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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,000

In the spring of 1952, something extraordinary happens.

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00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:10,800

UFO sightings go off the charts.

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00:00:10,800 --> 00:00:16,760

For years, the U.S. government has told the post-war public that UFOs do not exist.

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00:00:16,760 --> 00:00:21,940

But secretly, U.S. Air Force commanders are divided.

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00:00:21,940 --> 00:00:27,040

Some Air Force personnel believe the sightings are explainable atmospheric phenomena.

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00:00:27,040 --> 00:00:34,040

But others wonder if we have been visited by a more technologically advanced alien civilization.

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00:00:34,040 --> 00:00:46,040

Join us as we investigate the 1952 UFO wave, a spike in sightings so extreme that the U.S. government is forced to confront the UFO phenomenon.

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00:00:46,040 --> 00:00:47,040

Head on.

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00:00:50,040 --> 00:00:53,040

A global effort has begun.

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00:00:53,040 --> 00:01:00,040

Files hidden from the public for decades detailing every UFO account are now available to the public.

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00:01:00,040 --> 00:01:05,040

We are about to uncover the truth behind these classified documents.

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00:01:05,040 --> 00:01:08,040

Find out what the government doesn't want you to know.

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00:01:08,040 --> 00:01:12,040

Unsealed alien files.

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00:01:12,040 --> 00:01:15,040

Exposing the biggest secret on planet Earth.

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00:01:16,040 --> 00:01:19,040

July 29, 1952.

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00:01:19,040 --> 00:01:28,040

Major General John Samford, the Director of Intelligence for the U.S. Air Force, holds the largest press conference since World War II.

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00:01:28,040 --> 00:01:29,040

The reason?

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00:01:29,040 --> 00:01:33,040

I am here to discuss the so-called flying saucers.

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00:01:33,040 --> 00:01:44,040

The Air Force's interest in this problem has been due to our feeling of an obligation to identify and analyze to the best of our ability.

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00:01:44,040 --> 00:01:51,040

Anything in the air that may have the possibility of threat or menace to the United States.

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00:01:51,040 --> 00:02:00,040

Throughout the spring and summer of 1952, there are more reported UFO sightings in the U.S. than at any other time in history.

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00:02:00,040 --> 00:02:05,040

The public knows it, and Samford tries to calm their nerves.

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00:02:05,040 --> 00:02:13,040

Of this great mass of reports, we have been able adequately to explain the great bulk of them.

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00:02:13,040 --> 00:02:20,040

But what about the hundreds of UFO sightings that radar and eye witnesses cannot explain?

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00:02:20,040 --> 00:02:28,040

To understand arguably the most unique year in modern UFO history, we must go back to the beginning.

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00:02:28,040 --> 00:02:34,040

1952 begins with fewer than one reported UFO sighting per day.

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00:02:34,040 --> 00:02:38,040

By April and May, sightings increase to three per day.

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00:02:38,040 --> 00:02:45,040

Then in June, the rate of reported sightings doubles, and they have yet to peak.

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00:02:45,040 --> 00:02:52,040

This was orders of magnitude beyond anything that the American military had seen before.

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00:02:52,040 --> 00:02:57,040

It took the UFO phenomenon to a completely new level.

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00:02:57,040 --> 00:03:04,040

From July 22nd to July 29th, UFO sighting spiked to 27 per day.

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00:03:04,040 --> 00:03:10,040

The sighting spike is considerable, so you have to ask what exactly was going on in the nation.

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00:03:10,040 --> 00:03:13,040

The Air Force is gravely concerned.

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00:03:13,040 --> 00:03:19,040

Their job is to patrol the skies, but something is happening that they cannot explain.

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00:03:19,040 --> 00:03:26,040

Unsealed case file, the Hawaii sighting, March 1952.

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00:03:26,040 --> 00:03:34,040

Navy Secretary Dan Kimball and Admiral Radford are flying in separate planes over Guam, en route to Hawaii.

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00:03:34,040 --> 00:03:41,040

During the course of this flight, Kimball and Radford looked out the window and saw an unidentified flying object that they couldn't explain.

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00:03:41,040 --> 00:03:45,040

As they watched this object, they said it streaked across the sky.

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00:03:45,040 --> 00:03:50,040

Air Force Insider and co-founder of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena,

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00:03:50,040 --> 00:03:59,040

Major Donald Keeho reports Kimball assaying the object circled us twice and then took off, heading east.

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00:03:59,040 --> 00:04:05,040

There was another Navy plane behind us, with Admiral Arthur Radford on board.

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00:04:05,040 --> 00:04:11,040

Kimball reports, in almost no time, Radford's chief pilot called back.

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00:04:11,040 --> 00:04:14,040

The UFOs were now circling their plane.

