

PROJECT BLUE BOOK

The United States Air Force has the responsibility under the Department of Defense for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The name of this program, which has been in operation since 1949, is Project Blue Book. It has been identified in the past as Project Sign and Project Grudge.

Air Force interest in unidentified flying objects is related directly to the Air Force responsibility for the Air defense of the United States. Procedures for conducting this program are articulated by Air Force Regulation 98-3.

The objectives of Project Blue Book are twofold: first, to determine whether UFOs pose a threat to the security of the United States; and, second, to determine whether UFOs provide any unique scientific information or advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical progress. In the course of accomplishing these objectives, Project Blue Book strives to identify and explain all UFO sightings reported to the Air Force.

HOW THE PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED

The program is conducted in three phases. The first phase includes receipt of UFO reports and initial investigation of the reports. The Air Force has created the location of a reported sighting is charged with the responsibility of investigating the sighting and forwarding the information to the Project Blue Book Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

If the initial investigation does not reveal a positive identification or explanation, a second phase of more intensive analysis is conducted by the Project Blue Book Office. Each case is objectively and impartially analyzed, and, if necessary, all of the scientific facilities available to the Air Force can be used to assist in arriving at an identification or explanation. All personnel associated with the investigation, analysis, and evaluation efforts of the project view each report with a scientific approach and an open mind.

The third phase of the program is dissemination of information concerning UFO sightings, evaluations, and statistics. This is accomplished by the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Information.

The Air Force defines an unidentified flying object as any aerial object which the observer is unable to identify.

Reports of unfamiliar objects in the sky are submitted to the Air Force from many sources. These sources include military and civilian phone-weather observers, amateur astronomers, businessmen and professional men and women, and housewives, etc.

Frequently such objects as missiles, balloons, birds, kites, aeroblights, aircraft navigation and identification beacons, jet engine exhaust, communication trails, astronomical bodies and meteorological phenomena are mistakenly reported as unidentified flying objects.

The Air Force groups its evaluations of UFO reports under three general headings: (1) identified, (2) insufficient data, and (3) unidentified.

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