

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9-10 Mar 58	2. LOCATION Panama Canal Zone		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☒ Probably Balloon ☒ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other False Target ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☒ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☒ Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Military & Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 2	9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING 1) Two radar tracks generally triangular w/speed varying fm hovering to 1000 Mi per hr. Movement at times appeared evasive. Personnel rptd seeing red & green lights for very short time. A/C sent to investigate w/negative results 2) Obj on radar about 3 times size of freighter & oblong in shape. At 50 miles range the return was exactly the same as a strong cumulus cloud & had a definite cell. At 20 mile range the return dissipated & altho visibility was excellent nothing was sighted.		11. COMMENTS It appears that anomalous propagation is a strong possibility. The fact that the target was not visible at 20 mi w/excellent visibility seems to preclude the target as material. The first of these sightings seems to indicate the possibility of one or more balloons since the targets were more or less stationary except for alt change. Second sighting seems to indicate a false target because of the erratic nature of the signal return. There is no evidence of a target at this time.	

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE NO.

SUBJECT

Request for Analysis, Radar UFO

TO

AFCIN-4E1

FROM

AFCIN-4E4

DATE

24 Apr 58

COMMENT NO. 1

ATTN: Mr. Bryant

AFCIN-4E4g/Capt Gregory/ko
Ext 6-9216/Bldg. 263

1. In accordance with existing policies, request the attached UFO report be reviewed with comment as to your findings submitted hereon.

3 Incls:

1. IR-4-58 frm D/I CAIRC
(T58-11264-A, cy #1)
2. WAC #769 (UNCL)
(T58-11264-B, cy #1)
3. Track Reports (Uncl)
(T58-11264-C, cy #1)

Henry A. Miley
HENRY A. MILEY
AFCIN-4E4

If inclosure #1 is withdrawn (or not attached), the classification of this correspondence will be downgraded to Uncl in accordance with AFR205-1.

Classification Cancelled

Auth. *Dissemination DP*
By *Amstrong*
Date 13 MAY 1969

AFR 205-1, Pa 2-17c

3 Jan 68

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DDI DIR 8100.10

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1 of 1 page
Copy 1 of 3 copies

UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: Request for Analysis, Radar UFO

TO: AFCIN-4E4

FROM: AFCIN-4E1

DATE: 30 Oct 58 *W. Picklesimer*
COMMENT NR. 2
AFCIN-4E1a/W. Picklesimer/jc
74201/Bldg 828/Rm 241

1. The first of these reported sightings seems to indicate the possibility of one or more balloons since the targets were more or less stationary except for altitude changes. The radar could have broken lock on a balloon at relatively low altitude and then locked on another at higher altitude which would have given the impression that a rapid ascent of the target had occurred. Efforts to sight the target visually failed which would indicate either a small target such as a balloon or possibly a false target. The false target explanation is considered a very small possibility since a second radar reportedly locked on the same target.

2. The second of these reported sightings seems to indicate a false target because of the erratic nature of the signal return and efforts to sight the target visually failed during daylight hours. False radar targets occur occasionally, due mainly to atmospheric and weather phenomena, but sometimes due to spurious signals from various sources of interference.

3 Incls
n/c

R. L. James
for GORDON C. HOFFMAN
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E1

If inclosure *#1* is withdrawn (or not attached), the classification of this correspondence will be downgraded to *Unclass* in accordance with paragraph *37h* AFR205-1.

Classification Cancelled

Auth. *Director JTD*
By *James*
Date *13 MAY 1963*

AFR 205-1, Par 2-12a
3 Jan 68

RECLASSIFIED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECISION TO BE MADE IN YEARS
DATE FOR REVIEW

UNCLASSIFIED

1/2 48425-0

COUNTRY
PANAMA

REPORT NO. **UNCLASSIFIED**
IR-4-58 (LEAVE BLANK)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT
Unidentified Flying Object Report

AREA REPORTED ON
PANAMA

DATE OF REPORT
18 March 1958

APR 21 1958

DATE OF INFORMATION
9-10 March 1958

FROM (Agency)
Director of Intelligence - CAIRC

EVALUATION
B-1

PREPARED BY (Name)
Vernon D. Adams, Capt., USAF

SOURCE
Caribbean Command AOC

REFERENCES (Cite number, director, previous report, etc., as applicable)
AFR 200-2

SUMMARY: (Brief summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Refer text of report on AF Form 110-Part II.)

A number of unidentified radar tracks were observed 9-10 March 1958 by search and tracking radar located in the Canal Zone. Two tracks were investigated by aircraft with negative results.

