

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 22 Feb 1956		2. LOCATION Hampton Sydney, Virginia		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft Sirius & Procyon ☐ Was Astronomical ☒ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 22/0615Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 45 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS two		9. COURSE SW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Round object silver dollar at arms length color flashing from red to green to blue and sometime brilliant white. One object first appeared then faded as this happened the 2nd obj appeared but off to the right, smoke seen coming from side of obj. First observed about 3 ft above tree tops. Object seen by six students of Hampton Sydney College. One who had studies astronomy says it was not a shooting star.				11. COMMENTS Astro sighting of Sirius and Procyon (see case file).	

BT

/U N C L A S/ ACG OPS B 0287. IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 200-2 THE FLW
RPT IS SUB UNFOB.

(1) A. ROUND

B. SILVER DOLLAR

C. FLASHING COLOR-CHANGING FROM RED TO GREEN TO BLUE AND
SOMETIMES BRILLIANT WHITE

D, ONE AT FIRST THEN SECOND ON APPEARED AFTER THE FIRST ONE FADED
OFF TO THE RIGHT SIDE

E. NEGATIVE

F. NEGATIVE

PAGE TWO RJEPNL 1G

G. SMOKE COMING FROM RIGHT SIDE

H. NEGATIVE

I. NEGATIVE

(2) A. WALKING CAUGHT SIGHT OF IT OUT OF CORNOR OF EYE OBJECT BOBBING
UP AND DOWN. SAW SMOKE LINE AT SAME TIME.

B. 60 DEG SOUTHWEST

C. 3 FEET ABOVE TREE TOPS

D. VIBRATING FLYING IN ONE DIRECTION SOUTHWEST

E. DIMISHING FLYING OUT OF SIGHT

F. 45 MIN

(3) A. GROUND VISUAL

B. TELESCOPE, BINOCULARS, COMPASS

C. N/A

(4) 4. SS 100 0000

0. WY.

1. TELESCOPE BINOCLARS COMPASS

(2) 4. SWOON AIRBAT

1. 42 MIN

2. DIMINISHING AGAIN OUT OF SIGHT

3. APPROXIMATELY IN ONE DIRECTION SOUTHWEST

4. 2 FEET ABOVE TREE TOPS

5. 2 DEC SOUTHWEST

6. AND DOWN. 2ND SMOKE LINE AT SAME TIME.

(5) 4. MAKING CAUGHT SIGHT OF IT OUT OF CORNERS OF EYE OBJECT BOBBING

1. NEGLIGIBLE

2. NEGLIGIBLE

3. SMOKE COMING FROM RIGHT SIDE

4. LMO BUBBING IC

X

Multi IN

20/0615Z

5

23 FEB 1956 07 33

FEB 22 16 14 '56

RAJ09

D159 YDA128 TYC167 TMA138ENLA020

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DE RJEPNL IC

0 22015Z

FM COMDR 771ST ACWON CAPE CHARLEX AF STA VA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

RJEPNY/COMDR 26TH ADIV ROSLYN AFS NY

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INTELL HQ USAF WASH DC

RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR 402TH AISS STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY

ACTION

1 } 4E4
2 }
3 }
4-4X2a
JK

B. NIGHT ALMOST HALF MOON

(5) HAMPTON-SYDNY VA GJ MH3214

(6) [REDACTED], AGE 20 STUDENT HAMPTON SYDNY COLLEGE

[REDACTED] AGE 18, SAME AS ABOVE

[REDACTED] AGE 19, SAME AS ABOVE

PAGE THREE RJEPNL 16

[REDACTED] AGE 18 SAME AS ABOVE

[REDACTED] AGE 19, SAME AS ABOVE

[REDACTED] AGE 19, SAME AS ABOVE

[REDACTED] AGE 20, SAME AS ABOVE, STUDENT HAS STUDIED ASTRONOMY

AS WAS SURE IT WASNT A SHOOTING STAR.

