. military personnel and if considered necessary representatives from the FBI, FAA, and Border Patrol will be embarked in the NG helicopter.

(SOURCE: 42 BW CP LORING AFB 291140Z OCT 75; PHONCON DDO/INTERESTED ACTIVITIES).

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 301300 EST OCT

AFB PENETRATION

(b) At approximately 290100 EST Oct 75, an unidentified helicopter was sighted at an altitude of 150 feet at approximately 300 to 500 meters from a weapons storage area at Loring AFB, ME. At 290300 EST Oct 75, the unidentified helicopter was sighted over the weapons storage area. In both instances, an Army National Guard (NG) helicopter responded, but was unable to contact or identify the intruder. Procedures were implemented to track and identify the unidentified helicopter should it return during the evening of 29 Oct. The helicopter did not return that evening. Air Force is planning to utilize an Air Force helicopter from Plattsburgh AFB for future operations. (SOURCE: 42 BW CP LORING AFB 291140Z OCT 75; PHONCON NMCC/AFOC)



24831

POSSIBLE TARGET 6 MILES SOUTH OF THE BASE BUT TARGET COULD NOT BE  
TRULY CONFIRMED BY DAVE72 WHEN VECTORED TO THE AREA. AT 0333Z,  
THREE SECURITY POLICE PERSONNEL REPORTED SIGHTING AND HEARING A  
HELICOPTER OVER THE BASE PROPER AT APPROXIMATELY 300 FT. ALTITUDE  
TRAVELING EAST TO WEST,

THIS TARGET COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED BY RADAR ON DAVE72. LOCAL  
CANADIAN POLICE OFFICIALS REPORTED THEY SPOTTED DAE 521300Z  
FLYING LOW OVER THE ST. JOHN RIVER APPROX. 70 MILES SE-OF LORIEN AT  
0329Z. CANADIAN OFFICIALS IN THAT AREA HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO CHECK  
POSSIBLE LANDING SITES.

AT 0343Z DAVE72 REPORTED A BLOW MOVING TARGET AT 7NM NW OF BASE.  
DAVE72 WAS AGAIN LAUNCHED AND VECTORED TO THE AREA. TARGET DISAPPEARED  
HEADING 07-010 DEGREES. NO VISUAL CONTACT MADE BY DAVE72. CANADIAN  
DO NOT CONSIDER REQUEST FOR FIGHTER LAUNCH TO BE AN APPROPRIATE  
RESPONSE TO ANY OF THESE SIGHTINGS.  
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## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

## MESSAGE CENTER

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270707Z 7232  
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 ACTION 4PCT  
 07572 RUCS 800302Z 13-1941 100; 2000 000000  
 STATE OF CTN 800302Z 01  
 AS02PA(91) 074;  
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 WHITE HOUSE WASH DC  
 MCCC  
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 CMC  
 CNO WASH DC  
 CSA WASH DC  
 ANHCC FORT RITCHIE MD  
 FILE(1)  
 (R1B) 011

TRANSIT/291140Z/291149Z/820109T003021:43

DE RUCSHIJ #1705 3021:43

ZNYCCCCC/ZFD/RUCSCSA ZN2:

O 291140Z-OCT-75

→FM 42BW CP LORING ME /JJ2834

TO ZEN/SAC CP FORCE STATUS

ZEN/SAC CP LOGISTICS

ZEN/BAF CP FORCE STATUS

ZEN/BAF CP LOGISTICS

ZEN/509BW CP REASE NM

RUEKJCS/JCS(KMLO)

RUEFHQA/CSAF

RUEKAAA/USAF FWD OPS DIV FT RITCHIE MD

BT

JOPREP SIFFY 8234/FFCBBB/3A/CPRP-3 PGRAD

76-001-02 FINAL

PASS TO 45AD CC

42ND BOMB WING LORING AIR FORCE BASE, MAINE.

AT 290600Z A SIGHTING WAS MADE OF A HELICOPTER IN THE SAME GENERAL LOCATION AS THE SIGHTING LAST NIGHT. (PEP: OPREP-3 PINNACLE JJ2033) VISUAL CONTACT WAS MADE 300 TO 300 METERS FROM THE WEAPONS STORAGE AREA AT AN ALTITUDE OF 100FT. AT 290617 AIR GUARD HELICOPTER

350712 WAS LAUNCHED BUT MADE NEGATIVE VISUAL CONTACT. THE HELICOPTER WAS VISUALLY SIGHTED BY CSC AT 290800Z OVER THE WEAPONS STORAGE AREA. LOCAL GUARD HELICOPTER WAS AIRBORNE AT 290807Z BUT AGAIN MADE

NO CONTACT. THE UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT DID NOT DISPLAY LIGHTING. GROUND PERSONNEL WERE ABLE TO DIRECT THE AIR GUARD HELICOPTER TO WITHIN 1000FT OF THE UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT, WITH BOTH HELICOPTERS IN SIGHT, BUT VISUAL ACQUISITION

HAD NOT MADE. DURING THIS PERIOD A KC-135 WAS ORBITING AT 5000FT ASL TO ASSIST IN IDENTIFICATION AND TO ACT AS RADIO RELAY. AT 2300Z ALL CONTACT HAS LOST.

IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THE UNKNOWN HELICOPTER HAS DEMONSTRATED A CLEAR INTENT IN THE WEAPONS STORAGE AREA, IS SMART AND A MOST CAPABLE AVIATOR.

LOCAL SECURITY HAS BEEN INCREASED. WE ANTICIPATE FURTHER INCIDENTS ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL REQUEST THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AIR GUARD HELICOPTERS.

WE PLAN TO PURSUE INTO CANADA IF NECESSARY.

WE HAVE COORDINATED WITH MAINE STATE POLICE AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF THE COMPLETE COOPERATION OF BOTH.

R.C.M.P. WILL RESPOND TO ANY LANDING SITE IN CANADIAN TERRITORY. LOCAL SECURITY POLICE ABOARD AIR GUARD HELICOPTER HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO USE DISCRETION AND AWAIT

R.C.M.P. ARRIVAL FOR ANY APPREHENSION IN CANADIAN TERRITORY.

GCS 35 DEC 81

GT

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24331

Possible target 6 miles south of the base but target could not be visually confirmed by Dave 73 when vectored to 73 743 area, 07 0323Z, Dave 920377Y police personnel reported sightings 07 0323Z.

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2024-2025 Catalogue of the British Isles 2024-2025 Catalogue of the British Isles

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THE JOINT STAFF

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

30 October 1975  
0445 EST

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Army National Guard Helicopter Support for  
Loring AFB

1. At 292035 EST Oct 75, LTC Dyer, Office of the Director of Operations, USAF, requested that the Army National Guard (NG) helicopter and crew currently located at Loring AFB, Maine, be made available to the Commander of the 42nd Bomb Wing until 300800 EST Oct 75. The NG helicopter would be employed to track and identify the unidentified helicopter that has violated the airspace in the vicinity of the weapons storage area at Loring AFB during the early morning hours of 28 and 29 Oct 75. LTC Dyer stated that international borders would not be crossed, and that apprehensions would not be attempted by personnel embarked in the NG helicopter. Any civil police on board the aircraft would participate only to the extent of communicating with appropriate police officials on the ground, with the latter singularly responsible for the apprehension of the suspect aircraft or crew.
2. This request was relayed to MG Sniffin, DA Director of Operations, DCSOPS, at 292100 EST. MG Sniffin indicated his intent to check with Army legal officials on the matter prior to making a decision.
3. The SAC Command Post was informed at 292050 EST of the request by LTC Dyer, and the fact that MG Sniffin was checking with Army legal authorities. Col Freeman, AF Operations Center, was also informed of the status.
4. Col Bailey, Mil Asst to the Special Asst to SECDEF/DEPSECDEF, has been advised of the helicopter request should DOD approval be required.
5. The State Department Canadian Desk Officer has been kept informed of the situation.
6. At 292230 EST MG Sniffin approved use of the helicopter with the following constraints:
  - a. Tracking and identification only.
  - b. Apprehension by U.S. personnel not authorized.
  - c. No crossing of international borders.

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 132200 EST NOV 75

UFO ANALYSIS

(U) In future UFO sightings, the WEST WEM Desk Officer will initiate telephone requests to the Senior Duty Officer at the Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC) for a temperature inversion analysis in the vicinity of unusual sightings. The telephone response by AFGWC will be followed with a priority message. (SOURCE: NMCC MFR 132035 EST NOV 75)



THE JOINT STAFF

N M C C  
THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

13 November 1975  
2035 EST

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Requests for Temperature Inversion Analysis

1. LTC Schmidt, representing Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC), visited the NMCC at 131500 EST to discuss arrangements to implement the procurement of weather information desired by CJCS, which is the subject of DDO Environmental Services memo of 13 November 1975. The following agreements with LTC Schmidt were reached:

- a. The West Hem Desk Officer will act as the control officer for temperature inversion analysis requests initiated by the NMCC. These requests will be made in conjunction with sightings of unusual phenomenon along the northern US border.
- b. Each telephone request will be serialized, i.e., (TIA #1, etc.) and directed to the duty officer at AFGWC, autovon 866-1661 or 271-2586. AFGWC will provide the requested analyses by telephone followed up by a priority message.
- c. A record of the serialized requests/responses will be maintained by the West Hem Desk Officer.

C. D. ROBERTS, JR.  
Brigadier General, USMC  
Deputy Director for  
Operations, NMCC

Distribution:

J-30  
J-31  
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J-32A  
J-38  
DDO  
ADDO  
CCOC  
West Hem Desk  
WWMCCS Ops & Eval Div



N M C C  
THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

THE JOINT STAFF

21 January 1976  
0630 EST

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Report of UFO - Cannon AFB NM

Reference: AFROC Phonecon 21055 EST Jan 76

The following information was received from the Air Force Operations Center at 0555 EST:

"Two UFOs are reported near the flight line at Cannon AFB, New Mexico. Security Police observing them reported the UFOs to be 25 yards in diameter, gold or silver in color with blue light on top, hole in the middle and red light on bottom. Air Force is checking with radar. Additionally, checking weather inversion data."

J.B. MORIN  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Deputy Director for  
Operations, NMCC



N M C C

THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

THE JOINT STAFF

31 January 1976  
1400 EST

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Unidentified Flying Object Sighting

1. At 310805 received phoncon from AFOC: MG Lane, CG, Armanent and Development Test Center, Eglin AFB, Florida called and reported a UFO sighting from 0430 EST to 0600 EST. Security Policemen spotted lights from what they called a UFO near an Eglin radar site.
2. Photographs of the lights were taken. The Eglin Office of Information has made a press release on the UFO.
3. The temperature inversion analysis indicated no significant temperature inversion at Eglin AFB at that time. The only inversion present was due to radiation from the surface to 2500 feet. The Eglin surface conditions were clear skies, visibility 10-14 miles, calm winds, shallow ground fog on the runway, and a surface temperature of 44 degree F.

FRED A. TRACY  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Deputy Director for  
Operations (NMCC)

DISTRIBUTION:

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PA  
AFOC  
J-30  
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N M C C

THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

30 July 1976  
0345 EDT

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)

1. At approximately 0345 EDT, the ANMCC called to indicate they had received several reports of UFO's in the vicinity of Fort Ritchie. The following events summarize the reports (times are approximate).

a. 0130 - Civilians reported a UFO sighting near Mt. Airy, Md. This information was obtained via a call from the National Aeronautics Board (?) to the Fort Ritchie Military Police.

b. 0255 - Two separate patrols from Site R reported sighting 3 oblong objects with a reddish tint, moving east to west. Personnel were located at separate locations on top of the mountain at Site R.

c. 0300 - Desk Sgt at Site R went to the top of the Site R mountain and observed a UFO over the ammo storage area at 100-200 yards altitude.

d. 0345 - An Army Police Sgt on the way to work at Site R reported sighting a UFO in the vicinity of Site R.

2. ANMCC was requested to have each individual write a statement on the sightings. One individual stated the object was about the size of a 2 1/2 ton truck.

3. Based on a JCS memorandum, subject: Temperature Inversion Analysis, dated 13 November 1975, the NMCC contacted the Air Force Global Weather Central. The Duty Officer, LTC OVERBY, reported that the Dulles International Airport observations showed two temperature inversions existed at the time of the

Object: Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)

alleged sightings. The first extended from the surface to 1,000 feet absolute and the second existed between 27,000 and 30,000 feet, absolute. He also said the atmosphere between 12,000 and 20,000 feet was heavily saturated with moisture. A hard copy message will follow.

*L. J. LeBlanc Jr.*

L. J. LEBLANC, Jr.  
Brigadier General, USMC  
Deputy Director for  
Operations, NMCC

DISTRIBUTION:

J-30  
J-31  
J-32  
J-33  
DDO  
ADDO  
CCOC  
WHEM Desk  
ASD/PA Rep

**STATISTICAL DATA FOR YEARS 1953-1964**

<u>TOTAL CASES BY CATEGORY</u>	(Compiled 1 Nov 65)												
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	TOTAL
Astronomical	175	137	135	222	341	231	144	235	203	136	85	123	2167
Aircraft	73	80	124	148	210	106	63	66	77	66	73	71	1167
Balloon	78	63	102	93	114	58	31	22	37	19	28	20	665
Insufficient Data	79	103	95	132	191	111	69	105	115	94	59	99	1248
Other	62	38	63	61	120	93	78	94	77	65	56	68	916
Satellite	0	0	0	0	8	18	0	21	39	77	82	142	417
Unidentified	42	48	24	14	14	10	12	14	13	15	14	19	237
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>6617</b>
<u>ASTRONOMICAL SIGHTINGS</u>													
Meteors	70	92	79	88	179	168	100	187	119	95	57	61	1293
Stars and Planets	101	44	52	131	144	58	40	45	78	36	23	55	803
Other	4	1	4	3	18	7	4	3	6	5	5	7	67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>2167</b>
<u>OTHER CASES</u>													
Hoaxes, Hallucinations, Unreliable Reports and Psychological Causes	15	6	18	16	37	29	14	13	17	11	16	34	226
Missiles and Rockets	2	1	1	3	2	6	14	12	13	9	13	7	63
Reflections	4	6	4	3	2	7	11	9	3	3	0	2	34
Flares and Fireworks	1	4	8	6	8	3	5	7	4	3	3	7	59
Mirages and Inversions	3	2	4	1	5	2	4	5	6	3	0	2	37
Search and Groundlights	9	8	14	9	12	8	5	6	1	3	2	6	81
Clouds and Contrails	6	3	2	1	9	5	3	4	5	4	5	0	47
Chaff	0	2	0	1	2	6	1	4	3	5	2	1	27
Birds	4	7	2	6	1	1	0	3	2	2	2	4	34
Radar Analysis	15	7	1	6	27	3	8	6	9	0	1	2	87
Photo Analysis	1	1	2	4	1	7	4	6	3	2	3	6	40
Physical Specimens	1	8	5	3	5	10	3	7	4	15	3	8	70
Satellite Decay	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	4	3	23
Other	1	7	4	0	9	5	3	3	4	2	4	6	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>918</b>

**STATISTICS FOR 1966**

(Compiled 18 Jan 1966)

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ASTRONOMICAL	10	8	11	4	2	10	27	62	30	27	22	12	249
AIRCRAFT	11	8	14	11	14	7	32	61	20	13	14	5	210
BALLOON	3	2	1	3	0	3	7	8	2	7	0	2	36
INSUFFICIENT DATA	5	4	2	4	4	2	16	24	15	5	3	1	85
OTHER	11	8	7	8	5	6	9	42	7	9	11	3	126
SATELLITE	4	5	5	5	15	5	42	41	24	3	0	3	152
UNIDENTIFIED	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	4	4	0	1	0	16
PENDING	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	6	4	2	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>807</b>

**ASTRONOMICAL CASES**

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Meteors	6	6	8	2	2	4	14	26	13	6	9	5	101
Stars and Planets	3	1	3	2	0	5	10	55	18	20	13	7	135
Other	1a	1b	0	0	0	1c	3d	1e	1a	1f	0	0	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>245</b>

(a) Solar Image (b) Moon (c) Sun (d) Reflected Moonlight, Parhelia, Moon (e) Reflected Moonlight (f) Comet Ikeya-Seki

**OTHER CATEGORY**

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Hoaxes, Hallucinations, Unreliable Reports and Psychological Causes	5	3	4	1	2	1	2	12	1	3	0	0	34
Missiles and Rockets					1			3	1	1	3	1	10
Reflections						1	1	2	1	1	1		7
Flares and Fireworks					1		1	1					4
Mirages and Inversions							2	3					5
Search and Ground Lights	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	9
Clouds and Contrails	1							1	1			1	3
Chaff												1	1
Birds	1	2		2				3	1	1	1		11
Physical Specimens		1c						1r	1w				3
Radar Analysis					1e		1g	3gmn		1m			6
Photo Analysis			2dI		1d	1j	2kj	5x	1j				12
Satellite Decay	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	6
Miscellaneous	2ab			2mf		1h	9	42	7	9	11	3tuv	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>128</b>

(a) Tracer Bullets (b) Misinterpretation of Conventional Objects (c) Metal Ball (d) Developer Smear (e) Anomalous Propagation  
 (f) Kites (g) Electronic Counter Measures (h) Debris in Wind (i) No Image on Film (k) Poor Photo Process (l) Free Falling Object  
 (m) False Targets (n) Weather Returns (p) Emulsion Flaws (r) Plastic Bags (s) Man on Ground (t) Lightning (u) Chemical Trails  
 from Research Rocket (v) Missile Launch Activity (w) Gourd

## FIREBALL REPORT

Persons observing a fireball or meteor should report the information to the American Meteor Society. The information desired is contained below.

A very brilliant meteor or fireball is reported to have passed in your vicinity on . . . . at the hour of . . . . Will you please answer as fully as possible the following questions, which are asked on behalf of the American Meteor Society in order that permanent records of such phenomena may be obtained. When these reports are published each contributor whose report is fairly complete will be mentioned, if

possible, and due credit given. It is only by the help of those who can give personal information that data can be secured for the computation of the orbits of meteors. These data are of great scientific value and all reasonable efforts should be made to obtain them. You will be unable probably to answer all questions below, but answer those you can, as they may be of the greatest importance.

