PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE	2. LOCATION	12. CONCLUSIONS
23 October 1957	Polk County Florida Lake Wales & Bartow AB, Fla.	☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☒X Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1700 GMT 23/2200Z	**4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION** ☒X Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒X Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes xR No	**6. SOURCE** Civilian	☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION one hour	**8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS** one	**9. COURSE** South
		☐ Other_____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

A round silver object with a red light on one side the size of a dirigible at arm's length, directly overhead & moving slowly.

See: Tape 7-3745-426

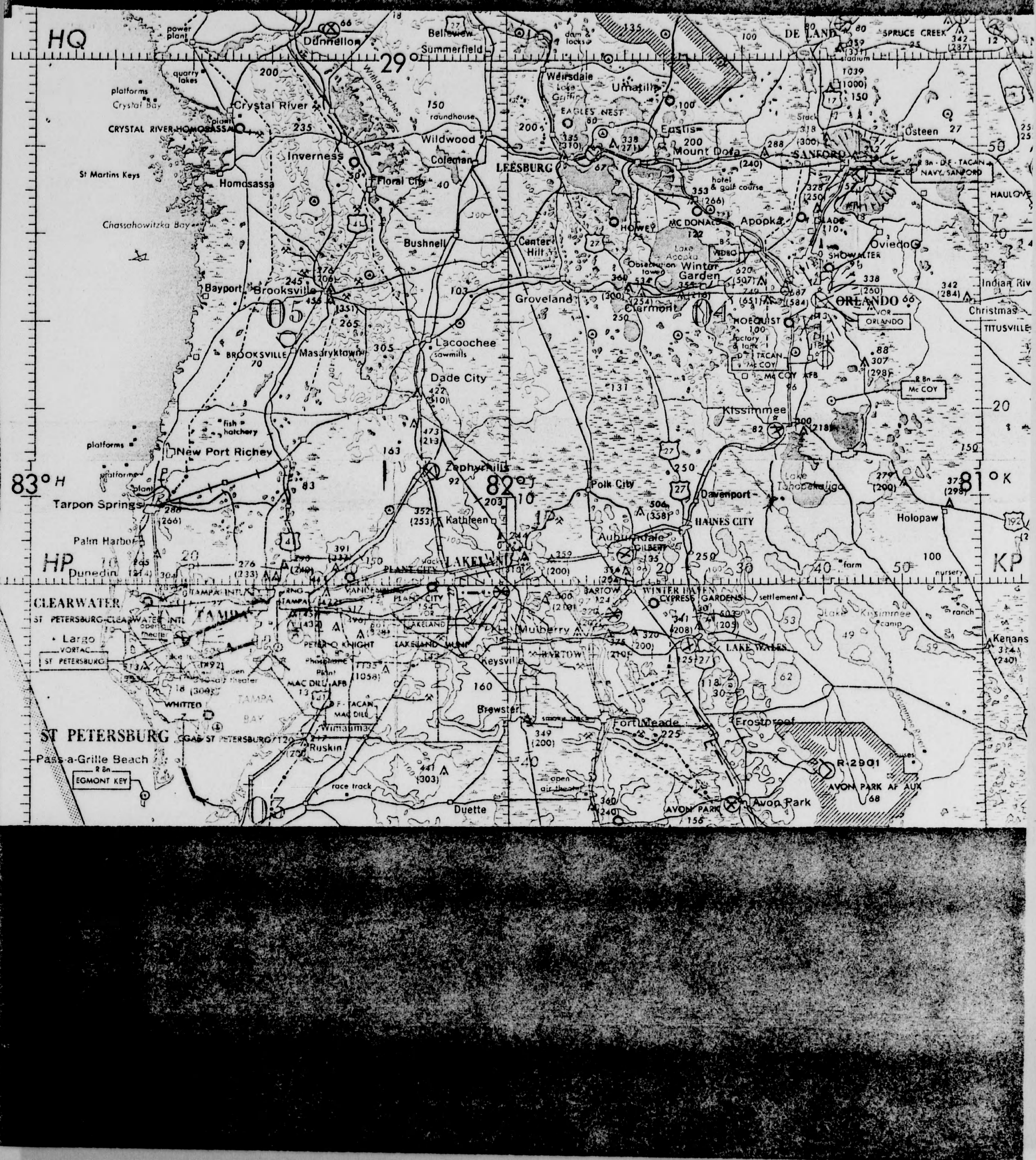
(TAPE RECORDING IN SPECIMEN FILE)

