

1. DATE - TIME GROUP M. January 65 15/0208Z	2. LOCATION Mammoth, Arizona
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION UNRELIABLE REPORT ✓
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION M. Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Three white lights forming an equilateral triangle. Lights size of ordinary light bulb. Initial observation the lights appeared to be motionless above a parking lot. No sound or other details noted. Lights were at 45 deg elevation 70-80 deg azimuth moving to point were motionless, then began to move at a speed of 40-50 mph. As lights moved to the NW an A/C was observed to approach them as in an effort to intercept. This A/C had propeller driven sound. A/C could not catch the lights. A/C also disappeared over the horizon while still chasing the lights.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE NW	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	COMMENTS: Witness contacted by JAH. Dr Hynak regards the witness as unreliable in reporting direction, distances, etc. During his interview the witness made many contradictory and conflicting statements. Thought might possibly be Satellite, however none reported in area at the reported time of the observation. Report is being used as uncorroborated report.

HEADQUARTERS
12TH STRATEGIC AEROSPACE DIVISION (SAC)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA, 85707



REPLY TO: BDO / LtCol R H Amy
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object

21 January 1965

TO: AFSC (FID)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, 45433

1. The following unidentified flying object sighting occurred on 14 January 1965.

a. Description of the object:

(1) The object appeared to be three white lights about the size of an ordinary light bulb, and spaced about 15 feet apart in an equilateral triangle.

(2) Same as above

(3) Same as above

(4) There was only one triangle formed by lights.

(5) N/A

(6) No other discernible features or details.

(7) N/A

(8) No sound was heard

(9) N/A

b. Description of course of object:

(1) The observers attention was first attracted to the lights because they appeared to be motionless above a lighted parking lot. The observer had just left a lighted building.

(2) Angle of elevation was 45 degrees and a true direction of 70 degrees to 80 degrees when first observed.

(3) Object disappeared over the horizon to the northwest.

(h) The lights at first appeared motionless, then slowly began to move to the northwest at an estimated speed of 40 to 50 miles per hour. After the object began moving to the northwest an aircraft was observed to be approaching from the southeast of the object as if attempting to intercept the object. The observer was definite that he saw an aircraft. He was familiar with the normal navigation lights and rotating beacon. He claimed the aircraft made the sound of a propeller driven aircraft. The aircraft never caught the object. The observer stated the object appeared to speed up as the aircraft approached. The aircraft disappeared over the horizon also as if still chasing the object. The observer was unable to give a distance that separated the aircraft from the object.

(i) Object and aircraft disappeared over the horizon to the northwest.

(j) The object was observed for fourteen (14) minutes.

c. Manner of observation:

- (1) Ground - visual sighting.
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A

d. Time and date of sighting:

- (1) 15/0208Z till 15/0222Z.
- (2) Night, clear sky.

e. Location of observer. 32 degrees 41 minutes 45 seconds North, 110 degrees 41 minutes 12 seconds West, which is 3 miles southeast of Mammoth, Arizona.

f. Identifying information on the observer:

- (1) Name: [REDACTED] 22
Address: [REDACTED]
San Manuel, Arizona
Telephone: [REDACTED]

Occupation: underground surveyor for Magma Copper Co.

The observer is believed to be reliable. He has had training along civil engineering lines.

(2) W/A

g. Weather and winds - Aloft conditions at time and place of sighting:

(1) Observer reported clear sky.

(2) Winds recorded at Davis-Monthan AFB were: surface 160/02, 6000' - 140/05, 10,000' - 090/05, 16,000' - 100/10, 20,000' - 090/05, 30,000' - 250/30, 50,000' - 280/10.

(3) No ceiling.

(4) Visibility forty (40) miles.

(5) Only high thin broken clouds.

(6) No thunderstorms in the area.

(7) Vertical temperature gradient was approximately six (6) degrees centigrade warmer than standard. Gradient became standard at 33,000' MSL and was colder than standard above this level. Tropopause was approximately 41,000' MSL.

