

OCTOBER 1, 1990

AIR FORCE REPORT
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - UNKNOWN
STILL BELONG TO THE LATEST LOST CASE

According to latest information tabulated by Air Force authorities charged with investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects, 1270 new UFO reports were investigated during the period 1 July 1987 through 31 July 1988. More than 84% of the reported UFO sightings were definitively established as natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds, or man-made objects. Insufficient data was available to thoroughly analyze and evaluate 24% of the reports and less than 2% were classified as unknown.

Although investigations were completed on these "unknown" cases without positive or final conclusions, nothing was found to substantiate any claims that such sightings were interplanetary visitations, or so-called "Flying Saucers".

A sighting is considered unknown when the report contains sufficient information to draw at least one valid conclusion from the facts available but when the description of the reported object or its movements cannot be related to the known. Refinements in Air Force investigative processes, however, have resulted in a steady decline in the number of UFO reports placed in this category. During the early months of the Air Force's investigation, some 80% of the reports were classified as unknown. These unknowns were reduced to 76 in 1991 and 1994, 36 in 1995, and 1.5% during the first six months of this year. It is believed that specific conclusions could be drawn for all reports if additional observational data were provided by individuals originating these reports. Also, the Air Force believes that there will always be a small number of "unknowns" due to high altitude phenomena which are strange to the unaided eye.

The 1270 new reports during the past thirteen months increases the total Air Force investigations conducted since June 1947 to more than 6,000.

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