

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 23 January 65 23/1340Z	2. LOCATION Williamsburg, Virginia
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION UNIDENTIFIED
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 25 Seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Witnesses car stalled. He looked out of window and observed an object 70-80 ft in height, 10 ft in diameter at bottom and 25 ft in diameter at the top. Metallic grey color with red-orange color or glow on close side and blue glow on far side. Sound similar to vacuum cleaner as object departed. Shape of object like a mushroom or light bulb. Object observed hovering about 4 ft off the ground. Object vanished by moving horizontally to the West. WK was partly cloudy. Additional witness reportedly had car stalled too. Isolated low clouds in the area.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Up & West	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	COMMENTS: With the shape reported as a mushroom, a low cloud close to the observer is unlikely. One (cloud) further away might assume this shape. A cloud observation or some unusual WX phenomena might trigger the report however this would not account for the reported car stalling. Case regarded as UNIDENTIFIED.

(3) The object vanished as it appeared to start moving horizontally to the west.

(4) The flight path was limited to a steady hover except for the rapid vanishing maneuver.

(5) The observer viewed the object approximately 25 seconds.

c. Manner of observation:

(1) Ground - visual.

(2) No optical aids were used.

d. Time and date of sighting:

(1) 0840 Local (1340 Zulu), 23 January 1965.

(2) Light conditions: day.

e. Location of observer: Driving northwest on U. S. Highway 60 at the intersection of State Route 614, approximately five miles northwest of Williamsburg, Virginia.

f. Identifying information on observer:

(1) Name: Mr. [REDACTED]

(2) Address: [REDACTED], Richmond 30, Virginia.

(3) Age: 31 years

g. Weather and winds:

(1) Observer's account of weather conditions: Partly cloudy with one-half of the sky covered with clouds, no wind, and a 40 degree fahrenheit temperature.

(2) Official weather information (U. S. Weather Service, Weather Bureau Airport Station, Byrd Field, Richmond, Virginia):

(a) Wind direction and velocity:

Surface	225/6
5,000	260/25
10,000	240/37
18,000	260/68
25,000	280/58

h. One notable meteorological condition that may have caused the sighting is the low altitude temperature inversion (g (2) above). The Richmond Weather Station stated that no known weather research balloons were in the area. However, they said that weather balloons are often found in Virginia that have been launched from other states. A descending balloon would have appeared very similar to the observer's description.

i. The observer reported his sighting 20 minutes later to the Virginia State Highway Patrol. Trooper R. D. Ferris was the investigating officer. Trooper Ferris walked over the field where the object was reported to have been hovering. After finding no clues that would confirm the object's existence, he called Langley AFB Command Post. First Lieutenant Robert R. Dockum was dispatched in a helicopter to the Williamsburg Airport. He was taken to the sighting location by Trooper Ferris. At 1615 local time, Lieutenant Dockum searched the corn stubbled field, but found no physical evidence of anything unusual.

j. A check was made with the FAA facility at Richmond Byrd Field for any known air traffic in the area at the time of the sighting. No traffic was reported.

k. This report was prepared by First Lieutenant Robert R. Dockum, USAF, 4500 Air Base Wing (DOO-H), Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. The description of the object was given by Mr. [REDACTED] to Lieutenant Dockum during a personal interview on 26 January 1965. This was the first time Mr. [REDACTED] would consent to an interview. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that another car had been stalled, and that another man had seen the object. Mr. [REDACTED] said that he was so shocked that he did not get a good description of the other man. He did say that he was elderly and was driving an old black Chevrolet which was following closely behind his car.

