

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 September 1956		2. LOCATION Big Bethel, Virginia		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical Moon ☒ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2035 to 2055 EST GMT 10/0135Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilians			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 20 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One object crescent shaped like the moon, size of softball to 14-15 inches. Color bright red or gold, as object diminished its color would darken to a deep red. No sound, no tail or trail. Flight path was gradual descension to horizon.				11. COMMENTS Sighting was moon according to investigating officer. Also verified by WX rpt that moon was waning and set at 2115 hrs EST.	

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	1	OF	2	PAGES
48TH Fighter Interceptor Sqdn						

1. On Sunday night, 9 September 1956, at 2035 (EST) as Mr. [REDACTED] was taking his sister-in-law Mrs. [REDACTED] to her home at [REDACTED] Lane, Hampton, Va, an object appeared from a southerly direction. At first glance the object appeared to be the moon but after more careful observation its speed seemed too fast for that. The movements of the object were followed till 2055 at which time it disappeared.

2. When first seen the object was bright red or gold in color and looked somewhat like a headlight. Shortly after, the object seemed to flatten out and the righted itself again. From time to time, the object would gradually grow smaller to what seemed to be the size of a softball, or grow larger to a diameter of 14-15 inches. As it diminished, its color would darken to deep red. The nearest distance at which it was observed was two(2) miles.

3. The dominant shape was compared to the moon or crescent shaped. Its mass seemed fuzzy and the strangest impression was that the object was occupied. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that it appeared to be a bird or ducklike but that in the position of the head or cockpit there seemed to be an occupant wearing some sort of headgear. Mrs. [REDACTED] who first saw the object at 2045 (EST), thought she saw the features of a man in the object even to the point of seeing his feet.

4. The first sign of action seen by Mr. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] was a light that shot straight up and out and disappeared. Mrs. [REDACTED] who observed the object from her home at [REDACTED] Road, apparently saw the same thing but from the side. Her impression was that vapor shot out from one end toward the other as if to form a circle but faded out at the peak of the curve. Lights could be seen surrounding the object intermittently. They seemed to radiate out approximately one foot from the edges. The lights were of two (2) shapes: oblong and triangular; the triangular shape being the most dominant. There was no sound at anytime.

5. The path of flight was of gradual descension from the height of a few hundred feet to the treetop level of a swampy wooded area $\frac{1}{2}$ to one mile distant, at which point it disappeared headed in the general direction of Yorktown, Virginia at 2055 (EST).

6. Additional comments by the observers were that special note was taken that no other aircraft were in the vicinity during the time that the object was seen. There were a few clouds in the sky but they were not near the object and no other objects interfered with the visibility which was good even though it was dark at the time.

7. Weather reports at that time indicated scattered clouds at 3000 ft, and 6000 ft, unlimited ceiling, and fifteen (15) miles visibility. No thunderstorms in the area, but there were strong north winds. The moon was setting and out at 2115 (EST).

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

10/01352

COUNTRY		REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT		FROM (Agency)	
AREA REPORTED ON		43TH Fighter Interceptor Squadron	
DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION	
10 September 1966	10 September 1966	F-4	
PREPARED BY (Officer)		SOURCE	
1st Lt., Elton V. Monismith		Civilian Observers	
REFERENCE (Cite in report, literature, previous report, etc., as applicable)			

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.)

1. An Unidentified Flying object was sighted Sunday, 9 September 1966, between 2035 and 2055 (EST) near Big Bethel. Big Bethel is approximately three (3) miles north west of the Langley Air Force Base west-gate. Three civilians sighted the object and compared it to the moon in shape and size. According to their statement, the object's speed and flight path ruled out its possibility of being the moon. Although some clouds were in the sky, visibility was good. There was some change in color and shape and movements, but it was gradual. The opinion of all observers was that the object was occupied, but that a clear discription could not be made because the interior of the object was fuzzy.

2. Weather reports coincide with observer's description with the exception of the moon which was waning and which set twenty (20) minutes after the object was seen moving out of sight in a downward flight path. The evaluation F-4 was given because there was no way to accurately determine the reliability of the observers other than the fact that each confirms the other's statements. In addition evidence from weather reports indicates that the object was most likely the moon.

Elton V. Monismith
ELTON V. MONISMITH
1st Lt., USAF
Intelligence Officer

INCL.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

1. (Agency)

REPORT NO.

187th Fighter Interceptor Sqdn

PAGE

1

OF

2

PAGES

1. On Sunday night, 9 September 1956, at 2035 (EST) as Mr. [REDACTED] was taking his sister-in-law Mrs. William McPherson to her home at [REDACTED] Lane, Hampton, Va, an object appeared from a southerly direction. At first glance the object appeared to be the moon but after more careful observation its speed seemed too fast for that. The movements of the object were followed till 2055 at which time it disappeared.