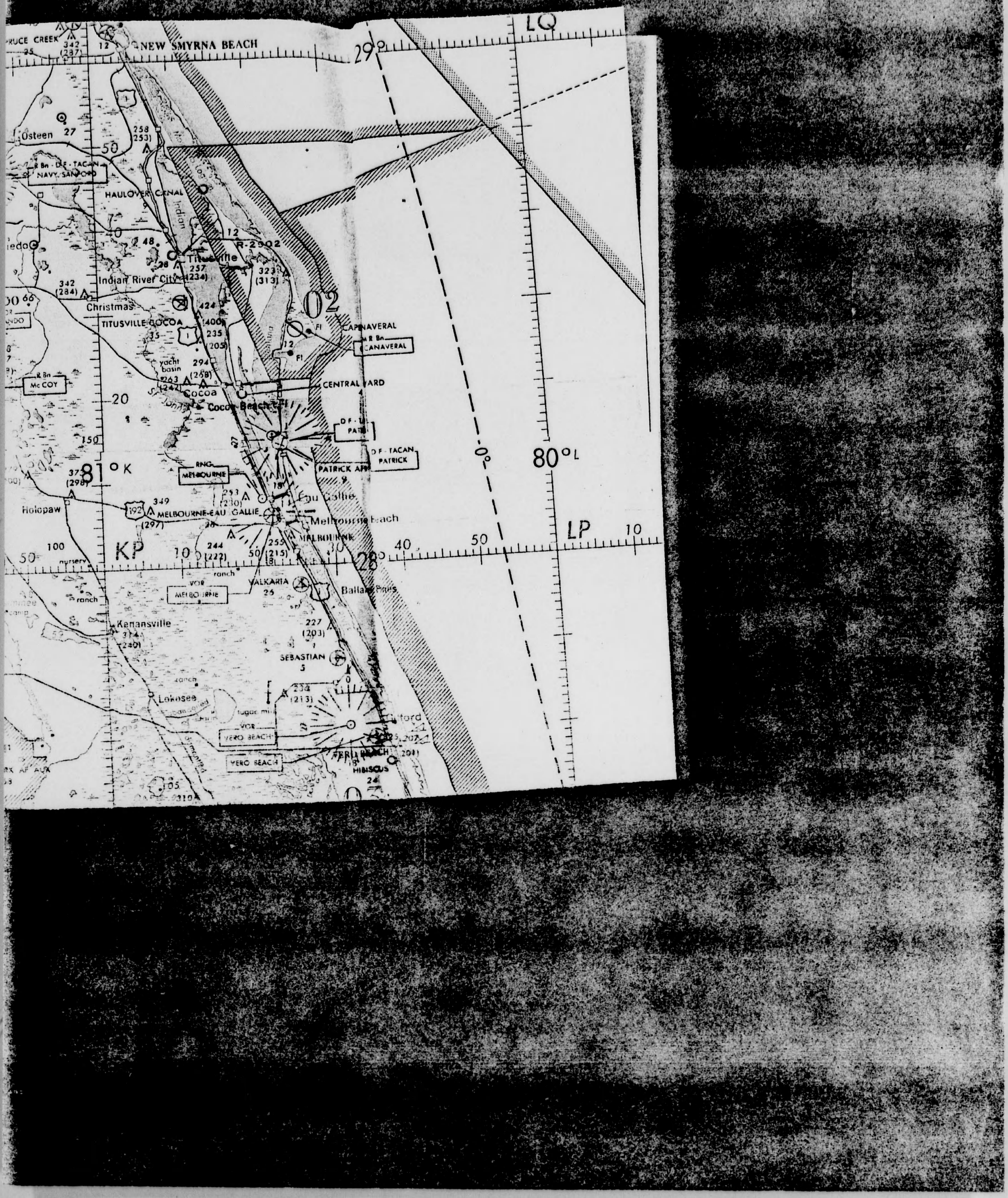
11. COMMENTS

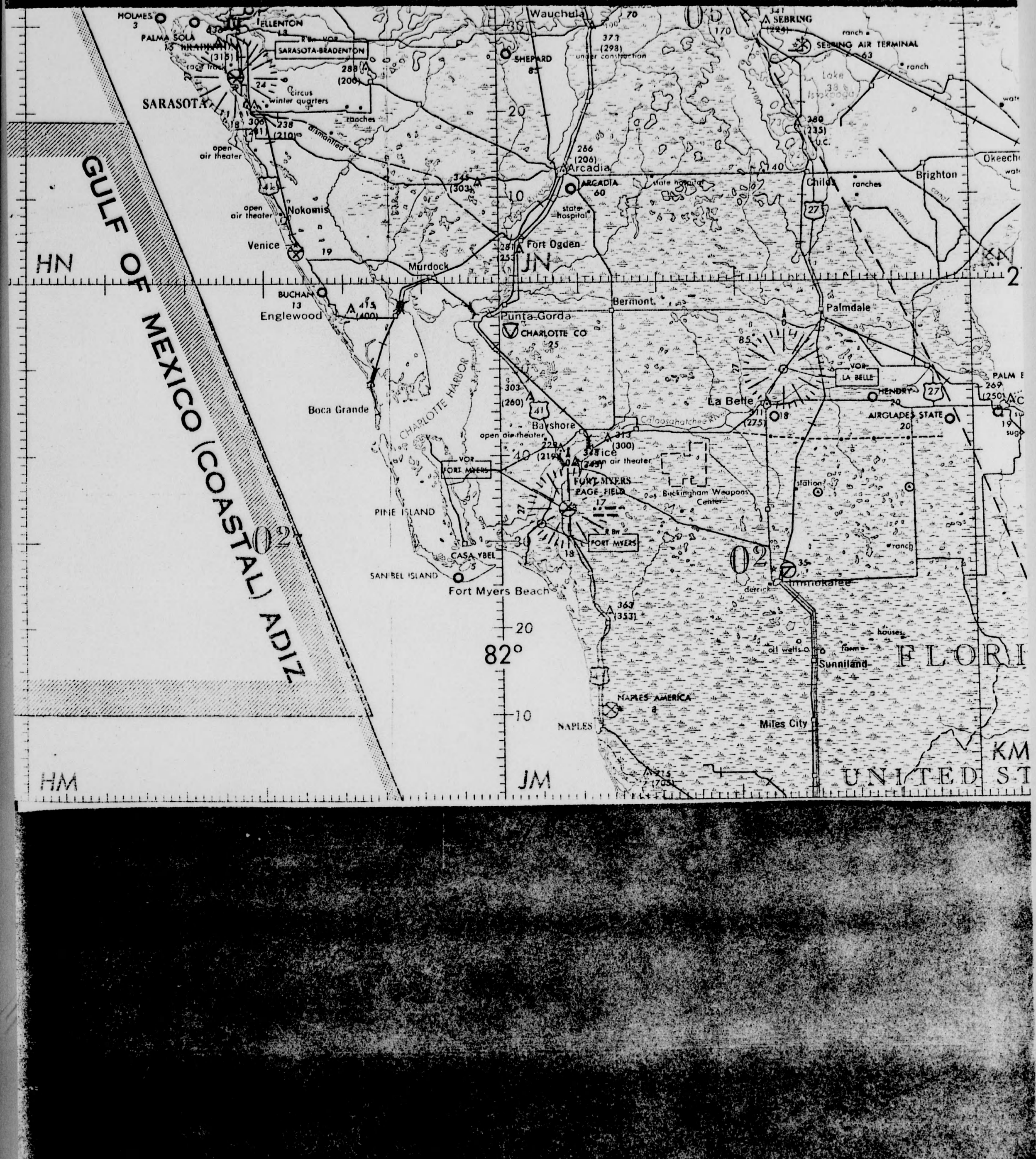
The size is probably a mis-interpretation. Concur with preparing officer. Possible WX balloon.

