

RA DNR - MILITARY

reed  
JUL 22 1968  
J. Epperson  
OCT 67

Los Angeles, California  
July 20, 1968

Dear Isabel:

The enclosed material more or less speaks for itself. The envelope in which I received it was addressed:

NICAP  
L.A. Subcommittee  
403 No. Ardmore Ave.,  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90004

His name and address was in the upper left corner of envelope. I wrote him a letter by return mail thanking him for the log type entries of UFO incidents that occurred at Vandenberg A.F.B. during the latter part of 1967 and also thanked him for his Resume. Since he did not ask for anonymity I asked if NICAP could use his name. I judged from the attitude in his note that he expected us to do anything with it we wanted (but still I thought it might be best if we had his permission in writing.) I cordially invited him to come to Los Angeles at his earliest convenience and meet with our subcommittee.

Do you have other NICAP members in or near Lompoc, Calif.? He seems eager to meet them. We feel that we should cooperate with him to the fullest. We feel this material he has given us is extremely important to NICAP. Also important if we get an open Congressional hearing.

I have not received an answer to my letter as yet. Perhaps he went on vacation. Think if I do not hear from him in a couple weeks or so that I will telephone him.

Am sending you the original material which we received. We made copies for our files.

Dr. Robert Nathan told me about these "incidents" last fall and said that he went with Robert Low up to Vandenberg A.F.B to investigate. Said that they were "going crazy" at Vandenberg; that no one knew what the lights were, etc. But he and Bob Low didn't find out anything and that they were told it was all caused by "birds." Dr. Nathan was very disgusted (and didn't believe it for a minute). As I said, Dr. Nathan told me about it at that time.

So we believe that these log type entries which have been sent to us are not only mighty interesting - but vitally important. (I have not as yet mentioned receiving all this to Dr. Nathan.) I would also like to send copy to Dr. McDonald. What are your thoughts about this?

One important thing that we don't know as yet is WHO came to the conclusion that the sightings were "birds" -- was it the military authorities at Vandenberg -- or the Gondon Committee ??? Somewhere I heard that it was the Gondon committee - but cannot for the life of me remember where I heard it.

Isabel, thank you for the NICAP information sheets and the extra copies of the Investigator. And for your very nice letter of July 8, which I will answer soon. I enjoyed it very much.

Very best wishes to all at NICAP.  
Sincerely,

Isabel

NICAP

over

Reid

JUL 22 1968

IRA F. M. ZEEMAN  
900 W. DATE STREET  
LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA

93436

Sis - Jim J. Emerson

Enclosed you will find "log"  
type entries of U.F.O. incidents  
that occurred here at Vandenberg AFB.  
during the latter part of 1967. Have the  
sightings here at VAFB during that period  
been brought to your attention previously?

Also enclosed is a copy of my  
resumé, to give you an idea of my  
background.

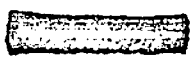
I am an associate member of NICAP, and  
would like to meet other members in my  
vicinity. If possible, please send names &  
addresses of other members in the area.

Please inform me if there is any way  
that I may contribute to NICAP's effort

Sincerely,  
Ira F.M. Zeeman

JUL 22 1968

for J. E. Robinson



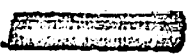
SUBJECT U.F.O. SIGHTINGS

LOCATION VANDENBERG AFB.

VANDENBERG

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME	EVENT
6-OCT-67	NUMEROUS U.F.O. SIGHTINGS REPORTED AT VANDENBERG - BOTH RADAR AND VISUAL - REF. NEWSPAPER CLIPPING.
11-OCT-67	TELECOM WITH JOHN PAYER (10AM) HE WAS APPOINTED INVESTIGATING OFFICER FOR THESE SIGHTINGS. LOCATED PAYER THROUGH MUTUAL FRIEND (E. FITCHSEN) WHO KNEW ABOUT HIS APPOINTMENT. REQUESTED PERMISSION TO MEET AND DISCUSS MATTER WITH HIM. HE READILY AGREED.
12-OCT-67	MET WITH JOHN PAYER IN HIS OFFICE, (CIVIL SERVICE GS-14) HE IS DEPARTMENT HEAD OF "SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICE" AT WESTERN TEST RANGE - SOUTH VANDENBERG MANNED FLIGHT OFFICE MAIL # WJ00T-4 OFFICE PHONE 865 - 2271 HOME PHONE RE 6 - 4839 HE WAS APPOINTED INVESTIGATING OFFICER DUE TO HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN SIGHTINGS. THE VARIOUS RADAR MISSILE TRACKING SITES REPORTING U.F.O. SIGHTINGS ARE UNDER HIS JURISDICTION. HE HAD APPROX. 10-16 PERSONNEL AT TRACKING SITES (GERTS) (FPS-14) ETC. FILING REPORTS ON SIGHTINGS. PAYER WAS NOT QUITE SURE OF APPROACH TO TAKE. HE IS COLLECTING INFORMATION TO FILE FORMAL REPORT THROUGH AIR FORCE CHANNELS. PRIOR TO THIS TIME, HE HAD NOT SEEN A U.F.O. - NOR DID HE BELIEVE IN THEIR EXISTANCE. HE STATED THAT NONE OF THE OPTICAL CAMERA TRACKING EQUIPMENT WAS WARMED UP AT TIME OF FIRST SIGHTINGS. HOWEVER, HE WAS GOING TO PLACE OPTICAL CAMERA TRACKING CREWS ON A 30 MINUTE ALERT. HE ALLOWED ME TO READ SEVERAL OF THE HAND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM VARIOUS TRACKING RADAR OBSERVERS AND TECHNICIANS.

