IR-11-53

[redacted]

UNITED STATES

0835 Z
0900 Lunch

UNCLASSIFIED

FLYCBRPT

TEXAS 7TH BOMB WING, CARSWELL AFB, TEXAS

18 February 1953 13 February 1953 F-6

2nd Lt Charles F. Springer Mr. J[redacted]; [redacted], Weatherford, Texas; Pho: [redacted]

AF Ltr 200-5; 19th AirDivision Message 7A2 644, DTG 132335Z Feb 53

F-6 source

1. At 0235 on the morning of 13 Feb 1953, Mr [redacted] visually observed 3 very bright lights traveling across the sky over Fort Worth, Texas.

2. The lights were first observed approximately 500 feet apart and appeared stacked in vertical echelon.

3. The lights were next observed in a steep climb and attained an altitude of 20,000 feet very rapidly.

4. Mr [redacted] then picked up blips on the tail GL APG-41 Radar on B-36 aircraft 310, station 47, at Convair, Fort Worth Division.

5. Mr [redacted] observed only two of the 3 original lights on the APG-41. There was a considerable amount of "snow" but the closer blip was distinguished easily.

6. Besides Mr [redacted], 8 other members of Department 76 at Convair witnessed this incident.

APPROVED:

Edward Ratkovich

EDWARD RATKOVICH
Major, USAF
Director of Intelligence

1

Sketch of Radar Return (8 copies)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

7

MAR 23 12 12

[redacted] IL-11-53 UNCLASSIFIED

7th Bomb Wing, Carswell AFB, Tex 2 2

1. At 0235 on the morning of 13 Feb 1953, Mr [redacted] visually observed 3 very bright lights traveling across the sky over Fort Worth, Texas. The weather was clear and calm. These unidentified objects were traveling from east southeast toward the observer at a moderate rate of speed (cruising speed of an F-86). The 3 lights had the same intensity as the rotating beacon at Carswell AFB. All 3 lights were of similar intensity, and white in color except the center light which was bluish-green. These lights were observed for a period of 10 to 15 minutes until disappearing out of sight.

2. The lights were first observed approximately 500 feet apart and appeared stacked in vertical echelon. The lower light suddenly accelerated a distance of 1500 feet and came to a complete stop. In sequence the other two lights duplicated this maneuver. After assembling in original formation, these 3 lights repeated the same maneuver only ending up in horizontal echelon. These maneuvers appeared to take place over a distance of 2 miles and at an altitude at or below 4,000 feet. After the 3 lights came to a standstill in a third maneuver they were arranged in a vertical echelon; then with the center light acting as a pivot the 2 outer lights maneuvered in a swinging motion resembling the motion of a kite's tail.

3. The lights were next observed in a steep climb and attained an altitude of 20,000 feet very rapidly. (merely a visual estimate - not to be taken at face value)

4. Mr [redacted] then picked up blips on the tail (SCR APS-41) radar on B-36 aircraft 310, station 47, at Convair, Fort Worth Division. The lapse of time between visual and first radar sighting was an estimated 2 minutes. The lights were observed at a maximum azimuth 80 degrees to south, between 45-60 degrees vertical angle, between 8-10,000 yards on etchings. On a 2-2½ multiplier, this distance would be approximately 16,000 yards. A sketch of the radar presentation received is attached as an inclosure. or approx. 9 miles away

5. Mr [redacted] observed only two of the 3 original lights on the (APS-41). There was a considerable amount of "snow" but the closer blip was distinguished easily. A check for ground returns was made and none was received. Mr Muth attempted to pick up these lights on three different radar sets of other aircraft with negative results.

6. Besides Mr Muth, 8 other members of Department 76 at Convair witnessed this incident. They are listed below.

Name	Address	Phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted], Tex	NO 8432
[redacted]	[redacted], Tex	SU 5403
[redacted]	[redacted], Fort Worth, Tex	LA 0783
[redacted]	[redacted] Fort Worth, Tex	NO 4852
[redacted]	[redacted] Fort Worth, Tex	WA 3558
[redacted]	[redacted]t, Fort Worth, Tex	WI 1300
[redacted]	[redacted], Fort Worth, Tex	

COMMENTS of preparing officer:

