

NEWS RELEASE  
PLEASE NOTE DATEDEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIR FORCE UFO REPORT

A total of 280 sightings of unidentified flying objects or aerial phenomena were reported to the United States Air Force during the period 1 July through 31 December 1960. Of these, 261 have been evaluated and 18 cases are still being processed by the Air Force.

Of the 261 cases analyzed, 81 were categorized "insufficient evidence," of these 81 cases, 40 were so categorized because there were no additional witnesses. It is the Air Force policy to attempt to determine the probable cause of these sightings. However, in keeping with good scientific practices, they are categorized for statistical purposes as "insufficient evidence." To give full credit to these particular sightings would be comparable to accepting as fact the results of an experiment which was conducted only once.

During this period, the Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) had many rocket and space probe firings which included such spectacular orbit vehicles as Echo I and the Discoverer satellites. This well publicized emphasis on space of course resulted in close public attention to these events and probably resulted in a good number of additional sightings other than the satellites themselves.

Also during the month of September, there were many meteor showers in the vicinity of earth and this unusual occurrence resulted in a large number of sightings for this month. These sightings are reflected in the statistics under the astronomical category.

UFO Report Evaluation - by Category and Percentage Breakdown

1 July 1960 - 31 December 1960

Astronomical	93	36.5%
Aircraft	25	10.3%
Balloons	2	.8%
"Insufficient Data"	81	32.4%
Other (birds, houses, search lights, etc.)	25	10.3%
Satellites (re-entry of same)	16	6.5%
Unidentified	5	2.0%
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(18 cases pending for a total of 290)

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