B. N/A

(7) A. WIND VERY LIGHT ALMOST CALM, VERY CLEAR

B. SFC NNW 12, 6000, 330 DEG, 25 KTS, 10000, 325DEG, 35, 16000

300DEG 40, 20000 290DEG 55, 30000 280 70DEG, 50000 270DEG 55KTS,

80000 100DEG 4.

C. CLEAR

D. UNLIMITED

E. NEGATIVE

F. N/A

(8) NEGATIVE

(9) N/A

(10) NEGATIVE

(11) S/SGT GORDON RUCKER AF2190201, RICHMOND GOC RICHMOND VA

BT

22/1100Z FEB RJEPNL

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AF 730160

COUNTRY USA		AFSS-UF0B-43-56 3H-UF0B-1-56			
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT					
SUBJECT UF0B					
AREA REPORTED ON HAMPTON-SYDNEY, VA.			FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS		
DATE OF REPORT 29 February 1956		DATE OF INFORMATION 22 February 1956		EVALUATION	
PREPARED BY (Officer) JOHN D. TAYLOR, JR., Major, USAF			SOURCE MR. [REDACTED]		
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) TT MSG FM COMDR 771ST ACWTRON CAPE CHARLES AF STA VA dated 22/1015Z Feb 56; FONCON between Lt. Barrier and Sgt DeRudder, Hqs Ops Control, 23 February 1956.					
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 112-Part II.)					

I. CONTENTS:

- PART ONE:** Description of sighting by Mr. [REDACTED], Hampton-Sydney College, Hampton-Sydney, Virginia (GeoRef GJMH 3214).
- PART TWO:** Description of sighting by other students of Hampton-Sydney College in the company of Mr. [REDACTED]
- PART THREE:** Supplementary Investigative Efforts
- PART FOUR:** Comments of Preparing Officer

II. SUMMARY: An unidentified flying object was reported to the Richmond GOC Filter Center by the above mentioned individuals shortly after its sighting at 22/0615Z Feb 56, then the information was relayed to the 771st AC&W SQ, Cape Charles, Va., for submission of the preliminary report. The sighting was made at Hampton-Sydney, Va., (GeoRef GJMH 3214). The following report is the result of a personal interview with the individuals having made the sighting and other agencies in the vicinity whose assistance was sought in determining the probable cause of the phenomenon.

III. INVESTIGATOR: 1/Lt Charles L. Berrier, AO 3019814

LIBRARY SUBJECT AREA CODES
5-01 2/56
603.2 V

FOR AND IN THE ABSENCE
OF THE OIC

JOHN D. TAYLOR, JR.
Major, USAF
Officer in Charge

APPROVED:

RALPH P. SLATER
Lt. Col., USAF
Deputy Commander

NO INCLS (See individual parts)

D419312

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part One	
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-1-56	PAGE 2 OF 13	PAGES

I. SOURCE: Mr. [REDACTED]

Address: Hampton-Sydney College, Hampton-Sydney, Virginia
(GeoRef GJMH 3914).

Age: 20

Occupation: Student

Qualifications: 20/20 vision, uncorrected. Amateur astronomer.

II. RELIABILITY: Good. SOURCE was contacted personally.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE stated that on 22 Feb 56 (0615Z) from the campus of Hampton-Sydney College, he had observed an unusual object in the sky which was red, green, flickering and seemed to be moving in the direction of SW. SOURCE's first impression was that the object in question was a star, however in view of its unusual "color-changing" characteristics SOURCE discounted this identity. According to SOURCE, object was first seen at approximately 30° with the horizon and gradually this angle seemed to decrease.

On observing the object through a 60-power portable telescope, SOURCE believed that it was a little larger than a regular star, however the size gradually diminished in his opinion. SOURCE stated that the object was not a "shooting star", but that its movement had been very slow and definite.

SOURCE would not say that there had either been smoke or an exhaust associated with the object, however object created the impression of having been "extremely wierd, out of the ordinary and definitely unlike any present day aircraft". As to the assumption in the latter statement that this object too was an aircraft, SOURCE would not commit himself to the extent of identifying it definitely as an aircraft.

SOURCE further stated that there appeared to be a bright cone-shaped object behind the original UFOB, but that it had not been visible all the time.

