

## **Air Force opens UFO archive!**

**Hypersonic speeds, jellyfish spacecraft and little spacemen. Over the years many different UFO sightings have been reported to Tactical Air Command.**

In 2007 the British Ministry of Defence opened its UFO archives, and since then Tactical Air Command has received frequent enquiries from the press about “when we are going to open our archives”.

And it's no secret that everyone is allowed to see the pale blue folder that makes up the Air Force's UFO report archive, but as yet no journalist has felt tempted to drop by ATC to look through the folder.

### **Speed: 18,000 km/h**

It mainly contains questionnaires with various data on the observed object, for example appearance, behaviour in the air and so on.

In January 1990 a man from Aarhus observes a “bright, shining object” late in the evening. By chance the man has a piece of equipment to measure the speed of the object: 18,000 km per hour.

And most of the reports received involve powerful light sources, moving in non-aircraft-like patterns, standing still or flying at abnormally great speed.

At the bottom of the forms, the military personnel filling them out give their immediate impression of the person who has seen something. Just as in so many other places, “reliable” appears on one, although with “Home Guard” added in parentheses. One is “sober”, another is evaluated to be “solid”, no matter whether they meant mentally or physically, and a third is just simply “Jutlandic”.

### **Russian rockets**

The latest questionnaire in the Air Force UFO folder is from 2002. Tactical Air Command now refers people instead to Scandinavian UFO Information, to allow them to write an actual sighting report.

“We probably get around three or four reports a year that have come through ATC, and maybe one from Naval Operations Command,” says Ole Henningsen from Scandinavian UFO Information. Altogether the organisation receives between 200 and 300 reports a year, around 30 photos and a few videos.

Also in the UFO folder are various newspaper cuttings, such as an article in *Aktuelt* from 15 November 1988 describing a meteor shower under the headline “Fireballs from Heaven”. In another article from 5 September 1986 *Herning Folkeblad* offers a range of theories on failed Russian rocket launches that resulted in no less than six calls from the public to Tactical Air Command.

Ole Henningsen considers the actual investigation of a report to be the most enjoyable part of his work, and when several people report they have seen something strange in the sky he starts ringing round to get to the bottom of the sightings. In May 2007 several people contacted Ole Henningsen with reports of spots of light on the horizon south of Lolland and Falster. With the help of radar pictures from Naviair, who control all civilian air traffic in Denmark, he was able to ascertain that they were military aircraft in the air east of Rostock.

“I get a sense of satisfaction from saying to someone, ‘My friend, what you have filmed is a foreign military aircraft’”.

### **The authorities are always hiding something**

Ole Henningsen does not believe in spacecraft from other planets himself, even though he has been interested in UFOs for 50 years and by his own admission has collected five metres of literature on the subject.

“Some sightings are incredibly fascinating and inexplicable, but the proof that someone is coming and visiting us has never been produced,” he says, and doubts that the armed forces and intelligence services possess such proof.

“It’s a common assumption among UFO enthusiasts that the authorities are always hiding something or other,” he says.

According to *Flyvevåbnet* magazine’s information, however, helicopter pilots have been known to fool earthlings by turning off their navigation lights and instead using a lamp between the cockpit windows and the rotors, thereby creating stroboscopic reflections.

### **Caption**

Drawing of some “ufonauts” observed on Funen in July 1982, sent out in a press release from Scandinavian UFO Information. “A close encounter of the third kind is not an everyday occurrence,” it says in the text.

### **Caption**

Here and there are drawings, diagrams illustrations of the observed objects. But there is only one photo – a jellyfish-like cloud seen over Viborg in November 1974. After a brief investigation it was found that “the weather conditions at the time in question were ideal for local cloud formation together with a short-term, concentrated smoke or steam leak from a factory or similar,” from which it was concluded that the phenomenon was caused by flushing of the boilers at the heating station in Asmildparken.

Translation: Mark Smith