

**PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD**

ATIC NO.       DATE OF INFO 7 Feb 1950  
 AF NO.      LOCATION San Jose, Calif  
 REPORT NO.      SOURCE Civilian  
 DATE OF REPORT 14 Feb 50 DATE IN TO ATIC       
 TIME OF SIGHTING 1747 PST COLOR Fiery Tail  
 SHAPE Conical SPEED slow Estimated  
 SIZE      ALTITUDE EST 800' Measured  
 COURSE      LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED       
 NO. IN GROUP 1 TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground  
 SOUND Propeller Noise MANEUVERS       
 PHOTOS      SKETCHES (1)  
 Temporary ATIC Form 329  
 (2 Jan 52)

REMARKS: Source stated he observed light single engine plane giving a red vapor trail.

**PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD**

ATIC NO.       DATE OF INFO 7 Feb 1950  
 AF NO.      LOCATION Berkely Calif  
 REPORT NO.      SOURCE Army & Navy Officers  
 DATE OF REPORT 14 Feb 50 DATE IN TO ATIC       
 TIME OF SIGHTING 1730 PST COLOR Trail Looked like sparks  
 SHAPE Conical SPEED "Drifting" Estimated  
 SIZE      ALTITUDE 200' Measured  
 COURSE 180° LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 5 Min.  
 NO. IN GROUP 1 TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground  
 SOUND      MANEUVERS       
 PHOTOS      SKETCHES (1)  
 Temporary ATIC Form 329  
 (2 Jan 52)

REMARKS: Sources observed plane in area going in opposite direction.

[REDACTED]  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
[REDACTED]


San Francisco 4  
Telephone YUkon 6-6600

February 9, 1950

Army Intelligence  
Hamilton Field  
Marin County, California

Dear Sirs:


I have just seen the article in the San Francisco Chronicle of February 9th, 1950 relative to a flying "Ice Cream Cone" reported over the Alameda Naval Air Station on Tuesday, February 7th, at about 5:30 p.m.

At about 5:50 on Tuesday evening, February 7th, I was riding on the southbound Southern Pacific Commuter train, which reaches Palo Alto Station at 6:00 p.m. Riding on the right hand side of the train I saw at 5:50 p.m. west of San Carlos, what appeared at first to be a comet. It was a mile or more west of the track at the time and quite high and appeared cone shaped as reported. I did not note any gray exhaust but what looked like a tail of fire - probably because the rays of the setting sun which had dropped behind the hills, illuminated either the object itself or its exhaust. It appeared at first to be traveling at about the same speed as the train, which is rapid, as it is a non-stop train from San Francisco to Palo Alto, and as the train progressed south, it picked up in speed and gained in distance until it disappeared in the southwest in the general direction of Woodside. It was lost to sight at that point because it was too small or too high for the eye to follow, but by that time the fiery effect had disappeared and there was a thin streak of gray perceptible. Its general shape was about like this:  The whole area of the triangle appeared a solid mass of fire - not only the outer edges.

Very truly yours,

s/ [REDACTED]

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

  
BESBY F. HOLMES  
Captain, USAF

RECORDED & INDEXED  
FEB 10 1950  
COMM-FBI  
COMM-FBI

### PIE IN THE SKY DEPT.

## Flying 'Ice Cream Cone' Reported Over Alameda

Army Intelligence at Hamilton Field yesterday was investigating reports that a giant, "flying ice cream cone" was seen drifting southward over the Alameda Naval Air Station Tuesday.

Six observers—one of them an officer at the air station—described the object as 30 feet long. It passed over the field about 5:30 p. m. Tuesday, trailing a gray vaporous exhaust from its cone tip, they said.

The cone flew slowly south over the air station at a height of about 5000 feet, then tilted abruptly on its side and headed southeast at a speed estimated between 75 and 90 miles an hour, observers said.

The air station, which immediately turned the reports over to the Army at Hamilton Field, said it had not sent out any meteorological balloons Tuesday and was baffled about what the "flying cone" could be.

Observers who reportedly spotted the cone in Alameda include Lieutenant Commander J. L.



