

# THE ROSWELL REPORT

FACT VS FICTION  
IN THE  
NEW MEXICO  
DESERT



HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



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in the  
New Mexico Desert

Headquarters United States Air Force  
1995

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For sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office  
Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328  
ISBN 0-16-048023-X

## FOREWORD

This report represents a joint effort by Col. Richard L. Weaver and 1st Lt. James McAndrew to address the request made by Representative Steven H. Schiff (R-NM) for information regarding an alleged crash of an unidentified flying object (UFO) that occurred in the state in 1947. This publication duplicates the information provided to the Secretary of the Air Force and to the General Accounting Office (GAO). It was written as a result of Colonel Weaver's and Lieutenant McAndrew's efforts to locate the records that explain the events of July 1947 leading to what is popularly known as the Roswell Incident. The only information presented here that was not in the report delivered to the Secretary of the Air Force and the GAO is the photograph section. It appears after Colonel Weaver's final attachment, at the very end of this book.

The importance of attachment 32, Lieutenant McAndrew's synopsis, derives from his description of Project MOGUL, the top-priority classified project of balloon-borne experiments, which provides the explanation for the "Roswell Incident." Interest abounds surrounding the UFO wave of 1947 which began in the spring and did not dissipate until fall. Interest in UFOs climaxed during the summer, when multiple sightings of such objects occurred.

RICHARD P. HALLION  
Air Force Historian



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report and publication would not have been possible without the expert assistance and outstanding cooperation of many persons and organizations. Appreciation is extended to the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Mr. William Davidson, and to his predecessor, Mr. Robert McCormick. The Air Force Historian, Dr. Richard P. Hallion, generously offered the services of his staff and facilities. Col. Jeffrey Butler, of the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Security and Special Program Oversight, made signal contributions to both the research and writing of this report.

The primary research conducted for this report was provided by the Secretary of the Air Force's Declassification and Review Team (SAF/AAZD), headed by Col. Linda Smith. Lt. Col. Dale Freeman and Maj. Len Shoemaker initiated the project. Maj. Bill Coburn, CMSgt. Owen Costello, and MSgt. Jean Hardin provided invaluable assistance throughout. SSgt. Jim Bruns acquainted himself with the numerous research facilities available in the Washington, DC, area, and contributed mightily to the effort. Grace Rowe, the Records Manager for the Secretary of the Air Force, provided unparalleled guidance and counsel to help sort through fifty years of records amassed by the U.S. Air Force.

At Bolling AFB, we are indebted to Col. George Williams, Commander of the Air Force History Support Office, and to his staff for their expert advice, guidance, and kind use of facilities. Our foremost debt is owed to historian Sheldon Goldberg, who greatly assisted our efforts. Additionally, historians Alfred Beck, William Heimdahl, Roger Miller, Eduard Mark, and Jacob Neufeld shared with us their wide knowledge of Air Force history. Also, Robert "Gus" Bell contributed with his attractive art work; Richard Wolf provided invaluable computer expertise; and Maj. Myrt Wilson, SSgt. Steve Rapp, SRA Francis Noel, and Debra Moss supplied essential administrative assistance. Thanks go to editor Barbara Wittig for her efforts in this undertaking.

A special thank-you goes to Bruce Ashcroft, chief historian at the National Air Intelligence Center, Wright Patterson AFB, OH. Mr. Ashcroft gave freely of his official and personal time to provide assistance whenever we asked. Moreover, his unique previous experience, as a historian in the State of New Mexico, added a wealth of detail that would otherwise have been missed.

We must also express our sincerest gratitude to the staff of the USAF Phillips Laboratory, Geophysics Directorate at Hanscom AFB, MA, especially to Lisa Duffeck, of the Research Library, whose research talents contributed significantly to this report. We thank John Armstrong, also of the Research Library, for having the foresight to preserve the

balloon files; Neal Stark and Jack Griffin, of the Geophysical Directorate's Aerospace Engineering Group, whose corporate knowledge of Air Force ballooning answered many difficult questions; and to historian Ruth Liebowitz for sharing her files and photographs. Many thanks also to Sheilagh Banacos in Information Management and Evelyn Kindler of the Public Affairs Office.

At the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, it was a pleasure to collaborate with archivist Edward Reese of the Military Reference Branch. Mr. Reese, who retired in October 1994 after more than fifty-three years of faithful civil service, provided a much-welcomed professional logic and calm to our endeavors. Also at the Military Reference Branch, Wil Mahoney's knowledge of Air Force records proved invaluable. At the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, MD, we thank Reference Section archivist Carry Conn, who patiently led us through the stacks, and Richard Boylan, Reference Branch Assistant Chief, for his truly prodigious memory. At the National Personnel Records Center, in St. Louis, MO, archivists Bill Siebert and Eric Voltz helped to map out a search plan, while Carl Paulson capably guided us through it. Pearline Foster shared her time, personnel, and an all-important photocopier. At National Archives II in College Park, MD, Allen Lewis graciously provided access to their excellent facilities.

Numerous individuals agreed to be interviewed for this publication. We would like to express our sincerest thanks to them and their spouses for helping guide us through the complex maze of names, projects, and places that had been shrouded in secrecy by the passing of nearly fifty years. Special thanks go to Athelstan and Kathy Spilhaus, Charles and Wilma Moore, Col. Albert and Jean Trakowski, Lt. Col. Sheridan and Mary Cavitt, and Maj. Irving Newton, USAF (Ret). Also sincerest thanks to Mrs. Emily Duffy and Mrs. Mildred Cray for sharing their recollections and photographs of their distinguished husbands.

We also put to good use the fine reference facilities at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC, and thank Eileen Pickenpaugh, the Deputy Librarian, Murray Bradley, head of Research Reports Section, and Ralph Peterson, the Research Report Librarian, all of whom helped immeasurably to make our searches easier.

Our thanks go also to the men and women of the 913th Airlift Wing (AFRES) at Willow Grove ARS, PA, especially to Col. Richard Moss, the 913th Airlift Wing Commander, and Lt. Col. (Col. Select) Robert Hunter, the 913th Logistics Group Commander, for providing end-of-year assistance. And we are grateful to CMSgt. Michael Breitenbach, for sharing his very useful experiences and insights.

We are most grateful to the members of Air Force Publishing—Ray Del Villar, Linda Garmon, and Jack Fischer—who brought this publication into print, and to SRA Garrety Wood of the 11th Communication Squadron Photo Lab for excellent photo reproduction services.

In the course of researching and writing this report, numerous other individuals contributed to the success of the project. Among them were Col. Gerald Merritt, Director,

Clinical Investigations and Life Sciences Division, Headquarters Air Force Medical Operating Agency, Bolling AFB, DC; John Jenkins, Freedom of Information Act Manager, USAF Phillips Laboratory, Kirtland AFB, NM; George Horn, Technical Publications Editor, Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Centers, Scott AFB, IL; Steve Dean, Computer Specialist, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon; George Cully, Historian, 81st Training Wing, Keesler AFB, MS; Gene Schreiner, Technical Publications Editor, USAF Rome Laboratory, Griffiss AFB, NY; MSgt. Al Mack, Historian, 49th Fighter Wing, Holloman AFB, NM; Lois Walker, Historian, Air Force Matériel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; TSgt. Donald Valentine, Administrative Specialist, 89th Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, MD; Maj. David Thurston, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office; Dr. Saxson and Betsy Hudon of the University of Texas at Arlington Library; Col. Joseph Fletcher, USAF (Ret); Robert Todd; Frank Press; Vance Mitchell; Lt. Col. Joseph Rogan; Maj. Kevin Stubbs; SRA Donald Crissman; Francis Whedon; Richard Hassard; Joseph Worzel; John Peterson; Martin Koenig; Eileen Ulrich Farnochi; and the late Vivian Bushnell. To all, we extend our sincerest gratitude.

RICHARD L. WEAVER, COL, USAF  
Director of Security and Special Program Oversight  
SAF/AAZ

JAMES McANDREW, 1ST LT, USAFR  
Declassification and Review Officer  
SAF/AAZD



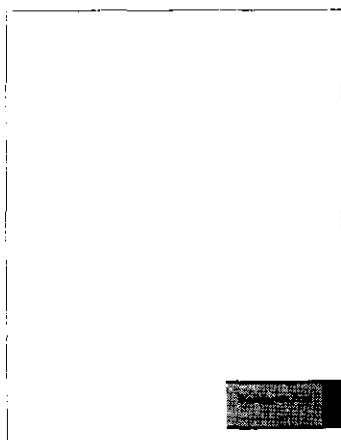


## GUIDE FOR READERS

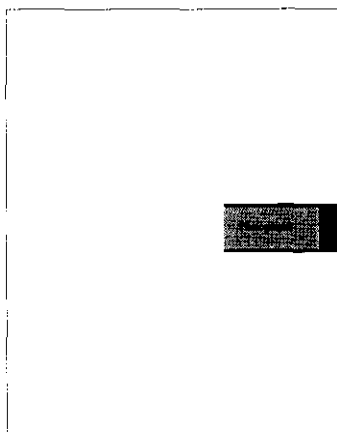
This publication contains two narratives: The *Report of the Air Force Research Regarding the "Roswell Incident"* by Col. Richard L. Weaver and the *Synopsis of Balloon Research Findings* by 1st Lt. James McAndrew. These are the same narratives and supporting documents that went to the Secretary of the Air Force and to the Government Accounting Office, except that a photograph section has been appended. It appears at the end of the book, after Attachment 33.

Thirty-three attachments support Colonel Weaver's *Report*. Attachment 32 consists of Lieutenant McAndrew's *Synopsis*, itself followed by eleven attachments and twenty-five appendices. McAndrew's appendices reproduce the actual sources cited in his report.

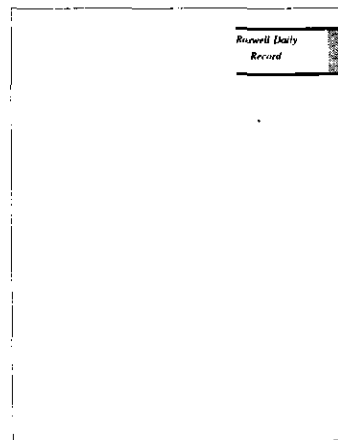
The attachments to the Weaver *Report* are located by black tabs printed at the lower right-hand corner of their cover pages, whereas the attachments to McAndrew's *Synopsis* are located by black tabs printed midway up the page. Appendices to the McAndrew *Synopsis* are identified by gray tabs which appear at the top right-hand corners of their respective cover pages (*see below*).



Weaver Attachments



McAndrew Attachments



McAndrew Appendices

Choosing to distinguish attachments and appendices from each other by using separate colors and placements for the tabs has been done to avoid creating ambiguity in repaginating the original source material reproduced here. Because many of the attachments and appendices appeared in previous publications and were integrally numbered there, their original pagination has not been changed for the purposes of this report. Additionally, any blank pages appearing in these source documents, though

numbered there, were not printed as pages in the present document. This accounts for any discontinuity present in the page numbering of the source material reprinted here.

Security markings have been deleted from previously classified documents. The reader is advised that blacked-out areas noted in the top and bottom margins of pages printed in this document indicate pages that originally contained classified information. These pages have since been declassified, and so can be printed here.

Also, privacy act restrictions apply to witnesses whose statements and interviews are reproduced for the purposes of this report. The reader will see that the addresses of such individuals have been deleted. Such witnesses are identified by name only.

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## **Attachments to Colonel Weaver’s Report of Air Force Research:**

1. *Washington Post*, “GAO Turns to Alien Turf in Probe,” January 14, 1994
2. Letter and GAO Code 701034, Richard Davis, GAO, to William J. Perry, DOD, February 15, 1994
3. Memo, Marcia J. Van Note, DOD/IG, for Distribution, subj: General Accounting Office (GAO) Letter Dated February 9, 1994 . . . , February 23, 1994
4. Memo with Indorsement, Vaughn E. Schlunz, SAF/FMPF, for Distribution, subj: GAO Review Letter Dated February 15, 1994, “Records Management Procedures . . . , February 24, 1994
5. Memo with Addendum, Robert J. McCormick, SAF/AA, for Distribution, subj: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents . . . , March 1, 1994
6. Memo with Attachments, AF/IN for SAF/AA, Subj: GAO Inquiry into Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents, March 14, 1994

7. Memo, Brig Gen James L. Cole, Jr., AF/SE, for SAF/AAZ, subj: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures with Weather Balloons, Unidentified Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents . . ., March 14, 1994
8. Memo, Col Michael W. Schoenfeld, SAF/AQL, for SAF/AA, subj: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents . . ., March 22, 1994
9. Memo, Col Steve O. Ouzts, AF/XOWP, for SAF/AAZ, subj: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents . . ., March 9, 1994
10. Memo, Grace T. Rowe, SAF/AAIQ, for SAF/AAI, SAF/AAZ, subj: GAO Review of Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents . . ., March 10, 1994
11. Memo with Attachment, Richard S. Rauschkolb, AFHRA/CC, for AF/HO, SAF/AAZ, subj: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents . . ., March 8, 1994
12. Memo, with Attachments, Edward C. Mishler, HQ AFOSI/HO, for SAF/AAZ, subj: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures . . ., May 11, 1994
13. Records Searched
14. Letter, Lt Col Thomas Badger, Jr., HQ/AAF, to Commanding General, AMC, subj: Issuance of Orders, June 5, 1947
15. Appointment Book and Diary, Lt Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg, July 7-9, [1947], and July 5-9, 1947
16. *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Photographs of Balloon Debris, [July 9, 1947]
17. Statement, Lt. Col. Sheridan D. Cavitt, USAF (Ret), May 24, 1994
18. Interview, Col Richard L. Weaver with Lt Col Sheridan D. Cavitt, USAF (Ret), [May 24, 1994]
19. Letters, Brig Gen E. O'Donnell to Commanding General AAF, July 8, 1946; Lt Col W.H. Congdon and Col D.P. Graul to Commanding General AMC, September 9, 1947; and Brig Gen Tom C. Rives to Commanding General AAF, September 10, 1947
20. Statement, Athelstan F. Spilhaus, June 3, 1994
21. Statement, Charles B. Moore, June 8, 1994, and Hieroglyphic and Balloon Train Drawings, August 28, 1992
22. Statement, Albert C. Trakowski, June 29, 1994
23. Interview, Col Jeffrey Butler and 1st Lt James McAndrew with Professor Charles B. Moore, June 8, 1994
24. Interview, [Col Jeffrey Butler and 1st Lt James McAndrew with] Col Albert C. Trakowski, USAF (Ret), June 29, 1994
25. Drawing, NYU Cluster Flight No. 2



26. Photographs, Project MOGUL Balloon Trains
27. Table No. 7, Summary of NYU Constant-Level Balloon Flights, November 20, 1946–July 5, 1947
28. Museums Contacted
29. Blueprint, Corner Reflector, ML–307C/AP Assembly
30. Statement, Irving Newton, July 21, 1994
31. Photographs, ML–307C/AP Device with Vintage Neoprene Balloons and Debris
- 32. Synopsis of Balloon Research Findings, with Memorandum for SAF/AAZ, Att: Colonel Richard L. Weaver, by James McAndrew, 1st Lt, USAFR**

**Attachments to the McAndrew Synopsis:**

1. *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Photographs of Balloon Debris, [July 9, 1947]
2. Organizational Chart, Watson Laboratories, January 20, 1947
3. Drawing, NYU Cluster Flight No. 2
4. Illustrations, AN/CRT–1 Sonabuoy
5. Blueprint, Corner Reflector, ML–307C/AP Assembly
6. Table No. 7, Summary of NYU Constant-Level Balloon Flights, November 20, 1946–September 9, 1947
7. Map of New Mexico
8. Illustration, Weather Balloon and Corner Reflector
9. Letter, Brig Gen E. O'Donnell to Commanding General AAF, July 8, 1946
10. Hieroglyphic Drawing, Charles B. Moore, August 28, 1992
11. *Alamogordo News*, "Fantasy of 'Flying Disc' Is Explained Here: News Men Watch Army Radar Crew Launch 'Disc'," July 10, 1947

**Appendices to the McAndrew Synopsis:**

1. *Roswell Daily Record*, July 9, 1947
2. Interview, Col Richard L. Weaver with Lt Col Sheridan D. Cavitt, USAF (Ret), [May 24, 1994]
3. Statement, Irving Newton, July 21, 1994
4. Letter, Lt Col Edward A. Doty to Mr David Bushnell, March 3, 1959
5. Letter, Brig Gen E. O'Donnell to Commanding General AAF, July 8, 1946
6. Report, Maurice Ewing for General Carl Spaatz, "Long Range Sound Transmission in the Atmosphere," n.d.
7. Report, HQ Fitzwilliam Fwd, "Sonic Balloon Test Kwajalein," May 17, 1948

8. Memo, Brig Gen Tom C. Rives to Maj Gen Curtis LeMay, subj: Relief of Major R.T. Crane as Project Officer for MOGUL and TORRID, June 18, 1946
9. Memo, Maj Gen Curtis E. LeMay to Maj Gen L.C. Craigie, April 16, 1947
10. New York University, *Constant Level Balloons, Final Report*, March 1, 1951
11. New York University, *Constant Level Balloons, Section 1, General*, November 15, 1949
12. New York University, *Constant Level Balloons, Section 3, Summary of Flights*, July 15, 1949
13. New York University, *Technical Report No. 1, Constant Level Balloon*, April 1, 1948
14. Athelstan F. Spilhaus, C.S. Schneider, C.B. Moore, "Controlled-Altitude Free Balloons," *Journal of Meteorology*, Vol. 5, August 1948
15. New York University, *Progress Report No. 6, Constant Level Balloon, Section II*, June 1947
16. New York University, *Special Report No. 1, Constant Level Balloon*, May 1947
17. Personal Journal of Albert P. Crary
18. New York University, *Progress Report [No. 7], Constant Level Balloon, Section II*, July 1947
19. New York University, *Progress Report No. 4, Radio Transmitting, Receiving and Recording System for Constant Level Balloon*, [Section I], April 2, 1947
20. Interview, Col Jeffrey Butler and 1st Lt James McAndrew with Professor Charles B. Moore, June 8, 1994
21. Report, Holloman AFB, "Progress Summary Report on U.S.A.F. Guided Missile Test Activities," August 1, 1948
22. Interview, [Col Jeffrey Butler and 1st Lt James McAndrew with] Col Albert C. Trakowski, USAF (Ret.), June 29, 1994
23. Report, Cambridge Field Station, Air Materiel Command, "Review of Air Materiel Command Geophysical Activities by Brigadier General D.N. Yates, and Staff, of the Air Weather Service," February 10, 1949
24. New York University, *Constant Level Balloons, Section 2, Operations*, January 31, 1949
25. Combined History, 509th Bomb Group and Roswell Army Airfield, September 1-30, 1947

**Attachment to Colonel Weaver's Report of Air Force Research:**

33. Mensuration Working Paper, with Drawing and Photo

## Photograph Section

General Carl A. Spaatz  
Lt Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg  
General Nathan F. Twining  
Maj Gen Curtis E. LeMay and Brig Gen Roger M. Ramey  
Col William H. Blanchard  
Maj Gen Clements McMullen  
Brig Gen Donald N. Yates  
Albert P. Crary and Phil Chantz  
Dr. W. Maurice Ewing and Albert P. Crary  
Dr. Althelstan F. Spilhaus and Col Marcellus Duffy  
Capt Albert C. Trakowski and Dr. James Peoples  
Charles B. Moore  
U.S. Army GR-3 Sound Ranging Set, TNT Detonation, and Project MOGUL PT Boat  
Project MOGUL Neoprene Balloons and Standard Meteorological Weather Balloons  
MOGUL Balloon Train, AN/FMQ-1 Radiosonde Receiver/Recorder, and Project MOGUL  
Microphones  
Polyethylene Balloons  
Project MOGUL Balloons  
Seyfang Laboratory Balloons  
Project MOGUL Balloon Train Components and Debris Recovered  
Heights of Familiar Architectural Structures Relative to the Length of a Project MOGUL  
Balloon Train  
Map of New Mexico



## INTRODUCTION

Throughout the latter half of the twentieth century the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) has evoked strong opinions and emotions. For some, the belief in or study of UFOs has assumed the dimensions of a religious quest. Others remain nonbelievers or at least skeptical of the existence of alien beings and elusive vehicles which never quite seem to manifest themselves. Regardless of one's conviction, nowhere has the debate about UFOs been more spirited than over the events that unfolded near the small New Mexico city of Roswell in the summer of 1947. Popularly known as the Roswell Incident, this event has become the most celebrated UFO encounter of all time and has stimulated enthusiasts like none other. Numerous witnesses, including former military personnel and respectable members of the local community, have come forward with tales of humanoid beings, alien technologies, and government cover-ups that have caused even the most skeptical observer to pause and take notice. Inevitably these stories coming from the desert have spawned countless articles, books, films, and even museums claiming to have proof that visitors had come from outer space.

In February 1994, the Air Force was informed that the General Accounting Office (GAO), an investigative agency of Congress, planned a formal audit to ascertain "the facts regarding the reported crash of an UFO in 1949 [1947] at Roswell, New Mexico."<sup>1</sup> This task was delegated to numerous agencies, but the focus was on the U.S. Air Force, the agency most often accused of hiding information and records on Roswell. The Presidential Science Advisor had also expressed an interest in the investigation. Thereupon, the Secretary of the Air Force directed that a complete records search identify, locate, and examine any and all information available on this subject. From the outset there was no predisposition to refute or overlook any information. Moreover, if any of the information discovered was under security classification, it was to be declassified, and if active or former Air Force officials had been sworn to a secrecy oath, they were to be freed from it. In short, the objective was to tell the Congress, and the American people, *everything* the Air Force knew about the Roswell claims.

Subsequently, researchers conducted an extensive search of Air Force archives, record centers, and scientific facilities. Seeking information that might help to explain peculiar tales of odd wreckage and alien bodies, the researchers reviewed a monumental number

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1. Memo, Marcia J. Van Note, DOD/IG, for Distribution, subj: General Accounting Office (GAO) Letter Dated February 9, 1944 . . . , Feb 23, 1994.



of documents concerning a variety of events, including aircraft crashes, errant missile tests, and nuclear mishaps.

The researchers reported to the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AA), the office responsible for both Air Force records and security policy oversight. Within SAF/AA, the tasking fell to the Director of Security and Special Program Oversight and its specialized subunit, the Declassification and Review Team. This team, comprised entirely of Reservists, was well versed in the Air Force's records system and its complex declassification procedures. Previously, Declassification and Review Team members demonstrated their expertise and effectiveness by declassifying millions of pages of Southeast Asian War and Prisoner of War—Missing in Action records.

As this study makes abundantly clear, the Declassification and Review Team found no evidence of any extraterrestrial craft or alien flight crew. In fact, what they did find had been declassified for more than twenty years—a shadowy, formerly Top Secret project, code-named MOGUL.

Project MOGUL resulted from two important post-World War II priorities set by the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, Henry H. "Hap" Arnold. These were to continue the cooperative wartime relationship between civilian research institutions and the military, and to maintain America's technological superiority, especially with respect to guarding against a bolt from the blue—in other words, a devastating surprise attack. MOGUL addressed both of these concerns. Developed partly under contract with leading scientific institutions—such as New York University (NYU), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Columbia University, and the University of California at Los Angeles—MOGUL's objective was to develop a long-range system capable of detecting Soviet nuclear detonations and ballistic missile launches.

Army Air Forces officials assembled an expert group of military and civilian scientists to carry out the project. The group included Dr. W. Maurice Ewing of Columbia University, a preeminent geophysicist and oceanographer; Dr. Athelstan F. Spilhaus, the Director of Research at NYU who later advised five presidents on scientific and cultural matters; Dr. James Peoples, the Air Force's civilian project scientist and later editor of the *Journal of Geophysical Research*; Albert P. Crary, also a civilian Air Force scientist, known for significant contributions to Antarctic research; and Charles B. Moore, Project Engineer at NYU and an atmospheric physicist who pioneered the use of giant plastic research balloons still widely used today. Col. Marcellus Duffy, a respected Air Force pilot and scientific administrator, led the project. Capt. Albert C. Trakowski, a young Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate, followed Duffy in the leadership role.

Determining whether the Soviets were testing nuclear devices was of the highest national priority; it demanded the utmost secrecy if the information gained was to be useful. When the Soviets exploded their first atomic device in August 1949, the experimental Project MOGUL was not in operation. However, the explosion was detected by a specially equipped Air Force B-29 aircraft. Accordingly, MOGUL was conducted under stringent security—secluded laboratories, code words, maximum security clearances, and strictest enforcement of need-to-know rules. Nevertheless, while the nature of the project remained

shrouded in secrecy, some of its operations obviously could not. The deployment of giant trains of balloons—over thirty research balloons and experimental sensors strung together and stretching more than 600 feet—could be neither disguised nor hidden from the public. Moreover, operational necessity required that these balloons be launched during daylight hours. It was therefore not surprising that these balloons were often mistaken for UFOs. In fact, MOGUL recovery crews often listened to broadcasts of UFO reports to assist them in their tracking operations. Additionally, the balloons were unsteerable, leading to such amusing events as the one reported by the *New York Times* in which a secret MOGUL balloon “floated blithely over the rooftops of Flatbush . . . causing general public excitement . . . before it came to rest on top of a [Brooklyn] tavern.”<sup>2</sup> In another episode, MOGUL balloon recovery technicians directed a B-17 bomber, which was tracking one of the tests, to buzz and scare off a curious oil rig crew that was about to “capture” a balloon train that had fallen near Roswell. The ruse worked. However, too much activity was going on for the project to remain completely hidden. A MOGUL project officer later noted, “It was like having an elephant in your backyard . . . and hoping no one would notice.”<sup>3</sup> These occurrences were typical, leading the recovery crews to describe themselves as *Balloonatics*, due to the predicaments in which the wandering balloons sometimes placed them, but the information the balloons were attempting to obtain was vital.

To attempt to limit unauthorized disclosure, the Air Force employed a security mechanism known as compartmentation. Compartmentation controlled access to classified information by dispersing portions of the research among several facilities and institutions. Each participating entity received only enough information necessary to accomplish its assigned tasks. In the case of MOGUL, only a small circle of Air Force officers received the intimate details that linked together these unrelated research projects. The use of compartmentation along with strict enforcement of the need to know enabled MOGUL to remain a secret—despite its obvious security difficulties—and to remain unevaluated for many years as the cause of the Roswell Incident.

The issue of compartmentation was significant because some UFO researchers assert that the persons who recovered the MOGUL equipment, members of the 509th Bombardment Group stationed at Roswell Army Airfield, should have been able to recognize the debris collected at the crash site as that of a research balloon. Although members of the 509th possessed high-level clearances, they were not privy to the existence of MOGUL; their job was to deliver nuclear weapons, not to detect them. The unusual combination of experimental equipment did not encourage easy identification that undoubtedly left some members of the 509th with unanswered questions. Some UFO enthusiasts have manipulated these unanswered questions to support their flying-saucer recovery scenario, while eagerly supplying unfounded explanations of extraterrestrial visitation and cosmic conspiracy. Additionally, many claims of a flying saucer crash at Roswell rest on the description of debris collected at the Foster ranch site. UFO researchers, including those

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2. *New York Times*, “Balloon Staggers Down to Brooklyn Tavern, Hooks Itself to Roof and Upsets Decorum,” Oct 1, 1948.

3. *New York Times*, “Wreckage of a ‘Spaceship’: Of This Earth (and U.S.),” Sep 18, 1994.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

who are said to have known *all about* MOGUL, apparently did not compare the descriptions of the suspect debris with that of the components of a Project MOGUL balloon train. MOGUL reports and documents that contain descriptions, illustrations, and photographs have been publicly available for at least twenty years. Had the researchers completed even a cursory comparison, they would have found that the materials were suspiciously similar; detailed examination would have shown them to be one and the same. In the final analysis, it appears these individuals have pursued the convenient red herring provided by Roswell Army Airfield, while the real explanation lay just over the Sacramento Mountains at the MOGUL launch site in Alamogordo.

This report explains the events that transpired in and near Roswell, New Mexico, in the summer of 1947. It is based on written documentation and first-hand accounts of participants, all of which are provided here in their entirety. While these answers are not as titillating as tales of unearthly craft and creatures, it is a fascinating story nonetheless.

JAMES McANDREW, 1ST LT, USAFR  
Declassification and Review Officer  
SAF/AAZD

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000



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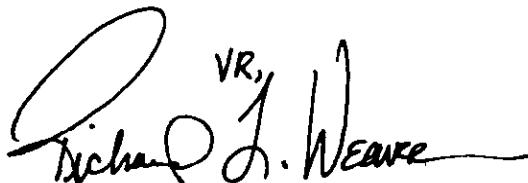
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

FROM: SAF/AAZ  
1720 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1720

SUBJECT: Report of Air Force Research Regarding the "Roswell Incident"

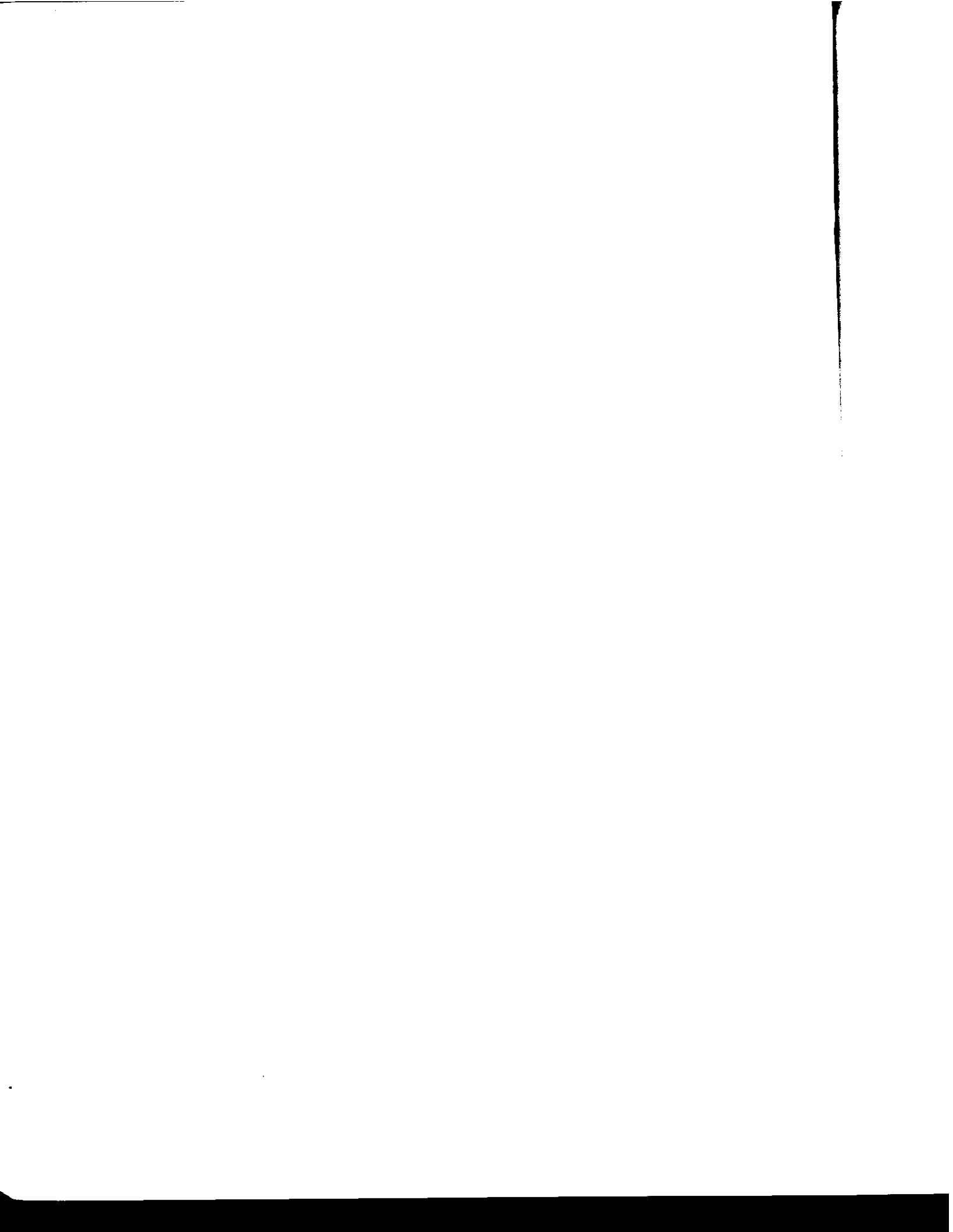
Attached is a report prepared in support of a General Accounting Office (GAO) audit that is seeking to identify information concerning the "Roswell Incident." The report documents the considerable effort expended by numerous Air Force offices and personnel in this matter.

