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Stephenville, Texas Area Sightings Continue

Witnesses continue to come forward with reports of UFO sightings in a four-county area in Texas.

Above: the crowd scene of witnesses, media, and onlookers at the Rotary Club in Dublin, Texas on January 19, where witnesses' statements were taken by a team of Texas MUFON investigators.

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Director's Message

By James Carrion

Annual Symposium to be in San Jose in July

The MUFON 2008 Symposium is scheduled for July 24–28, 2008, in San Jose, California with a very exciting lineup of speakers. The theme of this year's Symposium is UFOs: A World-wide Phenomenon and will feature international representatives from Belgium, Canada, Chile, England, Mexico, Peru and Turkey. We are also pleased that members of the National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP) will be presenting their latest research on the O'Hare Airport sighting as well as reporting on their efforts to promote aviation safety related to UFO incidents.

Field Investigator Training

For MUFON's Field Investigator corps, we also have an exciting lineup of field investigator training workshops on Thursday, July 24, that will also serve as the debut for the new and much improved Field Investigator

Manual version 5.0. Budd Hopkins will be teaching the workshop on investigating abduction claims and we are enlisting other world-class Ufologists to teach other workshop topics.



James Carrion

The price of the field investigator workshop includes the new investigator manual. If you are thinking about becoming a Field Investigator, I would highly recommend attending the training workshops to help you study for the field investigator exam. MUFON is returning to its roots of scientifically-based forensic investigation and we

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UFOs FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY THROUGH
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Investigator group with Rotary Club and Dr. Pepper folks at Rotary Club in Dublin, Texas, where witness statements were taken January 19 and again on February 23. In front, beginning second from left: Mike DeGroff, FI, Austin SSD; Ken Cherry, Texas State Director; Paula Schermerhorn, FI, Dallas; Steve Hudgeons, Sr. FI, ASD North Texas, and Robert Powell, FI and Research Director, Austin. Back row: Terry Groff, FI (in sunglasses); James Shatley, FI Dallas; and at far right, Dave Keel, FI, SSD, Waco. The other individuals are the hosts of the meeting—Rotary Club members and employees of the Dublin Dr. Pepper Bottling Company.

Update on Investigation of Stephenville, Texas Sightings

By Sally Petersen

The MUFON investigation of the Stephenville, Texas area UFO sightings is still ongoing, according to MUFON Texas State Director Ken Cherry.

“I understand how frustrating it is waiting for the final report on Stephenville,” Ken said. “This is the most significant case I will probably ever see.”

One reason the report has not finalized is that sightings are still being reported.

In many ways, this investigation is not typical of what MUFON investigators usually encounter.

Intensive press coverage

For one thing, the Texas event garnered incredible press coverage right from the beginning.

When the Associated Press (AP) ran the story, they printed Ken’s phone number. He said that his phone “rang off the hook for five weeks” with phone calls, mostly from the media. “I probably gave over 100 interviews to radio, newspaper and television reporters. Steve Hudgeons, the Chief Investigator, and James Shatley, Dallas County

Section Director, probably each did another one or two dozen media interviews.”

“We’ve had interest from all around the country and many parts of the world with these sightings.”

The Texas investigative team continues to receive phone calls, not only from the media, but also from witnesses of this and other events, as well as inquiries from the merely curious. Some people have been critical, accusing MUFON of withholding information, not understanding the scope of this investigation and how much time is required to process the data.

Sightings cover four-county area, over three months

Cherry explained that although the press has focused on the events of January 7 and 8, there actually has been a series of similar sightings by highly credible individuals from December 2007 through and including mid-February.

Furthermore, the sightings have occurred in a four-county area including the towns of Stephenville and Dublin,

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Angelia Joiner, reporter from the Stephenville Empire-Tribune, who broke the story. Notice cameraman outside.

Stephenville

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Texas.

“The video evidence tends to substantiate witness reports,” Cherry said.

The majority of the witness reports describe two specific types of unidentifiable objects in the sky:

1. Primarily, people are describing spheres—intense balls of light “as bright as an acetylene torch”—according to one witness—which move, turn and twist at great speeds. Sometimes seen in formation, they then suddenly move around erratically.

2. Fewer people report seeing a very large craft, variously described as “bigger than a Wal-Mart,” “bigger than three football fields,” or “a mile long and a half mile wide.”

“Most people who contact me expect the mother ship story,” said Cherry, “but we continue to get sightings, and they are mostly reporting seeing the balls of light.”

Logistical complexity

Another unusual factor was the large number of witnesses.

Logistically, this event provided unusual challenges to the MUFON team.

Because there were so many witnesses, Texas MUFON arranged two public meetings where witnesses could come and be interviewed. The media found out about the first meeting and converged on the area from all around the country.

The first meeting, on January 19, held in Dublin, attracted so many television and other media crews that Ken Cherry said he basically “held a press conference for 1 ½ hours while Steve [Hudgeons] and the other investigators took witnesses into a side room” to be interviewed. That day a team of eight investigators, led by Steve Hudgeons, spent four hours taking statements. Estimates of attendance at the meeting ranged from 200 to 600 people.

Around 50 witnesses were interviewed that day, and many more were given information about filing their reports online at the MUFON website. Indeed, numerous additional reports were filed online in the days following the

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Stephenville Investigative Team

Ken Cherry, Texas State Director for 12 years, is the principal owner of a Texas-based securities firm. He was the former regional VP of a major New York stock exchange firm. He is a veteran of the Marine Corps, and a 35-year member of Mensa.

Steve Hudgeons, Fort Worth, MUFON Chief Investigator, 17-year member of MUFON. Steve, a Navy Veteran, is the Project Manager of a successful construction company. He also works with the Fort Worth Police Department on neighborhood policing projects.

Dave Keel, State Section Director and Field Investigator, was for ten years a Waco police officer and then detective in drug enforcement and homicide sections. He retired in 2005 after 28 years as the Director of the Regional Police Academy at McLennan Community College in Waco.

Mike DeGross, Austin, is a State Section Director and Field Investigator. A Navy veteran, he joined MUFON in 1996.

James Shatley, Dallas, is the Dallas County State

Section Director and Field Investigator Trainee. He’s been interested in UFOs for about 40 years—although he has never seen one—and a MUFON member for about 10 years. He works for IBM selling software.

Robert Powell, Austin, is a Field Investigator and holds other positions in MUFON. He holds a degree in chemistry and managed a research group in the semiconductor field.

Terry Groff, Dallas, is a Field Investigator. Terry wrote Report Evaluator and other code for the MUFON CMS System. He has worked as an expeditor, training specialist and statistical quality control inspector, and is also a professional musician and composer.

Paula Schermerhorn, Dallas, Field Investigator, came to Texas MUFON from the California chapter. She is listed in the Manchester Who’s Who Registry of Executives and Professionals.

Gary A. Neitzel, Fort Worth, Field Investigator. For the last 20 years, Gary has worked as a Forensic Auditor

Stephenville

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first meeting.

The second meeting was held February 23, at which time seventeen witnesses were interviewed. The only media representatives allowed at this meeting were from the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune* and the *Dublin Citizen*.

Legal complications over evidence

The intense worldwide interest in this case has introduced another obstacle to the investigation: there are parties willing to pay for videographic evidence, therefore some witnesses are holding back, hoping to make money from their stories or evidence. This means that MUFON has been unable to “get our hands on original video evidence directly because everyone is trying to sell their video and photos,” said Cherry.

One important video was purchased by an unnamed party who offered to cooperate with MUFON’s investigation in return for its efforts. Almost immediately there were legal entanglements as to ownership of the video, which now appear to be settled in favor of our collaborator.

Fortunately, the buyer agreed willing to cooperate with MUFON’s investigation. At MUFON’s request, they have submitted the video for analysis by one of the country’s top video experts. As of this writing, MUFON Texas is awaiting the results of the analysis.

In addition, MUFON is negotiating to have access to additional photographic and video evidence that is held by the same collaborator, who now holds the copyright to the materials.

Another witness’s video is tied up until copyright protection is established and a licensing agreement is reached.

The videos were filmed at various times during the December through February time frame, and appear to be substantially of the same phenomena, although none of the video evidence so far is consistent with the large craft.

Investigators are volunteers

The MUFON Texas team should be recognized for dedicating so much of their time for their efforts in investigating this case, all on a volunteer basis.

Thanks to the Dublin Rotary Club for the use of their building, and to the employees of the Dublin Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant, which provided refreshments and stayed to help the entire day.



Camera operators and videographers from local and national media struggle for position at the January 19 meeting.



