

Happy New Year!

Words From the State Director



I must begin with some sad news. Long-time member and friend to so many of us Bill O'Very, loving husband of member Connie O'Very, passed away due to heart failure, January 6. I'll fondly remember him as a long haired, tattooed jokester with a passion for bagpipes and UFOlogy...my kind of guy.

2007 was another successful year for our Michigan MUFON, highlighted by Stanton Friedman graciously coming to Michigan to speak, and we look forward to 2008.

2008 is already off to a strong start, as our UFO Field Investigation team, led by Chief Investigator Sunny Young has also done an absolutely amazing job in catching up on sighting reports - I mean truly outstanding. Thank you so much Field Investigators.

I wish to personally thank all officers and investigators, in fact, for your hard work in 2007, as well as say thank you to members old and new for attending our meetings.

Most everyone has already signed up for the new year, but if you haven't already done so, please remember to pay your 2008 MIMUFON membership dues at this time (\$25 per family). Otherwise, this will unfortunately be the last newsletter you receive until payment is received. You can renew membership by:

- PayPal at [mimufon.org](http://www.mimufon.org) (http://www.mimufon.org/MiMufonSpecific/Michigan_Mufon_Store.html)

- Cash or check at our January 27 meeting

- Check mailed to:

Michigan Mutual UFO Network, Inc.

PO Box 8532, Kentwood, Michigan 49518-8532

Checks should be made payable to Michigan MUFON, Inc.

Donations are always greatly appreciated as well and, as Michigan MUFON enjoys non-profit status, your donations are tax-deductible. Thank you!

Our meetings (including buffet) remain \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members, and \$5 for anyone under 18 accompanied by an adult.

continued...

On page 18

◀ Inside this issue:

	Page(s)
MiMUFON's Marilyn Ruben Captures Anomalies on Camera	3
The National Press Club Conference on UFOs	4 – 6
Transcripts of Speakers at National Press Club – Nov. 12, 2007	7 – 13
Mysteries of Space and Sky. Bill Murphy's Column	14 – 15
Michigan Bigfoot Investigator Bob Daigle to Present Jan. 27, 2008	16
From The Editor's Desk /"The UFO Incident" movie review	18



Michigan
Mutual UFO Network



www.mimufon.org

NOTICE

The Michigan MUFON Newsletter is issued for the Mutual UFO Network and Members of Michigan MUFON. Articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Mutual UFO Network nor its general membership. Unless otherwise specified, articles from this newsletter may be reprinted in other newsletters. We would appreciate you crediting this newsletter as the source, and sending us a copy of your newsletter.

Thank you.

Michigan MUFON
P.O. Box 8532
Kentwood, Michigan
49518-8532

State Director:
Bill Konkolesky
Email:
wjk@mimufon.org

Asst. State Director,
Administration:
Robert Wigel
(269) 782-6111

Asst. State Director,
Treasury:
Wendy Smith
(616) 261-0690

Newsletter Editor/Public
Relations Director.
David Twichell
Email:
news@mimufon.org

Photographer:
Gary Golem

Michigan MUFON
on the Internet:
www.mimufon.org

MUFON International
on the Internet:
www.mufon.com

We finally negotiated the location for the MUFON International Symposium and it will be at the Double Tree Hotel in San Jose, California July 24-27 2008.

Here is the Conference agenda outline

Thursday July 24 will be devoted to investigator training sessions .

Friday July 25 is our business day for meetings, press conference, etc and our dinner banquet.

Saturday July 25 and Sunday July 26 will be our general speaker sessions.

More information to follow.

I will need your prayers and support as this is a very important project for all of us representing Northern California MUFON and to our supporters.

Please share this information to all interested parties.

Thank you

Ruben Uriarte, NorCal MUFON State Director

MUFON's mission is the scientific systematic collection and analysis of UFO / Abduction data, with the ultimate goal of learning the origin and nature and purpose of the UFO / Abduction phenomenon.

Alien Abduction

Experience and Research

World's largest web site on alien abductions, featuring
bulletin board support group, experiences and research

<http://www.abduct.com>

MiMUFON's Marilyn Ruben Captures Anomalies on Camera



JACKSON -- Marilyn Ruben writes, "On Wednesday, October 24, 2007, I was driving home from work, when I was compelled to take photos of the pretty autumn trees with my Motorola cell phone camera. Today while downloading the pictures, I was surprised to see 7 pictures containing

an unidentified object in the sky. In the first picture, the object is partially obscured by trees to the right of the highway. In the second photo, the object is over the road.

"I was driving north on Interstate I-27 after 5 PM, when the object crossed the highway flying west. There are 5 more similar photos, where the object continued showing up in the pictures. There were 22 other pictures taken at the same time during the same car ride home, but there was no strange sky object showing up in them."

Thanks to Marilyn Ruben Alien Abduction Experience and Research, www.abduct.com

Reported in Filer's Files #45, November 14, 2007

(Note enhancement of the object inset in photo on the right.)



The UFO Incident Movie Review by Bill Konkolesky

For the morning session of our upcoming January 27 meeting, we will be showing the movie "The UFO Incident" based on true events of the infamous 1961 Betty and Barney Hill abduction event. The film originally played on primetime television during the Halloween season (surprised?) of 1975 and is pretty difficult to find a copy of, nowadays.

"The UFO Incident" is a rare treat in many ways and works so well on many levels. It's superbly-acted, sticks exceptionally well to the facts, knows its special effects budget, and even works as a period piece, highlighting the social and political issues of those times.

Barney and Betty Hill are played wonderfully by the great James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons. Jones and Parsons are highly believable as deeply stressed UFO witnesses and have an authentic chemistry as a devoted couple under the strain of heavy psychological duress.

This film earns tremendous praise for sticking to the facts, too. Later Hollywood efforts like "Communion," "Fire in the Sky," and "Intruders" suffer embarrassingly from an attempt to spice up the original abduction accounts on which they're based (especially the first two of these films). "UFO Incident" came out well before these other films and it is evident how carefully the film-makers tried to preserve the factual integrity of Hills dramatic encounter. It shines because of this.

"The UFO Incident" wisely knows and heeds the limits of its special effects budget, as well. The film is told primarily in flashbacks, much of it through the Hills' hypnosis sessions with Boston psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin Simon (played in the film by Bernard Hughes). During moments where the film-makers could've pushed cheesy UFO special effects, they wisely pulled back and opted to let the strong acting abilities of Jones and Parsons as Barney and Betty, eerily recounting the events while sitting in the psychiatrist's office, carry the narrative.

This movie is so deep and well-acted that even if it didn't have a UFO abduction element, it would still work as a moving insight into the issues of what a black man and white woman faced as a married couple in New England during the early 1960's. Throw in the Cuban Missile Crisis as a backdrop and the tension is palpable on these issues alone.

"The UFO Incident" is a well-made and moving account of the Hill's historic UFO abduction event. A true classic. We'll be showing this 90 minute film at 10am at our upcoming meeting.

The National Press Club Conference on UFOs: "The Tide is Turning" by Robert Morningstar

(Copyright 2007, Robert D. Morningstar - All Rights Reserved)



Former Arizona Governor, Fife Symington

Washington, DC - November 13th, 2007

This is a preliminary report, first in a series, on yesterday's event in Washington, DC at the National Press Club (NPC), organized by producer James Fox ("Out of the Blue") and Leslie Kean, reporter (who recently won a major FOIA lawsuit against NASA to release the 1965 Kecksberg UFO related documents) and moderated by former Arizona Governor, Fife Symington. The NPC press conference presented the personal testimonies of major military and civilian pilots and intelligence figures from around the world on the subject of official foreign investigations of UFOs.

The NPC UFO Speakers Panel



(Photo credit: Marc Whitford)

Fife Symington, Former Arizona Governor, Moderator
Ray Bowyer, Captain, Aurigny Air Services, Channel Islands
Rodrigo Bravo, Captain and Pilot for the Aviation Army of Chile
General Wilfried De Brouwer, former Deputy Chief of Staff, Belgian Air Force (Ret.)
John Callahan, Chief of Accidents and Investigations for the FAA, 1980's (Ret.)
Dr. Anthony Choy, founder, 2001, OIFAA, Peruvian Air Force
Jean-Claude Duboc, Captain, Air France (Ret.)
Charles I. Halt, Col. USAF (Ret.), Former Director, Inspections Directorate, DOD I.G.
General Parviz Jafari, Iranian Air Force (Ret.)
Jim Penniston, TSgt USAF (Ret.)
Dr. Claude Poher, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, founder, French GEPAN
Nick Pope, Ministry of Defence, UK, 1985-2006
Dr. Jean-Claude Ribes, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France, 1963-98
Comandante Oscar Santa Maria Huerta, Commander, Peruvian Air Force (Ret.)

