

Pease Air Officials Probe Unidentified Flying Objects

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PORTSMOUTH, N. H. (AP)-

Officials at Pease Air Force Base are investigating numerous reports of unidentified flying objects sighted in southeastern New Hampshire over the past six weeks, it was learned today.

Similar reports of an object which soars silently through the sky, its five red lights blinking in sequence, have been received frequently since July 29, a source said.

Exeter Police The most recent rash of reports occurred Thursday and Friday, when Exeter police found themselves chasing unidentified flying objects for several hours.

At least one similar sighting was reported almost every night last week, sources at the air base said.

Exeter patrolman Eugene Bertrand, an Air Force veteran, said Norman J. Muscarello, 18, appeared at police headquarters early Friday and said that he had been chased by a lighted object while he was hitchhiking home from Kensington.

Bertrand said he and another officer accompanied Muscarello to the scene. When they stepped off the road into a field, Bertrand said, they saw the lights come over a group of trees toward them, then move away.

Woman Pursued

Earlier the same night, he said, he was patrolling the Exeter - Hampton expressway when he found a woman parked in a car by the side of the road. She was nearly hysterical, Bertrand said, as she told of being chased by a lighted object.

In Hampton, police said a telephone operator reported Friday she received a call from a man who asked her to get the police, saying he was being chased by flying saucers. The man was cut off before she could reach police, she said.

An Air Force spokesman said that in the more than 10 years that the Air Force has been investigating reports of unidentified flying objects, all but seven per cent of such reports have been satisfactorily explained.

And in the most recent four year period, all but 2.4 per cent of such reports have been explained.