The condition of the sky at the time and place of the sighting was clear with unlimited visibility.

No photographs were taken of the UFOB.

After viewing the object for approximately 45 minutes, SOURCE finally lost sight of it.

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56	Part Two
	PAGE 3	OF 13 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Mr. [REDACTED]

Address: Hampton-Sydney College, Hampton-Sidney, Virginia
(GeoRef CJMH 3914).

Age: 18

Occupation: Student

Qualifications: 20/20 vision.

II. RELIABILITY: Good. SOURCE was contacted personally.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE had been told about an unusual object in the sky by friends and upon looking in a southwesterly direction where they were viewing it, SOURCE spotted a solid object which seemed to be changing colors from red to blue to yellow. The time was 22/0615Z and the object was approximately 30° from the horizon.

SOURCE viewed the object for approximately 30 minutes during which time he felt it had changed in size from the size of a half-dollar until it diminished to the size of a pinpoint.

SOURCE stated that he had seen no exhaust coming from the object. Object seemed at times to vibrate and at all times appeared to radiate an extreme brightness, other times would appear to flicker out.

SOURCE glanced at the object through the telescope (same apparatus as mentioned in Part I) and from seeing the object disappear suddenly through the telescope lens, SOURCE concluded that object must have been moving at an extremely high rate of speed. (See Part IV) Object appeared to move up and down at times.

SOURCE did not remember having seen protrusions on the surface of the object. There was no sound associated with the UFOB.

SOURCE could not remember having heard any sound of aircraft in the area at any time during the sighting.

SOURCE viewed object for a period of 1 hour and 15 minutes.

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4

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56	Part Two PAGE 4 OF 13 PAGES
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I. SOURCE: Mr. [REDACTED]

Address: Hampton-Sydney College, Hampton-Sidney, Virginia
(GeoRef GJMH 3914).

Age: 18 $\frac{1}{2}$

Occupation: Student

Qualifications: None.

II. RELIABILITY: Fair. SOURCE was contacted personally.

III. SOURCES DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 22/0545Z Feb 56 SOURCE'S attention was called to an object in the sky in the direction of southwest at an angle of approximately 30° with the horizon. SOURCE noticed that the object which appeared to be the size of a 25¢ piece (held at arms length) and moved to and from him, and occasionally to the right, had a flickering sensation about it. SOURCE stated that the object continued to flicker, however, no sound came from it. It appeared to emit smoke and/or fumes. SOURCE didn't notice any color change on the part of the object nor did he observe it through the telescope which was used by the other observers. Object appeared to diminish in size to a pinpoint, then disappeared completely and finally came back the size of a pinpoint. SOURCE felt that the object could not have come from earth and definitely was an "interplanetary space ship." Object appeared also to rotate and maintain high speed. SOURCE viewed the object for one hour and thirty minutes.

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5

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56	Part Two PAGE 5 OF 13 PAGES
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I. SOURCE: ~~Mr. [REDACTED]~~

Address: Hampton-Sydney College, Hampton-Sydney, Virginia
(GeoRef GJMH 3914).

Age: 20

Occupation: Student

Qualifications: Good vision.

II. RELIABILITY: Very good, SOURCE was contacted personally.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE'S attention was drawn to the sky in the southwest by a friend who had seen the unusual object there. The time was 22/0610Z Feb 56. To SOURCE, the light of the object was almost as bright as Venus and a color change was visible. The object appeared to change direction and it moved away from observer and grew dimmer. SOURCE mentioned that at first the object had appeared to the naked eye about the size of a hatpin. Through the telescope SOURCE stated that the object appeared as a blur of colored light. There was neither sound nor smoke and exhaust associated with the UFOB. The light appeared to shift slightly to the west. SOURCE'S first impression of the object which was approximately 12° with the horizon when he first viewed it, was that it was Venus, however he later learned that Venus wasn't out at the time. SOURCE observed the angle which the light made with the horizon gradually decreased as if the light or the star were setting.

SOURCE was certain that the phenomenon was neither a comet nor a falling star. The light was viewed for approximately 30 minutes by SOURCE.