The mass media was well represented with major news networks and reporters from Reuters, The Washington Times, CNN and Fox News and others from Canada, Europe and Africa present to cover this remarkable event. While at the NPC UFO conference, I was interviewed by a Canadian TV reporter and asked about "the greatest UFO incident in Canadian history" and who would be the best people to contact in Canada on UFO affairs.

In reply, I gave the young lady a synopsis of the Shag Harbor incident, recommended that she study the work of Wilber Smith and told her to contact Prof. Nick Balaskas of York University and Errol Bruce Knapp of UFO Updates as experts in Canadian UFO history.

She then asked me "Well, why don't I know about this, if it is so famous?"

I laughed and said: "Maybe you don't watch the History Channel enough!"

She then asked me "Does Prime Minister Harper know about this"?

My reply was: "I cannot speak for Mr. Harper but he should know about it as he is the one most responsible... I would recommend you ask Mr. Harper, himself."

CNN News was represented by Gary Tuchman. The CNN reporter asked some very interesting questions and he covered the event in "a fair and balanced way," treating the participants with all respect due to them (despite "Wolfman" Blitzer's and McCafferty's snide and crass comments, respectively, after his piece was aired last night).

Before and after the conference, I also had long conversations with Gov. Symington and high-ranking officers of the Belgian, Iranian, Chilean and Peruvian Air Forces, as well as, the representatives from France and England, including Mr. Claude Poper, regarding the GEPAN/COMETA reports, Roy Bowyer, airline pilot in the English Channel UFO incident that occurred earlier this year, and with Nick Pope, Colonel Charles T. Halt and Tech Sgt. James Pendleton (USAF, Retired), who actually touched the object with his hands and copied unusual pictograms on the 6 foot by 9 foot UFO object, after it landed in the Rendlesham Forest.

Before the conference began, I engaged Major General (Ret) Wilfried De Brouwer, former Chief of Operations of the Air Staff of the Belgian Air Force, in a discussion and photo analysis of the Black Triangle incident that occurred over Belgium on 29 November 1989.

Noticing the photos, which the General had before him, I informed General De Brouwer that I had enhanced this photo in 1993 and brought to light previously indistinct details hidden in the background. I pointed out unnoticed details in the now famous "Black Triangle" photo, which I had enhanced in 1993 to illuminate forms, which I believe may be indicative of the deployment or recovery of a smaller, red UFO craft now seen to be above and behind the Black Triangle in the photo. This item may have been misidentified as a "lens flare" by other photo analysts.

The General replied that he had heard of my work but I informed him that when I had done the 1993 photo enhancement, I had released it anonymously at that time because I was not then publicly involved in the study of UFOs, keeping my work private and in the background of Ufology. I released the enhanced photo in 1993 through Dr. Bruce Cornet.

New Details Emerge of Jet vs. UFO "Dog Fights" over Iran and Peru

The new details revealed of the UFO "dogfights" between General Parviz Jafari in an F-4 Phantom II over Iran and Commandante Oscar S.M. Huerta in a Sukhoi 22 over Peru were literally "out of this world."

Having studied this incident in depth for many years, in particular, Dr. Bruce Maccabee's account, "The Iranian Jet Incident," during the past 2 years, I was lured to Washington, DC for this event primarily by the appearance at this conference of General Parviz Jafari and General Wilfried De Brouwer. I was not disappointed. I met some great pilots, officers and cordial gentlemen there, all of them, noble men in quest of truth in government and a great concern for air safety.

The statement of General Parviz Jafari follows:

"Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen...My name is Parviz Jafari, and I am a retired General of the Iranian Air Force. At about 11 p.m. on the evening of 18th September 1976, citizens were frightened by the circling of an unknown object, over Tehran, the capital city of Iran, at a low altitude. It looked similar to a star, but bigger and brighter. They reported it to the tower and it was seen by the tower man too. He alerted the Air Force command post and Deputy General Yousefi decided to scramble an F-4 to investigate.

The pilot in the first jet lost instrumentation and communications when he got too close to the brilliant object, so he headed back. About 10 minutes later, they scrambled a second jet, which I was piloting. At the time, I was Squadron Commander.

I approached the object, which was flashing with intense red, green, orange and blue light so bright that I was not able to see its body. The sequence of flashes was extremely fast, like a strobe light. We locked on it with radar; it was at 30 degrees left, at a range of 25 miles. The size on the radarscope was comparable to that of a 707 tanker.

Four other objects with different shapes separated from the main one, at different times during this close encounter. Whenever they were close to me, my weapons were jammed and my radio communications garbled.

One of the objects headed toward me. I thought it was a missile. I tried to launch a heat seeking Missile to it, but my missile panel went out. Another followed me when I was descending on the way back.

One of the separated objects landed in an open area, radiating a high bright light, in which the sands on the ground were visible.

We could hear emergency squawk all the way, which was reported by other airliners flying at the time and continued for another couple of days.

WE ARE NOT ALONE:



Tune in to David Twichell's one-hour radio talk show, "**We Are Not Alone**" on **WHFR**, broadcast from Henry Ford Community College (**89.3 FM**).

Retired hypnotherapist and alien abductee, Dr. Melvin Redfern will guest on Feb. 2nd 2008. Washington insider, Stephen Bassett will guest on March 1st, 2008. Tune in on the **first Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM (EST)** with a new show each month.

Out of the area? Go to: <http://whfr.fm/index.php> and click on "**tune in now**". The latest shows are now archived. Click on "**archives of the weekly WHFR Forum**" and click on the date of the show you wish to hear.

During my interview at H.Q. after the incident, an American colonel took notes, but after it was over, I could not find him to talk with.

Later, a once-classified document was released here in America through the Freedom of Information Act. The Defense Intelligence Agency documented the event in great detail, and it was sent to NSA, The White House and the CIA. The DIA assessment said "this case is a classic that meets all necessary conditions for a legitimate study of the UFO phenomenon."

I would be happy to answer questions and tell you more. Thank you."

And the General did tell me more...

Before and after the conference, I shared information with General Jafari on a little known abduction incident (involving a British M.D. and an Iranian citizen) that occurred in the mountains northwest of Teheran on the day before his F-4 incident, citing the location as the Erbus Mountains, near the shrine of a Shi'ite holy man to which many pilgrims travel to pay homage. General Jafari then confided that after he had seen the UFO land, illuminating the sands around it that he had taken a helicopter flight the next morning to search the landing zone. General Jafari said to me, "This was in that same area that you mentioned to me before" (near the Erbus Mountains).

General Jaffari also gave me a copy of the official USAF report on the F-4 incident. The USAF codes on the document indicate that the report was sent to the President, the Secretary of State, the Under Secretary of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, NSA, Chief of Staff United States Air Force, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Army, Commander in Chief, US Air Forces Europe, Commander in Chief, US Air Forces Ramstein Air Base (Germany), Commander-in Chief of the German Air Force, and the Commander in Chief - NATO Forces Europe.

A second detailed account of a Jet vs. UFO "dogfight" that took place in the skies over Peru was given by Commandante Oscar Alfonso Santa Maria Huerta of the Peruvian Air Force, who conveyed a harrowing account of his engagement with a UFO while flying a Russian Sukoi S-22.

The Peruvian Air Commander told of firing 64 30mm. explosive canon shells from the Russian craft at the UFO as it hovered, some of which missed, passing below the craft. Disturbingly, Commander Huerta saw that the shells that struck the UFO directly DID NOT EXPLODE but were "absorbed" by the UFO.

Commandante Huerta's full statement follows:

"I am Oscar Santa Maria Huerta, official pilot of the Peruvian Air Force, currently retired.

On April 11, 1980, at 7:15 in the morning, 1800 men were in formation at the Air Base of La Joya, Arequipa. They all observed a stationary object in the sky, which looked like a balloon, at about three miles distance, and approximately 1,800 feet altitude. It was luminous because it reflected the sun. My unit commander ordered me to takeoff in my Sukhoi 22 jet to shoot down the spherical object. It was in restricted airspace, without clearance, and we were concerned about espionage.

I approached the object and strafed sixty-four 30 mm. shells at it. Some projectiles went towards the ground, and others hit the object fully, but they had no effect at all. The projectiles didn't bounce off; probably they were absorbed. The cone-shaped "wall of fire" that I sent out would normally obliterate anything in its path.

The object then began to ascend, and move farther away from the base. When I was at about 36,000 ft., it made a sudden stop, forcing me to veer to the side since I was only 1500 feet away. I flew up higher to attack it from above, but just as I had locked on to the target and was ready to shoot, the object made a straight vertical climb evading the attack.

Two more times, I had the object on target, when the object was stationary. Each time, it moved away at the very last minute, when I was just about to fire, always eluding my attack.

I decided to climb at full thrust to get above the object, it began to ascend almost parallel to my plane, and when I reached 63,000 ft., it stopped. At this point, I came within about 300 feet of the UFO. It was about 30 feet in diameter. It was an enameled, cream-colored dome, with a wide, circular, metallic base. It had no engines, no exhausts, no windows, no wings or antennae. It lacked all the typical aircraft components, with no visible propulsion system.

