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AFR 200-2

AIR FORCE REGULATION  
NO. 200-2DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
(Washington, 20 July 1962)

## Intelligence Activities

## UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)

*This regulation establishes the UFO Program to investigate and analyze UFO's over the United States. Such investigation and analysis are directly related to Air Force responsibility for the defense of the United States. The UFO Program provides for the prompt reporting and rapid identification needed for successful "identification," which is the second of the four phases of air defense—detection, identification, interception, and destruction. All commanders will comply strictly with this regulation.*

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## SECTION A—GENERAL

**1. Explanation of Terms.** To insure proper and uniform usage in UFO screenings, investigations, and reportings, an explanation of the objects follows:

## a. Familiar or known objects:

(1) Aircraft, balloons, kites, birds, searchlights, astronomical bodies (meteors, planets, stars, comets), pilotless aircraft, missiles, satellites in orbit, and others identified by the observer as normal appearing objects.

(2) Flying objects determined to be aircraft. These generally appear as a result of ADIZ violations and often prompt the UFO reports submitted by the general public. They are readily identifiable as, or known to be, aircraft, but their type, purpose, origin, and destination are unknown. Air Defense Command is responsible

for reports of "unknown" aircraft, which should not be reported as UFO's under this regulation.

(3) Aircraft flares, jet exhausts, condensation trails, blinking or steady lights observed at night, lights circling or near airports and airways, and other phenomena or objects known to be emanating from, or to be indications of, aircraft. These should not be reported under this regulation, as they do not fall within the definition of a UFO.

b. *Unidentified Flying Objects.* Any aerial phenomena, airborne object or objects which are unknown or appear out of the ordinary to the observer because of performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features.

**2. Objectives.** Air Force interest in UFO's is three-fold. First, as a possible threat to the security of the United States and its forces; sec-

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and, to determine the technical or scientific characteristics of any such UFO's; third, to explain or identify all UFO sightings as described in paragraph 1b.

a. *Air Defense.* The great majority of flying objects reported have been conventional, familiar things of no great threat to the security of the United States and its possessions. However, since the possibility exists that UFO's reported may be hostile or new foreign air vehicles of unconventional design, it is imperative to report sightings rapidly, factually, and as completely as possible.

b. *Technical and Scientific.* The Air Force will continue to collect and analyze reports of UFO's until all are scientifically or technically explained or until the full potential of the sightings has been exploited. In performing this task the following factors are of great importance:

(1) To measure scientific advances, the Air Force must have the latest experimental and developmental information on new or unique air vehicles or weapons.

(2) The possibility exists that foreign countries may develop air vehicles of revolutionary configuration of propulsion.

(3) There is need for further scientific knowledge in such fields as geophysics, astronomy, and physics of the upper atmosphere which the study and analysis of UFO's and similar aerial phenomena may provide.

(4) The reporting of all pertinent factors will have a direct bearing on scientific analyses and conclusions of UFO sightings.

c. *Reduction of Percentage of UFO "Unidentifieds."* Air Force activities must reduce the percentage of unidentifieds to the minimum. Analysis thus far has explained all but a few of the sightings reported. These unexplained sightings are carried statistically as unidentifieds. If more immediate, detailed, objective data on the unknowns had been available, probably these, too, could have been explained. However, because of the human factors involved, and the fact that analyses of UFO sightings depend primarily on the personal impressions and interpretations of the observers rather than on accurate scientific data or facts obtained under controlled conditions, the elimination of all unidentifieds is improbable.

### 3. Responsibilities:

a. *Reporting.* Base commanders will report all information and evidence of UFO sightings, including information and evidence received from other services, Government agencies, and civil-

ian sources. Investigators are authorized to make telephone calls from the investigation area direct to the Foreign Technology Division (FTD), of the Air Force Systems Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio (Clearwater 3-711, ext. 69216/66378). The purpose of the calls is to report high priority findings. (See section C.)

b. *Investigation.* The commander of the Air Force base nearest the location of the reported UFO sighting will conduct all investigative action necessary to submit a complete initial report of a UFO sighting. The initial investigation will include every effort to resolve the sighting. An Air Force base other than that closest to the scene of a reported UFO sighting will refer the sighting immediately to the commander of the nearest Air Force base for appropriate action. (See paragraph 5.)

c. *Analysis.* The Air Force Systems Command Foreign Technology Division will analyze and evaluate:

(1) Information and evidence reported within the United States after the investigators of the responsible Air Force base nearest the sighting have exhausted their efforts to identify the UFO.

