STATUS REPORT

PROJECT BLUE BOOK - REPORT NO. 8

FORMERLY PROJECT GRUDGE

PROJECT NO. 10073

31 DECEMBER 1952

AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

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Commanding General
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

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This report is the eighth of a series of Status Reports of Project Blue Book. Normally each report is written on or near the last of each month and includes all project activities for that month. This procedure has not been followed during the months of June, July, August, September and October due to an extremely heavy workload caused by an increase in reports. The procedure of listing all reported sightings will also be eliminated in this report since 886 reports were received during the period covered by this report and compiling such a list would not be feasible at the present time.

Any additional information may be obtained on any incident by directing requests to the Commanding General, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Attn: ATIAA-5, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

STATUS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK

I. OVERALL STATUS

The period since the last status report of this project was published (Project Blue Book Status Report #7, 31 May 1952) has produced a volume of reports exceeding the total number of reports received in the period 1947 to 31 Dec 51. For the month of Jul 52, the total was over 440 reports. During the period 1 Jun 52 to 31 Oct 52, the period covered by this status report, 886 reports have been received, evaluated, cross-indexed and filed. This total of 886 represents 149 more reports than had been received during the previous five-year period this project has been in existance. It should be noted that these reports are those coming through official channels to ATIC and do not include the approximately 800 letters received from the public during this period.

A noticeable increase in reports started in Jun 52 and reached a peak on 28 Jul 52 when 43 reports were received (see Appendix I). Much of the increased volume of reports can be accredited to the widespread publicity given by Life, Time, Look and many other magazines and newspapers. One noticeable characteristic of the reports is that in general the quality has improved, a factor which resulted from the distribution of Air Force Letter 200-5, Subject: "Reporting of Unidentified Flying Objects", and to widespread briefings given by Project Blue Book briefing teams.

In Jul 52 the workload of project personnel had risen to the point that the number of personnel was increased to a total of four officers, two airmen, and two secretaries. For a period of 45 days, a weather officer was on TDY to the project.

All reports received were screened and evaluated as soon as possible after they were received. A breakdown as to the evaluations of the reports is given below. The categories used in the evaluation of reports are as follows:

A. Unknown

These are reports that contain relatively enough data to evaluate, but cannot be associated with any known phenomenon or object. There is a possibility that some of these reported objects or phenomena in this category could be identified if more background data on balloon tracks, aircraft movements, etc., were available.

B. Insufficient Data

This category represents reports which do not contain enough data to evaluate. A great many of the cases are due to poor reporting on the

part of the reporting agency. All cases where there is only a single observer, unless his or her reliability is unquestionable, are put in this category.

C. Aircraft

This category of reports varies from those reports of objects that were definitely proven to be aircraft to those that were possibly aircraft. In evaluating reports as aircraft, a great deal of importance is put on any comments by the reporting officer about local air traffic. Another criterion is the elevation of the reported object. It has been found that if an observer sees an aircraft above a 60° angle from the horizon and is in a relatively quiet location, he can hear the sound of the aircraft. Thus all reports of moving lights at night or "shiny" objects in the daytime, moving at moderately fast speeds (i.e., in view for 2-5 minutes), and observed below 60° could be aircraft and are evaluated as aircraft. Conversely, any object that passes directly over, or within 30° of the zenith of an observer, at moderately fast speeds and if no sound is heard, is not likely to be an aircraft.

D. Balloons

Several criteria are used to determine whether a reported object was or possibly was a balloon. Objects that are reported to hover or move very slowly could be balloons. In this type of report, the times are checked. All weather balloons in the United States are launched at 0300Z, 0900Z, 1500Z and 2100Z. If an object is reported near a balloon launch site within an hour after these scheduled launch times, it is classed as a balloon. If the object is moving and a track is reported, the track is checked against winds aloft for that area. If the reported movement is with the wind at any altitude, the object could be a balloon. Many balloons are tracked by radio and radar and in these cases, the actual track of the balloon can be correlated with the data obtained from the observers.

The possibility of observers seeing balloons that have developed slow leaks and have drifted long distances is always present. In cases where the description of the object is identical to that of a balloon and yet no balloons can be positively determined as having been in that area, the report is evaluated as possibly a balloon on the chance that a balloon has become "lost" and has drifted into the area.

E. Astronomical

Reports in this category are those that are proven to be or are similiar in all respects to known astronomical bodies such as meteors, fireballs, planets, or stars. The estimated azimuth and elevation of a reported object and the time of the observation can be checked to determine the known location of astronomical bodies. In some cases, this is done by project personnel and in more difficult cases by an astronomer.