The Air Force efforts did not identify any indication that the "Roswell Incident" was any type of extraterrestrial event or that the Air Force has engaged in a 47 year conspiracy or "cover-up" of information relating to it. Therefore, it is assumed that pro-UFO groups will strongly object to the attached report and denounce it as either shortsighted or a continuation of the "cover-up" conspiracy. Nevertheless, the attached report is a good faith effort and the first time any agency of the government has positively responded officially to the ever-escalating claims surrounding the Roswell matter.

VR,  


RICHARD L. WEAVER, Col, USAF  
Director, Security and Special  
Program Oversight

Attachment:  
Report of Research Regarding  
the "Roswell Incident", 27 Jul 94

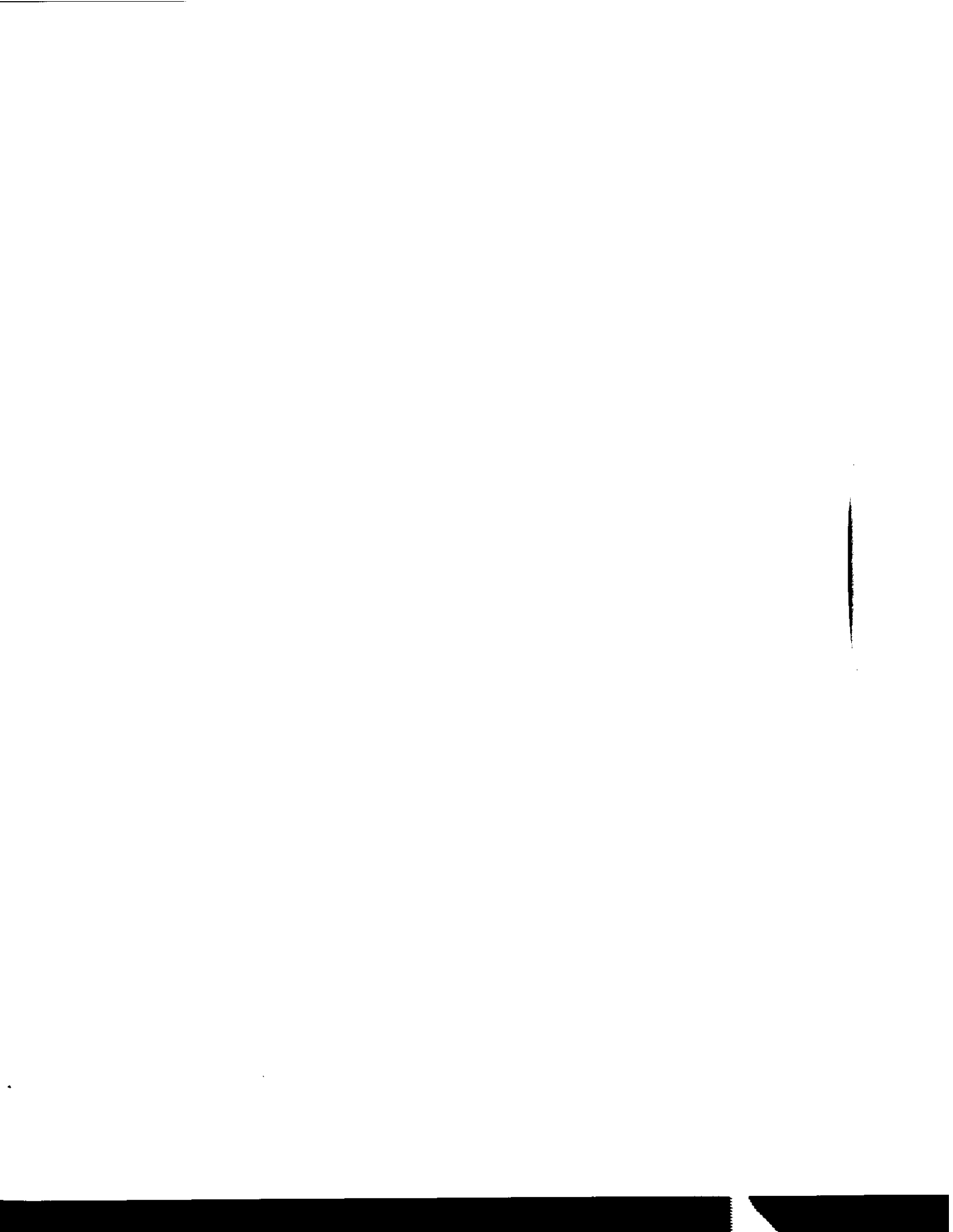




**REPORT OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH  
REGARDING THE  
"ROSWELL INCIDENT"**



**JULY 1994**



## REPORT OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH REGARDING THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT"

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The "Roswell Incident" refers to an event that supposedly happened in July, 1947, wherein the Army Air Forces (AAF) allegedly recovered remains of a crashed "flying disc" near Roswell, New Mexico. In February, 1994, the General Accounting Office (GAO), acting on the request of a New Mexico Congressman, initiated an audit to attempt to locate records of such an incident and to determine if records regarding it were properly handled. Although the GAO effort was to look at a number of government agencies, the apparent focus was on the United States Air Force (USAF). SAF/AAZ, as the Central Point of Contact for the GAO in this matter, initiated a systematic search of current Air Force offices as well as numerous archives and records centers that might help explain this matter. Research revealed that the "Roswell Incident" was not even considered a UFO event until the 1978-1980 time frame. Prior to that, the incident was dismissed because the AAF originally identified the debris recovered as being that of a weather balloon. Subsequently, various authors wrote a number of books claiming that not only was debris from an alien spacecraft recovered, but also the bodies of the craft's alien occupants. These claims continue to evolve today and the Air Force is now routinely accused of engaging in a "cover-up" of this supposed event.

The research located no records at existing Air Force offices that indicated any "cover-up" by the USAF or any indication of such a recovery. Consequently, efforts were intensified by Air Force researchers at numerous locations where records for the period in question were stored. The records reviewed did not reveal any increase in operations, security, or any other activity in July, 1947, that indicated any such unusual event may have occurred. Records were located and thoroughly explored concerning a then-Top Secret balloon project, designed to attempt to monitor Soviet nuclear tests, known as Project MOGUL. Additionally, several surviving project personnel were located and interviewed, as was the only surviving person who recovered debris from the original Roswell site in 1947 and the former officer who initially identified the wreckage as a balloon. Comparison of all information developed or obtained indicated that the material recovered near Roswell was consistent with a balloon device and most likely from one of the MOGUL balloons that had not been previously recovered. Air Force research efforts did not disclose any records of the recovery of any "alien" bodies or extraterrestrial materials.

## INTRODUCTION

Air Force involvement in the alleged UFO-related incident popularly known as the "Roswell Incident" began as the result of a January 14, 1994, *Washington Post* article (Atch 1) which announced Congressman Steven Schiff's intent to initiate a GAO effort to resolve this controversial matter. Having previously been involved in numerous Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Congressional requests on "unusual aircraft," to include Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), The Director, Security and Special Program Oversight, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AAZ), believed the Air Force would become involved in any GAO effort involving this subject.

Thus, in late January, 1994, SAF/AAZ directed its research/declassification team, SAF/AAZD, to attempt to locate any official records relative to this matter. These initial research efforts focused on records at the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA), Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), AL, the Air Force Safety Agency (AFSA) at Kirtland AFB, NM, and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

On February 15, 1994, the GAO officially notified Secretary of Defense William J. Perry that it was initiating an audit of the Department of Defense (DoD) policies and procedures for acquiring, classifying, retaining, and disposing of official government documents dealing with weather balloon, aircraft, and similar crash incidents (Atch 2). This notification was subsequently passed to the Department of Defense Inspector General who in turn officially notified the Secretaries of the Services and other affected parties of the audit in a February 23, 1994, memo (Atch 3). This memorandum indicated that the "GAO is anxious to respond to Representative Schiff's request and to dispel any concerns that the DoD is being unresponsive." These were the first official US Government documents that indicated that the purpose of the GAO was to review "crash incidents involving weather balloons and unknown aircraft, such as UFOs and foreign aircraft, and (2) the facts involving the reported crash of an UFO in 1949 [sic, 1947] at Roswell, New Mexico . . . [and an] alleged DoD cover-up."

An entrance meeting of potentially concerned parties was held in the offices of the DoD Inspector General on February 28, 1994. During this meeting it was learned that, while the audit officially would be reviewing the records of a number of DoD (and possibly other Executive Branch entities), the bulk of the effort would be focused on Air Force records and systems. The audit was officially given the GAO code 701034 and entitled "Records Management Procedures Dealing With Weather Balloon, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents." Although this official title appeared rather broad, there was no misunderstanding that the real purpose was to attempt to locate records and/or information on the "Roswell Incident." This incident, explained later in more detail, generally dealt with the claim that in July of 1947, the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) recovered a flying saucer and /or its alien occupants which supposedly crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. When the USAAF ultimately became the

USAF in September, 1947, the USAF inherited equipment, personnel, records, policies, and procedures from the AAF. In this particular case, the Air Force also inherited the allegation that it had "covered up" the "Roswell Incident" and has continued to do so for the next 47 years.

Within the Air Force, the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AA) is responsible both for information management procedures (SAF/AAI) and security policy and oversight (SAF/AAZ). Because of this organization, SAF/AA was the logical entity to assist the GAO in its audit, and SAF/AAZ was officially named as the Central Point of Contact for this endeavor (Atch 4). Subsequently, the then-Administrative Assistant, Mr. Robert J. McCormick, issued a tasking memorandum dated March 1, 1994 (Atch 5), to a number of current Air Staff and Secretariat offices that might possibly have records related to such an incident if, indeed, something had actually occurred. This search for records was purposely limited to Air Force records and systems since:

- (a) The Air Force had no authority to compel other agencies to review their records;
- (b) The Air Force would have no way to monitor the completeness of their efforts if they did; and
- (c) the overall effort was the task and responsibility of the GAO—not the Air Force.

During the in-briefing process with GAO, it was learned that this audit was, indeed, generated at the specific request of Congressman Steven Schiff of New Mexico. Earlier, Congressman Schiff had written to the Department of Defense Legislative Liaison Office for information on the "Roswell Incident" and had been advised that it was part of the former UFO "Project Bluebook" that had previously been turned over to NARA by the Air Force. Congressman Schiff subsequently learned from NARA that, although they did, indeed, have the "Bluebook" materials, the "Roswell Incident" was not part of that report. Congressman Schiff, apparently perceiving that he had been "stonewalled" by the DoD, then generated the request for the aforementioned audit.

It is within this context that the following research and assistance efforts were conducted in support of the GAO. This report is intended to stand as the final official Air Force response regarding this matter.

#### THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT"—WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY REPORTED IN 1947

The modern preoccupation with what ultimately came to be called Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) actually began in June, 1947. Although some pro-UFO researchers argue that sightings of UFOs go back to Biblical times, most researchers will not dispute that anything in UFO history can compare with the phenomenon that began in 1947. What was later characterized as "the UFO Wave of 1947" began with 16 alleged sightings that occurred between May 17 and July 12, 1947



(although some researchers claim there were as many as 800 sightings during that period). Interestingly, the "Roswell Incident" was not considered one of these 1947 events until the 1978–1980 time frame. There is no dispute, however, that something happened near Roswell in July, 1947, since it was reported in a number of contemporary newspaper articles, the most famous of which were the July 8 and July 9 editions of the *Roswell Daily Record*. The July 8 edition reported "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch In Roswell Region," while the next day's edition reported, "Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer" and "Harassed Rancher Who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It."

The first story reported that the Intelligence Officer of the 509th Bomb Group, stationed at Roswell Army Air Field, Major Jesse A. Marcel, had recovered a "flying disc" from the range lands of an unidentified rancher in the vicinity of Roswell and that the disc had been "flown to higher headquarters." That same story also reported that a Roswell couple claimed to have seen a large unidentified object fly by their home on July 2, 1947.

The July 9 edition of the paper noted that Brigadier General Roger Ramey, Commander of the Eighth Air Force at Fort Worth, Texas, stated that upon examination the debris recovered by Marcel was determined to be a weather balloon. The wreckage was described as a ". . . bundle of tinfoil, broken wood beams, and rubber remnants of a balloon. . . ." The additional story of the "harassed rancher" identified him as W.W. Brazel of Lincoln County, New Mexico. He claimed that he and his son, Vernon, found the material on June 14, 1947, when they "came upon a large area of bright wreckage made up of rubber strips, tinfoil, a rather tough paper, and sticks." He picked up some of the debris on July 4 and ". . . the next day he first heard about the flying discs and wondered if what he had found might have been the remnants of one of these." Brazel subsequently went to Roswell on July 7 and contacted the Sheriff, who apparently notified Major Marcel. Major Marcel and "a man in plain clothes" then accompanied Brazel home to pick up the rest of the pieces. The article further related that Brazel thought that the material:

. . . might have been as large as a table top. The balloon which held it up, if that is how it worked, must have been about 12 feet long, he felt, measuring the distance by the size of the room in which he sat. The rubber was smoky gray in color and scattered over an area about 200 yards in diameter. When the debris was gathered up the tinfoil, paper, tape, and sticks made a bundle about three feet long and 7 or 8 inches thick, while the rubber made a bundle about 18 or 20 inches long and about 8 inches thick. In all, he estimated, the entire lot would have weighed maybe five pounds. There was no sign of any metal in the area which might have been used for an engine and no sign of any propellers of any kind. Although at least one paper fin had been glued onto some of the tinfoil. There were no words to be found anywhere on the instrument although there were letters on some of the parts. Considerable scotch tape and

some tape with flowers printed upon it had been used in the construction. No string or wire were to be found but there were some eyelets in the paper to indicate that some sort of attachment may have been used. Brazel said that he had previously found two weather balloons on the ranch, but that what he found this time did not in any way resemble either of these.

## EVOLUTION OF THE EVENT FROM 1947 TO THE PRESENT

General Ramey's press conference and rancher Brazel's statement effectively ended this as a UFO-related matter until 1978, although some UFO researchers argue that there were several obtuse references to it in 1950's-era literature. Roswell, for example, is not referred to in the official USAF investigation of UFOs reported in Project Bluebook or its predecessors, Project Sign and Project Grudge, which ran from 1948-1969 (which Congressman Schiff subsequently learned when he made his original inquiry).

In 1978, an article appeared in a tabloid newspaper, the *National Enquirer*, which reported the former intelligence officer, Marcel, claimed that he had recovered UFO debris near Roswell in 1947. Also in 1978, a UFO researcher, Stanton Friedman, met with Marcel and began investigating the claims that the material Marcel handled was from a crashed UFO. Similarly, two authors, William L. Moore and Charles Berlitz, also engaged in research which led them to publish a book, *The Roswell Incident*, in 1980. In this book they reported they interviewed a number of persons who claimed to have been present at Roswell in 1947 and professed to be either firsthand or secondhand witnesses to strange events that supposedly occurred. Since 1978-1980, other UFO researchers, most notably Donald Schmitt and Kevin Randle, claim to have located and interviewed even more persons with supposed knowledge of unusual happenings at Roswell. These included both civilian and former military persons.

Additionally, the Robert Stack-hosted television show "Unsolved Mysteries" devoted a large portion of one show to a "re-creation" of the supposed Roswell events. Numerous other television shows have done likewise, particularly during the last several years, and a made-for-TV movie on the subject is due to be released this summer. The overall thrust of these articles, books, and shows is that the "Roswell Incident" was actually the crash of a craft from another world, the US Government recovered it, and has been "covering up" this fact from the American public since 1947, using a combination of disinformation, ridicule, and threats of bodily harm, to do so. Generally, the USAF bears the brunt of these accusations.

From the rather benign description of the "event" and the recovery of some material as described in the original newspaper accounts, the "Roswell Incident" has since grown to mythical (if not mystical) proportions in the eyes and minds of some researchers, portions of the media and at least part of the American public. There are also now several major variations of the "Roswell story." For

example, it was originally reported that there was only recovery of debris from one site. This has since grown from a minimal amount of debris recovered from a small area to airplane loads of debris from multiple huge "debris fields." Likewise, the relatively simple description of sticks, paper, tape and tinfoil has since grown to exotic metals with hieroglyphics and fiber optic-like materials. Most versions now claim that there were two crash sites where debris was recovered, and at the second site, alleged bodies of extraterrestrial aliens were supposedly retrieved. The number of these "alien bodies" recovered also varied. These claims are further complicated by the fact that UFO researchers are not in agreement among themselves as to exactly where these recovery sites were located or even the dates of the alleged crash(es). Consistently, however, the AAF was accused of securing these sites, recovering all the material therefrom, keeping locals away, and returning the recovered wreckage (and bodies) to Roswell under extremely tight security for further processing and later exploitation.

Once back at Roswell Army Air Field, it is generally alleged that special measures were taken to notify higher headquarters and arrangements made to have recovered materials shipped to other locations for analysis. These locations include Fort Worth, Texas, the home of the Eighth Air Force Headquarters; possibly Sandia Base (now Kirtland AFB), New Mexico; possibly Andrews Army Air Field, Maryland; and always to Wright Field, now known as Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The latter location was the home of "T-2" which later became known as the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) and the Air Materiel Command (AMC), and would, in fact, be a logical location to study unknown materials from whatever origin. Most of the Roswell stories that contain the recovery of alien bodies also show them being shipped to Wright Field. Once the material and bodies were dispersed for further analysis and/or exploitation, the government in general, and the Army Air Forces in particular, engaged in covering up all information relating to the alleged crash and recovery, including the use of security oaths to military persons and the use of coercion (including alleged death threats) to others. This, as theorized by some UFO researchers, has allowed the government to keep the fact that there is intelligent extraterrestrial life from the American public for 47 years. It also supposedly allowed the US Government to exploit recovered extraterrestrial materials by reverse engineering them, ultimately providing such things as fiber optic and stealth technology. The "death threats," oaths, and other forms of coercion alleged to have been meted out by the AAF personnel to keep people from talking have apparently not been very effective, as several hundred people are claimed to have come forward (without harm) with some knowledge of the "Roswell Incident" during interviews with nongovernment researchers and the media.

Adding some measure of credibility to the claims that have arisen since 1978 is the apparent depth of research of some of the authors and the extent of their efforts. Their claims are lessened somewhat, however, by the fact that almost all their information came from verbal reports many years after the alleged incident occurred. Many of the persons interviewed were, in fact, stationed at, or lived near Roswell during the time in question, and a number of them claim military

service. Most, however, related their stories in their older years, well after the fact. In other cases, the information provided is second or thirdhand, having been passed through a friend or relative after the principal had died. What is uniquely lacking in the entire exploration and exploitation of the "Roswell Incident" is official positive documentary or physical evidence of any kind that supports the claims of those who allege that something unusual happened. Conversely, there has never been any previous documentary evidence produced by those who would debunk the incident to show that something did not happen; although logic dictates that bureaucracies do not spend time documenting nonevents.

## SEARCH STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

To insure senior Air Force leadership that there were no hidden or overlooked files that might relate to the "Roswell Incident," and to provide the GAO with the best and most complete information available, SAF/AAZ constructed a strategy based on direct tasking from the Office of the Secretary, to elicit information from those functional offices and organizations where such information might logically be contained. This included directing searches at current offices where special or unusual projects might be carried out, as well as historical organizations, archives, and records centers over which the Air Force exerted some degree of control. Researchers did not, however, go to the US Army to review historical records in areas such as missile launches from White Sands, or to the Department of Energy to determine if its forerunner, the Atomic Energy Commission, had any records of nuclear-related incidents that might have occurred at or near Roswell in 1947. To do so would have encroached on GAO's charter in this matter. What Air Force researchers did do, however, was to search for records still under Air Force control pertaining to these subject areas.

In order to determine parameters for the most productive search of records, a review was first conducted of the major works regarding the "Roswell Incident" available in the popular literature. These works included: *The Roswell Incident* (1980) by William Moore and Charles Berlitz; "Crashed Saucers: Evidence in Search of Proof" (1985) by Moore; *The UFO Crash at Roswell* (1991) by Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt; *The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell* (1994), also by Randle and Schmitt; *The Roswell Report: A Historical Perspective* (1991), George M. Eberhart, editor; "The Roswell Events" (1993) compiled by Fred Whiting; *Crash at Corona* (1992) by Stanton T. Friedman and Don Berliner; and numerous other articles written by a combination of the above and other researchers. Collectively, the above represent the "pro" UFO writers who allege that the government is engaged in a conspiracy. There are no specific books written entirely on the theme that nothing happened at Roswell. However, Curtis Peebles in *Watch the Skies!* (1994) discussed the development of the UFO story and growth of subsequent claims as a phenomenon. There has also been serious research as well as a number of detailed articles written by so-called "debunkers" of Roswell and other incidents, most notably Philip J. Klass, who writes *The Skeptic's UFO Newsletter*, and Robert Todd, a private researcher. The concerns and claims of all the above authors and others were considered in conducting the USAF records search.

It was also decided, particularly after a review of the above popular literature, that no specific attempt would be made to try to refute, point by point, the numerous claims made in the various publications. Many of these claims appear to be hearsay, undocumented, taken out of context, self-serving, or otherwise dubious. Additionally, many of the above authors are not even in agreement over various claims. Most notable of the confusing and now ever-changing claims is the controversy over the date(s) of the alleged incident, the exact location(s) of the purported debris, and the extent of the wreckage. Such discrepancies in claims made the search much more difficult by greatly expanding the volume of records that had to be searched.

An example of trying to deal with questionable claims is illustrated by the following example: One of the popular books mentioned that was reviewed claimed that the writers had submitted the names and serial numbers of "over two dozen" personnel stationed at Roswell in July, 1947, to the Veterans Administration and the Defense Department to confirm their military service. They then listed eleven of these persons by name and asked the question: "Why does neither the Defense Department nor the Veteran's Administration have records of any of these men when we can document that each served at Roswell Army Air Field." That claim sounded serious so SAF/AAZD was tasked to check these eleven names in the Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Using only the names (since the authors did not list the serial numbers) the researcher quickly found records readily identifiable with eight of these persons. The other three had such common names that there could have been multiple possibilities. Interestingly, one of the listed "missing" persons had a casualty report in his records reflecting that he died in 1951, while the writers claimed to have interviewed him (or a person of the exact same name) in 1990.

While the historical document search was in progress, it was decided to attempt to locate and interview several persons identified as still living who could possibly answer questions generated by the research. This had never been officially done before, although most of the persons contacted reported that they had also been contacted in the past by some of the listed authors or other private researchers. In order to counter possible future arguments that the persons interviewed were still "covering up" material because of prior security oaths, the interviewees were provided with authorization from either the Secretary of the Air Force or the Senior Security Official of the Air Force that would officially allow discussion of classified information, if applicable, or free them from any prior restriction in discussing the matter, if such existed. Again, the focus was on interviewing persons that could address specific issues raised by research and no consideration was given to try and locate every alleged witness claimed to have been contacted by the various authors. For example, one of the interviewees thought vital to obtain an official signed, sworn statement from was Sheridan Cavitt, Lt Col, USAF (Retired), who is the last living member of the three persons universally acknowledged to have recovered material from the Foster Ranch. Others were also interviewed as information developed (discussed in detail later). Additionally, in some cases survivors of deceased persons were also contacted in

an attempt to locate various records thought to have been in the custody of the deceased.

Even though Air Force research originally started in January, 1994, the first official Air Force-wide tasking was directed by the March 1, 1994, memorandum from SAF/AA (Atch 5) and was addressed to those current Air Staff elements that would be the likely repository for any records, particularly if there was anything of an extraordinary nature involved. This meant that the search was not limited to unclassified materials, but also would include records of the highest classification and compartmentation.

The specific Air Staff/Secretariat offices queried included the following:

- (a) SAF/AAI, Directorate of Information Management
- (b) SAF/AQL, Directorate of Electronics and Special Programs
- (c) AF/SE, Air Force Safety
- (d) AF/HO, Air Force Historian
- (e) AF/IN, Air Force Intelligence [including the Air Force Intelligence Agency (AFIA) and the National Air Intelligence Center (NAIC)]
- (f) AF/XOW, Directorate of Weather
- (g) [added later] The Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI)

In addition to the above Air Staff and Secretariat offices, SAF/AAZ also reviewed appropriate classified records for any tie-in to this matter. With regards to highly classified records, it should be noted that any programs that employ enhanced security measures or controls are known as a Special Access Programs (SAPs). The authority for such programs comes from Executive Order 12356 and flows from the Department of Defense to the Services via DoD Directive 5205.7. These programs are implemented in the Air Force by Policy Directive 16-7 and Air Force Instruction 16-701. These directives contain detailed requirements for controlling and reporting, in a very strict manner, all SAPs. This includes a report from the Secretary of the Air Force to the Secretary of Defense (and ultimately to Congress) on all SAPs submitted for approval, and a certification that there are no "SAP-like" programs being operated. These reporting requirements are stipulated in public law.

It followed that if the Air Force had recovered some type of extraterrestrial spacecraft and/or bodies and was exploiting this for scientific and technology purposes, then such a program would be operated as a Special Access Program (SAP). SAF/AAZ, the Central Office for all Air Force SAPs, has knowledge of, and security oversight over, all SAPs. SAF/AAZ categorically stated that no such SAP or SAPs exist that pertain to extraterrestrial spacecraft/aliens.

Likewise, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff, who head the Special Program Oversight Committee which oversees all sensitive programs in the Air Force, had no knowledge of the existence of any such program involving, or relating to, the events at Roswell or the alleged technology that supposedly

resulted therefrom. Besides the obvious irregularity and illegality of keeping such information from the most senior Air Force officials, it would also be illogical, since these officials are responsible for obtaining funding for operations, research, development, and security. Without funding, such a program, operation, or organization could not exist. Even to keep such a fact "covered-up" in some sort of passive "caretaker status" would involve money. More importantly, it would involve people and create paperwork.

The aforementioned March 1, 1994, SAF/AA tasking generated negative responses (Atchs 6-12) from all recipients; i.e., all offices reported that they had no information that would explain the incident. Consequently, these negative responses led to an increase in the already ongoing historical research at records centers and archives.

The extensive archival and records center search was systematically carried out by the SAF/AAZD Declassification Review Team. This team is composed entirely of Air Force Reserve personnel who have extensive training and experience in large scale review of records. (Previous efforts include the Southeast Asia Declassification Review, declassification of POW/MIA records, and the review of the Gulf War Air Power Survey records.) The team members all had the requisite security clearances for classified information and had the authority of the Secretary of the Air Force to declassify any classified record they found that might be related to Roswell. SAF/AAZD conducted reviews at a number of locations, including the National Archives in Washington, DC; the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO; the National Archives, Suitland MD; the National Records Center, Suitland, MD; Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC; Federal Records Center, Ft Worth, TX; the INSCOM Archives, Fort Meade, MD; National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC; Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB, AL; Center for Air Force History, Bolling AFB, DC; Phillips Laboratory, Hanscom AFB, MA and Kirtland AFB, NM; Rome Laboratory, Griffiss AFB, NY; and the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

A listing of the specific record areas searched is appended as Atch 13. The areas included all those subject areas logically believed to possibly contain any reference to activities at Roswell Army Air Field during the period of time in question. It is anticipated that detractors from this effort will complain that "they did not search record group *x*, box *y*, or reel *z*, etc.; that's where the real records are!" Such complaints are unavoidable and there is no possible way that the millions of records under Air Force control could be searched page by page. The team endeavored to make logical searches in those places where records would likely be found. They were assisted in this task by archivists, historians, and records management specialists, including experienced persons who have continually worked in Army and Air Force records systems since 1943. The team also searched some record areas that were recommended by serious private researchers such as Robert Todd, who had independently obtained almost encyclopedic knowledge of the complexities of Air Force records systems, particularly those related to this subject area.

Not surprisingly, the research team found the usual number of problems in many of the records centers (particularly St. Louis) with misfiling, lost or misplaced documents, mismarking of documents, or the breaking up of record groups over the years and refileing in different systems. This included, for example, a small amount of missing "decimal files" from the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell that covered the years 1945-1949, that were marked on the index as "destroyed." The researchers noted that there was no pattern to any anomalies found and that most discrepancies were minor and consistent with what they had found in the past on similar projects.

## WHAT THE ROSWELL INCIDENT WAS NOT

Before discussing specific positive results that these efforts revealed, it is first appropriate to discuss those things, as indicated by information available to the Air Force, that the "Roswell Incident" *was not*:

### *An Airplane Crash*

Of all the things that are documented and tracked within the Air Force, among the most detailed and scrupulous are airplane crashes. In fact, records of air crashes go back to the first years of military flight. Safety records and reports are available for all crashes that involved serious damage, injury, death, or a combination of these factors. These records also include incidents involving experimental or classified aircraft. USAF records showed that between June 24, 1947, and July 28, 1947, there were five crashes in New Mexico alone, involving A-26C, P-51N, C-82A, P-80A, and PQ-14B aircraft; however, none of these occurred on the date(s) in question nor in the area(s) in question.

One of the additional areas specifically set forth by GAO in its efforts was to deal with how the Air Force (and others) specifically documented "... weather balloon ... and other crash incidents." In this area, the search efforts revealed that there are no *air* safety records pertaining to weather balloon crashes (all weather balloons "crash" sooner or later); however, there are provisions for generating reports of "crashes" as ground safety incidents in the unlikely chance that a balloon injures someone or causes damage. Such records are only maintained for five years.

### *A Missile Crash*

A crashed or errant missile, usually described as a captured German V-2 or one of its variants, is sometimes set forth as a possible explanation for the debris recovered near Roswell. Since much of this testing done at nearby White Sands was secret at the time, it would be logical to assume that the government would handle any missile mishap under tight security, particularly if the mishap occurred on private land. From the records reviewed by the Air Force, however, there was nothing located to suggest that this was the case. Although the bulk of remaining testing records are under the control of the US Army, the subject has also been very well documented over the years within Air Force records. There would be no reason to keep such information classified today. The USAF found



no indicators or even hints that a missile was involved in this matter.

#### *A Nuclear Accident*

One of the areas considered was that whatever happened near Roswell may have involved nuclear weapons. This was a logical area of concern since the 509th Bomb Group was the only military unit in the world at the time that had access to nuclear weapons. Again, reviews of available records gave no indication that this was the case. A number of records still classified Top Secret and Secret—Restricted Data having to do with nuclear weapons were located in the Federal Records Center in St. Louis, MO. These records, which pertained to the 509th, had nothing to do with any activities that could have been misinterpreted as the "Roswell Incident." Also, any records of a nuclear-related incident would have been inherited by the Department of Energy (DOE), and, had one occurred, it is likely DOE would have publicly reported it as part of its recent declassification and public release efforts. There were no ancillary records in Air Force files to indicate the potential existence of such records within DOE channels, however.

