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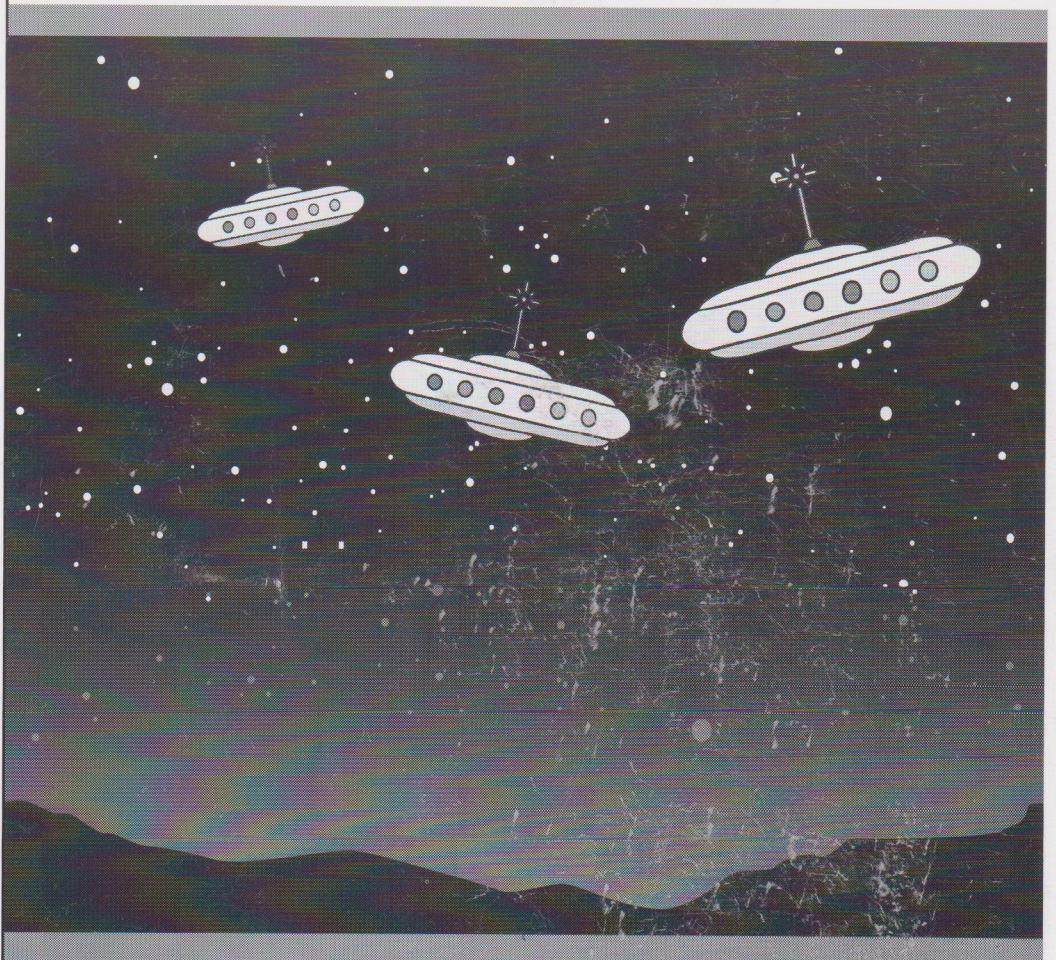
# UFO JOURNAL

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## The Ongoing Sightings in Stephenville, Texas



# MUFON UFO JOURNAL

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# Director's Message

By James Carrion

## Linking the unknown to the fantastic unfair to Ufology

It seems like every day a new conspiracy theory hits the media to be added to the multitude of theories out there that permeate our society. From the very beginning of the modern UFO era, the UFO phenomenon has been inextricably linked to conspiracy theories of every flavor—from Nazi UFOs to the JFK assassination.

How can we as truth seekers ever get to the truth when the already mind-boggling UFO phenomenon is made even more complicated by the linking of the unknown with the fantastic? It is no wonder that mainstream science keeps us and the study of UFOs at arm's length.

MUFON has always found itself in the thick of things when it comes to its role in the UFO field. Although our mission and goals are straightforward, we always find ourselves at the end of some conspiracy theory, whether it is allegations that we are government controlled or that we answer to some

nefarious alien race. On a personal note, I found that I as well as other members of the MUFON Board of Directors have made the Top 100 Men in Black list that is floating around the Internet. Yes, I do own a black suit, but that is where the allegation ends.

Looking up the term "Conspiracy Theory" on Wikipedia reveals that:

A conspiracy theory alleges a coordinated group is, or was, secretly working to commit illegal or wrongful actions, including attempting to hide the existence of the group and its activities. In notable cases the hypothesis contradicts what was, or

*Continued on page 22*



*James Carrion*

MUFON'S MISSION IS THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF  
UFOs FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY THROUGH  
INVESTIGATION, RESEARCH, & EDUCATION.

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# The Second Wave of UFO Sightings near Stephenville, Texas, Fall 2008

By Richard M. Webb  
Field Investigator, STAR Team

As a STAR Team member I was asked by International MUFON Director James Carrion to go to Stephenville to investigate the UFO sightings this last fall. Part of being a STAR (Team for Area Research) member is the ability to be deployed to an area quickly. I arrived in Stephenville the next day, October 27, 2008. I found out there were 30–40 sightings already reported to the local newspaper, police, and Erath County Sheriff's Department.

At the local newspaper, the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune*, I spoke with Whitney Ashley, the reporter who replaced Angelia Joiner. Whitney Ashley broke the story about the new wave of UFO sightings in the *Empire Tribune* in the October 26 Sunday edition, with the headline "They're back." There were quite a large number of sightings in Erath County earlier in 2008.

Mrs. Ashley gave me the names of five people who were willing to be interviewed by MUFON investigators, and I contacted them. Through checking MUFON's Computerized Management System (CMS) for sighting reports, I found six individuals who included enough personal information so that I could contact them. During the next five days I received telephone calls from other witnesses as a result of leaving my MUFON business card with Mrs. Ashley.

Mrs. Ashley also gave me a copy of an email from Major Karl D. Lewis, USAFR, 301<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing, Chief of Public Affairs, regarding her inquiry about military jets that were seen during the UFO sightings. His response was, "Seven F-16s from the 457<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron flew from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth to the Brownwood

Military Operating Area (MOA) for normal training operations on Thursday, October 23, 2008, from approximately 7:30 to 9:00 PM local time."

His statement verifies the witnesses' accounts of military jets in the area of their UFO sightings and also the time frame from the witnesses. During the "Flap" of January/February 2008 he had denied that any military jets were flying in the Stephenville area during the time of the sightings. Then—as the reader probably knows—about two weeks later, Major Lewis reversed himself and admitted that there were military jets in the area during the timeframe of the sightings. This was confirmed by the radar tapes that MUFON acquired in response to a Freedom of Information Act Request.

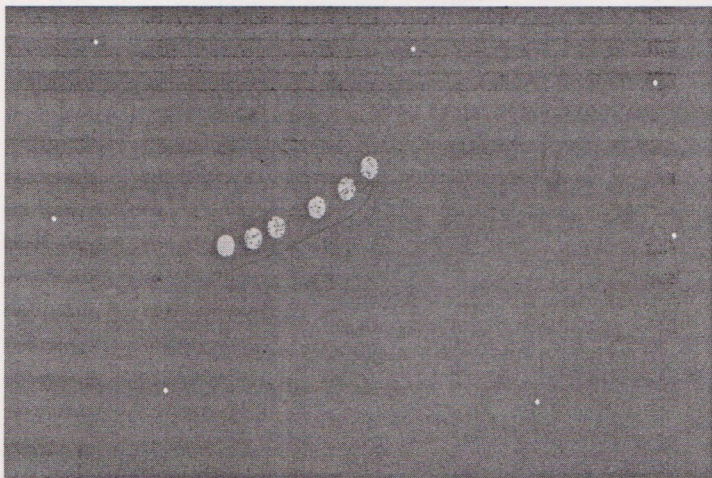
## Witness Reports

### October 21, 2008

A witness who lives in Stephenville called me, saying that she had cell phone video of UFOs and jets that was taken on October 21st, 2008—two days before most of the sightings occurred. I met with the witness and her family at the mother's home where the sighting occurred and the video was filmed. The video was taken outside the home looking west about 45 degrees above the horizon. At the time, the temperature was about 60 degrees and the sky was clear.

I interviewed the witness (who would like to remain anonymous) and viewed the cell phone video of her sighting. It showed what looked to be like star-sized bright white objects moving around the sky, making circles, sharp angle turns, and hovering. Next, what looked like five to six cones of blue and orange lights appeared from the left of the screen and moved from left to right. The UFOs shot offscreen to the right. The "cones" looked like the afterburners of military jets, which is an assumption on my part, however, the witnesses said they heard the jets and the noise they make was loud. A moment passed, then the aircraft reappeared, this time moving from right to left, and the UFOs were right behind them, as if the UFOs were chasing the aircraft. The witnesses all said they saw black helicopters in the area during the sighting.

The mother, the witness's sister and her son all agreed that what appeared on the cell phone screen actually happened. The witness agreed to send me the video from her cell phone to my computer. However, I only received one frame of the video. After several subsequent contacts with her, we determined that since her camera was a Bluetooth, the transfer would have to be to a DVD. After numerous calls and emails to the witness, I still have not received the video.



Computer-rendered drawing of array of orange lights as seen by Jessica Clark and Hanna Fair on October 23, 2008.

*Continued on page 4*



## Stephenville sightings

*Continued from page 3*

October 23, 2008, 7:50 PM

Jessica Clark and Hanna Fair sighted a UFO as they were driving from Stephenville to Proctor, Texas. Hanna was driving when Jessica saw something odd through her passenger side window. She said the UFO looked like a row of orange lights that were moving in a horizontal line.

She further described that the lights “appeared to curve or trail off to the right as it would fade.” The row of lights were orange-yellow and very bright (nearly all the witnesses described just about the same thing), and larger than the stars. The lights would blink out, and then re-appear in a different location. The lights blinked out a total of four times, and then they were not seen again.

The last time the lights blinked on they had changed from a horizontal position to a vertical position and were moving very fast. The duration between blinking on to blinking off was about 5–10 seconds. (See illustration on page 3.)

I contacted Jessica via email. She reiterated her CMS account without variation. She said she was outside her workplace, on the south edge of Stephenville, at about 7:50 PM smoking a cigarette when she saw three orangish-yellow lights which were in a straight row and angled to the right. The lights were in the west and moving in a westerly direction. She went into her workplace to get her friends so they could view the objects, but when they came out the lights had disappeared.

October 23, 2008, 8:30 PM

Kirk Horn had contacted Mrs. Ashley about his sighting that occurred about 8:30 PM on Thursday, October 23, 2008. Mr. Horn and his family live about five miles southwest of Stephenville on a ranch, which is also about five miles from Dublin, Texas. I interviewed them on October 28.

Mr. Horn said the family was in the house watching television, with the exception of his oldest son, Nick. Suddenly, Nick came into the house yelling that a UFO was on the other side of the house. By the time everybody got outside, the UFO had disappeared. It then re-appeared about 1–2 miles south of the house, hovering over a field. The object was round and orange.

