

Baltic UFO Investigation Center
Ufobaltics.net

Operations Guidelines

Document for members of Baltic UFO Investigation Center

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Our fields of investigation:.....	4
Structure of the Baltic UFO Investigation Center:.....	5
1. Gathering information.....	7
2. Information criteria.....	8
3. Reaction.....	9
4. Data archive.....	11
5. Contribution.....	12
6. Problem solving and guidelines development.....	13

Introduction

This document is created for Research Team members of Baltic UFO Research Center (the “*Ufobaltics*“). All activities made by *Ufobaltics* are regulated by this document – including research operations, data analysis, archiving and publishing, problem solving and others. Every team member has to conform these guidelines so the work we make could be systematic, high quality and our collected data could be archived and then further analyzed.

This document is a basic guideline of operations, which work in conjunction with our other published methods and protocols:

1. *UFO analysis manual*, published on Mar 6/2013.
2. *Witness interview protocol*, published on June 14/2016.
3. *Field investigation manual*, published by MUFON.
4. *UFO encounter recommendations*, published on Jan 9/2017.
5. *Expedition safety protocol*, published on Jan 9/2017.
6. *Archive maintenance and security guidelines*, published Oct 24/2015.
7. *Abductees interviewing recommendations*, published on Jul 16/ 2016.
8. *UFO witness psychological portrait description method*, published on Jun 15/2016.

Our fields of investigation:

1. Analysis of any information related to the unexplained phenomena, possibly influenced by extraterrestrial activities.
2. Disclosing conspiracy theories related to extraterrestrial activities.
3. Looking for patterns of UFO sightings by studying archived data by using statistical meta-analysis methods.
4. Field expeditions organization.
5. Search for scientifically valid evidence of extraterrestrial activity on earth.
6. Communication with UFO witnesses, abductees and their psychological support.
7. Public education – a presentation of achievements in the ufology field to the society.

Structure of the Baltic UFO Investigation Center:

- **Research coordinator**
- **Research Teams**
- **Archive Team**
- **Support Team**
- **Academic consultants**

Depending on the competence and interests of the volunteer, one person can be in multiple teams.

Research coordinator

Research Coordinator organizes investigations and research process, assigns case numbers, and sums up the findings of all researchers. The research coordinator is responsible for adding the data presented by the research teams and only when confirmed that it cannot be explained scientifically. However, the coordinator does not make any administrative decisions, the purpose of research coordination is to achieve a better collaboration between our research and archive teams in effort to produce quality outcome. Research coordinator is elected once in year.

Research Teams

We have several research teams in the Baltic countries. The investigators analyze UFO reports, carry out field expeditions, interview witnesses, collect possible evidence. They do the most important part of our work, collecting invaluable information – from the real world, real places, real people.

Archive Team

Our archive team has several responsibilities – they administer our web page, maintain and organize electronic archive and analyzes data in it, often finding some new clues in our cases that need to be investigated again by our research team. Other side of their work – statistical meta-analysis of existing data, looking for a pattern between unexplained phenomenon. The research coordinator is responsible for fluent collaboration between archive and research teams.

Support Team

Support Team is a small group of volunteers interested in maintaining the community of abductees and UFO witnesses from psychological aspect, counseling them and creating environment where people are not afraid to tell their stories. They talk to them by phone, emails, organize meetings in an effort to connect different people with similar experiences.

Academic Consultants

They are people interested in explaining the unexplained, but not necessarily the members of the *Ufobaltics*. They help us a lot when we find it difficult to work with some kinds of information.

These nice people are astronomers, meteorologists, physicists, engineers, doctors, psychologists, photography experts and other professionals.

Anonymity

Because ufology is full of controversy and we work with sensitive and sometimes even dangerous info, we have implemented security and privacy measures to protect the identities of our members and contributors. Excessive measures are taken to protect their anonymity. That is because in some cases our contributors would rather not to risk their academic careers or reputation. Our witnesses and abductees being the most vulnerable part of the equation. Another reason is to protect our members from being influenced by any possible outside manipulation.

We always confirm our sources, but we never share any names on our papers or research articles.

1. Gathering information

Information about unexplained phenomena can reach us in these ways:

1.1 Witness report:

- 1.1.1. Through „UFO report“ form at *Ufobaltics*;
- 1.1.2. Via partner web pages report forms, similar to *Ufobaltics*;
- 1.1.3. Email;
- 1.1.4. Directly provided by witness;
- 1.1.5. Other.