It was at that moment that I realized that this was no spying device, but that it was a UFO, something totally unknown. I was almost out of fuel, so I couldn't attack or maneuver my plane, or make a high speed escape. I was afraid. I thought I might be finished.

When I had calmed down, I radioed for another plane to come and have a look, trying to hide my fear. They said no, it's too high, just come back. I had to glide part way down due to lack of fuel, zigzagging to make my plane harder to hit, always with my eyes on the rearview mirrors, hoping it wouldn't chase me. It didn't.

I spent 22 minutes maneuvering with this object. After I landed, the object remained stationary in the sky for two more hours, for everyone at the base to see.

A US Department of Defense document titled 'UFO Sighted in Peru' described the incident, stating that the vehicle's origin remains unknown. It still gives me chills to think about it."

After the conference, I told Commander Huerta that I truly envied his experience, his flight and the amazing things his eyes had seen.

This conference was truly a historic event in the annals of UFO research. "Out of the Blue" producer, James Fox, and reporter, Leslie Kean, are to be highly commended for organizing this unique event in UFO history.

The Tide of Truth is turning.

Robert D. Morningstar Editor, UFO Digest Source: <http://www.ufodigest.com/news/1107/ufoconference.html>



Transcripts of Speakers at National Press Club – Nov. 12, 2007

RODRIGO BRAVO GARRIDO

Since the beginning of Chilean history, there have been reports of unidentified phenomena, sometimes called UFOs, observed in our skies.

Over the years, we have increased our capacity to explain many of the sightings, but some continue to remain without a scientific or logical explanation.

For that reason, in October of 1997, the Department of Civil Aeronautics, the Chilean equivalent of the American FAA, set up the Committee for the Study of Anomalous Aerial Phenomena, known as the CEFAA. This agency handles the best reports of unidentified aerial phenomena in cooperation with aeronautic specialists.

In 2000, the Aviation branch of the Army of Chile assigned me to research anomalous aerial phenomena, which they knew were real, and their affect on aerospace security. I then graduated to become a military pilot, and learned that the Aviation Army had in its files many reports of UFO incidents from military pilots.

A link was then established between our Army office and the CEFAA, and as a result, nine official cases have been documented. This has helped to create awareness among the flight crews about UFOs, and they now cooperate with flight security to report any abnormal situation.

One of our most important civil aviation cases occurred in 1988, showing that unidentified flying objects can be a danger for air operations. A Boeing 737 pilot, on a final approach to the runway at “The Tepual” Airport in Puerto Montt City, suddenly encountered a large white light surrounded by green and red. The light was moving in the opposite direction of the airplane, coming straight at it. The pilot had to make a steep turn to the left in order to avoid a collision. The phenomenon was observed by the control tower personnel.

In 2000, the crew of a Chilean plane from the Aviation branch of the Army, flying South of Santiago, observed a long cigar-shaped object, a brilliant gray. It flew parallel to the right side of the aircraft for two minutes and then disappeared at a very high speed. This object was detected by the radar of the Control Center of Santiago which notified the crew minutes before the incident.

Sadly, the UFO subject has been contaminated with false information, out of touch with reality, provided by unqualified people to the media. This has moved the issue away from a scientific and specialized study where it belongs.

In light of that problem, we now make the call to all the countries that are presently working on this issue in a serious and factual way, to unite their efforts. We would like this to include the United States of America.

This cooperative effort would help all of us counteract the potentially unsafe effects of UFOs on air operations around the world.

New cases are being documented by pilots, traffic controllers, operations staff at the world’s airports, and by many others with the proper training to determine if a flying object is something unusual.

The true origin of these UFOs is unknown, yet they do affect aviation all around the planet, and this must be addressed.

CHARLES I. HALT

My name is Charles I. Halt. I retired from the US Air Force in 1991 as a Colonel. I was a base commander at two large installations and at the time of my retirement was Director, Inspections Directorate for the DOD IG. In that position I had inspection oversight of all military services and defense agencies. In 1980 I was the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters, the large twin base complex in East Anglia England. At the time this was the largest Tactical Fighter Wing in the Air Force.

KEEPING IT
LIGHT

Special thanks to **Connie O’Very** of **Mi-MUFON** for the “musical aliens”



B.Z. Toons

by Brian Zaikowski

www.bztoons.com



C'mon! c'mon! I didn't drive 4.35 light-years for you to chicken out at the last minute!

In late December 1980 I was called upon to investigate a strange event that was distracting our Security Police from their primary duties. Early on the morning of December 26, 1980 our police patrolmen discovered strange lights in the forest east of the back gate of RAF Woodbridge. Three patrolmen were dispatched into the forest to investigate. They reported discovering a strange triangular craft sitting on three legs. The craft was approximately 3 meters on a side. The craft had multiple lights. It rapidly maneuvered and quickly left the area. I was not immediately aware of the details only being told of strange lights and assumed there was a reasonable explanation. Two nights later the family Christmas party was interrupted by the on duty police commander. He told of strange events and claimed "it" was back. Since my boss had to present awards I was tasked to go out and investigate. I fully expected to find an explanation. I took two senior Security Police, a Disaster Preparedness expert and the reporting On Duty Police Commander. At the site we found the three 1 1/2" indentations in the ground in a triangular pattern. [SHOW PLASTER CAST],

We discovered mild radiation, and evidence including broken branches. We suddenly observed a bright red/orange oval object with a black center. It reminded me of an eye and appeared as though blinking. It maneuvered horizontally through the trees with occasionally vertical movement. When approached it receded and silently broke into five white lights which quickly vanished. We moved out of the forest into a pasture and observed several objects with multiple lights in the Northern sky. They changed in shape from elliptical to round.

Several other objects were seen to the South. One approached at high speed and sent down a concentrated beam near our feet. Another object sent down beams into the weapons storage area. The whole time we had difficulty communicating with the base as all three radio frequencies kept breaking up. This activity continued for about an hour.

During this entire event I had my pocket recorder and taped the event as it unfolded. A copy of the tape was released without my knowledge. This is the original recorder and tape. I have no idea what we saw but do know whatever we saw was under intelligent control.

CLAUDE POHER

Bonjour, I am Dr Claude POHER, retired astrophysicist and space research engineer from the National Center for Space Studies, the French equivalent of NASA. I was the founder of the GEPAN, the Group for the Study of Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena, which was an official agency devoted to the study of UFO observation reports, and which remains active today, under the name GEIPAN.

I first learned about the existence of official US UFO reports early in the sixties, from Dr J. Allen Hynek, the well known astronomical consultant to the US Air Force's Project Blue Book. I then began to investigate official French UFO reports, and to undertake scientific analyses of the data.

I received approval from CNES to create and direct the GEPAN about 15 years later, in 1977. I trained our first investigators, teaching them how to conduct official investigations into the different kinds of reports, from lights in the sky to landings with physical evidence and observations of occupants.

We had an independent scientific steering committee. This committee recommended that we continue to pursue this work during the two years of my direction.

For example, I trained our investigators on the case of CUSSAC, where, in August 1967, two young witnesses were alerted by the agitation of dozens of frightened farm animals at around noon. The witnesses then observed a landed spherical UFO at a distance of 80 yards, with four occupants near it.

Very high luminosity was reported after slow takeoff, leaving physiological effects on the witnesses eyes that were confirmed by the village mayor. The "hiss" noise described by the two witnesses was also heard by the hunting guard of the village. The UFO acceleration after vertical takeoff was estimated to be about a hundred g's by GEPAN experts. The occupants were seen floating in the air while entering the craft, from its top, in a hurry.

Physical traces on the ground from the craft were confirmed by the local police, as well as a sulfur oxide odor. CNES experts in meteorology and space debris worked in the field with the witnesses, along with a Juge, a psychologist, an optical engineer and aeronautical engineer. They had full measuring equipment and worked with the police as well.

The official conclusion of GEPAN in 1979, was that about 15% of cases remained unidentified after careful analysis by our experts. We concluded that the objects, in most of these cases, were compatible with flying machines whose flight physics were foreign to the experts' knowledge.

What I have stated is about the past. Now there are some recent experimental facts, in direct relation to my GEPAN and UFO investigation involvement, that I believe are of great importance for our future, and for the way you should now handle UFO observations in the USA.

After I left the GEPAN but remained at CNES, I continued to work on the UFO subject in the domain of theoretical physics. Last April, the physical theory about gravitation and inertia I was working on since 1980, was successfully tested in the laboratory.

Effectively, I patented and tested devices able to reproduce, in the laboratory, the causes of the strange effects that are described in UFO observation reports. I am talking about such effects as tremendous accelerations, sharp turns, sudden stops, powerful emission of light, silent supersonic speed, etc ...

These experimental results are currently open to be demonstrated, in my laboratory in Toulouse, for qualified scientists, scientific journalists and industrial representatives, including those from the USA.