UFO Hunters film TV show in Stephenville

The UFO Hunters TV crew was in Stephenville the week of February 25–29, filming an episode for the show. Several MUFON representatives were interviewed and filmed. Above, Pat Cherry (wife of Ken), Dave Pavoni, producer of UFO Hunters, and Steve Hudgeons, senior investigator. UFO Hunters airs Wednesday nights on the History Channel. Watch your TV listings in March and April for the show.

The Court House in Stephenville is in the background.

1971 Royal Air Force Sopley Sighting

By Philip Mantle

At the UFO DATA conference in October 2007 I met up with veteran UFO investigator David Beezer. I've known David for many years and he has regularly attended many of our public events. David wanted me to read a report he had received from a RAF officer, but on the day I simply did not have the time. David made me a copy of the report in question and I read it a day or two after the conference had finished.

The report came from a Mr. Alan Turner MBE¹ and concerned a UFO observed on radar at RAF Sopley in the summer of 1971. I subsequently contact Mr. Turner and have his permission to document the following. His report is published in full.

Alan Turner was aged twenty-five when he joined the Royal Air Force in 1966 and was commissioned that year as an Air Traffic Control Officer. RAF Sopley was a wartime bunker, which had been converted into a joint military/civilian Air Traffic Control Radar Unit (ATCRU). It closed in 1974 when both the civil and military ATC functions were transferred to West Drayton.

Alan Turner remained in the RAF eventually to command the Central ATC School from 1990 to 1992. In July 1995 he was discharged from the RAF in the rank of Wing Commander.

This is Wing Commanders Turner's account of what he personally observed at RAF Sopley in full:

In the summer of 1971 I was the Duty Military Supervisor at RAF Sopley, which was a joint military/civil Air Traffic Control Radar Unit (ATCRU). It was a Tuesday afternoon but I cannot remember the exact date. The Duty Civil Supervisor drew my attention to a situation on radar the likes of which neither of us had ever encountered.

Emanating from a point some twenty nautical miles east of the eastern extremity of the Salisbury Plain Danger Area were a series of six or seven blips moving on a south-easterly track each being separated from the other by about six miles. At about forty miles from the point they appeared on radar, they disappeared to be followed almost immediately by a replacement at the point of origin.

I put the FPS 6 Height Finder onto some returns to discover that they were about 3000 feet when they came into radar cover and climbing extremely rapidly so that, by the time they disappeared from radar, they were in excess of 60,000 feet. To climb to such a height in only forty miles was beyond the ability of any fighter aircraft at the time.

The phenomenon was witnessed by four civil and six military controllers on duty at the time. I called Heathrow Radar to discover that they, also, were seeing a similar picture. The same situation prevailed in the Fighter Control



This was taken in 1982 when Alan Turner was the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer at RAF Lossiemouth. He is pictured on the right.

Operations Rooms at RAF Neatishead. The three units involved operated different radars from each other, thus different frequencies were in use. The weather forecast from the south of England was calm and sunny. I called the Met Office to confirm the strength of the upper winds to find that they were also relatively calm and were about fifty degrees off the southeasterly track of the blips; they also confirmed that there were not Met balloons/probes airborne at the time.

The winds were not strong enough, nor in the right direction, to cause the blips to travel on their observed track especially at the speed they were travelling. It was estimated that they were doing around 250 knots, but it must be borne in mind that this was a lateral speed as seen on radar—they must have been travelling very much faster to climb over 50,000 feet in less than forty miles. Equally the weather was such that there were no 'angels' to affect the radar picture. "Angels" was a euphemism for (what were believed to be) ionised pockets of air which, under very specific atmospheric conditions, were often seen on radar screens in those days: when seen, these 'angels' traveled extremely slowly simply drifting along haphazard tracks. In those days all radars were 'raw.' That is to say that, whatever was within the coverage of the radar envelope and capable of bouncing (returning) the radar pulse back to the receiver, would be seen on the radar tube. Today's radars are computerised, thus such interference is processed out so as not to affect the picture.

¹ Member British Empire

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From the Field... RAF Sopley Sighting

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Looking around for some other method of checking what was going on, I discovered that a controller had two Canberras on frequency returning from Germany. One of the pilots agreed to investigate so I assumed control of his aircraft and, having confirmed he was in good visual met conditions, I vectored him on to the blips keeping him regularly updated on their position relative to the Canberra. The aircraft was flying at around nineteen thousand feet and when it got within a mile or so of one particular blip, the pilot reported, in a very agitated voice, that his radar had picked something up heading down his port side by about a quarter of a mile and 'climbing like the clappers,' it was on

a reciprocal heading to the Canberra. The pilot admitted that neither he nor his navigator made any visual contact and confirmed that the weather conditions were such that they would have had no difficulty seeing something that close.

The whole episode lasted for twenty minutes or more before the blips stopped appearing. I impounded the R/T tapes and the Radar Video film and made appropriate entries in the log. Each person in the Ops Room who witnessed the incident was required to write a report. The Squadron Leader in charge of Operations collated the reports and informed higher authority. Within a couple of days I was interviewed in the Squadron Leader's office by two men who were not identified to me. I, along with all the others in the Ops Room on the day in question, was told in no uncertain terms not to relate what we had seen until cleared to do so. About four



Map of the area showing the track on the unidentified radar target. Map supplied by Alan Turner.

years later I was serving at RAF Wattisham when the Station Commander asked to see me. I was told that he had a communication from the MoD about the incident at Sopley and that as 'nothing could be confirmed' the situation was such that doubt would be cast on anything I said about it. I took this to mean that I was no longer to remain silent.

I am at a loss to explain what I, and many other people, saw. In those days aircraft could not climb at such a rate. To be seen on displays by three different ground radars, plus the airborne radar in the Canberra, is also a mystery. The weather conditions were very definitely VMC or Visual Met Conditions; the aircraft was clear of cloud by at least a thousand feet vertically and with a forward visibility of at least five nautical miles.

Alan Turner MBE 10th November 2007.

In Mr. Turner's letter to me dated 10th November 2007 he apologised for not remembering the exact date of the incident and believes that there are those out there that will use this to discredit his account. I'll leave you with his final comments on the incident, "Please use the information in any way you see fit; I stand by what I saw because I know what I saw."

Colleagues and I intend to submit a Freedom of Information request to the UK Ministry of Defence, and should we obtain any further information we will of course publish it due course.

Thanks must go to David Beezer for supplying the information and contact details and special thanks to Alan Turner MBE for allowing me to publish his account.

Philip Mantle is an international UFO researcher, author and broadcaster. He can be contacted via email at: philip@mantle8353.fsworld.co.uk

All photographs copyright Alan Turner MBE and reproduced with his kind permission.



1984: This is Alan Turner with his wife Diane at Buckingham Palace receiving his MBE in 1984.

Ring's "Omega Project" Revisited: Antecedents and Consequents of UFO Encounters and Alien Abductions

By Robert B. LeLievre, Teresa Larson, & Heather Remington
University of Great Falls, Great Falls, MT

Abstract

In this preliminary study, 30 volunteer participants—comprised of 11 individuals who reported UFO encounters or alien contacts and 19 individuals with an interest in encounters, contacts, and abductions but with no experiences—completed instruments used by Kenneth Ring in his 1992 study, published as *The Omega Project: Near-Death Experiences, UFO Encounters, and Mind at Large*.

While the sample size is quite small, the mean scores of experimental subjects on the instruments compared with the mean scores of control subjects were in the expected direction, with the exception of the mean scores on the Psychological Inventory, a measure of dissociation. Childhood antecedent experiences for experimental subjects were seen as more stressful than childhood antecedent experiences in control subjects. Changes in spiritual beliefs and values, likewise, were seen more frequently in experimental subjects than in control subjects, though comparative changes in physical functioning and in traditional versus universal-spiritual religious beliefs were less obvious than in the original study. Encounters were attributed to a purposive, extraterrestrial intelligence.

Given the data—some supporting Ring and some raising questions about the pathway to extraordinary experiences—a more extensive study, with a more broadly derived sample is justified.

Introduction

To say that the academic conversation about UFOs and alien abductions is long on opinion and short on data is to state the obvious. Psychological studies of those who report one or both of these extraordinary experiences have demonstrated that there is no obvious psychopathology evident in experiencers (Bloecher, Clamar & Hopkins, 1985; Parnell, 1988). Experiencers, however, have been shown to have propensities to engage in vivid fantasy activity (Lynn & Rhue, 1988), to be fantasy-prone (Baker, 1988), and to exhibit false recall and false recognition of semantic associates (Clancy, McNally, Schacter, Lenzenweger & Pitman, 2002).

Spanos, Cross, Dickson, and DuBreuil (1993) demonstrated that individuals who had non-intense encounters (i.e., seeing lights and shapes in the sky) or intense encounters (i.e., seeing and communicating with aliens or experiencing missing time) did not present as more psychopathological, less intelligent, or more fantasy prone and hypnotizable than a comparison control group, but both did show tendencies toward unusual experiences.

