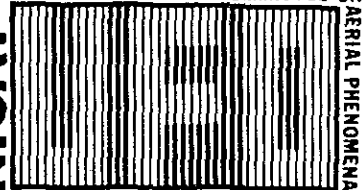


UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON

NICAP



AERIAL PHENOMENA

NICAP ■ 3535 UNIVERSITY BLVD. WEST, SUITE 23 ■ KENSINGTON, MARYLAND 20795 ■ (301)949-1267 ■ FOUNDED IN 1956

UFOs COAST TO COAST

Since the first of this year, UFO reports have been received in a sporadic non patterned manner. The monthly average of reports received by NICAP remains at a level of about forty per month. The reports described here are representative of those investigated by NICAP during the past six months.

FEBRUARY 26, 1976—YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA

Glowing yellow objects were seen shortly after midnight on February 25th and 26th near Sutter Buttes. Four such objects were seen the first night and five were seen on the 25th. Police dispatchers reported that there was a great deal of radio communication concerning the UFO activity, but the objects have not been identified.

FEBRUARY 12, 1976—VENICE, FLORIDA

Mr. and Mrs. Don McArthur reside in a beachfront condominium with a spectacular view of the Gulf. At 4:30 a.m. Thursday morning, Don McArthur woke up and went into the kitchen to get a glass of water and viewed a more spectacular sight than usual. When he turned out the lights he noticed a slender bright red, pencil shaped object hovering near the Gulf. He awoke his wife, and they viewed the object together for about five minutes until it suddenly disappeared. During this period the McArthurs' used binoculars and saw that the UFO was oblong in shape rather than pencil shaped. The night was clear with no clouds to obstruct the view of the object . . . it "simply disappeared."

Mr. McArthur is a former pilot with a great deal of experience. He is certain that the object he saw was not a conventional aircraft.

FEBRUARY 10, 1976 — HIGH SPRING, FLORIDA

A woman living near Lake City called the sheriff's office at approximately 11:00 p.m. to report a "flying saucer." Sheriff deputies were dispatched to investigate and reported seeing a UFO hovering about 500 to 600 feet in the air. Different colored lights were flashing from what looked like a glass dome on the bottom. Florida highway patrol troopers also observed the object before it moved out of sight.

APRIL 19, 1976 — LANSING, MICHIGAN

Numerous witnesses observed a UFO over Lansing at about 9:30 pm. The low level object was described as a large red light about the size of a car with three box-like antennas around it.

Gerald Boda of the police helicopter squad said his craft was over the city when he first spotted the red light in the sky. Boda reported that, "It looked to be at about 2500 feet altitude and at first appeared to be the running light of an aircraft making a slow movement over the city." The object started toward the ground at an angle of about 60 degrees and directly toward the hovering helicopter. Mr. Boda stated that, "As it fell, it seemed to accelerate to a high rate of speed and was last seen just prior to impact somewhere in the downtown area just

west of the Capitol." The crew did not see an impact nor did a search of the area reveal any evidence of a crash. During the sighting, officers in a patrol car contacted the dispatcher regarding, "A red ball of fire falling on the west side of the city." The control tower at Capitol City Airport did not have radar contact with the object.

FEBRUARY 24, 1976—EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Exeter, New Hampshire area has been the site of numerous alleged UFO incidents since the early 1960's. A number of these sightings reported have been at ranges of less than three miles.

On the evening of February 24, 1976 at 9:28 p.m., a woman who desires to remain anonymous because of the nature of the report, was driving her automobile toward her home in Epping, which is eight miles WNW of Exeter. She stopped her vehicle momentarily to check for merging traffic before entering the highway. Suddenly the woman noticed a large strange object hovering low just above the east bound lanes and directly across from her position.

The witness's first impression was that it could be a helicopter with "ski-like landing gear" deployed. She sat motionless in the car observing the large object at a distance of 20-30 feet for approximately two minutes. Suddenly the witness's curiosity developed into fright realizing that she was observing an unknown phenomenon at such close range. Her car motor was still running, and she sped

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EDITORIAL

by Robert F. Creegan, Professor of Philosophy
The State University of New York at Albany

While details might be debated, one must agree that statements in a tabloid newspaper and elsewhere have been somewhat less than complete or accurate, and NICAP is performing a service to the public and to science by insisting upon ordinary moral and scientific integrity. The Walton Case, an alleged UFO abduction of a human being, is far from being the whole cause of my present statement, however, as my participant observation in UFO studies has been disillusioning in some other contexts, also, and my own integrity makes some public statement mandatory.