While the UFO was hovering, four jets appeared from the south and three from the west. When the jets appeared the object just appeared to vanish. At the time of the first interview the son, Nick, was unavailable. He was later interviewed on October 31, 2008. The cell phone footage that he had taken was of poor quality and I didn't request a copy. A photo of his father pointing up in the sky where they saw the UFO appeared on the front page of the *Empire-Tribune's* Sunday edition.

October 23, 2008, 8:30 PM

Mr. Max Derden and his wife Carole also had a sighting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Derdens live west of Hamilton, Texas, about 30 miles south of Stephenville.

Mr. Derden was sitting on his back patio at about 8:30 PM when he noticed two objects that had large round bright orange lights. The objects were of different size and he estimated that they were moving about twenty miles per hour.

The larger object had nine orange lights on the front and the smaller object had three orange lights. Both objects were about 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the ground, in the northwest moving to the west. He said that there were 20 to 30 other objects he described as “small, very bright iridescent green cones,” which moved up, down and sideways. “The big orange lights [on the large object] came on horizontally, one after another until all nine lights were brightly lit. The second object, with the three lights, came on about 20 seconds after the bigger nine-light show was complete.”

Besides the cones that were unique to this sighting, Mr. Derden said, “The diameter of the orange light was huge and it appeared to have spoke-like markings like an old wagon wheel.” He commented that he noticed the orange glow of the light on what appeared to be metal. “My wife and I were convinced that the larger object was a craft of some sort.”

The entire sighting lasted about twenty minutes. During this time the orange lights repeated the on and off sequence six times, then everything just vanished. The curious aspect about the Derdens' sighting was the “iridescent cones,” and the fact that there were no military jets reported during the sighting.

October 23, 2008, 8:30 PM

On the same evening, Ms. Ashleigh Cole observed an object with three other witnesses, who wanted to remain anonymous. She and her friends were riding horses on the ranch she manages near Dublin, Texas. At the time they were riding next to a one-story horse barn. When they cleared the barn they all saw three big orange lights (basketball size at arm's length) hovering about one hundred feet above the ground. The lights were arrayed in a straight line that was at a 20 degree angle and moving at about 30–40 miles per hour from the west to the north. When the lights were first seen they were about 150 yards away. The orange lights would blink on and off in a random sequence and they looked elliptical, not round. The object did not make any sound as they moved. She estimated the object to be about 45 feet long.

The sighting lasted about five minutes. Finally, the light blinked out and did not come back on. Ms. Cole also said that the horses in the corral started running around the corral when the lights were visible and some dogs in the area began barking. Ms. Cole reported the sighting to the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune*.



October 23, 2008, 8:37 PM

I interviewed Mrs. Monrreal at her home about 5 miles southeast of Stephenville. At the time of the sighting, her son had about 10 friends visiting at the house; some were inside playing pool, and the rest were outside playing basketball.

She said that her son used her video camera to tape the three orange objects that appeared near their home. The lights were rectangular, not round, and they looked like they were attached to something round. The sighting happened on October 23, 2008, at 8:37 PM. She knew the exact time because she looked at her watch when her son started yelling at her to get the video camera. She showed me the video on her Sony Video Cam.

The three orange-yellow lights looked rectangular with rounded corners. The lights were vertical and the rectangular light on the left side did look as if it were curved around something, like it may have been attached to something solid. The lights didn't blink and they were of the same intensity. The object or lights were about 45 degrees in the sky, which was clear. Mrs. Monrreal said that the lights moved from the southwest to the west. Considering the direction the house faces, the object would have had to have been moving away from the observers.

She said that she couldn't tell how far the object was from the house. She reported that there was a presence of military aircraft in the area during the sighting, but she didn't know what kind of aircraft they were and they were so high she couldn't hear them. I asked her how she knew they were there and she said she could see the flames from the tails of the jets, and it looked like they were looking for something because they were flying back and forth. The video was 31 seconds long. I asked Mrs. Monrreal if any of the media had contacted her and she said, "Oh, no, I contacted CNN, ABC and CW." (Since the interview I've seen the video that she showed me on WFFA, the Fort Worth ABC affiliate.)

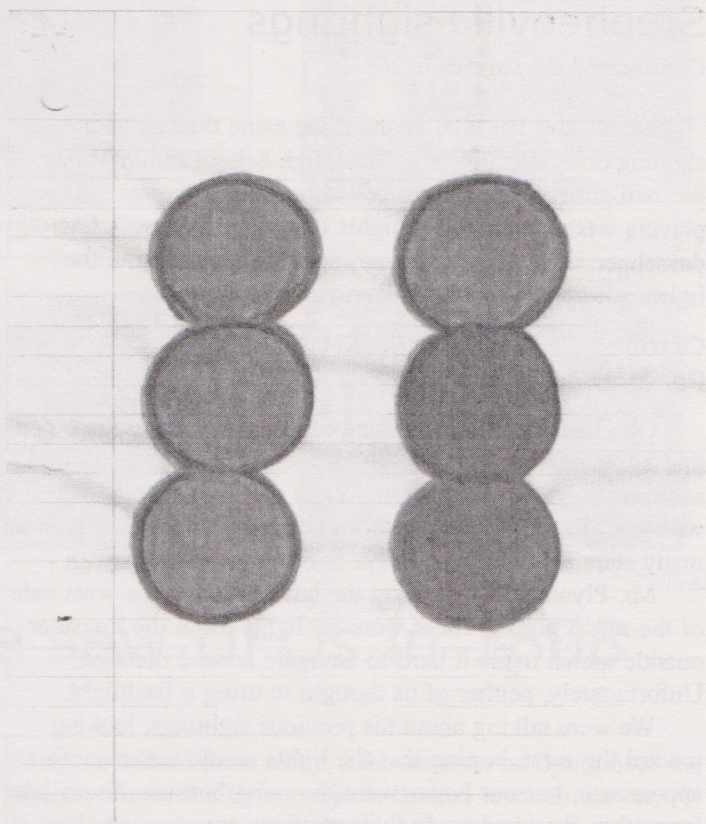
I tried, unsuccessfully, to contact Mrs. Monrreal's son. He was either working or playing football.

Mrs. Monrreal didn't want to sign the MUFON case report form, and she didn't want to loan the digital video to MUFON. She said she would have her son download the tape on his computer, however, as of this date, I haven't received the video from the Monrreals.

### October 23 and 28, 2008

Greg Plyant of Evant, Texas, had two sightings prior to my interview with him. The first sighting was on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and the second was on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The objects he saw on the 23<sup>rd</sup> were round orange lights that were flashing on and off while moving from west to east. He reported five or six military jets in the area during the sighting. He also said that the lights were arrayed in a curved formation, as if they were attached to something solid that may have been round.

The object looked to be about 10 miles away and it made no sound. It was headed from west to east at a slow rate of



*Drawing (on notebook paper) of arrangement of orange lights seen by Mrs. D'Ann Wheeler near Hico, Texas.*

speed. Like other people's sightings, there were military planes in the area. He said that on both occasions the temperature was about 55 degrees and the wind was calm. The visibility was at least 10–20 miles.

While personally interviewing Mr. Plyant on October 30, 2008, at the ranch that he manages, we both witnessed the orange lights in the western sky. I'll discuss this sighting later in the report.

### October 23, 2008

Mrs. D'Ann Wheeler reported that at about 9:15 PM she was visiting a friend who lives south of Hico, Texas. They were outside looking at the stars when they noticed a number of small orange lights. They noticed that there were six lights total, in two vertical parallel formations of three lights each. She said that the lights were about the size of a baseball at arm's length. The lights did not blink off and on, but rotated to the right maybe 10–15 degrees. The lights did not seem to move; they just hovered maybe about 1.5 miles from where they were standing and about 60 degrees above the horizon.

Mrs. Wheeler said there were military jets in the area flying around before the lights were noticed, and the jets flew around after the lights blinked out. She also said that the jets were so high in the sky that she and her friend couldn't hear them. The sighting lasted about 2–3 minutes.

*Continued on page 6*



# Stephenville sightings

*Continued from page 5*

Lastly, she said that at about the same time as their sighting or a little after, the Hico High School Junior Varsity football game had to be cancelled because the spectators and players were watching the lights that were nearby. A few days later, the Hico, Texas, newspaper reported how the lights interrupted the football game.

October 30, 2008, 8:50 PM  
Personal UFO Sighting

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, I interviewed Greg Plyant on the ranch that he manages which is near Evant, Texas, about 50 miles south of Stephenville. The night sky was pitch black and it was full of stars from horizon to horizon. I had never seen so many stars since I have always lived in or near a city.

Mr. Plyant and I were on the back patio on the west side of the ranch house. There were no lights on in the house or outside which made it hard to navigate around the area. Unfortunately, neither of us thought to bring a flashlight.

We were talking about his previous sightings, looking toward the west, hoping that the lights would make another appearance, but our hopes were dimming because it was later than when they had made their previous appearances. At about 8:50 PM, all of a sudden we both witnessed the orange lights blink on in the northwestern sky.

Mr. Plyant thought there was only one orange light that blinked on and off in different places. I thought that there were a number of lights, maybe 8 to 10. Because of the total darkness it was difficult to judge how far the objects were from us. The lights were round and about the size of a pea at arm's length.

The lights flashed, not flickered, on and off. The orange-yellow lights were in a straight line. We could not determine whether they were attached to anything, and the circles did not look like they were moving. However, when the last light blinked out, it was in the north.

He said that this sighting was different than his other two previous sightings because the lights didn't move from west to east and there were no military jets in the area during this sighting. The sighting lasted about 20 seconds.

The most curious thing that happened during the sighting was when I went to turn on my video binoculars to view the lights, they would not turn on. However, after the sighting was over, the binoculars worked fine. This sighting was more spectacular than the other two UFO sightings I've experienced in the past three years.

## Reports of Sightings Continue

While I was in Stephenville the reports of sightings continued to come in, mainly to the *Empire-Tribune*, and there were about 70 new CMS reports that were filed from October 27 through November 1, 2008.

I also received a number of calls from witnesses who wanted to report their sightings but they lived too far from Stephenville, and because of my time constraints I could not interview them either by telephone or in person. I asked them to make their reports on CMS.

It should be noted that the media did not pay as much attention to this flap as it did with the first one earlier in 2008. Several videos have shown up in the media; one was most likely sold to a TV station in Fort Worth, Texas, and another has been circulating on the internet. Several of the witnesses I interviewed would not give up their video footage so that MUFON could analyze it, presumably so that they could get paid for it from other sources.

As reported in the May 2008 *MUFON Journal*, No. 481, pages 3–12, numerous UFO sightings were reported and investigated in the Dublin-Stephenville area. Witnesses reported different types of objects: black delta-shaped, a blimp, strobe lights, start-like objects, and a huge gray solid object that the witness said was so big he could not see either the front or the rear of the craft.

