

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE & TIME GROUP 13 Mar 68 22/0430Z	2. LOCATION Near Grand Valley, Colorado (One witness)
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Other(MISSILE LAUNCH)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10-15 seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS The observer was facing SW from Grand Valley, Colorado when he observed an orange light moving straight up. The light went out and then came back on a few seconds later and stayed on approximately ten seconds.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Straight up	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	COMMENTS: At 2124 local an Athena missile was launched from Green River, Utah. The burning characteristics of the boosters for the payload of the Athena would be very similiar to those reported by the observer.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

Athena, Missile
28 March 68

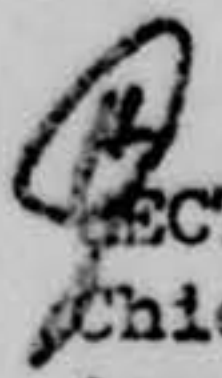
27 JUN 1968

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/26 Jun 68

UFO Observation, 28 March 1968


Grand Valley, Colorado 81635

Reference your unidentified observation of 28 March 1968. On the evening of 28 March 1968, at 9:24 pm, an ATHENA missile was launched from Green River, Utah. The burning characteristics of the boosters for the payload of the ATHENA would be very similar to those reported by you; therefore, the object you saw and reported was very likely the ATHENA.


HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

28 Mar 68

11 JUN 1968

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/10 Jun 68

UFO Observation, 28 March 1968

~~Las Cruces, New Mexico 88002~~

1. The Aerial Phenomena Office is in receipt of an unidentified flying object (UFO) report from Grand Valley, Colorado, which occurred on 28 March 1968 at approximately 9:30 pm, local time.
2. The witness was facing southwest when he observed an orange light moving straight up. The light went out and then came back on a few seconds later and stayed on for approximately ten seconds.
3. Were there any missile launches (possibly from Green River or Blanding, Utah) on the night of 28 March that could account for this sighting? We would appreciate your comments as to a possible cause for this sighting.
4. Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

FOR THE COMMANDER


HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE CY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NEW MEXICO - 88002

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17 JUN 1968

STWS-NR

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, 28 Mar 68

Commander

ATTN: TDPT (UFO)

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433

1. Reference your letter, 11 Jun 68, subject as above.
2. On the evening of 28 Mar 68, at 2124 hours, an ATHENA missile was launched from Green River, Utah. The burning characteristics of the boosters for the payload of the ATHENA would be very similar to those reported by your observer; therefore, the object he saw and reported was very likely the ATHENA.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ROBERT A. J. DYER, JR.

LTC, INF

Executive Officer, NRO

28 Mar 68

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE OHIO 45433



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: TDPT (UFO)

SUBJECT: UFO Observation 28 March 1968

11 JUN 1968

TO:

Grand Valley, Colorado 81635

Reference your recent unidentified flying object sighting which you reported to the Air Force. The information which we have received is not sufficient for a scientific investigation. Request you complete the attached AF Form 117 and return it in the self-addressed envelope. Thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

1 Atch
AF Form 117 w/envelope

Major Hector Guzmanilla
Project Blue Book
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

Dear Sir:

An unidentified flying object was observed by me, and by several others the night of Thursday, March 28, 1968 at about 9 ³⁰ P.M., near Grand Valley, Colorado.

The object appeared as a light moving almost straight up, in the western sky. The light went out, and went on again, a few seconds later, the object ^{appearing} in a position one would expect from its rate of motion across the sky. It appeared to be traveling toward the east. The angle from my position to its pathway would be about sixty degrees as facing the southwest. This second time the light stayed on, I would guess, five to ten seconds, then went out. I watched the sky for several minutes, but did not see the object again.

The speed of the object across the sky appeared to be two to four times that of a commercial jet. I want to emphasize that the appearing of the object in the west was completely different from that of an object coming from the far horizon. It appeared to be coming up from the ground. The general appearance of the trajectory made me think of a ~~two stage~~ rocket, firing its first and second stages.

When the light went on, it seemed to go on instantaneously, but when it went off, it did not appear to go off instantaneously, but appeared to fade off, the interval of fading being a fraction of a second. There was not any flash of brilliance which would suggest the jettisoning of a first stage.

A minute and a half (or more) later, I heard a sound similar to that made by a jet passing over. I could not see any jet, but it did not immediately occur to me that the sound may have come from the object (because of the long time lapse).

I rehearsed my steps between the last sighting of the object and the hearing of

The Second, and concluded that the elapsed time was not less than approximately a minute and a half, and possibly was substantially more. This would indicate, would it not, that the object was at an altitude of the order of 100,000 ft. or more, if the sound was produced by its passage?

If it was at this height or more, its apparent rate of passage across the heavens would indicate a speed of the order of rocket and missile speeds, rather than jet speeds.

On the other hand, if the sound did not come from the object, then I have no evidence of any sound from the object, as no other sound was heard. I was in quiet country surroundings.

The light was almost the color that an ordinary flame appears at night. It appeared orange compared to the stars. Its brightness appeared almost that of Jupiter. There was just a suggestion that it was not round, but had the shape of what might be a perfect exhaust.

Sanicula