Kraker of Alameda Naval Air Station, H. A. Clark, 14568 Sylvia way, San Leandro; William Page, 7991 Victoria avenue, San Leandro; C. Palmer, R. E. Strahl and R. T. Moore, also of San Leandro.

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED  
FEB 10 1950  
COMM-FBI

...some reports that the cone - ...

...reporting ...

...SEARCHED ...

...FEB 10 1950 ...

...COMM-FBI ...

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HEADQUARTERS 78th FIGHTER WING  
HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE  
HAMILTON, CALIFORNIA

UNCLASSIFIED

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
OI 373.5

8 FEB 1950

SUBJECT: Reporting of Information on Flying Discs

TO : Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
Attn: TSDIN / AXA

Under the provisions of Par 4, ConAC Letter 200-1, dated 10 October 1949, the following report of information on "Flying Discs" is submitted:

- (1) Location and time of sighting: Over Alameda, California 1730 PST 7 February 1950.
- (2) Weather: Clear, 10 miles visibility.
- (3) Names, occupations, and addresses of witnesses:

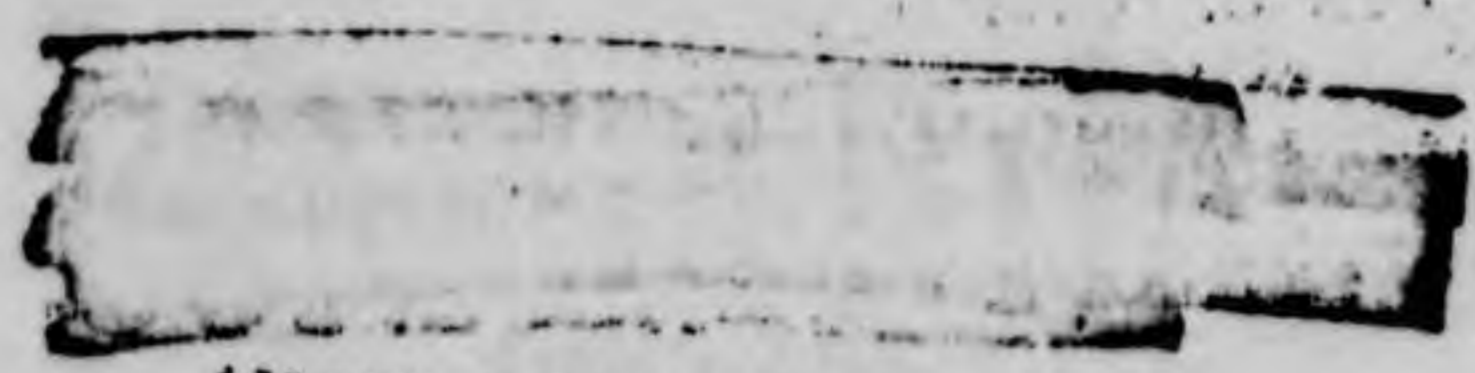
Mr [redacted] San Leandro, California.  
Mr [redacted] a civilian employee at Alameda Naval Air Station. He works the night shift in the Power Plant.

Mr [redacted], San Leandro, California.  
Mr [redacted] is a civilian employee at Alameda Naval Air Station. He works the night shift in the Power Plant.

- (4) Photographs: None available.
- (5) Sketch of objects' configuration:



- (6) Objects sighted:
  - (a) Number: One (1).
  - (b) Shape: Conical, with the base much like an ice-cream cone, and the top rounded somewhat like the canopy of a parachute.
  - (c) One-half (1/2) to three-fourths (3/4) the size of an ordinary parachute.