#### *An Extraterrestrial Craft*

The Air Force research found absolutely no indication that what happened near Roswell in 1947, involved any type of extraterrestrial spacecraft. This, of course, is the crux of this entire matter. "Pro-UFO" persons who obtain a copy of this report, at this point, most probably begin the "cover-up is still on" claims. Nevertheless, the research indicated absolutely no evidence of *any kind* that a spaceship crashed near Roswell or that any alien occupants were recovered therefrom, in some secret military operation or otherwise. This does not mean, however, that the early Air Force was not concerned about UFOs. However, in the early days, "UFO" meant Unidentified Flying Object, which literally translated as some object in the air that was not readily identifiable. It did not mean, as the term has evolved in today's language, to equate to alien spaceships. Records from the period reviewed by Air Force researchers, as well as those cited by the authors mentioned before, do indicate that the USAF *was* seriously concerned about the inability to adequately identify unknown flying objects reported in American airspace. All the records, however, indicated that the focus of concern was not on aliens, hostile or otherwise, but on the Soviet Union. Many documents from that period speak to the possibility of developmental secret Soviet aircraft overflying US airspace. This, of course, was of major concern to the fledgling USAF, whose job it was to protect these same skies.

The research revealed only one official AAF document that indicated that there was any activity of any type that pertained to UFOs and Roswell in July, 1947. This was a small section of the July Historical Report for the 509th Bomb Group and Roswell Army Air Field that stated: "The Office of Public Information was quite busy during the month answering inquiries on the 'flying disc,' which was reported to be in possession of the 509th Bomb Group. The object turned out to be a radar tracking balloon" (included with Atch 11). Additionally, this history showed that the 509th Commander, Colonel Blanchard, went on leave on July 8, 1947, which would be a somewhat unusual maneuver for a person involved in

the supposed first ever recovery of extraterrestrial materials. (Detractors claim Blanchard did this as a ploy to elude the press and go to the scene to direct the recovery operations.) The history and the morning reports also showed that the subsequent activities at Roswell during the month were mostly mundane and not indicative of any unusual high-level activity, expenditure of manpower, resources or security.

Likewise, the researchers found no indication of heightened activity anywhere else in the military hierarchy in the July, 1947, message traffic or orders (to include classified traffic). There were no indications and warnings, notice of alerts, or a higher tempo of operational activity reported that would be logically generated if an alien craft, whose intentions were unknown, entered US territory. To believe that such operational and high-level security activity could be conducted solely by relying on unsecured telecommunications or personal contact without creating any records of such activity certainly stretches the imagination of those who have served in the military who know that paperwork of some kind is necessary to accomplish even emergency, highly classified, or sensitive tasks.

An example of activity sometimes cited by pro-UFO writers to illustrate the point that something unusual was going on was the travel of Lt Gen Nathan Twining, Commander of the Air Materiel Command, to New Mexico in July, 1947. Actually, records were located indicating that Twining went to the Bomb Commanders' Course on July 8, along with a number of other general officers, and requested orders to do so a month before, on June 5, 1947 (Atch 14).

Similarly, it has also been alleged that General Hoyt Vandenberg, Deputy Chief of Staff at the time, had been involved directing activity regarding events at Roswell. Activity reports (Atch 15), located in General Vandenberg's personal papers stored in the Library of Congress, did indicate that on July 7, he was busy with a "flying disc" incident; however this particular incident involved Ellington Field, Texas and the Spokane (Washington) Depot. After much discussion and information gathering on this incident, it was learned to be a hoax. There is no similar mention of his personal interest or involvement in Roswell events except in the newspapers.

The above are but two small examples that indicate that if some event happened that was one of the "watershed happenings" in human history, the US military certainly reacted in an unconcerned and cavalier manner. In an actual case, the military would have had to order thousands of soldiers and airman, not only at Roswell but throughout the US, to act nonchalantly, pretend to conduct and report business as usual, and generate absolutely no paperwork of a suspicious nature, while simultaneously anticipating that twenty years or more into the future people would have available a comprehensive Freedom of Information Act that would give them great leeway to review and explore government documents. The records indicate that none of this happened (or if it did, it was controlled by a security system so efficient and tight that no one, US or otherwise, has been able to duplicate it since. If such a system had been in effect at the time, it would

have also been used to protect our atomic secrets from the Soviets, which history has showed obviously was not the case). The records reviewed confirmed that no such sophisticated and efficient security system existed.

#### WHAT THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT" WAS

As previously discussed, what was originally reported to have been recovered was a balloon of some sort, usually described as a "weather balloon," although the majority of the wreckage that was ultimately displayed by General Ramey and Major Marcel in the famous photos (Atch 16) in Fort Worth was that of a radar target normally suspended from balloons. This radar target, discussed in more detail later, was certainly consistent with the description of July 9 newspaper article which discussed "tin foil, paper, tape, and sticks." Additionally, the description of the "flying disc" was consistent with a document routinely used by most pro-UFO writers to indicate a conspiracy in progress—the telegram from the Dallas FBI office of July 8, 1947. This document quoted in part states: ". . . The disc is hexagonal in shape and was suspended from a balloon by a cable, which balloon was approximately twenty feet in diameter. . . . the object found resembles a high altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector. . . . disc and balloon being transported . . . ."

Similarly, while conducting the popular literature review, one of the documents reviewed was a paper entitled "The Roswell Events" edited by Fred Whiting and sponsored by the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR). Although it was not the original intention to comment on what commercial authors interpreted or claimed that other persons supposedly said, this particular document was different because it contained actual copies of apparently authentic sworn affidavits received from a number of persons who claimed to have some knowledge of the Roswell event. Although many of the persons who provided these affidavits to the FUFOR researchers also expressed opinions that they thought there was something extraterrestrial about this incident, a number of them actually described materials that sounded suspiciously like wreckage from balloons. These included the following:

Jesse A. Marcel, MD (son of the late Major Jesse Marcel; 11 years old at the time of the incident). Affidavit dated May 6, 1991. ". . . There were three categories of debris: a thick, foil like metallic gray substance; a brittle, brownish-black plastic-like material, like Bakelite; and there were fragments of what appeared to be I-beams. On the inner surface of the I-beam, there appeared to be a type of writing. This writing was a purple-violet hue, and it had an embossed appearance. The figures were composed of curved, geometric shapes. It had no resemblance to Russian, Japanese or any other foreign language. It resembled hieroglyphics, but it had no animal-like characters. . . ."

Loretta Proctor (former neighbor of rancher W.W. Brazel). Affidavit dated May 5, 1991. ". . . Brazel came to my ranch and showed my husband and me a piece of material he said came from a large pile of debris on the property he managed.

The piece he brought was brown in color, similar to plastic . . . . 'Mac' said the other material on the property looked like aluminum foil. It was very flexible and wouldn't crush or burn. There was also something he described as tape which had printing on it. The color of the printing was a kind of purple . . . ."

Bessie Brazel Schreiber (daughter of W.W. Brazel; 14 years old at the time of the incident). Affidavit dated September 22, 1993. ". . . The debris looked like pieces of a large balloon which had burst. The pieces were small, the largest I remember measuring about the same as the diameter of a basketball. Most of it was a kind of double-sided material, foil-like on one side and rubber-like on the other. Both sides were grayish silver in color, the foil more silvery than the rubber. Sticks, like kite sticks, were attached to some of the pieces with a whitish tape. The tape was about two or three inches wide and had flower-like designs on it. The 'flowers' were faint, a variety of pastel colors, and reminded me of Japanese paintings in which the flowers are not all connected. I do not recall any other types of material or markings, nor do I remember seeing gouges in the ground or any other signs that anything may have hit the ground hard. The foil-rubber material could not be torn like ordinary aluminum foil can be torn.."

Sally Strickland Tadolini (neighbor of W.W. Brazel; nine years old in 1947). Affidavit dated September 27, 1993. ". . . What Bill showed us was a piece of what I still think as fabric. It was something like aluminum foil, something like satin, something like well-tanned leather in its toughness, yet was not precisely like any one of those materials. . . . It was about the thickness of very fine kidskin glove leather and a dull metallic grayish silver, one side slightly darker than the other. I do not remember it having any design or embossing on it . . . ."

Robert R. Porter (B-29 flight Engineer stationed at Roswell in 1947). Affidavit dated June 7, 1991. ". . . On this occasion, I was a member of the crew which flew parts of what we were told was a flying saucer to Fort Worth. The people on board included...and Maj Jesse Marcel. Capt. William E. Anderson said it was from a flying saucer. After we arrived, the material was transferred to a B-25. I was told they were going to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. I was involved in loading the B-29 with the material, which was wrapped in packages with wrapping paper. One of the pieces was triangle-shaped, about 2 1/2 feet across the bottom. The rest were in small packages, about the size of a shoe box. The brown paper was held with tape. The material was extremely lightweight. When I picked it up, it was just like picking up an empty package. We loaded the triangle shaped package and three shoe box-sized packages into the plane. All of the packages could have fit into the trunk of a car. . . . When we came back from lunch, they told us they had transferred the material to a B-25. They told us the material was a weather balloon, but I'm certain it wasn't a weather balloon. . . ."

In addition to those persons above still living who claim to have seen or examined the original material found on the Brazel Ranch, there is one additional person who was universally acknowledged to have been involved in its recovery, Sheridan Cavitt, Lt Col, USAF (Ret). Cavitt is credited in all claims of having

accompanied Major Marcel to the ranch to recover the debris, sometimes along with his Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) subordinate, Lewis Rickett, who, like Marcel, is deceased. Although there does not appear to be much dispute that Cavitt was involved in the material recovery, other claims about him prevail in the popular literature. He is sometimes portrayed as a closed-mouth (or sometimes even sinister) conspirator who was one of the early individuals who kept the "secret of Roswell" from getting out. Other things about him have been alleged, including the claim that he wrote a report of the incident at the time that has never surfaced.

Since Lt Col Cavitt, who had firsthand knowledge, was still alive, a decision was made to interview him and get a signed sworn statement from him about his version of the events. Prior to the interview, the Secretary of the Air Force provided him with a written authorization and waiver to discuss classified information with the interviewer and release him from any security oath he may have taken. Subsequently, Cavitt was interviewed on May 24, 1994, at his home. Cavitt provided a signed, sworn statement (Atch 17) of his recollections in this matter. He also consented to having the interview tape-recorded. A transcript of that recording is at Atch 18. In this interview, Cavitt related that he had been contacted on numerous occasions by UFO researchers and had willingly talked with many of them; however, he felt that he had oftentimes been misrepresented or had his comments taken out of context so that their true meaning was changed. He stated unequivocally, however, that the material he recovered consisted of a reflective sort of material like aluminum foil, and some thin, bamboo-like sticks. He thought at the time, and continued to do so today, that what he found was a weather balloon and has told other private researchers that. He also remembered finding a small "black box" type of instrument, which he thought at the time was probably a radiosonde. Lt Col Cavitt also reviewed the famous Ramey/Marcel photographs (Atch 16) of the wreckage taken to Fort Worth (often claimed by UFO researchers to have been switched and the remnants of a balloon substituted for it), and he identified the materials depicted in those photos as consistent with the materials that he recovered from the ranch. Lt Col Cavitt also stated that he had never taken any oath or signed any agreement not to talk about this incident and had never been threatened by anyone in the government because of it. He did not even know the "incident" was claimed to be anything unusual until he was interviewed in the early 1980's.

Similarly, Irving Newton, Major, USAF (Ret), was located and interviewed. Newton was a weather officer assigned to Fort Worth, who was on duty when the Roswell debris was sent there in July, 1947. He was told that he was to report to General Ramey's office to view the material. In a signed, sworn statement (Atch 30) Newton related that ". . . I walked into the General's office where this supposed flying saucer was lying all over the floor. As soon as I saw it, I giggled and asked if that was the flying saucer . . . I told them that this was a balloon and a RAWIN target. . . ." Newton also stated that ". . . while I was examining the debris, Major Marcel was picking up pieces of the target sticks and trying to convince me that some notations on the sticks were alien writings. There were

figures on the sticks, lavender or pink in color, appeared to be weather faded markings, with no rhyme or reason [sic]. He did not convince me that these were alien writings." Newton concluded his statement by relating that ". . . During the ensuing years I have been interviewed by many authors, I have been quoted and misquoted. The facts remain as indicated above. I was not influenced during the original interview, nor today, to provide anything but what I know to be true, that is, the material I saw in General Ramey's office was the remains of a balloon and a RAWIN target."

#### *Balloon Research*

The original tasking from GAO noted that the search for information included "weather balloons." Comments about balloons and safety reports have already been made; however the SAF/AAZ research efforts also focused on reviewing historical records involving balloons, since, among other reasons, that was what was officially claimed by the AAF to have been found and recovered in 1947.

As early as February 28, 1994, the AAZD research team found references to balloon tests taking place at Alamogordo Army Air Field (now Holloman AFB) and White Sands during June and July 1947, testing "constant level balloons" and a New York University (NYU)/Watson Labs effort that used ". . . meteorological devices . . . suspected for detecting shock waves generated by Soviet nuclear explosions"—a possible indication of a cover story associated with the NYU balloon project. Subsequently, a 1946 HQ AMC memorandum surfaced, describing the constant altitude balloon project and specified that the scientific data be classified Top Secret Priority 1A. Its name was Project MOGUL (Atch 19).

Project MOGUL was a then-sensitive, classified project, whose purpose was to determine the state of Soviet nuclear weapons research. This was the early Cold War period and there was serious concern within the US government about the Soviets' developing a weaponized atomic device. Because the Soviet Union's borders were closed, the US Government sought to develop a long range nuclear explosion detection capability. Long range, balloon-borne, low frequency acoustic detection was posed to General Spaatz in 1945 by Dr. Maurice Ewing of Columbia University as a potential solution (atmospheric ducting of low frequency pressure waves had been studied as early as 1900).

As part of the research into this matter, AAZD personnel located and obtained the original study papers and reports of the New York University project. Their efforts also revealed that some of the individuals involved in Project MOGUL were still living. These persons included the NYU constant altitude balloon Director of Research, Dr. Athelstan F. Spilhaus; the Project Engineer, Professor Charles B. Moore; and the military Project Officer, Colonel Albert C. Trakowski .

All of these persons were subsequently interviewed and signed sworn statements about their activities. A copy of these statements are appended at Atchs 20–22. Additionally, transcripts of the interview with Moore and Trakowski are also included (equipment malfunctioned during the interview of Spilhaus) (Atchs

23-24). These interviews confirmed that Project MOGUL was a compartmented, sensitive effort. The NYU group was responsible for developing constant level balloons and telemetering equipment that would remain at specified altitudes (within the acoustic duct) while a group from Columbia was to develop acoustic sensors. Doctor Spilhaus, Professor Moore, and certain others of the group were aware of the actual purpose of the project, but they did not know of the project nickname at the time. They handled casual inquiries and/or scientific inquiries/papers in terms of "unclassified meteorological or balloon research." Newly hired employees were not made aware that there was anything special or classified about their work; they were told only that their work dealt with meteorological equipment.

An advance ground team, led by Albert P. Crary, preceded the NYU group to Alamogordo Army Air Field, New Mexico, setting up ground sensors and obtaining facilities for the NYU group. Upon their arrival, Professor Moore and his team experimented with various configurations of neoprene balloons; development of balloon "trains" (see illustration, Atch 25); automatic ballast systems; and use of Naval sonobuoys (as the Watson Lab acoustical sensors had not yet arrived). They also launched what they called "service flights." These "service flights" were not logged nor fully accounted for in the published Technical Reports generated as a result of the contract between NYU and Watson Labs. According to Professor Moore, the "service flights" were composed of balloons, radar reflectors, and payloads specifically designed to test acoustic sensors (both early sonobuoys and the later Watson Labs devices). The "payload equipment" was expendable, and some carried no "Reward" or "Return to . . ." tags because there was to be no association between these flights and the logged constant altitude flights which were fully acknowledged. The NYU balloon flights were listed sequentially in their reports (i.e., A, B, or 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 . . .), yet gaps existed for Flights 2-4 and Flight 9. The interview with Professor Moore indicated that these gaps were the unlogged "service flights."

Professor Moore, the on-scene Project Engineer, gave detailed information concerning his team's efforts. He recalled that radar targets were used for tracking balloons because they did not have all the necessary equipment when they first arrived in New Mexico. Some of the early developmental radar targets were manufactured by a toy or novelty company. These targets were made up of aluminum "foil" or foil-backed paper, balsa wood beams that were coated in an "Elmer's-type" glue to enhance their durability, acetate and/or cloth reinforcing tape, single strand and braided nylon twine, brass eyelets and swivels to form a multi-faced reflector somewhat similar in construction to a box kite (see photographs, Atch 26). Some of these targets were also assembled with purplish-pink tape with symbols on it (see drawing by Moore with Atch 21).

According to the log summary (Atch 27) of the NYU group, Flight A through Flight 7 (November 20, 1946-July 2, 1947) were made with neoprene meteorological balloons (as opposed to the later flights made with polyethylene balloons). Professor Moore stated that the neoprene balloons were susceptible to degrada-

tion in the sunlight, turning from a milky white to a dark brown. He described finding remains of balloon trains with reflectors and payloads that had landed in the desert: the ruptured and shredded neoprene would "almost look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days. The plasticizers and antioxidants in the neoprene would emit a peculiar acrid odor and the balloon material and radar target material would be scattered after returning to earth depending on the surface winds." Upon review of the local newspaper photographs from General Ramey's press conference in 1947 and descriptions in popular books by individuals who supposedly handled the debris recovered on the ranch, Professor Moore opined that the material was most likely the shredded remains of a multi-neoprene balloon train with multiple radar reflectors. The material and a "black box," described by Cavitt, was, in Moore's scientific opinion, most probably from Flight 4, a "service flight" that included a cylindrical metal sonobuoy and portions of a weather instrument housed in a box, which was unlike typical weather radiosondes which were made of cardboard. Additionally, a copy of a professional journal maintained at the time by A.P. Crary, provided to the Air Force by his widow, showed that Flight 4 was launched on June 4, 1947, but was not recovered by the NYU group. It is very probable that this Top Secret project balloon train (Flight 4), made up of unclassified components, came to rest some miles northwest of Roswell, NM, became shredded in the surface winds, and was ultimately found by the rancher, Brazel, ten days later. This possibility was supported by the observations of Lt Col Cavitt (Atchs 17-18), the only living eyewitness to the actual debris field and the material found. Lt Col Cavitt described a small area of debris which appeared, "to resemble bamboo type square sticks one quarter to one half inch square, that were very light, as well as some sort of metallic reflecting material that was also very light . . . . I remember recognizing this material as being consistent with a weather balloon."

Concerning the initial announcement, "RAAF Captures Flying Disc," research failed to locate any documented evidence as to why that statement was made. However, on July 10, 1947, following the Ramey press conference, the *Alamogordo News* published an article with photographs demonstrating multiple balloons and targets at the same location as the NYU group operated from at Alamogordo Army Air Field. Professor Moore expressed surprise at seeing this since his was the only balloon test group in the area. He stated, "It appears that there was some type of umbrella cover story to protect our work with MOGUL." Although the Air Force did not find documented evidence that Gen. Ramey was directed to espouse a weather balloon in his press conference, he may have done so because he was either aware of Project MOGUL and was trying to deflect interest from it, or he readily perceived the material to be a weather balloon based on the identification from his weather officer, Irving Newton. In either case, the materials recovered by the AAF in July, 1947, were not readily recognizable as anything special (only the purpose was special), and the recovered debris itself was unclassified. Additionally, the press dropped its interest in the matter as quickly as they had jumped on it. Hence, there would be no particular reason to further document what quickly became a "non-event."



The interview with Colonel Trakowski (Atchs 23-24) also proved valuable information. Trakowski provided specific details on Project MOGUL and described how the security for the program was set up, as he was formerly the Top Secret Control Officer for the program. He further related that many of the original radar targets that were produced around the end of World War II were fabricated by toy or novelty companies using a purplish-pink tape with flower and heart symbols on it. Trakowski also recounted a conversation that he had with his friend, and superior military officer in his chain of command, Colonel Marcellus Duffy, in July, 1947. Duffy, formerly had Trakowski's position on MOGUL, but had subsequently been transferred to Wright Field. He stated: ". . . Colonel Duffy called me on the telephone from Wright Field and gave me a story about a fellow that had come in from New Mexico, woke him up in the middle of the night or some such thing with a handful of debris, and wanted him, Colonel Duffy, to identify it. . . . He just said 'it sure looks like some of the stuff you've been launching at Alamogordo' and he described it, and I said 'yes, I think it is.' Certainly Colonel Duffy knew enough about radar targets, radiosondes, balloon-borne weather devices. He was intimately familiar with all that apparatus."

Attempts were made to locate Colonel Duffy but it was ascertained that he had died. His widow explained that, although he had amassed a large amount of personal papers relating to his Air Force activities, she had recently disposed of these items. Likewise, it was learned that A.P. Crary was also deceased; however his surviving spouse had a number of his papers from his balloon testing days, including his professional journal from the period in question. She provided the Air Force researchers with this material. It is discussed in more detail within Atch 32. Overall, it helps fill in gaps of the MOGUL story.

During the period the Air Force conducted this research, it was discovered that several others had also discovered the possibility that the "Roswell Incident" may have been generated by the recovery of a Project MOGUL balloon device. These persons included Professor Charles B. Moore, Robert Todd, and coincidentally, Karl Pflock, a researcher who is married to a staffer who works for Congressman Schiff. Some of these persons provided suggestions as to where documentation might be located in various archives, histories and libraries. A review of FOIA requests revealed that Robert Todd, particularly, had become aware of Project MOGUL several years ago and had doggedly obtained from the Air Force, through the FOIA, a large amount of material pertaining to it; long before the AAZD researchers independently seized on the same possibility.

Most interestingly, as this report was being written, Pflock published his own report of this matter under the auspices of FUFOR, entitled *Roswell in Perspective* (1994). Pflock concluded from his research that the Brazel Ranch debris originally reported as a "flying disc" was probably debris from a MOGUL balloon; however, there was a simultaneous incident that occurred not far away, which caused an alien craft to crash and which the AAF subsequently recovered three alien bodies therefrom. Air Force research did not locate any information to corroborate that this incredible coincidence occurred, however.

In order to provide a more detailed discussion of the specifics of Project MOGUL and how it appeared to be directly responsible for the "Roswell Incident," a SAF/AAZD researcher prepared a more detailed discussion on the balloon project which is appended to this report as Atch 32.

#### *Other Research*

In the attempt to develop additional information that could help explain this matter, a number of other steps were taken. First, assistance was requested from various museums and other archives (Atch 28) to obtain information and/or examples of the actual balloons and radar targets used in connection with Project MOGUL and to correlate them with the various descriptions of wreckage and materials recovered. The blueprints for the "Pilot Balloon Target ML307C/AP Assembly" (generically, the radar target assembly) were located at the Army Signal Corps Museum at Fort Monmouth and were obtained. A copy is appended as Atch 29. This blueprint provides the specification for the foil material, tape, wood, eyelets, and string used and the assembly instructions thereto. An actual device was also obtained for study with the assistance of Professor Moore. (The example actually procured was a 1953-manufactured model "C" as compared to the Model B which was in use in 1947. Professor Moore related the differences were minor.) An examination of this device revealed it to be simply made of aluminum-colored foil-like material over a stronger paper-like material, attached to balsa wood sticks, affixed with tape, glue, and twine. When opened, the device appears as depicted in Atch 31 (contemporary photo) and Atch 25 (1947 photo, in a "balloon train"). When folded, the device is in a series of triangles, the largest being 4 feet by 2 feet 10 inches. The smallest triangle section measures 2 feet by 2 feet 10 inches. (Compare with descriptions provided by Lt Col Cavitt and others, as well as photos of wreckage.)

Additionally, the researchers obtained from the Archives of the University of Texas-Arlington (UTA), a set of original (i.e., first generation) prints of the photographs taken at the time by the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, that depicted Ramey and Marcel with the wreckage. A close review of these photos (and a set of first-generation negatives also subsequently obtained from UTA) revealed several interesting observations. First, although in some of the literature cited above, Marcel allegedly stated that he had his photo taken with the "real" UFO wreckage and then it was subsequently removed and the weather balloon wreckage substituted for it, a comparison shows that the same wreckage appeared in the photos of Marcel and Ramey. The photos also depicted that this material was lying on what appeared to be some sort of wrapping paper (consistent with affidavit excerpt of crew chief Porter, above). It was also noted that in the two photos of Ramey he had a piece of paper in his hand. In one, it was folded over so nothing could be seen. In the second, however, there appears to be text printed on the paper. In an attempt to read this text to determine if it could shed any further light on locating documents relating to this matter, the photo was sent to a national-level organization for digitizing and subsequent photo interpretation and analysis. This organization was also asked to scrutinize the digitized photos for any indication of the flowered tape (or "hieroglyphics," depending on the

point of view) that were reputed to be visible to some of the persons who observed the wreckage prior to its getting to Fort Worth. This organization reported on July 20, 1994, that even after digitizing, the photos were of insufficient quality to visualize either of the details sought for analysis. This organization was able to obtain measurements from the "sticks" visible in the debris after it was ascertained by an interview of the original photographer what kind of camera he used. The results of this process are provided in Atch 33, along with a reference diagram and the photo from which the measurements were made. All these measurements are compatible with the wooden materials used in the radar target previously described.

## CONCLUSION

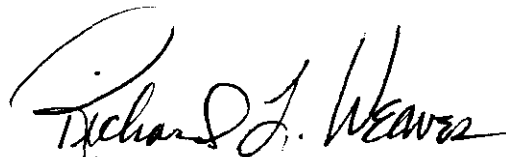
The Air Force research did not locate or develop any information that the "Roswell Incident" was a UFO event. All available official materials, although they do not directly address Roswell *per se*, indicate that the most likely source of the wreckage recovered from the Brazel Ranch was from one of the Project MOGUL balloon trains. Although that project was Top Secret at the time, there was also no specific indication found to indicate an official preplanned cover story was in place to explain an event such as that which ultimately happened. It appears that the identification of the wreckage as being part of a weather balloon device, as reported in the newspapers at the time, was based on the fact that there was no physical difference in the radar targets and the neoprene balloons (other than the numbers and configuration) between MOGUL balloons and normal weather balloons. Additionally, it seems that there was overreaction by Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel in originally reporting that a "flying disc" had been recovered when, at that time, nobody knew for sure what that term even meant, since it had only been in use for a couple of weeks.

Likewise, there was no indication in official records from the period that there was heightened military operational or security activity which should have been generated if this was, in fact, the first recovery of materials and/or persons from another world. The postwar US military (or today's for that matter) did not have the capability to rapidly identify, recover, coordinate, cover up, and quickly minimize public scrutiny of such an event. The claim that they did so without leaving even a little bit of a suspicious paper trail for 47 years is incredible.

It should also be noted here that there was little mentioned in this report about the recovery of the so-called "alien bodies." This is for several reasons: First, the recovered wreckage was from a Project MOGUL balloon. There were no "alien" passengers therein. Secondly, the pro-UFO groups who espouse the alien bodies theories cannot even agree among themselves as to what, how many, and where such bodies were supposedly recovered. Additionally, some of these claims have been shown to be hoaxes, even by other UFO researchers. Thirdly, when such claims are made, they are often attributed to people using pseudonyms or who otherwise do not want to be publicly identified, presumably so that some sort of retribution cannot be taken against them (notwithstanding that nobody has been

shown to have died, disappeared, or otherwise suffered at the hands of the government during the last 47 years). Fourth, many of the persons making the biggest claims of "alien bodies" make their living from the "Roswell Incident." While having a commercial interest in something does not automatically make it suspect, it does raise interesting questions related to authenticity. Such persons should be encouraged to present their evidence (not speculation) directly to the government and provide all pertinent details and evidence to support their claims if honest fact-finding is what is wanted. Lastly, persons who have come forward and provided their names and made claims may have, in good faith but in the "fog of time," misinterpreted past events. The review of Air Force records did not locate even one piece of evidence to indicate that the Air Force has had any part in an "alien" body recovery operation or continuing cover-up.

During the course of this effort, the Air Force has kept in close touch with the GAO and responded to their various queries and requests for assistance. This report was generated as an official response to the GAO, and to document the considerable effort expended by the Air Force on their behalf. It is anticipated that that the GAO will request a copy of this report to help formulate the formal report of their efforts. It is recommended that this document serve as the final Air Force report related to the Roswell matter, for the GAO, or any other inquiries.



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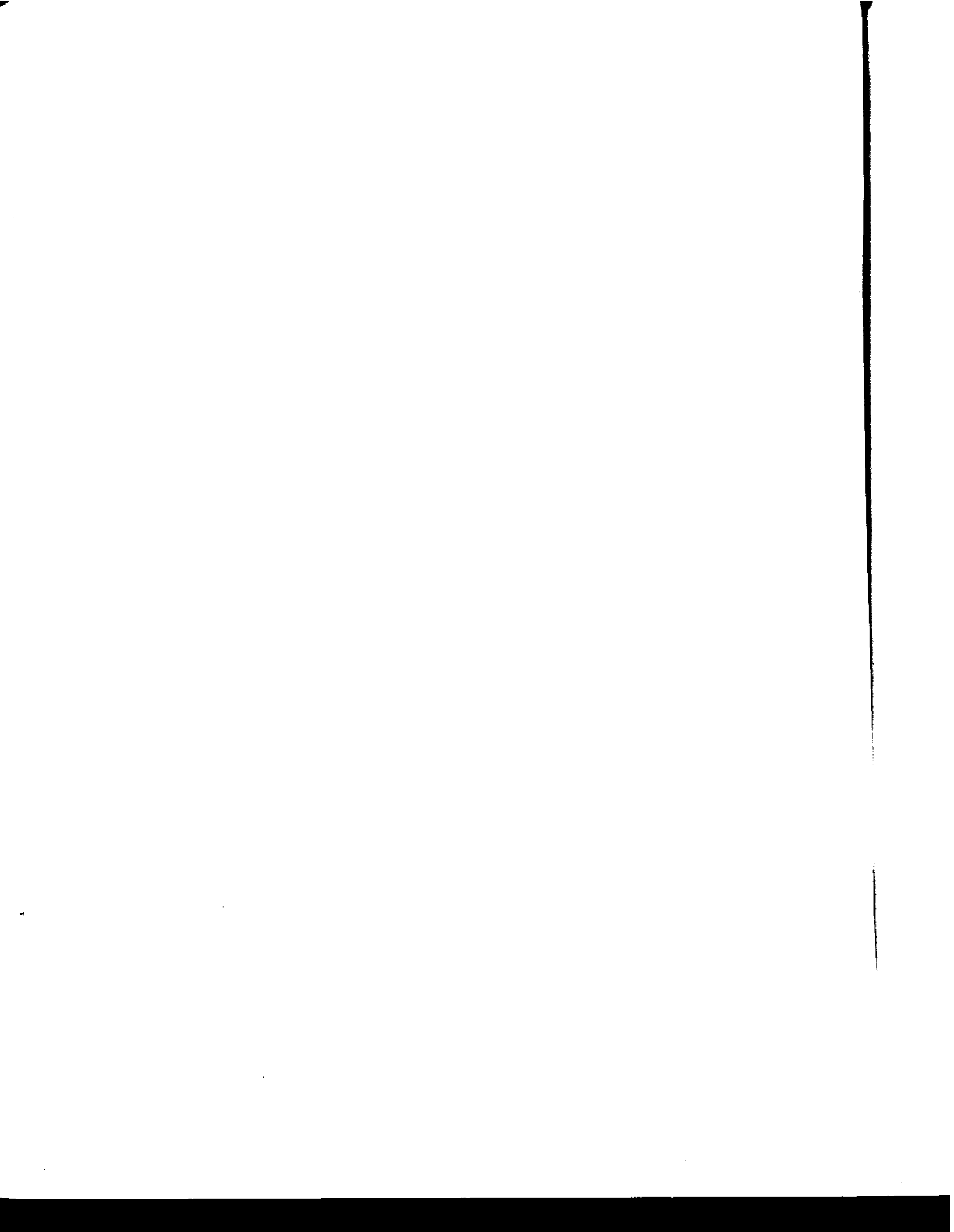
#### Attachments

1. *Washington Post* Article, "GAO Turns to Alien Turf in New Probe," January 14, 1994
2. GAO Memo, February 15, 1994
3. DoD/IG Memo, February 23, 1994
4. SAF/FM Memo, February 24, 1994, w/Indorsement
5. SAF/AA Memo, March 1, 1994, w/ March 16, 1994 Addendum
6. AF/IN Memo, March 14, 1994
7. AF/SE Memo, March 14, 1994
8. SAF/AQL Memo, March 22, 1994
9. AF/XOWP Memo, March 9, 1994
10. SAF/AAI Memo, March 10, 1994
11. AFHRA/CC Memo, March 8, 1994
12. AFOSI/HO Memo, May 11, 1994

13. List of Locations and Records Searched
14. HQ AAF "Issuance of Orders," June 5, 1947
15. Copy of Vandenberg's Appointment Book and Diary, July 7-9, 1947
16. July 9, 1947 Photos of Balloon Wreckage, *Ft Worth Star Telegram*
17. Signed Sworn Statement of Cavitt, May 24, 1994
18. Transcript of Cavitt Interview, May 24, 1994
19. Letter, July 8, 1946, Project MOGUL
20. Signed Sworn Statement of Spilhaus, June 3, 1994
21. Signed Sworn Statement of Moore, June 8, 1994
22. Signed Sworn Statement of Trakowski, June 29, 1994
23. Transcript of Interview with Moore, June 8, 1994
24. Transcript of Interview with Trakowski, June 29, 1994
25. Illustration of Project MOGUL "Balloon Trains"
26. Two Photos of Project MOGUL "Balloon Trains"
27. Log Summary, NYU Constant Level Balloon Flights
28. List of Museums Contacted
29. Copy of Blueprint for "Pilot Balloon Target, ML-307C/AP Assembly"
30. Signed Sworn Statement of Newton, July 21, 1994
31. Photos of ML-307C/AP Device, With Vintage Neoprene Balloon and Debris
32. Synopsis of Balloon Research Findings by 1st Lt James McAndrew
33. "Mensuration Working Paper," With Drawing and Photo

1

*Washington Post*  
"GAO Turns to Alien Turf in Probe"  
January 14, 1994



# GAO Turns to Alien Turf in Probe

## Bodies of Space Voyagers Said to Have Disappeared in 1947

By William Claiborne  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Where television's "Unsolved Mysteries" has tried and failed, the General Accounting Office is unafraid to venture.

