

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 21 May 59	2. LOCATION 8 MI E of Rapid City, S.D.		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☒ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local CMT 21/1800Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 20 secs	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE South	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING White, oval or elliptical obj, size of silver dollar. Appeared very smooth. Appeared to be settling straight down in smooth but positive descent. Settled behind a hill.		11. COMMENTS Description is characteristic of a balloon. Balloon had been launched 30 mins prior to time of sighting.	

DEGREES FROM OBSERVER WHO ESTIMATED OBJECT AT 500 FEET ALTITUDE AND
2-1/2 MILES AWAY AND DUE SOUTH OF OBSERVERS POSITION.

(3) OBJECT DISAPPEARED BEHIND HILL STILL DUE SOUTH

(4) OBJECT APPEARED TO BE SETTLING STRAIGHT DOWN IN SMOOTH BUT
POSITIVE DESCENT

(5) SETTLED BEHIND A HILL WHICH WAS NO MORE THAN 1/4 MILE DISTANT.

(6) TWENTY SECONDS

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

(1) GROUND VISUAL

(2) NONE

(3) N/A

D. TIME OF SIGHTING:

(1) 1800Z, 21 MAY 59 *1100 LOCAL TIME*

(2) DAY

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(3) 44°5N 103°7W. ONE (1) ON HIGHWAY ^{STATE} 40, ONE MILE WEST OF
TURN OFF TO RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

F. IDENTIFICATION OF OBSERVERS:

(1) ~~REDACTED~~, AGE 38 YEARS, PENNINGTON COUNTRY SHERIFF'S OFFICE,
OCCUPATION - ~~REDACTED~~.

(2) N/A

G. WEATHER:

(1) PARTIALLY OVERCAST, SLIGHT WIND FROM NORTH.

(2) SURFACE - 10 KNOTS, 360 DEGREES

6000 FT - 15 KNOTS, 330 DEGREES

10,000 FT - 20 KNOTS, 280 DEGREES

16,000 FT - 35 KNOTS, 240 DEGREES

20,000 FT - 50 KNOTS, 230 DEGREES

30,000 FT - 60 KNOTS, 210 DEGREES

50,000 FT - 35 KNOTS, 210 DEGREES

80,000 FT - NOT AVAILABLE

(3) CEILING - 2,800 BROKEN

(4) VISIBILITY - 40 MILES

(5) CLOUD COVER - 75 PERCENT

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20,000 FT - 50 KNOTS, 230 DEGREES
30,000 FT - 60 KNOTS, 210 DEGREES
50,000 FT - 35 KNOTS, 210 DEGREES
80,000 FT - NOT AVAILABLE

- (3) CEILING - 2,800 BROKEN
- (4) VISIBILITY - 40 MILES
- (5) CLOUD COVER - 75 PERCENT
- (6) NO THUNDERSTORMS IN AREA.

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H. NO OTHER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

I. OBSERVER DROVE TO HIGHEST SPOT IN AREA TO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE MORE ABOUT OBJECT. ABOUT ONE HALF HOUR AFTER SIGHTING A CIVILIAN CESSNA TYPE AIRCRAFT SCOUTED AREA WITHOUT SUCCESS. WITHIN ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS AFTER ORIGINAL SIGHTING, [REDACTED] SCOUTED AREA IN HIS OWN AIRCRAFT, COVERING APPROXIMATELY 20 MILE CIRCLE BUT NO FURTHER SIGHTING.

J. SIGHTING OCCURED WITHING 10 MILES OF ELLSWORTH AFB AND WITHIN 4 MILES OF RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT BUT NO EVIDENCE OF ANY AIRCRAFT IN VICINITY OF SIGHTED OBJECT AT THAT PRECISE TIME.

K. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, 28TH BOMB WING, [REDACTED] IS A TRAINED OBSERVER AND QUALIFIED PILOT. HE IS THROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH WEATHER BALLONS, WEATHER PHENOMENA, ETC. HIS SIGHTING WAS MADE UNDER GOOD DAYLIGHT CONDITIONS WITH SUN BEHIND HIM AND VERY POSITIVE OF SIGHTING EVEN THOUGH IT WAS VERY BRIEF. A 28 INCH BALLON WAS RELEASED AT 1030AM (1730Z) FROM MUNICIPAL AIRPORT APPROXIMATELY 3-1/2 MILES NNE OF SIGHTED OBJECT. THIS TYPE OF BALLON NORMALLY RISES UNTIL IT BURSTS, HOWEVER.

L. NONE.

BT

22/0207Z MAY RJWFAP

FM COMBOMWG 28 ELLSWORTH

TO RJWFAL/COMADC ENT AFB COLO

RJWZGU/COMAD 29 MALMSTROM

RJEDSO/COMATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON

RJEZHQ/ASST CHIEF OF STAFF INTELL USAF WASH DC

RJEZHQ/OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES HQ USAF WASH DC

RJWBKN/COMAF 15 MARCH

RJWXBR/CINCSAC OFFUTT

BT

/UNCLAS/ DCOI 11922. SUBJECT: UFO. IN COMPLIANCE WITH AIR FORCE
REGULATION 200-2, 5 FEBRUARY 1958, AS AMENDED, THE FOLLOWING UFO
IS SUBMITTED:

A. DESCRIPTION:

(1) OVAL OR ELLIPTICAL.

(2) SILVER DOLLAR

(3) WHITE - AS IF FRESHLY PAINTED

(4) ONE

(5) N/A

(6) NONE - APPEARED VERY SMOOTH OVAL-ELLIPTICAL SHAPE

(7) NONE

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(8) NONE

B. COURSE:

(1) AS OBSERVER DROVE DOWN ROAD HE NOTICED MOVEMENT ABOVE BARREN
HILLS TO HIS LEFT

(2) OBJECT WAS ABOUT TEN TO FIFTEEN DEGREES IN ELEVATION AND 90
DEGREES FROM OBSERVER WHO ESTIMATED OBJECT AT 500 FEET ALTITUDE AND
2-1/2 MILES AWAY AND DUE SOUTH OF OBSERVERS POSITION.

(3) OBJECT DISAPPEARED BEHIND HILL STILL DUE SOUTH

(4) OBJECT APPEARED TO BE SETTLING STRAIGHT DOWN IN SMOOTH BUT
POSITIVE DESCENT

(5) SETTLED BEHIND A HILL WHICH WAS NO MORE THAN 1/4 MILE DISTANT.

(6) TWENTY SECONDS

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

1959 MAY 22 04 06

1
24 E 4/4
3
4 4/4

55

RTIC
NNNNCZCSQF202ZCWYC149

PP RJEDSQ

DE RJWFAP 31

P 220145Z

FM COMBOMWG 28 ELLSWORTH

TO RJWFAL/COMADC ENT AFB COLO

RJWZGU/COMAD 29 MALMSTROM

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