

Science and the Paranormal

UFO's

OLLI 4/8/13



You think UFO's

Do not exist

Not sure

Are real

UFO History

- June 24th 1947 pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine objects flying in formation near Mt. Rainer that he described as being disc or saucer like.
 - Thus started modern UFOlogy
- But the Bible tells us that
 - Ezekiel saw the wheel; Way up in the middle of the air.
- San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento in fall of 1896 people reported hundreds of sightings of a Great Airship that continued thru May '87
 - And there are many more through the 1900s
- The sightings are international and seem to come in waves (see next chart)

American Sightings '64 / '65

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Daily Reports in 1954 Wave

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

J. Allen Hynek
Evaluation of the first 237
UFO reports received by
the Air Force 1948-49

- Astronomical 32%
- Other Explanations 35%
 - Balloons aircraft rockets
- UFO 33%

Official Studies

- Project Blue Book
 - USAF study 1947 1969
- The Condon Report 1968
 - USAF commissioned a public study
 - It concluded that there was no evidence of danger to our defense systems
 - That there was nothing for science to be interested in
 - The USAF and the rest of the government used this to dismiss any further consideration of UFOs
- The report was widely criticized by the scientific community

The Data

- Nocturnal Lights
- Daylight Sightings
- Radar - Visual
- Close Encounters of The First Kind
- Of the Second Kind
- Of the Third Kind

Nocturnal Lights

Lights in the Night Sky

- The most commonly reported
- The most commonly attributable to natural causes
- UFO identifications were because of impossible
 - Size, shape and color and color changes
 - Physical movements, stationary and rapid direction changes

Daylight Sightings

- Soundless
- Dark, Bright , Single,
- Multiple (often maneuvering together)
- Disk shape
- Cigar shape (vertical, horizontal)
- Sudden accelerations to high speeds
- Sudden directional changes

Radar-Visual

- Tower operators have seen UFOs on radar and visually
- Pilots have seen UFO's on radar and visually
 - There are two reports that the aircraft electronics failed when the plane pointed at the UFO (in one case he was trying to fire a missile)

Close Encounters of the First Kind

- Objects seen at 500 ft or less that have no interaction with the observer or environment
 - Observation only, by one or several people
 - There are many such reports

Of the Second Kind

- The observation is accompanied by a physical effect of some kind
 - Car engines stop
 - Radios turn off
 - Landing marks left
 - Plants and trees scorched or blighted

Of the Third Kind

- Those in which the presence of animated creatures is reported
- Jacques Vallee cataloged 1247 Close Encounter cases
 - 750 actual landings
 - 300 of these (40%) humanoids were seen in or about the craft
 - (1/3 of these were multiple witness cases)

The Big Issue

- Are there or are there not non-manned made physical objects routinely appearing in our sky and occasionally on our surface sometimes accompanied by humanoids?
- If not, we seem to have a lot of psychologically disturbed people among us
- If so we must significantly revise both our scientific and theological understanding of our universe

Data sources

- <http://youtu.be/f54IzLqLTCg>
- <http://www.ufoevidence.org/>
- 'UFO Briefing Document,
The Best Available Evidence'
by Don Berliner with Marie
Galbraith and Antonio
Huneews 1995