

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 31 August 65 01/0430Z	2. LOCATION Air-Visual Over Nevada, Fallon NAAS, Winnemucca AFS, Tonapah NPS, Nevada
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION Visual: Astro (CAPELIA) ✓ Radar: (WEATHER PHENOMENA)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One Visual	Visual observation to NE, Radar returns to NW.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 Hours, 15 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Grd-Visual, Grd-Radar Air-Visual	Oblong object green on one end red on the other white center. Ground observers estimate 15 deg elevation sextant 20 deg elevation on azimuth of 050 deg. Air Visual of this object made also. Tonapah, Nevada tracked object at 15,000 ft distance 150 miles azimuth 340 degrees. Visual object made stops starts and climbs. Disappeared by fading. Air-Visual from F-102. Ground Radar from Tonapah and Winnemucca AFS. Ground sightings from Fallon NAS. Winnemucca suggested that cause of Radar returns might be due to Weather. Visual sighting characteristic of Astro Body. CAPELIA in the approximate position reported.
7. COURSE Stationary, Erratic	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO



ATTN: TDEW/UFO

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting, Tonopah AFS, Nev

TO: TDEED

Request radar analysis on the attached UFO sighting at
Tonopah AFS, Nevada.

[Signature]
HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr
Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena

1 Atch
Msg fm 3635 FLYTNGWG,
STEAD AFB, NEV, CITE:
OP 17128 SEPT 65.

Memo, TDEW/UFO, UFO Sighting, Tonopah AFS, Nev

1st Ind (TDEED/Mr. Bryant/pkj/74201)

24 Sep 65

TO: TDEW/UFO

The description of the flight path and maneuvers during the 3 hour and 15 minutes the observations were made is insufficient to allow a meaningful evaluation to be made. However, the description as "stoped, started, and made right hand climbs" infers movements not compatible with aircraft targets. A possible explanation for this radar sighting could be a so-called "bubble" in the atmosphere which could cause a radar reflection, and conceivably might cause a visual observation as well. Such a "bubble" would fall in the category of weather phenomenon, as suggested by personnel at the Winnemucca radar site.

[Signature]
JOHN W. VEGA
Lt Colonel, USAF
Acting Director
Electronics Directorate
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems

1 Atch
n/c

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

Pg 1 of 4

SMB H024RTTU JAW RUWJBUA0011 2522225-UUUU--

RUEBHQA.

ZNR UUUUU

AF IN : 43222 (10 Sep 65) S/be

R 0922 10Z

ACTION : NIN-7

FM 3635FL YTINGWG STEAD AFB NEV INFO : XOP-1, XOPX-8, SAFOS-3,
DIA-1 (21)

TO RUWMFVA/ADC

RUWJEW/28AIRD IV HAMILTON AFB CALIF

RUEBBAA/AFSC

RUEBHQA/CSAF

RUEBHQA/OSAF WASH DC

BT

UNCLAS OP 17128 SEPT 65. FOR: AFSC FTD; CSAF

AFNIN; OSAF SAFOI. UFO.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH

14, AFR 200-2:

A. (1) OBLONG.

(2) GRAPEFRUIT

(3) RED ON ONE END, GREEN ON THE OTHER WITH GLOWING WHITE
CENTER.

(4) ONE.

(5) N/A.

AFHQ FORM 0-309C
JAN 65

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN 43222 (10 Sep 65)

Pg 2 of 4

AGE 2 RUWJBUA0011 UNCLAS

(6) NONE.

(7) NONE.

(8) NONE.

(9) NONE.

B. (1) SHAPE AND GLOW.

(2) GROUND OBSERVERS ESTIMATE OBJECT AT 15 DEGREES TO 20 DEGREES (LATER CONFIRMED BY SEXTANT AT 20 DEGREES) ABOVE HORIZON AT APPROXIMATELY 050 DEGREES FROM FALLON NAAS, NEV. PILOT UNABLE TO GIVE THIS INFORMATION. TONOPAH AFS NEV PLACED OBJECT AT 15,000 FEET MSL WITH AN AZIMUTH OF 340 DEGREES AND A DISTANCE OF 150 NM. WINNEMUCCA AFS, NEV PLACED OBJECT AT 15000 MSL BUT GOT NO AZIMUTH OR DISTANCE READING.