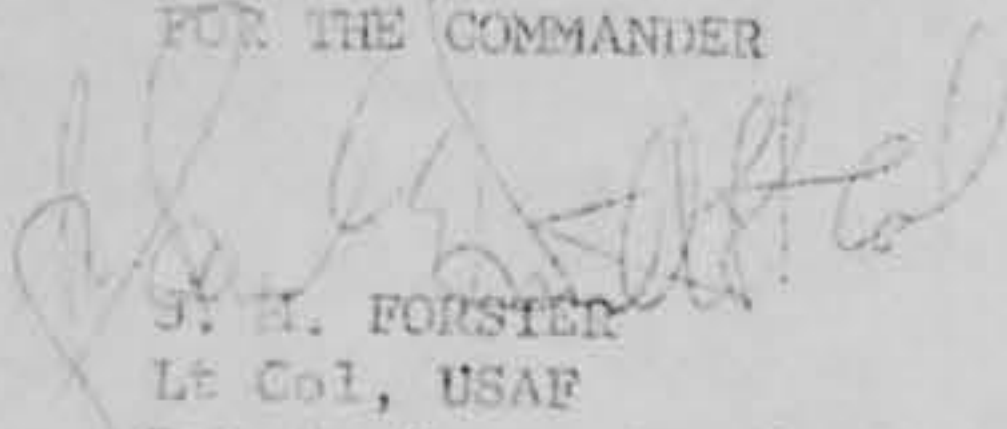
l. A possible cause of the reported object is the sun reflecting off of a weather balloon. The possibility of a weather balloon being in the area was confirmed (as stated in "h" above) by the Richmond Weather Bureau.

m. Another possible cause of the reported object is the sun reflection, temperature inversion, and possible isolated low clouds combining to form a mirage. The only confirmation of isolated low clouds being in the area was a voluntary statement made by a Deputy County Sheriff at the time Lieutenant Dockum was searching the cornfield. The Deputy Sheriff stated that low clouds had briefly moved in from east to west about the time of the sighting.

n. No physical evidence was reported to exist.

2. The observer was prompted to report his sighting after hearing of many other UFO sightings in Virginia. He was very anxious to have his name withheld from the press due to his business position. The unidentified observer made a report to the Williamsburg, Virginia City Police Department. The report was released by this department to the press and consequently prompted many other reports; mainly from the Richmond, Virginia area. Most of the other reports were passed to the press and radio stations in the Richmond area and not to the Air Force.

FOR THE COMMANDER



J. H. FORSTER

Lt Col, USAF

Deputy Commander for Operations

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

23 JAN

TDEW/UFO/69216/hj

17 February 1965

UFO Report (23 Jan 65, Williamsburg, Va)

DOC-H

ATTN: Lt Robert R Dockum
Langley AFB, Virginia 23365

1. Additional data is required before an evaluation of the 23 January observation by Mr [REDACTED] can be made. Specific information on the following points is desired.

a. Car stalling (duration etc)

b. The duration was reported as 25 seconds. Nothing was mentioned of the cars motion in relation to the motion of the object. Twenty five seconds for a car to stall and an object to hover seems inconsistent. A time-motion sequence of the event is desired.

c. The witness stated that he was shocked and did not get a good description of the object, yet the measurements, color, etc, of the object were vividly reported.

d. How did Mr [REDACTED] determine that the car following him stalled? If his car sputtered briefly it is possible that the car behind him stopped or slowed to avoid an accident and the second reported stalling is incorrect.

e. The unidentified observers report to the Williamsburg Virginia, City Police Department is desired.

f. Specific reasons are desired for Mr [REDACTED] failure to consent for an interview until 26 January, while the sighting was on 23 January. Also from the report (para I and K, page 3 of attached letter) it is not clear as to whom actually reported the sighting to the press.

2. Copies of local newspaper articles regarding this sighting is desired.

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

1 Atch
Ltr, Initial Report of
Investigation of UFO,
dtd 1 Feb 65

MR: At 1545, 3 March 65, Sgt Jones received a call from Lt Dockum in regards to additional information to attached letter of the Williamsburg Sighting.

a. Mr █████ said about 30 seconds (just a guess), not sure how long car was stopped before seeing object. But is sure car stopped completely before seeing object.

b. Same as "A".