Meteors are identified mainly by the observer's description as to size, shape, and maneuvers. In some cases, exceptionally large meteors or fireballs are plotted by observatories and these plots are obtained.

F. Other

This category contains reports that have been proven to be known objects or phenomena, or the descriptions of the reported objects are similiar to reports of known objects that do not fall into the above categories. Examples of these are birds, anomalous radar phenomena, bugs, etc.

A percentage breakdown of the evaluation of reports is as follows:

A. June

Category	No. Reports	% Total
Unknown	57	38.77
Insufficient Data	23	15.64
Aircraft	14	9.52
Balloons	22	14.96
Astronomical	22	14.96
Other	9	6.12
	147	100.00%

B. July

Unknown	93	21.04
Insufficient Data	118	26.69
Aircraft	52	11.76
Balloons	107	24.21
Astronomical	57	12.89
Other	15	3.39
	442	100.00%

C. August

Unknown	34	15.59
Insufficient Data	55	25.23
Aircraft	28	12.84
Balloons	70	32.11
Astronomical	22	10.09
Other	9	4.13
	218	100.00%

Category	No. Reports	% Total
D. September		
Unknown	22	27.85
Insufficient Data	20	25.32
Aircraft	7	8.86
Balloons	12	15.19
Astronomical	12	15.19
Other	6	7.59
	79	100.00%
E. Cumulative total for June, July, August, and September		
Unknown	206	23.25
Insufficient Data	216	24.38
Aircraft	101	11.39
Balloons	211	23.81
Astronomical	113	12.75
Other	39	4.40
	886	100.00%

(Note: No breakdown for the month of October 1952 is included since at the time this report was written all October reports had not been evaluated.)

II. SPECIAL REPORT ON CONFERENCE WITH 44 PROFESSIONAL ASTRONOMERS

During the past summer a professional astronomer, under contract with ATIC as a consultant on Project Blue Book, held conferences with 44 professional astronomers in the U.S.A. and submitted a report of his findings. These people were either contacted on trips or at professional society meetings. Of these, 5 had observed objects or phenomena they could not readily explain. The feelings of the 44 astronomers toward the investigation of unidentified flying objects were as follows:

	% Total	Number
Completely Indifferent	6%	7
Mildly Indifferent	27%	12
Mildly Interested	40%	17
Very Interested	17%	8
	100%	44

Although the report is too lengthy to reproduce in total, an excerpt from the summary of the report is as follows:

"Over 40 astronomers were interviewed, of which five had made sightings of one sort or another. This is a higher percentage than among the populace at large. Perhaps this is to be expected, since astronomers do, after all, watch the skies. On the other hand, they will not likely be fooled by balloons, aircraft, and similiar objects, as may the general populace.

"It is interesting to remark upon the attitude of the astronomers interviewed. The great majority were neither hostile nor overly interested; they gave one the general feeling that all flying saucer reports could be explained as misrepresentations of well-known objects and that there was nothing intrinsic in the situation to cause concern. I took the time to talk rather seriously with a few of them, and to acquaint them with the fact that some of the sightings were truly puzzling and not at all easily explainable. Their interest was almost immediately aroused, indicating that their general lethargy is due to lack of information on the subject. And certainly another contributing factor to their desire not to talk about these things is their overwhelming fear of publicity. One headline in the nation's papers to the effect that "Astronomer Sees Flying Saucer" would be enough to brand the astronomer as questionable among his colleagues. Since I was able to talk with the men in confidence, I was able to gather very much more of their inner thoughts on the subject than a reporter or an interrogator would have been able to do. Actual hostility is rare; concern with their own immediate scientific problems is too great. There seems to be no convenient method by which problems can be attacked, and most astronomers do not wish to become involved, not only because of the danger of publicity but because the data seems tenuous and unreliable."

III. PRESS CONFERENCE

On 29 Jul 52 a press conference was held in the Pentagon to answer the many questions that were being directed to the Air Force by the press. The conference was held by Major General John A. Samford, Director of Intelligence, USAF. Others participating were Major General Roger M. Ramey, Director of Operations, USAF, and officers of the Air Technical Intelligence Center.

In essence General Samford stated that to date there were no indications that any of the reported objects that could not be identified constitute a menace to the United States. However, the Air Force would continue to give the subject "adequate, but not frantic attention".

IV. PROPOSED THEORIES AS TO THE NATURE OF THE REPORTS

Several widely publicized theories as to the nature of the reported objects or phenomena have been advanced in recent months. These theories have been discussed with authorities on the subject of atmospheric physics and they have agreed that none of the theories so far proposed would account for more than a very small percentage of the reports, if any.

