

pronouncements on UFOs. By saying that investigation of the subject "is not within the jurisdiction of the Bureau," it implied that: (1) the FBI never investigated UFO reports, which is clearly untrue as is evident from a cursory examination of the files, and (2) the FBI had no information on the subject.

A more complete survey of the FBI files is contained in Chapters 10 and 11.

Assorted rumors came to our attention periodically. While some of these stories did not lead to any tangible results, others were quite tantalizing. For an example, take the case of "Project Bluebolt."

In response to a request for information concerning Department of Defense support of research into antigravity propulsion, the U.S. Army Research and Development Group Commander Colonel Benedict Freund stated on March 18, 1975:

The Army is not doing any research on this subject to the knowledge of any member of this office. The Air Force has done such research and, until about a year and a half ago, had an ambitious effect known as Project Bluebolt. Bluebolt was *primarily* a study to understand gravity and of necessity addressed antigravity. To the knowledge of personnel assigned to the Air Force office in London, no antigravity propulsion research is presently being supported by the Air Force.

It is our consensus here that if the Dept. of Defense is supporting such research it is funded by ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency). ARPA's mission is to support those research efforts that are of high risk and appear beyond the purview of any one service. I consider this unlikely and suspect that such research is more probably the responsibility of either ERLA, NASA, or NSF.

The authors filed an FOIA request with the Department of the Air Force in an effort to track down Project Bluebolt. The Air Force denied the existence of such a project in a letter dated October 29, 1979.

Another request was filed with the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. Included was a copy of Freund's letter. On April 28, 1980, Captain John Lindstrom, Chief of Administration, said, "I can be of little assistance. The letter from Col. Freund was helpful but I feel he may have misidentified Project Bluebook as Bluebolt."

A search of the National Technical Information Service and the Defense Technical Information Center was also conducted, with no results. Captain Lindstrom included an extract from the Air Force's copy of the *Code Names Directory* which contained an entry for a "Project Blue Bolt." It is denned as a "peacetime military exercise." Nothing more is said about it.

Lindstrom's opinion that "Bluebolt" was confused with "Bluebook" seems unlikely. Project Blue Book had nothing to do with antigravity propulsion research. Also, Blue Book had been closed down since 1970, a full five years before Freund's letter.

Again, we tried to pin down Project Bluebolt by contacting the U.S.

Army's Research and Standardization Group in Europe—Freund's former command with a new name.

According to Warren Grabau, Chief of Environmental Sciences for the group, in a letter dated April 24, 1980,

Unfortunately, I regret to say that no one in this office has any information whatever on research on antigravity sponsored by the Department of Defense in general or by the U.S. Army or Air Force in particular. I fear that we can add nothing to the letter from Col. Freund, a copy of which you enclosed. In fact, it appears that he knew more than any of us."

This leaves us with a big question—one of a great many in this book. What was Project Bluebolt? What was once an antigravity research project had disappeared into oblivion. The Departments of the Army and Air Force claim to never have heard of Bluebolt. Every inquiry hit a dead end, except for a reference to Blue Bolt in the military *Code Names Dictionary*. And this simply describes a "peacetime military exercise," which covers a lot of ground. It may or may not be a coincidence that Blue Book and Bluebolt have one thing in common—the word "blue."

UFO researchers have been given stories by military personnel of special investigations into UFOs bearing "Blue" as part of the title. One might speculate that the "Blue" refers to the sky, since many of the *Code Names Dictionary* entries with more conventional uses of the word refer to high altitude aircraft and rockets. It would certainly be appropriate for use in connection with UFOs.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is charged with the responsibility for the protection of the North American continent from air attack. This is done through continuous monitoring of the skies with sophisticated radar systems designed to detect any foreign objects in or approaching our airspace. When an unidentified aircraft is sighted by radar, NORAD attempts to communicate with it for identification purposes. If this is not successful, it becomes necessary to "scramble" interceptors to identify the craft visually. According to NORAD, this happens about fifteen times per month. Usually the aircraft are identified.