Thanks for your attention..

JEAN-CLAUDE RIBES

My name is Jean-Claude Ribes and I am an astronomer, working for the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique from 1963 to 1998. I contributed to the French COMETA report, a three year military study on UFOs and National Security released in 1999, and more recently to the book "Phenomenes aerospaciaux non identifies," under the direction of Yves Sillard, chairman of the Steering Committee of GEIPAN. He asked me to represent him and GEIPAN here today. General Denis Letty, chairman of the COMETA group, also asked me to represent him here, because he was unable to attend.

The COMETA report was written mainly by high ranking military people from the French High Studies Institute for National Defence. It analyzes the possible explanations for UFOs and their implications in terms of Defence, with the extraterrestrial hypothesis presented as the most logical one, even if not formally proven. Some recommendations are made, including that all managers of the Army, Police, Politics, and pilots be informed about UFOs; that detection systems be modified to take UFOs into account; and that the French government contact the United States and other allied countries to initiate cooperative action on the subject. So far, these recommendations have not been implemented.

However, last March, my country took a big step forward. Jacques Patenet, current director of GEIPAN, released the French UFO files to the public. They were posted on a website - more than 1,600 sightings spanning five decades. Some cases involved multiple sightings and physical evidence such as burn marks and radar trackings. Others documented UFOs with flight patterns or accelerations defying the laws of physics. M. Patenet told the press at the time that "We do not have any proof at all that extra-terrestrials are behind the unexplained phenomena. Nor do we have any proof at all that they aren't."

GEIPAN's Steering Committee plays an important role, with representatives from the Army, Police, Civil Aviation, Meteorology and the scientific community. This Committee insures the best conditions for gathering reports by instructing the agencies involved in investigations, and by protecting any witnesses who request anonymity for fear of ridicule.

My personal opinion is that UFOs should be taken seriously and studied without prejudice. There may be several possible explanations, such as rare atmospheric phenomena, but some cases strongly suggest actual flying machines with characteristics well beyond our terrestrial capacities. If these cases could be completely proven as such, then the extraterrestrial hypothesis would probably be the most likely explanation for these advanced craft. Admittedly, it is a fantastic possibility, but not an irrational one, given the data that we have.

JOHN J. CALLAHAN

What I am about to tell you now, is about an event that never happened. I am John Callahan, and I was Division Chief of the Accidents, Evaluations and Investigations Division of the FAA in Washington, for 6 years during the 980's.

In early January of 987, I received a call from the Air Traffic Quality Control Branch in FAA's Alaskan regional office, requesting guidance on what to tell the media personnel who were overflowing their office. The media was requesting information about the UFO that chased a Japanese 747 across the Alaskan sky for some 3 minutes at flight levels between 3 000 and 35000 ft. on November 7, 986. Somehow, the word had got out. "What UFO; when did this take place; why wasn't Washington Headquarters informed?" I asked. "Hey, he replied, "who believes in UFO's? I just need to know what to tell the media to get them out of here." The answer to that question was easy: "Tell them it's under investigation. Then, collect all the data - the voice tapes and data disc for both the facility and the military. Send then overnight to the FAA Tech Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey."

Japan Air Lines flight 628, a cargo jet with a pilot, co-pilot and one crew member, was just north of Anchorage, and it was about pm when the pilot first reported the UFO. He described it as a huge ball with lights running around it. He said it was about 4 times bigger than a 747, and he saw it with his own eyes. So did the other two crew members.

Over the course of 3 minutes, the UFO jumped miles in a few seconds, changing places to different spots around the 747, in one sweep of the radar scope.

After receiving the data from Alaska almost two months later, I briefed my boss Harvey Safer and the FAA Administrator Admiral Engen, and Safer and I went to the FAA Tech Center to observe the playback. The FAA had developed a program capable of recreating the traffic on the controllers' scope, or plan view display. I instructed the FAA specialist to synchronize the voice tapes with the radar data so we could hear everything the controller and pilot said. I video taped the radar display. Later that day, I requested that the FAA automation specialists plot the radar targets along the route of flight and explain what each target was doing. I video taped the resulting chart.

The print out and radar play back displayed primary targets in the vicinity of the 747. These target returns were displayed about the same time and place as the pilot advised viewing the UFO. Both the radar and manual controller observed the primary target. The military controllers also viewed the primary target on their radar and identified it as a "double primary." The pilot and crew viewed the target on their radar and were able to see the huge UFO at the same time as it approached their aircraft.

If this craft had been a leer jet or military aircraft at the wrong altitude, that would have been clear. The FAA has procedures that cover tracking unidentified aircraft violating another's airspace - but it has no procedures for UFOs.

Back at FAA headquarters, I gave Administrator Engen a quick briefing and showed him the video. He set up a briefing with President Reagan's scientific staff, and told me my function was to give them a dog and pony show and hand this event off to them, "since the FAA does not deal with UFO's." I brought along a copy of the video and all the data print outs available at the time. One of the scientists asked a number of questions, such as, what is the range of the radar, what is the frequency of the radar, what is the band width, what is the formula for the height equipment, etc.

I was impressed with the response from the FAA experts. At the end, one of the three people from the CIA said, "This event never happened; we were never here; we're confiscating all this data and you are all sworn to secrecy." "What do you think it was?" I asked the CIA person. "A UFO and now they have over 30 minutes of radar to go over," he responded. "Well let's get a twix out and advise the American public that we were visited by a UFO," I suggested.

"No way, if we were to tell the American public there are UFO's they would panic," he informed me. Some time after the briefing, the detailed FAA report which included extensive interviews with the pilot and crew, the chart prepared at the Tech Center; and facility voice tapes arrived at my office and were placed on a small table waiting for the CIA to request more data. The material stayed there until I retired 2 years later, and I've had it ever since. Most people including FAA controllers really aren't familiar with how the FAA radar system works and why all aircraft traveling through our airspace are not caught on radar or displayed on the controllers PVD. But I am. The system and organization of the FAA is not configured to identify and track these types of performances.

JEAN-CHARLES DUBOC

My name is Jean-Charles DUBOC, and I am a retired Air France Captain.

During Air France Flight 3532 from Nice to London, on 28 January 1994, I observed, with my crew, a daylight UFO near Paris. We had few passengers on board and none of them had reported that observation to the crew.

The time was 1:00 P.M, and the visibility was excellent with some altocumulus clouds.

That object had been identified initially by a steward who was in the cockpit and by the copilot as a weather balloon, but when I identified it, it looked quite different.

In fact this UFO was in evolution and it looked like this (I shall then show a drawing), with a bank angle of 45°.

It seemed to be a huge flying DISC.

It stabilized and stopped moving (moving horizontally the drawing).

We observed it over one minute on the LEFT on our plane, surprisingly totally stationary in the sky, and it disappeared progressively (turn of the drawing).

This large object was below us at the altitude of 35, 000 ft (we were at 39 000 ft), at a distance of about 25 nautical miles. The colour was RED BROWN with BLURRED outlines. The apparent diameter of this object could be compared to the diameter of the moon, or the sun. That means that it was about 1000 feet wide.

We had no idea of the structure of the UFO that seemed to be embedded in a kind of magnetic or gravitational field, with no lights or visual metallic structure, which gave it a really FUZZY appearance.

The most incredible aspect is that it became transparent and disappeared in about 10 to 20 seconds.

My co-pilot, chief steward and I quickly realized that what we were seeing did not resemble anything known to us, and we reported our sighting to Reims traffic control.

Simultaneously, the radar of the Operational Centre of the Air Defence (the CODA), registered a one minute spot crossing the track of our plane.

When I recorded the estimated position of the UFO on an aeronautical map I was surprised to realize that its position was near the base of Taverny which hosts the headquarters of the French Strategic Air Command.

This sighting has been studied by the French military COMETA group under the direction of General Denis Letty and with the participation of several high ranking officers of the French Defence, as well as by GEPAN under the French National Space Centre (CNES).

The investigations determined this could not have been a weather balloon, and estimated the approximate length of the UFO to have been 800 feet.

This sighting remains unexplained.

NICK POPE

My name is Nick Pope, formerly with the British Ministry of Defence.

Since 1950 the British Government has received over 10,000 UFO reports. Responsibility for this subject rests with the Ministry of Defense, whose remit is to look for evidence of any potential threat to the UK, or anything else of any "defense significance". From 1991 to 1994 I was the desk officer responsible for these investigations.

Most UFO sightings turned out to be misidentifications of things such as aircraft, satellites and meteors, but in around 5 per cent of cases no explanation could be found. These cases include incidents where reliable witnesses such as police officers and pilots reported structured craft performing speeds and maneuvers significantly in excess of anything they had seen military jet aircraft perform. Other cases included in this category involved UFOs tracked on radar and incidents where photos or videos were produced and where the MoD's technical experts found no evidence of fakery.

