

History of SR 14

The history of SR 14 from December 1951 to October 1953 can be traced through documents in the National Archives. However, after September 1953 there is a surprising lack of information. One would expect a continued interaction between a government contractor (Battelle) and the monitoring agency (PBB) but if there was any, it is not referred to in the publicly available documents. The history also shows that the publication of SR 14 generated sufficient controversy for the Air Force to consider publishing many more than the original 100 copies with a special preface written by Captain Gregory in July 1957. However, a further publication of SR 14 never occurred.

On December 26, 1951, Lt. Ruppelt and Col. Kirkland met with members of the Battelle Institute. According to a document filed January 8, 1952, Battelle agreed that there was probably enough material available to make a scientific study worthwhile and that they would supply the necessary consultants in various fields of astronomy, psychology, physics, etc. According to this originally secret document, "It is very reasonable to believe that some type of unusual object or phenomena is being observed as many of the sightings have been made by highly qualified sources" (underlining by present author).

Project Grudge Status Report #2 (available from the National Archives) mentions this meeting, and Report #3 says that the consultants had completed a preliminary survey and would present a proposal in February 1952. (Report #5 stated that the name of the Project had been changed from Grudge to Blue Book.) Report #6 of April 30, 1952 states that contractual agreements had been completed. The first Status Report on Project Stork was submitted to PBB on April 25, 1952. Battelle reported that a panel of consultants had been selected and meetings had been held to study typical sighting forms. By this time Battelle had also subscribed to a clipping service.