- (1) Give your name and address.
- (2) Where were you when you saw the meteor? (If the town is small please give county as well.)
- (3) Give the date, hour and minute when the meteor appeared; also kind of time used.
- (4) In what direction did it appear (or in what direction was it first seen)? This is not asking in what direction it was going!
- (5) In what direction did it disappear (or in what direction was it last seen)? For questions 4 and 5, simply N, E, S, or W is not accurate enough, unless these were the exact directions. If compass is used, state it; also if magnetic correction has been applied to compass reading.
- (6) At what height did it appear? (Use degrees in answering.)
- (7) At what height did it disappear? (Use degrees in answering.)
- (8) Did it pass directly overhead (i.e., through the zenith)?
- (9) If not, to which side of the zenith did it go, and how far from it? (Use degrees in answering.)
- (10) Did it appear to reach the horizon? What sort of a horizon have you?
- (11) What angle did the path of the meteor make with the horizon and in which direction was it then going?
- (12) If you are familiar with constellations describe the path of the meteor through the sky with reference to stars.
- (13) Did the meteor appear to explode?
- (14) What was the duration of its flight in seconds?
- (15) Describe the train if one was left. If it lasted long enough to show drift, most carefully tell in what direction train drifted. Give sketch, if possible, showing this with regard to horizon.
- (16) What was the duration of the train in seconds?
- (17) Did you hear any sound?                  How long after seeing the meteor was it before you heard this sound?  
  
Did you hear an actual explosion? How long after seeing the explosion was it before you heard it?
- (18) Of what color was the meteor?
- (19) What was the size of the meteor? (Compare it with the Moon or with a planet or star.)
- (20) Was more than one body seen before the explosion (if any)?
- (21) What was condition of sky at time?
- (22) Give names and addresses of others who saw the meteor.
- (23) Please mail this reply to

Charles P. Oliver  
AMERICAN METEOR SOCIETY  
521 N. Wynnewood Ave  
Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072



THE JOINT STAFF

N M C C.  
THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

29 October 1975  
0605 EST,

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: AFB Penetration

1. At 290200 EST AFOC informed NMCC that an unidentified helicopter, possibly two, had been sighted flying low over Loring AFB Maine, in proximity to a weapons storage area.
2. An Army National Guard helo was called in to assist in locating the unidentified helo(s).
3. NORAD was informed of the incident by SAC, requested and received authority from Canadian officials to proceed into Canadian airspace if necessary to locate the intruder.
4. At 0404 SAC Command Center informed NMCC that the army helo assisting on the scene had not sighted the unidentified helo(s).
5. A similar incident was reported at Loring the evening of 28 October 1975 .

C. D. ROBERTS, JR.  
Brigadier General, USMC  
Deputy Director for  
Operations (NMCC)

Distribution:

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J-32A	DDO (NMCC)	
J-33	ADDO (NMCC)	
J-34	CCOC (NMCC)	
J-35	DIA REP FOR NMIC	
J-38	NSA REP	
	CIA REP	

AFB PENETRATION

At approximately 290200 EST Oct 75, AFOC relayed a report from Loring AFB, ME indicating that one unidentified helicopter, possibly two helicopters, had penetrated Loring AFB from Canadian territory with one helicopter landing briefly in proximity to a weapons storage area. Attempts to locate or identify the intruding helicopters by an Army National Guard helicopter were unsuccessful. Sightings of the unidentified helicopter(s) were limited to security guards. A similar incident with a single helicopter occurred during the early morning of 28 Oct 75. Permission has been granted by Canadian authorities to give pursuit into Canadian airspace if subsequent contact is effected by U.S. helicopters.

[REDACTED]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SPACELAB DIVISION  
APO NEW YORK 100-292



RECORDED  
AMERICAN

CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.
2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES T. HALT, Lt Col, USAF  
Deputy Base Commander



THE JOINT STAFF

N M C C.  
THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

29 October 1975  
0605 EST.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: AFB Penetration

1. At 290200 EST AFOC informed NMCC that an unidentified helicopter, possibly two, had been sighted flying low over Loring AFB Maine, in proximity to a weapons storage area.
2. An Army National Guard helo was called in to assist in locating the unidentified helo(s).
3. NORAD was informed of the incident by SAC, requested and received authority from Canadian officials to proceed into Canadian airspace if necessary to locate the intruder.
4. At 0404 SAC Command Center informed NMCC that the army helo assisting on the scene had not sighted the unidentified helo(s).
5. A similar incident was reported at Loring the evening of 28 October 1975 .



C. D. ROBERTS, JR.  
Brigadier General, USMC  
Deputy Director for  
Operations (NMCC)

Distribution:

CJCS (5)	CSA	PA REP
DJS (3)	CNO	WEST HEM DESK
J-30	CSAF	NWSB
J-31	CMC	NMCC BRIEFER
J-32	CH, WWMCCS OPS & EVAL DIV	
J-32A	DDO (NMCC)	
J-33	ADDO (NMCC)	
J-34	CCOC (NMCC)	
J-35	DIA REP FOR NMIC	
J-38	NSA REP	
	CIA REP	

AFB PENETRATION

At approximately 290200 EST Oct 75, AFOC relayed a report from Loring AFB, ME indicating that one unidentified helicopter, possibly two helicopters, had penetrated Loring AFB from Canadian territory with one helicopter landing briefly in proximity to a weapons storage area. Attempts to locate or identify the intruding helicopters by area. Sightings of an Army National Guard helicopter were unsuccessful. Sightings of the unidentified helicopter(s) were limited to security guards. A similar incident with a single helicopter occurred during the early morning of 28 Oct 75. Permission has been granted by Canadian authorities to give pursuit into Canadian airspace if subsequent contact is effected by U.S. helicopters.

U.S. PENETRATION

At approximately 290200 EST Oct 75, AFOC relayed a report from Loring AFB, ME indicating that one unidentified helicopter, possibly two helicopters, had penetrated Loring AFB from Canadian territory with one helicopter landing briefly in proximity to a weapons storage area. Attempts to locate or identify the intruding helicopters by an Army National Guard helicopter were unsuccessful. Sightings of the unidentified helicopter(s) were limited to security guards. A similar incident with a single helicopter occurred during the early morning of 28 Oct 75. Permission has been granted by Canadian authorities to give pursuit into Canadian airspace if subsequent contact is effected by U.S. helicopters.

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 291300 EST OCT 75

WEST HEM

AFB PENETRATION

(b) At approximately 290100 EST Oct 75, one unidentified helicopter was sighted 300 to 500 meters from the weapons storage area at Loring AFB, Maine. The helicopter was at an altitude of 150 feet and penetrated Loring AFB. An attempt to contact and identify the intruding helicopter was made by an Army National Guard helo, and was unsuccessful. At 290300 EST the helicopter was sighted over the weapons storage area and the Army National Guard helicopter again responded to make contact but was unsuccessful. Loring has coordinated with the Maine State Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and plans to pursue into Canada, if necessary, if there is a reoccurrence.  
(SOURCE: 42 BW OP LORING AFB 291140Z OCT 75).)

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 292200 EST OCT 75

AFB PENETRATION

At approximately 290100 EST Oct 75, one unidentified helicopter was sighted 300 to 500 meters from the weapons storage area at Loring AFB, Maine. The helicopter was at an altitude of 150 feet and penetrated Loring AFB. An attempt to contact and identify the intruding helicopter was made by an Army National Guard helo, and was unsuccessful. At 290300 EST the helicopter was sighted over the weapons storage area and the Army National Guard helicopter again responded to make contact but was unsuccessful. The CSAF (Ops Div) has requested that the Army NG helo be provided until 300800 EST under the following conditions: To track and identify the intruder; no apprehension to take place; the Canadian Border would not be crossed; and civilian police on board will be for commo with ground units only. The request is under consideration by MG Snifin, DA Director of Operations, DCSOPS. Col Bailey, Mil A to Special Asst to SECDEF/DEPSECDEF has been advised of the situation should DoD approval be required. The State Department Canadian Desk Officer has been kept informed. (SOURCE: 42 BW CP LORING AFB 291140Z OCT 75; SAC CP OPS CONTROL 291954Z OCT 75)

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 300600 EST OCT

AFB PENETRATION

(b) At approximately 290100 EST Oct 75, an unidentified helicopter was sighted at an altitude of 150 feet at approximately 300 to 500 meters from a weapons storage area at Loring AFB, ME. At 290300 EST Oct 75, the unidentified helicopter was sighted over the weapons storage area. In both instances, an Army National Guard (NG) helicopter responded, but was unable to contact or identify the intruder. MG Sniffin, DA Director for Ops, DCSOPS, approved the following procedures for any similar incident effective until 300600 EST Oct 75:

- NG helicopter and crew placed in "full time training duty" (FTTD).
- NG helicopter may enter Canadian airspace with consent of Canadian authorities.
- NG helicopter employment limited to tracking and identification.
- Only U.S. military personnel and if considered necessary representatives from the FBI, CIA, and Border Patrol will be embarked in the NG helicopter.

(SOURCE: 42 BW CP LORING AFB 291140Z OCT 75; PHONCON DDO/INTERESTED ACTIVITIES).

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 301300 EST OCT

AFB PENETRATION

(b) At approximately 290100 EST Oct 75, an unidentified helicopter was sighted at an altitude of 150 feet at approximately 300 to 500 meters from a weapons storage area at Loring AFB, ME. At 290300 EST Oct 75, the unidentified helicopter was sighted over the weapons storage area. In both instances, an Army National Guard (NG) helicopter responded, but was unable to contact or identify the intruder. Procedures were implemented to track and identify the unidentified helicopter should it return during the evening of 29 Oct. The helicopter did not return that evening. Air Force is planning to utilize an Air Force helicopter from Plattsburgh AFB for future operations. (SOURCE: 42 BW CP LORING AFB 291140Z OCT 75; PHONCON NMCC/AFOC)

FROM: AF/XOCOCA

EVENT:

Identified Helicopter Intrusion  
 LOCATION:  
 Wurtsmith AFB, MI

DATE/TIME OF EVENT:

30/2255E Oct 1975  
 TIME REPORTED TO AFOC:  
 30/2327E Oct 1975

SAC (Lt Col Giordano) reports that an unidentified helicopter with no lights came up over the back gate of Wurtsmith and hovered over the Weapons Storage Area and then moved on.

RAPCON had it painted for a short period. A tanker at 2700 feet had visual and skin paint out over Lake Huron for about 20 miles heading SE. Tanker reports he thinks he saw a second skin paint. The tanker lost all contact about 35 miles SE of the base over the lake. Tanker is still flying trying to locate by means of telephonic search with FAA and RAPCON. Increased security initiated at Wurtsmith.

31/0030E Update: Lt Col Giordano (SAC Senior Controller) updates and corrects the above information as follows: An unidentified low flying aircraft came up over the back gate of Wurtsmith and was visually sighted in the vicinity of the motor pool. RAPCON showed several aircraft at the time, one near the WSA (there was no hovering as previously reported). A tanker was dispatched and had visual and skin paint out over Lake Huron of a low flying aircraft (with lights on) heading SE at approximately 150 knots.

Tanker reports that the aircraft appeared to be joined by another aircraft (with its lights on also). Tanker reports that both aircraft then turned out their lights simultaneously, as if on signal. Tanker lost all contact approximately 35 NM SE of the base. Upon information that the Dept of Natural Resources sends out aircraft searching for hunters spotting deer, the Dept of Natural Resources was contacted; however, they maintain none of their aircraft were in the area at the time.

## NOTIFICATION RECORD AND DISTRIBUTION

OFFICE	PERSON	TIME	OFFICE	PERSON	TIME	OFFICE	PERSON	TIME
SAFOS	121	/	AFIG	11	/			
SAFUS	1	/	AFIAGY	12	/			
SAFOSA	11	/	AFISN	11				
SAFOI	11	/	AFISQ	11				
SAFLL	131	/	AFIG	11				0330
AFCC	12	/	AFIGI	11				
AFCV	12	/	AFISC	1-				
AFXO	121	/	AFOSI	11	...			0330
AFXOX	11	/	AFSP	11				
AFXOC	131		AFDP	11				
AFXOOS	11		AFDPXJGI					
AFXOOC	11		AFLC	1-1				
AFXOOCII			IGS	11				
AIRPL	11		(XWCC)	1/1 E-3				0330
			D.C.	12				
			XCCSC	1/1 D4ER	0330			
			AFIN	11				
			YCCSS	11				

VZC3CMAY741ILNS94

MULT

ACTION NMCC

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STATE DDCR NMIC S2

ASD:ISA(03) DIA:

CIA

DIA(1B) NSA

WHITE HOUSE WASH DC

MCACC

AOC/CARLISLE BKS PA

CMC

CNO WASH DC

CBA WASH DC

ANMCC FCRT RITCHIE MD

FILE(1)

(P19)

IMMEDIATE

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ZNY CCCCCC 2NZJ

O 010025Z Nov 75

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TO ZEN/SAC CP FORCE STATUS

ZEN/SAC CP LOGISTICS

ZEN/3AF CP FORCE STATUS

ZEN/3AF CP LOGISTICS

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RUEKJCS/JCS(NMCC)

RUEKAAA/USAF PHD OPS DIV FT RITCHIE MD

RUEKDLA/NCRAD Ccc ENT AFB CO

ST

JOPREP JIFFY 0092/FFDDQ8/IN/Cprep-3 PINNAC  
78-000-02091 PINAL

PASS TO 45AD CC

SND SND MSG , LORING AIR FORCE BASE MAINE

AT 0017Z A VISUAL SIGHTING OF AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT WAS REPORTED  
TO LORING CAC 4NM NNM OF LORING AFB,

AT 0019Z ALERT MELO SAWE72 HAS LAUNCHED TO IDENTIFY THE OBJECT.  
SAWE72 REACHED THE AREA AND WAS NOT ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT. LORING  
RECD 7MELO REPEATED A

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POSSIBLE TARGET 6 MILES SOUTH OF THE BASE BUT TARGET COULD NOT BE  
FULLY CONFIRMED BY DAVE72 WHEN VECTORED TO THE AREA. AT 0333Z,

THREE SECURITY POLICE PERSONNEL REPORTED SIGHTING AND HEARING A  
HELICOPTER OVER THE BASE PROPER AT APPROXIMATELY 033 97. POSITION  
TRAVELED EASY TO WEST.

THIS TARGET COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED BY RADAR OR DAVE72. LOCAL  
CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE OFFICIALS REPORTED THEY 0207Z-0300Z  
FLYING LOW OVER THE ST. JOHN RIVER APPROX. 78 MILES SE-OF LORING AT  
0323Z. CANADIAN OFFICIALS IN THAT AREA HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO CHECK  
POSSIBLE LANDING SITE.

AT 0343Z DAVE72 REPORTED A SLOW MOVING TARGET AT 7NM NW OF BASE.  
DAVE72 WAS AGAIN LAUNCHED AND VECTORED TO THE AREA. TARGET DISAPPEARED  
FROM RADAR AT 0348Z. DAVE72 REQUESTED TWO FIGHTERS ON CALLBACK.  
HEADING 07-018 DEGREES. NO VISUAL CONTACT MADE BY DAVE72. CONNEX  
020 NOT CONSIDER REQUEST FOR FIGHTER LAUNCH TO BE AN APPROPRIATE  
CONNECTION VS ANY OF THESE SIGHTINGS.

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MESSAGE CENTER

196

250

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RUL

ACTION 4PCC

075720Z 200302Z 13-1947 100 0000 SECDEF

STATE SECRET 0207 02

ASD:ISA:R: DIA:

CIA

DIA:ISA: ASA

WHITE HOUSE WASH DC

NSC

AOC CARLISLE BRS PA

CNC

CNO WASH DC

CSA WASH DC

ANMCC FORT MITCHEV PO

FILE(1)

(K16) 200302Z 13-1947 100 0000 SECDEF

TRANSIT/291140Z/291149Z/828:097CR3321:43

DE RUCSHIJ W1705 3021140

ZNYCCCCC/ZFD/RUCSCSA ZN2:

O 291140Z-Oct 75

FM 142BW CP LORING ME /JJ2234

TO ZEN/SAC CP FORCE STATUS

ZEN/SAC CP LOGISTICS

ZEN/8AF CP FORCE STATUS

ZEN/8AF CP LOGISTICS

ZEN/509BW CP PEASE NM

RUEKJCS/JCS (NMIC)

RUEFHQA/CSAF

RUEKAAA/USAF FWD OPS DIV FT MITCHEV NC

BT

JOPKEP JIFFY 0234/FFDD0B:03/CPRP-3 P234AC

76-001-02 FINAL

PASS TO 45AD CC

42ND BOMB WING LORING AIR FORCE BASE, MAINE.

AT 290600Z A SIGHTING WAS MADE OF A HELICOPTER IN THE SAME GENERAL LOCATION AS THE SIGHTING LAST NIGHT.

(CPRP-3 Pinnacle JJ0033; VISUAL CONTACT WAS MADE 332 TO 329 METERS FROM THE WEAPONS STORAGE AREA AT AN ALTITUDE OF 152FT.

AT 290617 AIR GUARD HELICOPTER

350712 WAS LAUNCHED BUT MADE NEGATIVE VISUAL CONTACT. THE HELICOPTER WAS VISUALLY SIGHTED BY CSC AT 290822Z OVER THE WEAPONS STORAGE AREA. THE LOCAL GUARD HELICOPTER WAS AIRBORNE AT 290637Z BUT AGAIN MADE

NO CONTACT. THE UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT DID NOT DISPLAY LIGHTING. GROUND PERSONNEL WERE ABLE TO DIRECT THE AIR GUARD HELICOPTER TO WITHIN 1000FT OF THE UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT, WITH BOTH HELICOPTERS IN SIGHT, BUT VISUAL ACQUISITION

WAS NOT MADE. DURING THIS PERIOD A KC-135 WAS ORBITING AT 5000FT MSL TO AID IN IDENTIFICATION AND TO ACT AS RAPID RELAY. AT 2330Z ALL CONTACT WAS LOST.

IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THE UNKNOWN HELICOPTER HAS DEMONSTRATED A CLEAR INTENT IN THE WEAPONS STORAGE AREA, IS SMART AND A MOST CAPABLE AVIATOR.

LOCAL SECURITY HAS BEEN INCREASED. WE ANTICIPATE FURTHER INCIDENT ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL REQUEST THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AIR GUARD HELICOPTERS.

WE PLAN TO PURSUE INTO CANADA IF NECESSARY. WE HAVE COORDINATED WITH MAINE STATE POLICE AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF THE COMPLETE COOPERATION OF BOTH.

R.C.P.P. WILL RESPOND TO ANY LANDING SITE IN CANADIAN TERRITORY. LOCAL SECURITY POLICE ABOARD AIR GUARD HELICOPTER HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO USE DISCRETION AND AWAITS R.C.M.P. ARRIVAL FOR ANY APPREHENSION IN CANADIAN TERRITORY.