Vernon D. Adams
VERNON D. ADAMS
Capt., USAF
Ass't. Director of Intelligence

APPROVED BY:

George Welter
GEORGE WELTER
Lt Col., USAF
Director of Intelligence

Classification Cancelled
Auth. *Director*
By *Welter*
Date 13 MAY 1959
AFR 205-1, par 2-17c
3 Jan 68

Pages 3, 4, 5 are
in 2

4 INCL.

- 1 WAC #769 (Uncl)
- 2 G-2 USARCARI Report (Conf) *See pages 3-5 X w/o incl.*
- 3 Log of M & I Section (Uncl) *See pages 6-7 X*
- 4 Track Reports (Uncl)

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RECLASSIFICATION INTERVALS:
1. 10 YEARS
2. 20 YEARS
3. 30 YEARS
4. 40 YEARS
5. 50 YEARS
6. 60 YEARS
7. 70 YEARS
8. 80 YEARS
9. 90 YEARS
10. 100 YEARS

UNCLASSIFIED

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(SECURITY INFORMATION when filled in)

SUPPLEMENT TO AF FORM 112

ORIGINATING AGENCY

REPORT NO.

PAGE

OF

PAGES

CAIRC - Dir. of Intelligence

IR-4-58

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During the period 9 through 13 March, three unexplainable radar contacts have been made by equipment located in the Canal Zone. On two occasions, aircraft were vectored into the area by the radar sites, with negative results. Interrogation of scope operators has indicated that returns were strong and easily distinguished from cloud formations. Returns were definite when associated with clouds. Generally the tracks were triangular with speed of movement very erratic. Movement appears at times to be evasive action. The incident of 9 - 10 March was tracked by gun laying radar. During period of observation, radar maintenance personnel checked out their system thoroughly. In addition, lock was broken, however, the equipment immediately picked up target and locked on. A second tracking radar situated on Taboga Island, locked on the return. Target generally remained in same area half way between radar sites. Personnel stationed at sites reported seeing red and green lights but no noise was associated with lights. Visibility was good. However, lights were visible for only a short period. A commercial flight volunteered to investigate target. He was vectored within a hundred yards of target and reported negative sighting. Target faded out at 0208R on 10 March.

At 10:12R on 10 March, search radar reported unidentified target west of canal. A T-33 from Howard Field was sent to investigate. Negative results. Aircraft was in the immediate area of target with negative sighting. Contact with target was broken at 14:15R.

VERNON D. ADAMS
Captain, USAF
Ass't. Director of Intelligence

APPROVED BY:

George Welter
GEORGE WELTER
Lt Col., USAF
Director of Intelligence

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DDI DIR 560010

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SUPPLEMENT TO AF FORM 112

ORIGINATING AGENCY

AC OF S, G-2 USARCARI

REPORT NO.

IR-4-58

PAGE

OF

PAGES

In accordance with Department of the Army Intelligence Collection Memorandum #200-72B-1, dated 6 August 1957, subject: "Unconventional Aircraft", the following information is submitted:

1. On 10 March 1958, Capt. Harold E. Stahlman, Operations Officer, 764th Anti-Aircraft Operations Center (AAOC), Fort Clayton Canal Zone, reported information concerning the sighting of an unidentified flying object. At 2003R, 9 March 1958, Stahlman, as Deputy Defense Commander for Anti-Aircraft Defenses, was notified at his home by the Operations Duty Officer, AAOC, that the AAOC had received a radar report of an unidentified aircraft approaching the Pacific side of the Isthmus of Panama. Stahlman arrived at the AAOC at approximately 2008R.

During the radar tracking of the first blip which appeared on the radar screen, two additional blips were observed at 2045R. The first echo was identified as a Chilean Airlines aircraft which landed at Tocumen Airport, Tocumen, Republic of Panama. The two other blips, which were not identified, indicated that the two objects were in the vicinity of Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone. A civilian aircraft in the general vicinity of the objects made a visual search of the area with negative results. The original blips were picked up by Search Radar and then transferred to the Track Radar Unit located at Flamenco Island, Fort Amador, Canal Zone. This unit was able to lock on the unidentified objects and the following information was obtained:

Number of Objects:

Two, approximately one hundred yards apart.

Duration of Radar Observation: 2003R, 9 March 1958, to 0208R, 10 March 1958.

Location of Radar:

Battery D, 764th AAA Bn, Flamenco Island

Location of Object:

LJ 2853.- (Geo-Ref, Military Grid Reference System)

Prevailing Weather:

Clear, visibility unlimited, no wind reported.

Direction of Flight:

Average angle of elevation, 365°, Azimuth, 330 mils.

Manner of Flight:

Steady, slight circular path over the vicinity of Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone.