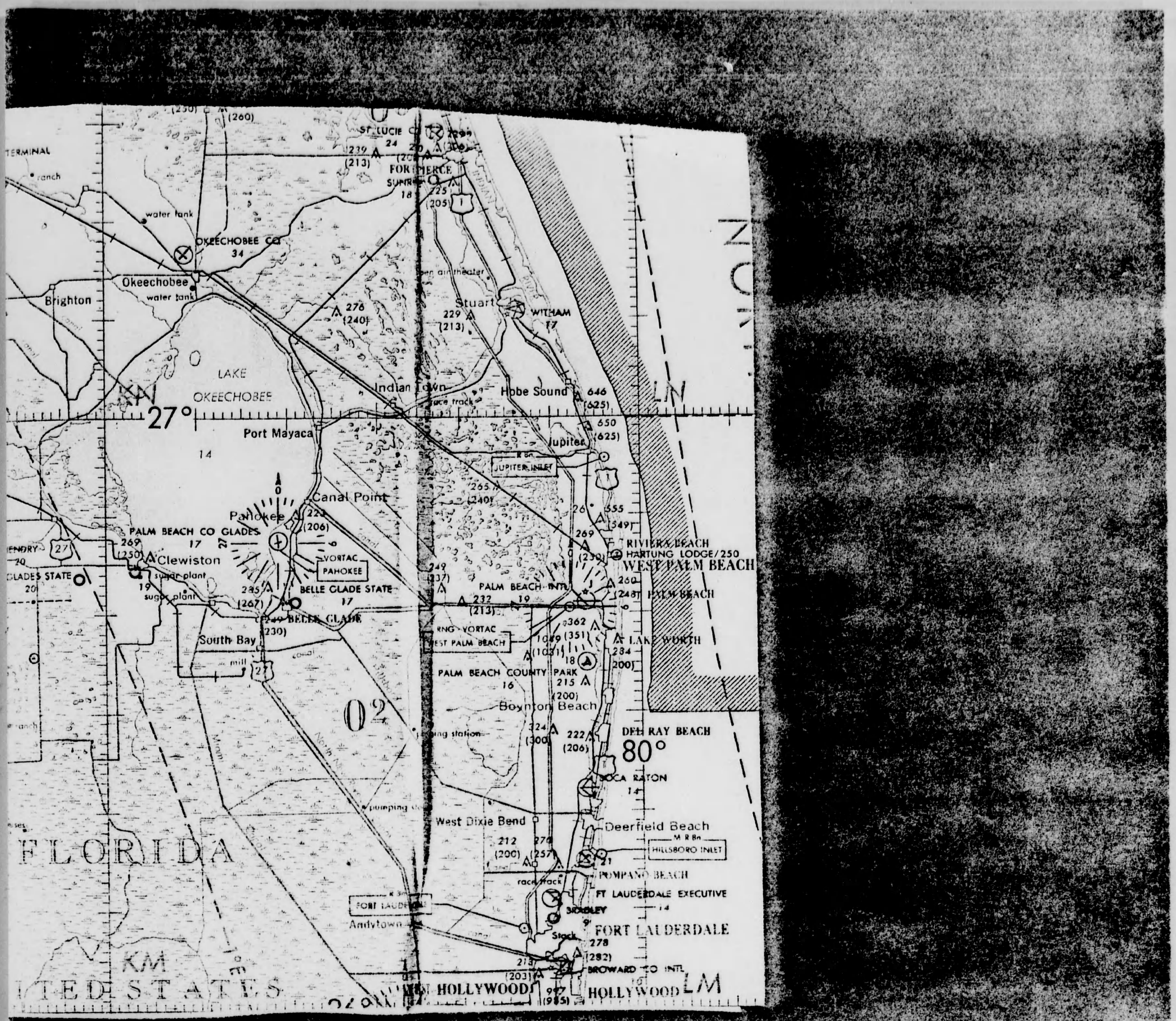
Information called in to Mr. Sanderson as AFCIN-X had previously requested that it be kept informal

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)


