

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

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Page 6

UFO tracked by Navy men at electronic range in Fla.

OCALA, Fla. (AP) — "I've never seen anything like it," says Timothy Collins, a Navy radar technician who tracked an unidentified object over the Florida sky. "And I don't want to see anything like it again."

Collins was among at least a dozen workers at the Navy's Pinecastle Electronic Warfare Range who said they spotted brightly lit objects.

"The computer wouldn't handle it," said Lt. Cmdr. John Sullivan, commander of the range, used by the Navy to train its combat pilots in tactics for avoiding enemy weapons.

Robert J. Clark, of Detroit, duty officer Sunday night, said curious civilians began calling, including one man who said he and seven others on State Road 19 near Silver Glen Springs had seen an object 50 or 60 feet- in diameter with flashing lights.

The naval air station at Jacksonville said no Navy planes were in the area. "So we got out the binoculars and went up on the tower," Clark said. "We located an object due north, approximately 1,500 feet above the trees. We watched it for 15 or 20 minutes and it looked like it was pretty stationary."

Then, he said, the object came up on Pinecastle's radar.

"We locked in on it and then all of a sudden it was gone," Clark said. "First it was heading south and then it was heading north. All in the split of a second . . . planes just don't have a turning radius like that," Collins said.

They said a preliminary digital readout showed the object at that time to be moving at about 3 knots, meaning it was virtually motionless.

Then it moved, turning abruptly so that the computer couldn't track it, they said.

Carol Snyder said she and a dozen other base personnel went to the top of a control tower with binoculars. "We saw three very blurry lights — red, white and green," she said, "We watched them for about 30 minutes."