Sometimes they are not identified. These reports would be classified as UFOs or, as NORAD terms them, "Uncorrelated Observations." Two types of uncorrelated observations have been noted in NORAD data. One type involves the *atmospheric* detection of unknown aerial objects, and the other involves the *space* detection of unknown orbiting objects.

Space observations are recorded by the NORAD Space Detection and Tracking System (SPADATS) and a Navy counterpart, the Naval Space Surveillance System (NAVSPASUR). These systems track and maintain element sets on approximately 5,000 man-made, catalogued objects in space. Approximately 25,000 observations are sent to the NORAD Space Defense Center each day from the sensor systems. Most of these observations are

directly correlated to catalogued objects. The ones that are not correlated are not necessarily all genuine UFOs. A great majority are either satellites too small to track or debris from satellite break-ups.

Estimates vary, but several hundred uncatalogued objects are orbiting the earth at present. These objects and the continuous need to update the element sets of catalogued objects due to natural phenomena are the largest contributors of uncorrelated observations. A certain percentage are never correlated with known objects and can literally be called unidentified flying objects or, in this case, "unidentified orbiting objects."

According to NORAD, between SPADATS and NAVSPASUR approximately *ten million* uncorrelated observations have been collected over the last twenty years. If we were to take the usual estimates of the percentage of true unknowns from all UFO reports sent to various sources (ninety-five percent, give or take a few percent), we are left with roughly five percent being UFOs. This agrees well with the government's figures.

Taking the NORAD space observations of ten million as a separate group of sightings and changing the percentage of unknowns to a very small one-tenth of one percent, we are still left with a potential *ten thousand* uncorrelated observations that can qualify as legitimate UFOs over the last twenty years. This data cannot be acquired by us from NORAD files because of the extraordinary fee asked by NORAD (over \$155,000). Therefore, verification of these figures is not possible at this time.

The atmospheric observations are usually manifest in the NORAD Command Director's Log or the regional Senior Director's Log, where a summary entry of an unknown event would be recorded and kept on file for a period of two years. If the event required an air defense intercept by jets, it would be on permanent file in the Operations Analysis office at NORAD. This information is classified and unreleasable to the public.

Sightings in the NORAD Command Director's Log will be discussed in later chapters and in Appendix B. Generally, the information in the logs was provided for a nominal fee. However, this situation changed in 1981 when NORAD sent the following memo to all NORAD regions in North America, dated October 1981:

1. Interim message change 80-1 to AFR 12-30 tells us to automatically waive search and duplication costs for a single FOIA request if those costs total less than \$30.00. This change also permits FOIA managers to set aside the automatic waiver provision when, on the basis of good evidence, they can demonstrate that waiver of fees is not in the public interest.
2. Because of cumulative and recurring FOIA requests, we will no longer waive FOIA search and duplication fees, even though they may total less than \$30.00, for Mr. Robert Todd and the "Citizens Against UFO Secrecy" (CAUS). Further, we believe it is in the public interest to have Mr. Todd and CAUS pay for all records searches even though no responsive records are located.

3. Accordingly, NORAD Headquarters and NORAD Regions will, upon receipt of a FOIA request for records from Mr. Robert Todd or the "Citizens Against UFO Secrecy," advise him or them of estimated search and copying fees and obtain agreement to pay before processing the request. Advise that search fees will be assessed even though no responsive records are located. If Mr. Todd or CAUS appeals fee assessment, forward the request to HQ NORAD/DADF for further processing.

The reason for the change of attitude is unknown. Apparently, a person is allowed to use the Freedom of Information Act only when it doesn't become too detailed. One cannot help but have the feeling that NORAD decided to tap the resources of Mr. Todd and Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, being well aware of the modest financial resources of both. This would, therefore, discourage any additional probing for UFO information in NORAD's files. It seems that, in NORAD's eyes, it is not in the public interest to release UFO sighting information.

Sometimes dealing with UFOs and the Freedom of Information Act can have pitfalls. Hoaxes are perpetrated using government documents and the careless researcher can look very bad endorsing such material.