McNally, Lasko, Clancy, Macklin, Pitman, and Orr (2004) demonstrated that individuals who reported having

been abducted by aliens showed more psychophysiological reactivity to stressful scripts of abductions than they did to neutral scripts, and they showed a more pronounced reactivity effect than did normal controls.

In spite of a number of speculative articles and books, and a small number of research studies, only one study has attempted to assess systematically the childhood antecedents to and the psychophysical and beliefs/values changes in those who report UFO encounters and/or alien abductions (Ring, 1992). Comparing individuals who had near-death experiences (NDE) with individuals who claim encounters or abductions, Ring demonstrated that there were remarkable similarities in the two groups, and that these two groups differed from NDE and UFO control groups. Subjects in both experimental groups reported greater sensitivity to alternate realities and more psychic experiences in childhood, as well as a greater incidence of childhood abuse and trauma than did their control counterparts. Subjects in the two experimental groups tended to show more dissociative tendencies than did control subjects. The two experimental groups also differed from the two control groups on reported changes in psychophysical functioning and in attitudes, beliefs, and values. The subjects in the two experimental groups related these changes to their extraordinary experiences.

To date, this study has not been replicated. Nor has any attempt been made to replicate the unique UFO component of the study. This manuscript presents data from a preliminary study conducted with individuals who report UFO encounters and individuals who have a strong interest in UFOs and aliens but who have not had encounters. The study was done to determine if a more complete and extensive replication should be undertaken. If Ring's data were epiphenomenal, then his study would be merely one more study in a long line of interesting but probably largely uninformative studies. If, however, the data are in the same direction as Ring's data, then a more complete attempt at replicating his results would be justified, in order to answer in part the question of who may be more likely to encounter UFOs and aliens, be these anomalous and extraordinary entities real or only perceived in the mind's eye of select individuals with unique psychosocial-spiritual backgrounds.

Method

Participants

The 30 participants in this preliminary study were volunteers drawn from several groups in Montana, Arizona, and North Carolina. All participants indicated either having

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Omega Project Revisited

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experience with or high interest in the phenomena in question. The participants all signed an appropriate informed consent document. Eleven of the 30 fit the criteria for inclusion in the experimental group, having had a psychologically significant sighting of a craft (n=8), a peculiar, but meaningful, perception of a humanoid being close by a craft (n=2), or a history of multiple, lifelong abductions (n=1). Nineteen of the 30 fit the criteria for inclusion in the control group, having a long-term interest in or fascination with UFOs and/or alien visitation, but having had **no** encounters.

Measures

With the exception of the Kundalini Scale, the same self-report inventories devised or used by Ring (1992) for his UFO experimental and control groups were used, with his permission. The measures included the Childhood Experience Inventory (CEI), Home Environment Questionnaire (HEQ), Wogan's Psychological Inventory (PI), Psychophysical Changes Inventory (PCI), Life Changes Inventory (LCI), Religious Beliefs Inventory (RBI), and Opinion Inventory (OI). The nature of, and the great variability of the scores evidenced in, the Kundalini Scale were reasons for the decision to exclude this scale from this replication.

The CEI assesses fantasy-proneness, sensitivity to alternate realities, and early childhood paranormal or psi experiences. The HEQ measures remembered stress, conflict, abuse, and trauma in the person's childhood home environment. The PI assesses tendencies toward psychological dissociation and a dissociative response style. The PCI measures sensed or perceived psychophysical changes that are in part the result of an encounter. The LCI assesses changes in attitudes, beliefs, and values, again that are in part the result of an encounter. The RBI measures changes in religious beliefs either toward a more traditional or toward a more universal and spiritual framework. The OI assesses a person's agreement with and understanding of some purposive intelligence lying behind the encounter.

Procedure

All participants completed a demographic and an extraordinary experience questionnaire to determine whether they were to be included in the experimental or the control group. Eleven participants were assigned to the experimental group and 19 to the control group. After classification, and after coding to protect anonymity and privacy, the participants completed the seven inventories. The first author

scored the inventories independently, and the second author reviewed the scoring for accuracy. The first and third authors independently computed the means for each inventory for each group, and compared their calculations for accuracy. The first author completed the statistical treatment of these data, even though the samples were small and the numbers of participants in each group were unequal.

Results

Means and standard deviations for the subjects in the experimental and the control group were calculated for all instruments. Below in Table I are the means and standard deviations for each instrument for both groups. *T*-tests for independent means were also calculated, and are also shown below. For all inventories, a higher score on the Likert-like scales indicates a stronger effect in the expected direction, in a direction similar to Ring's (1992) UFO experimental subjects.

Inspecting the group means reveals that for all comparisons, with two exceptions, one expected and the other not expected, the mean for the experimental group is greater than the mean for the control group. For the non-exceptions, the experimental means are all in the same direction as those in Ring's (1992) original study, indicating that both childhood antecedents and post-encounter consequents are largely similar in this small sample. However, for the Psychological Inventory, the mean of the control group is greater than the mean of the experimental group. This is contrary to Ring's (1992) findings. The mean for the experimental group is equal to the mean for the control group on the Traditional dimension of the Religious Beliefs Inventory. This is not in line with Ring's (1992) data. Likewise, the experimental means for both the Traditional and the Universal-Spiritual components of the Religious Beliefs Inventory appear slightly less different when compared to the control group means, relative to the original data (Ring, 1992).

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TABLE 1

	<u>Experimental (n=11)</u>		<u>Control (n=19)</u>		<u>t-value</u>
	Mean	(Standard Deviation)	Mean	(Standard Deviation)	
CEI	12.00	(5.44)	10.26	(4.49)	0.95 (n.s.)
HEQ	13.27	(7.59)	9.58	(5.15)	1.59 (n.s.)
PI	2.39	(0.61)	2.56	(0.55)	0.79 (n.s.)
PCI	9.18	(13.10)	7.00	(10.82)	0.49 (n.s.)
LCI	24.36	(13.69)	17.79	(11.94)	1.37 (n.s.)
RBI: Traditional	4.22	(1.01)	4.22	(2.00)	0.03 (n.s.)
Universal-Spiritual	5.55	(1.93)	3.11	(0.87)	2.13 (0.05)
OI	15.82	(6.24)	10.47	(5.73)	2.38 (0.05)

Omega Project Revisited

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The two groups differed significantly on the Universal-Spiritual dimension of the RBI and the OI. Other comparisons were not statistically significant. Experimental subjects reported slightly more anomalous incidents, such as *psi* phenomena and awareness of nonphysical beings, in childhood than did control subjects. They were also slightly more prone to fantasy than control subjects, a finding different from that of Ring (1992). These anomalous or out-of-the-ordinary experiences carried through to adulthood. Subjects in the experimental group reported more childhood stress, conflict, and abuse than did subjects in the control group. Experimental subjects reported regularly experiencing states similar to dissociation, but **not** more often than did control subjects. In fact, the control group scored more in the dissociative direction (2.56) than did the experimental group (2.38). Subjects in the experimental group reported changes in physical sensitivities, energy, and emotional state, as well as changes in concern for themselves and others, meaning, and appreciation for life, but only a bit more so than did subjects in the control group. Experimental subjects indicated they felt a greater appreciation for the spiritual dimensions of life ($p < 0.05$), while control subjects and experimental subjects equally affirmed their mainstream religious beliefs. Subjects in the experimental group acknowledged that it is quite likely there is a purposive and alien intelligence, not only behind their encounter experiences but also involved in influencing events in the world more generally, while subjects in the control group expressed more doubt about the possible involvement of aliens in contemporary events, but did not reject this idea entirely ($p < 0.05$).

Discussion

The findings in this preliminary study are, in part, similar to the data in Ring's (1992) study, with significant differences in the expected direction found on the Universal-Spiritual dimension of the RBI and the OI. Yet, control subjects report more dissociative experiences than did experimental subjects, an unexpected finding.

