

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 13 February 1957	2. LOCATION Lincoln AFB, Nebraska <i>Radar</i>		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local: 0130 CST GMT: 13/0730-0830Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <i>VIS</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE ors control tower operations		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION varied	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS multiple flashing red lights	9. COURSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Multiple flashing red lights observed by tower personnell w/naked - binoculars and tracked on radar. Altitude est at below 6000 ft. speed stationary to extreme.		11. COMMENTS Investigation revealed probability of 2 sightings. 1 st A/C and 2 nd balloon observation. See case file.	

UNCLASSIFIED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/11/2001 BY SP-6/BJD/STP

ATIC

130257-02

Multi

14 FEB 57 07 23

14 FEB 57 04

[Handwritten signature]

D WPG078TYE067HQE025

OO RJEDWP

DE RJEPHQ 805

O 140412Z

FM HEDUSAF WASHDC

TO COMDR ATIC WPAFB OHIO

*1) 4E4
3) 4E4
4-4X22*

O 140145Z

FM COMAIRDIV 218 LINCOLN AFB NEBR

TO RJEDENXCOM ADC ENT AFB COLO
RBEGK/COMESTFRON NEW YORK NY
RJEPHQ/CHIEF OF STAFF USAF WASH 25 DC
AFGRNC

BT

/UNCLAS/ BO 2-625/ SUBJECT: CIRVIS REPORT

OBSERVED BY TOWER PERSONNEL AT LINCOLN AFB NEBR 0130 0230 CST
13 FEB 57.

MULTIPLE UNIDENTIFIED FLASHING RED LIGHTS.

APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN (15) MILES NORTH AND NORTHEAST
QUADRANT LINCOLN AIR FORCE BASE.

DIRECTION HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL, SPEED STATIONARY TO EXTREME.

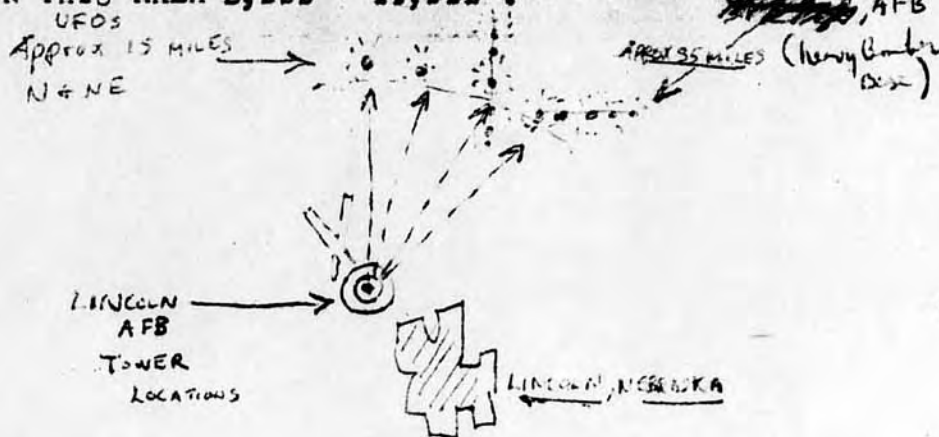
OBJECTS OBSERVED BY FIVE (5) CONTROL TOWER PERSONNEL WITH NAKED EYE
AND BINOCULARS AND TRACKED ON RADAR SCOPES BY LINCOLN GCA. ALTITUDE
WAS ESTIMATED BELOW 6,000 FEET AT ALL TIMES. ONE (1) REPORTED
AND IDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT WAS IN AREA AT SAME TIME. WEATHER CAVU. GCA

INTERROGATED OBJECTS ON ALL MODES IFF BUT RECEIVED NO RESPONSE.

GCA ALTITUDE COVERAGE IN THIS AREA 2,000 - 11,000'.

BT

14/0200Z FEB RJEDGD



EEI's not given:

- ① Weather?
 - ② Winds direction/speed?
 - ③ Cloud coverage?
 - ④ Thunderstorms, lightning displays, atmospheric conditions?
 - ⑤ Checks into local civilian + military air activities for nearby?
 - ⑥ Time in sight?
 - ⑦ Manuevers and patterns while in motion?
- (Familiarity display in nearby town?
Have had similar cases)
- OFFUTT AFB -
(30 miles from UFO location)
- MISSING DATA

RECEIVED 14 FEB 1957 8 A.M.
(Time & Date)
MSG CTR, 4802d AISS, Ent AFB

ATIC'S COPY
APB

4802d AISS (FOR REPT) 31
DATE/TIME GROUP 13/0730Z Feb 57
Lincoln, NEBR
OPS

N9444 & 9 - 3-S RGR GO AHEAD

EN0001
ENC043DA036GDA004
OO RJEDEJ RJEPHQ RBEGK
DE RJEJGD 1
O 140145Z
FM COMAIRDIV 818 LINCOLN AFB NEBR
TO RJEDEJ/ COM ADC ENT AFB COLO
RBEGK/ COMESTFRON NEW YORK N Y
RJEPHQ/ CHIEF OF STAFF USAF WASH 25 D C
AFGRNC
BT

140300Z

/UNCLAS/ 90 2-625/ SUBJECT: CIRVIS REPORT
OBSERVED BY TOWER PERSONNEL AT LINCOLN AFB NEBR 0130 0230 CST
13 FEB 57.

