

UFO FACT SHEET

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#174

The Air Force investigation of UFOs began in 1948 and was known as Project Sign. Later the name was changed to Project Grudge, and in 1953 it became Project Blue Book. Between 1948 and 1969, the Air Force investigated 12,618 reported sightings.

The following is a statistical listing of reported UFO sightings during the Air Force investigation:

UFO SIGHTINGS 1947 - 1969

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL SIGHTINGS</u>	<u>UNIDENTIFIED</u>
1947	122	12
1948	156	7
1949	186	22
1950	210	27
1951	169	22
1952	1,501	303
1953	509	42
1954	487	46
1955	545	24
1956	670	14
1957	1,006	14
1958	627	10
1959	390	12
1960	557	14
1961	591	13
1962	474	15
1963	399	14
1964	562	19
1965	887	16
1966	1,112	32
1967	937	19
1968	375	3
1969	146	1
TOTAL	12,618	701

Of these total sightings, 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. As indicated, only 701 reported sightings remain unexplained.

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The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects;" a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; past UFO studies; and Air Force experience investigating UFO reports for two decades.

As a result of these investigations and studies, and experience gained from investigating UFO reports since 1948, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: (1) no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) 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; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

With the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force regulation establishing and controlling the program for investigating and analyzing UFOs was rescinded. All documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20408, and is available for public review and analysis.

In 1977, President Carter asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to look into the possibility of resuming UFO investigations. After studying all the facts available, they decided that nothing would be gained by further investigation. The Air Force agrees with that decision. If, however, firm evidence is found justifying further investigation, an appropriate agency will be directed to undertake the effort.

There are a number of universities and professional scientific organizations such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which have considered UFO phenomena during periodic meetings and seminars. In addition, a list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena may be found in Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations (Edition 8, Vol I, pp. 432-3). Such timely review of the situation by private groups insures that sound evidence will not be overlooked by the scientific community.

For further reference material, two documents are available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22151:

Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. Study conducted by the University of Colorado under contract F44620-76-C-0035. Three volumes. 1,465 p. 68 plates. Photoduplicated hard copies of the official report may be ordered for \$6 per volume, \$18 the set of three, as AD 680:975, AD 680:976, and AD 680:977.

Review of University of Colorado Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. Review of report by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences. National Academy of Sciences, 1969, 6p. Photoduplicated hard copies may be ordered for \$3 as AD 688:541.