

4602D AISS UFOB LOG

1 REPORT NO.

AISS-UFOB-116-55

2 DATE RECD HQ 4602D AISS 3 DATE/TIME RECD IN OPS

28 April 1955

28/2020 Z April 1955

4 LOGGED BY

Sgt Crawford

5 DATE/TIME OF SIGHTING

28/1820Z April 1955

6 LOCATION OF SIGHTING

Dahlgren Naval Base, Virginia

7 GEOREF

8 MEANS RECD 9 INITIAL ACTION

TT Mag

Investigation Authorized

10 INVS UNIT

Flight 3-H

11 INVS ASSIGNED BY

Commercial Phone

12 DATE INVS ASSIGNED

28 April 1955

13 ASSIGNING OFFICER

Captain Bronstein

14 DATE IR RECD AT HQ

15 DATE IR APPROVED

16 DATE IR SENT TO ATIC

17 AISOP FORM 5 FILED

3 June 55

18 COMMENTS

Investigated by Flt 3-H with the following conclusions:

19 CONCLUSIONS

Probably Balloon: Radio-sonde Balloon

Dps 28/0100Z

ACSR 72

OK for follow up investigation

(Signature)

*3/17
Thurs
1530*

ENO 04
EN223 YMA200LSA221
OO JEDEN JEPNY JEDWP JEPHQ
DE JEDLS 01H
O 281950Z
FM COMDR FLT SVC CNTR OLMSTED AFB PA
TO JEDEN/ CMDR ADC ENT AFB ROLORADO
JEPNY/ CMDR 26TH AD DEF ROSLYN NY
JEDWP/ CMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTEL CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO
DEPHQ/ DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASH "5 DC
BT
UFOB

1 DESCRIPTION

- A ROUND
- B. 20-30 FEET DIAMETER
USING GRND THEOLITE
- C. SILVER METALLIC
- D. ONE
- E. N/A
- F. ELONGATE AND WAVER COULD BE ILLUSION
- G. NONE

35-11

PAGE TWO JEDLS 01

- H. NONE
- I. NONE

2 DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

- A. TAKING PIBAL AND TRACKING IT WHEN THEY CAME UPON UFOB
- B. 31.8 DEG ELEV "40 DEG RELATIVE BEARING FROM DAHLGREN OPERATIONS VA.
16 MILES AT 28/1820Z 19.8 DEG ELEV "59 DEG TRUE BEARING AT 28/1940Z
FROM SAME LOCOTION
- C. STILL VISIBLE AT 29 DEG
- D. MOVING VERY SLOWLY DROPPED TO 29 DEG ELVE 245 DEG RELATIVE BEARING
AT 28/1820Z
- E. STILL PRESENT
- F. 1 HR 30 MINS
- 3. MANNER OF OBSERVATION
- A. GROUND VISUAL AND GROUND ELECTRONIC - AIR SURVEILLANCE RADAR
- B. THEDL

TES

- C. N/A
- 4. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

- A. 281820Z
- B. DAY

5. LOCATION OF OBSERVER

LAT 3820N 770"W AT DAHLGREN BASE OPNS VA

PAGE THREE JEDLS 01H

BYM IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVERS

A. N/A

B. DAVID ROBINSON AGI NAVAL PROVING GRD DAHLGREN VA WEA OBSERVOR

W.A. CONLON AGI SAME ORGAN AND SAME DUTY

RELIABILITY UNK

7. WEATHER AND WINDS ALOFT CONDITION AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTING

A. 250 SCATTERED CLDS 20000 SCATTERED CLDS VIS 15 MILES WINDS SSW 25 KTS

B. 6000 FT 3010 DEG 24 KT

10000 FT 020 DEG 17 KT

16000 FT 040 DEG 11 KT

20000 FT 090 DEG GPE KT

BEPPPP FT 10 DEG 13 KT

50000 FT 250 DEG 06 KT

80000 FT 260 DEG 15 KT

C. SAME AS 7 A ABOVE

DBM 15 MILSE

E. 2/1

F. N/A

8. NONE

PAGE FOUR DEDLS 01H

9. AD TYPE A/C BUT OUT OF RANGE 35-40000 FT

10 NONE

11. OPERATION OFFICER FLT SVC CEN OLMSTED AFB PA

POSSIBLY WEA BATTOON SINCE WINDS ARE NEGLI9)3

212 NONE

BT

2 /2015T AHR JEDLS

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

(SECURITY INFORMATION when filled in)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN USA	REPORT NO. 3H-UFCB-4-55	(Leave blank)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
AREA REPORT CONCERNS DAHLGREN, VIRGINIA		
AGENCY OF ORIGIN Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	DATE OF REPORT 6 May 1955	
SOURCE OF INFORMATION William A. Conlon and others	DATE OF INFORMATION 28 April 1955	
PREPARING OFFICER CHESTER B. HANSON, Captain, USAF	EVALUATION	

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

Phone conversation between Capt. Bronstein, Hq., 4602d AISS and Capt. Hanson
28 Apr 55. TT MSG FM COMDR SVC CNTR OLMSTED AFB PA, dated 23/1950Z April.