Witness this example. The following memo was stamped "SECRET" and was sent to a reporter by an anonymous source, but bearing the letterhead of Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., dated December 14, 1977:

In retrospect this is an open letter of apology to anyone, be he civilian or military, who has been involved with *UFOS* and subsequently was harassed because of his experience. Furthermore by writing this letter "hopefully" the Air Force and the U.S. Government can regain its believability in stating the truth, because what is stated here are the facts as they should've been presented long ago. Fortunately not everyone in the government has a closed mind or what has been termed the "military mentality" when it comes to using his intelligence to benefit humanity; even though there *does* exist a yet higher form of intelligence than the person(s) writing this letter. Therefore let us proceed by asking the following questions about two USAF Regulations concerning *UFOS*:

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| Question #1.<br>AFR-200-2<br>(JANAP-146, 146E) | For what plausible reason was this regulation classified <i>SECRET</i> in 1971, 2 years after its effectiveness was supposedly no longer needed?  |
| Question #2.<br>AFR-200-23                     | Why is this regulation entitled <i>PROJECT NICAP</i> ? What could possibly be <i>so secret</i> that its description is not even listed in the Official AFR Manual of USAF Regulations? And is it a mere coincidence that its name is identical to a civilian UFO organization called <i>NICAP</i> ? |

Likewise it is no coincidence that the date of this letter corresponds to the release of a new movie entitled "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD

KIND." Perhaps Hollywood glamorized it somewhat for effect, but essentially the movie is based on fact not fiction. For credibility just ask a certain French Ministry of Defense or an Air Force General in Spain, to name only a few high-ranking officials who know otherwise. Also numerous embassies and important people have received documents relating to UFOs in their own countries. For confirmation please contact those mentioned in Addenda A.

Over the past few years there has been a gradual release of information about UFOs, leading up to the final statement and conclusion that is undoubtedly inevitable: "WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE. UFOs ARE A REALITY." Never before has any government been willing to state this fact publicly, but the time is now appropriate, due to the overwhelming amount of evidence available. No matter how many denials are, or have been made, these words will stand the test of time.

If anyone should want to prosecute us(me) for releasing this information, then they will have to chastise many hundreds of thousands of persons who, like us(me), would love to make these same statements, but felt no one would take them seriously. However one looks at the situation though, it proves that there is and was a Cosmic Watergate; because to suppress or deny the existence of this letter and other pertinent information like it proves there is a cover-up. On the other hand to make public this letter shows that someone somewhere knows more than heretofore was known outside of the Pentagon. Either way the whole truth has to be eventually told; whether by us(me), or many other highly qualified people who seek an answer to perhaps the most baffling phenomenon of all time.

We(I) realize that to say such seemingly radical things can be dangerous for one's health, and especially hazardous because they were made by government officials, namely the military.

Therefore, in conclusion, we(I) hope that this letter will serve as a catalyst to probe and better understand the existence of other worlds and their inhabitants.

Unfortunately, due to the obvious repercussions, we(I) are unable to autograph this document at the present time. Later, however, after this knowledge has been recognized publicly, then we(I) would be deeply honored to sign this impressive, perhaps historic, statement establishing the *existence of UFOs*. Thank you.

The memo included a distribution list to various personalities in the UFO subject area and was sent in an official envelope.

Such a memo, uninvestigated, can generate much rumor and speculation in an unsuspecting public. An FOIA request was filed with the Air Force and the reply was received on November 18, 1981. It read as follows:

The following comments apply to the anonymous letter purportedly from Bolling Air Force Base.

- a. It is not an official Air Force document.
- b. The letterhead is incomplete since the MAC organization is not identified.
- c. It contains the following administrative errors: date is wrongly written and placed; the "Secret" stamping is incomplete; and the overall construc-

tion does not conform to AFR 10-1, "Preparing and Processing Correspondence."

d. A determination was made by the Air Force Office of Special Investigation that an investigation would not be conducted.

