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AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

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Auth. Service TDR

By _____

Date 25 Feb 60

17 December 1958

AFCIN-4E4

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

THRU: AFCIN-4E
AFCIN-4X1

SUBJECT: UFO Program

1. After some four months of working with the UFO Program, as outlined in AFR 200-2, I find certain deficiencies in this Program which in my opinion must be corrected if we are to fulfill adequately those responsibilities assigned to ATIC.

2. In order to appreciate the deficiencies in the UFO Program as presently constituted, certain background facts are necessary. These are:

a. AFR 200-2, dated 5 February 1958, essentially stipulates the following:

(1) The objectives of the UFO Program are to first, determine the possible threat of UFO's to the security of the United States and its forces; second, to determine the technical or scientific characteristics of any such UFO's; third, to explain or identify all UFO sightings.

(2) Reporting and investigation of UFO's is the responsibility of Commanders of the Air Force Base nearest the point of sighting as supplemented by the 1006th AISS.

(3) ATIC will analyze and evaluate all reports of UFO's emanating from the ZI and overseas areas. ATIC may independently, or in participation with pertinent USAF activities, conduct supplementary investigations.

(4) The Office of Information Services of the Secretary of the Air Force (SAFIS) will handle public relations and press releases pertaining to the UFO Program. The Office of Legislative Liaison will handle Congressional inquiries. Both of these agencies look to ATIC for specific answers pertaining to sightings and evaluations thereof.

(5) Prompt reporting and rapid identification of UFO's is essential in the Air Force and public interest.

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2. b. During the year ending 1 November 1958, 1069 sightings of UFO's were reported to ATIC. One hundred and ten of these were foreign sightings leaving 959 reported within the ZI. Of these 959, approximately 20%, or 192, should have been investigated further by trained and equipped experts to remove them from the unknown or insufficient data category. (Most I.D. or UNK UFO's are classed as such only because specific data does not exist to classify them otherwise)

c. Forty-nine (49) UFO organizations (See Tab A) exist in the ZI in addition to many individual self-proclaimed experts whose affiliations or specific intentions are not clear. It is clear, however, that for various reasons these individuals and agencies such as NICAP, CSI, AFRO, etc, feel a need for, and do everything possible to discredit the Air Force, its investigations, and its ultimate evaluation of reported sightings. These organizations, and for the most part individuals, are well equipped, and do in fact conduct a very comprehensive, although biased, field investigation. These generally result in well documented reports which are used for their chosen purposes (See Tab B). Some, such as Mr. Haber (See Tab C) for reasons known only to him, take advantage of every opportunity to incite others.

d. The people reporting UFO's are for the most part honest American citizens ranging all the way from relatively uninformed men in the street to eminent authorities, such as Mr. Townsend, Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, who recently reported a sighting from the Washington, D. C. area. These people feel strongly about what they saw and normally report sightings in a strictly patriotic interest. A prompt investigation, sound analysis, and accurate report relating to what they saw leaves them with a feeling of pride in what they did and in the service that is most concerned with their defense. A sloppy investigation, evaluation based upon inadequate facts, and subsequent effort to discredit their story makes them vulnerable to propaganda expounded by the various UFO organizations.

e. Some of the UFO organizations, such as NICAP, well know the deficiencies in the Air Force Program and take advantage of every opportunity to place us in a defensive position. In fact, it is understood that Captain Ruppelt, who was responsible for the ATIC part of the UFO Program from early 1951 until September 1953, is now affiliated with NICAP. In this organization alone ex-marine corps Major Kehoe, a political adventurist, and Captain Ruppelt, an ex-ATIC specialist, represent a formidable team from which plenty of trouble can be expected in the future. Both appear to be in the business for the money involved. Comparable conditions involving eminent authorities of questionable intentions exist in other of the 49 UFO organizations.

3. In light of the background information provided above these deficiencies take on their proper meaning.

a. Investigations conducted by various Air Force installations in many cases (and particularly those claiming close observation or landing of UFO's) are inadequate to serve our needs for prompt and accurate evaluation. This is apparently so for these reasons:

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3. a. (1) Due to knowledge of the official Air Force position that we have yet to uncover a specific threat from outer space (See Tab D) a degree of complacency has crept into the program resulting in something less than a positive, aggressive, approach to uncover the facts we so badly need to make prompt and comprehensive evaluations.

(2) As a result in part from the complacency indicated above, considerable time is lost in getting investigations under way, and all too frequently the investigation, once conducted and reported on, appears to have been performed by the most available individual without regard to his competence as an investigator, and ability to properly handle the public relations aspect so important to this program. We have in fact received reports where well skilled investigators, either private or affiliated with UFO organizations, have beat us to the scene, primed the key witnesses on what to say, and actually remained present during the investigations by Air Force representatives.

(3) As indicated in paragraph 2c above, many of the private and organized UFO investigators apparently in competition with the Air Force appear on the scene well equipped to conduct a field investigation. Invariably they have geiger counters, magnetometers and various sampling equipment with them and they use it. Not that this means much, but it is impressive to the uninitiated, and particularly so when the Air Force investigator later appears on the scene armed with nothing but a notebook and pencil for use in interrogating witnesses. Some basic factual information obtained from instrument readings would indeed be useful in many cases.

(4) Investigators selected apparently with some degree of random from Air Force installations, and in some cases obviously unskilled in conducting a comprehensive investigation, appear only too often to be guided merely by the questions posed in AFR 200-2. When these are answered they consider their job done without regard to the overall questions that must in the final analysis be answered. (i.e. - what was it? does it represent a threat? etc.)

