


SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

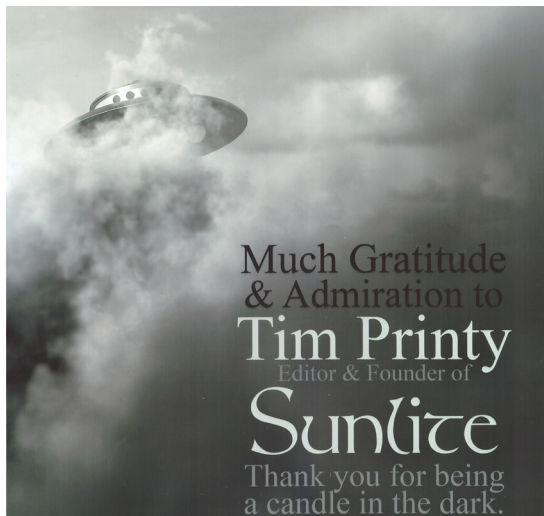


The UAPTF has indicated that additional funding for research and development could further the future study of the topics laid out in this report. Such investments should be guided by a UAP Collection Strategy, UAP R&D Technical Roadmap, and a UAP Program Plan.

Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Volume 13 Number 4

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Cover: This is a photograph of a Delta Rocket launch in 2014. A missile launch from Vandenberg is a probable source for this issue's Weinstein catalogue entry. The quote comes from the recent UAPTF. Are we going to have another project Blue Book?

Left: A group of readers, who will remain nameless, recently sent me some gifts to show their appreciation for my work in SUNlite. I felt humbled by their thoughts and offerings.

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UAPTF gets the center of attention

June 25th was on every UFOlogists calendar. It was the day the UAP task force (UAPTF) was going to release their report on UAPs. Unfortunately, what was presented was a lot less than what was expected. It was little more than a brief summary of findings/recommendations. Although it mentioned 144 incidents, it did not list any of them and stated they were only able to solve one of them with any confidence. That does not mean that the task force could not present potential explanations for many of these reports but they decided not to do so. They only listed categories the cases could fall under. The report suggested that if the team wanted to evaluate cases in the future, they are going to need more resources (AKA money and personnel). It sounds like the DOD might create an updated version of project Blue Book. They also appear to be focusing only on military/FAA cases. One has to wonder how long it will be before they are inundated with reports from civilians. Don't be shocked by how this might happen. It sort of will go like this. People will write the president, congressmen, senators, DOD, etc. with their UFO stories and demand action. Some of those politicians will then pressure the DOD to investigate those cases and result in the military having to answer. It then will snowball into establishing a UFO hot line/website. Assuming the DOD avoids this problem, there is also the question of who they are going to employ to assist in analyzing this data. I am concerned they are going to hire some UFO experts to be scientific consultants. How many UFO experts want to be the next Hynek? I bet there are dozens chomping at the bit wanting to be the UFO "go to guy" employed by the US government. One can only hope they choose to go outside of the UFO field to find scientists to assist them if they take this step.

There seems to have been a debunking the debunkers war going on You tube. This all started when Mick West went on the Chris Cuomo show (CNN) and [presented his explanations for the "Go fast" and "Gimbal" UFO videos](#). I thought Mick did a good job in the short period of time he had. [This apparently set off ex-navy pilot Chris Lehto, who complained that Mick never contacted pilots like him and that his analyses were all wrong](#). His first attempt to debunk the "Go fast" video indicated to me that he did not understand depth of field, hyper focal distance, motion/focus blur, and resolution very well. Lehto also proclaimed that the range values displayed on the monitor, that Mick used, were basically worthless. If the range values were fluctuating, I would agree but I have to wonder why these values were so locked in as the object was being tracked. I suspect this is more pilot machismo than actual fact. Pilots considered themselves technical authorities on every bit of their equipment but this is not always the case. Even if the range is not correct, Lehto's discussion of focus was flawed when he used a living room exercise with a web cam in order to duplicate the conditions of the camera in the Go Fast video. This is not an apples to apples comparison. I could spend several paragraphs debunking his methodology but [Mick West did a good job in this video](#).