HQ
power plant
quarry lakes
platforms
Crystal Bay
Crystal River
CRYSTAL RIVER-HOMOSASSA
plant
St Martins Keys
Homosassa
Chassahowitzka Bay
Dunnellon
Withlacoochee
Bellevieu
Summerfield
29
150
raundhouse
Wildwood
Coleman
Inverness
Floral City
Bushnell
Bayport
Brooksville
05
BROOKSVILLE
Masaryktown
Lacoochee
sawmills
Dade City
fish hatchery
New Port Richey
platforms
83° H
Tarpon Springs
Palm Harbor
HP
Dunedin
CLEARWATER
ST PETERSBURG-CLEARWATER INTL
Largo
VORTAC
ST PETERSBURG
TAMPA
TAMPA INTL
PETER O KNIGHT
LAKELAND MUNI
MAC DILL AFB
WHITTED
TAMPA BAY
ST PETERSBURG
CGAS ST PETERSBURG
Pass-a-Grille Beach
R 8n
EGMONT KEY
Ruskin
William
race track
Duette
dam & locks
Weirsdale
Lake Griffin
Umatilla
EAGLES NEST
LEESBURG
Center Hill
Groveland
Clermont
HOWEY
Lake Apopka
Observation tower
Winter Garden
MC DONALD
hotel & golf course
Apopka
DE LAND
SPRUCE CREEK
stadium
Eustis
Mount Dora
SANFORD
R 8n - D-E - TACAN
NAVY, SANFORD
Osteen
HAULOVER
Oviedo
SHOWALTER
Indian Riv
Christmas
TITUSVILLE
ORLANDO
VOR
ORLANDO
HOECUIST
factory & tank
TACAN
MC COY
Mc COY AFB
R 8n
Mc COY
Kissimmee
04
Lake Tohopekaliga
Davenport
HAINES CITY
Auburndale
GILBERT
Polk City
Holopaw
81° K
KP
LAKELAND
PLANT CITY
WINTER HAVEN
CYPRESS GARDENS
BARTOW
Mulberry
Keysville
Brewster
Fort Meade
Frostproof
LAKE WALES
Lake Kissimmee
camp
Kenans
R-2901
AVON PARK AF AUX
Avon Park
AVON PARK
open air theater
smoke stack
farm
nursery
settlement
ranch
houses
Kissimmee River
82° J
10
1P
83
92
163
203
160
62
68
156
225
249
(584)
(507)
(310)
(300)
(266)
(240)
(200)
(303)
(298)
(284)
(260)
(250)
(205)
(208)


LQ
29°
NEW SMYRNA BEACH
SPRUCE CREEK
Osteen
27
258
(253)
50
R Bn - DE - TACAN
NAVY SANFORD
HAULOVER CANAL
Indian
12
R-2502
Titusville
257
(234)
28
323
(313)
Indian River City
342
(284)
Christmas
424
(400)
TITUSVILLE-COCOA
235
(205)
35
02
FI
CAPE CANAVERAL
M R Bn
CANAVERAL
12
FI
yacht
basin
294
(268)
263
(242)
R Bn
Mc COY
Cocoa
Cocoa Beach
CENTRAL YARD
20
D F - U
PATRICK
D F - TACAN
PATRICK
150
81° K
RNG
MELBOURNE
PATRICK AFB
373
(298)
253
(230)
Eau Gallie
349
192
MELBOURNE-EAU GALLIE
(297)
Holopaw
Melbourne Beach
MELBOURNE
100
KP
10
244
(222)
50
255
(215)
30
28
40
50
LP
10
80° L
nursery
ranch
VOR
MELBOURNE
VALKARIA
26
Ballard Park
Kenansville
314
(290)
227
(203)
SEBASTIAN
5
ranch
Lakesee
234
(213)
sugar mill
VOR
VERO BEACH
VERO BEACH
VERO BEACH
HIBISCUS
24
205, 207
201)
105
310


HOLMES
3
PALMA SOLA
ELLENTON
SARASOTA-BRADENTON
R'Bn VOR
(315)
race track
SARASOTA
24
circus
winter quarters
ranches
238
(210)
dismantled
open
air theater
GULF OF MEXICO (COASTAL) ADIZ
Nokomis
Venice
19
Murdock
BUCHAN
13
Englewood
Wauchula
SHEPARD
373
(298)
under construction
SEBRING
(224)
SEBRING AIR TERMINAL
63
ranch
Lake
Istokpoga
280
(235)
U.C.
Arcadia
ARCADIA
60
state hospital
Fort Ogden
Brighton
Okeechobee
Child
ranches
canal
Punta Gorda
CHARLOTTE CO
25
Bermont
Palmdale
Boca Grande
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
Bayshore
open air theater
VOR
FORT MYERS
FORT MYERS
PAGE FIELD
Buckingham Weapons Center
PINE ISLAND
CASA YBEL
SANIBEL ISLAND
Fort Myers Beach
VOR
LA BELLE
HENDRY
20
La Belle
Caloosahatchee R.
AIRGLADES STATE
20
PALM B
269
(250)
AC
sugar
station
ranch
Immokalee
derrick
houses
oil wells
farm
Sunniland
FLORI
NAPLES AMERICA
Miles City
NAPLES
UNITED ST
KM
82°
HN
HM
JN
JM
02


TERMINAL
ranch
water tank
OKEECHOBEE CO
34
Okeechobee
water tank
Brighton
LAKE
OKEECHOBEE
27°
Port Mayaca
14
Canal Point
Pahokee
PALM BEACH CO GLADES
17
Clewiston
sugar plant
sugar plant
VORTAC
PAHOKEE
BELLE GLADE STATE
17
BELLE GLADE
South Bay
mill
ST LUCIE CO
24
FORT PIERCE
18
Stuart
WITHAM
17
open air theater
Indian Town
race track
Hobe Sound
646
(625)
650
(625)
Jupiter
JUPITER INLET
555
549
RIVIERA BEACH
HARTUNG LODGE/250
WEST PALM BEACH
PALM BEACH INTL
PALM BEACH
RNG VORTAC
WEST PALM BEACH
LAKE WORTH
PALM BEACH COUNTY PARK
16
Boynton Beach
DEL RAY BEACH
80°
BOCA RATON
14
West Dixie Bend
Deerfield Beach
HILLSBORO INLET
POMPANO BEACH
FT LAUDERDALE EXECUTIVE
FORT LAUDERDALE
Andytown
Stock
BROWARD CO INTL
HOLLYWOOD
HOLLYWOOD
FLORIDA
KM
TED STATES
02

