Fact Sheet

United States Air Force

Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20330-1000

87-34

Unidentified Flying Objects

History

The Air Force began investigating UFOs in 1948 under a program called Project Sign. Later the program's name was changed to Project Grudge, and in 1953 it became known as Project Blue Book. On Dec. 17, 1969, the secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book.

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on a number of factors, including reports and studies by the University of Colorado and the National Academy of Sciences, as well as past UFO studies and the Air Force's two decades of experience investigating UFO reports.

As a result of these investigations, studies, and rience, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were:

No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security.

- There has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge.
- There has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

Between 1948 and 1969 the Air Force investigated 12,618 reported UFO sightings. Of these, 11,917 were found to have been caused by material objects such as balloons, satellites, and aircraft; immaterial objects such as lightning, reflections, and other natural phenomena; astronomical objects such as stars, planets, the sun, and the moon; weather conditions; and hoaxes. Only 701 reported sightings remain unexplained.

More Information Available

All documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Reference Branch, National Archives and Records Administration, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20408, and is available for public review. A list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena can be found in Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations, available in the reference section of most libraries.

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