[Lehto then went onto Gimbal](#). His first response had him scribbling some lines showing that the F-18 was in a 3 degree turn. According to his sketch, this indicated the "Gimbal" object was nearly stationary at a distance of about 3 nautical miles. [West responded by demonstrating that everything revolved around Lehto's 3 degree/second turn radius to have the object stationary](#). If the turn was less, the object started going farther away and the sight lines did not cross anymore. Mick then demonstrated, using the true airspeed and bank angle with the turn capabilities charts of an F-18, that the actual turn radius was probably more like 1.7 degrees/second. [Lehto responded and computed a new true airspeed to demonstrate that Mick West miscalculated](#). However, Lehto no longer contends that the turn radius was 3 degrees/second. He now proclaims it was about 2.27 degrees/second but this was based on an incorrect air speed calculation (as noted by Brian Holz on metabunk). [Further work on the Metabunk website indicates that it might have been another aircraft about 30 nm away](#). Perhaps Lehto needs to stop doing You tube videos and spend his time on [Metabunk defending his arguments and contributing to the discussion](#). That way he might become involved in an actual debate about the details instead of trying to make inaccurate authoritative proclamations on You tube. I could write an entire article about all of this but I felt the group at Metabunk is doing excellent work and should take all the credit. I would be simply copying/replicating what they have already done, which is not fair to them. Metabunk is the Roswell slides research group on steroids!

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

August 14, 1975 - Stockton, California

The source of this information is from the project 1947 files, Richard Hall's files, and True flying saucers and UFO quarterly number 4. The table summarizes the event as, "A disc emitting a bright orange light became dark red when climbing at great speed."¹

Source information

I did not waste time trying to look for the Project 1947 files and the True magazine for the information. The project 1947 files are not easily accessible and I have had little luck in getting Aldrich to supply information when I requested it in the past. The True Magazine article probably might be informative but it is also not readily available. I decided to start with NICAP, since most of Hall's files would be found there. The NICAP chronology stated²:

Aug. 14, 1975; Stockton, CA

9:35 p.m. Dan Long, a controller at Stockton Metropolitan Airport, sighted a UFO. He stated that the disc-shaped object was at an altitude of about 2000 feet. The disc then moved upward while emitting a glow of green tinted smoke and flashing lights red lights. Mr. Gary Duran and two friends also the same object while walking near the airport. UFOs have been sighted for a two week period throughout Stockton, San Jose-Gilroy area by numerous witnesses. (Reference: UFO INVESTIGATOR, October 1975, page 3; NICAP UFO Evidence II, Sections III, IX).²

I examined the UFO investigator and it gave the following account:

August 14, 1975-Stockton, California. Dan Long, a controller at Stockton Metro Airport, sighted a UFO at 9:35 pm. He stated that the disc shaped object was at an altitude of about 2000 feet. The disc then moved upward while emitting a glow of green tinted smoke and flashing red lights.

Mr. Gary Duran and two friends also saw the same object while walking near the airport.

UFOs have been sighted for a two week period throughout the Stockton, San Jose-Gilroy area by numerous witnesses.³

Further investigation revealed that NICAP simply copied what was published in the local news media. The Oakland Tribune and other newspapers had the same story with no additional information.⁴

I went further and examined Robert Hall's UFO Evidence volume 2. His summary states:

Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers at airport observed red-orange disc, gray mist formed, object shot out of sight.⁵

The table in section III states:

Disc, red-orange glow, flashing lights; made erratic motions, shot straight up.⁶

There is a footnote, which reads:

During the sighting a gray mist formed around the UFO, and it darted around in various directions, finally departing straight upward.⁷

Section IX is just a statement noting the gray mist forming.⁸ All of this information seems to come from the short news story published by the Associated Press.

I suspect that the Aldrich files and True Magazine article would probably have used the same source.

This UFO Leaves a Green Trail

STOCKTON (AP) — An air traffic controller on duty at the FAA tower here has reported seeing a mysterious disc-shaped flying object emitting a green smoke — the latest in a series of UFO sightings over Northern California.

Dan Long, a controller at the Stockton Metropolitan Airport, told authorities he saw the object about 2,000 feet in the air at 9:35 p.m. Thursday.

He said the disc shifted upward, emitting a glow of green-tinted smoke and flashing red lights.

Another man walking near the airport at the same time also reported seeing the object. Gary Duran, 27, said he and two friends saw the disc give off a large puff of green smoke as it turned upward.

Meanwhile, residents of the San Jose-Gilroy area reported seeing more UFO's in the wake of two reported sightings earlier this week.