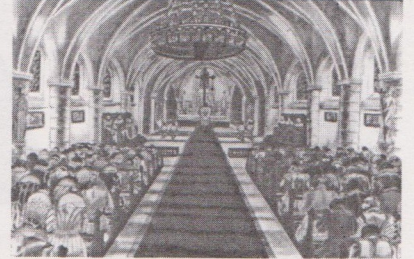
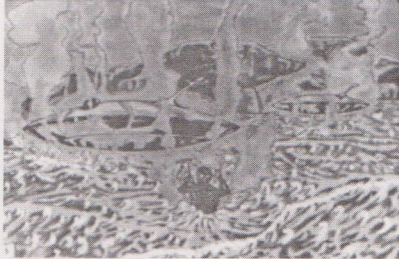
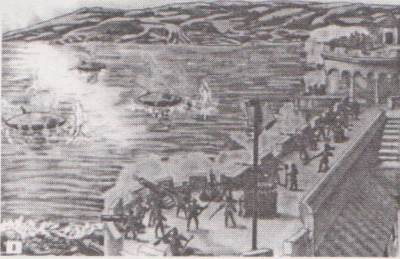
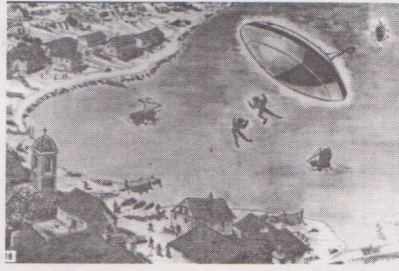
It also bears mentioning (as previously reported in the May 2008 *MUFON Journal*, No. 482) there are several military bases around Stephenville, such as the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base at Fort Worth, Fort Hood at Killeen, and Dyess Air Force Base at Abilene. Furthermore, there's a Military Operations Area (MOA) west of Stephenville, which probably includes Dyess AFB.

My investigation of the Stephenville cases disclosed only two witnesses who said they saw something other than round orange/yellow lights in the sky. That means that 82% of the witnesses I interviewed observed basically the same type of objects, i.e., round, orange-yellow circles, that may or may not have been attached to a solid object. All of the reported sightings took place after the sun set.

It wasn't until I returned home to Omaha that I really sensed the magnitude of what was happening in and around Stephenville, Texas. In all of my 29 years as a criminal/civil investigator with the Federal Government and all the hundreds of cases I investigated for Uncle Sam, none of them compared to the cases I had the opportunity to investigate the last week of October 2008.

*Rich Webb has been retired from the IRS for 4 years. He also worked for several other federal agencies—Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; U.S. Customs—as a criminal investigator. Since his retirement, he has become a Field Investigator for MUFON and was selected as a STAR Team member last year. Rich is also a Crop Circle Investigator/Researcher for the ICCRA (International Crop Circle Researcher's Association) and has investigated four crop circles in the last two years. He also gives seminars on the Crop Circle phenomenon. He and his wife, Louise, live in LaVista, Nebraska.*





# Citizens of Nice, France saw UFOs in 1608

By John Tomlinson

At the beginning of the 17th century, the city of Nice in the South of France was going through one of its most prosperous periods. Early in the morning of August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1608, the inhabitants of Nice saw three strange luminous crafts revolving at great velocity in the skies above the city. The objects stopped above the fortress, hovering still above it for a while, then descending slowly towards the surface of the Mediterranean close to the Port. The Nicois were able to watch closely in full detail these objects which floated atop the sea. Water soon began boiling in a noisy manner like a roar. A reddish vapor resulted from this effect of heat on the sea.

From one of the crafts, two humanlike figures came out; they were described as having "large heads and shiny eyes." They were dressed in some sort of red and silvery suits and were linked to the vessel by some sort of tube. The beings did some tasks during a few hours, and dived in the water to waist level while their arms were maintaining vertically two tubes linked to some kind of belt they were wearing.

For two hours the three crafts maintained their position. The entities came back around 10 PM and all crafts disappeared in a few seconds noisily to the east. (No details were given as to whether they departed via sea or air.)

The Nicois believed God had send them a sign and spent all night till dawn of August 6<sup>th</sup> praying in all churches of the City.

On the morning of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the three crafts were seen further at sea off the Italian city of Genova. The word having spread of what had happened earlier in the month near the city of Nice, the local soldiers of the fortress defending the city shot up to 800 ancient style cannon balls at the crafts

to try and chase them away. After an hour of flying over the waters, one of the flying objects dashed towards the city. Panic followed as the population dashed away; consequently a few were killed and many were injured while being stepped on by a running crowd. All three crafts then entered a new formation and disappeared to the east again rapidly.

Three days later, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1608, in the sky above Martigues close to Marseilles a single flying object was seen to fly over the city for an hour and half. Two beings exited the craft and seemed to be shooting at one another around the craft, a sort of duel.

This was the last written sighting of this UFO/USO manifestation in the archive from Nice city.

A week later, reddish blood colored rain fell abundantly over the region. Inhabitants were convinced of a Godly vengeance.

For 40 days straight, each chapel, church, cathedral or monastery in a zone along the Mediterranean Sea spread from Genova (Italy) to Marseille/Martigues (France) were full *night and day* of local parishioners by the thousands praying.

This is the best example of a UFO/USO case in the early 17th century.

*Source: Library Louis Nucera, City of Nice, France.*

*Written and translated from the French by John Tomlinson. Tomlinson is the MUFON Representative for France.*

*Illustrations were commissioned by Mister Gerard Lebat, President of French "Repas Ufologiques." They were painted by highly skilled artisans in an ancient style to illustrate this USO case. They are used with Mister Lebat's permission.*



# Statistical MUFON Report for January 2009

In January 2009 there were 550 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS from thirty countries. Within the United States the number of reports by State was as follows:

California	70
Pennsylvania	43
Florida	39
Texas	34
New York	20
Indiana	18
New Jersey	18
Ohio	17
Georgia	16
Tennessee	14
Arizona	14
Illinois	14
Colorado	13
Missouri	9
Massachusetts	9
Washington	9
Utah	8
North Carolina	7

Michigan	7
Connecticut	7
District of Columbia	6
Louisiana	6
Virginia	6
Kentucky	5
Oregon	5
New Hampshire	5
Rhode Island	5
Maine	4
Maryland	4
Nevada	4
Alabama	3
Alaska	3
Montana	3
Oklahoma	3
Arkansas	3
Iowa	3
Minnesota	3
South Carolina	3
Mississippi	3
Wyoming	3
Nebraska	2
Vermont	2

New Mexico	2
Delaware	2
Hawaii	1
Idaho	1
Wisconsin	1
Kansas	1
South Dakota	1

Globally, sightings were reported as follows:

479	United States
18	United Kingdom
10	Canada
3 each	Spain, Australia, Puerto Rico, Mexico, France
2 each	Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Serbia & Montenegro, Chile
1 each	Greece, Russian Federation, Brunei Darussalam, Ireland, Japan, Austria, Estonia, China, Germany, Cuba, Ukraine, Malaysia, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden, Tanzania, United Republic of Bulgaria

## End Time Prophecies and the Disclosure Project

[www.angelonline-books.com](http://www.angelonline-books.com)

### Book No. 1 — Northwest History of Saucers: Important Documents

Written by a psychic. Fallen angels (the aliens) abduct the Carry family, 1975 & 1979. These are the aliens. Much more information in this book.

### Book No. 2 — Yeti, Nessie and Other Entities

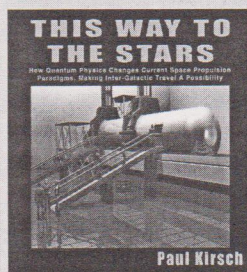
This book covers all aspects from the beginning of earth until the End Times. Where God and Mother Mary live. Bigfoot brought to earth after the flood to clean up the planet. Why are they not seen by many? Yatoo tells the life history of Bigfoot. Little green scientists come to Earth from Mars. Nessie, the Wallowa Lake monster and several other species reported by Commander Krilli of Area 51; also describes ten species of Bigfoot. Admiral Cobare of the New Jerusalem reports on chemtrails, death in the air. Reincarnation and creation. Oceans raise over 20 feet by 2010 (caused by global warming). Half the population on Earth deceased by 2024 from hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes and worse. The Antichrist and the Mark of the Beast in power at this time. Crop circles, the black thunder, and Phoenix Lights, the maker of the same and much, much more. Twelve asteroids and Planet X, also a metear destroyed since 2002 by God's little people. Many sun flares.

## AERC IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

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## A World of UFOs

By Chris A. Rutkowski, Released 29 September 2008.  
Dundurn Press. ISBN 978-1550028331. English. Paperback:  
320 pages. \$15.95 US on Amazon (\$24.99 Canadian)

Reviewed by Nicholas D. Roesler

UFOs are a truly global phenomenon. Although many of the best-known cases have taken place in North America, amazing stories of witnesses' encounters with strange disc-shaped objects (and their occupants) have come from every corner of the globe.

From a floating platform watched by dozens near Indonesia, to a Saturn-shaped object that flew over a ship off the coast of Brazil, to a landing Down Under, UFOs have been baffling witnesses and making headlines around the world.

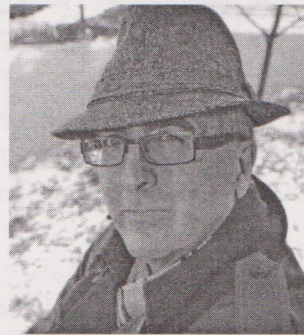
In *A World of UFOs*, unlike other case studies, Rutkowski presents case reports and abstracts from around the world, offering the reader a unique look at the global scope of what Hynek referred to as "The UFO Problem."

Rutkowski is a science writer by training, which is evident by the structure and presentation of the book as a whole. From the book's introduction to the final page, Rutkowski sticks to the hard science, providing sufficient scientific data to appeal to the trained scientist, while never losing sight of the average reader. As a result, *A World of UFOs* is appropriate reading for readers of high school age to those with post-graduate education.

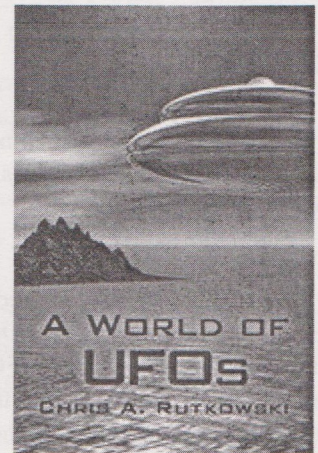
Information in the book is efficiently presented, which will no doubt help readers who may not be intimately familiar with all cases presented.

The book's most straightforward chapter details five of ufology's most famous cases: the Roswell Incident; the Betty and Barney Hill abduction; the Tehran, Iran, Incident; the Rendlesham Forest Incident; and the Phoenix Lights case.

This is followed by collections of cases labeled as the "most bizarre UFO cases" and the "most interesting UFO cases." These cases span both the globe and a period of decades. While some cases may be less well-known to the general public, others—notably the Manhattan abductions;



Author Chris Rutkowski



the Belgian Triangle sightings; the Trindade Island, Brazil, sighting; and the Travis Walton case—have been well-documented over a period of years.

The second half of the book contains, in this writer's opinion, some of the more interesting observations presented. UFO activity is broken down on a continent-by-continent basis, including Antarctica.

From a research standpoint, *A World of UFOs* exceeds expectations. The book serves as a thoroughly researched and expertly compiled primer into the subject of UFOs.

*A World of UFOs* could certainly have featured additional cases to those highlighted in the book's four major sections. Perhaps Mr. Rutkowski will revisit the material in the future expanded edition.

Additionally, a further breakdown of the international cases featured in the book would have made the book more useful as a reference book.

*A World of UFOs* runs 320 pages in its first paperback edition. While it may be a bit daunting at the outset, it should prove to be a fairly quick read for the average reader.

