

**PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD**

<b>1. DATE</b> 9 September 1956		<b>2. LOCATION</b> Big Bethel, Virginia		<b>12. CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<b>3. DATE-TIME GROUP</b> Local 2035 to 2055 EST GMT 10/0135Z		<b>4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical Moon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
<b>5. PHOTOS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<b>6. SOURCE</b> Civilians			
<b>7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION</b> 20 minutes		<b>8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS</b> one	<b>9. COURSE</b>		
<b>10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING</b> One object crescent shaped like the moon, size of softball to 14-15 inches. Color bright red or gold, as object diminished its color would darken to a deep red. No sound, no tail or trail. Flight path was gradual descension to horizon.			<b>11. COMMENTS</b> Sighting was moon according to investigating officer. Also verified by WX rpt that moon was waning and set at 2115 hrs EST.		



# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	1	OF	2	PAGES
48TH Fighter Interceptor Sqdn						

1. On Sunday night, 9 September 1956, at 2035 (EST) as Mr. [redacted] was taking his sister-in-law Mrs. [redacted] to her home at [redacted] Lane, Hampton, Va, an object appeared from a southerly direction. At first glance the object appeared to be the moon but after more careful observation its speed seemed too fast for that. The movements of the object were followed till 2055 at which time it disappeared.

2. When first seen the object was bright red or gold in color and looked somewhat like a headlight. Shortly after, the object seemed to flatten out and the righted itself again. From time to time, the object would gradually grow smaller to what seemed to be the size of a softball, or grow larger to a diameter of 14-15 inches. As it diminished, its color would darken to deep red. The nearest distance at which it was observed was two(2) miles.

*Strange! This is often the color of the moon near the horizon*

3. The dominant shape was compared to the moon or crescent shaped. Its mass seemed fuzzy and the strangest impression was that the object was occupied. Mrs. [redacted] stated that it appeared to be a bird or ducklike but that in the position of the head or cockpit there seemed to be an occupant wearing some sort of headgear. Mrs. [redacted] who first saw the object at 2045 (EST), thought she saw the features of a man in the object even to the point of seeing his feet.

*2 inches*

4. The first sign of action seen by Mr. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] was a light that shot straight up and out and disappeared. Mrs. [redacted] who observed the object from her home at [redacted] Road, apparently saw the same thing but from the side. Her impression was that vapor shot out from one end toward the other as if to form a circle but faded out at the peak of the curve. Lights could be seen surrounding the object intermittently. They seemed to radiate out approximately one foot from the edges. The lights were of two (2) shapes: oblong and triangular; the triangular shape being the most dominant. There was no sound at anytime.

5. The path of flight was of gradual descension from the height of a few hundred feet to the treetop level of a swampy wooded area 1/2 to one mile distant, at which point it disappeared headed in the general direction of Yorktown, Virginia at 2055 (EST).

6. Additional comments by the observers were that special note was taken that no other aircraft were in the vicinity during the time that the object was seen. There were a few clouds in the sky but they were not near the object and no other objects interfered with the visibility which was good even though it was dark at the time.

7. Weather reports at that time indicated scattered clouds at 3000 ft, and 6000 ft, unlimited ceiling, and fifteen (15) miles visibility. No thunderstorms in the area, but there were strong north winds. The moon was setting and out at 2115 (EST)

*Handwritten notes at bottom of page, including "2 inches" and "Strange!"*



10/01352

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
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# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT		FROM (Agency)	
USSR		43TH Fighter Interceptor Squadron	
AREA REPORTED ON	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION	
Big Bethel near Langley AFB, Va.	10 September 1956	F-4	
DATE OF REPORT	SOURCE		
10 September 1956	Civilian Observers		
PREPARED BY (Name)			
1st Lt., Elton V. Monismith			

REFERENCES (Cite in number, title, or volume report, etc., as applicable)

SUMMARY: (Give concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

1. An Unidentified Flying object was sighted Sunday, 9 September 1956, between 2035 and 2055 (EST) near Big Bethel. Big Bethel is approximately three (3) miles north west of the Langley Air Force Base west-gate. Three civilians sighted the object and compared it to the moon in shape and size. According to their statement, the object's speed and flight path ruled out its possibility of being the moon. Although some clouds were in the sky, visibility was good. There was some change in color and shape and movements, but it was gradual. The opinion of all observers was that the object was occupied, but that a clear discription could not be made because the interior of the object was fuzzy.