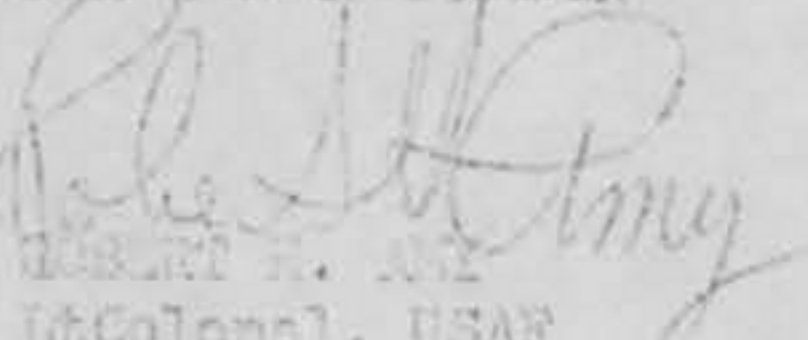
h. None

i. None

j. None

k. Base Director of Operations, 803d Combat Support Group, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. No explanation can be found for the sighting. Mr. [REDACTED] had just left a lighted building and was moving toward a parking lot that was lighted by electric lights on poles. He saw the object above the parking lot. He called his sighting to a guard in a shack near by. However, the guard did not bother to even look toward the sighting and informed Mr. [REDACTED] he did not care to be bothered. A check with the Phoenix Air Defense Sector revealed no intercepts or known air traffic in the area. A check was also made on a Goodyear blimp, however, it was not in the area either.

FOR THE COMMANDER


ROBERT H. AMY
LtColonel, USAF
Base Director of Operations

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MAMMOTH ARIZONA

TDEW

UFO Sighting, Mammoth, Arizona, 15 Jan 65

18 Feb 65

Dr J Allen Hynek
Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Dr Hynek,

Since your may be in the Arizona, New Mexico area in the near future there is an additional report still requiring more data. The sighting occurred on 15 Jan 65; a copy of this report is attached. Request you contact the witness if deemed necessary.

Sincerely,

RECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr
Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch

1 Atch
a/s

cc: PGE/Mr Sweeney

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DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

16 April 1955

Major Hector Quintanilla
Foreign Technology Division
Box 9594
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major:

I am sorry to be so late in reporting on the Mammoth, Arizona investigation, but here it is finally.

I drove from Tucson to Mammoth on the evening of March 22 and called upon Mr. [REDACTED] at his home in San Manuel, Arizona which is just a short bit from Mammoth. We then drove to the classified area of the Magma Copper Company, which in itself is an impressive operation. The region is extremely isolated (my stereo pictures have not yet been developed), but one can say that if the mine and the mine building were not there, there would be nothing but open mountain territory.

Although later in the season, we arrived at the site at approximately the same time of day as the original sighting was made. Since there were so many contradictions in the whole thing, I will start with those first.

1. [REDACTED] was mixed up on directions. He is a surveyor and yet was completely out of line on the direction the buildings pointed. He swore up and down that the main mine buildings pointed north; it actually pointed southeast. *i.e. the S.E. corner of the building.*
2. His original report stated that he was the only witness and that the guard he tried to get to come to look at the sighting did not wish to be bothered. When I talked to him on the phone, before seeing him, I mentioned, inadvertently perhaps, that this was an odd sort of guard to have around a classified project if he didn't want to come out to look at anything. Apparently they decided to change the story, because when I talked with the guard, he assured me that he *did* see the sighting also and agreed nearly in exact detail with Quintore. I think [REDACTED] was just trying to protect him and make him an honorary witness.
3. Although a surveyor and supposedly used to angular measurement, [REDACTED] was very vague as to the subtended angle of the triangle of light. He was also vague as to the variable trajectory of the reported object.
4. Although the time of the sighting seemed to be confirmed, the speed attributed to the object did not match the fourteen minutes he said it remained in sight. I tried to have him act out the situation but he never quite got around to it.

