PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 15 Jan 61	2. LOCATION SE of Paine Field, Washington	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical METEOR ☒ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other_____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2227 GMT 160627Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Military	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 sec	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Brilliant white object size of basketball. Resembled a strong spotlight. Then it exploded and a large part of the sky was lit up. There was considerable orange and some blue coloring in explosion. No sound heard. Object appeared level with pilot flying at 35,000'.

11. COMMENTS No satellites reentering at this time. Description and duration are characteristic of a meteor. Brightness and explosion suggest that object was a fireball which exploded before it reached the earth's surface.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
USA		

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT		
UFO		
AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)	
Paine Field, Wash	64th Ftr Intcp Sqd	
DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION
16 Jan 61	16 Jan 61	
PREPARED BY (Officer)	SOURCE	
1st Lt W B McDonald	Capt R E Dawson	

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

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 113—Part II.)

UFO. I am in doubt whether to call my sighting an object or an airborne explosion; however, I will assume the sighting was on object before it exploded.

a. Discription:

(1) Fireball first, and then a large portion of sky was lit up as if an explosion had occurred. There was considerable orange and some blue coloring in explosion.

(2) Fireball was basketball size.

(3) Fireball was brilliant white. It resembled a strong spotlight.

(4) Only one.

(5) Only one.

(6) My first impression was that a large landing light had been turned on in my face.

(7) No tail visible to me.

(8) No sound, I was flying in a T-33 aircraft.

b. Discription of object:

(1) The intense light which appeared to be approaching rapidly. My first thought was that I was about to collide with something and I initiated evasive maneuvers.

(2) Object appeared level with me.

(3) Object was in my nine o'clock, and my magnetic heading was 290°. My altitude was 35,000 feet, my ground speed 330.

(4) Appeared to be gaining altitude.

(5) The sequence was this: brilliant white, fireball; then a brilliant colorful explosion (which silhouetted the cloud tops), and returned to darkness.

INCLS

(6) Approximately five seconds.

c. Manner of observation:

(over)

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(1) I was airborne in a T-33 aircraft number 56-1594. My call sign was Air Force Jet 1594. I was flying on a magnetic heading of 290° at 35,000 feet, and my ground speed was 330 knots, and was ten minutes southeast of the Paine TVOR. My home station is Paine Field, Washington.

d. Time and date of sighting:

(1) Time was 0627Z, 16 Jan 61.

(2) Night.

e. Location of observers:

(1) I was 55 nautical miles southeast of the Paine TVOR tracking inbound on the 110° radial.

f. Identifying information on observers.

(1) Two military pilots.

Capt Robert E Dawson, (Pilot)

1st Lt James L Fulk Jr (Pilot)

(2) Both pilots assigned to the 64th Ftr Intcp Sq, Paine Field, Wash.

g. Weather and Winds.

(1) We were at 35,000 feet and flying on top of the undercast. The entire area was covered with clouds. We were skimming cloud tops.

And this was only a beginning---for on <u>January 15, 1961</u> a so-called meteor flashed across the sky in southern Oregon and northern California, lighting up Eureka , California almost like daylight.