

THE
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT PROGRAM

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by

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THE AIR FORCE BECAME INTERESTED IN THE UFO PHENOMENON AS A PROJECT IN 1947. DURING THIS PERIOD, A POLICY LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF WHICH DIRECTED THE COMMANDER, AIR MATERIAL COMMAND, TO SET UP A PROJECT WHOSE PURPOSE WAS TO COLLECT, COLLATE, EVALUATE, AND DISSEMINATE TO INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND CONTRACTORS ALL INFORMATION REGARDING UFO SIGHTINGS. INITIALLY THE PROJECT WAS CLASSIFIED, HOWEVER, THIS SECURITY CLASSIFICATION WAS DROPPED IN MARCH 1952. THE UFO PROJECT HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED SINCE THAT TIME.

DURING THE PERIOD 1948 TO 1955, THE AIR FORCE MADE THREE COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES OF THE UFO REPORTS WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THEM. THESE REPORTS ARE KNOWN AS THE "SIGN" REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY OF 1948, THE "GRUDGE" REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN AUGUST OF 1948, AND THE PROJECT "BLUE BOOK" REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN MAY 1955. THE REPORTS CONCLUDED THAT "THE PHENOMENA PRESENTED NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF SIGHTINGS WERE MISINTERPRETATIONS OF CONVENTIONAL OBJECTS." THEY ALSO CONCLUDED THAT "IT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE HIGHLY IMPROBABLE

THAT ANY OF THE UFO REPORTS EXAMINED IN THE STUDIES REPRESENTED TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE THE RANGE OF PRESENT DAY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE. THIS WAS IN 1955, AND SINCE THAT TIME, PROJECT BLUE BOOK HAS CONCERNED ITSELF WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF THE SIGHTINGS, EVALUATION OF THE DATA, AND RELEASE OF THE INFORMATION TO THE NEWS MEDIA. THIS INFORMATION IS GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC IN THE FORM OF NEWS RELEASES AND BLUE BOOK BROCHURES.

TODAY, THE OPERATIONAL PORTION OF THE PROJECT IS STILL LOCATED AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT IS STILL THE SAME TODAY AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, AND THAT IS TO DETERMINE IF UFO'S PRESENT A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

I WOULD EMPHASIZE AT THIS POINT THAT, ALTHOUGH WE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO COLLECT ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON A SIGHTING AND TO REACH A CONCLUSION AS TO WHAT STIMULUS CAUSED THE SIGHTING, SUCH AN EXPLANATION IS WHOLLY SUBORDINATED TO THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF BLUE BOOK -- THE DETERMINATION IN EACH CASE WHETHER THERE IS A THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

MY OFFICE IS THE FOCAL POINT FOR ALL UFO REPORTS WHICH ARE REPORTED TO THE AIR FORCE. EACH AIR FORCE BASE COMMANDER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY APPOINTS AN OFFICER TO BE THE UFO INVESTIGATING OFFICER FOR HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS COLLECT INFORMATION FROM OBSERVERS AND CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE SIGHTING, ACCORDING TO THE SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM AT THE BASE LEVEL. THE INFORMATION AND THE PRELIMINARY EVALUATION ARE SUBMITTED TO THE WRIGHT-PATTERSON OFFICE VIA TELETYPE OR THROUGH LETTER REPORTS. THESE REPORTS ARE THEN PLACED IN CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO THEIR CHARACTERISTICS. IF A UFO REPORT EXHIBITS AIRCRAFT CHARACTERISTICS, WE GO DIRECTLY TO THE FAA, LOCAL AIRPORTS, SAC HQS AND ITS SUBORDINATE UNITS, AND TO THE AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND ITS SUBORDINATE UNITS. UFO REPORTS WHICH EXHIBIT BALLOON CHARACTERISTICS CAN BE CHECKED BY CONTACTING THE U.S. WEATHER STATIONS, LOCAL AIRPORTS, AIR FORCE WEATHER STATIONS, THE HOLLOMAN BALLOON CONTROL CENTER, THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH, AND VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES WHICH ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN BALLOON RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

IN CHECKING REPORTS WHICH EXHIBIT SATELLITE CHARACTERISTICS WE GO DIRECTLY TO THE SPACE DETECTION CENTER AT COLORADO SPRINGS. THEY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRACKING ALL SATELLITE ACTIVITY. WE ALSO GO TO THE SPACE DETECTION CENTER FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SATELLITE DECAYS.

FOR REPORTS WHICH WE SUSPECT WERE CAUSED BY MISSILE FIRINGS WE GO DIRECTLY TO CAPE KENNEDY, VANDENBERG, POINT MUGU, WALLOPS ISLAND, EGLIN, GREEN RIVER, AND OTHER MILITARY UNITS WHICH MIGHT BE ENGAGED IN SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.

