

geographic one degree squares and found that the largest number of reports came from the area around White Sands, New Mexico. Actually, as early as January 1953, Ruppelt was aware that UFO reports were concentrated around certain "critical areas" of the United States (Ruppelt, Air Defense Command Briefing, 24 January 1953; Project Blue Book microfilm record). SR 14 refers to twelve "strategic areas" that were picked "on the basis of concentration of object sightings." These twelve areas, arranged according to increasing population- are centered around San Antonio, Texas; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Waco, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; San Francisco, California; Dayton, Ohio; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles, California; Chicago, Illinois; and New York City.

Maccabee¹⁰ has shown that there is no relation between the numbers of reports and the populations in the one degree squares. On the other hand, he has shown that there is a correlation between the numbers of reports in a square and the relative amount of aircraft activity in a square, as measured by the existence or non-existence of military air bases in a square. According to the statistical data, the relatively larger numbers of sightings in areas of large aircraft activity were not due to relatively larger numbers of misidentifications of aircraft. Within the twelve strategic areas, which were all centered around areas of large military and civilian air activity and which accounted for about 54% of all the continental U.S. sightings that were analyzed in detail, an average of 22% were aircraft and 19% were unknown. These numbers are virtually identical to the statistics for the 2795 sightings reported within the continental U.S.: 21.0% aircraft and 20.8% unknown. Since the twelve strategic areas contain only 129 of the 898 one degree squares that cover the continental U.S., the chances of seeing and reporting an unknown object were about 898/129 or seven times greater within a strategic area.

In order to establish a statistical similarity between certain characteristics of the Knowns and the Unknowns, and