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6

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56	Part Two PAGE 6 OF 13 PAGES
I. SOURCE: Mr. [REDACTED] Address: Hampton-Sydney, College, Hampton-Sydney, Virginia Age: 18 Occupation: Student Education: 1 yr College Qualifications: Good vision. II. RELIABILITY: Fair, SOURCE was contacted personally. III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE stated that he was walking across the college campus at 22/0600Z Feb 56, when he looked up in the sky and saw in the southwest an object which appeared to be vibrating and emitting smoke. The object was approximately 25° with the horizon. SOURCE related that upon viewing the object through a telescope, (same instrument mentioned in Part I) it appeared to be moving in a circular manner "shooting off" different colored lights. SOURCE believed the object was oscillating and traveling at a fantastic speed. There seemed to be a thin streak of smoke trailing the object. SOURCE also felt that he had seen another object behind and above the first. The two objects were a great distance apart. Object was "circling". The direction of the UFOB continued to be SW until it began to diminish in size and seem to fade away. SOURCE observed the object for approximately 45-minutes.		

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56	Part Two PAGE 7 OF 13 PAGES
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Incl #1, SOURCE'S Memory Sketch of Appearance of UFOB:

CLEAR SKY



MOON TO THE
RIGHT OF
OBJECT

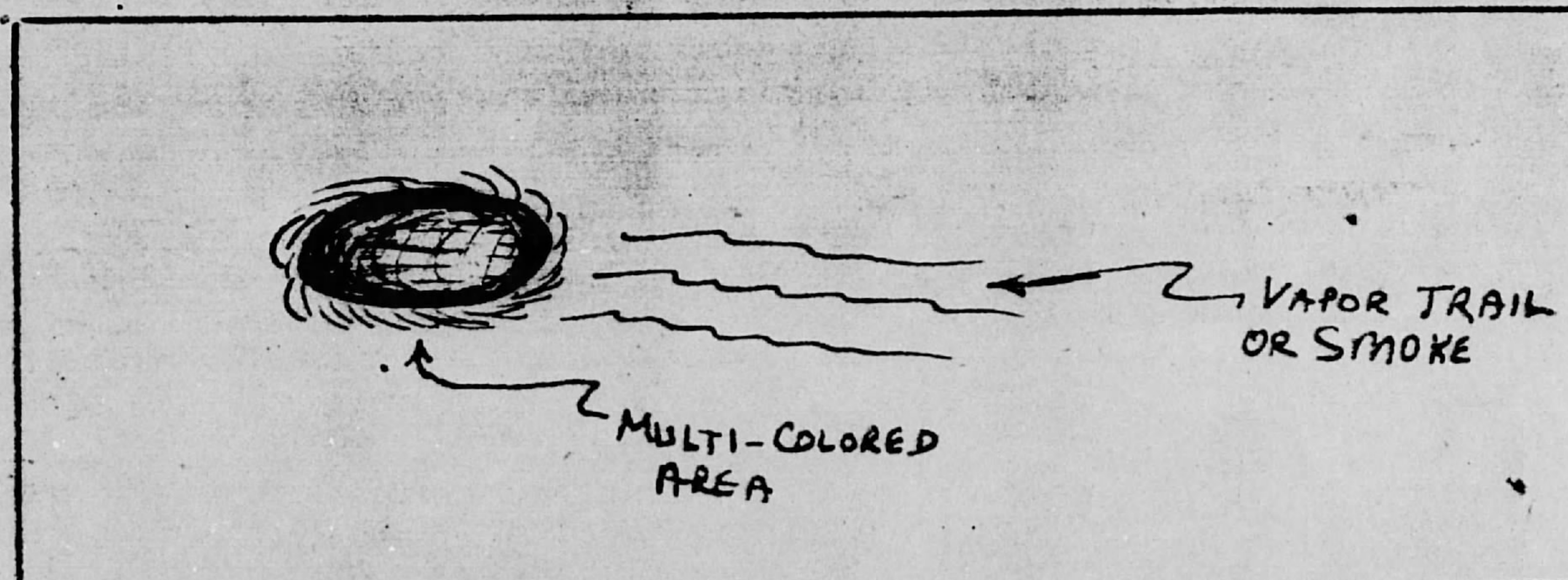
(Probably
Procyon)