2. Weather reports coincide with observer's description with the exception of the moon which was waning and which set twenty (20) minutes after the object was seen moving out of sight in a downward flight path. The evaluation F-4 was given because there was no way to accurately determine the reliability of the observers other than the fact that each confirms the other's statements. In addition evidence from weather reports indicates that the object was most likely the moon.

*Elton V. Monismith*  
 ELTON V. MONISMITH  
 1st Lt., USAF  
 Intelligence Officer

INCL.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

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# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

1874 Fighter Interceptor Sqdn	REPORT NO.	PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES
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1. On Sunday night, 9 September 1956, at 2035 (EST) as Mr. [redacted] was taking his sister-in-law Mrs. William McPherson to her home at [redacted] Lane, Hampton, Va, an object appeared from a southerly direction. At first glance the object appeared to be the moon but after more careful observation its speed seemed too fast for that. The movements of the object were followed till 2055 at which time it disappeared.

2. When first seen the object was bright red or gold in color and looked somewhat like a headlight. Shortly after, the object seemed to flatten out and the righted itself again. From time to time, the object would gradually grow smaller to what seemed to be the size of a softball, or grow larger to a diameter of 14-15 inches. As it diminished, its color would darken to deep red. The nearest distance at which it was observed was two (2) miles.

*Strange! This is often the color of the moon near the horizon.*

3. The dominant shape was compared to the moon or crescent shaped. Its mass seemed fuzzy and the strangest impression was that the object was occupied. Mrs. [redacted] stated that it appeared to be a bird or ducklike but that in the position of the head or cockpit there seemed to be an occupant wearing some sort of headgear. Mrs. [redacted] who first saw the object at 2045 (EST), thought she saw the features of a man in the object even to the point of seeing his feet.

*2 inches*

4. The first sign of action seen by Mr. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] was a light that shot straight up and out and disappeared. Mrs. [redacted] who observed the object from her home at 1004 Big Bethel Road, apparently saw the same thing but from the side. Her impression was that vapor shot out from one end toward the other as if to form a circle but faded out at the peak of the curve. Lights could be seen surrounding the object intermittently. They seemed to radiate out approximately one foot from the edges. The lights were of two (2) shapes: oblong and triangular; the triangular shape being the most dominant. There was no sound at anytime.

5. The path of flight was of gradual descension from the height of a few hundred feet to the treetop level of a swampy wooded area  $\frac{1}{2}$  to one mile distant, at which point it disappeared headed in the general direction of Yorktown, Virginia at 2055 (EST).

6. Additional comments by the observers were that special note was taken that no other aircraft were in the vicinity during the time that the object was seen. There were a few clouds in the sky but they were not near the object and no other objects interfered with the visibility which was good even though it was dark at the time.

7. Weather reports at that time indicated scattered clouds at 3000ft, and 6000 ft, unlimited ceiling, and fifteen (15) miles visibility. No thunderstorms in the area, but there were strong north winds. The moon was rising and set at 2115 (EST)

*Make a sketch of the object's path and direction*



# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	2	OF	2	PAGES
48TH Fighter Interceptor Sqn						

8. The observers were: Mr. [redacted] Electrician; Mrs. [redacted] registered nurse; Mrs. [redacted], housewife.

9. Mrs. [redacted] stated that her husband was not one given to hallucinations, but must "See to believe," and he is positive that what he saw was not the moon.

10. During World War II, Mrs. [redacted] was in the Signal Corps at Langley AFB doing code work. She also worked with the OSI.

11. The observers made a report to Base Operations 10 September and it was received by the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron late that day. The information in the initial report was scanty making it necessary to make a more detailed investigation. This accounts for the extended reporting time.