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00:04:14,040 --> 00:04:18,040

They estimated it actually covered a distance of about 50 miles in less than two minutes.

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00:04:18,040 --> 00:04:24,040

The UFO eventually took off and disappeared and was no longer in sight.

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00:04:24,040 --> 00:04:30,040

When he inquires about the status of the investigation, he receives a surprising response.

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00:04:30,040 --> 00:04:39,040

He was actually denied access. The Air Force said that they could not disclose to the eyewitness what the status was of the case.

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00:04:39,040 --> 00:04:46,040

One month later, on April 29, 1952, history is made.

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00:04:46,040 --> 00:04:52,040

Unsealed case file, AFL 200-5.

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00:04:52,040 --> 00:05:06,040

Air Force Letter 200-5 is a landmark Air Force directive stating that all UFO reports must be wired immediately to Air Technical Intelligence Command, the home of Project Blue Book.

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00:05:06,040 --> 00:05:15,040

They talked about the urgent need to use electronic means of reporting, really within a day.

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00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:21,040

But secondly, not to talk about these things to the media and to the public.

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00:05:21,040 --> 00:05:31,040

So right from the outset, what we have is this veil of secrecy surrounding military encounters with UFOs.

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00:05:31,040 --> 00:05:42,040

AFL 200-5 authorizes Project Blue Book to investigate UFO sightings made by Air Force personnel without the need of going through any chain of command.

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00:05:42,040 --> 00:05:53,040

This all-access pass is highly unusual and underscores the urgency of the situation.

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00:05:53,040 --> 00:06:06,040

In the spring of 1952, the United States Air Force responds to mounting UFO sightings across the country by giving Project Blue Book unprecedented access to investigate UFOs.

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00:06:06,040 --> 00:06:19,040

Its mission? To investigate UFO reports from civilians and military personnel and determine if UFOs are a threat to the nation and to identify them.

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00:06:19,040 --> 00:06:28,040

Air Force Officer Edward Rupelle, stationed at Ohio's Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, is appointed to lead Project Blue Book.

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00:06:28,040 --> 00:06:37,040

So this was the guy in day-to-day charge of investigating the sightings reported to the government and the military.

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00:06:37,040 --> 00:06:48,040

Although he still accepted anecdotal accounts and reports from the public, the whole focus of Project Blue Book was effectively reconfigured

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00:06:48,040 --> 00:06:53,040

on pilot sightings and on radar cases.

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00:06:53,040 --> 00:07:04,040

But one case in July of 1952 confounds him. Unsealed case file, the Tremonton film.

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00:07:04,040 --> 00:07:16,040

July 2nd, 1952, Navy Warrent Officer D.C. Newhouse is driving through Utah with his wife when they notice a strange group of objects in the sky.

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00:07:16,040 --> 00:07:26,040

They stop the car to get a better look and cannot believe their eyes. A group of 10 to 12 objects overhead are flying in a westerly direction.

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00:07:26,040 --> 00:07:33,040

There were multiple objects that were seen flying through the sky that were not like any conventional aircraft that anyone had ever seen.

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00:07:33,040 --> 00:07:40,040

Newhouse later describes the objects as, shaped like two saucers, one inverted on top of the other.

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00:07:40,040 --> 00:07:48,040

He runs to the trunk of his car and grabs his 16mm camera just in time to shoot this compelling film.

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00:07:48,040 --> 00:07:55,040

Every now and then you'll see sort of like an implied constellation of stars. So there seems to be some sort of a communication going on there.

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00:07:55,040 --> 00:08:04,040

What's interesting is that that sort of sighting occurs even now in the skies over the United States and people film it.

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00:08:04,040 --> 00:08:20,040

Rufelt later writes about Newhouse in his 1956 book, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, saying, when he and his family first saw the UFOs, they were close to the car, much closer than when he took the movie.

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00:08:20,040 --> 00:08:27,040

The Tremonton Newhouse film was shot by a witness that saw what can only be described as a fleet of UFOs in the sky.

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00:08:27,040 --> 00:08:40,040

I love those cases because they were the kind that you can't really fake. You know what I mean? They come from the old school and they haven't been put up on a photo shop or some sort of video editing in May. They're actually real.

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00:08:40,040 --> 00:08:46,040

Four years later, Project Blue Book analyzes the footage and issues a report.

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00:08:46,040 --> 00:08:55,040

They wanted to try and explain it away as balloons, which sounds like a viable explanation. Unfortunately, they could never prove it. So it went on the books as a true unknown.

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00:08:55,040 --> 00:09:02,040

And even more disturbing, it looked eerily similar to a famous sighting just two years earlier.

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00:09:04,040 --> 00:09:08,040

Unsealed Case File, The Mariana Film.