Tackling only some of the more well-known cases would have made Chris Rutkowski's latest offering memorable. Offering readers some fifteen well-researched case reports, as well as reports unique to each continent of the world, not only makes *A World of UFOs* a must-read for serious students of ufology, but also a valuable research tool.

Author Chris A. Rutkowski is a science writer with a background in astronomy and education. Since the mid-1970s, he has devoted much time to investigating and studying reports of UFOs. Two of his previously published works, *Abductions and Aliens* and *The Canadian UFO Report* (with Geoff Dittman) were national bestsellers in Canada. Mr. Rutkowski lives with his family outside of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

For further information, see: [www.uforum.blogspot.com](http://www.uforum.blogspot.com)

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# UFOs and Nukes: Extraordinary Encounters at Nuclear Weapons Sites

By Robert Hastings. 2008 AuthorHouse, Bloomington, Indiana. Paperback, 589 pages. \$23.95 from [www.ufohastings.com](http://www.ufohastings.com)

Reviewed by James Waldo

It could be strongly argued that the modern age of ufology began in the late 1940s. There was a huge upswing in the numbers of reported UFO sightings that effectively brought the phenomenon into the public mind. Also, this time period was the beginning of the nuclear age, which author Robert Hastings in *UFOs and Nukes*, describes as “Arguably, the most important development in international affairs over the last 60 years.” Using declassified documents from various agencies of the U.S. government and anecdotal eyewitness accounts from former U.S. service members, Hastings attempts to build a case that the close timing of the nuclear age and the modern age of ufology is not a coincidence.

The bulk of the book is devoted to various accounts of UFO sightings mostly by former U.S. service members in connection with Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) sites, nuclear weapons production facilities and naval vessels. Many of the reports, although anecdotal, are fascinating. Hastings even manages to show a connection between nuclear weapons sites, UFOs and cattle mutilations, that, to my knowledge, has never been shown to have any correlation to each other previously.

Hastings begins the first of the thirty one chapters of the book with a general overview of the UFO phenomenon. He describes the basic differences between scientific and anecdotal evidence and the various reasons why people do or do not believe that UFOs exist. The next several chapters of the book are used to relate documented sightings and anecdotal reports of UFOs near nuclear weapons bases beginning in the 1940s and 1950s.

In chapter three the author discusses the unpublished, but very interesting, research by Dan Wilson of a correlation of the well documented “green fireball” sightings of the late 1940s and 1950s and radioactive plumes generated during atmospheric nuclear weapons testing as the plumes crossed the continental United States. Apparently, the U.S. government very closely monitored the progress of the radioactive plumes and those records are publicly available. Wilson’s cross-referencing of reported “green fireball” and other UFO sightings with the location of the radioactive plumes do seem to show a connection. It was almost as if the UFO occupants were monitoring the progress of the fallout, as well. What

was disturbing about his research was the revelation of the amount of radioactive fallout that apparently fell on every part of the United States at some point!

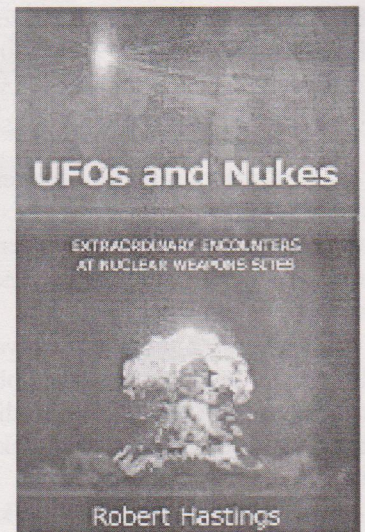
In subsequent chapters Hastings discusses the Big Sur UFO Incident in which it is alleged that an Atlas D ICBM was effectively shot out of the air by a UFO. Without going into detail, one of the significant details that Hastings adds to this account is the little known private letters that were exchanged by the two key witnesses that seem to add an additional layer of legitimacy to the account. Another event related by the author is the eyewitness testimony by former U.S. Air Force personnel of a truly fantastic encounter at Malmstrom Air Force Base in the 1990s that is reminiscent of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Appendix B is devoted to a few short accounts of UFO sightings at civilian nuclear power plants both in the U.S. and abroad. In light of the other nuclear related UFO sightings documented by the author, I feel that this topic is well worth further research.

Not all of the book’s chapters are devoted to the connection between UFOs and nuclear weapons, however. Hastings devotes chapter thirteen to a well reasoned discussion of the Condon Committee Report and a fairly venomous debunking of debunkers. Chapter 27 is devoted to the Roswell Incident. The author is not in the wrong for including a discussion of this much discussed event, because, at the time of the incident, Roswell Army Air Field was the home of the only nuclear bomber base in the world. However, no really new information or revelations are made regarding the Roswell Incident.

Finally, chapter 28 is devoted to various theories for faster than light travel that could theoretically be employed by extraterrestrials to travel to the Earth from parts unknown. While I don’t disagree with any of the points that Hastings makes in these chapters, I feel that in a book that is just short of six hundred pages they were somewhat superfluous.

Of course, the book is not without its faults, no book is. The order in which some of the chapters are placed seems to



*Continued on page 11*



# STAR Team presents new logo



A new logo for the STAR team (MUFON Strike Team for Area Research) has been designed and approved by team members, says Richard Lang, MUFON STAR Team Coordinator. The logo was based on original artwork submitted by Kristen Winslet. Following review by the team members and a few revisions, the team unanimously approved the final version.

The new official logo will be used to represent the STAR Team. It can be embroidered on jacket patches, hats and shirts and also used on notebooks, stationary, business cards and to mark equipment and vehicles, and so forth.

Members of the STAR Team are: James Carrion, Richard Webb, Jay Jordan, Kristen Winslet, Norm Gagnon, Chuck Modlin, Tom Sheets, Richard Lang, Warren Aston and Chuck Reever.

Team coordinator Richard Lang is the MUFON State Director North Carolina, as well as the Chief Investigator for Virginia and North Carolina. He can be reached at 336-953-2699 or [rlang3@windstream.net](mailto:rlang3@windstream.net).

## Secret Danish UFC Archives Opened by Danish Air Force

Source: The Copenhagen Post – Denmark

29 January 2009 —The Danish Air Force has opened its UFO archives, providing information on over 15,000 reported extraterrestrial sightings to the public

UFO archives are now readily available to the public, detailing sightings from over the last 30 years. The Danish Air Force published the archive online on 28 January because it felt that “there was nothing secret in the files.”

The Air Force said that most of the sightings remained “unidentified” because the details were not precise enough. However, some of the reports contained enough description to rule out the UFOs as aircraft, weather phenomenon or paper lanterns.

Not all of the sightings were centered over Denmark and one event over Greenland is attracting attention.

On 5 January, 1981, at 12:50, a flaming, square disc was seen approximately 45 degrees over the frozen land near Thule Air Base. It then vanished as suddenly as it had appeared. [The article does not specify AM or PM.]

Coincidentally, radar stations at the American base recorded an unidentified flying object on its radar at 12:50.

Air Force Captain Thomas Petersen, who has an extensive knowledge of the files, commented that any unresolved sightings are handed over to the Scandinavian UFO Centre, if they request it.

He added that the Air Force’s main mission was to defend Denmark against threat, “and UFOs are not a known threat.”

<http://www.cphpost.dk/news/national/article/88-national/44602-secret-ufo-archives-opened.html>

## Book Review: UFOs and Nukes

*Continued from page 10*

take away from the logical progression of the book and the author fell prey to the inherent limitations of all spell checking programs.

Overall, Hastings succeeds in building his case that there is a strong correlation between nuclear weapons and UFOs. The accounts presented in the book are well documented and the eyewitness accounts of the service members seem genuine. Having spent twenty years in the military I recognized the small details of day-to-day military life in the personal accounts that, to me, added to the credibility of the witnesses’ statements.

Also, the author did not fall into the trap as so many other authors of UFO literature. That is, the presentation of speculation as fact. Hastings states plainly many times that anecdotal evidence is not the same thing as scientific evidence. When Hastings presents his opinions he makes clear his reasoning, which, in my opinion, is solid.

In conclusion, I feel that *UFOs and Nukes* is worth the read and should be added to the reading list of anyone serious about the subject of ufology.

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# Greece: Amazing UFO Incident Witnessed by Air Force and Airline; Cover-Up Disclosed

By Michael Cohen

[m.cohen@allnewsweb.com](mailto:m.cohen@allnewsweb.com)

February 7, 2009—A remarkable UFO incident that occurred in the skies over Athens over a year ago but was kept secret by the Greek Aviation Authority and the Greek Air Force has recently come to light and is receiving extensive media coverage in Greece. A recording of the conversation [in Greek] between the pilot involved and the airport control tower has been made public and can be listened to at the website listed below. A copy of the official document named 'Lightning 2' commanding two F-16's to intercept the UFO can also be viewed at this website.

On 11 October 2007 at 3:20am the captain of Olympic Airways flight 266 from Athens to London noticed an extremely unusual object moving erratically to the west of Athens. The object was somewhat star like in appearance however much brighter and larger with a constantly shifting shape.

Meanwhile the captains of Olympic Airways flights 730 to Kos and 700 to Rhodes reported the same thing. The sighting was then confirmed by Athens Airport control tower, whose employees observed the object moving towards Karystos, a small town on the Greek island of Euboea. At this point the Greek Air Force was contacted.

The Greek Air Force confirmed that they too were visually monitoring the object from their radar station at the top of Parintha Mountain near Athens and had observed that it was traveling at incredible speed and did not fit the description of any terrestrial craft. The staff at the Air Force radar station later described the UFO as large, of an unusual shape and very bright. Air force staff were requested to photograph the craft and did so (no pictures have come to light yet).

At this point two F-16's were sent up to intercept the UFO, while the various control towers monitored the object from earth. The object then shot off at incredible speed

## Calendar. . .

**February 22–28, 2009.** 2009 International UFO Congress. 7 days and 8 nights of events. 30 speakers from around the world. Stanton Friedman, Jim Marrs, Croatian prophet Braco, Marisa Ryan, Joshua P. Warren, and nightly skywatch trips led by Ed Grimsley. Laughlin, NV. [www.ufocongress.com](http://www.ufocongress.com)

**March 27–28.** Aztec UFO Symposium 2009. Aztec, NM. Victoria Liljenquist, Michael Salla, and more. <http://www.aztecufo.com/sched.htm>

**April 17–19, 2009.** X-Conference 2009. Gaithersburg, MD. [www.paradigmresearchgroup.org/X-Conference2009/X-Conference2009.htm](http://www.paradigmresearchgroup.org/X-Conference2009/X-Conference2009.htm)

**May 16–17.** 10th Annual UFO Festival Linda Moulton Howe, Kathleen Marden, Stanton Friedman, the Bales brothers. McMinnville, OR. [ufofest.com](http://ufofest.com)

**July 2–5.** Roswell UFO Festival. Peter Robbins, Donald Burleson, Karyn Dolan, Paola Harris, and many more. Roswell, NM. <http://www.ufofestivalroswell.com/ufo/>

**August 6–9, 2009.** MUFON 2009 International Symposium. Denver, CO. MUFON's 40th Anniversary. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

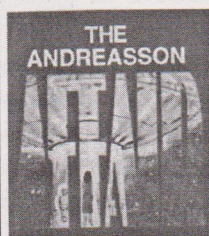
**October 17, 2009.** Pennsylvania MUFON UFO Conference at Westmoreland Community College, Youngwood, PA. John Ventre, Stan Gordon, Dr David Jacobs. Call John Ventre 724 836 1266 or [www.12-21-2012-a-prophecy.com/](http://www.12-21-2012-a-prophecy.com/)

## HELP WANTED !

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skyward and the jets failed to identify anything. While both staff at the Athens Airport and the Parintha Mountain Air Force Radar Unit confirmed that they clearly observed the object their radars picked up nothing.