V. STATUS OF STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

In the spring of 1952 the Air Technical Intelligence Center established a project with a civilian contractor to make a statistical analysis of all incidents. As of 31 Oct 52, all reports for 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951 had been reviewed and coded for IBM punch cards. By the end of October the data to date on 1952 incidents will be on punch cards ready for a preliminary analysis by statisticians.

When this is completed, the contractor will begin work on the coding of the 1952 reports. No completion date has been established for this phase. It is not contemplated that the 1952 reports will be completed in the near future, because, as was stated in Section I of this report, the total for the year of 1952 exceeds the total number of reports for all previous years.

VI. TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

A questionnaire or technical information sheet to be filled out by observers making a visual sighting was completed in Oct 52. Preliminary work on this questionnaire began in May 52. A panel consisting of Blue Book personnel and several civilian scientists and engineers met and drafted a list of questions whose answers would be needed in evaluating reports. These questions were then given to a panel of psychologists who reworded them and made them into questionnaire form. Test samples of these questionnaires were reproduced and sent to persons reporting sightings. As test questionnaires were completed and returned by observers they were studied by the psychologists and others. Several such test questionnaires were developed before a final form was established. The final questionnaire is inclosed in this report as Appendix II.

These questionnaires are now being sent directly from ATIC to all persons making reports, if a mailing address is in the report. This includes both reports made by military in accordance with AFL 200-5 and reports made directly to ATIC by civilians.

VII. COOPERATION OF AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

Excellent cooperation has been received from the Air Defense Command in the utilization of their radar, fighter aircraft and the Ground Observer Corps.

ADC has directed all their radar sites that are equipped with operational radar scope cameras to keep these cameras on a 24-hour alert basis. It has been found that scope photos are an extremely valuable aid when it is necessary to evaluate reports of extremely high speed or unusual radar tracks.

A secondary duty of the Ground Observer Corps is the reporting of unidentified aerial phenomena or objects. This duty was established by ADC Regulation 55-31.

VIII. NAVY REPORTING REGULATION

On 26 Sep 52 the United States Navy published an OPNAV very similiar to AFL 200-5. This notice directs all naval units and installations to report sightings directly to Hq USAF, ATIC, ADC, and other agencies.

IX. BALLOON AND WEATHER DATA

In order to achieve more positive identification of unidentified flying objects, the Air Technical Intelligence Center has established channels of communication with the Air Weather Service, whereby the track of any weather balloon released by the USAF, US Navy, or Weather Bureau, within the continental limits of the United States or from US ships at sea and overseas bases, can be obtained. Basically the system works as follows: If the analyst at ATIC concludes, by reason of the description of a UFO, or the time and place of the sighting, that the UFO is possibly a weather balloon, he initiates and transmits to AWS a specific request for the tracks of all weather balloon releases at or near that time and place. Comparison of these tracks with the Flyobrpt frequently completes the analysis of the report.

Additionally, the US Navy and the USAF are currently engaged in the launching of special project upper air research balloons. These balloons are plastic polyethylene, a highly reflective surface, and since they often are on the order of one-hundred feet in diameter, they are visible to the naked eye under certain atmospheric conditions, even at extreme altitudes. Further, the loads carried are usually heavy and metallic, and electronic contact with these balloons can occur. In view of this situation, ATIC has, through the Ent Weather Central, Ent AFB, Colorado, taken steps to obtain the tracks of all such balloon releases, and these tracks have often resulted in positive identification of a UFO. To cite cases in point, the tracks of sixteen flights released in July by a US Navy contractor resulted in four positive, two probable, and four possible identifications of UFO's.

Another factor having a great deal of bearing in the analysis of a Flyobrpt, though it may not be the actual cause, is the meteorological condition of the atmosphere at the time and place of sighting. To obtain this data, the Air Technical Intelligence Center utilizes three sources. Firstly, when detailed information is needed immediately, it can often be obtained from the Base Weather Office at W-P AFB. Secondly, since ATIC receives daily RAOB's, constant pressure charts, surface charts and winds aloft charts, the necessary information is frequently on hand. Thirdly, when the data needed

is voluminous and complex, and time is relatively unimportant, the Air Technical Intelligence Center utilizes the records of the Air Weather Service in exactly the same manner as that employed in obtaining weather balloon release data.

X. CAMERAS

In an effort to obtain technical information concerning UFO's, ATIC has underway a program for the distribution of a large number of stereo cameras equipped with a diffraction grating over one lens. The camera in question is called the "Videon". It contains two F3.5 lenses with focal lengths of 45mm. As supplied by ATIC, the shutter speed and distance settings will be locked at 1/20th of a second and infinity, respectively. The "Videon" utilizes standard 35mm cartridge film, and is extremely simple to operate.