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215-50

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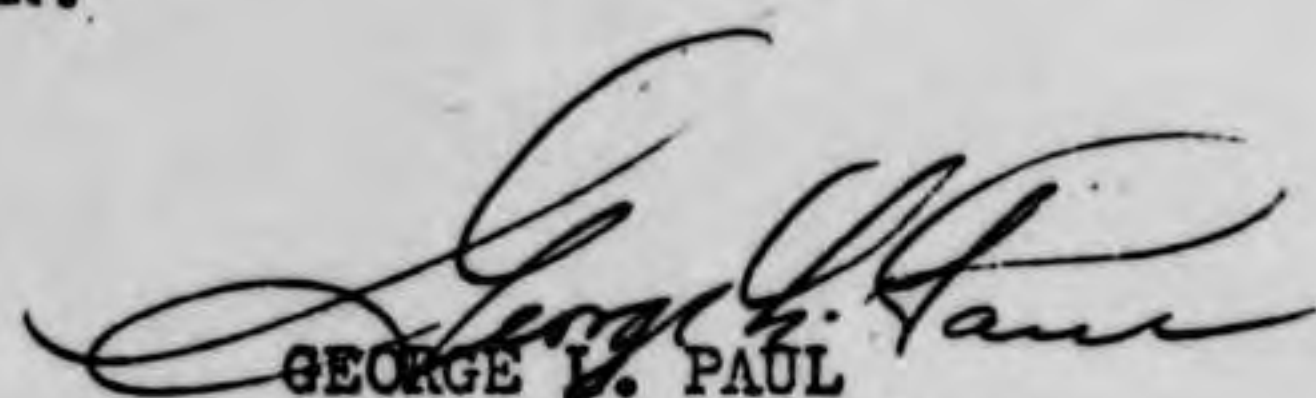
 UNCLASSIFIED

Ltr., Hq 78th Ftr Wing, Sub: Reporting of Information on "Flying Discs"

- (d) Color: Bright Silver.
- (e) Speed: Sixty (60) to seventy (70) miles per hour.
- (f) Heading: No definite heading. The object appeared to hover at times and then "lazily" move on to another position and hover again. Mr [redacted] and Mr [redacted] observed the object for a period of ten (10) minutes. It finally disappeared in a South-east direction from Alameda.
- (g) Maneuverability: In addition to the movements as indicated in (f) above, the object would change from the perpendicular position to a horizontal position in flight.
- (h) Altitude: Both individuals reported the object to be 2500 to 5000 feet altitude.
- (i) Sound: None.
- (j) Exhaust trail: One observer states an exhaust trail appeared to be much like that of a jet or a rocket. The other states no exhaust trail observed.

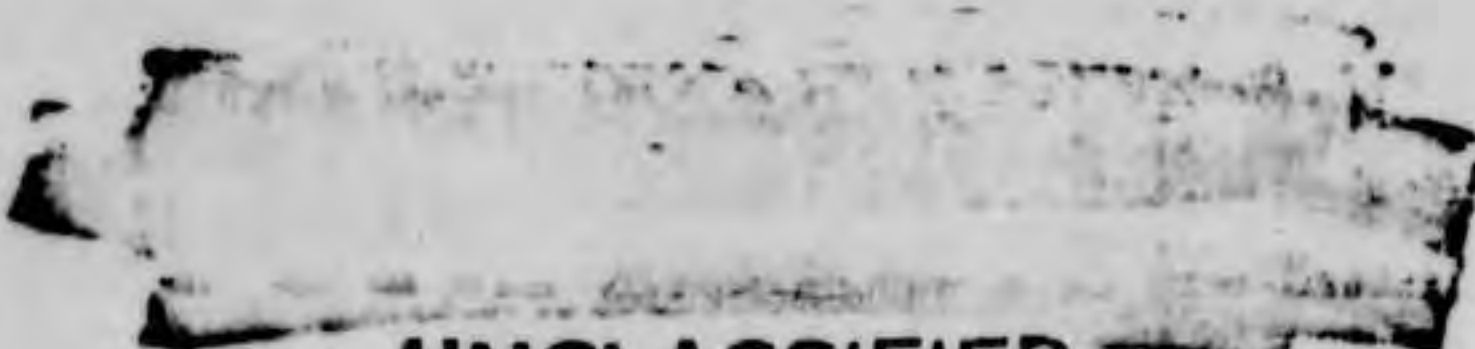
Remarks: The Ass't O.D. at Alameda Naval Air Station interviewed the two observers and indicated that he was sure they has seen something worth while reporting and seemed impressed by their story. Alameda Naval Air Station Operations informed Hamilton Flight Service that the only investigation that they were making was informing Hamilton Air Force Base for further investigation.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

  
GEORGE L. PAUL  
Lt Colonel, USAF  
Adjutant

Letter Report Sent to:  
CG 4AF  
CG ConAC  
CG AMC  
DI USAF

DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED 12 YEARS.