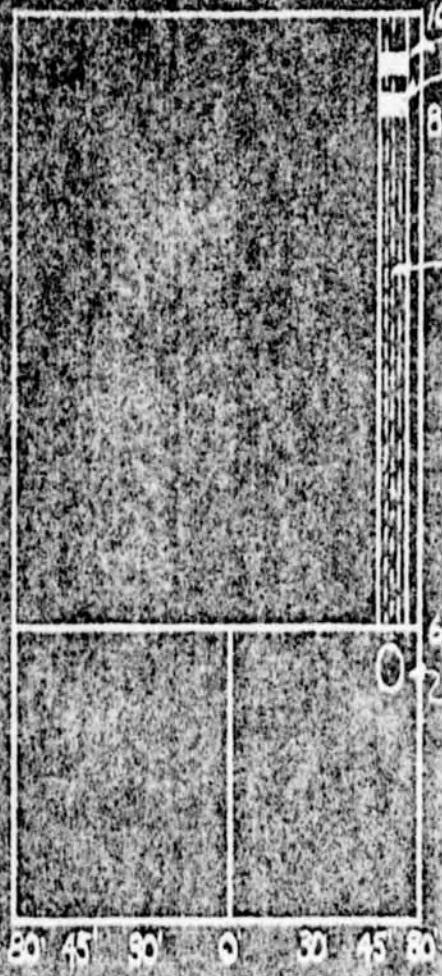
Mr Muth is employed by Convair, Fort Worth Division, Department 76. His total radar experience is 4 years. He has approximately 3 months experience with the APS-41, 2½ years with the APS-32A on ship 34 from its engineering stage.

Charles F. Springer

CHARLES F. SPRINGER, 2nd Lt, USAF, Asst Opnal Intel

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

APG 41 IN TRACK WITH LR SWITCH ON



UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO. 103P 17/2242Z

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

COMDR ATIC

DATE-TIME GROUP: 161845 Z JUL 53

PRECEDENCE FOR: ACTION: ROUTINE | INFORMATION

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION: 7A2 644 CLASSIFICATION: [redacted]

TO:

COMDR CARSWELL AF BASE TEXAS

JWF9B

INFO:

RESTRICTED

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAE-7-16-E FOR 19th Air Division

Reurmsg 7A2 644 0835Z 13 Feb 53, radar-visual sighting of unidentified objects. Mr. [redacted], and [redacted] making radar sighting from B-36. ATIC has received Electronics Data Sheet submitted by your Base. Additional questions which arise follow: 1) Were the 2 radar blips moving? 2) Did they change size rapidly? 3) If moving, was the speed variable? 4) Did they appear and disappear, then reappear at a new location? 5) Were they sharp returns compared to known aircraft targets? The above is needed to analyze radar portion of sighting.

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
ATIAE-5
Office of Record
Project 10073

COORDINATION:

ATIAE-5 R. Olsson DATE 16 July '53
Lt Olsson

ATIAE H. E. Johnston DATE 16 July 53
Lt Johnston

ATIA [illegible] DATE 16 July 53
Col McDuffee

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [redacted] PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (Signature, when required)
Lt R. M. Olsson/jos

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE
Barbara B. Brainard 2nd

SYMBOL ATIAE-5 TELEPHONE 65365

OFFICIAL TITLE ROBERT C. BROWN, Major, USAF
Adjutant

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 48 WHICH MAY BE USED.

16—58923-3 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

COORDINATION

INSERT ORGNL CODE AND FULL SIGNATURE

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

In reply refer to
AFOIN-ATIAE-5

R.M.OLSSON/jos/65365

9 JUN 1953

SUBJECT: (Uncl) Unidentified FLYOBRPT 13 February 1953

TO: Commanding Officer
19th Air Division
Carswell Air Force Base
Fort Worth, Texas

1. Your station's unidentified object report involving radar detection for the above date has been received by the Air Technical Intelligence Center and reviewed by its electronics personnel.

2. It was found that insufficient radar data existed for an explanation of this sighting and, therefore, ATIC is forwarding the inclosed Electronics Data Sheet. This Center realizes that the subject sighting took place four months ago; however, if the radar personnel involved can remember the facts of the sighting, ATIC requests that they fill out this form.

3. With the information provided by this form the Air Technical Intelligence Center feels that a logical explanation can be made for the incident.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

1 Incl
Elec Data Sheet

BARBARA P. HANAWALT
1st Lt, USAF
Asst. Adjutant

COORDINATION:

ATIAE-5
Lt Olsson R M Olsson Date 6 June 53

ATIAE
Lt Col Johnston H.G. Johnston DATE 5 June 53

ATIA
Col McDuffee Loyd A Calhoun DATE 5 June 53

ATIG
Lt Hanawalt _____ DATE _____

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

DESIGNATE AUTHD OFFICE OF RECORD

[redacted]

AMC Form 8 (Rev 17 May 50) Supersedes AMC Form 8, Rev 1 Apr 48, which will be used. Air Force-WPAFB-L-23 JUL 52 3600M

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

ELECTRONICS DATA SHEET
(GROUND RADAR)

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide technical data for evaluating the report of an unusual radar target or track. It is requested that it be completed as accurately as possible.

