

absurd, primarily because every large scale scientific study has developed a greater percentage of unknowns and there has always been a category in the Air Force sighting tabulations known as "insufficient information". This latter designation was, unfortunately, not used by Dr. E. U. Condon's staff so the situation is blurred in the Condon report which has no categorization at all of the 117 sightings investigated by the University of Colorado, though careful analysis of the Condon report reveals that 30% (not the widely quoted 10%) were unknowns. Fortunately, the much larger (2199 versus 117 sightings) and more extensive study done 16 years earlier by Battelle Memorial Institute, and published in Project Blue Book Special Report 14, gives a breakdown of sightings by both category and quality as shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2. Categorization of UFO Sighting Reports

Category	Number	Ratio, %
Astronomical	479	21.8
Aircraft	474	21.6
Balloon	339	15.4
Other (misc.)	233	10.6
UNKNOWN	434	19.7
Insufficient Information	240	10.9
Total	2199	100%
Data from reference 2		

Table 3. Quality Distribution of UNKNOWNs

Quality Group	No.	% of Total	Unknowns	% of Group	Insufficient Information	% of Group
Excellent	213	9.7	71	33.3	9	4.2
Good	757	34.5	188	24.8	27	3.6
Doubtful	794	36.0	103	13.0	111	14.0
Poor	435	19.8	72	16.6	93	21.4
Total	2199	100%	434	19.7	240	10.9
Data from reference 2						

These tables were not made public at the time the study was completed (1955) but a widely distributed and highly deceptive press release included the following statement by the then Secretary of the Air Force, Donald Quarles: "On the basis of this study we believe that no objects such as those popularly described as flying saucers have overflown the United States. I feel certain that even the unknown three percent could have been explained as conventional phenomena or illusions if more complete observational data had been available."

It was carefully not pointed out that the "3%" had nothing to do with the 2199 sightings (of which 19.7% were Unknowns) but only referred to a small group of 131 sightings looked at under pressure to reduce (by one means or another) the percentage of Unknowns in the six months preceding the issuance of the press release. The notion that even the Unknowns could have been identified if more data had been available was completely false. Neither of these facts stopped newspapers around the country from putting out articles lauding the "comprehensive" Air Force study and saying that saucers

don't exist. The Los Angeles Times even added an editorial a few days later stressing the low (3%) percentage and the notion that even those could have been identified, etc., ad nauseum. This idea becomes especially repugnant when one examines the quality distribution and finds that the better the quality of the sightings the MORE likely they could not be identified and the least likely that they were "insufficient information" sightings. This is exactly what one would expect if the UNKNOWNs were indeed different from the KNOWNs. My detailed comments concerning this data are spelled out in detail in the references.

Suffice to say here that a careful examination of this document leads one directly to the explanation that some of the objects which were reported were intelligently controlled extraterrestrial vehicles observed by competent observers for an extended period of time under good viewing conditions. As with many technical reports I have scanned over the years, the conclusions and press releases bear little relationship to the data. The fact that the government would not make copies available for examination by the press and scientific community even though the report was unclassified is in itself significant as is the fact that so few scientists have discussed it in detail. If only Condon would have soberly sifted and tabulated his data as well. It is not at all obvious from Condon's summary chapters that he even read the rest of the report written by his colleagues. If he read Project Blue Book Special Report 14, he gives no indication of it in his book.

MYTH: "Only kooks, quacks, and little old ladies in tennis shoes believe or are interested in UFOs."

During a recent TV interview the interviewer repeatedly insisted to me that only little old ladies in tennis shoes and various quacks believe in or are interested in UFOs. "No scientists believe in UFOs", he said. Joe Pyne told me, on camera, that he knew of no other scientist who believed in UFOs. It may be significant that both these programs were done in Los Angeles which has a worldwide reputation for being the kook capital of the world (as well as the aerospace center). The newsmen seem to think that with all the space age scientists around, if UFOs were real these guys would be telling the newsmen — none of the local space scientists seemed to be willing to speak up publicly, at least until I got to the LA area in 1969, so it was presumed that there was nothing to UFOs. It is taking me a while to get the mediamen to listen.

The point is that it is indeed clear that many, many other scientists believe that UFOs are worth studying and a substantial number believe that they are extraterrestrial. One just has to look in the right places. Ten of the twelve scientists testifying at the hearings held by the House Committee on Science and Astronautics (1968) clearly indicated that they thought this problem was one worthy of scientists' involvement — many seemed to lean (usually very carefully) to the extraterrestrial hypothesis. As the only one without a PhD degree I felt I had less to lose (besides my job, that is) and came out four square for extraterrestrial.

Several of these same scientists also indicated their interest and commitment to solving the UFO problem in the published proceedings of the seminar on UFOs held by the National Amateur Astronomers Convention in Denver in 1969. APRO lists a few dozen scientific consultants on their Board of Advisors (almost all with PhD degrees). The Industrial Research Poll (Table 1) showed that 54% of the research and development community believe UFOs exist in contrast to only 31% who think they don't. Some scientists couldn't make up their minds or at least admitted they didn't have enough data to make a judgment.