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Where is Blue Book Report #13?

From: **campbell@ufomind.com** (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)
Date: Mon, 20 Apr 1998 11:34:22 -0800

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Project Grudge/Bluebook Special Report 13

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After the U. S. Air Force released it's Project Blue Book Special Report 14 in October 1955, a couple of questions were raised that have not been answered to this day. Over the years possible answers to these questions have been given quasi-mythic status by some in the UFO reporting community. As the story goes, from 1951 through 1953 the Air Force prepared twelve (12) status reports about the progress of Project Grudge, later named Project Blue Book. When the summary report was published, it was numbered fourteen (14), raising the obvious questions, "Was there a Report 13 and, if so, what happened to it?"

Over the years two major stories from people who have allegedly seen this report have surfaced. UFO researcher Stanton Friedman has talked to someone who claims to have seen the report. In Friedman's privately printed report "A Scientific Approach to Flying Saucer Behavior," he states, "I was told by a former Air Force enlisted man that he had seen a copy of 13 in the classified files at a SAC base and that as of 1971 it

was still classified as TOP SECRET." Another UFO researcher by the name of William S. English has claimed that he saw the report himself while serving in the Air Force in England. He also claims that the report is Top Secret, but then goes on to say that it contains many dark and sinister stories, and confirms that UFOs are alien space craft. As expected, neither of these stories is supported by confirming evidence.

In response to inquiries from Stanton Friedman and others, the Air Force has replied that either Report 13 did not exist, or else it was written in draft form and included in 14. Other researchers have conjectured the number 13 was not used because it is an unlucky number.

One obvious point has not been made. The Air Force in fact did release thirteen reports prior to the release of Special Report 14. Twelve of those reports were labeled as "status reports" and one was labeled a "special report." Project Grudge Status Report No. 1 is dated November 30, 1951. Project Grudge Special Report No. 1 is dated December 28, 1951. (Based on the available record, the designation of special report was not used again by the Air Force until the release of Special Report 14, although it was used once by Battelle or Dr. J. Allen Hynek, as noted below.) Project Grudge Status Report No. 2 is dated December 31, 1951, three days after the date on the special report. Ten additional status reports were issued prior to the issuance of Special Report 14.

According to notations within the reports, the status reports were to be issued monthly and would "contain a list of all incidents reported during the month covered by the report." Further, they were to present the "overall status of the project." Thus, the timing between the first and second status reports was as scheduled, although this broke down later, in that only twelve status reports were issued between November 30, 1951 and September 30, 1953. Special reports, on the other hand, were to be prepared "on outstanding incidents and in incidents where such a report is requested by higher authority." Special Report No. 1 was prepared to document two UFO sightings from the New Jersey area.

Another set of reports must be considered here. Battelle Memorial Institute, a private research and development company in Columbus, Ohio that conducts contract research for clients both government and

commercial, was a prime contractor to the U.S. Air Force for its Project Blue Book. As such, Battelle conducted the research that resulted in Special Report 14. In fact, in the 1950s and 60s Battelle was under a long term contract to the Air Force for the purpose of assisting the Air Technical Intelligence Center in evaluating Soviet and Chicom aerospace technologies under a project named Project Stork, which was later named Project White Stork. Back in those years, at the height of the Cold War, the nature of the Battelle work was considered classified. Even the project names were classified. Thus, the sensitivity of the UFO study when it was authorized under the Stork contract is understandable. Not only was Battelle probably reluctant to admit it was doing UFO research because of concern for its image, but the subject matter of the overall contract was also sensitive. Thus, there were two reasons for secrecy that had nothing to do with the security classification or lack there-of of the UFO subject. Because of contract requirements, Battelle issued reports of its own that were separate from the Air Force series of reports.

When Project Blue Book closed down in 1969 many of it's records ultimately ended up at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. Six of seven known Battelle reports are on file there and they are identified as "status reports." The terms used to note the numbers of each are "first," "second," and so on, different from the terms used to number the Air Force reports. The fourth report is not included in the collection. A "special report" is also found in the collection and it is not numbered. It was written by Dr. J. Allen Hynek and is entitled "Special Report on Conferences With Astronomers on Unidentified Aerial Objects." It is dated August 6, 1952. It is not clear whether the report was issued by Battelle or by Dr. Hynek himself. Dr. Hynek who was a professor of astronomy at the Ohio State University was also the astronomy consultant to Project Blue Book. Reportedly his contracts with the Air Force sometimes came through the Ohio State University Research Foundation and sometimes through Battelle.

Thinking that someone who worked on these projects at Battelle might be able to shed some light on the existence of Special Report 13, I contacted a person who had been a manager on the Stork projects during the period of interest. I called and asked him if he remembered the final Air Force report on Blue Book. He did. When I referred to it as Number 14 and asked

him if he could remember if there was a 13, he replied that he didn't remember the numbers of the reports. He said that Battelle's Projects Stork and White Stork issued "Special Reports" on specific special studies. He guessed that the Number 14 just happened to come up when the UFO report was issued. Its numbering sequence would have had no connection with the status report numbers. The only "Special Report" that he remembers was the first, because he wrote it. It was a history of the first five years of Project Stork.

Thinking that the matter could be easily settled if only the 13th Project Stork Special Report could be found, I submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for the first thirteen Battelle Special Reports to the National Air Intelligence Center on August 8, 1995. As of the date of this Ohio UFO Notebook, my request is still pending. In response to periodic follow-up inquires the Air Force's Chief, Freedom of Information Act Office, TSgt. Gery D. Huelseman, replies that his office is still searching. Until the request produces differing results, it is my opinion that there is no Special Report 13 that deals with UFOs. I think we will discover it deals with some other aerospace subject, perhaps the structural integrity of the wings on a MIG-15 fighter plane, or some other such boring subject. Time will tell. If the Air Force locates the missing Special Reports perhaps a UFO myth will be put out to pasture in the near future.

Blue Book Source Material

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Randle, Kevin D, Project Blue Book Exposed, Marlowe & Company, New York, 1997

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RELEVANCE OF THIS MESSAGE: Gov't UFO investigations

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Created: Apr 20, 1998