While the data were derived from a small number of subjects, they do lend some support to Ring's contentions that a history of stress and abuse may play a role in sensitivity to UFO encounters and/or alien contacts, and such extraordinary experiences have salutary effects on the spirituality of those who have them. Those who encounter UFOs and/or aliens do attribute these experiences to a purposive intelligence that is extraterrestrial in nature. However, control subjects appear to experience a greater tendency toward dissociation than do experimental subjects. While this finding is different from the original study (Ring, 1992), it is in line with other interpretations of data on the psychological differences between those who have encounters and those who do not (e.g., Lynn & Rhue, 1988;

Spanos, *et al.*, 1993). However, if dissociation does not play a role in the encounter experience, Ring's (1992) abuse-trauma-dissociation pathway to extraordinary experiences is called into question. If not this pathway, then what variables might play an important role in differentiating experimental subjects from control subjects? Certainly the human-alien transaction is, for all intents and purposes, an interaction between two very distinct psychologies, and has significant psychological impact. Truzzi (2007) argues that, beyond the extraterrestrial hypothesis or an occult interpretation, a general psychosocial approach to encounters and abductions holds the most promise. Moreover, Saliba (1995) notes that "...belief in flying saucers and alleged encounters with their occupants might reveal something important about human nature..." (Saliba, 1995, p. 241)

That the preliminary findings are, to some extent, in the expected direction and, to another extent, in an opposite direction justifies a fuller attempt at replicating Ring's original study. Moreover, if these findings are confirmed by a larger sample, they may provide a more complete framework for making some sense of the findings of other seemingly contradictory research studies. Are experiencers more fantasy-prone (Baker, 1988; Lynn & Rhue, 1988) or are they not (Ring, 1992; Spanos *et al.*, 1993)? Are experiencers possibly creating false memories (Clancy *et al.*, 2002; McNally *et al.*, 2004) or are they remembering actual events (Mack, 1994, 1999)? Are experiencers psychologically different (McNally *et al.*, 2004; Spanos *et al.*, 1993) or neurologically different (Persinger & Desano, 1986; Persinger & Valliant, 1985) from non-experiencers? Is there a "mind-at-large" (Ring, 1992) operating on a select few or are the phenomena of UFO encounters and alien contact the result of a need to find greater meaning in a world in which it is becoming harder and harder to do so (Clancy, 2005)?

Much of the literature devoted to UFO encounters and alien abductions is, (with apologies to W. Shakespeare) "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing" or very little. Are experiencers heralding a transformation or are they signifying nothing other than their own eccentricities? Continued debate over whether UFOs and aliens exist creates much heat but little light (e.g., Klass, 1989). The reality of, or belief in, UFOs and aliens is a matter of concern for all who wish to understand the world, or worlds, around us. It does not matter if UFOs and aliens are extraterrestrial, extra-dimensional, or extra-temporal ("The truth is out there"). What matters is the meaning of UFOs and aliens to those who are contacted (The truth is in them) and those who are not. Whether one agrees with Ring's (1992) interpretation of the UFO encounter or the alien abduction as a "cosmic Zen koan" designed by "mind at large" to confound us or whether

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Omega Project Revisited

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one agrees with Clancy's (2005) position that experiencers are seeking meaning in a world perceived as devoid of it matters less than understanding what separates experiencers from non-experiencers. The reader is cautioned to note that Jung (1958, 1978) stated that (1) UFOs are both real and psychological projections and (2) perhaps UFOs are too important to the species to be merely "things seen in the skies." Resolution of these issues is better done with data—psychological, sociological, and anthropological—than with speculation and counter-speculation, charges and counter-charges. While a definitive answer may not be immediately forthcoming and/or may be beyond the purview of the authors, not attempting to find an answer is problematic and, more importantly, untenable. Too many people have been touched by the phenomena to not study UFOs and alien contacts in a comprehensive and systematic manner, without preconceived notions. Stay tuned!

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Robert B. LeLievre received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Cincinnati. He is a licensed psychologist, board certified in clinical psychology and neuropsychology, and is a fellow of the American College of Forensic Examiners International. A retired professor of psychology from the University of Great Falls, Dr. LeLievre continues to teach regularly through the university's distance education program. This summer he will teach, for the sixth consecutive year, a seminar entitled "UFO Encounters and Alien Abductions," which will soon be available through distance learning. Dr. LeLievre currently is writing and editing a book entitled *Alien Lives*.

Teresa Larson received a master's degree in guidance and counseling, and a master's in school psychology from the University of Great Falls. She currently is seeking work in north central Montana. Teresa is also analyzing data on explanatory style in felons who receive early release from the Montana State Prison.

Heather Remington received her master's degree in counseling from the University of Great Falls. She works as a clinician in children's services in Great Falls, Montana. Heather also has clinical and research interests in children who have had contact experiences or who report possession and who have sought an exorcism.

Ken Cherry State Director, MUFON Texas

By Sally Petersen
Journal Editor

Ken Cherry became involved with MUFON about fourteen years ago because MUFON's scientific approach appealed to him. And when he got involved, he got *very* involved.

At that time, a core of people restarted the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of MUFON. The previous chapter had "been devastated" by the departure of the previous chapter head, who took membership rolls and other chapter materials, so they had to start over. "It was a real struggle for the first few years," he said.

Over time, they built up the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter, and today from 30 to 100 people typically attend their meetings. The chapter has managed to attract top speakers, such as Jim Marrs, Grady Lee Bryant, Nick Redfern, C. L. Turnage, Rob Riggs, Jim Sparks and many others—speakers that members are interested in hearing. Meetings are held on an irregular schedule, depending on the availability of speakers.

About ten years ago, Ken was asked by the then International Director, Bob Andrus, to take over the position of Texas State Director. He has held the position ever since.

Ken has "always believed in building a good team and in building consensus. I'm fortunate to have attracted a great team, and a great senior investigator, Steve Hudgeons," he said. He and his team have been very busy in recent weeks as the MUFON Texas organization has been investigating the sightings in the Stephenville area. (See article on page 3.)

Ken has been the "point of contact" guy for the media coverage. Part of the reason that this case has reached national and international prominence has been due to MUFON's accessibility to the media through Ken Cherry. He's been interviewed on *Larry King Live* as well as the *Coast to Coast AM* radio show. At one point there were three camera crews at his house.



Ken Cherry

The Stephenville investigation and the need to respond to widespread inquiries and interviews from the media, as well as other UFO groups, has forced him to put his "real job" on the backburner lately. Ken owns a small securities firm. Prior to opening his own firm, he was a regional vice president for Lehman Brothers. Ken graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas in Arlington with a degree in finance and economics. He is a 35-year member of Mensa.

Ken has been married to his lovely wife Pat for 42 years. (See her photo on page 5.) They have three grown children—a daughter and two sons—and three grandchildren. Ken and Pat live in a Dallas-Fort Worth area suburb.

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Strange Company: Military Encounters with UFOs in World War II

By Keith Chester, 2007. Anomalist Books, Jefferson Valley, New York. ISBN 9781933665207. 308 pages. \$17.95 on Amazon.

Reviewed by Robert Cholette

Many superficial accounts of the UFO enigma could lead the casual reader to conclude that the first significant UFO sightings did not occur until the late 1940s. However, serious students of ufology know that a variety of unidentified flying objects had been observed all over the world, long before Kenneth Arnold's famous June 24, 1947, observance in Washington State. Reports suggest that it was in the ten or fifteen years *preceding* the Arnold event when UFO sightings started to become more prevalent. In particular, numerous strange lights and other mysterious objects in the sky, called "foo fighters," were seen by members of the armed forces throughout the entire length of World War II. Yet, remarkably, little has been written on the subject. Keith Chester's fascinating new book, *Strange Company*, is a largely successful effort to fill in this historical blank.

It is clear that, as an avenue of further study, the foo fighter phenomenon offers many advantages over other, well-traveled areas of ufology. First, because foo fighters predated the more publicized (and sometimes sensationalized) UFO sightings of the late forties and fifties, foo fighter reports are generally uncontaminated by popular culture. Second, because foo fighters were seen in theaters of war, reports were taken quite seriously by the U.S. government. Third, because foo fighters were observed by experienced air force pilots and other military personnel, whose very lives depended upon accurately assessing the nature of potential threats in the sky, foo fighter reports may be deemed more reliable than those of some later witnesses.

Prior to reading this book, I was under the impression that foo fighters were limited (more or less) to "balls of light" or unstructured "plasmas." Not so. As demonstrated by Chester's thorough research, foo fighters—a deceptively playful term invented by a U.S. airman—encompassed the full panoply of UFO profiles. Foo fighters could be both incandescent and apparently solid or metallic objects of various shapes and sizes—including the classic "disc" or "saucer." Indeed, Chester cites a revealing statement in the 1953 CIA Robertson Panel Report that "[i]f the term 'flying saucers' had been popular in 1943-1945, these objects would have been so labeled." Given the foregoing, one imagines that later civilian accounts of UFOs, while astonishing to the general public, must have sounded eerily familiar to

government investigators.

And the government *was* investigating—this is another of Chester's important findings. Although the official attitude often was something along the lines of, "We're too busy waging war to worry about what those things are," it is clear



that American and British military commanders were *very* worried about repeated encounters with unidentified and apparently highly-advanced aircraft (or, indeed, spacecraft) over Europe and the Pacific. Their primary concern, of course, was that the Axis might have achieved some decisive technological leap which could turn the tide of the war. Yet foo fighters never seemed to actually *attack* American or British forces. Though this fact was

noted, the theory that foo fighters were of enemy origin persisted until Germany and Japan were finally overrun, and, to the Allies' surprise, and no foo fighter bases or technology were found.