(2) Information and evidence collected in overseas areas.

EXCEPTION: The AFSC (FTD), independently or in participation with pertinent Air Force activities, may conduct any additional investigations necessary to further or conclude its analyses or findings.

d. *Findings.* AFSC (FTD) will prepare a final report on each sighting after collection and analysis of data, and will forward a copy of the report to HQ USAF (AFCIN).

e. *Public Relations and Information Services.* The Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, will be responsible for releasing information on sightings, and, in coordination with AFSC (FTD), answering correspondence from the public regarding UFO's. (See paragraphs 7 and 8.)

f. *Congressional Inquiries.* The Office of Legislative Liaison will:

(1) In coordination with the AFSC (FTD) and/or the Office of Information, when necessary, answer all congressional mail regarding UFO's addressed to the Secretary of the Air Force and Headquarters USAF.

(2) Forward those inquiries which are scientific and technical to the FTD for information on which to base a reply. The FTD will re-

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turn this information to the Office of Legislative Liaison for reply to the inquiry.

(3) Process requests from congressional sources in accordance with AFR 11-7.

**k. Cooperation.** All Air Force activities will cooperate with Air Force UFO investigators to insure the economical and prompt success of investigations and analyses. When feasible, this cooperation will include furnishing air or ground transportation and other assistance.

**4. Guidance.** The thoroughness and quality of a report or investigation of UFO's are limited only by the skill and resourcefulness of the person who receives the initial information and/or prepares the report. The usefulness and value of any report or investigation depend on the accuracy and timeliness of its contents. Following are aids for screening, evaluating, and reporting sightings:

a. Careful study of the logic, consistency and coherence of the observer's report. An interview with the observer by personnel preparing the report is especially valuable in determining the source's reliability and the validity of the information given. Factors deserving particular attention are the observer's age, occupation, and education, and whether his occupation involves observation reporting or technical knowledge. A report stating that a witness is completely familiar with certain aspects of a sighting should indicate his or her specific qualifications.

b. Theodolite measurements of changes of azimuth, and elevation and angular size.

c. Interception, identification, or air search, if appropriate and within the scope of air defense regulations.

d. When feasible, contact with local aircraft control and warning (ACW) units, and with pilots and crews of aircraft aloft at the time and place of sighting. Also, contact with any other persons or organizations that may have factual data on the UFO or can offer corroborating evidence—visual, electronic, or other.

e. Consultation with military or civilian weather forecasters for data on tracks of weather balloons released in the area and any unusual meteorological activity which may have a bearing on the UFO.

f. Consultation with navigators and astronomers in the area to determine whether any astronomical body or phenomenon would account for the sighting.

g. Contact with military and civilian tower operators, air operations units, and airlines to

determine whether the sighting could have been an aircraft. Local units of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) are often of assistance in this regard.

h. Contact with persons who may know of experimental aircraft of unusual configuration, rocket and guided missile firings, or aerial tests in the area.

i. Contact with photographic units or laboratories. Usually, these installations have several cameras available for specialized intelligence or investigative work. Photography is an invaluable tool for use, where possible, in investigating and analyzing UFO sightings. (See paragraph 18).

j. Whenever possible, selecting as a UFO sighting investigator an individual with a scientific or technical background as well as experience as an investigator.

k. Submission of reports on all sightings even though identification may be assumed by the preparing officer under paragraph 16 of this regulation.

**5. Reporting UFO Information.** Both the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, and the Air Defense Command have a direct and immediate interest in the facts pertaining to UFO's reported within the United States. All Air Force activities will conduct UFO investigations to the extent necessary for their required reporting action (see paragraphs 14, 15, and 16). No activity should carry an investigation beyond this point, unless the preparing officer believes the magnitude (intelligence significance or public relations aspects) of the case warrant full scale investigation. The officer may contact the FTD of AFSC (Clearwriter 3-7111, ext 69216/66378) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to obtain verbal authority for continued investigation.