Your request for AFR 200-23 is exempt from disclosure under Public Law 90-23, 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(1) and Air Force Regulation 12-30, paragraph 10a. It is not releasable because it is classified and contains information relating to Air Force policy on visits proposed under the East-West Exchange Program. Denial authority in this instance is John B. Marks, Major General, USAF, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence.

The organization NICAP, or the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, was formed in 1956 to study unidentified flying objects. The committee was composed of private citizens and had no affiliation with USAF. We were unable to locate any records on Project NICAP.

The attachment to your letter asks why the regulation in entitled Project NICAP. The subject of AFR 200-23 does not concern UFOs.

So the document is a complete fraud. The only question left is who wrote it and why? It probably should not have even this much attention drawn to it, but it serves as a lesson to exercise extreme caution and to not take sensational documents at face value.

The hoax material amounts to nothing more than a nuisance to serious investigators. The real danger in such antics is that they greatly mislead the public. With media sources such as the press, radio, and television frequently more interested in entertaining than informing, unsubstantiated stories are played up far beyond what reason calls for. The average person cannot help but form a false impression of what the UFO subject is about.

One crucial event, occurring just before widespread use of the Freedom of Information Act by UFO researchers, was the case of the Air Force Academy textbook. This proved to be a pivotal discovery in exposing the serious interest that the government had in UFOs in the early post-Blue Book period.

In October 1969, a copy of a chapter from a textbook in use at the U.S. Air Force Academy was acquired by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon (NICAP). The book was titled *Introductory Space Science* and was provided for the Academy's Department of Physics course "Physics 370." It consisted of two volumes, with a total of thirty-three chapters. The last chapter was titled "Unidentified Flying Objects," and it took a very uncharacteristic objective approach to the subject for an Air Force-sanctioned publication.

After summarizing a number of impressive sighting reports, running through the various theories that have been used to explain UFOs, and pointing out the problems in dealing with data that has "excessive variety," "vagueness," and a "very high level of noise," the textbook concluded:

From available information, the UFO phenomenon appears to have been global in nature for almost 50,000 years. The majority of known witnesses

He suggested that the observations might be of guided missiles launched from bases in the Urals.

On the basis of the investigations made by LaPaz and the Air Force, it was concluded that the occurrence of the unexplained phenomena in the vicinity of sensitive installations was a cause for concern. The Air Force entered into a contract with Land-Air, Inc., Alamogordo, New Mexico, for the purpose of making scientific studies of the green fireballs and discs. It was pointed out in the summary furnished by DSI on July 19, 1950, that the unexplained green fireballs and discs are still observed in the vicinity of sensitive military and Government installations.

#### *Results of Air Force Investigation*

The Air Force together with Land-Air, Inc., have established a number of observation posts in the vicinity of Vaughn, New Mexico, for the purpose of photographing and determining the speed, height and nature of the unusual phenomena referred to as green fireballs and discs. On May 24, 1950, personnel of Land-Air, Inc., sighted 8 to 10 objects of aerial phenomena. A 24-hour day watch is being maintained and has been designated "Project Twinkle."

#### *Conclusions*

The Albuquerque Office, in a letter dated August 10, 1950, advised that there have been no new developments in connection with the efforts to ascertain the identity of the strange aerial phenomena referred to as green fireballs and discs. The Albuquerque Office advised that Dr. . . . Project Engineer, had been informed of the Bureau's jurisdiction relative to espionage and sabotage and arrangements have been made so that the Bureau will be promptly advised in the event additional information relative to this project indicates any jurisdiction on the part of the Bureau.

Here, again, the military is confronted with aerial objects that cannot be identified as conventional aircraft. And, still, the military's public stance is "no such thing." Note also the distinction drawn between the green fireball phenomena and "discs" or flying saucers. This distinction will be made even more apparent in the next memo dated May 25, 1950. This is a letter to Brigadier General Joseph Carroll, Director of Air Force Special Investigations from Lt. Col. Doyle Rees, Commander of the 17th District Office of Special Investigations. It surfaced in the FBI files along with other green fireball information periodically being sent to Washington. It is titled "Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena in The New Mexico Area December 1948-May 1950."

