

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE <u>18 Apr 52</u>		LOCATION <u>Bethesda, Maryland</u>		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☒ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>0130</u> GMT <u>10 0630</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE <u>4 civilians</u>			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION <u>4-8 seconds</u>		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS <u>7-9</u>		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING <u>Orange-yellow color. Lights in V Formation.</u> <u>Straight and level maneuvers.</u>				11. COMMENTS <u>Sighted V shaped formation of lights.</u> <u>Data on formation in report.</u> <u>No a/c in area.</u>	

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CSAF ITEM 9/P

UNCLASSIFIED

TT 102
18 Apr 52
CSAF ITEM 9
ATIAA

TO ATIAA-2C RUPPELT FM AFOIN-V/TC FOURNET
18 APR 52

FOLLOWING INFO REPORTED THIS MORNING VIA TELEPHONE BY MR

██████████. NW, WASHINGTON, D.C.:

AT ABOUT 0100 HRS TODAY, WHILE STANDING IN YARD OF FRIEND IN
BETHESDA, MD., MR ██████████ AND 3 FRIENDS OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO
SPHERICAL OBJECTS FLYING IN VEE FORMATION. OBJECTS DESCRIBED AS FAINT
OR DIFFUSED LIGHT, ORANGE IN COLOR AND FAIRLY SHARPLY DEFINED. FORMATION
CONTAINED BETWEEN 7 AND 15 OBJECTS, ALL PERFECTLY SPACED AND MAINTAINING
PERFECT FORMATION. INCLUDED ANGLE OF VEE ESTIMATED AT 40 DEGREES. FIRST
OBSERVED IN SSE AT ELEVATION OF ABOUT 50 DEG. TRAVERSED ARC APPROX 100 DEG IN
ABOUT 5 SECONDS AND LOST FROM VIEW ALMOST DUE NORTH AT APPROX 30 DEG ELEVATION.
NO SOUND HEARD. ESTIMATED THAT OBJECTS ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF
TOTAL SPACE ALONG A LEG OF THE VEE. WEATHER DESCRIBED AS CLEAR WITH NO
CLOUDS NOTICED.

██████████ L SEEMED TO BE VERY INTELLIGENT, SINCERE AND MOST COOPERATIVE. THIS IS
PRELIMINARY INFO. WILL MAKE EFFORT TO CONTACT OTHER THREE OBSERVERS THIS
AFTERNOON, THEN, IF IT APPEARS WARRANTED, WILL CHECK ON JET FLIGHTS FROM
ANDREWS. WILL ADVISE YOU OF ANY OTHER DETAILS WHICH BECOME AVAILABLE. PLS
ADVISE WHAT ACTION YOU CONTEMPLATE, IF ANY.

END CSAF ITEM 9

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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(See instructions on reverse side of this page)

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18 APR 52
BETHESDA, W.

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(If more space is needed, continue on a plain sheet of paper.)

ATTN: FORM 200 (11 Dec 51)

SECURITY STAMP

UNCLASSIFIED

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING AND SUBMITTING FORM

1. Submit ONE copy of the completed form to ATIPA by 1000 hours of day message is to be sent. Unless special arrangements are made with ATIPA for late submission, messages received after 1000 hours will not be sent until the following conference.

2. Complete form as follows:

Block 1. Preparing office omit. Will be completed by telecon operator.

Block 2. If a classified message, stamp in security classification. If not a classified message, enter "Unclassified".

Block 3. Enter date the message will be sent, not date prepared.

Block 4. Enter name and symbol of sender.

Block 5. Enter name and symbol of receiver.

Block 6. If a classified message, enter as the first two words of the message "Security Information," then proceed with the message. If not a classified message, omit the words "Security Information." .

Block 7. Originator enter signature and symbol. (May or may not be the same person whose name appears in Block 4.)

Block 8. Coordinators enter name and symbol.

Block 9. Air Adjutant General enter signature.

Bottom of form. If a classified message, stamp in security classification.