• 2ND OBJECT

(Probably
Sirius)

UFOB

SW



PICTURED IN BOX IS OBJECT AS SEEN
THROUGH 60-POWER TELESCOPE

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56	Part Three PAGE 8 OF 13 PAGES
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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check was made with the U.S. Weather Bureau at Byrd Field, Richmond, Va. to determine whether they would be able to confirm the sighting. However winds aloft at the time of the sighting were such as to have prevented any weather balloons launched at Byrd Field (GeoRef GJNJ3232) from drifting into the vicinity of Hampton-Sydney, Va. The following winds aloft data current at the time of the UFOB sighting was released:

ALTITUDE:	DIRECTION:	WIND VELOCITY:
6,000	310°	34 K
10,000	310°	32 K
16,000	300°	43 K
20,000	300°	39 K
30,000	290°	52 K
50,000	270°	38 K
80,000	60°	6 K

2. A check with the GOC Filter Center, Richmond, Virginia revealed that this agency had relayed the preliminary information on the sighting to the 771st AC&W Sq, Cape Charles, Va. No other reports on the object than the original report from observers at Hampton-Sydney College had been received. No reports from another geographical location had come in to confirm the sighting.

3. The 647th AC&W Squadron, Manassas, Virginia, was called by telephone for any information which they may have had which would offer confirmation to the report of a UFOB near Hampton-Sydney. This installation was unable to offer any evidence to support the sighting.

4. The 771st AC&W Sq, Cape Charles, Va. (GeoRef GJQH 0201), likewise was contacted for confirmation on the UFOB, however no additional information or reports had been received by the 771st after the information on the original sighting had been relayed to them via the GOC Filter Center in Richmond, Va. (GeoRef GJNH-3232).

5. Efforts to seek more information proved slightly more fruitful when the 649th AC&W Sq, Bedford, Va. (GeoRef GJLH 2820) released the following radar data recorded at the approximate time of the sighting:

Radar Plot "Bathbox", 22 Feb 56

Track # OE25....(1) One aircraft or object; estimated speed 180 knots; altitude-7,000 feet.

INITIAL PLOT:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| a. 0611Z/GJMH4025 | g. 0625Z/GJMG 0051 |
| b. 0614Z/GJMH3517 | h. 0627Z/GJLG 5349 |
| c. 0616Z/GJMH2815 | i. 0630Z/GJLG 4140 |
| d. 0619Z/GJMH1509 | j. 0634Z/GJLG 2932 |
| e. 0621Z/GJMH0805 | k. 0637Z/ LOST CONTACT |
| f. 0623Z/GJMG0359 | |

6. The CAA tower at Byrd Field, Richmond, Va. was queried for possible information on the object which may have been received from pilots flying in the vicinity reporting the appearance and characteristics of an unidentified flying object. Negative results.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Three	
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-1-56	PAGE 9	OF 13 PAGES

7. A check with Air Traffic Control Center at Washington National Airport (GeoRef GJNJ 5856) for information which might serve to confirm the sighting yielded negative results.

8. A call was placed to the US Naval Observatory in Washington, DC (GeoRef GJNJ 5856). Mr. J. L. Gossner, of the observatory's Equatorial Division, made some interesting comments with respect to the two stars Sirius and Procyon. Sirius is frequently seen to sparkle almost as a diamond in the colors, red, blue and green when viewed at an angle of 10° to 30° with the horizon. This phenomena has been observed for many years by astronomers and oftentimes has been the source of alarm and puzzlement to uninformed persons viewing it for the first time. The color scintillation of Sirius, according to Mr. Gossner, is due to turbulent eddies in the atmosphere which act as prismatic structures in separating the light rays into colors of the spectrum. For example, a ray of blue light will reach the retina of the observer followed a fraction of a second later by a ray of red light, which will persist only for a second but sufficiently to register the image of red. Any of the rays may be cut off momentarily creating the effect of the light flashing or flickering. Separated as such with each ray traveling along a different path through the atmosphere the spectra will reach the observer's retina in distinct colors and successively, so as to create the phenomena of flashing colors of light originating from one given source.