FOR ANALYSIS OF RADAR REPORTS WE USE AN ORGANIZATION AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON OR CAN USE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE ENGAGED IN THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

FOR PHOTO ANALYSIS WE USE ONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON.

FOR PHYSICAL SPECIMENS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED TO THE PROJECT OFFICE, WE HAVE USED THE SERVICES OF THE AIR FORCE MATERIEL LABORATORY, BATTELE MEMORIAL, PURE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, LIBBY OWENS AND CORNING GLASS, THE NORTHWESTERN GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT, AND THE INSTITUTE OF PAPER CHEMISTRY.

FOR SUSPECTED ASTRONOMICAL SIGHTINGS WE USE THE SERVICES OF DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK, ASTRO-PHYSICIST AND PROJECT BLUE BOOK CONSULTANT, ALSO DR. CHARLES P. OLIVIER, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN METEOR SOCIETY, AND DR. ROBINSON, AN ASTRONOMER FROM WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB. WE ALSO, FREQUENTLY REFER TO OPEN LITERATURE SUCH AS SKY & TELESCOPE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION ON COMETS, METEORS, AND AURORAL DISPLAYS.

ALTHOUGH MY OFFICE STAFF IS SMALL, WITHIN THE WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB COMPLEX, I HAVE THE SERVICES OF PHYSICISTS, CHEMISTS, ASTRONOMERS, METEOROLOGISTS, AERODYNAMIC ENGINEERS, AND PHOTO ANALYSISISTS. THESE PEOPLE ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PROJECT WHENEVER THEY ARE NEEDED.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ADD, THAT I HAVE RECEIVED EXCELLENT ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM ALL ECHELONS IN THE AIR STAFF. THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF ARE INTERESTED IN THIS PROGRAM.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE AIR FORCE MUST EVALUATE SUBJECTIVE INFORMATION WHICH CANNOT BE DUPLICATED IN A LABORATORY. WE ARE EVALUATING AN OBSERVER'S INTERPRETATION OF AN EXPERIENCE OR EVENT. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF METEORITES, WE HAVE NEVER RECOVERED ANYTHING TANGIBLE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN.

I AM SURE THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF YOU ARE AWARE OF THE AIR FORCE CONTRACT SIGNED LAST YEAR WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. THIS CONTRACT, VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$300,000, IS BETWEEN THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THE UNIVERSITY.

IT CALLS FOR AN 18-MONTH STUDY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. EDWARD U. CONDON, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND NOW A PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO.

I WANT TO MAKE ONE POINT VERY CLEAR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CONTRACT. THE ONLY INVOLVEMENT OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK WITH THE COLORADO CONTRACT IS TO PROVIDE THEM DUPLICATES OF ALL CURRENT UFO REPORTS AND SUCH MATERIAL FROM OUR FILES AS THEY MAY ASK FOR. AS A MATTER OF INTEREST, TO DATE I HAVE SUPPLIED THEM WITH AT LEAST 400 CASE HISTORIES.

DR. CONDON IS CONDUCTING A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT STUDY.

IN CONCLUSION I WANT TO READ TWO PARAGRAPHS FROM THE CURRENT PROJECT BLUE BOOK REPORT:

"TO DATE, THE FIRM CONCLUSIONS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK ARE: (1) NO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTED, INVESTIGATED, AND EVALUATED BY THE AIR FORCE HAS EVER

GIVEN ANY INDICATION OF THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY; (2) THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE SUBMITTED TO OR DISCOVERED BY THE AIR FORCE THAT SIGHTINGS CATEGORIZED AS UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS OR PRINCIPLES BEYOND THE RANGE OF PRESENT DAY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE; AND (3) THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT SIGHTINGS CATEGORIZED AS UNIDENTIFIED ARE EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLES.

"THE AIR FORCE WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE ALL REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL PHENOMENA OVER THE UNITED STATES. THE SERVICES OF QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED TO INVESTIGATE AND ANALYZE THESE REPORTS, AND PERIODIC REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT WILL BE MADE.

"THE AIR FORCE TAKES NO STAND ON WHETHER OR NOT EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE COULD OR DOES EXIST. SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THE UNIVERSE CONTAINS LIFE ON PLANETS OTHER THAN OUR OWN. THE AIR FORCE CONTINUES TO EXTEND AN OPEN INVITATION TO ANYONE WHO FEELS THAT HE POSSESSES ANY EVIDENCE OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLES OPERATING WITHIN THE EARTH'S NEAR SPACE ENVELOPE TO SUBMIT HIS EVIDENCE FOR ANALYSIS."