

CASE FILE 38 / 237UAP00017

237UAP00017

Radar/correlation-focused public UAP report; score 54

INSUFFICIENT / LOW ANOMALY VALUE

REPORT NO.	UAP-OM-38-237UAP00017	DISPOSITION	INSUFFICIENT / LOW ANOMALY VALUE
PRIMARY CASE	237UAP00017	GENERATED	2026-05-20 18:32 UTC
REPORT TIME	2012-08-19T04:08:00+00:00	OBSERVER	39.11079, -77.09001
SOURCE CASE IDS	237UAP00017		

Abstract

This case file evaluates a reported UAP sighting against the available orbital-object layer. No compact same-launch group fully identifies the file by itself. The final disposition is assigned under a normal-object favored standard, where ordinary aerospace/orbital explanations are preferred when they reasonably fit the report.

This is a standalone independent analysis prepared from public-source records and public orbital datasets. It is not an official government determination, classification marking, or agency-authored report.

1. Executive Summary

237UAP00017 has too little discriminating evidence for a named identification. It is not treated as evidence of exotic activity; it is classified as insufficient/low-value until better sensor, aircraft, or weather data is available.

1.1 Key Findings

- Source score 54 based on: radar/primary-return language, NORAD/AMOC/EADS/CONR check, UAP/UFO language.
- Report time used: 2012-08-19T04:08:00+00:00.
- External object layer used: Starlink.
- Disposition standard: INSUFFICIENT requires case-specific causal fit. Satellite density above the horizon is context only and cannot by itself resolve the report.
- Objects above horizon: 0; at/above 10 deg: 0.
- No compact same-launch/designator group survived the report threshold.
- No explicit Starlink/balloon wording was found in the source excerpt used for ranking.

1.2 Bottom Line

INSUFFICIENT / LOW ANOMALY VALUE: The report does not contain enough discriminating evidence for a named identification. It is not treated as evidence of exotic activity; it is a low-value insufficient case unless stronger sensor data appears.

2. Source Control

The source-control table identifies the public report records reviewed for this case and lists public access links where available. The table is included so this PDF remains interpretable when distributed by itself.

CASE ID	REPORT DATE FIELD	FACILITY / TITLE	TEXT EXTRACT	PUBLIC PDF LINK
237UAP00017	04:08 08/19/2012 Callsign: UAL976 Origin: OMDB	PCT Operator: UAL Operator Type:	text extract present	237UAP00017.pdf

3. Original Report Evidence

PRIMARY EXCERPT USED FOR MATCHING	PIC reported sighting an unidentified flying object 5 NM SE of GAI around 12,500 feet, circular shape, silver color. PCT was notified to report event as prescribed in FAA Order JO 7110.65U Section 8 paragraph9-8-1.JBU1260, same route 25 miles behind UAL976 did not see the object. No targets received on ADAPT or by EADS. 2345: EADS conducted a playback of RADAR tapes covering the time period of the UFO sighting reported by UAL976 with negative findings, NFA.
REPORT TIME USED	2012-08-19T04:08:00+00:00
OBSERVER COORDINATE USED	39.11079, -77.09001
OBSERVER SOURCE BASIS	aviation_offset:5 NM SE of GAI (public text extract 237UAP00017)

4. Methodology

- Spacetime extraction.** The report time and observer coordinate were extracted from the public text report and normalized to UTC. Aviation fixes/radials were resolved during earlier preprocessing where applicable.
- External object dataset.** The object layer used historical Space-Track/TLE-derived Starlink element rows. The analytic mode for this case is historical Starlink element propagation and same-launch/designator sky grouping.
- Propagation.** Orbital elements were propagated to the report minute and observer location. For launch-object checks, samples around the report minute were retained. For Starlink group checks, objects above the horizon were clustered by sky position and filtered for same-launch groupings.
- Comparison.** The output was compared against the report's count of lights, direction cue, motion language, altitude/radar language, and whether the file itself already suggested a satellite explanation.
- Causation standard.** Mere object presence above the horizon is treated as background context only. A normal-object disposition requires a case-specific causal fit, such as a named launch object, a compact same-launch trajectory group, or source language that directly supports that object class.
- Disposition assignment.** *Identified* means a specific normal object fits the report spacetime and the hard reported features do not materially conflict. *Normal-object favored* means a case-specific ordinary aerospace/orbital candidate exists, but it is not a full named identification. *Insufficient* means the file is too thin to carry high anomaly value. *High-value unresolved* is used when radar, video, rapid maneuver, or multi-witness features remain after reasonable normal-object checks.

