PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 23 Aug 55	**2. LOCATION** Arlington, Va	**12. CONCLUSIONS** ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other UNIDENTIFIED ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☒ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 24/0200-0300Z	**4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION** ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	**6. SOURCE** civilian	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 min	**8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS** 6 - 8	**9. COURSE** n/a
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Flat disc or star shape, orange color - 6 - 8 objs. No regular formation. Very high - very rapid speed.	**11. COMMENTS** UNIDENTIFIED.	

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

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(SECURITY INFORMATION when filled in)

(Leave blank)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	REPORT NO.
USA	3H-UFOB-7-55

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

AREA REPORT CONCERNS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AGENCY OF ORIGIN	DATE OF REPORT
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	29 August 1955
SOURCE OF INFORMATION	**DATE OF INFORMATION**
Garnet M. Park and others	23 August 1955
PREPARING OFFICER	**EVALUATION**
CHESTER B. HANSON, Capt., USAF	

AF 1 OCT 52

D311718

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)
TT AISOP 713 FM CCMDR 4602D AISS, ENT AFB, COLO., dated 24/2100Z August 55.

SUBJECT
UFOB

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 112a.)

I. CONTENTS:

PART ONE: Description of sighting by Mr [redacted] Arlington, Virginia. (GeoRef GJNJ 5356)

PART TWO: Description of sighting by Rev. [redacted] Arlington, Virginia.

PART THREE: Supplementary Investigative Efforts

PART FOUR: Comments of Preparing Officer

II. SUMMARY: Several unidentified flying objects were sighted in the vicinity of Arlington, Virginia at 24/0215Z August 55. The information contained in this report was obtained from an investigation conducted to determine the actual cause of the sighting.

III. INVESTIGATOR: 2/Lt Charles L. Berrier, AO3019814

Chester B Hanson
CHESTER B. HANSON
Captain, USAF
Officer-in-Charge

Library Subject Notes
Nodis

1 INCLS. (See individual parts)

APPROVED:

John M White Jr
JOHN M WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

w/1 incl
4B1a
14 Oct 55
abc

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

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part One
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-7-55	PAGE 2 OF 8 PAGES

I. SOURC[redacted]

Address: [redacted], Arlington, Virginia

Age: 55

Occupation: Retired

Education: (2) Years college

Qualifications: Mr [redacted] is a student of astronomy. He owns and operates a 400 power astronomical telescope through which he has observed the planets, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, etc. He has observed numerous meteors and comets, including Haley's comet when it last appeared several years ago.

II. RELIABILITY: Good

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING:

" On August 23, 1955 at about 10:45 pm EST, my friend (Rev. [redacted] and I were standing near the south side of my house, facing to the south, when my attention was called to a moving object in the sky. It was orange in color and was travelling south at a high altitude and great speed. After observing its flight for about fifteen seconds, it turned east and disappeared about ten seconds later. Shortly afterwards we were scanning the sky and another object of the same type appeared in the southwest. It remained visable for two or three minutes. At one time we could spot three of them travelling a great distance apart and in the same general direction, but shortly afterwards they took different courses. One circled the dome of the sky while the other made a semi-circle and reversed itself before returning on its original course. The other circled the dome of the sky and then turned and went directly across the dome of the sky. Another appeared to come to a complete stop and then it continued on its regular course . While it was standing still it looked like one of the stars in back of it. At one time, when one was turning, it appeared to have a red dome which was visable through the binoculars. The objects appeared to be above the atmosphere of the earth since they didn't appear to lose altitude as an object would when passing over the horizon. They never showed signs of losing their brilliance and didn't fly in formation at any time. I think that the visable light was due to reflection from the sun."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Two
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-7-55	PAGE 3 OF 8 PAGES

I. SOURCE: [redacted]

Address: [redacted], Arlington, Virginia

Age: 28

Occupation: Minister

Education: Post-Graduate

Qualifications: Private pilot

II. RELIABILITY: Good

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE had been observing stars through his friend's telescope when he noticed a light in the sky which he at first presumed to be a jet. It suddenly disappeared but no sound seemed to accompany the light. Shortly afterwards, SOURCE related seeing three different and distinct lights in the sky, each appearing to be moving in a different direction from the other two.

The objects seemed to possess a bright orange color and have disk-like shapes. SOURCE further estimated their speed in "thousands of miles per hour in order to go across the dome of the sky in a few minutes." SOURCE'S estimate of the altitude above the earth at which these objects were travelling was that they were " high enough to reflect the sun's light."

In conclusion, SOURCE stated that he wasn't sure whether the objects were a phenomenon of nature or a mechanical devise, but that he was inclined to believe that they were mechanical creations of another planet since he didn't believe any Earth-made devise would be capable of travelling that high and that fast.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Three
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-7-55	PAGE 4 OF 8 PAGES

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check with the Air Traffic Control Center at Washington National Airport, (GeoRef GJNJ 5856), for information in confirmation of the 23 August UFOB sighting yielded negative results.

2. Mr. [redacted] assigned to the US Weather Bureau at the Washington National Airport (see Incl#1), stated that his only knowledge of the sighting came from 1401st Air Base Wing officials at Andrews AFB who called his office for weather data at the time of the sighting.

3. Andrews AFB Operations and Weather(GeoRef GJPJ 0748) was contacted but had no information to give in regard to the 23 August UFOB sighting.

4. Bolling AFB Operations and Weather(GeoRef GJNJ 5857) likewise offered no confirmation.

5. The Assistant Chief of Meteorological Observations, US Weather Bureau, Washington, D.C., very cordially furnished the following information on balloons controlled by the US Weather Service: 1) That weather balloons are launched every six hours by Weather Service stations throughout the country. 2) These balloons often are of the 500# rasonde variety, containing either a magnesium bulb or an auto-activated illuminating attachment. Either of these two types of lighting would be difficult to observe once the carrier reaches an altitude of 10,000 ft., which, assuming the average rate of ascent to be 600ft/min., would be accomplished within 10-12 minutes. 3) That the Silver Hill Weather Station,(GeoRef GJNJ-0550), is the principal station operated by the US Weather Service in the Washington vicinity.

6. The Director of the Silver Hill Weather Station, Mr. Argonne, disclosed that a rasonde balloon af the regular type had been released on the evening of 23 August at 10:00 EST. It had travelled in a northeasterly direction(toward Arlington, Virginia) as it disappeared from view. By 10:15 EST, the balloon would have been directly over Arlington at an approximate altitude of 15,000 ft., and increasing according to its normal rate of ascent. Its course at this time could have been followed by binoculars.

7. The US Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C., was contacted by telephone but was unable to confirm the sighting. Mr. J.L. Gossner of the Observatory's Equatorial Division, when told of the traversing and random shifting of the UFOB, mentioned that the turbulence from the earth's atmosphere might produce this impression if a star were observed through the atmosphere media. Whether 6X100 binoculars could record this phenomenon seemed doudtful to him. (This was the type of binoculars used by the Arlington observers.) Mr. [redacted] further stated that on the night of 23 August at approximately 10:15 EST he had noticed a bright light in the sky accompanied by a red light. Though there was no sound audible, he felt that the lights were from an aircraft flying at an extremely high altitude. He reported that it had changed direction several times while he was observing it. His suggestion was that the Arlington observers may have seen the same thing which he had, but merely had interpreted it differently.

8. Maj. Sloan of the 75th AA Bn, Andrews AFB, Maryland, was contacted but was unable to confirm any of the sightings with positive radar data.

9. Likewise, Maj. Sutton, AA Ops Officer, 19th AA Group, charged with the AA defense of the Washington area, very courteously offered that his unit had had 25-30 radar scanners operating in his area of responsibility at the time of the (cont. p.5)

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Three
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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS: (cont.)

9. sighting and nothing unusual was reported by his various installations. In addition he mentioned that he has 6-7 sets operating in the Arlington vicinity.

10. Lt. Beale of the 647th AC&W Sq, Manassas, Virginia reported that he had received no information which might serve to confirm the Arlington sighting.

11. The Baltimore-Washington Filter Center gave a negative report on the UFOB sighting when approached by the Flight 3-H investigator.

12. Finally, Olmstead Flight Service Center was questioned about the sighting. Capt. Anderson, the Officer on duty in Middleton, reported that his office had received no information in confirmation of the UFOB sighting on 23 August.

13. Weather data during observed flight of UFOB was as follows:

Ceiling	Condition of Clouds	Visibility
Unlimited	Clear	12 Miles

Winds Aloft:

Altitude	Degrees	Knots
6,000	350	15
10,000	320	10
18,000	270	15
20,000	250	10
30,000	280	10
45,000	280	34
50,000	270	24
80,000	100	13

1 Incl:
1. TT MSG AISOP 713 FM COMDR 4602D AISS,ENT AFB,COLO.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Incl.#1, Part Three
TT AISOP 713 FM COMDR 4602D AISS ENT AFB COLO