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DIRECTION HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL, SPEED STATIONARY TO EXTREME.
OBJECTS OBSERVED BY FIVE (5) CONTROL TOWER PERSONNEL WITH NAKED EYE
AND BINOCULARS AND TRACKED ON RADAR SCOPES BY LINCOLN GCA. ALTITUDE
WAS ESTIMATED BELOW 5,000 FEET AT ALL TIMES. ONE (1) REPORTED
AND IDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT WAS IN AREA AT SAME TIME. WEATHER CAVU. GCA
INTERROGATED OBJECTS ON ALL MODES IFF BUT RECEIVED NO RESPONSE.
GCA ALTITUDE COVERAGE IN THIS AREA 2,000 * 11,000'.

BT
14/0200Z FEB RJEJGD

716

COUNTRY USA		REPORT NO D2-UFOB-1-57 AISS-UFOB-31-57	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Object			
AREA REPORTED ON LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, USA		FROM (Agency) Det 2, 4602d AISS	
DATE OF REPORT 27 March 1957	DATE OF INFORMATION 13 February 1957	EVALUATION	
PREPARED BY (Officer) LA VERNE W. POLAND, Captain, USAF		SOURCE COLONEL ROBERT B. NOWELL and others	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) TT AISOC 129, 14 February 1957; TT from COMAIRDIV 818, 140145Z, LINCOLN AFB, NEBR.			
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.)			
<p>I. CONTENTS:</p> <p>PART ONE: Description of sighting by Colonel Robert B. Nowell, Director of Operations, 98th Bomb Wing (M), Lincoln AFB, Nebr.</p> <p>PART TWO: Description of sighting by M/Sgt George W. Le Roy Jr., NCOIC GCA Operations, 1911-2 AACS Det, Lincoln AFB, Nebr.</p> <p>PART THREE: Description of sighting by S/Sgt Jay B. Gore, Air Traffic Control Specialist, 1911-2 AACS Det, Lincoln AFB, Nebr.</p> <p>PART FOUR: Description of sighting by A/2C Thomas V. Prudden, Control Tower Operator, 1911-2 AACS Det, Lincoln AFB, Nebr.</p> <p>PART FIVE: Description of sighting by A/3C Calvin L. Oium, Control Tower Operator, 1911-2 AACS Det, Lincoln AFB, Nebr.</p> <p>PART SIX: Supplementary Investigative Efforts</p> <p>PART SEVEN: Comments of the Preparing Officer</p> <p>II. SUMMARY: Objects were visually observed by three control operators and by the Director of Operations of the 98th Bomb Wing, who was in the tower supervising a wing mission. Objects were also observed on radar by the NCOIC of GCA operations. Opinions varied from three to six as to the number of objects seen. All observations were made at Lincoln AFB, Nebr. (GEOREF FJUL 1352). Objects were of the red flashing or rotating type. Objects were reported as having been seen at 130730Z to 130830Z Feb 57; however, interviews revealed objects were also sighted at approximately 110330Z Feb 57. Follow-up investigation consisted of personal interviews with all observers except Col Robert B. Nowell, who forwarded his description of sighting by mail. Checks were also made with other agencies that could possibly help in identification of this sighting.</p>			
INCL.			
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CLASSIFICATION

(SECURITY INFORMATION when Allied in)

SUPPLEMENT TO AF FORM 112

ORIGINATING AGENCY

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AISS-UFOB-31-57

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III. INVESTIGATOR: MASTER SERGEANT FRAZIE NOE, AF35486251

La Verne W. Poland

LA VERNE W. POLAND
Captain, USAF
Officer in Charge

APPROVED:

John W. Meador
JOHN W. MEADOR
Colonel, USAF
Commander
USAFAF

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Part One

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I. SOURCE: Colonel Robert B. Nowell

Address: ██████████, Lincoln, Nebr.

Age: 41

Occupation: Director of Operations, 98th Bomb Wing

Education: 2 years of college

Qualifications: Pilot, Director of Operations of SAC
98th Bomb Wing

II. RELIABILITY: Source mailed his description of sighting and was not personally interviewed. Due to sources' position, it is believed by the investigator that he could be considered reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At least three objects were observed from the control tower at Lincoln AFB, Nebr. on 13 Feb 57 for an estimated period of three to five minutes. There was no trace of daylight, however, the exact time of sighting was not remembered. Objects were first observed in the northeast and disappeared into the northwest. Source stated objects had the brightness of an automobile headlight that was a mile or more away and about the size of a basketball held at arms length.