The ensuing deliberate cover-up of this incident by the Greek authorities is being treated as fact by that country's media.

Possibly the most bizarre aspect of this sighting is that although the object was witnessed simultaneously by three pilots with decades of flying experience between them, staff at multiple radar and ground control stations and the Greek Air Force, who actually sent jets up to chase it, it has been dismissed by some Greek Government officials as a mistaken sighting of... wait for it... Venus! This, despite the fact that the captain of flight 266 remains convinced he saw a UFO.

With that in mind, are these Government officials planning to request an investigation into the capability, if not sanity, of their country's Air Force ground control staff? Don't hold your breath.

It is hardly surprising that if indeed aliens are visiting earth they would take an interest in Greece, that cradle of western civilization. What is more surprising is Western media's complete non-coverage of this incident and the continuing and sometimes absurd attempts by governments to deny the obvious as far as UFOs are concerned. Perhaps the Ancient Athenian culture of intellectual curiosity and questioning existing belief systems has been replaced by one of secrecy, concealment and the idea that the public does not have the right to know what is happening in the universe around them.

To listen to the recording of the pilot's conversation (in Greek) with the airport control tower, go to: <http://www.allnewsweb.com/page2992994.php>. [This site includes an English translation of part of the conversation.]

Source: All News Web, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. <http://www.allnewsweb.com/page2992994.php> .

# Greek UFO Cover-Up

By Michael Cohen

[m.cohen@allnewsweb.com](mailto:m.cohen@allnewsweb.com)

February 8, 2009—Just yesterday All News Web broke yet another story otherwise destined to never receive a scrap of coverage outside the country it happened in.

A captain of an Olympic Airways flight (266) from Athens to London noticed a strange bright object following his plane—his sighting was then corroborated by the staff of two radar stations and observation towers on the ground, one being the control tower of the Athens Airport and the other being a Greek Air Force radar station in the mountains above Athens.

F-16 jets were scrambled to intercept the object.

The incident was kept secret for over a year until a number of Greek media outlets publicized the story based on leaked documents and testimony.

Now it can be revealed that the initial aviation authority report that documented this most interesting event and was brought to light by a number of Greek media outlets was mysteriously pulled off the web within days of being published and replaced by a heavily censored version!

The two versions [in Greek] can be seen at <http://www.allnewsweb.com/page2992997.php> .

The specific paragraphs censored were the ones that made mention of the fact that two radar stations saw the object and far more importantly that the person asked to observe the object by the chief controller of the Air Force Radar Station noticed that it started to gain altitude and shot off heavenward.

Question: According to most governments, UFOs pretty much don't exist; do people hide knowledge that they don't have? Was this a blatant attempt to cut out the bits that would make the ensuing "Venus" explanation seem most absurd? Can anyone that spends their life watching the sky get it that wrong and confuse a rapidly moving object with Venus for over three hours as indicated by the report?

Would the authorities go to such trouble, censoring rather obscure articles, to merely avoid embarrassing the military? After all no one could ever prove conclusively that it was Venus that was seen. If this had been about secret military operations what would this event have revealed anyway? Many might argue that all this pretty much leaves only one logical conclusion.

What could be that secret that would compel a government in a relatively small nation to insist that a seemingly trivial document of only limited general interest get pulled off a few Greek language sites—or is there a larger organization at work here?

Source: Source: All News Web, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. <http://www.allnewsweb.com/page2992997.php> .

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## A Thought Experiment...

# Findings of the Chandra X-ray observatory and how they might relate to the beginning of the modern UFO era

## An X-ray Tsunami

By Robert L. Mason

Scientists had long suspected a massive black hole existed at the center of the Milky Way galaxy, but it was not easy to confirm. First, one simply can't see a black hole because nothing—not even light—escapes it. A black hole's existence could only be deduced by its gravitational effects. Next, clouds of dust and gas obscured our view of the center of the galaxy. However, with the launching of the Chandra X-ray Observatory in 1999, the latter problem was considerably reduced. The orbiting observatory, although it couldn't actually see a black hole, could see a strong localized source of x-rays coming from the suspected location. Scientists explained that these didn't actually come from the black hole itself, but instead emanated from the steady stream of dust, gas, and debris about to cross the event horizon of the black hole and thus disappear forever. It was like their last scream before being devoured.

This was deemed sufficient confirmation and the black hole was given a name. It is officially called Sagittarius A\* (pronounced Sagittarius A-star). It is "Sagittarius" because it appears within the constellation Sagittarius when viewed from Earth and "A" because it is the first ascribed to that region. It is currently estimated that Sagittarius A\* gobbles up a whole star about once every 10,000 years.

Having established the existence of Sagittarius A\*, astronomers began looking around at the rest of our galaxy. In 2007 they noticed x-ray "echoes" being reflected back at us from molecular clouds that are outside our orbit of the galaxy's center, or at distances greater than our distance from the center. From this they deduced that Sagittarius A\* must have devoured something fairly large in the recent past, and they calculated that whatever it was must have been at least as big as the planet Mercury. The resulting burst of x-rays that is just now (2007) reaching us by reflection would have rushed past Earth about sixty years ago (5). Here on Earth we would not have noticed this because our

atmo-sphere is opaque to x-rays and we didn't have a telescope with x-ray vision like the Chandra X-ray Observatory in 1947.

The year 1947 is bound to ring a bell with those who have delved into UFO literature to any extent. It is widely considered the beginning of the modern UFO era. A string of events beginning that year and extending into the early fifties triggered a government involvement lasting two decades, and it may continue to this day on a classified level. Most famous was the reported UFO crash at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. Some accounts claim two crashes actually happened at the same time, but separated by a few hundred miles (3). October of that same year also produced rumors of a crash at Paradise Valley, Arizona (1). Then there was a purported crash at Aztec, New Mexico, in March of 1948 (7), and another account of a crash near Laredo, Texas, in December of 1950 (2).

If you accept these events as true, and of extraterrestrial origin, then you have to ask yourself what would cause such necessarily sophisticated craft to crash? In addition to crashes, a rash of sightings also occurred during this same general period (6). Why such a precipitous start to the modern UFO era? Is the x-ray tsunami rushing past Earth in 1947 and the start of the modern UFO era a coincidence, or does a cause and effect relationship exist between the two?

Suppose it is true that we here on Earth have been under observation for some period of time by an alien civilization, and that civilization arrived here from somewhere else in the galaxy. And suppose this alien civilization has established a local outpost in our neighborhood where they can operate unseen by us—the backside of the Moon perhaps. From there they are able to send out scout craft that normally operate in distant Earth orbits and use a remote sensing device to monitor events on Earth. Such a device is described in my recent book *The UFO Experience Reconsidered* (6).

Then imagine that in 1947 a fleet of these craft, on station at various points around the planet, suddenly



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measures a steep rise in the x-ray intensity coming from the direction of the galaxy's center. Being a highly sophisticated civilization they guess what has happened, but they had no way of predicting it because x-rays travel at the speed of light. Perhaps they know that intense x-rays have a serious negative effect on their craft or its operators and emergency action is immediately required. Probably the quickest way to safety would be to get down deep into Earth's atmosphere where the x-rays would be blocked—"any port in a storm." There ensues a mad dash for safety; some of them make it in time and some do not. Because of its sparse population—obvious from space at night—the desert Southwest of the United States would be one likely emergency destination for the incoming spacecraft in order to remain as covert as possible under the circumstances.

How long would such an x-ray tsunami last? Remember we are talking about things on a galactic scale, so a wave period of years does not seem unreasonable. The mental image of a rock tossed into the middle of a pond is helpful. Using this analogy we can even imagine a series of spreading concentric rings of varying amplitude thus triggering more than one emergency situation.

Of course the scenario I have created uses the words "suppose," "perhaps," and "imagine." In fact, it borders on science fiction. The concurrency of events may just be a chance happening, but then again . . . maybe not.

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© Robert L. Mason December 31, 2008

Robert L. Mason is a retired professional engineer formerly registered with the State of California. He is also an artist and author of the recent book *The UFO Experience Reconsidered: Science and Speculation*. Author contact: [rlmason@mcn.org](mailto:rlmason@mcn.org)



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# Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

## Brookesmith reviews Flying Saucers and Science I review his review

Frankly, I was surprised that UK UFO debunker and writer Peter Brookesmith actually found a few good things to say about my book *Flying Saucers and Science*. (1) He wrote a review in the *Fortean Times* (2) at the end of 2008. FT has long been a hot bed of typical UK anti-UFO claims. At first this seemed strange to me since Charles Fort (1874-1932) was one of the first and most active collectors of stories of observations of all sorts of strange phenomena. He collected these from scientific journals, magazines, and newspapers during many years of work in libraries and discovered a very wide range of reports of falls of strange rain, and strange things like frogs from the sky, etc. as well as what we would label UFOs. I hadn't realized that Tiffany Thayer, who set up the Fortean Society, was very strongly opposed to flying saucers. UFO historian Jerome Clark has written about this.

I had an example of *Fortean Times* attitudes a number of years ago. I participated in a debate on October 25, 1995, at the venerable Oxford University Debating Society (with a partner, Barrister Harry Harris) versus Peter and some students. I was in the middle of a tour of lectures at seven different locations in Great Britain.

### I cited research, he cited tabloids

The topic of the debate was "This House believes that Earth has been visited by Alien spacecraft" or some such. Harry and I naturally took the affirmative side. I used slides of data from several studies such as *Project Blue Book Special Report 14* (3), the 1968 Congressional Hearings, and others. Harry talked about abductions and other cases and used excerpts of

tapes of some sessions done under hypnosis. Amazingly, Peter only cited quotes from tabloid newspapers and contactees! One would think that those were the only sources of UFO information and some debunkers still seem to think so. *Fortean Times* had contracted with a writer to cover the debate. There was a full house and a poll was taken afterwards in which only members of the Debating Society (others were present) could vote. Harry and I got 60% of the vote. The FT article was killed. I strongly suspect it would have been run if Peter's team (he had students inject some humor) had won.

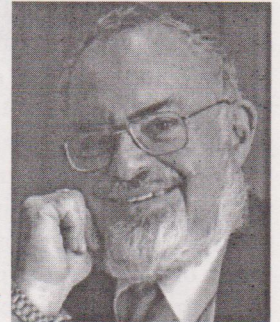
During that same trip I did about 40 interviews with journalists mostly for the BBC with those great radio voices. They knew essentially nothing about the subject. Two even asked, as their first question, what the T. in my name stood for—hardly a very profound concern. (It is my middle name: T. for Terry which is what I was always called in my pre graduation days). About a month later Peter called me and ordered copies of several of the volumes I had referenced—a bit late, one might suppose.

### Is interstellar travel practicable?

Anyway, Peter said that my "discussion of nuclear powered technology that would make interstellar travel practicable is clear and fascinating (indeed the whole book is clearly written)... what he doesn't address is how a spacecraft moving at near light speed won't be ripped apart by cosmic dust and debris or how any biological entities would survive having their mass increased to near infinite levels..."

