

C O P Y

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington 20330

Office of the Secretary

DEC 5 1967

Dear Mr. Downing:

This is in reply to your inquiry in behalf of Mr. Larry W. Bryant who inquired about information furnished the University of Colorado for the unidentified flying object project.

The University of Colorado has not requested Merchant Intelligence (MERINT) or Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS) reports, probably because they are not germane to the problem. The University of Colorado may request any information it desires from the Air Force. The Air Force and private groups have given the University of Colorado all information it has requested.

Joint Army-Navy-Air Publication (JANAP) 146 provides a reporting procedure for ships' masters and airplane commanders. Reports within the United States by private citizens are handled in accordance with Air Force Regulations 80-17 if such reports are made to the Air Force.

We hope this information will be helpful.

Sincerely,

JOHN E. LINGO, Colonel, USAF
Congressional Inquiry Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Attachment

Honorable Thomas N. Downing

House of Representatives

8415 Gault Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23608
December 25, 1967

Dr. Robert J. Low
Project Coordinator, UFO Study
202 Woodbury Hall
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Dr. Low:

Thank you for your forthright reply of December 19, 1967. If you have detected a note of pessimism in my recent correspondence with you, may I offer as a partial explanation the inclosed material concerning my own activities in the field of UFO research.

Also inclosed for your information and retention is a copy of a December 5 letter to Rep. Thomas H. Downing from USAF Colonel John E. Lingo, who for some reason feels that MERINT/CIRVIS UFO-sighting reports ". . . are not germane to the problem." As in any academic or scientific pursuit, the participating researchers are obliged first to "define the problem." Perhaps Colonel Lingo's definition of the "UFO problem" differs from what has customarily been accepted, namely: To determine whether the reported UFO's represent (1) a foreign technological development or (2) a misidentification of conventional machines or phenomena. Since numerous MERINT/CIRVIS UFO-sighting reports presumably have been processed during the 14-year period that JANAP 146 has been in effect, how can Colonel Lingo's assertion that they "are not germane to the problem" be reconciled with the publicized aims of your scientific study?

Your review of the inclosures may tell you why I expect to receive no constructive reply from the staff of Project Blue Book to my letter to them of December 10, 1967, in which I request statistical data on Blue Book's handling of MERINT/CIRVIS UFO-sighting reports.

I appreciate the time you have given in this exchange of information and ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Larry W. Bryant
LARRY W. BRYANT
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
DEC 28 1967

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

NOTE: The inclosures are listed
on page two of this letter.

Dr. Robert J. Low

Dec. 25, 1967

(2)

Inlosures:

ARG File 3A.021 (FWB)
ARG File 3A.024 (FFW)
ARG File 3A.066 (Ltr to Ed - 7 Jun 67)
ARG File 3A.069 (UFO-Detector Article - Dec 67)
ARG File 3A.070 (Censorship Article - Dec 67)
Letter from Colonel Lingo

Copy furnished:

President, University of Colorado
Hon. Thomas H. Downing
Chairman, House Committee on
Science and Astronautics, U. S. Congress

8415 Orcutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23605
December 6, 1967

President
The University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Sir:

Inclosed are copies of correspondence which has recently been exchanged between myself and Mr. Robert J. Low, Project Coordinator of your university's study of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Since it has been a few weeks in which I have received no reply from Mr. Low to my October 29 letter, I suspect that Mr. Low is avoiding further discussion of the prospect of his group's examining emergency UFO-sighting reports processed by the Government's "CIRVIS" reporting procedure. If this be the case, I should like to know how he can justify taking this position at a time when the Air Force's own UFO-investigation project is being criticized because of the same kind of reticence and/or evasion. Do you not agree with me that, by having a free and open discussion of its policies and practices, your UFO study should set an example for both governmental and privately-sponsored UFO researchers to follow in the future? If you do agree, I would appreciate your advising Mr. Low to reconsider his position; if you do not agree, I shall anticipate seeing your reason adequately explained in the study's forthcoming report.

