

~~RESTRICTED~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION\*AFR 200-2  
1-5AIR FORCE REGULATION  
NO. 200-2DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 20 AUGUST 1953**INTELLIGENCE**

(Unclassified) Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting (Short Title: UFOB)

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**1. Purpose and Scope.** This Regulation establishes procedures for reporting information and evidence pertaining to unidentified flying objects and sets forth the responsibility of Air Force activities in this regard. It applies to all Air Force activities except those under the operational control of FEAAP and USAFE. FEAAP and USAFE will issue pertinent instructions.

**2. Definitions:**

a. *Unidentified flying objects (UFOBS)*—relates to any airborne object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features does not conform to any presently known aircraft or missile type, or which cannot be positively identified as a familiar object.

b. *Familiar objects*—include balloons, astronomical bodies, birds, and so forth.

**3. Objectives.** Air Force interest in unidentified flying objects is twofold: First is a possible threat to the security of the United States and its forces and, secondly, to determine technical aspects involved.

a. *Air Defense.* To date, the flying objects reported have imposed no threat to the security of the United States and its Possessions. However, the possibility that hostile aircraft or missiles may first be regarded as flying objects by the initial observer is real and requires that sightings be reported rapidly and as completely as information permits.

b. *Technical.* Analysis has thus far failed to provide a satisfactory explanation for a number of sightings reported. The Air Force will continue to collect and analyze reports until all sightings can be satisfactorily explained. Inclusion of all pertinent factors has a direct bearing on the success of the technical analysis.

**4. Responsibility:**

a. *Analysis.* The Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC), Wright-Patterson Air Force

Base, Ohio, has been designated the Air Force activity responsible for conducting analysis of information and evidence.

b. *Collecting.* Commanders of all Air Force activities are responsible for collecting and reporting all information and evidence that may come to their attention, including that received from civilian sources.

c. *Cooperation.* Air Force activities, when requested by ATIC, will conduct such investigations as are within their capability and furnish air and ground transportation to ATIC representatives when feasible. Direct communication between ATIC and some of interior activities is authorized when essential to an investigation.

**5. Guidance.** The thoroughness and quality of a report or investigation into incidents of unidentified flying objects are limited only by the resourcefulness and imagination of the individual responsible for preparing the report. Guidance set forth below is based on experience and has been found helpful in evaluating incidents:

a. *Theodolite measurements* of changes of azimuth and elevation and angular size.

b. *Interception, identification, or air search action.* These actions may be taken if appropriate and within the scope of existing air defense regulations.

c. *Contact with local aircraft control and warning (AC&W) units, ground observation corps (GOC) posts and filter centers, pilots and crews of aircraft aloft at the time and place of sighting when-ver feasible, and any other persons or organizations which may have factual data bearing on the UFOB or may be able to offer corroborating evidence, electronic or otherwise.*

d. *Consultation with military or civilian weather forecasters in order to obtain data on (1) tracks of weather balloons released in the area, since these are often responsible for sight-*

\*This Regulation supersedes APL 200-5, 29 April 1952.

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ings, and (2) any unusual meteorological activity which may have a bearing on the UFOB.

c. Consultation with astronomers in the area to determine whether any astronomical body or phenomenon could account for or have a bearing on the observation.

f. Contact with military and civilian tower operators, air operations offices, and so forth, to determine whether or not the sighting could be the result of misidentification of known aircraft.

g. Contact with persons who might have knowledge of experimental aircraft of unusual configuration, rocket and guided missile firings, and so forth, in the area.

*Amended by 200-2A*  
6. Reports. Information relating to UFOBS will be reported without delay. Appropriate methods and priority will be selected in accordance with the apparent intelligence value of the report. Normally an electrical report will suffice. However, when additional data is required, ATIC will specifically outline what information is desired by written reports, that is, narrative statements, sketches, marked maps, charts, overlays, and so forth. For written reports AF Form 112b, "Air Intelligence Evaluation Record," will be used.

a. *Short Title.* UFOB will appear at the beginning of the text of electrical messages and will be used as subject of written reports.

*Amended by 200-2A*  
b. *Report Format.* All reports forwarded by electrical means will include, insofar as is possible, the following numbered items:

- (1) Description of the object(s):
  - (a) Shape
  - (b) Size compared to a known object (use one of the following terms: head of a pin, pea, dime, nickel, quarter, half dollar, silver dollar, baseball, grapefruit, or basketball) held in the hand at about arms length.
  - (c) Color
  - (d) Number
  - (e) Formation, if more than one.
  - (f) Any discernible features or details.
  - (g) Tail, trail, or exhaust, including size of same compared to size of object(s).
  - (h) Sound. If heard, describe sound.
  - (i) Other pertinent or unusual features.
- (2) Description of course of object(s):
  - (a) What first called the attention of observer(s) to the object(s)?
  - (b) Angle of elevation and azimuth of the object(s) when first observed.
  - (c) Angle of elevation and azimuth of object(s) upon disappearance.

- (d) Description of flight path and maneuvers of object(s).
- (e) Manner of disappearance of object(s).
- (f) Length of time in sight.