5. External Object Evidence

5.1 Search Volume and Density

This table is a screening layer only. Objects above the horizon show background opportunity; they do not establish causation unless a specific object or compact trajectory group matches the reported behavior.

STARLINK CATALOG IDS CONSIDERED	0	HISTORICAL ELEMENT ROWS	0
ABOVE HORIZON AT REPORT MINUTE	0	AT/ABOVE 10 DEG	0
LARGEST SAME-SKY CLUSTER	0		

No compact same-launch/designator group survived the report threshold. In this condition, satellite density remains context only and cannot by itself resolve a report with hard features.

5.2 Same-Launch / Same-Designator Candidate Groups

#	LAUNCH DATE	COUNT	AZIMUTH SPAN	ELEVATION SPAN	MOTION LABELS	MEMBERS
No same-launch group identified.						

5.3 Primary Group Members

OBJECT	NORAD	LAUNCH	AZ	EL	RANGE KM	APPARENT MOTION	ELEMENT AGE H
No members available.							

5.4 Bright-Sky Context: Top Starlink Objects by Elevation

OBJECT	AZ	EL	RANGE KM	APPARENT MOTION	LAUNCH DATE
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5.5 Largest Sky Clusters

#	COUNT	AZIMUTH SPAN	ELEVATION SPAN	MOTION LABELS
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5.6 Space-Track SATCAT Enrichment

Space-Track SATCAT metadata was pulled as a cached subset for NORAD catalog IDs appearing in this packet's evidence tables. This section adds owner/type/status context to the propagated object candidates.

PACKET SATCAT SUBSET ROWS	5370	FETCHED	2026-05-19T01:19:50+00:00
THIS CASE NORAD IDS CHECKED	0	SATCAT ROWS MATCHED	0
TOP OWNERS	no matched SATCAT rows		
OBJECT TYPES	no matched SATCAT rows		

5.7 Space-Track Metadata for Top Propagated Objects

NORAD	OBJECT NAME	TYPE	OWNER	LAUNCH DATE	DECAY DATE
No Space-Track SATCAT rows matched the top propagated objects for this case.					

5.9 NASA / NOAA / ADS-B Expansion Layer

This source layer adds free NASA context that was previously missing from most packet cases. It is contextual evidence; it does not replace aircraft, satellite, balloon, or radar causation tests.

HOUR UTC	2012081904
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CLOUD AMOUNT	65.06%
PRECIPITATION	0.0 mm/hr
10 M WIND	1.98 m/s
TEMPERATURE	21.01 C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	59.44%
DONKI +/-1 DAY	CME: unavailable; FLR: unavailable; GST: unavailable; HSS: unavailable; IPS: unavailable; MPC: unavailable; RBE: unavailable; SEP: unavailable; WSAEnlISimulations: unavailable

5.10 Horizons Sky Geometry Context

OBJECT	AZ	EL	APP MAG
Sun	340.57	-36.13	-26.72
Moon	315.92	-40.82	-5.92
Venus	32.24	-24.06	-4.37
Mars	272.66	-20.53	1.10
Jupiter	55.04	-6.70	-2.23
Saturn	276.00	-19.22	0.76

- Sun elevation was -36.1 deg, so this was a dark-sky/nighttime sighting.
- Moon was below horizon at elevation -40.8 deg.
- No checked bright planets were above the horizon at the primary coordinate/time.
- NASA POWER cloud amount for the hour was 65.06%, with precipitation 0.0 mm/hr.

5.11 Free Source Availability and Remaining Work

LAYER	STATUS	CASE-SPECIFIC NOTE
ADSB.LOL HISTORICAL RELEASE LISTING	not yet exhausted	v2012-08-19-planes-readsb-prod-0, v2012-08-19-planes-readsb-prod-1, v2012-08-19-planes-readsb-staging-0, v2012-08-19-planes-readsb-mlatonly-0
ADSB TRACKS DOWNLOADED	not yet exhausted	Requires targeted extraction from large daily history archives before claiming aircraft exhaustion.
NOAA GOES IMAGERY	not yet exhausted	Needed for cloud/lightning visual context.
NOAA GOES ABI/GLM MANIFEST	screened/present	Public S3 object availability for the report hour.
NOAA NEXRAD WEATHER RADAR	not yet exhausted	Weather radar only; not ATC radar.
NOAA IGRA RADIOSONDE	screened/present	Needed for balloon drift plausibility.
ASOS/METAR WEATHER OBSERVATIONS	screened/present	Nearest station surface observations around report time.

