

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 4 Jan 59	2. LOCATION Vance AF Base Control Tower, Okla		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 05/0030Z Jan 59	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar Binoculars ☐ Air-Intercept Radar ☒ Air-Visual		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTCS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Military		☒ Was Astronomical (Fomalhaut) ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 mins	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE stationary	☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Possibly round obj, size of pea. Silver changing to red, orange with brief flashes of blue and green. Bright light first called attention of observer to obj. Pilot attempted to close without decreasing distance between himself and obj.		11. COMMENTS Star charts indicate first magnitude star Fomalhaut to be in exact location given by observers. Obj has characteristics of astronomical body.	

ATIC FORM 320 (REV 26 SEP 52)

NNNZCZCSQP028CZCSQA551ZCWYB493

PP RJEDSQ

DE RJWFX 3

P 061525Z

FM COMDR VANCE AFB

TO RJWFAL/COMDR ADC

INFO RJWFHW/COMDR 33RD ADIV

RJEDSQ/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

RJEZHQ/ASST CHIEF OF STAFF INTELLIGENCE

RJEZHQ/OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES

RJWFAL/COMDR 1006TH AISS

BT

UNCLAS FROM GA 0052A. UFO. SHAPE, UNDETERMINABLE, POSSIBLY ROUND.

SIZE OF PEA. COLOR, SILVER CHANGING TO RED, ORANGE, WITH BRIEF FLASHES OF BLUE AND GREEN. NUMBER, ONE. NO DISCERNIBLE FEATURES OR DETAILS.

NO TAIL, TRAIL, OR EXHAUST. NO SOUND HEARD. NO OTHER PERTINENT

OR UNUSUAL FEATURES. A BRIGHT LIGHT FIRST CALLED THE ATTENTION

OF OBSERVER TO THE OBJECT. FIRST APPEARED 10 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON,

ESTIMATED 35,000 FEET. -303-438 59 73 3-58, & 240 DEGREES. APPEARED

STATIONARY AND GREW SMALLER. OBJECT WAS VISIBLE 10 MINUTES. GROUND AND

AIR VISUAL. BINOCULARS USED. SIGHTED WHILE AIRBORNE IN T-33 NO. 52-9364,

28000 FEET, HEADING 240 DEGREES, AIRSPEED 240 KNOTS INDICATED; HOME

ATIC

7 JAN 59

1400

174 E 4

3-4X262

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Oklahoma City 6, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

The sighting referenced in your letter took place on 5 January 1959. The object was seen from two vantage points, airport control tower and an aircraft.

The Air Technical Intelligence Center's analyst determined the object of this sighting to be the first magnitude star Fomahault. At the time of the sighting Fomahault was less than ten degrees above the horizon, corresponding to the reported position of the unidentified flying object. The witnesses described the object as a bright light fluctuating from red-orange to blue-green. Refraction of the light from stars which are low on the horizon distorts their appearance; this distortion is normally displayed as a color change, apparent increase in size and a pulsating effect. This distortion is the probable cause for the lack of identification on the part of the witnesses.

The official report to the Air Technical Intelligence Center made no mention of gun camera pictures being taken of this object. The aircraft from which this sighting was made is a T-33 jet trainer.

Sincerely,

DISPATCHED

FEB 15 10 11 AM '59

VLC

STATION, VANCE AFB, OKLA. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING: ¹⁸³⁰0030Z TO 0040Z,
5 JAN 59. LIGHT CONDITION,; ^{NIGHT}8&5. LOCATION OF OBSERVER: (1) FROM CONTROL
TOWER AT VANCE AFB OKLA. (2) IN AIRCRAFT ON 240 DEGREE RADIAL
FROM VANCE APPROX 50 MILES. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON OBSERVER:
(1) FLOYD H. PRYOR, T/SGT, 2011 AACS SQUADRON, CONTROL TOWER OPERATOR.
(2) GORDON R. KARTRUDE, JR., 1ST LT, 3575TH PILOT TRAINING SQUADRON,
INSTRUCTOR PILOT. WEATHER AND WINDS-ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND
PLACE OF SIGHTING: CEILING, 29000 FEET. VISIBILITY, 30 MILES.
AMOUNT OF CLOUD COVER, THIN BROKEN. NO THUNDERSTORMS. PILOT ATTEMPTED
TO FLY TOWARD OBJECT BUT WAS UNABLE TO CLOSE THE DISTANCE. IN ADDITION
TO T-33 ONE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT OVER CHEROKEE, OKLA, APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES
NORTHWEST OF VANCE AFB, OKLA, WHO ALSO REPORTED SIGHTING BRIGHT
LIGHT. POSITION TITLE AND COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER: AIRCRAFT
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION OFFICER. A PILOT FLYING IN THE AREA OBSERVED
THE UFO BUT COULD NOT GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO DETERMINE ANY SHAPE OR LATERAL
MOVEMENT. IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN AIRCRAFT AT AN EXTREMELY HIGH ALTITUDE,
STILL IN THE SUNLIGHT AND REFLECTING SUNLIGHT TOWARD THE OBSERVER.

