PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE
15 October 1956

2. LOCATION
Fernley, Nevada

3. DATE-TIME GROUP
Local _____
GMT 16/0250Z

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar
☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS
☐ Yes
☒ No

6. SOURCE
Military & Civilian

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
40 to 45 minutes

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
one

9. COURSE
see below

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING
One cigar-shaped bright obj, size of pea at arm's length. Obj's color varied fm red to blue to green to gold. Obj had distinct exhaust appearing approx ½ length of obj. Initial sighting at 25-30dgr el and 225dgr az & traveled to 320dgr az where it disappeared. Obj appeared to hover the majority of the time. Upon disappearance, obj traveled in level flight at high speed & was out of sight in approx 7 to 10 seconds. Obj viewed visually & thru binocs for 40 to 45 minutes.

11. COMMENTS
Shape & color of obj, hovering, duration, course & wind direction indicate cause a balloon. Balloon (S-289) launch fm Vernalis on 15/1641Z estimated to be 25 Mi S of sighting. Check w/ADC Forecast Center reveal estimated locations on balloon tracks can be as much as 50 mi in error. Balloon may have been closer to area of sighting & could be cause. Not supporting this evaluation is: appearance of distinct exhaust; relatively low alt; high rate of speed at disappearance. Exhaust possible misinterp of equip below balloon; low alt unusual but possible; obsryr may have exaggerated rate of disappearance. Evaluated as Possible Balloon.

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

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

16/02502

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

ROUTING

Wnat

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

COMDR STRAD APD NEV

DATE-TIME GROUP	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
22 1800Z Oct 56	UNCLASSIFIED

PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION	INFORMATION
	AIR MAIL	

TO: COMDR AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS CTR WPAFB (AIR MAIL)
COLORADO SPRINGS COL
COMDR 28TH AIR DIVISION, HAMILTON AFB, CAL
COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF,
WASHINGTON 25 D. C.

INFO:

☐ BOOK MESSAGE	☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE
☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS	CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION	CLASSIFICATION
	UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLAS FROM O 240/56.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 200-2 PAR 7d, THE FOLLOWING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

1 a. CIGAR-SHAPED

b. MEA

c. VARYING RED, BLUISH, GREEN, GOLDEN COLORS

d. ONE

e. N/A

f. NEGATIVE

g. DISTANCE 20 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 00 SECONDS FROM APPROXIMATELY 3,000 YARDS. EXHAUST APPEARED APPROXIMATELY HALF THE LENGTH OF THE OBJECT.

h. NEGATIVE

i. NEGATIVE

2 a. OBJECT ORIGINALLY OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES NORTHEAST OF

R243.601R-1
15 Oct 1956
RETURN TO:
Director
Aerospace Studies
ATTN: Archivist
Maxwell AFB, Alabama
SMC
1003450

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PAGE 1 OF 6 PAGES

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

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FROM: *(Originator)*

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REFERS TO MESSAGE:	
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TO:

INFO:

FERNLEY, NEVADA, AS A BRIGHT OBJECT IN THE SKY. OBSERVERS FIRST THOUGHT THIS OBJECT TO BE A RADIO TOWER AND THEN PERHAPS A PLANE DUE ITS POSITION AND CHANGING LIGHTS.

2 b. 25 DEGREES TO 30 DEGREES ELEVATION AND ~~270~~ 225 DEGREES AZIMUTH

c. 25 DEGREES TO 30 DEGREES ELEVATION - 320 DEGREES AZIMUTH

d. OBJECT APPEARED TO BE HOVERING [redacted] THE MAJORITY OF THE TIME IT WAS UNDER OBSERVATION. UPON DISAPPEARANCE IT TRAVELLED IN LEVEL FLIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 5,000 TO 7,000 FEET. NO UNUSUAL MANEUVERS NOTED.

e. OBJECT DISAPPEARED AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED IN APPROXIMATELY 7 TO 10 SECONDS.

f. 40 TO 45 MINUTES

3 a. GROUND-VISUAL

b. BINOCULARS 10 X 50 POWER

c. N/A

4 a. 160250Z OCT 56

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PAGE 2 OF 6 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and ...

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

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FROM: (Originator)

DATE-TIME GROUP | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE FOR: | ACTION | INFORMATION

TO:

☐ BOOK MESSAGE | ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS | CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION | CLASSIFICATION

INFO:

5. 119 DEGREES 03 MINUTES WEST 39 DEGREES 42 MINUTES NORTH, 19 MILES NORTHEAST OF FERNLEY, NEVADA, ON US HIGHWAY 40.

6 a. MRS. [redacted], WIFE OF MILITARY OFFICER LISTED BELOW.

6 b. [redacted], 1/LT USA [redacted], 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII. LT [redacted] HAS 12 YEARS SERVICE IN THE INFANTRY AND SEEMS OF AVERAGE MATURITY. DUE TO HIS INFANTRY EXPERIENCE, HIS JUDGMENT OF GROUND DISTANCE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BETTER THAN AVERAGE.

7 a. EXTREMELY CLEAR NIGHT. NO CLOUD COVER VISIBLE.