Peter, who is a prolific writer and obviously not a scientist, should have

consulted a relativistic physicist. If he had, he would have found out that three important aspects of moving at close to the speed of light must be examined from the viewpoint of the observer, not the traveler.



Stanton Friedman

Yes, time slows down as one gets closer and closer to  $c$  ( $c$  = speed of light), and mass increases and length changes as viewed by the observer, not the traveler. It is not easy or very meaningful to observe a spacecraft moving at near  $c$  speeds. These would only be approached in the space between stars, not near a planet. Not much cosmic dust out there either.

In the early days of the space age the noisy negativists were claiming that man couldn't travel in even nearby space because of radiation, meteors, weightlessness, etc. They were quite wrong. As far as the traveler is concerned, his mass stays the same and his clock runs the same. The magnitude of the "apparent" changes depends on how close one gets to  $c$ . I should add that the particles moving in the huge new LHC accelerator at CERN in Switzerland move at 99.999999% of the speed of light. Some wrongly take the increase in mass to mean that it would take much greater energy to accelerate a rocket, the closer one gets to  $c$ . In the first place, the charged particles produced in the nuclear fusion reactions that I discussed are born with roughly 10 million times as much energy per particle as the particles



ejected in a chemical rocket. They are not accelerated to those energy levels. In the second place, we in all our deep space probes take advantage of what I call cosmic freeloading using the gravitational field of such bodies as the moon and the planets to accelerate our probes. Be in the right place and Mother Nature—not the rocket—provides the energy. No reason that by being clever one can't use stars or double neutron stars (as suggested by Nobel Prize winner Freeman Dyson) or black holes, to provide high acceleration for interstellar travel. Just don't get too close. The traveler has no increase in mass.

### Forensic vs. Eyewitness reports

Peter also doesn't like my talking about a "4<sup>th</sup> kind of science such as that done on aircraft and car crashes, murders and rapes in which eyewitness testimony can be crucial. In other words, UFO related science is a form of forensic science" (NOT what I said at all). And he quotes my saying "our entire legal system is based on testimony—rarely is there conclusive proof such as DNA matching." He says "any prosecutor hoping to get a conviction in a murder trial without scientific evidence such as DNA, ballistics, fingerprinting can expect either to be in the appeals court or to be offered retraining." I have talked to lawyers, judges, and police officers and, even in the book, cited a case in Texas where a person was convicted of murder on the sole basis of one witness' testimony, and executed.

The point is that lab testing where the experimenter controls everything is distinct from when one can only predict rather than control or reproduce (such as an eclipse) or can only observe but not predict (such as earthquakes or solar storms). Where intelligence is involved, testimony is crucial. Peter apparently wants a "watertight series of interlocked pieces." Like Michael Shermer, he wants a craft or an alien being. He also forgets that in civil cases one only requires "a preponderance of the evidence" not evidence "beyond a

reasonable doubt." He seems to think I haven't watched any CSI shows. CSI doesn't normally deal with cases for which there isn't forensic evidence, although there are very many. I have watched and enjoyed many CSI shows. I must also admit that I know of no way to entice an alien into a fingerprint or footprint lab or DNA analysis location.

I consider the JAL 1628 case in Alaska of November 2, 1971, with its radar tapes and taped radio conversations between the crew and the FAA, to be one with solid physical evidence. The RB-47 case of July 17, 1957, also has solid physical evidence. Many of Ted Phillips' physical trace cases have not only eyewitness testimony about saucers hovering on or near the ground, but soil for evaluation in testing labs as in the Delphos, Kansas, case of November 2, 1971. There is a direct link between what was observed and what was subsequently found. Ted has collected over 4,000 such cases. Maybe Peter knows how to instantly dry out a ring of soil 10 feet in diameter, one foot across, and 14 inches deep, and increase the level of soluble minerals in the ring as compared to that in nearby soil. I haven't found any such method.

### Brookesmith refutes some, not all

Peter claims "And therein lies the most egregious flaw in the book. Friedman rehearses at tedious length his arguments for a UFO crash near Roswell, the authenticity of the MJ-12 papers and the notion of a Cosmic Watergate. All these have been shredded elsewhere."

Nothing like proclamation without any evidence or references. I devoted one chapter to each of the three. He does no refutation of any. He ignores the fact that I show that a number of MJ-12 documents are fraudulent and that some Roswell witnesses are frauds. It is easy to show there has been a Cosmic Watergate. Try reading my website piece "Government UFO Lies" (4). Look at the blacked out and whited out CIA and NSA UFO docu-

ments. Consider the Bolender memo and the many lies told in the two USAF Roswell reports. Does Peter really accept crash test dummies weighing 175 lbs each, 6 feet tall, and dropped no earlier than 1953, as satisfactory explanations for reports dating from 1947 of short aliens having big hairless heads? I guess time travel for dummies is OK, but examination of testimony from witnesses such as Dr. (Colonel) Jesse Marcel Junior, and the late retired General Thomas Jefferson Dubose, is not.

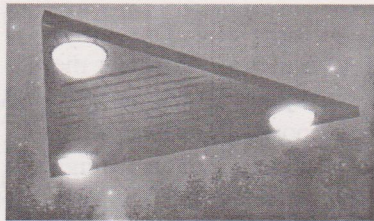
Rather surprising to me is the fact that in his review Peter does not give me a hard time about accepting the abduction of Betty and Barney Hill as legitimate, since he is quite anti-abduction as demonstrated by his comments on the case in *Encounters at Indian Head* (5). Peter also provides yet another example of the standard contradiction of the debunkers. Eyewitness testimony is fine and readily accepted when it provides an acceptable explanation for a particular case, but unacceptable when a case can't be explained. Furthermore, he seems, along with many debunkers, to believe that governments are incapable of withholding classified information such as analysis of Roswell wreckage and bodies. As I noted in Reference 1, they certainly are.

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### References

1. Friedman, Stanton T. *Flying Saucers and Science*, New Page Books, Franklin Lakes, NJ, 2008.
2. Brookesmith, Peter "Pushing the fourth category [Review of Ref. 1]," *Fortean Times*, December 2008, Number FT 243, p.61.
3. *Blue Book Special Report 14*, October, 1955, available from UFOFI, POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958, \$25.
4. <http://www.stantonfriedman.com>
5. Pflock, Karl and Brookesmith, Peter (editors) *Encounters at Indian Head*, Anomalist Books





# Filer's Files

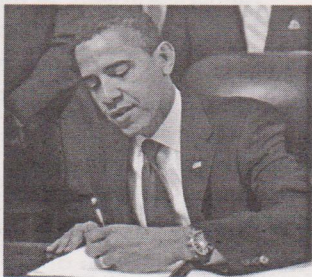
By George Filer  
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



## New Freedom of Information Act

On his first full day as President, Barack Obama issued his Presidential Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, and the Presidential Memorandum on the Freedom of Information Act.

President Obama instructed all members of his administration to operate under principles of openness



Barack Obama

and transparency. The Memorandum on FOIA instructs the Attorney General to issue new guidelines to the government implementing those same principles of openness and transparency in FOIA context and perhaps release of UFO data.

President Obama stated, "For a long time now, there's been too much secrecy in this city. The old rules said that if there was a defensible argument for not disclosing something to the American people, then it should not be disclosed. That era is now over. Starting today, every agency and department should know that this administration stands on the side not of those who seek to withhold information but those who seek to make it known."

## Aliens in UFOs have visited Earth, says David Cameron

David Cameron, the Conservative leader in the UK, said he "was convinced" the Earth had been visited by aliens and has vowed to "publish any secret files that may exist on



David Cameron

UFOs if he becomes Prime Minister." Mr. Cameron, speaking at one of his regular meetings where he takes the public's questions, promised to be "entirely open and frank" about what the Government knows about close encounters.

A member of the audience asked: "In July last year the respected scientist and astronaut Dr Edgar Mitchell, who was the sixth man to walk on the moon, spoke on a British radio station. He said the American government had had contact with extra terrestrials on multiple occasions and that these were ongoing. He spoke about the Roswell event in 1947 where wreckage of a downed UFO was recovered and found to contain alien bodies. He said this event was real but was covered up by the Government for many years. Do you agree with me that the British people have a right to know if we have been visited, and if so, when you become Prime Minister will you seek to lift the veil of secrecy and give the public the truth that they deserve and that has been covered up for all these years?"

Mr. Cameron laughed and replied: "I'm convinced we have been visited by alien life forms—and one of them is the trade secretary Peter Mandelson."

Snip: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk:80/news/newstopping/howaboutthat/4360433/Aliens-in-UFOs-have-visited-Earth-says-David-Cameron.html>

## Modern Science Confirms Ancient Knowledge

Recent advances in DNA research have established that there was an Eve who lived about 250 to 270 thousand years ago, a first mother from who all modern humans stem, no matter what their racial heritage. In 1987, scientists from the Universities of California and Michigan announced that all human beings descended from a single mitochondrial Eve who lived in Africa. Then came news a few years later that there also was an actual Adam. Finally, genetic advances made test-tube babies possible by

mixing the male sperm with the female egg and reimplanting it.

Editor's Note: Saturday, I attended an excellent Pennsylvania MUFON Conference at Bucks County College just north of Philadelphia where hundreds of UFOs have been sighted.

Abduction expert Dr. David Jacobs stated the evidence indicates aliens are now living among us. They apparently now look just like humans, and abductees are being used to teach them how to live in our society. This may not be as hard as you might think. Some 17 percent of people in the U.S. cannot read or write English. Most are immigrants from other countries and possibly other planets. According to Dr. Jacobs, aliens look just like us and are merging with society. I have people calling me who claim they are not of this Earth. Do you know anyone who may not be from Earth? Investigations are becoming wilder trying to determine the real truth.

## Air Marshal Horsley Also Claims ET is Here

Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley, former Deputy Commander in Chief of Strike Command and RAF war hero, details his investigations into UFO sightings reported by pilots and radars. He was equerry (advisor) to Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Phillip for seven years and relayed his findings to Prince Phillip, who shared his interest in the phenomenon.

In his fascinating autobiography, *Sounds From Another Room*, Sir Peter Horsley claims he had a two-hour meeting with an apparent extra-terrestrial man in London who stated, "The belief in a God is age-old and even in primeval people



George Filer



removed from each other at the opposite ends of the earth, this idea of a God supreme and omnipotent is incredibly ancient, so ancient that one must believe its seed was



planted in the soul of the first man. It is written in Genesis that God breathed into Man's nostrils the breath of life and Man became a living soul. So Man invading space for material gain or personal glorification alone will gain nothing, but Man searching to enrich his own spirituality and nature will come closer to understanding that God is Universal."

"The observers (ET) have very highly developed mental powers, including extra-sensory, thought reading, hypnosis and the ability to use different dimensions, since all parts of the mind and body have not necessarily evolved in the exactly the same fashion. They do not use weapons of any kind and rely solely on their special powers to look after themselves. They make contact only with selected people where secrecy can be maintained. In the loosely-knit societies of the Western world, particularly in England and America, it is very easy with the help of friends to do this but not in police and dictators states."