Yours very truly,


Larry W. Bryant

Inclosures:

1. Oct. 18, 1967 Ltr from Bryant
2. Oct. 25, 1967 Ltr from Low
3. Oct. 29, 1967 Ltr from Bryant

Copy furnished:

Chairman, House Committee on Science and Astronautics,
U. S. Congress
Director, National Academy of Sciences

7 December 1967

Mr. Larry W. Bryant
8415 Circutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23605

Dear Mr. Bryant:

I have checked carefully at the Pentagon concerning the purpose and intent of JANAP 146. It is, as you are apparently aware, a joint Canadian-American agreement providing for the quick reporting of unidentified floating or flying objects of any kind that, because they are unidentified and therefore possibly hostile (meaning, essentially, Russian or Chinese), might represent a threat to the security of the North American continent.

JANAP 146 provides that all objects that are unidentified will be reported, although the intent of the document is to provide information concerning the location of hostile ships, aircraft, and missiles. The agreement provides also for the reporting of UFO's; it does so because what is at first unidentified may later turn out to be a hostile aircraft or missile. JANAP 146 is not designed to serve as a mechanism for collecting reports of UFO's - UFO's as distinguished from aircraft or missiles. Information reported under the terms of the agreement, if it turns out to have relevance to the UFO problem rather than to the purposes of the agreement, ~~are~~^{is} transmitted to Project Blue Book at Wright Patterson AFB in accordance with the Air Force regulation, 80-17, covering the handling of UFO sightings.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Low
Project Coordinator
UFO Study

cc: H. Hunter

8415 Groutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23606
December 10, 1967

Major Hector Quintanilla
Chief of Project Blue Book
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

Dear Sir:

Could you please tell me the approximate number of UFO-sighting reports in the files of Project Blue Book that originated as MERINT or CIRVIS reports under the provisions of Joint Army-Navy-Air Publication No. 146? Also, how many of the unsolved UFO cases (those listed in the evaluation category of "unknown object") in Blue Book's files were submitted by the observers as MERINT or CIRVIS reports?

Yours sincerely,

Larry W. Bryant
Larry W. Bryant

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8415 Orcutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23605
December 11, 1967

Dr. Robert J. Low
Project Coordinator, UFO Study
202 Woodbury Hall, University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Sir:

Thank you for replying to my request for a clarification of the role your study will play in the evaluation of MERINT and CIRVIS UFO-sighting reports processed under the provisions of JANAP 146.

I assume from your letters to me that your study has yet to examine any UFO-sighting report that originated as a MERINT or CIRVIS report. I also glean from these letters that your study does not propose to take the initiative in acquiring MERINT or CIRVIS UFO-sighting reports from the Defense Department for evaluation or cataloging. Is this position based on your interpretation of the purpose of JANAP 146, to wit, quoting from your letter of December 7, 1967: "The agreement /JANAP 146/ provides also for the reporting of UFO's; it does so because what is at first unidentified may later turn out to be a hostile aircraft or missile."? Do you not agree that those objects that are identified at first as conventional vehicles by the observer may also turn out to be hostile aircraft or missiles? In your interpretation, are you equating the term Unidentified Flying Object with the terms unidentified aircraft or unidentified missiles? If so, this is not the accepted definition of UFO as given earlier in Air Force Regulation 200-2 and lately in AFR 80-17. What would be the more vital intelligence -- reports of potentially hostile Unidentified Flying Objects or reports of potentially hostile Identified Flying Objects (such as aircraft or missiles)? They would carry the same importance because of the common characteristic: potential hostility.

Both categories of vehicles, UFO and IFO, qualify for CIRVIS/MERINT reporting by the observer only if in his opinion the observed vehicles constitute a probable threat to the security of North America. I agree only partly, therefore, with your statement that "JANAP 146 is not designed to serve as a mechanism for collecting reports of UFO's," since I am convinced that your re-examination of the document would reveal that the document calls for reporting of potentially hostile UFO's. To aid you in the re-examination, I am inclosing a copy of a related document, AFR 55-88.