SUBJECT

UFCB

SUMMARY (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 118a.)

I. COMMENTS:

PART ONE: Description of sighting by AG1 William A. Conlon, Aerology Office, US Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Va. (GJNJ 5820).

PART TWO: Description of sighting by AG1 David F. Robinson, Aerology Office, US Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Va.

PART THREE: Supplementary Investigative Efforts

PART FOUR: Comments of Preparing Officer

II. SUMMARY: An unidentified flying object was sighted at Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia (GJNJ 5820) at 28/1620Z April. The information contained in this report was obtained from persons observing this object and from an investigation conducted to determine the possible cause of the sighting.

III. INVESTIGATORS: M/Sgt Wolfgang R. Thoennessen AF 12014950



CHESTER B. HANSON
Captain, USAF
Officer in Charge

2

INCL.

(See individual Parts)

APPROVED



JOHN M. WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

D/I, USAF; Comdr, ATIC; D/I, 26th ADiv; Comdr, 4602d AISS; OIC, Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS;

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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1946

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3H-UFOB-4-55

Part One

PAGE 2

OF

8

PAGES

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

I. SOURCE: William A. Conlon

Address: Aerology Office, US Naval Proving Ground,
Dahlgren, Virginia

Age: 32

Occupation: Petty Officer 1st Class, USN

Education: High school graduate

Qualifications: Aerographer

II. RELIABILITY: Unknown. SOURCE was contacted by phone.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE had released a weather balloon from his station at operations, Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia (GJNJ 5820) and was tracking it by use of a theodolite when at 28/1820Z April SOURCE observed an object in the sky in the general direction of the weather balloon. SOURCE discontinued further observation of the weather balloon and trained the theodolite, estimated 20X, on the object.

The object as seen through the eyepiece of the theodolite was the size of the head of a pin. It could not be seen with the naked eye.

The object was round, white in color, and had sharply defined edges. It appeared that it did assume an elongated shape at times and wavered.

SOURCE notified AGI David F. Robinson of the sighting (refer to Part Two, this report). He then continued tracking the object, recording elevations and bearings.

In the course of observing the object, SOURCE was informed that the local, alerted radar station had received returns from the object by use of Air Surveillance Radar. From his own records and those available from the radar station SOURCE estimated that the object was at an altitude of 38 000 feet and was 20 to 30 feet in diameter.

SOURCE believed that the object may have been a balloon of the sky-hook type, but since he had no experience with large balloons he did not want to commit himself.

The information contained in the following paragraphs of Incl. 1, TT message from Commander, 26th AD, dated 28/2340Z was furnished by SOURCE: 1 Description, A, B, D & F; 2 Description of Course, A, B, C, D, E, F; 7 Weather and Winds-aloft Conditions, A, B, C, D, E, & F.

SOURCE observed the object for a period of one hour and 56 minutes.

1 Incl:

1. TT MSG FRM CMC 26TH ADIV BOSLYN NY

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

REPORT NO.

3-H-UFOB-4-55

Part One

PAGE

3

OF

8

PAGES

Incl. #1, PART ONE

FM MSG FM COC 26TH ADIV ROSLYN NY

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

NY001

OO JEPME

DE JEPNY 67

O 282340Z

FM COC 26TH ADIV ROSLYN NY

TO FLIGHT 3H 4602 AISS MC GUIRE AFB JEW JERSEY

O 281950Z

FM COMDR FLT SVC CNTR OLMSTED AFB PA

TO JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO

JEPNY/COMDR 26TH AD DEF ROSLYN NY

JEDWP/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTEL CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

DEPHE/DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASH. 5 DC

BT

UFOB

1 DESCRIPTION

A. ROUND

BAW 20-30 FEET DIAMETER

USING GRND THECLITE

C. SILVER METALLIC

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. ELONGATE AND WAVER COULD BE ILLUSION

