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8 APR 1967

Investigation of UFO Reported Landing on 24 March 1967

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patrolman

1. At approximately 2100 hours on the night of 24 March 1967, a truck driver by the name of Ken Williams from Laurel, Montana was proceeding Northwest on U. S. Highways 87-89 to Great Falls. When approximately 2 miles Southeast of the turn-off to Belt, Montana, he claimed he saw a 'huge dome shaped object, emitting an intense bright light' and in a ravine approximately 1 1/2 miles south of the highway. Mr. Williams parked his truck and approached the object. As he approached, the object lifted off the ground only to settle back in a ravine hidden from the highway by a ridge. Mr. Williams flagged down a passing motorist (Mr. Don Knotts of Great Falls) and requested that the Sheriff's office be notified. This was done by Mr. Knotts and a highway patrolman was dispatched to the scene (Mr. Bud Nader). Mr. Nader reported that upon reaching the scene he observed an unusual light emanating from the area that the truck driver, Mr. Williams, claimed the object had landed the second time. The ravine where the object was claimed to be located was extremely steep and rocky and not accessible to the highway patrol. Further numbers of officers were dispatched from the Sheriff's Office of Cascade County.

2. Numerous reports were being received by the dispatcher at Base Operations, plus questions from the public. At 2205, Lt Col Lewis D. Chase, Base UFO Investigating Officer, was notified by the Command Post of the reported landing. Sequence of events following the notification were as follows:

2215 - Check was made with Base Operations as to aircraft movement in the area. An outbound transient aircraft departed Great Falls enroute to Glasgow, Montana. Departure time was 2109. All other aircraft were accounted for.

2230 - Discussion with the Sheriff of Cascade County revealed that he had dispatched additional deputies to the area. Requested

that he notify me of any significant findings. While talking to the sheriff, he contacted one of his mobile units. The man reporting said that they were at the scene and that there was no activity at the time. Requested the sheriff to forward any subsequent developments.

- 2330 - I called the Sheriff of Cascade County for a status report. He put one of his deputies on the line (Ziener?) who had been at the scene and had interviewed the truck driver and highway patrolman. While on the phone, Sheriff Martin from Belt, Montana, called in from the scene. He discussed the possibility of manpower assistance from Malmstrom and/or helicopter support. Informed him that daylight would be the first possible helicopter support and that I would discuss the other manpower request with Colonel Klibbe.
- 2345 - Discussion with Colonel Klibbe. He suggested that I go out and evaluate the situation and make my recommendations from there.
- 0030 - Departed the base in a radio equipped station wagon accompanied by Major John Grasser of the Helicopter Section, for an evaluation of the terrain for any possible helicopter survey at daylight, a driver, and the alert photographer.
- 0100 - Arrived at the scene. Was met by Sheriff Martin, who repeated the previous reports. He had been on the scene continuously. A study of the terrain revealed the hopelessness of any ground survey at night. A tentative plan was agreed upon - the sheriff's office to conduct a ground search of the reported landing area on the morning of 25 March 1967, while concurrently a helicopter survey of the area would be performed by Malmstrom. (It had been reported by Major Grasser that a helicopter training flight was scheduled for 0730 Saturday morning. This procedure was later approved by 15th AF, provided no landing was made). Sheriff Martin intended to continue watch of the area. Sight-seers were in the area due to radio publicity and Martin reported that some had gone on the ridges before he could stop them.
- 0215 - Reported to Colonel Klibbe the tentative plan agreed upon with Sheriff Martin. He approved.

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0230 - Numerous sightings reported.
to
0340

0350 - Discussed the make-up of a message with Captain Bradshaw, Wing Command Post, IAW AFR 80-17, to notify concerned agencies, including CSAF, of numerous sightings, plus the reported landing under investigation. Was concerned with resulting publicity and the need to notify other agencies prior to press releases. Message will merely state reported landing, that it is under investigation, that daylight hours are required to complete the investigation, and that a subsequent report will be submitted. Preliminary message dispatched.

0800 - Sheriff's ground search and Malmstrom aerial survey completed with negative results. Follow-up messages dispatched to interested agencies (AFR 80-17) stating negative results of the investigation.

3. Investigation conducted by Lt Col Lewis D. Chase, Chief, Operations Division. Official Address: Chief, Operations Division, (BO), Malmstrom AFB, Montana 59402. Telephone area code 406, base phone number 731-2215/3137. Home phone number 452-1135.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Lewis D Chase

LEWIS D. CHASE, Lt Colonel, USAF
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