

18 January 1979

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

1. On 15 January 1979, the SAC Office of History (SAC/HO) requested that the 379BMW/HO research an unidentified flying object (UFO) incident experienced by the 379BMW during November 1975. The request had originated from the Air Force Office of History due to a Congressional Inquiry by Congressman Stratton concerning an article in the 10 December 1978 edition of Parade Magazine entitled "UFO's vs the USAF, Amazing but True." On 15 January, Colonel John J. Doran Jr., 379BMW Commander was interviewed by the 379BMW Historian, SSgt Paul J. Cahill Jr. concerning the UFO incident. At the time of the incident, Colonel Doran had been the 379BMW Vice Commander. The following is an account of the incident as recalled by Colonel Doran:

Colonel Doran recalled that one evening just after Halloween (1975), a Security Policeman posted to the back gate of the base had reported what he thought sounded like a helicopter overhead. The Command Post notified Colonel Boardman (Wing Commander) and Colonel Doran and they proceeded to the flightline. The base Radar Approach Control (RAPCON) had simultaneously reported a low flying object on their radar scope. At about the same period of time, a KC-135 returning from a refueling mission had entered the Wurtsmith traffic pattern and had received permission to fly transition approaches. Colonel Boardman directed the KC-135 to attempt to identify the object. Wurtsmith Air Traffic Control vectored the tanker in the direction of the object and for approximately two hours the tanker tracked the object. The crew reported seeing two different strobe type lights during their attempt to intercept. Finally, after running low on fuel, the tanker was forced to return to the base.

Colonel Doran stated that the wing had assumed an increased state of readiness shortly after being notified of the incident. Similar incidents had been reported by Loring AFB, Maine and

Deletion of FOUO markings
authorized by HQ SAC/HO Ltr,
28 Feb 80, Todd FOIA (80-14)