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Mysterious sight seen in Houston sky

Sunday, September 12, 2010
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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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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42 comments
Post A Comment
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

View All Comments 4-42Collapse Comments
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. <br/>FAIL. <br/>*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

9 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

Top Of PagePost A Comment
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 doing this on a day that almost killed commercial aviation don't ya think? Kinda like Air Fare 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  mcallext58  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  BlueDsv  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  fireboss  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  irf8729  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 <br/>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  bpatch79  9/12/10 10:10 AM EDT
oh god we watched it it wasn't 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

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

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

Geoengineering. Happens all the time over Houston except the lines are straight most of the time. Mark As Violation

This plane flys 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

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

Our government would never lie to us..."I am not a crook"...Richard Nixon. Mark As Violation

Wrong day to do that kind of "research". Mark As Violation

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

OMG OMG OMG, they should not fly any kind of aircraft anywhere on 9-11..<br/>Doesn't the gov know how upset people will get? lmfao Mark As Violation

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

Chem Trails!!!!!!!!!!! Mark As Violation

Yep. Doubters should research chemtrails. Mark As Violation
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