(3) Manner of observation:

- (a) Use one or any combination of the following items: Ground-visual, air-visual, ground-electronic, air-electronic. (If electronic, specify type or radar.)
- (b) Statement as to optical aids (telescopes, binoculars, and so forth) used and description thereof.
- (c) If the sighting is made while airborne, give type aircraft, identification number, altitude, heading, speed, and home station.

(4) Time and date of sighting:

- (a) Zulu time-date group of sighting.
- (b) Light conditions (use one of the following terms): Night, day, dawn, dusk.

(5) Locations of observer(s). Exact latitude and longitude of each observer, or Georef position, or position with reference to a known landmark.

(6) Identifying information of all observer(s):

- (a) Civilian—Name, age, mailing address, occupation, and estimate of reliability.
- (b) Military—Name, grade, organization, duty, and estimate of reliability.

(7) Weather and winds aloft conditions at time and place of sighting:

- (a) Observer(s) account of weather conditions.
- (b) Report from nearest AWS or U. S. Weather Bureau Office of wind direction and velocity in degrees and knots at surface, 6,000', 10,000', 16,000', 20,000', 30,000', 50,000', and 80,000', if available.
- (c) Ceiling
- (d) Visibility
- (e) Amount of cloud cover.
- (f) Thunderstorms in area and quadrant in which located.

(8) Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.

(9) Existence of any physical evidence of the sighting, such as materials and photographs.

- (10) Interception or identification action taken (such action may be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives).
- (11) Location of any air traffic in the area at time of sighting.
- (12) Position title and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of the sightings.

c. Addresses:

- (1) Electrical reports will be dispatched in multiple address to:
  - (a) Commander, Air Defense Command, Ent Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
  - (b) Commander, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
  - (c) Director of Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D. C.
  - (d) Appropriate major air command headquarters.
- (2) Written reports will be submitted to the Director of Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D. C., for osalid-type reproduction and dissemination, with an information copy forwarded directly to ATIC.

*Added by SAC - SFF*  
 d. Negative Data. The word "negative" in reply to any numbered item of the report format will indicate that all logical investigative leads were developed without success. The phrase "not applicable" (N/A) will indicate that the question does not apply to the sighting being investigated.

e. Security. Reports should be classified "Restricted" unless inclusion of data required by b above necessitates a higher classification. An exception would be the routine transmittal, without comment, of reports from open source publications (that is, press or radio).

7. Evidence. All evidence will be forwarded to ATIC.

a. Photographs. All original film, including, whenever possible, both prints and negatives, will be titled or otherwise properly identified as to place, time, and date of the incident to which they pertain. Prints of radar scope photography will be titled in accordance with AFR 95-7 and forwarded in compliance with AFR 95-6. In addition, one copy of each print will be forwarded directly to ATIC.

b. Material. If any actual or suspected items of materiel pertinent to any unidentified flying object incident come into the possession of any Air Force echelon, two actions will be taken without delay:

- (1) Safeguard the materiel carefully to prevent any defacing or alteration which would reduce its value for technical analysis.
- (2) Notify ATIC immediately and request shipping instructions or other special instructions as may be appropriate.

8. Release of Information. Inquiries concerning specific local sightings will be referred to the activity public information officer. The reporting officer may furnish the latter all raw information except names of principals, Air Force comments, details of intercept procedures involved, and classified radar data. Examples of the type of information which may be released are:

- a. The location, time, and date.
- b. Description of the object(s).
- c. Maneuvers reported.
- d. Type of physical evidence (if requestor knows that such evidence exists).
- e. Intercept or other identification attempt made.
- f. The fact that the object has been conclusively identified by ATIC as a conventional aerial device or other familiar object and no further evaluation is contemplated.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL:

K. E. THIEBAUD  
 Colonel, USAF  
 Air Adjutant General

N. F. TWINING  
 Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

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CHANGE

AFR 200-2A

AIR FORCE REGULATION  
NO. 200-2A

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, 3 NOVEMBER 1953

INTELLIGENCE

(Unclassified) Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting (Short Title: UFOB)

AFR 200-2, 26 August 1953, is changed as follows:

6. **Reports.** Information relating to UFOBS will be reported without delay. The method (electrical or written) and priority of dispatch will be selected in accordance with the apparent intelligence value (air defense or technical) of the report. On occasions additional data is required by ATIC, such as; narrative statements, sketches, marked maps, charts, overlays, and so forth. Under such circumstances, ATIC will contact commanders concerned. All written reports will be prepared on AF Form 112, "Air Intelligence Information Report," and 112a, "Supplement to AF Form 112."

b. **Report Format.** For all initial reports the following 12-section format will be used, and will include comments on all factors insofar as possible. The word "negative" in reply to any numbered item of the report format will indicate that all logical investigative leads were developed without success. The phrase "not applicable" (N/A) will indicate that the question does not apply to the sighting being investigated.

d. *Delete.*

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL

K. E. THIEBAUD  
Colonel, USAF,  
Air Adjutant General

N. F. TWining  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

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