

be reported under this regulation as they do not fall within the definition of a UFO.

(3) **Pilots aircraft and missiles.**

c. **Unidentified Flying Objects.** Any air-borne object which, by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features, does not conform to known aircraft or missiles, or which does not correspond to definitions in a and b above.

3. **Objectives.** Air Force interest in UFO's is three-fold: First, as a possible threat to the security of the United States and its forces; second, to determine the technical or scientific characteristics of any such UFO's; third, to explain or identify all UFO sightings as defined in paragraph 2c.

a. **Air Defense.** The great majority of flying objects reported have been found to be conventional, familiar things of no great threat to the security of the United States and its possessions. However, since the possibility cannot be ignored that UFO's reported may be hostile or new foreign air vehicles of unconventional design, it is imperative that sightings be reported rapidly, factually, and as completely as possible.

b. **Technical and Scientific.** The Air Force will continue to collect and analyze reports of UFO's until all can be scientifically or technically explained or until such time as it is determined that the full potential of a sighting has been exploited. In performance of this task the following factors should be kept in mind:

- (1) To measure scientific advances, the Air Force must have the latest experimental and developmental information on new or unique air vehicles or weapons.
- (2) The possibility exists that foreign air vehicles of revolutionary configuration or propulsion may be developed.
- (3) There is a need for further scientific knowledge in such fields as geophysics, astronomy, and the upper atmosphere which the study and analysis of UFO's and similar aerial phenomena may provide.
- (4) The reporting of all pertinent factors will have a direct bearing on scientific analyses and conclusions of UFO sightings.

c. **Reduction of Percentage of UFO "Unidentified."** Air Force activities must reduce the percentage of unidentified to the minimum. Analysis thus far has provided explanation for all but a few of the sightings reported. These

unexplained sightings are carried statistically as unidentified. If more immediate, detailed objective data on the unknowns had been available, probably these too could have been explained. However, due to the human factors involved, and the fact that analyses of UFO sightings are based primarily on the personal impressions and interpretations of the observers, rather than on accurate scientific data or facts obtained under controlled conditions, it is improbable that all of the unidentifieds can be eliminated.

4. **Responsibilities:**

a. **Reporting.** Base commanders will report all information and evidence of UFO sightings, including information and evidence received from other services, Government agencies, and civilian sources. Investigators will be authorized to make telephone calls from the investigation area direct to the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio (CLEARwater 3-7111; ext. 69216). The purpose of the calls is to report high priority findings. (See section C.)

b. **Investigation.** The commander of the Air Force base nearest the location of the reported UFO sighting will conduct all investigative action necessary to submit a complete initial report of a UFO sighting. Every effort will be made to resolve the sighting in the initial investigation. A UFO sighting reported to an Air Force base other than that closest to the scene of such sighting will be referred immediately to the commander of the nearest Air Force base for appropriate action. (See paragraph 6.)

c. **Analysis.** The ATIC will analyze and evaluate:

- (1) Information and evidence reported within the United States after the investigators of the responsible Air Force base nearest the sighting have exhausted their efforts to identify the UFO.
- (2) Information and evidence collected in overseas areas.

Note: Exceptions: The ATIC, independently or in participation with pertinent Air Force activities, may conduct any additional investigations necessary to further or conclude its analyses or findings.

d. **Public Relations and Information Services.** The Office of Information Services, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, will be responsible for releasing information on sightings, and, in coordination with ATIC, for answering correspondence from the public regarding UFO's. (See paragraphs 7 and 8.)

e. **Congressional Inquiries.** The Office of Legislative Liaison will:

- (1) In coordination with the ATIC and/or the Office of Information Services, when necessary, answer all congressional mail regarding UFO's addressed to the Secretary of the Air Force and Headquarters USAF.
- (2) Forward those inquiries which are scientific and technical to the ATIC for information on which to base a reply. The ATIC will return this information to the Office of Legislative Liaison for reply to the inquiry.
- (3) Process requests from congressional sources in accordance with AFR 11-7.

f. **Cooperation.** All Air Force activities will cooperate with Air Force UFO investigators to insure the economical and prompt success of investigations and analyses. When feasible, this cooperation will include furnishing air or ground transportation and other assistance.

5. **Guidance.** The thoroughness and quality of a report or investigation of UFO's are limited only by the skill and resourcefulness of the person who receives the initial information and/or prepares the report. The usefulness and value of any report or investigation depend on the accuracy and timeliness of its contents. Following are aids for screening, evaluating, and reporting sightings:

a. Careful study of the logic, consistency, and coherence of the observer's report. An interview with the observer by personnel preparing the report is especially valuable in determining the source's reliability and the validity of the information given. Particular attention should be given to the observer's age, occupation, education and whether his occupation involves observation reporting or technical knowledge. When reporting that a witness is completely familiar with certain aspects of a sighting, his or her specific qualifications should be indicated.

b. Theodolite measurements of changes of azimuth, and elevation and angular size.

c. Interpretation, identification, or air search if appropriate and within the scope of air defense regulations.

d. When feasible, contact with local aircraft control and warning (ACW) units, pilots and crews of aircraft aloft at the time and place of sighting. Also, contact with any other persons or organizations that may have factual data on the UFO or can offer corroborating evidence—visual, electronic, or other.

e. Consultation with military or civilian weather forecasters for data on tracks of weather balloons released in the area and any unusual meteorological activity which may have a bearing on the UFO.

f. Consultation with navigators and astronomers in the area to determine whether any astronomical body or phenomenon would account for the sighting.

g. Contact with military and civilian tower operators, air operations units, and airlines to determine whether the sighting could have been an aircraft. Local units of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) are often of assistance in this regard.

h. Contact with persons who may know of experimental aircraft of unusual configuration, rocket and guided missile firings, or aerial tests in the area.

i. Contact with photographic units or laboratories. Usually, these installations have several cameras available for specialized intelligence or investigative work. Photography is an invaluable tool and, where possible, should be used in investigating and analyzing UFO sightings. (See paragraph 19.)

j. Whenever possible, selecting as a UFO sighting investigator an individual with a scientific or technical background as well as experience as an investigator.

6. **Reporting UFO Information.** Both the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, and the Air Defense Command have a direct and immediate interest in the facts pertaining to UFO's reported within the United States.

a. All Air Force activities will conduct UFO investigations to the extent necessary for their required reporting action (see paragraphs 15, 16, and 17). However, investigations should not be carried beyond this point, unless such action is directed by Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, or the preparing officer believes the magnitude (intelligence significance or public relations) of the case warrants full scale investigation. Telephone contact should be made with the ATIC (CLEARwater 3-7111, ext. 69216) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to obtain verbal authority for continued investigation. This should be so noted in the preliminary report. (Foreign activities will proceed on their own judgment and so advise the ATIC in the preliminary message.)

b. After initial reports are submitted, the ATIC may require additional data, such as narrative statements, sketches, marked maps