

DISCOVERY RELEASE

JUNE 1959

Fact Sheet

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
OF MILITARY SECRETARY

14 JUL 1959

OFFICE OF MILITARY SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSEAIR FORCE REPORTS UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
PERIOD: JAN 1958 - JUNE 1959

Twelve years of investigating and evaluating unidentified flying object sightings has provided us evidence to confirm the existence of the popularly termed "flying saucers", as interplanetary or interstellar space ships. The total number of sightings for the first six months of 1959 was only 143. This is in sharp contrast to the previous six months total of 596 or a little more than a ~~50%~~ drop in reported sightings.

As in previous compilations, the astronomical category accounted for the highest percentage of sightings at 45% of the total. The unidentified category accounted for only three cases or 2% of the total sightings for the period.

A statistical tabulation for the six month period follows:

UFO Report Distribution - By Category and Percentage Breakdown

Beliefs	7	4.9%
Alien Craft	23	16.0%
Astronomical	65	45.4%
Other	10	7.0%
Unidentified Data	26	18.3%
Unidentified	3	2.0%
Total Reports	133	

UFO Distributions - Category Breakdown by Months 1 Jan 1959 - 30 June 1959

	Beliefs	A/C	ASTRO	OTHER	UNIDATA	UNIDENTIFIED	TOTAL	%
Jan.	0	3	15	4	5	0	27	16.00
Feb.	0	2	12	2	5	1	22	16.54
Mar.	0	3	15	4	5	1	28	20.30
Apr.	1	4	10	4	7	1	28	20.30
May	3	3	7	4	4	0	21	15.79
June	0	3	6	1	6	0	16	12.03
Total	4	23	65	19	26	3	143	
%	4.2%	16.0%	45.4%	13.2%	18.2%	2.0%		100

The Air Force assigned the responsibility for the Air Defense of the United States, will continue to investigate, all reports of unusual aerial activity over the United States, including objects that may be labeled unidentified flying objects. The services of qualified scientists and technicians will continue to be utilized to investigate and analyze reports, and periodic public statements and releases will be made as warranted.