

MEMO - INT

MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. E.U. CONDON
FROM: ROY CRAIG
SUBJECT: RELIABILITY OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO THE PROJECT
Date: April 22, 1968

Another case has come to our attention which, like the Vandenburg AFB report of September 1, 1967, resulted in receipt by this project of conflicting information from Air Force sources. Reliability of official information is brought into question.

Information was furnished to us, in early March, 1968, through NICAP sub-committee sources, that three alerts against UFOs had occurred in February at Dow AFB, Bangor, Maine. A date and time was given for only the first, which was reported to have occurred 2/9/68 at about 10:00 A.M. According to this information, jet interceptors were rolled out, armed with rockets, and taxied to the runway. They did not take off.

On March 5, I phoned Capt. David G. Thomas, the UFO officer at Dow AFB to inquire about the UFO alert of February 9. (Capt. Thomas is in Public Relations and "sort of" has the UFO responsibility.) Capt. Thomas informed me that Dow is a SAC base, and has no fighters. There are some fighter craft at the base, across the field, but they are ADC planes. ADC personnel, according to Capt. Thomas, could have a UFO report and not tell "us" (SAC) about it. Capt. Thomas had not been informed of any recent UFO activity, but agreed to check the ADC unit at Dow and inform me by return call what he could learn about the existence and cause of an alert on February 9.

On March 6, Capt. Thomas transmitted the following information:

He had checked with the 75th Fighter Defense Squadron, talking with people on duty on 2/9/68 and with the command post there. He learned there was an alert on 2/9/68 and fighters were rolled onto the runway ready to scramble. This action was taken on orders from higher headquarters, the 36th Air Division at Otis AFB.

The alert to scramble was said to be definitely not on a UFO, but any other information regarding the cause of the alert would have to come from Otis AFB.

Col. Hippler was asked by Bob Low to attempt to determine for us the true cause of the alert at Dow AFB on 2/9/68. On March 12 he transmitted the following information to Mr. Low: There was no alert on 2/9/68 for units of the 75th Fighter Defense Squadron. The 57th, based in Iceland, did have a scramble that day, and probably our information sources had confused these two fighter squadrons. (Mr. Low had the impression that 2/9/68 was the day a Russian aircraft tested our defenses near Iceland and our fighters, according to news accounts, flew along side it. This was not checked out, since it seemed somewhat irrelevant to the admitted alert at Dow AFB.)

Dow AFB personnel on duty 2/9/68 said there was an alert that day at their base. Other official information, obtained through Colonel Hippler, denied that there was such an alert. In the absence of some independent source of information, we have no means of determining whether or not there was an alert and, if so, whether or not it was in fact triggered by the presence of an unidentified flying object.