

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
Office of Public Information  
Washington, D. C.

The following information concerning Air Force investigations of unusual aerial phenomena is submitted in answer to your request.

In the Fall of 1947 the United States Air Force took official notice of reports of so-called "flying saucers" because the reports from the public indicated that the problem might be related to the air force responsibility for the air defense of the United States.

On December 30, 1947 the Air Force directed the Air Technical Command, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, to set up a project to collect and evaluate all available data concerning "flying saucer" sightings.

To perform this task the Air Technical Command obtained the services of civilian and military astronomers, psychologists, electronic specialists, meteorologists, aeronautical engineers, and physicists.

On December 31, 1949, after 275 reported sightings had been investigated, the Air Force, with the concurrence of the Army and the Navy, announced the findings of the "flying saucer" project.

The evidence at that time indicated that the majority of the reports of unidentified flying objects could be accounted for as misinterpretations of various conventional objects, a still form of hypnosis, meteorological phenomena, light aberrations, or hoaxes.

There remained, however, a number of unexplained sightings, and the Air Force has continued its investigations inasmuch as it is an Air Force responsibility to identify and analyze aerial phenomena that could possibly be a source to the United States.

Subsequent to December 1949, these investigations have been conducted on a normal intelligence basis, rather than a special project, by the Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

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