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CSAF ITEM 7 ~~RESTRICTED~~

SECURITY INFO

TO ATIAA-2C RUPPELT

FROM AFOIN-V/TC FOURNET

UNCLASSIFIED

REF CSAF ITEM 7 TT 102 DTD 18 APR 52.

ADDITIONAL INFO THIS SIGHTING. MR. ~~REDACTED~~

WHO

WAS FIRST OF 4 OBSERVERS TO SIGHT OBJECTS,
WAS CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE AND REPORTED HIS
IMPRESSIONS AS FOLLOWS:

ESTIMATES TIME 0130 HRS ON 18 APR.
STANDING IN FRONT YARD OF FRIEND IN BETHESDA
MD WITH 3 FRIENDS, INCLUDING MR. ~~REDACTED~~
WHO GAVE FIRST REPORT FIRST
SIGHTED OBJECTS AT ABOUT 40 DEG ELEV IN SOUTH.
OBSERVED CONTINUOUSLY FOR 4 TO 8 SECONDS WHILE
OBJECTS CONTINUED TOWARD NORTH ON STRAIGHT
PATH AND LOST FROM VIEW AT ABOUT 60 DEG/
ELEV IN NORTH WHEN TREE OBSTRUCTED VISION.
OBJECTS DESCRIBED AS FORMING VEE FORMATION
CONSISTING OF 7 OR 9 OBJECTS PLUS ONE IN CENTER

ABOUT AT INTERSECTION OF LINES DRAWN BETWEEN
SECOND OBJECT IN ONE LEG AND THIRD OBJECT IN
OPPOSITE LEG, THUS GIVING IMPRESSION OF
LETTER A. OBJECTS SPACED UNIFORMALY WITH
ONE AT A PEX AND 3 OR 4 IN EACH LEG OF VEE.

INCLUDED ANGLE OF VEE ABOUT 40 DEG.
OBJECTS MAINTAINED PERFECT POSITION IN
FORMATION THROUGHOUT.

ALL OBJECTS UNIFORM IN SIZE AND COLOR.
DESCRIBED AS ORANGE YELLOW COLOR LIGHT SOURCES
CLOSER TO ORANGE THAN YELLOW. DISC SHAPED IN
LATERAL PLANE BUT COULD NOT ASCERTAIN SHAPE
IN VERTICAL PLANE. EACH OBJECT SHARPLY

DEFINED. DIAMETER ONE OBJECT ESTIMATED
TO BE 15 PERCENT TOTAL LENGTH OF ONE LEG OF

TT 104
22 Apr 52
CSAF ITEM 7

ACTION

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FORMATION THROUGH.

ALL OBJECTS UNIFORM IN SIZE AND COLOR.
DESCRIBED AS ORANGE YELLOW COLOR LIGHT SOURCES
CLOSER TO ORANGE THAN YELLOW. DISC SHAPED IN
LATERAL PLANE BUT COULD NOT ASCERTAIN SHAPE
IN VERTICAL PLANE. EACH OBJECT SHARPLY
DEFINED. DIAMETER ONE OBJECT ESTIMATED
TO BE 15 PERCENT TOTAL LENGTH OF ONE LEG OF
FORMATION.

UNABLE TO NOTICE ANYTHING BETWEEN OBJECTS.
NO SOUND HEARD. FORMATION " SEEMED TO
GLIDE," MR [REDACTED] ESTIMATES SPEED EQUIVALENT
TO 500 MPH I AT 1000 FT ALT. WEATHER
SAID TO BE CLEAR WITH NO CLOUDS NOTICED AND
AND DID NOT RECALL SEEING MOON. MR [REDACTED]
APPEARED TO BE QUITE INTELLIGENT AND VERY
COOPERATIVE. HE IS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IN BETHESDA, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TELEPHONE [REDACTED] ON
WASHINGTON EXCHANGE. STATES THAT VISION
RATED UP TO UP TO 20/15. HE HAD NOT SEEN LIFE
ARTICLE PRIOR TO SIGHTING.