This dispersion and refraction of light created by the turbulent eddies in the lower atmosphere is likewise responsible for the brilliant flashing of red, blue and white light seen when viewing Procyon at an angle of 30° or less.

9. Dr. Edward R. Dyer, Professor of Astronomy at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia (GeoRef GJMJ 2030), stated that both Sirius and Procyon could have been seen in the SW at the time of the reported sighting 22/0615Z Feb 56. According to the professor's calculations, Sirius would have been 14° above the horizon at 22/0600Z radiating a brilliance of sparkling red, green and blue lights. The lights probably would have seemed to sparkle more than usual due to a cool outside temperature and clear sky conditions. The day of 21 February had been unusually warm creating considerable turbulence in the lower atmosphere during the evening.

Sirius set that evening at 22/0711Z as seen from the Hampton-Sydney, Virginia location. Above and to the right of Sirius approximately 26° is the star Procyon which also sparkles and when below 30° gives off brilliant flashes of colored light. The professor suggested that the "exaggerated twinkling" associated with the two stars may also be to the inexperienced observer taken on the appearance of a slight oscillatory motion (See Part I and Part II, SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING, for object's apparent oscillatory motion).

When told of the 60-power telescope which the boys at Hampton-Sydney College had used, it was the professor's opinion that the telescope undoubtedly had been out of focus a good part of the time, due to improper calculation of the earth's rotation, creating undue excitement among the observers viewing the probable distortions on the unfocused lens.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56

Part Three

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

PAGE 10 OF 13 PAGES

10. A recontact with Hampton-Sydney College, Hampton, Virginia, revealed the following information which might serve to confirm that the 22 February sighting had been celestial in origin. Student [REDACTED] stated that two nights after the original UFOB sighting at 25/0451Z he had observed "an object which appeared over a telephone pole approximately 25° from the horizon. The direction of the object was SW. The phenomenon observed was brilliant flashes of white, red, blue and green light." It might be noted that Sirius would have been seen in approximately this location at 25/0451Z Feb 56, which coincidentally was the approximate position of the original UFOB.

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FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56	Part Three
	PAGE 11	OF 13 PAGES

Incl. #2, PART THREE

TT MSG ACG OPS B 0287 FM COMDR 771ST ACWRON CAPE CHARLES AF STA VA

MEB125 TMA138ENLAO20

OO RJEDEN RJEPNY RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB RJEPME

DE RJEPNL 1G

0 221015Z

FM COMDR 771ST ACWRON CAPE CHARLES AF STA VA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

RJEPNY/COMDR 26TH ADIV ROSLYN AFS NY

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INTELL HQ USAF WASH DC

RJEPNB/COMDR EADY STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR 4602TH AISS STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY

RJEPME/FLIGHT 3H 4602TH AISS MCGUIRE AFB TRENTON NJ

BT

/U N C L A S/ ACG OPS B 0287. IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 200-2 THE FLW
RPT IS SUB UNFOB.

- (1) A. ROUND
- B. SILVER DOLLAR
- C. FLASHING COLOR-CHANGING FROM RED TO GREEN TO BLUE AND
SOMETIMES BRILLIANT WHITE
- D. ONE AT FIRST THEN SECOND ON APPEARED AFTER THE FIRST ONE FADED
OFF TO THE RIGHT SIDE
- E. NEGATIVE
- F. NEGATIVE

