PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. TIME GROUP

1 27/0900Z

2. LOCATION

Off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia

3. SOURCE

Civilian

4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS

30 ?

5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION

2 to 4 mins

6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION

Air visual

7. COURSE

Confusing

8. PHOTOS

☐ Yes
☒ No

9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

☐ Yes
☐ No

10. CONCLUSION

INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION

Comments: See reverse side of card

11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

The observer sighted five to seven orangish lights that were in a line and staggered upward on a titled axis. The lights were seen for three to four minutes and suddenly went out "as if turned off." A second pilot, 11 minutes later and 128 miles away, reported that he saw a single white light, then reported that he saw seven lights forming a triangle then all disappeared. Both pilots are reported to have placed the lights just off the coast lines of South Carolina and Georgia.

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

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

REPLY TO ATTN OF: TDPT (UFO)

JAN 25 1968

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, September 27, 1967

TO: [redacted]
Newnar, Georgia 31701

Your name has been given to the Aerial Phenomena Office (Project Blue Book) as being a witness to an unidentified flying object. If you were a witness to an UFO sighting on September 27, 1967 would you please complete the attached AF Form 117 and return it in the envelope provided. If you were not a witness to this sighting, would you please make a statement to this effect on the attached form. The information which you provide will be used in evaluating this observation. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

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

1 Atch
AF Form 117 w/envelope

What about Walter Reed?

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

REPLY TO ATTN OF: TDPT (UFO)

JAN 25 1968

SUBJECT: UFO Observation , 27 September 1967

TO: Pilot of P-23 N-7942Y
[redacted]
Miami, Florida 33156

Your name has been given to the Aerial Phenomena Office (Project Blue Book) as being a witness to an unidentified flying object. If you were a witness to an UFO sighting on 27 September 1967 would you please complete the attached AF Form 117 and return it in the envelope provided. If you were not a witness to this sighting, would you please make a statement to this effect on the attached form. The information which you provide will be used in evaluating this observation. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

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

1 Atch
AF Form 117 w/envelope

Pending

27 Sep 67

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

REPLY TO ATTN OF: TDPT/UFO

NOV 21 1967

SUBJECT: UFO Observation , 27 September 1967

TO: [redacted]
Box [redacted]
Newnan, Georgia 31701

Your name has been given to the Aerial Phenomena Branch (Project Blue Book) as being a witness to an unidentified flying object. If you were a witness to an UFO sighting on 27 September 1967 would you please complete the attached AF Form 117 and return it in the envelope provided. If you were not a witness to this sighting, would you please make a statement to this effect on the attached form. The information which you provide will be used in evaluating this observation. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

JAMES C. MANATT, Colonel, USAF
Director of Production

1 Atch
AF Form 117

Sent [redacted] 117
also sent out to
Pilot of [redacted]
Cheraton Beach Inc.
1031 5 5W 5 5th Ave
Miami Fla 33156

NOV 16 1967

TDPT (UFO) Maj Quintanilla/70916/mhs/16 Nov 67

UFO Observation, 27 September 1967

68th BW
Seymour Johnson AFB, N Carolina 27530

134th ARG
McGhee Tyson Airport
Knoxville, Tenn 37901

363rd TRW
Shaw AFB, S Carolina 29152

1. The Aerial Phenomena Branch is in receipt of an unidentified flying object report which occurred in the Georgia and South Carolina coastal area on 27 September 1967 between 0900Z and 0930Z. The sighting was described as five to seven lights that were in a trail.

2. Request information on whether you scheduled any refueling missions over these areas during the above time period. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

FOR THE COMMANDER

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

Send [redacted] a 117

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 68TH BOMBARDMENT WING (SAC)
SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH CAROLINA 27530

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: DCO

30 November 1967

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, 27 September 1967 (Your ltr, 27 Nov 1967)

TO: Hq Foreign Technology Division (TDPT/UFO)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

This unit flew a large scale mission on the night of 26-27 September 1967. All tankers were on the ground at least three hours prior to 0900Z, and the bombers were not in subject area.