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00:09:08,040 --> 00:09:20,040

August 1950, Great Falls, Montana. While inspecting a local baseball stadium with his secretary, Nick Mariana sees something flash out of the corner of his eye.

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00:09:21,040 --> 00:09:25,040

Two bright silver objects fly over Great Falls.

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00:09:25,040 --> 00:09:29,040

This really depicted again multiple objects in the sky.

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00:09:29,040 --> 00:09:34,040

He grabs his camera from his car and shoots this 16 seconds of film.

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00:09:34,040 --> 00:09:43,040

The next day, The Great Falls Tribune carries the story. And in the weeks to come, Mariana shares his film at several local screenings.

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00:09:43,040 --> 00:09:49,040

But the Air Force considers the objects on the Mariana film to be two of their own.

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00:09:50,040 --> 00:10:00,040

After the witness got their film back from the United States Air Force, they claimed that they were missing frames from the footage, like it was cut out, cover up by the United States Air Force.

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00:10:00,040 --> 00:10:12,040

Mariana claims the frames clearly showed silver discs. The Air Force denies the allegations. But many in Great Falls who witnessed the original film support Mariana's claim.

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00:10:12,040 --> 00:10:15,040

So the question is, if that's true, what are they covering up?

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00:10:16,040 --> 00:10:26,040

In July of 1952, two years after the Mariana film, Captain Ruppelt, head of Project Blue Book, requests to reanalyze the footage.

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00:10:26,040 --> 00:10:33,040

The original analysis that the objects in the sky were reflections from F-94 jets is dismissed.

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00:10:33,040 --> 00:10:42,040

Ruppelt states, the lights appeared too steady to be reflections. We drew a blank on the Montana movie. It was an unknown.

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00:10:43,040 --> 00:10:47,040

The controversy over the missing frames is never resolved.

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00:10:47,040 --> 00:10:55,040

Could this be truly evidence of alien craft in the sky? And so they wanted to kind of omit that section that really drove it home?

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00:10:55,040 --> 00:11:07,040

Or was this top secret technology that the Air Force didn't want this guy to have and said, well, you can't really discern it here, but you can through frames, tend through whatever and snip that out.

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00:11:08,040 --> 00:11:21,040

By early July 1952, UFO sightings dramatically increase across North America, forcing the U.S. Air Force to make UFO investigation a top priority.

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00:11:21,040 --> 00:11:29,040

But nothing could prepare them for what occurs over the most heavily guarded airspace in the world, the nation's capital.

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00:11:29,040 --> 00:11:35,040

Unsealed case file. The Washington, D.C. flap.

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00:11:35,040 --> 00:11:44,040

On July 19, 1952, an air traffic controller at Washington National Airport picks up seven objects on radar.

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00:11:44,040 --> 00:11:49,040

He later describes them as completely radical compared to ordinary aircraft.

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00:11:49,040 --> 00:11:54,040

Headlines the next day read, saucers swarm the capital.

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00:11:55,040 --> 00:12:03,040

On July 26, a national airlines flight reports more UFOs. Andrews Air Force Base tracks them on radar.

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00:12:03,040 --> 00:12:09,040

Witnesses describe the lights as traveling faster than any shooting star.

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00:12:09,040 --> 00:12:15,040

By July 29, the Air Force issues an unprecedented shoot down order.

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00:12:16,040 --> 00:12:25,040

The Washington Post writes, no pilot has been able to get close enough to take a shot, as the objects are out flying the jets by a thousand miles an hour.

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00:12:25,040 --> 00:12:30,040

But exactly what is in the skies above Washington, D.C.?

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00:12:30,040 --> 00:12:37,040

There's something in our skies. It's faster than us. It's more maneuverable than us.

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00:12:37,040 --> 00:12:42,040

We track them on radar. We send our pilots up to train, intercept them, and yet they give us the slip.

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00:12:42,040 --> 00:12:45,040

What's going on in our skies?

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00:12:45,040 --> 00:12:51,040

Are these UFOs interplanetary ships from outer space? Or is there another explanation?

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00:12:51,040 --> 00:12:58,040

With dozens of witnesses and radar evidence, the Air Force must calm an uneasy public.

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00:12:58,040 --> 00:13:08,040

July 29, 1952, General John Samford, director of Air Force Intelligence, holds a press conference.

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00:13:08,040 --> 00:13:21,040

We've been able to explain them as folks as erroneously identified friendly aircraft, as meteorological or electronic phenomena, or as light aberration.

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00:13:21,040 --> 00:13:31,040

One of the explanations that was put forth for this by the Air Force was that this was caused by a temperature inversion.

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00:13:31,040 --> 00:13:37,040

But many in the UFO and scientific communities are unable to believe the explanation.

