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analysis and rapid reporting of air combat intelligence within the area of ADC's responsibility. Due to the combat-ready nature of the 4602nd's mission, it is concerned mainly at the present time with training its personnel. For this reason ATIC hopes that the organization will be able to assist Project Blue Book in the rapid reporting and evaluation of identified aerial object reports.

Headquarters of the 4602nd is at Peterson Field, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and has three detachments at San Francisco, Kansas City, and Newburg, New York, which in turn have control of 14 flights spread through the Z.I. The flights are the field agencies which would do the actual collection of enemy equipment and personnel in the event that enemy aircraft fell in the United States. Project Blue Book has initiated preliminary plans with AISS to utilize personnel in these flights to investigate and analyze reports of unidentified aerial objects and it is hoped that final coordination on the plan and its implementation will come about in the near future. This would give Project Blue Book rapid first-hand information from trained intelligence officers.

VII. VIDEO CAMERA STATUS

Since the period of the last status report, tests have been made on the camera and it has been found that the diffraction grid has disintegrated on a majority of them. The grids are slowly losing their light separating ability due to what is apparently some type of chemical decomposition. The Project's scientific contractor is attempting to analyze the difficulty and will advise ATIC of its findings.

Coordination has been received from the Air Defense Command and the Airways and Air Communications Services (AACS) to place the grid cameras in control towers and selected radar sites. This cannot be realized, of course, until the cameras are made operational.

VIII. CONTRACT ASTRONOMER

Blue Book has a working agreement with its contract astronomer whereby he reviews all sightings for possible meteor or astronomical explanations on a weekly basis.

IX. REVIEW OF 1952 SIGHTINGS

For the years 1947 to 1952 Project Blue Book has received through military channels and analyzed over 2,500 reports. In addition, the project has received hundreds of letters from civilians. In general, the data contained in these letters are too nebulous to evaluate. Since 1 January 1952, Blue Book has analyzed over 1,000 reports received through military channels and these have been broken down into the following categories by percentages of the total reports:

Balloons		18.5%
Known	- 1.57	
Probable	- 4.99	
Possible	- 11.95	

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Aircraft		
Known	- 0.98	11.76%
Probable	- 3.04	
Possible	- 7.74	
Astronomical		
Known	- 2.55	14.20%
Probable	- 4.01	
Possible	- 2.64	
Other		
Hoaxes		4.20%
Radar (where explanation is not obvious)		1.67%
Insufficient Data to Evaluate		6.84%
Unknown		22.72%
		20.10%

As to the breakdown of types of sources making the report, the following figures represent percentages received from arbitrarily categorized groups:

Civilians (General - no special qualifications that would establish them as better than average observers)	47.08%
USAF Pilots and Aircrew Members (while flying)	11.02%
Airline Pilots (while flying)	2.00%
Civilian Pilots (non-airline while flying)	4.14%
Tower Operators (civilian and military)	0.86%
Balloon Observers	1.00%
Civilian Scientists, Engineers, etc.	3.29%
Military Personnel (general)	18.03%
Radar Returns	12.58%

Thus far the relatively limited statistical approach to unidentified objects has proceeded along only the most general trends. For example, the month of July 1952 was high with 440 sightings. Another general trend exists in the geographical location of sightings since they concentrate around Washington, D. C.; San Antonio, Texas; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and San Francisco, California. Another interesting development shown by the statistical survey is that a comparatively high percentage of sightings occur during the twilight hours. The simplest explanation is that many people are out-of-doors at that time and the rays of the setting sun penetrating the upper atmosphere will reflect brightly from any reflective surface. The IBM analysis by the contractor should afford any significant trends involving shapes, sizes, estimations of velocity and altitude, course headings or characteristic maneuvers of unidentified flying objects.