  
UNCLASSIFIED

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

ATIC NO.       
AF NO.       
REPORT NO.       
DATE OF REPORT 14 Feb 50  
TIME OF SIGHTING 1747 PST  
SHAPE Conical  
SIZE       
COURSE       
NO. IN GROUP 1  
SOUND Propeller Noise  
PHOTOS      SKETCHES (1)

DATE OF INFO 7 Feb 1950  
LOCATION San Jose, Calif  
SOURCE Civilian  
DATE IN TO ATIC       
COLOR Fiery Tail  
SPEED slow Estimated       
Measured       
ALTITUDE EST 800' Estimated       
Measured       
LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED       
TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground  
MANEUVERS     

REMARKS: Source stated he observed light single engine plane giving a red vapor trail.

Temporary ATIC Form 329  
(2 Jan 52)

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

ATIC NO.       
AF NO.       
REPORT NO.       
DATE OF REPORT 14 Feb 50  
TIME OF SIGHTING 1730 PST  
SHAPE Conical  
SIZE       
COURSE 180°  
NO. IN GROUP 1  
SOUND       
PHOTOS      SKETCHES (1)

DATE OF INFO 7 Feb 1950  
LOCATION Berkely Calif  
SOURCE Army & Navy Officers  
DATE IN TO ATIC       
COLOR Trail Looked like sparks Estimated       
SPEED "Drifting" Measured       
Estimated       
ALTITUDE 200' Measured       
LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 5 Min.  
TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground  
MANEUVERS     

REMARKS: Sources observed plane in area going in opposite direction.

Temporary ATIC Form 329  
(2 Jan 52)

2  
February 9th 1950


Hamilton Field Air Base  
California

Gentlemen:-

I am enclosing a clipping from our San Jose paper about a "flying ice cream cone".

I wish to inform you that I have seen it, first when it appeared to be over our western mountain range coming from the west toward San Jose and this was when I looked out of my shop window at 5:47 p.m. on Tuesday.

It attracted my attention because it looked like a small comet turning slowly upward and again leveling off


flying toward San Jose. At about 5:57 p.m. it flew almost over our street (First Street) at about 800 feet and out out of my sight over Santa Clara Street. It was a small single motor plane which I could see very distinctly throwing off this red fire vapor from its tail like this  The plane

was moving slowly with a slight noise of the propeller. I called downstairs to the store personnel and they went out and saw it also.


I hope this information may be of service to you.

Yours very truly,

s/

  
San Jose, Calif.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

  
BESBY F. HOLMES  
Captain, USAF

Encl 4

0331 172 710101

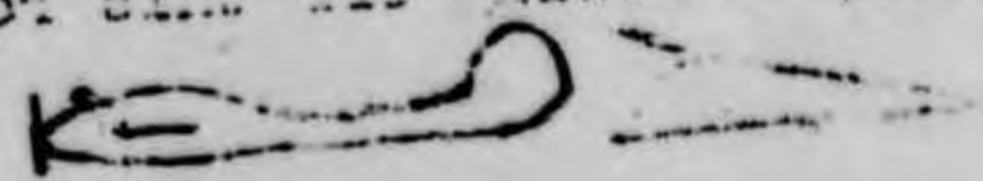
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24 THURS., FEB. 9, 1950 SAN JOSE EVENING NEWS

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## ICE CREAM CONE INVESTIGATED BY AIR DEFENSE

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9 (AP). Intelligence officers of the Western Air Defense zone are checking on reports of a "flying ice cream cone." They didn't seem excited about it.

A spokesman at Hamilton Field disclosed yesterday an investigation was being made of a report by six observers—including a Navy air officer—that a peculiar, cone-shaped craft was seen flying over the Alameda naval air station Tuesday.

The observers, five residents of San Leandro and Lt. Comdr. J. L. Kraker of the naval air station. They said it appeared like a 30-foot ice cream cone, flew over the naval station at about 5000 feet and disappeared to the southeast at from 75 to 95 miles an hour. They said it left a vapor trail from its cone tip.