. The MoD takes no position on the nature of the UFO phenomenon but I and some of my colleagues were privately convinced that whatever was going on, there were important defense, national security and flight safety issues involved.

In March 1993 I investigated a case where a UFO was seen by about 60 witnesses, including military personnel at two air force bases. Witnesses included a patrol of air force police, together with a meteorological officer with 8 years experience. This latter witness described a triangular-shaped craft midway in size between a C-130 and a Boeing 747. He said that it was emitting a low frequency humming sound and he said it moved slowly at first, before accelerating away many times faster than a military jet. My Head of Division's brief to the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff concluded "In summary, there would seem to be some evidence on this occasion that an unidentified object (or objects) of unknown origin was operating over the UK". The case file - published on the MoD website - also mentions related enquiries from the US authorities, asking if the UK had a black programme that might explain some UFO sightings involving large triangular-shaped craft. That's interesting, given the US government's public position that UFOs are no longer investigated.

Britain's best known UFO sighting occurred in 1980 and involved USAF personnel from two military bases in the UK. There were multiple witnesses and an object was seen to land in a place called Rendlesham Forest. A Geiger counter was used to take radiation readings at the landing site and the assessment undertaken by the MoD's Defence Intelligence Staff stated that the levels recorded seemed "significantly higher than the average background". We are fortunate to have two of the witnesses to these events here today and I should like to hand over to one of them now, so that he can give you the specifics.

Thank you.

ANTHONY CHOY

I am Dr. Anthony Choy, founding member of the Office of Investigations of Anomalous Aerial Phenomena (OIFAA), and an investigator for this office. This agency was established by the Peruvian Air Force in December, 2001.

I am the author of "Project 33," the first Integral study on the UFO phenomenon in Peru. I traveled all over my country for about three years, speaking with witnesses, obtaining audio-visual information such as photographs and videos, and collecting data for this study.

On October 13, 2001, in the northern city of Chulucanas, and before hundreds of people, eight spheres of light, of an intense red-orange color, were recorded on video. We were the first ones to obtain this video and we gave it to the air force. These objects were suspended in the air for over five hours, moving in an apparently intelligent manner, and in absolute silence until they disappeared.

A few days later, on October 25th, the luminous tear-shaped object of some 25 meters diameter (approx. 80 feet), was recorded over the countryside near the city. Within a few minutes, the apparent "landing" of light spheres in the woods was also recorded.

In February of 2002, the Air Force's OIFAA ordered me to investigate these sightings.

Taking responsibility for the so-called "Chulucanas Incident", in February 2003 Peruvian Air Force Colonel Jose Raffo Moloche, Director of Aerial and Space Concerns, made an open statement to the media acknowledging that the Chulucanas Incident was the first official UFO investigation in Peru.

The preliminary conclusion was that the sightings, although being physically real, had no explanation. The case remains open, and the investigation continues independently

The climax occurred on August 6 of 2004 when, in collaboration with the American television channel of Univision, we were able to record for 55 minutes a distant object of unknown nature and origin, moving at great velocity in the sky, going up and down, and right and left. I believe the Air Force in Peru has done the right thing by opening an office to conduct these investigations. The evidence we have from actual UFO cases and incidents that have taken place in our country show that the UFO phenomenon remains one of the greatest challenges to our current knowledge of science and technology.

WILFRIED DE BROUWER

My name is Wilfried De Brouwer. I am a retired Major General of the Belgian Air Force and I was Chief Operations in the Air Staff when an exceptional UFO wave took place over Belgium. Indeed, during the evening of 29 November 1989, in a small area in Eastern Belgium, approximately 140 UFO sightings were reported. Hundreds of people saw a majestic triangular craft with a span of approximately 120 feet, powerful beaming spot lights, moving very slowly without making any significant noise but, in several cases, accelerating to very high speeds.

The following days and months, many more sightings would follow. The UFO wave would last more than one year during which a Belgian UFO organization conducted more than 650 investigations and recorded more than 400 hours of audio witness reports. On one occasion, a photograph revealed the triangular shape and four light beams of the object.

Belgium had no official focal point for reporting UFO observations. Nevertheless, in my function of Chief Operations, I was confronted with numerous questions about the origin and nature of these craft. In the first instance, and in consultation with other NATO partners, I could confirm that no flights of stealth aircraft or any other experimental aircraft took place in the air-space of Belgium. In addition, the Civil Aviation Authorities confirmed that no flight plans had been introduced. This implied that the reported object(s) committed an infraction against the existing aviation rules.

The Belgian Air Force tried to identify the alleged intruder(s) and, on three occasions, launched F 16 aircraft. On one occasion, two F 16 registered rapid changes in speed and altitude which were well outside of the performance envelope of existing aircraft. Nevertheless, the pilots could not establish visual contact and the investigation revealed that specific weather conditions may have caused electromagnetic interferences and false returns on the radar screens. The technical evidence was insufficient to conclude that abnormal air activities took place during that evening.

In short, the Belgian UFO wave was exceptional and the Air Force could not identify the nature, origin and intentions of the reported phenomena.

JAMES PENNISTON

My name is James Penniston, United States Air Force Retired.

In 1980, I was assigned to the largest Tactical Fighter Wing in the Air Force, RAF Woodbridge in England. I was the senior security officer in charge of base security. At that time I held a top-secret US and NATO security clearance and was responsible for the protection of war-making resources for that base.

Shortly after midnight on the 26th of December, 1980, Staff Sergeant Steffens briefed me that some lights were seen in Rendlesham Forest, just outside the base. He informed me that what ever it was didn't crash...it landed. I discounted what he said and reported to the control center back at the base that we had a possible downed aircraft. I then ordered Amn. Cabanzak, AIC Burroughs to respond with me.

When we arrived near the suspected crash site it quickly became apparent that we were not dealing with a plane crash or anything else we'd ever responded to. There was a bright light emanating from an object on the forest floor. As we approached it on foot, a silhouetted triangular craft about 9 feet long by 6.5 feet high, came into view. The craft was fully intact sitting in a small clearing inside the woods.

As the three of us got closer to the craft we started experiencing problems with our radios. I then asked Cabansag to relay radio transmissions back to the control center. Burroughs and I proceeded towards the craft.

When we came up on the triangular shaped craft there were blue and yellow lights swirling around the exterior as though part of the surface and the air around us was electrically charged. We could feel it on our cloths, skin and hair. Nothing in my training prepared me for what we were witnessing.

After ten minutes without any apparent aggression, I determined the craft was non hostile to my team or to the base. Following security protocol, we completed a thorough on-site investigation, including a full physical examination of the craft. This included photographs, notebook entries, and radio relays through airman Cabansag to the control center as required. On one side of the craft were symbols that measured about 3 inches high and two and a half feet across.

These symbols were pictorial in design; the largest symbol was a triangle, which was centered in the middle of the others. These symbols were etched into the surface of the craft, which was warm to the touch and felt like metal.

The feeling I had during this encounter was no type of aircraft that I've ever seen before.

After roughly 45 minutes the light from the craft began to intensify. Burroughs and I then took a defensive position away from the craft as it lifted off the ground without any noise or air disturbance. It maneuvered through the trees and shot off at an unbelievable rate of speed. It was gone in the blink of an eye.

In my logbook, (that I have right here) I wrote, Speed: IMPOSSIBLE. Over 80 Air Force Personnel, all trained observers assigned to the 81st Security Police Squadron, witnessed the takeoff.

The information acquired during the investigation was reported through military channels. The team and witnesses were told to treat the investigation as "top secret" and no further discussion was allowed.

The photos we retrieved from the base lab (two rolls of 35 mm) were apparently over exposed.

RAY BOWER

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and thank you for coming today. My name is Ray Bowyer and I fly a civilian airliner as Captain. I have been invited here due to my sighting last April of multiple as yet unidentified objects over the Channel Islands region of the English Channel. This encounter lasted for 15 minutes with the first object being visible from 55 miles distant.

On nearing the object a second identical shape appeared beyond the first. Both objects were of a flattened disk shape with a dark area to the right side. They were brilliant yellow with light emanating from them. I estimated them to be up to a mile across.

I found myself astounded but curious. But at 12 miles distant these objects were becoming uncomfortably large, and I was glad to descend and land the aircraft. Many of my passengers saw the objects as did the pilot of another aircraft 25 miles further south. There is also possible radar information still being investigated.

A team headed by Dr. David Clarke looking at this case will shortly publish a report but I understand that at this time no definitive solution has been discovered to explain the sighting.

I have taken note of the differences between the British and U.S. reporting system. It appears that attitudes on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean are very different when it comes to the required reporting and recording of this type of event.

Air Law stipulates quite clearly that if an operating crew of an aircraft see another aircraft in a place that it should not be, then at the earliest opportunity the whole scenario is to be reported to the relevant authority. In my case the British Civil Aviation Authority knew within 20 minutes of the sighting what was seen, as described in the flight log faxed directly to the relevant CAA office. The military were informed by Jersey Air Traffic Control at the same time. This is not an option; it is an obligation that crews react in this manner.