1.2 Published by our investigator:

- 1.2.1. An expedition report;
- 1.2.2. Analysis results;
- 1.2.3. Investigative report;
- 1.2.4. Descriptive review;
- 1.2.5. Personal close encounter.

1.3 Found on the internet.

1.4 Provided by partner organizations/websites.

1.5 Other.

2. Information criteria

We gather various kind of information in our work. Not all of this data is suitable for analysis. Often there is a lack of detail or the information itself is not reliable. That's why we always contact witnesses and ask for more data. After we get all the required information, we decide if we should open a case - its type and how the analysis should be approached.

We often get false reports, either intentionally or accidentally provided for us. Our investigators are trained in psychological methodology to discern such reports. We have prepared several manuals/recommendations for this exact reason, such as “*UFO witness psychological portrait description method*”, “*Witness interview protocol*” and “*UFO analysis method*”, all these include some tactics how to determine a lie. Also most of our investigators have lots of first hand experience applying these methods, so we assume that our investigators has enough competence to determine the reliability of data.

Any information received by our research team is attributed to these primary types:

2.1 Information is from acknowledged trustworthy source and is suitable for analysis. Types

(and naming conventions, see paragraph 3):

2.1.1. UFO sighting in the sky (X) – (eXtraterrestrial);

2.1.2. UFO sighting on the ground (G), (Ground);

2.1.3. Close encounters (C) (Close);

2.1.4. Photography or video (P) (Photography);

2.1.5. Anomalous device or automobile malfunction (M) (Malfunction);

2.1.6. Person abduction (A) (Abduction);

2.1.7. Unexplained death of a person (people) (D) (Death);

2.1.8. Unexplained animal mutilations (S) (Slaughter);

2.1.9. Expedition (field investigation) report (E) (Expedition);

2.1.10 Investigative Expedition to collect more data (I) (Investigative);

2.1.11. Other evidence (O) (Other).

2.2 Information is reliable, but there is lack of data for analysis. Our possible actions:

2.2.1. Interviewing the witness;

2.2.2. Investigative expedition;

2.2.3. Checking meteorology, astronomy or plane flight databases;

2.2.4. Consulting scientists to collect more data;

2.2.5. No feedback, witness is unreachable.

2.3 Information is not trustworthy. There is no investigation performed.

2.4 Information does not conform to our scope of investigations. Investigation canceled.

3. Reaction

If the information we receive is suitable for an investigation, the research coordinator immediately assigns a research team and opens a case. The research coordinator also maintains communication between the witness and the research team, if applicable. The primary goal is to scientifically explain the unexplained event. If after all the phases of processing the information still cannot be explained, the research coordinator sends collected data to the Archive Team, where it is processed and archived. The members of this team then prepare a summary article about that particular case and publish it on our website. Not all cases are published; it depends on every case individually – sometimes there is too little to be published, sometimes the information is too sensitive or possibly can make harm to somebody if published.

We store only carefully checked and confirmed unexplained phenomena in our archive. This is required to make correct meta-analysis and statistics, because most of the time the Archive Team researches that information to find a pattern or new clues, often invoking repeated investigations.

Research coordinator assigns a unique number to every case.

Case numbering example: IG200/1/2

The letter shows the type of event.

The number is assigned to a person, event or place.

The slash after the number indicates multiple reports, another slash – our actions count.

In this example letter *I* stands for Investigative Expedition, *G* stands for Grounded object, 200 – number of a person who reported it, /1 – this was first report, /2 this was our second expedition to this particular report.

Letter naming conventions are written in Chapter 2, Paragraph 2.1.

If, for example, a field investigation (I) is conducted on an UFO sighting report (X) then both letters are used making the case an IX. The same applies to photographs (P), malfunctions (M), unexplained people death (D), unexplained animal slaughter (S).

Reaction to information protocol:

3.1 If there is an easy explanation to a newly gathered data, anybody in the moment available from the research team can post an answer. For example – if the reported object is clearly an airplane, satellite or passes as clearly a common phenomenon, the case number for the investigation is not assigned. The witness would still be replied to with an explanation.

