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HEADQUARTERS
4602d AIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SQUADRON (ADC)
ENT AIR FORCE BASE
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

AISOP

23 November 1954

SUBJECT: Report of Visit of ATIC Representatives

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
ATTN: ATIAE-5
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

1. On 17 and 18 November 1954, the Commander, 4602d AISS and his staff met with Captain Charles Hardin, ATIC, and Doctor Allen Hynek, USAF Contract Astronomer, for the purpose of discussing ATIC-4602d AISS relationships in the investigation and processing of Unidentified Flying Objects reports. During the course of the conference general information was exchanged relative to the UFOB program, procedures were developed relative to the handling of UFOB reports and the criteria for evaluation of reports and conducting investigations were discussed.

2. The evaluation of all UFOB reports as well as the lines of inquiry of investigations, will be governed by the application of certain hypotheses to the data available. In the majority of cases, provided the information concerning the sightings is sufficiently complete, the data will suggest that the sighting was probably some known object or natural phenomena. For example, the data available might suggest to the investigator the hypothesis that the sighting was an aircraft. A check list will then be applied to the data using the hypothesis that the sighting was an aircraft. The check list will contain those items which, in combination, characterize aircraft from other possible objects or phenomena. For example, if the object was an aircraft, then there should have been noise, there should have been radar observation in certain areas, etc. The application of these check lists will suggest the lines of follow-up investigation in the event the data is insufficient to satisfy the elements of proof necessary to identification. ATIC will furnish the 4602d AISS with the check lists referred to above which will assist in the identification of UFOB's, and will cover, for example, aircraft, balloons, astronomical phenomena, guided missiles, etc. In addition a special evaluation of preliminary UFOB reports must be made to determine whether follow-up investigations can reasonably be expected to result in additional reliable and usable data.

3. Evaluation of Preliminary Reports:

a. ATIC will furnish the 4602d AISS with "rule of thumb" criteria to be used by the Squadron Headquarters in determining the necessity for

a follow-up, field investigation of a UFOB report. These criteria will cover, among others, the following subjects:

(1) Duration of sighting.

(2) Number of persons reporting the sighting.

(3) Distance from location of sighting to nearest 4602d AISS field unit.

(4) Reliability of person or persons reporting the sighting.

(5) Number of independent sightings reported.

(6) The value of obtaining additional information immediately.

(7) Existence of physical evidence (photographs, material, hardware).

b. It was noted that a single extraordinary circumstance might require follow-up, field investigation even though the general application of the criteria furnished by ATIC indicates that further investigation would probably yield little additional information.

c. In general follow-up field investigation of a preliminary UFOB report will not be warranted when the hypothesis suggested by the preliminary report of the incident cannot be tested by facilities available.

4. Exhaustion of Effort in the Investigation of UFOB's: Effort will be considered as exhaustive when every logical, physical hypothesis suggested by a qualified report of the incident has been tested by the facilities available.

a. Qualified preliminary reports shall be considered to be those which merit further investigation under the criteria set forth in paragraph 3 above.

5. Unsolved Cases: A case shall be considered unsolved after every suggested hypothesis has been tested by available facilities and a large percentage of the data in the report does not correlate with the characteristics of known objects or natural phenomena.

Hq, 4602d AISS, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colo. subj: Report of Visit of ATIC Representative

6. The following procedures were agreed upon:

a. In case a UFOB sighting is reported initially by non-Air Force sources in letter form to either ATIC or the 4602d AISS, the file card will be made in duplicate by the recipient, and one copy forwarded to the other agency. This card will indicate that the UFOB was reported by letter and will show the action taken.

b. ATIC will be forwarded a file card indicating the action taken by the 4602d AISS on preliminary reports transmitted to the 4602d by electrical means.

c. The results of follow-up field investigations made by the 4602d AISS and reported on AF Form 112 will, in all cases, be sent to ATIC, D/I USAF, and such other agencies as the Commander, 4602d AISS, deems necessary.

d. ATIC may require specific information for aid in analyzing a reported UFOB sighting which can be furnished by a field unit of the 4602d AISS. Provided travel is not involved, ATIC may contact the appropriate unit directly. In case ATIC desires detailed investigation or action which would necessitate travel, request will be made by ATIC to the Commander, 4602d AISS.

e. File cards reflecting action taken or conclusions reached by ATIC on either a preliminary or follow-up UFOB report will be sent to Commander 4602d AISS under the following circumstances:

(1) When conclusions of ATIC relative to identification of the sighting are at variance with those reached by 4602d AISS.

(2) When additional action is initiated by ATIC following the completion of action by the 4602d AISS.

7. Exchange of information: As a result of the ATIC experience in the field of investigation of UFOB reports, information of a general interest was discussed during the visit of ATIC representatives and will be furnished to the 4602d AISS on a continuing basis. Examples of such information follow:

a. Grid cameras. Information relative to the present distribution of grid cameras and changes in the current distribution.

b. Statistics. Consolidation of statistics reflecting trends,

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY ATIC-ADC

AGREEMENT:

An agreement was concluded in December 1953 between the Air Technical Intelligence Center and Air Defense Command whereby, in the future, the 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron will process and make on-the-spot investigations on all initial UFO reports originating in the ZI. The 4602d AISS is a definite intelligence activity which is widespread in the field. In some cases, ATIC will join ADC in field investigations.

UNKNOWNS:

At the conclusion of investigations by 4602d AISS, Air Defense Command will furnish information to ATIC on all closed (identified) cases and will forward all material and reports of investigations on the cases which remain as unknowns.

FINAL ANALYSIS:

The ATIC retains the responsibility for final analysis of these unknowns originating in the ZI, together with all cases from overseas.

AIR FORCE REGULATION 200-2 (NEW):

This program will be formaly initiated with the publication of a new AFR 200-2 which is forthcoming.