Similarly, during the Cold War, UFOs often were attributed to America's new enemy—the Soviet Union. But it was later realized that the Soviet military—like the USSR itself—was disintegrating from within, and there is no indication whatsoever that the Soviets were capable of producing anything which even remotely matches the reported performance characteristics of a flying saucer.

The U.S. government, it seems, never reached a definitive conclusion about what foo fighters were or where they came from. Neither does Chester, though he suggests his preference for the extraterrestrial hypothesis at the end of his book. While the author exercises scholarly restraint, one might speculate that if foo fighters *were* of extraterrestrial origin, the entities who controlled them were attracted—perhaps as matter of curiosity—to the massive human conflict then taking place across our planet. Alternatively, it could be simply that with so many more "eyes to the sky" during the war, it was only natural that greater numbers of UFOs would be spotted. In either case, the idea that UFOs first arrived in response to our detonation of nuclear weapons at the very end of the war would seem to be undercut by the

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Book Review: *Strange Company: Military Encounters with UFOs*

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pervasive appearance of foo fighters years before.

What makes *Strange Company* so compelling is the way in which Chester is able to show how the history of foo fighters is deeply woven into the history of the war itself. Reading account after account of foo fighter encounters, with relatively little intervening commentary, can be somewhat tedious at times, but it also reflects Chester's diligence and his commendable effort to avoid overreaching. On the whole, Chester lets the reports—and there are very many of them—speak for themselves. The book also

includes copies of key documents in its appendix and a very helpful sighting index.

In sum, this is an impressive, engaging book which is undoubtedly destined to become a must-read for anyone seriously interested in the foo fighter phenomenon. It is highly recommended.

Bob Cholette is a lawyer, writer and Lifetime Member of MUFON who lives in Rochester, New York. For several years he wrote a general interest column for Messenger Post Newspapers which appeared in about a dozen papers in the Rochester, New York area.

Encounters at Indian Head: The Betty and Barney Hill Abduction Revisited

Edited by Karl Pflock and Peter Brookesmith, 2007. Anomalist Books, Jefferson Valley, New York. ISBN 978-1933665184. 311 pages. \$17.95 on Amazon.

Reviewed by David Chace

What happened to Barney and Betty Hill? Were they literally taken aboard a flying saucer by beings from another world? Was their abduction some kind of shared fantasy? Was even their consciously remembered sighting of the alien craft some kind of fantastic misperception of a mundane celestial object? These are some of the questions addressed in *Encounters at Indian Head: The Betty and Barney Hill Abduction Revisited*.

As I began reading the book, it soon became clear that the word "encounters" in the title referred not only to the encounters with UFOs as it did to the encounters between the book's multiple contributors, who jointly attended a symposium on the Hill case held in 2000 at Indian Head, New Hampshire, near the site of the Hill's UFO encounter in September of 1961.

Encounters is a collection of essays by several authors with diverse opinions, each of whom has thought a great deal about the Hill case. No reader is going to agree with everything each author has written, but one point that the authors do agree on is that the Hill case is of historic importance to the whole UFO abduction phenomenon. If one was to convene a symposium to discuss a single UFO abduction case, the Hill case would be a worthy candidate.

Prior to reading *Encounters*, I had assumed, based on the names of some of the contributors, that it would be a predominantly skeptical look at the Hill case. After reading it,

I found it more balanced than expected, and certainly not just a debunking book.

Dennis Stacy provides us with a detailed chronology of the Hill's journey and of the early investigation of the case. Stacy's chapter—one of the most important in the whole book—provides a concise and up-to-date version of the abduction story.

Marcello Truzzi's chapter represents a viewpoint based on the philosophy of science, and includes discussions such as how the principle of Occam's razor can be used either to support or reject a literal interpretation of the Hill abduction.

Robert Sheaffer, in his chapter, seeks to create doubt about the timeline of the Hill's journey, their initial sighting, the issue of missing time, and their testimony in general.

Peter Brookesmith also provides an alternative explanation for the Hill's missing time.

Martin Kottmeyer argues that Barney Hill's recall was likely influenced by a particular episode of *The Outer Limits*, which aired just days before he underwent hypnosis, but in Karl Pflock gives us reason to believe that Barney never watched *The Outer Limits*.

There are also chapters by Thomas Bullard, Hilary Evans

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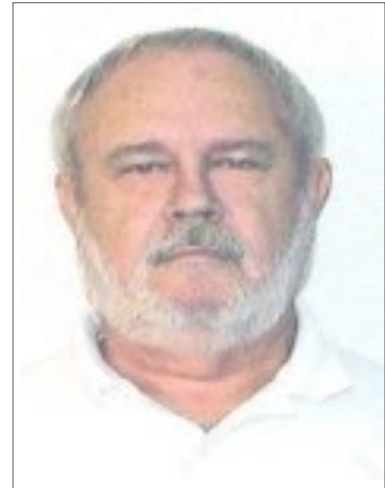


First members of STAR investigative team are named

By James Carrion
International Director

MUFON is proud to announce the charter formation of our rapid response investigation team—the MUFON Strike Team for Area Research or STAR team. The first appointed STAR team members are Jay Jordan of Tifton, Georgia, Richard Webb of LaVista, Nebraska, Kristen Winslet of Hackettstown, New Jersey, and Norman Gagnon of Springfield, Virginia.

Chuck Reever, MUFON's Director of Investigations, has created a STAR Team deployment protocol that describes the conditions and requirements under which STAR team members will be called in for an investigation. MUFON Headquarters has already purchased a complement of special equipment that can be shipped anywhere the team is deployed. MUFON is grateful to these team members for generously volunteering their time and experience to MUFON.



Jay Jordan



Norman Gagnon



Richard Webb



Kristen Winslet

Book Review: Encounters at Indian Head

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and Walter Webb, who was the first person to interview the Hills about their UFO experience in 1961.

While the authors respect one another, and seem familiar with each other's positions, there are a number of points of contention. Everyone does seem to agree that there are still many unanswered questions concerning the details of the Hill's journey that night, and that we may never have enough information to answer those questions.

The book's major shortcoming, in my opinion, is that it does not examine questions about the biology, culture or evolutionary history of the humanoid UFO occupants reported by the Hills, nor does it address questions about their technology. Certainly there are many details of the

Hill's narrative that offer clues about those issues for anyone who chooses to look. Betty Hill's famous star map, as interpreted by amateur astronomer Marjorie Fish, may even provide some insight into the aliens' propulsion technology and history of interstellar exploration. But the authors all seem more interested in supporting or refuting the hypothesis that the Hills were abducted, or in engaging in speculation about the possible psychological, folkloric or mythic meaning of the case.

Overall, the book is an important contribution to the UFO literature, and for anyone with a serious interest in the Hill case, it belongs on your shelf right next to *Captured* and *The Interrupted Journey*.

Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

Stephenville sightings spark media coverage

January certainly started the UFO year of 2008 with a bang. One indication is that MUFON received over 600 reports for the month which is much more than usual. A second is that there was a huge amount of media coverage both in newspapers and on TV. When was the last time Larry King did two UFO shows in one month?? There was of course also an outpouring of nonsense from the nasty noisy negativists explaining away as usual with their “don’t bother-me-with-the-facts” attitudes.

When press coverage is fair, people make reports

The big stimuli, of course, were the many sightings near Stephenville, Texas, around January 8. Even more impressive is the fact that the local press there covered the stories seriously. This in turn led to more people coming forward. I have for decades been convinced that fear of ridicule is the major reason witnesses don’t come forth. I have also noticed over the years that newspaper reporters in small towns know many of the people in town and have no reason to believe that otherwise respectable people suddenly come down with a new disease UFOITIS and lie about experiences. It is much easier to get away with this in the big cities.

I normally check my audiences after my lectures and find that about 10% have had a sighting—but 90% of those sightings were not reported. The primary reason for not reporting I am told is, “They would think I am some kind of a nut.” Reinforcement from other observers who don’t get laughed at certainly encourages people to come forward, as MUFON found out in Texas. When the press coverage was fair and open and investigators were there to collect reports, a lot would be forthcoming.

I think both the debunkers and the government really blew it. How could the government first say there were no jets in the air and then 10 days later claim that “Oh yes, there were 10 F-16 fighters zipping around”? We are not talking about Cessnas or small private planes. Somebody had to gas up all those military planes, keep track of them on radar; there should be flight logs. Normally fighters are scrambled in groups of two or three. But 10? And people somehow confused them with something a mile long and half mile wide flying silently?