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25331

Possibly target 8 miles south of the base but target could not be visually confirmed by DAVE BROWN. vectored to the area. At 0700Z, 100-43 security police personnel reported observing a black 1965

2423 340323Z MAY 62 CONFIRMED BY RADAR BY 0405Z, 55711  
242310Z MAY 62 POLICE OFFICIALS REPORTED THEY SPOTTED 602 521302Z  
242313Z MAY 62 OVER APPROX 70 MILES SSW OF LEBANON AT  
0320Z, CONCERN EXPRESSION THAT AREA HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO CLOUDS  
242330Z MAY 62 0320Z

2014-08-22 10:20:00

1. *Chlorophytum comosum* (L.) Willd. (Asparagaceae) - *Chlorophytum comosum* (L.) Willd. (Asparagaceae)

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THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

THE JOINT STAFF

30 October 1975  
0445 EST

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Army National Guard Helicopter Support for Loring AFB

1. At 292035 EST Oct 75, LTC Dyer, Office of the Director of Operations, USAF, requested that the Army National Guard (NG) helicopter and crew currently located at Loring AFB, Maine, be made available to the Commander of the 42nd Bomb Wing until 300800 EST Oct 75. The NG helicopter would be employed to track and identify the unidentified helicopter that has violated the airspace in the vicinity of the weapons storage area at Loring AFB during the early morning hours of 28 and 29 Oct 75. LTC Dyer stated that international borders would not be crossed, and that apprehensions would not be attempted by personnel embarked in the NG helicopter. Any civil police on board the aircraft would participate only to the extent of communicating with appropriate police officials on the ground, with the latter singularly responsible for the apprehension of the suspect aircraft or crew.
2. This request was relayed to MG Sniffin, DA Director of Operations, DCSOPS, at 292100 EST. MG Sniffin indicated his intent to check with Army legal officials on the matter prior to making a decision.
3. The SAC Command Post was informed at 292050 EST of the request by LTC Dyer, and the fact that MG Sniffin was checking with Army legal authorities. Col Freeman, AF Operations Center, was also informed of the status.
4. Col Bailey, Mil Asst to the Special Asst to SECDEF/DEPSECDEF, has been advised of the helicopter request should DOD approval be required.
5. The State Department Canadian Desk Officer has been kept informed of the situation.
6. At 292230 EST MG Sniffin approved use of the helicopter with the following constraints:
  - a. Tracking and identification only.
  - b. Apprehension by U.S. personnel not authorized.
  - c. No crossing of international borders.

- d. Only U.S. personnel, preferably military, but including FBI, FAA, and Border Patrol representatives if necessary, will be on board the NG helicopter.
7. MG Sniffin will initiate appropriate action to place the Army NG helicopter and crew on "Full Time Training Duty" (FTTD). In essence, the NG helicopter will be federalized.
8. OSD, through Col Bailey, has been advised of the approval and constraints in this situation and has stated OSD has no objections to the action.
9. At 292249 EST the DDO (NMCC) established a conference call with SAC (MG Burkhart), AFOC, AOC, and Commander 42nd Bomb Wing, Loring AFB informing them of the approval to use the Army NG helicopter with the constraints listed in para 6 above. Commander 42nd Bomb Wing stated that there was no utility in using the helicopter if it couldn't cross the border. Air Force representative LTC Dyer was brought into the conference and stated that AF had no objection to the border crossing. At 292300 EST the DDO (NMCC) informed MG Sniffin of the border crossing issue.
10. At 292325 EST MG Sniffin informed the DDO (NMCC) that approval was granted for the NG helicopter to cross the border with the consent of Canadian authorities. The DDO (NMCC) assured MG Sniffin that the Canadians were cooperating and had already given consent to cross the border.
11. At 292334 EST another conference call was convened by the DDO (NMCC) with the above conferees, (para 9) informing them of the authority to cross the border if necessary. There were no further questions and all conferees were satisfied with the procedures established for the employment of the NG helicopter.



C. D. ROBERTS, JR.  
Brigadier General, USMC  
Deputy Director for  
Operations (NMCC)

Distribution:

CJCS (5)	CSA	PA REP
DJS (3)	CNO	WEST HEM DESK
J-30	CSAF	NWSB
J-31	CMC	NMCC BRIEFER
J-32	CH, WWMCCS OPS & EVAL DIV	
J-32A	DDO (NMCC)	
J-33	ADDO (NMCC)	
J-34	CCOC (NMCC)	
J-35	DIA REP FOR NMIC	

[REDACTED]

DDO TALKER

AS OF 010800 EST NOV 75

WEST NEM

HELICOPTER SITED AT LORING

(1) At 312317 EST, a visual sighting of an unidentified object was reported 4 nautical miles northwest of Loring AFB, Maine. The alert helo at Loring was launched to identify the object but was unable to make contact. The alert helo was launched again at 010146 EST in response to a slow moving target picked up by RAPCON. This flight was also unable to make contact with the object. (SOURCE: [REDACTED] SW 010825Z NOV 75)

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 011300 EST NOV 75

HELICOPTER SIGHTED AT LORING

(S) At 312317 EST Oct, a visual sighting of an unidentified object was reported 4 nautical miles northwest of Loring AFB, Maine. The alert helo at Loring was launched to identify the object but was unable to make contact. The alert helo was launched again at 010146 EST Nov in response to a slow moving target picked up by RAPCON. This sortie was also unable to make contact with the object. (SOURCE: 42D BW 010825Z NOV 75)

(U) A copy of messages received regarding unidentified aircraft flying in the vicinity of air bases will be forwarded to the Military Assistant to the SECDEF. (SOURCE: MILASST TO SECDEF).



N M C C  
THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

31 October 1975  
0451 EST

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Low Flying Aircraft/Helicopter Sightings at Wurtsmith AFB, MI.

1. The SAC Command Post notified the NMCC of reported low flying aircraft/helicopter sightings at Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan at 302342 EST.
2. The attached OPREP-3s give a summary of the reported sightings.

*DONALD M. DAVIS*  
DONALD M. DAVIS  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Deputy Director for Operations (NMCC)

Attachments  
a/s

Distribution:

J-30  
J-31  
DDO (NMCC)  
ADDO (NMCC)  
CCOC (NMCC)  
WHEM DESK (NMCC)

FROM: AF/XOCOCA

EVENT:

Identified Helicopter Intrusion

DATE/TIME OF EVENT:

30/2255E Oct 1975

LOCATION:

TIME REPORTED TO AFOC:

Wurtsmith AFB, MI

30/2327E Oct 1975

SAC (Lt Col Giordano) reports that an unidentified helicopter with no lights came up over the back gate of Wurtsmith and hovered over the Weapons Storage Area and then moved on.

RAPCON had it painted for a short period. A tanker at 2700 feet had visual and skin paint out over Lake Huron for about 20 miles heading SE. Tanker reports he thinks he saw a second skin paint. The tanker lost all contact about 35 miles SE of the base over the lake. Tanker is still flying trying to locate by means of telephonic search with FAA and RAPCON. Increased security initiated at Wurtsmith.

31/0030E Update: Lt Col Giordano (SAC Senior Controller) updates and corrects the above information as follows: An unidentified low flying aircraft came up over the back gate of Wurtsmith and was visually sighted in the vicinity of the motor pool. RAPCON showed several aircraft at the time, one near the WSA (there was no hovering as previously reported). A tanker was dispatched and had visual and skin paint out over Lake Huron of a low flying aircraft (with lights on) heading SE at approximately 150 knots.

Tanker reports that the aircraft appeared to be joined by another aircraft (with its lights on also). Tanker reports that both aircraft then turned out their lights simultaneously, as if on signal. Tanker lost all contact approximately 35 NM SE of the base. Upon information that the Dept of Natural Resources sends out aircraft searching for hunters spotting deer, the Dept of Natural Resources was contacted; however, they maintain none of their aircraft were in the area at the time.

## NOTIFICATION SECURED AND DISTRIBUTION

OFFICE	PERSON	TIME	TIME	OFFICE	PERSON	TIME	TIME
SAFOS	12	/	/	AFIG	11	/	/
SAFUS	1	/	/	AFIGY	11	/	/
SAFOSA	13	/	/	AFIN	11	/	/
SAFOI	11	/	/	AFISD	11	/	/
SAFLL	12	/	/	AFIG	11	0330	
AFCC	12	/	/	AFIGI	11		
AFCV	12	/	/	AFISC	1-		
AFXO	12	/	/	AFOSI	11	0330	
AFXOX	13	/	/	AFSP	11		
AFXOO	13	/	/	AFDP	11		
AFXOOS	11			AFDPXJG1			
AFYOCU	11			AFPLC	1-		
AFYOCOA	11			AFG	11		
AFYOCOB	11			(AFCC)	11 E-3	0330	
AFYRPL	1			D.C.	11		
				EXCSR	11 D4AF	0330	30
				AFIN	11		
				EXCSS	11		

ACTION: NONE-OC

INFO:

0700Z RUCSHIJ2068 3040649 N TM S-UUUU-PUEFHQA.

3000Z ZNZ1  
310549Z OCT 75  
3798X CO WURTSWORTH MI / 000065  
2EN/SAC CP : FORCE STATUS  
N/SAC CP LOGISTICS  
N/EAF CP FORCE STATUS  
N/8AF CP LOGISTICS  
EF HGA/CSAF  
EXAAA/USAF FWD OPS DIV FT RITCHIE MD

PASS TO  
WEST HEMI  
ADV GY DESK.  
~~ADV GY~~

CLASSIFIED JOPREP JIFFY DC65/FF0540/IN/CPR EP-1 SEE LINE # 6-02 1-01  
0345Z CSC ADVISED CP THAT THE SECURITY GUARD AT BACK GATE  
NOTED AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT FLYING LOW OVER THE BASE AT  
APPROX 0320Z. INITIAL REPORT TO CP SAID THAT AIRCRAFT WAS ALSO  
OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF ASA HOWEVER. LATER REPORTS SAID THAT  
AIRCRAFT OBSERVED MAY HAVE BEEN A KC-135 IN THE LOCAL TRAFFIC  
PATTERN. AT 0330Z KC-135 SAID THAT THEY HAD SKIN PAINTED ON  
ADARIAN AIRCRAFT 8 1/2 MILES NE OF BASE BUT COULD NOT SPOT  
THE AIRCRAFT VISUALLY. AT APPROX 0350Z THE KC-135 PICKED UP THE  
UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT NE OF THE BASE AT APPROX 090/21 ON A VISUAL  
AGE 02 RUCSHIJ 2068 UNCLAS

IF TNG - KC-135 SAID HE SAW TWO AIRCRAFT IN A TRAIL FORMATION  
APPROX 155 KIAS HEADING SOUTH. KC-135 SAID HE LOST CONTACT  
WITH THE FORMATION AT 0413Z WITH THE UNIDENTIFIED FORMATION ON  
THE KOSC 115/35 KC-135 TRACKED THE AIRCRAFT SOUTH TO THE MICH.  
THUMB AREA AND BACK NORTH TO THE BASE AREA A NUMBER OF TIMES.  
EACH TIME THE KC-135 LOST VISUAL SIGHTING. KC-135 LANDED WHEN  
FUEL APPROACHED 01 MINIMUMS. INVESTIGATIONS IN PROGRESS. REPORTS  
TO FOLLOW AS INFO IS OBTAINED

BT

#2068

0700Z RUCSHIJ2068 3040649 0034-UUUU

3040648

IMMEDIATE

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 310600 EST OCT 1975

LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT/HELICOPTER SIGHTINGS

(U) The SAC Senior Controller notified the NMCC at 302342 EST of unidentified low-flying aircraft/helicopter sightings at Wurtsmith AFB, MI. One aircraft was visually sighted in the vicinity of the motor pool. RAPCON showed several objects on radar at the same time. A tanker was dispatched to the area and obtained both visual and radar skin paint of two aircraft. Both aircraft had lights on initially but appeared to turn them off simultaneously. (SOURCE: OPREP-3 302327 OCT 75)

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 081400 EST NOV 1975

UFO SIGHTING

(U) From 080253 EST Nov 75 to 080420 EST Nov 75, Malmstrom AFB MT and four SAC sites reported a series of visual and radar contacts with unidentified flying objects. Several reports from the same locations included jet engine sounds associated with the observed bright lights. Two interceptors scrambled from 24th NORAD Region failed to make contact with the UFO's.

(U) The UFO sightings occurred on an extremely clear night. Visibility was 45 miles. Although northern lights will cause phenomena similar to the received reports, weather services indicated no possibility of northern lights during the period in question. (SOURCE: NMCC MFR 080600 EST NOV 75.)

DDO UPDATE

AS OF 032200 EST NOV 75

NORTH DAKOTA

(U) At 032115 EST a penetration of the flight line at Grand Forks AFB by unknown persons was reported by AFOC. At least two KC-135 aircraft were hit by small arms fire. Security forces with dogs are tracking the unknown attackers. (SOURCE: AFOC)

~~DDO-1011TR~~ AS OF 091400 EST NOV 75

UFO SIGHTING

(U) Unknown sightings vicinity Malmstrom AFB, MT (See MFR). A follow-up with NORAD at 090430 EST provided no additional information. (LTG Smith indicated his continuing interest in phoneson with DDO OT #4 on 8 November 1975).

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

PRIORITY

MCGREGOR

PAFF 04 257 MA 13

ACTIONS: NONE - DR

TNFDR

PARCZYMIK RUEKJCS 9717 25 MAY 1976 NMIS-CCCD - RUEFHQB

PNY

230800Z SEP 76

FH JCS

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASH DC

RUEFAIR/CIA WASH DC

RUEFHQB/WHITE HOUSE WASH DC

RUEFHQB/CCAF WASH DC

RUEFHQB/CNO WASH DC

RUEADBB/CGA WASH DC

230600Z SEP 76

FH USDAO TEHRAN

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF DEPSECDEF WASHDC

RUEFRA & COMINTFASTFOR

R TEC/CTNGUSAFE 1. TNSEY AS:GE/VINCF

R AER/CTNCUSAFF RAHSTEIN AR GE/INOON

RUEFHQB/FINAC VAIHTNGEN GER

RUEFHQB/URCINCEUR VAIHTNGEN GER/ECH-2

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 1235 SEP 76

THIS IS IR 6 846 0139 76

1. (U) IRAN

2. REPORTED UFO SIGHTING. (U)

3. (U) NA

4. (U) 19 & 20 SEP 76

5. (U) TEHRAN, IRAN 20 SEP 76

6. (U) F-6

7. (U) 6 846 0008 (NOTE TO COMMENTS)

8. (U) 6 846 0139 76

9. (U) 22 SEP 76

10. (U) NA

11. (U) INITIATE IPSP PT-1640

12. (U) USDAO TEHRAN, IRAN

13. (U) FRANK R. MCKENZIE, COL, USAF, DA

14. (U) NA

15. (U) THIS REPORT FORWARDS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE  
SIGHTING OF AN UFO IN IRAN ON 19 SEPTEMBER 1976.

AT ABOUT 1230 AM ON 19 SEP 76 THE

RECEIVED FOUR TELEPHONE CALLS

FROM CITIZENS LIVING IN THE CHEMIRAN AREA OF TEHRAN SAYING

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

PRIORITY

PRIORITY

REF ID:

MS6654

PAGE 02 267 0213

THAT THEY HAD SEEN STRANGE OBJECTS IN THE SKY. SOME REPORTED A KIND OF BIRD-LIKE OBJECT WHILE OTHERS REPORTED A HELICOPTER WITH A LIGHT ON. THEREFORE NO HELICOPTERS AIRBORNE AT THAT TIME.

AFTER HE TOLD THE CITIZEN IT WAS ONLY STARS, AND HAD TALKED TO MEHRABAD TOWER HE DECIDED TO LOOK FOR HIMSELF. HE NOTICED AN OBJECT IN THE SKY SIMILAR TO A STAR BIGGER AND BRIGHTER. HE DECIDED TO SEND HALF AN F-4 FROM SHAHROKHT AFB TO INVESTIGATE.

At 0130 hrs on the 19th the F-4 took off and proceeded to a point about 40 nm north of TEHRAN. Due to its brilliancy the object was easily visible from 70 miles away. As the F-4 approached a range of 25 nm he lost all instrumentation and communications (UHF and intercom). He broke off the intercept and headed back to Shahrokh. When the F-4 turned away from the object and apparently was no longer a threat to it the aircraft regained all instrumentation and communications. At 0140 hrs a second F-4 was launched. The backseater acquired a radar lock on at 27 nm. 12 o'clock HHT position with the VC (rate of closure) at 150 nmph. As HF range decreased to 25 nm the object moved away at a speed that was visible on the radar scope and stayed at 25nm. The size of the radar return was comparable to that of a 707 tanker. The visual size of the object was difficult to discern because of its intense brilliancy. The light that it gave off was that of flashing strobe lights arranged in a rectangular pattern and alternating blue-green, red and orange in color. The sequence of the lights was so fast that all the colors could be seen at once. The object and the pursuing F-4 continued on a course to the south of Tehran. When another brightly-lighted object, estimated to be one half to one third the apparent size of the moon, came out of the original object. This second object headed straight toward the F-4 at a very fast rate of speed. The pilot attempted to fire an AIM-9 missile at the object but at that instant his weapons control panel went off and he lost all communications (UHF and interphone). At this point the pilot initiated a turn and negative g dive to get away. As he turned the object fell in trail. At what appeared to be about 3-4 nm, as he continued in his turn away from the primary object the second object went to the inside of his turn then returned to the primary object for a perfect rejoin.

Shortly after the second object joined up with the primary object another object appeared to come out of the

PRIORITY

\*\* UNCLASSIFIED \*\*  
\*\* UNCLASSIFIED \*\*

PRIORITY

DET: MESSA

PAGE 03 267 MTS

ANOTHER SIDE OF THE PRIMARY OBJECT GOING STRAIGHT DOWN AT A GREAT RATE OF SPEED. THE F-4 CREW HAD REGAINED COMMUNICATIONS AND THE WEAPONS CONTROL PANEL AND WATCHED THE OBJECT APPROACH THE GROUND ANTICIPATING A LARGE EXPLOSION. THIS OBJECT APPEARED TO COME DOWN GENTLY ON THE EARTH AND CAST A VERY BRIGHT LIGHT OVER AN AREA OF ABOUT 2-3 KILOMETERS.

THE CREW DESCENDED FROM THEIR ALTITUDE OF 25K TO 15K AND CONTINUED TO OBSERVE AND MARK THE OBJECT'S POSITION. THEY HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN ADJUSTING THEIR NIGHT VISIBILITY FOR LANDING SO AFTER ORBITING MEHRABAD A FEW TIMES THEY WENT OUT FOR A STRAIGHT IN LANDING. THERE WAS A LOT OF INTERFERENCE ON THE UHF AND EACH TIME THEY PASSED THROUGH A MAG. BEARING OF 150 DEGREE FROM FHRABAD THEY LOST THEIR COMMUNICATIONS (UHF AND INTERPHONE) AND THE INS FLUCTUATED FROM 30 DEGREES - 50 DEGREES. THE ONLY CIVIL AIRLINER THAT WAS APPROACHING MEHRABAD DURING THIS SAME TIME EXPERIENCED COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE IN THE SAME VICINITY (KTLO 71111) BUT DID NOT REPORT SEEING ANYTHING. WHILE THE F-4 WAS ON A LONG FINAL APPROACH THE CREW NOTICED ANOTHER CYLINDRICAL SHAPED OBJECT (ABOUT THE SIZE OF A T-BIRD AT 10K) WITH BRIGHT STANDY LIGHTS ON EACH END AND A FLASHER IN THE MIDDLE. WHEN OVERFLYING THE TOWER STATION THERE WAS NO OTHER KNOWN TRAFFIC IN THE AREA. DURING THE TIME THAT THE OBJECT PASSED OVER THE F-4 THE TOWER DID NOT HAVE A VISUAL ON IT BUT PICKED IT UP AFTER THE PILOT TOLD THEM TO LOOK BEHIND THE MOUNTAINS AND THE REFINERY.

