

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. TIME GROUP 1 27/0903Z	2. LOCATION Off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION <i>JK</i>
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS to 7	Comments: See reverse side of card
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION to 4 mins	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS The observer sighted five to seven orangish lights that were in a line and staggered upward on a tilted 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.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION air visual	
7. COURSE confusing	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

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 Wallops Island?

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AF3C)
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.

①
DIRECTOR 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



NOV 21 1967

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: TDPT/UFO

SUBJECT: UFO Observation , 27 September 1967

TO: **[REDACTED]**
Box **[REDACTED]**
Newmar, 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.

[Signature]
JAMES C. MANATT, Colonel, USAF
Director of Production

1 Atch
AF Form 117

*Send [REDACTED] attached 117
also send onto
pilot of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Cherokee Sea Inc.
10315 SW 55th Ave
Miami Fla. 33156*

~~Handwritten signature~~
Pending

NOV 16 1967

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

UFO Observation, 27 September 1967

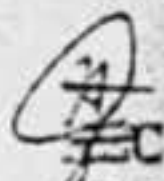
68th BW
Seymour Johnson AFB, N Carolina 27530 ✓

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 Phenomens Branch
 Aerospace Technologies Division
 Production Directorate

Send Mr. [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

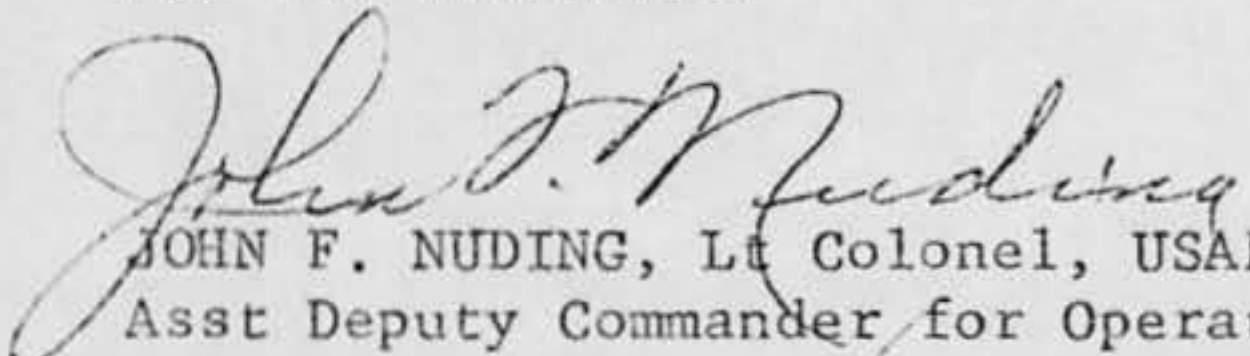
30 November 1967

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, 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, 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

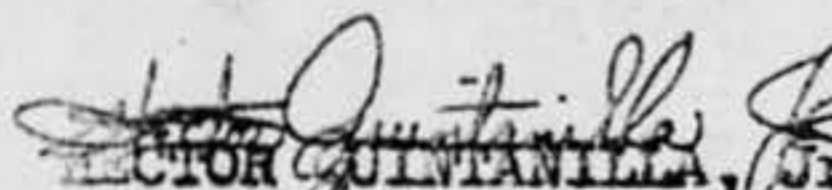
TO:

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 (TAG)
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

*Yonder Sept
27 Oct 67
[Signature]*

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193 (31 Oct 67) F/feb

Pg 1 of 5

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

SYB A178PTTUZYUW RUCLALA2653 3041629-UUUU--RLEFHQA.

ZNR UUUUU

P 311558Z OCT 67

FM 43 MAW CHASN AFB SC

TO RUMFVA/ADC

RLEDARA/33AD FT LEE AFS VA

RLEDF IF/FTD WPAFB

RLEFHQA/CSAF

RLEFHQA/OSAF WASH DC

BT

UNCLAS G4370TO: 02308 OCT 67 FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(CLEARED FOR MINIMIZE) SECTION I OF II.

FOR TDETR/AFRDC/SAF TOI. 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

UNCLASSIFIED

*copy sent to you
27 Oct 67*

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193

Pg 2 of 5

KIL NONE

PAGE 2 RUCLALA2653 UNCLAS

what airfield?

(9) RELATIVE MOTION SLOW AND TO RIGHT OF FIELD TAKING OFF
RWY 21.