2. When first seen the object was bright red or gold in color and looked somewhat like a headlight. Shortly after, the object seemed to flatten out and the righted itself again. From time to time, the object would gradually grow smaller to what seemed to be the size of a softball, or grow larger to a diameter of 14-15 inches. As it diminished, its color would darken to deep red. The nearest distance at which it was observed was two(2) miles.

3. The dominant shape was compared to the moon or crescent shaped. Its mass seemed fuzzy and the strangest impression was that the object was occupied. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that it appeared to be a bird or ducklike but that in the position of the head or cockpit there seemed to be an occupant wearing some sort of headgear. Mrs. [REDACTED] who first saw the object at 2045 (EST), thought she saw the features of a man in the object even to the point of seeing his feet.

4. The first sign of action seen by Mr. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] was a light that shot straight up and out and disappeared. Mrs. [REDACTED] who observed the object from her home at 1004 Big Bethel Road, apparently saw the same thing but from the side. Her impression was that vapor shot out from one end toward the other as if to form a circle but faded out at the peak of the curve. Lights could be seen surrounding the object intermittently. They seemed to radiate out approximately one foot from the edges. The lights were of two (2) shapes: oblong and triangular; the triangular shape being the most dominant. There was no sound at anytime.

5. The path of flight was of gradual descension from the height of a few hundred feet to the treetop level of a swampy wooded area $\frac{1}{2}$ to one mile distant, at which point it disappeared headed in the general direction of Yorktown, Virginia at 2055 (EST).

6. Additional comments by the observers were that special note was taken that no other aircraft were in the vicinity during the time that the object was seen. There were a few clouds in the sky but they were not near the object and no other objects interfered with the visibility which was good even though it was dark at the time.

7. Weather reports at that time indicated scattered clouds at 3000ft, and 6000 ft, unlimited ceiling, and fifteen (15) miles visibility. No thunderstorms in the area, but there were strong north winds. The moon was rising and set at 2115 (EST).

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

16-68370-1

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1956-O-57681

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	2	OF	2	PAGES
48TH Fighter Interceptor Sqn						

8. The observers were: Mr. [REDACTED] Electrician; Mrs. [REDACTED] registered nurse; Mrs. [REDACTED] housewife.

9. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her husband was not one given to hallucinations, but must "See to believe," and he is positive that what he saw was not the moon.

10. During World War II, Mrs. [REDACTED] was in the Signal Corps at Langley AFB doing code work. She also worked with the OSI.

11. The observers made a report to Base Operations 10 September and it was received by the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron late that day. The information in the initial report was scanty making it necessary to make a more detailed investigation. This accounts for the extended reporting time.

Comments of Investigating Officer:

The general area in which the object was sighted would fall within R-29 on the WAC charts of this area. The observers felt very sure that what saw was not the moon. Their impressions were given as specifically as possible but nevertheless only by approximation. The size of the object very easily could have been much larger than 14 or 15 inches in diameter. Weather reports that the moon was in the same general area and that it set at 2115 (EST) could well account for the descending motion and also the color and increasing size since the moon does seem to increase in size and change in color as it nears the horizon.

Elton V. Monismith
ELTON V. MONISMITH
1st Lt., USAF
Intelligence Officer

Multi

48TH FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia

FIS INT

12 September 1956

SUBJECT: UFOB Report

TO: Commander
Air Defense Command
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

The inclosed UFOB Report is forwarded for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl:
UFOB Report 3 cys

STANLEY R BIRER
1st Lt., USAF
Adjutant

1. A careful, second review
of this report indicates
that the source cannot
be considered as
reliable. Also
note the weather
and sighting
conditions at
that time.
2. No other reports
from that area:
Radar. GOC,
in, others

1200120 11 00

7-3745-2

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

48TH Fighter Interceptor Sqdn

PAGE

1

OF

2

PAGES

1. On Sunday night, 9 September 1956, at 2035 (EST) as Mr. [REDACTED] was taking his sister-in-law Mrs. [REDACTED] to her home at [REDACTED] Lane, Hampton, Va, an object appeared from a southerly direction. At first glance the object appeared to be the moon but after more careful observation its speed seemed too fast for that. The movements of the object were followed till 2055 at which time it disappeared.

* 2. When first seen the object was bright red or gold in color and looked somewhat like a headlight. Shortly after, the object seemed to flatten out and the righted itself again. From time to time, the object would gradually grow smaller to what seemed to be the size of a softball, or grow larger to a diameter of 14-15 inches. As it diminished, its color would darken to deep red. The nearest distance at which it was observed was two(2) miles.