In my experience, having reported the incident as required has had no negative effect. And there was no problem with me talking about it on British television. Indeed, my company Aurigny Air Services have offered every support to date. The assistance of Jersey ATC in releasing recorded information to myself and the investigating team has been a great benefit. I did not feel that I was in any danger of being ridiculed, because all I did was report what actually happened, as was my duty.

I heard about the multiple witness sighting at Chicago O'Hare Airport – a year ago, on November 7, 2006. I was surprised to hear how this was handled. Despite many pilots and airport personnel witnessing the object hovering over the terminal, there was no investigation by the FAA. It appears that pressure may have been applied to crew members by their company not to discuss this incident

These witnesses were afraid to talk about what they saw, due to concerns about job security. The FAA told the witnesses that what they saw was actually not what they saw – but that it was simply weather.

I would have been shocked if I was told that the CAA would obstruct an investigation, or if the CAA told me that what I had seen was something entirely different. But it seems that pilots in America are used to this kind of thing, as far as I can tell.

I would urge all aircrew to report whatever they see as soon as possible, and to stand up and be counted. It is only when crucial witnesses such as professional pilots make reports that the authorities will be kick-started into a broader investigation of these phenomena.

FIFE SYMINGTON

In 1997, during my second term as Governor of Arizona, I saw something that defied logic and challenged my reality. I witnessed a massive delta-shaped craft silently navigating over the Squaw Peak, Mountain Preserve in Phoenix, Arizona. It was truly breathtaking.

To my astonishment this apparition appeared, and it was a solid structure; dramatically large with a very distinctive leading edge including embedded lights. It was traveling through the Arizona sky. I still don't know what it was. As a pilot and a former Air Force Officer, I can definitively say that this craft did not resemble any man made object I'd ever seen. And it was certainly not high-altitude flares because flares don't fly in formation. The incident was witnessed by hundreds, if not thousands of people in Arizona and my office was besieged with phone calls from very concerned Arizonians. The growing hysteria intensified when the story broke nationally. I decided to lighten the mood of the state by calling a press conference where my chief of staff arrived in an alien costume. We managed to lessen the sense of panic but at the same time, upset many of my constituents. I would now like to set the record straight. I never meant to ridicule anyone. My office did make inquiries as to the origin of the craft, but to this day, they remain unanswered. Eventually the Air National Guard claimed responsibility stating that their pilots were dropping flares. This is indicative of the attitude from official channels. We get explanations that fly in the face of the facts. Explanations like weather balloons, swamp gas and military flares. I was never happy with this silly explanation. There might very well have been military flares in the sky later that evening, but what I and hundreds of others saw had nothing to do with that.

I now know that I am not alone in witnessing something extraordinary. There are many high ranking military, aviation and government officials who share my concerns; some of them have joined me here today. There is absolutely no doubt as to the veracity of what these men have told you. They have fought in wars, guarded top secret weapons arsenals and flown countless passengers throughout the world's skies.

Incidents like these are not going away. One year ago, Chicago's O'Hare airport experienced a UFO event that made national and international headlines. Pilots and many other airline employees observed a metallic disc hovering over the United Airlines terminal for several minutes. It then shot straight up and cut a hole in the clouds. The FAA did not investigate, dismissing the sighting as "weather."

We want the US government to stop perpetuating the myth that ALL UFOs can be explained away in down-to-earth, conventional terms. Instead, our country needs to re-open its official investigation that it shut down in 1969. The US government can no longer shun an international dialogue about this, and we invite the government to work in cooperation with the countries represented at this table.

When it comes to events of this nature dealing with the great unknown, we deserve more openness and a serious pursuit of the facts by our government.

Editor's Note: The testimonies of Fife Symington, General Parviz Jafari and Commandante Oscar Alfonso Santa Maria Huerta are detailed in "The National Press Club Conference on UFOs: The Tide is Turning" on pages 3 – 6.



Mysteries of Space and Sky Best Symposium Value for Money in U.S. Bill Murphy's Column

The sprawling Arnold, Maryland campus of Anne Arundel Community College was the location this past October 27th for "Mysteries of Space & Sky IV: Sixty Years of UFO's". In my opinion, this symposium is the best value available for serious students of the UFO phenomenon. Orchestrated by the College's Dr. S. Peter Resta, in collaboration with Rob and Sue Swiatek, the one-day event treated an overflow crowd to top researchers in the field for a bargain-basement price.

The symposium is run as a Continuing Education seminar for a registration fee of \$40 (\$30 for those residing within the Anne Arundel Community College district). The price is so reasonable, I would imagine, because it is a "no-frills" type of affair – no special dinners, you make your own lodging arrangements, and the UFO-related materials available are those of the presenters and the organizations (Fund for UFO Research, Virginia Mutual UFO Network) they represent. Then, too, Dr. Resta has been able to tap on the expert resources within the local East Coast area for his speaker portfolio, and this helps keep the costs down. The roster for 2007 included Rob and Sue Swiatek, underwater UFO cataloguer Carl Feindt, Don Berliner, Richard Hall, and Bruce Maccabee, and the level of the presentations easily rivalled that of the better Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Symposia I have attended.

Dr. Resta, who himself has contributed considerably to the rigorous study of aspects related to the Abduction phenomenon, opened with a short presentation and handled speaker introductions. Local musician Steven Hickey's ambient synthesizer music set a suitable tone to the morning and afternoon sessions, and four different CD's were available for purchase at only \$5 each. You might wish to check out his website at www.luiniss.com.

This year's emphasis was particularly on the history of ufology, this being the 60th year since the Kenneth Arnold sighting. I must confess to being specially partial to the topic because of my academic background, but all the talks had value for the general discussion. I took 22 pages of notes, as much sometimes for the aptness of the statements being made as for the information being discussed. I intend to explore elements of these presentations in more detail in the future; what follows is an impressionistic overview of the day's talks.

Rob Swiatek, of the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR) and the UFO Research Coalition, opened the major presentations with a timely discussion of the history of French ufology. Rob carried off something here that nearly stunned me, as it has been about thirty years since I have heard someone actually give a predominantly memorized speech, with just a few cue notes – and carry it off. The gist of Rob's presentation was that the French, though relative latecomers to the subject (starting officially in 1977), prosecute the study of UFOs differently than is the case in the U.S. The recent release of UFO files on geipan.fr is symptomatic of a more open attitude toward the subject, which is mirrored in the statements and publications of current and former French governmental and military officials. Rob also made the point that a study of the French "unknowns" indicates percentages consistent with those done by U.S. ufologists, and is well in excess of the traditional "10%" of cases that are said to resist explanation. Sue Swiatek was next, with her discussion of factors surrounding the historic Betty and Barney Hill case. Sue, who is the State MUFON Director for Virginia and editor of the *Journal for Abduction Research*, gave a flawless presentation. A straw poll was taken of the participants, and it appeared to me that about 70% of the attendees had seen a major recent article on Sue in the Washington Post; this may have contributed to the turnout, in spite of torrential rains that morning that broke a major drought in the area. Sue attacked the "UFO abduction mythology" that abductions always occur in the middle of nowhere, to just one, uneducated person – and that, ultimately, the location itself is nonexistent. Sue also countered the notion that the Hills had had contact with the "emerging data" on abductions, and averred that the recent book by Kathleen Marden and Stanton Friedman demonstrates that the Hills had many conscious memories – that many details of their recounted experiences were not solely the product of hypnosis.

After a break for lunch Carl Feindt, whose catalogue of approximately 1100 underwater UFO reports may be accessed at www.waterufo.net, opened with a study of UFO physical influences on water. Feindt proposed a model to explain four specific types of phenomena apparently generated by the ionized force fields he postulates surround some UFOs: 1) a water column; 2) a "bulge" of water; 3) depressed water or "holes" in water; and 4) mounding of water. Basically, the relationship of the UFO to the water surface – particularly its height below, at, or above the surface -- causes one or more of the phenomena described. My wife Linda, with her training in engineering, feels that this intriguing explanation could be further explored mathematically.

Feindt's presentation was followed by a trio whose ufological careers have helped define, and still to inform, the most rigorous approach to the subject. All three are alumni of the fabled National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), having joined in the 1960s. That these scholars are still contributing mightily to the field is evidenced by an article by Dr. Maccabee in the September and October *UFO Magazine* on the failure of "prosaic" explanations at "explaining away" several "classic" UFO cases, Dick Hall's *Journal of UFO History* (check out his website www.hallrichard.com for this and other quality items), and Don Berliner's appearance on the radio version of the *Bill O'Reilly Radio Factor* the very next week after the seminar.