At the request of Rep. Steven Schiff (R-N.M.), Congress's investigative branch has launched a study to determine whether the government covered up a story alleging that the bodies of alien space voyagers were removed from a crashed flying saucer found near Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

After the purported crash of the spacecraft, the bodies of the extraterrestrial visitors were said by a local undertaker and other conspiracy theorists to have been autopsied and secretly flown to an Air Force base in Ohio.

Even though the "Roswell Incident" has been repeatedly dismissed by the Defense Department as nothing more than UFO fantasizing triggered by the discovery of a downed weather balloon, the GAO has begun searching for documents to prove allegations that the Air Force "suppressed" information sought by Schiff.

Schiff is a member of the House Government Operations Committee, which oversees the GAO.

GAO spokeswoman Laura A. Kopelson said the office's investigation, first reported in the Albuquerque Journal yesterday, stemmed from a meeting in October between Schiff and GAO Controller General Charles A. Bowsher. Schiff complained then that the Defense Department had been "unresponsive" to his inquiries about the 1947 incident.

Kopelson said "as far as I know only one investigator had been assigned" to the case, and that not enough work had been done to report any results to Schiff. At another point, Kopelson said "the people doing it are either on sick leave or are unavailable."

She said there was no way of estimating how much the investigation would cost, and that the GAO does not release such information anyway.

GAO conducted 1,380 inquiries into government operations in 1992. Its budget has risen from \$46.9 million in 1965 to \$490 million last year. The agency has been criticized, especially by Republicans, as the "lap dog of the requesters," producing reports that tend to support whatever conclusion the requesting member of Congress suggests.

Kopelson said Schiff had asked the GAO "to see if there is any evidence that information regarding UFOs had been suppressed" following the Roswell incident.

Schiff, however, said that at a routine October meeting he had merely complained about the Defense Department's lack of responsiveness but a GAO official said, "We're willing to take a stab at it."

Schiff, in a telephone interview from Albuquerque, said that last March, after receiving inquiries from "UFO believers" and some Roswell residents who were in the military in 1947, he wrote Defense Secretary Les Aspin asking for more information about the reported spacecraft crash and the alleged disappearance of the aliens' bodies.

The crash of a mysterious object 75 miles northwest of Roswell, which the Air Force later claimed was a weather balloon equipped with a radar-reflecting device, was the subject of several books and remains many UFO buffs' greatest riddle.

A privately owned museum in Roswell contains a number of documents and photographs purporting to prove existence of the aliens. It also displays a re-creation of the spacecraft surrounded by figures portraying the dead extraterrestrials.

UFO buffs contend the incident marked the beginning of a government conspiracy to suppress evidence of alien life.

Much of the speculation stems from claims by William Haut, a former Air Force public affairs officer, who said that on July 2, 1947, he was told to prepare a news release reporting the Air Force had recovered parts of a flying saucer and then was told to change the story to report a weather balloon.

Also, a nurse reportedly told a local funeral home director that she witnessed the autopsies of the spacemen, whom she described as having oversized heads and beetle-like features. The nurse subsequently died in a plane crash.

After the autopsies, conspiracy theorists said the bodies were flown to Fort Worth and then to what is now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

In 1989, NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" investigated the controversy, which the program's host, Robert Stack, concluded remained unsolved.

Schiff said after calling Aspin last March to request a Defense Department briefing on the Roswell incident, he received a call from an Air Force lieutenant colonel, who brusquely told him the documents had been turned over to the National Archives.

However, Schiff said, Archives officials told him they did not have the records on Roswell, even though they did have records of "Project Blue Book," a 1969 Air Force study of reported



An "alien" depicted on NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries," which concluded case is unsolved.

UFO sightings. That study, Schiff said, did not deal with the Roswell case.

"I was getting pretty upset at all the running around," Schiff said, adding that at his meeting with GAO officials, "they made an offer to help."

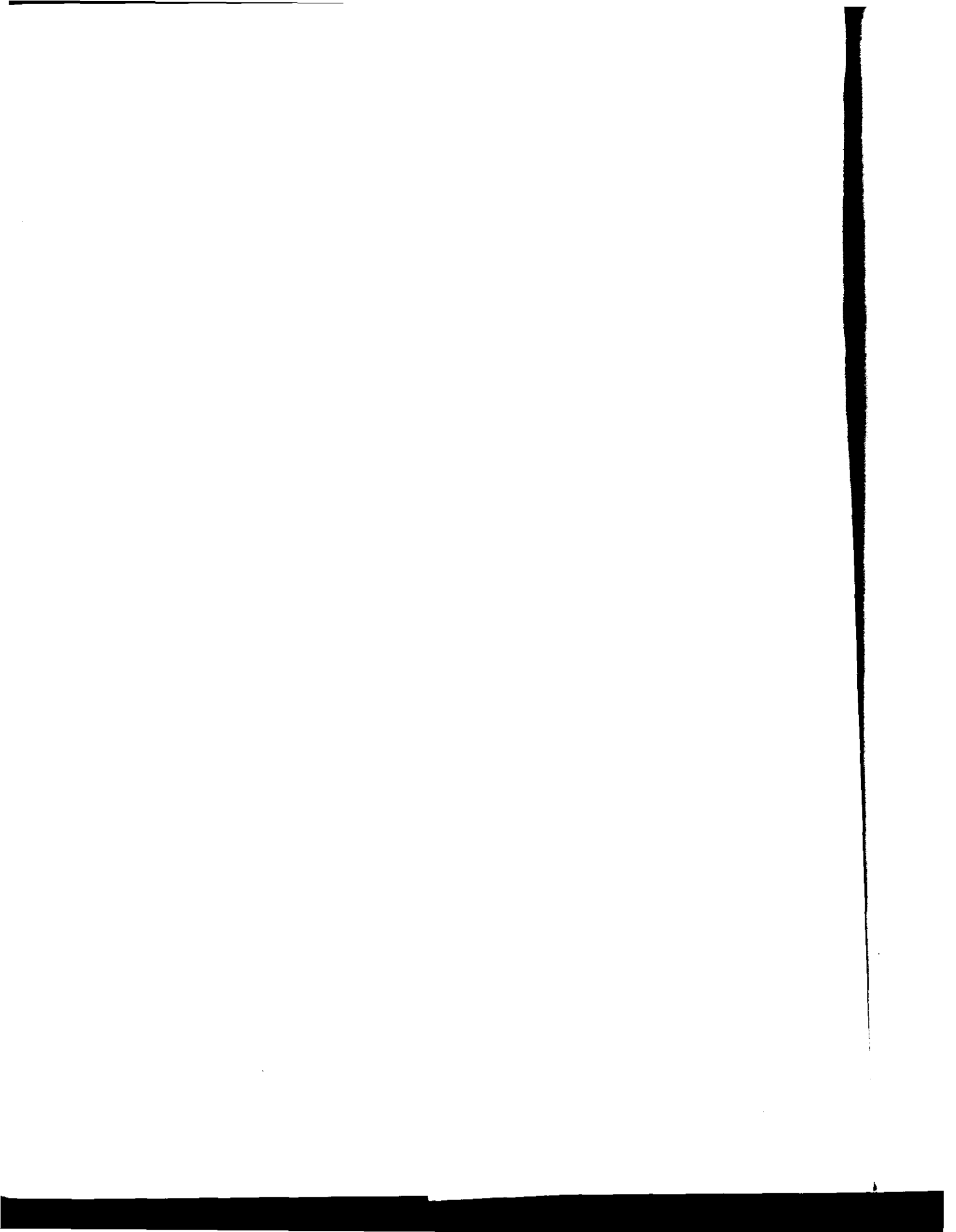
"Generally, I'm a skeptic on UFOs and alien beings, but there are indications from the run-around that I got that whatever it was, it wasn't a balloon. Apparently, it's another government coverup," Schiff said.

He called the Defense Department's lack of response "astounding," and said government accountability was an issue "even larger than UFOs."

Asked if the GAO might not be extending itself, Schiff acknowledged that the agency "usually does fiscal investigations and at present I can't find a fiscal impact" in the Roswell incident.

Had the agency said, "This is beyond our realm of expertise," Schiff said, "I wouldn't insist on it." He added, "If the Defense Department had been responsive, it wouldn't have come to this."





2

Letter, with GAO Code 701034  
Richard Davis, GAO, to William J.  
Perry, DOD  
February 9, 1994



**GAO**

United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

REC'D GAO(SFU)  
GAO SURVEYS/REVIEWS

National Security and  
International Affairs Division

FEB 15 1994

FEB 9 1994

The Honorable William J. Perry  
The Secretary of Defense

Attention: DOD Office of the Inspector General  
Director for GAO Surveys and Reviews

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In response to a congressional request, the General Accounting Office is initiating a review of DOD's policies and procedures for acquiring, classifying, retaining, and disposing of official government documents dealing with weather balloon, aircraft, and similar crash incidents. The review will involve testing whether DOD, the military services, specialized defense agencies, and others such as the National Archives, have systematically followed the proper procedures to ensure government accountability over such records.

The work will be performed under GAO code 701034 by staff from our National Security Analysis group in Washington, D.C. If you have any questions concerning this assignment, please contact either Mr. Gary Weeter, Assistant Director, at (202) 512-4603 or Mr. Jack Kriethe, Evaluator-in-Charge at (202) 512-4567. This review has been coordinated with Dan Chambers of the Inspector General's Office.

Sincerely yours,

*Richard Davis*

Richard Davis  
Director, National Security  
Analysis

ENCL TO ATCL 4

GAO ENTRANCE CONFERENCE FOR  
ASSIGNMENT CODE 701034

ISSUE:

Has the Government met its responsibility in the handling, retention, and subsequent disposition of official records concerning the investigation and reporting of air vehicle and other crash incidents similar to the reported crash of a weather balloon near Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947.

SCOPE:

Initial work will be performed at the Department of Defense, the Services, specialized defense agencies, and other executive branch agencies as required.

APPROACH:

- (1) Interview responsible officials and review pertinent directives and regulations to determine the executive branch policies and procedures governing the reporting of air vehicle and similar crash incidents.
- (2) Select a sample of crash incidents covering different time periods (1947 to present) to determine whether proper procedures were followed.
- (3) For the incidents selected, determine whether proper records management procedures were followed in the retention and subsequent disposition of those records.
- (4) Determine the "OFFICIAL" explanation of what has become known as the "Roswell Incident".

3

Memo  
Marcia J. Van Note, DOD/IG, for  
Distribution  
Subj: General Accounting Office  
(GAO) Letter Dated February 9,  
1994 . . .  
February 23, 1994



Anal  
and



INSPECTOR GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-2984



Analysis  
and Followup

FEB 23 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: General Accounting Office (GAO) Letter Dated  
February 9, 1994, "Records Management Procedures  
Dealing with Weather Balloon, Unknown Aircraft, and  
Similar Crash Incidents" (GAO Code 701034)--  
NOTIFICATION OF GAO REVIEW

The DoD Directive 7650.2 designates this office as the central DoD liaison for tasking, controlling, and monitoring GAO survey, review, and report activities. The enclosed Information Sheet describes the specific DoD procedures for tasking GAO surveys/reviews and the DoD primary action office (PAO) responsibilities.

On February 15, 1994, we received the enclosed official GAO notification letter on the subject effort. The GAO National Security and International Affairs Division (National Security Analysis) is doing the work. The review is at the request of Representative Steven H. Schiff (R-NM).

Representative Schiff requested the GAO review two issues of concern (1) the DoD records management procedures for crash incidents involving weather balloons and unknown aircraft, such as UFOs and foreign aircraft, and (2) the facts regarding the reported crash of an UFO in 1949 at Roswell, New Mexico. Since the UFO story appeared in an episode of the television program "Unsolved Mysteries," Representative Schiff has received many requests for an investigation into the alleged "DoD cover-up." Apparently, reports on the incident were attributed to a weather balloon crash.

The GAO is anxious to respond to Representative Schiff's request and to dispel any concerns that the DoD is being unresponsive. For that reason, it is important that we identify the correct DoD representatives so that the GAO can begin its work. Since the enclosed GAO notification letter did not mention the Roswell incident or specifically site unknown aircraft as the area of interest, we have been unable to determine the appropriate DoD primary and collateral action offices.



We have scheduled an entrance meeting with the GAO for February 28, 1994, 10:00 a.m., 400 Army Navy Drive, Room 730, Arlington, VA. The entrance meeting should clarify the issues to the extent that a DoD primary action office can be identified.

Please provide the name and telephone number of your representative(s) for the entrance meeting as soon as possible to my action officer, Pattie Cirino, (703) 693-0214. If she is not available, I can be reached on the same number.

*Marcia J. Van Note*

Marcia J. Van Note  
Director  
GAO Surveys and Reviews

Enclosures:  
As stated

DISTRIBUTION:	SEC ARMY	USD (P&R)
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	ATSD (LA)	USCINCSpace
	ATSD (PA)	USCINCTrans
	GC	

4

Memo, with Indorsement  
Vaughn E. Schlunz, SAF/FMPF, for  
Distribution  
Subj: GAO Review Letter Dated  
February 15 [*sic*], 1994, "Records  
Management Procedures . . .  
February 24, 1994





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

24 FEB 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR

<input type="checkbox"/> SAF/FM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AF/INR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AFAA/DO	<input type="checkbox"/> AETC/FMFM
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<input type="checkbox"/> SAF/FMBMD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AF/SE	<input type="checkbox"/> ANGRG/FMP	

\*

FROM: SAF/FMPF

SUBJECT: GAO Review Letter Dated February 15, 1994, "Records Management Procedures Dealing With Weather Balloon, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents", (GAO Code 701034) -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

This memo is to advise you of the subject review and to request each organization indicated as OPR or OCR above to designate a Central Point of Contact (CPC). The CPC should return the indorsement immediately. This package is provided to other listed organizations as information. Air Force Regulation 11-8 applies.

The CPC should further assess the potential impact of the GAO review on the Air Force. If the assessment indicates the need, the CPC should brief the Deputy Chief of Staff and other officials, as appropriate.

An entrance meeting is scheduled for February 28, 1994, at 1000, in Room 730 at 400 Army Navy Drive, Arlington VA. The SAF/FMPF point of contact is Mrs. Ann Cook, Room 4C228, extension 76051.

*Vaughn E. Schlunz*  
VAUGHN E. SCHLUNZ  
Director for Audit  
Liaison and Followup  
(Financial Management)

- 3 Atch
- 1. DoD(IG) Memo, February 23, 1994
- 1. Indorsement

1 MAR 1994

1st Indorsement

TO: SAF/FMPF, Room 4C228, Pentagon

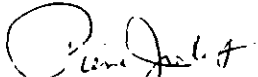
SUBJECT: Central Point of Contact, GAO Code 701034

1. CPC Richard L. Weaver , Col , SAF/AAZ , 5D972 , 3-2013  
NAME GRADE OFC SYMBOL ROOM EXT.

Alt Jeff Butler , Lt Col , SAF/AAZ , 5D972 , 3-2013  
NAME GRADE OFC SYMBOL ROOM EXT.

FAX Number 693-2059 .

2. You will be notified of any changes in the above designees.  
SAF/AA focal point for all audits and inspections is Ms. Carolyn  
Lunsford, SAF/AAX, 697-9057, FAX 693-9763.



PIERRE JOUBERT, Colonel, USAF  
Director, Plans, Programs, & Budget  
Office of the Administrative Ass't

cc: SAF/AAZ  
SAF/AAIQ

Memo, with Addendum  
Robert J. McCormick, SAF/AA, for  
Distribution  
Subj: GAO Review on Records  
Management Procedures Dealing  
with Weather Balloons, Unknown  
Aircraft, and Similar Crash  
Incidents . . .  
March 1, 1994





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1 March 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with  
Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents (GAO  
Code 701034) - ACTION MEMORANDUM

References: (a) 23 Feb 94 DoD/IG Memorandum, Subj, same as above  
(b) 15 Feb 94 GAO Memorandum of Review Notification

The Department of Defense and other executive branch agencies are undergoing a review by the GAO concerning whether the US government has "met its responsibility in the handling, retention, and subsequent disposition of official records concerning the investigation and reporting of air vehicle and other crash incidents similar to the reported crash of a weather balloon near Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947". To fulfill the Air Force portion of this review, addressees, as applicable, are requested to:

- (a) identify pertinent directives concerning records retention and disposition;
- (b) identify pertinent directives concerning reporting air vehicle crashes, investigations, and wreckage/debris retention and disposition;
- (c) identify any records (unclassified or classified) related to air vehicle (aircraft, lighter-than-aircraft, rocket/missile, or other) impacts or crashes in New Mexico from 20 June to 31 July 1947; identify record groups and/or other indexes associated with these records for further review; and
- (d) provide copies of pertinent directives (including any changes of policies on retention and disposition) and records (i.e., item c above) to SAF/AAZ, 1720 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1720.

Please provide your responses (interim or final) by 14 Mar 94. Contact Col Weaver or Lt Col Butler at DSN 223-2013/7 or commercial (703) 693-2013/7 if there are any questions.

ROBERT J. McCORMICK  
Administrative Assistant

2 Attachments:

1. 23 Feb 94 DoD/IG Memo w/encl
2. GAO Issue/Scope/Approach

DISTRIBUTION:

SAF/AAI  
SAF/AQL  
AF/SE  
AF/HO  
AF/IN  
AF/XOW





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

16 March 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR AFOSI/HO

FROM: SAF/AAZ  
1720 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC 20330-1720

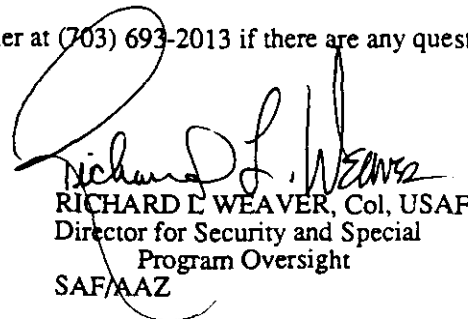
SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with  
Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents (GAO  
Code 701034) - ACTION MEMORANDUM

Reference: SAF/AA 1 Mar 94 Memorandum w/atch, Subj, same as above

SAF/AAZ has taken the lead for the Air Force in providing the GAO with all pertinent records and information related to the above subject. Part of this review will involve retrieving records, histories, reports of investigations, etc. related to sightings of unknown aerial objects/phenomena.

To insure that we have searched all applicable document holdings, request you research AFOSI histories for any records that might be relevant to the GAO review. Such records might have been created prior to the formal establishment of AFOSI, e.g., AAF/CIC or USA/CID records. Request you limit your search to holdings within your purview for the period Jan 1947 through Dec 1953.

Please contact me or Lt Col Butler at (703) 693-2013 if there are any questions on this subject.

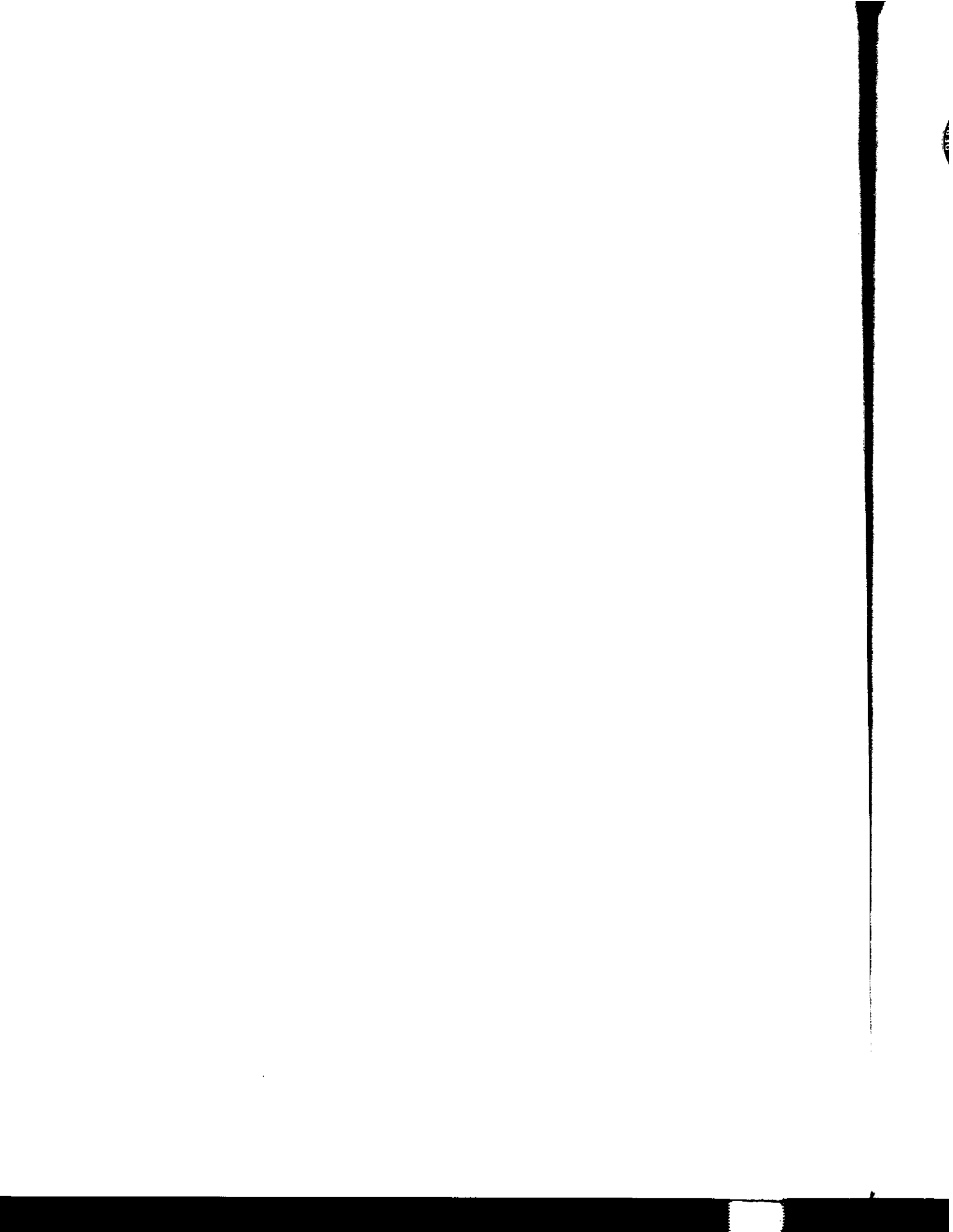
  
RICHARD L. WEAVER, Col, USAF  
Director for Security and Special  
Program Oversight  
SAF/AAZ

1 Attachment:  
SAF/AA 1 Mar Memorandum

AFOSI  
(ADDENDUM TO SAF/AA-  
1 MAR 94 TASKER)

6

Memo, with Attachments  
AF/IN for SAF/AA  
Subj: GAO Inquiry into Records  
Management Procedures Dealing  
with Weather Balloons, Unknown  
Aircraft, and Similar Crash  
Incidents  
March 14, 1994





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AA *W. J. Foley 16 Mar 94*

FROM: AF/IN

SUBJECT: GAO Inquiry into Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather  
Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents -  
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

References: (a) SAF/AA Memorandum, 1 Mar 94  
(b) Telecon: Lt Col Butler/AAZ - Mr. Foley/INXA, 3 Mar 94

In response to references, the following information is provided--with answers keyed to ref a:

- a. None.
- b. None.
- c. None, but see below for related material.
- d. None.

Ref para c above. Although we possess no official records related to the subject matter, we do possess documents received from FOIA requesters that discuss the Roswell Incident which we think may be pertinent to the GAO inquiry:

a. One is a FOIA request from Dr. Neal in California. It is of particular interest in that he claims to know of a physician in California who allegedly participated in the hands-on pathological examination of four alien bodies. (Atch 1). Dr. Neal does not identify the individual.

b. There is a second document called "Synopsis of Roswell Incident." (Atch 2). In its recapitulation of the events that allegedly transpired on that day in Roswell, the synopsis cites several people who relate stories told to them by alleged eyewitnesses to the event.

We also attach a report from the National Air Intelligence Center (NAIC) at Wright-Patterson AFB OH, which summarizes its research, and that of others at WPAFB, into UFOs and the Roswell Incident (Atch 3). The NAIC report concludes that after exhaustive research there is no evidence of the existence of any relevant documents, flying saucer debris, or space aliens on WPAFB.

AF/IN's POC is Mr. M. J. Foley, x31664.

Attachments:

- 1. Dr. Neal's FOIA Letter
- 2. Synopsis of Roswell Incident
- 3. Summary of NAIC Research

*W. J. Foley*  
16 Mar 94  
Mr. M. J. Foley  
AF/IN

RICHARD M. NEAL, JR., M.D., INC.  
OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY & INFERTILITY



February 5, 1993

Freedom of Information Act Request  
(5 U.S.C. 552)  
Department of the Air Force  
HQ USAF/DADF  
Washington, DC 20380

RE: ALIEN HUMANOIDS/UFO'S

Dear Sirs:

As a physician I have done personal/private research in the field of Ufology for the past twenty years. Of great interest to me is the July 2, 1947 crash of an extra-terrestrial object in New Mexico.

Also of greater interest is the recovery of 4 alien bodies from this crash - a separate portion of the compartment/control room/crew cabin area was found several miles from the rest of the UFO debris. There has been rumors of post-mortem examinations being performed on these bodies.

The bodies were described as the body of a small humanoid, tan (or sunburned) in color, approximately the size of a ten year old boy, was examined at a laboratory of the Guggenheim Foundation then on 23rd Street in New York City. The pathological examination disclosed a human with a skeleton having two extra ribs on each side, whose flesh had a somewhat higher mineral content than we would consider normal and somewhat denser bones.

Reportedly, shortly after the discovery of this vehicle and its occupants - it prompted then President Harry S. Truman to appoint (on Sept. 18, 1947) a committee of twelve individuals - called the "Majestic-12" or MJ-12 to secure and study the crashed UFO debris and its occupants.

An important person - one of the MJ-12, was an individual named Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, a neurophysiologist. In June 1947 he was named a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Brookhaven National Laboratory; he subsequently became the sixth President of John Hopkins University in 1949. It is believed that Dr. Bronk was the medical director of a team that performed these pathological examinations of the aliens; his medical team would be restricted to a limited number of physicians - such as the following:

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- 1). Pathologist
- 2). Radiologist
- 3). Neurophysiologist (Dr. Bronk)
- 4). Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeon

Presently living in Southern California is one of the physicians who participated in this project. I must respect his confidentiality and anonymity. He is in his mid to late 70's and is probably the last link (firsthand) to have experienced this research on the alien bodies in 1947.

In regards to any release of this subject matter, existence of this material/past research would not be exempt from mandatory disclosures under the FOIA because it would not/does not interfere with our national security nor knowledge of the above would give any other foreign country a military advantage.

Serious UFO researchers believe that the Air Force now wishes the American public, to know the truth, of the extra-terrestrial origin of the UFO phenomena, and thus are "leaking" some information out to various researchers.

Nationwide polls revealed that over 70% of our population believes in the extra-terrestrial theory; movies such as "E.T.", "Close Encounter of the Third Kind", "Hanger 18" and "Cocoon" are being released to cushion the public to the truth. Could the government/private corporation use subliminal suggestions in the above movies or possibly TV - To prepare this country eventually to the truth that UFO's and aliens exist.

Being in this field of research - specifically physiological and psychological effects suffered secondary to individuals who were allegedly abducted by aliens has increased my knowledge that we are definitely being visited by an alien race. I have enclosed for your review a brief synopsis of what occurred in and around Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947. Please review this information.

Why have I decided to write at this time This is the 45th year anniversary of UFO's - many lectures and seminars will be scheduled around the country to herald this event. Because of this, it is hopeful that through the FOIA someone sympathetic to our research efforts will release some "shocking" information for us to relay to the general public. It seems coincidental/ironic that the most prominent seminar was the MUFON 1992 International UFO Symposium on July 11-12, 1992 at the Convention Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

PROJECT SIGMA

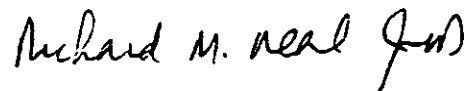
The project was originally established in 1954. Its mission was to establish communications with aliens. This project met with positive success (SIC) when in 1959, the United States established primitive communications with the aliens. On April 25, 1964, a USAF intelligence officer met two aliens at a pre-arranged location in the desert of New Mexico. The contact lasted for approximately three hours. The Air Force officer managed to exchange basic information with the two aliens. The project is believed to be continuing at an Air Force base in New Mexico.

I am respectfully requesting the following information:

- 1). An authentic photocopy of the "Majestic-12" (MJ-12) groups information - a 9 page document (1947).
- 2). Any photocopies of pathological reports (post-mortem) performed on the aliens in 1947 (comparative anatomy).
- 3). Any authentic photocopies of aliens - full body exposures; close-up photos, etc.
- 4). Project Whirlwind - a UFO study done at M.I.T. in 1949, then referred back to the Dept. of Defense.