(3) ELEVATION 15,000, AZIMUTH 340 DEGREES FROM TONOPAH.

(4) STOPPED, STARTED AND MADE RIGHT-HAND CLIMBS.

(5) FADED OUT.

(6) 0430Z - 0745Z, 1 SEPT 1965.

C. (1) AIR VISUAL, GROUND VISUAL, GROUND ELECTRONIC.

(2) SEVEN BY FIFTY BINOCULARS, SEXTANT.

(3) F 102; 541413; 39000; HEADING UNKNOWN, PILOT RUNNING

AFHQ FORM 0-309C
JAN 65

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN 43222 (10 Sep 65)

Pg 3 of 4

INTERCEPTS; MACH .83; 184TH FIS (ANG) FRESNO, CAL IF.

PAGE 3 RUWJBUA 0011 UNCLAS

D. (1) 0430Z, 1 SEP 65

(2) NIGHT.

E. (1) AIR - APPROXIMATELY 15-25 MILES SE OF FALLON NAAS,
NEV.

GROUND - 3925N11843W FALLON NAAS, NEV

RADAR - 3803N11714W TONOPAH AFS, NEV

RADAR - 4058N11746W WINNEMUCCA AFS, NEV

F. (1) NONE.

(2) RODDY, EDWARD F., COL, 194TH FIS (ANG), FRESNO,
CAL IF; BURBINE, LEONARD (NMN), MSGT, HMN 769, NAS ALAMEDA,
CAL IF; SGT MAJ. FIFTEEN OTHER GROUND OBSERVERS LOCATED AT
FALLON NAAS, NEV.

G. (1) SCATTERED CLOUDS AT APPROXIMATELY 15,000 FT MSL.

(2) ALT	DIR	VEL	VERT TEMP GRAD
SURFACE			70 DEGREES F.
6,000 MSL	280	4	PLUS 20 DEGREES C.
10,000	060	6	PLUS 10 DEGREES C.
16,000	160	12	MINUS 10 DEGREES C.

AFHQ FORM 0-309C
JAN 65

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN 43222 (10 Sep 65)

Pg 4 of 4

20,000 200 12 MINUS 17 DEGREES C.

30,000 250 9 41 DEGREES C.

PAGE 4 RUWJBUA 0011 UNCLAS

50,000 270 32 MINUS 62 DEGREES C.

80,000 350 4 MINUS 62 DEGREES C.

(3) 15,000 AGL AND 25,000 AGL

(4) 15 MILES PLUS

(5) 4/10THS

(6) NONE

(7) SEE ITEM G2.

H. THE RADAR SITE AT WINNEMUCCA WAS OF THE OPINION THAT
IT MIGHT BE WEATHER PHENOMENON. COULD NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC.

I. NONE.

J. NONE.

K. AS THE ASSISTANT UFO OFFICER FOR THE BASE, 1ST LT HOWARD
C. AUSTIN, WAS UNABLE TO FIND DURING INVESTIGATION ANY FACTS TO
SUPPORT THE HYPOTHESIS THAT IT WAS SOME KNOWN OBJECT.

L. NONE.

BT NOTE: ADV CY DELIVERED TO DIA/JCS

NNNN

AFHQ FORM 0-309C
JAN 65

UNCLASSIFIED

31 August 1965 Nevada Area
Gd Air Visual Gd RADAR
Visual: CAPELIA Radar : Weather

1003698

K243.6012-1
31 Aug - 3 Sep
1965

RETURN TO:

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

0/0x306

DAMON, TX 3 Sep 65

THIS CASE INCLUDES

12 PHOTOS 4X3