G. NONE

PAGE TWO JEDLS 01

H. NONE

I. NONE

2 DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

A. TAKING PIBAL AND TRACKING IT WHEN THEY CAME UPON UFOB

B. 31.8 DEG ELEV "40 DEG RELATIVE BEARING FROM DAHLGREN OPERATIONS VA;

16 MILES AT 28/1820Z 19.8 DEG ELEV "59 DEG TRUE BEARING AT 28/1940Z

FROM SAME LOCATION

C. STILL VISIBLE AT 29 DEG

D. MOVING VERY SLOWLY DROPPED TO 29 DEG ELVE 245 DEG RELATIVE BEARING

AT 28/1820Z

E. STILL PRESENT

F. 1 HR 30 MINS

3. MANNER OF OBSERVATION

A. GROUND VISUAL AND GROUND ELECTRONIC - AIR SURVEILLANCE RADAR

B. THECLTES

C. N/A

4. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

A. 281820Z

B. DAY

5. LOCATION OF OBSERVER

AF FORM 112-PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3H-UFOB-4-55

Part One

PAGE

4

OF

8

PAGES

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

PAGE THREE JEDLS 01H

BYM IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVERS

A. N/A

B. DAVID ROBISON AGI NAVAL PROVING GRD DAHLGREN VA WEA OBSERVOR

W.A. CONLON AGI SAME ORGAN AND SAME DUTY

RELIABILITY UNK

7. WEATHER AND WINDS ALOFT CONDITION AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTING

A. 250 SCATTERED CLDS 20000 SCATTERED CLDS VIS 15 MILES WINDS SSW 25 KTS

B. 6000 FT 3010 DEG 24 KT

10000 FT 020 DEG 17 KT

16000 FT 040 DEG 11 KT

20000 FT 090 DEG GPE KT

30000 FT 10 DEG 13 KT

50000 FT 250 DEG 06 KT

80000 FT 260 DEG 15 KT

C. SAME AS ABLVE

DBM 15. MILSE

E. 2/1

F. N/A

8. NONE

PAGE FOUR JEDLS 01H

9. AD TYPE A/C BUT OUT OF RANGE 35-40000 FT

10. NONE

11. OPERATION OFFICER FLT SVC CEN OLMSTED AFB PA

POSSIBLY WEA BATTOON SINCE WINDS ARE NEGLIGABLE

12. NONE

BT

2/2015T AHR JEDLS

TRUE COPY:

Chester B Hanson

CHESTER B HANSON
Captain, USAF

FORM 112-PART II
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Two	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Flight 3-B, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-4-55		8	8	

I. SOURCE: David F. Robinson

Address: Aerology Office, US Naval Proving Ground,
Dahlgren, Virginia

Age: 27

Occupation: Petty Officer 1st Class, USN

Education: High school graduate

Qualification: Aerographer

II. RELIABILITY: Unknown. SOURCE was contacted by phone.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE was working inside the Operations building, Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia (GJNJ 5820) when at 28/1820Z April he was called outside by AGI William A. Conlon (refer to Part One, this report) who had spotted an object through the eyepiece of the theodolite he was then using in tracking a weather balloon which had just been released at this station.

SOURCE went outside to have a look at the object which could not be seen with the naked eye. He stated that the object as observed through the theodolite was the size of the head of a pin.

The color of the object appeared to be a metallic silver and its edges were sharply defined.

It moved at a relatively slow speed and did not change its course. SOURCE believed that it moved South-West to West from his point of observation.

The object was round, but it seemed to take on an elongated shape at times, and also waver.

SOURCE had no explanation for the object and returned inside the Operations Building to notify his superiors and remained at the telephone, handling all phone traffic in reference to the object. He left for brief periods to have another look.

From 28/1820Z to 28/1940Z SOURCE observed the object intermittently for an estimated total period of five minutes.

SOURCE stated that the object might have been a balloon of a type unknown to him because his experience was limited to the regular type weather balloon which bursts upon reaching certain altitudes.

SOURCE had never observed anything like this object before.

