1. DATE - TIME GROUP	2. LOCATION
10-14 April 65 10/1130Z	Misawa AB, Japan
3. SOURCE Military	**10. CONCLUSION** ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Multiple	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 Seconds to 5 Minutes	**11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS** Radar returns. A/C scrambled and no visual contact made although a/c and blip merged. Airborn pick-up also. Returns received on four separate days. COMMENTS: Radar analysts indicated that anomalous propagation was the most likely cause of the returns, however also indicated that returns might have been triggered by another radar from ships or a/c, or ground electronic equipment.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Radar	
7. COURSE Varied	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FTD FORM SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE (PACAF)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
APO 925, San Francisco, California 96525

23 Apr 65

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 5FICO

SUBJECT: (U) UFO Report

TO: AFSC (FTD)
INFO: Detachment #4, Foreign Technology Division
39th Air Division (39IDC)

1. (U) The attached UFO Report, prepared by 39th Air Division is forwarded in accordance with AFR 200-2, dated 20 Jul 62.

2. (U) Two (2) thermofax copies of report have been reproduced by 5FICO. One (1) copy for retention by 5FICO, one (1) copy for Detachment #4, Foreign Technology Division.

FOR THE COMMANDER

EDWARD A. BRINKMAN
Lt Colonel, USAF
Director of Collections

1 Atch
Ltr, 39ADIV, subj as above, dtd 19 Apr 65, w/3 Atch: 1. UFO Collection Outline, 1cy (S); 2. Statement of Sightings on Apr 10, 1cy (S); 3. Statement of Sightings on Apr 11, 1 cy (S)

AFSC (FTD)

When Atch(s) [redacted] (is) (are) withdrawn or not attached the classification of SECRET on this correspondence may be cancelled.

Classification Cancelled
(or changed to _____)
Auth: Director DOP
By: [illegible]
Date: 15 May 69
EFE205-1 Para 2-17(b)
30 Jan 68

GROUP-3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals;
Not automatically declassified.

[redacted]

5FICO 65-00090

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

HEADQUARTERS
39TH AIR DIVISION
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
APO 919, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 39IDC

19 APR 1965

SUBJECT: UFO Report

TO: 5AF (5FI CO)
APO San Francisco 96525

1. The attached UFO Report is of sightings made on 10 and 11 April 1965, at Misawa AB.

2. This letter may be downgraded to unclassified upon removal of attachments.

Robert J. Mallard Col

WILLIAM G PRICE III
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Comdr for Operations

3 Atchs
1. UFO Collection Outline, 1cy(S)
2. Statement of Sightings on Apr 10, 1cy(S)
3. Statement of Sightings on Apr 11, 1cy(S)

Classification Cancelled
~~(or changed to~~
Auth. Director TDP
By
Date 15 May 69
AFR 205-1 Para 2-11(b)
3 Jan 68

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

UFO COLLECTION OUTLINE

1. Description of the Objects:

a. Shape: Unknown b. Size: The object gave a radar return which was about the same as an F-100. c. Color: Unknown d. Number of Objects: See attached statement by observer. e. Formation: See Attachment. f. Sound: Unknown.

2. Description of course of Objects:

a. What first called attention of observer to the objects: Radar return on precision radar scope. b. Description of flight path and maneuvers of the objects: See Attachment. c. How did the objects disappear: The general heading of all the unknowns was easterly at the time of fade out. d. How long was the object visible: Some as little as 30 seconds while others gave a return for as long as 5 minutes.

3. Manner of observation:

a. Ground electronic. b. Optical aids used and description of the aids: Radar (Surveillance and precision Approach Control).

4. Time and date of sighting:

a. Zulu time-date group: 1130Z 10 April 1965. b. Light conditions: Night. c. Location: Misawa AB, Japan.

6. Identifying information on observers:

a. Military: Name, grade, organization, duty, estimated reliability: Robert C. Damen, LtCol, 39th Air Division, Commander 1953rd Comm Sq. Lester D. Waymire, Capt, 39th Air Division, RAPCON. Both are reliable individuals. The Radar blips were observed by all observers present in the RAPCON during this time.

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

Classification Cancelled
~~(Unclassified)~~
Auth Original OPR
By [illegible]
Date 15 May 69
AFR 205-1 Para 8-17(b)
8 Jan 69

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

7. Weather and winds aloft, conditions at time of sighting:

a. Report from the nearest US Weather Bureau of wind direction and velocity in degrees and knots at surface: 260° at 10 knots. 6000 feet: 260° at 35 knots, 10,000 feet: 250° at 50 knots.

b. Ceiling: 4,000 scattered. c. Visibility: 7 nautical miles

d. Amount of cloud cover: Less than 50%. e. Temperature: 35°.

8. Position, title and comments of Intelligence Personnel making report:

1/Lt. David W. Vaughan, Chief Targets Branch, 39th Air Division. The statement by Capt Waymire (Attachment #1) cover the facts of the sighting in a very concise manner and I can not add to this. However, the sightings were again made on the 11th at approximately the same time (See statement, Attachment #2). On 12 April 65, 1340Z similiar sightings were again encountered. The ADCC scrambled one F-102 from the 4th Ftr Sq. and while he was airborne 10 unknowns appeared in the same manner. The pilot could not make any visual sightings. It appears that the sightings on the radar were caused by an unknown weather condition or phenomena.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

SIGHTINGS ON APRIL 10:

At approximately 1130Z, Trap 02, a T-39 was on base leg to runway 28, approximately 6 1/2 miles out. At this time I observed a target on the PAR, at 4 miles, 1000 feet proceeding Northeast. I took control of Trap 02 and turned him on final at 5 3/4 miles. The target heading Northeast went off the PAR scan. As Trap 02 came on in, another target came on the PAR from the Southwest. The target reflection was larger than the T-39, and traveled at approximately 175 kts. When the target was 1/4 mile from Trap 02, it veered to the right and passed off the left wing of 02, slightly above him. The target continued eastward and climbed to approximately 2800 feet and disappeared. By this time Trap 02 was approximately 3 1/4 miles out on final approach, and another target came from the Southwest and turned outbound oncenterline at 2 1/2 miles altitude 1000 feet. I again advised Trap 02 and he said he couldn't see a thing. The target continued on a collision course and passed directly over 02, approximately 200 feet above him. Both targets appeared the size of a flight of 2 century type A/C and varied in speed from 150 to 200 kts. Upon landing, the pilot of Trap 02, Capt Odle, and another officer came to the RAPCON to observe the targets, which were now on PAR and ASR at the same points. Both officers, MSgt Williams, A1C Pancake, and A3C Stud observed the targets on PAR and ASR. Also the three above mentioned enlisted men observed the targets in relation to Trap 02 while he was on final approach. Capt Waymire was notified and came to the RAPCON with another officer, and both observed the targets on PAR and ASPR. By this time the targets were more numberous on the ASR and were seen in all quadrants of the scope, most of them within 6 miles of the field. Also at this time a large ship was noted on PAR, 8 miles out in the ocean, proceeding north. The targets were track on MTI-NORMAL, and a mixture of both. They could be seen with CP on or off, and with STC on or off. The general track of the targets was Southwest-Northeast, although they traveled in all directions, but seldom came directly over the field. Later it was noted that the large ship had made a right turn and came back across the PAR scan, southbound, and stopped 9 1/2 miles out, directly in line with the runway centerline. The ship stayed stantionary at this point for 45 minutes to an hour, and then proceeded very slowly to the South. By this time Col Damen and Lt Day were in the facility and both observed the targets and the ship. There were low hanging clouds visible on the PAR, from 8 miles on out, but no precipitation below 2000 feet was visible. Tower reported on visual sightings, but did report hazy conditions to the East. At the time of the initial occurrence, I checked Hachinohe, Chitose, Scranton, JCAB, and Tokyo for traffic in the area. None was reported. I checked weather for inversion, or rapid temperature changes, none had occurred. I had maintenance check the radar. It appeared normal. They could see the targets, but could not explain them. The targets on ASR appeared to be two A/C in close formation, all leaving a trail on the scope. This is my third sighting of such phenomena, and each instance the targets could have been detrimental to the specific mission for that day. Possibly a coincidence, possibly not.

Classification Cancelled
(~~[illegible]~~)
Auth: [illegible]
By: [illegible]
Date: 15 May 69
AFR 205-1 Para 4-17(b)
3 Dec 68

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 2500.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

In the past 12 years I have observed all types of weather, wind, temperature inversion, false returns, birds, and numerous other objects on radar, but never a target this size, moving with the speed and direction of these.

NOTE: These are statements by RAPCON radar scope observers taken by 1st Lt David W. Vaughan, Chief, Target Intelligence Branch.

David W. Vaughan
DAVID W VAUGHAN
1st Lt, USAF
Chief, Target Branch

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

SIGHTINGS ON APRIL 11:

11 April 1965, approximately 2140 local, I observed targets in the vicinity of Misawa AB. These targets appeared on the ASR radar between the ranges of 2 and 6 miles from the base. These targets were in the Southwest-Southeast (Due East) quadrants. The strength of these targets was 3. The tracks and headings of each varied. There were no formation type targets. All appeared to be single returns.

The total number of targets was 9 on ASR and 1 on PAR. The period of time was from approximately 2140 local to 2157 local. The target observed on PAR was strength 4 on both elevation and azimuth. The target on PAR broke off over the approach wires and had started at approximately 6 miles out from left of course. There was no reported traffic known to any agency. Two ships were observed before, during and after this occurrence. Personnel in RAPCON witnessing this were:

TSgt Seaitz
A2C Hendrickson
A3C Woody
A1C Rupben (Radar Maint)

Tower could not see any visible targets when given bearings and distances.

NOTE: These are statements by RAPCON radar scope observers taken by 1st Lt David W. Vaughan, Chief, Target Intelligence Branch.

David W. Vaughan
DAVID W VAUGHAN
1st Lt, USAF
Chief, Target Branch

Classification Cancelled
(~~Downgraded to~~)
Auth: ~~Director, IDP~~
By ~~[illegible]~~
Date: ~~15 May 69~~
AFR 200-1 Para 2-17(b)
30 Jan 68

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 2500. 10

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

DETACHMENT 4 (PACIFIC OFFICE)
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
APO, SAN FRANCISCO, 96594

UNCLASSIFIED

REPLY TO ATTN OF: TDZP

4 MAY 196[illegible]

SUBJECT: (U) Supplement to UFO Report

TO: Hqs FTD (TDEED)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

THRU: Hqs FTD (TDEW)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

1. (U) Reference 39ADC letter, "UFO Report," dated 19 April, forwarded to FTD by Hq 5AF (5FICO), pertaining to UFO observed 10-11 April 65 on GCA radar at Misawa AB. Following supplementary information obtained from Capt. Lester D. Waymire, 1953d Communications Squadron (RAPCON), who observed the incidents.

2. [redacted] The objects were observed on both CPN-18 (S-band) and FPN-16 (X-band) GCA radars. When the objects were in position to be observed by both radars, both radars reflected the targets at identical positions. The CPN-18 PRF was 1500 pps, and the FPN-16 PRF was 1833 pps. Thus, it seems unlikely that the objects were electronically generated false targets. Maximum and minimum ranges at which the targets appeared and faded were compatible with the radars' normal range and altitude capabilities (CPN-18 range against small low-flying aircraft is about 20 NM; FPN-16 maximum altitude capability 3000 feet). However, 39ADCC advised that AC & W sites (the nearest being about 35NM north) reflected no targets which could be equated with those observed by Misawa GCA.

3. (U) The presence of ships a few miles off shore during the incidents is not considered unusual; Hachinohe, just south of Misawa, is a busy port, and more often than not a ship is inbound or outbound abeam Misawa. Also, a very popular fishing hole is only a few miles out from Misawa on the runway's azimuth.

4. (U) Although the unidentified targets most often were initially detected near mountains (3000 to 4000 feet) located 15 NM west of Misawa, and winds were generally out of the west, the targets' speeds (140-240 knots) and various headings (including alter headings) argue against their being wind-borne. Atmospheric conditions during which targets were observed varied from "very grim" weather with low overcast, to CAVU. Temperature inversion was suspected on one date but not on others. Failure of known aircraft in the area to make visual contact with targets does not completely rule out existence of visible targets; the initial attempt at observation (10 April) by aircraft on final approach was in bad weather, and on 12 April when an F-102 was scrambled to attempt contact, the targets were not within the precision radar's scan and no altitude could be ascertained. All incidents occurred at night.

UNCLASSIFIED

50514

Classification Cancelled
~~(or changed to)~~
Auth ~~[illegible]~~
By ~~[illegible]~~
Date ~~[illegible]~~
[illegible] 2-1-76
5 Jan 68

[redacted]

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

5. [redacted] Misawa RAPCON officers could discern no special pattern to the tracks of the unidentified targets, other than that they frequently (but not always) converged on the Misawa runway (or possibly toward the 6921 Security Wing's Wullenweber antenna array). The targets broke off before passing directly over the base. No record was maintained of the exact tracks. From the general description, the tracks are what might be expected if radial and tangential antenna pattern measurements were being obtained by (or from) an aircraft working in conjunction with (or against) ground equipment at Misawa. However, investigation to date has not disclosed any antenna pattern missions scheduled during this period, nor would such missions explain the occasional presence of multiple targets.

6. (U) In addition to the incidents on 10, 11, and 12 April described in the initial UFO report, similar unidentified targets were observed on 14 April. The targets were seen on eight occasions on the latter date, four times on both the search and precision radar; in one instance, four targets were visible simultaneously, and in another instance, two targets were present.

7. (U) Any additional data which might clarify the identity of the targets will be forwarded as it becomes available.

C. R. Hippenstiel
C. R. HIPPENSTIEL
Colonel, USAF
Commander

CCs To: Hqs FTD (TDA)
39IDC, Misawa
1953 Comm SQ, Misawa
5th AF (5FICO)

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Ltr, 5FICO, 23 Apr 65, subj (U) UFO Report

1st Ind (TDEW/UFO) 28 Apr 65

TO: TDEED/Mr Bryant

Request your evaluation of the above report by return indorsement.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr
Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch

1 Atch
w/ 3 Atchs
n/c

Classification Cancelled
(~~[redacted]~~)
Auth ~~Director OSP~~
By ~~Quintanilla~~
Date ~~15 May 69~~
AFR 205-1 para 2-17(b)
3 Jan 68

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS: NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

If inclosure[redacted]s withdrawn (or not attached), [redacted] classification of this correspondence will be downgraded to [redacted] in accordance with AFR 205-1.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Ltr., 5FICO, 23 Apr 65, subj: (U) UFO Report

2nd Ind. (TDEED/Capt Dunlap/pkj/74236) 7 May 65

TO: TDEW/UFO

1. [redacted] Evaluation of the Misawa AB, Japan, UFO Report indicates that the probable cause was anomalous propagation. Radar echoes obtained from regions of the atmosphere where no apparent reflecting source exists, commonly referred to as "angels," can usually be attributed to various causes; i.e., birds, insects, and meteorological effects. In this instance, the reported factors (range of target, speed, and no visual sighting) tend to support anomalous propagation.

2. [redacted] Anomalous propagation occurs when the radiated radar beam is bent, by reflection or refraction, to the ground. The echoes return to the radar by the same path. The radar actually sees the ground or some object on the ground as a target. An apparent moving target is observed if the beam illuminates a moving object or even when the beam illuminates a stationary object on the ground if the reflecting portion of the atmosphere is itself in motion. It has been reported that at a range of 50 miles a horizontal reflecting layer rising 3 meters per second could cause an apparent echo to move at 300 miles per hour. This appears to be the only likely technical explanation for the target speeds observed in this report.

3. [redacted] Lack of tangible evidence does allow the existence of other plausible causes. It is possible that spurious signals from airborne, shipborne or ground-based sources accidentally or intentionally caused the appearance of the seemingly nonexistent targets. However, as pointed out in Det 4, FTD letter (U) "Supplement to UFO Report," 4 May 1965, it is unlikely that two radars operating at different frequencies would observe a false target, electronically generated, in the same position. Consideration of the available evidence, however, tends to support anomalous propagation as the cause.

FRANK L. AYRES
Colonel, USAF
Electronics Directorate
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems

1 Atch
n/c

[redacted]

Classification Cancelled
(or changed to ~~[illegible]~~)
Auth: Director AFDP
By: [illegible]
Date: 1 Oct 66
AFR 205-1 Para 2-17(L)
5 Jan 68

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]