### Comments of Investigating Officer:

The general area in which the object was sighted would fall within R-29 on the WAC charts of this area. The observers felt very sure that what saw was not the moon. Their impressions were given as specifically as possible but nevertheless only by approximation. The size of the object very easily could have been much larger than 14 or 15 inches in diameter. Weather reports that the moon was in the same general area and that it set at 2115 (EST) could well account for the descending motion and also the color and increasing size since the moon does seem to increase in size and change in color as it nears the horizon.

*Elton V. Monismith*  
ELTON V. MONISMITH  
1st Lt., USAF  
Intelligence Officer



9 SEPT

5

Multi

48TH FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON  
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia

FIS INT

12 September 1956

SUBJECT: UFOB Report

TO: Commander  
Air Defense Command  
Ent Air Force Base  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

The inclosed UFOB Report is forwarded for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl:  
UFOB Report 3 cys

STANLEY R BIRER  
1st Lt., USAF  
Adjutant

1. A careful, second review of this report indicates that the source cannot be considered as reliable. Also note the weather and sighting conditions at that time.

2. No other reports from that area; Radar. GOC, in, others.

17 OCT 28 11 00

7-3745-25



# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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*2 inches*

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7. Weather reports at that time indicated scattered clouds at 3000ft, and 6000 ft, unlimited ceiling, and fifteen (15) miles visibility. No thunderstorms in the area, but there were stern north winds. The moon was waning and set at 2115 (EST)

*Make official plot: use smallest diameter. Note - small diameter cleared (left hand) and distance.*



# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	2	OF	2	PAGES
48TH Fighter Interceptor Sqn						

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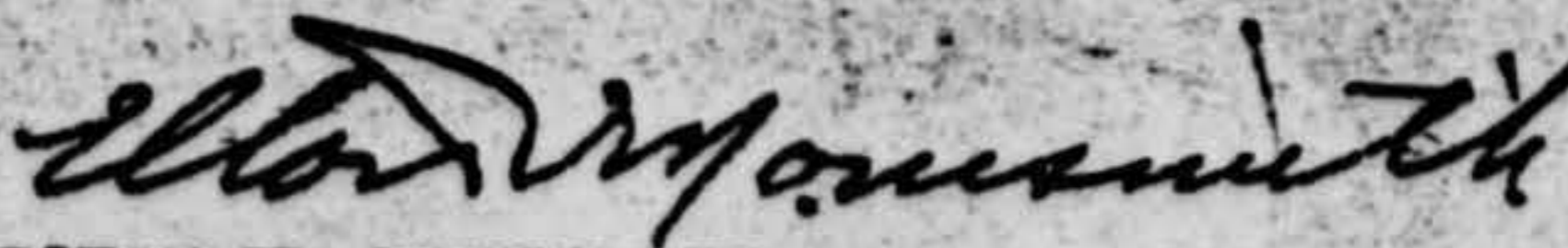
9. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her husband was not one given to hallucinations, but must "See to believe," and he is positive that what he saw was not the moon.

10. During World War II, Mrs. [REDACTED] was in the Signal Corps at Langley AFB doing code work. She also worked with the CSI.

11. The observers made a report to Base Operations 10 September and it was received by the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron late that day. The information in the initial report was scanty making it necessary to make a more detailed investigation. This accounts for the extended reporting time.

### Comments of Investigating Officer:

The general area in which the object was sighted would fall within R-29 on the WAC charts of this area. The observers felt very sure that what saw was not the moon. Their impressions were given as specifically as possible but nevertheless only by approximation. The size of the object very easily could have been much larger than 14 or 15 inches in diameter. Weather reports that the moon was in the same general area and that it set at 2115 (EST) could well account for the descending motion and also the color and increasing size since the moon does seem to increase in size and change in color as it nears the horizon.

