

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP	2. LOCATION
3 Jan 67 4/0525Z	Arizona, California multiple
3. SOURCE	10. CONCLUSION
Civilian	Astro(Fireball) ✓ J24
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS	
one	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
2-20 seconds	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION	Observers reported a greenish-white object which was coming straight downward which was visible for several seconds. The pilot said that he first thought it was a UFO but later thought it must have been a large, bright meteor. The pilot saw the object for about 20 seconds before it apparently exploded into several pieces. Other sightings reported quite similar descriptions of the object.
Ground-Air Visual	
7. COURSE	Contact with various organizations have lead to the conclusion that this object was a large fireball. The description, colors, flight path, ect. lead to this conclusion. The descriptions are very consistent with that of a fireball observation.
NW	
8. PHOTOS	
☐ Yes	
☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE	
☐ Yes	
☒ No	

3 JAN 67

YUMA, AZ. (California)

Memo for the Record: 4 JAN 67

At 0225 EST, 4 Jan 67, Major Winstead, AFCEP, telephonically advised 15th AF thru SAC a UFO incident as follows:

"Sighted 2225 MST(04/0525-0535Z) from Yuma, Arizona to coastline was an alleged UFO. It was reported to Los Angeles watch supervisor. A United Airlines pilot also reported it to the Los Angeles Center. The pilot reported bright lights trailing sparks and flames, bright enough to light up his cockpit. Also the Yuma tower and motorists reported a quite similar object. The object appeared to explode over the coastline.

Contact was made with SPADATS; however they had only a fragment reenter the atmosphere. It is unlikely that a fragment could have accounted for the observation.

Contact was made with Vandenburg AFB and Point Magu in regards to any missile activity which could have accounted for the sighting. In both cases there was no missile activity to account for the sighting.

Contact was made with the 27th Air Div, Luke AFB, Arizona. No information was available. Return call from Capt. Cross furnished the following information: The first call to the 27th was at 0525Z from the Los Angeles watch superior reporting a sighting from Yuma, Arizona. The Los Angeles center again called at 0533Z 4 Jan 67 to report that a United Airlines pilot had seen a UFO.

Contact was made with the Yuma Proving Grounds(Army) in regards to the sighting. The PIO actually saw the object that came over the previous night. He was at a drive in movie and saw what he thought was a large bright meteor. He said that the object was predominately green in color with some off white. It was seen for about 2 seconds. The [REDACTED]

Contact was made with Air Route Traffic Control Center in Palm Dale, Calif. They had no information on the sighting. The watch superior Mr. Macy said that he would contact the watch superior who was on duty at the time of the sighting. Mr. Macy called back and said that he had contacted Mr. Frank Reed who was the watch superior on the night of the sighting. He said that the object was observed for 20-30 seconds by the pilot. The aircraft was over Mt. Whitney at an altitude of about 32,000 feet. The pilot said that he first thought that it was a UFO but later realized that it must have been a bright meteor. It came straight down and broke up into several pieces. Other reports were made on the object; all fitting the same description. Sightings were made in Yuma, Arizona, Bakersfield, San Diego, California.

Memo for the Record: 4 JAN 67

Contact was made with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in regards to the sighting. Conversation with Mr. [REDACTED] revealed that there have been no reports to his observatory on this particular sighting. He will contact some of the Moon-watch team to determine if any of the members had heard or seen anything.

Memo for the Record: 5 JAN 67

Contact was made with the U.S. Naval Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona (602-774-6623). Conversation with Dr. Kron, director of the observatory, revealed that no reports had been forwarded to his observatory regarding a bright meteor or fireball being observed on the night of 3 Jan. 6. After telling him the description of the object that was seen, he said that it was very much like that reported for a large fireball. He said that when a fireball enters the atmosphere it heats up a tubular section of the atmosphere. Sometimes its trail is visible for a couple of minutes depending on several factors. Dr. Kron suggested that contact be made with the Kitt-Peak National Observatory since they are the clearing house for reported meteor observations.

Contact was made with the Kitt Peak National Observatory, Tucson, Arizona (602-327-6655). There has been no reports made to this observatory in regards to the sighting over western Arizona. They had no record of anyone seeing the alleged object.