

The Project Blue Book Office has direct contact with all elements of the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Agency civil air control centers. All aerial observing operations and special training flights can be checked immediately. Air traffic of commercial airlines and flights of military aircraft are checked with the nearest control center, enabling an immediate evaluation of aircraft mistakenly reported as UFOs. However, since many local flights are not carried, these flights are probably causes of some reports.

Balloons continue to be reported as UFOs. Several thousand balloons are released each day from military and civilian airports, weather stations, and research activities. There are several types of balloons - weather balloons, reconnaissance, reconnaissance, and the large research balloons which have diameters up to 200 feet. At night, balloons carry warning lights which result in unusual appearance when observed. Reflections of the sun on balloons at dawn and sunset sometimes produce strange effects. This usually occurs when the balloon, because of the altitude, is exposed to the sun. Large balloons can move at speeds of over 100 miles per hour when moving to high altitude jet windstreams. These balloons sometimes appear to be inflated on top. At other times, they appear to be saucer-shaped and to have lights mounted inside the bag itself due to the sun's rays reflecting through the material of the balloon. The Balloon Control Center at Bollman Air Force Base, New Mexico, maintains a plot on all Military Upper Air Research Balloons.

Another category of UFO evaluations labeled Other includes missiles, rockets, messages, searchlights, birds, kites, light house radar indications, flames, fireworks, and fumes.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED