

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 3 August 1958		2. LOCATION Tioga, North Dakota		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 03/0905Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual Binoculars ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian Police			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 hrs 35 mins		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE West	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Vaguely spherical obj, size of dime, color varying fm blue-white to red, moving Westerly at a slow rate of speed.				11. COMMENTS Astro computer & 1958 Ephemeris shows Mars in location of observation.	

COUNTRY		REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)			
AREA REPORTED ON North Western, North Dakota		FROM (Agency) 780th AC&W Fortuna AFS, Westby, Montana	
DATE OF REPORT 4 August 1958	DATE OF INFORMATION 3 August 1958	EVALUATION	
PREPARED BY (Officer) E. H. Wright Maj USAF		SOURCE Ground Observer	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFR 200-2 Par 15 Dated 5 Feb 1958			
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.)			
A. DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT(S) (1) SHAPE: Indefinite vaguely spherical. (2) SIZE: Size of a dime held at arms length. (3) Varries from blue-white to red. <i>blue!</i> (4) Number of objects - one. (5) Variation of color no sudden changes of speed or direction. (6) No exhaust or tail or trail. (7) No sound. (8) No other unusual features. B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT(S): (1) Normal police surveillance detected object. (2) Object was east of Tioga, North Dakota, at approximately a 10 degree azimuth, progressing westward to 90 degree azimuth. It seemed to progress from dark cloud to dark cloud. weather was broken cumuliform clouds. (3) Disappeared on a 90 degree azimuth over Tioga, North Dakota. (4) Object moved westerly at a slow rate of speed. (5) Object gradually faded out on the 90 degree azimuth at 1200z. (6) Object was observed for two hours and 35 minutes. C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION: (1) Ground visual. (2) Binoculars were utilized in the observation. (3) No airborne sightings were made. D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING: (1) 03/0905z - 7 - 0203 hrs to 0440 hrs, 3 Aug 58 (Local time). (2) Dawn to day. E. LOCATION OF OBSERVER(S) (1) Tioga, North Dakota, 48degrees 38 minutes North, 102 degrees 56 minutes west F. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON OBSERVER: (1) Chief of police [redacted], North Dakota (2) Age unknown. (3) Estimate of reliability- excellent.			
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10-55500-2

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(The L with Astro Computer - H.C. Tables to that -)

Note: almost 3 hours - night with only small amount

Comment: Astro computer and 1958 Ephemeris indicate that HAF: was, & moved from approx. 4 to 90 degrees. from 2:00 to 4:30 AM. (This is no doubt the case. Also see the large number of queries on this body. Ref. TPI 1955)

Release 5/11/58

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
780th ACWRON Westby, Montana		

G. WEATHER AND WINDS-ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTING:
(1) Wind aloft condition.

H. Broken ceiling extending to 35000 feet from approx 20000 feet

I. Visibility was unrestricted below 20000 feet.

J. Scattered thunderstorms covered the general area.

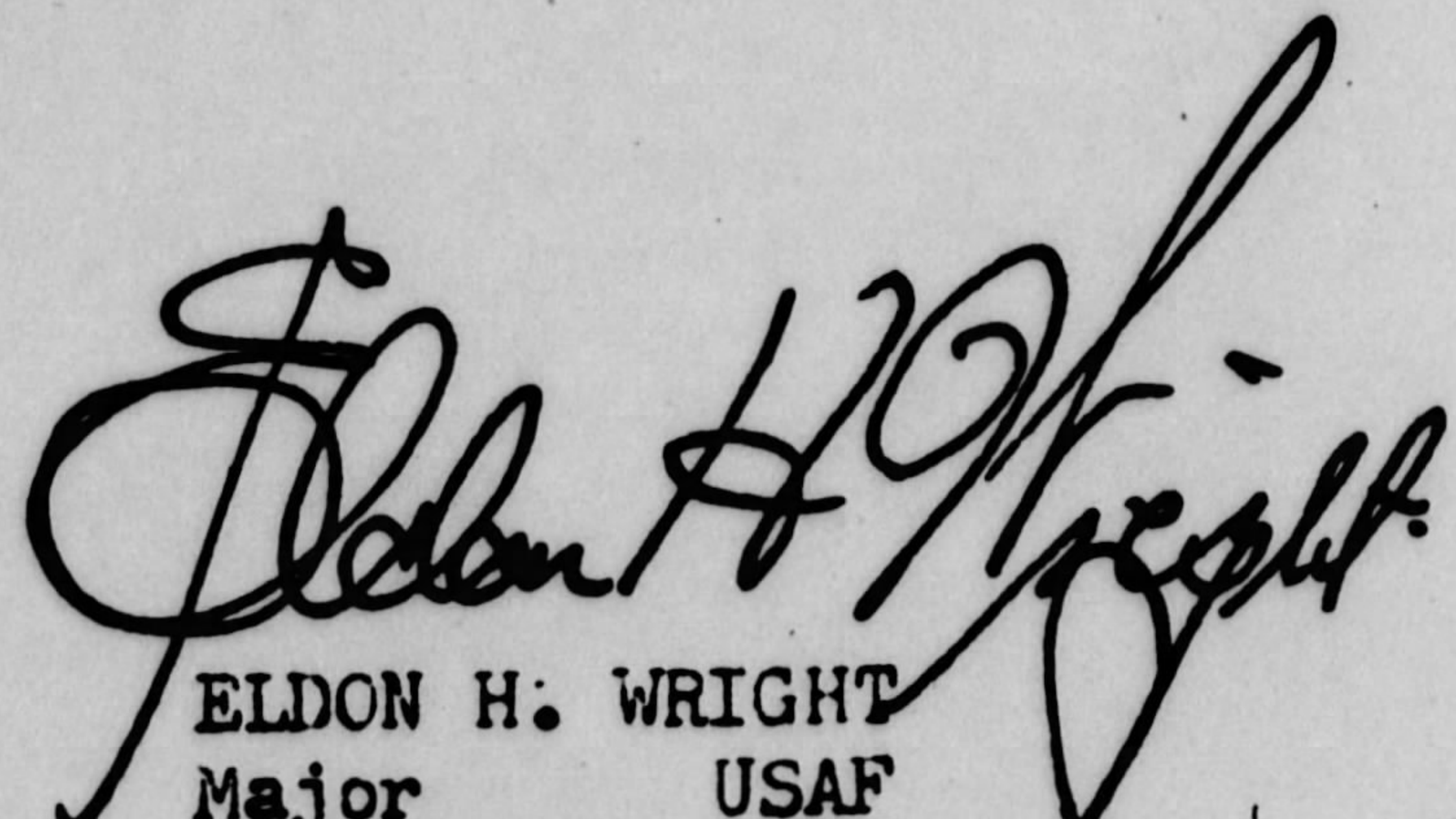
K. Possible balloon launchings or astronomical position of Mars to the earth could have caused these sightings.