Altitude:

Varied from two to ten thousand feet. Average of seven thousand feet.

An attempt was made by members of the Radar Site, Flamenco Island, to observe the objects by searchlights. When the light touched the objects, they traveled from an altitude of two thousand feet to ten thousand feet in five to ten seconds.

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SUPPLEMENT TO AF FORM 112

ORIGINATING AGENCY

REPORT NO.

PAGE

OF

PAGES

AC OF S, G-2 USARCARI

IR-4-58

This was such a rapid movement, that the Track Radar, which was locked on target, broke the Track Lock and was unable to keep up with the ascent of the objects. As Track Radar can only be locked on a solid object, which was done in the case of the two unidentified flying objects, it was assumed that the objects were solid. The possibility that the sightings might have been weather balloons was discarded when the Air Force was contacted and stated that no balloons were in the air at that time. (F-3)

2. On 10 March 1958, Capt. Stahlman made another report concerning the sighting of an unidentified flying object by Search Radar located on Taboga Island, Republic of Panama. The following information was obtained in regard to the sightings:

Number of Objects:	One.
Duration of Radar Observation:	1012R to 1412R, 10 March 1958.
Location of Radar:	Taboga Island Radar Site.
Location of Object:	KL 1646. (Geo-Ref, Military Grid Reference System)
Prevailing Weather:	Partly cloudy.
Manner of Flight:	From an erratic to a triangular shaped flight pattern.
Altitude:	Undeterminable due to radar system used.
Speed:	Variable, from hovering to approximately one thousand miles per hour.

Track Radar indicated that the object moved away from two United States Air Force jet aircraft that were approaching. At that time the speed of the object was calculated at approximately one thousand miles per hour. The use of Track Radar was terminated at 1412R.

3. On 11 March 1958, Lt. Roy M. Strom, Operations Officer, 764th AAA Bn, Fort Clayton, Canal Zone, reported information received from a Pan-American Airlines Pilot concerning an unidentified flying object. At approximately 0400R, 11 March 1958, the pilot of incoming aircraft C-509, a Pan American Airlines DC-6, observed an unidentified flying object 12 degrees North on Fox Trot route. The object appeared larger than the aircraft and was traveling in a Southeasterly direction.

*ref. par. 3 above: see UFO case file,
H MAR 58, N.W. OF PANAMA - CAPT. BLAKE
PAA Airlines.*

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ORIGINATING AGENCY

REPORT NO.

PAGE

OF

PAGES

AC OF S, G-2 USARCARIB

IR-4-53

At the same time Lt. Strom reported that an unidentified flying object was picked up by Hawk Radar. The object was plotted twice at approximately 0503R heading Northwest at LK 3858. On the third plot, at 0517R, the object had moved to LK 5434 in a Southwesterly direction. Eleven minutes elapsed during the confirmation of the three plots. At 0528R, the object was sighted at LK 4303. Incoming aircraft C-509 was in the same area and Hawk Radar was asked if it was the same track that was picked up previously. The answer was negative. The object was last plotted at LJ 3254 at 0536R, still traveling in a Southwesterly direction. Radar contact was lost at that time. The size, shape, or altitude of the object could not be determined by radar. (F-6)

G2 USARCARIB COMMENT: DAICM #200-72B-1 mentioned above requires that:

"The Headquarters of the nearest Major Air Command should be notified of sightings which come to the attention of Army personnel", referenced DAICM continues, "Air Force Commanders have instructions from the Department of the Air Force which cover reporting on subject (AFR-200-2: "Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting, Short Title: UFOB)" (U)". This office continues to report information as developed.

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ORIGINATING AGENCY

REPORT NO.

PAGE

OF

PAGES

CAIRC, Director of Intel.

IR-4-58

EXTRACTS FROM THE LOG AT MOVEMENT & IDENTIFICATION SECTION ADCC

09 March

19:59 Unknown aircraft flying Tango Route inbound. No known aircraft in area but one advised by Tocumen, WHZ BLB ATC.

20:45 Unidentified blip believed to be weather balloon picked up between Albroom and Taboga. Appears to be orbiting. No air traffic in area at all. Advised ATC of possibility of object interfering with air traffic.

20:45 Advised that a balloon had been released earlier in the evening at approximately 1830R but should be down south-east of Albroom at present time.

21:40 Tower advised P-501 (Pan American Flight) is cleared by Albroom ATC for DF instructions in order to avoid object. Flight P501 will cross the canal over Albroom.

23:45 Distance of object from D Battery (Flamingo) is 4870 yards, height 3.5 thousand feet. At the present time, a searchlight from harbor entrance control point is being used to aid in identification purposes, to be executed by one AF-Naval crash boat.

