

MEMO - INTERNAL
Daily

MEMORANDUM

To: E. U. Condon

From: Roy Craig

29 March 1968

Subject: Comment on Air Base Handling of UFO Reports

During investigations of UFO reports by CU Project field teams, Air Force UFO field investigators were noticeable by their absence. I can think of only one case we investigated in which Air Base UFO officers called us and assisted our investigation (Milledgeville, Georgia), and one case we investigated in which Air Base personnel had interviewed principle witnesses (Coarsegold, California -- discussed below). Since 80-17A stipulates that UFO reports received by an Air Base will be investigated, the absence of Air Force personnel investigating certain cases was surprising to field teams, since witnesses often claimed to have informed local air bases of their UFO sightings. Experiences of field teams relative to their observations of Air Force handling of UFO reports are recorded here for your information. (It should be noted that our field teams invariably received excellent and respectful cooperation from local Air Force personnel whom they contacted.)

L At Coarsegold, California, Air Force investigators had interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Wallis when investigating some of their earlier reports of sightings in the series our team was investigating. They apparently failed to identify the UFOs as airplanes from their own base (Castle Air Force Base), which our team found to be the case.

On August 15, 1967, before the UFOs were identified, Mr. Wallis phoned Castle Air Force Base, in Jim Wadsworth's presence, to report new sightings. He asked for the UFO Officer and was connected with Lt. Deats, Chief of Information. Jim Wadsworth then, allowing himself to be taken as Mr. Wallis and indicating no association with the CU Project, took the phone and spoke with Lt. Deats. Wadsworth was told that investigators from Castle Air Force Base would look into the sighting, specifically the sightings he was reporting of 12 midnight to 12:42 am, August 15, and that no aircraft from Castle Air Force Base would account for previous UFO sightings.

Wallis received no report of the promised investigation. After Wadsworth returned to Colorado on August 18, he telephoned Lt. Deats, now identifying himself as a representative of this project, and asking for a copy of their report of the investigation of the August 15 sighting. He was told this report would be forthcoming.

As far as project personnel know, the Castle Air Force Base UFO Officer still was not yet aware that Castle's own planes were responsible for

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most of the UFC reports from the San Joaquin Valley, and the citizens who made reports of sightings to the base were left without identifying information from the base.

No report from Castle had been received by the project in September, when Wadsworth requested and received maps of flight patterns near Castle Air Force Base and charts of lights of B-52 and KC-135 planes. Flight schedules from Castle Air Force Base for the month of August also were requested, but were not furnished because it was claimed extensive research would be needed to cover the 400 to 500 sorties involved. A more limited request for flight schedules for August 13 through 16 was submitted by phone call to Lt. Deats on December 18, 1967. No report of the August 15 investigation had yet been received, and Lt. Deats explained at that time that his investigators tended not to take UFCs seriously. Lt. Deats said he would check with "McIntire" who handled the report and have the report put through to us.

The requested flight schedules were received on January 16, 1968. This was in the form of a weekly aircraft utilization and maintenance schedule for the week of 14-20 August, 1967, which had been prepared on August 9, 1967. No apparent research was required to produce the information requested, which clearly showed sorties out of Castle Air Force Base at the times local residents observed and reported UFO sightings as the planes refueled, circled, and returned to Castle.

At the time of this writing, no report of investigation of UFO sightings has been received from Castle Air Force Base. Since local residents were not informed of results of investigations of reports they submitted, (they continued to report sightings of UFCs over a period of several months) and the local air base did not seem to be aware that it was their own planes which were being reported as UFCs, it might be assumed that such reports would be sent on to Blue Book as "not identified at the local level." They did not come to this project. (Inquiry has been made to Major Quintanilla about his receipt of such reports from Castle Air Force Base during the period January - August 1967. Since he has no system of indexing Blue Book reports by geographic origin, Major Quintanilla said on March 27, 1968, that he would check for such reports if he could find time.)

II. At Hanscomb Field, Massachusetts, on August 10, 1967, field investigators Craig and Levine visited the UFC officer, Major Ward, to learn what information had been brought to light by local Air Force investigation of a series of UFO reports from the Cape Ann area. At least one of the observers, Mrs. Brewer, of Gloucester, had specifically told us that she had telephoned Hanscomb Field to report her UFO sighting.

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While Major Ward was very cooperative during our visit, it was apparent that local reports of UFC sightings were not investigated. Mrs. Brewer's report, like other such reports, was taken by an enlisted assistant, who partially filled out a standard questionnaire while taking the phone message, but failed to ask many of the questions on the form. Much of the form was, therefore, blank. The UFC officer then considered the information too incomplete to send to Blue Book (and apparently also for local investigation), no matter how significant the fragmentary information might seem to others, and the report died as it was filed at Hanscomb. Since numerous UFC reports were received from the northern Massachusetts area, and local interest in these reports was quite intense, the information that distant drops of multiple flares from Air Force planes were being observed and reported as unidentified objects (with multiple lights) would have been of considerable value to concerned citizens. This information was not obtained by local Air Force investigation of UFO reports they received, (nor by our field team) but was finally acquired, after considerable effort, by the Massachusetts NICAP sub-committee. It would seem that this UFO identification could have been made with little effort by local Air Force personnel.

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