

# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON  
AERIAL PHENOMENA

**NICAP**



## EX-RADARMAN REPORTS CLOSE ENCOUNTER NICAP Awaiting Full Details

A former Navy radar specialist, Lawrence Wagner, has disclosed an experience he and nine other flyers had about ten years ago with a strange "cloud" that seemed to engulf their aircraft. Speaking to a group of airmen at the Lemoore Naval Air Station in California, Wagner said the experience unnerved both he and his crewmates, as they expected the object to collide with their plane before they could take evasive action.

NICAP has talked with Wagner and asked his cooperation in providing complete details on the incident. He has agreed to do so, and his report will be published, along with any additional information uncovered by NICAP investigators, as soon as all material is received.

The initial conversation with the witness revealed that an abbreviated account of the sighting that appeared in a local newspaper is not entirely accurate. The article states that the experience occurred "a few years ago," when Wagner and "four other Navy men" were flying off an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. Actually, Wagner was with nine men, and their plane was operating out of a naval facility at San Diego in the early 1960s.

The newspaper quotes Wagner as describing the sighting as follows:

"We were fully equipped with the most sensitive devices for detecting objects in either sea or air. One night we observed an object which appeared as a spot of blue, luminous haze. I was sent in a plane with a crew of four other Navy men to investigate. Radar established definitely three things: the object was composed of metal, it was originating radio signals, and it had mass.

"We headed directly on a course above the object for observation. But as we neared it, it began to rise vertically at great speed on what seemed to be an unavoidable collision course. A second or two later, the interior of our plane abruptly lit up with a brilliant light, I remember distinctly seeing the strained faces of my four companions. Admittedly, I was frightened, as none of us knew what to expect next. A crash seemed certain. Still brightly lighted from some outside source, we flashed through what appeared to be a haze and into the darkness, while the object continued in its vertical course and disappeared at great height.

"Shortly after, each member of the crew was contacted by government UFO investigators, who took from the five crewmen almost identical affidavits. But to this day, I have heard nothing more of this incident, nor have I seen it reported in any of the many articles and books on the subject, many of which seem to me to be exaggerated, if not fantastic. However, as a radarman, I checked the findings of all our sensitive devices and am still unable to explain how this incident happened."

## HYNEK BOOK DUE NEXT YEAR A Fan to the Flames of UFO Debate

Scientific controversy over UFOs is likely to escalate again in the 1970s when Dr. J. Allen Hynek's new book, now in the writing, is published next year. Certain to be a classic in the field, the book will document Hynek's long association with the U.S. Government's UFO investigation, and his conversion from skeptic to outspoken advocate of the seriousness of the UFO problem.

Followers of official attempts to debunk UFOs have long wondered when Hynek would disclose the details of his work as consultant to the erstwhile Project Blue Book, and would publish in book form his dissent from the Air Force position. Hynek feels the time is now, since his contractual obligations with the government have been met, and the Condon Report has been released. Although promising no dramatic exposes for the book, he does advise that several chapters will be devoted to the curious history of the government program and its single-minded determination to explain away as many sighting reports as possible.

Still untitled, the book is not expected to appear until late in the year. The publisher will be Cowles, of New York, who published zoologist Ivan Sanderson's *Uninvited Visitors* in 1967; a treatise that argues UFOs are living organisms. Cowles also publishes *Look* magazine, which gave extensive coverage to the UFO subject in the 1960s.

Hynek has done UFO articles for a variety of publications, ranging from scientific journals to *Playboy* magazine. One of his major pieces appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* in December 1966. More recently, he did a full-page feature for the *Christian Science Monitor* (April 22, 1970).

Hynek is an astronomer at Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory.

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

June 1, 1970 -- A schoolteacher, walking alone on the beach at Padre Island, Texas, noticed a cigar-shaped "cloud" directly overhead at low altitude. Dark in the center and cream-colored around the edges, the object began to pulsate with a yellow-orange glow. Suddenly, it rose up, emitting a hissing sound, and ascended rapidly until lost from sight.