7 b. WEATHER DATA FURNISHED IS FROM WEATHER ATTACHMENT STEAD AIR FORCE BASE. WINDS - 160300Z OCTOBER 1956.

ALTITUDE	DEGREES	KNOTS
7,000 FEET	190	10
10,000 FEET	180	15
16,000 FEET	180	20
20,000 FEET	160	15
25,000 FEET	140	35

S 20C 12 2

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature when required)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

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TO:

INFO:

ALTITUDE	DEGREES	KNOTS
30,000 FEET	150	15
45,000 FEET	240	25

c. UNLIMITED

d. 15 PLUS MILES

e. NONE

f. NONE

8. NONE

9. N/A

10. N/A

11. 1/LT ROBERT D. CAMPBELL, WING INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. PREPARING OFFICER'S COMMENTS: LT [redacted] AND HIS WIFE TRAVELING TO THE WEST COAST ON US HIGHWAY 40 ORIGINALLY OBSERVED THE OBJECT WHILE THEY WERE APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES NORTHEAST OF FERNLEY, NEVADA. CONTINUING TO TRAVEL AT APPROXIMATELY 55 TO 65 MILES AN HOUR, THE OBJECT WAS CLEARLY VISIBLE TO THEM UNTIL THEY WERE 19 MILES NORTHEAST OF FERNLEY.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PAGE 1 OF 6 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and [illegible])

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

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TO:

INFO:

APPROXIMATELY 3,000 YARDS DIRECTLY OFF THE HIGHWAY AND APPEARED TO BE HOVERING OVER A SMALL HILL. BY ESTIMATING THE HEIGHT OF THE HILL, LT [redacted] DETERMINED THE ALTITUDE OF THE OBJECT TO BE 5,000 TO 7,000 FEET, HOWEVER, HE READILY ADMITTED HIS ESTIMATE WAS ONLY A GOOD GUESS. SHORTLY AFTER GETTING OUT OF HIS CAR TO BETTER OBSERVE THE OBJECT, IT COMMENCED TRAVELING IN A NORTHEAST DIRECTION AWAY FROM LT AND MRS. [redacted] JUST AFTER IT STARTED TO MOVE LT [redacted] WAS ABLE TO FOCUS HIS BINOCULARS ON THE OBJECT AND GET A MUCH CLEARER SIGHTING. IT WAS THROUGH THIS STUDY THAT HE DETERMINED THE OBJECT TO BE CIGAR-SHAPED AND SAID HE OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE OPENINGS OR APERTURES ON THE FUSELAGE BUT DUE TO THE RAPID SPEED OF MOVEMENT, HE COULD NOT GET AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF SUCH OPENINGS. ACCORDING TO LT [redacted] THE OBJECT BEGAN ITS FLIGHT FROM A HOVERING POSITION AT 250 TO 300 MILES PER HOUR AND ACCELERATED RAPIDLY TO A TREMENDOUS SPEED WHICH HE COULD NOT ESTIMATE. FROM THE START OF MOVEMENT UNTIL THE OBJECT WAS OUT OF SIGHT APPROXIMATELY 7 TO 10 SECONDS ELAPSED. OBJECT TRAVELED ON A LEVEL COURSE ON A CONSTANT HEADING UNTIL OUT OF SIGHT. LT [redacted]

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PAGE 5 OF 6 PAGES
DRAFTER'S NAME *(and signature, when required)*	RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

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TO:

INFO:

AND HIS WIFE THEN CONTINUED TRAVELING TOWARD PERSLEY, NEVADA, UNTIL THEY WERE APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES FROM PERSLEY AND STOPPED AGAIN TO LOOK BACK. AT THIS TIME WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE SAME OBJECT WAS AGAIN OBSERVED IN APPROXIMATELY ITS ORIGINAL POSITION. THIS SAME SIGHTING WAS AGAIN MADE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PERSLEY, NEVADA. ALTHOUGH THE ESTIMATED ALTITUDE AND VAGUE DESCRIPTION OF THIS OBJECT LEAVES NUMEROUS QUESTIONS UNANSWERED, THE FACT THAT THIS OBJECT WAS OBSERVED ORIGINALLY IN FRONT AND THEN BEHIND THE OBSERVERS IN THE COURSE OF TRAVELING 30 MILES, SEEMS TO PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF IDENTIFYING IT AS A STAR EFFECTED BY UNUSUAL ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS. IN THE ABSENCE OF ADDITIONAL IDENTIFYING OR CONFIRMING DATA ON THIS SIGHTING, NO DETERMINATION AS TO POSSIBLE OR PROBABLE CAUSE CAN BE MADE AT THIS LEVEL.

12. NEGATIVE.

52OCT22 0800

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PAGE 6 OF 6 PAGES
DRAFTER'S NAME *(and signature, when required)*	RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE Lloyd Schrader
SYMBOL / TELEPHONE	OFFICIAL TITLE LLOYD D. SCHRADER Major, USAF Adjutant

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NMS FORM 173, 1 MAY 49, WHICH MAY BE USED.

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