#### **Alaska - Lights on a Triangular Object**

WASILLA — I saw three lights low on the horizon, looking north off of my balcony at 7:15 PM, on January 20, 2009, which weren't supposed to be there. The lights changed in intensity and changed position as if they were attached to something. When I first saw them, they were a perfect triangle. They moved to form an elongated triangle pointing east, then reoriented again. I didn't hear any noises. What seemed to be the "center" light was brighter than the other two. Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

#### **Florida - Flying Triangle and Gray Object Chased by Military Jets**

FLAGLER — On the Palm Coast on January 20, 2009, at dusk, directly above my yard just above the trees, a craft with blinking eight red lights shaped like a 'V' like boomerang outlined by the lights, came

out of nowhere. It was very clear and still light out, and I was observing Venus in the southwest; moments before there was nothing in the sky. Then, suddenly this object was right there about 20 feet above me moving very slowly and I couldn't see the sky or any stars through it either. It was like lights on a shadow with red lights blinking. I saw it for three minutes. It was right there and moving very slowly but all I could really 'see'. If it was a plane that close I could have seen the pilot or windows or something! It took three minutes to cross my yard (150 feet) and flew over my neighbor's house and then just disappeared. There was a whooshing sound; it seems that something that large and close would make a much louder sound. Thanks to MUFON CMS.

TARPON SPRINGS — On Tuesday, January 20, 2009, I was driving just east of US 19, and I saw a bright almost neon blue flash in the sky high above the clouds which stretched across the horizon. There was sporadic cloud cover but the flash illuminated the sky for 3-5 seconds. There were trees far in front of me and far to the right and left so I could not see any main stream of light extending to the ground as reported in Indianapolis. I was driving west and the sky illuminated for four seconds in such a bright and beautiful deep blue. Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

#### **Maryland - Two Bright Moving Lights**

CALLAWAY—On January 17, 2009, at 6:30 - 6:45 PM, I observed two red lights 40 degrees south of the brightest star that was due west from my position. They were about twice as bright as Mars usually appears and seemed to move up and down by about twice their size. The lights were about 25 to 35 degrees up from the horizon and appeared to fade away to the southeast. No noise was heard. It took about 10 seconds for them to disappear and the relative distance was about two feet.

Note: I have been unable to reach the witness to obtain some clarification of his report. The report has been edited in an attempt to "fill in the blanks" and make the report easier to read. Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

#### **Ohio - Flying Triangle**

MIDDLETOWN — On January 10, 2009, at 2:05 AM, my 14-year-old daughter

and her friend were in a nearby bedroom talking and saw flashes that appeared to emanate from the clouds/fog over our house. The flashes were stationary and occurred at fixed intervals. As they looked more closely they saw a large dark shape moving over our home toward the east. The dark shape then dipped downward as it moved over the crest of our home and was visible below the cloud/fog level, about 30 feet off the ground. As it moved slowly away, it became clear that it was triangular in shape, and had three lights along the back, flashing blue, red and green in varying patterns. The object emitted a low, pulsing hum noise as it hovered briefly over a barn 200 feet away. It then slowly flew northeast, and suddenly disappeared. The triangle was the width of two houses.

At 2:08 AM, near the far east edge of the field, two similar objects suddenly "winked on" and moved around one another for a brief period then seemed to "wink off" and disappear.

At 2:10 AM, a new set of similar flashes were visible over the house, and a much larger, and louder humming object moved over the crest of our home, following the same path. This one was much larger and the edges were not immediately visible. It had to move beyond the barn for the entire object to be seen. As it moved east, it slowly rotated over a fixed area, and remained there for four minutes. There were strobing lights on all three corners of the object, but the three lights in color were only visible on the "back" edge of the object. As the object sat in place, the two earlier objects lit back up and began to move around, as if in response to the larger object close to our home. They all hovered for several minutes, then the large object lifted straight up, out of sight and the smaller objects streaked away to the left and right. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

#### **Washington — Luminescent Object with Flashing Lights**

SEQUIM — My wife and I saw a strange flashing object in the eastern sky on January 17, 2009, from 11:25 to 11:45 PM, at an elevation of 500 feet above sea level. From our house in the Olympic Mountains, we had clear skies when my wife saw a strange bright light low in the eastern sky that changed colors (into red, blue, green,

*Continued on page 20*



## Filer's Files

Continued from page 19

violet, etc). Another light would appear briefly and travel a short distance to the right or left and then disappear, while always remaining beneath the main light in the sky. There was some heat-wave distortion causing the flashing and spinning light to blur. We watched it for about ten minutes with binoculars and a 60X spotting scope and its colors were very bright and clear. The red lights were spinning on the outside while blue and green lights flashing on the inside of the object. It was an elongated, diamond shape, which had multiple geometric planes on the surface. It appeared luminescent and was spinning rapidly, while the surface changed colors. The object was not a star, planet, or any type of airplane! It stayed stationary—just the earth's rotation made it appear as if it moved ever so slightly from the east to the south.

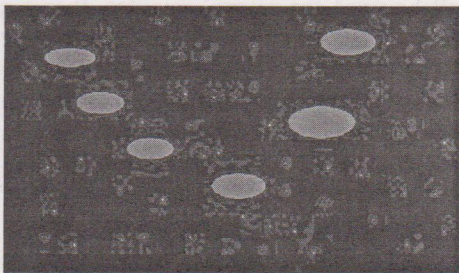
Note: Saturn was in the area of the sky where the witnesses saw the light. However, Saturn was not that bright so it is not likely that the sighting was of Saturn.

Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

### Worldwide Reports Outside USA

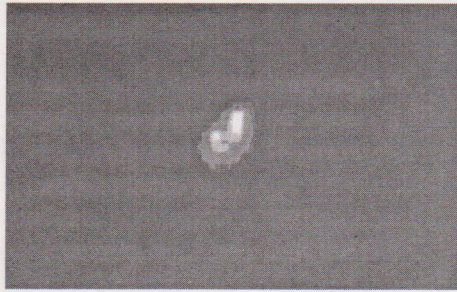
#### Bulgaria - Triangular Formation

TRYAVNA — On October 1, 2008, at 2 AM, something woke me up and I decided to look through the window. I opened slightly the curtain and was shocked to see six orange-colored UFOs arranged in a triangular formation. Each of the objects was a little smaller size than the full moon; the



triangle objects were moving west and turned sharply to the left. The six objects began to exchange their positions until they rearranged themselves again in a triangular formation and continued moving southwest. I know that this couldn't be a natural phenomenon and that it could be operated by intelligent beings.

Thanks to MUFON CMS



#### Canada – 551 Sightings for 2008

REXDALE, ONTARIO — On January 20, 2009, at 8:16 to 8:37 PM, near the airport, my wife and I went out for a smoke at about 8:15 PM, and I noticed bright flashing lights to the south, over the city of Toronto. I said to my wife, can you see that, and she said yes, but it didn't interest her but it surely interested me, so I ran back into the house to fetch my binoculars to observe the spectacle before me. What I could see was flashing orbs of red, green, blue, purple, yellow and white, but I couldn't make it out as to what they were! But what I'm certain of, it definitely wasn't an airplane! I called 680 news to see if anyone reported lights in the sky and they said no! I looked in the papers today and saw no mention of it, I guess my wife and I were the only lucky ones to witness this amazing sight. Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

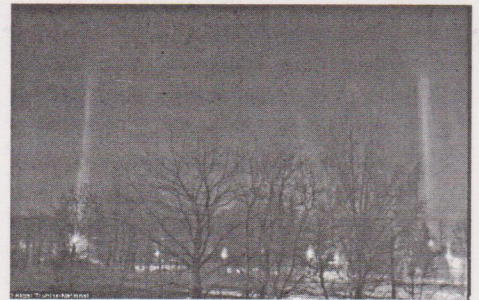
#### Canary Islands - Dancing Lights

PUERTO DEL CARMEN, LANZAROTE — My wife and I have a clear view across the sea from our villa and on November 11, 2008, at 10:30 PM, a few hundred feet above the horizon we noticed two bright lights together. I first thought that it was either one or two aircraft coming into land until they split and started dancing in the sky coming closer to us. Then, after about a minute they quickly reversed towards the island of Feuventura and they faded away in the distance. They flew to the right from the airport in Arriceffe to the mountains. I have an interest in aircraft, spent several years in the R.A.F., one of my jobs was to keep an eye on aircraft movements and to identify them. What my wife and I saw were not aircraft as we know.

Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

#### Latvia - Mysterious Columns of Light Investigation

SIGULDA — Beam me up: Mysterious columns of light stream into the air above the town of Sigulda. The photo was taken by designer Aigar Truhins with a standard digital camera, and has prompted excited online discussions among amateur astronomers all over the internet. Thanks to the *Daily Mail* - [http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2009/01/15/article-1117264-0310AD7B000005DC-366\\_634x421\\_popup.jpg](http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2009/01/15/article-1117264-0310AD7B000005DC-366_634x421_popup.jpg)



Clas writes from Sweden, "I am often astonished over how little people seem to know about the world around us. This time I saw that some observers in Latvia failed to identify the columns of light shown in a picture. These are common during winter and I have written about these "vertical pillars," as they are called by Swedish meteorologists, several times. I have also seen them myself five times. The pillars are formed when flat ice crystals are floating in the air during cold winter days. As light leaks from ground sources it bounces on the crystals like on small mirrors and builds a fine column upwards. But as soon as the tiniest wind blows they vanish instantly since the crystals are tilted and the light scatters in many directions! Nice, since they often shows different colors. Thanks for your good work! Last year I published a chapter about them in a book of mine."

Please see: <http://www.ufo.se/fakt/artikar/himlapelare.shtml> Thanks to clas.svahn@dn.se.

*This month's Filer's Files includes excerpts from File #5, January 28, 2009. Filer's Files is copyrighted 2009 by George A. Filer, all rights reserved. Send your letters to majorstar@aol.com*



# Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reever

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is December's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **Donald R. Burleson** (New Mexico), **Lorna Hunter** (South Dakota), **John Ventre** (West Virginia & Pennsylvania), **Jim King** (Iowa), and **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), for being at 100%! The top ten State Directors are highlighted.

The report is based on our two measures of UFO Investigation effectiveness: assigning reports within 72 hours of receipt, and completing all investigations within 90 days of being assigned.

The "Assigned" column is a six-month running average of the number of cases assigned within 72 hours divided by the total number of cases received in that six month period.

The "Completed" column is the number of cases completed beginning sixty-two (62) days back and going back six months from there (for a total of eight months back) divided by the total number of cases reported in the same period.

The "Weighted Rank" is just the average of the two columns expressed as a percent.

State Directors can improve their scores by assigning all cases within 72 hours, and following up with their Field Investigators to ensure all reports are completed within 90 days. To be considered complete, a report must have been investigated and placed in one of the three completed status codes (Unknown, Hoax or IFO) by the State Director.

If you have any questions or need help with your investigations please contact me, Chuck Reever, at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at [wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org).

