

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 16 Jan 61	2. LOCATION Southern Calif.		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <i>METEOR</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 16/2400Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Rodar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 sec	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE W	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Fm Port Huneme, Point Mugu Santa Barbara, egg shaped size of football, blue irredesent color. Objt with long firey red tail breaking up. Tail had white center. Descending fm 60° elev in E to horizon in W. Duration 2 sec.			11. COMMENTS Meteor sighting.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

UNCLASSIFIED

*UFO file*

NAVAL MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY	(ACTION)	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	EXT. NO.
PRECEDENCE PRIORITY	(INFO)			

P 170605Z

AF IN : 48122 (17 Jan 61) D/apc

FM SOP SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA AREA

TO COM ELEVEN DIO

INFO CNO

AF DISTR:  
CIN-14  
OOP-2  
SAFS-3  
(20)

UNCLAS.

A. COM ELEVEN INST 3820.1A

B. SOP PORT HUENEME-POINT MUGU-SANTA BARBARA AREA INST 3820.1

1. A. PROBABTLY EGG SHAPE

B. FOOTBALL SIZE

C. BLUE IRRIDESCENT COLOR

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. NONE

G. PARTS BRAKING OFF-LONG RED FIERY TAIL WITH WHITE CENTER

H. NONE

I. UNKNOWN

2 A. SAW THRU WINDOW

B. NNW FROM CAMARILLO, CALIF. ANGLE ELEV 60 DEG

92 COG

SECNAV UNSECNAV ASTSECNAVRESDEV 00 09 09B 09M 03 33 34 05 35 06 07 07D  
73 74 76 94 IP NAVAIDE FLAGPLOT BFR CMC JCS CSA CSAF CIA NIC COGARD

CONTROL NO.	CIRCUIT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GROUP
<i>Japanese</i> 151/RE/JC/2	160	1		3	0709/17 JAN	170605Z JAN 61

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRECEDENCE	(ACTION)	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	EXT. NO.
PRECEDENCE	(INFO)			

C. BEHIND BLDGS, ANGLE OF ELEV 20 DEG, WNW OF CAMARILLO, CALIF.

D. DESCENDING FROM EAST TO WEST AT ABOUT 60 DEG ANGLE

E. BEHIND VISIBLE HORIZON

F. 2 SEC.

3. A. GROUND VISUAL

B. NONE

C. N/A

4. A. 162400Z

B. LATE DUSK

5. APPROX POSIT-LATITUDE 34-12N LONGITUDE 119-02W

6. A. NONE-INQUIRIES REFERRED TO USAF

B. SUDDRETH, J. M. ,LCDR, USN., PILOT, VERY RELIABLE

7. A. SKY CLEAR, SMOKE LAYERS NW OVER MOUNTAINS UP TO 6000 FT. 1800U

PT MUGU OBSERVATION .

B. 1600U POINT ARGUELLO OBSERVATION SURFACE 270/4 6000 FT-110/7 10000

FT-080/17 16000 FT 100/14 200000 FT-090/9 30000 FT-090/10 50000 FT-320/37

60000 FT-300/11

C. UNLIMITED

D. UNRESTRICTED

E. NONE

F. NONE

8. NONE

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151		2		3		170605Z JAN 61.

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRECEDENCE	(ACTION)	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	EXT. NO.
PRECEDENCE	(INFO)			

9. NONE

10. 3 JET ACFT, 2 SNB ACFT LOCAL AREA VFR FROM NAS PT MUGU

11. O.O.D. NAS PT MUGU-PROBABLY A METEOR. OBSERVER STATED IT DEFINITELY WAS NOT AN ACFT FLARE

12. NONE

NOTE: Advance copy delivered to CIN (170445L)

CONTROL NO.	CIRCUIT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GROUP
151		3		3		170505Z JAN 61

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1961

**FIREBALL CAUSES NEAR-PANIC IN CALIFORNIA:** In a widely-publicized incident last January 16th, a brilliant fireball was seen by thousands of people from San Diego to San Francisco, and as far as 300 miles inland in Nevada. The object was in view about 18 seconds, and was described in many different ways by the people who saw it. Inquiries from frightened citizens swamped police and newspaper switchboards throughout the area. The sighting brought about a series of panicky reports that fires were raging in large portions of the state, caused by falling embers. Other reports, all later proven false, included findings of metal debris in various places. A rising tide of panic seemed to overtake many generally reliable officials who were soon repeating fantastic rumors. One version of the story was that the strange fireball had crashed into a densely populated section of Hollywood Hills. The truth seems to be that it either burned out in mid-air, or else fell harmlessly into the Pacific Ocean. No one is sure as to exactly what the object was, though it is assumed to have been natural in origin.

On January 16, 1961 another so-called giant meteor frightened thousands in California. The giant ball of fire trailed long multicolored tail and left an eerie bluish light after glow in the same area. It alarmed thousands of residents, already edgy because of recent unexplained phenomena. It was seen for 600 miles in California and at Las Vegas, Nevada, which is 300 miles inland. Many reported that the object didn't look like a meteor and that it appeared to be climbing in the sky, instead of burning itself out.