c. Mr █████ said after he saw the object and it disappeared he got out of his car and went and asked the witness that was behind him if his car stalled, also said "did you see that", (as a ~~plan question~~), and the man said yes. Mr █████ said that's all he asked him and they both departed, getting into their own cars shaking their heads. Mr █████ said the man behind him was an elderly man driving an old Chevrolet.

d. Mr █████ reported the sighting to Deputy Sheriff Dutton. Dutton did not keep a written report of what Mr █████ said. Dutton in turn told Trooper Ferris what Mr █████ told him. Dutton gave the information to the Williamsburg Press, not Mr █████ which was first said. Also the witness that was behind Mr █████ at the sighting made a report to the Williamsburg Police Department but wanted his name to be withheld. Also Mr █████ said he did not want his name mentioned.

e. Mr █████ said he did not say he would not talk to anybody before 26 Jan. He said that it was more convenient for him to be interviewed on 26 Jan and investigating officials set appointment for this date.

NOTE: Mr █████ told Lt Dockum he thinks the object was a solid object and it is an Air Vehicle that the Air Force has.

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

23 JAN 1965
Williamsburg, VA.

FTD (TDEW)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433
8 March 1965

Trooper R D Ferris
Virginia State Highway Patrol
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dear Sir,

We have received a report of an unidentified flying object observed by Mr. [REDACTED], Jr, at the intersection of U S Highway 60 and State Route 614.

This sighting was investigated by Air Force Officials from Langley AFB, Virginia. In their report they indicated that you had conducted an investigation of this observation. If an official report was filed by you, we would appreciate a copy for our case files and any additional information which you may have as to a possible cause of this sighting. We would also like to know if additional reports had been made in the area and if you have any information regarding cars stalling, as the report indicated.

We have been receiving inquiries from various members of the press and there is some urgency regarding this matter. Any information which you may provide will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



COL. C. W. WOODSON, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT
MAJOR H. W. BURGESS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MAJOR J. S. PEARSON
FIELD SUPERVISOR
CAPT. M. S. URICK
PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23519

March 10, 1965

CAPT. R. B. KING
SAFETY OFFICER
CAPT. C. M. LINDSEY
INVESTIGATIONS AND RECORDS
CAPT. A. HOLCOMB
PROPERTY AND FINANCE
CAPT. J. T. MARSHALL
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
CAPTAIN R. M. TERRY
STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS
BOX 13205
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23519

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
FED (TDSN)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

Dear Major Quintanilla:

Your letter of March 8, 1965, addressed to Trooper R. D. Ferris, Virginia State Highway Patrol, Williamsburg, Virginia, has been forwarded to this office for reply.

Trooper Ferris did not file a report on the unidentified flying object. All information obtained by him was subsequently turned over to Air Force investigators from Langley Field. He has not received additional information on this incident and has not heard of other incidents.

Very truly yours,

R. M. Terry
R. M. TERRY, CAPTAIN
Commanding Fifth Division

RMT:ep

cc: Sergeant E. F. Loomis
Trooper R. D. Ferris

"MAKE COURTESY YOUR CODE OF THE ROAD"

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

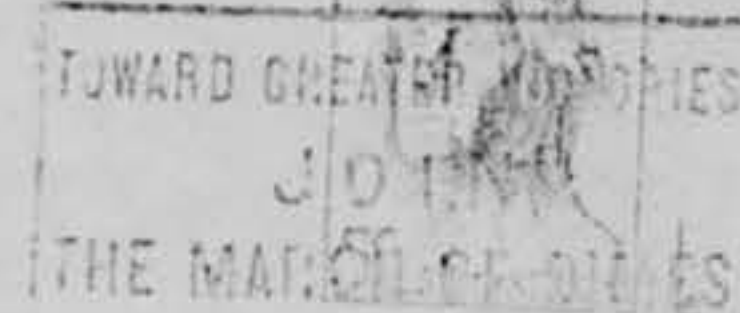
Box 1088, RICHMOND, VA. 23210

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

DIVISION 5

P. O. BOX 13285

NORFOLK 19, VA.