- ADSB.lol historical: extract aircraft traces from no public ADSB.lol annual repo found for 2012-08-19, then filter +/-60 min and 250 nmi around 39.1108,-77.0900.
- NASA POWER/Horizons/DONKI: batch context for 237UAP00017 at 2012-08-19T04:08:00+00:00.
- NOAA GOES: pull nearest ABI/GLM products for the UTC hour and render cloud/lightning map.
- NOAA NEXRAD: select nearest radar stations and render Level-II/III weather radar sweep around event time.
- NOAA IGRA: find nearest radiosonde station launches bracketing the event and model wind drift for balloon-like descriptions.
- Space-Track gp_history/decay: fetch exact historical element rows and decay/reentry status for top candidate NORAD IDs.

5.12 Weather, Imagery, and Balloon Query Plan

This plan identifies the concrete free sources needed for the next case-specific weather and balloon checks. These are not treated as completed exclusions until the data are downloaded and plotted.

GOES SATELLITE	GOES16
GOES ABI PREFIX	https://noaa-goes16.s3.amazonaws.com/ABI-L2-CMIPF/2012/232/04/

GOES GLM LIGHTNING PREFIX	https://noaa-goes16.s3.amazonaws.com/GLM-L2-LCFA/2012/232/04/
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5.13 Nearest Weather-Airport Candidates

STATION	NAME	DISTANCE KM	COORDINATE
KFME	Fort Meade Executive Airport	28.70	39.09, -76.76
KDCA	Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport	29.10	38.85, -77.04
KIAD	Washington Dulles International Airport	36.60	38.94, -77.46
KBWI	Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport	37.10	39.18, -76.67
KADW	Joint Base Andrews	38.50	38.81, -76.87

- KFME: [IEM ASOS/METAR daily CSV query](#)
- KDCA: [IEM ASOS/METAR daily CSV query](#)
- KIAD: [IEM ASOS/METAR daily CSV query](#)

5.14 Nearest Radiosonde Stations

STATION	NAME	DISTANCE KM	COORDINATE
USM00072403	STERLING; VA.	37.30	38.98, -77.49
USM00074002	ABERDEEN PRVGR	90.50	39.50, -76.17
USM00072402	WALLOPS ISLAND; VA.	191.50	37.93, -75.48
USM00072520	PITTSBURGH; PA.	310.30	40.53, -80.22
USM00072318	BLACKSBURG; VA.	359.70	37.20, -80.41

5.15 ASOS/METAR Surface Weather Observations

surface visibility ranged 10-10 statute miles; no precipitation was reported in the retained observations; low/broken/overcast cloud layers were present in at least one observation. Surface ASOS/METAR observations describe airport-level weather and visibility; they do not by themselves prove conditions at the sighting altitude or line of sight.

STATION	DISTANCE KM	NEAREST OBS UTC	VIS SM	SKY	WIND DEG/KT	METAR
KFME	28.70	2012-08-19T02:18:00 +00:00	10.00	CLR, M, M, M	0.00 / 0.00	KFME 190218Z AUTO 00000KT 10SM CLR 16/15 A2996 RMK AO1
KDCA	29.10	2012-08-19T03:52:00 +00:00	10.00	SCT07500, BKN25000, M, M	80.00 / 3.00	KDCA 190352Z 08003KT 10SM SCT075 BKN250 23/16 A2994 RMK AO2 SLP139 T02330161
KIAD	36.60	2012-08-19T03:52:00 +00:00	10.00	BKN07000, M, M, M	0.00 / 0.00	KIAD 190352Z 00000KT 10SM BKN070 20/14 A2994 RMK AO2 SLP137 T02000139

5.16 NOAA IGRA Radiosonde Wind Profile

Nearest sounding implies mean 0-12 km wind drift toward 20.1 deg at 3.73 m/s; a passive balloon could drift about 26.8 km in two hours under this crude layer-average model. Radiosonde winds are sparse station soundings; balloon drift remains approximate without launch time, ascent rate, object altitude, and exact line-of-sight bearing.