1. In a liaison meeting with other military and government intelligence and investigative agencies in December 1948, it was determined that the frequency of unexplained aerial phenomena in the New Mexico area was such that an organized plan of reporting these observations should be undertaken. The organization and physical location of units of this District were most suitable for collecting these data, therefore, since December 1948, this District has assumed the responsibility for collecting and reporting basic information with respect to aerial phenomena occurring in this general area. These reports have been distributed to the Air Material Command, USAF, in accordance with Air Intelligence Requirements No. 4, and to other interested military and government agencies.

2. There is attached, as a part of this summary, a compilation of aerial phenomena sightings that have occurred mostly in the New Mexico area and have been reported by this District Office subsequent to December 1948. This compilation of sightings is not a complete record of all reported observations, but includes only those in which sufficient information was available to justify their inclusion. The observers of these phenomena include scientists, Special Agents of the Office of Special Investigations (IC) USAF, airline pilots, military pilots, Los Alamos Security Inspectors, military personnel, and many other persons of various occupations whose reliability is not questioned. This compilation sets forth the most important characteristics with respect to each observation and evaluates each sighting into one of three classifications: (1) green fireball phenomenon, (2) disc or variation, and (3) probably meteoric.

3. There is also attached an analysis of the green fireball occurrences in this area made by Dr. Lincoln LaPaz. Dr. LaPaz is the Director of the Institute of Meteoritics and Head of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy at the University of New Mexico. He was Research Mathematician at the New Mexico Proving Grounds under an OSRD appointment in 1943 and 1944, and Technical Director of the Operations Analysis Section, Headquarters, Second Air Force, 1944-45. Since 1948, Dr. LaPaz has served on a voluntary basis as consultant for this District in connection with the green fireball investigations.

4. On 17 February 1949 and again on 14 October 1949, conferences were held at Los Alamos, New Mexico, for the purpose of discussing the green fireball phenomena. Representatives of the following organizations were present at these meetings: Fourth Army, Armed Special Weapons Project, University of New Mexico, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, University of California, U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, Geophysical Research Division Air Material Command USAF, and the Office of Special Investigations (IG) USAF. A logical explanation was not proffered with respect to the origin of the green fireballs. It was, however, generally concluded that the phenomena existed and that they should be studied scientifically until these occurrences have been satisfactorily explained. Further, that the continued occurrence of unexplained phenomena of this nature in the vicinity of sensitive installations is cause for concern.

5. The Geophysical Research Division, Air Material Command, Cambridge, Massachusetts, has recently let a contract to Land-Air, Inc., Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, New Mexico, for a limited scientific study of green fireballs. The results of this scientific approach to the problem will undoubtedly be of great value in determining the origin of these phenomena.

6. This summary of observations of aerial phenomena has been prepared for the purpose of re-emphasizing and reiterating the fact that phenomena have continuously occurred in the New Mexico skies during the past 18 months and are continuing to occur, and, secondly, that these phenomena are occurring in the vicinity of sensitive military and governmental installations.

A catalog of observations, totalling 209 reports, was included with the Rees letter. It gives basic information about each sighting and the last of the catalog provides for an evaluation of each sighting. The evaluation is assigned a number—1, 2, or 3—with 1 being *Green Fireball Phenomena*, 2 being

# Green Fireballs

1948-1950 New Mexico area

Studied by Dr. Lincoln La Paz (Director of the Institute of Meteoritics and Head of the Dept of Mathematics & Astronomy at University of New Mexico)

Results given May 23, 1950

$\frac{1}{2}$  - meteoric origin

$\frac{1}{2}$  - guided missiles being tested in the neighborhood of the installations

"These phenomena are occurring in the vicinity of sensitive military and government installations."

"Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena  
in the New Mexico area Dec 1948 - May 1950"  
May 25, 1950 Lt. Col Doyle Rees to Brigadier  
General Joseph Carroll Director AFOSI 17<sup>th</sup> District  
Office