#### SECTION B—PUBLIC RELATIONS, INFORMATION, CONTACTS, AND RELEASES

**6. Maintaining Public Relations.** The Office of Information is responsible for:

a. In coordination with the AFSC (FTD) when necessary, maintaining contact with the public and the press on all aspects of the UFO program and its related activities.

b. Releasing information on UFO sightings and results of investigations.

c. Periodically releasing information on the subject to the general public.

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d. Processing, answering, and taking action on correspondence received from the general public, pertaining to the public relations, interest, and informational aspects of the subject. (See paragraph 8.) This office will forward correspondence and queries which are purely technical and scientific to AFSC (FTD) for information on which to base a reply.

**7. Releasing Information.** The Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, will release to the public or unofficial persons or organizations all information or releases concerning UFO's, regardless of origin or nature. This includes replies to correspondence (except congressional inquiries) submitted direct to the AFSC (FTD) and other Air Force activities by private individuals requesting comments or results of analyses and investigations of sightings.

**8. Exceptions.** In response to local inquiries regarding any UFO reported in the vicinity of an Air Force base, the commander of the base concerned may release information to the press or the general public only after positive identification of the sighting as a familiar or known object. The commander must exercise care not to reveal any classified aspects of the sighting or names of persons making reports. (See paragraph 17.) If the sighting is unexplainable or difficult to identify, because of insufficient information or inconsistencies, the only statement to be released is the fact that the sighting is under investigation and information regarding it will be available at a later date. After completion of investigative action, the commander may release the fact that the AFSC (FTD) will review and analyze the results of the investigation. He will then refer any further inquiries to the local Office of Information.

**9. Release by Non-Air Force Sources.** If newsmen, writers, publishers, or private individuals desire to release unofficial information concerning a UFO sighting, Air Force activities will make every effort to assure that the statements, theories, opinions, and allegations of these individuals or groups are not associated with or represented as official information.

**10. Contacts.** Private individuals or organizations desiring Air Force interviews, briefings, lectures, or private discussions on UFO's will direct their requests to the Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. Air Force personnel, other than those of the Office of Information, will not contact private individuals on UFO cases, nor will they discuss their operations and functions with unauthorized persons unless so directed, and then only on a "need-to-know" basis.

## SECTION C—PREPARING AND SUBMITTING REPORTS

### 11. General Information:

a. Paragraphs 2 and 5 will serve as aids and guidance to screenings, investigations, and reportings. Paragraph 14 contains an outline of the reporting format. Activities initially receiving reports of aerial objects and phenomena will screen the information to determine whether the report concerns a valid UFO within the definition of paragraph 1b. Reports not within that definition do not require further action under the provisions of this regulation.

b. To assist activities and personnel responsible for handling, screening, and processing initial, incoming UFO information, a summary follows of the general sources and types of reports:

(1) Generally, initial UFO reports originate from two sources:

(a) Civilian (airline, private, and professional pilots, tower operators, technical personnel, casual observers, and the public in general), by correspondence, telephone or personal interview;

(b) Military units and personnel (pilots, observers, radar operators, aircraft control and warning units, etc.), by telephone, electrical message, or personal interview;

(2) Generally, UFO reports received from civilian sources are of two types:

(a) Those referring strictly to an observed UFO, containing either detailed or meager information;

(b) Those referring only in part to an observed UFO, but primarily requesting information on some aspect of the UFO program.

c. Reports considered to fall primarily in a public relations or information service category (see paragraphs 7, 8, 9, and 10 above) are of primary interest to the Office of Information. UFO data sufficient for investigation and/or analysis may be extracted before referral to that office.

### 12. Methods for Transmitting Reports:

a. Together with any necessary screenings and investigations preparatory to reporting, report all information on UFO's promptly. Electrical transmission with a "Priority" precedence is authorized for reports under 3 days from date of sighting. Electrically transmitted reports over 3 days old should carry a "Routine" precedence.

b. Submit written reports of sightings over 3 days old on AF Form 112, "Intelligence Report."

