

CR G. HUME
PERTH, AUSTRALIA

RAAF PUZZLED BY UFOs TRACKED ON AIRPORT RADAR

SYDNEY: High-speed UFOs — travelling at great altitude caused mystery signals on Sydney Airport radar screens.

But they were not satellites or Australian military aircraft, an RAAF spokesman confirmed yesterday.

The RAAF is investigating the radar sightings at the request of the Department of Aviation, but admits that at this stage they remain a mystery.

Ten high-speed radar signals were picked up by Sydney air traffic controllers in the past month.

If the signals had been caused by aircraft there certainly would have been reports of sonic booms... and there have been no reports, the RAAF spokesman said.

The RAAF is trying to correlate

the radar signals with known air activity during June, but has so far drawn a blank.

The most recent of the radar sightings was on Wednesday.

"It has reached speeds of up to 2780kmh but has also been recorded at just a little over 1300kmh," the spokesman said.

"Whatever it is, it is not ours. "All I can say is that we've seen fast-moving blips on our radar

screens which we are investigating."

The spokesman said that only the U.S. or the Soviet Union have aircraft that could fly at such a height and speed.

The RAAF will probably be investigating the video tapes from the radar sightings as they have had no visual sightings of the objects.

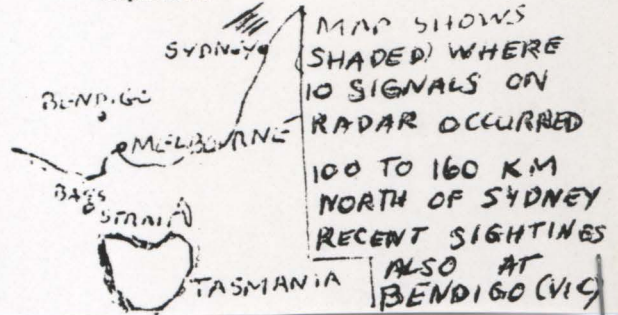
The first of the 10 sightings

came at about the beginning of the month.

All 10 signals have come from an area 100 to 260km north of Sydney.

Last month hundreds of people reported seeing brightly coloured cone-shaped lights in the night sky over Bendigo and Ballarat in central Victoria.

These sightings too remain unexplained.



Doubt cast on UFO idea

TEN high-speed radar signals picked up by Sydney air traffic controllers in the past month could have been caused by electromagnetic interference.

Dr Don Herbison-Evans, a Sydney University lecturer in computer science and consultant for the Adelaide-based UFO Research Society, said the interference could easily have been produced with a home-made radio transmitter.

RAAF vigil for UFOs

CANBERRA: An RAAF Mirage fighter is standing by at Williamtown air base to search for high speed, high altitude unidentified "objects" reported by Sydney air traffic controllers this week.

The Mirage pilot has been ordered to investigate any unexplained radar contacts reported by the RAAF operators at the Williamtown base near Newcastle.

A Defence Department spokesman said that the RAAF was treating seriously reports by air traffic controllers at Sydney's Mascot Airport who have reported 10 high-speed radar contacts in the past month, most recently on Thursday.

The RAAF operation command centre at Springwood, west of Sydney, is investigating the signals at the request of the Aviation Department.

An RAAF spokesman said the signals were characteristic of aircraft but they had not come from Australian military aircraft.

If the signals had been from aircraft there would have been reports of sonic booms.

The most recent of the signals occurred on Thursday.

Dr Herbison-Evans warned against the conclusion that the signals came from a UFO.

"UFOs are rare. It might have been caused by a slight malfunction in the airport radar apparatus," he said.

RAAF set for 'ET' encounter

By LAURA VETTMAN

THE RAAF plans to send Mirage aircraft to investigate a fast-moving, high-flying, unidentified object indicated on radar over Sydney airport during the past month.

A spokesman announced yesterday that the RAAF base at Williamtown, near Sydney, was using its radar to pick up the mysterious signals received at Sydney airport since June 7.

The spokesman said the airport radar had seven "returns" from the mystery object in the 24 hours since Thursday night and the

RAAF was acting on its own initiative in attempting identification.

"If we do track any unidentified object we will use our Mirages at Williamtown to attempt to identify it," he said.

"We do think it is a bit odd that only Sydney airport has picked up the signal," he said.

Other radar in the NSW coastal region, such as the navy's installation at Nowra, and the RAAF base at Williamtown, have not yet registered any sign of the object which Sydney

airport's returns show to be 100km to 250km north of the city.

The RAAF spokesman suggested the airport radar signal could be due to a piece of space debris, a gas bubble or other atmospheric condition.

"If we do find a huge cockroach or something we'll send the Mirages," he said.

Earlier yesterday it was reported that Sydney airport office has estimated the object to be flying at about 2400km/h, or twice the speed of sound.