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Mysterious sight seen in Houston sky

Sunday, September 12, 2010



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HOUSTON (KTRK) -- Our newsroom was flooded with calls Saturday by viewers alarmed about a plane flying in circles over north Harris County on the 9-11 anniversary.

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[Viewer photos of NASA plane on 9-11](#)

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Several Spring residents say they saw a strange aircraft flying overhead late Saturday afternoon. They described it as having no lights, unlike planes that fly overhead usually towards the airport and leaving hefty vapor trails. Residents say it circled overhead twice, cut a patch and then circled there before coming back above their homes.

One man said no one knew what this was and all of this happening on the anniversary of 9/11 terrified him. He says he's still shaken and doesn't know if he'll be able to sleep tonight.

"I have never seen this before. We see planes fly out of Intercontinental Airport every night, going over our house," said eyewitness Pete Smith. "This didn't fly over. This made a U-pattern, made another circular pattern, went to the south, turned again and started to take off."

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"No lights?" we asked.

"No lights and on 9/11," he said.

A NASA spokesman said this is an unfortunate coincidence that all of this misunderstanding took place on the anniversary of 9/11. He says this is a high-altitude research aircraft that was flying at 50,000 feet. The plane made several flights earlier this week without anyone noticing. On Saturday, however, the atmospheric conditions made those vapor trails visible.

If you took pictures of the aircraft and its contrails, [send them in to the Eyewitness Newsroom](#).

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1 [justme28147](#) 9/11/10 10:38 PM EDT

Of all #### days???? [Mark As Violation](#)

2 [glitterface08](#) 9/11/10 10:39 PM EDT

shouldn't have done testing on 9/11 [Mark As Violation](#)

3 [nicolelopez6186](#) 9/11/10 10:47 PM EDT

I couldn't agree more. To further that when I called the police station to report what I has seen a girl, who must have been no more than 18 responded with, "What do you want me to do about it?" [Mark As Violation](#)

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4 [beckys1234](#) 9/11/10 10:48 PM EDT

I saw them driving north on 288. That was some serious contrails. Nice large oval. I think something ain't right... [Mark As Violation](#)

5 [nicolelopez6186](#) 9/11/10 10:51 PM EDT

Probably should have proof-read my post.
FAIL.
what I had seen, [Mark As Violation](#)

6 [dsparks891](#) 9/11/10 11:10 PM EDT

NASA said NASA is flying an aircraft over Ellington Field?Then tell me this!Why was the aircraft flying in the Cypress area for over 2 hrs... [Mark As Violation](#)

7 [theblackhat](#) 9/11/10 11:40 PM EDT

Why, everyone knows that the Cypress area north of Houston is adjacent to Ellington (as well as Galveston Bay)! You must be an "out-of-towner"! [Mark As Violation](#)

8 [crystal.thompson16](#) 9/11/10 11:51 PM EDT

We were able to see it very clearly from Pasadena. [Mark As Violation](#)

10 [throwthemalloutnow](#) 9/12/10 12:08 AM EDT

Jeez. Give me a break. I saw this in Baytown. My kids and I thought it was cool. Of course your mind wonders, especially on 9/11, but not being able to sleep tonight? I agree with #7. Must not be a native from around here. [Mark As Violation](#)

11 [rmhatch](#) 9/12/10 12:28 AM EDT

"He says he's still shaken and doesn't know if he'll be able to sleep tonight" - DRAMA QUEEN! [Mark As Violation](#)

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12 [ranch mail](#) 9/12/10 12:30 AM EDT

Why does NASA do high alt. tests over populated areas? Why does or did the FAA allow this over a populated area on 9/11? Take that Stupid stuff out over the Gulf Of Mexico that way when the wing snaps no one on the ground will be killed. [Mark As Violation](#)

13 [ranch mail](#) 9/12/10 12:34 AM EDT

NASA giving free rides again? Letting the kids fly the plane thru the con trails? Maybe it was Muslim out reach - lets scare them on 9/11!! [Mark As Violation](#)