7. Analytic Comparison

CRITERION	REPORT EVIDENCE	ANALYTIC TREATMENT
TIME CONSTRAINT	2012-08-19T04:08:00+00:00	Directly used in propagation; this is a hard filter, not descriptive context.
LOCATION CONSTRAINT	39.11079, -77.09001	Directly used as observer point for azimuth/elevation/range computation.
COUNT / PATTERN	not explicit	No compact same-launch count match; retained for unresolved report features.
MOTION LANGUAGE	not explicit	Apparent motion labels in the object table provide a plausible but not definitive comparison.
RADAR / OFFICIAL CHECK	not specified	No ATC radar return can be consistent with distant orbital objects or visual aircraft-light hypotheses, but it does not prove the match.
ANALYTIC DISPOSITION	insufficient	237UAP00017 has too little discriminating evidence for a named identification. It is not treated as evidence of exotic activity; it is classified as insufficient/low-value until better sensor, aircraft, or weather data is available.

8. Caveats, Limitations, and Collection Gaps

- No raw cockpit video, ATC replay, radar plot, or witness interview transcript was reviewed unless explicitly stated in the public source text.
- Aviation-derived coordinates can represent a nearby fix/radial or report point, not necessarily the actual line-of-sight intercept point.
- Starlink visibility depends on illumination, observer altitude, atmospheric conditions, and apparent brightness; this analysis tests geometry, not photometry. No brightness model is used unless explicitly stated elsewhere in the case file.
- TLE propagation is appropriate for screening and reconstruction but is not a substitute for authoritative operational ephemerides.
- When many satellites are above the horizon, generic presence is weak evidence and is not treated as causation. The report emphasizes named launch-object checks or compact same-launch trajectory groups.

Appendix A. Public Report Text Extracts

237UAP00017

SKYWATCH INCIDENT REPORT

PRIMARY CODE: OTHER	Callsign: UAL976	Origin: OMDB
Date: 04:08 08/19/2012	Aircraft: B772, BOEING, 777-200	Destination:
Status: Closed	Tail Number:	New Destination: IAD
POD: DEN	Operator: UAL	Operator Type:
Reporting Facility: PCT		Paged: NO

REMARKS

PIC reported sighting an unidentified flying object 5 NM SE of GAI around 12,500 feet, circular shape, silver color. PCT was notified to report event as prescribed in FAA Order JO 7110.65U Section 8 paragraph9-8-1.JBU1260, same route 25 miles behind UAL976 did not see the object. No targets received on ADAPT or by EADS. 2345: EADS conducted a playback of RADAR tapes covering the time period of the UFO sighting reported by UAL976 with negative findings, NFA.

Appendix B. Computational Evidence Digest

This appendix preserves the principal computed values used in the assessment, shortened to the fields most relevant to audit and review.

```
{
  "report_time_utc": "2012-08-19T04:08:00+00:00",
  "source_excerpt": "PIC reported sighting an unidentified flying object 5 NM SE of GAI around 12,500 feet, circular shape, silver color. PCT was notified to report event as prescribed in FAA Order JO 7110.65U Section 8 paragraph9-8-1.JBU1260, same route 25 miles behind UAL976 did not see the object. No targets received on ADAPT or by EADS. 2345: EADS conducted a playback of RADAR tapes covering the time period of the UFO sighting reported by UAL976 with negative findings, NFA.",
  "historical_starlink_element_rows": 0,
  "observer": {
    "lat": 39.1107901450114,
    "lon": -77.09001027559339,
    "source": "aviation_offset:5 NM SE of GAI (public text extract 237UAP00017)"
  },
  "case_id": "237UAP00017",
  "starlink_above_horizon_at_report_time": 0,
  "starlink_catalog_ids_considered": 0,
  "largest_same-sky_cluster_count": 0,
  "starlink_at_or_above_10_deg": 0
}
```

Appendix C. Source Exhaustion Checklist

This checklist records which source layers were actually applied to this individual report. It separates checked evidence from unexhausted collection gaps so the disposition is auditable when the PDF is read alone.