2 inches 3. The dominant shape was compared to the moon or crescent shaped. Its mass seemed fuzzy and the strangest impression was that the object was occupied. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that it appeared to be a bird or ducklike but that in the position of the head or cockpit there seemed to be an occupant wearing some sort of headgear. Mrs. [REDACTED] who first saw the object at 2045 (EST), thought she saw the features of a man in the object even to the point of seeing his feet.

4. The first sign of action seen by Mr. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] was a light that shot straight up and out and disappeared. Mrs. [REDACTED] who observed the object from her home at [REDACTED] Road, apparently saw the same thing but from the side. Her impression was that vapor shot out from one end toward the other as if to form a circle but faded out at the peak of the curve. Lights could be seen surrounding the object intermittently. They seemed to radiate out approximately one foot from the edges. The lights were of two (2) shapes: oblong and triangular; the triangular shape being the most dominant. There was no sound at anytime.

5. The path of flight was of gradual descension from the height of a few hundred feet to the treetop level of a swampy wooded area $\frac{1}{2}$ to one mile distant, at which point it disappeared headed in the general direction of Yorktown, Virginia at 2055 (EST).

6. Additional comments by the observers were that special note was taken that no other aircraft were in the vicinity during the time that the object was seen. There were a few clouds in the sky but they were not near the object and no other objects interfered with the visibility which was good even though it was dark at the time.

7. Weather reports at that time indicated scattered clouds at 3000ft, and 6000 ft, unlimited ceiling, and fifteen (15) miles visibility. No thunderstorms in the area, but there were strong north winds. The moon was waning and set at 2115 (EST)

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
48TH Fighter Interceptor Sqdn		

8. The observers were: Mr. [REDACTED], Electrician; Mrs. [REDACTED], registered nurse; Mrs. [REDACTED], housewife.

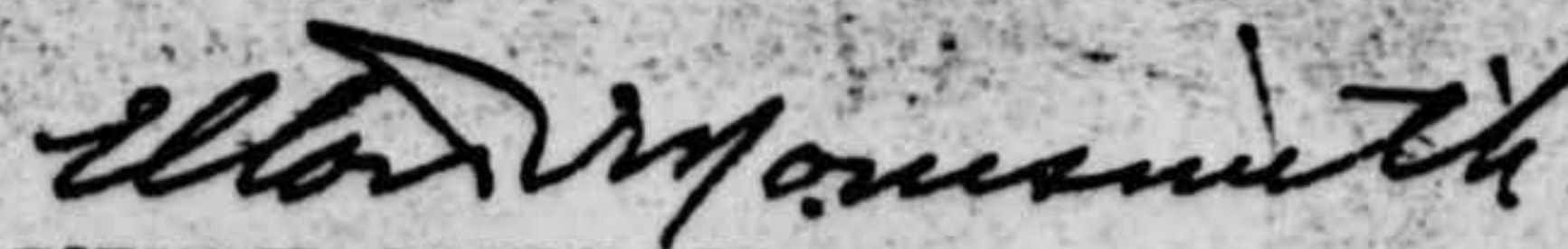
9. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her husband was not one given to hallucinations, but must "See to believe," and he is positive that what he saw was not the moon.

10. During World War II, Mrs. [REDACTED] was in the Signal Corps at Langley AFB doing code work. She also worked with the CSI.

11. The observers made a report to Base Operations 10 September and it was received by the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron late that day. The information in the initial report was scanty making it necessary to make a more detailed investigation. This accounts for the extended reporting time.

Comments of Investigating Officer:

The general area in which the object was sighted would fall within R-29 on the WAC charts of this area. The observers felt very sure that what saw was not the moon. Their impressions were given as specifically as possible but nevertheless only by approximation. The size of the object very easily could have been much larger than 14 or 15 inches in diameter. Weather reports that the moon was in the same general area and that it set at 2115 (EST) could well account for the descending motion and also the color and increasing size since the moon does seem to increase in size and change in color as it nears the horizon.



ELTON V. MONISMITH
1st Lt., USAF
Intelligence Officer

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
48TH Fighter Interceptor Sqdn		

8. The observers were: Mr. [REDACTED], Electrician; Mrs. [REDACTED] registered nurse; Mrs. [REDACTED] housewife.

9. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her husband was not one given to hallucinations, but must "See to believe," and he is positive that what he saw was not the moon.

10. During World War II, Mrs. [REDACTED] was in the Signal Corps at Langley AFB doing code work. She also worked with the OSI.

11. The observers made a report to Base Operations 10 September and it was received by the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron late that day. The information in the initial report was scanty making it necessary to make a more detailed investigation. This accounts for the extended reporting time.