POLK COUNTY, FL

23 OCT 57

CASE CONTAINS TAPED

RECORDING IN SEPARATE

FOLDER

AUDIO-TAPE
Oct. 23, 1957
POLK County. FLA.
OBSERVER - MULTI
FILE # 1003474
IN custody of Audio-Visual DIVISION

59117 NTFD 24/2345Z CW

AFTO

25 Oct 57 07 20

Oct 24 22 42 '57

NNNN

RC175

O WPA178 YDB122 VYC193VDD096KBA049

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 2D

P 242200Z

FM COMDR 660TH ACWRON MACDILL AFB FLA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

RJESKB/COMDR 35TH ADIV D DOBBINS AFB GA

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECH INT CNTR WHBWHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INT HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

BT

//UNCLASSFIIED//OPS 0597 PD ATTN: EADF CIO PD

1.

A. ROUND

B. DIRIGIBLE

C. SILVER WITH RED LIGHT

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. RED LIGHT ON ONE SIDE

G. NONE

H. NONE

I. NONE

BT

24/2158Z OCT RJESKB

4E4

4-4x2cc

WA49A 1957

WASHINGTON, NOV. 18.--(UP)--THE AIR FORCE SAID TODAY THAT "FLYING SAUCERS" REPORTED OVER JACKSONVILLE AND POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, LATE LAST MONTH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TENTATIVELY AS A SINGLE LARGE WEATHER BALLOON DRIFTING OVER THE STATE.

THIS EXPLANATION, A SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED, IS "NOT FINAL" BUT "ALL EVIDENCE SO FAR AVAILABLE" INDICATES THAT NO "STRANGE OBJECTS" WERE INVOLVED IN THE REPORTS.

SEN. GEORGE A. SMATHERS (D-FLA.) HAD ASKED THE AIR FORCE FOR AN EXPLANATION OF A REPORT OF A SO-CALLED " FLYING SAUCER" OVER POLK COUNTY ON OCT. 23. A SIMILAR REPORT WAS RECEIVED BY THE AIR FORCE FROM JACKSONVILLE A FEW DAYS LATER.

SILVER-COLORED BALLOONS ARE REGULARLY USED TO CARRY METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS ALOFT TO GATHER WEATHER INFORMATION.

(MH) JE135P

2. MOVING SLOWLY TOWARD SOUTH-20 DEGREES IN 1 HOUR

A. JUST HAPPENED TO SOPT IT

B. DIRECTLY OVER HEAD

C. STILL IN SIGHT AT TIME OF CALL

D. MOVING SLOWLY-SOUTH

E. STILL IN SIGHT AT TIME OF CALL

F. ONE HOUR

3.

. AIR VISUAL AND GROUND VISUAL

B. NONE

C. APACHE [redacted] 16,500 FT. ORBITING AT 120 KNOTS-OBJECT APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 50,000 FT AB IT OVE HIS ALTITUDE ← Distance Above ACFT.

4. 23 OCT 1957 AT 1700 EST IN SIGHT FOR ONE HOUR

A. 23 OCT 1957 AT 2200 ZULU

B. DAY

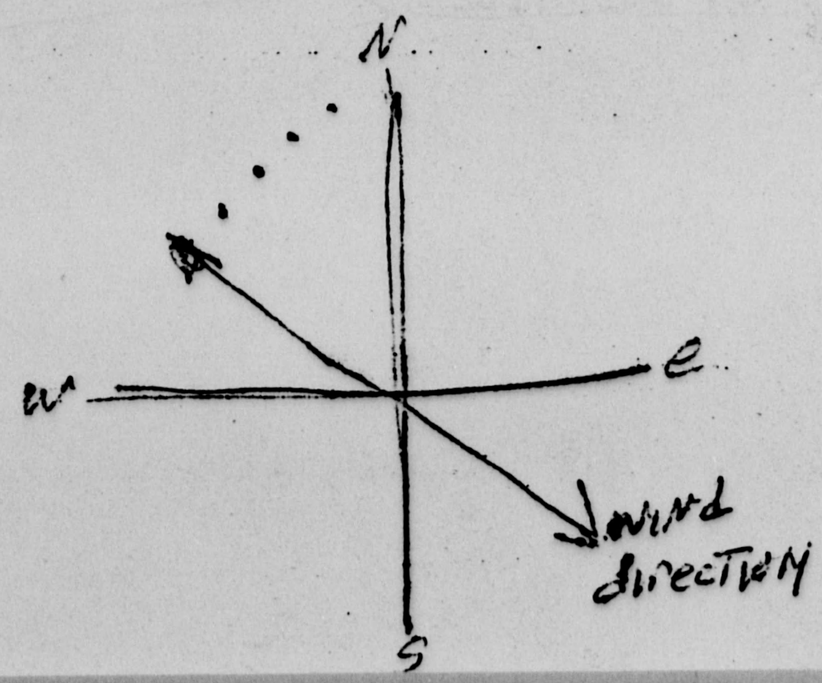
5. OVER LAKE WALES FLA AND AT BARTOW AB FLA

6.