Some Hamilton Field officers said such a vapor trail might have been from a plant in the locality because it was comparatively cold.

Sen. Taylor Loses

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# **Flying Cone With Vapor Trail Hunted**

**SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8 (AP)**  
So now it's a "flying ice cream cone." No fooling. The Air Force is checking up on it.

Six observers, including Lt. Comdr. J. L. Kraker of the Alameda Naval Air Station, reported seeing a giant object passing over the station yesterday. The report was passed along to the western air defense zone intelligence office at Hamilton Field, which made it public today.

The observers said the object looked like an ice cream cone and flew slowly south at a height of about 5000 feet, trailing a gray vaporous exhaust from its cone tip.

They said it then tilted abruptly on its side and headed southeast at a speed estimated at from 75 to 95 miles an hour. They described it as about 30 feet long.

Authorities at the air station said no meteorological balloons were up yesterday. A spokesman at Hamilton Field said the Air Force is checking, but thus far has found nothing.

LA TIMES

9 FEB 50

COLONEL ROLAND W. PINGER 53 Tunnel Road Berkeley 5, California  
U.S.A. Retired

Feb. 9, 1959

Memo for Intelligence Officer  
Hamilton Field, Cal.

I saw this "Cone", also, and pointed it out to three University of California students (names unknown), and to my son Edward Pinger (Lt Commander U.S.N.R.), who had called at the University to drive me home.

From the roadway just west of the Greek Theater it appeared like this:



← looked like sparks from a large exhaust

Without changing its angle with the vertical it drifted southward, diminishing in intensity and size, and presently faded away. I did not look at my watch, but I must have observed it for at least five minutes. The time was about 5:30 p.m.

When first observed I also saw an airplane just a little to the right of the cone, proceeding north. The initial bearing of the cone was about "south by west", and elevation about 20°. It was bright red against the darkening sky.

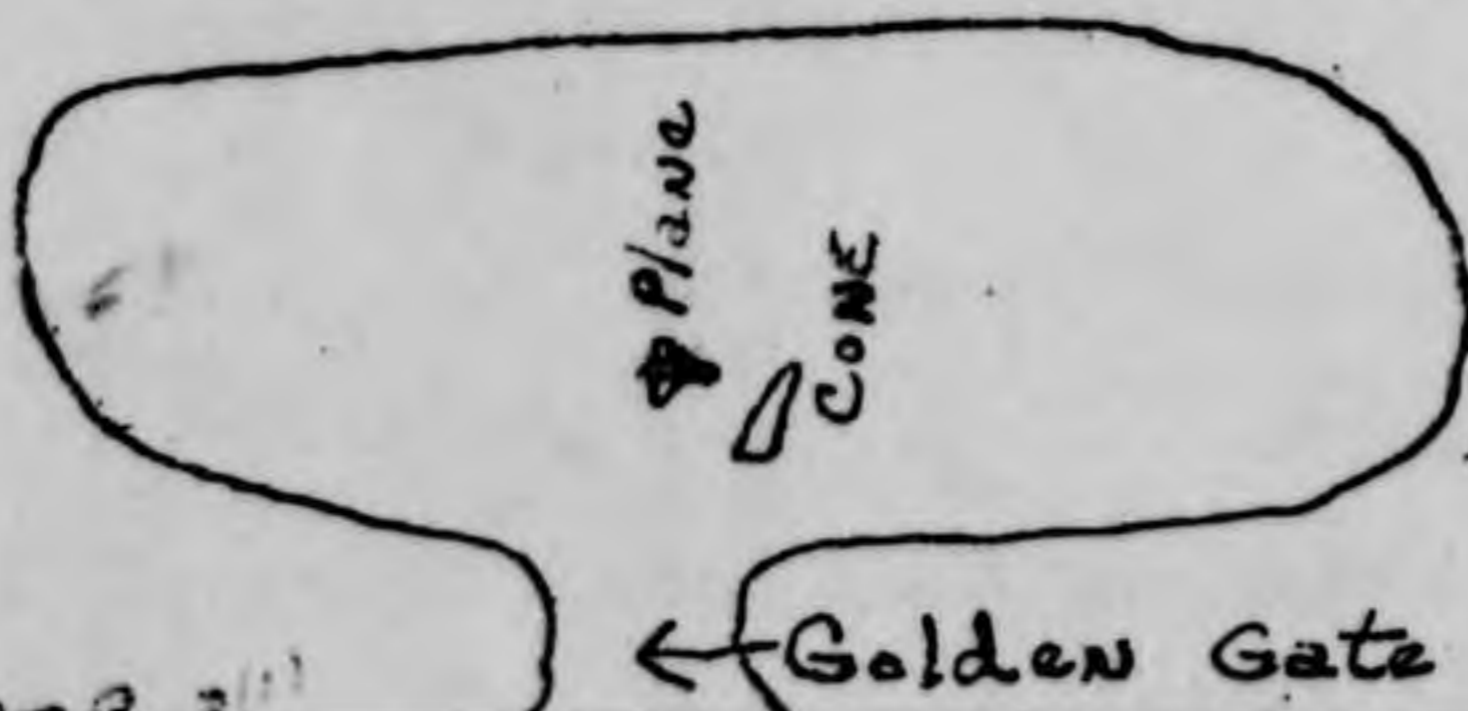
s/ ROLAND W. PINGER  
Colonel, U.S.A. (Retired)