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	22/22	39/39
2	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 %	2/2	3/3
3	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 %	15/15	20/20
4	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	100 %	216/216	184/184
5	Iowa	Jim King	100 %	25/25	18/18
6	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	19/19	23/23
7	Florida	Bland Pugh	99 %	145/146	152/152
8	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	98 %	117/120	144/144
9	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	98 %	31/32	34/34
10	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	98 %	129/132	129/129
11	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	98 %	318/322	314/318
12	Kentucky	David MacDonald	98 %	34/35	41/41
13	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	95 %	31/31	33/36
14	Georgia	Walter Sheets	95 %	52/53	39/42
15	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	94 %	32/35	41/42
16	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	91 %	179/181	155/184
17	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	89 %	89/108	104/108
18	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	87 %	86/87	84/111
19	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	86 %	34/46	61/61
20	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	83 %	35/52	37/37
21	Idaho	Augusting B. Fawkes	81 %	7/11	14/14
22	Washington	Marilyn Childs	78 %	33/58	64/64
23	Utah	Elaine Douglass	77 %	14/16	12/18
24	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	73 %	81/122	106/131
25	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	72 %	26/32	19/30
26	Maine	Steve Firmani	72 %	4/9	17/17
27	Ohio	William Jones	68 %	56/93	63/83
28	Vermont	Steve Firmani	67 %	2/4	6/7
29	Arizona	George C. Parks	57 %	42/99	77/107
30	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	53 %	5/34	26/28
31	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	52 %	6/11	4/8
32	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	51 %	7/13	8/16
33	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	49 %	26/67	42/69
34	Nevada	Mark Easter	49 %	4/42	46/51
35	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	43 %	3/21	16/22
36	Wisconsin	Timothy G. Whiteagle	36 %	17/29	5/37
37	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	36 %	54/93	14/100
38	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	28 %	4/38	16/35
39	Maryland	Sheila Smith	17 %	1/32	12/37
40	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	14 %	8/32	1/24
41	North Carolina	Richard Lang	13 %	2/43	11/48
42	Missouri	Debbie A. Ziegelmeyer	9 %	3/47	5/41
43	Alaska	Brent Mitchel	8 %	1/6	0/7
44	Mississippi	Bobby Lee Walker	7 %	2/13	0/11
45	Rhode Island	Dave Allaire	0 %	0/14	0/11
46	North Dakota	Kurt Pflieger	0 %	0/9	0/7

## MUFON Field Investigators Manual

NEW!! Version 5.0

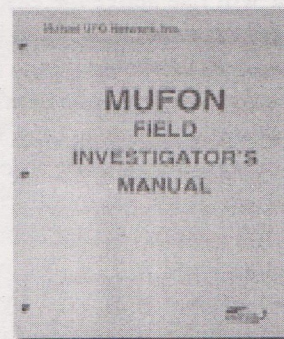
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## Director's Message

*continued from page 2*

is, represented as the mainstream explanation for historical or current events. The phrase is also sometimes used dismissively in an attempt to portray a person or group's views as being untrue or outlandish.

It is the last sentence of this definition that gives me pause. Despite MUFON's adherence to strict ethical values, we are being dumped into the conspiracy theory pot and left to simmer. Although unfortunate, it is par for the course when studying such a controversial and paradigm changing subject.

So please don't plan on getting rid of any black suits you own. Instead, grow a thick skin and keep your eye on the goal: resolving this amazing mystery.

### MUFON 2009 Symposium

Start planning now to attend the most important UFO conference of 2009—the MUFON 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium in Denver, Colorado, from August 6–9, 2009. MUFON will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a civilian UFO research organization. If that is not reason enough to attend, then you will

be pleased to know that we have an outstanding lineup of speakers. Please see the insert in this month's *Journal*.

### Position Announcements

**Lee Dines** has been appointed as the Assistant National Director for the United Kingdom.

### State Directors

**August Fawkes** for Montana.

### Assistant State Directors:

**Mychael Puckett** for Alaska; **Marie Malzahn** for Idaho; **Danielle Baker** for Ohio.

### Section Directors

**Gary Neitzel** for Tarrant County, Texas.

### Field Investigators

**Mychael C. Puckett** of Ketchikan, Alaska; **Juan Torres** of Queen Creek, Arizona; **Jodi Torres** of Queen Creek, Arizona; **Jerry Cabiness** of Maumelle, Arkansas; **Cynda F. Schnieder** of Atlanta, Georgia; **Jason Fonzo** of Alpharetta, Georgia; **Amy Suarez** of Naperville, Illinois; **Julie Maranto** of Orland Park, Illinois; **Frederick Hurst**

of Knox, Indiana; **Gustave Zeissig** of Livermore, Maine; **Ron Fin** of Berlin, Maryland; **Tom Maat** of Spring Lake, Michigan; **Jim Johnson** of Kansas City, Missouri; **Scott Fanelly** of Charlotte, North Carolina; **Michael Lente** of Bernalillo, New Mexico; **Nicholas Voulgaris** of Levittown, New York; **Greg Mazzotta** of Chalfont, Pennsylvania; **Richard Sanner** of Jeannette, Pennsylvania; **William Weber** of Downingtown, Pennsylvania; **Terry Hinson** of Mt. Pleasant, Texas; **Rory Roach** of Denison, Texas.

**Congratulations to all of you!**

## Reminder: Send in Field Investigator Exams

Just a note that all MUFON Field Investigator exams should be sent to:

David MacDonald

262 Wilmer Ave.

Cincinnati, OH. 45226.

The old version 4 exam grading and Field Investigator Certification will expire March 31, 2009.

Chuck Reeve

Director of Investigations

## March Night Sky

*Continued from page 24*

above the east-southeast horizon about 1 1/2 hours before the Sun and will be standing above the eastern horizon at Sunrise; by the end of the month Jupiter will rise above the east-southeast horizon about 4 1/2 hours before the Sun and will be standing high above the east-northeast horizon at Sunrise.

**Saturn:** (magnitude 0.5). In Leo: For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 1/2 hour after Sunset and will be low over the western horizon at Sunrise; by the end of the month Saturn will be found above the eastern horizon as the Sun

sets and will drop below the western horizon about 1/4 hour before Sunrise.

For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the west-northwest horizon about 1/2 hour before Sunrise; as the month passes Saturn will disappear from the morning sky to reappear in the east after Sunset; by the end of the month Saturn will be found above the east-northeast horizon at Sunset and will set below the western horizon about 2 hours before Sunrise.

### Other Celestial Phenomena

**Spring Equinox:** March 20 in most countries.

A planetary grouping featuring Mars, Mercury and Jupiter.

### Conjunctions and Occultations

March 1<sup>st</sup>: Mercury 0.6 degrees south of Mars.

March 11<sup>th</sup>: Saturn 6 degrees north of the Moon.

March 17<sup>th</sup>: Antares 0.2 degrees south of the Moon.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>: Jupiter 1.5 degrees south of the Moon.

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Mars 4 degrees south of the Moon.



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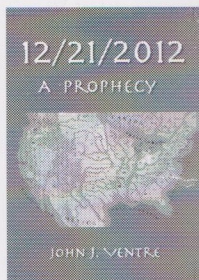
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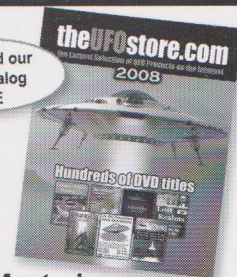


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## 2008 Symposium Proceedings and DVDs

Since 1971, MUFON has published the proceedings of the annual MUFON International UFO Symposium.

The 2008 proceedings are available from MUFON Headquarters, 155 E. Boardwalk Drive, Suite 300, Fort Collins, CO 80525, for \$33 postpaid in the U.S. and \$42 outside of the U.S.

DVDs, videos, and audio CDs of each symposium speaker are available from: The International UFO Conference, 6160 Firestone Blvd., Suite #104-373, Firestone, CO 80505-6427. 303-651-7136.

Web store: [www.ufocongressstore.com](http://www.ufocongressstore.com)





# The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

## March 2009

### Moon Phases:

First Quarter: March 4  
Full Moon: March 11  
Last Quarter: March 18  
New Moon: March 26

### Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

**Venus:** (magnitude -4.5 to -4.1). In Pisces: For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will stand high above the western horizon as the Sun sets and will follow the Sun below the horizon 2 ½ hours later. As the month progresses Venus will move closer to the setting Sun until it disappears into the glare of the Sun by the end of the month.

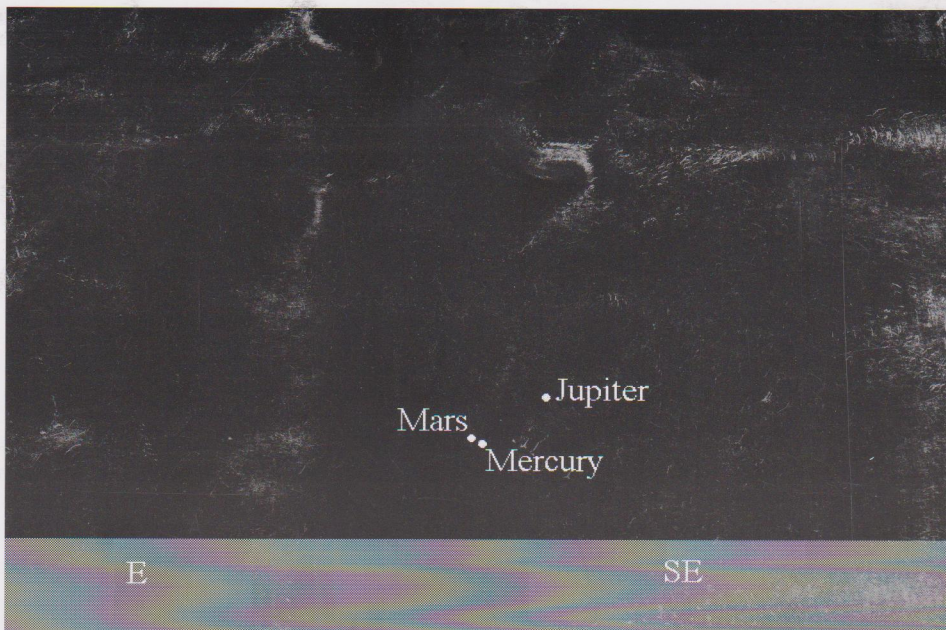
For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month standing low above the west-northwest horizon at Sunset and will follow the Sun by about ½ hour; before the end of the month Venus will move into the glare of the setting Sun.

### Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

**Mercury:** (magnitude -0.1 to -0.9). Moving from Capricornus through Aquarius into Pisces. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 1 ¼ hours before the Sun and will stand low over the east-southeast horizon as the Sun rises. Before month's end Mercury will become lost in the glare of the Sun.

For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 2 hours before the Sun, and will stand well above the eastern horizon at Sunrise. As the month progresses Mercury will be found closer to the horizon as the Sun rises until it becomes lost in the glare of the rising Sun.

**Mars:** (magnitude 1.2): Moving from Capricornus into Aquarius. For



*A planetary grouping featuring Mars, Mercury and Jupiter. Looking toward the Eastern horizon just before dawn.*

Northern hemisphere observers, Mars will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about ¾ hour before the Sun and will stand very low over the east-southeast horizon as the Sun rises. By the end of the month Mars will be rising about 1 hour before the Sun and will stand low over the east-southeast horizon as the Sun rises.

For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 2 hours before the Sun and will stand above the eastern horizon as the Sun rises; by the end of the month Mars will be rising above the east-southeast horizon about 2 ½ hours before the Sun and will stand above the eastern horizon as the Sun rises.

**Jupiter:** (magnitude -2.0). In Capricornus. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 1 hour before the Sun and will be standing very low over the east-southeast horizon as the Sun rises; by the end of the month Jupiter will be

rising above the east-southeast horizon about 2 hours before the Sun and will be standing above the southeast horizon as the Sun rises.

For southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month rising

*Continued on page 22*