Objects were red in color and color remained constant as did the shape. Source was unable to estimate the speed of objects but said they were travelling at a steady pace. Objects appeared to be solid.

Source could not remember anything of the weather conditions at time of sighting.

Source stated that objects made no particular impression on him and did not think of them as UFOB's, therefore he did not report them.

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I. SOURCE: A/2C Thomas V. Prudden

Address: ██████████ St, Lincoln AFB, Nebr.

Age: 21

Occupation: Control Tower Operator

Education: 1 Year of College

Qualifications: Attended Air Traffic School and works as tower operator.

II. RELIABILITY: Source appeared to be of average intelligence and was enthusiastic in his efforts to help solve this problem. He had a firm conviction that he had never seen objects such as these and carefully thought out his answers to questions asked.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: Source's attention was brought to objects by a passing air liner while scanning his assigned zone from the control tower. Source was looking to the north when objects were first noticed and to the east when he last saw them.

Objects were red, flashing or rotating type, about the size of a dime held at arms length. They moved at a relative high speed and somewhat erratic. At times they seemed stationary and then would suddenly speed up. One of the objects appeared to separate and move in opposite directions. Source estimated objects were five to ten miles from and that he observed them for a period of thirty minutes.

At one time objects were in some semblance of formation and when they broke formation they seemed to move off in a planned direction or pattern, whereas prior to that, direction of movement was hard to ascertain.

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Part Two

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I. SOURCE: M/Sgt George W. Le Roy Jr.

Address: ██████████ Det, Lincoln AFB, Nebr.

Age: 36

Occupation: NCOIC, GCA Operations

Education: 2 years of college

Qualifications: Pilot during WW II, has been in GCA for approximately ten years

II. RELIABILITY: Source was sincere and eager to help. His ability to remember the facts of his observation was excellent, considering his observation was made by radar and the fact that he was working an aircraft at the time.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: On 13 Feb 57 at 0158 CST, Source was working a B-47 aircraft in the GCA pattern when the control tower called on intercom and asked if he had any targets to the north of the station. A check was made and he noticed four targets at fifteen radar miles. At the time there was a known commercial air liner in the area which accounted for one, but the other three were unidentified. Air liner was estimated to be moving at 300 mph. The unidentified objects were about five to six miles to the rear of the liner, moving twice as fast.

Initial contact with objects was made on a bearing of 360 degrees (mag) on a fifteen mile tangent on a course of 250 degrees (mag). On a bearing of 330 degrees (mag) one of the three objects broke in two, three of them continued on a course of 280 degrees (mag) while one of them made a 180 degree turn and proceeded on a course of 070 degrees (mag). Three of the objects, which were in some semblance of formation, were last seen on scope approximately twenty miles from GCA site on course of 310 degrees (mag). The single object was last observed approximately seventeen miles from site on course of 020 degrees (mag). Last contact was at 0207 CST.

Objects were interrogated on three modes of IFF with no response.

Source stated he could not estimate the size of the objects because of the unknown shape, however, the blip on his scope was, about the same size as that received from a B-47.

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I. SOURCE: S/Sgt Jay B. Gore

Address: ██████████ Det, Lincoln AFB, Nebr.

Age: 26

Occupation: USAF Air Traffic Control Specialist

Education: High School graduate

Qualifications: Air Traffic Control Specialist

II. RELIABILITY: Source was a mature, conscientious individual who had an open mind concerning this subject. He was receptive to all suggestions as to the possible identification of objects but was firmly convinced he could not make positive identification.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: Source was on duty in control tower at Lincoln AFB, Nebr. as watch supervisor, when his attention was called to a red flashing light north of the tower by one of the controllers. Object was observed with binoculars and it was ascertained that it was an air liner, which was confirmed by Kansas City, Air Traffic Control Center. Shortly thereafter, source noticed another object in the NE quadrant and in the next thirty to forty seconds four more objects were sighted.

Objects were red, flashing or rotating type, moving erratically at high speeds. Occasionally objects moved behind a hangar northwest of the tower.

Source stated the brightness of the objects was comparable to an automobile headlight at a distance of miles or more. Size of objects was that of a pea held at arms length. One of the objects appeared to separate and go in opposite directions. Initial flight path was in a northwesterly direction.

Source estimated objects were thirty degrees from true north and ten degrees from the horizon when they appeared and forty degrees from true north, ten degrees from the horizon when they disappeared. Source estimated that he observed objects for about twenty five minutes.