FOR THE COMMANDER

John F. Nuding

JOHN F. NUDING, Lt Colonel, USAF
Asst Deputy Commander for Operations

27 Sept 67

1st Ind to Hq Foreign Technology Division (AFSC) Ltr,
16 Nov 67

134 Air Rflg Gp (TAC) 27 November 1967

TO: Hq Foreign Technology Division (AFSC), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

No aircraft of this unit was airborne during the period in question.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Wilbur P. Lyell

WILBUR P LYELL, Lt Col, Tenn ANG
Administrative Staff Officer

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

REPLY TO ATTN OF: TDPT (UFO)

NOV 16 1967

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, 27 September 1967

TO: 134th ARG
McGhee Tyson Airport
Knoxville, Tenn 37901

1. The Aerial Phenomena Branch is in receipt of an unidentified flying object report which occurred in the Georgia and South Carolina coastal area on 27 September 1967 between 0900Z and 0930Z. The sighting was described as five to seven lights that were in a trail.

2. Request information on whether you scheduled any refueling missions over these areas during the above time period. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

FOR THE COMMANDER

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 363D TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE WING (TAC)
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29152

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: DOCS (Major Morris/2237)

22 NOV 1967

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, 27 September 1967 (Your ltr, 16 Nov 67)

TO: FTD (TD-PT/UFO)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

The 363 Tac Recon Wg had no refuelings being conducted during this time period. All flying ended by 0400Z.

FOR THE COMMANDER

ROBERT D. WILLIAMS, Colonel, USAF
Deputy Commander, Operations

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193 (31 Oct 67) F/feb Pglof 5

ACTION: RDC-4 INFO: XOP-2, XOX-2, SAFOS-3, DIA-1 (13) ADV CY: JCS/DIA

SMB A178PTIUZYUW RUCLALA2653 3@A1629-UUUU--RUEFHQA.

ZNR UUUUU

P 311558Z OCT 67

FM 437MAW CHASN AFB SC

TO RUWMFVA/ADC

RUEDARA/33AD FT LEE AFS VA

RUEDFIF/FTD WPAFB

RUEFHQA/CSAF

RUEFHQA/OSAF WASH DC

BT

UNCLAS G437OTO: 623@8 OCT 67 (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

(CLEARED FOR MINIMIZE) SECTION I OF II.

FOR TDETR/AFRDC/SAF TDI. SUBJECT UFO REPORT

A.(1) LINE OF LIGHTS STAGGERED UPWARD ON TILTED AXIS.

(2) INDISTINGUISHABLE AT 15 MILES.

(3) ORANGE TINT.

(4) FIVE TO SEVEN OBJECTS.

(5) IN TRAIL.

(6) TWO LIGHTS SIDE BY SIDE CONNECTED LIKE DUMBELL.

(7) NONE

AFHQ FORM JAN 65 0-309C

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193

KIL NONE

PAGE 2 RUCLALA2653 UNCLAS

(9) RELATIVE MOTION SLOW AND TO RIGHT OF FIELD TAKING OFF what airfield?

RNWAY 21.

B. (1) COPILOT OF CREW.

(2) APPROX 10 DEG ELEVATION AND 200 DEGREES AZIMUTH. ag 200 elev 10

(3) SAME ELEVATION(10 DEGREES) HOWEVER LIGHTD WENT OUT AS IF TURNED OFF.

(4) APPREARD TO BE APPROACHING TOWARD AIRPORT ABOUT 10 DEGREES OFF RUNWAY HEADING AT APPROX 10 DEGREES ELEVATION.

(5) LIGHTS WENT SUDDENLY DIM AND THEN OUT.

(6) THREE TO FOUR MINUTES.

C. (1) AIR VISUAL.

(2) NONE

(3) CV 340 DELTA FLIGHT 454, ALT 00 FEET, HEADING 210 DEGREES, SPEED 130K, STATIONED ATLANTA.

D. (1) 27/0903Z

(2) NIGHT

PAGE 3 RUCLALA2653 UNCLAS

UNCLASSIFIED

COMMENTS: The geographical location of the first pilot is not given. The direction of travel is confusing, since it is given with respect to an unnamed (in the TWX) airfield. With the information given it is impossible to determine if both sightings were of the same lights. Because the information was so sketchy both pilots have since been requested to complete a AF Form 117 but neither has done so as of 28 August 1968. The 32nd Air Div at Gunter Field, the 3rd Air Div at Ft Lee and 792nd radar sight at Charleston were contacted at the time of the sighting but none carried any indications on their scopes. Scheduling units for refueling operations in the South Carlina, Georgia area were contacted with negative results. All bases on the SE coast possessing aircraft capable of the speeds indicated (assuming the two sightings are of the same lights and that they had traveled 128 miles in 11 minutes) were contacted. None had aircraft in the area of the reported sightings. There were no known rocket launches that could account for the sightings. No pilots reported the lights to the Volunteer Flight Officer Network. No meteor reports were given to the American Meteor society for the time period in question. Because there is a gross amount of information lacking about the sighting and the fact that it cannot be established that the two different pilots saw the same lights the sighting is being carried as INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION,

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193

P. Geographical Location

M (1) COCKPIT OF AIRCRAFT

F. (1) [redacted], AGE 36, P.O. BOX [redacted] NEWNAR.

GEORGIA, AIRLINE PILOT, TWO YEARS COLLEGE.