B. (1) COPILOT OF CREW.

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

of 200 elev 10

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

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

~~*heading*~~

(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 Carolina, 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,

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193

Pg 3 of 5

M (1) COCKPIT OF AIRCRAFT

? Geographical Location

F. (1) ██████████, AGE 36, P.O. BOX ████████ 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, 10,000 FT

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

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

30/37K.

(3) CLEAR

(4) TWELVE

(5) NONE

(6) NONE

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

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

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

WK AT SAVANNAH CLEAR WITH 7 MILES VIS.

TEMP 42, DEW PT. 39, WIND CALM.

PAGE 4 RUCLALA2653 UNCLAS

H. (1) NONE

I. (1) NONE


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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193

Pg 4 of 5

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 FLYING 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 HOWEVER IT IS KNOWN THAT HE WAS FLYING A
 BELONGING TO CHEROKEE SEA INC, 10315
SI 55TH AVE, MIAMI, FLA. AS THE REPORTS WERE
GIVEN TO JACKSONVILLE CENTER, THE CENTER IMMEDIATELY
NOTIFIED THE 32ND AIR DIVISION AT GUNTER FIELD,
PAGE 5 RUCLALA2653 UNCLAS
ALA, THE 3RD AIR DIVISION AT FT LEE VA AND THE
92ND RADAR SITE AT CHARLESTON. NONE CARRIED ANY
INDICATIONS ON THEIR SCOPES. ALL BASES ON THE
SOUTHEAST COAST POSSESSING AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF THE

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AFIN: 36193

Pg 5 of 5

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 EXPLANATION 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
BT
NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

31 Oct 67 17 460

Gave Dr. H 2 copy
of This Twix 26 May 68

TTUZYUW RUCLALA2655 3041629-UUUU--RUEDFIF ✓

NR UUUUU

1558Z OCT 67

M 437MAW CHASN AFB SC ✓

O RUWMFVA/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.

OBJECT OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN JUST OFF THE COAST
LINES OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA. AS INVESTIGAT-
ING OFFICER I CANNOT EXPLAIN THE PHENOMENA REPORTED.

HAVE NOT THROUGH LONG DISTANCE CALLS CONTACTED
THE PRIVATE PILOT FLYING THE LIGHT AIRCRAFT OUT
OF MIAMI IN RESPECT TO THE AUSTERITY PROGRAM HOWEVER
IF NOTIFIED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE, LOCATING AND
INTERVIEWING THIS PILOT WOULD BE THE NEXT STEP.

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

3-ETROUFD
GAI-2

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

31 OCT 67 17 458

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

UNCLAS 64370TO: 02308 OCT 67(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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

3-ETRUFD
SAI-2

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

31 OCT 67 17 468

TTUZYUW RUCLALA2655 3041629-UUUU--RUEDFIF ✓

NR UUUUU

1558Z OCT 67

M 437MAW CHASN AFB SC ✓

O RUWMFVA/ADC

UEDARA/33AD FT LEE AFS VA

UEDFIF/FTD WPAFB ✓

UEFHQA/CSAF

UEFHQA/OSAF WASH DC

T

NCLAS 64370TO: 02308 OCT 67(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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

3-ETRUFD
GAI-2

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PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

EXTENSION 2245, CHARLESTON AFB, S.C.

BT

NNNN#

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten text]

[Faint handwritten text]

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

EXTENSION 2245, CHARLESTON AFB, S.C.

BT

NNNN#

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

012

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

EXTENSION 2245, CHARLESTON AFB, S.C.

BT

NNNN#

*Mr Parsons to get name & address of
other Pilot.*

*No Satalite re-entries according
to SPADATS.*

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

012

27 Sep 67

JUL 9 1968

EDPT (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

TDPT(UFO) OFFICIAL FILE 67

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 Co. of 27 Sept. 1967, nor of the Feb. 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 8:25 p.m., E.S.T. A solution has been begun based on about 10 reports, half 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. 79 $\frac{1}{2}$, lat. 41 N. And probably started over Maryland.

The Annual A.M.S. Report for 1967, which is issued as F.O.R. No. 184 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
METEORITE DETECTION SOCIETY
521 N. WASHINGTON AVE
RANDERTH, PA.



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 than 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.

While many 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 intelligently 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, 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.

[Signature]
 DIRECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
 Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
 Aerospace Technologies Division
 Production Directorate

1127 (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE 07



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.