14 [rmhatch](#) 9/12/10 12:35 AM EDT

They were doing air quality tests. Flying 'out in the gulf' will not test what they want tested! They were flying all week, but nobody complains until today. [Mark As Violation](#)

15 [ranch mail](#) 9/12/10 12:43 AM EDT

Kind of dopey doind this on a day that almost killed commercial aviation don't ya think? Kinda like Air Farce 1 flying over New York City with F16s escort for a photo opp. Dopey stuff! [Mark As Violation](#)

16 [j_tudeski](#) 9/12/10 12:58 AM EDT

Radio controlled hobby plane w/ sky writing smoke can. Stupid news media and their sensationalism. [Mark As Violation](#)

17 [nannerb792000](#) 9/12/10 1:33 AM EDT

wow,,like they are gonna attack spring anyway,,i think it is funny how these idiots always call the police for stupid stuff like this,,people panic over nothing,,i saw it also and said "oh thats strange but there is prob a good reason for it"; inbred ##### [Mark As Violation](#)

18 [nannerb792000](#) 9/12/10 1:34 AM EDT

last word was ##### [Mark As Violation](#)

19 [mcallentx58](#) 9/12/10 3:03 AM EDT

I could see it from where I live and I live very close to Pasadena. I thought the sight was strange, but I didn't panic. I don't believe NASA's explanation though. [Mark As Violation](#)

20 [ugotkevin](#) 9/12/10 5:09 AM EDT

It looks like a standard airplane holding pattern. My guess the plane is an ER-2 (U2), which would explain being able to get up to 50,000 feet and not looking like a normal plane (it has lights but you won't see it unless the gear is down). [Mark As Violation](#)

21 [BlueDsy](#) 9/12/10 6:38 AM EDT

Wonder if we'll ever hear a NASA spokesman saying "OMG!! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!!!" lol! Seriously, sometimes you have to wonder at the masses being so gullible or wanting their 15 minutes. It's nothing worth panicing over. [Mark As Violation](#)

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22 [firehoss](#) 9/12/10 6:49 AM EDT

OMG Chicken Little, the sky is falling! I hid under Mommie's skirt until it went away. [Mark As Violation](#)

23 [jrf8729](#) 9/12/10 9:11 AM EDT

If these people are this worried it's a wonder they go outsied. Non story. [Mark As Violation](#)

24 [GodFear](#) 9/12/10 9:27 AM EDT

Thanks ABC13 for only getting half the story. What aircraft was this flying around at 50,000 feet exactly? THIS WAS NOT VAPOR as in steam from a jet engine. This was white/BLUE in color. I've seen thousands of vapor trails, just what exactly was "nasa" researching? How to dump thousands of gallons of something over a populace? [Mark As Violation](#)

25 [GodFear](#) 9/12/10 9:31 AM EDT

Just kidding by the way, should any of you take me seriously LOL

It looks like a U2 having some fun... [Mark As Violation](#)

26 [rbharper](#) 9/12/10 9:44 AM EDT

I saw something like this on Thursday in southern Brazoria County. You didn't hear us ##### out. [Mark As Violation](#)

27 [bputch79](#) 9/12/10 10:10 AM EDT

oh god we watched it it wasnt a big deal [Mark As Violation](#)

28 [Daniel 4579](#) 9/12/10 10:15 AM EDT

24, your an idiot. It looked different because of lighting conditions, atmosphere composition, and the altitude (commercial jets fly lower). 12, the air quality is different over Houston. In case you didn't notice, the air quality in the city is a little worse. And at 50,000 feet folks, you probably won't see the lights anyway, given the fact that the sun was still up. [Mark As Violation](#)

29 [Daniel 4579](#) 9/12/10 10:24 AM EDT

And if you think something bad might be going on, just turn on a news channel or a major network, as they are all over it. There's reason to pee yourself every time something strange happens on 911! [Mark As Violation](#)