The diffraction grating actually consists of a thin cellulose compound which contains 15,000 vertical "hairlines" to the linear inch. It is mounted between two sheets of optical glass and placed over one lens of the Videon by means of a filter adapter ring. The grating operates on precisely the same principle as a prism; it separates a light into its component parts which will appear as well defined spectrum bands upon the film. Since each chemical element emits a wave of characteristic length, and the grating, so to speak, "picks up" these characteristics and shows them as significant bands on the film, comparative study of the film is expected to reveal much data concerning the chemical composition of a given UFO. The Videon camera, equipped as described above, does not represent the epitome of scientific equipment, however, actual comparison with other models has revealed that it offers a good probability for success in accomplishing the stated purpose, and this factor, along with the economy and availability factors, was responsible for ATIC's decision to purchase and distribute these cameras.

Simultaneously with the experimentation involving ground cameras, ATIC mounted diffraction gratings over the lenses of 16mm gun cameras of F-86 aircraft of the 97th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, W-P AFB. These fighters then undertook air-air photography of known light sources, and the spectrums obtained were comparable to those obtained with the Videon; the smaller film surprisingly enough recorded equivalent definition and band separation. Therefore, as a part of the long range program, ATIC is considering the possibility of equipping certain USAF fighter-interceptor aircraft with diffraction gratings for air-air photographic coverage of UFO's.

At present, ATIC is negotiating with Hq ADC, a plan for the placement of a certain number of Videon cameras with AC&W Squadrons. Similiarly, Videon cameras may be distributed to tower operators of AACS. Future plans allow for the procurement and placement of more Videon cameras and the placement of the diffraction grids in aircraft, however, these plans are entirely contingent upon the degree of success obtained in present operations.

XI. RECENT SIGHTINGS

Appendix III gives summaries of a few of the reports made to ATIC during the period covered by this report.

APPENDIX I

This chart shows the frequency of reports during the months of June, July, August, and September 1952. The dates of publication of several magazine articles and widely publicized incidents are noted on the chart.

APPENDIX II

The final form of the questionnaire used for the interrogation of observers making visual sightings.

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U. S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

_____ Day _____ Month _____ Year

2. Time of day: _____ Hour _____ Minutes

(Circle One): A.M. or P.M.

3. Time zone:

(Circle One): a. Eastern
b. Central
c. Mountain
d. Pacific
e. Other _____

(Circle One): a. Daylight Saving
b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

_____ Nearest Postal Address _____ City or Town _____ State or Country

Additional remarks: _____

5. Estimate how long you saw the object. _____ Hours _____ Minutes _____ Seconds

5.1 *Circle* one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 5.

a. Certain
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Bright daylight
b. Dull daylight
c. Bright twilight
d. Just a trace of daylight
e. No trace of daylight
f. Don't remember

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One): a. In front of you
b. In back of you
c. To your right
d. To your left
e. Overhead
f. Don't remember

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS *(Circle One)*:

a. None
b. A few
c. Many
d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON *(Circle One)*:

a. Bright moonlight
b. Dull moonlight
c. No moonlight — pitch dark
d. Don't remember

9. Was the object brighter than the background of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Yes b. No c. Don't remember

10. IF it was BRIGHTER THAN the sky background, was the brightness like that of an automobile headlight?:

(Circle One) a. A mile or more away (a distant car)?
b. Several blocks away?
c. A block away?
d. Several yards away?
e. Other _____

11. Did the object: *(Circle One for each question)*

a. Appear to stand still at any time?	Yes	No	Don't Know
b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time?	Yes	No	Don't Know
c. Break up into parts or explode?	Yes	No	Don't Know
d. Give off smoke?	Yes	No	Don't Know
e. Change brightness?	Yes	No	Don't Know
f. Change shape?	Yes	No	Don't Know
g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate?	Yes	No	Don't Know

12. Did the object move behind something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: _____

_____

13. Did the object move in front of something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, than tell what it moved in front of: _____

_____

14. Did the object appear: *(Circle One)*: a. Solid? b. Transparent? c. Don't ~~Know~~.

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

a. Eyeglasses	Yes	No	e. Binoculars	Yes	No
b. Sun glasses	Yes	No	f. Telescope	Yes	No
c. Windshield	Yes	No	g. Theodolite	Yes	No
d. Window glass	Yes	No	h. Other _____		

16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound _____

b. Color _____

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

18. The edges of the object were:

(Circle One): a. Fuzzy or blurred
b. Like a bright star
c. Sharply outlined
d. Don't remember
e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____.
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.