MEBO 21 YTEO 20 YYC198ENA197
PP RJEPME
DE RJEDEN 246
P 242100Z
FM COMDR 4602D AISS ENT AFB COLO
TO OIC FLT 3 H 4602D AISS MCGUIRE AFB NJ
BT
/UNCLASSIFIED/AISOP 713 PD FOL TEST TAKEN FM TT MSG ANF OGBO 257 UFOB
CMM FM COMDR 1401 ABWG ANDREWS AFB MD PD
(1) APPEARED TO BE FLYING SAUCERS
(A) SAUCER ON FLAT DISK SHAPE
(B) MAY HAVE BEEN STAR SHAPE
(C) ORANGE
(D) 6 TO 8
(E) NO REGULAR FORMATION
(F) NO
(G) NONE FLEW AND STOPPED AND THEN FLEW ON
(H) NO
(I) WERE FLYING VERY HIGH AT A TERRIFIC RATE OF SPEED
(2) FLYING IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT AN ESTIMATED HEIGHT OF 50 TO 100 MILES
(A) OBSERVING THE MOON AT THE TIME OF SIGHTING PD WERE AT THE GENERAL POSITION OF THE PLANET SATURN PD OBJECTS SEEMED TO APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR PD
(B) NEGATIVE
(C) NEGATIVE
(D) NO SET PATH PD ZIGZAGGING AND STOPPING
(E) DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY ALL OF A SUDDEN
(F) 25 TO 30 MINUTES
(3) (A) GROUND VISUAL
(B) BINOCULARS 7X50
(;:) N/A
(4) (A) GROUND VISUAL
(B) NIGHT-CLEAR-NO CLOUDS
(5) NEGATIVE
(6) (A) [redacted] CMM [redacted] H CMM ARLINGTON CMM
VA PD JA76403 REV [redacted] LT) RESERVE OFFICER CMM
ARMY CMM ACTIVE RESERVES C[redacted] CMM
ARLINGTON VA PD JA 88955 MISS [redacted]
HOSPITAL UNIT
(B) WEATHER BUREAU CMM WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT CMM
WALTER BRANDSTETTER
(7) 012 N-NW 8K 330 DEG
(A) NEGATIVE
(B) 350 DEG 15K CMM 320 DEG 10K CMM 270 DEG 15K CMM
250 DEG 10K CMM 280 DEG 10K CMM 280 DEG 34K CMM
270 DEG 24K CMM 100 DEG 13K
(C) UNLIMITED
(D) 12 MILES
(E) NONE
(F) NONE
(8) NONE KNOWN
(9) NONE SINCE WE WERE NOT ADVISED UNTIL AFTER OBJECTS HAD DISAPPEARED
(10) NONE KNOWN

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-7-55	Part Three PAGE 7 OF 8 PAGES

Incl.#1, Part Three (Cont.)

(11) NEGATIVE
(12) NONE
BT
24/2239Z AUG RJEDEN

TRUE COPY:

Charles L. Berrier
CHARLES L. BERRIER
2/Lt., USAF
Ass't OIC, Flt 3-H

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-7-55	Part Four PAGE 8 OF 8 PAGES

COMMENTS of the Preparing Officer:

1. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, the 23 August 1955 sighting of a UFOB in the Washington, D.C. area was caused by misinterpretations of the changing course of an ascending Rasonde weather balloon by observers on the ground, combined by the later sighting of a high flying aircraft bearing multiple lights, changing direction and apparently emitting no sound. Though there was actually no association between the first and the second object, the fact that the second phenomenon appeared so closely upon the first created the misconception that the two were associated.

a. In general appearance the first clearly observed object was orange in color and had a disc-like configuration, which seems to leave no doubt that this object could have been a weather balloon. The Silver Hill rasonde balloon was launched at approximately 10:00 EST and was observed to be travelling in the direction of Arlington as it passed from the view of the weather station.

b. Also, this balloon which within ten to twelve minutes after launching could have been tracked for at least 25 minutes thereafter by observers on the ground possessing 6X100 binoculars.

c. An aircraft flying a changing pattern high above the city could easily have created the apparent directional changing phenomenon, which,if accompanied by no sound and appearing closely after the sighting of the first object, may quickly have been attributed by excited observers on the ground to strange flying objects , either in or from outer space. This latter conclusion as to the origin and location of the object or objects might at first appear ridiculous, but to a person who is more properly acquainted with celestial activity, such an assumption might enter the mind quite readily.--- Both observers were confident that what they saw had not come from Earth.

d. One of the principal reasons the observers doubted that the phenomena could have been caused from a rising balloon or an aircraft traversing the sky was its apparent speed. The speed of an object when recordedby the nakeded eye can be highly deceptive, particularly at night.

CHESTER B. HANSON
Captain, USAF
Officer in Charge

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

1. Further investigation requested of Flight 3-H revealed that radar contacts were negative in the Arlington area at the time of the sighting, eliminating aircraft as a cause of the sighting. Although winds aloft could substantiate the course of the first object as being a balloon, the speed and duration of the sighting do not correlate with those of a balloon. The other objects, similar in description to the first, do not conform to any known phenomena.

2. This report is forwarded to ATIC as "unknown".

JMW

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