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and AF Form 112A. "Supplement to AF Form 112" (see paragraphs 14 and 15); however, keep the use of these forms to a minimum in reporting initial sightings. The delays often involved in processing and transmitting AF Form 112 through channels may make followup investigations difficult, producing only limited usable information. This factor is a necessary consideration. Reporting by electrical means will eliminate delays. If requested by the AFSC (FTD), AF Form 112 will provide a followup and/or complete report of all sightings initially reported electrically.

### 13. Where To Submit Reports:

a. *Electrical Reports.* Submit multiple addressed electrical reports to:

- (1) Air Defense Command, Ent AFB, Colorado
- (2) Nearest Air Division (Defense) (For United States only)
- (3) Air Force Systems Command, Foreign Technology Division, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- (4) Headquarters, USAF (AF/MN), Wash 25 DC
- (5) Secretary of the Air Force (SAFOI), Wash 25 DC

b. *Written Reports.* (Basic letters and AF Form 112):

(1) *Basic Letters.* Submit all letter reports direct to the AFSC (FTD). The AFSC (FTD) will distribute the reports to interested Intelligence activities in the United States and to the Office of Information, if necessary.

(2) *AF Form 112.* Submit original reports as prescribed in "Intelligence Collection Instruction (ICI)," June 1954, direct to HQ USAF (AF/CIN), Wash 25 DC, and a copy to AFSC (FTD).

c. *Reports from Civilians.* Where possible, advise civilian sources contemplating reporting UFO's to submit the report, for processing and transmission, to the nearest Air Force base.

14. **Basic Reporting Data and Format.** Show the abbreviation "UFO" at the beginning of the text of all electrical reports and in the subject of written reports. Include the required data in all reports, in the order shown below:

#### a. Description of the Object(s):

- (1) Shape.
- (2) 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 arm's length.

- (3) Color.
- (4) Number.
- (5) Formation, if more than one.
- (6) Any discernible features or details.
- (7) Tail, trail, or exhaust, including size of same compared to size of object(s).
- (8) Sound; if heard, describe sound.
- (9) Other pertinent or unusual features.

#### b. Description of Course of Object(s):

- (1) What first called the attention of observer(s) to the object(s)?
- (2) Angle or elevation and azimuth of object(s) when first observed.
- (3) Angle or elevation and azimuth of object(s) upon disappearance.
- (4) Description of flight path and maneuvers of object(s).
- (5) How did the object(s) disappear? (Instantaneously to the North, etc.)
- (6) How long (were) the object(s) visible? (Be specific, 5 minutes, 1 hour, etc.)

#### c. Manner of Observation:

- (1) Use one or any combination of the following items: Ground-visual, air-visual, ground-electronic, air-electronic. (If electronic, specify type of radar.)
- (2) Statement as to optical aids (telescopes, binoculars, etc.) used and description thereof.
- (3) If the sighting occurred while air-borne, give type of aircraft, identification number, altitude, heading, speed, and home station.

#### d. Time and Date of Sighting:

- (1) Zulu time-date group of sighting.
- (2) Light conditions. (Use one of the following terms: Night, day, dawn, dusk.)

e. *Location of Observer(s).* Give exact latitude and longitude of each observer, and/or geographical position. In electrical reports, give a position with reference to a known landmark also, such as "2mi N of Deeville"; "3mi SW of Blue Lake." Typographical errors or "garbling" often occur in electrically transmitted messages, making location plots difficult or impossible.

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Example: 89 45N, 192 71W for 39 45N, 102 21W

1. *Identifying Information on Observer(s):*

(1) Civilian—Name, age, mailing address, occupation, and estimate of reliability:

(2) Military—Name, grade, organization, duty, and estimate of reliability.

2. *Weather and Winds—Aloft Conditions at Time and Place of Sightings:*

(1) Observer(s) account of weather conditions.

(2) 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.

(3) Ceiling.

(4) Visibility.

(5) Amount of cloud cover.

(6) Thunderstorms in area and quadrant in which located.