Dr. Robert J. Low

Dec. 11, 1967

(2)

Also inclosed for your information is a copy of my December 10, 1967 letter to Maj. Hector Quintanilla, Chief of Project Blue Book. If you think it might be material to the efforts of your study, I shall send you a copy of any reply that I may receive from the major.

yours sincerely,

Larry W. Bryant
Larry W. Bryant

Copy furnished:

President, University of Colorado

202 Woodbury Hall

December 19, 1967

Mr. Larry W. Bryant
8415 Orcutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23605

Dear Mr. Bryant:

Your conclusion that our study does not propose to take the initiative in acquiring MERINT or CIRVIS UFO-sighting reports from the Defense Department for evaluation and cataloging is not correct. We are taking such initiative.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Low
Project Coordinator
UFO Study

RJL:ema

cc: President Smiley

8415 Orcutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23605
October 29, 1967

Mr. Robert J. Low
Project Coordinator, UFO Study
202 Woodbury Hall
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Sir:

Either you are referring to a later edition of JANAP 146 than the one I have, or you may have confused this document with certain USAF regulations on the subject of unidentified flying objects; for the JANAP 146(D) does not specify press-release criteria. Likewise, an earlier edition of the document (JANAP 146(C)), as published in USAF Lt. Col. Lawrence J. Tacker's UFO book, makes no mention of the public-information aspect of the subject.

The purpose of JANAP 146 is to establish uniform reporting procedures for "vital intelligence sightings" made by U. S./Canadian military personnel. These procedures apply partly to emergency UFO-sighting reports made from airborne and land-based sources (CIRVIS reports) as well as to those made from waterborne sources (MERINT reports).

May I therefore rephrase my original question: Has your staff ever examined, or will it examine in the future, any UFO-sighting report that was submitted by the observer(s) as a CIRVIS or MERINT report? If you do not plan to include any of these reports in your study, what is the reason? It is my understanding that the North American Air Defense Command is the primary repository for CIRVIS and MERINT reports.

Larry W. Bryant
Larry W. Bryant

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Department of Physics and Astrophysics
202 Woodbury Hall

25 October 1967

Mr. Larry W. Bryant
8415 Orcutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23605

Dear Mr. Bryant:

JANAP 146 is a document that covers the release of information in connection with reported sightings of unidentified flying objects. It does not cover the investigation of such reports but only the release of information about them to the press. Hence, I don't understand what you mean by asking whether we had examined any reports processed by the DOD under the provisions of JANAP 146.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Low
Project Coordinator
UFO Study

RJL:mla

8415 Orcutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23605
October 18, 1967

Director
UFO Investigation Project
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado

Sir:

I should like to know whether your research into the phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects has ever included, or shall include in the future, your examination of any UFO sighting reports processed by the U. S. Department of Defense under the provisions of Joint Army-Navy-Air Publication (JANAP) 146. If you have examined some of them, could you please tell me the number of such cases your staff have thusfar catalogued? If you have not been able to examine any, what is the reason?

Yours sincerely,

Larry W Bryant
Larry W. Bryant

Operations

**COMMUNICATIONS INSTRUCTIONS REPORTING VITAL
INTELLIGENCE SIGHTINGS (CIRVIS) FROM AIRCRAFT**

This regulation states the Air Force responsibilities and training requirements for peacetime reporting of vital intelligence sightings as prescribed by the JANAP 146 directives, "Canadian-United States Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings" (Short title: CIRVIS/MERINT). The regulation is applicable world-wide.

1. What Sightings Will Be Reported. As a means of extending the early warning defense system for the United States and Canada, all Air Force personnel will report by rapid communication procedures all unidentifiable, suspicious, or hostile air or seaborne traffic which, because of its nature, course, or actions, must be considered a threat to the security of the United States or Canada. Priority interest sightings include those which might, in the observer's opinion, require urgent defense or investigative action by United States or Canadian forces.

2. What CIRVIS Reports Are Required. The type of sea or airborne traffic which should be reported, and the time it must be reported, are defined in JANAP 146 directives. They prescribe the following CIRVIS reporting:

a. *The initial CIRVIS report*—issued while the pilot is airborne (or, as warranted, upon landing); additional CIRVIS reports will be made when the situation requires it and each one should refer to the initial report to permit identification with the original sighting.

b. *The CIRVIS cancellation report*—issued by the pilot as warranted.

c. *The CIRVIS post landing report*—issued by the pilot when he lands, if he has made an airborne report; it must cite the airborne report(s) issued.

d. *The CIRVIS evaluation report*—submitted by each addressee of the above CIRVIS reports; it will include negative or other appropriate information as warranted, and will be submitted promptly so that all message addressees may be kept fully informed during the evaluation phase. All investigative measures and evaluation processes instituted by the addressee will be in accordance with existing procedures

and reported in accordance with JANAP 146(D) February 1959.