April 14, 1965

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5. The original report stated that the object disappeared over the horizon to the northwest. In conversation this was still maintained, but when asked to point to the place where the object disappeared, it was in the southeast! The motion of the object was definitely from northwest to southeast, thus a possible satellite trajectory. However, a satellite would not explain the three equal light which both "witnesses" insisted upon.

6. The winds reported were from the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base which is apparently some distance away. Surface winds would mean nothing, but winds aloft from 30 to 50,000 feet were from 250 azimuth to 280 azimuth and thus a high altitude lighted balloon is not out of the question but highly improbable because of the high apparent angular rate.

In the drawing, the compass direction in the upper ^{right} hand corner are ~~right~~ and correspond to reality. The directions he shows on the building on his and are wrong. He was really mixed up in directions, insisting that he had first seen it in the southeast and pointing to where the sun had just set! His other knowledge of astronomy was equally rudimentary. He didn't know a star from a planet, and at one time he said that the lights were of second magnitude and at other times that they were as bright as automobile lights close by.

~~He~~ himself was excitable, and if I were on the witness stand for my life, I would not want ~~him~~ as a witness on my side. A clever lawyer would, I believe, get whatever answer he wanted.

The most consistent thing about the evidence was the repeated insistence on triangular separation of the lights and, as he shows in the diagram, the object probably did take from 7:08 until 7:22 to go across although in talking to him he gave the impression that it all happened very much faster. Apparently a plane did come through on an apparent intercept course. He maintains the object speeded up and went away but his diagram would not indicate this.

This bears a slight resemblance to the Monticello, Wisconsin case but no resemblance whatsoever when it comes to the nature of the witnesses. Whereas in the Monticello case, the witnesses were top notch, in this case they were basically poor, and one of the witnesses I believe was probably a fake.

Although it has nothing whatsoever to do with the case, ~~he~~ is an example of the extremely loyal and patriotic American. This country has done right by him, and he intends to do right by this country. He had flags and patriotic pictures around the house and is hell bent to get his children thoroughly educated. He has a wide assortment of books of knowledge and encyclopedias for the kids, and it is clear that learning is high on the totem pole for them. ~~He~~ He himself is a very likable, enthusiastic, and effervescent type. I doubt that he would be a deliberate liar (unless he thought it for a good cause as in saving a guy from embarrassment) but as an articulate observer, I would rate him very

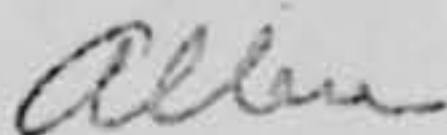
Major Hector Quintanilla
April 15, 1955
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He would not be the kind, however, to manufacture a hoax, and so I think he definitely saw something, possibly even of the Monticello variety. But the case is not tractable with the information we have and I would say we might call this a case of "inadequate" rather than "insufficient information." He gave us sufficient information, but it was of such a sort as to be too inadequate and inaccurate to attempt a solution.

From his data, I would be hard pressed to prove that either aircraft or UFO's existed. The whole sight was probably an aircraft, but very poorly reported. It could not have had this angular separation, which as he described it variously varied from a quarter of a degree to three degrees, and have taken that long to traverse the sky. If it were a special mission aircraft, with light that apparently far apart, it must have traversed the sky in just a matter of minutes at most.

I think then we would be safe in putting this down as either "insufficient information" or "inadequate information" or better yet "inadequate witness." File under illuminated triangles.

Sincerely yours,



J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:krf

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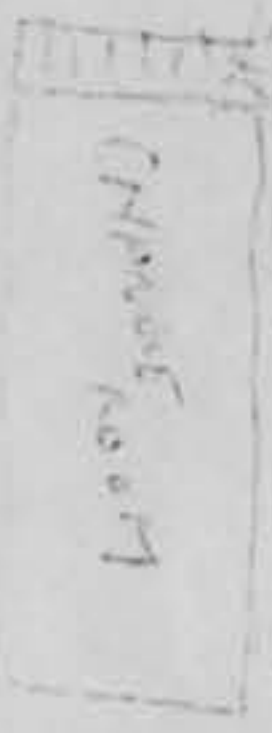
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