

Angry Research Organizations Charge . . .

Air Force's Massive Study of UFO Sightings Will Stay 'Top Secret' For 50 Years

The U.S. Air Force intends to keep the "top secret" lid on its massive UFO study, Project Blue Book, for possibly 50 more years, The ENQUIRER has learned.

Although the official Air Force unidentified flying object investigation reports are being placed in the National Archives, the public will be permitted to see only a censored version.

Seven Air Force Reserve officers are now at work deleting any information that could identify witnesses to UFO sightings, including any conclusions about the credibility of the witnesses, and data concerning Air Force investigative techniques.

"If they cut out all this information, those files are worthless," said Jack Acuff, president of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. Other UFO research organization spokesmen agreed.

Blue Book files contain official Air Force reports on 12,618 sightings and subsequent investigations dating from 1947 through 1969, when the Air Force disbanded the project. Still unexplained are 701 mysterious sightings.

Capt. Gary Hawksworth, Air Force information officer at the Pentagon, told The ENQUIRER: "Nobody will be allowed to see the original mate-

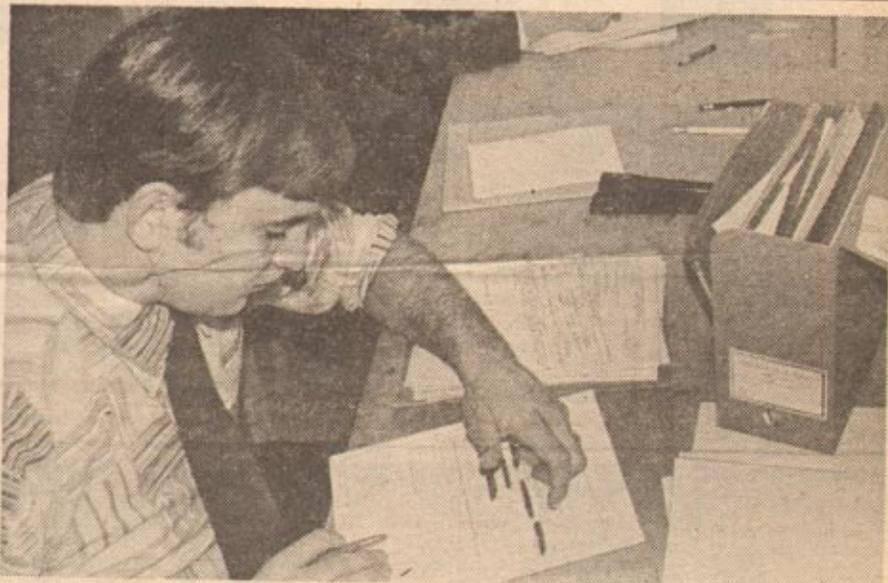
rial." Francis Heppner, a National Archives official, said "such restrictions must be honored by the Archives for a period of up to 50 years if the donor agency so orders it."

Other UFO researchers and investigators were angry and upset over the decision to withhold the official documents from the public. "The Air Force is destroying the research value of the Blue Book files," said Jim Lorenzen, spokesman for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

Prof. J. Allen Hynek, director of Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University, and former scientific consultant on UFOs to the Air Force, said he agreed with the decision to protect the privacy of witnesses.

"However, it would seem to me that they would be tampering with history if they withhold the facts from researchers," Hynek added.

— KEITH DAVIDSON



CENSOR: USAF 2nd Lt. Richard Cashman is one of seven Reserve officers deleting information that could identify witnesses to UFO sightings and data about Air Force investigations.