

Command was keeping watch—so far with no results—and that specially qualified investigators had been assigned to look into the reports.

For several years the Air Force has checked all reports of unidentified flying objects. Investigators work under the Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colo., and report to the Air Technical Intelligence Center.

Judging from past findings, the chances are 50-1 the Air Force will offer a humdrum explanation for the current sightings.

During the first half of this year, the Air Force said, only 1.9 per cent of the 250 reported sightings of flying saucers and other fantastic aerial objects have wound up in the "unknown" category.

Air Force Skeptical

And the Air Force said firmly—though not all flying saucer buffs may agree—that it doesn't believe even the 1.9 per cent residue is made up of the things you read about in science fiction magazines.

Balloons, aircraft and such astronomical sights as meteorites and bright stars account—at least to the Air Force's official satisfaction—for almost four-fifths of the sightings.

The director of a private organization set up to investigate flying saucers and such said he couldn't evaluate at this point the current rash of reported sightings.

But retired Marine Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, added that the re-

ported objects may be something from another planet.

"Assuming they are real," he said, "they would be secret weapons made on earth or are interplanetary." Any nation with the secret, he added, would by now have abandoned conventional aircraft or missiles.

Cosmic Energy

"It looks as though they are interplanetary," Keyhoe said.

He said one source of power for such reported objects could be cosmic ray energy.

Some of the citizens, peace officers and servicemen who reported sighting mystery objects in the Southwest since the weekend said the objects stalled auto engines and caused radios to fade.

James Stokes, an engineer at the Air Force missile development center at Alamogordo, N. M., reported 10 autos were stalled Monday on a desert highway between Alamogordo and the White Sands (N. M.) Proving Grounds.

He reported seeing a soundless, "brilliant colored egg-shaped object" which flitted erratically across the countryside and left a sort of heat wave, "like radiation from a giant sun lamp," in its wake.

Device Sought

Leonard Hardlund, chief engineer for the National Inventors Council in Washington, said a device that could stall autos or other mechanical equipment was one of the things the armed forces would like to see developed.

But Hardlund said he knew of no research in this country aimed at producing such a device.

Two teen-age girls reported seeing a mysterious object in the sky over Annapolis, Md., last week.

Jean Hunt, 13, and Sylvia Fowler, 15, said they saw an egg-shaped object which glowed like a neon light. They spotted it while trick-or-treating with Jean's two younger sisters on Halloween night in Primrose Acres, a housing development on the outskirts of Annapolis.

Jean said the girls became frightened and ran home but no one would believe their story until weekend newspaper accounts told of a mystery object sighted in Texas.



Associated Press

J. G. Kirby of Dallas made this photo of a diamond shaped object flying through the sky while he and his family were driving near Amarillo, Tex., in August, 1956. The photo was turned over to the FBI and has just been released after intensive study. The Air Force described the glow as "radiation vapor."