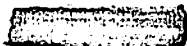


SUBJECT UFO SIGHTINGS LOCATION VANDENBERG AFB

VANDENBERG

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME	EVENT
	SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORTS ARE:
	— U.F.O. TRACKED ON RADAR TRAVELED FROM HORIZAN TO 45° AZIMUTH IN ONE SECOND AT 18,000 FT. ALTITUDE. THEN UFO PROCEEDED TO ZIG-ZAG.
	— UFO TRACKED ON RADAR FROM 30 MILES OUT OVER OCEAN TO WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF RADAR SITE AT 4000 FT. ALTITUDE.
	— RADAR TRACKING PICKED UP AS MANY AS 14 UFO'S ON SCREEN AT ONE TIME.
	— TOTAL OF 6 FIGHTER/INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED TO INVESTIGATE — (3 FLIGHTS OF 2 AIRCRAFT EACH.) BELIEVE AIRCRAFT CAME FROM OXNARD AFB CALIF AND LUKE AFB, ARIZONA. PILOTS REPORTED 4 RADAR CONTACTS AND 1 VISUAL CONTACT WITH UFO'S.
	— ONE RADAR SITE WHICH WAS NOTORIOUS FOR ITS LOW POWER OUTPUT RECEIVED EXTREMELY <del>STRONG</del> STRONG SIGNAL RETURNS OF 70 DB. FROM U.F.O.
	— VISUAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED OBJECTS WITH COLORATION OF BLuish WHITE, RED AND GREEN.
	WHILE IN HIS OFFICE DISCUSSING SUBJECT, HE RECEIVED CALL REPORTING VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF UFO'S FROM VANDENBERG AFB WEATHER OBSERVERS ON PREVIOUS NIGHT (OCT-11 <sup>TH</sup> ), HE INSTRUCTED CALLER TO HAVE OBSERVERS FILE REPORT. I LEFT NICAP MATERIAL WITH HIM, (UFO OBSERVER REPORTS AND UFO EVIDENCE) TO STUDY. HE APPEARED QUITE INTERESTED IN THIS MATERIAL.


SUBJECT UFO SIGHTINGSLOCATION VANDENBERG AFB

VANDENBERG

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME	EVENT
17-OCT-67	<p>CALLED JOHN PAYER AT HIS OFFICE (1015 HRS.)</p> <p>HE STATED THAT HE HAD SENT PRELIMINARY REPORTS THROUGH CHANNELS, HARD COVER REPORT WAS DUE TO BE SENT IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK.</p> <p>HE SAID HE WAS STILL IN PROCESS OF RECEIVING UFO SIGHTING REPORTS. HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM A LT. FOSS (WEATHER OBSERVER) AND WAS DUE TO RECEIVE ANOTHER REPORT FROM A MAJOR MILLER ON FRIDAY.</p> <p>HE HAD RADAR EXPERT CHECKING THE POSSIBILITY OF SIGHTINGS CAUSED BY UNUSUAL WEATHER CONDITIONS (REFRACTION AND TEMPERATURE INVASIONS). THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO DUPLICATE CONDITIONS, AS OF THIS DATE HIS RADAR EXPERT WAS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT SIGHTINGS WERE <u>NOT</u> THE RESULT OF WEATHER CONDITIONS OR REFRACTIONS.</p> <p>NOTE THE CLIPPING FROM LOMOC RECORD ON THIS DATE, FINDINGS EXACTLY OPPOSITE OF PAYER'S REPORTING.</p>
22-OCT-67	<p>HAD DISCUSSION WITH JIM TOUT OF HARTM - MARLITA CORPORATION (0800 HRS.) (JIM IS ALSO A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE.)</p> <p>HE HAD OBSERVED UFO AND REPORTED SAME TO BASIS AIR POLICE, AIR POLICE INVESTIGATED AND UFO WAS PICKED UP BY BASE G.C.A. RADAR SITE.</p> <p>HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FILE HIS REPORT WITH JOHN PAYER, WHICH HE DID.</p> <p>JIM HAD ATTENDED MEETING WITH PAYER AND DR. LOW FROM UNIV. OF COLORADO. MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> OCT AT BLDG. #1</p> <p>LOW HAD BEEN INVESTIGATING UFO REPORTS IN PASADENA, CALIF.</p> <p>OTHER PEOPLE IN MEETING WERE DAVE HOFFMAN (PAYER'S ASSISTANT) AND APPROX. 8 RADAR OPERATORS INVOLVED IN UFO SIGHTINGS.</p> <p>LOW HAD PICKED UP DATA (TAB RUNS - 16M) THAT TRACKING RADARS HAD PRINTED OUT. MISSILE TRACKING RADAR SETS PRINT OUT LOCATION OF TARGETS EVERY 15 SECONDS.</p> <p>OBSERVERS IN MEETING ALSO VERIFIED TRACKING UFO'S VISUALLY WITH BUREAU SIGHT TELESCOPE AT SAME TIME THAT TRACKING</p>



