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AIR FORCE REGULATION
NO. 200-2

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington, 14 September 1959

Intelligence

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)

This regulation establishes the responsibility and procedure for reporting information and evidence on unidentified flying objects (UFO) and for releasing pertinent information to the general public.

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SECTION A—GENERAL

1. Background Information. The Air Force investigation and analysis of UFO's over the United States are directly related to its responsibility for the defense of the United States. Because prompt reporting and rapid identification are necessary to carry out the second of the four phases of air defense—detection, identification, interception, and destruction, the Air Force maintains the Unidentified Flying Object Program. Successful implementation of the program requires strict compliance with this regulation by all commanders.

2. Definitions. To insure proper and uniform usage in UFO screenings, investigations, and reportings, the objects are defined as follows:

a. *Familiar or Known Objects.* Aircraft, birds, balloons, kites, searchlights, and astronomical bodies (meteors, planets, stars).

b. *Unidentified Aircraft:*

- (1) Flying objects determined to be aircraft. These generally appear as a result of ADIZ violations and often prompt the UFO reports submitted by the general public. They are readily identifiable as, or known to be, aircraft, but their type, purpose, origin, and destination are unknown. Air Defense Command is responsible for reports of "unknown" aircraft and they should not be reported as UFO's under this regulation.
- (2) Aircraft flares, jet exhausts, condensation trails, blinking or steady lights observed at night, lights circling or near airports and airways, and other similar phenomena known to be emanating from, or to be indications of aircraft. These should not

*This regulation supersedes AFRs 200-2, 5 February 1958, and 200-2A, 16 April 1959.

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