E. DURING DAYLIGHT THE F-4 CREW WAS TAKEN OUT TO THE AREA IN A HELICOPTER WHERE THE OBJECT APPARENTLY HAD LANDED. NOTHING WAS NOTICED AT THE SPOT UHFR. THEY THOUGHT THE OBJECT LANDED (A DRY LAKE BED) BUT AS THEY CIRCLED OFF TO THE WEST OF THE AREA THEY PICKED UP A VERY NOTICEABLE RECEIVER SIGNAL. AT THE POINT WHERE THE RETURN WAS THE LOUDEST WAS A SMALL HOUSE WITH A GARDEN. THEY LANDED AND ASKED THE PEOPLE WITHIN IF THEY HAD NOTICED ANYTHING STRANGE LAST NIGHT. THE PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT A LOUD NOISE AND A VERY BRIGHT LIGHT LIKE LIGHTNING. THE AIRCRAFT AND AREA WHERE THE OBJECT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE LANDED ARE BEING CHECKED FOR POSSIBLE RADIATION.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED



## INFORMATION SHEET

Number 78-1

Prepared by:

LFF-3/Public Services Branch  
Office of External Relations  
NASA Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546

### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The information contained here has been compiled to respond to queries on Unidentified Flying Objects directed to the White House as well as NASA.

NASA is the focal point for answering public inquiries to the White House relating to UFOs. NASA is not engaged in a research program involving these phenomena, nor is any other government agency.

### BACKGROUND

In July of 1977, Dr. Frank Press, Director of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, wrote to Dr. Robert A. Frosch, the NASA Administrator, suggesting NASA should answer all UFO-related mail and also to consider whether NASA should conduct an active research program on UFOs. In a letter dated December 21, 1977, Dr. Frosch agreed that NASA will continue to respond to UFO-related mail as it has in the past and, if a new element of hard evidence that UFOs exist is brought to NASA's attention from a credible source, NASA will analyze the unexplained organic or inorganic sample and report its findings.

Quoting from Dr. Frosch's December 21 letter: "...If some new element of hard evidence is brought to our attention in the future, it would be entirely appropriate for a NASA laboratory to analyze and report upon an otherwise unexplained organic or inorganic sample; we stand ready to respond to any bona fide physical evidence from credible sources. We intend to leave the door clearly open for such a possibility.

"We have given considerable thought to the question of what else the United States might and should do in the area of UFO research. There is an absence of tangible or physical evidence available for thorough laboratory analysis. And, because of the absence of such evidence, we have not been able to devise a sound scientific procedure for investigating these phenomena. To proceed on a research task without a sound disciplinary framework and an exploratory technique in mind would be wasteful and probably unproductive.

"I do not feel that we could mount a research effort without a better starting point than we have been able to identify thus far. I would therefore propose that NASA take no steps to establish research in this area or to convene a symposium on this subject.

"I wish in no way to indicate that NASA has come to any conclusion about these phenomena as such; institutionally, we retain an open mind, a keen sense of scientific curiosity and a willingness to analyze technical problems within our competence."

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Reports of unidentified objects entering United States air space are of interest to the military as a regular part of defense surveillance. Beyond that, the U.S. Air Force no longer investigates reports of UFO sightings.

This was not always the case. On December 17, 1969, the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force program for UFO investigation started in 1947.

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations, the USAF said, was based on: (1) an evaluation of a report (often called the Condon Report) prepared by the University of Colorado and entitled "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects;" (2) a review of the University of Colorado report by the National Academy of Sciences; (3) past UFO studies; and (4) Air Force experience investigating UFO reports for two decades.

As a result of these investigations and studies, and experience gained from investigating UFO reports since 1948, the conclusions of the Air Force were: (1) no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

With the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force regulation establishing and controlling the program for investigating and analyzing UFOs was rescinded. All documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation has been permanently transferred to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Service, 8th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20408, and is available for public review and analysis. Those wishing to review this material may obtain a researcher's permit from the National Archives and Record Service.

Also available:

Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. Condon Report study conducted by the University of Colorado under contract F44620-76-C-0035. Three volumes, 1,465p. 68 plates. Photoduplicated hard copies of the official report may be ordered for \$6 per volume, \$18 the set of three, as AD 680:975, AD 680:976, and AD 680:977, from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22151.

Review of University of Colorado Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. Review of report by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences. National Academy of Sciences, 1969, 6p. Photoduplicated hard copies may be ordered for \$3 as AD 688:541 from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22151.

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NASA is aware of the many UFO reports made in recent years. However, the majority of inquiries to NASA concerning UFO sightings address themselves to the reported sightings by astronauts during Earth orbital and lunar missions and the report by President Carter while serving as Governor of Georgia.

During several space missions NASA astronauts reported phenomena not immediately explainable. However, in every instance NASA satisfied itself that what had been observed was nothing which could be termed abnormal in the space environment. The air-to-ground tapes of all manned missions are available at the Johnson Space Center, Houston, for review by the serious researcher.

On October 12, 1973, while serving as Governor of Georgia, Mr. Carter responded to inquiries from the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) saying that he had seen a bright, moving object in the sky over Leary, Georgia, in October of 1969. He said the object was visible for 10 to 12 minutes and, at one point, shone as brightly as the Moon. The regional NICAP representative investigated the sighting and reported there was no evidence to support anything beyond placing what Mr. Carter saw in NICAP's "unidentified" category. However, it has been suggested by some students of aerial phenomena that Mr. Carter may have viewed the Planet Venus which, at certain times, may appear many times brighter than a star of the first-magnitude.

Since NASA is not engaged in day-to-day UFO research, it does not review UFO-related articles intended for publication, evaluate UFO-type spacecraft drawings or accept accounts of UFO sightings or applications for employment in the field of aerial phenomena investigation. All such material will be returned with NASA's thanks to the sender.

A number of universities and scientific organizations have considered UFO phenomena during periodic meetings and seminars. In addition, a number of private domestic and foreign groups continue to review UFO sighting reports actively. Some of these organizations are:

- (1) National Investigations Committee on  
Aerial Phenomena  
John L. Acuff, Director  
Suite 23  
3535 University Boulevard, West  
Kensington, MD 20795  
(301) 949-1267
- (2) The Committee for the Scientific Investigation  
of Claims of the Paranormal  
UFO Subcommittee  
Robert Sheaffer, Chairman  
9805 McMillan Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 589-8371
- (3) Aerial Phenomena Research Organization  
James and Coral Lorenzen, Directors  
3910 E. Kleindale Road  
Tucson, AZ 85712  
(602) 793-1825
- (4) Mutual UFO Network  
Walter H. Andrus, Jr., Director  
103 Old Towne Road  
Seguin, TX 78155  
(512) 379-9216
- (5) The Center for UFO Studies  
Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director  
924 Chicago Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60202  
(312) 491-1780

February 1, 1978

# THE SCIENCE CONFLICT

## UFO UPDATE

By James Oberg

**F**iction between science and flying saucers has generated a blizzard of sparks over the years. The sides are well defined: Establishment scientists traditionally dismiss UFO data as fanciful fiction, while UFO enthusiasts portray themselves as outcast Galileos, prophets of a new scientific revolution.

Advocates of Unidentified Flying Objects insist that they are onto some extraordinary phenomenon unaccountable by contemporary science. The favorite theory involves alien spacecraft, but growing splinter groups promote various psychic, interdimensional, cross-temporal, conspiratorial, or even more bizarre hypotheses. Whatever it is, UFO enthusiasts assert, the confirmation of extraterrestrial

ings could be a key to the next great breakthrough in human knowledge.

Few could argue such a premise.

Early in 1977, the wire services reported that astronomers now favor scientific studies of UFOs. According to *The New York Times*, "unidentified flying objects should be investigated further, a majority of trained astronomical observers said in a survey disclosed recently."

Closer analysis showed that the private pro-UFO survey actually meant that only one-quarter of those polled responded that UFOs "certainly" or "probably" deserved study, with a few more agreeing

that they "possibly" deserved study. More to the point, only one-quarter of 1 percent of the astronomers thought that UFOs were important enough to warrant their personal attention.

But the poll did nevertheless seem to bestow some measure of scientific respectability to this topic, previously ranked among the lunatic fringe. The poll was symptomatic of the changing image of UFOs, and the new status of UFO researchers.

After three decades of exuberant if amateurish fieldwork, furious propagandizing, and aimless theorizing, a number of UFO groups have finally begun to play the game using rules of science. Accepting the burden of proof, they have mounted an impressive scientific program designed to demonstrate, finally, that UFOs exist.

On a dark hillside in Texas, white-uniformed men monitor a battery of instruments, hoping to catch and record the subtle physical effects alleged to accompany UFO visitations. In photographic laboratories across the country, data processing specialists analyze computerized images of alleged UFO photographs, seeking evidence of forgery and potential proof of authenticity. A computerized data base in Chicago prints out pattern analyses of UFO sightings, seeking a signal behind the noise of thousands of annual

reports. Pieces of metal picked up near alleged landing sites undergo spectroscopic examination in well-equipped laboratories.

These are the techniques of science, applied to a subject long regarded as beyond the fringes of science. But these are the techniques that will produce proof, if proof is possible.

Standards are now tighter and the experience of UFO investigators greater, so that many "unknowns" have diminished. More and more cases have been solved, but always a fraction remain unsolved, unexplained, unidentified. This residue of unknowns is the basis for UFO enthusiasts' hope. Skeptics disagree, saying that inherent limitations in human perception, memory, and knowledge will always introduce a small artificial residue of unknowns.

So what kind of data will stand up to scientific standards, not as a leftover residue of mysteries but as a definitive list of recorded events?

Laying aside the possibilities that alien ambassadors will land at the White House or that the fabled "secret captured flying saucer" will ever be rescued from alleged governmental oblivion, hard evidence for the reality and respectability of UFOs must come from laboratories now engaged in scientific research.

The "Project Starlight International" team, privately but generously funded by some Texas millionaires, has assembled an array of instruments that could produce incontrovertible evidence. They have cameras, radar, spectrometers, magnetometers, radiation sensors, gravimeters, and a small laser beam to communicate with extraterrestrials should they happen by.

The Starlight UFO trap has now been in full operation for nearly three years. New equipment continues to be added, including a radar set and computerized alert system that automatically telephones volunteer skywatchers in the vicinity of a computed UFO position. The system works well in drills—but nothing substantive has resulted.

The most exciting recent events have dealt with a fierce wood tick infestation or



Spectacular glowing UFO was photographed from a Concorde during 1973 solar eclipse.

the hillside where the Starlight equipment is mounted. White-clad UFO watchers bend to their technical tasks amid the fumes of sulfur bombs. They watch a sky full of airplanes, meteors, satellites, kites, birds, ball lightning, migrating blown spiders, and maybe, just maybe, something else. But, as Starlight project director Ray Stanford told colleagues at a 1976 UFO conference, "If we search for ten years with what we've got and we don't find anything, then we're going to have to admit that nothing is there."

One of the most visible aspects of the phenomenon is a growing collection of UFO photographs. While the vast majority of UFO sighting reports are made by honest, perplexed, often reluctant witnesses, most photographs are hoaxes. To separate out the possibly authentic photos, if any at all, experts use photoanalysis

For example, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a researcher for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), has made densitometric scans of a famous 1950 photo from McMinnville, Oregon. The scans support the skeptical "Condon Committee" conclusion that the photo could in fact be of a large structured disk 50 feet or more in diameter. But another expert, computer specialist Robert Sheaffer, concluded that the photo was made with a smudged lens and that the object appears to be hanging from an electrical power line. Condon Committee investigators later changed their minds and agreed with Sheaffer.

Specialists at the "Ground Saucer Watch" (GSW) office in Phoenix also apply advanced data processing techniques to photographs. Their work has raised howls of protest from traditional UFO groups because many of the more famous photos have been denounced by GSW as frauds. However, GSW has compiled a small list of photos that they suggest could be genu-

ine. Again, other researchers disagree, and scientific debate is raging on the validity of such processing techniques.

Computer scientists have a favorite proverb: "Garbage in, garbage out." It means that bad input data can be manipulated to produce nearly any output desired, but it will be useless. That, so far, seems to be the fate of UFO computerized data banks, since data processing specialists have criticized them for not having sufficient control over the validity of input data. UFO proponents, appealing to mathematical formulas from information theory, claim that a proper computer program can filter out the garbage and sift through to the authentic residue.

Nor have laboratories produced any specimen that could not have been obtained from ordinary sources on earth. Exotic space metals or artifacts continue to be reported, but none have passed the investigation of professional laboratories.

Yet these debates have changed markedly from the days when UFOs were the topic for screwball religious cults, nasty insinuations about witnesses' sanity and/or sobriety, and knee-jerk gullibility. Today's arguments must stand up to the time-tested standards of scientific research. Perhaps they will reveal something, perhaps not. But it's the only way to find out for sure.

• • •

In light of the need for better scientific research about UFOs, it is particularly frustrating to read published reports that "NASA has rejected a White House request to reopen the government-sponsored research program." But the real story is not so open-and-shut as these pessimistic accounts would indicate.

Actually, the story began when President Carter promised to release all UFO data, if elected. Once elected, he discov-

ered that the Air Force's "Blue Book" files were already being declassified, and everybody denied having any other files. Carter's science adviser, Dr. Frank Press, was assigned the task of answering UFO-related mail from the public. A flood of mail arrived, demanding that the "real secret files" be released.

Overwhelmed with queries, Press asked NASA director Dr. Robert Frosch if NASA might handle the mail. In the letter, one paragraph innocently asked if NASA would consider convening a panel to decide if a new official investigation was warranted.

Following several months of consideration, NASA said that it could see no reason to undertake a new investigation. However, Frosch offered to make NASA laboratories available to analyze any UFO "physical evidence" that might be submitted.

Six months later, nothing has been officially submitted.

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If UFOs are alien spacecraft (and while this is the leading theory, many other schools of thought have come and gone), it's likely that earth's spaceships may have been able to encounter them in outer space. Stories have sprung up about how "our astronauts have seen them too!"

In fact, each story can be traced back to authors' misunderstandings, distortions, exaggerations, or just plain fabrications. There does not appear to be a single case on record of American or Soviet spacemen encountering anything extraordinary in terms of normal space occurrences.

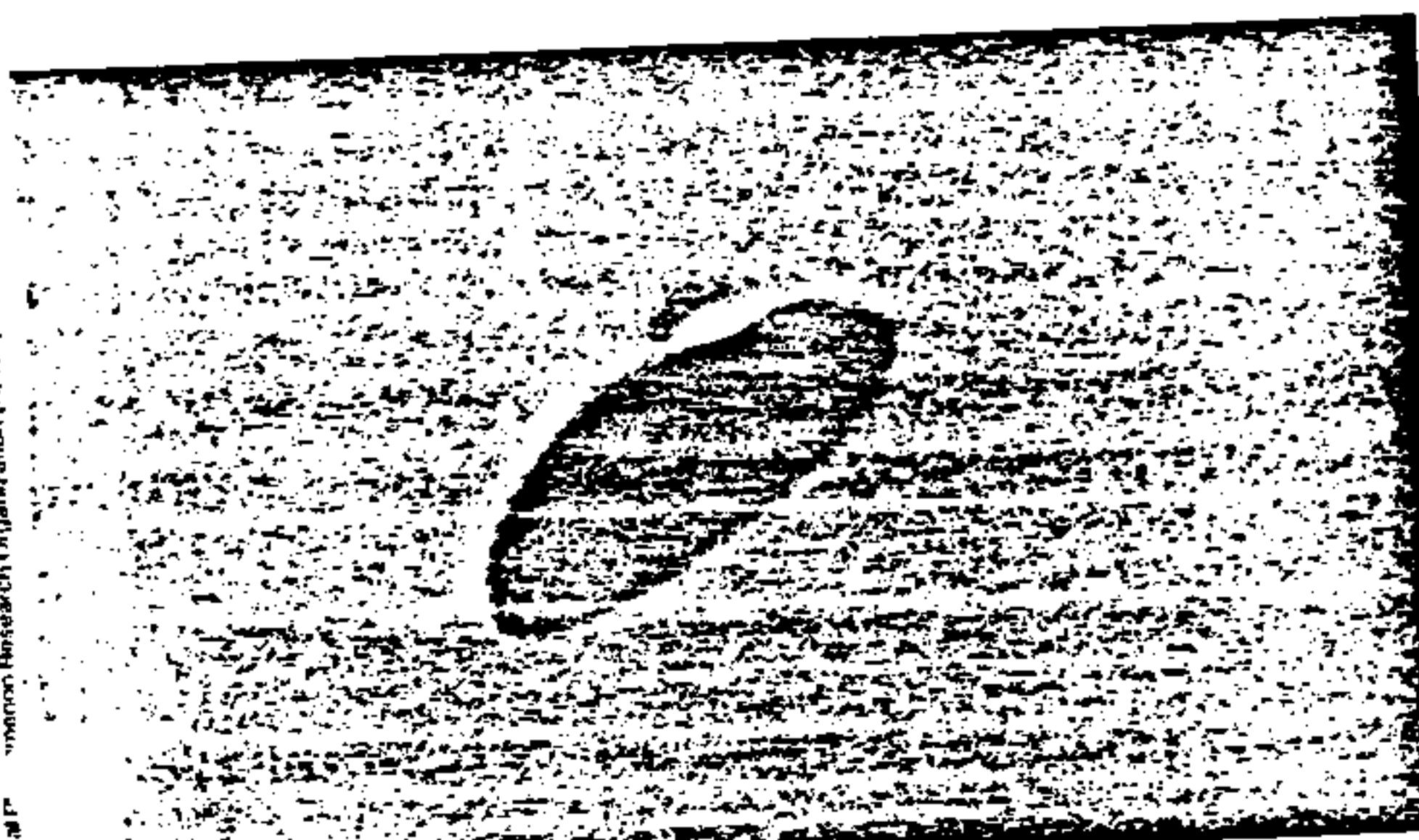
The most famous case, however, continues to thrive. It deals with a UFO seen by astronaut James McDivitt on the Gemini-4 mission in June 1965. McDivitt insists that the beer-can shaped object was just another man-made satellite, but some observers have suggested that it was a glimpse of his own booster rocket in a nearby orbit.