Don Berliner's fact-filled presentation "From Arnold to Roswell: Discs & Saucers & Mass Confusion", concentrated on the hectic first months of the "modern UFO era". Berliner, who is the Chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, had actually heard a live radio announcement that the Army Air Force had come into the possession of a flying disc near Roswell, New Mexico, and sees in the Roswell event a transition from the June 24th, 1947 Kenneth Arnold sighting of "discs at a distance" to later ufology, with its focus on physical influences and trace cases, occupants, and purported crashes. Arnold's discs sighting itself marked somewhat of a departure in terms of the physical appearance of the perceptions, from the "glowing balls" that were the "foo fighters" of World War II and the tubular "Ghost Rockets" of Scandinavia soon after the great conflict. Mr. Berliner also observed that the Arnold sighting was almost singular in its precision, as the aviator used a stop watch and two points of reference in his speed calculations for the objects that he saw. Don further noted that the Army Air Force (AAF) press release about the Roswell "flying disc" being "loaned" to the AAF would not have made sense if the recovered material was felt to belong to the AAF in the first place – another fascinating little piece of evidence for the utter strangeness of the event.

After Don's talk a short break transpired, which helped in digesting what had been presented so far, and then Richard Hall took the podium. Called the "godfather of ufology" by Dr. Resta, Dick Hall did not disappoint, as he sketched the history of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena's role in the modern era, which Hall, as Donald Keyhoe's right-hand man and Secretary for NICAP, was particularly well-placed to observe. Dr. Resta had justly termed Hall's great works, *The UFO Evidence I and II*, as the "Bible of ufology"; Hall noted that the first of the two compilations was developed partly to make money as NICAP was running short of funds. Hall observed that the April 24, 1964 Socorro, New Mexico sighting by police officer Lonnie Zamora marked the beginning of the 1964-1967 wave; how the March, 1966 Dexter and Hillsdale, Michigan sightings got then-Congressman Gerald Ford interested in getting the subject investigated; and that after the publication of the "Condon Report" things went sour, with media interest and favorable treatment of the subject taking a nosedive from which they have not recovered to this day.

Lastly, Bruce Maccabee gave a justly-titled "60 (or more) Years in 60 (or more) Minutes" overview of the major UFO events in the U.S., with reference in numerous instances to cases which Maccabee had personally investigated, and also noting relevant treatments of these on Bruce's website, www.brumac.8k.com. Maccabee believes that the five years from 1947 to 1952 established the "tradition" of scientific, military, and societal response to the UFO sightings. Bruce's presentation contended that 1) something strange is going on – AFC (Alien Flying Craft) are real; 2) there are lots of theories about them, which won't be answered until the "ufonauts" tell us – and probably not even then; and 3) how we study the subject has to come to grips with the different meanings "history" and "true facts" have when applied to ufology. A fuller exposition of these points will have to await another article. Maccabee listed several 1947 UFO "events" that predated the Kenneth Arnold sighting, and mentioned his belief that the initial Roswell "cover-up" was done to discourage locals, especially kids, from going out to the crash area and looking for material for themselves.

Overall, "Mysteries of Space and Sky IV" had some of the quality of an academic symposium, with the emphasis on solid fact and logical observation rather than on racy speculation. As with some academic symposia, the timing was not perfect. Speakers held to the task of providing a beginning, a middle argument, and an end summary in their presentations, rather than attempting to adhere to a locked timetable. As a result, the presentations ran almost until 7 pm, nearly an hour longer than scheduled. The lecture room, while comfortable, was barely adequate to hold the crowd and, if the speaker lineup is as good next time, may not be sufficient. Vending was handled on an informal basis, with tables in the back of the room and at its entrance holding the books, CDs, and other buyables. Bruce had the most merchandising savvy of the group, offering a combo deal on his "faction" book *Abduction in My Life*, some really cute note-cards created by his daughter, and his music CD "The Joy of Ivories". This latter is an eclectic compilation of synthesized music ranging from classical takeoffs to honkytonk and cowboy-western sounds. On this disc I particularly liked "Flight of the Bumble Boogie", an updated version of Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Flight of the Bumblebee", the eerily-beautiful "Dark Asteroid", and "New Age Rising", a major piece with Mendelssohnian overtones which Bruce composed for and first presented at the Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1997 MUFON International Symposium.

A couple of side notes: the availability of the presenters before and after their presentations and their willingness to answer numerous questions not only added to the value of the event, but it speaks well for the speakers, who truly are professional in the subject and evince a desire to spread credible knowledge about it. I also was taken by the historical role which Michigan sightings and Michiganders have had on UFO history, with of course special consideration for the March, 1966 Dexter and Hillsdale sightings and the subsequent role which then-Congressman Gerald Ford played in getting governmental hearings held, leading to the formation of the notorious Colorado Project.

I would highly hope that Dr. Resta and the Swiateks are able to continue to put on future "Mysteries of Space and Sky" symposia, and commend Anne Arundel Community College for furnishing the venue for the event. In a field that too often elicits quips by late-night comedians and light and uninformed media comment, there is a crying need for professional, scientific, and rigorous live treatments of the subject being available to a general audience. In my opinion "Mysteries" does the best job of any U.S. symposium at filling this need. Located as it is on the outskirts of Annapolis, the city of Arnold, Maryland is within chip-shot distance of Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and the Chesapeake Bay, themselves exceptional travel destinations. Consider making this event part of a short, medium, or long vacation to this historic and beautiful part of the country next year!



Michigan Bigfoot Investigator Bob Daigle to Present at January 27 MIMUFON Meeting

Bob Daigle of Warren, Michigan, has been engrossed in study of the bigfoot phenomenon since 1989, with field research starting in 1991. He has conducted bigfoot field research in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, as well as several Michigan counties and interviewed many people who claim to have seen a bigfoot, from all the above areas and several others.

Daigle is well connected within the Bigfoot research community and has attended bigfoot meetings in Ohio starting in 1990 through 2007.

He also recently coordinated DNA analysis of presumptive bigfoot hair samples.

As Daigle is an experienced presenter on the subject of Bigfoot investigation, including conducting a recent talk for the local chapter of MENSA, we are certainly in for something different and enlightening.

Words From the State Director Continued

And, remember, as an effort to invite in new potential members, anyone who is attending his or her first ever MIMUFON meeting will only have to pay \$5 (including buffet) for that first meeting. So, please take advantage of this opportunity to invite your friends and family to their first MIMUFON meeting!

Our first meeting of 2007 will be January 27 at Wallis in Flint. There is no NFL football on TV that Sunday, so, come on out.

There will be no morning Field Investigators training for this meeting. Instead we have a rare classic UFO movie in the morning and special presenter in the afternoon.

Our morning movie will be the difficult to find film "The UFO Incident" (1975) - a top-notch dramatization of the Betty and Barney Hill UFO abduction, superbly acted by James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons as Barney and Betty. This movie is unsettlingly well-made. (please see my review of the film later in this issue).

Our afternoon presentation will be a bit outside the UFO box with a speaker requested by several of our members - seasoned Michigan bigfoot investigator Bob Daigle, sharing his personal research and expertise on this legendary creature.

Don't forget, Michigan MUFON Newsletter subscribers, if you would prefer to download a printable electronic MIMUFON Newsletter to your computer in full color, rather than receive a printed black and white copy in the mail, please let our Newsletter Editor David Twichell know and provide him with an email address where he can send you a link to download your newsletter off the internet in PDF format. To contact David by email, write to news@mimufon.org.

See you Sunday January 27 at Walli's for the film "The UFO Incident" and a presentation by Michigan bigfoot investigator Bob Daigle.

J. Edgar Hoover, in response to a government request to study UFOs:

"I would do it, but before agreeing to do it, we must insist upon full access to discs recovered. For instance, in the L.A. [or La.] case, the Army grabbed it and would not let us have it for cursory examination."

(Handwritten note to Clyde Tolson, July 15, 1947.)

Make Your Meeting Reservations Today!

Phone in your reservations to State Director Bill Konkolesky at (248) 515-9568 or email at wjk@mimufon.org no later than **Wednesday, Jan. 23rd**. Please leave your name, number attending in your party, and a telephone number where you can be reached, in case we need to contact you. Please let us know as soon as possible, whether you will be attending. Thank you.

Michigan MUFON Meeting

at Walli's East Restaurant

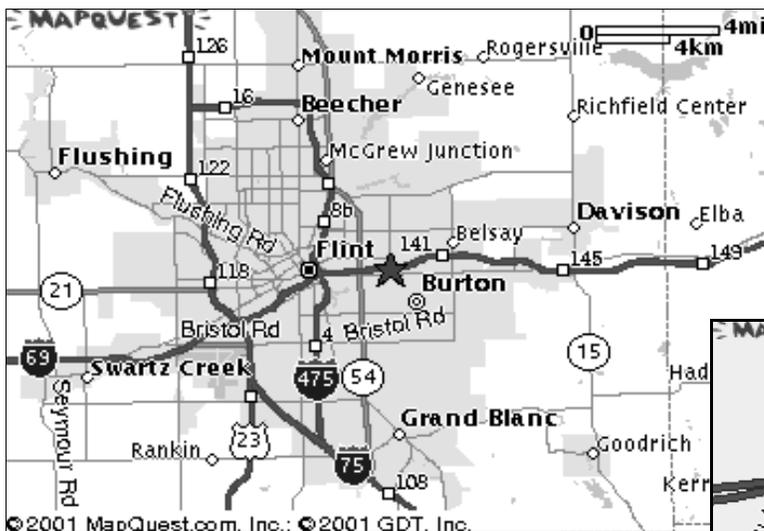
Sunday, January 27, 2008

Members \$13.00 / Non-Members \$15.00

First time guests are \$5.00.