18 MAR 1995

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
FTD (TDEM)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

"KNOW AND OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS"

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

TDW/UFO

UFO Sighting, 23 Jan 65, Williamsburg, Va

2 Apr 65

Hq USAF SAFOI-CC (Mrs Hunt)
Wash D C 20330

Results of investigation to date regarding the observation on 23 Jan 65, near Williamsburg, Virginia, by two Richmond men who desire that their names be withheld from the press, fails to indicate a plausible explanation. This is the reported sighting of an object observed for a period of twenty-five seconds, following the car stalling of the observer. The sighting is currently being carried as Unidentified.

FOR THE COMMANDER

HECTOR QUINTEANILLA, Jr
Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

23 JANUARY 1965

At 0840, 23 January 1965, observer first noted object after his car stalled and he looked to his left. The object was first observed hovering with its bottom four feet off the ground and on an azimuth of southwest from the observer. It was 500 feet southwest of U.S. Highway 60 and 125 feet northwest of State Route 614. The object which was observed for 25 seconds began moving horizontally to the west prior to disappearing. The flight path was limited to a steady hover except for the rapid vanishing maneuver.

Observer stated that the object was shaped like a mushroom or light bulb, being 75 to 80 feet in height; 25 feet diameter at top, and ten feet diameter at the bottom. Color was metallic gray with red-orange glow on close side and blue glow on far side. As object was hovering there was a sound similar to a vacuum cleaner.

After the object disappeared, first observer got out of his car and went and asked the witness that was behind him if his car had stalled. Second witness said his car had also stalled and he had also seen the object.

The observer was prompted to report his sighting after hearing of many other UFO sightings in the Virginia area. First observer told investigating officer (Lt. Dockum) that he thinks the object was a solid object and thought it was an Air Vehicle that the Air Force has.

COMMENTS

There was a low altitude temperature inversion reported by the Weather Bureau Airport Station, Byrd Field, Richmond, Virginia, which could have resulted in the unusual phenomenon. The Richmond Weather Station stated that no known weather research balloons were in the area. However, on occasion balloons launched from other states have been found in Virginia. The area was searched by Lt. Dockum and no physical evidence of anything unusual was found.

Another possible cause of the reported object is the sun's reflection, temperature inversion, and possible isolated low clouds combining to form a mirage. The Deputy Sheriff that was present with Lt. Dockum, at the time the field was being searched, stated that there were low clouds in the area moving from east to west, at approximately the time of the observation. There is nothing to account for the car stalling as observer so stated.

Since no conclusive evidence can establish the identity of the object the case is carried as unidentified by the Air Force. Although the possibility exists that the sighting was a descending weather balloon, this is not conclusive evidence to substantiate the identity as such.

Williamsburg, Virginia
24 January 1965

January 24, 1965 -- Williamsburg, Virginia -- Two Richmond Businessmen (asked to remain anonymous) reported to James City County Deputy Sheriff that a tall aluminum-colored, cylinder shaped UFO 75 feet above the ground stopped the motors of their car during the few seconds the object was in view. It had green and yellow lights on its side. Five Virginia Tech students reported a UFO with three yellow lights and one green light which hovered 400 feet above the ground and followed their car for a long distance along a darkened highway. TV interference was reported in the vicinity as the UFO passed by.

SOURCE: Richmond Times Dispatch, Virginia.

No Case, Information Only
Source: PSIC Bulletin, Vol 2, #1

23 January 1965
Williamsburg, Va

Williamsburg... January 23, 1965... Two Richmond men on Rte. 60, travelling in opposite directions, suddenly saw a "thing" hovering over a corn field... and about that time each of their cars stalled down, and they both claim they were unable to again start their cars until the "upside down ice cream cone shaped thing" suddenly took off at high speed. An Air Force spokesman presumed that it was a weather balloon.

Editor's Comment:

Peculiar position and actions for a balloon, I presume.

There is also an unverified report of several Portsmouth, Va., men having seen the "thing" land in a field several days ago. They claim to have seen strange-looking "things" come out of the strange craft.