Other huge UFO sightings

As I said on Larry King, that observation—by an experienced pilot at that—reminded me of the huge craft sighted by more than 30 people in groups of two or three in the Yukon Territory, East of Alaska, on December 11, 1996. Martin Jacek, a civil engineer with a long term interest in UFOs, wrote a fine report, “Giant UFO in The Yukon Territory,” covering his in-depth investigation.¹ He was able to triangulate and came up with a size estimate between .5 and 1.2 miles long for the silent behemoth. He also had the courage to submit a proposal to the Canadian government for funding for a Millennium 2000 conference that brought in several researchers including myself. The Whitehorse conference was attended by the Member of Parliament from that area and a large public audience. We drove out to the one gas station restaurant in the area where many of the witnesses had stopped after their observations and talk with the owners. The Klondike highway is lonely but the country is beautiful.

Another observation of a huge “mother ship” was the Japan Air Line case over Alaska on November 17, 1986. This involved a close encounter by JAL Flight

1628, a cargo-carrying 747, with something twice the size of an aircraft carrier, as observed by witnesses in the sky and by their radar and FAA ground radar. Dr. Bruce Maccabee has a significant article at his website <http://brumac.8k.com>. The new book, *Shoot Them Down*, by Frank Feschino, Jr., has many accounts of jets chasing UFOs, as described in the Texas case.



Stanton Friedman

What is a trained observer?

I wasn’t surprised at all that former Air Force pilot James Magaha was on *Larry King Live* trying to explain away both the Texas cases and the Phoenix Lights of March 13, 1997. He and I had a lively formal debate at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on January 28, 2004.²

Magaha almost always tries to make the false argument that the witnesses weren’t trained observers. I had wondered in the past just what he meant and finally figured out that he meant they weren’t trained in astronomy! Most are not trained in brain surgery either. Two sensible sounding Phoenix witnesses described the 8:30 PM object as boomerang shaped, huge, and flying silently, taking four minutes to pass over their house on Camelback Mountain. One doesn’t need to know anything about astronomy to make such a judgment.

Magaha has his own large backyard observatory and has made many observations of near earth objects in the sky. The question of course is not whether

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Friedman:Media Reports

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the witnesses can name the stars above, or describe the dynamics of stars or the paths of comets and supernova explosions etc. The question is whether they are competent to judge a rough shape and speed and size of something blotting out a clear night sky for several minutes, silently and with lights on the periphery, none of which were red or green. The answer is very definitely yes.

At least Magaha did point out that there were two different events that evening with the second being the dropping of powerful military flares on parachutes. These were filmed and very often are confused by the media with events happening an hour and a half earlier, the Phoenix Lights. His explanation was that a formation of A-10 aircraft was flying so high they were almost silent. The very obvious problem is that such a formation would not give the appearance of a very slow moving huge boomerang. There were thousands of witnesses to the earlier observation because of the Comet Hale-Bopp being visible. A-6 aircraft are not silent, and are not huge (wingspan 53 feet, length 54 feet) and do carry red and green running lights which nobody reported as a description on the edge of the huge object. They don't blot out the sky

He tried the same silly approach of saying that the witness in Stephenville (Steve Allen, a pilot) wasn't a trained observer. Does he need to have a transit and tape measure to measure the size and the speed of the huge object? And to determine that it was silent and then was chased by two military jets going back?

The original USAF claim was that there were no jets flying and that the pilot observer probably saw two high flying airliners that were still in sunlight. Researcher Brad Sparks determined that at the time in question the commercial planes would have to have been at an altitude of at least 100,000 feet to be so visible. Not a realistic possibility.

I was pleased to see pieces on TV and articles in The Dallas and Houston papers that played it straight. I would love

to have been a fly on the wall when the PR guy was told to give out the new explanation.

One possible complicating factor is that President Bush's Crawford ranch is not very far from Stephenville, and is a restricted flying zone. Conceivably the huge object was seen on radar and the jets scrambled after it to keep it away.

Disturbing news blog coverage

One disturbing bit of coverage was a silly web *Newsweek* blog article³ by Dr. Charles Euchner (who teaches writing in the English Department at Yale University and is writing a book on suicide at the Golden Gate Bridge). He talked exclusively with denying debunkers.

One was Dr. Robert L. Park, a Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland, who demonstrated his unscientific approach to UFOs in his article about Roswell in his book *Voodoo Science: The Road from Foolishness to Fraud*. He got just about every fact wrong in the who, where, and when department. To Euchner he comes up with a psychological explanation, although he is a physicist. Dr. Park also claims he almost thought he was seeing a UFO 50-plus years ago when, "I saw a brilliant light going across the sky on a road. It looked like a disc to me. When I accelerated, the thing sped up with me.... I slammed on the brakes—and it was the reflection of my headlights on the telephone lines."

Another debunker Euchner quotes was Dr. Michael Persinger of Laurentian University in Northern Ontario, a neuroscientist who has written numerous articles trying (unsuccessfully) to link earthquakes and UFO sightings.

While checking the web, I found a piece by Euchner on Academic Honesty: "Everything worthwhile that happens at a university depends on academic honesty. Without a real commitment to honest inquiry—producing your own work, citing the contributions of sources, providing accurate information, making an honest note of other perspectives—learning suffers immeasurably." These are words to live by, totally violated by

Euchner and the "experts" he quotes! One such expert was a Dr. Theodore Schick of Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania who talks about intergalactic travel, for no good reason at all.

Of course Dr. Michael Shermer of *Skeptic* magazine is quoted by Euchner. Shermer concedes he thought his crewmembers were aliens trying to abduct him when he was suffering from sleep deprivation when cycling across the country—hardly relevant.

Euchner says that the Texas pilot (Allen) talked about a very large craft moving at 120,000 miles per hour. I heard him say 3,000 mph.

Euchner claims: "sightings make the news several times a year and eight such episodes attracted headlines in 2007. Most sightings take place in the South and West." There wasn't the slightest indication that any of the antagonists had done any investigation at all, but what else would one expect from debunkers?

NOTE: I had looked at other Park writing about Roswell for a chapter on Updating Roswell for my new book *Flying Saucers and Science* which hopefully will be published in May by New Page Books division of Career Press.

¹ Available for \$8.00 US from UFOBC, 11151 Kendale Way, Delta, BC V4C 3P7, Canada.

² The two-hour debate ("Are Flying Saucers REAL?") is available on VHS from UFORI, POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958 for only \$15.00.

³ Euchner, Charles, *Newsweek* Web Exclusive, "Demons in the Dark," Jan. 18, 2008. <http://www.newsweek.com/id/96014>.

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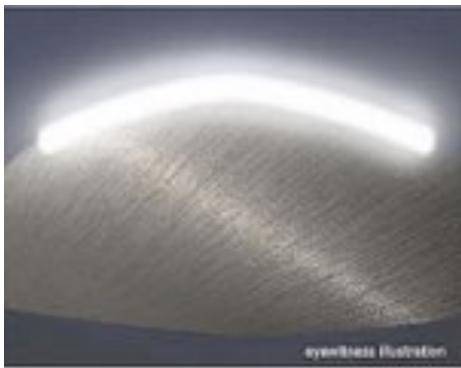
By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region

Note: These reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.



Florida - Nocturnal Light Formation

MIAMI BEACH – On February 13, 2008, at 7 PM, I was driving east on the 41st Causeway towards Miami Beach when I noticed what I initially thought to be two very bright planes one farther off to the left of the causeway over the bay and one straight ahead of me over



the causeway. The intense white light was what initially caught my attention, then the fact that they seemed to be motionless. As I drove forward I began to see that it was a metallic neutral tan color with lights blinking on either end. I turned off the radio and opened the windows as I slowly drove under it and I heard no sound. It was shaped like a triangle with rounded corners. I did not see it again after I

passed underneath it and did not return to investigate further. I am interested to know if anyone else saw this. I was attending a meeting and another person arrived about 10 minutes later. I asked her if she saw the “airplanes” and she replied “the ones with the very bright lights? Yes.” So I can only assume that they were still there.