10am FI Training: "The UFO Incident" Movie.
12pm Buffet Lunch
1:30pm Bigfoot Investigator Bob Daigle
4:00pm MIMUFON Announcements & Necessary Business

MIMUFON Board members: Please plan to attend the brief meeting following the guest speaker.



Walli's East Restaurant
G1341 South Center Rd
Burton, Michigan
(810) 743-9600



- Exit 139 off of I-69
- Just East of I-475
- SE Corner of South Center Rd & Faith Way

From The Editor's Desk



David Twichell

I'm sure that you have noticed that the majority of this installment of the newsletter is dedicated to the recent press conference at the prestigious National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Yeah, it's that important!

Equally as important (as well as sad) is the loss of our dear friend and MiMUFON brother, Bill O'Very. His wife, Connie, called me on Thursday afternoon to give me the sad news and ask that the obituary be placed in the January issue of the newsletter. Please find it below.

I'm sure that I speak for the entire membership of our organization when I say that the O'Very family is in our thoughts and prayers.



WILLIAM EDWARD O'VERY,

age 68, of Adrian passed away Sunday, January 6, 2008 at his home. He was born in Adrian on November 5, 1939 to John and Ola Emmaline (Crosby) O'Very. On October 24, 1964, Bill married Connie Seigneur in Adrian and she survives. Bill graduated from Adrian High School, Jackson Community College and Toledo University. He worked for ADA Security and Lenawee Court Services. He was also apartment manager for the Masonic Temple Apartments. Bill was a member of the Tecumseh Lodge #69, Past Master Adrian Blue Lodge #19, Temple Board President, Commandry and Scottish Rite, Past President Zenobia Shriners Highlander Unit of Toledo, where he also served as Assistant Director, dinner chairman, trustee and guard in the Highlander Band, Highlander Past Presidents Club, Lenawee County Friends of the NRA, NRA safety instructor, Michigan Mufon, and an honorary member of Clan Gala. Bill loved working and supporting Adrian's "The Haunting." He was an avid gun collector, sportsman and rock hound. Bill enjoyed making dream catchers, jewelry and a researcher in many areas of interest. He was a charter member of the Faith Baptist Church, Adrian.

In addition to his wife, Bill is survived by one daughter Lisa Marie O'Very of Grand Rapids, MI, one sister, Dorothy Roberts of Hudson, MI, several nieces and nephews, and two God grandchildren, Caleb and Alexia Handy of Hawaii. Bill was a father figure to many. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Anderson Funeral Home, Adrian with Dave Coy officiating. Visitation will be held from 5:30 p.m. until the time of service. Memorial contributions may be made to the Family of Bill O'Very. Envelopes are available at Anderson Funeral Home, Adrian

The UFO Incident Movie Review by Bill Konkolesky

For the morning session of our upcoming January 27 meeting, we will be showing the movie "The UFO Incident" based on true events of the infamous 1961 Betty and Barney Hill abduction event. The film originally played on primetime television during the Halloween season (surprised?) of 1975 and is pretty difficult to find a copy of, nowadays.

"The UFO Incident" is a rare treat in many ways and works so well on many levels. It's superbly-acted, sticks exceptionally well to the facts, knows its special effects budget, and even works as a period piece, highlighting the social and political issues of those times.

Barney and Betty Hill are played wonderfully by the great James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons. Jones and Parsons are highly believable as deeply stressed UFO witnesses and have an authentic chemistry as a devoted couple under the strain of heavy psychological duress.

This film earns tremendous praise for sticking to the facts, too. Later Hollywood efforts like "Communion," "Fire in the Sky," and "Intruders" suffer embarrassingly from an attempt to spice up the original abduction accounts on which they're based (especially the first two of these films). "UFO Incident" came out well before these other films and it is evident how carefully the film-makers tried to preserve the factual integrity of Hills dramatic encounter. It shines because of this.

"The UFO Incident" wisely knows and heeds the limits of its special effects budget, as well. The film is told primarily in flashbacks, much of it through the Hills' hypnosis sessions with Boston psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin Simon (played in the film by Bernard Hughes). During moments where the film-makers could've pushed cheesy UFO special effects, they wisely pulled back and opted to let the strong acting abilities of Jones and Parsons as Barney and Betty, eerily recounting the events while sitting in the psychiatrist's office, carry the narrative.

This movie is so deep and well-acted that even if it didn't have a UFO abduction element, it would still work as a moving insight into the issues of what a black man and white woman faced as a married couple in New England during the early 1960's. Throw in the Cuban Missile Crisis as a backdrop and the tension is palpable on these issues alone.

"The UFO Incident" is a well-made and moving account of the Hill's historic UFO abduction event. A true classic. We'll be showing this 90 minute film at 10am at our upcoming meeting.

Michigan MUFON Contact List

The following people are the State Section Directors for Michigan. If you have questions, comments, sightings, or any other report, please contact the State Section Director covering your county.

Bob Wagel, 269-782-6111
mwagel@beanstalk.net
Berien, Cass, Van Buren

Len Keeney, 517-669-3128
Lkeeney48105@yahoo.com
Lenawee, Washtenaw, Livingston

Gary Golem, 734-459-7514
ggolem@peoplepc.com
Wayne, Monroe

Zach Smith, 269-274-1611
zachmufonbiz@yahoo.com
Eaton, Jackson, Ingham, Shiawassee

John Castle, Home 269/465-3068, Mobile 269/326-0441
kc8odm@hotmail.com
Clinton, Ionia, Montcalm, and Gratiot

Jon Long, 616-738-3049
jon@jdlong.com
Allegan, Barry

Bill Konkolesky, 248-515-9568
wjk@mimufon.org
Oakland,

Harold Marquardt, 586-463-5553
Macomb

Wayne Erickson, 810-364-9938
Weric1293@sbcglobal.net

Randy Baker, 810-794-3876
shadowresearch@hotmail.com
St. Clair

Wendy Smith, 616-261-0690
wapsmith@umich.edu
Ottawa, Kent

Oceana, Mason, Muskegon
Contact Wendy or Jon Long

Judy Kulka, 231-599-2594
ufoquilter@torchlake.com
Grand Traverse, Leelenau, Kalkaska, Antrim

Sunny Young, 616-665-4606
Caboogie2u@yahoo.com
Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, St. Joseph

Isabella, Mecosta, Oseola, Clare
TBA

You will note that not all counties are covered with section directors. In that case you can contact any of the following state officers.

Bill Konkolesky, 248-515-9568
Michigan State Director

Bob Wagel, 269-782-6111
mwagel@beanstalk.net
Michigan Assistant State Director, Administration

Wendy Smith, 616-261-0690
wapsmith@umich.edu
Michigan Assistant State Director, Treasury

Jean Waskiewicz,
etjean@sbcglobal.net
Michigan MUFON Webmaster

Dave and Darlene Bleicher, 810-797-5551
librarian@mimufon.org
Michigan MUFON Librarians

David Twichell, 734-675-6335
news@mimufon.org
Michigan Newsletter Editor
and Public Relations Director

Dave Bleicher, (810) 797-5551
Umore@provide.net
SSD, Genessee & Lapeer

When possible, contact by e-mail is the best method to reach most of the people on this list, but does not preclude using the telephone numbers if desirable. If you call please be patient as most of the people are not available during the daytime hours. When you leave a message, please speak clearly and leave you telephone number, city, state, and brief message explaining your contact. We will return your call at the earliest convenience.

ATTENTION: If you would like to start receiving your newsletter or invitation via email, please email the editor at news@mimufon.org

Suggestion Box.

Please help us improve our organization with your comments and suggestions.

What is your interest in the UFO phenomenon?

What kind of events should MIMUFON sponsor?

Do you have any suggestions for future speakers at state meetings?

Any other comments or suggestions?

Mail to: Michigan MUFON, PO Box 8532, Kentwood, MI 49518-8532

For the 2008 calendar year memberships (if you are a member) or subscriberships, please use the form below and send it, with a \$25.00 check or money order to:
Michigan MUFON, P.O. Box 8532, Kentwood, MI 49518-8532

MICHIGAN MUFON 2008 STATE DUES and NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/PROVINCE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

EMAIL and/or WEBSITE: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Are you a member of MUFON, Inc. yes no *(Please circle your response)*