Although I realize that the government is reluctant in giving out information, particularly to civilian researchers, my approach will continue to be positive and will have a optimistic outlook. While I might accurately anticipate some negative reactions to all this information (continued debunking) in the letter, I would nevertheless value your response.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Neal, Jr., M.D.

/rnn

Enclosures

## SYNOPSIS OF ROSWELL INCIDENT

I am writing to request a clarification of the U.S. Government's *current* position concerning events which occurred in and around Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947.

According to newspaper accounts and eyewitness reports, a local rancher, William W. Brazel, discovered pieces of debris from an object which crashed on the property he managed outside Corona, on or about July 2, 1947. He brought some of this material to the attention of Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox, who called the Roswell Army Air Field. The base Intelligence Officer, Jesse A. Marcel, and a Counter Intelligence Corps Officer, Sheridan Cavitt, went to the ranch to inspect the material.

They discovered a great deal of lightweight debris which couldn't be cut, burned, or even dented with a sledgehammer. On orders from the base commander, Col. William Blanchard, the Public Information Officer, Walter G. Haut, issued a news release that the Army Air Force had recovered "flying disc." Some of the debris was flown to Fort Worth, Texas where the Commander of the Eighth Air Force, Gen. Roger Ramey, identified the material for the press as the remains of a weather balloon and its radar target.

However, subsequent investigation has raised considerable doubt about the weather balloon explanation. For example:

■ According to his son and neighbors, Brazel was held incommunicado by officials at the Roswell base for nearly a week, questioned extensively and ordered not to say anything about his experience; however, in a newspaper interview, he said that the material he recovered "did not in any way resemble a weather balloon," many of which he had recovered on his property.

■ Sheriff Wilcox, to whom Brazel initially reported finding the debris, also was ordered by the military not to say anything, but members of his family say that not only did he see debris at the crash site — he also saw four "space" beings, one of whom was alive. Moreover, his granddaughter, Barbara Dugger, was told by her grandmother, Inez Wilcox, that the entire family was threatened with death by the military if they discussed the incident.

■ The former manager of KGFL Radio in Roswell, Jud Roberts, says the station was threatened with loss of its license by government officials in Washington, DC, if it broadcast the story about the "flying saucer." In addition, according to Lydia Sleppy, a secretary at KOAT Radio in Albuquerque, a wire transmission of the news story on the event was interrupted by a message something like: "CEASE TRANSMISSION. NATIONAL SECURITY ITEM."

■ According to Brig. Gen. Thomas J. DuBose (USAF, ret.), who was Gen. Ramey's Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Clements McMullen, the Deputy and Acting Commander, Strategic Air Command, at Andrews Army Air Field, ordered that some of the debris recovered on the ranch be brought directly to him in Washington. Gen. DuBose says officials at the Headquarters of the Eighth Air Force were directed to tell the press that the material was from a weather balloon radar target, and that the weather balloon explanation was a "cover story" to divert the attention of the press.

■ The pilot who transported some of the wreckage, Oliver W. Henderson, said he saw the bodies of alien beings at the Roswell base, according to his widow, Sappho Henderson, his daughter, Mary Kathryn Groode, and his friend, John Kromschroeder.

■ A mortician who worked for the funeral home in Roswell, Glenn Dennis, says an Army nurse friend told him about participating in the autopsies of three alien bodies at the base.

Therefore, I am formally requesting that you seek to determine whether the highly unusual material recovered near Corona was from a "flying disc," a weather balloon, or something else.

Please advise me, at your earliest opportunity, of the United States Government's *current* position on the nature of the material recovered outside Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947, and its current explanation for all official actions taken with respect to this event.

Sincerely,



SUMMARY OF HQ NAIC RESEARCH INTO THE ROSWELL INCIDENT,  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING SAUCERS, AND PROJECT BLUE BOOK

**PURPOSE.** To summarize sources of information used in the HQ NAIC study of the 1947 Roswell incident. Allegations are that a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) were found at the crash site and transported to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

**BACKGROUND.** In 1993, Congressman Steven Schiff from New Mexico began an investigation of the Roswell incident. Pursuant to that, a General Accounting Office auditor visited the HQ NAIC History Office to see what records were available within the center. Also, a local television station picked up the story. In addition to HQ NAIC records, the Historian visited other base archives to search for material.

**FINDINGS.**

1. A review of the HQ NAIC History Office and CIRC holdings, plus other base and USAF Museum archives, encompassing several million pages of documents, did not turn up any reference to the Roswell incident or the presence of flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at the base.

2. An electronic search of the Air Force Historical Research Agency archives, again, several million pages of documents, did not turn up any reference to the Roswell incident or the presence of flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at Wright-Patterson AFB.

3. A review of the Dayton Daily News for July 1947, all of the UFO-related material available in the Dayton, Centerville, and Woodbourne Public Libraries, as well as information in the Wright State University holdings and material in the AFIT, Base Technical Library, and Base Library did not turn up any conclusive evidence that flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) had ever been at Wright-Patterson.

4. Conversations with a dozen people who had worked in the Project Blue Book office or with Blue Book materials did not turn up any evidence that there had ever been a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at Wright-Patterson.

5. Over the years, there have been several congressional investigations of this organizations study of UFO reports. None has ever turned up evidence of a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at Wright-Patterson.

6. All of this organization's UFO study files were transferred to the National Archives and made available to the public.

Atch 1

## CONCLUSIONS.

1. Concerted research has failed to turn up any evidence relating to the Roswell incident or of a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at Wright-Patterson. Because this conclusion is based on the absence of documentation, the issue can never be definitively resolved. There will always be those who say "You didn't search hard enough" or "We know you really do have the records/saucer(s)/alien(s), but you are just not revealing them to us." It would almost be a physical impossibility to search every desk drawer in every building on Wright-Patterson looking for the report, if it ever existed, on Roswell-related material. HQ NAIC is convinced that no such record currently exists.

2. Because no document has ever been found, however, leads center researchers to the conclusion that the Roswell material, if it came to Wright-Patterson for analysis, was nothing remarkable, certainly nothing extraterrestrial. The standard procedure for any government record is that it is kept for some period of time, then retired or destroyed according to a general schedule established by regulation. One might assume that a document purporting to be the true analysis of extraterrestrial material would always be needed and, thus, would have been preserved.

3. Because the Roswell incident occurred so long ago, now nearly 50 years ago, there may be no record trail to follow to absolutely determine if a study had ever been conducted.

4. Despite the best efforts of UFO researchers over the years, not one scrap of physical evidence or one incontestable photograph of either a flying saucer or an alien has ever been found relating to the Roswell incident. Some researchers have devoted years of their lives to this effort. Again, using an argument based on the absence of evidence, the fact that several hundred man-years of effort have followed all of the research trails imaginable leads HQ NAIC to believe that nothing extraterrestrial was found at Roswell.

5. The earliest UFO literature, books by Ruppelt, Keyhoe, and Menzel do not mention the Roswell incident. Also, the Blue Book records and the Condon report do not mention the Roswell incident, though many sightings from 1947 were investigated by this organization's predecessors.

6. HQ NAIC realizes that the absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, but every reasonable avenue of research has been exhausted without finding evidence that a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) have ever been at Wright-Patterson AFB.

7. Because the GAO will have searched the records of many federal agencies, HQ NAIC suggests that they be contacted, or Congressman Schiff be contacted, for a comprehensive report of their findings relating to the Roswell incident.

## SUGGESTED READING.

Blue Book Special Report 14 and the Project Sign and Project Grudge reports. These primary documents should have been part of this organization's UFO study files and currently available through the National Archives.

The UFO Controversy in America, David Michael Jacobs. Contains a comprehensive review of documents belonging to this organization's UFO study files.

The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, Edward Ruppelt. Ruppelt was the UFO study project officer from 1951-1953 and he investigated a series of reports from 1947. He found nothing, apparently, about the Roswell incident.

The UFO Experience, J. Allen Hynek. Written by the chief scientific advisor to this organization for UFO studies. Associated with Sign/Grudge/Blue Book from 1948-1969, he found nothing, apparently, about the Roswell incident.

Flying Saucers: Top Secret, Donald Keyhoe. Keyhoe helped establish NICAP and was one of the earliest to allege that the government was withholding UFO "secrets" from the public. He found nothing, apparently, about the Roswell incident.

Flying Saucers and the U.S. Air Force, Lawrence Tacker. States the official Air Force position as of 1960 and includes earlier Air Force statements about UFOs.

7

**Memo**  
**Brig Gen James L. Cole, Jr., AF/SE,**  
**for SAF/AAZ**  
**Subj: GAO Review on Records**  
**Management Procedures with**  
**Weather Balloons, Unidentified**  
**Aircraft, and Similar Crash**  
**Incidents . . . .**  
**March 14, 1994**





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC

14 MAR 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AAZ  
ATTENTION: LT COL BUTLER

FROM: AF/SE

SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents (GAO Code 701034) - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

In response to your memorandum dated 1 Mar 94, same subject, Air Force Safety has identified 2 directives concerning the investigating and reporting of air vehicle crashes. One is within our purview, while the other is managed by the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

AFR 127-4, *Investigating and Reporting US Air Force Mishaps* (attached), provides guidance for Air Force safety investigations, to include "air vehicle mishaps." The mishap report is used for mishap prevention purposes only and is not normally released outside Air Force channels. It does not cover the investigation of air vehicle crashes belonging to other branches of government or civilian crashes.

AFR 110-14, *Investigations of Aircraft, Missile, and Nuclear and Space Accidents*, provides guidance for Accident Investigation Boards, which are convened primarily to obtain and preserve available evidence for claims, litigation, disciplinary and administrative actions, and for all other purposes. The accident report is normally releasable to the public.

Normally, the safety investigation is done first, after which the wreckage/debris retention and disposition becomes the responsibility of the Accident Investigation Board. AFR 110-14, paragraph 10, *Disposition of Wreckage and Other Evidentiary Materials*, states "HQ USAF/JACC [now AFLSA/JACT] manages the retention of aircraft wreckage for anticipated litigation or in cases where there is a high degree of publicity. The Air Force is not under any general requirement to retain wreckage for long periods of time, but in some cases, it is advantageous to do while in others the wreckage can be disposed of quickly."

The Air Force Safety Agency searched the microfilm records (classified and unclassified) for air vehicle mishaps for the period 20 June through 31 July 1947. The only mishaps reported in New Mexico during that periods are as follows:

AIRCRAFT	DATE	TIME*	LOCATION
A-26C	24 June 1947	0809	7 miles northwest of Hobbs NM
P-51N	10 July 1947	1252	7 miles northwest of Hobbs NM
C-82A	12 July 1947	1206	7 miles southeast of Albuquerque NM
P-80A	18 July 1947	1200	Carrizozo NM
PQ-14B	28 July 1947	0935	15 miles southwest of Alamogordo NM

\* all times are Mountain Standard Time

We have no information regarding mishaps of air vehicles belonging to civilian or other government agencies. Please note that mishaps involving unmanned air vehicles (which during the 1940s included remotely piloted aircraft, low-speed "cruise missiles" like the V-1, and most balloons) are considered "ground mishaps." Reports on such occurrences are not retained for an extended period; AFR 4-20, vol II, Table 127-2, rule 4 directs the Air Force Safety Agency to destroy them after 5 years.

*James L. Cole, Jr.*

JAMES L. COLE, JR., Brig Gen, USAF  
Chief of Safety

Attachment:

AFR 127-4 *w/d*

cc:

AFLSA/JACT (atch w/d)

Memo  
Col Michael W. Schoenfeld,  
SAF/AQL, for SAF/AA  
Subj: GAO Review on Records  
Management Procedures Dealing  
with Weather Balloons, Unknown  
Aircraft, and Similar Crash  
Incidents . . .  
March 22, 1994







DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MAR 1994

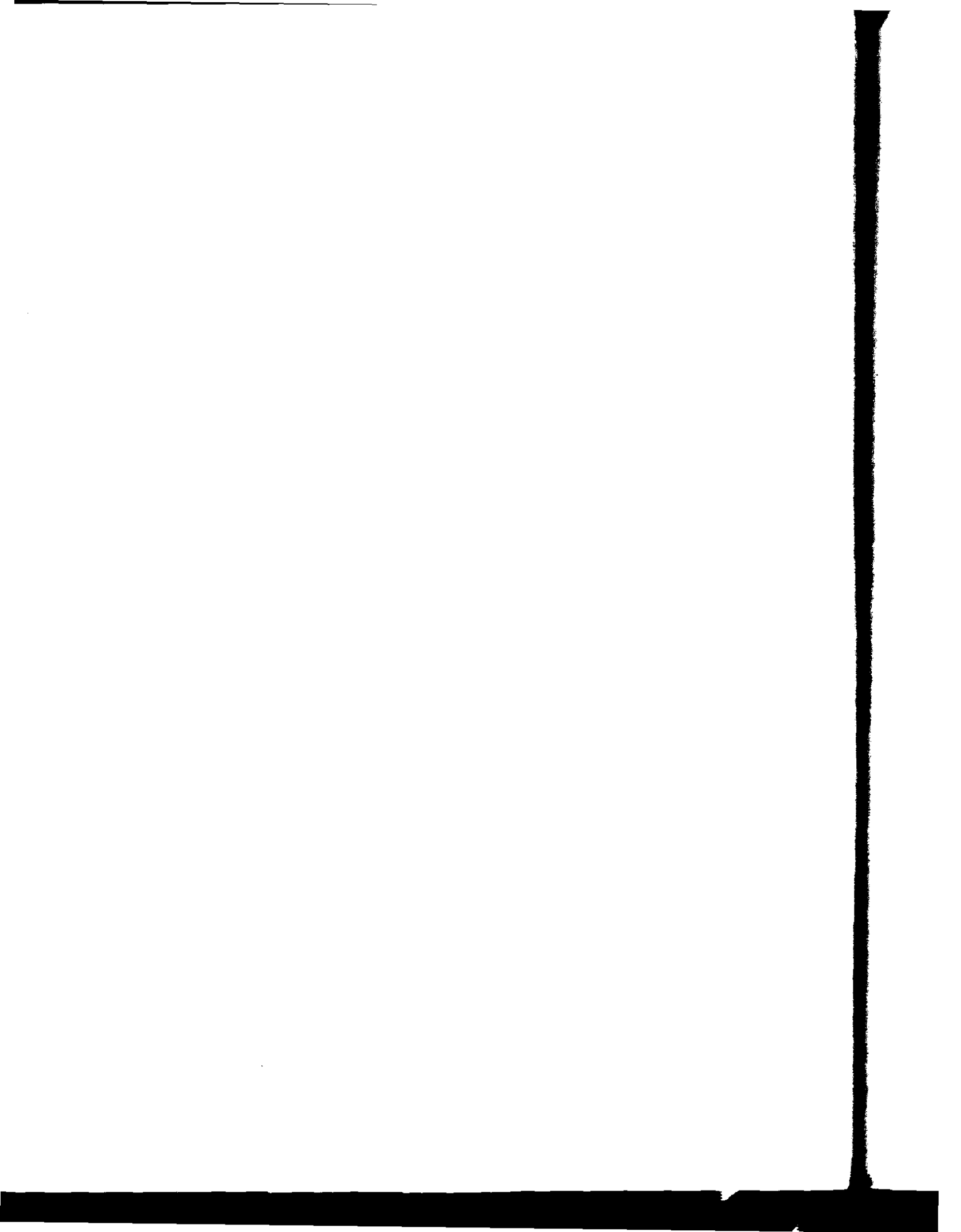
**MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AA**

**FROM: SAF/AQL**

**SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with  
Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents (GAO  
Code 701034) (Your memorandum, 1 Mar 1994)  
-- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

SAF/AQL is not the OPR for: 1) directives concerning records retention and disposition or for 2) directives concerning reporting air vehicle crashes, investigations, and wreckage/debris retention and disposition. Additionally, we do not possess any records related to air vehicle impacts or crashes in New Mexico.

**MICHAEL W. SCHOENFELD, Col, USAF**  
Director, Electronic & Special Programs  
Assistant Secretary  
of the Air Force (Acquisition)



Memo  
Col Steve O. Ouzts, AF/XOWP, for  
SAF/AAZ  
Subj: GAO Review on Records  
Management Procedures Dealing  
with Weather Balloons, Unknown  
Aircraft, and Similar Crash  
Incidents . . .  
March 9, 1994





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



09 Mar 94

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AAZ  
ATTENTION: Lt Col Bulter

FROM: HQ USAF/XOWP  
1490 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC 20330-1490

SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather  
Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents (GAO Code  
701034)- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Reference: 1 Mar 94 SAF Memorandum, Subj, same as above

There is no requirement for weather personnel to record weather balloon landings.  
Only meteorological data are retained.

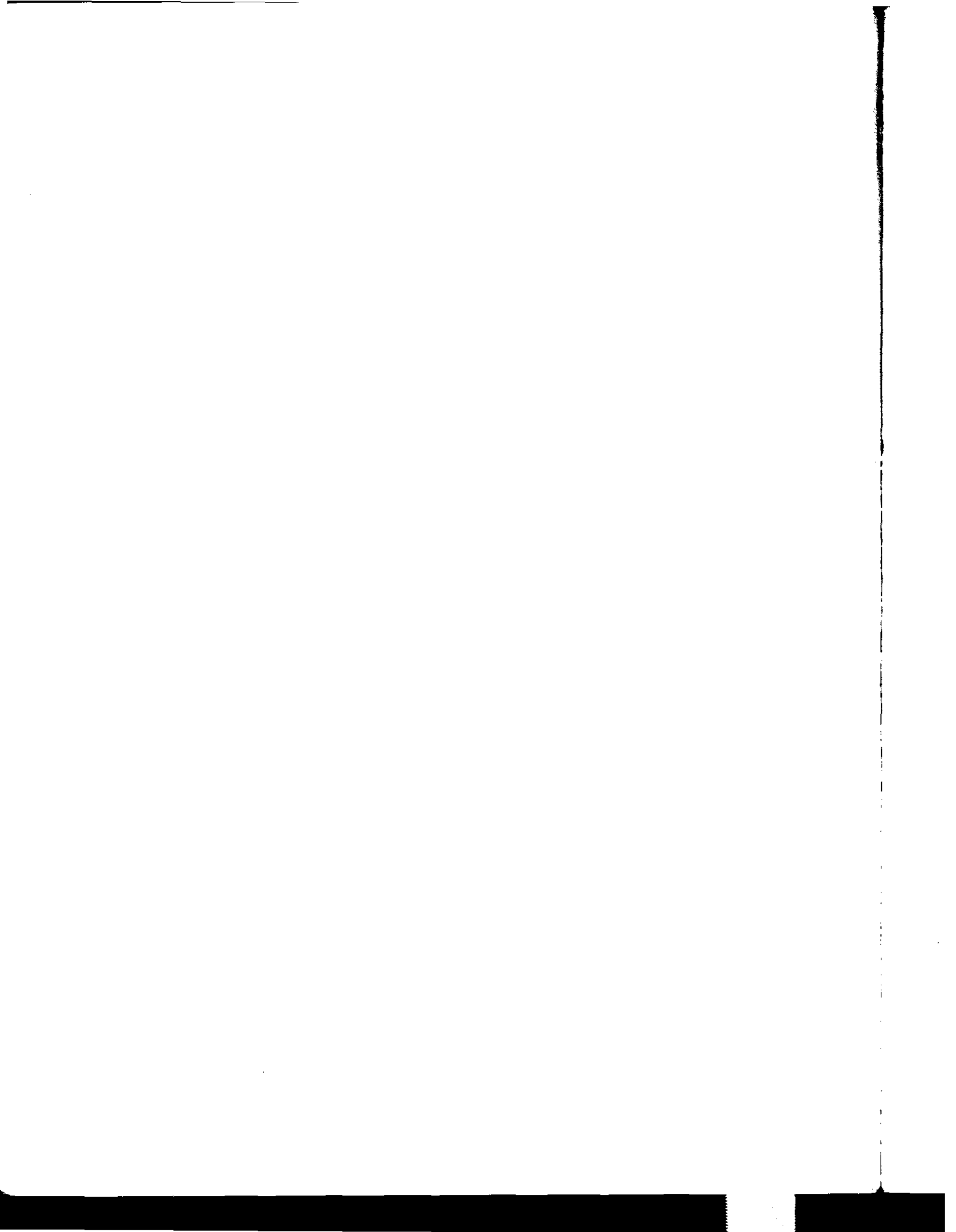
We did not find any records in the Air Force weather archives of a weather balloon  
crash near Roswell, New Mexico from 20 June to 31 July 1947. If you have any  
questions, my point of contact is Lt Col Jim Near DSN224-5163.

STEVE O. OUZTS, Col, USAF  
Chief, Policy Division  
Directorate of Weather  
DCS, Plans and Operations



Memo  
Grace T. Rowe, SAF/AAIQ, for  
SAF/AAI, SAF/AAZ  
Subj: GAO Review of Records  
Management Procedures Dealing  
with Weather Balloons, Unknown  
Aircraft, and Similar Crash  
Incidents . . .  
March 10, 1994







DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 March 1994

SAF/AAIQ  
1610 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1610

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AAI

SAF/AAZ  
IN TURN

*Fairman  
14 Mar 94  
15 Mar 94*

SUBJECT: GAO Review of Records Management Procedures Dealing with  
Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash  
Incidents (GAO Code 701034) - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Reference your memorandum, 1 March 1994, request items:

- (a) Identify pertinent directives concerning records retention  
and disposition.

The Air Force current regulation is AFR 4-20, Volume 2, Disposition of Air Force Records, Records Disposition Schedule, dated 1 May 1992.

Earlier schedules were:

AFR 12-50 volume II, Disposition of Air Force Records, Records Disposition Standards, 30 October 1987; 31 January 1986; 14 May 1984.

AFM 12-50 Volume II, Disposition of Air Force Documentation; 1 October 1969.

AFM 181-5, Records Management, Evaluation and Disposition of Records, 1 December 1966; 1 July 1963; and 10 November 1958.

AFM 181-5, Records Management, Disposition of Records, 1 July 1956; and 1 August 1954.

AFM 181-5, Administration of Records, 1950.

- (b) Identify pertinent directives concerning reporting Air vehicle crashes, investigations, and wreckage/debris retention and disposition.

AFR 110-14, Investigations of Aircraft, Missile, and Nuclear and Space Accidents (AF/JACC).

AFP 127-1 Volume 1, US Air Force Guide to Mishap Investigation (AFSA/SEP)

AFP 127, Volume 3, Safety Investigation Workbook (AFSA/SEP)

AFR 127-4, Investigating and Reporting US Air Force Mishaps (AFSA/SEP)

AFR 127-11, Participation in a Military Civil Aircraft Accident Safety Investigation (AFSA/SEP)

(c) Identify any records (unclassified or classified) related to air vehicle (aircraft, lighter-than-aircraft, rocket/missile, or other) impacts or crashes in New Mexico from 20 June to 31 July 1947; identify record groups and/or other indexes associated with these records for further review.

We asked the National Personnel Records Center to see if they have any files for Roswell Air Force Base for the 1947 time frame in their holdings. They noted that the histories for the 509th Bomb Group and Wing for Roswell Army Air Base for period of November-December 1947 was transferred to Air University in 1953. The regular 1947 records have been destroyed. They do have a packet of Top Secret for 509th Bomb Wing, Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, NM for 1949-1950. They said we would need to look through this for any records.

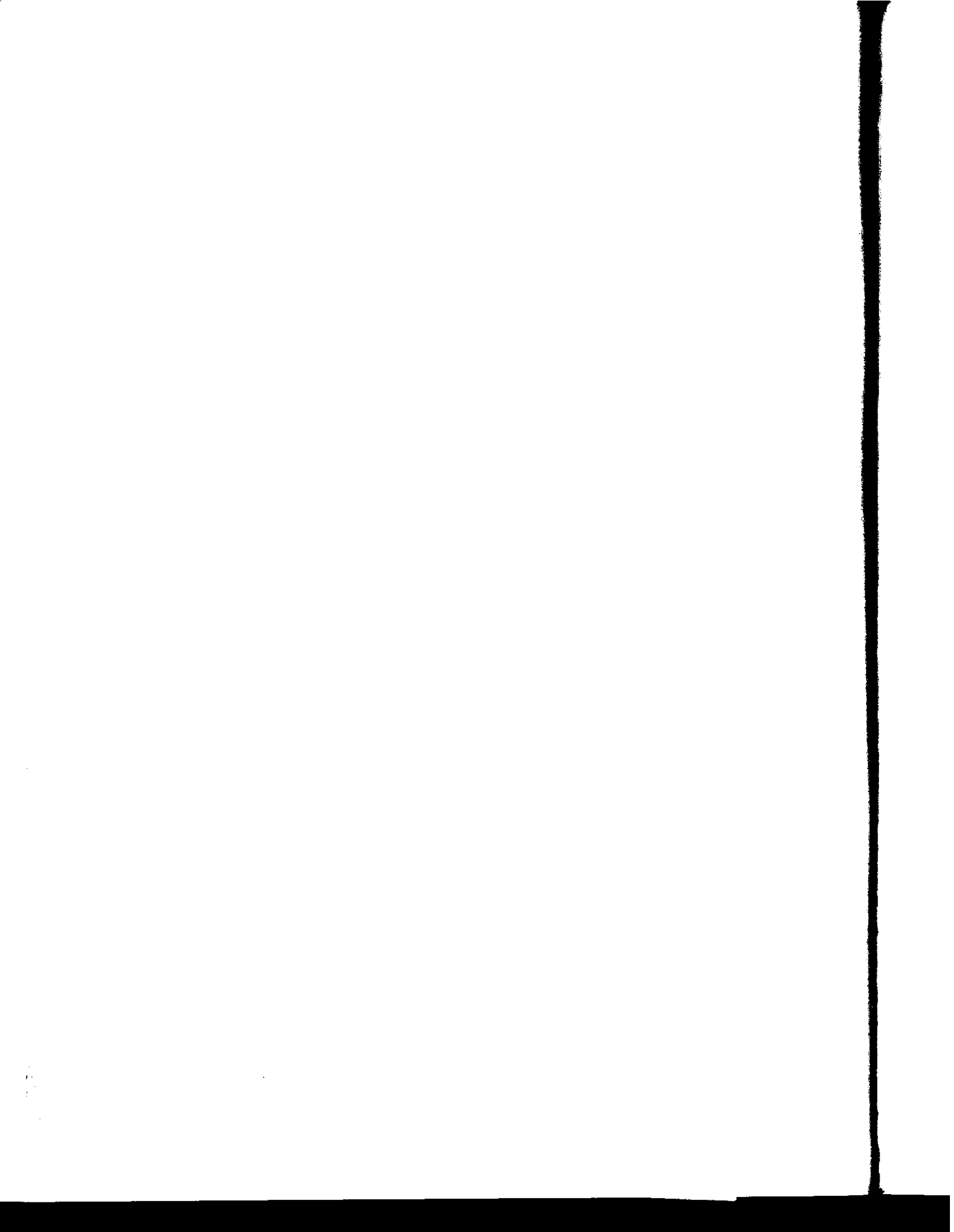
(d) provide copies of pertinent directives (including any changes of policies on retention and disposition) and records (i.e., item c above) to SAF/AAZ, 1720 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1720.

We are attaching appropriate extract from our disposition schedule since 1950. This is our earliest schedule.

*Grace T. Rowe*  
GRACE T. ROWE  
Chief, Records Management Branch  
Directorate of Information Management

1 Atch  
Extracts from AF *W/D*  
Records Schedules

Memo, with Attachment  
Richard S. Rauschkolb, AFHRA/CC,  
for AF/HO, SAF/AAZ  
Subj: GAO Review on Records  
Management Procedures Dealing  
with Weather Balloons, Unknown  
Aircraft, and Similar Crash  
Incidents . . .  
March 8, 1994





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE HISTORICAL RESEARCH AGENCY  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA



8 Mar 94

MEMORANDUM FOR AF/HO  
SAF/AAZ  
IN TURN

*PKS*  
*Weather Co*  
*CONTACT*

FROM: AFHRA/CC  
600 Chennault Circle  
Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6424

SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with  
Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents

Reference: SAF/AAZ Ltr, 1 Mar 94

Attached are the results of the records search conducted at the Agency pursuant to the instructions of referenced letter. Point of contact at this Agency is Dr James Kitchens, DSN 493-5068 or commercial (205) 953-5068.

*Richard S. Rauschkolb*  
RICHARD S. RAUSCHKOLB  
Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Attachment:  
AFHRA's Report

## REPORT

### GAO INVESTIGATION OF "THE ROSWELL INCIDENT": RELEVANT HOLDINGS AT THE AFHRA

8 March 1994

#### Preface

On 1 March 1994 a facsimile transmission from the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Administrative Assistant (SAF/AA) directed the Historical Research Agency to support the General Accounting Office's investigation of "the Roswell incident." Specifically, the Agency was directed to identify any records in its possession concerning the investigation and reporting of air vehicle and other crash incidents similar to the reported crash of a weather balloon near Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947 ("the Roswell incident"). This report presents the search procedure and results and indicates some possible additional locations for Air Force files on the Roswell incident.

#### Definition of a Search Strategy

The AFHRA/RSQ (Inquiries Branch) was assigned the task of responding to the SAF/AAZ directive. On 2 March 1994, Inquiries Branch staff developed a list of possible file locations which might contain relevant documents. Primary items on this list were Roswell AAFld installation histories, together with unit histories of the Air Force organizations stationed at Roswell in June-July 1947. In addition, the following rubrics were identified for insertion into the Agency's finding aids:

- Roswell
- Roswell Army Air Field
- Unidentified Flying Objects
- UFO(s)
- Weather Balloon(s)

#### Results of the Search - Unit Histories

In June/July 1947, the principal Air Force unit stationed at Roswell was the 509th Bomb Group (H). This group, its constituent squadrons, and support organizations were therefore indicated as the most likely locations for any reporting about the Roswell incident in Agency files. On 3 March 1994, the unit histories of Air Force organizations stationed at Roswell AAFld were retrieved and examined page-by-page for any entries

related to unidentified flying objects and/or the crash of a weather balloon near the base in the June/July 1947 time frame. The results of this search were as follows:

- 509th Bomb Group (H) - June/July 1947 - One brief passage mentioning the Office of Public Affairs and "flying disc" activities in GP-509-HI, July 1947, p. 39 (see Appendix I).
- 393rd Bomb Sqdn - No AFHRA files for June/July 1947.
- 715th Bomb Sqdn - No AFHRA files for June/July 1947.
- 830th Bomb Sqdn - Nothing in unit history for 24 May 1946-23 June 1947 (SQ-BOMB-830-HI, 24 May 1946-23 June 1947).
- 1027th Air Materiel Sqdn - Nothing in unit history for 17 Dec 1944-Nov 1947 (SQ-SV-1027-HI, 17 Dec 1944-Nov 1947).
- 427th AAF Base Unit - This unit's historical reports are included in Roswell AAFld installation histories (AFHRA series 288.17-28, 1947). No mention of Roswell incident found.
- 390th Air Service Sqdn - No AFHRA files for June/July 1947.
- 1395th Military Police Company (Aviation) - No AFHRA files for June/July 1947.
- 603rd Air Engineering Sqdn - Nothing in unit history for Feb-Nov 1947 (SQ-ENGR-603-HI, Feb-Nov 1947).

It should be noted that the period from approximately 1946 to 1950 is the least well documented era in the Air Force's unit history program. During this time of drastically reduced forces and peacetime concerns, major unit histories were frequently thin and their content sketchy at best. Small units, especially support units, frequently did not submit histories at all during the 1946-1947 period. Although we cannot be absolutely sure that the histories marked "no holding" in the above list were never written, it appears virtually certain that they were not, in fact, ever created. If written, there is good evidence through accessioning and microfilming records that the Agency never received those indicated as absent from the AFHRA collection.