A. MR. [redacted] N/A BARTOW AB, FLA FLIGHT INSTURCTOR

B. N/A

7. CLEAR TO PARTLY CLOUDY



OCT 25 01 46 '57

M WPA019 YDD015 VYB012VDD007KBA003

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

ZEL RJESKB

KBA049

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 2D

P 242200Z

FM COMDR 660TH ACWRON MACDILL AFB FLA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS CLOL

RJESKB/COMDR 35TH ADIV D DOBBINS AFB GA

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECH INT CNTR WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INT HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

BT

//UNCLASSIFIED//OPS 0597. PD ATTN: EADF CIO PD

1.

A. ROUND

B. DIRIGIBLE

C. SILVER WITH RED LIGHT

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. RED LIGHT ON ONE SIDE

G. HONE

H. NONE

I. NONE

SIZE AT ARMS LENGTH? Impossible to see anything else but object.

4E4

4-4x2c

PAGE THREE RJESKB 2D

A. SCATTERED THUNDER CLOUDS

B. 5-140/20 10-070/05 15-290/10 20-310/20 25-330/20

30-300/26 40-310/55 50-310/35KTS

C. SCATTERED

D. GOOD

E. SCATTERED

F. NO THUNDER STORMS

8. NONE

0. VECTORED BACKSTAGE 6 TO THE AREA AT 1820 EST SEARCHED THE AREA

FOR 15 MIN-NO JOY

10. APACHE [redacted] OVER LAKE WALES FLA

11. 1/LT HANS A SORENSON USAF SENIOR DIRECTOR ON DUTY POSSIBLE

WX BALLON

12. NONE

BT

24/2158Z OCT RJESKB

1) 2) 4E4
3-4X2a

E

JEDWP H014 WPF008 YDD011 VYD004 VDD002KBA024

PP RJEDDN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 68

P 281627Z

FM COMDR 35TH CADD DOBBINS AFB GA

TO RJEDDN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/ACS INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

BT

/UNCLASSIFIED/INT 6659. UFOB. ATTN: EADF CIC. REFERENCE UFOB REPORT CITE OPS 0597 FROM 65[illegible]TH ACWRON. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY 35TH ADCC: CAPT. W.E. PETERS, DUTY CONTROLLER, CONTACTED MAXWELL FLIGHT SERVICE. FLIGHT SRVICE THEN INFORMED A B-47 CALL SIGN VENICE 37 OF THE OBJECT. VENICE 37 FLEW TO THE AREA OF THE OBJECT AND REPORTED HAVING OBSERVED IT. THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY VENICE 37 WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS GIVEN BY THE ORIGINAL OBSERVER, WITH THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT THE OBJECT SEEMED TO HAVE A GONDOLA ATTACHED. THE 35TH ADCC WEATHER OFFICER COMMENTS THAT THE OBJECT COULD HAVE BEEN A WEATHER BALOON LAUNCHED IN THE ORLANDO, FLA. AREA. NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN.

BT

28/1622Z OCT RJESKB

AF FORM 112
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
United States		

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT: Report of Unidentified flying object

AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)
Central Florida (Polk County)	[redacted] Lake Wales, Florida

DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION
23 October 1957		

PREPARED BY (Officer)	SOURCE
Albert J. McGill, Capt., USAF	Tape Recording from WGTO Telephone conversation with [redacted]

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)
Air Force Regulation 200-2

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 112—Part II.)

1. In accordance with AFR 200-2, this report is submitted covering the sighting of an unidentified flying object.

(1) Description:

(a) To the naked eye, object appeared oblong with a tail projecting horizontally to the north.

(b) Large.

(c) Shiny.

(d) One.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) Object was described as too shiny for a weather balloon. It remained stationary while roughly ten mile circles were made around it over period of observation, which was approximately two hours.

(g) Oblong object with tail projecting north horizontally.

(h) No sound was heard.

(i) None.

(2) Description of course of object:

(a) Mr. [redacted] at Lake Wales, Florida, Polk County, and four other long time pilots went up Wednesday afternoon, October 23rd, in a Piper Apache at approximately 3:15 to an altitude of about 16,500 feet. They went to investigate an unidentifed flying object reported to the airport by local observer, and widely seen over central Polk County that afternoon.

(b) The five men had no binoculars or telescope, but estimated that the object was at an altitude of 50,000 or 60,000 feet above them, or approximately 66,500 or 76,500 feet altitude. They kept the object continuously in view for

(more)

INCLS.
1 Incl:

Recording Tape.

DISTRIBUTION BY OSI/ADC: ADC:
Original w/o Incl to ACS/I, HEDUSAF
Copy w/ Incl to Comdr, ATIC
Copy w/o Incl to Comdr, ADC

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

29 Oct 57 21 25Z PRIORITY 149C 29/2533Z

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE			
ACTION: PRIORITY			X	AF	OPS 0597	UNCL
INFO:						

FROM: COMDR ATIC

TO: COMMANDER, AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, ENT AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO
ATTENTION: D/I

RTEODN

UNCL/FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE 10-1661-E

REFERENCE OPS 0597 DATED 24 OCTOBER 1957. REQUEST FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF UFO SIGHTING OVER LAKE WELLS AND BARTOW AIR BASE, FLORIDA. REQUEST INFORMATION AS TO WHAT TYPE OF BALLOON, IF BALLOON AND WHAT WAS ATTACHED. WHERE WAS BALLOON LAUNCHED, AND ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AS TO ITS FLIGHT PATH FROM ORIGIN TO PLACE OF SIGHTING, IF AVAILABLE.