A "tadpole" photograph was released by NASA soon after the flight, taken from a series of movie frames. McDivitt claims he shot a few exposures with two still cameras, but they did not turn out. He didn't touch the movie camera, and the blob of light released by an overeager photo technician shows only a window reflection, he insists.

APRO's Dr. Harder, however, insists that the "tadpole" really was the UFO, despite what McDivitt thinks, and that it was being propelled by a plasma jet. Dr. Harder chooses to disregard the astronaut's testimony and build his case on a few frames of reflections. UFO believers can only hope that most UFO evidence is not so insubstantial.

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Positive proof of a genuine UFO encounter



UFO experts give "the benefit of the doubt" to this Yungay, Peru photo and believe it genuine.

could be extremely valuable for the entire human race. It could be financially rewarding for the owners of that proof. And it could spell financial ruin for one prominent UFO skeptic—unless, of course, he was delivering the proof.

*National Enquirer*, a weekly tabloid newspaper with a circulation in the millions, has a standing offer of \$1 million for "positive proof." The London-based whisky bottler Cutty Sark, Ltd., recently unveiled an even bigger prize of one million pounds Sterling, or about \$1,800,000 at the present exchange rate.

Lesser awards also are available in the absence of positive proof. The *Enquirer* annually grants up to \$10,000 to witnesses of a UFO incident judged "most scientifically valuable" by an independent panel of UFO specialists (the "Blue-Ribbon Panel," see box). And Cutty Sark has announced plans to award £1000 to the best-written essay on the UFO problem.

Moreover, a number of London betting houses have accepted various wagers on the imminent visitations of extraterrestrials. But the world's most famous "anti-UFO bet" has been set forth in the book *UFOs Explained*.

Author Philip J. Klass, a senior editor of *Aviation Week* magazine and the nation's leading UFO skeptic, claims he has challenged UFO believers "to put their money where their mouths are." Klass has offered to pay \$10,000 to anyone who agrees to do so, if and when certain criteria are met, showing that a true UFO visitation has

occurred. Every year until that happens, the wagerer must pay Klass the sum of \$100 (up to a maximum of \$1000, after which payments cease but the bet remains in force).

Less than a dozen UFO enthusiasts have signed up to date, usually on inside information that "this year the government is going to announce UFO contacts...." Such predictions have appeared in print nearly every year for a quarter of a century, but people still seem to believe them. Klass has become a little richer because of them.

Only one UFO buff has maintained his bet in force, apparently more for publicity than persuasion. Stanton Friedman makes a living off his lecture tours proclaiming the reality of UFOs, and he responded to Klass's needling by formally agreeing to the bet a few years ago.

Additionally, Klass has offered to buy back all copies of his book *UFOs Explained* if events prove his assertions incorrect. But pro-UFO scientist Robert Mc-Campbell has done Klass one better. He has offered to buy back copies of his book *UFOlogy* from anyone not satisfied with it, proof or no proof.

Actually, Philip J. Klass already had been setting off multimegaton detonations among the ranks of UFO believers. Miffed when UFO experts in 1968 ridiculed a serious (and still tenable) suggestion that many UFOs were actually ball lightning, the by nature combative aviation reporter

threw himself into serious investigations of what were regarded as the "best" classic UFO cases. He often dug up startling (and embarrassing) new evidence but has become a pariah in UFO circles (Hynek refuses to appear together with him, and Hynek's "UFO bibliography" handout pointedly ignores Klass's two books).

With the death of astronomer Donald Menzel in 1976, Klass has emerged as the nation's leading UFO skeptic. He spurns the word "debunker," with its connotations of knee-jerk dismissals and unorthodox points of view. Instead, Klass attempts to investigate UFO cases more deeply than might other researchers who have subconscious desires to actually find proof of extraterrestrial visitors. Concentrating only on the generally acclaimed "best cases," Klass often has exposed the superficiality of work done by pro-UFO experts.

In 1977, he joined with other scientists and educators in forming the "Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal," a group that has demanded easy acceptance by the public of allegedly baseless beliefs in astrology, the Bermuda Triangle, ESP, "ancient astronauts," and other so-called modern myths. Klass heads a small but potent band of skeptical investigators called the UFO Subcommittee. At the very least, this group demands the tightening of standards in so-called scientific *UFOlogy*. The level of carelessness of many pro-UFO experts has markedly declined, so progress is being made. **DO**

## THESE PEOPLE ARE WATCHING AND WAITING

Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), 1909 Sherman Suite 207, Evanston, IL 60201. Self-styled pinnacle of UFO activities, this small group generally depends on other groups for data. Dr. Allen Hynek does the public appearances and fund raising, while researcher Allan Hendry carries out actual coordination and in-depth investigation. Two publications: *CUFOS Quarterly Bulletin*, \$15/yr.; and *International UFO Reporter*, \$12/yr.

Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO), 3910 E. Kleindale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Among the longest surviving UFO groups (represented in 50 countries), APRO is held together by the dedication of its cofounders Jim and Coral Brenzen, who have recently led the group to specialize critics say monopolize) in "UFO abduction cases." APRO

National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NIAP), Suite 23, 3535 University Blvd., Kensington MD 20795. Another old group, unfortunately in a downhill slide following a cascade of organizational in-fighting. *NICAP Bulletin*, \$10/yr.

MUFON (MUFON), 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155. A vigorous, expanding group acting in concert with

Saucer Watch (GSW), 13238 North 7th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85029. Highly professional organization (membership by application only), which applies vigorous scientific standards to

investigations. Quarterly journal free with membership.

Starlight International (PSI), PO Box 5310, Austin TX 78763. Somewhat mysterious organization with the best array

of gadgets yet assembled to measure UFOs—if only they could find one. Irregular bulletin sent in exchange for cash donations.

Committee Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), 191 E. 161st St., Bronx NY 10451. New offshoot of GSW, this small group is using Freedom of Information suits to extract allegedly secret hypothetical government "UFO files." Newsletter \$10/yr.

20th Century UFO Bureau, 756 Haddon Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108. This group, associated with Dr. Carl McIntyre's "20th Century Reformation Hour," believes that some UFOs are angels and signs of the imminent Second Coming. However, other UFOs are sent by Satan to confuse people lest they recognize the angels.

UFO Subcommittee of the "Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal," 923 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215. The first formal organization of UFO skeptics, who tackle the "best UFO cases" on record, often with spectacular success, much to the dismay of most UFO buffs. Reports of activities are included in the Committee publication *The Skeptical Inquirer* (formerly *Zetetic*), \$12/yr.

The National Enquirer's Blue Ribbon Panel of UFO experts (who review "best cases" for cash rewards). Two regular members (James Harder and Leo Sprinkle) are joined by a changing cadre of obscure "UFO experts," including this year's Willard Armstrong and John L. Warren. More respected UFOlogists have declined offers of membership. Send contest entries to **UFO REWARD**, National Enquirer, Lantana FL, 33464. All entries will be evaluated.

## INTRODUCTION

Throughout the latter half of the twentieth century the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) has evoked strong opinions and emotions. For some, the belief in or study of UFOs has assumed the dimensions of a religious quest. Others remain nonbelievers or at least skeptical of the existence of alien beings and elusive vehicles which never quite seem to manifest themselves. Regardless of one's conviction, nowhere has the debate about UFOs been more spirited than over the events that unfolded near the small New Mexico city of Roswell in the summer of 1947. Popularly known as the Roswell Incident, this event has become the most celebrated UFO encounter of all time and has stimulated enthusiasts like none other. Numerous witnesses, including former military personnel and respectable members of the local community, have come forward with tales of humanoid beings, alien technologies, and government cover-ups that have caused even the most skeptical observer to pause and take notice. Inevitably these stories coming from the desert have spawned countless articles, books, films, and even museums claiming to have proof that visitors had come from outer space.

In February 1994, the Air Force was informed that the General Accounting Office (GAO), an investigative agency of Congress, planned a formal audit to ascertain "the facts regarding the reported crash of an UFO in 1949 [1947] at Roswell, New Mexico."<sup>1</sup> This task was delegated to numerous agencies, but the focus was on the U.S. Air Force, the agency most often accused of hiding information and records on Roswell. The Presidential Science Advisor had also expressed an interest in the investigation. Thereupon, the Secretary of the Air Force directed that a complete records search identify, locate, and examine any and all information available on this subject. From the outset there was no predisposition to refute or overlook any information. Moreover, if any of the information discovered was under security classification, it was to be declassified, and if active or former Air Force officials had been sworn to a secrecy oath, they were to be freed from it. In short, the objective was to tell the Congress, and the American people, *everything* the Air Force knew about the Roswell claims.

Subsequently, researchers conducted an extensive search of Air Force archives, record centers, and scientific facilities. Seeking information that might help to explain peculiar tales of odd wreckage and alien bodies, the researchers reviewed a monumental number

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1. Memo, Marcia J. Van Note, DOD/IG, for Distribution, subj: General Accounting Office (GAO) Letter Dated February 9, 1944 . . . , Feb 23, 1994.

of documents concerning a variety of events, including aircraft crashes, errant missile tests, and nuclear mishaps.

The researchers reported to the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AA), the office responsible for both Air Force records and security policy oversight. Within SAF/AA, the tasking fell to the Director of Security and Special Program Oversight and its specialized subunit, the Declassification and Review Team. This team, comprised entirely of Reservists, was well versed in the Air Force's records system and its complex declassification procedures. Previously, Declassification and Review Team members demonstrated their expertise and effectiveness by declassifying millions of pages of Southeast Asian War and Prisoner of War-Missing in Action records.

As this study makes abundantly clear, the Declassification and Review Team found no evidence of any extraterrestrial craft or alien flight crew. In fact, what they did find had been declassified for more than twenty years—a shadowy, formerly Top Secret project, code-named MOGUL.

Project MOGUL resulted from two important post-World War II priorities set by the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, Henry H. "Hap" Arnold. These were to continue the cooperative wartime relationship between civilian research institutions and the military, and to maintain America's technological superiority, especially with respect to guarding against a bolt from the blue—in other words, a devastating surprise attack. MOGUL addressed both of these concerns. Developed partly under contract with leading scientific institutions—such as New York University (NYU), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Columbia University, and the University of California at Los Angeles—MOGUL's objective was to develop a long-range system capable of detecting Soviet nuclear detonations and ballistic missile launches.

Army Air Forces officials assembled an expert group of military and civilian scientists to carry out the project. The group included Dr. W. Maurice Ewing of Columbia University, a preeminent geophysicist and oceanographer; Dr. Athelstan F. Spilhaus, the Director of Research at NYU who later advised five presidents on scientific and cultural matters; Dr. James Peoples, the Air Force's civilian project scientist and later editor of the *Journal of Geophysical Research*; Albert P. Crary, also a civilian Air Force scientist, known for significant contributions to Antarctic research; and Charles B. Moore, Project Engineer at NYU and an atmospheric physicist who pioneered the use of giant plastic research balloons still widely used today. Col. Marcellus Duffy, a respected Air Force pilot and scientific administrator, led the project. Capt. Albert C. Trakowski, a young Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate, followed Duffy in the leadership role.

Determining whether the Soviets were testing nuclear devices was of the highest national priority; it demanded the utmost secrecy if the information gained was to be useful. When the Soviets exploded their first atomic device in August 1949, the experimental Project MOGUL was not in operation. However, the explosion was detected by a specially equipped Air Force B-29 aircraft. Accordingly, MOGUL was conducted under stringent security—secluded laboratories, code words, maximum security clearances, and strictest enforcement of need-to-know rules. Nevertheless, while the nature of the project remained

shrouded in secrecy, some of its operations obviously could not. The deployment of giant trains of balloons—over thirty research balloons and experimental sensors strung together and stretching more than 600 feet—could be neither disguised nor hidden from the public. Moreover, operational necessity required that these balloons be launched during daylight hours. It was therefore not surprising that these balloons were often mistaken for UFOs. In fact, MOGUL recovery crews often listened to broadcasts of UFO reports to assist them in their tracking operations. Additionally, the balloons were unsteerable, leading to such amusing events as the one reported by the *New York Times* in which a secret MOGUL balloon “floated blithely over the rooftops of Flatbush . . . causing general public excitement . . . before it came to rest on top of a [Brooklyn] tavern.”<sup>2</sup> In another episode, MOGUL balloon recovery technicians directed a B-17 bomber, which was tracking one of the tests, to buzz and scare off a curious oil rig crew that was about to “capture” a balloon train that had fallen near Roswell. The ruse worked. However, too much activity was going on for the project to remain completely hidden. A MOGUL project officer later noted, “It was like having an elephant in your backyard . . . and hoping no one would notice.”<sup>3</sup> These occurrences were typical, leading the recovery crews to describe themselves as *Balloonatics*, due to the predicaments in which the wandering balloons sometimes placed them, but the information the balloons were attempting to obtain was vital.

To attempt to limit unauthorized disclosure, the Air Force employed a security mechanism known as compartmentation. Compartmentation controlled access to classified information by dispersing portions of the research among several facilities and institutions. Each participating entity received only enough information necessary to accomplish its assigned tasks. In the case of MOGUL, only a small circle of Air Force officers received the intimate details that linked together these unrelated research projects. The use of compartmentation along with strict enforcement of the need to know enabled MOGUL to remain a secret—despite its obvious security difficulties—and to remain unevaluated for many years as the cause of the Roswell Incident.

The issue of compartmentation was significant because some UFO researchers assert that the persons who recovered the MOGUL equipment, members of the 509th Bombardment Group stationed at Roswell Army Airfield, should have been able to recognize the debris collected at the crash site as that of a research balloon. Although members of the 509th possessed high-level clearances, they were not privy to the existence of MOGUL; their job was to deliver nuclear weapons, not to detect them. The unusual combination of experimental equipment did not encourage easy identification that undoubtedly left some members of the 509th with unanswered questions. Some UFO enthusiasts have manipulated these unanswered questions to support their flying-saucer recovery scenario, while eagerly supplying unfounded explanations of extraterrestrial visitation and cosmic conspiracy. Additionally, many claims of a flying saucer crash at Roswell rest on the description of debris collected at the Foster ranch site. UFO researchers, including those

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2. *New York Times*, “Balloon Staggers Down to Brooklyn Tavern, Hooks Itself to Roof and Upsets Decorum,” Oct 1, 1948.

3. *New York Times*, “Wreckage of a ‘Spaceship’: Of This Earth (and U.S.),” Sep 18, 1994.

who are said to have known *all about* MOGUL, apparently did not compare the descriptions of the suspect debris with that of the components of a Project MOGUL balloon train. MOGUL reports and documents that contain descriptions, illustrations, and photographs have been publicly available for at least twenty years. Had the researchers completed even a cursory comparison, they would have found that the materials were suspiciously similar; detailed examination would have shown them to be one and the same. In the final analysis, it appears these individuals have pursued the convenient red herring provided by Roswell Army Airfield, while the real explanation lay just over the Sacramento Mountains at the MOGUL launch site in Alamogordo.

This report explains the events that transpired in and near Roswell, New Mexico, in the summer of 1947. It is based on written documentation and first-hand accounts of participants, all of which are provided here in their entirety. While these answers are not as titillating as tales of unearthly craft and creatures, it is a fascinating story nonetheless.

JAMES McANDREW, 1ST LT, USAFR  
Declassification and Review Officer  
SAF/AAZD



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUL 27 1994

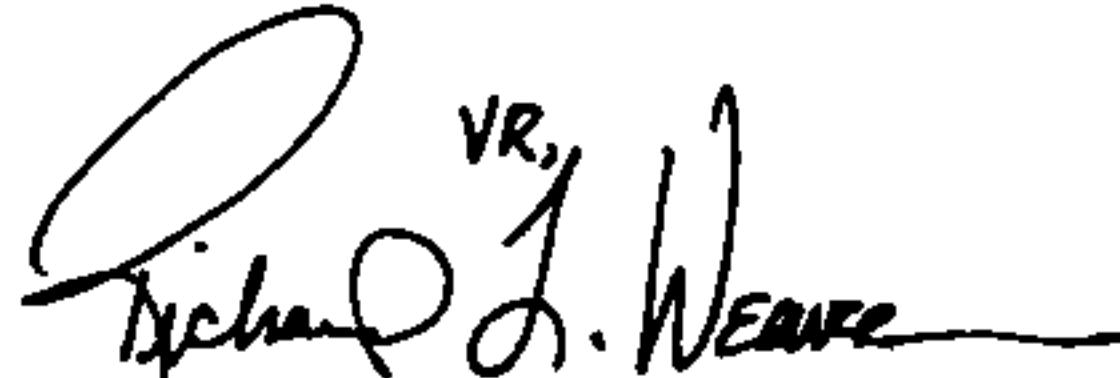
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

FROM: SAF/AAZ  
1720 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1720

SUBJECT: Report of Air Force Research Regarding the "Roswell Incident"

Attached is a report prepared in support of a General Accounting Office (GAO) audit that is seeking to identify information concerning the "Roswell Incident." The report documents the considerable effort expended by numerous Air Force offices and personnel in this matter.

The Air Force efforts did not identify any indication that the "Roswell Incident" was any type of extraterrestrial event or that the Air Force has engaged in a 47 year conspiracy or "cover-up" of information relating to it. Therefore, it is assumed that pro-UFO groups will strongly object to the attached report and denounce it as either shortsighted or a continuation of the "cover-up" conspiracy. Nevertheless, the attached report is a good faith effort and the first time any agency of the government has positively responded officially to the ever-escalating claims surrounding the Roswell matter.

  
VR,  
Richard L. Weaver  
RICHARD L. WEAVER, Col, USAF  
Director, Security and Special  
Program Oversight

Attachment:  
Report of Research Regarding  
the "Roswell Incident", 27 Jul 94

**REPORT OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH  
REGARDING THE  
"ROSWELL INCIDENT"**



**JULY 1994**

## **REPORT OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH REGARDING THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT"**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The "Roswell Incident" refers to an event that supposedly happened in July, 1947, wherein the Army Air Forces (AAF) allegedly recovered remains of a crashed "flying disc" near Roswell, New Mexico. In February, 1994, the General Accounting Office (GAO), acting on the request of a New Mexico Congressman, initiated an audit to attempt to locate records of such an incident and to determine if records regarding it were properly handled. Although the GAO effort was to look at a number of government agencies, the apparent focus was on the United States Air Force (USAF). SAF/AAZ, as the Central Point of Contact for the GAO in this matter, initiated a systematic search of current Air Force offices as well as numerous archives and records centers that might help explain this matter. Research revealed that the "Roswell Incident" was not even considered a UFO event until the 1978-1980 time frame. Prior to that, the incident was dismissed because the AAF originally identified the debris recovered as being that of a weather balloon. Subsequently, various authors wrote a number of books claiming that not only was debris from an alien spacecraft recovered, but also the bodies of the craft's alien occupants. These claims continue to evolve today and the Air Force is now routinely accused of engaging in a "cover-up" of this supposed event.

