

Since August 1947 until the present, except May 1950 as noted above, the number of reports contained a monthly average of approximately twelve, with occasional up-surges often directly attributable to an unusual or overly publicized report.

III. Air Force Compliance of Undesired Serial Objects

In September 1947, the Air Force was forced to take official cognizance of the "flying disc" because of increasing demand from the public for an explanation, and as a result of certain publications persisting in using a sensational approach in reporting such items, and often implying that something extraordinary, dangerous, and fearful was upon us.

Hq. AEC in a letter dated 23 September 1947, requested the Commanding General, Army Air Force, to issue a directive assigning a priority, security classification and code name for a detailed study of flying disc reports. Hq. AEC explained that their action was based on the opinion that the phenomena reported appeared to be real. Admitting a specific directive, Hq. AEC collected information on flying disc incidents in order to more clearly define the nature of the phenomena. On the 22nd of December 1947, in a memorandum, "Analysis of Flying Disc Reports", the Director of Intelligence, Hq. USAF, concurred with AEC recommendations and forwarded them to the Director of Research and Development, Hq./W. Hq. USAF, for reply to the Commanding General, AAF. In a letter dated 30 December 1947, the Director of Research and Development, Hq./W, advised the Commanding General, AAF, that Air Force policy was not to ignore reports of sightings and phenomena in the atmosphere. To implement this policy, AAF was directed by Hq. USAF, to set up a project with the purpose of collecting, collating, evaluating, and distributing to interested government agencies and contractors, all information concerning sightings and phenomena in the atmosphere which might be considered to be of concern to the national security. This directive assigned a priority of 2A to the project, a RESTRICTED classification and a code name of "Sign". (The code name of "Sign" for the project was changed to "Grudge" by a 15 December 1948 request of the Director of Research and Development, Hq./W. "Grudge" under the U.S. Army Services code word index refers to the title "Special Study of Flying Discs".) As a result of the directive from Hq. USAF for establishment of the special project, Hq. AEC Technical Instruction No. 2285, dated 21 February 1948, was published and assigned responsibility for the project activities to the Technical Intelligence Division, Intelligence Department, Hq. AEC.

Department of Air Force and Department of Army letters directed all respective subordinate units to report directly to Air Internal Command all information concerning undesired flying objects. Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum No. 1 was published 23 February 1949 at the request of Air Internal Command in an effort to obtain more comprehensive and accurate information.

IV. Project Administration

At the outset, project personnel proceeded by AAF to the scene of a reported sighting to personally interview witnesses. This was not