#### Result of the Search - Base Histories

On 3 March 1994 the Agency's files of Roswell AAFld histories for June/July 1947 were examined. These base or installation histories are designated AFHRA 288.17-28, Roswell AAFld Histories, Jan 1946-Dec 1947 (3 vols). These histories amount to approximately two linear inches and are largely concerned with administrative matters (number of



personnel, transfers, routine administrative actions, etc.). No mention of the Roswell incident was found in them.

### Result of the Search - Card Catalog and IRIS

On 3 March 1994 appropriate rubrics in the Agency's card catalog such as "Roswell," "Roswell AAFld," "UFO(s)," "Unidentified Flying Objects," "Weather Balloon(s)," were examined. No entries were found which identified information remotely related to the Roswell incident.

The Agency's IRIS electronic data base was also queried for potential entries. The following key words or phrases were entered:

ROSWELL  
UFO  
UFOS  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS  
WEATHER BALLOON  
WEATHER BALLOONS

The IRIS search produced no documents concerned with a flying disc and/or weather balloon crash at Roswell AAFld. The IRIS search, however, did reveal a substantial file in AFHRA microfilm roll 33,764, beginning frame 562, which is concerned with flying disk reports in the western United States during the summer and fall of 1947. This file was apparently maintained by the Air Force Missile Development Command. It reveals contemporary investigative agencies, methods, and personalities both Air Force and civilian, thus it provides archival clues for further investigation of the Roswell incident. Extracts from microfilm roll 33,764 are attached as Appendix II.

Finally, a passage mentioning balloon operations from Holloman AFB during June-July 1947 was located in AFHRA K280.10-54G, 1947-1958, *Contributions of Balloon Operations to Research and Development at the Air Force Missile Development Center, Holloman Air Force Base, N. Mex., 1947-1950* (Holloman AFB, NM: AFMDC, n.d.), pp. 1-2 (Appendix III). This passage indicates that a cluster of "rubber-type weather balloons" was launched at Holloman AFB on 5 June 1947, the equipment from which was recovered. A second launch of polyethylene balloons was made on 3 July, the equipment for which was not recovered.

### Aircraft or "Vehicle" Crash Reports

The AFHRA does not hold aircraft accident reports. The office of record for such reports is the Air Force Safety Agency/SERR, Kirtland AFB, NM.

## Summary and Conclusions

The Historical Research Agency is primarily a repository for unit histories and supporting documents, and it has never routinely received the kind of records which might provide details of the Roswell incident. If such records survive today, they will undoubtedly be held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), either at the Washington National Records Center (WNRC) or the Southwest Regional Depository (Fort Worth, Texas).

## Recommendations

Because the records management policy of the federal government requires that obsolete office files be retired to the NARA, the WNRC and the NARA Southwest Regional Depository might be searched for files related to the Roswell incident.

AFHRA microfilm roll 33,764 indicates that the Fourth Air Force and its A-2 intelligence section apparently carried out investigations of flying disks in the western US in 1947. Research in the NARA, therefore, might reasonably include a search for surviving HQ Fourth AF and Fourth AF A-2 Section files in the NARA.

*James H. Kitchens, III*  
JAMES H. KITCHENS, III, PhD  
Archivist  
Inquiries Branch

*Richard S. Rauschkolb*  
RICHARD S. RAUSCHKOLB  
Colonel, USAF  
Commander

## Appendix

1. 509 BG History, Jun/Jul 47
2. Extract from "Flying Disks 1947" w/o
3. Ballon Operations at AFMDC, 1947-1950, pp 1-2 w/o

COMBINED HISTORY  
509<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP  
AND  
ROSWELL ARMY AIRFIELD  
1 JULY 1947 THROUGH 31 JULY 1947



00095394

APR 29 1953

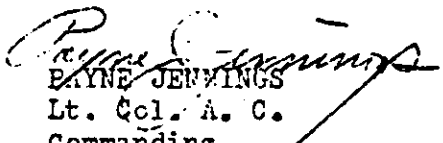
See Chap. #3 (Organization)

HEADQUARTERS  
509TH BOMB GP (WH)  
ROSWELL ARMY AIR FIELD  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

GENERAL ORDERS)  
NUMBER 9)

8 July 1947

1. Pursuant to authority contained in Hqs. 8th Air Force TEX number 41 1593 dated 6 July 1947, the undersigned hereby assumes command of the Roswell Army Air Field, Roswell, New Mexico. Effective this date.

  
PAYNE JENNINGS  
Lt. Col. A. C.  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

"A" & Post	(325)
Personnel	(6)
Classification	(5)
Hqs. 8th AF	(5)
Hqs. SAC	(2)
Col. Jennings	(1)

[REDACTED]

CHAPTER III

ORGANIZATION

Any significant changes in organization as activation or de-activation of units, or change of command, will be dealt with in this chapter.

Lt Colonel Payne Jennings, Deputy Commander, assumed command of Roswell Army Air Field on 8 July 1947. Colonel W. H. Blanchard, Commanding Officer went on leave. <sup>1/</sup>

Lt Colonel Charles W. Horton, Jr., was assigned as Commanding Officer of Squadron "A", vice Lt Colonel Richard F. Schumacher on 14 July 1947. The Squadron Adjutant, Captain Bowman, was transferred overseas and was replaced by Captain Joseph A. Jones.

Command of the 3rd Photo Laboratory Unit (VH), was assumed by 1st Lt Harold W. Arner per Paragraph 3, Special Order, #139, Headquarters, Roswell Army Air Field, dated 18 July 1947. He relieved 1st Lt Lewis C. Bohanan who was transferred to the 701st AAF BU, Hamilton Field, California.

The 390th Air Service Squadron received a new commanding officer in the person of Lt Colonel Walter Y. Lucas, who assumed command on 1 July 1947. Colonel Lucas relieved Lt Colonel William C. Kingsbury who then assumed command of the 715th Bomb Squadron (VH), formerly commanded by Colonel Lucas.

1st Lt W. G. Hilburn, former Assistant Base Adjutant, transferred from Squadron "A", 427th AAF BU to 603rd Air Engineering Squadron as Squadron Adjutant. He replaces Captain Earl O. Casey, who is on orders for an overseas assignment to Project PAC

<sup>1/</sup> G.O. #9, paragraph 1 - RAAF, Roswell, New Mexico

[REDACTED]

The other three briefings were those which were given to the VIP and a simulated briefing to a large group of Air Scouts representing all of the troops in New Mexico which was given on 15 July 1947.

Several small projects were completed during the month including signs on all the office doors, a building directory, and a world situation map which is maintained on a day-to-day basis.

The Historical Section of S-2 has been seriously handicapped by the removal of the regular stenographer with the reduction in force.

Due to the fact that the quality of the department reports has in general been so inadequate, lectures are being prepared to be given early in August to properly train the liaison representatives of each department.

The Office of Public Information was kept quite busy during the month answering inquiries on the "flying disc", which was reported to be in possession of the 509th Bomb Group. The object turned out to be a radar tracking balloon.

The main project of the month was making all arrangements for a successful Air Force Day. Lt. Colonel Oliver LaFarge, Air Reserve Corps, at Santa Fe, made arrangements for Colonel Blanchard to visit the Governor of New Mexico and ask him to declare Air Force Day in New Mexico on 1 August.

[REDACTED]

The Public Information Office was host during the month to the Senior Air Scouts of New Mexico, and to the several groups of visiting VIP's. Several easy chairs and couches have been procured to make the Public Information Office a more comfortable place in which to entertain.

The Public Information Officer and the Commanding Officer were guests of the Kiwanis Club of Roswell at a luncheon, for which Colonel W. H. Blanchard was the guest speaker. Colonel Blanchard spoke on the future of the Air Force, and the talk was very well received.

Arrangements have now been made to have the P.I.O. called on all crash calls in accordance with AAF Regulation. In the past, the P.I.O. has been called too late to get to the scene in time to do any good.

The 3rd Photo Laboratory Unit (VII) is now commanded by 1st Lt Harold W. Arner per paragraph 3, SO #139, Headquarters, this station, dated 18 July 1947. 1st Lt. Lewis C. Bohanan, former commanding officer of the 3rd Photo Lab Unit, was transferred to the 701st AAF BU, Hamilton Field, California.

The principal difficulty reported is a critical lack of photostat paper. This has caused a large back log of important work to pile up.

The following is a breakdown of work performed during the month ending 31 July 1947;

Contact Prints.....	3058	Projection Prints.....	403
Photostats.....	0	Ground Negatives.....	285
Copy Negatives.....	158	Aerial Roll Film.....	741 feet
		35 mm Film.....	454 feet

[REDACTED]

CHAPTER XIII

VISITORS

- 1 July 1947 - Lt Colonel R. Hamilton Martin and Lt. Colonel Loberg, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, arrived this date to coordinate with S-3 and check inventory of printing and reproduction equipment.
- 2 July 1947 - Colonel Brown, Colonel Dubose, and others from Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, arrived on official visit and inspection. Others included Lt Colonel Raymond R. Spurgeon, to coordinate with Adjutant's Section; Lt Colonel Ray C. Milton, to coordinate with Engineering; and Lt Colonel Donald S. Dundas, to coordinate with the Legal Section (Judge Advocate).
- 2 July 1947 - Major O'Neal J. T. Archer, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, arrived to coordinate with S-3 on flying safety.
- 2 July 1947 - Mr. M. E. Sudt, Engineering Depot, St. Louis, Missouri, visited to coordinate with Theater Officer.
- 3 July 1947 - Mr. Giles, Fire Prevention Inspector from Strategic Air Command, departed this station after completing his inspection of the Fire Departments.
- 3 July 1947 - Eighth Air Force Group Competition Inspection Team, under the supervision of Lt Colonel Burns, arrived to make the competition inspection. Major L. J. Seibert and Major Rogers L. Pearson were among those present.
- 8 July 1947 - Mr. John H. Kawka, Eighth Air Force, arrived on an ammunition inspection.
- 9 July 1947 - S-4 was inspected by Major K. D. Thompson and Captain J. W. Brady.
- 10 July 1947 - Mr. E. S. Rupp and Mr. C. D. Hall, SAGD, visited Base Supply regarding Quartermaster Stock Control.
- 11 July 1947 - Captain Billy M. Seargeant, 70th AAF BU, 103rd Weather Group, arrived on Weather Station Inspection.
- 11 July 1947 - Captain Edward G. Retartyk, Eighth Air Force, arrived to coordinate with Budget and Fiscal Officer.



- [REDACTED]
- 11 July 1947 - Mr. R. W. Truitt, Cost Analyst, Eighth Air Force, coordinated with Budget and Fiscal Officer on cost analysis.
  - 11 July 1947 - Colonel Sager, Surgeon, Eighth Air Force, arrived to coordinate with Station Hospital and Base Commanding Officer.
  - 14 July 1947 - Captain R. R. Showalter, Jr., and Major L. A. Boatright, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, arrived to coordinate with Statistical Control on cost analysis.
  - 16 July 1947 - Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey arrived from Ft Worth on an official visit.
  - 16 July 1947 - Lt Colonel J. P. Hines, Major Louis R. Fimian, Major Howard A. Beck, and Lt Colonel John H. Bell arrived from Headquarters, Strategic Air Command, for inspection and coordination of S-4 Section.
  - 17 July 1947 - Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey departed this station enroute to Tucson, Arizona.
  - 21 July 1947 - Mr. W. L. Wilson, SAAMA, arrived to coordinate with the Air Installation Officer and AACS, regarding Headquarters AMC projects.
  - 22 July 1947 - Dr. E. M. Townsend, PHS, Ft Stanton, New Mexico, arrived for a visit with the Commanding Officer or Executive Officer. He is Chief Surgeon, Public Health Service, Ft Stanton.
  - 23 July 1947 - 19 VIP consisting of several college presidents and deans, also CAP and National Guard notables from the western states arrived from Hamilton Field to spend the night. They were enroute to Eglin Field, Florida, to witness demonstration of latest army air force equipment.
  - 24 July 1947 - The above mentioned VIP departed this base after a short courtesy tour, including a sample briefing.
  - 24 July 1947 - Major R. J. D. Johnson and Captain W. A. Hartzop, Jr., Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C., arrived for investigation of the B-29 crash which occurred 20 May 1947.
  - 25 July 1947 - Governor Thomas J. Mabry of New Mexico, and party, were the guests of honor of Roswell Army Air Field. Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey, Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, was one of the visiting dignitaries to welcome the Governor.

[REDACTED]

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Historical Liaison Officer's Reports
2. Mission Reports, filed in Intelligence Office
3. Operations Reports, filed in 3-3 Office
4. Commanding Officers Daily Diary, filed in Base Adjutants Office
5. Transcript of Staff Meetings



12

Memo, with Attachments  
Edward C. Mishler, HQ AFOSI/HO,  
for SAF/AAZ  
Subj: GAO Review on Records  
Management Procedures . . .  
May 11, 1994





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

11 May 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AAZ

FROM: HQ AFOSI/HO  
226 Duncan Ave Suite 2100  
Bolling AFB, DC 20332-0001

SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures (Your memo 16 Mar 94)

1. This is to inform you that on 19 December 1975, the HQ AFOSI History office transferred two cubic feet of documents consisting of directives and policy guidance relating to the conduct of investigations of the type GAO is reviewing and all investigative files covering the period of 1948 to 1968 to the National Archives. You will find attached a copy of the Standard Form 135, Record Transmittal and Receipt, signed by the Assistant Chief, Military Projects Branch, National Archives, on that date (atch 1). My predecessor, who was instrumental in transferring these records informed me that these were the only records that AFOSI held. Currently, anyone who requests information on the subject from HQ AFOSI/Information Release is directed to the National Archives. Further, you will find attached a copy of my input to a staff meeting of 8 February 1989 in which I noted that 40 years earlier a meeting was held in the Southwest U.S. concerning subject (atch 2). At that time, District 17, Kirtland AFB, NM, was designated to be responsible for collection and reporting on aerial phenomena. That is about the only reference I've found in AFOSI historical files relating to the subject for the period of 1948 to 1953. AFOSI did not become operational until 1 August 1948, so we have no histories dealing with events before that time.

2. If you have any further questions, please contact me at DSN 297-5725 or Commercial (202)767-5725.

Handwritten signature of Edward C. Mishler in cursive.

EDWARD C. MISHLER  
Historian

Attachments:

1. Copy of SF 135, 19 Dec 75
2. Copy of HO Input, 8 Feb 89 Staff Meeting

STANDARD FORM 135 JULY 1961 EDITION GENERAL SERVICES ADMIN. FPMR '41 CFR, 101-11.4		RECORDS TRANSMITTAL AND RECEIPT		TO BE COMPLETED AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER			
		ACCESSION NO NN-375-209		RECORD GROUP NO			
INSTRUCTIONS Send original and two copies to appropriate Federal Records Center. EXCEPTION—Send original and three copies to the Alexandria, Virginia, Center		SIGNATURE <i>Francis J. Heppner</i>		DATE RECORDS RECEIVED 12-19-75			
FROM: (Name and address of Agency transferring records) HQ AFOSI/HO Rm 1-H-053, Forrestal Bldg 1000 Independence Ave., SW Wash, DC 20314		TITLE Assistant Chief Military Projects Branch, National Arch		TO: Federal Records Center, GSA The Archivist of the United States National Archives & Records Service General Services Administration Wash, DC 20408			
1 CITE SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND/OR RESTRICTION ON USE OF RECORDS, IF ANY UNCLASSIFIED							
2 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE CLEARED		3. FILING EQUIPMENT EMPTIED			4. CUBIC FEET OF RECORDS TRANSFERRED		
A. OFFICE	B. STORAGE	A. FILE CABINETS (No.)	B. TRANS. FILES (No.)	C. SHELVING (Lin. Ft.)		2	
5 NAME OF AGENCY CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS Kurt K. Kunze, Capt, USAF, Historian				6 BUILDING AND ROOM NO. Forrestal Bldg, Rm 1H-053		7. TELEPHONE NO. 695-5997	
8 MAY THE RECORDS BE DESTROYED AS SCHEDULED WITHOUT FURTHER AGENCY CONCURRENCE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO							
9 AGENCY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE <i>David H. Ferguson, Maj, USAF</i>				10 TITLE Chief, Documenta- tion Div, Directorate of Administration, HQ AFOSI		11. DATE 19 Dec 75	
12 BOX NUMBERS FRC ONLY		13 DESCRIPTION OF RECORDS WITH INCLUSIVE DATES (Show organizational component creating records)				14 DISPOSAL AUTHORITY (Schedule and Item No.)	
		Source documents dating from 1948 to 1968 concerning the USAF investigation of Un-identified Flying Objects (UFOs). These records contain documents on investigative policy and Air Force Office of Special Investigation reports of investigations on UFO sightings.					
		SOURCE DOCUMENTS					
		1 File folders 24-185-1 through 24-185-27 (Note: There is no file for 24-185-3; there are two files under the number 24-185-17; and there is no file for 24-185-26) These files contain policy guidance and AFOSI District reports of investigation concerning UFOs (filed primarily by district).					
		2 File folders 24-185-001 through 24-185-008 containing policy guidance and AFOSI District reports of investigation concerning UFOs (filed primarily in chronological order.).					

HO Input for 8 Feb 89 Staff Meeting

The following are two old items from the APOSI archives. Forty years ago, representatives of US investigative and intelligence agencies met in the southwestern United States. They decided District 17, Kirtland AFB, NM, would be responsible for the overall collection and reporting on aerial phenomena. These phenomena, later termed unidentified flying objects or UFOs, had been sighted with some frequency in the New Mexico area. This program was initially called Project Sign, then Project Grudge, and was renamed Project Blue Book in 1951. NOTE: APOSI turned over all its investigative files pertaining to this project to the National Archives in 1976.\* Twenty years ago, in response to the increasing drug problem in the Air Force, OSI took steps to provide additional training. District 17 sponsored a narcotics seminar at Kirtland AFB, NM, which 225 people from state and local law enforcement agencies as well as OSI agents attended. OSI also developed an advanced Narcotics Investigations Course designed to teach the latest technics in combatting drug abuse.

\* Actually, on 19 Dec 1975.





Records Searched

13



# ARCHIVES/ LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NOTE: RECORD GROUP 319, RECORDS OF THE ARMY STAFF MESSAGE CENTER, WERE SEARCHED FOR 1947.

RECORD GROUP	ENTRY	BOX	REEL #	TITLE	LOCATION
N/A	N/A	N/A		LeMay Papers	LIB OF CONGRESS
N/A	N/A	N/A		SPAATZ PAPERS	LIB OF CONGRESS
N/A	N/A	N/A		TWINING PAPERS	LIB OF CONGRESS
N/A	N/A	N/A		VANDENBERG PAPERS	LIB OF CONGRESS
18	1	556		AIR ADJUTANT GENERAL	NARA DC
18	1	557		AIR ADJUTANT GENERAL	NARA DC
18	1	558		AIR ADJUTANT GENERAL	NARA DC
18	1	559		AIR ADJUTANT GENERAL	NARA DC
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18	4	178	RECORDS OF ARMY AIR SUITLAND
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18	4	392	RECORDS OF ARMY AIR SUITLAND
18	4	393	RECORDS OF ARMY AIR SUITLAND
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18	4	397	RECORDS OF ARMY AIR SUITLAND
159			IG REPORT- INDIVIDUALS NARA SUITLAND
159			IG CORRESPONDENCE NARA SUITLAND
319			G2 INTEL RECORDS OF NARA SUITLAND
319		2889	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND
319		2930	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND
319		2933	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND
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319		2941	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND
319		2947	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND

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319	3056	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND
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319	3134	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND
319	3136	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND
319	3143	RECORDS OF THE ARMY ARCHIVES-SUITLAND





341	213	29	OFFICE OF DIRECTOR	NARA SUTLAND
341	213	30	OFFICE OF DIRECTOR	NARA SUTLAND
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341	337	15 OF 18	HQ USAF RECORDS	NARA DC
341	337	16 OF 18	HQ USAF RECORDS	NARA DC
341	337	17 OF 18	HQ USAF RECORDS	NARA DC
401	124	1	A.P. CRARY PAPERS	NARA DC

## RECORDS CENTERS

ACCESSION #	BOX #	UNIT BASE
338-78-0260	1	WHITE SANDS - ARMY
338-78-0261	14	WHITE SANDS - ARMY
338-78-0262	14	WHITE SANDS - ARMY
338-78-0262	4 OF 4	WHITE SANDS - ARMY
338-78-0643	2 OF 2	AIR DEFENSE SCHOOL FT BLISS
341-69A-1262	1	BOLLING AFB
341-69A-1262	15	BOLLING AFB
341-69A-1262	30	BOLLING AFB
341-71A-6170	27	PENTAGON
341-71A-6170	29	PENTAGON
341-71A-6170	30	PENTAGON
341-71A-6170	32	PENTAGON
341-71A-6170	36	PENTAGON
341-71A-6170	67	PENTAGON
342-48A-5049	1	WATSON LABS
342-49-A-5025	1	8TH AF
342-49A-5025	1 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	10 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	11 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	12 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	13 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	14 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	2 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	3 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	4 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	5 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	6 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	7 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	8 OF 20	8th AF
342-49A-5025	9 OF 20	8th AF
342-49B-6004	1	12th AF
342-49C-5025	1 OF 2	8th AF
342-49C-5025	2 OF 2	8th AF
342-49D-5025	1	8th AF
342-49D-6015	1 OF 3	SAC

342-49D-6015	2 OF 3	SAC
342-49D-6015	3	SAC
342-49E-5025	1	8th AF
342-49E-6015	1	SAC
342-49H-5025	1	8th AF
342-50-7029	1	10 th AF BROOKS AFB
342-51-7012	1	HQ BOLLING AFB
342-51-7110	1	428 AAFBU KIRTLAND AFB
342-51-7111	1	KIRTLAND AFB
342-51-7112	1	KIRTLAND AFB
342-51A-5071	1	BOLLING FLD COMMAND
342-51B-0614	1	BOLLING FLD
342-51C-5071	1	BOLLING FLD
342-52-7089	1 OF 8	3151 ELEC GRP WATSON LABS
342-52-7089	2 OF 8	3151 ELEC GRP WATSON LABS
342-52-7089	3 OF 8	3151 ELEC GRP WATSON LABS
342-52-7089	4 OF 8	3151 ELEC GRP WATSON LABS
342-52-7089	5 OF 8	3151 ELEC GRP WATSON LABS
342-52-7089	6 OF 8	3151 ELEC GRP WATSON LABS
342-52-7089	7 OF 8	3151 ELEC GRP WATSON LABS
342-52-7089	8	3151 ELEC GRP WATSON LABS
342-52-7091	1	WRIGHT PAT
342-52-7096	1	JOINT LONG RANGE PROV GRD
342-52-7103	1	AIR WEATHER SERV ADW
342-52-B-6067	1 OF 2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-52A-5033	23	10TH AF
342-52A-5099	1	10th AF
342-52A-6117	1	CAMBRIDGE LABS
342-52B-4003	1 OF 7	8th AF
342-52B-4003	2 OF 7	8th AF
342-52B-4003	3 OF 7	8th AF
342-52B-4003	4 OF 7	8th AF
342-52B-4003	5 OF 7	8th AF
342-52B-4003	6 OF 7	8th AF
342-52B-4003	7	8th AF
342-52B-6067	2 OF 2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-52G-4002	1	8th AF
342-52Q-4002	1	8th AF
342-53-7026	1 OF 25	8th AF

342-53-7026	11 OF 25	8th AF
342-53-7028	12 OF 25	8th AF
342-53-7026	13 OF 25	8th AF
342-53-7077	2 OF 6	3089 EXP TEST GP HOLLOMAN AFB
342-53-7077	3 OF 6	3089 EXP TEST GP HOLLOMAN AFB
342-53-7077	4 OF 6	3089 EXP TEST GP HOLLOMAN AFB
342-53-7077	6 OF 6	3089 EXP GP HAFB
342-53-7078	1	3089 MSC EXP GP HOLLOMAN AFB
342-53-7106	1 OF 2	CONAF MITCHEL FLD
342-53-7106	2	CONAF MITCHEL FLD
342-53A-6074	1 OF 2	WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6074	2	WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6078	1 OF 18	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6078	2 OF 18	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6078	3 OF 18	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6078	4 OF 18	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	10	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	11	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	12	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	3	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	4	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	5	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	6	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	7	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	8	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6079	9	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6081	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6081	2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6081	2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6081	3	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6081	3	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6081	4	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6087	1	AMC HQ WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6087	2	AMC HQ WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6087	3	AMC HQ WRIGHT PAT
342-53A-6087	4	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-53B-6079	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT

342-53C-6079	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-54-E-6128	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-54-F-6128	1	HQ AM WRIGHT-PAT
342-54-F-6128	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-54-F-6128	2	HQ AM WRIGHT-PAT
342-54-F-6128	3	HQ AM WRIGHT-PAT
342-54-F-6128	4	HQ AM WRIGHT-PAT
342-54B-6097	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-54B-6097	2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-54B-6097	2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-54B-6097	2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-54F-4022	1	12th AF
342-54J-4045	9 OF 48	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-55A-6099	1	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-55A-6099	2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-55A-6099	2	HQ AMC WRIGHT PAT
342-56A-6191	1	CAMBRIDGE LABS
342-A-6067	1	AMC HQ WRIGHT PAT
342-G-4002	1 OF 3	8 th AF
342-G-4002	2 OF 3	8th AF
509th BG ORDERS		509th BOMB GROUP
MORNING REPORT	JULY 1947	509th BOMB GROUP
MORNING REPORTS	JULY 1947	427 AAFBU



14

Letter

Lt Col Thomas Badger, Jr., HQ/AAF,  
to Commanding General, AMC

Subj: Issuance of Orders

June 5, 1947



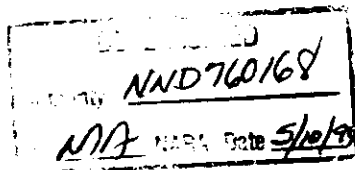


HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

JUN 5 1947

SUBJECT: Issuance of Orders

TO: Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright Field, Ohio.



1. Request confidential orders be issued placing the following named officers on three (3) days temporary duty at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for purpose of pursuing Bomb Commanders Course, reporting not later than date indicated:

8 July 1947 Class

Lt. General Nathan F. Twining, O-12366, AC  
Major General Benjamin W. Ghidlaw, O-14936, AC  
Brigadier General Arthur Thomas, O-10376, AC  
Brigadier General Samuel C. Brentnall, O-17132, AC

5 August 1947 Class

Brigadier General Donald L. Putt, O-17875, AC  
Brigadier General John C. Gordon, O-18571, AC  
Colonel Leighton I. Davis, O-19721, AC

2. Copies of orders should be forwarded to Commanding Officer, Kirtland Field. Additional copies of orders should be furnished to the Commanding Officer, The Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Washington, 25, D. C.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL SPAATZ:

THOMAS BADGER, JR.  
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps  
Executive, Military Personnel Division  
Office of AD, 25-A



15

Appointment Book; Diary  
Lt Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg  
July 7-9 [1947]; July 7-9, 1947



5520

MANUSCRIPT



DIVISION

THE PAPERS OF  
HOYT S. VANDENBERG

Diaries & Appointment Books

DECLASSIFIED

Box 1

*Gen. Vandenberg*  
**APPOINTMENTS**

YEAR 19 47

*Secretary's desk calendar*



No. 845/5

**NATIONAL BLANK BOOK COMPANY**  
Holyoke, Massachusetts

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THE MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTOR'S OFFICE HOLYOKE MASSACHUSETTS

*Monday*

JULY 7

8:00

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3:00

9:30

3:30

10:00

4:00 *Dental Appt.*

10:30

4:30

11:00

*NOTE.  
Mr. Price Lathrop  
Co.*

5:00

11:30

5:30

12:00

*War Council*

6:00

12:30

6:30

1:00

7:00

1:30

7:30



JULY 8

*Memorandum*

8:00	2:00	
8:30	2:30	
9:00	3:00	AIR MARSH GODDARD 4 SUBJECTS
9:30	3:30	
10:00	4:00	Recruiting Pres. to S/W + C/S 3E 869... See Weston Memphis (20/47)
10:30	4:30	Cong. W. C. Coker on Lincoln... (Ch. P. ...)
11:00	5:00	
11:30	5:30	
12:00	6:00	
12:30	6:30	8:00 - 8:00 ... See ... - 2520 34th Floor
1:00	7:00	
1:30	7:30	

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JULY 9

8:00	2:00
8:30	2:30
9:00	3:00
9:30 BEN PEARCE	3:30
10:00	4:00 St. Wendt. Rev. 1015 Gravelly 6582
10:30	4:30
11:00 O/S Meeting Cancelled	5:00/p - Mr. Petrick & Mr Lawrence - Reaction Motors
11:30	5:30
12:00 Home Kiser new Building 7th 432 W 15th	6:00 Amy Smith - ... John Hubbard
12:30	6:30
1:00 O/S ...	7:00
1:30	7:30

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DECLASSIFIED

DOD ltr.

8 Jan. & 20 June 1989

Ry: *[Handwritten initials]* Date: *[Handwritten date]*

*[Redacted]*  
OFFICE OF  
DAILY DEWY WEPY OF, DEPUTY CONSIDER  
*[Redacted]*

July 5, 1947

1:00 P.M. Returned from Wichita Falls, Texas.

July 7, 1947

9:15 A.M. Arrive Office.

9:15 A.M. Gen. Rawlings

9:40 A.M. Gen. Boatner with mail.

9:43 A.M. Colonel Garland on phone with reference to memorandum from General Kenney on how to have more groups and fewer people. Was that approved. Approved to extent instructions given that SAC units be left alone until September and at that time make a decision as to approval of Kenney's organization and how extensively it will be used in the Air Force. Find out if Kenney has been advised and let me know.

9:45 A.M. Colonel Galloway thanking General Vandenberg for what he put on for CIC

9:50 A.M. Colonel Garland advised that General Hood had handled the matter of SAC units and would be right down to brief Gen. Vandenberg.

9:55 A.M. Gen Chauncey on phone from Pocatello, Idaho to state that Gen Cannon doesn't want Moody or Turner in Georgia. Doesn't want Columbus at all - wants to substitute San Marcos. Wants to concentrate all expansion in a little bunch in Texas and take over fields that belong to <sup>8000</sup>Colmanas like Brooks and Bergstrom. General Chauncey says that it is possible we will have to give up the two in Georgia. Gen Chauncey stated he advised Gen Cannon to put his wants in writing and not to telephone as Gen Chauncey feels Gen Cannon is not too sure of himself, as two months ago he wanted to get out of San Marcos and now he wants it and also Brooks & Bergstrom.

10:00 A.M. Gen Hood & Col Hobson —briefing on SAC units.

10:55A.M. Mr. Zuckert re civilian personnel and limitations and personnel at inactive installations or installations which we are not planning to retain in our permanent structure.