The research located no records at existing Air Force offices that indicated any "cover-up" by the USAF or any indication of such a recovery. Consequently, efforts were intensified by Air Force researchers at numerous locations where records for the period in question were stored. The records reviewed did not reveal any increase in operations, security, or any other activity in July, 1947, that indicated any such unusual event may have occurred. Records were located and thoroughly explored concerning a then-Top Secret balloon project, designed to attempt to monitor Soviet nuclear tests, known as Project MOGUL. Additionally, several surviving project personnel were located and interviewed, as was the only surviving person who recovered debris from the original Roswell site in 1947 and the former officer who initially identified the wreckage as a balloon. Comparison of all information developed or obtained indicated that the material recovered near Roswell was consistent with a balloon device and most likely from one of the MOGUL balloons that had not been previously recovered. Air Force research efforts did not disclose any records of the recovery of any "alien" bodies or extraterrestrial materials.

## INTRODUCTION

Air Force involvement in the alleged UFO-related incident popularly known as the "Roswell Incident" began as the result of a January 14, 1994, *Washington Post* article (Atch 1) which announced Congressman Steven Schiff's intent to initiate a GAO effort to resolve this controversial matter. Having previously been involved in numerous Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Congressional requests on "unusual aircraft," to include Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), The Director, Security and Special Program Oversight, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AAZ), believed the Air Force would become involved in any GAO effort involving this subject.

Thus, in late January, 1994, SAF/AAZ directed its research/declassification team, SAF/AAZD, to attempt to locate any official records relative to this matter. These initial research efforts focused on records at the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA), Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), AL, the Air Force Safety Agency (AFSA) at Kirtland AFB, NM, and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

On February 15, 1994, the GAO officially notified Secretary of Defense William J. Perry that it was initiating an audit of the Department of Defense (DoD) policies and procedures for acquiring, classifying, retaining, and disposing of official government documents dealing with weather balloon, aircraft, and similar crash incidents (Atch 2). This notification was subsequently passed to the Department of Defense Inspector General who in turn officially notified the Secretaries of the Services and other affected parties of the audit in a February 23, 1994, memo (Atch 3). This memorandum indicated that the "GAO is anxious to respond to Representative Schiff's request and to dispel any concerns that the DoD is being unresponsive." These were the first official US Government documents that indicated that the purpose of the GAO was to review "crash incidents involving weather balloons and unknown aircraft, such as UFOs and foreign aircraft, and (2) the facts involving the reported crash of an UFO in 1949 [sic, 1947] at Roswell, New Mexico . . . [and an] alleged DoD cover-up."

An entrance meeting of potentially concerned parties was held in the offices of the DoD Inspector General on February 28, 1994. During this meeting it was learned that, while the audit officially would be reviewing the records of a number of DoD (and possibly other Executive Branch entities), the bulk of the effort would be focused on Air Force records and systems. The audit was officially given the GAO code 701034 and entitled "Records Management Procedures Dealing With Weather Balloon, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents." Although this official title appeared rather broad, there was no misunderstanding that the real purpose was to attempt to locate records and/or information on the "Roswell Incident." This incident, explained later in more detail, generally dealt with the claim that in July of 1947, the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) recovered a flying saucer and /or its alien occupants which supposedly crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. When the USAAF ultimately became the

USAF in September, 1947, the USAF inherited equipment, personnel, records, policies, and procedures from the AAF. In this particular case, the Air Force also inherited the allegation that it had "covered up" the "Roswell Incident" and has continued to do so for the next 47 years.

Within the Air Force, the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AA) is responsible both for information management procedures (SAF/AAI) and security policy and oversight (SAF/AAZ). Because of this organization, SAF/AA was the logical entity to assist the GAO in its audit, and SAF/AAZ was officially named as the Central Point of Contact for this endeavor (Atch 4). Subsequently, the then-Administrative Assistant, Mr. Robert J. McCormick, issued a tasking memorandum dated March 1, 1994 (Atch 5), to a number of current Air Staff and Secretariat offices that might possibly have records related to such an incident if, indeed, something had actually occurred. This search for records was purposely limited to Air Force records and systems since:

- (a) The Air Force had no authority to compel other agencies to review their records;
- (b) The Air Force would have no way to monitor the completeness of their efforts if they did; and
- (c) the overall effort was the task and responsibility of the GAO—not the Air Force.

During the in-briefing process with GAO, it was learned that this audit was, indeed, generated at the specific request of Congressman Steven Schiff of New Mexico. Earlier, Congressman Schiff had written to the Department of Defense Legislative Liaison Office for information on the "Roswell Incident" and had been advised that it was part of the former UFO "Project Bluebook" that had previously been turned over to NARA by the Air Force. Congressman Schiff subsequently learned from NARA that, although they did, indeed, have the "Bluebook" materials, the "Roswell Incident" was not part of that report. Congressman Schiff, apparently perceiving that he had been "stonewalled" by the DoD, then generated the request for the aforementioned audit.

It is within this context that the following research and assistance efforts were conducted in support of the GAO. This report is intended to stand as the final official Air Force response regarding this matter.

#### **THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT"—WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY REPORTED IN 1947**

The modern preoccupation with what ultimately came to be called Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) actually began in June, 1947. Although some pro-UFO researchers argue that sightings of UFOs go back to Biblical times, most researchers will not dispute that anything in UFO history can compare with the phenomenon that began in 1947. What was later characterized as "the UFO Wave of 1947" began with 16 alleged sightings that occurred between May 17 and July 12, 1947

(although some researchers claim there were as many as 800 sightings during that period). Interestingly, the "Roswell Incident" was not considered one of these 1947 events until the 1978-1980 time frame. There is no dispute, however, that something happened near Roswell in July, 1947, since it was reported in a number of contemporary newspaper articles, the most famous of which were the July 8 and July 9 editions of the *Roswell Daily Record*. The July 8 edition reported "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch In Roswell Region," while the next day's edition reported, "Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer" and "Harassed Rancher Who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It."

The first story reported that the Intelligence Officer of the 509th Bomb Group, stationed at Roswell Army Air Field, Major Jesse A. Marcel, had recovered a "flying disc" from the range lands of an unidentified rancher in the vicinity of Roswell and that the disc had been "flown to higher headquarters." That same story also reported that a Roswell couple claimed to have seen a large unidentified object fly by their home on July 2, 1947.

The July 9 edition of the paper noted that Brigadier General Roger Ramey, Commander of the Eighth Air Force at Fort Worth, Texas, stated that upon examination the debris recovered by Marcel was determined to be a weather balloon. The wreckage was described as a ". . . bundle of tinfoil, broken wood beams, and rubber remnants of a balloon. . ." The additional story of the "harassed rancher" identified him as W.W. Brazel of Lincoln County, New Mexico. He claimed that he and his son, Vernon, found the material on June 14, 1947, when they "came upon a large area of bright wreckage made up of rubber strips, tinfoil, a rather tough paper, and sticks." He picked up some of the debris on July 4 and ". . . the next day he first heard about the flying discs and wondered if what he had found might have been the remnants of one of these." Brazel subsequently went to Roswell on July 7 and contacted the Sheriff, who apparently notified Major Marcel. Major Marcel and "a man in plain clothes" then accompanied Brazel home to pick up the rest of the pieces. The article further related that Brazel thought that the material:

. . . might have been as large as a table top. The balloon which held it up, if that is how it worked, must have been about 12 feet long, he felt, measuring the distance by the size of the room in which he sat. The rubber was smoky gray in color and scattered over an area about 200 yards in diameter. When the debris was gathered up the tinfoil, paper, tape, and sticks made a bundle about three feet long and 7 or 8 inches thick, while the rubber made a bundle about 18 or 20 inches long and about 8 inches thick. In all, he estimated, the entire lot would have weighed maybe five pounds. There was no sign of any metal in the area which might have been used for an engine and no sign of any propellers of any kind. Although at least one paper fin had been glued onto some of the tinfoil. There were no words to be found anywhere on the instrument although there were letters on some of the parts. Considerable scotch tape and

some tape with flowers printed upon it had been used in the construction. No string or wire were to be found but there were some eyelets in the paper to indicate that some sort of attachment may have been used. Brazel said that he had previously found two weather balloons on the ranch, but that what he found this time did not in any way resemble either of these.

## EVOLUTION OF THE EVENT FROM 1947 TO THE PRESENT

General Ramey's press conference and rancher Brazel's statement effectively ended this as a UFO-related matter until 1978, although some UFO researchers argue that there were several obtuse references to it in 1950's-era literature. Roswell, for example, is not referred to in the official USAF investigation of UFOs reported in Project Bluebook or its predecessors, Project Sign and Project Grudge, which ran from 1948–1969 (which Congressman Schiff subsequently learned when he made his original inquiry).

In 1978, an article appeared in a tabloid newspaper, the *National Enquirer*, which reported the former intelligence officer, Marcel, claimed that he had recovered UFO debris near Roswell in 1947. Also in 1978, a UFO researcher, Stanton Friedman, met with Marcel and began investigating the claims that the material Marcel handled was from a crashed UFO. Similarly, two authors, William L. Moore and Charles Berlitz, also engaged in research which led them to publish a book, *The Roswell Incident*, in 1980. In this book they reported they interviewed a number of persons who claimed to have been present at Roswell in 1947 and professed to be either firsthand or secondhand witnesses to strange events that supposedly occurred. Since 1978–1980, other UFO researchers, most notably Donald Schmitt and Kevin Randle, claim to have located and interviewed even more persons with supposed knowledge of unusual happenings at Roswell. These included both civilian and former military persons.

Additionally, the Robert Stack-hosted television show "Unsolved Mysteries" devoted a large portion of one show to a "re-creation" of the supposed Roswell events. Numerous other television shows have done likewise, particularly during the last several years, and a made-for-TV movie on the subject is due to be released this summer. The overall thrust of these articles, books, and shows is that the "Roswell Incident" was actually the crash of a craft from another world, the US Government recovered it, and has been "covering up" this fact from the American public since 1947, using a combination of disinformation, ridicule, and threats of bodily harm, to do so. Generally, the USAF bears the brunt of these accusations.

From the rather benign description of the "event" and the recovery of some material as described in the original newspaper accounts, the "Roswell Incident" has since grown to mythical (if not mystical) proportions in the eyes and minds of some researchers, portions of the media and at least part of the American public. There are also now several major variations of the "Roswell story." For

example, it was originally reported that there was only recovery of debris from one site. This has since grown from a minimal amount of debris recovered from a small area to airplane loads of debris from multiple huge "debris fields." Likewise, the relatively simple description of sticks, paper, tape and tinfoil has since grown to exotic metals with hieroglyphics and fiber optic-like materials. Most versions now claim that there were two crash sites where debris was recovered, and at the second site, alleged bodies of extraterrestrial aliens were supposedly retrieved. The number of these "alien bodies" recovered also varied. These claims are further complicated by the fact that UFO researchers are not in agreement among themselves as to exactly where these recovery sites were located or even the dates of the alleged crash(es). Consistently, however, the AAF was accused of securing these sites, recovering all the material therefrom, keeping locals away, and returning the recovered wreckage (and bodies) to Roswell under extremely tight security for further processing and later exploitation.

Once back at Roswell Army Air Field, it is generally alleged that special measures were taken to notify higher headquarters and arrangements made to have recovered materials shipped to other locations for analysis. These locations include Fort Worth, Texas, the home of the Eighth Air Force Headquarters; possibly Sandia Base (now Kirtland AFB), New Mexico; possibly Andrews Army Air Field, Maryland; and always to Wright Field, now known as Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The latter location was the home of "T-2" which later became known as the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) and the Air Materiel Command (AMC), and would, in fact, be a logical location to study unknown materials from whatever origin. Most of the Roswell stories that contain the recovery of alien bodies also show them being shipped to Wright Field. Once the material and bodies were dispersed for further analysis and/or exploitation, the government in general, and the Army Air Forces in particular, engaged in covering up all information relating to the alleged crash and recovery, including the use of security oaths to military persons and the use of coercion (including alleged death threats) to others. This, as theorized by some UFO researchers, has allowed the government to keep the fact that there is intelligent extraterrestrial life from the American public for 47 years. It also supposedly allowed the US Government to exploit recovered extraterrestrial materials by reverse engineering them, ultimately providing such things as fiber optic and stealth technology. The "death threats," oaths, and other forms of coercion alleged to have been meted out by the AAF personnel to keep people from talking have apparently not been very effective, as several hundred people are claimed to have come forward (without harm) with some knowledge of the "Roswell Incident" during interviews with nongovernment researchers and the media.

Adding some measure of credibility to the claims that have arisen since 1978 is the apparent depth of research of some of the authors and the extent of their efforts. Their claims are lessened somewhat, however, by the fact that almost all their information came from verbal reports many years after the alleged incident occurred. Many of the persons interviewed were, in fact, stationed at, or lived near Roswell during the time in question, and a number of them claim military

service. Most, however, related their stories in their older years, well after the fact. In other cases, the information provided is second or thirdhand, having been passed through a friend or relative after the principal had died. What is uniquely lacking in the entire exploration and exploitation of the "Roswell Incident" is official positive documentary or physical evidence of any kind that supports the claims of those who allege that something unusual happened. Conversely, there has never been any previous documentary evidence produced by those who would debunk the incident to show that something did not happen; although logic dictates that bureaucracies do not spend time documenting nonevents.

## SEARCH STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

To insure senior Air Force leadership that there were no hidden or overlooked files that might relate to the "Roswell Incident," and to provide the GAO with the best and most complete information available, SAF/AAZ constructed a strategy based on direct tasking from the Office of the Secretary, to elicit information from those functional offices and organizations where such information might logically be contained. This included directing searches at current offices where special or unusual projects might be carried out, as well as historical organizations, archives, and records centers over which the Air Force exerted some degree of control. Researchers did not, however, go to the US Army to review historical records in areas such as missile launches from White Sands, or to the Department of Energy to determine if its forerunner, the Atomic Energy Commission, had any records of nuclear-related incidents that might have occurred at or near Roswell in 1947. To do so would have encroached on GAO's charter in this matter. What Air Force researchers did do, however, was to search for records still under Air Force control pertaining to these subject areas.

In order to determine parameters for the most productive search of records, a review was first conducted of the major works regarding the "Roswell Incident" available in the popular literature. These works included: *The Roswell Incident* (1980) by William Moore and Charles Berlitz; "Crashed Saucers: Evidence in Search of Proof" (1985) by Moore; *The UFO Crash at Roswell* (1991) by Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt; *The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell* (1994), also by Randle and Schmitt; *The Roswell Report: A Historical Perspective* (1991), George M. Eberhart, editor; "The Roswell Events" (1993) compiled by Fred Whiting; *Crash at Corona* (1992) by Stanton T. Friedman and Don Berliner; and numerous other articles written by a combination of the above and other researchers. Collectively, the above represent the "pro" UFO writers who allege that the government is engaged in a conspiracy. There are no specific books written entirely on the theme that nothing happened at Roswell. However, Curtis Peebles in *Watch the Skies!* (1994) discussed the development of the UFO story and growth of subsequent claims as a phenomenon. There has also been serious research as well as a number of detailed articles written by so-called "debunkers" of Roswell and other incidents, most notably Philip J. Klass, who writes *The Skeptic's UFO Newsletter*, and Robert Todd, a private researcher. The concerns and claims of all the above authors and others were considered in conducting the USAF records search.

It was also decided, particularly after a review of the above popular literature, that no specific attempt would be made to try to refute, point by point, the numerous claims made in the various publications. Many of these claims appear to be hearsay, undocumented, taken out of context, self-serving, or otherwise dubious. Additionally, many of the above authors are not even in agreement over various claims. Most notable of the confusing and now ever-changing claims is the controversy over the date(s) of the alleged incident, the exact location(s) of the purported debris, and the extent of the wreckage. Such discrepancies in claims made the search much more difficult by greatly expanding the volume of records that had to be searched.

An example of trying to deal with questionable claims is illustrated by the following example: One of the popular books mentioned that was reviewed claimed that the writers had submitted the names and serial numbers of "over two dozen" personnel stationed at Roswell in July, 1947, to the Veterans Administration and the Defense Department to confirm their military service. They then listed eleven of these persons by name and asked the question: "Why does neither the Defense Department nor the Veteran's Administration have records of any of these men when we can document that each served at Roswell Army Air Field." That claim sounded serious so SAF/AAZD was tasked to check these eleven names in the Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Using only the names (since the authors did not list the serial numbers) the researcher quickly found records readily identifiable with eight of these persons. The other three had such common names that there could have been multiple possibilities. Interestingly, one of the listed "missing" persons had a casualty report in his records reflecting that he died in 1951, while the writers claimed to have interviewed him (or a person of the exact same name) in 1990.

While the historical document search was in progress, it was decided to attempt to locate and interview several persons identified as still living who could possibly answer questions generated by the research. This had never been officially done before, although most of the persons contacted reported that they had also been contacted in the past by some of the listed authors or other private researchers. In order to counter possible future arguments that the persons interviewed were still "covering up" material because of prior security oaths, the interviewees were provided with authorization from either the Secretary of the Air Force or the Senior Security Official of the Air Force that would officially allow discussion of classified information, if applicable, or free them from any prior restriction in discussing the matter, if such existed. Again, the focus was on interviewing persons that could address specific issues raised by research and no consideration was given to try and locate every alleged witness claimed to have been contacted by the various authors. For example, one of the interviewees thought vital to obtain an official signed, sworn statement from was Sheridan Cavitt, Lt Col, USAF (Retired), who is the last living member of the three persons universally acknowledged to have recovered material from the Foster Ranch. Others were also interviewed as information developed (discussed in detail later). Additionally, in some cases survivors of deceased persons were also contacted in

an attempt to locate various records thought to have been in the custody of the deceased.

Even though Air Force research originally started in January, 1994, the first official Air Force-wide tasking was directed by the March 1, 1994, memorandum from SAF/AA (Atch 5) and was addressed to those current Air Staff elements that would be the likely repository for any records, particularly if there was anything of an extraordinary nature involved. This meant that the search was not limited to unclassified materials, but also would include records of the highest classification and compartmentation.

The specific Air Staff/Secretariat offices queried included the following:

- (a) SAF/AIA, Directorate of Information Management
- (b) SAF/AQL, Directorate of Electronics and Special Programs
- (c) AF/SE, Air Force Safety
- (d) AF/HO, Air Force Historian
- (e) AF/IN, Air Force Intelligence [including the Air Force Intelligence Agency (AFIA) and the National Air Intelligence Center (NAIC)]
- (f) AF/XOW, Directorate of Weather
- (g) [added later] The Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI)

In addition to the above Air Staff and Secretariat offices, SAF/AAZ also reviewed appropriate classified records for any tie-in to this matter. With regards to highly classified records, it should be noted that any programs that employ enhanced security measures or controls are known as a Special Access Programs (SAPs). The authority for such programs comes from Executive Order 12356 and flows from the Department of Defense to the Services via DoD Directive 5205.7. These programs are implemented in the Air Force by Policy Directive 16-7 and Air Force Instruction 16-701. These directives contain detailed requirements for controlling and reporting, in a very strict manner, all SAPs. This includes a report from the Secretary of the Air Force to the Secretary of Defense (and ultimately to Congress) on all SAPs submitted for approval, and a certification that there are no "SAP-like" programs being operated. These reporting requirements are stipulated in public law.