Comments: This is one of several sightings of silent, hovering (or slow moving) triangular shaped craft that we receive. The identity of these craft is a mystery. The witness report does not sound like a sighting of a conventional aircraft. Apparently one other witness saw the craft. No additional reports have been received from this area at the time of the sighting. The witness provided these drawings that illustrate what he saw as he approached the object and drove underneath it. The witness is a professional artist and certainly if his illustrations are accurate this is a strange object. Thanks to Bill Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

DAYTONA BEACH – On February 20, 2008, a Daytona man and his father reported strange lights in the evening sky at around 8:30 PM Eastern Time. They watched the light show performed over the Atlantic Ocean for approximately 20 minutes. The father and son reported that they saw Green lights going around off the coast that night. They said that “it [was] moving up and down and back and forth. The general direction of the UFOs was north and south. The passive object didn’t make a sound in the calm night sky. Although distances were difficult to determine, they said that they would estimate the objects were approximately 200 feet in altitude. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact uforc.com immediately. Thanks to Christopher Montgomery, Executive Director UFORC

International Global Network <http://uforc.com/ufoap/>

Georgia - Nocturnal Lights Formation

ALPHARETTA – Also on February 20, 2008, a Georgia family reports, “We were watching the eclipse of the moon when my husband pointed out four lights, high in the sky that were not as bright as stars but bright enough. Within two seconds, they shot off to the left at four times the speed of a F16 and in a direct, soundless line. Then, they must have circled round because we saw them do the exact same thing. They flew from right to left, which lasted about 7-10 seconds each time.” They added, “It was totally amazing and we were totally disbelievers until seeing this with our eyes.”



George Filer

As there were tons worldwide watching the eclipse, and the lights were not hiding but not that easy to see, some others must have seen it. “What about satellites? Don’t they record what’s going on below? It must have been recorded. I cannot explain it and would like to see what others saw during the eclipse.” They said that the sighting occurred at around 10:25 PM Eastern Time. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact uforc.com immediately. Thanks to Christopher Montgomery, Executive Director UFORC International Global Network, <http://uforc.com/ufoap/>

Continued on page 19

Filer's Files

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Iowa - White Object Glows Red

ALTOONA – [the witness says:] I was in my upstairs bathroom when I looked outside the window at the moon on February 23, 2008, at 10:55 PM. Then, in the western sky I saw a large bright star like object heading towards the east fairly fast. This object was flying low at about 500 feet or so. This craft looked larger than a jet. What was weird about it was while watching the object the bright light suddenly just shut off and it started glowing red. This couldn't have been an airline because they wouldn't just shut off their lights.

I have reported a similar craft before except this object didn't flash like the others. Also, this object flew lower than the others. I watched this object for about four minutes. I guess we have a local UFO that comes to visit from time to time here in town. Thanks to Brian Vike, Director of HBCC UFO Research, <http://www.hbccufo.org>



Oregon - Disc Photographed

UMPQUA RIVER near CANYONVILLE – The witness originally made the report by faxing three photos. I contacted him and he stated that he and two others were floating west on the Umpqua River in near Canyonville. One of the team (river guide) had a camera and it was February 3, 2008, at 11 AM PST. They noticed a tan-brown metallic object hovering in the trees close to the river. The guide snapped three photos of the object. The object emitted no sound and did not move. As soon as they sighted

the object one of the thermos bottles exploded. (It is not known if this was related to the presence of the object.) The object was to the southwest of the river in cloudy skies with light snow. They continued to float westward and lost sight of the object. The object did not move during their sighting.

Comments: This is an impressive sighting considering that the witnesses were close to the object, three witnessed the object, photos were taken, unusual phenomena occurred (exploding thermos bottle), and the object displayed non-conventional behavior (hovering). The witness said that he will send the original digital photos in a few days. These photos will be posted. Thanks to Bill Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>



Texas - Photos and Punch Biopsy

AUSTIN – These "objects" have been patrolling the Austin skies since at least January 9, 2008, which was the first time I saw one. They emerge around dusk and buzz around until about 10 PM. They are so frequent and exceptional I find it hard to believe that more people aren't reporting them. They usually track from the north to south but the really big ones almost always come from the west to east. About 70% of them hug the tree lines and roof tops. Here's a detailed image of the rear-end of one that shook my house Wednesday evening. Thanks to MUFON CMS

HOUSTON – Hi, my name is (removed), I've had one punch biopsy and another mark of which is oval in shape with several layers of skin missing which healed fast. I have no pictures and I regret this because I feel a need to get this information out there. Basically, these marks are the only thing that makes me

believe I was taken, otherwise I would just think that I had night terrors or sleep paralysis. I just want you to know another person out there has had these marks always following strange night time happenings. My punch biopsy was on my left leg, on the inside of the leg right where the knee bends, kind of in that tender part of the leg. Anyway I don't think it matters where they appear as one of my friends had two on his left leg. Thanks to Brian Vike, Director of HBCC UFO Research, <http://www.hbccufo.org>
SAN ANTONIO – I set up my camera with a fish eye scope to take pictures of strange clouds around 12 noon, on February 21, 2008, and took these pictures around 12:30. I noticed strange bright light in a cloud and kept the camera fixed on it.

It seemed to lower itself and turn a blackish color as it descended. It made no noise and when I checked the lens for debris, there was none and I took a picture immediately afterwards showing a dark orb. I looked at it with naked eyes and although it was smaller, it was still visible and not moving, but it had a slight haze around. There were no lights blinking but it alternated between black and silver color before becoming smaller and disappearing (I believe it ascended). I had reported seeing these things to MUFON before with pictures and close up shots taken since November. When I would do a certain old special prayer, it would show up within minutes. I stopped after having very bad nights of feeling being watched and/or looked at late in evening and during sleep. I am hoping it does not start up again, but I have to let people know to look up. Again I do not care if anyone believes me or not, I just want there to be documentation if something happens. Thanks to MUFON CMS

Canada - Alien and UFO Photo

ONTARIO – I was out at night on Friday, February 8, 2008, to take pictures of our old large tree. We captured some strange things on film on our Sony Digital Camera. The last picture I took that night, was a face of

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Filer's Files

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an alien with an open mouth. I have NO IDEA why it looks green. What's going on?

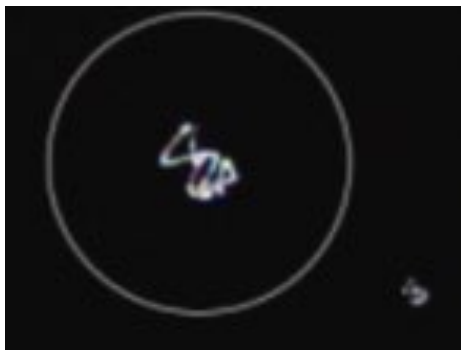
When I took the photo and looked at it briefly on the camera, I thought it was an apparition of a soldier with an army helmet. Then, when I uploaded the photo to my computer, I saw what looked like a green alien face with very large eyes and mouth open. Looks like I just caught the right half of its face and torso. I think the flashes of many pictures attracted it,



then when it came closer, the first smaller flash startled it, it opened its mouth in a panic then the main big flash caught that sight/expression. Photo contrast is enhanced.

Back in the summer of August 2007, I had an encounter with a VERY LARGE star-light craft, that flew silently over the HUGE tree on my street right in front of my house, I waved/flagged it down, it came towards me very low to the ground and I ran towards it. My friend came out of the house towards me, the craft saw him approach and it took off the other direction going east of Orillia, Ontario. Since then, nothing has happened that I know of. There were, however, pictures in the local newspaper of crafts the week before I saw mine. There was no smoke, bright lights or fog around. This photo is just one of four amazing pictures that really need to be checked out by professionals. Thanks to Ms. T. B. and MUFON CMS.

OSHAWA – Paul Shishis has been taking photos over Lake Ontario on February 20, 2008. I like this photo [next column] out



of the bunch. This looks like a smaller boomerang shape craft, above a larger craft. Enjoy and thanks again for your interest. Paul

United Kingdom

LIMAVADY, CO. DERRY – I was out on my deck looking up in the night sky to sight a satellite on February 13, 2008, about 10:20 PM, and I spotted three lights that had the size and distance characteristics typical of a moving satellite. However, these were in definite triangular formation and appeared for about 30 seconds moving 2-3 times faster than a satellite. The direction was from the North Star to the tip of Plough. I thought they must be high altitude aircraft and when I Googled the sighting for last night it appears that last year and 2006 these were also spotted off the County Down coast by large numbers of people. Thanks to Brian Vike, Director of HBCC UFO Research, <http://www.hbccufo.org>

ECCLESHILL BRADFORD, England

– My wife was driving and as we turned the corner, an orange sphere moved towards us and to our left, all in one motion on February 12, 2008, at 10:40 PM. When it went to the left, a building obscured my view so I cannot say where it went. It was about 30 feet in the air and about 50 feet away, just above the roof of a building. No noise. Both my wife and I saw it. I mentioned it to a neighbor and they said they had seen a similar thing, but roughly ten years ago on the next road. Thanks to Brian Vike, Director of HBCC UFO Research, <http://www.hbccufo.org>

WOLVERHAMPTON – I viewed from Sandford Rise, four solid red lights flying in a rectangular formation on February 11, 2008, approaching from the southwest

at 6:30 PM, flying quite slowly almost directly overhead and continuing northeast in perfect formation, until disappearing into the distance over some houses. When roughly overhead, a low rumbling like a distant large aircraft could be heard until they disappeared into the distance. Other aircraft (commercial planes etc) were in the sky, though I'd say these lights were higher up from the angle as they flew into the distance. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director www.ufocenter.com



Turkey Disc Filmed

ISTANBUL / Kumburgaz – Sirius reports they obtained a video of a disc shaped craft captured on July 30, 2007 at 4:50 PM. The disc appeared to be a metallic blue and about thirty feet in diameter. A similar craft was videotaped on August 1 and 2, 2007. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BEM-ObMXJY>



Boliva Alien Gods from Space

El Fuerte de Samaipata is a unique archaeological site in the mountains of central Bolivia. It features a stone hill carved with a wide variety of animal and geometric figures. It has been designated a World Heritage Site and included in the carvings is this disc-shaped UFO.

Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By *Chuck Reeve*

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is February's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), **Donald R. Burleson** (New Mexico) for being at 100%! The top 10 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 being sure to assign all cases within 72 hours, and to follow 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 at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at wizard@telis.org.

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	20/20	13/13
2	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	14/14	16/16
3	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	25/25	19/19
4	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	99 %	218/220	52/52
5	Florida	Bland Pugh	98 %	83/86	62/62
6	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	96 %	105/106	67/72
7	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	93 %	49/49	27/31
8	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	91 %	44/44	38/46
9	Georgia	Walter Sheets	91 %	23/23	15/18
10	West Virginia	John Ventre	90 %	12/12	9/11
11	Wisconsin	TG Whiteagle / DJ Watson	89 %	17/17	11/14
12	Iowa	Jim King	89 %	22/24	7/8
13	Washington	Laurence Childs	88 %	20/23	17/19
14	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	83 %	14/21	19/19
15	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	82 %	43/66	74/74
16	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	81 %	42/49	43/56
17	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	76 %	20/37	50/51
18	Arizona	George C. Parks	69 %	37/86	82/86
19	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	69 %	60/61	24/59
20	Utah	Elaine Douglass	64 %	14/16	7/17
21	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	64 %	12/25	18/22
22	Nevada	Mark Easter	61 %	7/31	28/28
23	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	58 %	8/20	7/9
24	Connecticut	Erik Kubik	56 %	9/15	7/13
25	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	55 %	1/9	2/2
26	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	55 %	5/14	9/12
27	Ohio	William Edward Jones	52 %	31/45	12/34
28	Delaware	Ralph P. Flegal	50 %	0/0	1/1
29	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	45 %	15/23	4/16
30	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	45 %	54/64	4/57
31	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	42 %	20/41	19/53
32	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	35 %	6/17	4/11
33	Maryland	Bruce S. Maccabee	33 %	4/15	7/17
34	North Carolina	George E. Lund, III	32 %	8/34	10/24
35	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	15 %	0/22	9/29
36	New Hampshire	Peter R. Geremia	12 %	1/4	0/6
37	Massachusetts	Greg S. Berghorn	8 %	2/27	2/20
38	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	5 %	1/9	0/13
39	Hawaii	Puuloa M. Teves	0 %	0/4	0/5
40	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	0 %	0/3	0/7
41	Rhode Island	Richard Lynch	0 %	0/9	0/7
42	Idaho	Robert Gates	0 %	0/14	0/13
43	Missouri	Bruce A. Widaman	0 %	0/20	0/10
44	Washington	Gerald E. Rolwes	0 %	0/3	0/2
45	Vermont	Dan Lavilette	0 %	0/4	0/3
46	Kentucky	Earle T. Benezet	0 %	0/20	0/15

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Director's Message

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hope to continue to offer these training workshops in the future.

We are also extending to MUFON members who attend the Symposium a discounted registration price. Please see the Symposium insert in this Journal for registration, hotel, and schedule information.

I am also pleased to announce that MUFON has selected the original members of the STAR Team—MUFON's Rapid Response Team. Please see the related article in this month's Journal. We are still accepting applications for the STAR Team, so if you think you have what it takes to be on MUFON's elite investigation team and have the available time for rapid

deployment, please email your resume and bio to hq@mufon.com.

MUFON is also looking for a CASE Management System (CMS) Administrator. See the job description in the box below.

Position Announcements

New State Directors

John Selman is the new **State Director** for Maine.

New Assistant State Directors

Arlene Chukusky is retiring from the Assistant State Director position in South Carolina. We thank Arlene for her many years of service. The new Assistant State Director for South

Carolina will be **Robin Von Olszewski**. **Janet Bunke** is the new Assistant State Director for Idaho.

New Field Investigators

Leslie Moore of Blairsville, Georgia, **Mark Moore** of Blairsville, Georgia, **Robert Coley** of Lake Toxaway, North Carolina, **Wayne Meredith** of Buchanan Dam, Texas, **Dean Werner** of Iron River, Wisconsin, **John Barnes** of Casper, Wyoming.

MUFON Volunteer Opportunity: Case Management System (CMS) Administrator

Responsibilities:

1. ALL administrative tasks related to the CMS System.
 2. Maintain the MUFON USER list based on the current list in CMS, plus any adds due to membership growth and new Field Investigators who have passed their FI Exam, minus any deletes based on expired memberships or State Director directed deletions. Eventually the membership adds and deletes should be an automated feed between the membership system and CMS.
 3. Log onto CMS several times each day to check the LAST 20 Reports and ensure the content posted is appropriate. This includes clicking on all links and checking all pictures, videos, and other files posted for appropriate content.
 4. Review all automatically deleted reports by CMS, review the content, and restore those that are valid reports.
 5. Check to see that all States with multiple SDs (California, Tennessee, Washington, etc.) have the County field filled in for all reports submitted.
 6. Delete duplicate reports after reviewing all duplicates and determining which one has the most data in it to become the surviving case file.
 7. Alert the Director of Investigations regarding all exceptional cases that come in. An exceptional case is one that is a recent landing and/or entity case at close range (<300 feet). These require IMMEDIATE follow-up.
 8. Work with the Director of Investigations to ensure the timely assignment and follow-up of all reports by State Directors and FIs respectively.
- If you are interested in this *new, volunteer position*, contact Jan Harzan at janharzan@hotmail.com or Chuck Reeve at wizard@telis.org.

Correction The Night Sky

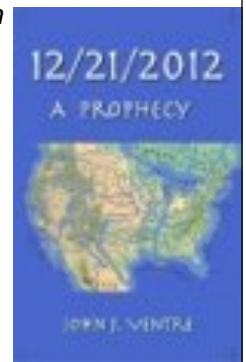
In the February issue, The Night Sky on page 24 was titled "February 2008 Sky." It should have read "March 2008 Sky."

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The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

April 2008 Sky

Moon Phases

- New Moon April 6th
- First Quarter April 12th
- Full Moon April 20th
- Last Quarter April 28th

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

Mars: (magnitude 0.8 to 1.1). In Gemini. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will be found high above the west-southwest horizon as evening twilight begins and set in the west-northwest after midnight. For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will be found standing low over the northern horizon as sunset fades and will sink below the northwest horizon about 4½ hours after sunset.

Saturn: (magnitude 0.4 to 0.5). In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will be found standing high above the southeast horizon at sunset and will set in the west-northwest approximately 2 hours before sunrise. For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will be found standing above the northeast horizon at sunset and will set in the west-northwest approximately 4 1/2 hours before sunrise.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

Mercury: (magnitude -0.6 to -1.8). In Pisces. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about ½ hours before sunrise and will quickly descend into the glare of the Sun by the end of the first week. For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 1 ½ hours before sunrise but will descend into the glare of the Sun by the end of the second week.

Venus: (magnitude -3.8). In Taurus. For northern and southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month very low above the eastern horizon at



Looking high towards the west about 2½ hours after sunset on April 11, 2008

sunrise and will descend into the glare of the Sun by the end of the month.

Jupiter: (magnitude -2.2 to -2.3). In Sagittarius. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will rise above the south-southeast horizon about 4 hours before sunrise and will be found above the southern horizon as the Sun rises. For southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will rise above the southeast horizon about 1 hour before midnight and will be found high above the western horizon as morning twilight commences.

Other Celestial Phenomena

Meteor Showers

The Lyrids: One of the best April meteor showers are the Lyrids, active from April 16 through April 25 and peaking on April 22 with 18 meteors per hour. The debris from Comet Thatcher will appear to come from overhead around midnight but the full Moon will diminish the experience due to sky brightness.

Planetary Conjunction

A Conjunction of the Moon and Mars.

Conjunctions and Occultations

April 5th. Venus 5 degrees south of the Moon.

April 11th. Mars 0.5 degrees south of the Moon.

April 15th. Regulus 0.9 degrees north of the Moon.

April 23rd. Antares 0.3 degrees north of the Moon.