

The Project Blue Book Office has direct contact with all elements of the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic control centers. Commercial airline traffic, aerial refueling operations, special training flights, and other military flights are checked with the nearest air traffic control center, enabling an immediate evaluation of aircraft mistakenly reported as UFOs. However, since many local flights are conducted outside air traffic control zones, and, thus, are not controlled by the FAA, these flights are probable causes of some reports.

Balloons continue to be reported as UFOs. Several thousand balloons are released each day from military and civilian airports, weather stations, and research activities. There are several types of balloons - weather balloons, rawinsondes, radiosondes, and the large research balloons which have diameters up to 300 feet. At night, balloons carry running lights which cause an unusual appearance when observed. Reflection of the sun on balloons at dawn and sunset sometimes produces strange effects. This usually occurs when the balloon, because of its altitude, is exposed to the sun. Large balloons can move at speeds of over 100 miles per hour when moving in high altitude jet windstreams. These balloons sometimes appear to be flattened on top. At other times, they appear to be saucer shaped and to have lights mounted inside the bag due to the sun's rays reflecting through the material of the balloon. The Balloon Control Center at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, maintains a plot on all military upper air research balloons.

Another category of UFO evaluations labeled Other includes missiles, reflections, mirages, searchlights, birds, kites, spurious radar indications, hoaxes, fireworks, and flares.