It followed that if the Air Force had recovered some type of extraterrestrial spacecraft and/or bodies and was exploiting this for scientific and technology purposes, then such a program would be operated as a Special Access Program (SAP). SAF/AAZ, the Central Office for all Air Force SAPs, has knowledge of, and security oversight over, all SAPs. SAF/AAZ categorically stated that no such SAP or SAPs exist that pertain to extraterrestrial spacecraft/aliens.

Likewise, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff, who head the Special Program Oversight Committee which oversees all sensitive programs in the Air Force, had no knowledge of the existence of any such program involving, or relating to, the events at Roswell or the alleged technology that supposedly

resulted therefrom. Besides the obvious irregularity and illegality of keeping such information from the most senior Air Force officials, it would also be illogical, since these officials are responsible for obtaining funding for operations, research, development, and security. Without funding, such a program, operation, or organization could not exist. Even to keep such a fact "covered-up" in some sort of passive "caretaker status" would involve money. More importantly, it would involve people and create paperwork.

The aforementioned March 1, 1994, SAF/AA tasking generated negative responses (Atchs 6-12) from all recipients; i.e., all offices reported that they had no information that would explain the incident. Consequently, these negative responses led to an increase in the already ongoing historical research at records centers and archives.

The extensive archival and records center search was systematically carried out by the SAF/AAZD Declassification Review Team. This team is composed entirely of Air Force Reserve personnel who have extensive training and experience in large scale review of records. (Previous efforts include the Southeast Asia Declassification Review, declassification of POW/MIA records, and the review of the Gulf War Air Power Survey records.) The team members all had the requisite security clearances for classified information and had the authority of the Secretary of the Air Force to declassify any classified record they found that might be related to Roswell. SAF/AAZD conducted reviews at a number of locations, including the National Archives in Washington, DC; the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO; the National Archives, Suitland MD; the National Records Center, Suitland, MD; Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC; Federal Records Center, Ft Worth, TX; the INSCOM Archives, Fort Meade, MD; National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC; Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB, AL; Center for Air Force History, Bolling AFB, DC; Phillips Laboratory, Hanscom AFB, MA and Kirtland AFB, NM; Rome Laboratory, Griffiss AFB, NY; and the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

A listing of the specific record areas searched is appended as Atch 13. The areas included all those subject areas logically believed to possibly contain any reference to activities at Roswell Army Air Field during the period of time in question. It is anticipated that detractors from this effort will complain that "they did not search record group x, box y, or reel z, etc.; that's where the real records are!" Such complaints are unavoidable and there is no possible way that the millions of records under Air Force control could be searched page by page. The team endeavored to make logical searches in those places where records would likely be found. They were assisted in this task by archivists, historians, and records management specialists, including experienced persons who have continually worked in Army and Air Force records systems since 1943. The team also searched some record areas that were recommended by serious private researchers such as Robert Todd, who had independently obtained almost encyclopedic knowledge of the complexities of Air Force records systems, particularly those related to this subject area.

Not surprisingly, the research team found the usual number of problems in many of the records centers (particularly St. Louis) with misfiling, lost or misplaced documents, mismarking of documents, or the breaking up of record groups over the years and refiling in different systems. This included, for example, a small amount of missing "decimal files" from the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell that covered the years 1945–1949, that were marked on the index as "destroyed." The researchers noted that there was no pattern to any anomalies found and that most discrepancies were minor and consistent with what they had found in the past on similar projects.

## WHAT THE ROSWELL INCIDENT WAS NOT

Before discussing specific positive results that these efforts revealed, it is first appropriate to discuss those things, as indicated by information available to the Air Force, that the "Roswell Incident" *was not*:

### *An Airplane Crash*

Of all the things that are documented and tracked within the Air Force, among the most detailed and scrupulous are airplane crashes. In fact, records of air crashes go back to the first years of military flight. Safety records and reports are available for all crashes that involved serious damage, injury, death, or a combination of these factors. These records also include incidents involving experimental or classified aircraft. USAF records showed that between June 24, 1947, and July 28, 1947, there were five crashes in New Mexico alone, involving A-26C, P-51N, C-82A, P-80A, and PQ-14B aircraft; however, none of these occurred on the date(s) in question nor in the area(s) in question.

One of the additional areas specifically set forth by GAO in its efforts was to deal with how the Air Force (and others) specifically documented "... weather balloon ... and other crash incidents." In this area, the search efforts revealed that there are no *air* safety records pertaining to weather balloon crashes (all weather balloons "crash" sooner or later); however, there are provisions for generating reports of "crashes" as ground safety incidents in the unlikely chance that a balloon injures someone or causes damage. Such records are only maintained for five years.

### *A Missile Crash*

A crashed or errant missile, usually described as a captured German V-2 or one of its variants, is sometimes set forth as a possible explanation for the debris recovered near Roswell. Since much of this testing done at nearby White Sands was secret at the time, it would be logical to assume that the government would handle any missile mishap under tight security, particularly if the mishap occurred on private land. From the records reviewed by the Air Force, however, there was nothing located to suggest that this was the case. Although the bulk of remaining testing records are under the control of the US Army, the subject has also been very well documented over the years within Air Force records. There would be no reason to keep such information classified today. The USAF found

no indicators or even hints that a missile was involved in this matter.

#### *A Nuclear Accident*

One of the areas considered was that whatever happened near Roswell may have involved nuclear weapons. This was a logical area of concern since the 509th Bomb Group was the only military unit in the world at the time that had access to nuclear weapons. Again, reviews of available records gave no indication that this was the case. A number of records still classified Top Secret and Secret—Restricted Data having to do with nuclear weapons were located in the Federal Records Center in St. Louis, MO. These records, which pertained to the 509th, had nothing to do with any activities that could have been misinterpreted as the "Roswell Incident." Also, any records of a nuclear-related incident would have been inherited by the Department of Energy (DOE), and, had one occurred, it is likely DOE would have publicly reported it as part of its recent declassification and public release efforts. There were no ancillary records in Air Force files to indicate the potential existence of such records within DOE channels, however.

#### *An Extraterrestrial Craft*

The Air Force research found absolutely no indication that what happened near Roswell in 1947, involved any type of extraterrestrial spacecraft. This, of course, is the crux of this entire matter. "Pro-UFO" persons who obtain a copy of this report, at this point, most probably begin the "cover-up is still on" claims. Nevertheless, the research indicated absolutely no evidence of *any kind* that a spaceship crashed near Roswell or that any alien occupants were recovered therefrom, in some secret military operation or otherwise. This does not mean, however, that the early Air Force was not concerned about UFOs. However, in the early days, "UFO" meant Unidentified Flying Object, which literally translated as some object in the air that was not readily identifiable. It did not mean, as the term has evolved in today's language, to equate to alien spaceships. Records from the period reviewed by Air Force researchers, as well as those cited by the authors mentioned before, do indicate that the USAF *was* seriously concerned about the inability to adequately identify unknown flying objects reported in American airspace. All the records, however, indicated that the focus of concern was not on aliens, hostile or otherwise, but on the Soviet Union. Many documents from that period speak to the possibility of developmental secret Soviet aircraft overflying US airspace. This, of course, was of major concern to the fledgling USAF, whose job it was to protect these same skies.

The research revealed only one official AAF document that indicated that there was any activity of any type that pertained to UFOs and Roswell in July, 1947. This was a small section of the July Historical Report for the 509th Bomb Group and Roswell Army Air Field that stated: "The Office of Public Information was quite busy during the month answering inquiries on the 'flying disc,' which was reported to be in possession of the 509th Bomb Group. The object turned out to be a radar tracking balloon" (included with Atch 11). Additionally, this history showed that the 509th Commander, Colonel Blanchard, went on leave on July 8, 1947, which would be a somewhat unusual maneuver for a person involved in

the supposed first ever recovery of extraterrestrial materials. (Detractors claim Blanchard did this as a ploy to elude the press and go to the scene to direct the recovery operations.) The history and the morning reports also showed that the subsequent activities at Roswell during the month were mostly mundane and not indicative of any unusual high-level activity, expenditure of manpower, resources or security.

Likewise, the researchers found no indication of heightened activity anywhere else in the military hierarchy in the July, 1947, message traffic or orders (to include classified traffic). There were no indications and warnings, notice of alerts, or a higher tempo of operational activity reported that would be logically generated if an alien craft, whose intentions were unknown, entered US territory. To believe that such operational and high-level security activity could be conducted solely by relying on unsecured telecommunications or personal contact without creating any records of such activity certainly stretches the imagination of those who have served in the military who know that paperwork of some kind is necessary to accomplish even emergency, highly classified, or sensitive tasks.

An example of activity sometimes cited by pro-UFO writers to illustrate the point that something unusual was going on was the travel of Lt Gen Nathan Twining, Commander of the Air Materiel Command, to New Mexico in July, 1947. Actually, records were located indicating that Twining went to the Bomb Commanders' Course on July 8, along with a number of other general officers, and requested orders to do so a month before, on June 5, 1947 (Atch 14).

Similarly, it has also been alleged that General Hoyt Vandenberg, Deputy Chief of Staff at the time, had been involved directing activity regarding events at Roswell. Activity reports (Atch 15), located in General Vandenberg's personal papers stored in the Library of Congress, did indicate that on July 7, he was busy with a "flying disc" incident; however this particular incident involved Ellington Field, Texas and the Spokane (Washington) Depot. After much discussion and information gathering on this incident, it was learned to be a hoax. There is no similar mention of his personal interest or involvement in Roswell events except in the newspapers.

The above are but two small examples that indicate that if some event happened that was one of the "watershed happenings" in human history, the US military certainly reacted in an unconcerned and cavalier manner. In an actual case, the military would have had to order thousands of soldiers and airman, not only at Roswell but throughout the US, to act nonchalantly, pretend to conduct and report business as usual, and generate absolutely no paperwork of a suspicious nature, while simultaneously anticipating that twenty years or more into the future people would have available a comprehensive Freedom of Information Act that would give them great leeway to review and explore government documents. The records indicate that none of this happened (or if it did, it was controlled by a security system so efficient and tight that no one, US or otherwise, has been able to duplicate it since. If such a system had been in effect at the time, it would

have also been used to protect our atomic secrets from the Soviets, which history has showed obviously was not the case). The records reviewed confirmed that no such sophisticated and efficient security system existed.

## WHAT THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT" WAS

As previously discussed, what was originally reported to have been recovered was a balloon of some sort, usually described as a "weather balloon," although the majority of the wreckage that was ultimately displayed by General Ramey and Major Marcel in the famous photos (Atch 16) in Fort Worth was that of a radar target normally suspended from balloons. This radar target, discussed in more detail later, was certainly consistent with the description of July 9 newspaper article which discussed "tinfoil, paper, tape, and sticks." Additionally, the description of the "flying disc" was consistent with a document routinely used by most pro-UFO writers to indicate a conspiracy in progress—the telegram from the Dallas FBI office of July 8, 1947. This document quoted in part states: ". . . The disc is hexagonal in shape and was suspended from a balloon by a cable, which balloon was approximately twenty feet in diameter. . . . the object found resembles a high altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector. . . . disc and balloon being transported . . . ."

Similarly, while conducting the popular literature review, one of the documents reviewed was a paper entitled "The Roswell Events" edited by Fred Whiting and sponsored by the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR). Although it was not the original intention to comment on what commercial authors interpreted or claimed that other persons supposedly said, this particular document was different because it contained actual copies of apparently authentic sworn affidavits received from a number of persons who claimed to have some knowledge of the Roswell event. Although many of the persons who provided these affidavits to the FUFOR researchers also expressed opinions that they thought there was something extraterrestrial about this incident, a number of them actually described materials that sounded suspiciously like wreckage from balloons. These included the following:

Jesse A. Marcel, MD (son of the late Major Jesse Marcel; 11 years old at the time of the incident). Affidavit dated May 6, 1991. ". . . There were three categories of debris: a thick, foil like metallic gray substance; a brittle, brownish-black plastic-like material, like Bakelite; and there were fragments of what appeared to be I-beams. On the inner surface of the I-beam, there appeared to be a type of writing. This writing was a purple-violet hue, and it had an embossed appearance. The figures were composed of curved, geometric shapes. It had no resemblance to Russian, Japanese or any other foreign language. It resembled hieroglyphics, but it had no animal-like characters. . . ."

Loretta Proctor (former neighbor of rancher W.W. Brazel). Affidavit dated May 5, 1991. ". . . Brazel came to my ranch and showed my husband and me a piece of material he said came from a large pile of debris on the property he managed.

The piece he brought was brown in color, similar to plastic . . . . 'Mac' said the other material on the property looked like aluminum foil. It was very flexible and wouldn't crush or burn. There was also something he described as tape which had printing on it. The color of the printing was a kind of purple . . . ."

Bessie Brazel Schreiber (daughter of W.W. Brazel; 14 years old at the time of the incident). Affidavit dated September 22, 1993. ". . . The debris looked like pieces of a large balloon which had burst. The pieces were small, the largest I remember measuring about the same as the diameter of a basketball. Most of it was a kind of double-sided material, foil-like on one side and rubber-like on the other. Both sides were grayish silver in color, the foil more silvery than the rubber. Sticks, like kite sticks, were attached to some of the pieces with a whitish tape. The tape was about two or three inches wide and had flower-like designs on it. The 'flowers' were faint, a variety of pastel colors, and reminded me of Japanese paintings in which the flowers are not all connected. I do not recall any other types of material or markings, nor do I remember seeing gouges in the ground or any other signs that anything may have hit the ground hard. The foil-rubber material could not be torn like ordinary aluminum foil can be torn..."

Sally Strickland Tadolini (neighbor of W.W. Brazel; nine years old in 1947). Affidavit dated September 27, 1993. ". . . What Bill showed us was a piece of what I still think as fabric. It was something like aluminum foil, something like satin, something like well-tanned leather in its toughness, yet was not precisely like any one of those materials. . . . It was about the thickness of very fine kidskin glove leather and a dull metallic grayish silver, one side slightly darker than the other. I do not remember it having any design or embossing on it . . . ."

Robert R. Porter (B-29 flight Engineer stationed at Roswell in 1947). Affidavit dated June 7, 1991. ". . . On this occasion, I was a member of the crew which flew parts of what we were told was a flying saucer to Fort Worth. The people on board included...and Maj Jesse Marcel. Capt. William E. Anderson said it was from a flying saucer. After we arrived, the material was transferred to a B-25. I was told they were going to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. I was involved in loading the B-29 with the material, which was wrapped in packages with wrapping paper. One of the pieces was triangle-shaped, about 2 1/2 feet across the bottom. The rest were in small packages, about the size of a shoe box. The brown paper was held with tape. The material was extremely lightweight. When I picked it up, it was just like picking up an empty package. We loaded the triangle shaped package and three shoe box-sized packages into the plane. All of the packages could have fit into the trunk of a car. . . . When we came back from lunch, they told us they had transferred the material to a B-25. They told us the material was a weather balloon, but I'm certain it wasn't a weather balloon. . . ."

In addition to those persons above still living who claim to have seen or examined the original material found on the Brazel Ranch, there is one additional person who was universally acknowledged to have been involved in its recovery, Sheridan Cavitt, Lt Col, USAF (Ret). Cavitt is credited in all claims of having

accompanied Major Marcel to the ranch to recover the debris, sometimes along with his Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) subordinate, Lewis Rickett, who, like Marcel, is deceased. Although there does not appear to be much dispute that Cavitt was involved in the material recovery, other claims about him prevail in the popular literature. He is sometimes portrayed as a closed-mouth (or sometimes even sinister) conspirator who was one of the early individuals who kept the "secret of Roswell" from getting out. Other things about him have been alleged, including the claim that he wrote a report of the incident at the time that has never surfaced.

Since Lt Col Cavitt, who had firsthand knowledge, was still alive, a decision was made to interview him and get a signed sworn statement from him about his version of the events. Prior to the interview, the Secretary of the Air Force provided him with a written authorization and waiver to discuss classified information with the interviewer and release him from any security oath he may have taken. Subsequently, Cavitt was interviewed on May 24, 1994, at his home. Cavitt provided a signed, sworn statement (Atch 17) of his recollections in this matter. He also consented to having the interview tape-recorded. A transcript of that recording is at Atch 18. In this interview, Cavitt related that he had been contacted on numerous occasions by UFO researchers and had willingly talked with many of them; however, he felt that he had oftentimes been misrepresented or had his comments taken out of context so that their true meaning was changed. He stated unequivocally, however, that the material he recovered consisted of a reflective sort of material like aluminum foil, and some thin, bamboo-like sticks. He thought at the time, and continued to do so today, that what he found was a weather balloon and has told other private researchers that. He also remembered finding a small "black box" type of instrument, which he thought at the time was probably a radiosonde. Lt Col Cavitt also reviewed the famous Ramey/Marcel photographs (Atch 16) of the wreckage taken to Fort Worth (often claimed by UFO researchers to have been switched and the remnants of a balloon substituted for it), and he identified the materials depicted in those photos as consistent with the materials that he recovered from the ranch. Lt Col Cavitt also stated that he had never taken any oath or signed any agreement not to talk about this incident and had never been threatened by anyone in the government because of it. He did not even know the "incident" was claimed to be anything unusual until he was interviewed in the early 1980's.

Similarly, Irving Newton, Major, USAF (Ret), was located and interviewed. Newton was a weather officer assigned to Fort Worth, who was on duty when the Roswell debris was sent there in July, 1947. He was told that he was to report to General Ramey's office to view the material. In a signed, sworn statement (Atch 30) Newton related that ". . . I walked into the General's office where this supposed flying saucer was lying all over the floor. As soon as I saw it, I giggled and asked if that was the flying saucer . . . I told them that this was a balloon and a RAWIN target. . ." Newton also stated that ". . . while I was examining the debris, Major Marcel was picking up pieces of the target sticks and trying to convince me that some notations on the sticks were alien writings. There were

figures on the sticks, lavender or pink in color, appeared to be weather faded markings, with no rhyme or reason [sic]. He did not convince me that these were alien writings." Newton concluded his statement by relating that "... During the ensuing years I have been interviewed by many authors, I have been quoted and misquoted. The facts remain as indicated above. I was not influenced during the original interview, nor today, to provide anything but what I know to be true, that is, the material I saw in General Ramey's office was the remains of a balloon and a RAWIN target."

#### *Balloon Research*

The original tasking from GAO noted that the search for information included "weather balloons." Comments about balloons and safety reports have already been made; however the SAF/AAZ research efforts also focused on reviewing historical records involving balloons, since, among other reasons, that was what was officially claimed by the AAF to have been found and recovered in 1947.