3.1.1. If the data requires extended analysis, then the research team initiates an investigation, and assigns an event number. Then the investigation is conducted by our written „*UFO analysis method*“. When the investigation is finished, the report is then sent to the research coordinator. The research coordinator then performs one of these actions:

- 3.1.1.1. Publish officially;
 - 3.1.1.2. Return to the investigator to fine down some data;
 - 3.1.1.3. Give the case to other investigator;
 - 3.1.1.4. Summon an meeting (can be performed online) and discuss the case with all investigators.
- 3.2 If the received information is very difficult and requires a more extended analysis:
- 3.2.1. The research is conducted by all investigators at the same time and the reports are then sent to research coordinator. The actions then are made by 3.1.1.1-4 paragraph.
- 3.3 If there is an additional effort required to solve a case, the research coordinator organizes:
- 3.3.1. A personal eye-to-eye interview with a witness, conducted by any of our investigators, in accordance with our “*Witness interview protocol*“;
 - 3.3.2. A field expedition, in accordance with our “*Witness interview protocol*“;
 - 3.3.3. Consulting the scientists or the required specialty professionals;
 - 3.3.4. Other action, unforeseen in this protocol.
- 3.4 If after conducted an extensive research the data cannot be explained – then it is archived for future reference and analysis. The article in our website about the data and investigation process has to be created by the web admin.

4. Data archive

Many ufology organizations make mistakes when it comes to archiving data. They archive all data they get. *Ufobaltics* foster a special insight on how to archive data. We have written our own method on archiving data, putting emphasis on archiving only the unexplained phenomena worth looking into. Naturally, we try to explain it first, using the scientific methods available and consulting the scientists. If the archived data becomes explainable we remove it from the archive. We do it for a good reason - our archive data is periodically analyzed and has to be suitable for performing an **investigatory systemic meta-analysis**. Only truthful data is valid for such. During this process we are searching for patterns between unexplained phenomena.

4.1 Archive is maintained only by the *Ufobaltics* archive team.

4.2 Only the research coordinator can import data to the archive:

4.2.1. Important information imported to the archive only when nobody from the research team can explain it;

4.2.2. The research coordinator is responsible in making sure no scientifically explainable data is in our archive. If there is a newly explained archived item, it must be flagged as explained and removed from the archive instantly.

4.3 Archive is organized by conforming to “*Archive maintenance and security guidelines*”.

4.4 Only *Ufobaltics* members can read the archive. The archive contains sensitive research data (like witness contact data) and cannot be made public. The data from archive is used to create and publish articles on our website.

4.5 Archive has to be secure and its system regularly updated.

5. Contribution

We appreciate the professional help from independent people who contribute to our work and who help in explaining the cases where specialty knowledge is required. Outside input is very welcome and we are always open to new people. However only a select few investigators have access to the archive and have to have extensive previous first hand experience in field work, adhere to strict security rules and be thoroughly capable of working in terms of our written protocols. The same requirements are needed for the investigators performing field work. These requirements are set in order to have a high standard of research and to make our data output positively received by the scientific community.

However any external help are always appreciated, especially from academic or science community.

5.1 Requirements for becoming a member of a research team:

- 5.1.1. At least a year of regular contribution to our work;
- 5.1.2. Attending to at least three field expeditions as spectator with one of our research teams;
- 5.1.3. Having been evaluated by at least one of our members;
- 5.1.4. Having at least a bachelor degree in science field or long-term experience as an active ufologist;
- 5.1.5. Having no connections with intelligence services of any country;
- 5.1.6. Being comfortable working in harsh and rapid changing conditions.

5.2 Requirements for a member of the archive team:

- 5.2.1. Has the knowledge of computer security systems;
- 5.2.2. Data management skills;
- 5.2.3. Long term previous contribution to our work;
- 5.2.4. Thorough knowledge of our data management protocols;
- 5.2.5. Good analytic thinking and ability to recognize patterns in large amounts of data;
- 5.2.6. Being deemed trustworthy by other members of the team is a must.

5.3 Requirements for a member of the support team:

- 5.3.1. Has a degree or work experience in psychology field;
- 5.3.2. Has a desire to help people.

6. Problem solving and guidelines development

Ufobaltics is open, friendly and democratic organization and these guidelines are made in an effort to develop a professional approach to ufology. If there are questions or if you are uncertain about the guidelines, please contact our community members or research coordinator. We continuously develop our methods and the feedback is always appreciated. All the problems are being solved in discussion groups.

Development:

- 6.1 Protocols, methods and recommendations are updated by research coordinator.
- 6.2 Dates of publishing and updates are imprinted on the first page of every document.
- 6.3 The updated protocols are sent to the teams by email.
- 6.4 Proposals and feedback from members are submitted to the research coordinator.
- 6.5 Minor problems are discussed by mailing lists.
- 6.6 Solutions to major problems are released by updated documents.