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# 'UFO sightings' over Bay

## Brilliant lights in night sky believed to be space debris

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Reports about red, green and blue UFOs streaking over the Bay Area may have resulted from "space debris," possibly a satellite disintegrating in the atmosphere, according to an airport official.

San Francisco police, airport officials and an organization that monitors such sightings all reported receiving calls about an object speeding earthward between 9:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday.

"We saw it down here, moving north to northeast. The tower saw it—white, green and red, which normally is metal decaying in the atmosphere," said Bill Walsh, an operations supervisor at San Francisco International Airport.

Walsh said he checked the reports with NASA officials who said, "yes, space debris. And they said it's a 'possi-

ble' satellite decaying in orbit. They wouldn't go any further."

Airport tower officials said the glowing object was so high in the sky that there was no doubt it would disintegrate before reaching Earth's surface, Walsh said. This is the second time in about five years such a sighting has been made, he added.

Among those reporting the glowing object between was San Francisco police Sgt. Dennis Schardt.

Schardt said he was driving north on Highway 101 near Candlestick about 9:50 p.m. when he looked over at the stadium, visualizing what it would look like capped with Mayor Feinstein's proposed dome.

"I saw this round-shaped object—green in color—with a greenish glow around edges of it, streak across sky in an arch," the officer said.

Schardt said the object moved from the east and traveled north before it was lost beyond the rim of a

hill.

"It had tremendous speed. I didn't know what to make of it—I realized I'd just seen something I obviously couldn't identify."

When he mentioned it to his fellow officers "they were ready to call the mental ward," joked Schardt, until a check with dispatchers showed several calls reporting a UFO at the same time of night.

Robert Gribble, a spokesman for the National UFO Reporting Center, a privately supported organization in Seattle, said, he had about 30 to 35 calls from throughout the Bay Area of "a large glowing object streaking throughout the sky.

"Some people reported a large green ball, others reported a combination of blue and green leaving a long trail," he said.

"It sounded pretty much like a meteor," he said, adding, "there are no meteor showers listed for this period."