As early as February 28, 1994, the AAZD research team found references to balloon tests taking place at Alamogordo Army Air Field (now Holloman AFB) and White Sands during June and July 1947, testing "constant level balloons" and a New York University (NYU)/Watson Labs effort that used "... meteorological devices . . . suspected for detecting shock waves generated by Soviet nuclear explosions"—a possible indication of a cover story associated with the NYU balloon project. Subsequently, a 1946 HQ AMC memorandum surfaced, describing the constant altitude balloon project and specified that the scientific data be classified Top Secret Priority 1A. Its name was Project MOGUL (Atch 19).

Project MOGUL was a then-sensitive, classified project, whose purpose was to determine the state of Soviet nuclear weapons research. This was the early Cold War period and there was serious concern within the US government about the Soviets' developing a weaponized atomic device. Because the Soviet Union's borders were closed, the US Government sought to develop a long range nuclear explosion detection capability. Long range, balloon-borne, low frequency acoustic detection was posed to General Spaatz in 1945 by Dr. Maurice Ewing of Columbia University as a potential solution (atmospheric ducting of low frequency pressure waves had been studied as early as 1900).

As part of the research into this matter, AAZD personnel located and obtained the original study papers and reports of the New York University project. Their efforts also revealed that some of the individuals involved in Project MOGUL were still living. These persons included the NYU constant altitude balloon Director of Research, Dr. Athelstan F. Spilhaus; the Project Engineer, Professor Charles B. Moore; and the military Project Officer, Colonel Albert C. Trakowski .

All of these persons were subsequently interviewed and signed sworn statements about their activities. A copy of theses statements are appended at Atchs 20–22. Additionally, transcripts of the interview with Moore and Trakowski are also included (equipment malfunctioned during the interview of Spilhaus) (Atchs

23-24). These interviews confirmed that Project MOGUL was a compartmented, sensitive effort. The NYU group was responsible for developing constant level balloons and telemetering equipment that would remain at specified altitudes (within the acoustic duct) while a group from Columbia was to develop acoustic sensors. Doctor Spilhaus, Professor Moore, and certain others of the group were aware of the actual purpose of the project, but they did not know of the project nickname at the time. They handled casual inquiries and/or scientific inquiries/papers in terms of "unclassified meteorological or balloon research." Newly hired employees were not made aware that there was anything special or classified about their work; they were told only that their work dealt with meteorological equipment.

An advance ground team, led by Albert P. Crary, preceded the NYU group to Alamogordo Army Air Field, New Mexico, setting up ground sensors and obtaining facilities for the NYU group. Upon their arrival, Professor Moore and his team experimented with various configurations of neoprene balloons; development of balloon "trains" (see illustration, Atch 25); automatic ballast systems; and use of Naval sonobuoys (as the Watson Lab acoustical sensors had not yet arrived). They also launched what they called "service flights." These "service flights" were not logged nor fully accounted for in the published Technical Reports generated as a result of the contract between NYU and Watson Labs. According to Professor Moore, the "service flights" were composed of balloons, radar reflectors, and payloads specifically designed to test acoustic sensors (both early sonobuoys and the later Watson Labs devices). The "payload equipment" was expendable, and some carried no "Reward" or "Return to . . ." tags because there was to be no association between these flights and the logged constant altitude flights which were fully acknowledged. The NYU balloon flights were listed sequentially in their reports (i.e., A, B, or 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 . . .), yet gaps existed for Flights 2-4 and Flight 9. The interview with Professor Moore indicated that these gaps were the unlogged "service flights."

Professor Moore, the on-scene Project Engineer, gave detailed information concerning his team's efforts. He recalled that radar targets were used for tracking balloons because they did not have all the necessary equipment when they first arrived in New Mexico. Some of the early developmental radar targets were manufactured by a toy or novelty company. These targets were made up of aluminum "foil" or foil-backed paper, balsa wood beams that were coated in an "Elmer's-type" glue to enhance their durability, acetate and/or cloth reinforcing tape, single strand and braided nylon twine, brass eyelets and swivels to form a multi-faced reflector somewhat similar in construction to a box kite (see photographs, Atch 26). Some of these targets were also assembled with purplish-pink tape with symbols on it (see drawing by Moore with Atch 21).

According to the log summary (Atch 27) of the NYU group, Flight A through Flight 7 (November 20, 1946-July 2, 1947) were made with neoprene meteorological balloons (as opposed to the later flights made with polyethylene balloons). Professor Moore stated that the neoprene balloons were susceptible to degrada-

tion in the sunlight, turning from a milky white to a dark brown. He described finding remains of balloon trains with reflectors and payloads that had landed in the desert: the ruptured and shredded neoprene would "almost look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days. The plasticizers and antioxidants in the neoprene would emit a peculiar acrid odor and the balloon material and radar target material would be scattered after returning to earth depending on the surface winds." Upon review of the local newspaper photographs from General Ramey's press conference in 1947 and descriptions in popular books by individuals who supposedly handled the debris recovered on the ranch, Professor Moore opined that the material was most likely the shredded remains of a multi-neoprene balloon train with multiple radar reflectors. The material and a "black box," described by Cavitt, was, in Moore's scientific opinion, most probably from Flight 4, a "service flight" that included a cylindrical metal sonobuoy and portions of a weather instrument housed in a box, which was unlike typical weather radiosondes which were made of cardboard. Additionally, a copy of a professional journal maintained at the time by A.P. Crary, provided to the Air Force by his widow, showed that Flight 4 was launched on June 4, 1947, but was not recovered by the NYU group. It is very probable that this Top Secret project balloon train (Flight 4), made up of unclassified components, came to rest some miles northwest of Roswell, NM, became shredded in the surface winds, and was ultimately found by the rancher, Brazel, ten days later. This possibility was supported by the observations of Lt Col Cavitt (Atchs 17-18), the only living eyewitness to the actual debris field and the material found. Lt Col Cavitt described a small area of debris which appeared, "to resemble bamboo type square sticks one quarter to one half inch square, that were very light, as well as some sort of metallic reflecting material that was also very light . . . I remember recognizing this material as being consistent with a weather balloon."

Concerning the initial announcement, "RAAF Captures Flying Disc," research failed to locate any documented evidence as to why that statement was made. However, on July 10, 1947, following the Ramey press conference, the *Alamogordo News* published an article with photographs demonstrating multiple balloons and targets at the same location as the NYU group operated from at Alamogordo Army Air Field. Professor Moore expressed surprise at seeing this since his was the only balloon test group in the area. He stated, "It appears that there was some type of umbrella cover story to protect our work with MOGUL." Although the Air Force did not find documented evidence that Gen. Ramey was directed to espouse a weather balloon in his press conference, he may have done so because he was either aware of Project MOGUL and was trying to deflect interest from it, or he readily perceived the material to be a weather balloon based on the identification from his weather officer, Irving Newton. In either case, the materials recovered by the AAF in July, 1947, were not readily recognizable as anything special (only the purpose was special), and the recovered debris itself was unclassified. Additionally, the press dropped its interest in the matter as quickly as they had jumped on it. Hence, there would be no particular reason to further document what quickly became a "non-event."

The interview with Colonel Trakowski (Atchs 23-24) also proved valuable information. Trakowski provided specific details on Project MOGUL and described how the security for the program was set up, as he was formerly the Top Secret Control Officer for the program. He further related that many of the original radar targets that were produced around the end of World War II were fabricated by toy or novelty companies using a purplish-pink tape with flower and heart symbols on it. Trakowski also recounted a conversation that he had with his friend, and superior military officer in his chain of command, Colonel Marcellus Duffy, in July, 1947. Duffy, formerly had Trakowski's position on MOGUL, but had subsequently been transferred to Wright Field. He stated: ". . . Colonel Duffy called me on the telephone from Wright Field and gave me a story about a fellow that had come in from New Mexico, woke him up in the middle of the night or some such thing with a handful of debris, and wanted him, Colonel Duffy, to identify it. . . . He just said 'it sure looks like some of the stuff you've been launching at Alamogordo' and he described it, and I said 'yes, I think it is.' Certainly Colonel Duffy knew enough about radar targets, radiosondes, balloon-borne weather devices. He was intimately familiar with all that apparatus."

Attempts were made to locate Colonel Duffy but it was ascertained that he had died. His widow explained that, although he had amassed a large amount of personal papers relating to his Air Force activities, she had recently disposed of these items. Likewise, it was learned that A.P. Crary was also deceased; however his surviving spouse had a number of his papers from his balloon testing days, including his professional journal from the period in question. She provided the Air Force researchers with this material. It is discussed in more detail within Atch 32. Overall, it helps fill in gaps of the MOGUL story.

During the period the Air Force conducted this research, it was discovered that several others had also discovered the possibility that the "Roswell Incident" may have been generated by the recovery of a Project MOGUL balloon device. These persons included Professor Charles B. Moore, Robert Todd, and coincidentally, Karl Pflock, a researcher who is married to a staffer who works for Congressman Schiff. Some of these persons provided suggestions as to where documentation might be located in various archives, histories and libraries. A review of FOIA requests revealed that Robert Todd, particularly, had become aware of Project MOGUL several years ago and had doggedly obtained from the Air Force, through the FOIA, a large amount of material pertaining to it; long before the AAZD researchers independently seized on the same possibility.

Most interestingly, as this report was being written, Pflock published his own report of this matter under the auspices of FUFOR, entitled *Roswell in Perspective* (1994). Pflock concluded from his research that the Brazel Ranch debris originally reported as a "flying disc" was probably debris from a MOGUL balloon; however, there was a simultaneous incident that occurred not far away, which caused an alien craft to crash and which the AAF subsequently recovered three alien bodies therefrom. Air Force research did not locate any information to corroborate that this incredible coincidence occurred, however.

In order to provide a more detailed discussion of the specifics of Project MOGUL and how it appeared to be directly responsible for the "Roswell Incident," a SAF/AAZD researcher prepared a more detailed discussion on the balloon project which is appended to this report as Atch 32.

#### *Other Research*

In the attempt to develop additional information that could help explain this matter, a number of other steps were taken. First, assistance was requested from various museums and other archives (Atch 28) to obtain information and/or examples of the actual balloons and radar targets used in connection with Project MOGUL and to correlate them with the various descriptions of wreckage and materials recovered. The blueprints for the "Pilot Balloon Target ML307C/AP Assembly" (generically, the radar target assembly) were located at the Army Signal Corps Museum at Fort Monmouth and were obtained. A copy is appended as Atch 29. This blueprint provides the specification for the foil material, tape, wood, eyelets, and string used and the assembly instructions thereto. An actual device was also obtained for study with the assistance of Professor Moore. (The example actually procured was a 1953-manufactured model "C" as compared to the Model B which was in use in 1947. Professor Moore related the differences were minor.) An examination of this device revealed it to be simply made of aluminum-colored foil-like material over a stronger paper-like material, attached to balsa wood sticks, affixed with tape, glue, and twine. When opened, the device appears as depicted in Atch 31 (contemporary photo) and Atch 25 (1947 photo, in a "balloon train"). When folded, the device is in a series of triangles, the largest being 4 feet by 2 feet 10 inches. The smallest triangle section measures 2 feet by 2 feet 10 inches. (Compare with descriptions provided by Lt Col Cavitt and others, as well as photos of wreckage.)

Additionally, the researchers obtained from the Archives of the University of Texas-Arlington (UTA), a set of original (i.e., first generation) prints of the photographs taken at the time by the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, that depicted Ramey and Marcel with the wreckage. A close review of these photos (and a set of first-generation negatives also subsequently obtained from UTA) revealed several interesting observations. First, although in some of the literature cited above, Marcel allegedly stated that he had his photo taken with the "real" UFO wreckage and then it was subsequently removed and the weather balloon wreckage substituted for it, a comparison shows that the same wreckage appeared in the photos of Marcel and Ramey. The photos also depicted that this material was lying on what appeared to be some sort of wrapping paper (consistent with affidavit excerpt of crew chief Porter, above). It was also noted that in the two photos of Ramey he had a piece of paper in his hand. In one, it was folded over so nothing could be seen. In the second, however, there appears to be text printed on the paper. In an attempt to read this text to determine if it could shed any further light on locating documents relating to this matter, the photo was sent to a national-level organization for digitizing and subsequent photo interpretation and analysis. This organization was also asked to scrutinize the digitized photos for any indication of the flowered tape (or "hieroglyphics," depending on the

point of view) that were reputed to be visible to some of the persons who observed the wreckage prior to its getting to Fort Worth. This organization reported on July 20, 1994, that even after digitizing, the photos were of insufficient quality to visualize either of the details sought for analysis. This organization was able to obtain measurements from the "sticks" visible in the debris after it was ascertained by an interview of the original photographer what kind of camera he used. The results of this process are provided in Atch 33, along with a reference diagram and the photo from which the measurements were made. All these measurements are compatible with the wooden materials used in the radar target previously described.

## CONCLUSION

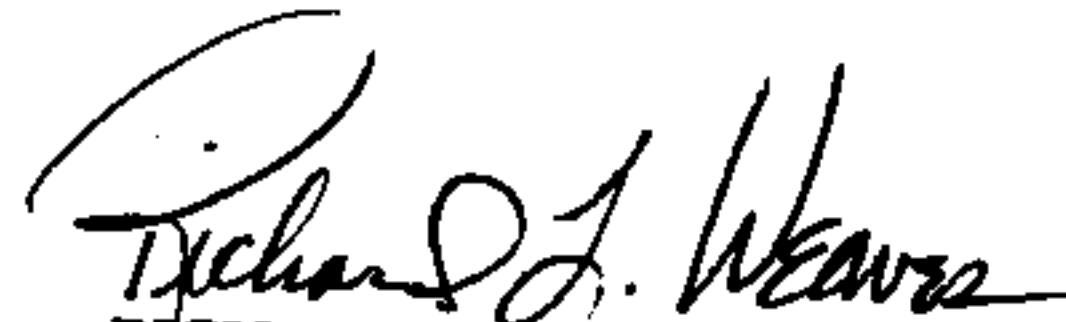
The Air Force research did not locate or develop any information that the "Roswell Incident" was a UFO event. All available official materials, although they do not directly address Roswell *per se*, indicate that the most likely source of the wreckage recovered from the Brazel Ranch was from one of the Project MOGUL balloon trains. Although that project was Top Secret at the time, there was also no specific indication found to indicate an official preplanned cover story was in place to explain an event such as that which ultimately happened. It appears that the identification of the wreckage as being part of a weather balloon device, as reported in the newspapers at the time, was based on the fact that there was no physical difference in the radar targets and the neoprene balloons (other than the numbers and configuration) between MOGUL balloons and normal weather balloons. Additionally, it seems that there was overreaction by Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel in originally reporting that a "flying disc" had been recovered when, at that time, nobody knew for sure what that term even meant, since it had only been in use for a couple of weeks.

Likewise, there was no indication in official records from the period that there was heightened military operational or security activity which should have been generated if this was, in fact, the first recovery of materials and/or persons from another world. The postwar US military (or today's for that matter) did not have the capability to rapidly identify, recover, coordinate, cover up, and quickly minimize public scrutiny of such an event. The claim that they did so without leaving even a little bit of a suspicious paper trail for 47 years is incredible.

It should also be noted here that there was little mentioned in this report about the recovery of the so-called "alien bodies." This is for several reasons: First, the recovered wreckage was from a Project MOGUL balloon. There were no "alien" passengers therein. Secondly, the pro-UFO groups who espouse the alien bodies theories cannot even agree among themselves as to what, how many, and where such bodies were supposedly recovered. Additionally, some of these claims have been shown to be hoaxes, even by other UFO researchers. Thirdly, when such claims are made, they are often attributed to people using pseudonyms or who otherwise do not want to be publicly identified, presumably so that some sort of retribution cannot be taken against them (notwithstanding that nobody has been

shown to have died, disappeared, or otherwise suffered at the hands of the government during the last 47 years). Fourth, many of the persons making the biggest claims of "alien bodies" make their living from the "Roswell Incident." While having a commercial interest in something does not automatically make it suspect, it does raise interesting questions related to authenticity. Such persons should be encouraged to present their evidence (not speculation) directly to the government and provide all pertinent details and evidence to support their claims if honest fact-finding is what is wanted. Lastly, persons who have come forward and provided their names and made claims may have, in good faith but in the "fog of time," misinterpreted past events. The review of Air Force records did not locate even one piece of evidence to indicate that the Air Force has had any part in an "alien" body recovery operation or continuing cover-up.

During the course of this effort, the Air Force has kept in close touch with the GAO and responded to their various queries and requests for assistance. This report was generated as an official response to the GAO, and to document the considerable effort expended by the Air Force on their behalf. It is anticipated that that the GAO will request a copy of this report to help formulate the formal report of their efforts. It is recommended that this document serve as the final Air Force report related to the Roswell matter, for the GAO, or any other inquiries.



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#### Attachments

1. *Washington Post* Article, "GAO Turns to Alien Turf in New Probe," January 14, 1994
2. GAO Memo, February 15, 1994
3. DoD/IG Memo, February 23, 1994
4. SAF/FM Memo, February 24, 1994, w/Indorsement
5. SAF/AA Memo, March 1, 1994, w/ March 16, 1994 Addendum
6. AF/IN Memo, March 14, 1994
7. AF/SE Memo, March 14, 1994
8. SAF/AQL Memo, March 22, 1994
9. AF/XOWP Memo, March 9, 1994
10. SAF/AAI Memo, March 10, 1994
11. AFHRA/CC Memo, March 8, 1994
12. AFOSI/HO Memo, May 11, 1994

13. List of Locations and Records Searched
14. HQ AAF "Issuance of Orders," June 5, 1947
15. Copy of Vandenberg's Appointment Book and Diary, July 7-9, 1947
16. July 9, 1947 Photos of Balloon Wreckage, Ft Worth Star Telegram
17. Signed Sworn Statement of Cavitt, May 24, 1994
18. Transcript of Cavitt Interview, May 24, 1994
19. Letter, July 8, 1946, Project MOGUL
20. Signed Sworn Statement of Spilhaus, June 3, 1994
21. Signed Sworn Statement of Moore, June 8, 1994
22. Signed Sworn Statement of Trakowski, June 29, 1994
23. Transcript of Interview with Moore, June 8, 1994
24. Transcript of Interview with Trakowski, June 29, 1994
25. Illustration of Project MOGUL "Balloon Trains"
26. Two Photos of Project MOGUL "Balloon Trains"
27. Log Summary, NYU Constant Level Balloon Flights
28. List of Museums Contacted
29. Copy of Blueprint for "Pilot Balloon Target, ML-307C/AP Assembly"
30. Signed Sworn Statement of Newton, July 21, 1994
31. Photos of ML-307C/AP Device, With Vintage Neoprene Balloon and Debris
32. Synopsis of Balloon Research Findings by 1st Lt James McAndrew
33. "Mensuration Working Paper," With Drawing and Photo