When not filled in, the form is Unclassified. The reporting officer will use his own judgement as to what degree of classification is required.

It is preferred that the answers to the questions be typewritten, however, if it will expedite the completion of the form, the answers may be printed in ink. If additional space is needed, use reverse side of form.

1. STATION OBSERVING TARGET:
CONVAIR ACFT PLANT
Organization
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
Location

2. DATE OF THIS REPORT:
29 (Day) June (Month) 1953 (Year)

3. DATE TARGET OBSERVED:
13 (Day) FEB (Month) 53 (Year) Local Time ☐ Z Time ☐
Time-Local 0235 CST Time-Z 0835

4. NAME, RANK AND ORGANIZATION OF REPORTING OFFICER:
THOMAS SMITH, CAPT
HQ SQ 7TH BOMB WG
CARSWELL AFB, TEXAS

5. EXACT LOCATION OF STATION (COORDINATES):

6. OBSERVER DATE (LIST EACH OBSERVER):

	Name	Rank	Duty	No. of Years Exp. in Radar
A.	[redacted]	CIVILIAN	ELECTRONIC TECH	4 yrs
B.	[redacted]	CIVILIAN	" "	2 yrs
C.	[redacted]	CIVILIAN	ARMAMENT INSPECTOR	2 yrs
D.				
E.				

7. WAS A VISUAL SIGHTING MADE BY ANY PERSONNEL OF THE STATION? ☑ YES ☐ NO
IF SO, GIVE NAME AND RANK OF ALL PERSONNEL MAKING A VISUAL SIGHTING AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THEY SAW: [redacted], all Third Shift workers at Convair Aircraft Plant, FortWorth Division, Texas.

Approx 0235 Hrs CST, 13 Feb 53, observers saw three bright lights in the sky at a distance of approx 2 miles and altitude between 1,000 and 4,000 feet. The lights were stacked vertically and moved from SE to SSE direction, with the outer two lights occasionally shifting position so that they appeared to swing like a pendulum on the center light. They gained altitude as they moved and suddenly appeared to accelerate at a tremendous speed away from the observers and disappeared. The outer lights were greenish-cast in color and the center light was white. No sound was heard. The weather was CAVU at time of sighting.

12

ATIC FORM 332 (REVISED 25 NOV 1952)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Action ATIC

[redacted]

1953 JUL 22 08:41

JEDMH A12
JWFQB 120
RR JEDWP
DE JWFQB 09C

UNCLASSIFIED

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

FM COMDRADIV 19 CARSWELL AFB TEX
TO COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB DAYTON OHIO
[redacted] 7DI 1416. PROJ BLUE BOOK, REF URMSG AFOIN-ATIAE-7-16-E. REQD INFO IS AS FOL. BLIPS WERE AT EXTREME RANGE OF RADAR AND OPR COULD NOT TELL WHETHER THEY MOVED IN RANGE BUT THEY DID NOT MOVE IN AZIMUTH. BLIPS DID NOT CHANGE SIZE. BLIPS DISAPPEARED INTO NOISE AND DID NOT REAPPEAR. RADAR OBS THEN ATTEMPTED TO PICK THEM UP ON TAIL RADAR OF ANOTHER B-36 ACFT UNSUCCESSFULLY. RETRNS OF NEAREST BLIP WERE VERY SHARP COMPARED TO B-36 TGT. OTHER BLIP WAS JUST ABOVE THE NOISE LEVEL OF THE RADAR.
JUL JWFQB

[redacted]

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

1o

T33-8472-

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

8. HAVE YOU HEARD OF ANYONE NOT AT THE RADAR STATION MAKING A VISUAL SIGHTING AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME THE RADAR CONTACT WAS MADE? ☐ YES ☒ NO
IF SO, GIVE NAME AND ADDRESS.