23:55 Object now at 6.0 feet moving away very rapidly to the southwest.

24:00 Radar advises that as soon as searchlight was employed, the object became evasive. Object now at 10.0 feet, 7800 yards from site. Two returns, one at 10.0 feet, other at 08.

10 March

00:44 Braniff Flight 400 reports negative sighting of object during brief investigation. Radar reported aircraft was approximately 100 yards from object.

00:55 Radar reports two targets now approximately 100 yards apart. Braniff Flight 400 landed at 0047.

02:10 Radar contact lost.

10:12 Unknown aircraft at KJ1646, speed 290K. No known aircraft in area. Check with Tocumen, Albroom, Howard, ATC & CAA. Blip very practical, has reached speed of 900K then slows to a complete stop for several minutes before moving again.

10:30 Major Davis at Howard Operations advised of UFO. He will go up and take a look.

11:20 AF 5289 (T-33) airborne to check UFO. UFO was observed

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SUPPLEMENT TO AF FORM 112

ORIGINATING AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CAirC, Dir. of Intelligence

IR-4-58

PAGE

OF

PAGES

to avoid jet. As soon as jet got close, UFO appeared to move away for several miles, then stop.

12:00

Jet returned to Howard. Pilot called and advised nothing was seen. Also advised Weather Build-up. Radar advised they could distinguish UFO from clouds and build-ups.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-68470-1

TRACK INFORMATION

AACO

TYPE MISSION

DATE 10 MAR

SITE	TRACK NO	GEOREF	ID	ALT	ACTION	TIME	AACO INITIALS
70	B-28	KJ1646	X	71	ROT	1012	
		KJ1947	U	67	ROT	1013	
		KJ1946	U	67	ROT	1014	
	B-28	Fader		-	-	1015	
				53	ROT	1033	
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40	X	KJ4621	U	-		1043	
	B-28			40		1044	
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70	B-28	KJ3448	U	59	ROT	1248	
		KJ3448	U	53	ROT	1253	
		KJ3147		56		1257	
		KJ3450		53		1323	
		KJ3450		53		1346	
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		KJ3450		57		1342	
		KJ3450				1348	
		KJ3450		52		1351	
		KJ3355				1359	
		KJ3255				1402	
		KJ4700		54		1409	
		KJ3450				1415	

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DATE 9 MAR

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TYPE MISSION

4 Feb

DATE _____

09-10 Mar

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(CLASSIFICATION)

FORM 112
REVISED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY PANAMA	REPORT NO. IR-3-58	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Object Report		
AREA REPORTED ON PANAMA	FROM (Agency) Dir. of Intel. - CAIRC	
DATE OF REPORT 11 March 1958	DATE OF INFORMATION 11 March 1958	EVALUATION B-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) Vernon D. Adams, Captain, USAF		SOURCE Witness
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFR 200-2		

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.)

On 11 March 1958, at 0900 Zebra, Pan American Airlines, flight 509, made a radar contact at a position approximately 1200 N 08030 W. Captain [REDACTED], aircraft commander, reported that the return was first noticed at a range of 125 miles directly on track. Size was about three times the return produced by a freighter and oblong in shape. The rate of closure was very fast for about 50 miles. When the range was 75 miles, the rate of closure became normal. At fifty miles range, the return was exactly the same as a strong cumulus cloud and had a definite cell. At twenty mile range, the return dissipated, and although the visibility was excellent, nothing was sighted. The aircraft was a DC6B with RCA radar. Flight altitude was 17,500 feet.

Vernon D. Adams
VERNON D. ADAMS
Captain, USAF
Ass't. Director of Intelligence

APPROVED BY:

George Welter
GEORGE WELTER
Lt Col., USAF
Director of Intelligence

INCLS.

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UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

16-55509-2 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO.

SUBJECT UFO

TO AFCIN-4E4

FROM AFCIN-4E1

DATE 24 Mar 58

COMMENT NO. 1

AFCIN-4E1a/V. D. Bryant/jc
72131/Bldg 263/Rm 14-D

1. Data is too limited to make an analysis. It appears, however, that anomalous propagation is a strong possibility since the observer indicated that return was exactly the same as a strong cumulous cloud (return) at one point. The fact that the target ("three times the size of a freighter") was not visible at 20 miles with excellent visibility conditions seems to preclude the target as material.

1 Incl
IR-3-58

Edwin H. Manner
for GORDON C. HOFFMAN
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E1

DANGER

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2010 W/C

09

POS

COMAR

13-28

70-40/012

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Equal magnetic variation
Annual rate of change 2'