May 31, 1970 -- Three men in Gaylord, Michigan, reported a "plate-like" object that appeared to be cruising slowly over a road. The object had white and red lights. As the men watched, it picked up speed and moved away.

Second of a Series**POST-MORTEM ON BLUE BOOK****Will the Lid Stay on the Coffin?**

If the parallels cited in Part I are not sufficient to persuade skeptics that Blue Book may be more dormant than dead, there is another parallel that might. As already noted, the effect of Grudge's closure was to downgrade UFOs from special status to routine status within the Air Force intelligence operation. Regular staff personnel at the Foreign Technology Division (FTD) of AF Systems Command were given responsibility for keeping track of UFO reports and checking them out. They were supported in this function by the Air Defense Command (now Aerospace Defense Command), which channeled, to FTD, reports from such military sources as pilots and radar operators.

Although the December 1969 Air Force press release (announcing closure of Blue Book) did not say so, the situation is exactly the same today. FTD continues to maintain cognizance of sightings reported through official channels, and ADC continues to filter UFO reports from a national defense point of view, pursuant to the much-discussed JANAP-146 (the Joint Army-Navy-Air Force Publication on Communication Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Airborne and Waterborne Sources).

Strictly speaking, then, the Air Force is still in the UFO business, at least to the extent that JANAP-146 provides for reporting of UFOs. This fact, however, should not be seized upon as evidence of the high-level, non-military interest in UFOs that the "conspiratorialists" believe exists. It *may* be evidence of such interest, but it may also mean something far less dramatic.

Admittedly, it is bothersome that the Air Force sees fit to retain the official category -- and, by implication, the concept -- of Unidentified Flying Objects. U.S. and Canadian defense networks are programmed to detect airborne entities exhibiting characteristics regarded as "significant" -- i.e. indicative of behavior hostile to North America. This has long been standard procedure, and the distinction between signal and noise, insofar as the detection systems are concerned, is well defined. It would appear, therefore, that UFOs, which have repeatedly been described by the Air Force as "giving no indication of threat to our national security" -- do not warrant any attention by ADC or FTD under the guidelines prescribed by JANAP-146. Why, after all, if UFOs have no military significance, should the Air Force maintain the machinery (even routinely) for processing UFO reports?

Anticipating this question, the Condon Report argues that the Air Force is merely being prudent. "Since in military matters especially," the Report states, "it is better to be safe than sorry, it is quite appropriate that observers be explicitly notified of their obligation to report UFOs -- that is, *all* puzzling things -- rather than take a chance on their not being significant."

If this be so, why does the Air Force limit its input of reports to intelligence sources? With Blue Book in operation, maximum allowance was being made for the possibility that something significant, among "all puzzling things," might turn up. To close Blue Book and monitor only official reporting channels would seem to defeat the purpose of a better-safe-than-sorry policy. Reports received under JANAP-146 come primarily from military and government personnel (although technically the document extends to civilians who are aware of its provisions and are in a position to report through intelligence channels). The practical effect, therefore, is that only a few types of sightings are now likely to find their way to FTD, while a great many other sightings, made by the general public, will go unreported. This is a far cry from keeping a watchful eye on "all puzzling things."

So the question remains: why has the Air Force reverted to the post-Grudge practice of treating UFOs as a routine intelligence matter?

**NEXT: Weighing the merits of the conspiracy hypothesis.**

Editorial

We thought it might be interesting to list briefly some of the recent events at NICAP and in the UFO field. With the national news media focusing so heavily on war, politics, and social problems, it is easy to get the impression that the UFO subject is tagged for extinction. The opposite is the case, however, and it might be worthwhile to remind ourselves that ours is an area of inquiry where expressions of serious interest are often made informally, outside channels normally covered by the press. Consider, for example, the following items:

1. The Griffith Observatory of Los Angeles devotes most of its August magazine to a scientific dialogue on UFOs.
2. Radio stations in Maryland, Maine, California, and Newfoundland have contacted NICAP this summer to conduct interviews on UFOs.
3. *Current Events*, a national educational publication for young people, consulted with NICAP earlier this year on a feature article on UFOs.
4. The Dutch Broadcasting Foundation sent a representative to NICAP in April to confer on a special television program on UFOs.
5. NICAP's Chicago Affiliate has been contracted for the third straight year to conduct an adult education course on UFOs this coming fall.
6. Correspondence has recently been received at NICAP from new UFO groups in Mexico, New Zealand, and Argentina.
7. A conference on UFOs, sponsored by two Illinois UFO groups, was held in June at Bradley University.
8. A professor from a North Dakota college presented a paper on UFOs to an educational meeting in Washington, D.C., in August.
9. A professional writer of young people's books visited NICAP in July to discuss preparation of a new book explaining UFOs and related phenomena.
10. A college instructor from Louisiana recently visited NICAP to seek help with a special course he is going to teach on UFOs, and to discuss planetarium programs on UFOs.

These are hardly the harbingers of doomsday for public interest in UFOs. They are, rather, further evidence of the surpassing fascination the UFO phenomenon holds for people, both in the United States and other countries. For those gloomy prognosticators who expect the next news story on UFOs to be an obituary, the subject is going to offer only disappointment.

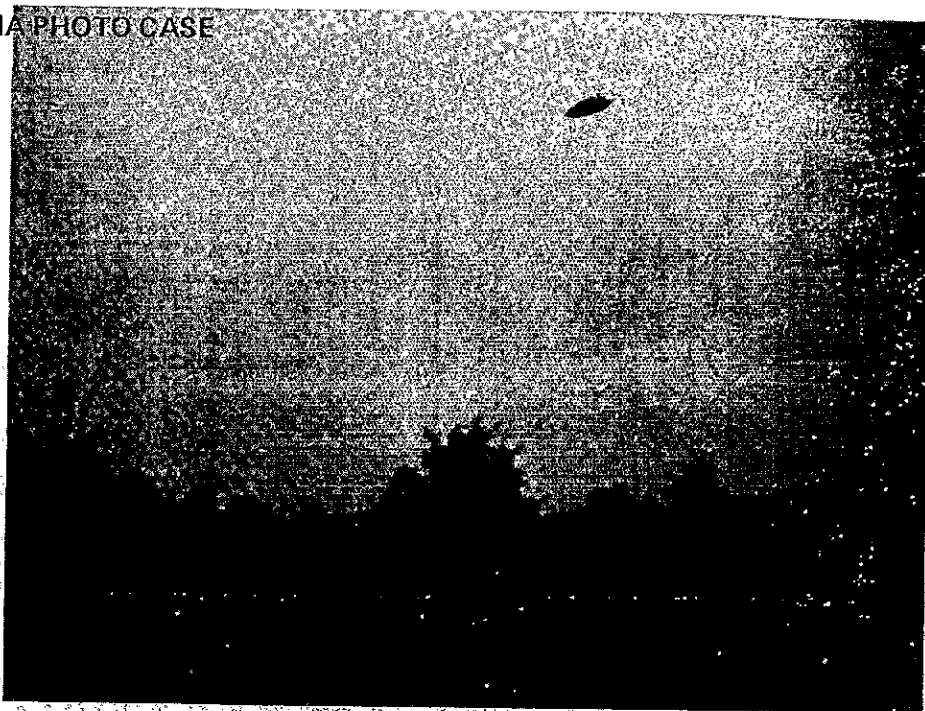
NICAP PROBES NORTH CAROLINA PHOTO CASE

After an extended period of inactivity due to conflicting research priorities, NICAP has resumed its investigation of the photograph taken two years ago this month at Kings Mountain, North Carolina, by factory worker Daniel Suttles. Having examined the original Polaroid print and made the various reproductions necessary for analysis, NICAP hopes to conclude its study in two to three months and release its findings before the end of the year.

An unexpected setback in the investigation occurred last year when a field investigator's report was lost in the mails. Although part of the report was later secured, it was necessary to schedule an additional inspection of the photographic site to reinterview the photographer and conduct further tests under conditions that obtained at the time of the sighting.