9. RADAR SCOPE PHOTOS:
IS RADAR EQUIPPED WITH A SCOPE CAMERA? ☐ YES ☑ NO
WAS CAMERA OPERATIONAL? ☐ YES ☑ NO
WERE SCOPE PHOTOS TAKEN? ☐ YES ☑ NO
WERE PRINTS OF THE SCOPE PHOTOS FORWARDED TO THE AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER? ☐ YES ☑ NO

10. TRACK DATA:
WHAT WAS THE NUMBER OF THE TRACK? _____
WAS A PERMANENT PLOT MADE OF THE TRACK AT THE TIME OF THE OBSERVATION? ☐ YES ☑ NO

11. WERE AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED TO INTERCEPT THE TARGET? ☐ YES ☑ NO
IF SO, WERE THE AIRCRAFT BEING OBSERVED ON THE SCOPE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE TARGET? ☐ YES ☑ NO

12. WERE ANY NEARBY RADAR INSTALLATIONS QUERIED WHETHER THEY HAD OBSERVED THE SAME TARGET OR TRACK? ☑ YES ☐ NO
IF SO, WHICH STATIONS? Carswell AFB GCA. This radar was not operating at the time of sighting.

13. WAS THE TARGET OBSERVED ON SEARCH RADAR? ☑ YES ☐ NO
IF SO, WHAT IS THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE EQUIPMENT? APG-41A Gunlaying Radar (Tail-mounted on B-36 acft)

14. WAS THE TARGET OBSERVED ON HEIGHT FINDING RADAR? ☐ YES ☑ NO
IF SO, WHAT IS THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE EQUIPMENT? _____

15. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY RECENT MAINTENANCE DIFFICULTIES? ☐ YES ☑ NO
IF SO, DESCRIBE. _____

16. WHAT TYPE MODULATOR (I.E., SPARK GAP, HARD TUBE, ETC.) IS USED IN THE RADAR EQUIPMENT?
Hard Tube

17. WAS THE AFC (AUTOMATIC FREQUENCY CONTROL) CIRCUIT OPERATING PROPERLY? ☑ YES ☐ NO
COMMENTS: _____

18. HAS INTERFERENCE FROM ANOTHER RADAR SET BEEN OBSERVED RECENTLY: ☐ YES ☑ NO
COMMENTS: _____

ATIC FORM 332 (REVISED 25 NOV 1952)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

19. ARE PERSONNEL FAMILIAR WITH THE EFFECTS CAUSED BY AN INTERFERING SIGNAL? ☑ YES ☐ NO
COMMENTS: _____

20. ARE PERSONNEL FAMILIAR WITH THE EFFECTS OF ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION (DUCTING EFFECTS) AS THEY PERTAIN TO THIS TYPE OF RADAR? ☑ YES ☐ NO

21. HAS ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION (DUCTING EFFECT) BEEN OBSERVED TO EXTEND THE RANGE OF THE GROUND CLUTTER OF THIS RADAR AT THIS SITE? ☐ YES ☑ NO
COMMENTS: _____

22. WAS ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION (DUCTING EFFECT) EXTENDING THE RANGE OF THE GROUND CLUTTER AT THE TIME THE TARGET WAS OBSERVED? ☐ YES ☑ NO
COMMENTS: _____

23. HOW DID THE TARGET APPEAR IN SIZE AND SHAPE AS COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT TARGETS?
About three times the size of a B-36.

24. PERFORMANCE OF TARGET:

a. REMAINED CONSISTENT IN SIZE	☑	CHANGED SIZE RAPIDLY	☐
b. SPEED WAS CONSTANT	☐	SPEED WAS VARIABLE	☐
c. FOLLOWED CONSISTENT TRACK	☑	APPEARED, DISAPPEARED, THEN REAPPEARED IN NEW LOCATION	☐
d. FUZZY COMPARED TO AIRCRAFT TARGET	☐	SHARP COMPARED TO KNOWN AIRCRAFT TARGET	☐
e. SAME AS AIRCRAFT TARGET	☑		

25. WERE OTHER TARGETS (KNOWN) OBSERVED IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA, AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME AND AT THE SAME ALTITUDE AS THE UNUSUAL TARGET? ☐ YES ☑ NO
IF SO, DESCRIBE. _____

26. WHAT TYPE INDICATORS ("A" SCOPE, "B" SCOPE, ETC.) WERE USED TO FOLLOW THE TARGET?
"B" scope

DESCRIBE THE SIGNAL: Two blips.

