

data which illustrate how the investigators searched for correlations between the various statistical attributes of the UFO cases. The appendix also illustrates a sample computer coding sheet and sample sighting questionnaires.

The UFO reports that were analyzed by the Air Force/Battelle investigators came from civilians and military people in the United States (about 2600 cases) and foreign countries (about 400 cases). These roughly 4000 cases were subjected to several independent analyses by different investigators on the Battelle and Air Force staffs. At periodic evaluation meetings, the results of the analyses were compared. If the investigators agreed on the nature of the phenomenon described in a report (i.e., birds, balloons, aircraft, astronomical, meteorological, psychological, etc., unknown or insufficient information for evaluation), then the analysis was considered finished. The various "discrete facts" about the report (date, time, location, color of object(s), number of objects, estimated speed, duration of the sighting, shape of object(s), brightness of object(s), number and reliability(ies) of observer(s), and the overall reliability of the report) were coded onto a computer card for statistical evaluation. If the investigators did not agree on the nature of the phenomenon, the report was subjected to further evaluation by other investigators until a conclusion about the nature of the phenomenon was reached, if such a conclusion were possible.

There were four basic conclusions allowed: (a) the report itself was so nebulous and self-inconsistent that little information for evaluation was available; (b) the report contained sufficient information for an identification as a known phenomenon with an expected probability greater than 50% that the identification was correct; (c) the report contained sufficient information so that an identification as a known phenomenon should have been possible, but the characteristics of the phenomenon did not match those of known phenomena; and (d) the characteristics of the phenomenon described in the report did