(7) Vertical temperature gradient.

h. *Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.*

i. *Interception or identification action taken (such action is authorized whenever feasible, and in compliance with existing air defense directives).*

j. *Location, approximate altitude, and general direction of flight of any air traffic or balloon releases in the area which might possibly account for the sighting.*

k. *Position title and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of the sighting(s). (See paragraph 16.)*

l. *Existence of physical evidence, such as materials and photographs.*

**15. Negative or Inapplicable Data.** Even though the source does not provide, or an interviewer has not asked for specific information, do not use the words "negative" or "unidentified" before exhausting all logical leads to obtain the information outlined under paragraph 14. For example, information on weather conditions in the area, as requested in paragraph 14g, is obtainable from the local military or civilian weather facility. Use the phrase "not applicable (N/A)" only when the question does not apply to the particular sighting under investigation.

**16. Comments of Preparing Officer.** The preparing officer will make a preliminary analysis and a comment on the possible cause or identity of the object he is reporting, together with a statement supporting his comment and analysis. He will make every effort to obtain pertinent items of information and to test all possible leads, clues, and hypotheses concerning the identity or explanation of the sighting. (See paragraph 5.) The preparing officer who receives the report initially is in a much better position to conduct an "on-the-spot" survey or followup than subsequent investigative personnel and analysts, who may be far removed from the area, and who may arrive too late to obtain vital data or the missing information necessary for firm conclusions.

**17. Classification.** Do not classify reports unless data requested in paragraph 14 require classification. Classify reports primarily to protect:

a. Names of sources reporting UFO's and other principals involved, if so requested by these persons or considered necessary;

b. Intelligence, investigative, intercept, or analytical methods or procedures;

c. Location of radar and other classified sites, units, and equipment;

d. Information on certain types, characteristics, and capabilities of classified aircraft, missiles, or devices that may be involved in the sighting.

**18. Reporting Physical Evidence.** Report promptly the existence of physical evidence (photographic or material). Mark all physical evidence forwarded to the AFSC (FTD) for the attention of ~~TD-2~~ Aerial Phenomena Branch.

a. *Photographic:*

(1) *Still Photographs.* Forward the negative and two prints. Title the prints and the negatives, or indicate the place, time, and date of the incident.

(2) *Motion Pictures.* Obtain the original film. Examine the film strip for apparent cuts, alterations, obliterations, or defects. In the report comment on any irregularities, particularly those received from other than official sources.

(3) *Supplemental Photographic Information.* Negatives and prints often are insufficient to provide certain valid data or to permit firm conclusions. (See AFM 200-9—a classified document receiving limited distribution.) Information that will aid in plotting or in estimating distances, apparent size and nature of object, probable velocity, and movements includes:

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- (a) Type and make of camera.
- (b) Type, focal length, and make of lens.
- (c) Brand and type of film.
- (d) Shutter speed used.
- (e) Lens opening used; that is, "f" stop.
- (f) Filters used.
- (g) Was tripod or solid stand used.
- (h) Was "panning" used.
- (i) Exact direction camera was pointing with relation to true north, and its angle with respect to the ground.

(4) *Other Camera Data.* If supplemental information is unobtainable, the minimum camera data required are the type of camera, and the smallest and largest "f" stop and shutter-speed readings of the camera.

(5) *Radar.* Forward two copies of each still-camera photographic print. Title radarscope photographic prints in accordance with AFR

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL:

R. J. PUGH  
Colonel, USAF  
Director of Administrative Services

95-7. Classify radarscope photographs in accordance with Section XII, AFR 205-1, 10 June 1960.

NOTE: If possible, develop photographic film before forwarding. Mark any undeveloped film conspicuously to indicate this fact, to avoid destruction by exposure during examinations en route through mail channels to final addressees.

b. *Material.* Each Air Force echelon receiving suspected or actual UFO material will safeguard it in a manner to prevent any defacing or alterations which might reduce its value for intelligence examination and analysis.

c. *Photographs, Motion Pictures, and Negatives Submitted by Individuals.* Individuals often submit photographic and motion picture material as part of their UFO reports. All original material submitted will be returned to the individual after completion of necessary studies analyses, and duplication by the Air Force.

CURTIS E. LeMAY  
Chief of Staff

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