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00:13:37,040 --> 00:13:43,040

It is this group of observations that we now are attempting to resolve.

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00:13:43,040 --> 00:13:51,040

After Samford speaks, Major Donald Kehoe takes the microphone. And what he says is shocking.

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00:13:51,040 --> 00:13:57,040

With all due respect to the Air Force, I believe that some of them will prove to be of interplanetary origins.

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00:13:58,040 --> 00:14:05,040

Just how much did the government know? And how far were they willing to go to keep it from the public?

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00:14:05,040 --> 00:14:09,040

Unsealed case file, the Robertson Panel.

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00:14:09,040 --> 00:14:20,040

January 1953, after experiencing an unprecedented surge in UFO sightings, the CIA convenes the Robertson Panel.

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00:14:20,040 --> 00:14:25,040

The Robertson Panel was a group of scientists, radar experts, nuclear physicists.

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00:14:25,040 --> 00:14:32,040

People that were brought together by the CIA to try and figure out how to deal with the UFO problem.

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00:14:32,040 --> 00:14:38,040

The head of Project Blue Book, Captain Ruppelt, presents cases with the most compelling evidence.

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00:14:38,040 --> 00:14:42,040

Among them, the Tremonton and Mariana films.

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00:14:42,040 --> 00:14:48,040

But Ruppelt quickly realizes the panel has already come to their own conclusions.

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00:14:48,040 --> 00:14:55,040

The objective of the Robertson Panel was already determined before they stepped into that room and

started deliberating what that evidence showed.

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00:14:57,040 --> 00:15:07,040

After hearing just 12 hours of testimony over three days, the Robertson Panel's final conclusion is that UFOs do not pose a threat to national security.

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00:15:07,040 --> 00:15:13,040

And that the overwhelming majority of sightings can be explained by natural phenomena.

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00:15:13,040 --> 00:15:20,040

Many experts now look at the documents and say, well, they really weren't doing their job as true investigators.

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00:15:20,040 --> 00:15:26,040

They were collecting these reports, analyzing them, and pretty much dismissing them one at a time.

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00:15:26,040 --> 00:15:30,040

Weather balloon here, swamp gas there, the planet Venus over here.

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00:15:30,040 --> 00:15:34,040

And they were just completely dismissing anything that came in.

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00:15:34,040 --> 00:15:41,040

Years later, the secretary of the Robertson Panel, CIA operative Frederick Durant,

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00:15:41,040 --> 00:15:45,040

reveals that the Robertson Panel was not tasked with investigating evidence,

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00:15:45,040 --> 00:15:52,040

but with quote, establishing a protocol for debunking UFO sighting claims.

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00:15:52,040 --> 00:16:04,040

If you've got a case with a really obvious conventional explanation, publicize those cases and don't whatever you do, publicize the unknowns.

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00:16:04,040 --> 00:16:14,040

This is the strongest evidence that Project Blue Book and the 12,000-plus cases that they investigated is not necessarily an investigation, but rather an explanation.

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00:16:14,040 --> 00:16:17,040

And the Robertson Panel absolutely proves that.

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00:16:34,040 --> 00:16:49,040

It is inconceivable to me as somebody who served in the Ministry of Defense for 21 years that one could receive credible reports and then dismiss them without some form of proper scientific investigation.

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00:16:49,040 --> 00:16:56,040

Captain Edward Ruppelt, the head of Project Blue Book, is asked to brief Air Defense Command.

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00:16:56,040 --> 00:17:07,040

In the meeting, Ruppelt allegedly reveals that based on a statistical breakdown of over 1,000 sightings, only 11% can be positively identified.

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00:17:07,040 --> 00:17:16,040

The remaining 89% are categorized as probably identified, possibly identified, and unknown.

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00:17:16,040 --> 00:17:24,040

It doesn't matter what these things are, we need to calm the public down because the real threat could be society itself.

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00:17:24,040 --> 00:17:34,040

Since the extraordinary surge of UFO sightings in 1952, the American government to this day denies that it studies UFOs.

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00:17:34,040 --> 00:17:37,040

But some believe otherwise.

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00:17:37,040 --> 00:17:55,040

I am convinced that the government continues to investigate UFOs, but I suspect that they do it through the third-party offices of some defense contractor hidden away, well away from public scrutiny.

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00:17:55,040 --> 00:18:05,040

Without a central organization to collect information on UFO sightings and investigate them, no one knows how many UFO events occur each year.

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00:18:05,040 --> 00:18:14,040

Will there be another 1952? How will we know? And will the government even warn the public?

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00:18:14,040 --> 00:18:23,040

This is Unsealed, Alien Files, exposing the biggest secret on planet Earth.

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00:18:25,040 --> 00:18:30,040

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