PAGE TWO RJEPNL 1G

- G. SMOKE COMING FROM RIGHT SIDE
- H. NEGATIVE
- I. NEGATIVE
- (2) A. WALKING CAUGHT SIGHT OF IT OUT OF CORNER OF EYE OBJECT BOBBING
UP AND DOWN. SAW SMOKE LINE AT SAME TIME.
- B. 60 DEG SOUTHWEST
- C. 3 FEET ABOVE TREE TOPS
- D. VIBRATING FLYING IN ONE DIRECTION SOUTHWEST
- E. DIMINISHING FLYING OUT OF SIGHT
- F. 45 MIN
- (3) A. GROUND VISUAL
- B. TELESCOPE, BINOCULARS, COMPASS
- C. N/A
- (4) A. 22 FEB 0615Z
- B. NIGHT ALMOST HALF MOON
- (5) HAMPTON-SYDNEY VA GJ MH3214
- (6) [REDACTED] AGE 20 STUDENT HAMPTON SYDNEY COLLEGE
[REDACTED] VA
[REDACTED] AGE 18, SAME AS ABOVE
[REDACTED] AGE 19, SAME AS ABOVE

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—
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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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12

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-1-56	Part Three PAGE 12 OF 13 PAGES
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Incl. #2, PART THREE

TT MSG ACG OPS B 0287 FM COMDR 771ST ACWRON CAPE CHARLES AF STA VA

PAGE THREE 1G

- [REDACTED] AGE 18 SAME AS ABOVE
 [REDACTED] AGE 19, SAME AS ABOVE
 [REDACTED] AGE 19, SAME AS ABOVE
 [REDACTED] AGE 20, SAME AS ABOVE, STUDENT HAS STUDIED ASTRONOMY
 AS WAS SURE IT WASNT A SHOOTING STAR.
 B. N/A
 (7) A. WIND VERY LIGHT ALMOST CALM, VERY CLEAR
 B. SFC NNW 12, 6000 330 DEG, 25 KTS, 10000, 325DEG, 35, 16000
 300DEG 40, 20000 290DEG 55, 30000 280 70DEG, 50000 270DEG 55KTS,
 80000 100DEG 4.
 C. CLEAR
 D. UNLIMITED
 E. NEGATIVE
 F. N/A
 (8) NEGATIVE
 (9) N/A
 (10) NEGATIVE
 (11) S/SGT GORDON RUCKER AF21902101, RICHMOND GOC RICHMOND VA
 (12) NONE

BT
22/1100Z FEB RJEPNL

TRUE COPY:


 CHARLES L. BERRIER
 1/Lt., USAF
 Asst OIC, Flt 3-H

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13

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Four	PAGE 13	OF 13	PAGES
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB -1-56				

COMMENTS of the Preparing Officer:

1. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer the phenomenon observed on 22/0615Z Feb 56 at Hampton-Sydney, Virginia was due to the brilliant color scintillation arising from the celestial bodies, Sirius and Procyon when viewed below an angle of 30° with the horizon.

a. The fact is generally known among astronomers that the two stars mentioned each radiate a sparkling array of bright-colored lights when viewed on a clear night below an angle of 30° with the horizon.

b. The persisting nature of the UFOB negates the chance of its having been a balloon. This persistence and complete absence of sound further negate the chance that it could have been an aircraft.

c. The coincidence of Sirius and Procyon having been in the approximate location of the UFOB for the duration of the latter's sighting suggests misinterpretation on the part of the observers.

(1) At this point it might be mentioned that if the observer had neglected to continually focus the portable telescope, within a very brief period of time due to the earth's rotation, the apparatus would have been so well out of focus that any number of illusions might have appeared on the lens approaching the fantastic.

d. The relative age of the observers and the fact that none had ever before viewed either of the stars mentioned may have caused amazement and subsequent anxiety upon the suggestion of someone in the group of an identity such as "flying saucer."

e. The "trails of smoke" and/or "exhaust" associated with the UFOB by two of the observers were either illusions of an excited observer or possibly cirrus clouds far in the distance.

f. The opinion of the astronomers interviewed was unanimous that the phenomenon observed had arisen from the color scintillation of Sirius and later Procyon as viewed below 30° with the horizon.

FOR AND IN THE ABSENCE OF THE OIC
JOHN D TAYLOR, JR.
Major, USAF
Officer-in-Charge

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Concur with the opinion of the Preparing Officer that this sighting was caused by the stars Sirius and Procyon.