

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 description of the sighting, date, time, location, position in the sky, weather conditions, and the manner of appearance or disappearance. If an element is missing and there is an indication that the sighting may be of a secret, 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 requested from the observer and is never received; therefore, no further action can be taken.

The third and by far the smallest group of evaluation is categorized as UNIDENTIFIED. A sighting is considered unidentified when a report apparently contains all pertinent data necessary to suggest 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 phenomenon.

TYPES OF UFO IDENTIFICATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

There are various types of UFO sightings. Most common are reports of observation of sightings, which include bright stars, planets, comets, fireballs, meteors, auroral streamers, and other celestial bodies. When observed through haze, light fog, morning clouds, or other obstructions or ground conditions, the planets, including Venus, Jupiter, and Mars, have been reported as unidentified flying objects. Similar sightings are also a source of reports.

Another are another major source of UFO reports is an increase in satellites reported as UFOs has come about because of two factors. The first is the increase of interest on the part of the general public in the increasing number of satellites in the skies. Another 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 the AFB, Colorado. This highly automated electronic system collects complex space traffic data instantly from tracking stations all over the world.

Other space surveillance activities include the use of ballistic tracking and large telescopic cameras. RCBO schedules of the South North radar crossings are prepared by the Smithsonian Institution at Cambridge, Massachusetts. From the data produced by these agencies, sightings mistakenly reported as UFOs can be identified quickly. Some of these are visible to the naked eye.

Aircraft account for 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 due to broken clouds due to the reflection of the sun on their bright surfaces. Vapor or condensation trails from jet aircraft will sometimes appear to glow from red or orange when reflecting sunlight. Additionally, some 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 AFB, AFM, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for traffic control records. Commercial airline traffic, aerial refueling operations, aerial training flights, and other military flights are checked with the nearest air traffic control center, making an immediate classification of aircraft mistakenly reported as UFOs. However, since many local flights are conducted outside air traffic control limits, and since they are not controlled by the FAA, those flights are probably cases of some reports.

In some instances, reports as UFOs. Several thousand balloons are released each day from military and civilian balloons, weather balloons, and research activities. There are several types of balloons - weather balloons, research balloons, balloons, and the large research balloons which have