COORDINATION

AFCIN-4E4 Henry J. Miley DATE 29 Oct 57
Dr. Henry J. Miley

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

DATE 29 | TIME 1550

MONTH OCT | YEAR 57

WRITER

SYMBOL: AFCIN-4E4

TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required): T/Sgt James Bolieu

PHONE 69216 | PAGE NR. 1 | NR. OF PAGES 1

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASER

SIGNATURE

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

WALLACE M. ELWOOD
Captain, USAF
Assistant Adjutant

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

approximately two hours.

(c) No statement made by observers.

(d) Object remained stationary during period of observation.

(e) Object remained in sight for approximately two hours. No disappearance of object was noted by observers.

3. Manner of observation:

(a) Object was sighted airborne and ground-visual.

(b) No binoculars or telescopes used. Object was viewed by naked eye only.

(c) Object was sighted by four long time pilots in a Piper Apache. Altitude was approximately 16,500 feet.

4. Time and date of sighting: Approximately 1515 (EST) (2015Z) on Monday, 23 October 1957. Day and dusk.

5. Location of observer: Lake Wales, Florida, Polk County.

6. Identifying information of observers:

(a) [redacted] at Lake Wales, Florida, and four others (names unknown). Various Civilian Ground Observers over Central Polk County (names unknown). No military observers.

7. Weather and winds at time and place of sighting:

(a) Winds were reported to be 22 miles an hour at altitude of 50,000 feet.

(b) Unknown.

(c) Unknown.

(d) Unknown.

(e) Unknown.

(f) Unknown.

8. None.

9. An unidentifed radio contact told [redacted] that Pinecastle Air Force Base had sent two B-47s to an altitude of 15,000 feet to check their observations. Same radio contact requested [redacted] to switch to unidentifed defense agency radio named to him by code name, which the radio contact declined to disclose, but which [redacted] believed to be Tampa, Florida. The agency radio asked [redacted] to transmit on what [redacted] called to international distress frequency which [redacted] said is known as Guard Channel 125. Hull also stated he was in communication for some time on this frequency regarding his observation and was told by the agency radio that he would be contacted later. This reporting officer checked with Captain Groves, Wing Control Room, who stated no aircraft was deployed on that date to search for object sighted.

(more)

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

10. None - other than two B-47s.

11. Reporting officer did not see object or had no knowledge of same until after phone call on date stated. Report was delayed until tape recording could be acquired and transmitted with same. No other comments or analysis.

12. None are known to exist.

ALBERT J. MCGILL
CAPTAIN, USAF
STAFF INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

Mr. [redacted] Senator [redacted] Florida

General Jones 25 October 1300 hours

Unidentified Flying Objects

[redacted] was called by Mr. [redacted] of the Lakeland, Florida, Ledger who reported that at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 23 October, a large gondola shaped unidentified object was observed hovering over Pope County at about 80,000 feet. Local residents called the Miami Filter Center, the ISO's at Pinecastle and MacDill AF Bases and the Security Officer at Patrick AF Base. Allegedly all of these individuals indicated they had no idea what the object was and made no effort to attempt to investigate. The people are disturbed about this attitude on the part of the Air Force and feel that the Air Force's responsibility was not fulfilled. Senator [redacted] has asked for a report in this matter as soon as possible.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

28 October 1957

Dear Captain Elwood:

Senator [redacted] office called Brigadier General C. D. Jones, Deputy Director of the Office of Legislative Liaison with reference to a large gondola-shaped Unidentified Flying Object which hovered over Pope County, Florida at approximately 80,000 feet at 1400 hours on Wednesday, 23 October 1957.

Senator [redacted] was concerned because local residents called the Miami Filter Center, the ISOs at Pinecastle and MacDill Air Force Bases and the Security Officer at Patrick Air Force Base with negative results. Allegedly all of these individuals indicated that they had no idea what the object was and made no effort to investigate.

The people are disturbed about this attitude on the part of the Air Force and feel that the Air Force's responsibility was not fulfilled. This sighting should have been reported to your headquarters immediately in accordance with AFR 200-2, dated 12 August 1954.

Will you please check your records to see if this sighting was reported to your headquarters from any other source. If an identification or evaluation of this sighting is possible, please send the results to me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Captain Wallace W. Elwood, USAF
Assistant Adjutant
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Letter to Honorable [redacted] (Cont)

With the exception of the official press release referred to above, the Air Force has not cleared, sponsored, or otherwise coordinated any books, motion pictures, pamphlets, or other informational material on the subject of unidentified aerial objects. Nothing has occurred since the Department of Defense release on 25 October 1955 to change the official United States Air Force position on the subject, and the new statistics through 30 June 1957 substantiate this stand.

Approximately 5,700 reports have been received from 1947 to the present time.

Statistics for 1956 are:

Total Reports 778

Conclusions

Balloons	26.1%
Aircraft	24.6%
Astronomical	26.3%
Other (Birds, lights, hoaxes, et cetera)	6.7%
Insufficient Data	14.1%
Unknown	2.2%

Statistics for the first half of 1957 are:

Total Reports 250

Conclusions

Balloons	26.4%
Aircraft	28.3%
Astronomical	24.4%
Other (Birds, lights, hoaxes, et cetera)	6.4%
Insufficient Data	12.1%
Unknown	1.9%

No reports of unidentified aerial objects have been withheld. It is a practice, however, that the names of persons involved in reported sightings and the many details of the individual

23 OCT

SAFLL-1/Mr. Wilson/pls/[illegible]641/23 Oct 57
SAFLL

file UFO

30CT[redacted]

Dear Senator[redacted]

Recently you furnished me with information concerning an unidentified aerial object over Pope County, Florida, on 23 October 1957.

