

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 31 May 61	2. LOCATION Wichita Falls, Texas		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2100 GMT 0300Z JUNE 1961	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No	6. SOURCE Military		☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE NE	☒ Other Echo I ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Round blue-white star-like objt with no tail or sound observed for 10 min fm overhead to 10° above horizon on heading of 030°. Looked like Echo.		11. COMMENTS All characteristics are present for satellite observation. Not confirmed with Space Track, however, all info points to Echo I.	

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COUNTRY OF ACTIVITY REPORTING		REPORT NO.	(Leave blank)	
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT				
COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS		DATE OF INFORMATION		
USA		31 May 61		
ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT		DATE OF COLLECTION	SRI STATUS (If applicable)	
Department of Intelligence Training Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas		1 June 61	SRI NO.	
			CANCELED/COMPLETE	
PREPARING INDIVIDUAL		DATE OF REPORT	SRI NO.	
Lt Richard A. Flagg, USAF		1 June 61	CANCELED/INCOMPLETE	
NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE		EVALUATION	SRI NO.	
SSgt Richard W. Nieber			ACTIVE	
			ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON (Date)	
REFERENCES (BAIR Subject, previous reports, etc., as applicable)				
SUBJECT (Descriptive title. Use individual reports for separate subjects)				
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)				
SUMMARY (Give summary which highlights the salient factors of narrative report. Begin narrative text on AF Form 112a unless report can be fully stated on AF Form 112. List inclosures, including number of copies)				
Inclosed is the results of an investigation of a UFO that was sighted at about 2100 hours (central time), 31 May 1961, over Wichita Falls, Texas and Sheppard Air Force Base. The person that sighted the UFO is a SSGT in the USAF and is an experienced weather forecaster. This investigation is being reported on AF Form 112, instead of ATIC Form 164, because this organization does not have the latter form.				
APPROVED:  PAUL A. STEARS LtCol, USAF Director, Dept Intel Tng				
1 _____ INCLS One newspaper clipping				
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1. Description of object:
 - a. Shape - "Round, looked very much like a star"
 - b. Size - "The head of a pin at arms length would have covered it"
 - c. Color - "Just blue-white, it was not blinking lights"
 - d. Number - One
 - e. Tail or Exhaust - "No tail or contrails"
 - f. Sound - "None at all"
 - g. Other unusual details - "I have seen the echo satellite, and this looked a lot like it, this object was at least at 50,000 feet"
2. Description of course of object:
 - a. What first called the attention of the observer - "I just looked up and it was there. As a weather forecaster, I am interested in watching the sky. This time when I looked up it was there."
 - b. Angle or azimuth when first seen - "About 90 degrees, almost overhead"
 - c. Angle or azimuth upon disappearance - "About 30 degrees"
 - d. Flight - "It first was coming down from the North and later curved slightly to the Southeast"
 - e. How did it disappear - "It just went out of my range of vision"
 - f. How long was object visible - "I would say about 10 minutes"
3. Manner of observation - "I was standing on the ground and saw it with the naked eye"
4. Time and date of sighting:
 - a. 010300 Z - June 1961
 - b. Night
5. Location of observer - about 1 mile west of Sheppard Air Force Base.
6. Identifying information on observer
 - a. Name - Richard W. Nieber
 - b. Grade - SSgt, USAF
 - c. Organization - Detachment 5, 8th Weather Group
 - d. Duty - Weather forecaster
 - e. Estimate of reliability - Because of his duty and experience as a weather forecaster, I would rate this source rather high in regard to statements he makes concerning objects in the sky.
7. Weather and winds:
 - a. Observers account - "The winds were out of the west and there were high cirrus clouds at about 30,000 to 40,000 feet, but not thick enough to obscure vision. The moon was just on the horizon in the east."
 - b. Weather and winds from U.S. Weather Bureau:

Winds	Direction	Knots
30,000 feet	260	25
50,000 feet	290	40
 - c. Visibility - 15 plus
 - d. Cloud cover - high cirrus
 - e. There were no thunderstorms in the area
8. There was a meteor sighted over Tyler, Texas, about 258 miles from here (see inclosed newspaper clipping from the Wichita Falls newspaper, dated 1 June 1961).
9. A check with the control tower and flight dispatcher at Sheppard AFB

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disclosed that there were no aircraft in the area that could have been mistaken for the object, which was reported to be at least 50,000 feet.

10. Comments of preparing officer:

The source of this report is an experienced weather forecaster who is familiar with objects that should be in the sky at any particular time. He stated that the object was not a star, because it was moving too fast. When asked if it could have been a falling star, he stated that he doubted it very much because the trajectory was different and it did not lose any of its intensity. An F9F aircraft flew over this base at 1954 (central time) on its way to Chase Field in Beeville, Texas, but this should have been well out of the area by the time the source made his sighting. Other than the above mentioned aircraft, there is no record of any aircraft in this area that could fly at, or around 50,000 feet. It is possible that the sighting was the meteor mentioned in the inclosed clipping, except that the object sighted was moving too slow and did not have a tail. The most logical answer as to what the source saw, is a satellite, probably "echo." However, this agency does not have the means to check and find out if a satellite went over this area at the time the source made the sighting.

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