

FAA discounts fliers' report of UFO

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AUSTIN — A bright light streaking across the Central Texas sky Thursday night startled several dozen people, some pilots flying near Austin and an air traffic controller.

Reports of a UFO sighting poured into the sheriff's offices of Hays and

Travis counties, and others were received at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin.

"As far as I know, there were no reports of little green men or the thing landing," said Curtis Weeks of the Travis County sheriff's office. "All we got was reports of a bright light going across the sky."

The illumination swept through

the sky about 10 p.m., Weeks said.

"We've been receiving some calls about it," said Air Force Sgt. Thomas Carier. "All I can tell you is that since Project Bluebook has been closed, we no longer investigate UFOs."

Project Bluebook, an Air Force study of unidentified flying objects, was shut down in 1969 after it was

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Saturday, February 20, 1988

Houston Chronicle

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as a meteor in Central Texas skies

determined that UFOs did not pose a threat to national security.

Allan King, area supervisor for the Federal Aviation Administration control tower at Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, said two pilots and an air traffic controller reported the object flashed across the sky in a matter of seconds.

"We had a controller up here in the

tower report what he thought was a meteor or a satellite, but he said it was too bright for a satellite," King said. "The controller said he saw it break up before it got to the horizon."

Two pilots flying near Austin also contacted an FAA radar operator to report sighting the light, King said. But the radar operator saw nothing.

"It happened so quick, you'd never have time to look at the radar," King said.

Barring some other explanation, King said he will consider the sighting as a meteor.

"It was real clear last night, and that probably added to the brightness," he said.

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