

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE About June 1955		2. LOCATION KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☒ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>Unreliable Rpt</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>2200</u> GMT _____		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION not given		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one (1)		9. COURSE not given	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Large, shiny metal ball appeared low over observer. Came to a stop, then left with a high rate of speed. States he heard "chug chug" sound. Reported to FBI who forwarded it to AF OSI.				11. COMMENTS Object reported lyr after sighting. Too old to investigate. Witness "Saucer" enthusiast. Unreliable report.	

ROUTING	COORDINATION
AFOIN-4	
AFOIN-4X2b	
AFOIN-4X2c	
AFOIN-4X3	
AFOIN-4X4	
AFOIN-4A	
AFOIN-4B	
AFOIN-4C	
AFOIN-4D	
AFOIN-4E	
AFOIN-4F	
OTHERS	

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE CLASS: _____
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

OFFICE OF RECORDS

ISOC, Hq. 4602d AISS, 20 Nov 56, Subj: UFOB Report

AFOIN-4E 1st Ind

Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Ohio 5 DEC 1956

TO: Commander, Headquarters, 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron
(ADC), Ent Air Force Base, Colorado

1. This Center is in receipt of an FBI report dated 12 June 1956, submitted through the Office of Special Investigations, regarding a UFO sighting observed by a Sgt Richardson over Kennewick, Washington in 1955, copy attached.

2. Based on the limited data submitted an evaluation of the report, plus a general check of activities of the area in question, resulted in the following:

a. The UFO sighting was reported one year after the incident took place, making it impossible for an immediate and on-the-spot investigation.

b. It appears odd that an object as large as described, and appearing at low altitude over a fairly large town during a summer night, was not observed or reported by others.

c. Yakima, Washington, which is approximately 75 miles northwest of Kennewick, has an established U. S. weather bureau balloon-launching station. Balloons are launched every six hours.

d. There are approximately nine to ten military airdromes and airfields in the vicinity of and between Yakima and Kennewick, all, normally, launching scheduled or unscheduled balloons.

e. Radiosonde balloons launched at night from military airfields are from seven to twenty feet in diameter. They carry a white running light underneath which, generally, give a metallic sheen when reflecting on the surface of the balloon.

f. The general wind direction on the night of the sighting was east-southeast. Our experience has shown that although pilot and radiosonde balloons rise between 600 to 1200 feet per second many, due to either leakages or wind conditions, will remain at a low altitude, zigzag or stop, before rising again or dropping.

g. It is apparent that Sgt Richardson is a "flying saucer enthusiast." His statement that he has been "interested" in flying saucers for years and has "read everything" on the subject confirms this.

PERM	
TEMP	
90 DAYS	
INITIAL	

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTING	COORDINATION
	AFOIN-4
	AFOIN-4X2b
	AFOIN-4X2c
	AFOIN-4X3
	AFOIN-4X4
	AFOIN-4A
	AFOIN-4B
	AFOIN-4C
	AFOIN-4D
	AFOIN-4E
1	1st Lt. 8700-56
2	1st Lt. 7400-56
3	1st Lt. 7400-56
	Incl
	Cy FBI Rpt, dtd 12 June 56
	AFOIN-4F
	OTHERS

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE CLASS: _____
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY
 _____ OFFICE OF RECORD

1st Ind. ATIC, Subj: UFOB Report

3. In light of the above, our conclusions strongly suggest that the object observed was a balloon.

4. Reference paragraph 3 of your basic correspondence. From a review of all material on file regarding subject observer, it appears that he not only has a highly-active imagination and an apparently strong belief in so-called "flying saucers," but that he will continue making a nuisance of himself to the FBI and other USAF units. It is therefore advised that Sgt Richardson be informed, in substance, of the following:

a. That he should report all UFO sightings to the nearest AF unit, preferably a 4602d AISS unit, and not the FBI.

b. That the Air Force is in receipt of his report of the Kennewick sighting; the information is being used as part of the data in our continuing program for the study and analysis of unidentified aerial objects; and that his interest in the matter is appreciated.

c. Further, he should be informed in a rather firm manner that as an officer of the law he is certainly aware that unless any incident is reported immediately it is of limited value for investigation.

d. If desired, items under paragraph 3c through 3f above be made part of the correspondence.

e. A standard USAF UFO questionnaire together with Form 164 A, "UFO Observers Instruction Sheet," be sent to Sgt Richardson with a request that although late for proper processing, the data is desirable for completeness of file. A personal interview by some member of your field unit would be desirable in that it will accord an opportunity to study or make some observation of the type of personality involved.