Comments of Investigating Officer:

The general area in which the object was sighted would fall within R-29 on the WAC charts of this area. The observers felt very sure that what saw was not the moon. Their impressions were given as specifically as possible but nevertheless only by approximation. The size of the object very easily could have been much larger than 14 or 15 inches in diameter. Weather reports that the moon was in the same general area and that it set at 2115 (EST) could well account for the descending motion and also the color and increasing size since the moon does seem to increase in size and change in color as it nears the horizon.

Elton V. Monismith

ELTON V. MONISMITH
1st Lt., USAF
Intelligence Officer

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

10/01352

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT UFOB		
AREA REPORTED ON Big Bethel near Langley AFB, Va.	FROM (Agency) 43TH Fighter Interceptor Squadron	
DATE OF REPORT 12 September 1956	DATE OF INFORMATION 10 September 1956	EVALUATION F-4
PREPARED BY (Name) 1st Lt., Elton V. Monismith	SOURCE Civilian Observers	
REFERENCES (Control number, direction, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

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.)

1. An Unidentified Flying object was sighted Sunday, 9 September 1956, between 2035 and 2055 (EST) near Big Bethel. Big Bethel is approximately three (3) miles north west of the Langley Air Force Base west-gate. Three civilians sighted the object and compared it to the moon in shape and size. According to their statement, the object's speed and flight path ruled out its possibility of being the moon. Although some clouds were in the sky, visibility was good. There was some change in color and shape and movements, but it was gradual. The opinion of all observers was that the object was occupied, but that a clear description could not be made because the interior of the object was fuzzy.

2. Weather reports coincide with observer's description with the exception of the moon which was waning and which set twenty (20) minutes after the object was seen moving out of sight in a downward flight path. The evaluation F-4 was given because there was no way to accurately determine the reliability of the observers other than the fact that each confirms the other's statements. In addition evidence from weather reports indicates that the object was most likely the moon.

Elton V. Monismith
ELTON V. MONISMITH
1st Lt., USAF
Intelligence Officer

INCL.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

over a flow of air 4.5. clouds
have been observed by hundreds,
including no. 1. No reports from
any.

1. Claimed to see an object size

of a soft ball 3 at the cloud
2 miles away -

$$\frac{D}{S} = \frac{2}{.3} = \frac{10,000(2 \text{ miles approx.})}{4} = \frac{3000 \text{ ft} =$$

(size of soft ball)

Actual size 4 $\frac{1500 \text{ ft}^2}{1 \text{ ft}^2} = \text{size}$

2. Claimed to be able to see a passenger
in the object wearing a headgear - even
able to observe their feet.

3. Shape was somewhat like the moon: (Moon
was in the area of sighting)

4. Impossible! Even in broad daylight
the world's largest a/c - a B-36 - would
be a mere sliver $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch long. (See
U.S. Grand Obs. Corp. Guide - or use optical
computations).

5. Yet - They claim to be able to see see
passengers at 2 miles away -
the dark.

6. Scattered clouds - moving rather fast -
Moon near setting point - dark, windy night -
Moon was in that area - as observed through
moving clouds could give impression of something
See: 7. Evaluated, however - on unreliability of source (other)

Additional Checks:

1. Wx - Cloudy, winds, may have been some slight rain in the area.

2. No report of UFO or anything unusual from:

✓ a. Radar units

✓ b. GOC units

✓ c. Civil and Mil. Air flights + ops

✓ d. Others

In that area

3. Also checked for UFO reports rec'd 48 before and after that time - none from that area ~~nothing~~ if anything similar reported - nothing received.

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

20/0135Z

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT UFOB		
AREA REPORTED ON Big Bethel near Langley AFB, Va.	FROM (Agency) 48TH Fighter Interceptor Squadron	
DATE OF REPORT 12 September 1956	DATE OF INFORMATION 10 September 1956	EVALUATION F-4
PREPARED BY (Officer) 1st Lt., Elton V. Monismith	SOURCE Civilian Observers	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

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.)

1. An Unidentified Flying object was sighted Sunday, 9 September 1956, between 2035 and 2055 (EST) near Big Bethel. Big Bethel is approximately three (3) miles north west of the Langley Air Force Base west-gate. Three civilians sighted the object and compared it to the moon in shape and size. According to their statement, the object's speed and flight path ruled out its possibility of being the moon. Although some clouds were in the sky, visibility was good. There was some change in color and shape and movements, but it was gradual. The opinion of all observers was that the object was occupied, but that a clear discription could not be made because the interior of the object was fuzzy.

2. Weather reports coincide with observer's description with the exception of the moon which was waning and which set twenty (20) minutes after the object was seen moving out of sight in a downward flight path. The evaluation F-4 was given because there was no way to accurately determine the reliability of the observers other than the fact that each confirms the other's statements. In addition evidence from weather reports indicates that the object was most likely the moon.

Elton V. Monismith
ELTON V. MONISMITH
1st Lt., USAF
Intelligence Officer

INCL.

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)