P.S.

My theory is that the plane emitted a cone of exhaust vapor before I saw it - then straightened out and flew north. The sun, just set or about to do so (I did not observe) threw light upon the cone in such a way that it appeared red to me, but possibly gray or unilluminated to others observing from other directions.

⊕ Greek Theater  
myself

s/ R.W. PINGER



A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

*Besby F. Holmes*  
BESBY F. HOLMES  
Captain, USAF

... ..

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- Feb 10<sup>th</sup> - '50

...

...

### Flying Ice Cream Cone Could Be So Much Sherbet

Air Force Intelligence at Hamilton Field yesterday pursued the trail of the Bay Area's giant flying "ice-cream cone," without getting in a good lick.

Six observers had reported spotting the big cone flying slowly south over the Alameda Naval Air Station late Tuesday afternoon.

Intelligence officers at Western Air Defense Command, Hamilton Field, were unable to evaluate the report for the record yesterday. No such cone has been reported here before, they declared, outside of a soda jerk's nightmare.

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Piedmont XI  
California

Friday, Feb. 10th., '50  
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To:-  
Army Intelligence  
Hamilton Field,  
Marin Co.,  
Calif.

My Dear Sirs,

In the interest of possible facts, and because this article describes so closely, the phenomenon witnessed by my friend and self at approximately the same hour and day, I offer this account.

We are two World War I Nurses (non-drinking) My friend had driven me from her home in East Oakland, to my home on the line which divides Oakland from Piedmont.

As we witnessed this 'mysterious' sign, I remarked to her, 'let us remember what we have seen, and watch for reports.'

The 'object' appeared from a southerly direction, 'dipping' and slowly 'floating' eastwards.

Submitting this account for what it may be worth,

Respectfully,

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

*Besby F. Holmes*  
BESBY F. HOLMES  
Captain, USAF

Incl 2"



UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS 78th FIGHTER WING  
HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE  
HAMILTON, CALIFORNIA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

OI 373.5

14 FEB 1950

SUBJECT: Reporting of Additional Information on Flying Discs

TO : Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
ATTENTION: TSDIN

1. Information contained in the inclosures is additional information to report submitted by Letter, Hq 78th Fighter Wing, Subject: Reporting of Information on Flying Discs, file OI 373.5, dated 8 February 1950.

2. The inclosed information is submitted in accordance with the provisions of Par 2, ConAC Letter 200-1, dated 10 Oct 49.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

*George L. Paul*  
GEORGE L. PAUL  
LT. COL. USAF  
ADJUTANT

- 4 Incls:
- 1-Letter, [Redacted]
- 2-Letter, [Redacted]
- 3-Letter, [Redacted] (Retired)
- 4-Letter, [Redacted]

Copy of this report sent to:

- CG 4AF
- CG ConAC
- CG AMC
- DI USAF

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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[Redacted stamp]  
UNCLASSIFIED