

J. F. MOZLEY, CAPT, USN

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2336

17 MAY 1978

FM NAS JACKSONVILLE FL  
TO CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA  
INFO CNO WASHINGTON DC  
COMNAVAIRLANT NORFOLK VA  
COMSIX CHARLESTON SC  
COMSEABASEDASWWINGSLANT

BT

NAS JACKSONVILLE/OPREP-3 NAVY BLUE 171800Z MAY 78/006

A. REPORTS OF UFO DISPLAYING RED, GREEN AND WHITE LIGHTS

A1. SITUATION UNDER CONTROL

H1. INITIAL REPORTED UFO SIGHTING BY TWO UNIDENTIFIED CIVILIANS.

H2. NA

H3. 142200L MAY 78 TO 150020L MAY 78

H4. NA

H5. AT 2200 LOCAL, 14 MAY 1978, PINECASTLE RANGE DUTY OFFICER, SK1 CLARK, RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE. SAID SHE LIVED NEAR SILVER GLEN SPRINGS AND WANTED TO KNOW IF RANGE WAS OPEN AND WHETHER NAVY WAS DROPPING PARACHUTE FLARES OVER LAKE GEORGE (SHE HAD OBSERVED NUMEROUS PARACHUTE DROPS IN THE PAST). WHEN TOLD THE RANGE WAS CLOSED, SHE TOLD CLARK SHE WAS LOOKING (AT THAT TIME) AT STRANGE RED, GREEN AND WHITE LIGHTS ABOVE THE TREES OVER THE WEST BANK OF LAKE GEORGE NEAR AN AREA CALLED THE "SINKHOLE." CALLER IMMEDIATELY HUNG UP WITHOUT IDENTIFYING HERSELF.

at 2210 LOCAL, CLARK RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED MALE, WHO ALSO WANTED TO KNOW IF RANGE WAS IN OPERATION. WHEN TOLD IT WAS NOT, CALLER SAID HE AND EIGHT OTHER PEOPLE--LOCATED ON STATE HIGHWAY 19-- HAD OBSERVED AN OBJECT, ABOUT 50-60 FEET IN DIAMETER, PASS OVER THEM AT TREE-TOP LEVEL. IT WAS DISPLAYING "MULTI-COLORED" LIGHTS. CALLER IMMEDIATELY HUNG UP WITHOUT IDENTIFYING HIMSELF.

CLARK THEN NOTIFIED THE CONTROL TOWER WATCHSTANDER TO SEARCH THE AREA TOWARD SILVER GLEN SPRINGS WITH BINOCULARS. THE WATCHSTANDER OBSERVED STATIONARY LIGHTS AT AN ESTIMATED ALTITUDE OF 1600 FEET. IN THE AREA REPORTED BY THE TELEPHONE CALLERS.

CLARK THEN CHECKED WITH JACKSONVILLE CENTER FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMERCIAL/MILITARY AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS IN THE AREA. CENTER HAD NO INFORMATION ON KNOWN FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN THE LAKE GEORGE AREA.

CLARK THEN SUMMONED TD2 COLLINS FROM THE BARRACKS TO ACTIVATE THE MSQ-102 RADAR. AFTER A 20 MINUTE WARMUP, COLLINS LOCKED ON TO A KNOWN TARGET IN THE AREA--THE CIVIL DEFENSE TOWER--IN AUTOMATIC TRACK MODE. HIS "ALPHA" SCAN INDICATED ONE STATIONARY TARGET (THE CD TOWER) AND ONE UNIDENTIFIED BLIP "FLUTTERING" OVER THE TOWER. COLLINS PUT THE TRACKING COMPUTER ON THE UNIDENTIFIED TARGET, AND IT WAS NOT REGISTERING ANY SIGNIFICANT GROUND VELOCITY. BEARING TO THE C/D TOWER WAS 291 DEGREES MAGNETIC, BUT COLLINS WAS UNABLE TO LOCK ON THE UNIDENTIFIED TARGET IN THE SAME VICINITY AND STATED THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION AT THIS TIME AS TO THE EXACT BEARING OF THE OBJECTS FROM HIM. HE HAD OBSERVED THE TARGET FOR PERHAPS AN HOUR, WHEN IT BEGAN MOVING ACROSS THE RADAR SCOPE, FROM NORTHWEST TO SOUTH, AT ABOUT 400-500 KNOTS. COLLINS SAID HE TRIED TO "TRAIN" THE RADAR ON THE OBJECT, BUT IT ACCELERATED RAPIDLY, EVADING HIS EFFORTS TO LOCK AND TRACK IT ON THE COMPUTER. WHEN HE CAUGHT UP WITH THE OBJECT, IT REVERSED DIRECTION AND STARTED BACK TOWARD PINECASTLE.

COLLINS FINALLY LOCKED ON THE OBJECT AFTER IT HAD PRACTICALLY STOPPED MOVING. THE COMPUTER THEN INDICATED 2 KNOTS GROUND VELOCITY. SHORTLY AFTER, THE TARGET BROKE RADAR LOCK, AND COLLINS SECURED THE RADAR. AT THIS TIME, IT WAS 0020L ON 15 MAY. COLLINS HAS BEEN OPERATING RADAR FOR MOST OF HIS EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE.

A TOTAL OF EIGHT NAVAL PERSONNEL VISUALLY OBSERVED THE RED, GREEN AND WHITE LIGHTS OF THE OBJECT FROM THE CONTROL TOWER FOR OVER AN HOUR. TOWARD THE END OF THIS PERIOD, THE LIGHTS WERE OBSERVED TO MOVE SOUTH FOR ABOUT 20 MILES AND THEN RETURN TO THE VICINITY OF THE PINECASTLE RANGE. H6. WEST SOUTHWEST BANK OF LAKE GEORGE NEAR SETTLEMENT OF SILVER GLEN SPRINGS ON STATE HIGHWAY 19 APPROX 5 MILES NORTH OF THE NAVY'S PINECASTLE ELECTRONIC WARFARE RANGE.

K. NONE

Z. INITIAL REPORTS BY PEWR MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE PARTICULARLY UNUSUAL OR POSITIVE BUT RATHER INFLUENCED BY TWO UNIDENTIFIED CIVILIAN CALLERS AND ACTIVE CURIOSITY. UNOFFICIAL CONTACT BETWEEN MEDIA AND SERVICEMEN RESULTED IN MEDIA PRESENTING SERVICEMEN'S REMARKS AS AN OFFICIAL NAVY NEWS RELEASE PRIOR TO COMMAND EVEN HAVING DISCUSSED SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WITH SERVICEMEN. OINC PEWR STATES HIS QUOTED STATEMENT WAS INACCURATE AS PRINTED. OPREP NOT SUBMITTED EARLIER AS INITIAL REPORT CONSIDERED HOAX AND WOULD NOT GENERATE SIGNIFICANT PRESS INTEREST IF APPROACHED IN A FACTUAL MANNER. PETTY OFFICERS CLARK AND COLLINS ON NORMAL LIBERTY 15 MAY AS RESULT OF WATCH STANDING. STATEMENTS OF CLARK AND COLLINS TAKEN AFTERNOON OF 16 MAY AT PEWR BUT NOT AVAILABLE TO NASJAX UNTIL MORNING OF 17 MAY DUE TO COMMUNICATION LINE PROBLEM. ABNORMAL AMOUNT OF PRESS AND TV INTEREST PRESENTLY BEING SHOWN.

Z1. LAST OPREP-3 REPORT THIS INCIDENT.

ADS - 17 JUN 1978.

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