MR [REDACTED] VE,
BETHESDA, ANOTHER MEMBER OF GROUP WAS ALSO
CONTACTED BY PHONE. IT WAS AT HIS HOME
THAT SIGHTING WAS MADE. HE CORROBORATES TIME
AND GENER) ^{DATA OF SIGHTING} 8-5-91 8:58,2 - REPORTED BY
MESSRS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]. HOWEVER HE
STATES VISION VERY POOR (WEARS CONTACT LENSES)
AND CONSEQUENTLY HIS IMPRESSION VERY HAZY.
HE DID NOT SEE OBJECTS UNTIL ALMOST DIRECTLY
OVERHEAD AND LOST FROM VIEW AT ABOUT 30
DEG-ELEV IN NORTH. ESTIMATES TIME OF OBSERVATION
3 OR 6 SECONDS. APPEARED TO BE HAZY WHITE
SINGLE MASS OF LIGHT IN SHAPE OF ELONGATED
U WITH SHARP APEX LIKE VEE. NO SOUND
APPEARED TO TRAVEL AT HIGH SPEED. NO OTHER

PERTINENT INFO AVAILABLE FROM MR [REDACTED]
PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF POOR VISION AND SHORT PERIOD

10 200 MPH 1 AT 1000 FT ALT. WEATHER
SAID TO BE CLEAR WITH NO CLOUDS NOTICED AND
AND DID NOT RECALL SEEING MOON. MR [REDACTED]
APPEARED TO BE QUITE INTELLIGENT AND VERY
COOPERATIVE. HE IS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IN BETHESDA, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TELEPHONE [REDACTED] ON
WASHINGTON EXCHANGE. STATES THAT VISION
RATED UP TO UP TO 20/15. HE HAD NOT SEEN LIFE
ARTICLE PRIOR TO SIGHTING.

MR [REDACTED],
BETHESDA, ANOTHER MEMBER OF GROUP WAS ALSO
CONTACTED BY PHONE. IT WAS AT HIS HOME
THAT SIGHTING WAS MADE. HE CORROBORATES TIME
AND GENER) ^{DATA OF SIGHTING AS} 8-5-91 2158,2 - REPORTED BY
MESSRS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]. HOWEVER HE
STATES VISION VERY POOR (WEARS CONTACT LENSES)
AND CONSEQUENTLY HIS IMPRESSION VERY HAZY.
HE DID NOT SEE OBJECTS UNTIL ALMOST DIRECTLY
OVERHEAD AND LOST FROM VIEW AT ABOUT 30
DEG ELEV IN NORTH. ESTIMATES TIME OF OBSERVATION
5 OR 6 SECONDS. APPEARED TO BE HAZY WHITE
SINGLE MASS OF LIGHT IN SHAPE OF ELONGATED
U WITH SHARP APEX LIKE VEE. NO SOUND
APPEARED TO TRAVEL AT HIGH SPEED. NO OTHER

PERTINENT INFO AVAILABLE FROM MR [REDACTED] S
PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF POOR VISION AND SHORT PERIOD
OBSERVATION.

CCC ITEM 7

LINE 57 FROM THE TOP SHOULD READ
GENERAL DATA OF SIGHTING AS REPORTED BY
MESSRS POERSTEL AND MIRAGE.

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~~SECRET~~ STATUS SECRET 6
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APPENDIX VII

Bethesda, Maryland - 18 April 1952

I. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

Four civilians reported that they observed a V-formation of from 7 to 9 lights traveling north over Bethesda, Maryland, at 0130 EST on 18 April 1952.

The included angle of the formation or "V" was estimated to be 40°. There was one light at the apex and three to four in each leg. Each light appeared to be orange-yellow, circular, and to occupy 15 percent of the total length of the leg.

The formation, or object, was first sighted at an elevation of about 60° in the south and disappeared behind some trees at 60° in the north. The total time of observation was from four to eight seconds and there was no sound.

All four observers were interrogated and their accounts of the incident were similar. They stated that they had not seen the Life Magazine article describing the Lubbock incident prior to the sighting.

II. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

The possibility of jet aircraft in the area was checked. A similar report of light formations did turn out to be very probably a B-45 type aircraft, however, no jets were known to be in the area at the time of this incident.

III. CONCLUSIONS

None.

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T52-10889

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