Details of this sighting of an unidentified aerial object have been forwarded to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, for possible analysis and identification. The report of their findings, if any, will be forwarded to your office as soon as it is received in Air Force Headquarters.

On 5 May 1955, the Department of the Air Force declassified its special study, Project Bluebook, Report Number 14, Analysis of Reports on Unidentified Aerial Objects. On 25 October 1955, the Department of Defense released the summary of the Air Force study. A copy of the news release and summary are inclosed for your information. It showed that the Air Force had reduced the number of unknown sightings from approximately ten percent in 1954 to approximately three percent. New figures as of 30 June 1957, about to be published, show the unknowns to be less than two percent. The unknown sightings are of concern to the Air Force and will continue to be investigated. There are, however, several primary points concerning the results of our study which may be reiterated. The study has shown:

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There is a total lack of evidence that the phenomena observed have inimical or hostile forces behind them.

There is a total lack of evidence that they are interplanetary vehicles.

SAFLL

There is a total lack of evidence that they constitute any threat to the security of the United States or this country.

OCT 30

Letter to Honorable [redacted] (Cont)

cases will not be made public. Most of the persons who report sightings to the Air Force do so in confidence and their wishes are respected.

The Air Force does not consider the unidentified aerial objects question a dead issue and will continue to use the services of qualified scientists and technicians in the investigation and analysis of each reported case with only one end in view, to establish the truth.

A copy of our letter to the Air Technical Intelligence Center, has been forwarded to each of the Commanders of the Air Force activities involved in Florida, in order to preclude the possibility of any indifference with respect to this subject.

Sincerely yours,
[redacted] D. JONES
Brigadier General, USAF
For and in the absence of

JOE W. KELLY
Major General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison

Inclosure
Fact Sheet-News Release dtd 25 Oct 55.
Honorable [redacted]

United States Senate

MR: Originated when Mr. [redacted] of Senator [redacted] office called General Jones on 25 October and requested a report. Case was hand-carried to Major Tacker, SAFIS, on 25 October for info to base reply w/susp 28 October. On 28 October Major Tacker hand-carried [redacted] to M&O Branch a proposed draft of reply. Final prepd & fwded 28 October based on draft furnished by Maj Tacker.

HEADQUARTERS

AIR FORCE MISSILE TEST CENTER

AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Patrick Air Force Base, Florida

In reply address communication to Comdr, AFMTC, attention following office symbol

MTCA

1 Nov 57

Dear Captain Elwood:

This Center received a courtesy copy of Major L. J. Tacker's letter to you of 28 October 1957, regarding "a large gondola shaped unidentified Flying Object which hovered over Pope (sic) County...23 October 1957". It is believed that Polk County is the correct location as there is no Pope County in Florida.

An investigation has not uncovered any record of the reference call having been received at this Center. Four of the five pertinent agencies checked, maintain blotters or logs on such calls. The fifth agency, the AFMTC Staff Provost Marshall, also has no knowledge of the call.

It is regretted that this Center can not be of further assistance in this matter. A study by this office revealed that over 90% of the UFO calls are the result of sightings relating to our operations (missile test, weather balloons, aircraft instrumentation and range instrumentation checks).

Sincerely yours,

Robert Sattem

ROBERT SATTEM, Captain, USAF

Capt. Wallace W. Elwood, USAF
Assistant Adjutant
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

UFO SIGHTING, LAKE WALES
23 October 1957
23/2200Z

Reported on tape by [redacted]

Wednesday afternoon at approximately 3:00 I received a phone call from an observer in Lake Wales telling me that there was an object in the sky at what he figured was 20 thousand feet. I went outside of my office and looked up viewing this object then proceeded to check with the Orlando radio on the chance that it might be a weather balloon. Orlando had nothing reported in the area, and since it is practice to report these balloons, we decided that we would go up and take a look at this object. We entered a Piper Apache aircraft (twin engine) and proceeded to climb up to try and view this object.

We climbed to 16,500 feet over Haines City and had the object in view all the time. At 16,500 the object appeared to be 50 to 60 thousand feet above us. We kept the object in sight circling it at all times, thereby eliminating the possibility that it might be a star.

Upon receiving the upper winds report giving us winds at 50 thousand feet of 22 knots, we disqualified the chance that it might be a weather balloon because of the fact that at 22 knots wind a weather balloon would have been drifting; and this object stayed stationary directly over Haines City for more than 2 hours as we were up from 3:30 till almost 6:00 searching this object.

The object appeared to have some sort of a tail or trailing fuselage type design. It appeared to be oblong in shape. The tail part of the object was not visible at all times probably due to sunlight reflection.

We discount the fact that it could have been a weather balloon due to the fact that the object was much too shiney. Weather balloons are coated dull with a powdery effect so that they won't shine and reflect. All the people in the a/c with me during this time were licensed pilots who have been flying for many years and have seen many such weather balloons; and therefore, we discounted the weather balloon theory on the basis of our own past experience.

We kept the object in sight until approximately 5:42 at which time the object appeared to be ascending rapidly and on our next circling of the object, it had completely disappeared.

There appeared to be no descent whatsoever to the object.

This is [redacted]

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TO COMDR ATIC

BT

/UNCLAS/ADODI-B 135 PD REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE AFCIN 4E4 CITE 10-1661-E.

NO ACTION TAKEN. REFERENCE MESSAGE 35TH AIR DIVISION DOBBINS AFB

GEORGIA CITE INT 6659, COPY TO YOUR CENTER. BALLOON REPORTED LAUNCHED

IN ORLANDO FLORIDA AREA. END

BT

01/2331Z NOV RJEDDN