FOR THE COMMANDER

WALLACE W. ELWOOD
 1st Lt., USAF
 Assistant Adjutant
 DISBURSED

This indorsement is classified because of SOURCE information contained therein.

UNCLASSIFIED ATIC

PERM	
TEMP	
90 DAYS	
INITIAL	

COPY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

100-13945

1015 Second Avenue
Seattle 4, Washington
June 12, 1956

Colonel Spencer W. Raynor, USAF
District Commander
20th District, OSI
McChord Air Force Base, Washington

Re: Unidentified Flying Objects

Dear Sir:

The following information was furnished to Special Agent
Clement W. Parkhurst, resident agent, Richland, Washington, on June 1, 1956:

Sergeant Gordon Richardson, Kennewick, Washington Police
Department, advised that for several years he has been very interested in
flying saucers and has read everything available concerning this topic.
Gordon advised that he has some information which he considers to be of
utmost importance to the defense of the United States concerning a flying
space ship which he observed over Kennewick, Washington about a year ago.
Richardson stated that he had never told anyone about this matter and had
not discussed it with other officers of the police department because they
"never pay any attention to what he says". Gordon prefaced his remarks
by stating that he realizes his information sounds like a "nut complaint"
but assures the writer that this is not so.

Richardson stated that the thing he saw has been weighing very
heavily on his mind and he believes the information should be passed on to
the Air Force or other interested Defense Agency.

Richardson stated that about a year ago he was on night shift
and was in the vicinity of 1st and Washington, Kennewick, at about 10 PM
when he observed a large, shining, metal ball about 30' in diameter swoosh
in from the West at rather low altitude—only 200 or 300 feet in the air
or less. The ball was traveling at a high rate of speed and when it got
about three blocks east of Washington Street it came to a complete stop.
Richardson stated that the ball had left a trail of fire until it stopped
and then emitted no fire or smoke. Richardson described the ball as per-
fectly spherical and made of shiny metal. He stated that apparently the
ball had at least two different kinds of motors to propel it, because when
it was standing still he could hear the "chug chug" of the engine sounding
like a tractor engine and apparently an internal combustion engine. The

13 JUN 1956

TO: Colonel Spencer W. Raynor, USAF
District Commander, OSI

Re: Unidentified Flying Objects

Date: June 12, 1956

ball stood still several minutes and then took off with a speed so great that it disappeared from sight in a matter of seconds. Richardson stated that obviously some different type of engine was utilized in flight such as a jet engine because of the speed with which the ball left. Richardson noted no fire or smoke on leaving.

Richardson stated that the most disturbing thing to him is that apparently the builders of the ball have mastered the pull of gravity. He stated that this fact puts this country in a poor position defensively as the ball obviously either came from Russia or some outerspace planet in which case the Russians might get hold of it first. Richardson noted that the ball was flying too low for radar detection and too fast for interception by any known United States device. Richardson commented that the United States does not have this ball or they would not be producing winged aircraft, jet planes, nikes, etc. Richardson stated that he theorizes that whoever built the ball is using the principle of likes attract and positives repel to defy gravity and that the ship is flying on electron beams or some other natural phenomena such as light waves. He stated he never saw the ball again and has not advised other persons other than the FBI. He also stated that he did not hear of anyone else seeing the ball but commented that due to his training he is a skilled observer.

The above is for your information and no investigation is being made by this office. There is no objection by this office to your investigation of this matter and your interview of Sergeant Gordon Richardson.

Very truly yours,

R. D. Auerbach
Special Agent in Charge

Opinion: Balloon, plus highly - overactive imagination

DISPATCHED

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5-901
INT 301

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(AFR 100-16)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

ROW/rs

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
20th DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
McCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON

20D OSI 24-0

19 June 1956

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Observed Approximately 1 June 1955
in Vicinity of Kennewick, Washington

TO: Commander
25th Air Division (Defense)
McChord AFB, Washington

ATTENTION: Intelligence Officer

This office is in receipt of a letter from the Seattle Field Office,
Federal Bureau of Investigation, copy of which is attached hereto for your
information and any action you may deem appropriate.

1 Incl
Cy ltr, FBI, dtd
12 Jun 56.


SPENCER W. RAYNOR
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

TURNED OVER TO 4602 AISS
FLT 1A PER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
W/ SGT FRANCIS 20 JUN 56 (1000)



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(AFR 100-16)

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (if any)

25

FILE NO.