27. WHAT WAS THE RADAR SCAN RATE? 1 cycle in 3 seconds.

28. WHAT WAS THE FREQUENCY OF THE TRANSMITTER?
9245 Mcs

29. DID ANY OF THE OBSERVERS HAVE ANY OPINIONS AS TO THE NATURE OF THE TARGET? ☐ YES ☒ NO
IF YES, GIVE THEIR NAMES AND OPINIONS BELOW.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

ATIC FORM 332 (REVISED 25 NOV 1952)

14

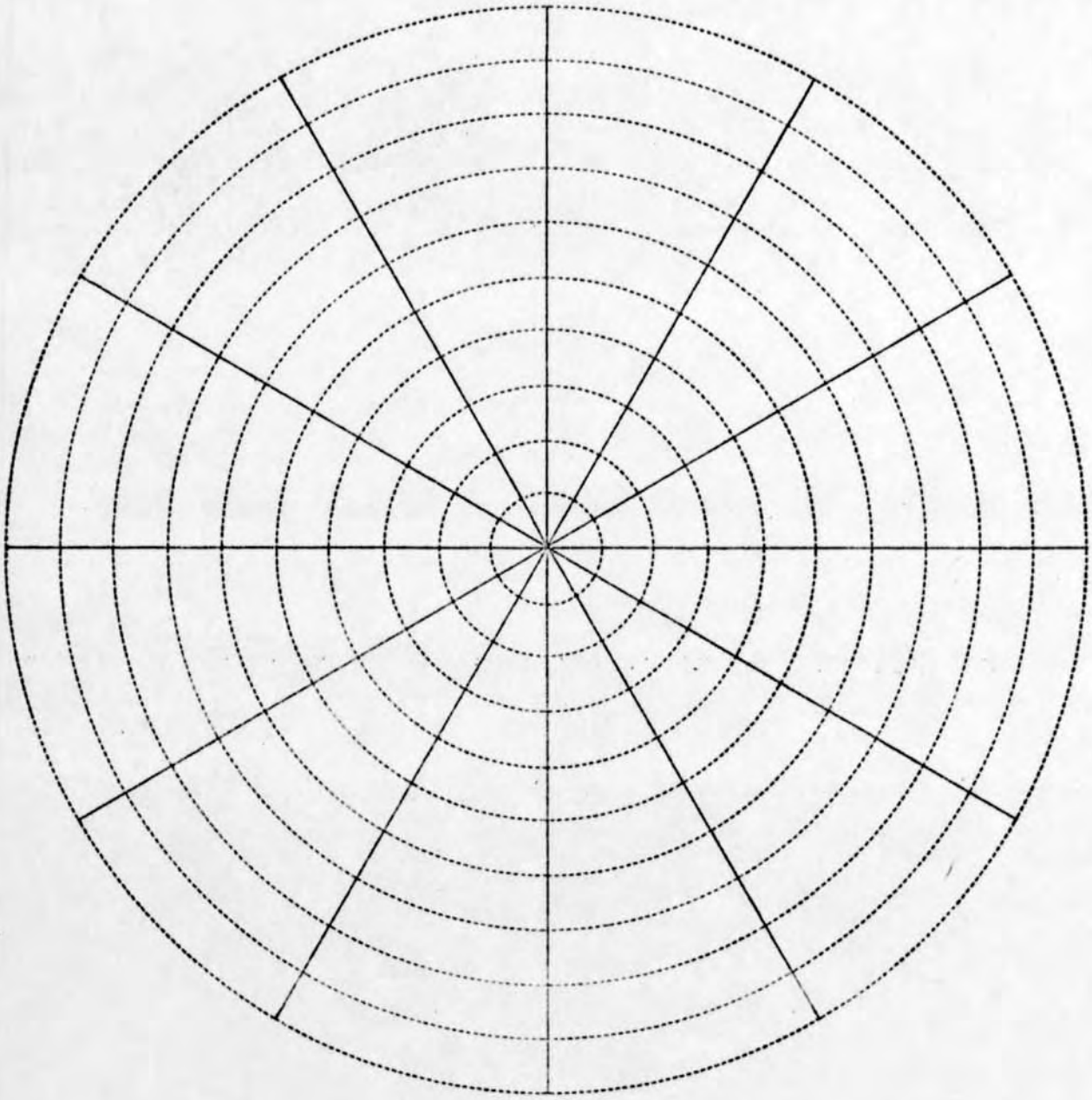
[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

30. IF SCOPE PHOTOS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, PLOT THE TARGET TRACK AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE. GIVE THE TIME AND ALTITUDE (IF MEASURED) FOR EACH POINT PLOTTED. PUT THE NECESSARY RANGE SCALE ON THE DIAGRAM.



DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]