(5) The final preparation and routing of investigative reports through devious command and mail channels is excruciatingly slow especially in those highly publicized cases wherein DOD starts getting inquiries for analysis type information as soon as public press, radio, and television releases have been made. In many cases in the past this pressure for information has built up to Congressional inquiries prior to ATIC having the basic information from which a decent appraisal of the sighting could be made.

(6) In numerous instances in the past UFO sightings that have drawn a great amount of public interest (have been publicized widely in the press, on radio, television, etc.) have never been officially reported to ATIC. Invariably it is this type of case that is used by the UFO organizations to point up the inadequacy of the job the Air Force is doing. Furthermore, they bring these same cases up time and time again in an effort to force us to reveal our findings because they know full well that we have none. When a reply goes back that the particular case

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cited has never been officially reported to the Air Force, it strengthens their case that they're doing a better job for the country than the Air Force supported by their taxes, ad infinitum.

4. The information and deficiencies outlined above appear pretty grim and they are. There is a solution, however, to our problem and I believe that it can be had by quite simply applying an aggressive approach, and by committing a nominal amount of resources to the job. Fundamentally, I believe that if we are going to properly fulfill ATIC's responsibility in the UFO Program in the public interest, then we must come up with scientifically valid facts which cannot be readily refuted. These should cover as many cases as possible, and particularly those of prime public interest. The following proposals are offered, and discussed:

a. That we "fire up" the investigative and reporting action at base level through the medium of an all major commands message from Hq., USAF. This to:

(1) Reaffirm the urgency of prompt and adequate investigative and reporting action.

(2) Require official reporting and investigation of sightings announced by local press, radio, or television.

(3) Require use of basic assay type instrumentation in conduct of investigations.

(4) Advise of early distribution of investigative and interrogation SOP addendum to AFR 200-2 for use in conduct of field investigations.

b. That we address ourselves immediately to preparation of a comprehensive SOP which will properly guide otherwise unskilled investigators at base level in the proper conduct of an UFO type investigation. This to be distributed as an addendum to AFR 200-2 with local reproduction authorized.

c. That from presently available resources within ATIC we create a volunteer force of some 18-20 military personnel to aid in field investigation of the more critical UFO cases.

(1) We propose here to use company grade and non-commissioned officers who do not have much opportunity for TDY travel and field work during the course of their duties at ATIC. This group will be given a twenty hour course of instruction by our military training department under the overall guidance of the Aerial Phenomena Group of the Air Science Division, with emphasis on investigative and interrogative procedures and the proper use of equipment pertinent thereto (See Tab E).

(2) Two members of the ATIC UFO volunteer group will be placed on alert each week and will be on call for critical investigative work required during the week. Rotation of alert duty will be handled on a duty roster maintained by the Aerial Phenomena Group. It is estimated

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4. c. (2) that each man may expect to investigate 5 cases per year. TDY will in each case be for approximately 3 days.

(3) Approximately six sets of investigative equipment will be made up into suit-case type flyaway kits. These will be kept in a constant state of readiness by the Aerial Phenomena Group and will be promptly issued to investigators for use in each case. These sets will include the following items of equipment:

- (a) Tape recorder.
- (b) Assay type geiger counter.
- (c) Camera and film.
- (d) Transit or compass.
- (e) Swipe test filter papers.
- (f) Earth and swipe test sample containers.
- (g) Binoculars.
- (h) USC and GS maps of the area of interest.
- (i) Interrogation and investigative SOP's.
- (j) Necessary paper, pencils, etc.

(4) Orders for TDY travel will be initiated by the Aerial Phenomena Group as required for travel of members of the volunteer group. These orders will cite TDY funds which should be made available for sole support of this program. Assuming primarily military air lift (see following paragraph), and maximum support from nearest Air Force facilities as stipulated in AFR 200-2, we estimate per annum TDY costs in support of this program at \$5,000.00 (See Tab F for basis of estimate). These funds should be programmed and made available directly to the Aerial Phenomena Group in support of this program.

d. To keep costs down, and at the same time to allow prompt movement to Air Force bases nearest to scene of critical sightings it is proposed that a project nicknamed "Horse Fly" (akin to "Blue Fly") be established. Essentially this project will provide for priority movement of ATIC UFO investigators to nearest Air Force facilities using CRT aircraft and pilots. Crew and aircraft will stand by for investigations taking less than one day. Return flights will pick up investigators where more than one day is required.

5. Due to the many ramifications of the program presented herein a conference regarding feasibility was held on 16 December 1958 (See Tab G). This meeting confirmed the feasibility of the program as out-

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5. lined provided proper command approval is obtained and resources committed in support thereof.

6. Recommendations:

a. It is recommended that present deficiencies in the UFO Program be corrected by adoption of the program outlined herein. Such approval to be acknowledged by authentication of specific draft documents attached as inclosures 1 through 6. These are:

(1) Specific request to ACS/I for message from USAF to all USAF commands regarding support of UFO Program as outlined in AFR 200-2.

(2) Approval of DF's to ATIC directors and separate staff offices soliciting volunteers for UFO investigative group.

(3) Approval of DF to AFCIN-4X4 establishing requirement for training of volunteer group.

(4) Approval of DF to AFCIN-4X5 regarding equipment required in support of UFO investigative program.

(5) Approval of DF to AFCIN-4X6 directing establishment of program for and allocation of TDY funds in support of the UFO investigative effort.

(6) Approval of DF to Commander, Wright-Patterson AFB requesting CRT support of the UFO investigative program.

6 Incls:

Leonard T. Glaser
LEONARD T. GLASER
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E4

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