

ALIEN INVASION WAR PLAN

Background

1. Throughout history, people have seen strange things in the sky that they were unable to identify. In June 1947 this concept attained international recognition following a number of US sightings of what were dubbed “flying discs” or “flying saucers”. These terms were largely replaced by the term “unidentified flying object”, or UFO. A popular theory was (and still is) that these were extraterrestrial spacecraft.

2. In line with many other nations, the UK ran a small project looking at UFO sightings. The MoD was the lead Department, on the basis that looking at UFO sightings was consistent with maintaining the territorial integrity of the United Kingdom Air Defence Region. The terms of reference were to investigate sightings and assess whether there was any evidence of a potential threat to the UK, or anything of more general defence interest.

3. Most UFO sightings turned out to be misidentifications of known objects or phenomena. A smaller number turned out to be hoaxes, or reports from people suffering from mental illness, or from some condition that generates hallucinations. However, MoD was unable to explain around 5% of UFO sightings in conventional terms. In some instances (e.g. the Rendlesham Forest incident in December 1980, the UK’s best-known UFO sighting) there was credible evidence to support an exotic, non-conventional explanation for what was seen. Notwithstanding this, our line to Parliament, the media and the public has always been that UFOs were judged to be of “no defence significance”.

Situation

4. Our first warning of any alien invasion is likely to come from the Deep Space Network, the Hubble Space Telescope and other telescopes.

Planning Assumptions

5. The lack of any intelligence on alien capabilities and intents constrains our planning assumptions, but in relation to extraterrestrials it is reasonable to surmise that if ‘they’ discover us, ‘they’ are our technological superiors. We must therefore make plans on the basis of the worst-case scenario in terms of the technology and weaponry that we might face. It would be inconceivable that a civilisation capable of viable interstellar travel did not possess the knowledge to build and the capability to deliver nuclear, chemical or biological weapons – or something more destructive. Simply stated, there is no doubt that an extraterrestrial civilisation capable of reaching Earth would possess weapons of mass destruction. An alien invasion would constitute an existential threat having the potential to destroy or seriously degrade civilisation and perhaps life itself. It would be orders of magnitude beyond any previous threat faced by the human race. In the face of an alien invasion, nations would doubtless set aside their differences and unite against the common foe.

Strategic and Operational Direction

6. In the most likely scenario, HMG will make a substantial military contribution to a US-led coalition. However, in any circumstances where UK forces are operating