  
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1st Lt., USAF  
Intelligence Officer



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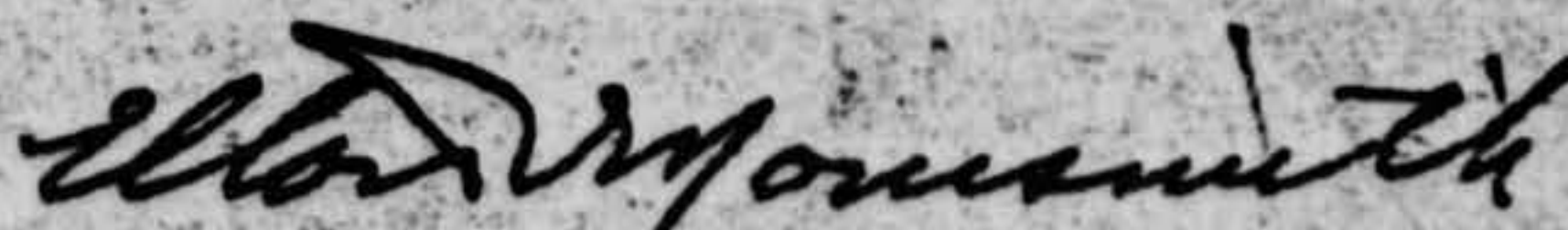
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1st Lt., USAF  
Intelligence Officer



COUNTRY <b>USA</b>	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT <b>UFOB</b>		
AREA REPORTED ON <b>Big Bethel near Langley AFB, Va.</b>	FROM (Agency) <b>43TH Fighter Interceptor Squadron</b>	
DATE OF REPORT <b>12 September 1956</b>	DATE OF INFORMATION <b>10 September 1956</b>	EVALUATION <b>F-4</b>
PREPARED BY (Name) <b>1st Lt., Elton V. Monismith</b>	SOURCE <b>Civilian Observers</b>	
REFERENCES (Central number, Division, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. An Unidentified Flying object was sighted Sunday, 9 September 1956, between 2035 and 2055 (EST) near Big Bethel. Big Bethel is approximately three (3) miles north west of the Langley Air Force Base west-gate. Three civilians sighted the object and compared it to the moon in shape and size. According to their statement, the object's speed and flight path ruled out its possibility of being the moon. Although some clouds were in the sky, visibility was good. There was some change in color and shape and movements, but it was gradual. The opinion of all observers was that the object was occupied, but that a clear discription could not be made because the interior of the object was fuzzy.

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**1st Lt., USAF**  
**Intelligence Officer**

INCL.

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over a flow of air U.S. clouds  
have been observed by hundreds,  
including radar. No reports from  
any.

1. Claimed to see an object size  
of a soft ball 3 at the cloud  
2 miles away -

$$\frac{D}{S} = \frac{2}{.3} = \frac{10,000 \text{ (2 miles approx.)}}{4} = \frac{3000 \text{ ft}}{2} =$$

Actual size 4  $\frac{1500 \text{ ft}^*}{1000 \text{ (1 ft)}} = \text{size}$

2. Claimed to be able to see a passenger  
in the object wearing a hood gear - even  
able to observe their feet.

3. Shape was somewhat like the moon. (Moon  
was in the area of sighting)

4. Impossible! Even in broad daylight  
the world's largest a/c - a B-36 - would  
be a mere sliver  $\frac{1}{3}$ " of an inch long. (See  
U.S. Grand Obs. Corp Guide - or use optical  
computations).

5. yet - they claim to be able to see see  
passengers at 2 miles away -  
the dark.

6. Scattered clouds - moving rather fast -  
moon near setting point - dark, windy night -  
Moon was in that area - as observed through  
moving clouds could give impression of small  
size. 7. Evaluated, however - on reliability of source (other)



# Additional Checks:

1. WX - Cloudy, winds, may have been some slight rain in the area.

2. No report of UFO or anything unusual from:

✓ a. Radar units

✓ b. GOC units

✓ c. Civil and Mil. Air flights + ops

✓ d. Others

In that area

3. Also checked for UFO reports rec'd 48 before and after that time - none from that area ~~nothing~~ if anything similar reported - nothing received.



10/0135Z

COUNTRY USA		REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>			
SUBJECT UFOB			
AREA REPORTED ON Big Bethel near Langley AFB, Va.		FROM (Agency) 48TH Fighter Interceptor Squadron	
DATE OF REPORT 12 September 1956	DATE OF INFORMATION 10 September 1956	EVALUATION F-4	
PREPARED BY (Officer) 1st Lt., Elton V. Monismith		SOURCE Civilian Observers	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)			

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