

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 27 July 66 28/0330Z	2. LOCATION Memphis, Tenn (3 Witnesses)
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Aircraft (WITH ADVERTISING SIGN) <i>Pro. Jret</i>
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 Minute	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observers noted basically oblong shaped object from which a continuous light was coming. Beneath this was a "rotor" which turned at a moderate rate of speed, passing in front of the frosted light panel, causing this light to "blink". No noise was heard at anytime. There has been an aircraft conducting aerial advertising activities in the Memphis area prior to and following sighting date. Description is consistent with this aircraft.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE N	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FROM: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Air Station (84)
Memphis, Tennessee 38115

TO: Headquarters, U. S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

VIA:

SUBJ: Unidentified flying object; report of

REF:

ENCL: (1) Copy of Chief, Memphis Tower, FAA, Airport Traffic Control Tower, Memphis, Tenn. ltr of 24 Aug 1966 (with attachments)

CODE ADSC

DATE 31 AUG 1966

In the interest of reduction of paperwork, this form letter is used in lieu of formal correspondence. Pertinent items are checked below.

ITEM		X	ITEM		X
ENCLOSURE ATTACHED	In compliance with reference		REFERENCE	Copy(ies) requested	
	As a matter under your cognizance			Request addressee(s) take action	
	For compliance/appropriate action			Reply not received. Request status of action	
	For information	X		Receipt acknowledged	
	For comment/recommendations			Action pending (see 'Remarks')	
	For correction/completion and return			Does not adequately identify reference(s)	
	Missent/Misaddressed to this command			Improperly mailed to this command. Corrective action taken indicated under 'Remarks'	
	Returned for reconsideration				
SUBJECT DOCUMENT	Can be obtained as indicated under 'Remarks'		SUBJECT PERSONNEL	Reported	
	Delete this command from distribution			Detached/Transferred (see 'Remarks')	
	Include commands listed below in distribution			Serving aboard your command	
	Reduce/Increase this command's distribution to copy(ies)			Not on board. If being ordered to this command, request pertinent information under 'Remarks'	
SUBJECT REPORT	Not received. Submit by air mail		SUBJECT FORM	Forwarded for evaluation/comment	
	Not required by this command			Recommended for command-wide use	
	Not submitted in accordance with reference			Recommended for revision	
	Should be assigned a report symbol			Should be procured in accordance with reference	

REMARKS (Use reverse side if additional space required)

COPY TO Chief, Memphis Tower, FAA
Airport Traffic Control Tower
Memphis, Tennessee

E-Z LETTER CNATRA-GEN 5216/1 (Rev. 6-63)

SIGNATURE

J. D. GIPSON

By direction



FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY
Airport Traffic Control Tower
P. O. Box 30050
Memphis, Tennessee

August 24, 1966

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

Commanding Officer
U. S. Naval Air Station
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Sir:

In accordance with current instructions which require that all unidentified flying object reports be referred to military officials, the attached report is forwarded for your information and any action you deem appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Arthur
James F. Arthur
Chief, Memphis Tower

ENCL - (1)

Airport Traffic Control Tower
P. O. Box 30050
Memphis, Tennessee

August 24, 1966

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Apt. 81-C
Metairie, Louisiana

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is in reply to your letter of August 12, 1966, concerning an unknown flying object observed by you in the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee. I regret the tardiness of this reply; unfortunately, a discrepancy in the address and my absence from Memphis for several days delayed receipt of your letter.

The established procedure for handling UFO reports is to refer them to the nearest military base for investigation. However, in this particular instance I feel the circumstances warrant my answering you personally. During the period prior to and following July 27, 1966, the Aero-Lite Company was conducting aerial advertising activities in the Memphis area. They use a modified Cessna with a large frame or platform mounted underneath between the landing gear and the tailwheel. This frame is approximately 10 feet wide and when airborne unfolds to a length of approximately 30 feet. It is actually a screen containing hundreds of tiny light bulbs. Using the perforated tape principle they are able to display moving advertising slogans or messages. However, the display to be legible must be viewed when almost directly overhead. So far as I have been able to determine, this is a newly designed piece of equipment and the only one in operation at this time.

Viewed from the angle at which you observed it I believe it could have presented the appearance you described. I base this assumption on the fact that the first night it operated in Memphis the control tower alone received over 50 telephone calls. The descriptions received were not in as good detail as yours but did describe similar appearances dependent on the angle from which it was observed.

Since I cannot be sure that this was the object you observed, I am forwarding a copy of your report to the appropriate military authorities for further investigation and processing. In answer to your offer, I would appreciate

the sketches you made of the object. After study I will return them to you if you so desire.

Your report is appreciated and should you again be in the Memphis area I want to extend you and your family an invitation to visit the FAA Control Tower and Terminal Radar Facility at Memphis Metropolitan Airport. It is one of the most modern installations of its type in the country, and it would be a pleasure for me to show it to you.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Chief, Memphis Tower

cc:
Commanding Officer ✓
U. S. Naval Air Station
Memphis, Tennessee

AUG 17 1966

American Pilot

August 12, 1966

Federal Aviation Agency
Memphis Airport
Air Traffic Control Tower
Memphis, Tennessee

Gentlemen:

On July 27, 1966, at 9:30 P.M., while driving on Interstate 55 just south of Memphis, I, along with my wife and daughter, saw what appeared to us to be a "flying saucer". This object was approximately 200 feet from us, over the highway, at an upward angle, and we were able to observe this object for approximately 1 minute in great detail.

This object was approximately 40-50 feet in diameter, the main portion being black, with one small red light on the upper left region (as it was facing us). This light did not blink. The black portion was slightly more oblong in shape than round. Under this slightly elongated portion was a smaller section of the object that appeared to be completely round in shape. This section appeared to have a glass area (more or less frosted) from which a continuous light was shining. Beneath this was a "rotor" which turned at a moderate rate of speed, passing in front of the frosted light panel, causing this light to "blink". The rotor was not turning at a high rate of speed either at the time that the object was almost stationary above us nor when it left our field of vision. There was no sign of power, such as jets, propellers, etc. We could detect no noise from the craft, but it is possible that there was some noise associated with it that we were unable to detect because of the air-conditioning and the fact that all windows in the car were closed. After approximately 1 minute, this object left our immediate range of vision, flying away from us toward and over part of Memphis.



American Art

Page Two

Please be advised that immediately after this craft left our vicinity, we sighted an airplane at a much higher altitude, and were able to make a comparison of these two crafts. There was definitely no question in our minds that the object we saw was NOT an airplane of any type known to us. I have made sketches of this craft, and would be pleased to forward same to you for your study.

In view of the above description, I would appreciate hearing from you as to whether or not a craft of this nature is known to your office. Also, please advise if any other sightings of this object were reported to your office.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

HGW:bw