Rudy Cosio, a San Jose college student majoring in aeronautics, said he saw a "large white light" hovering over the foothills late Wednesday night.

David Dover, of Gilroy, said he was hunting with friends earlier that evening when they saw "two bright lights in the sky," that later materialized into "a triangular-shaped object, with red and white lights on it."

Analysis

It is interesting to note that the description in Hall's book changed from the initial report. Originally, the object was described as a disc emitting a green glow and it had red flashing lights. The object then evolved into a red-orange glow with flashing lights. Not a significant difference but it is a difference nonetheless. Exactly why Hall changed the description is unknown. He lists no source to follow.

What is missing in all of these descriptions is the positional data. Not once, do we read about a direction the object was visible! It is hard to evaluate any case without getting the specific information about the sighting. All of the information seems to be traced back to the one news article. This means that there was no follow-up investigation or, if there was one, it was poorly done. This makes me want to classify this as insufficient data and be done with it. However, there is a reason I wanted to look at this in the first case since it had a potential explanation.

At 09:25 PM PDT, Vandenberg launched a Minuteman II missile.⁹ Astronomical twilight ended about 09:40 PM, which means the high altitude trail would have been illuminated by the sun as it gotten higher in the sky. One can see the kinds of trails produced by Minutemen II missiles on the [socal-skylights website](http://www.socal-skylights.org).¹⁰

Everything about this sighting indicates the Minuteman II missile launch is the likely source. The time being listed as 0935 PM PDT is not that significant an issue. Times of sightings can vary a few minutes since they are not measured using precise instruments. The distance from Stockton to Vandenberg was about 180nm. For a night launch, this is well within the area of visibility. [The October 2, 1999 Minuteman II launch was visible from Henderson, Nevada \(over 300nm away\) and displayed all sorts of colorful mists/contrails.](#)¹¹

As for the flashing red lights, [all one has to do is look at this video](#) (go to time 0:53)¹² to see the staging event and see how that description might apply.

Conclusion

In my opinion, this case should be classified as a possible Minuteman II missile launch. The only reason it cannot be positively classified as such is because of the lack of specific information. If one were to be really fussy about the classification, it probably would listed as insufficient information. In either case, the listing of this case as something important in the study of UFOs is incorrect. It is just another instance of padding the list with a worthless, and probably explicable, case. It needs to be removed from the list.

Notes and references

1. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 46
2. "The 1975 UFO chronology". National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/chronos/1975fullrep.htm>
3. "Sighting advisory: August 14, 1975 - Stockton, California". The UFO Investigator. National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. Kensington, MD. October 1975. P. 3
4. "UFO leaves a green trail". Oakland Tribune. Oakland, CA. August 16, 1975. P.1.
5. Hall, Richard. The UFO evidence Volume 2: A thirty year report(Kindle edition). The Scarecrow press. Lanham, MD and London. 2000. P. 34
6. *ibid.* P. 149
7. *ibid.* P. 175
8. *ibid.* P. 447
9. "Space History Chronology 1975". Astronautix. Available WWW: <http://www.astronautix.com/1/1975chronology.html>
10. "SoCal Sky Lights!" SoCal Sky Lights! Available WWW: <https://www.socal-skylights.org/skylights.html>
11. "Minuteman II launch, 10/2/99". SoCal Sky Lights! Available WWW: https://www.socal-skylights.org/sky_19991002.html
12. "Minuteman missiles burn, separate and ignite and burnout during a programmed flight in Cape Canaveral, Florida". Critical Past. Available WWW: https://www.criticalpast.com/video/65675072134_Minuteman-missile_first-stage-burning_ignition_burnout-of-third-stage

August 2, 1962 Liberal, Kansas

The NICAP document states:

August 2, 1962--Liberal, Kansas. Series of brightly lighted colored objects seen by airline pilot, airport personnel, and passengers at airport. [V]¹

Section V lists the sighting in a table and references NICAP files. There is no additional information.

