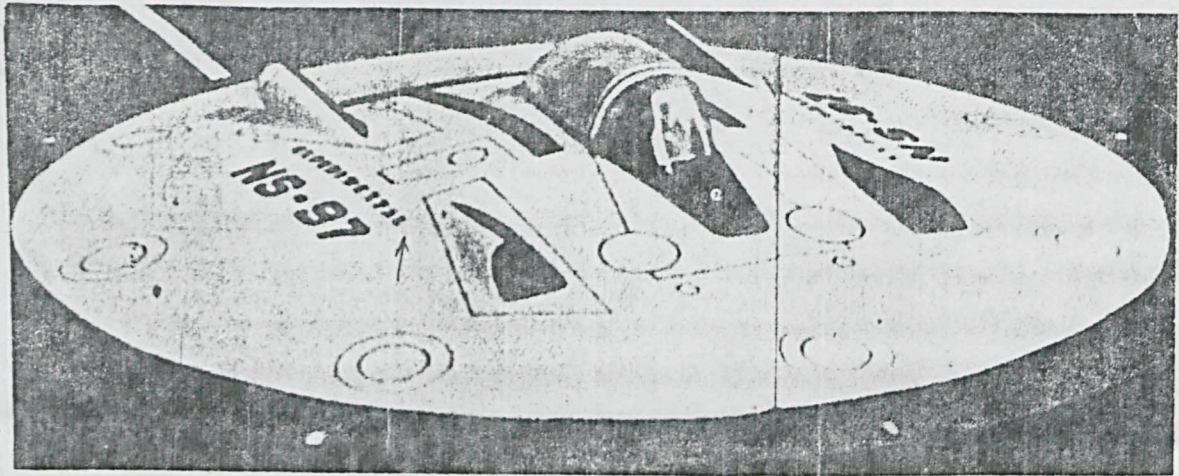


Flying Saucers—For Real!

by Jack Pickett



1982/Reminiscence, Fully Operational Disc-Shaped Jet Aircraft! My interest in these aircraft was recently rekindled when I heard part of a radio talk show concerning UFO-Flying Saucers. I made inquiry to one of the University guest speakers asking if he knew why they never seemed to be mentioned in any media in recent years. A copy of my letter was forwarded to

During the 1960s, on into 1972, I published House- Organ Magazines (club calendar event) for Officers and NCO Club facilities on numerous military bases. On one such base, I personally saw four of these aircraft in parked storage, which were awaiting A. F. decision to either be transferred to a museum or dismantle/scrapped.

“The discs, regardless of size, all had tricycle landing gear...”

several UFO enthusiasts and I was surprised to receive correspondence from him, and some of them, indicating they had no information concerning these wondrous jet aircraft, even though reference was made to fact sheets issued by the Air Force, during the 1950s and earlier, evidently dismissed, as not so, by civilian UFO investigators during that time period.

A feature-magazine cover and article on those specific disc- shaped jet aircraft, was proposed for an issue of the NCO Club News and rather than having to use polaroid camera shots of discs dilapidated by outside storage, I was invited by the officer in charge, adjutant general's office, to select official USAF photographs and be furnished data for the feature.

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When I had first driven to see them, my first impression was similar to the thought... "My gosh, those are flying saucers!...those things really do exist!!..."

The discs, regardless of sizes, all had tricycle landing gear; the size of the aircraft determining how many wheels on each. They ranged in size from approximately twenty (20) feet across, approximately fifty to seventy-five (50'-75') feet and the largest I personally saw on base was near equal to the wingspan of a B-47, according to OIC when I asked how big it was. The smaller craft had air-intake slots, one on each side of the pilot compartment, with two exhausts out of the

later, showed various formations in flight. Some with regular design escort jet fighters, some without, some at obviously tremendously high altitude.

Seen head-on, they all appeared as the classic, so called flying saucer shape with the pilot/crew compartment appearing as a bubble, dead center. Viewed from the top or bottom, in-flight, they had no other appearance than that of a circular object. Direct sidelong, from a distance, they looked similar to the pointed-end-cigar. When I asked the OIC question similar to, "Those must be the flying saucers everybody was talking about?" He answered affirmatively.

"UFO Flying Saucer publicity hit the newspapers and other media..."

bottom rear surface of the disc and the larger had twin air-intakes on each side of the pilot/crew compartment, with four exhausts out the same area (bottom rear surface). The pilot compartment was centered in the top surface of the disc with nothing forward of the compartment other than the sloping surface. That compartment tapered back towards the rear of the aircraft, narrowing down to a high vertical fin, similar in appearance to the stabilizer on an old DC-6 commercial 4 engine propeller aircraft. AF insignia and the word, EXPERIMENTAL, followed by USAF, was printed starting immediately behind the windows in the compartment on towards the tail. The ailerons were in the rear edge of the disc and there were other control flaps in other locations around the outer edge. All, regardless of size, had the same general appearance from a distance. Some of the photographs I was shown

When I first saw the official USAF photographs, I asked the questions similar to, "What sizes and how many of those things did they build?" and "How fast and how high could they fly?" The altitude answer was that they could go so high, that had they had different power source engines, they could have probably been classed as space flight with possible orbital capability! They were of very high airspeed capacity and I was informed that for purpose of the proposed magazine article I could quote "exceeding Mach 1."

The OIC informed me that all of them, including some smaller unmanned versions, had been dismantle/scrapped, with the exception of only those four-last remaining, stored parked on that base. I asked why they had been discontinued and the answer had to do with more practical design and certain maneuverability problems. I saw them last in

1967.

In my opinion, eventually maybe all the true facts concerning these wondrously performing aircraft will be fully released by the Air Force. From information furnished by the OIC, the Air Force did begin to release information. One of the reasons they aren't more generally known was due to the "flap" caused Air Force Bases all over the country every time sensationalistic UFO publicity hit the news media. That effort

was discontinued and all prepared for release was withdrawn, for whatever the reasons. Perhaps some day soon (?), the doors of a museum hanger will be opened for public view, and once again, these last four fully operational disc-shaped jet aircraft, known as *Flying Saucers*, can be seen, and their truly amazing flight capabilities read about and viewed in photography on location, by visitors to that museum.

