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EToS, The Analysis & Ghosts

From: Jan Aldrich <jan@cyberzone.net>
 Date: Sun, 01 Nov 1998 14:08:10 -0800
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 Subject: EToS, The Analysis & Ghosts

The Top Secret Estimate of the Situation from the Intelligence Division at Air Materiel Command and the "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents over the United States," (Official: "Air Intelligence Report No. 100-203-79, ANALYSIS OF FLYING OBJECT INCIDENTS IN THE U. S., Air Intelligence Division Study No. 203, 10 December 1948, Directorate of Intelligence and Office of Naval Intelligence.") are once again the subject debate. Once again the old chestnuts that the "Analysis" is either a watered down version of the EToS or that it is the "Ghost" of the "Estimate" have been revived.

(See the "Analysis" at:)

<http://www.iufog.org/project1947/fig/1948air.htm>

In the "Ghost of the Estimate" article on the Project 1947 website these ideas are demonstrated to be wrong:

<http://www.iufog.org/project1947/fig/1948back.htm>

Not mentioned in the article is the fact that General (then MG) Charles Cabell, USAF Director of Intelligence on 27 July 1948, tasked his DI staff to start a study of flying saucers. This, of course, is earlier than the 8 August 1948 memo on the subject and about the same time that Ruppelt said that the EToS was initiated at the Intelligence Division of AMC at Wright Field. MG Cabell's tasking included the instruction that the study should start with the idea that UFOs were real. As he stated in his memoirs, "I reminded our people that their jobs were to prove that the 'Flying Saucers' *did* exist, because the alternative method, that of proving something does not exist, approaches the impossible."

Dr. Michael Swords in draft article for the next Journal of UFO Studies considers the EToS. In the article Swords analyzes some of the factions at the Directorate of Intelligence at the T-2/Intelligence Division/ATIC. Information on the author of the EToS is contained in the article. It is important to point out that the EToS author left ATIC in February 1951 before Ruppelt was assigned to Project Blue Book. The understanding thinking of the personnel involved with the Project Sign/Grudge/Blue Book is important although it is not one of my research topics.

Two people who have done considerable research in this area are Wendy Connors who started the Project Sign Research Center

<http://www.evansville.net/~slk/Sign.html>

and Michael Hall who started the Project Blue Book Research

Center

<http://www.evansville.net/~slk/Blue.html>

together they are completing a book on the author of EToS which should be finished shortly.

Wendy is also in the final stages of a book on Project Sign.

The EToS was authored by an authority on "low aspect ratio aircraft" (flying wing and circular aircraft). He was investigating UFOs from the very beginning prior to the formation of Project Sign.

There are no back up documents concerning the EToS which have come to light, however, Ruppelt referring to the progress of the document must have had some or was depending on interviews he did of Project Sign personnel.

Not all Project Sign personnel were familiar with the EToS as Wendy's research will show.

Former AF Major Dewey Fournet asked by Barry Greenwood if the Analysis could have been mistaken for the EToS stated that they were two different documents. Fournet claims to have read the EToS. Fournet stated elsewhere that he was not particularly impressed the EToS, and thought it should have indeed been rejected as the evidence did not fit the conclusion.

The Analysis discussed the possibility of the secret aircraft either US or Soviet. This area was explored several time by both AMC and the Directorate of Intelligence. In 1947, General LeMay said there were no AAF projects that could give rise to flying saucers. Col McCoy in 1948 requested that the Army, Navy and CIA be questioned about the possibility that some agency in the US was conducting experiments which would give raise to UFO reports. The Horton Brothers were questioned and the possibility that Horton aircraft were involved was investigated.

By the time the Analysis was printed in April 1949, the secret aircraft theory was pretty well abandoned, however documents as late as 1955 still considered such a Soviet development a possibility. The 1949 abandonment of this idea is shown in the USAF Director of Intelligence Top Secret briefing for the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) even though the purpose of the briefing was to inform the intelligence community about the recently printedd Analysis and current thinking on UFOs up to that time.

<http://www.iufog.org/project1947/fig/49docdex.htm>

[In my article concerning the JIC briefing there is this sentence:

"Shallet's article was his own, but probably endorsed by Mr. Leo. The Project Saucer press release was less negative than Purdy pointed out to Keyhoe."

It should read: "Shallet's article was his own, but probably endorsed by Mr. Leo. The Project Saucer press release was less negative than Shallet's article as Purdy pointed out to Keyhoe."

Since the JIC article was written, an 1949 interview by the Air Force TIMES of Project Grudge personnel during this time frame has been found.]

Recently, there have been a few of pieces on post-WW II secret aircraft as UFO explanations. The old chestnuts about the "flying flapjack" and the Horton aircraft have again been dragged out. The evidence offered is very slim. I had tried to encourage one of these articles as it would be useful for aviation authorites to become interested and research this issue. Certainly interesting documents might result from such research. Unfortunately that has not been the case. We only seem to have "believer legends" pitted against "skeptical legends" and damned little research from either side. Those doing actual research are few in number and doing it on a shoestring.

(Note: Along the skeptical legend line, a recent interview with an authority on early manned ballooning has the Skyhook balloon

program as the origin of UFOs.)

As far as the claim that all the documents from this early UFO era being available, that is completely false; many documents among the released collections were withheld by various agencies. There are many agencies that have released little or no material from the early UFO era.

[To give credit were credit is due and deserved:

Dr. Bruce Maccabee has priority for the discovery of the draft and printed copies of the "Analysis" which he labeled as the "Ghost of the Estimate."

Robert Todd's FOIA campaign which lasted over one year secured the declassification and release of the Directorate of Intelligence "Flying Disc" decimal correspondence files in 1985 which also contained a partial copy of the "Analysis" later presented in the July 1985 MUFON Journal and used in Loren Gross' "UFOs History: 1948." Todd's efforts also resulted in the declassification and release of the Top Secret file concerning the tasking and progress of the "Analysis." The recently released Project Sign and Project Grudge investigative files 1948-9 were also found as the results of his efforts.

Recently research has brought to light the JIC Top Secret briefing and the Daily Activity of Reports of the AAF AC/S Intelligence and USAF Director of Intelligence files for 1947-1948.]

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