Blue Book file

Project Blue Book had a case file on this.² In that file was a clipping from the APRO bulletin for September 1962, a summary from, what appears to be, another UFO newsletter, and a memorandum for the record describing the various sightings. The APRO bulletin report obtained all of its information from a news report circulated in multiple newspapers via the AP.³

Analysis

Blue Book determined this to be meteors and the planet Jupiter. In my Blue Book review in SUNlite 13-3, I agreed with these conclusions. Here is why:

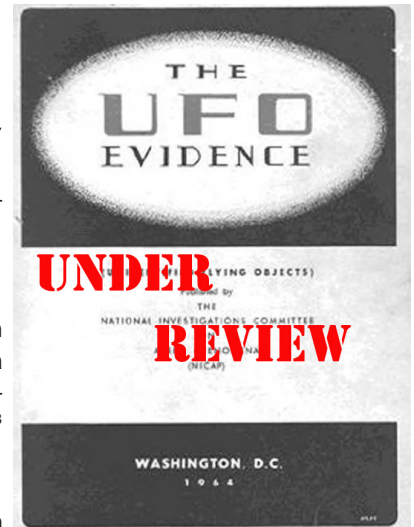
1. The initial report had an object/objects moving from east to west at high speed between 2030 and 2100 local time (CST). The duration of the event was described as being about two seconds. It was visible over a wide area that included Colorado, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. All of this information is consistent with a fireball meteor that probably broke up into multiple fragments.
2. There was also a report of a bright light being visible to the east during/after this event. There is no specific time listed for this part of the sighting. The NICAP UFO investigator states it was "a few moments" later.³ That is hardly a precise time. A few moments could be minutes or tens of minutes. It might have been as long as an hour. It was described as stationary and similar to an aircraft landing light. Jupiter, at magnitude -2.8, rose at an azimuth of about 100 at 2115 local time. Considering the proximity to the time of the meteor sighting, Jupiter is probably the source of this "light".

Conclusion

All of the verifiable information indicates what was seen was probably a meteor and the planet Jupiter. Other than the news report, there was little, to no, follow-up by UFO organizations or Blue Book. This sighting should not be considered "Best Evidence" and cleared from the NICAP and Weinstein lists.

Notes and references

1. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) The UFO evidence. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. P. 130
2. "Case file August 2, 1962 -Liberal Kansas" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW:
3. "Strange objects light up airport ". The Hutchinson News. Hutchinson, KS. August 3, 1962. P. 1
4. "New sightings by Navy, FAA, & Airline observers". The UFO Investigator. National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. Washington D.C. August-September 1962. P. 1



THE 701 CLUB: CASE 9675: 4 AUGUST, 1965 DALLAS, TEXAS

Don Berliner's list describes the case as follows:

*Aug. 4, 1965; Dallas, Texas. 9:30 p.m. Witness: J.A. Carter, 19. One light flew fast, straight and level for 12 seconds. No further data in files.*¹

Brad Sparks has no additional information.²

The Blue Book file

The Blue Book file contains the questionnaire that was completed by the witness after they wrote to Blue Book about their sighting. That letter is from a recent high school graduate, who had written a report on UFOs in his senior year of high school. He expressed skepticism about the subject but seems to have changed his attitude after this sighting.

The object was seen at 2125 PM CST. Mr. Carter reported it as dim red, about magnitude -1, and traveled halfway across the sky in a straight line in 10-12 seconds before fading out. There was no trail or sound. The witness also noted the object must have been higher and faster than aircraft he had seen in the past. This description was essentially the same in his Blue Book reporting form.

Analysis

Project Blue Book considered this as a possible meteor but rejected that explanation because it left no trail or had no tail. I assume what they meant was an ion trail being left behind. Not all bright meteors produce ion trails so this is not reason to reject this explanation. In fact, this is probably what was seen. The object's duration was described in seconds, it traveled in a straight line, it disappeared by fading away, and it was described as traveling faster than any aircraft. All of this matches a description of a meteor.

Conclusion

In my opinion, this case is probably a meteor observation and should be removed from the list of Blue Book unknowns.

Notes and references

1. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook Unknowns". NICAP Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List -NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.30. Jan. 26, 2020. P. 306
3. "Case file - August 4, 1965 - Dallas, Texas". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/7468479>

Project Blue Book case review: January - June 1963

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering January through June 1963. Like the previous evaluations, I tried to examine each case to see if the conclusion had merit. I added comments to help clarify the explanation or if I felt it was not correct or adequate.