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I. SOURCE: A/3C Calvin L. Oium
 Address: ██████████ Det, Lincoln AFB, Nebr.
 Age: 18
 Occupation: Control Tower Operator
 Education: High School Graduate
 Qualifications: Attended Air Traffic School
 and works as tower operator

II. RELIABILITY: Source was a quiet, reserved sort of individual and seemed somewhat confused when questions were asked. Before answering questions he had a tendency to want to discuss his answers with the other persons that had made the sighting.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: Source was looking north while on duty in control tower when objects appeared. He was looking north-east when objects disappeared. They were observed for a period of thirty minutes.

Objects were reddish-white, seemingly transparent, flashing or rotating. Brightness was like that of an automobile headlight at a mile or more away and about the size of a pea held at arm's length.

Movement of objects was erratic, appearing to stand still and then suddenly speed up and rush away. One of the objects separated and moved off in opposite directions.

Source estimated objects were 39 degrees from true north and 30 degrees from the horizon when they first appeared and 45 degrees from true north and 30 degrees from the horizon when they disappeared. He estimated his distance from objects at 16,000 feet.

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Part Six

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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check was made with the weather station at Lincoln AFB, Nebr. and the wind readings at 2100 CST, 12 Feb 57 were:

Surface - calm

6,000' - 290 degrees at 30 knots

10,000' - 320 degrees at 45 knots

16,000' - 320 degrees at 60 knots

20,000' - 310 degrees at 80 knots

30,000' - 310 degrees at 80 knots

50,000' - 290 degrees at 70 knots

This station only releases ceiling balloons and then only when the situation dictates the need. The weather was clear on the day of sighting, therefore, no balloons were released.

It was also learned here, that balloons are released at Omaha and North Platte, Nebr., every six hours, daily, beginning at 0300 CST. On this schedule, balloons would have been released at 2100 CST, 12 Feb 57.

2. Contact was made with the Science department of Nebraska Wesleyan University in an attempt to gain further information. This university has an observatory-planetarium, however, they had observed nothing on date of sighting and reported no other unusual occurrences. Neither are they engaged in any research requiring the release of balloons.

One of the instructors in the Science Department also teaches at the University of Nebraska. It was learned from him that the University of Nebraska was not engaged in any research requiring the release of balloons or other devices.

3. CAG radio at Omaha, Nebr. was contacted and they reported no traffic in the Lincoln area at the time of sighting. They did report, however, that flying conditions at that time were VFR and only limited contact is maintained with aircraft under those conditions, and a possibility existed that there could have been aircraft in the area.

4. Through Flight Service at Lowry AFB, Colo., it was learned from United Air Lines at Stapleton Field, Denver, Colo., that they had three flights that could have been in the area at the time of sighting. They also stated that under VFR conditions, only limited contact is maintained with aircraft.

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Part Seven

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Comments of the Preparing Officer:

1. The opinion of the Preparing Officer is that these objects were probably commercial aircraft for the following reasons:

a. All Sources who visually observed objects stated that there was a resemblance to flashing beacons used on commercial aircraft.

b. The statement made by United Air Lines that it was possible that three of their flights could have been in the area at the time of sighting.

c. The fact that object were observed by radar indicates that the flashing lights were being carried by a vehicle capable of giving a radar return.

La Verne W. Poland
LA VERNE W. POLAND
Captain, USAF
Officer in Charge

Comments of the Approving Officer:

1. In the opinion of the Approving Officer, this sighting was probably composed of two separate sightings, occurring at the approximate same time through coincidence. The reasons for this opinion are:

a. The two Sources treated in Parts One and Two of this report stated that the objects moved generally from North to West. These Sources saw the objects for from three to twelve minutes, moving on a relatively straight and level flight path.

b. The other Sources (See Parts Three, Four, and Five of this report) stated the objects moved generally from North to East. These Sources also saw the objects for twenty-five to thirty minutes—approximately fifteen minutes longer than the Sources in Parts One and two of the report. Further, according to these Sources, the objects moved on an erratic flight path.

2. Treating this report as two separate sightings, it is the opinion of the Approving Officer that the sighting treated in paragraph "a" above (Parts One and Two) was probably caused by civilian airlines in the area. (See Comments of the Preparing Officer above.) The fact that the objects were interrogated on IFF and did not respond is discounted since, according to the office of DCS/C&E, CONAD, civilian airlines do not, as a rule, answer IFF interrogation. Further, the Source treated in Part One indicated that he thought that the objects were wing lights on aircraft.

3. The sighting described in Parts Three, Four, and Five (paragraph "b" above) was possibly caused by balloon(s) released at 0300Z from Omaha and North Platte, Nebraska. (See Part Six, paragraph 1.) The fact that the objects were seen for from twenty-five to thirty minutes obviates the possibility of aircraft causing this sighting.

4. Therefore, this sighting is given a "Probably Aircraft" and a "Possibly Balloon" evaluation.

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