G. (1) NIGHT, WIND CALM, VERY BLACK IN DIRECTION OF FLIGHT.

(2) SURFACE 10/03K, 6,000 FEET 270/09K, 10,000FT

250/25K, 16,000 FT 250/30, 20,000FEET 260/45,

30,000 FEET 260/50K, 50,000 FT 260/40K, 80,000FT

250/07K.

(3) CLEAR

(4) TWELVE

(5) NONE

(6) NONE

(7) SFC-500FEET, TEMP INCREASES 10 DEGREES C.

500 FEET 7 500 FEET, TEMP DECREASSES 5 DEGREES C.

500 FEET- 4900 FEET, TEMP INCREASES 1 DEGREE C.

WX AT SAVANNAH CLEAR WITH 7 MILES VIS.

TEMP 42, DEW PT. 39, WIND CALM.

PAGE 4 RUCLALA2653 UNCLAS

H. (1) NONE

I. (1) NONE

AFHQ FORM JAN 55 0-309C

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UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193

M (1) THE DELAY IN THIS REPORT IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE DIFFICULTY IN LOCATING THE DELTA PILOT REPORTING THIS SIGHTING TO JACKSONVILLE CENTER. HE COULD NOT BE REACHED FOR A DEBRIEFING. HIS REPORT IS THE ABOVE INFORMATION. THIS SIGHTING WAS ALSO REPORTED BY ANOTHER PILOT ELEVEN MINUTES LATER, 128 MILES AWAY. THIS PILOT WAS FLUING NORTH OVER STARFISH INTERSECTION SOUTHEAST OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA. HE REPORTED A SINGLE WHITE LIGHT THEN SEVEN LIGHTS FORMING A TRIANGLE orange ? THEN ALL DISAPPEARED. THIS PILOT HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED HOWEFER IT IS KNOWN THAT HE WAS FLYING A [redacted] BELONGING TO CHEROKEE SEA INC, 10315 SW 55TH AVE, MIAMI, FLA. AS THE REPORTS WERE GIVEN TO JACKSONVILLE CENTER, THE CENTER IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED THE 32ND AIR DIVISION AT GUNTER FIELD,

ALA, THE 3RD AIR DIVISION AT FT LEE VA AND THE 792ND RADAR SITE AT CHARLESTON. NONE CARRIED ANY RDICATIONS ON THEIR SCOPES. ALL BASES ON THE SOUTHEAST COAST POSSESSING AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF THE

UNCLASSIFIED

FEEDS INDICATED WERE CALLED. NONE HAD AIRCRAFT IN THE AREAS OF THE REPORTED SIGHTINGS. IN TALKING TO LT. LEWIS, NORAD, COLORADO SPRINGS HE COULD ATTRIBUTE NO EXPLINATION RELATIVE TO SATELLITES. HE DID STATE THAT A SATELLITE DISINTREGATING WOULD PRODUCE A PHENOMENA ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE LIGHT PATTERN DESCRIBED BY THE TWO PILOTS. A LOW INVERSION DID EXIST IN THE CHARLESTON AREA WHICH WILL PLAY TRICKS WITH LIGHTS. WEATHER AT CHARLESTON HOWEVER WAS CLEAR AS INDICATED IN ABOVE REPORT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BOTH SIGHTINGS HAD THE UNIDENTIFIED

ET

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY

31 Oct 67 17 46Z

Gave Dr. H 2 copy of This Twix 16 May 68

115

TTUZYUW RUCLALA2655 3041629-UUUU--RUEDFIF.

NR UUUUU

15582 OCT 67

M 437MAW CHASN AFB SC

O RUWNFVA/ADC

UEDARA/33AD FT LEE AFS VA

UEDFIF/FTD WPAFB

UEFHQA/CSAF

UEFHQA/OSAF WASH DC

T

UNCLAS G4370TO: 02308 OCT 67(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

CLEARED FOR MINIMIZE) FINAL SECTION OF II.