L. An interceptor aircraft (F-89J) was dispatched to the area in question. A search from 20,000 feet to 36,000 feet in a grid pattern revealed no objects or object either visually or electronically. During the search, ground observers indicated the object was still visible.

M. There was no known aerial activity within this area at the time of sighting.

N. Comments of preparing Officer:

1. Object could have been a natural astronomical phenomena in form of a planet or star, or it may have been a balloon launched from the United States or Canada by unofficial or official agencies.
2. Similar reports from the same geographical location by reliable sources indicate the established presence of something. Nothing in these sightings indicate a threat to the United States or a violation of security.


ELDON H. WRIGHT
Major USAF
Operations Off.

News Release

NK31

3,1958

WASHINGTON, AUG 8 - (UPI)--ASTRONOMERS TODAY TOLD ROCKET-AGE MOONWATCHERS EARLY TODAY TO GO BACK TO SLEEP -- THAT WAS NOT A ROCKET THEY SAW APPARENTLY HEADED FOR THE MOON.

IT WAS THE PLANET MARS, A NAVAL OBSERVATORY SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN NEW YORK, AN ASTRONOMER FOR THE HAYDEN PLANETARIUM ALSO SAID IT APPEARED THE OBJECT WAS MARS. HE EXPLAINED THAT, IN ITS PRESENT CYCLE, MARS WAS BRIGHTER THAN IT HAS BEEN SINCE EARLY 1957. MOREOVER, THE ASTRONOMER, DR. [REDACTED] SAID THE PLANET WOULD BECOME INCREASINGLY BRIGHTER, IN RELATION TO THE MOON, DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, REACHING ITS PEAK IN NOVEMBER. THEREAFTER, HE SAID, ITS BRIGHTNESS WOULD DIMINISH SLOWLY.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS DISCLOSED THAT IT PLANS TO TRY TO LAUNCH THE FIRST U.S. "LUNAR PROBE" ROCKET AT CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA., BETWEEN AUG. 17 AND AUG. 20, THOUGH TECHNICAL PROBLEMS MAY DELAY THE FIRING INTO SEPTEMBER. THE RUSSIANS ARE KNOWN TO BE WORKING ON A MOON SHOT OF THEIR OWN AND THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THEY ALREADY TRIED ONCE UNSUCCESSFULLY.

LAST NIGHT NEWS AGENCIES AND ASTRONOMERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WERE PHONED BY EXCITED CITIZENS WHO REPORTED SEEING A BRIGHT OBJECT IN SPACE IN THE VICINITY OF THE MOON. SOME REPORTS SAID THE OBJECT WAS HURTLING TOWARD THE MOON.

PHONE CALLS TO OBSERVATORIES SEEMED TO DISPEL THE EXCITEMENT.

MARTHA SHERMAN, A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY, SAID SHE'D SEEN THE OBJECT, TOO. BUT AFTER OBSERVING IT AND CONSULTING CHARTS SHE IDENTIFIED IT POSITIVELY AS THE PLANET MARS WHICH HAPPENS TO BE AT THAT ANGLE JUST NOW -- BUT MUCH FARTHER AWAY THAN THE MOON.

AT THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, ASTRONOMER OWEN MATTINGLY TOOK A LOOK TOO.

HE DIDN'T SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFY THE BRIGHT OBJECT, BUT HE SAID IT WAS "A BRIGHT STAR OR POSSIBLY A PLANET."

MATTINGLY SAID NO ROCKET FIRED FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON WOULD REMAIN VISIBLE IN SPACE FOR VERY LONG: IT

REMAIN VISIBLE IN SPACE FOR VERY LONG: IT JUST WOULDN'T BE BIG ENOUGH TO HAVE THE BRILLIANCE OF A STAR OR PLANET.

NO COMMENT WAS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FROM THE NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY, WHICH TRACKS THE U.S. AND RUSSIAN EARTH SATELLITES.

ALTHOUGH AMATEUR MOONWATCHERS REPORTED THEY SAW THE OBJECT MOVING TOWARD THE MOON, FRANKLIN SAID THE SITUATION WAS ACTUALLY THE REVERSE -- THAT IS, THE MOON WAS MOVING TOWARD MARS. FROM THE EARTH, HOWEVER, HE EXPLAINED, THE PHENOMENON WOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE REVERSE WAS TRUE.

FRANKLIN ATTRIBUTED THE ACUTE INTEREST TO A RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO LAUNCH A "LUNAR PROBE" ROCKET AND RUSSIA'S AVOWED INTENTION OF TRYING TO SHOOT A ROCKET TO THE MOON.

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Press Release