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PROJECT-1947: Ruppelt, Air Defense & UFOs

From: **Jan Aldrich** <jan@CYBERZONE.NET>
 Date: Wed, 28 Jan 1998 11:50:53 -0800
 Fwd Date: Fri, 30 Jan 1998 02:23:56 -0500
 Subject: PROJECT-1947: Ruppelt, Air Defense & UFOs

I am experiencing some computer difficults. Everytime I start a message my computer freezes up. Here is a condensed version of what I have been trying to send.

Here are some points to consider. Other than Loren Gross I don't know many others who have considered these angles except perhaps Dr. Leon Davidson in sort of a muddleheaded way. It is an absolute shame that aviation and defense historians will not touch UFOs with a ten foot pole.

The obvious implications of UFOs for Air Defenes were not lost on some newspaper columnists, the Alsop brothers during the 1947 wave did a column on this.

About the time Project Sign was being authorized there was an articles in the New York Times connecting Air Defense with UFOs. Basically, it urged that the Aircraft Warning Service's Ground Observer Corps be reactivated.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s there were big debate about military strategy. It involves how billions or dollars (much more money than in present terms--which could probably be a trillion in current dollars was at stake.)

It involved fission bombs, fussion bombs, large standing armies, and big budget air defense. Many of the important players are also at one time or another involved in UFOs.

The Air Force was basically on the side of strong strategic forces and small defense forces. However, having the air defense mission, meant also there was within the Air Force an advocacy for strong air defense with the possibility of huge contracts, expanded organizations and lots of promotions. So the pot is boiling, and then throw in UFOs.

The Commanding General of the Air Defense Command (ADC) was told by General Stamford that AFL 200-5 was put into effect to get messages on possible hostile contact to ADC faster. In the summer of 1952 Ruppelt wrote that the AFL 200-5 was a failure from his stand point. He was not getting back up information, reports were being mishandled, etc.

Well, who cares if a reserve captain with no clout and no budget to speak of is unhappy.

Ruppelt proposed a huge expansion in Project Blue Book with a large budget and involving contractors. (And probably with a Major Ruppelt to head it.) This may be why Ruppelt was susceptibly to the scuttle butt about the Robertson Panel's recommendation to expand the UFO effort. (Anyone who has been around a military organization when an important decision is made will hear the most outrageous rumors back and forth prior to the actual decision being announced.)

It has always bothered me that Alvarez during the Robertson Panel discussions found no radar cases that interested him.

Richard Hall and I had a fiery argument concerning the Robertson Panel. Hall's contention was that the Robertson Panel was composed of skeptics that thought UFOs were a waste of time. My contention was that because of a defect in Project Blue Book from the beginning and Ruppelt's selection of cases, the panel did not receive a good sample of puzzling cases. The Blue Book defect involved Blue Book's treatment of close encounter cases--pitching them in the trash. However, there was a good same sample of such cases in Project Blue Book's files and in the USAF clipping collection. There were also other such cases reported to official channel which should have been available to the CIA who monitored all intelligence reports and which might have been available to Blue Book.

The Robertson Panel commented that most of the cases they saw were of short duration and viewed at a great distance. The exception was the Florida scotmaster case which had big credibility problems.

The Panel said that Robertson, Alvarez, and Griggs had looked into "foo-fighters." It was felt that they might represent an electric phenomenon. Now if they were an electrical phenomenon, they were natural, and they did not end with the World War II.

Dah?! Huh? Hello! These are scientists? They are not at all curious about such a phenomenon. They don't even recommend the funding of a small study so that some colleagues could get some work and funding. Why not? Do they have bigger fish to fry?

Some points to consider. Nothing is proven. We need more information about Project Lincoln and Air Defense.

Once the Air Defense structure is in place. Air Defense would have an interest in minimizing UFO accounts. UFOs become "politically incorrect." "If it flies, it dies," is meaningless if you admit that you have things running around that you can't explain. The public loses confidence in the Air Defense and the military in general.

Best regards,

--

Jan Aldrich
Project 1947

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