EJECT OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN JUST OFF THE COAST

INES OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA. AS INVESTIGAT-

NG OFFICER I CANNOT EXPLAIN THE PHENOMENA REPORTED.

HAVE NOT THROUGH LING DISTANCE CALLS CONTACTED

HE PRIVATE PILOT FLYING THE LIGHT AIRCRAFT OUT

F MIAMI IN RESPECT TO THE AUSTERITY PROGRAM HOWEVER

F NOTIFIED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE, LOCATING AND

NTERVIEWING THIS PILOT WOULD BE THE NEXT STEP.

AJOR WILLARD E. KREIDLER, USAF, AUTOVON 431-1464

3-ETROFD

54-2

UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY

31 Oct 67 17 058

15

TTUZYUW RUCLALA2655 3041629-UUUU--RUEDFIF.

NR UUUUU

1558Z OCT 67

M 437MAW CHASN AFB SC

O RUWMFVA/ADC

JEDARA/33AD FT LEE AFS VA

JEDFIF/FTD WPAFB

JEFHQA/CSAF

JEFHQA/OSAF WASH DC

T

NCLAS G4370TO: 02308 OCT 67(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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AJOR WILLARD E. KREIDLER, USAF, AUTOVON 431-1464

3-ETRUFD

SA1-2

UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY

31 OCT 17 468

TTUZYUW RUCLALA2655 3041629-UUUU--RUEDFIF.

NR UUUUU

15582 OCT 67

M 437MAW CHASN AFB SC

O RUWNFVA/ADC

UEDARA/33AD FT LEE AFS VA

UEDFIF/FTD WPAFB

UEFHQA/CSAF

UEFHQA/OSAF WASH DC

T

NCLAS G437OTO: 02308 OCT 67(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

CLEARED FOR MINIMIZE) FINAL SECTION OF II.

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NTERVIEWING THIS PILOT WOULD BE THE NEXT STEP.

AJOR WILLARD E. KREIDLER, USAF, AUTOVON 431-1464

3-ETRUFO

UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY

EXTENSION 2245, CHARLESTON AFB, S.C.

BT

MNNN≠

EXTENSION 2245, CHARLESTON AFB, S.C.

BT

NNNN≠

EXTENSION 2245, CHARLESTON AFB, S.C.

BT

NNNN≠

Mr Parsons to get name & address of other Pilot.

No Satalite re-entries according to SPADATS.

27 Sep 67

JUL 9 1968

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/9 Jul 68

UFO Observation, 27 September 1967

Dr. Charles P. Olivier
American Meteor Society
521 North Wynnewood
Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

Mr. H. E. Roth, Project Director
Volunteer Flight Officer Network, United Airlines
Stapleton International Airport
Denver, Colorado 80207

1. The Aerial Phenomena Office is in receipt of an unidentified flying object (UFO) report which occurred on 27 September 1967 at approximately 0903Z. The sighting was of 5 - 7 lights that were seen off the South Carolina/Georgia coast. Although the sighting was reported by two different airplanes, the information is sketchy and incomplete. The duration seems to have been 3 to 4 minutes, but the course of the objects (lights) is not really stated.

2. Did you receive any similar reports for this approximate time and location? If so, we would appreciate whatever data you can provide.

3. Thank you for your continued assistance.

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

DEFENSE (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE COPY

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA 4

Flower and Cook Observatory

1968 August 12

Lt.Colonel Hector Quintanilla,Jr.
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office,
Wright-Patterson A.F.B., Ohio.

Dear Colonel Quintanilla;

In delayed reply to an inquiry from you, I do not have information about the flying object(s) of S.C. and G. of 27 Sept.1967, nor of the Neb. object of March 19/20, 1968.

There was a very bright fireball seen from many parts of Pa. and at least one from N.Y. on July 2, 1968 at about 8;29 P.M., E.ST. A solution has been begun based on about 10 reports, but due to airplanes sent by Roth from Denver. I as usual need more data for a good solution. Do you have anything bearing on this object? It probably ended near long. 79¼,lat. 41° N. And probably started over Maryland.

The Annual A.M.S.Report for 1967, which is issued as F.O.R. No. 18A has at last been issued from here. I hope you received your copy. Several fireballs were discussed in it. Also acknowledgement for the help your office at Wright-Patterson has given us.