January 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	Forbes AFB, KS	Meteor	Agreed
2	Akron, OH	Insufficient data	Witnesses in car were apparently looking/driving SE. Witness at home was apparently looking West. SE object was probably Rigel. West object was probably Vega, Altair, Mercury, or Saturn.
5	Nantucket point, Long Island, NY	Star/Planet	Probably Sirius
5	Mayaguana, Bahamas	Insufficient data	Possibly Midas 3 satellite
7	Akron, OH	Chaff	Agreed
8	College Park, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
9	West Carrollton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
14	Silver Spring, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Ludlow, MA	Balloon	Aircraft
19	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
21	Rockport AFS, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction given.
21	Bellflower, CA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo satellite
25	Minneapolis, MN	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Loring AFB, ME	Insufficient data	Echo satellite (description of object in Sagittarius matches Echo)
30	North Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Transit 5A
30	Chicago, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed

February 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
5	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
6	Motebello, VA	Vega	Arcturus
6	Chester, PA	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. This is a single letter of a witness who reports seeing a UFO (and has seen multiple UFOs since 1957) in binoculars for ten minutes. Missing positional data.
7	Gibson City, IL	Tower Light	Agreed
7	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
8	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
8	Maysville, KY	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Los Angeles, CA	Contrails	Agreed. Contrail from Journeyman rocket launch.
12	Phoenix, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
13	Rydall, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Wilmington, NC	Venus	Agreed
14	Duluth, MN	Meteor	Agreed

16	Huntington, WV	Aircraft	Echo satellite. Witness description of proximity to Altair matches Echo's path with exception of course. Witness only saw object for two minutes due to fog and clouds and probably confused course from NE to NW.
17	Iran	Insufficient data	Aircraft
20	Lajes, Azores	Balloon	Echo Satellite
24	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
28	Winslow, AZ	Cloud	Agreed

March 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Spring	Toussville, AL	Test Vehicle	Insufficient data. Letter written in January 1964 reporting they had seen two objects re-enter and then deploy parachutes. No date or specific time was given.
Mar	Garden City, MI	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness was a teen that filed the report four months after the event. No specific date, time, or positional data.
1	Germany	Meteor	Agreed
6	LA, AR, TX	Meteor	Agreed
6	Houston, TX	Meteor	Agreed
6	Southern CA	Metallic Parachute	Agreed
11	San Diego, CA	Atlas Missile	Agreed
11	Honolulu, HI	Atlas Missile	Agreed
12	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
13	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possibly Transit 4B rocket
14	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
15	Pacific	Insufficient data	Aircraft. Observed to disappear in direction of Canton Island airstrip (2.75N 171.7W)
15	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
17	Naperville, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration.
17-31	North Andover, MA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness sent letter for observation on 31 March. When filling out report, information changed and date moved to 17 March. Report made by teenager.
17	Crestview, FL	Birds	Agreed
18	Pacific	Satellite	No duration but indicates "high speed". Possible meteor
18	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Insufficient data	Sounding rocket launch from Cape Canaveral
18	San Bernardino, CA	Unreliable report	Possible meteor
20	Opa Locka, FL	Physiological causes	Agreed. Hynek and Friend investigated and concluded witness had "spots before eyes".
21	Lebanon, OH	Balloon	Agreed
23	Babylon, NY	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
23	Atlanta, GA	Meteor	Agreed
24	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
25	Chevy Chase, MD	Meteor	Agreed
26	Duluth & French River, MD	Meteor	Agreed
27	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
28	Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
31	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite

31	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
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April 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
3	Suva, Fiji Islands	Meteor	Agreed
3	Joliet, IL	Unreliable Report	Agreed. Report filed in November.
3	Chantilly, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
7	Duluth, MN	Insufficient data	Possibly Echo Satellite. Echo made pass matching description (including disappearing near moon as it went into shadow) but was one hour prior to sighting. Potentially Echo Satellite with time being off by one hour.
8	Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
9	Duluth, MN	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Pacific	Satellite	Aircraft. Observed to be in vicinity of Canton Island airstrip (2.75N 171.7W)
13	Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration or direction of travel listed.
13	Moorcroft, WY	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
14	Kettering, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
15	Jebal, Lebanon	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Pacific	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration. Sounds like possible meteor.
16	Gloucester, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration. No time. No direction.
18	Chantilly, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Pacific	Insufficient data	Agreed. Observation described only as a "glimpse".
22	Speedway, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Macon, GA	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. No time given. No duration.
22	Kauai, HI	Aircraft	Echo Satellite (BB incorrectly determined Echo over Atlantic)
23	Cloquet, MN	Meteor	Agreed
23	Hawthorne, NV	Meteor	Agreed
24	Kauai, HI	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
25	Lorton, VA	Sun Dog	Agreed
26	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
27	Pearl Beach, MI	Balloon	Agreed
28	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Samos2 satellite