11:05 A.M. Mr. Robert Gross and Mr. Maher of Lockheed

11:55 A.M. Gen. Sam Anderson

12:00 To War Council in absence of Gen. Spaatz

12:20 P.M. Returned and then to lunch

July 7, 1947 (Cont'd)

- 1:10 P.M. Mr. Hicks of the Toronto Star, Toronto, Canada on phone - He spoke in regard to the "flying discs". They understand these discs are a U.S. plane that is still on the secret list. He asked Gen. Van what he thought they were and Gen. Van was quite noncommittal. Gen. Van said that some National Guard Planes were on duty on their own volition to search for the discs, but that no planes have been put on duty from Hq, AAF.
- 1:20 P.M. General Tommy Power
- 1:40 P.M. Cong. Drewry of Va. on phone requesting a B-29 be sent to Blackstone, Va. for a celebration by the CAF and volunteer fire organizations in the vicinity. Date - July 27. May be able to do some recruiting on that day. Gen. Van said he would look into the matter and advise Mr. Drewry's office.
- 1:50 P.M. Mr. Leo on phone re article on "Saucers". Said one had been found with instructions on it to get in touch with Colonel Frank Hackett in Spokane. Mr. Leo reported the matter to General Schulgen, G-2.
- 1:52 P.M. Mr. Zuckert on phone informing him with reference to National Guard that all planes where we haven't squadron or group headquarters should take their people away.
- 1:55 P.M. Mr. Leo and General LeMay with reference to discs.
- 2:00 P.M. Colonel Frank Hackett, Spokane, Washington on phone - General Van informed Colonel Hackett that we had gotten a call from the Houston Chronicle saying that a flying disc had landed there with his (Colonel Hackett's) name on it. Gen. Van asked if he knew anything about it. Colonel Hackett stated that he knew nothing at all about it. Gen. Van told Col. H. that it was reported here that Col. H. said that his people knew all about it and that a statement was coming out from Washington. Col. H. said, "I have said nothing". Col. H. had the Chronicle called and told to get in touch with the F.B.I. - get photographic proof - and then get in touch with Gen. Twining.
- 2:20 P.M. Colonel Bob Warren, Ellington Field, Tex on phone. - Gen. Van informed Col. Warren that the Houston Chronicle had found a disc about 20" in diameter and 5 or 6" thick. It is supposed to have Col. Frank Hackett's name on it. We are most anxious to explode this thing. I would appreciate it if you would get in touch with the Chronicle, ask them where it is, go out and see the thing and then call me back. The line of approach is that we have nothing like that, we don't understand what it is, but we are leaving no stone unturned to be sure. Colonel Warren said it would be a couple of hours before he could call back.

July 7, 1947 (Cont'd)

- 2:30 P.M. To airport to meet Mr. Symington and then to Mr. Symington's office.
- 4:10 P.M. Returned.
- 4:15 P.M. General O'Donnell
- 4:20 P.M. General LeMay
- 4:20 P.M. Col. Warren called back re Gen. Vandenberg's directive that he run down the story about the flying discs. Col. W. finally located the reporter who picked up the story from another man. This man lives in Goose Creek. He now says that it was entirely a figment of his imagination and that he just made it up. Col. W. talked to a Mr. Evans who is handling this thing at the Chronicle — and they took it up with somebody up at the Air Depot at Spokane. - - - He said to them that he just made the thing up. Col. Warren said that the Chronicle seemed to be satisfied that the thing was just a cock and bull story. Col. W. is going to check with the local F.B.I. and possibly drive over to see the man at Goose Creek. If anything further develops he will call Gen. Vandenberg.
- 4:30 P.M. Mr. Leo on phone - Gen. Van told him the above story. A civilian, Joe Shipman, who works with Col. Hackett is reported to have told the Chronicle to contact Gen. Twining.
- 5:00 P.M. To see Mr. Symington
- 5:15 P.M. Departed for office of Congressman Hoffman.

July 8, 1947

- 9:20 A.M. Arrive office.
- 9:25 A.M. General Gardner and General Power - approved restrictions on flying due to gasoline shortage so that the Air Force would be in a tenable position if it became necessary to curtail civ. gas consumption.
- 9:30 A.M. Gen. LeMay & Dr. Bowles - briefing for JRDB meeting.
- 9:50 A.M. JRDB Meeting with General LeMay.
- 12:15 P.M. Returned - then to Mr. Symington with reference to personnel for the President's Air Board.
- 12:45 P.M. Lunch.
- 1:30 P.M. Returned.
- 1:50 P.M. Colonel Moore on phone who stated Senator Guerney stopped him in the hall and said they were starting hearings on the three million six hundred thousand dollar cut in flying pay.
- 2:10 P.M. Gen. Rawlings advised Colonel Moore that the cut was okay as we had reduced the number of people on flying status. Also advised Colonel Moore that Sen. Guerney had been sent the letter of June 20 that went to the rest of the members of the committee with reference to flying pay.
- 2:30 P.M. Mr. Chalmers Hall on phone with reference to a study he is going to present to Senator Vandenberg with reference to the security of this country. Read his plans in detail to Gen. Vandenberg and the General advised him that all the things contained in his study were in the new bill on unification - that it had all the elements he was plugging for.
- 3:00 P.M. General Lyon on phone with reference to the cases of Major John M. White and Gerald R. Johnson for transfer to the Air Forces. All transfers by War Department direction have been cancelled as of 31 March. In the case of Major White there will be no trouble in event of the merger goes through and recommend this case be held until then. Johnson was recommended against by General Fairchild.
- 3:10 P.M. Air Marshal Goddard
- 3:25 P.M. Senator Cabot Lodge on the phone with reference to increased appropriation to call for 70 Groups. (1) Was the 70 Group Program cleared by the Budget or not? Gen Van said no--were cut down to 55 Groups. (2) Can you have someone in your office write an argument as to why it should be 70 Groups? Gen Van advised him

- 3:25 p.m. (Cont'd)      Wants a statement prepared ~~about~~ he can use as coming from him — not an Air Force or General Vandenberg statement — for the 70 Group Program instead of 55. He wants this in a day or two.
- 3:35 p.m.      Briefing by Gen Kauch, Mr. Zuckert, A-3, A-5 on Alaskan Air Base
- 3:45 p.m.      To Office of Congressman Wolverton with Mr. Zuckert on the subject of Alaskan Air Bases. Took up matter of starting hearing at this session of this committee. Will give us an answer tomorrow. Any hearings to be held will be started next week.
- 5:07 p.m.      Returned from Congressman Wolverton's office.
- 5:08 p.m.      To Mr. Symington with reference to personnel for the President's Air Board.
- 5:12 p.m.      Gen. Rawlings on the box reference request of Senator Cabot Lodge mentioned above (3:25 p.m.)
- 5:14 p.m.      To Mr. Symington - re personnel for the President's Air Board.
- 6:15 p.m.      Gen. Kissner on phone re request of Senator Lodge for statement in connection with appropriations. General Kissner will have this ready by Noon tomorrow.
- 6:20 p.m.      To Mr. Leo's office and then home.



July 9, 1947

- 8:30 A.M. Arrive Office.
- 8:50 A.M. General Chauncey
- 9:13 A.M. General Stearley re letter in connection with motion picture personnel. Gen. Van advised it would not get by Secretary Patterson. Have to take a reading on exactly how we can get by with 8 reserve officers and 2 regulars and still spend that money on them. (\$500,000 each) Gen. Van advised him to look into the matter of reserve officers and that his office should write the letter.
- 9:17 A.M. General Gardner, General Power, Col. Peterson
- 9:33 A.M. Cong. Harness of Ind. re Capt. Roger Smith O-744641 who has had 5 years overseas with B-29's and is now on terminal leave. He wants reassignment - regular or otherwise, and is willing to be placed on foreign service. Gen. Van asked that he come over to see Major White and we would get him the information. Cong. Harness advised he thought we were getting the Merger Bill worked out pretty fine.
- 9:35 A.M. General Doolittle on phone. To come in at 10:30.
- 9:38 A.M. Mr. Ben Pearse with reference to two stories he is writing - one about the Anglo-American Oil Agreement and the other about CIG.
- 9:25 A.M. Harry Bruno of New York - Gen. Van advised he would let him know as soon as he could with reference to an engagement for week-end either 18 July, 25 July, 1 August or 8 August.
- 10:30 A.M. To Mr. Symington
- 10:50 A.M. To Gen. Eisenhower's office with General Norstad
- 11:45 A.M. Mrs. Bowers of the White House called Major White to advise that Gen. Vandenberg should be in the President's office at 12:15 tomorrow for signing of Air Force proclamation.
- 12:15 P.M. Returned from Chief of Staff's office.
- 12:50 P.M. To Mr. Symington

July 9, 1947 (Cont'd)

2:15 p.m. Returned from JCS

2:30 p.m. To Mr. Syzington

3:10 p.m. Returned

3:30 p.m. Mr. Leo on phone re "This recruiting matter". Gen. Streett's office recommends against it on the ground that that is a small enterprize down there and they don't want to set a precedent. Mr. Leo will check further and call back. Also, General Streett has been concerned in the event of unification about recruitment funds and wanted Mr. Leo to express to Gen. Vandenberg his opinion that it ought to be a gradual shift if there was not going to be a central recruitment.

3:40 P.M. General Anderson - General Van informed Gen. Anderson that he was definitely against his leaving Washington at the present time and plans to recommend to Gen. Spaatz that it not be done.

5:05 p.m. Mr. Pethick and Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Pethick (Navy), Mr. Lawrence (President of the Reaction Motors) and General LeMay. Presented to General LeMay and General Vandenberg problem of their monetary position which was bad and they were afraid of being refused contracts which would set back the jet rocket motor development several years. General LeMay stated that they were to take it up with Wright Field and present their case out there where the contracts are let.

5:35 P.M. Home.



16

*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*  
Photographs of Balloon Debris  
[July 9, 1947]













Statement  
Lt. Col. Sheridan Cavitt, USAF (Ret)  
May 24, 1994



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Date: 24 May 94

Place: Washington

*SW* I Sheridan W. Cavitt, hereby state that Richard L. Weaver was identified to me as a Colonel, USAF. I do hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make the following statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement. *SW*

*SW* I was a Counterintelligence Corps (CIC) Special Agent for the US Army Air Force who was initially assigned to Roswell AAF following my graduation from CIC school at Ft. Holabird, MD, in late June or Early July, 1947. Shortly after arriving at Roswell, New Mexico in that time frame I had occasion to accompany one of my subordinates, MSGT Bill Rickett, CIC, and Major Jesse Marcel, Intelligence Officer the 509th Bomb Group, to a ranchland area outside of Roswell to help recover some material. I think that this request may have come directly from Major Marcel. I do not know who may have made the report to him. To the best of my knowledge, the three of us traveled to the aforementioned ranch land area by ourselves (that is, no other persons, civilian or military, were with us). I believe we had a military jeep that Marcel checked out to make this trip. When we got to this location we subsequently located some debris which appeared to me to resemble bamboo type square sticks one quarter to one half inch square, that were very light, as well as some sort of metallic reflecting material that was also very light. I also vaguely recall some sort of black box (like a weather instrument). The area of this debris was very small, about 20 feet square, and the material was spread on the ground, but there was no gouge or crater or other obvious sign of impact. I remember recognizing this material as being consistent with a weather balloon. We gathered up some of this material, which would easily fit into one vehicle. there certainly wasn't a lot of this material, or enough to make up crates of it for multiple airplane flights. What Marcel did with this material at the time was unknown to me, although I know now from reading about this incident in numerous books that it was taken to Eighth Air Force Headquarters in Fort Worth where it was subsequently identified as a weather balloon, which I thought it was all along. I have reviewed the pictures in the 1991 Book by Randle and Schmitt on the UFO Crash at Roswell wherein Marcel and Ramey are holding up this material and it appears to be the same type of material that we picked up from the ranch land. I did not make a report of this incident to my headquarters since I felt that the recovery of a weather balloon was not a big deal that did not merit a written report. In the same referenced book by Randle and Schmitt I was reputed to have told Rickett (on Page 63) that we were never there and this incident never happened. The book seems to imply this was in some sort of conspiratorial tone; however it is more likely I told him not to mention it to our headquarters because we had wasted our time recovering a balloon. I only went to this area once and recovered debris once and to the best of my knowledge there were no other efforts to go back there. If there were, they did not involve me. There was no secretive effort or heightened security regarding this incident or any unusual expenditure of manpower at the base to deal with it. In fact, I do not recall the incident being mentioned again as being any big deal and I never even thought about it again until well after I retired from the military when I began to be contacted by UFO researchers. Many of the things I have mentioned to these people have either been taken out of context, misrepresented, or just plain made up. I did know both Jesse Marcel and Bill Rickett very well (both are now deceased). I considered them to be good men, however both did tend to exaggerate things on occasion. With regards to claims that we tested this material by hitting it with sledgehammers without damaging it, I do not recall any of us doing so. I also did not test this material for radioactivity with a Geiger counter (or anything else). I do not recall attempting to burn any of this debris but my wife tells me she recalled that Jesse Marcel, his wife and son did have a small piece that they held over the fire when we had a cookout. In short, I did help recover some debris near Roswell, New Mexico in the summer of 1947. I thought at the time and think so now, that this debris was from a crashed balloon. I am not part of any conspiracy to withhold information from anyone, either the US Government or the American public. I have never been sworn to any form of secrecy by anyone concerning this matter and I have received authorization from the Secretary of the Air Force to discuss with Colonel Weaver any information of a classified nature that I may have concerning it. There is no classified information that I am withholding. I have never been threatened by the US Government or any of its subdivisions, or by any persons, not to talk about this incident with anyone, and in fact I have talked to a number of private researchers. My bottom line is that this whole incident was no big deal and it certainly did not involve anything extraterrestrial. *SW*

*Sheridan W. Cavitt*

*page 1 of 2 SW*

CONTINUATION SHEET FOR AF FORM 1168 AND 1169

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USED  
FOR  
SIGNATURES  
ONLY

I further state that I have read this entire statement, initialed all pages and corrections, and signed this statement, and that it is correct and true as written.

WITNESSES:

[Signature]  
(Signature)

Mary D. Carth  
(Signature)

[Redacted] MA  
(Address)

[Redacted]  
(Address)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this

[Redacted]  
(Signature)

34 day of MAY 19 94

[Redacted]  
(Address)

at [Redacted]  
[Signature]  
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

RICHARD L. WEAVER COL, USAF  
(Type Name, Grade & Title of Person Administering Oath)

18

Interview

Col Richard L. Weaver with Lt Col  
Sheridan D. Cavitt, USAF (Ret)

May 24, 1994



TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF SHERIDAN CAVITT

(Note: RW = Col Richard L. Weaver; SC = Sheridan Cavitt; MC = Mary Cavitt)

RW: Today is the 24th of May 1994. I am in \_\_\_\_\_ I am Colonel Richard L. Weaver and I am talking to Lt Col Sheridan Cavitt, US Air Force, Retired. Also present in the room is his wife, Mary. Colonel, you don't mind that I tape record this do you?

SC: Go right ahead.

RW: O.K. thank you. What I would like to ask you is to confirm you were with the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) (at that time of the US Army) in 1947?

SC: Yes...the Army Air Corps...right.

RW: When did you get transferred to Roswell, Sir?

SC: I went to Roswell after going to the CIC School in Baltimore, Maryland, at Camp Holabird...in 1946. I do not remember the month. My wife might. It was in the Fall was it not?

MC: June of 47.

SC: June?

RW: I think on your records you graduated in June of 47.

SC: From Holabird?

RW: Yeah, Holabird.

SC: O.K...I told you my dates are slipping my mind.

RW: That's O.K...I have the same problem.

SC: It's hard to remember July 47. I hadn't been there very long.

RW: Did you know a Major Jesse Marcel who was the Intelligence Officer during Roswell at that time?

SC: Oh yes. I knew Jesse, his wife, and his son. We were very close friends. We were in the same building in the CIC office, which was next to the intelligence office. We associated socially as well as business.

RW: Sir, you were the senior officer and the commander at the detachment there at Roswell?



SC: Yes, I guess you could say that. I was the only commissioned officer. I had two enlisted agents "working for me" quote end quote.

RW: Who were the enlisted agents that worked for you?

SC: The senior was a Master Sergeant by the name of Rickett and the young agent, Jack Williams. I later had some other people working for me after CIC deceased and OSI took over for the Air Force...the investigative agency.

RW: That actually came, I think, in September when the Air Force first stated. You were one of the charter members of OSI, as I understand?

SC: Yeah, over from CIC and OSI; and then I went to OSI school later.

RW: You reported through your chain of command? You didn't report to General Blanchard, the Base Commander? You reported like we did in OSI through the separate chain of command, as I understand it; is that right?

SC: Yeah, our parent organization was 700 CIC and I believe that there...they had sort of a branch up in Colorado at that time, but I think most of our work was sent directly back to Bolling at that time. I am a little fuzzy on that because I wasn't in the organization very long, you know.

RW: OK. General Blanchard was the Base Commander and everyone else in the 509th basically reported to him then?

SC: Oh yeah. Colonel Blanchard.

RW: Oh yeah. Excuse me, Colonel Blanchard.

SC: He was the Wing Commander of the 509th, right. I didn't report to anybody on the base.

RW: Just like in OSI?

SC: Yeah, I associated and coordinated stuff with Marcel and I had no responsibility to Blanchard or Marcel.

RW: Do you recall an incident that happened during the early part of July when you were asked to accompany Major Marcel to go recover some wreckage of anything?

SC: Well, there again I couldn't swear to the dates, but in that time, which must have been July, we heard that someone had found some debris out not too far from Roswell and it looked suspicious; it was unidentified. So, I went out and I do not recall whether Marcel went with Rickett and me; I had Rickett with me. We went out to this site. There were no, as I understand, check points or anything like that (going through guards and that sort of garbage) we went out there and we found it. It was a small amount of, as I recall, bamboo sticks, reflective sort of

material that would, well at first glance, you would probably think it was aluminum foil, something of that type. And we gathered up some of it. I don't know whether we even tried to get all of it. It wasn't scattered; well, what I call, you know, extensively. Like, it didn't go along the ground and splatter off some here and some there. We gathered up some of it and took it back to the base and I remember I had turned it over to Marcel. As I say, I do not remember whether Marcel was there or not on the site. He could have been. We took it back to the intelligence room...in the CIC office.

RW: What did you think it was when you recovered it?

SC: I thought a weather balloon.

RW: O.K. Were you familiar with weather balloons at the time?

SC: I had seen them. I had seen them. As I recall, I am really reaching back, I think they were equipped with a radio sonde or something like that, that transmitted data from, when it got up to altitude (what altitude I have no idea) and somebody on the ground received it and that way they got some information on what was happening up there.

RW: O.K.

SC: This is all over my head. When I saw it it was too flimsy to be anything to carry people or anything of that sort. It never crossed my mind that it could be anything but a radio sonde.

RW: How did you get the report that the material was out there?

SC: That I don't recall. Looking back on it, I imagine somebody called the 509th. The 509th called Marcel and said there is something over here, wherever. and then...more and more thinking back on it now he must have been...I must have been with him...."lets go out look and see what the hell..."

RW: Did you just make one trip out to the area?

SC: I can't recall ever making more than just that one trip.

RW: And you think it was you, Marcel, and Rickett?

SC: Well, I not sure it was Marcel but I know Rickett was...

RW: Rickett was there? When you got back with this stuff you turned it over to the Intelligence Office. What happened then?

SC: Nothing, as far as I'm concerned. I don't think I even made a report. Our CIC had gone by... 700 CIC was the CIC Headquarters.

RW: 700 CIC was the Headquarters?

SC: Yes, I don't think I even made a report to them, which I normally would if there was anything at all unusual.

RW: Do you remember the newspaper? It actually was, I think, July 7, 1947, where this now famous newspaper says they found a "flying disc" in Roswell? That was actually the Roswell paper, that was the first one. How about you, Mary, do you remember that at all?

SC: I don't remember it. We took the local paper to get some weather reports.

MC: We were so new there. In fact, I think I had just been there just maybe just a few days because I had been up to my sister's wedding and I don't think at that time we might not even been taking the paper. We heard no...

SC: I don't remember anything in the paper.

MC: We heard nothing. Of course, we didn't associate with people on the base, either.

RW: Yeah, I understand.

MC: We were brand new. Jesse and Salazar were best friends. At that...starting about the first of July on.

RW: After you found this, Sir, do you remember any sort unusual activity occurring? Like a big military alert, or people going out to the base and large numbers of high security?

SC: No. The reason I wouldn't have been involved in anything like that, if there was any activity like that, I was Counter Intelligence Corps, this didn't have anything to do with counter-intelligence. It looked to me, somebody lost a weather balloon. I couldn't care less...tough luck.

RW: But when you went out and saw this material, there was no doubt in your mind that it was some sort of man made material? And, you thought at the time was a weather balloon, some sort of balloon?

SC: When I first saw it.

RW: When you said the wreckage wasn't very much, could you, was it as long as your house here, or just a small little clump?

SC: Maybe as long as this room is wide.

RW: So, twenty feet maybe?

SC: Some here, some here, some here. No concentration of it. No marks in the ground, dug up, anything hidden, or anything like that, just out on the territory around the bottom of New Mexico, just good for growing sheep - they don't eat too well.

RW: Yeah, I don't imagine. They probably have to eat on the run out there. Do you remember at the time the article or the photo of General Ramey and Marcel holding up a piece of material? Have you seen that since that time?

SC: Oh yeah, I have seen it, yeah, but at the time I don't recall seeing anything like that.

RW: In that photo, actually there are four separate photos there, Marcel, I think in two of them, is holding up material. Does that look like the material that you picked up out in the desert? Actually it's in this book if you don't mind...

MC: I was going to say that I think it's in there.

SC: I don't remember...Yeah, Yeah, that's...

RW: The first picture is actually with Jesse Marcel and that's General Blanchard and...

SC: I think this was taken at the Headquarters at Carswell.

RW: Yeah, that's right. That's correct.

SC: And I obviously...Marcel took it to Fort Worth. Yeah that's the...

RW: Yeah. That doesn't look like they substituted anything from what you found?

SC: No, No.

RW: Is this about the extent of the material? I realize you can't see all of it in any of the pictures. Or was there large...could you fill up an airplane with it?

SC: Oh, good God! You couldn't fill up (unintelligible) with it. Yeah, I can't tell what those sticks look like. But, as I recall, to me they look like bamboo or some sort of very small lav type material ripped out.

RW: Could you break them or bend them, or...

SC: I didn't try.

RW: O.K.

SC: It was someone else's balloon as far as I was concerned. I didn't want to fool around with it.

RW: After you picked that up and you turned it over to Marcel, did you ever hear anything more about this? Did people from Washington come and talk to you about it? Did you have to swear any security oaths or debriefing statements?

SC: I don't remember anybody from Washington coming there. It's possible that somebody came over to talk to Marcel that I didn't even know about. To my knowledge, no. Certainly nobody from Washington. I would have, I think, remembered that. Someone from the headshed coming down and talking to me. Certainly, I would have. And I was not sworn into any secrecy ever about any of this stuff.

RW: So, as far as you are concerned, none of this was ever classified? There was no attempt to, I use the word, "cover up" this information or to classify it?

SC: Well let's put it this way: as far as I knew, I never heard anyone say, "Don't talk about this and its hot stuff." I think Marcel, would...I'm sure he would have told me something.

RW: Would he have? Did he ever say anything to you after this incident occurred until the time he left? Or, anywhere up until the time he died?

SW: Oh, Rich, dealing with him there in the office or the next office to him so he probably said something about it. That he had taken it down to Ramey or something. But, nothing that would, you know, stick in my mind of importance. Do you understand what I mean? If he had said something like, "I took it to 8th Air Force Headquarters, General Ramey was excited; they were going to take it to Wright-Pat" (or wherever they allegedly took it). Oh, I'm sure I would have remembered that.

RW: It had been alleged in a number of books, including the one by Randle and Schmitt, that there were a number of airplane flights back and forth of C54's and B29's going into Wright-Pat and Kirtland, or to Fort Worth. Back and forth, loaded up, with very tight security, hauling this wreckage. Do you recall any of that going on?

SC: None...Nothing.

RW: And then its indicated (and not directly quoting ) Some counterintelligence people from Washington or Andrews (as they said in the book) had come out there and apparently done photographs or crime scene searches or whatever. There was nobody else out there from CIC or Counter Intelligence Corps that you knew of? Other than Rickett?

SC: Not to my knowledge. Not to my knowledge. I made a booboo. I said it was 700 C at Bolling. I believe now that you mentioned Andrews, it could have been Andrews. But no nobody came out. Maybe they did, maybe they didn't talk to me. CIC did some crazy things in those days, shuttling some people around.

RW: But it would have been likely, had you been involved in recovering something kind of special that they would have talked to you?

SC: Yeah, I think they would have asked me, "Cav, what did you see" ...right.

RW: Did Rickett ever talk to you about this again?

SC: No...I don't think so. I don't think so. Right about that time just before OSI was formed and we all were absorbed into OSI. I think he went on a special undercover job up to...maybe somewhere to an Air Force Base up here in Washington.

MC: Fort Lewis, I think he...

SC: Was it Lewis or McChord? I don't remember. Anyway, he went on to an undercover assignment, and that's what I said about CIC doing some crazy things. They didn't even tell me. I was his boss locally and they didn't even tell me that he had gone up. He use to be a mechanic at one time, Rick did, in the Air Force; the Air Corps. I think they wanted to...they were having some trouble with their planes being what they thought were sabotaged and they asked him to go up there and try out the machine...like an airplane mechanic, which he could do pretty good. Outside of that, I don't know of anything that Rick did.

RW: One of the things that was mentioned in this book...and I don't know how much you read it, is that Rickett some time later that Fall apparently went with a scientist by the name of Doctor LaPaz, and he accompanied him and they went around to various places. Dr. LaPaz was a well known person...

SC: I knew of him. I never met LaPaz personally, but I knew what he was.

RW: Did Rickett go with him that you recall; accompany him around?

SC: He could have, but it certainly didn't stick to my mind. It wouldn't be for any extended time I don't think, because we needed him around the office.

MC: The Ricketts were friends of ours too; and his wife and I. I don't remember Mack ever saying anything.

SC: Mack was his wife.

MC: ...that he was gone for a long time.

SC: He could have, but Rickett would go off the deep end every once in a while. He was a fantastic story teller. He worked for an insane asylum up in the Washington DC area. I think his wife worked there, also. He would sit around and tell some of the most hilarious, ridiculous stories about things that happened in this nut house, so to speak.

RW: Was that St. Elizabeth's? That's the big government mental institution.

SC: I don't know. It's in the Washington DC area. I forget since I was there in the Washington area for awhile but I never did get acquainted with the insane asylum.

RW: It's always best to keep it that way.

SC: No, well I put it again, he might have gone off with LaPaz for a few days, but I can't imagine what excuse I would have been given as to why he'd be out goofing around with an astronomer. LaPaz was a well thought of individual in New Mexico and, I imagine, all over the United States. He had quite a reputation.

RW: He did quite a bit of work for the Air Force, as I found through research.

SC: Contract work or something... Yeah.

RW: But there was nothing that you knew of that he did as a direct result of this incident on the stuff that you recovered out there?

SC: No. Of course, I could have been held in the dark about it; but as far as I know, no.

RW: O.K. I went through and pulled out wherever, in this book UFO Crash at Roswell by Randle and Schmitt, this is a 1991...I pulled out wherever you were identified. They never identified you by name except in the credits when they interviewed you, but they always referred to you as the "Senior CIC man" and "Senior CIC agent". They identified Rickett and Marcel, of course, by name. There are many things that are in the book that people said that you said or implied that you said, without directly saying that "Colonel Cavitt told me such and such."

SC: Yeah.

RW: I pulled a couple of these out and just ask you if you can comment on it to see how they ring with your memory of the incident. "The second fellow we interviewed" (this right from the front on page six) "was an agent in the counterintelligence corps. He accompanied another intelligence officer on the initial trip to the crash site and we believe wrote a report of the incident for his superiors in Washington"...implying that was you, since you were the senior guy.

SC: I'm just reading this end quote "book." No, No. I assume...I assume when I read this thing for the first time that they sent me a big deal, you know...

RW: An autographed copy?

SC: An autographed copy and all that. No, I didn't say all like that.

RW: On the next page, on seven, again referring to you: "At first this intelligence agent refused to admit that the event had occurred at all. There had been no newspaper story, no fuss, not even the recovery of a weather balloon. After much prodding, that he was going to admit that something came down and was recovered, and but that was as far as he would go. He admits no

personal involvement even though other reliable sources gave him a central role. That kind of sums up everything in...

SC: No. No. From the very start, when these clowns started hounding me, Randle and Schmitt, I told they accused me of covering up and having signed a security...

RW: Berlitz and Moore?

MC: Now, you see, he was here at the house. I've heard numerous deals on the radio when I'm listening at night and all this, all of this, has been...

SC: I told these guys when they first talked to me, I said: "I have taken no security oath. I'm under no obligation to not tell you anything, because, as far as I was concerned, it wasn't anything other than a weather balloon." And, I said: "I want you to quit inferring that I am staying silent under an oath of security." And, finally, I think about two years, later Randle told me: "Hey, we believe you." It was getting ridiculous. I was getting so sick and tired of this garbage.

RW: Yeah. I sensed a little of reluctance when I first called up and... "like, Oh no, here we go again" type of thing.

SC: I did, really.

MC: He gets so many phone calls. I usually answer the phone and say: "Who's calling please?" And then, I don't know whether... come and write a book...

SC: You've hear of Pflock?

RW: I know who he is, yeah.

SC: He's our chief debunker. I lean toward him.

MC: Rich, have you got, read, Randle and Schmitt's latest book?

RW: I've not. I've tried to find it and I haven't been able to find it.

MC: It just came out in April.

SC: They haven't sent me a copy yet. I think they are mad at me.

MC: Didn't they tell us that they found some new information and it wasn't at the spot that...

SC: Right. Right.

RW: Yeah. As I understand it, the new information (and this may not be quite right, since I haven't read it, this is hearsay) is that there was this crash... what they call the crash site,



apparently, where you were at and picked up this material, and then there is another one 120 miles or so away.

SC: A ricochet.

RW: Yeah. Which at one time was on the Plains of San Augustin and now it has apparently in this new book been changed to a location closer to Roswell. And, that's where these bodies were supposedly recovered. I think their new research has to do with that aspect of it.

MC: Well we haven't seen it, but I know it came out in April.

RW: O.K. Lets see; also on the same page it said: "The CIC responded to the phone call. Jesse Marcel was one. "The intelligence and the CIC responded to the phone call. Jesse Marcel was one of them. Colonel William Blanchard and the other officer suggested that Marcel and CIC agent accompanied Brazel to the ranch to see what was there." Brazel, of course, was the farmer who apparently came in and made the original report.

SC: Yeah. To the best of my recollection, I never met the rancher, Brazel.

RW: O.K., because as I go through here you'll see that you're accused, I say "accused"; claimed, to have been with him on a number of occasions and basically, it was alleged that the Army Air Corps had imprisoned him, if you will, for about a week and kept him away from everybody. Not that you personally did, but the Army Air Corps in general: "The trip to the ranch took the rest of the afternoon...they were forced to stay in a small cabin with no electricity no running water...the next morning they headed out into a field where Brazel had found the debris." So, this would have been you and whoever else accompanied you.

SC: Totally, made up, or fabricated, or whatever. I didn't have any experiences like that of spending the night out on the ranch.

MC: Eating a can of beans...

RW: Eating beans...yeah, that is, in fact, mentioned in one of the...

SC: Yeah.

RW: O.K. Now this: "Marcel would later say that the material was like nothing he had ever seen and the metal was as thin as newsprint and as light as a feather. It was flexible but very strong. He tried to dent it with a sledge hammer but Marcel and the CIC agent tried to burn it but it would not burn. It was lighter, stronger and more fire resistant than any of them had ever seen. Marcel, along with the counterintelligence agent picked up as much as they could and begun loading it up in Marcel's convertible and the counterintelligence agent's Jeep Carryall vehicle with a rear box." So, apparently, according to Marcel's version of the story (and I don't know when this was given, sometime after 1978) you hammered on it and tried to rip it and did other stuff with it and it was like nothing you had ever seen.

