

because of the sun's rays reflecting through the plastic material of the balloon from panel to panel, appear to be saucer shaped and to have lights mounted on the bag itself. The Balloon Control Center at Williams AFB maintains a plot on all Military Upper Air Research balloons. Various private organizations, such as Denham Mills, Hayes Industries, Sea Space Systems, College and University programs launch research balloons. A recent addition into this field is the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) at Boulder, Colorado, with a launch site at Palestine, Texas. An unusual balloon sighting appeared on 28 August 1963 over Manila in the Philippines. Hot air balloons were released from a local festival at Rosario. They were released in such quantity that the 13th Air Force issued a warning to aircraft of a hazard to air navigation. Prior to their identification as balloons, a UFO report was submitted.

A case is carried as Insufficient Data when one or more elements essential for evaluation is missing. Some examples of this might be the direction of the sighting, date, time, location, position of the object in the sky or manner of appearance or disappearance. If an element is missing and there is any indication that the sighting might contain information of a security, scientific, technical or public interest value, the Serial Phenomena Section requests more information on the sighting or conducts an additional investigation. If an information of this nature is indicated further action is taken and the case is carried as Insufficient Data. This policy is consistent with our usage of the language dollar. Any continued investigation solely for an analysis would be an unnecessary drain on both manpower and investigative resources. Only slightly more than 2% of the cases evaluated show for 1963 carry this label, the first significant drop in eight years.

As in any year there will always be those reports that are unique or that are reported infrequently and 1963 is no exception. A 19000 bomb casing, used to test a parachute release mechanism was recovered on 8 May 1963 in North Vernon, Indiana. At no time was this ever considered a UFO. The primary concern was whether it was a nuclear device dropped accidentally. However, this object found its way into the various UFO magazines and periodicals and carried inference that it was something from outer space. The attached summary shows the original news release and a project card giving the essential data for the case.

Another report, from Pryor, Texas on 13 Aug 1963, while not a UFO report, found it's way into Air Force files. This case concerned a heart shaped mark found on the ground. The mark was dark purple, about 1 inch wide, and in the perfect shape of a heart, about 12 feet across, as though painted on the grass. The grass was not washed down, just colored. It looked phosphorescent with the sun shining on it and melted if acid. It remained through two rains. After a few days it dried out but still clung to the grass. Two days after the first observation a substance like heavy moss or black dirt still clung to the grass. The grass did not die. And a visitor from space left his calling card!!!! Fortunately the observer acted intelligently and called the local sheriff. Pictures were taken and samples of the paint obtained for analysis. The report from the deputy sheriff, of Jasper, Texas, was requested and forwarded to the Air Force. Case solved. Analysis showed