SOURCE LAYER	STATUS	CASE-SPECIFIC NOTE
NARA PUBLIC UAP/FAA REPORT	reviewed	Source IDs: 237UAP00017
TIME AND OBSERVER COORDINATE	extracted	2012-08-19T04:08:00+00:00 at 39.11079, -77.09001
ORBITAL OBJECT PROPAGATION	screened	Starlink
SPACE-TRACK SATCAT METADATA	screened	0 NORAD IDs checked; 0 matched in local SATCAT subset
LAUNCH-OBJECT/SUPGP LAYER	not applicable	not a launch-object case
NASA/JPL KNOWN SMALL-BODY LAYER	not selected	CAD/Horizons secondary screen included when this case had NEO-relevant timing/ geometry
NASA POWER/HORIZONS/DONKI CONTEXT	screened	Hourly weather, sky geometry, and space-weather context where local JSON is present
AIRCRAFT/ADS-B LAYER	not exhausted	ADSB.lol historical release pattern is recorded separately; actual aircraft exhaustion requires targeted trace extraction
NOAA GOES IMAGERY LAYER	not exhausted	Cloud/lightning imagery layer for the report hour
NOAA GOES ABI/GLM MANIFEST	screened	Public S3 object listing for the report hour
NOAA/NEXRAD WEATHER RADAR LAYER	not exhausted	Weather radar only; not ATC/primary radar
NOAA IGRA RADIOSONDE LAYER	screened	Balloon drift plausibility layer
ASOS/METAR SURFACE WEATHER	screened	Nearest station visibility, cloud, wind, precipitation, and METAR observations
WEATHER/BALLOON SOURCE PLAN	planned	Nearest weather-airport, GOES, and radiosonde queries are listed where local plan JSON is present
FINAL ANALYTIC DISPOSITION	insufficient / low anomaly value	Presence-only satellite density is context only; a stronger case-specific fit is required for normal-object disposition

References and Source Links

1. National Archives and Records Administration. *Records Related to Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAPs) at the National Archives*. <https://www.archives.gov/research/topics/uaps>
2. National Archives and Records Administration. *Record Group 615: Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Records Collection*. <https://www.archives.gov/research/topics/uaps/rg-615>
3. National Archives and Records Administration. *Bulk Downloads for Records Related to Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAPs)*. <https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/catalog-bulk-downloads/uap-bulk-download>
4. National Archives Catalog. *Records from the Federal Aviation Administration Relating to Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena, National Archives Identifier 493468575*. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/493468575>
5. National Archives direct digital object. *237UAP00017.pdf, FAA UAP report record copied from RG 615 bulk digital objects*. <https://s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/NARAprodstorage/lz/electronic-records/rg-615/493468575/237UAP00017.pdf>
6. Hugging Face dataset. *oxzoid/space-track-tle-history: historical TLE archive used for Starlink screening*. <https://huggingface.co/datasets/oxzoid/space-track-tle-history>
7. Space-Track.org. *Public source for the underlying U.S. Space Surveillance Network TLE distribution referenced by the historical TLE archive*. <https://www.space-track.org/>
8. Space-Track.org. *API documentation for SATCAT and catalog metadata classes used for local enrichment*. <https://www.space-track.org/documentation#/api>
9. NASA POWER. *Hourly point API documentation for meteorological context*. <https://power.larc.nasa.gov/docs/services/api/temporal/hourly/>
10. NASA/JPL Solar System Dynamics. *Horizons API documentation for observer geometry and apparent magnitude queries*. <https://ssd-api.jpl.nasa.gov/doc/horizons.html>
11. NASA. *DONKI space weather API documentation*. <https://api.nasa.gov/>
12. ADSB.lol. *Interactive API documentation and OpenAPI definition*. <https://api.adsb.lol/docs>
13. ADSB.lol. *Historical open-data release documentation*. <https://www.adsb.lol/docs/open-data/historical/>
14. OpenSky Network. *REST API documentation*. <https://openskynetwork.github.io/opensky-api/rest.html>
15. OpenSky Network. *Historical data via Trino documentation*. <https://openskynetwork.github.io/opensky-api/trino.html>
16. NASA GIBS. *Global Imagery Browse Services API documentation*. <https://nasa-gibs.github.io/gibs-api-docs/>
17. NASA Earthdata. *Common Metadata Repository search API documentation*. <https://cmr.earthdata.nasa.gov/search/site/docs/search/api.html>
18. NOAA / AWS Open Data. *GOES public dataset registry*. <https://registry.opendata.aws/noaa-goes/>
19. NOAA / AWS Open Data. *NEXRAD public dataset registry*. <https://registry.opendata.aws/noaa-nexrad/>
20. NOAA NCEI. *Integrated Global Radiosonde Archive*. <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/weather-balloon/integrated-global-radiosonde-archive>
21. Iowa Environmental Mesonet. *ASOS/AWOS/METAR data download service*. <https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/request/download.phtml>
22. Celestrak. *Spacetrack Report No. 3: Models for propagation of NORAD element sets*. <https://celestrak.org/NORAD/documentation/spacetrk.pdf>
23. Celestrak. *Supplemental GP element sets documentation and current endpoint index*. <https://celestrak.org/NORAD/elements/supplemental/>