3. Addressees for CIRVIS Reports. Timeliness is paramount in CIRVIS reporting. Pilots should, therefore, transmit these reports as soon as possible while airborne; reports should be transmitted to any available United States or Canadian military or civil air/ground communications facility. That facility will insure rapid processing of the reports as prescribed by JANAP 146 directives, and add the appropriate addressees as given below. (*Note:* Precedence and means of transmission of reports to NORAD and Headquarters USAF from PACAF and USAFE areas will be selected on basis of the apparent value of the information.)

a. *If the sighting is in an oversea area, the addressees will be:*

- (1) As prescribed by area commanders; normally, the addressees are the operating service commands concerned.
- (2) Commander in Chief, North American Air Defense Command, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado (CINC-NORAD).
- (3) Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, Washington, D. C. (COFS, USAF).

b. *If the sighting is within or in an area adjacent to the North American continent, the addressees will be:*

- (1) The commander of the nearest joint air defense division, command, or group.
- (2) CINC-NORAD, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

*This regulation supersedes AFR 55-88, 22 October 1959.

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(3) Either of these appropriate Sea Frontier Commands:

(a) Commander Western Sea Frontier (COMWESTSEAFRON), San Francisco, California.

(b) Commander, Eastern Sea Frontier (COMEASTSEAFRON), New York, N. Y.

(4) Chief of Staff, United States Air Force (COFS, USAF), Washington, D. C.

(5) RCAF Air Defense Command (CAN-AIRDEF), St. Hubert, Montreal, Canada.

(6) Either of these appropriate officers:

(a) Canadian Flag Officer, Atlantic Coast (CANFLAGLANT), Halifax, Nova Scotia.

(b) Canadian Flag Officer, Pacific Coast (CONFLAGPAC), Esquimalt, British Columbia.

4. Training Requirements. A realistic training program should be conducted for crew members, pilots and other personnel, who must submit timely and accurate CIRVIS reports to the defense elements of the Armed Forces. However, this training program will not take precedence over the primary missions of the commands.

a. Pilots will be briefed on CIRVIS reporting requirements and procedures before takeoffs.

b. Communications personnel must be trained in the procedures for processing CIRVIS reports as established by the JANAP 146 directives and as prescribed by Airways and Air Communication Service (AACCS).

5. Air Force Responsibility:

a. Each major air commander will insure compliance with this directive within his command.

b. The Director of Operations, DCS/Operations, Headquarters USAF, is responsible for the overall monitoring of all CIRVIS reporting. This responsibility includes the stimulation, supervision, and coordination of all USAF and non-USAFA activities concerned with CIRVIS that pertain to training, operational procedures, standardization of reporting procedures, and evaluating the reports. It also includes appropriate coordination with CINCNORAD.

6. Reporting from Commercial Flights. The Commander, Military Air Transportation Service, will:

a. Discharge the Air Force responsibility for compliance with all JANAP 146 directives that concern regularly scheduled United States commercial airlines; this includes information and guidance mutually acceptable to the air carrier and to MATS.

b. Supervise the AACCS training program for the communications personnel who process CIRVIS.

7. Reporting from Civil Air Patrol Flights. The Commanding General, Civil Air Patrol, will conduct whatever training is required to insure that CAP pilots and aircrew personnel are qualified to perform effective CIRVIS reporting.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL:

J. L. TARR
Colonel, USAF
Director of Administrative Services

THOMAS D. WHITE
Chief of Staff

8415 Orcutt Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23605
December 11, 1967

Dr. Robert J. Low
Project Coordinator, UFO Study
202 Woodbury Hall, University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

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DEC 14 1967

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO


Dr. Robert J. Low

Dec. 11, 1967

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Yours sincerely,


Larry W. Bryant

Copy furnished:

president, University of Colorado