

PROJECT BLUE BOOK

The United States Air Force has the responsibility under the Department of Defense for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The name of this program, which has been in operation since 1948, is Project Blue Book. It has been identified in the past as Project SIGN and Project GRUDGE.

Air Force interest in unidentified flying objects is related directly to the Air Force responsibility for the air defense of the United States. Procedures for conducting this program are established by Air Force Regulation 80-17.

The objectives of Project Blue Book are twofold: first, to determine whether UFOs pose a threat to the security of the US; and, second, to determine whether UFOs exhibit any unique scientific information or advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical research. In the course of accomplishing these objectives, Project Blue Book strives to identify and explain all UFO sightings reported to the Air Force.

HOW THE PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED

Anyone observing what is considered to be a UFO should report it as soon as possible to the nearest Air Force base. Persons submitting a UFO report to the Air Force are free to discuss any aspect of the report with anyone. The Air Force does not seek to limit discussion on such reports and does not withhold or censor any information pertaining to this unclassified program. The Air Force does not release the names and addresses of individuals who report UFO sightings without their permission in order to protect the rights and privacy of the individual and to preclude possible embarrassment and undue or unwanted publicity.

The program is conducted in three phases. The first phase includes receipt of UFO reports and initial investigation of the reports. The Air Force base nearest the location of a reported sighting is charged with the responsibility of investigating the sighting. Only those cases that cannot be positively identified at the base are forwarded to Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

If the initial investigation does not reveal a positive identification or explanation, a second phase or more intensive analysis is conducted by the Project Blue Book Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Each case is objectively and scientifically analyzed, and, if necessary, all of the scientific facilities available to the Air Force can be used to assist in arriving at an identification or explanation. All personnel associated with the investigation, analysis, and evaluation efforts of the project view each report with a scientific approach and an open mind.

The third phase of the program is dissemination of information concerning UFO sightings, evaluations, and statistics. The Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Information, is the agency responsible for releasing information to the public and to the news media. In those instances where the sighting has been positively identified at the base, the base commander may release the information to the news media and the public.

The Air Force defines a UFO as any aerial object or phenomenon which the observer is unable to identify.

Reports of unfamiliar objects in the sky are submitted to the Air Force from many sources. These sources include military and civilian pilots, weather observers, amateur astronomers, business and professional men and women, housewives, etc.