

Mitchel Field.

H: Did you particularly want that kind of an assignment?

V: I didn't ask for it. I think they probably looked at my recent education and saw that I was in that related area, knew something about foreign affairs and that, in turn--I guess to some assignment officer--implied some knowledge of intelligence. (laughter) Anyway, I wound up in intelligence. I rather enjoyed that intelligence tour because, among other things, I was--and the records will probably confirm this--the first UFO [unidentified flying object] officer in the Air Force. Back in those days unidentified flying objects were being reported for the first time. I was at Mitchel Field, which was the headquarters of the Interceptor Command, and they gave the job of identifying some of these early scurries of flying objects to the intelligence people.

[End Tape 1, Side 1]

And since I was Chief of the Estimates Division, they gave the job of estimating what these unidentified objects were to me. I had an interesting time with

some of the early sightings. I remember one day I was out flying an airplane. It was an old C-45 Beechcraft twin-engine. We were on our way back one night from a trip somewhere in the South. We were down in the Richmond area when the copilot who was with me looked out and said, "Hey, there is something flying on our wing." I looked over there and here is this bright, purple light sitting off the wing. We looked at it and couldn't identify it. It seemed to be going at exactly the same speed, and all of a sudden it veered around and sat off our left wing. We watched this thing for, oh, maybe an hour, unable to identify it. I called on the radio and got no response, then I asked the controllers in the area if they had traffic reported in the area of our airplane, and no results. So we came back, and I filed an unidentified flying object report, and it came back to me at my desk for disposition. (laughter) So I guess I was one of the first to get into this business which has caused so much speculation in recent years.

H: How do you feel about unidentified flying objects?  
Do you think there is any credibility to it at all?

V: No. I really don't. I think there is some explanation

for everything that has been seen. I certainly don't believe that we're being visited by people from outer space.

H: Your period at Yale, you were out of the Air Force?

V: Yes. I was out of the Air Force.

H: Completely, then. I was assuming at first that you were on some kind of a bootstrap deal, but you weren't.

After you finished at Yale is when you moved over to Mitchel then?


V: After I graduated from Yale, my first assignment back in the Air Force was at Mitchel.

H: And then after your Mitchel Field assignment, you wound up in the Office of Special Assistant to JCS [Joint Chiefs of Staff] for the NSC [National Security Council]. What kind of a position was this?

V: Well, once again, there was a gap in there. I was interested in taking advantage of the advanced degree

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