

PROJECT BLUE BOOK

1963

The United States Air Force established the UFO project during early 1946. The objectives of this project were to determine if UFO's are a threat to national security similar to determine if they are a source of new scientific and/or technical information which might be beneficial to the United States. At the onset, the program was identified as Project Sign. The name was later changed to Project Grudge and finally to Project Blue Book, its present designation.

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The USAF UFO program is carried out in three phases. The 1st phase includes detection, investigation and reporting. The second phase includes analysis and evaluation, and the third phase includes dissemination of the information. The first phase is carried out by the Air Force base nearest the particular sighting; the second phase is carried out by the scientific and technical community of the Air Force, and the third phase is carried out by the scientific community through the Office of Information of the Secretary of the Air Force.

There are two general reasons for the continued interest of the public in UFO's. One, many private groups and organizations have been formed for the purpose of studying UFO's. In many instances the leading members of these groups write books and pamphlets which are sold to the members and to the public at large. This literature is written so as to exploit religious, superstitious, and science fiction beliefs. In most instances these groups are dedicated to proving that UFO's are extraterrestrial objects from other planets or solar systems bearing some form of intelligence. Two, the increased emphasis that the science of the world has put on space and space exploration has, in effect, turned all eyes and thoughts toward the heavens. In view of our space accomplishments to date, it is only natural for people to allow their imaginations to stray to the possibilities of tomorrow.

Since the inception of the USAF's UFO program, only 3.7 percent of the reported cases have remained unidentified. This statistic is really not representative of the USAF's records with this program. For a great majority of the unidentified cases occurred during the first five years of the project. From 1947 to 1952, 29.74 percent of the reported cases were unidentified. From 1953 to 1957, 1.50 percent were unidentified and from 1958 to 1962 only 3.4 percent were unidentified. Improvement in the investigative techniques is the single factor which contributed the most to the decrease in the number of UFO sightings successfully classified by the Air Force.

In 25 years the Air Force has investigated and analyzed more than 8,000 cases of UFO sightings and has yet to discover any evidence that UFO's represent a threat to the security of the United States or that they are alien interplanetary space vehicles under some form of intelligent control. The majority of the cases reported to the USAF have been from witnesses who honestly misidentified a natural object or phenomenon or misinterpreted an experience. A very few of the cases were deliberate attempts to perpetrate a hoax on the Air Force. The number of hoaxes attempted each year has consistently diminished and only one such case was reported during 1962.

The United States Air Force will continue to investigate all reports of unusual aerial objects over the United States. The services of qualified scientists and technicians will continue to be utilized to investigate and analyze these reports, and periodic public statements on the subject will be made as warranted.