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Source of Reports

The majority of reports of aerial phenomena have been from "eyewitnesses." About 8 percent came from civil airplane pilots, which approximately 25 percent were from military pilots. Although primary identification is made from highly qualified witnesses, there is no intention to disregard untrained observers.

Visual Sightings

The Air Force has received many reports of unusual images on radar displays. It is as clear as the eye can see, and the radar is not a "ghost" image. The reflection from a target of radar waves from the earth is a "ghost" image. The "ghost" image appears to move in all directions.

Both radar sightings have resulted in hundreds of footcandle intensity efforts.

The scientific theory holds that light can be slightly reflected from a target of radar waves from the earth is a "ghost" image. The "ghost" image appears to move in all directions.

Investigations into the theory of "ghost" images have been conducted. The Air Force has received many reports of unusual images on radar displays. It is as clear as the eye can see, and the radar is not a "ghost" image. The reflection from a target of radar waves from the earth is a "ghost" image. The "ghost" image appears to move in all directions.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION Washington 25, D. C.

ISSUED ABOUT DECEMBER, 1953

F A C T S H E E T

The following information concerns Air Force investigations of unusual aerial phenomena.

The Air Force first took official notice of reports of so-called "flying saucers" in the Fall of 1947 when reports from the public indicated that the matter might involve the air defense of the United States. The Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, was directed to set up a project to collect and evaluate all available facts concerning "flying saucer" sightings.

The Air Materiel Command, in turn, obtained the services of civilian and military astronomers, psychologists, electronics specialists, meteorologists, aeronautical engineers, and physicists to aid in study and research.

Two years later, on December 27, 1949, after 375 reported sightings had been investigated, the Air Force announced the findings of the "flying saucer" project.

The majority of the sightings could be accounted for as misinterpretations of conventional objects, such as balloons and aircraft. Others could be explained as meteorological phenomena or light reflections from crystallized particles in the upper atmosphere. Some were determined to be hoaxes. However, there still remained a few unexplained sightings.

The investigation of unknown aerial phenomena was then transferred to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as a continuing project.

During 1952, the bumper year for "saucer" sightings, 1,700 reports were received by the Air Force, of which 70 percent came from civilian sources. Approximately 20 percent of the sightings were unexplainable on the basis of information received.

MORE

Although an investigation was not made every time that unidentified images appeared on radar displays, the Air Force has received many reports of sightings of unidentified images on radar displays. It is as clear as the eye can see, and the radar is not a "ghost" image. The reflection from a target of radar waves from the earth is a "ghost" image. The "ghost" image appears to move in all directions.

Methods of Investigation

The first step in investigating sightings of unusual aerial phenomena is to collect data. This is done by using a variety of methods, such as balloons, aircraft, satellites, meters, and other ground-based equipment. Specialists in various scientific fields are used to analyze the data.

Using Radar for Investigation

An aerial sighting, however, is not a sighting of a "ghost" image. The reflection from a target of radar waves from the earth is a "ghost" image. The "ghost" image appears to move in all directions.

The recent development of special photographic equipment may make it possible to obtain a photograph of a "ghost" image. This equipment is used to take a photograph of a "ghost" image. The "ghost" image appears to move in all directions.

Another project involves the use of a continuously operating radar telescope equipped with a scope. This telescope has a wide spectrum band and is used to detect "ghost" images. The "ghost" image appears to move in all directions.

Visual "Saucer" Air Mail

The Air Force has stated in the past, and reaffirms at the present time, that there is no evidence of a "ghost" image. The reflection from a target of radar waves from the earth is a "ghost" image. The "ghost" image appears to move in all directions.

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