Sincerely yours,

Charles P.Olivier

C. P. OLIVIER
PENNSYLVANIA METEOR SURVEY
521 N. WYNNEWOOD AVE.
NARBERTH, PA.

UNITED AIR LINES

Stapleton International Airport, Denver, Colorado 80207

July 16th, 1968

Lt. Colonel Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

Dear Colonel Quintanilla:

In reply to your letter, July 9th, requesting information on pilot sightings of September 27th, 1967 at or about 0903Z.

The pilot reports that we have on that date are more then six hours earlier, and in the European area.

Also, I would like to mention, there were no catalogued satellite re-entries on that day.

I am sorry that we can not be of any assistance at this time.

I am wondering, perhaps, if it might be of some help to you, to add you to our mailing list for copies of pilot reports as we receive them. Although this would include reports from all areas of the world, you could easily discard the ones that do not apply to this part of the world.

Whilemany of these reports are meteoritic in nature, they may prove to be of some assistance to you in your work. I have found that all too often, especially in high density areas of human habitation, long enduring and bright meteors are mistaken for intellegently controlled flight characteristics. This goes more so for satellite re-entries because there is a greater amount of 'shedding of material' during the final stages of re-entry. This of course, is due to, and varies with, the manufacturing of the satellite and what duty it was to perform, while a meteor is quite solid in nature except for the slightly rare 'carbonaceous chondrites' which are porous.

Please let me know whether or not you feel this would be of help to you.

Sincerely Yours

H. E. Roth

H. E. Roth, Project Director
Volunteer Flight Officer Network

27 Sept 67

7 MAY 1968

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/7 May 68

UFO Observation, 27 September 1967

Miss Joyce B. Milliner
Public Information Specialist
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Wallops Station
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

1. The Aerial Phenomena Office is in receipt of an unidentified flying object (UFO) report that occurred on 27 September 1967 at 0903Z. The observers sighted several orangish lights heading in a southerly direction off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia.

2. Did your organization have any missile launches that may have been responsible for this sighting?

3. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

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

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE COPY

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WALLOPS STATION
WALLOPS ISLAND, VIRGINIA 23337

May 10, 1968

IN REPLY REFER TO
A-16.2
39/JBM

Lt. Colonel Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Department of the Air Force
Hq. Foreign Technology Division (AFSC)
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433

Dear Colonel Quintanilla:

In reply to your recent memorandum, Wallops did not launch any rockets on September 27, 1967, that would have been responsible for your reported sighting at 0903Z. However, we did launch two barium vapor cloud experiments here on October 3 and 4, 1967, which were visible for hundreds of miles (copy of news release enclosed).

If we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Joyce B. Milliner

Joyce B. Milliner
Public Information Specialist

Enclosure 1

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

WALLOPS STATION, WALLOPS ISLAND, VIRGINIA 23337
TELEPHONE: VALLEY 4-3411 - EXTS. 584 and 579

FOR RELEASE: MONDAY P.M.
OCTOBER 2, 1967

Release No. 67-32

Launched 7:20 p.m. EDT
October 3, 1967
and
7:18 p.m. EDT October 4, 1967

BARIUM LAUNCHES

TO COLOR SKY

OF EAST COAST

With favorable weather conditions, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will launch barium vapor clouds into the upper atmosphere from Wallops Island, Va., at sunset no earlier than October 3 and 4.

The huge glowing green and purple clouds may be visible over much of the eastern United States, hundreds of miles from the launch site.

Objectives of the experiments are: (1) to obtain measurements of electric fields and wind motion in the upper atmosphere by photographing and tracking the movement of ionized barium clouds; and (2) measurement of attenuation on passage of radio signals through the ionized barium plasmas.

-more-

Barium vapor releases will occur as the rocket ascends at about 75, 115, and 140 statute miles, forming three distinct clouds. An RF transmitter on board the rocket will transmit radio signals down through the artificial clouds, and receivers on the ground will determine the degree of attenuation or interference caused by passage of the signals through the ionized vapor. The clouds will be photographed from several camera sites along the East Coast.

The twilight launchings are scheduled for 7:18 p.m. EDT each evening on a Nike-Tomahawk research rocket. If weather conditions are unfavorable, attempts will be made on successive nights, with slight variations in launch times.

The clouds first appear light green tinged with red. They then turn purple in elongated patterns along the lines of the Earth's magnetic field. The clouds may extend across the sky for several hundred miles and be visible for 30 minutes to one hour.

The experiments are being conducted for the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Bedford, Mass. N. W. Rosenberg of AFCRL is the Project Scientist. William T. Burns is the Project Engineer for Wallops Station.

-END-