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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3820.9

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Distribution List

Subj: Unidentified Flying Objects; reporting of

Encl: (1) Descriptive Data Desired on Unidentified Flying Objects

1. Purpose. To promulgate procedures for reporting information on unidentified flying objects.

2. Definitions.

a. Unidentified Flying Object. Any aerial object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features does not conform to any presently known aircraft or missile type, or which cannot be positively identified as a familiar object.

b. Familiar Objects. Balloons, celestial bodies, birds, etc..

3. Background. Unidentified flying objects are of significance primarily as a possible threat to the security of the United States and its forces. It is quite possible that new air vehicles, hostile aircraft or missiles will be regarded as flying objects by their initial observer. The United States Air Force, having the primary responsibility for the investigation, reporting and analysis of information and evidence relating to unidentified flying objects, has requested the assistance of naval activities in the reporting of such information.

4. Action.

a. Addressees are requested to notify promptly the nearest appropriate U. S. Air Force activity of possible sightings of unidentified flying objects. Such reports shall include as much of the data listed in enclosure (1) as is practicable.

b. The Chief of Naval Operations shall be made an information

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addressee on any naval message report originated in response to this instruction.

c. Inquiries from other than U. S. Navy or Air Force activities regarding unidentified flying objects shall be referred to the nearest appropriate U. S. Air Force activity.

H. G. Moore
H. G. MOORE
By direction

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DESCRIPTIVE DATA DESIRED on UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Description of the object(s):
 - a. Shape.
 - b. Size compared to a known object (use one of the following terms: Head of a pin, pea, dime, nickel, quarter, half dollar, silver dollar, baseball, grapefruit, or basketball) held in the hand at about arms length.
 - c. Color.
 - d. Number.
 - e. Formation, if more than one.
 - f. Any discernible features or details.
 - g. Tail, trail, or exhaust, including size of same compared to size of object(s).
 - h. Sound. If heard, describe sound.
 - i. Other pertinent or unusual features.
2. Description of course of object(s):
 - a. What first called the attention of observer(s) to the object(s)?
 - b. Angle of elevation and azimuth of the object(s) when first observed.
 - c. Angle of elevation and azimuth of object(s) upon disappearance.
 - d. Description of flight path and maneuvers of object(s).
 - e. Manner of disappearance of object(s).
 - f. Length of time in sight.
3. Manner of observation:
 - a. Use one or any combination of the following items: Ground-visual, ground-electronic, air-electronic. (If electronic, specify type of radar.)
 - b. Statement as to optical aids (telescopes, binoculars, and so forth) used and description thereof.
 - c. If the sighting is made while airborne, give type aircraft, identification number, altitude, heading, speed, and home station.
4. Time and date of sighting:

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- a. Zebra date-time group of sighting.
 - b. Light conditions (use one of the following terms): night, day, dawn, dusk.
5. Locations of observer(s). Exact latitude and longitude of each observer, or Georef position, or position with reference to a known landmark.
6. Identifying information of all observer(s):
- a. Civilian - Name, age, mailing address, occupation.
 - b. Military - Name, grade, organization, duty, and estimate of reliability.
7. Weather and winds-aloft conditions at time and place of sightings:
- a. Observer(s) account of weather conditions.
 - b. Report from nearest AFS or U.S. Weather Bureau Office of wind direction and velocity in degrees and knots at surface, 6,000', 10,000', 16,000', 20,000', 30,000', 50,000', and 80,000', if available.
 - c. Ceiling.
 - d. Visibility.
 - e. Amount of cloud cover.
 - f. Thunderstorms in area and quadrant in which located.
8. Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.
9. Interception or identification action taken (such action may be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives).
10. Location of any air traffic in the area at time of sighting.
11. Position title and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of the sighting(s).
12. Existence of physical evidence, such as materials and photographs.
13. Reports should be unclassified unless inclusion of the foregoing data necessitates a higher classification.