

to rocket in shape. Single jet boosters having multi-jet pods under their swept-back wings have been reported as UFOs or "saucers" in "V" formation. Vapor trails will often appear to glow with fiery red or orange streaks when reflecting sunlight. Afterburners are frequently reported as UFOs.

The astronomical category includes bright stars, planets, comets, meteors, and other celestial bodies. When observed through haze, light fog, or swirling clouds, the planets Venus, Mars, and Jupiter have often been reported as unconventional, moving objects. Attempts to observe astronomical bodies through land-based telescopes under adverse sky conditions have been a source of many UFO reports.

The "other" category includes reflections, searchlights, birds, kites, blimps, clouds, sun-dogs, spurious radar indications, beacons, firework displays, flares, fireballs, ice crystals, halides, etc., as example: large Canadian goose flying low over a city at night with search lights reflecting off their bodies; searchlights plotting an scattered cloud, appearing as moving disc-like shapes.

The insufficient data category includes all sightings where essential or pertinent items of information are missing, making it impossible to form a valid conclusion. These include corroboration of the sighting by an additional witness; description of the size, shape or color of the object; direction and altitude; start time and location; wind weather conditions, etc. This category is not used as a convenient way to get rid of what might be referred to as "unidentified objects." However, if there is not an additional witness or if the data received is insufficient by associated, the analysis must then place that particular report in this category. The Air Force stresses the fact that an observer should send a complete report of a bona fide sighting to the nearest Air Force activity. These reports will be promptly forwarded to the proper office for analysis and evaluation.

A sighting is considered unidentified or unexplained when a report apparently contains all the pertinent data necessary to normally suggest at least one valid hypothesis as the cause or explanation of the sighting but when the description of the object and its maneuvers cannot be correlated with any known object or phenomenon.

In the Project Blue Book Special Report #14, released in October 1955, the Air Force stated that unexplained sightings in the unidentified category had been reduced to 3 percent of that year.

Unidentified sightings had been 9 percent in 1953 and 1954 and in previous years unidentified sightings had run as high as 20 percent. Project Blue Book Special Report #14 covered 280 investigations from June 1947 to May 1955. Also that time, Air Force statistics show the percentage of unidentified sightings has been reduced to approximately 3 percent.

Air Force conclusions for the 14 years of UFO sightings involving approximately 7000 reports are: first there is no evidence that unidentified sightings were ballistic or hostile; second, there is no evidence that unidentified sightings were interplanetary space ships; third, there is no evidence that these unidentified sightings represent technological developments or principles outside the range of our present day scientific knowledge; fourth, there is no evidence that these unidentified sightings are a threat to the security of the country; and finally, no physical or material evidence, not even a minute fragment of a so-called "flying saucer" or space ship has ever been found.