

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 17 Feb 53 18/0455Z	2. LOCATION Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
3. SOURCE Mil Personnel (Varied)	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Sighting resembles balloon launch observation
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5-10 Min.	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Large red light appearing to be round was observed at an estimated altitude of 1500' gradually climbing at speed estimated slower than jet a/c. As jet a/c was scrambled, object gained speed disappearing at high alt. A/c did make any contacts with object when it was in the air. A nearby radar site was alerted and was operation during entire period, but reported no sighting. A similar sighting made the previous evening. Weather - 5500 overcast, visibility 10 miles, winds 15-16 knots from 170-185°.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual Air-Visual	
7. COURSE Rising	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

1953 FEB 19

u3:45

UNCLASSIFIED 36

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

ACTION

Multipl

NBR 3138
C-1 PRIORITY CONFIDENTIAL
FM 10TH AIRDIV DEF ELMENDORF AFB ALASKA
TO CS USAF WASHDC FOR DIR OF INTEL
ATIC WPAFB OHIO ATTN ATIAA-2C
CG ADC ENT AFB COLO
INFO CG AAC ELMENDORF AFB ALASKA
US ARMY ALASKA FT RICHARDSON ALASKA

18/05042

*1. ATIA
2. ATIA
3. ATIA
4. C. files*

10 ADIV 020121.
FLY OBJ RPT. FOL MSG SUBMITTED FOR UR INFO: AT 180504Z FEB 53 SIX
OBSERVERS THIS BASE REPORTED SIGHTING UNKNOWN FLYING OBJECT ABOVE
EDF AT UNKNOWN ALTITUDE. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: BRIGHT RED. NO SOUND
OR VISIBLE PROPULSION METHODS. OBJECT MOVED SLOWLY OVER OBSERVERS
AT LOW ALTITUDE. HEADED EAST. RETURNED TO POINT OF ORIGINAL SIGHTING.
THEN DISAPPEARED GOING STRAIGHT UP. OBJECT IN VIEW TWO TO FIVE
MINUTES. ONE F94 SCRAMBLED TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORTED POOR VISIBILITY
AT 26000 FEET, NEGATIVE CONTACT. END

DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

*#34 Same sighting
#33
Prob Astor Vega in paper
reprinted.*

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753-2077-1

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

CG 10th Air Div (Def) APO 942

LOAD-4-53

PAGE

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OF

2

PAGES

At approximately 13/0455Z February 1953 an unidentified red light was sighted in the vicinity of Elmendorf AFB by the following members of the 39th Air Police Squadron: A/2C DARCE R. ODOM, AF 18356875, A/2C JEWELL W. WILLINGHAM, AF 18 396 441, A/3C AUGUSTUS J. WORMUTH, AF 23 746 279, A/3C ROBERT A. WOOD, AF 27 011 420, and A/B NORMAN S. MOTTS, JR, AF 12 342 976.

The object is described as a large red light, estimated to be thirty-six (36) inches in diameter from a distance of 3/8ths of a mile and an altitude of 1500 feet. Its shape was not clearly defined, but appeared to be round. It emitted no sound nor were there any discernible trails of exhaust patterns. Weather at the time of the sighting was a measured 5500 feet overcast, visibility 10 miles, wind 15-16 knots from 170 to 185 degrees.

The object first appeared approximately at the west end of runway 05. At the time of the initial observation its altitude was estimated to be 1500 feet. However it was described as climbing gradually and was traveling at a speed a little slower than a jet. The object continued in a southwesterly direction and crossed Anchorage to a point just beyond the city limits when it circled to the west to a position out over the middle of knik arm, but on a line with the city.

One fighter interceptor was scrambled in an effort to intercept. ^{could be because its speed was then commensurate with the jet} As the jet became airborne there was a noticeable increase in the speed of the object. When it reached a point midway across the arm, the light climbed vertically at a speed far in excess of any jet observed by the airmen and disappeared from sight. The fighter reported no contact at any time. A nearby radar site was alerted and was operational during the entire period but reported no sighting.

The duration of the sighting was five (5) to ten (10) minutes. No weather balloons were released during the period. All airmen have previously observed falling stars and declared the sighting did not resemble such natural phenomenon. A similar sighting was made the previous evening, see LOAD-3-53, but was unknown to the airmen.

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

All persons who could have knowledge of this sighting have been interrogated. The light still remains unidentified.

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WIND: aloft
180°
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

COUNTRY Alaska		REPORT NO. LOAD-4-53	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Object			
AREA REPORTED ON Alaska		FROM (Agency) 10th Air Division (Defense)	
DATE OF REPORT 21 Feb 53	DATE OF INFORMATION 18 Feb 53	EVALUATION F-6	
PREPARED BY (Officer) Major John S. Masterson		SOURCE 39th Air Police Squadron	
REFERENCES (Control number, directives, previous report, etc., as applicable) Msg DTG 18/0630Z Msg No. 020121			

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.)

A large red light, approximately thirty-six (36) inches in diameter, was reported by six Air Policemen at 18/0455Z Feb 53 as crossing Elmendorf AFB and the city of Anchorage, and then disappearing in a vertical climb. No identification has been established.

The following night, about 8 p.m., five Air Police on patrol spotted the same—or another—red light near the end of one of the Elmendorf runways. By comparing it with known lights at the base, they judged it to be similar to a 36-inch light seen from 2 1/2 mile away. It was in a gradual climb, at about jet speed, headed for Anchorage. The Air Police called the tower. It had nothing on radar, but ordered up a jet to intercept. As the jet became airborne, the object showed a noticeable increase in speed, and when the jet came around to get on an intercept course, the light climbed vertically into the overcast at 5,500 feet.

The Air Police did not know of the original sighting when they made their report. A careful check showed no balloons in the area. Stars and planets were eliminated because the first night the object was below the horizon, and the second night there was a solid overcast. If it had been a conventional craft, the radar should have picked it up. If it had been a stray balloon that wandered in from some distance, on the first night the C-47 should easily have closed on it and passed it. On the second night, its sudden vertical rise disposed of the drifting balloon theory.

APPROVED:

John S. Masterson

JOHN S. MASTERSON

Major, USAF

Director of Intelligence

1 INCL.

Overlay AMS Q-712
sheet 3243 III

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3 40
67 93

KNIK ARM

B

ANCHORAGE

A RWY 05

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LEGEND

A-PT. INITIAL OBSN.

B-PT. FINAL OBSN.

C-LOCATION OBSRS.

---TRACK OF OBJECT

OVERLAY TO
AMS Q-712
SHEET 3243 III

1:50,000

3 49
67 87