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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3H-UFOB-4-55

Part Three

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

PAGE 6

OF

8

PAGES

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION EFFORTS:

1. A check with Andrews AFB (GJPJ 0818) Operations and Weather was made for balloon releases at the time of the sighting. Negative results.
2. Operations and Weather of the Marine Air Station at Quantico (GJNJ 4230) was checked with for balloon releases at the time of sighting. Negative results.
3. The US Weather Service, Washington, D.C. (GJNJ 5856) was contacted for information of balloon releases in the Chesapeake Area at the time of sighting. Negative results.
4. Operations and Weather of Langley AFB (GJPH 1010) were contacted for information of balloon releases. Negative results.
5. Fleet Weather Central, Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia (GJPG 4356) was contacted and furnished the following information by phone and TT message:

Fleet Weather Central released a Rasonde balloon at 28/1403Z April which was 82 inches long, flaccid and white. An AN/AMT 4A Rasonde was attached.

The balloon was lost at 28/1436Z. Last azimuth obtained 277 degrees. Last elevation angle 60.3 degrees. Location at termination approximately 5 miles west of Norfolk Naval Station. Altitude at termination 45,774 feet.

Weather data during observed flight of balloon:

Altitude	Degrees	Knots
5 000	008	24
10 000	033	15
16 000	062	08
20 000	143	12
25 000	142	09
30 000	153	14
35 000	182	06
40 000	138	15
45 000	190	08

Information received by phone conversation with the Fleet Weather Central revealed that there was a good possibility that the object sighted at the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia was the Rasonde balloon released at Norfolk Naval Base.

6. For weather data at the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia at the time of sighting refer to paragraph 7.A,B,C,D,E, of inclosure 1, Part One, this report.

1 Inclosure:

AF FORM 112-PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3H-UFOB-4-55

Part Three

PAGE 7

OF

8

PAGES

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

Incl. #1, PART THREE
TT MSG FM FLEWEACEN NORVA

M245 TTC1

MEAO34 M245 TTC150BT275

BEK A320

BEKA 270

RR JEPME

DE BEKAA 12

R 031430Z

FM FLEWEACEN NORVA

TO MCGUIRE AFB

NAVY GRMC

BT

PASS TO OIC FLT 3H 4602 AIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SQUADRON X FONECON
OF 2 MAY REFERS X FWC NORVA RELEASED 500 GM RASONDE BALLOON 281403Z
APRIL X SITE 82 IN LENGTH FLACCID X COLOR WHITE X AN/AMT 4A RASONDE
ATTACHED X LAST AZIMUTH OBTAINED 277 DEG X LAST ELEVATION ANGLE 60.3
DEG X LOCATION AT TERMINATION APPROX 5 MI WEST NAS NORFOLK X WX DURING
FLT 3000 FT BRKN CLDS VIS 8 MI X ALT OF BALLOON AT TERMINATION
45774 FT X BALLOON LOST AT 281436Z X WINDS DURING FLT SFC 000 DEG
14 KTS X 5000 FT 008 24 X 10000 FT 033 15 X 16000 FT 062 08 X 20000
FT 143 12 X 25000 FT 142 09 X 30000 FT 152 X 35000 FT 182 06 X
40000 FT 138 15 X 45000 FT 190 08

BT

CEN 3H 4602 2 500 281403Z 82 44 277 60.3 5 3000 8 45774 281436Z 000
14 5000 008 24 10000 033 15 16000 062 08 20000 143 12 25000 142 09
03/1505Z MAY BEKAA

TRUE COPY:

Chester B. Hanson
CHESTER B HANSON
Captain, USAF

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

3H-UFOB-4-55

Part Four

PAGE

8

OF

8

PAGES

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

1. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, this sighting was probably caused by the Rasonde balloon releases by Fleet Weather Central, Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia for the following reasons:

a. The object's general behavior and appearance was that of a balloon and the color of the object as described by SOURCE AG1 Conlon coincided with the color of the Rasonde balloon.

b. Both SOURCES agreed that the object could have been a balloon but were not sure because of inexperience with large type balloons, size of object, altitude of object, radar returns from object and direction of course.

- (1) The size of the object as given by SOURCE William F. Conlon (20 to 30 feet in diameter) was computed from two estimates, altitude 38 000 feet and image size in eyepiece of theodolite (head of a pin). SOURCE stated that this may be inaccurate.
- (2) An AN/AMT 4A Rasonde was attached to the balloon and according to information furnished by Fleet Weather Central, this equipment would give a radar return.
- (3) One of the main factors causing SOURCES to doubt that the object was a balloon was its course. However, Fleet Weather Central at Norfolk estimated that the course of the balloon would be approximately in a north-west direction.

Chester B Hanson

CHESTER B HANSON
Captain, USAF
Officer-in-Charge

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Concur in the opinion of the Preparing Officer that sighting was caused by the designated Rasonde balloon released at Norfolk Naval Base.

Imw