

Reports categorized as **INSUFFICIENT DATA** are those for which one or more elements of information, essential for evaluation, are missing. Some examples are the omission of the direction of the sighting, date, time, location, position in the sky, weather conditions, and the numbers of objects, such as disappearance. If an element is missing and there is an indication that the sighting may be of a security, scientific, technical, or public interest value, the Project Blue Book Office conducts an additional investigation and every attempt is made to obtain the information necessary for identification. However, in some instances, essential information is reported from the observer and is never repeated; therefore, no further action can be taken.

The third and by far the smallest group of evaluations is categorized as **UNIDENTIFIED**. A sighting is considered unidentified when a report apparently contains all pertinent data necessary to support a valid hypothesis concerning the cause or explanation of the report, but the description of the object or its motion cannot be correlated with any known object or phenomena.

TYPES OF UFO IDENTIFICATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

There are various types of UFO sightings. Most common are reports of **satellite sightings**, which include bright stars, planets, comets, fireballs, meteors, meteor streams, and other celestial bodies. When observed through land, light fog, moving clouds, or other observations or unusual phenomena, the planets, including Venus, Jupiter, and Mars, have been reported as unidentified flying objects. Stellar images are also a source of reports.

Satellites are another major source of UFO reports. An increase in satellites reported as UFOs has coincided with the launch of two rockets. The first is the increasing interest on the part of the public; the second is the increasing number of satellites in the skies. Positive knowledge of the location of all satellites at all times enables rapid identification of satellite sightings. Keeping track of man-made objects in orbit about the earth is the responsibility of the North American Air Defense Command Space Detection and Tracking System at Fort SPS, Colorado. This sophisticated electronic system gathers complex space traffic data instantly from tracking stations all over the world.

Other space surveillance activities include the use of ballistics tracking and large telescopic cameras. ECNO schedules of the South/North radar coverages are prepared by the Massachusetts Institute of Cambridge, Massachusetts. From the data produced by these agencies, satellites mistakenly reported as UFOs can be identified quickly. Some of these are listed in the table on page 2.

Aircraft represent another major source of UFO reports, particularly during adverse weather conditions. When observed at high altitudes and at some distance, aircraft can have appearances ranging from disc to spiral shapes due to the reflection of the sun on their bright surfaces. Vapor or condensation trails from jet aircraft will sometimes appear in glow fiery red or orange when reflecting sunlight. Afterburners below jet aircraft are often reported as UFOs since they can be seen from great distances when the aircraft cannot be seen.

The Project Blue Book Office has direct contact with all elements of the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Agency and air control centers. All aerial observing operations and official training flights can be checked immediately. All reports of unusual aerial maneuvers 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 a cause 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, rawinsondes, radiosondes, and the large research balloons which have