AISLA

SUBJECT

UFOB Report

TO

Comdr 4602d AISS
Ent AFB, Colorado
ATTN: AISOC

FROM

OIC Flt 1-A, 4602d AISS
McChord AFB, Washington

DATE

21 June 1956
Lt Strasser/rdb/116

COMMENT NO. 1

Forwarded is a copy of a UFOB sighted 1 June 1955 at Kennewick, Wash. The report was initiated by the FBI, sent through the OSI to the D/I 25th Air Division and was received from that office. Due to the age of the information and the circumstances of sighting, no preliminary investigation was made by the office of the D/I.

Leland R. Kirk

LELAND R. KIRK, Capt, USAF
Officer in Charge

77452 11 04.22

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1015 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington
October 17, 1956

Colonel Spencer W. Raynor, USAF
District Commander
20th District, OSI
McChord Air Force Base, Washington

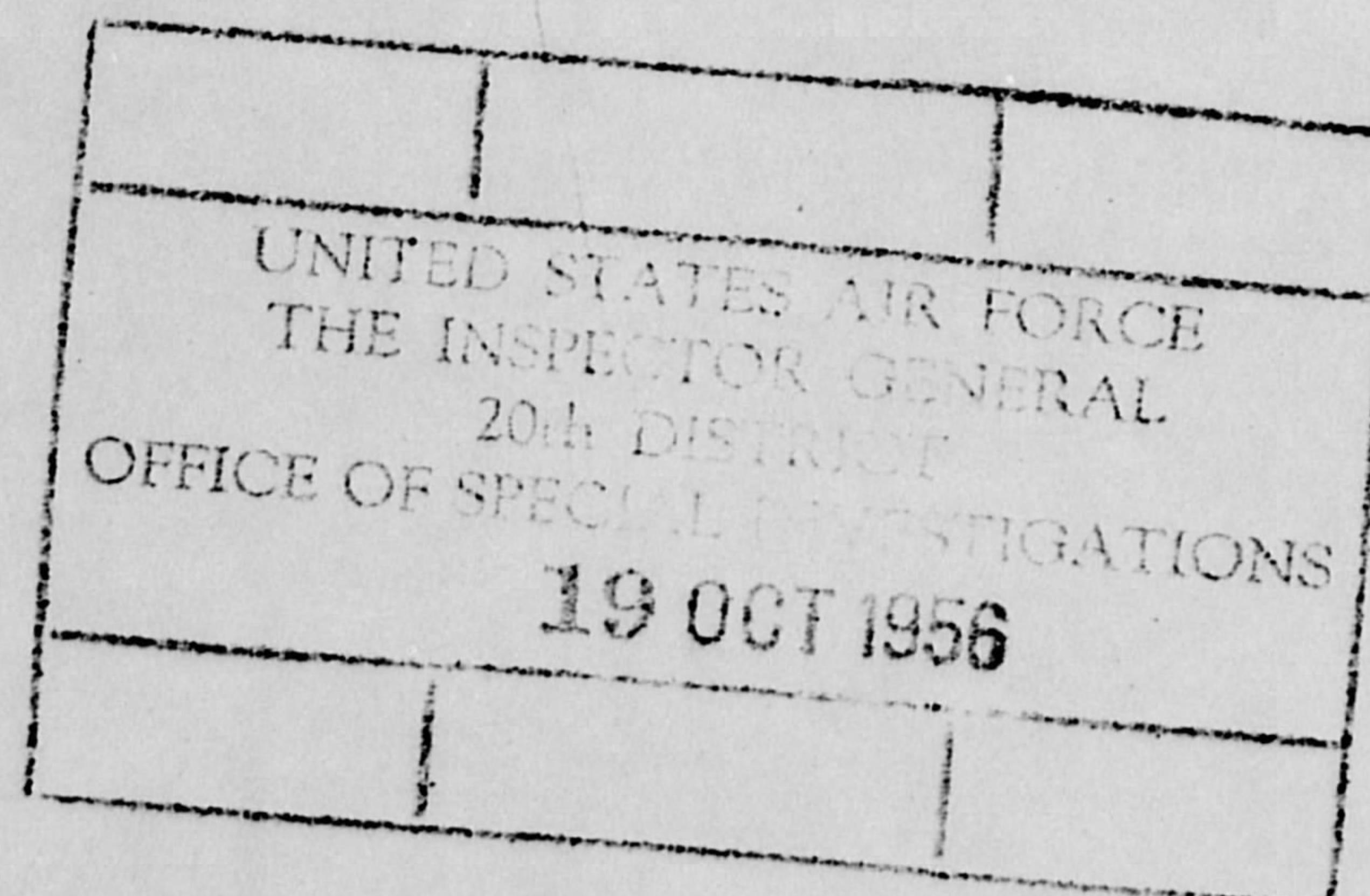
Re: Unidentified Flying Objects

Dear Sir:

On June 12, 1956, a letter was directed to your office reporting information furnished by Sgt. Gordon Richardson, Kennewick, Washington Police Department, relative to his sighting of an unidentified flying object. Sgt. Richardson has contacted our Senior Resident Agent at Richland, Washington on a number of times since his original reporting of this incident and has stated that he is most anxious to talk to a representative of the Air Force concerning his observations of this unidentified flying object. Sgt. Richardson stated that he had some new information which apparently is not a new observation, but some theories on his previous sighting, which he desires to pass on to the appropriate representative of the Air Force. Sgt. Richardson has been advised that his original information was turned over to your office and that his subsequent contacts will also be furnished to you for your information. This matter was discussed with Major Russell Womack of your office on October 9, 1956 and he suggested that this letter be forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

R. D. AUERBACH
Special Agent in Charge



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(AFR 190-16)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
20th DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
McCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON

20D OSI 24-0-232

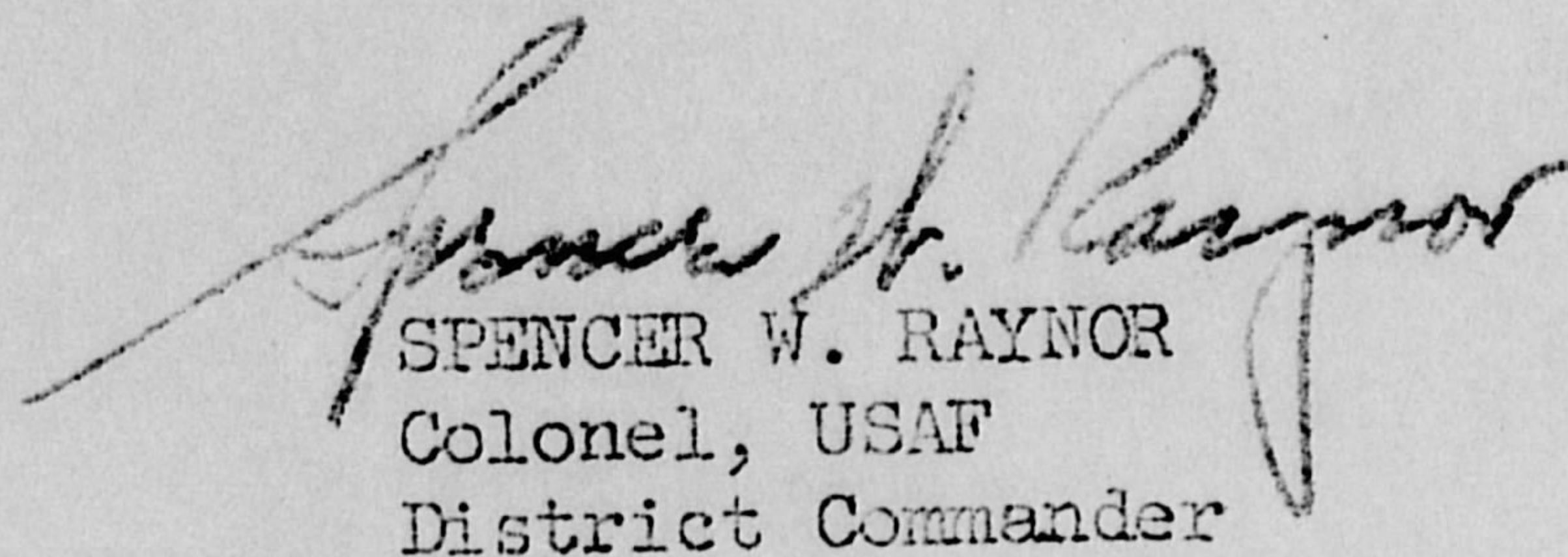
23 October 1956

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO: Commander
25th Air Division (Def)
ATTN: Intelligence Officer
McChord AFB, Washington

1. Reference is made to letter, this office, dated 19 June 1956, which forwarded copy of a letter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Seattle, Washington, dated 12 June 1956, concerning the above subject.
2. Attached for your information is copy of a letter, dated 17 October 1956, received from the Seattle Office of the FBI regarding the reported sighting of an unidentified flying object.
3. Suggest this matter be referred to the Commander, 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron, in order that they may contact Sgt GORDON RICHARDSON and obtain information he allegedly possesses.

