

Procedures Division in Washington, D.C., stated the relevant change as being: "A CENTER FOR UFO Studies has been established to conduct a continuing research effort to discover the nature and source of the phenomenon. You may expect calls from this scientific establishment regarding UFO reported sightings." Information on the use of UFO CENTRAL was sent to the FAA's eight major Regional Directors May 1, 1974. These regions, (Eastern, Great Lakes, Central, Southern, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, Western, and Northwest) cover more than 30 Air Route Traffic Control Centers.

Reports that have been deemed important by official agencies are called in to UFO CENTRAL, where operators are available to take their messages twenty four hours per day. The operator, after obtaining the name and address of the official calling, and the name and address of the witness, asks several questions about the sighting, including:

1. Date and time of the sighting.
2. How close was the object?
3. How long was the object in view?
4. How many people saw the object?
5. Were there any physical effects?

If the report is a particularly close encounter, if there have been physical effects, or if the object landed, the Center is notified immediately. Within minutes, the Center can be in touch with one of the Center's technically qualified investigators or with an investigator from a cooperating organization. If the report is less urgent, the witness is either contacted by an investigator soon after the event, or is sent a report form from the Center to be completed and returned. During the year 1974, 443 calls were received through UFO CENTRAL. Nineteen percent of these calls were followed up with an onsite investigation.

Of course, not all reports received through UFO CENTRAL remain "unidentified". The Center's working definition of a