30 [Daniel 4579](#) 9/12/10 10:33 AM EDT

And if you think something bad might be going on, just turn on a news channel or a major network, as they are all over it. There's no reason to pee yourself every time something strange happens on 911! I saw it too, and was unconcerned. Didn't know why a plane was flying in circles, but knew there was nothing major going on. [Mark As Violation](#)

31 [happytun](#) 9/12/10 10:45 AM EDT

Geoengineering. Happens all the time over Houston except the lines are straight most of the time. [Mark As Violation](#)

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33 [poindexter1900](#) 9/12/10 11:07 AM EDT

This plane flies every so often and we (who pay attention) have seen it before. All the conspiritorial nonsense will not stop them flying it. Use binoculars to see it. Seeing it coming in to land is neat as well, its a modified U2 type plane. Let's be rational [Mark As Violation](#)

34 [rhall518](#) 9/12/10 11:18 AM EDT

A plane flying in circles?? Wow, ain't never seen none of them 'fore. Sha-zam, Sgt. Carter!! (Get a life, OK?) [Mark As Violation](#)

35 [HiptyDipty](#) 9/12/10 11:57 AM EDT

Our government would never lie to us..."I am not a crook"...Richard Nixon. [Mark As Violation](#)

36 [dionne595](#) 9/12/10 12:57 PM EDT

Wrong day to do that kind of "research". [Mark As Violation](#)

37 [Daniel 4579](#) 9/12/10 2:36 PM EDT

They could have done this ANY other day of the year, and people would STILL pee their pants! Over reaction, as always! Hey, some powder on the ground! It could be anthrax! Evacuate the cities! AAAHHH! [Mark As Violation](#)

38 [JoelB](#) 9/12/10 3:20 PM EDT

OMG OMG OMG, they should not fly any kind of aircraft anywhere on 9-11.
Doesn't the gov know how upset people will get? Imfao [Mark As Violation](#)

39 [cyber_griff](#) 9/12/10 5:05 PM EDT

Do a search for NASA's WB-57 aircraft which does weather research all over. Two of them are stationed at Ellington Field and can reach up to 100,000 feet. [Mark As Violation](#)

40 [cyber_griff](#) 9/12/10 5:05 PM EDT

AX [Mark As Violation](#)

41 [mldewey](#) 9/12/10 5:07 PM EDT

Saw this same thing driving south on 288 on Thursday or Friday too. Thought it might have been a drone. [Mark As Violation](#)

42 [lawranch25](#) 9/12/10 5:08 PM EDT

We saw it over Crosby last night. We thought it was cool. To see a plane make 90 degree angle turns and leave a trail is very interesting stuff. We watched it in AWE. Better than TV. [Mark As Violation](#)

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43 [gm6900](#) 9/12/10 5:38 PM EDT

Chem Trails!!!!!!!!!!!! [Mark As Violation](#)

44 [nessamarie76](#) 9/12/10 5:57 PM EDT

Yep. Doubters should research chemtrails. [Mark As Violation](#)

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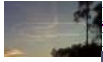


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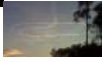
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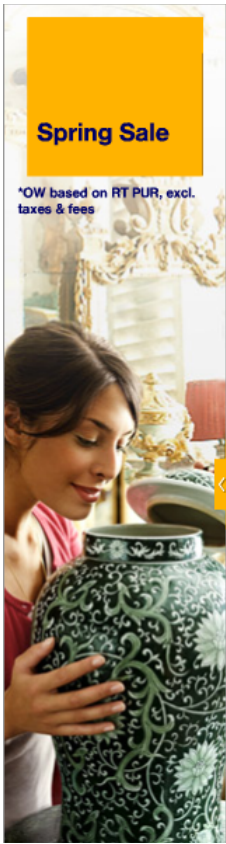
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