

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, research balloons, and the large research balloons which have diameters up to 300 feet. At night, balloons carry running lights which cause an 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 its size, is exposed to the sun. Large balloons can move at speeds of over 350 miles per hour when moving in high altitude jet streams. These balloons sometimes appear to be flattened on top. At other times, they appear to be saucer-shaped and to have lights mounted inside the bag which due to the sun's rays reflecting through the material of the balloon. The Balloon Control Central Balloon Air Force Base, New Mexico, maintains a plot on all Military Upper Air Research balloons.

Another category of UFO evaluations labeled Other includes mirages, reflections, mirages, aerobatics, birds, kites, spurious radar indications, balloons, fireworks, and flares.

Aircraft, satellites, balloons, and the like should NOT be reported since they do not fall within the definition of an unidentified flying object.

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