May 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Silver Grove, KY	Unreliable report	Agreed. A report made by a 15-year old, who frequently reported UFOs. Report sounded like an aircraft.
3	Pacific	Balloon	Agreed
4	Ocean City, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Arlington Heights, IL	Balloon	Agreed
6	Whiteman AFB, MO	Balloon	Aircraft. Report is confusing. Statement was the course was southerly but azimuth readings were at 280 initially and 20 degrees when it faded out. Winds from NW/NNW which rules out balloon. Observations made at dusk where aircraft reflecting sunlight is probable.

8	North Vernon, IN	ASD test vehicle with parachute	Agreed
8	Pacific	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Northfield, IL	Aircraft	Agreed. Advertising aircraft.
15	LA-MS	Rocket Launch	Agreed. Rocket launched at 0400Z on 16 May. Sighting took place (according to record card/msg) 1412-1416Z, which would be daylight. MSG and media accounts state the sighting was at night. Time for Zulu was probably incorrectly calculated and probably was 412-416Z on the 16th.
15	Beaufort, SC	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Evanston, IL	Aircraft	Agreed. Advertising aircraft.
17	Pacific	Flare	Meteor
17	Pacific	1. Satellite 2. Meteor	1. Insufficient data. No duration/direction. 2. Agreed
18	New Plymouth, New Zealand	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
21	Atlantic	Missile	Insufficient data. No missile launch. Report gave no positional information other than climbing. Possible aircraft contrail.
22	Parkersburg, WV	Meteor	Agreed
22	Pequannock, NJ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
22	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
24	Haleiwa, Oahu, HI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration.
26	Gulf of Mexico	Insufficient data	Possible meteor (duration not listed but described as "very high rate of speed")
28	Philadelphia, PA	Contrails	Agreed
29	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possibly Transit 4A satellite
31	Atlantic	Electronic interference from within aircraft.	Agreed

June 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Summer	Middleton, NY	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Mesa, AZ	Sun Dog	Conflicting information. Record card time appears incorrect. Msg states it was dusk but the time listed is 0635Z (2335 MST), which would be dark.
8	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
8	Skokie, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration or course.
9	Seattle, WA	Aircraft	Satellite. Time listed was incorrect. It states 0045Z but msg indicates 0045T (UTC-7). Seattle observed DST. Witness indicated path was SW to NNE. Best fit was Transit 2 satellite. Echo also visible but going WSW to ENE. Either witness got directions confused or he was more focused on Transit 2 to notice Echo.
9	Xenia, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Sioux City, IA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
11	Gulf of Mexico	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
13	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
13	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly aircraft
13	Misawa AB, Japan	Balloon	Agreed

13	Pacific	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data or duration.
13	Little Rock, AR	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Washington DC	Searchlights	Agreed
14	Ocean Station Echo (Atlantic)	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
14	Chicago, IL	Atmospheric Conditions	Unreliable report. Report made in 1964 by 13-year old.
14	Houston, TX	Satellite	Aircraft
14	Greensboro, NC	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
15	Indian Ocean	UNIDENTIFIED	Agenda rocket stage venting see SUNlite 5-2
15	Dallas-Ft.Worth, TX	Equipment in which photographer was riding	Agreed
15	San Jose, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Randolph AFB, Big Springs, Webb AFB, TX	Satellite decay	Meteor. Duration listed as one minute but msg states 5 seconds to one minute. No satellite decay on this date/time.
15	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
16	Pacific	Aircraft	Echo Satellite
16	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
16	San Jose, CA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
16	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
16	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
16	Albuquerque, NM	Hoax	Agreed (Paul Villa Photos)
17	Lincolnwood, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration. No positional data.
17	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
17	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
17	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Possible aircraft
17	Oahu, HI	Meteor	Agreed
18	Niagara falls, NY	1. Jupiter 2.Satellite 3. Misinterpretation of conventional objects	1. Arcturus 2. Echo Satellite 3. Aircraft
18-24	Shimiya Japan - San Pedro, CA	Satellite	Agreed. Seven observations of a Echo satellite on five different dates.
19	Pacific	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
20	North of Midway	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
20	Gulf of Mexico	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
20	Pacific	Insufficient data	Agreed. Probably Echo Satellite but report gives confusing information of satellite course.
21	South of Midway	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
22	Reynoldsville, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time of observation. No duration.
22	Beavercreek, OH	Balloon	Agreed
23	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Aircraft. Listed as insufficient data because there was a conflict on the record card time and conditions. However, report gets local time correct.
24	Versailles, MO	Balloon	Possibly Capella