Almost daily, Virginians are reporting UFOs in several parts of the State. And some claim to have seen little Martian types wandering around on the ground. (?)

Information Only

Williamsburg, Virginia
23 January 1965

Source: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Saucer News, Vol 12, #1, March 1965

Other recent ^{23 January 1965} Virginia incidents include the following: Two men driving near Williamsburg in separate cars told police that they spotted a flying saucer near a highway intersection. It was a tall, aluminum-colored object, shaped like an inverted ice cream cone, and it hovered no more than 75 feet above the ground. Both men said that their car engines died for a few seconds while the UFO was in view, but started up again as soon as the object was out of sight.

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NEWPORT NEWS, VIRG

Langley Team Investigating UFO, But Report Unlikely

By TROY WILLIAMS

Daily Press Military Writer
A Langley Air Force Base team is now in the process of investigating an unidentified flying object sighted near Williamsburg Saturday by two Richmond men, a spokesman for Project Bluebook office in the Pentagon said Monday.

However, the spokesman said, this is the only unidentified flying object report received from the Peninsula in several months and the only one from the area under investigation at this time.

Project Bluebook is the investigative office for unidentified

flying objects (UFO). Project personnel are located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and at the Air Force Information Office in the Pentagon.

The spokesman said there has been a marked increase in the number of UFO reports in recent weeks. Included among the recent reports are the one from the Peninsula and those from the Lynchburg and Harrisonburg area.

When asked if Project Bluebook attributes the sightings in any way with the number of flying saucer articles appearing recently in national magazines, the spokesman said, "well those articles do stimulate the reader's interest."

The spokesman pointed out that Langley Air Force Base is not authorized to report on their investigation of a UFO unless the object is definitely identified by the base's investigating team.

As soon as a UFO report is received an investigating team is dispatched from the nearest Air Force base. If the team is unable to make an identification their findings are turned over to the Project Bluebook office at Wright-Patterson AFB. In turn the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base submits its findings to the Pentagon office which releases data to the news media.

Since 1947, Project Bluebook has investigated over 9,000 reports of unidentified objects and only 111 are still listed as unsolved," the spokesman said.

In all the investigation, the spokesman continued, "we never received any information that the objects seen presented any threat to the security of the United States or represented any advance technological information beyond present day scientific knowledge."

A recent issue of a national magazine carried an article by retired Marine Corps Maj. Donald E. Kevhoe under the title "U.S. Air Force Censorship of the UFO Sightings."

The article states that the Gemini capsule was still in its first orbit when four spacecraft of unknown origin flew up to it and while startled radar track-ers watched, the four took up positions around the capsule.

Whoever was inside the four strange spacecraft, the article adds, appeared to be inspecting the capsule minutely and with

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Daily Press

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26, 1965

PAGE 3

Langley Team Investigating UFO, But Report Unlikely

By TROY WILLIAMS

Daily Press Military Writer

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HEADQUARTERS
4500TH AIR BASE WING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA 23365



REPLY TO
ATTN: 081 DO/2711

SUBJECT: Initial Report of Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object

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

1. The following information is presented as directed by paragraph 14,
AFR 200-2:

a. Description of the object:

- (1) Shape: Mushroom or light bulb.
- (2) Size: 75 to 80 feet in height; 25 feet diameter at top,
and 10 feet diameter at the bottom.
- (3) Color: Metallic gray with red-orange glow on close side
and blue glow on far side.
- (4) Number: One.
- (5) Formation: None.
- (6) Discernible features: None.
- (7) Tail: None.
- (8) Sound: Similar to vacuum cleaner as it seemed to move
and vanish.

b. Description of object:

(1) The observer's attention was first called to the object
when his 1964 Cadillac car stalled and he looked to his left.

(2) The object was first observed hovering with its bottom
four feet off the ground and on an azimuth of southwest from the
observer. It was 500 feet southwest of U. S. Highway 60 and 125 feet
northwest of State Route 614.