The on-site inspection was conducted July 25 by NICAP Secretary-Treasurer Stuart Nixon (who has coordinated NICAP's photographic analysis program since 1967) and chief NICAP photographic consultant W.F. McIntyre. Among the exercises performed were reenactment trials with the original camera, a check of the terrain for changes that have occurred since the original photography, and conversations with the present occupants of the property.

Suttles reported he observed a domed disc passing over his rural homesite at dawn on August 1, 1968. Remembering a borrowed camera he had in the house, he ducked inside to retrieve it and returned in time to make one exposure. He could have taken another shot, had he not waited for the first one to develop,



UFO allegedly photographed on August morning in rural North Carolina.

but this apparently did not occur to him. The area where the sighting occurred is a thinly populated, wooded section on the edge of Kings Mountain (a small town located west of Charlotte). The house in which Suttles lived at the time is a simple wood structure he built himself. Although wired for electricity, it is completely isolated by trees and fields, and accessible only by a winding dirt road that is barely passable.

Suttles states that on the morning he took the picture, he had arisen between 5 and 6 a.m. and gone outside to escape the heat of the house. The sun had not yet come up, but the sky was bright. The object approached him from the left (west) and seemed to be heading in a straight line eastward. By the time he had located the camera and gone back outside, the object had passed over his yard and was moving away.



Unmanicured yard of hillside house is site of picture-taking. Photographer said he emerged from door at right and ran to this spot to make the one exposure he got.

◀ Sole witness points to tree UFO passed over, as NICAP aide stands nearby to record his comments. Tree appears in center of original photograph.



MEMOS  
FOR  
MEMBERS

### WHY A PIGGYBACK MAILING?

We mailed the July and August issues together to help solve an unexpected problem. From the June mailing, we made the unhappy discovery that many of our members have changed their addresses without notifying us. Thus, their envelopes were returned to us for remaining (third-class mail is not forwardable). Processing all these returns proved to be a big job -- so big, in fact, we had to defer the July mailing until we could finish making the many corrections in our files. If you got your June issue unusually late (in a first-class envelope), chances are you were among those who forgot to tell us your address change. We are sorry about the delay and hope it doesn't happen again. It won't if each member gives us proper notice when he changes his address. To help catch up in our publication schedule, we plan to also mail the September and October issues piggyback.

## FEEDBACK / Readers write

A SPECIAL LETTER

Dear NICAP friends:

As a member of the Board of Governors, and NICAP's technical secretary, I am continuing to serve NICAP and to carry on with private investigations, broadcasts and writing to further our long-established plans. The Board and staff are working hard to reach our goals, in spite of a problem summed up by one member who wrote me:

"I've been in NICAP since '57, and I'm still a member because I know the UFO problem is serious and has not been solved. But it's not easy to keep up interest when newspapers and newscasts hardly ever report sightings."

Actually, sightings have not stopped. But most witnesses keep still because of increased debunking. Recently an airline captain, one of several pilots giving me confidential reports, summed up the general attitude:

"When it breaks open again, and enough other pilots report, I'll talk plenty. Meantime I'm a Sphinx."

Q. I am a high school graduate interested in a career with NICAP. What kind of an education do I need?

E.N./Chicago, Ill.

A. Generally speaking, NICAP is not a career-opportunity organization. We are too small and too dependent on private funding to offer the kind of staff positions college graduates usually seek. This may change somewhat if our new corporate programs, enacted earlier this year, have the desired long-range effects. At present, however, any openings we might have would be purely administrative in nature and could be filled locally. You would be better advised to pursue a career in a conventional field, such as science, that relates to UFO research. Much of NICAP's work is done by volunteers in these fields.

Q. How do I contact other NICAP members in my area?

A.K./Montreal, Canada

A. NICAP has always had the policy of not releasing its members' names. This is primarily because many members have requested we keep their names confidential. Other reasons include the difficulty of maintaining geographical breakdowns of our membership files, and of keeping up-to-date on members who move from one area to another. We are hopeful, however, of changing this policy, because our new computerized membership system enables us to readily maintain and retrieve the membership data in question. If such a change is made, all members will be advised, and names will be released only with prior permission.