BT

06/1535Z JAN RJWFX

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02441

17 February 1959

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

The sighting referenced in your letter took place on 5 January 1959. The object was seen from two vantage points, airport control tower and an aircraft.

The Air Technical Intelligence Center's analyst determined the object of this sighting to be the first magnitude star Fomahault. At the time of the sighting Fomahault was less than ten degrees above the horizon, corresponding to the reported position of the unidentified flying object. The witnesses described the object as a bright light fluctuating from red-orange to blue-green. Refraction of the light from stars which are low on the horizon distorts their appearance; this distortion is normally displayed as a color change, apparent increase in size and a pulsating effect. This distortion is the probable cause for the lack of identification on the part of the witnesses.

The official report to the Air Technical Intelligence Center made no mention of gun camera pictures being taken of this object. The aircraft from which this sighting was made is a T-33 jet trainer.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

[REDACTED]
Oklahoma City 6, Oklahoma

OFFICE FEB 13 11 50

5 JAN 59
OK

~~my tackon~~

TO ATIC

Do they have
something
+ film?

[REDACTED]

23 January 1959

Gentlemen:

On 5 January 1959, I learned of a report of an Unidentified Flying Object, from Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma. The report states that the UFO had been unsuccessfully pursued by a jet aircraft from Vance AFB. A rumor has reached me stating that the jet obtained motion pictures of the UFO through its gun-camera.

In an attempt to learn more information about this report, I addressed a letter on 6 January 1959, to the Office of Public Information, Vance AFB. I received a reply, a carbon copy of which is inclosed. This letter states that all UFO information is available, but only from USAF headquarters.

With reference to the above statement, I sent you a letter dated 10 January 1959, with a request for full information on the sighting mentioned, as promised by the letter I received from Vance AFB OPI. On 19 January 1959, I received a reply. This reply was in the form of USAF Press Releases 1083-58, dated 5 November 1957, and 986-58 dated 6 October 1958. This most certainly did not meet my request for information. Therefore, I again request full information on the sighting mentioned above.

Please return the carbon copy enclosed when you reply.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Air Force Press Desk
Office of Public Information
Department of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

5 JAN 59
OKAA

[REDACTED]

21 February 1959

Dear Major Tacker:

Thank you very much for your letter of 17 February 1959, giving the official analysis of the Air Technical Intelligence Center on the UFO sighted at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma, on 5 January 1959. I realize that it is Air Force policy not to honor "Individual requests for detailed analysis of specific cases", and would like to thank you for making an exception in my case.

There are two matters I would like to have cleared up, however. One, you spelled the name of the star "Fomahault", while the Map of The Heavens, distributed by the National Geographic Society in its' December, 1957 issue of the National Geographic Magazine, spells it "Fomalhault". I would like to know the correct spelling. I cannot find any star spelled the way you spell it.

Also, I inclosed a carbon copy of a letter addressed to myself, from the Information Services Officer at Vance Air Force Base, dated 7 January 1959. In my letter, I requested you to return it with your reply. You neglected to do so. Please return it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Lawrence J. Tacker
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services
Department of the Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

26 February 1959

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

As requested, I am returning carbon copy of letter dated 7 January 1959 from Lt. Cox. The correct spelling of the star in question is "Fomalhaut."

Sincerely,

Incl

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

0346
OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
JAN 29 1959

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