24	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
24	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
24-25	Frankfurt, NY	Satellite	1. 24th - Echo satellite 2. 25th - Aircraft
25	Fairfield, CT	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Mt. Vernon, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
25	New Carlisle, OH	Aircraft	Echo Satellite
25-26	Weymouth, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time. No duration. No direction. Supposed photograph taken by news paper staff member. AF requested photograph but never given to AF and not published. Examination of the photograph in Loren Gross' collection for July-December 1963 reveals photograph was a 30 minute time exposure and colored lights appeared in photograph. Time exposure could have introduced false images due to stray light. Quality of image evaluated was poor. Witness did not even remember which night photograph was taken.
26	Weymouth, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possibly Transit 2A rocket
26	Pearl River, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Texarkana, TX	Balloon	Agreed. Possible ashcan flight from Goodfellow AFB.
27	Von Ormy, TX	Balloon	Agreed.
27	Ironton, OH	Balloon	Possible moon. Witness stated no moon was visible but moon was in general location of observation. Witness in moving car.
27	Rockville, MD	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
27	Budd Lake, NJ	Satellite	Insufficient data. Record card contains no information to determine if Echo Satellite was visible.
28	North Bradford, CT	Insufficient data	Possibly Altair. Object seen for a few minutes before being covered by clouds.
29	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite

Reclassification

I evaluated 175 cases in the Blue Book files from January through June 1963. In my opinion, 49 were improperly classified (about 28%). 19 (about 10.8% of the total number of cases/38.8% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as "insufficient information". This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been classified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
1/2	Akron, OH	Insufficient data	Witnesses in car were apparently looking/driving SE. Witness at home was apparently looking West. SE object was probably Rigel. West object was probably Vega, Altair, Mercury, or Saturn.
5	Mayaguana, Bahamas	Insufficient data	Possibly Midas 3 satellite
9	West Carrollton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
17	Ludlow, MA	Balloon	Aircraft
29	Loring AFB, ME	Insufficient data	Echo satellite (description of object in Sagittarius matches Echo)
2/6	Motebello, VA	Vega	Arcturus
6	Chester, PA	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. This is a single letter of a witness who reports seeing a UFO (and has seen multiple UFOs since 1957) in binoculars for ten minutes. Missing positional data.
12	Phoenix, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor

16	Huntington, WV	Aircraft	Echo satellite. Witness description of proximity to Altair matches Echo's path with exception of course. Witness only saw object for two minutes due to fog and clouds and probably confused course from NE to NW.
17	Iran	Insufficient data	Aircraft
20	Lajes, Azores	Balloon	Echo Satellite
Spring	Toussville, AL	Test Vehicle	Insufficient data. Letter written in January 1964 reporting they had seen two objects re-enter and then deploy parachutes. No date or specific time was given.
Mar	Garden City, MI	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness was a teen that filed the report four months after the event. No specific date, time, or positional data.
13	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possibly Transit 4B rocket
15	Pacific	Insufficient data	Aircraft. Observed to disappear in direction of Canton Island airstrip (2.75N 171.7W)
18	Pacific	Satellite	No duration but indicates "high speed". Possible meteor
18	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Insufficient data	Sounding rocket launch from Cape Canaveral
18	San Bernardino, CA	Unreliable report	Possible meteor
4/7	Duluth, MN	Insufficient data	Possibly Echo Satellite. Echo made pass matching description (including disappearing near moon as it went into shadow) but was one hour prior to sighting. Potentially Echo Satellite with time being off by one hour.
11	Pacific	Satellite	Aircraft. Observed to be in vicinity of Canton Island airstrip (2.75N 171.7W)
13	Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration or direction of travel listed.
22	Macon, GA	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. No time given. No duration.
22	Kauai, HI	Aircraft	Echo Satellite (BB incorrectly determined Echo over Atlantic)
5/6	Whiteman AFB, MO	Balloon	Aircraft. Report is confusing. Statement was the course was southerly but azimuth readings were at 280 initially and 20 degrees when it faded out. Winds from NW/NNW which rules out balloon. Observations made at dusk where aircraft reflecting sunlight is probable.
17	Pacific	Flare	Meteor
17	Pacific	1. Satellite 2. Meteor	1. Insufficient data. No duration/direction. 2. Agreed
21	Atlantic	Missile	Insufficient data. No missile launch. Report gave no positional information other than climbing. Possible aircraft contrail.
26	Gulf of Mexico	Insufficient data	Possible meteor (duration not listed but described as "very high rate of speed")
29	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possibly Transit 4A satellite
6/4	Mesa, AZ	Sun Dog	Conflicting information. Record card time appears incorrect. Msg states it was dusk but the time listed is 0635Z (2335 MST), which would be dark.
9	Seattle, WA	Aircraft	Satellite. Time listed was incorrect. It states 0045Z but msg indicates 0045T (UTC-7). Seattle observed DST. Witness indicated path was SW to NNE. Best fit was Transit 2 satellite. Echo also visible but going WSW to ENE. Either witness got directions confused or he was more focused on Transit 2 to notice Echo.
13	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly aircraft
14	Chicago, IL	Atmospheric Conditions	Unreliable report. Report made in 1964 by 13-year old.