SC: No.

MC: I remember we were at the Marcel's house and I can remember Jesse had something had something on the pad...and then went out to...and took it out onto the back porch. And, I remember that (unintelligible)

RW: Was it some sort of material, metal material or...

MC: And it's in one of these books and then they...and as little Jesse said, they cemented over that...

RW: Oh yeah...O.K. I remember that.

MC: I can still visualize the stove of where they were and we were out there.

SC: No, he could have had some there at the house.

MC: I honestly do remember that.

RW: O.K. Was it like tinfoil type stuff or do you recall...

MC: I don't remember.

SC: I remember. He could have had some there at the house and it was, and it looked like a foil of some sort, and he could have tried to burn that and it didn't burn very well, I don't know. I don't remember that. I can't why imagine he'd be beating on it with a hammer for, but it doesn't make sense.

RW: One of the other things that I'll just jump to real quick was that you had tested the material with a Geiger counter. Did you ever have a Geiger counter?

SC: No.

RW: Now that's not standard OSI/CIC issue that I was aware of.

SC: Honest to God, no!

RW: I've never seen a Geiger counter myself, but I didn't know if you knew what one was.

SC: I had never seen one...what CIC would...No, absolutely.

RW: That comes a little further...did you have a Jeep Carryall, was that...?

SC: No.

RW: When you went out to the site, do you remember how you got out there?

SC: I don't. It was a possibility we could have taken a Jeep. Marcel had gotten a Jeep...Marcel had gotten a Jeep.

RW: Just a regular Jeep?

SC: Yeah. out of the motor pool, but certainly no Carryall.

RW: O.K. Then it said: "After Marcel had gone to Fort Worth and came back Marcel challenged the CIC man who had remained at the base asking to see (your) report. Marcel was told that the report was now classified and he wasn't authorized to see it and it was on its way to the Pentagon if he had a problem with that he could take it up with the Pentagon."

SC: Negative.

RW: O.K. "Blanchard, who was still at the base...ordered Marcel to accompany the rancher back to Corona," You said you never saw...and then you said you were going to...you never saw the rancher from what you told me previously?

SC: No.

RW: Or dealt with him personally?

SC: I certainly don't remember ever meeting Mr. Brazel or Brazzel, whatever his name was.

RW: O.K. Here is where they talk about the Geiger counter. You have already said that you didn't test anything for radioactivity because you didn't have anything to test it with.

SC: No.

RW: Oh. Then Marcel said there was a wire-like material that looked like monofilament fishing line. Do you recall any of that?

SC: Oh, no. It sort of tickles a little bit of remembrance of, you know, of all this junk foil, I would call it, and the sticks and so forth. There probably was some line of some sort there to hold it together, I guess.

RW: What they...

SC: What was supposed to have been with that I...

RW: Well where they go with that, later on, is that this is where we developed fiber optics from. That this is, was, in fact, fiber optic cable which was, of course, unheard of in 1947.

SC: Yeah.

RW: Yeah. We were still dealing with copper wire. You can bend light with fiber optics, and that's where we got...we (the world) got fiber optics from that material which we reverse engineered. That's the implication.

SC: O.K...I didn't see any of that, but there could have been some wire or nylon or something.

RW: O.K. "Together Marcel and the Counterintelligence agent walked around the entire perimeter looking at clues. It took them most of the morning to do it because of the size of the field they started collecting material at the outer edge of the field and moved in toward the center." So, this implies that this was a pretty major undertaking that you and Marcel - in order to examine all of this stuff took a long time because of the volume of the material. This is what I imply from that.

SC: If it were true, you know, the size of the rancher's field they are sometimes a section that are miles square, maybe larger. No.

RW: But there wasn't material all over?

SC: No.

RW: You are right. You could walk into New Mexico forever with...

SC: Oh Lord! Ranches are big out and down in New Mexico. No,...I didn't spend any extended time down there at the site.

RW: O.K. Then, on page 55, it talks about there was discussion that this may have been a foil parachute from a V-2. Were you aware that they were testing, we were testing, V-2's at that time out of White Sands?

SC: Oh yeah. I went down to a couple of launches. One abort and one launch.

RW: O.K. But there was no doubt in your mind that this was not part of V-2 or any other type of rocket when you saw the debris in the field?

SC: No. No. I never had any idea that it was anything with the V-2. They told us down at the V-2 site that they weren't shooting them toward Roswell, anyway. Of course they sent up a few of them and they had an awful lot of aborts. They had to detonate them or pull the trigger...shortly after they got off the launch pad because they went awry, shall we say.

RW: Yeah. Apparently one went awry and went into Mexico, too. They already found that later.

SC: No, I had no idea, no suspicion, that it came from Holloman. Holloman is that...

RW: It was White Sands.

SC: It was White Sands. Holloman base. Alamagordo.

RW: O.K. "Marcel would take some of the sample to Fort Worth to show Ramey. In the mean time, the CIC man would head back to the crash sit with some MP's showing them exactly where this field was and to round up the rancher. There were now additional questions for him." This implies that after you came back you took some MP's and went back up there.

SC: I went back down there? No. No.

RW: So you were just there the one original time and you didn't go back with any MP's, the rancher or anybody else?

SC: No.

RW: O.K. "Marcel would go to Fort Worth and the CIC man would stay behind to lead the clean up detail at the site another reason they send Marcel was the CIC had there own chain of command that reported to Kirtland in Albuquerque rather than Fort Worth and although Blanchard outranked the CIC agent (meaning yourself) a phone call to Kirtland could have gotten his orders overturned." So, this implied that you reported to Kirtland, which I know, of course, we did later when District 17 was formed.

SC: Yeah, OSI.

RW: Yeah, but at that time you didn't necessarily - the CIC did not report to Kirtland?

SC: No. No. Kirtland was just another Air Base as far as we were concerned down at Roswell. They weren't part of SAC. They weren't anything to do with us CIC - wise or nothing.

RW: O.K...Here is where Rickett comes into the picture, and Rickett makes a number of claims that basically...I don't know if Rickett is still alive or not.

SC: No, Rick is dead now.

RW: O.K. Because I...(Unintelligible)

SC: No, he is dead and I think now maybe his wife might be now. We use to exchange Christmas cards up until a couple of years ago when he died. Two or three years ago.

RW: So, he died two or three years ago? OK. He makes a number of claims that, at least Randle and Schmitt; and when I say "Randle and Schmitt I'm not trying to pick on them or to imply that

they're doing anything different than any of these other people...they just happen to have the most current stuff on the street.

SC: Trying to write a book.

RW: "Rickett, the Provost Marshal"...excuse me...page 61. "According to Lewis Rickett, one of the CIC Agents, he, with the commander of the CIC shop, drove a staff car from the motor pool and returned to the crash site. They were followed by a second car carrying several MP's. An MP did ask for identification because neither of the counterintelligence men were in uniform." So this would have been the second trip, which you said you did not take. But, he did apparently go with you on the first trip?

SC: Rickett?

RW: Rickett...Yeah.

SC: Yeah.

RW: And I assume at that time, just like in OSI, you did not wear uniforms for the most part?

SC: I didn't even have any uniforms.

RW: Yeah. I know the feeling. For the first eight years in OSI, I think, the only uniform I had was my mess dress. "But Rickett, the Provost Marshal and the senior intelligence officer walked into the debris field, examined the wreckage. Rickett said it looked like metal and asked if it was radioactive"...and you said it wasn't. That was page 62. This is on the, you would have been on this now second trip again, O.K.? On page 63: as they prepared to leave the crash site the CIC agent told Rickett: "You and I were never out here. You and I never saw this. You don't see any military people or military vehicles out here. Rickett agreed saying yeah, we never even left the office." Now that's the little quote they have out also in the..

SC: Now what page is that on?

RW: That's on page 63.

SC: 63? No. Now I could have said something facetious like that after we got back to the office, after I was convinced that it was a weather balloon, or some such contraption. I didn't know, naturally. I could have said after we got back to the office: "Rickett, this has been a big boondoggle. I don't even want 700 CIC Headquarters to know we wasted our time on it. Forget we ever did it." I mean I could have...

RW: O.K.

SC: said in a facetious way: "Lets make out like it never existed, because we're wasting our time." But I didn't say it in such a way that it would be this is so highly classified we won't have anything to do with it.

RW: O.K. On page 86, it said: "The counterintelligence people came into Roswell on a special flight from Andrews Army Air Field on July 8.". So that, to me, implies that this would have been your CIC Headquarters also sent some other people out there.

SC: Yeah. Right. That's what it sounds like.

RW: Yeah, but you said you would have known if anybody from Washington had come into your area, sort to speak. More than likely.

SC: Well I certainly hope so. We were secretive and so forth, but I think they would have touched base with me, since obviously if they talked to Marcel he would have probably said something to begin with, but they would have wanted to know what I knew. No, I...

MC: Of course Jack Williams was there. Jack could have been on some of these...

SC: No Jack was young and sort of scatterbrained, as you well know. And I never relied much on him for anything. He's the type that would read a book while he was on a road trip driving his car. He'd finish a book while driving...

RW: While he was actually driving?

SC: Oh sure.

RW: Sounds like the people driving on 95 in Washington there in the traffic jam.

MC: There weren't many people on the road.

SC: Jack rabbits. No. No disrespect to Jack, but he just wasn't a solid citizen as far as I'm concerned. And if anybody from headquarters CIC came in I'm positive they would have checked in with me.

RW: O.K. The page that's kind of devoted to you, if you will, is on 171 and it said that "Schmitt suggested the possibility that the crash had been a V-2 or A-9, (which is one of derivatives of the V-2, that we were playing with at that time). Schmitt asked if there had ever...if they had ever retrieved anything like that anywhere in New Mexico. Never, he said any rocket going off course would be destroyed by the range officer and they wouldn't have wanted to risk injury to civilians on the ground. Randle asked if he remembered any talk at all about a flying saucer. He (meaning you) insisted that nothing at all happened. The former CIC man hadn't heard any rumors about a crash. All this, including the story shown on "Unsolved Mysteries", was a bunch of garbage. Schmitt and Randall spent two hours with the man, he told them that any reports he wrote in the

normal course of his duty was sent to Washington not 8th Air Force in Fort Worth. He was attached to the 509th, but his chain of command was different than the 8th Air Force, that's..."

SC: That's one of the few true stories they had in this book.

RW: "In fact he talked about many things willingly. He said the ranks of CIC agents were all classified at the time" (I know that's the way it was in OSI for years) "It didn't look right to have a Master Sergeant investigating a Colonel so no one on the base, except for a few clear to know, had any idea of what he or any of the others were. (Of course, that's the way we did business.)

SC: True.

RW: "He provided names of others who might be able to help and he described his normal unclassified duties at Roswell, but according to him the crash and recovery had never happened. There was no investigation on the Foster ranch, no mystery flight, and no discovery of alien bodies, nothing." Now we are getting to the part where they make you sound like somewhat of a conspirator. It said, "Randall said he and Schmitt had literally two dozen witness' to the special flights out of Roswell and the special clean up operation on the ranch. Something must have happened, the CIC man finally conceded, but I don't know what it was. As they left, the CIC man asked them, if you boys found something that affected national security would you keep it to your self? The former CIC man grins, and said 'very good'." So, somehow, by that remark, I imply that this was kind of, "I know something that you guys don't and if affects national security so we're not going to tell you." That's the way that I interpret what they wrote. Because, the rest of it just kind of recounts the way we did business, even when I came into OSI twenty years after that.

SC: You think they're talking about me there, "the former CIC man?"

RW: Yeah.

SC: If I said that, I probably said it really meaning that if these guys trying to make a buck writing their sensational book run into to something that really affected national security, I meant don't put it in a book.

RW: Yeah. OK.

SC: Turn it over to somebody.

RW: But you weren't implying that this incident affected national security and you weren't going talk about it?

SC: Oh, no! No way.

RW: OK. I see you have some materials you brought out here. That looks like one of your basic agent classes. Is that one of your basic agent classes there?



SC: No, that was the old District Office 17, OSI.

RW: Oh. OK.

SC: So this is after. Dr. Pflock sent me that. I got it out when Pflock sent it to me. This is Rickett.

RW: OK.

SC: And that is Jack Williams and that's old Cavitt. Down on the lower left.

RW: Oh. OK.

SC: That's me, and these are the two boys that were with me there at Roswell. I have them all identified and who's no longer with us. This thing that Pflock sent me, this picture. It says that Jack Williams is deceased. No wonder why somebody didn't contact him. I didn't even know he was dead. We were not friends. He was a Staff Sergeant, and a good honest kid, I think.

MC: A smart guy.

SC: What?

MC: Really, he was quite intelligent.

SC: Oh, yeah. He read. Read books while he was on road trips.

RW: Well the names I recognize from here that were still: are Doyle Rees and John Stahl.

SC: Doyle is still alive. I have a letter from him.

RW: I think he's in the Association of Former OSI Agents.

SC: Yeah. Right.

RW: And I am also a member of that so I see a lot of that. So, I see a lot of their letters and stuff, pictures that they send.

MC: We get correspondence from Doyle. Chris' son called him not long ago. He had a hole in one on his eightieth birthday.

RW: Oh, is that right. Was it his first one?

SC: I'm sure it was.

MC: Nice, nice man.

SC: He is a nice man. And a nice family. I don't know what the date on that is. Letter from Doyle, it says: "When you call the press conference to tell the world, let me know, because I want to be there." So, I just got reams of this stuff from books.

RW: Do you mind if I look through that real quick?

SC: Oh, heavens no. I got it (Unintelligible)

RW: Stanton T. Freidman?

SC: Freidman or whatever.

RW: Yeah, he doesn't like me a lot. He writes me nasty letters.

SC: He called me a couple of times. I could hear him a little bit, but it wasn't good enough for me to try to strain my brain. He apologized a little later. He wrote me back and said sorry we had a bad telephone connection. On your end!

RW: O.K. Here is the stuff about Schiff that I referenced earlier. Asking the GAO to look at this. Karl Pflock...

SC: You know, you can look at any of that. You can have copies. As a matter of fact I don't know what I'm going to do with it.

MC: Oh, your sons want it.

SC: Oh, I don't know.

MC: Oh, yes they do. Joey said last night maybe Dad could make a fortune out of being a hero.

SC: Well, if I wanted to make a little money I could have imagined a lot of things and cooperated more.

MC: Well, that's what Doyle said.

SC: With these authors and so forth I could be given royalties for a long time.

RW: Oh, this was out of the Global Reliance. I don't remember seeing this in there. Oh, Karl Pflock wrote this for the Global Reliance.

SC: Have you ever seen that clipping?

RW: This one on Rickett here?

SC: Yeah.

RW: No, I never saw this.

SC: I don't know what that is from.

RW: "But at least one surviving member of the recovery team actually handled the material, (Unintelligible). Eighty two year old Lewis Rickett. 'Cavitt had been there the day before, but he wouldn't tell me what was going on until we got there.' With armed troops standing guard Rickett wandered through the security phalanx and saw metallic debris scattered in an outer circle with a diameter of 25, 30, or 40 feet."

SC: It must have been Rickett sort a flipped of little bit. See this was something that he...an interview he had shortly before he died, I think.

MC: Well, when they interview Rick he was older and trying to make people remember things that happened umpteen years ago is pretty hard.

SC: I have probably received an awfully lot more than that, Rich, and threw it away. Sorry.

RW: So these people have been pretty much tracking you down on a regular basis then?

SC: Oh, yes! Mary can verify that. She said she had been home when she got telephone calls.

MC: I have talked to some of these fellows myself.

SC: Yeah, if I'm not here she talks to them. Blabber away, and she gives it right down the line. "Have they ever tried to influence you to say that I am lying or holding anything out?"

MC: No. I just tell them that you are telling the truth.

SC: They don't believe you when you tell the truth.

RW: I guess they don't. That's the problem we have with this whole line of inquiry and attempt to look this. It is very hard to prove the negative. It is hard to prove that something didn't happen, because you don't document stuff that doesn't happen.

SC: No, it is pretty hard to, difficult, but a good imagination can. These boys have it.

MC: The picture that was in the Roswell paper, as I said, we had just gotten there so we probably had to start subscribing to it. But nobody passed it around.

RW: Well let me tell you what's in the official records that we found so far. So you will have feel.

SC: Please, do.

RW: We did this, as investigators would, logically. We figured, "where would this stuff be"? So we went to all the different records. Working for me I have a group of reservists who are declassification experts. They are excellent researchers. They spend their whole time dealing with records, so these people know where all this stuff is buried. So, we have been to all the major record centers. The Archives and nuclear records (ranging from unclassified to TS nuclear stuff because the 509th was the only nuclear unit in the world at that time. So, some of these records were TS and still are.) That is because they have never been declassified. Anyway, we found that there was no airplane crash that could account for this. Just to show you how unsafe it was to fly at that time, there were six airplane crashes in less than a month in New Mexico alone in 1947, and that doesn't include the rest of the United States. We were lucky to have six.

SC: Remind me to double back on that. Go ahead with your story and I'll tell you another little story.

RW: We found no indication of a V-2 launch that is not accounted for. There was one scheduled on the 3rd of July and that was scrubbed. There was no indication that there was some sort of nuclear accident at that time where we either dropped a weapon or did something stupid, which we had to consider during that period of time, but there is no indication of any of that happening. Weather balloons themselves are; (although they have a "return to" type of thing on them) supposed to crash. I mean, they go up and then sooner or later they're going to come down. Right? Now what we did find, however (and I not implying what you saw up there), but its a possibility. There was a project run by New York University, out of Holloman at that time. It was a balloon experiment that lasted for years. But at the time a portion of it was Top Secret. It has since then be declassified. It was called Project Mogul.

SC: Never heard of it.

RW: Mogul was designed to run balloons at very high altitudes with extremely sensitive acoustic sensors (what we were looking for were nuclear test on the part of the Russians, because we thought the Russians had gotten the bomb) so you needed high enough and far enough so, and at a constant altitude, we could see...because there were no satellite (Unintelligible) they had a couple Mogul balloons and several of those are unaccounted for during that period of time. They are very large in the sense that some of them were up to 600 feet long, not one gigantic balloon, but a series of balloons, because as they went up to altitude some of them broke off, and some of them dropped ballast and they were very sophisticated. They had a lot of tin foil on them and a lot of different things. Mogul is a possibility. We found a couple of researchers from New Mexico that we are in contact with now because they kept private records in some regards. But, of course that was a Top Secret project at the time and we don't know if Blanchard knew about that or not: (we don't have any indication that he did). And that they used the weather balloon in an attempt to cover the other balloon which was a classified project.

SC: Yeah, that is possible. I didn't know about that particular thing. I just knew weather balloons went up and measured. This was my first impression. I didn't know anything else, so O.K., that's it, forget it. The thing that disturbed me is why they cannot shoot down this story about the little bodies and so forth that were allegedly taken to Wright-Pat or some place.

RW: Wright-Pat, right.

SC: And put in a sealed (unintelligible) or so forth. And the only thing, Rick might have gotten confused about something. You mentioned crashes. We had one there at Roswell. They practiced this air to air refueling, which was just, I think, getting into real high-tech stuff as far as I knew.

RW: B-29's?

SC: Yeah. And they were refueling them. We had one rather, rather hell! Where the plane that was being refueled for some reason or other pitched up when they were either getting to attach the cord, or the other one came down, which doesn't sound logical, I think it's more apt to have went up. One or both of those planes crashed. I forget what direction it was up from Roswell, but I went out to that crash at the request of Marcel, maybe Blanchard, and I probably took Rickett with me. We had bodies all over the place, and it was a sad thing. We recovered some fingers, of course, there was one hell of a big fire after it happened. I collected a bunch of hands, fingers and so forth, trying to identify them. At the time I thought this was sort of stupid. They had a list back at the Operation Office. Other than identifying body parts so that some guy's wife would know that she had part of her, used to be, former husband. And I don't remember where we sent those things for identification. I remember going into the office after that trying to get prints off of these old shriveled up fingers and so forth. What good it would do, I don't know. I didn't know then, but I was wonder if maybe Rick got confused that maybe this was some of the bodies. I doubt it, but it is just a possibility. But I don't know why they can't trace down those bodies.

RW: Well, that is the ultimate part of the quote "cover up" that we're involved in. You and I would probably think as OSI agents if you recovered a body that is unusual, that would generate a whole bunch of paperwork. We are a paperwork society. I mean, it may be classified with a bazillion stamps on it, but it would generate a lot of study and things. And we have not been able to locate one piece of anything to indicate that is so.

SC: It boggles my mind that we would not be able to find anything. The Air Force having the...I mean we were close knit and it seemed that there had to be a trail and pick up and eventually end there in that grip, or whatever they put these bodies in.

RW: But did you ever hear of any talk of that type of stuff when you were at Roswell?

SC: Down there. No.

RW: When did all of this first surface, in your life? After you picked up the original stuff and you went on to your career. When did the UFO part first surface in your life?

SC: You mean this sort of stuff?

RW: Yes. Was it with Berlitz and Moore?

SC: Our son sent this book to us.

RW: This is 1980, I think. Yeah 1980.

MC: A lot of that has been debunked by the other two guys.

SC: Well, I don't remember where Joey got this book.

MC: They bought it, they bought it. And he came by to see us and we had just back from fishing and you had one of your cluster headaches. And I did most of the talking here, because Cav was having his cluster headaches.

SC: I had another cycle of cluster headaches. Similar to migraine.

RW: I understand those are really painful.

SC: I am about to come out of it, although I had one last night, and I was awake all night long.

MC: Don't you think that is it. I never even gave it a thought.

RW: Until Mr. Moore and company showed up, around 1980 time frame?

SC: Yeah.

MC: 16 September 82 that he was here.

RW: O.K. Now from my research (not of AF records, but of popular literature records) Friedman is the guy who ran into Marcel down in Louisiana in 1978, because Friedman had been a UFO researcher for years. He ran into Marcel and from his interview of Marcel it got Berlitz and Moore interested, and that's when Marcel then started talking to all of these different people. And then it has kind of grown since then.

MC: And then of course, it's too bad apparently, you see little Jesse was about 11. Cav never told me anything. He said I'll never tell you anything then you won't spread anything. We always wondered how little Jesse knew so much. To us it should have been business. Neol (Marcel's wife) apparently was not able to give any information after Jesse died.

RW: Yeah. The son is mentioned in a number of publication, because he claimed his dad brought this stuff to his house and they hammered on it and...

MC: Which I remember seeing.

SC: He was a smart little devil, his son.

RW: He is a doctor, I think.

SC: Is he is a PHD type of doctor or a Medical doctor?

RW: Yeah, I though he was a medical doctor.

MC: He is an MD, but his brother was medical type technician.

SC: They were a smart family. I always thought Marcel was just a little on the outer scale.

RW: Since you were friends with both Marcel and Rickett, is there any explanation that they would (in your mind, since you knew them) tell these stories and get this interest generated?

SC: No.

MC: I wouldn't think purposely, would you darling?

SC: Not purposely, no. I gave you a little insight on Rick, he could sit and tell stories that last hours.

MC: They were visited by a lot of people, more than we were. Handier to some people, being in Florida where they were. She would write on cards, so and so has been here, but I don't think purposely they would try to make up tales for being heroes or glorifying anything.

RW: Let me ask you officially for the record. Did you take any kind of security oath, promise, sign anything, or verbally agree to anything not to talk about any of this, that occurred in New Mexico?

SC: No. I told you that awhile ago. I'll take an oath on that. I swear.

RW: O.K. Has anybody in the US Government, the Air Force, or anyone connected with the Government, ever threatened you if you said anything about any of these incidents that something would happen to you, your family or anybody else?

SC: No. No way.

RW: O.K.

SC: I am telling the truth, and I have told all of these other people the truth. That, I don't know anymore than what I told them, and I don't know anything about any "little men", or anything. I am a pretty stupid person, when I say "I don't know anything."

RW: Well, I appreciate having to ask you some of these questions, even after you told me that...

SC: I know you have to.

RW: But, we want to do this officially, because as near as we can tell nobody ever has before.

SC: I certainly wish you good luck. I hope you can convince these people.

RW: Well, it is going to be difficult, because like I say we have nothing other than this one formerly classified project that was occurring out there at the same time that was even a little bit "funny", if you will...

SC: Yeah. Had I known about that, Rich, at that time I would have probably hooked it up with that instead of a weather balloon.

RW: But, a balloon is basically a balloon. Some of them are bigger and some of them are smaller.

SC: Some do some things, some of them do others.

RW: One of the things that they mentioned, going back to the balloons for a minute, was what Marcel called "hieroglyphics". It was something that was written or printed on some of the debris. Do you recall any of that?

SC: No. But in reading over some of my other garbage here, I have seen some hieroglyphics. I don't think there were any claims that these were the Roswell deal. Were there?

RW: Marcel claims.

SC: Marcel says so?

RW: However, the day after the original flying saucer article in the Roswell paper, there was a follow up article where they interview Brazel (the rancher), and he described this stuff almost similar to what you did, almost like basal wood type of sticks and tin foil type of things. Then he said some had what appeared to be Scotch tape with little purple flowers stamped on it. Apparently at that time, as near as we can tell, one of the balloon manufactures did use some type of tape that had some sort of flowers on it. It is possible, I guess, that somebody could mistake...

SC: I don't remember anything like that.

MC: I think there is a picture in one of these...



SC: Well, some of these authors, Mary, you got to remember, they will skip from the Roswell incident to something that happened someplace else in the United States and they get a little confusing. You just read through it. I remember something about some hieroglyphics, not on that one. I didn't see anything. I do not remember any writing at all on the thing. But if Marcel saw something, maybe he did.

RW: Did you know Haut, Lt. Haut? The public affairs guy at the time?

SC: Just vaguely. What was he, base information, or something of that sort?

RW: Yes.

SC: Not close at all. As a matter of fact I couldn't even describe him. I got a picture with a tall fellow and I didn't know much about him, at all.

RW: Is there anything else that you can recall or like to add?

SC: I have been thinking about it ever since you called, and said you were coming out.

MC: It is a shame that Don Yeager was in the office with Jess.

SC: Yeah. Is he dead now?

MC: I don't know.

SC: But he won't know a thing, Mary. He wouldn't know a thing.

MC: He wouldn't have known anything with Jesse?

SC: No. No. Jesse didn't trust Don very much. I wouldn't want (unintelligible). He was trying to keep up, but couldn't. He just wasn't a reliable sort of individual.

MC: So Jess probably wouldn't have...

SC: No. No. I don't even think he even talked to Don about it. There was another Captain in the Intelligence office at the time who I always thought was a very sharp individual, his name I don't remember his first name...Carl was his first name, Macamer. He ended up as a full Colonel.

MC: Now we gave Randall their names. We gave them everything we could think of.

SC: Yeah. Carl might be dead now. I always thought he was a pretty smart individual.

MC: Carl was the last we knew.

SC: Somewhere up in the North, wasn't he?

MC: He is our generation. He would have retired.

RW: Did he switch over to the Air Force too, when he...

MC: Who Macamer?

RW: Yeah.

MC: Oh, yeah. He was in the 8th Air Force.

RW: So when you all just went over to the USAF when it formed in September?

SC: He went right along with the 8th Air Force, becoming USAF. We being OSI, well...

MC: He was always Air Force. He was always Army CIC, or was he?

SC: Who, me?

MC: No. No. Carl.

SC: Carl wasn't even in the CIC. He was in intelligence. He was just in the intelligence office there at...He was under Marcel. He was under Blanchard. He was under Ramey. Wasn't that the General's name over at the 8th Air Force, Roger Ramey?

RW: Yeah, that's right. In fact, they named a SAC base in Puerto Rico after him.

SC: The things that Ramey and Blanchard used to! Blanchard came over to the Philippines. I think he was IG in 1963 or 4 and I was District Commander of the OSI District 42 in the Philippines. We had a few chuckles together and...

MC: Do you recall once when we were some place and Roger, and Ramey and I were dinner partners. I think it was Greece. You were on one of your many trips.

RW: Blanchard was the IG, you're right.

SC: He and Ramey, I don't know what he was after the commander of the Eight Air Force, but he and Blanchard use to have some...(unintelligible). Oh Lord! I knew these guys pretty well. No. I don't know anything about any crashed space ships. I don't know anything about any little men.

MC: I am quite sure that we never gave it a thought until that book.

RW: I'll tell you what, if you can indulge me for a few minutes and let me set up my computer. Do you mind signing a statement. I'll make it very short. (unintelligible).

SC: Sure. You bet. Yeah.

RW: And we'll just make a kind of quick summary statement if you can bare with my computer skills here.

SC: I'll prick my finger and sign it in blood.

RW: I don't think we'll require that.

MC: Rich, it always seems funny to us with all these, if these things happened. How can 30 or even 3 people keep something a secret?

RW: Well, I would kind of like to know how they did it, because in my real job we handle all the Special Programs that do keep all the secrets. And we would like to figure out how they do it so we can duplicate it. Because it is very hard to keep secrets, as you well know.

MC: But you see, I am talking about civilians and other people who were in on these bodies going to the morgue and all that. (unintelligible) some grave digger from the funeral home or whatever...

RW: Well, of course, Randle and Schmitt do claim that those people are out there and that they have interviewed them. They list a whole bunch of them. Now, we're not trying to go after them and undo every interview they had done. That is not our point. In fact, you are the only person we have gone out and interviewed, because you're always reputed to be the guy...one of the two or three people that was there picking up the stuff...

MC: And he is the only one that is still living.

RW: That is right.

MC: That is what Doyle Rees said on his post card. He said you better keep this going. If anybody likes publicity as he...(unintelligible)

SC: But what he was saying, all of these guards...

RW: He claims that he had interviewed a number of these people and said that they did guard something and there were a number flights. Now, we have never found the flight records to substantiate that, so I don't know where they have. If they have.

SC: The crew chiefs on the airplane that are making these flights. They went with them. Flight Engineers?

MC: It will be interesting for you to get Randle and Schmitts last book.

SC: Their latest book? They promised they're going to take it easy on me.

RW: Well, I have tried to find a copy, because, among other things, that have happened, is that people keep changing the dates of when things happened.

MC: And sites!

RW: Yeah. And that makes it very difficult when you are try to track down records. If you are looking between this period of time and all of a sudden they change the period of time.

MC: Well, when they came here about 14 months ago they sat right there and we became good friends down in Sierra Vista and we would tell them everything we know, honestly. We gave them gobs of names. They sat down and said we have something new, something different. Something happened at this site and it was not on the same date. So, you could have one of your researchers get that book, and research that.

SC: You are very well aware of the good guy bad guy approach of when they interrogation.

RW: Oh, yes.

SC: Well, I got a perfect example of this with Randle and Schmitt. Randle is the outgoing, buddy-buddy type and this Schmitt he'd sit over their and he'd look over at me like this (while Randall is asking me a question), "you lying Cur." Particularly down in Sierra Vista. They just grated on me.

RW: You probably had done that a time or two yourself. You would know what he was doing.

SC: Not really. Let him type up this deal that I...

RW: Yeah, I don't want to take up all of your time.

MC: We have all day. I'll go down and get a hamburger or...

RW: If you don't mind, if you got a plug in over by the table. I need two plug ins to make this thing work.

SC: You need two?

RW: One for the computer and one for the power supply.

SC: O.K.

RW: If that is possible. Although the cords are a lot longer than this one, hopefully

SC: Where would be the best place?

RW: In fact, I can probably...

MC: (unintelligible)

SC: Your cord is not all that long.

RW: (unintelligible)

SC: Is that tape recorder still running?

RW: Yeah, let me shut the tape recorder off. Its about 12:30 here on the 24th.

SC: Well, you're not interrupting anything here.

RW: O.K. We'll just do this. I'll make it a short one which just kind of summarizes what we have already talked about.

SC: Good.

END RECORDING

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