



Australian Government
Department of Defence

DEFENCE INSTRUCTIONS (GENERAL)

Amendment

ADMIN 55-1 *Unusual Aerial Sightings policy*
AMDT NO 2
Complete Revision

Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

13 November 2000

Issued with the authority of the Chief of the Defence Force and the Secretary of the Department of Defence pursuant to section 9A of the *Defence Act 1903* for members of the Australian Defence Force.

Issued with the authority of the Secretary pursuant to section 20 of the *Public Service Act 1999* for Department of Defence Australian Public Service employees.

ALLAN HAWKE
Secretary

C.A. BARRIE
Admiral, RAN
Chief of the Defence Force

LIST B—ISSUE NO ADMIN B/10/2000

Single Service filing instructions

This instruction should be filed as:

1. NAVY ADMIN 65-7
2. ARMY ADMIN 77-1
3. AIR FORCE ADMIN 13-7

Sponsor:

Chief of Air Force

Sponsor contact:

Director Coordination—Air Force

Review Date: 13 November 2003

Cancellation

DI(G) ADMIN 55-1 ISSUE NO ADMIN B/9/96 of 27 AUG 96 is cancelled.

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

1. For many years the RAAF was responsible for the handling of Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS) at the official level. This function ceased in 1996 after consideration of the scientific record suggested that there was no compelling reason for the RAAF to continue to devote resources to the recording and investigation of UAS.

AIM

2. The aim of this instruction is to provide revised general guidelines to members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) when dealing with members of the public who seek to report UAS activity.

POLICY

Unusual aerial sightings reporting

3. The ADF does not accept reports on UAS and does not attempt assignment of cause or allocation of reliability. Members of the community who seek to report UAS to ADF personnel are to be referred to their local police authorities in the first instance, or alternatively to seek contact numbers for civil Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) research organisations from the relevant State telephone directory. The ADF does not have an affiliation with any existing civil UFO organisations, and referral to State telephone directories does not constitute official sanction or endorsement of the organisations contained therein.

Unusual aerial sightings of potential concern to authorities

4. Some UAS may relate to events that have a defence, security or public safety implication, such as man-made debris falling from space or a burning aircraft. Where members of the community may have witnessed an event of this type they are to be encouraged to contact the police or civil aviation authorities. Any identified aerial activity which appears to have an obvious defence implication will be investigated.

Media involvement

5. There are occasions when media organisations will seek information regarding the ADF's policy on UAS. Inquiries of this nature should be directed to the RAAF's senior Public Relations officer Public Affairs Coordination—Air Force at Air Force Headquarters (02) 6265 5453.

Sponsor: DBM-AF