15	Indian Ocean	UNIDENTIFIED	Agema rocket stage venting see SUNlite 5-2
15	Randolph AFB, Big Springs, Webb AFB, TX	Satellite decay	Meteor. Duration listed as one minute but msg states 5 seconds to one minute. No satellite decay on this date/time.
16	Pacific	Aircraft	Echo Satellite
17	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
17	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Possible aircraft
18	Niagara falls, NY	1. Jupiter 2. Satellite 3. Misinterpretation of conventional objects	1. Arcturus 2. Agreed. Echo Satellite 3. Aircraft
19	Pacific	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
23	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Aircraft. Listed as insufficient data because there was a conflict on the record card time and conditions. However, report gets local time correct.
24	Versailles, MO	Balloon	Possibly Capella
24-25	Frankfurt, NY	Satellite	1. 24th - Echo satellite 2. 25th - Aircraft
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28	North Bradford, CT	Insufficient data	Possibly Altair. Object seen for a few minutes before being covered by clouds.

Summary

As usual, I found the evaluation of these cases to be challenging. The Echo satellite continued to play heavily in many of the sightings (Forty-one cases or 23%). Additionally, the ages of some of the witnesses contributed to the quality of the reports. The 18 June 1963 report from Dayton had a report completed by a nine-year old! While some of the reports completed by teens are sometimes more complete than the adults, some of the individuals seemed to be influenced by media reports or UFOlogical writings.

Probably the most interesting case involved a potential moon sighting. This was on June 27th from Ironton, Ohio. The object was described as a "Ferris wheel". The first red flag on this was the witness stating that no moon was visible. The object was about 45 degrees above the western horizon at initial observation. The moon, which was near first quarter, was 37 degrees above the WSW horizon at the time indicated. This means that the witness would be looking in the vicinity of the moon at the time of the sighting but, instead of seeing the moon, they saw a UFO. The witnesses stated it rose to almost overhead after five to ten minutes but was moving "very slowly" before it "disappeared". It was seen from the backseat of a moving car driving west towards town at 25-30mph. The eastern side of Ironton's major roads are not straight, which can cause a shifting direction as the car navigates turns. SR243 sometimes goes west but also goes NW and SW. One stretch of road even goes towards the north. Any apparent motion could have been caused by the vehicles movement and not the movement of the object. As for the disappearance, the weather was scattered clouds according to the initial report (Weather underground lists it as mostly cloudy). It seems possible that they saw the moon through clouds and it eventually disappeared behind a cloud.

Next issue, I will perform a check of the second half of 1963.

References

1. "Project Blue Book investigations." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/title/461/project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>
2. Project Blue Book archive. Available WWW: <http://bluebookarchive.org/> (Note: This website is no longer active but some of my

files come from this location. It may become active again in the future.)

3. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA/ESRL Radiosonde Database. Available WWW: <https://ruc.noaa.gov/raobs/>
4. "Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947" StratoCat. Available WWW: <http://stratocat.com.ar/globos/indexe.html>
5. "Space History Chronology". Astronautix. Available WWW: <http://www.astronautix.com/s/spacehistorychronology.html>
6. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam 1968.