

Satellite spurs reports of UFOs

SANTA BARBARA — A military satellite launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base this morning lighted up the skies over Orange County and ignited a rash of reported UFO sightings.

"I guess it put on quite a light show," said Maj. Ronald Peck, base public affairs officer. "Of course, I'm inside. I never get to see these things."

The glowing ball of fire, heading in a southerly direction, was a satellite atop an Atlas booster launched at 5:47 a.m., Peck said.

Peck said the base received "about eight" calls inquiring about the light show. He declined to discuss details about the purpose of the launching.

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