1 Incl:
Cy ltr, FBI,
dtd 17 Oct 56


SPENCER W. RAYNOR
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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(AFR 190-16)

Hq USAF, 20D OSI 24-0-232, 23 Oct 56, Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects

25ODI

1st Ind

25 OCT 1956

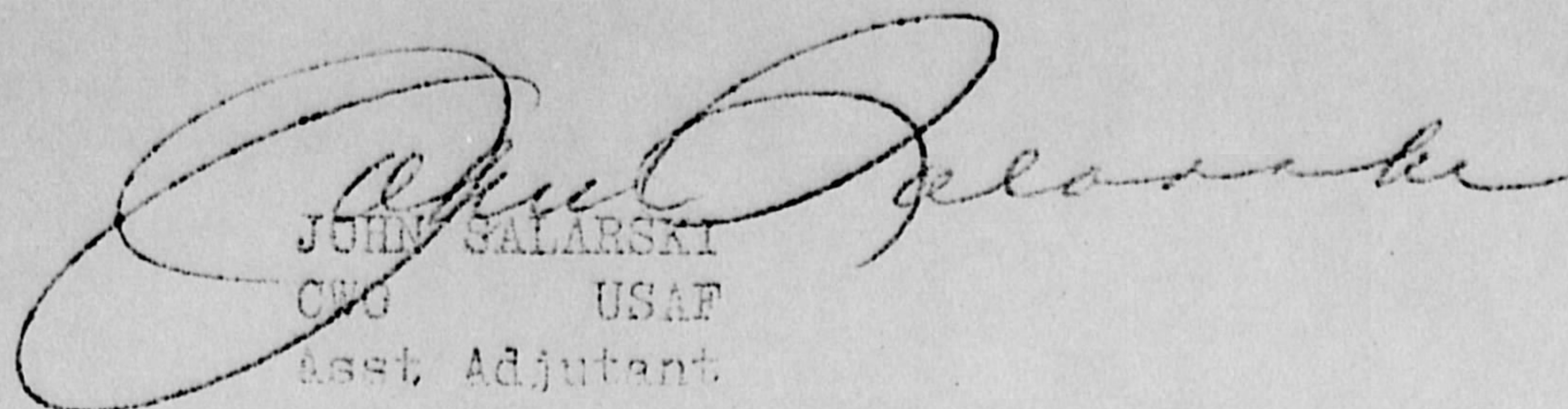
Headquarters, 25th Air Division (Defense), McChord AFB, Washington

TO: Commander, Flight 1-A, 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron,
McChord Air Force Base, Washington

Forwarded for your information and necessary action.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
n/c


JOHN SALARSKI
CWO USAF
Asst. Adjutant

Incl # 2

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO.

AISLA

SUBJECT

UFCB Report

TO

FROM

DATE

COMMENT NO. 1

Commander 4602d AISS
Ent AFB, Colorado

OIC Flt 1-A 4602d AISS
McChord AFB, Washington

2 Nov 1956
Capt von Marbod/rdb/116

1. Reference is made to attached correspondence received by this Flight. It is recommended that this Flight be notified whether or not action should be taken to interview Sgt Gordon Richardson. If an interview is contemplated it is recommended that the undersigned be put on orders to accomplish necessary action.


ARNOLD F. VON MARBOD, Captain, USAF
Officer in Charge.

Incl # 1

AISOC

20 November 1956

SUBJECT: UFOB Report

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
ATTN: AFOIN 4E4
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

1. The inclosed correspondence is herewith forwarded to your organization for your information and necessary action.

2. Since no report of a UFOB sighting has been made, this organization has not authorized OIC, Flight 1-A, 4602d AISS, to investigate the Source listed in the correspondence.

3. Request you advise this organization of any action necessary regarding the inclosed correspondence.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

2 Incls

1. D/P fr Flt 1-A
2. Ltr fr 20th DO, OSI
w/ind fr 25th AD (Def)
w/1 Incl

CHARLES W. GODSEY
Captain, USAF
Assistant Adjutant

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