Q. How can I contact UFO groups in other countries?

J.T./Lyon, France

A. With the proliferation of UFO organizations in the United States and elsewhere, it is difficult to maintain up-to-date names and addresses of the many groups that come to our attention. The following organizations, however, are exemplary and can advise you of other groups in their respective countries: GEPA, 69 Rue de la

Tombe-Issoire, Paris-14, France. Flying Saucer Review, 21 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London WC2, England. Canadian UFO Report, Box 758, Duncan, B.C., Canada. UFOIC, Box E170, St. James P.O., Sydney 2000, Australia.

Since the first big sighting wave in '47, there have been five more waves, and several medium ones in between -- each with hundreds of verified reports by reliable witnesses. Every false lull in NICAP's 14 years has been followed by a new "flap," with nationwide publicity and soaring public interest. From my 21 years experience, I am certain it will happen again. And this time the impact will probably be much greater, as witnesses now silent decide to speak out.

Though I am not now involved in NICAP administrative affairs, except as a Board member, I hope you will be encouraged to help NICAP and remain an active member. From the plans now being developed, I am sure the coming months will be of increasing interest.

I am personally grateful for all the loyal support you have given to NICAP and to me during my 13 years as Director. Thanks to your help and understanding when we were almost about to go under, NICAP has survived and become recognized as a dedicated, fact-finding organization.

Sincerely yours,

Major Donald E. Keyhoe,  
USMC (Ret.)

Q. Have UFOs tampered with orbiting satellites?

T.E./Harriman, Tenn.

A. Perturbations in satellite orbits, loss of radio signals from satellites, and other anomalies in satellite functions do not necessarily indicate the presence of alien objects. Despite advances in space technology and astrophysics, many defects remain in our understanding of space and our ability to perform in space with machines. Although it is entirely possible that UFOs or other physical bodies have sometimes affected satellite behavior, it would be rash to overlook other explanations for whatever curiosities have been observed.

Q. Can you put me in touch with the nearest NICAP Subcommittee or investigator?

F.S./Philadelphia, Pa.

A. Mail for local NICAP representatives should be sent to NICAP headquarters, where it will be forwarded. Not all areas of the United States are covered by NICAP Subcommittees, and only one foreign country -- England -- has one. Correspondents should keep in mind that NICAP field units are primarily investigative in nature, and do not operate as a club or social group. Persons interested in working with Subcommittees should have educational and/or occupational skills to offer, and must be adults. New Subcommittees are not presently being formed, pending issuance of new organizational and operational guidelines.

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Annual Membership Dues  
United States, Canada and Mexico . . . . . \$10.00  
Foreign . . . . . \$12.00  
Editor: Stuart Nixon

## Q/A

Q. Does NICAP sell UFO photographs?

P.A./Glendolen, Pa.

A. NICAP no longer sells or provides pictures on a general basis. This is due in part to an increasingly conservative policy on the question of photographic authenticity, and in part to lack of funds for large-scale duplication of prints. For those persons interested in the photographic aspect of the UFO problem, we will publish case studies in the newsletter, and include pictorial material in any special publications later offered.

Q. In Sybil Leek's *Astrology Journal*, reference is made to a "levity disc" developed in England. The disc is said to be "capable of speeds greater than light" and able to "go to any height." Can NICAP confirm the validity of this report?

H.B./Sioux City, Iowa

A. NICAP has no information on a so-called "levity disc." However, common sense would suggest that any device capable of the performance claimed for this alleged invention would have generated international interest as soon as it was announced, and would have been widely publicized in scientific and technical literature. News of a technological breakthrough of this magnitude is not likely to be confined to the pages of a magazine on astrology.

Q. Will the Bermuda Triangle mystery ever be solved?

C.G./Baltimore, Md.

A. It is unlikely that solutions will soon be forthcoming to the many strange disappearances of aircraft and ships in the so-called Bermuda Triangle. Various explanations have been proposed, but none has been shown to be correct. NICAP, of course, is interested in the BT only to the extent that it may relate to the UFO problem. At present, there is no clear connection. NICAP will publish an article on the BT