TEST OPERATIONS

VANDENBERG OPERATIONS

ELECTRICAL DAILY LOG

LOCATION VANDENBERG AFB

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SHIFT \_\_\_\_\_

TIME	EVENT	SHIFT
	RADAR WAS FOLLOWING TARGETS.	
1-NOV-67	<p>CALLED J. PAYER AT HIS OFFICE (0945 HRS.)</p> <p>HE STATED THERE WAS TO BE A MEETING THE FOLLOWING DAY (2-NOV) HERE AT WESTERN TEST RANGE. DR. CONDON (UNIV. OF COLORADO) WAS TO ATTEND ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF STANFORD UNIV., IESSA, AND THE UNIV. OF NEW MEXICO.</p> <p>UNIV. OF COLORADO STATED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED GOOD SOLID DATA ON UFO SIGHTINGS.</p>	
3-NOV-67	REF. NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FROM LOCAL LOMPOC RECORD, CONCERNING ATTENDEES AT W.T.R. MEETING.	
10-JAN-68	<p><del>GROUP</del> DROPPED IN AT PAYER'S OFFICE (1700 HRS)</p> <p>DAVE HOFFMAN WAS PRESENT (PAYER OUT)</p> <p>CONVERSATION REVEALED THAT RESULTS OF ANALYSIS OF ALL DATA AND REPORTS BY DR. CONDON'S GROUP CONCERNING RASH OF UFO SIGHTINGS AT VAFB,</p> <p>"ONLY FLOCKS OF BIRDS"</p>	

2nd Ft. J.

# Scientific group probes sightings of UFO's here

JUL 22 1968

## UFO Sightings Studied By AF

Vandenberg Air Force Base officials today are continuing an investigation into reports of unidentified flying objects in this area Friday night.

Officials as yet have not completed the investigation and as is required by regulation will say only that, "The sighting is under investigation by an Air Force team and the results of the investigation will be made public by the Secretary of the Air Force."

One woman who asked that her name not be used said that about 10:30 Friday night she saw three brightly colored UFOs hovering in the northwest sky. She said that two of them disappeared a short time later.

It was learned yesterday that the Air Defense Command at Oxnard Air Force Base scrambled four F-101B aircraft shortly after midnight Friday in response to a report from this area. There was no official information indicating whether or not the planes made contact and identification.

LOMPOC RECORDS

TUES., OCT. 10, 1967

The October 6 sighting of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) by Vandenberg radar units promoted sufficient interest to cause a 7-member scientific team to spend two days here investigating the reports, it was learned today. The scientists, headed by Robert Low, are acting under an Air Force - University of Colorado contract let specifically to the university to conduct investigations into UFO reports. Team members include representatives of the Colorado school, Stanford's Research Institute, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and the Environmental Sciences Services Administration (ESSA).

The scientists arrived here yesterday and departed this morning. Results of their findings were not immediately available and will have to be made public by the University of Colorado or the secretary of the Air Force, base officials said.

The October 6 incident, attributed to an unusual phenomena appearing on radar tracking devices being manned by veteran operators, culminated with the scrambling of Air Defense Command jets from Oxnard AFB. To date it has not been made public whether or not the pilots were able to locate the UFOs.

A board of officers was appointed at Vandenberg to investigate the sighting reports and officials of the Secretary of the Air Force's office in Washington

said later that the sightings may have been caused by conditions of temperature inversion.

Unofficial sources said that the scientific team yesterday attempted to establish a controlled situation similar to the conditions present on October 6 to see if the phenomena would reappear.

Scientists working with Low on the investigation include Dr. Norman E. Levine of the University of Colo.; Roy Blackmer, Carl Herold and Dr. R.T.H. Collis of Stanford; Dr. Marx Brook of the New Mexico Institute; and Dr. Roger Lhermitte of ESSA.

### drilling. 6/17/67 UFO probe results blame inversion

Air Force officials this morning said that an investigation into the UFO sightings here October 6 indicated they may have been caused by a combination of smoke and temperature inversions.

The investigation, which culminated with the scrambling of defense aircraft from Oxnard AFB, was triggered by pickups on radar units assigned to Vandenberg.

The investigation was headed by Lt. Col. Richard Dixon of Vandenberg. (LOMPOC RECORDS)

LOMPOC RECORDS

FRI. NOV. 3, 1967

LOMPOC, CALIF.