"Participant observation" is a recognized, if controversial social science technique. One joins a group in order to examine its attitudes and procedures. One may at the same time be sympathetic to the group, but social science study is one reason for participating.

My own position is one of respect for the UFO problem, and I think that many strong, scientifically challenging cases have been documented by NICAP and others. At the same time, while maintaining a positive interest in UFO questions, I have discovered serious weaknesses and errors in the statements and procedures of some UFO research groups.

Some outline of my range of contact may be permitted here. I have conducted UFO interviews at APRO Headquarters, and with the late Dr. James McDonald at the University of Arizona. In Great Britain I have held discussions at The Ministry of Defense, the Royal Geographical Society, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and with amateur groups. In Canada I have visited the Upper Atmosphere Division of the National Research Council. In France I had an interview at the Astrophysics Section of the National Research Center. For about four years I was a member of the Blue Ribbon UFO Panel, sponsored by the tabloid newspaper, The National Enquirer, working with Professor Hynek and the other distinguished members, and with our journalistic friends.

Questions of space permit only the briefest outline of some failings I have

discovered, and much to my chagrin must in all honesty report. First, I noted that in some quarters future types of cases were freely predicted. This need not imply hoax, but suggests at least that the decision as to what types will be given publicity may be based on questions of sensationalism. When the very month of the year in which an abduction may occur is pre-stated, however, the temptation to suspect hoax becomes rather strong. This sort of thing does not occur in official organizations, like most of those named above, and certainly never has NICAP pre-visualized a specific landing case. The same is not true of some amateur groups, nor of some of the mass media.

Secondly, I have heard tapes of many interviews of UFO witnesses. In some cases, the interviewer seems rather to suggest what may be the facts, rather than cautiously awaiting revealing statements by the witnesses.

Third, in some cases alleged experts in special techniques, such as hypnosis or lie detector devices have only the weakest of credentials (or none at all) as experts. Hence the alleged scientific results are dubious, or fraudulent.

Fourthly, the general public has little conception concerning the rather extensive meetings between representatives of the media and alleged detached scientists which may occur prior to the "breaking" of a spectacular case, or during its investigation. The interests of journalism or television have a far heavier impact on the course of study than is imagined. This has been true in such spectacular cases as Delphos, Pascagoula and the Waltons.

Finally, some of the amateur journals, and certainly the tabloid newspapers offer their readers only a selection from the facts that have been discovered. While outright falsehood may be rare (though it does occur) it must be said that propagandistic techniques are freely employed, especially the technique of selecting from among the facts in order to construct an exciting, marketable story.

All of this is most unfortunate for the

scientific reputation of a most worthwhile field of investigation, the UFO field. The errors and fraud "turn some investigators off," and lead them to the premature conclusion that science has little to gain from a vigorous pursuit of UFO facts, and construction of UFO theories.

I may end this statement on a personal note. For several years now I have been conducting a university course, called Borders of Science, and the UFO topic has been by far the largest module in this semester course for advanced undergraduates. It is an acute problem to determine how much information really must be given concerning weakness and fraud in some UFO reporting. Academic integrity most certainly requires that some documented mention be made concerning even the more disgusting facts. Every effort must be made to help the students achieve a balanced view of an important field of study which has been to some extent defaced by moral as well as by methodological faults. One is thankful that NICAP is a strong ally in this struggle to preserve intellectual and moral integrity in the UFO field.

As a consequence of problems mentioned here, the writer resigned from the National Enquirer's Panel in March, 1975. And now, in July 1976, he is asking to have his name removed from the list of Consultants to APRO. These actions require no specific explanation beyond that implicit to the call for integrity in the important and sensitive field of UFO research.

FEEDBACK / Readers write

Congratulations on the fine job pertaining to the Travis Walton case (June, 1976 issue). Thanks for recognizing the fact that your readers are capable of reaching a decision on their own, once they have all the information available.

You have forged a path that the other so-called investigative research organizations should emulate.

R.G.Z.

P.S. Enclosed is a small donation, which I am sure, you can always make use of.

PROJECT BLUE BOOK RECORDS AVAILABLE

The National Archives staff has completed its assigned task of deleting names of people involved in UFO sightings investigated by the Air Force (see UFO INVESTIGATOR, October 1975). The textual records of Project Blue Book became available to the general public on July 12.

The documents from Blue Book have been photographed and are contained on 94 reels of 35mm microfilm. Access to this film is through the National Archives Microfilm Reading Room (room #401) in Washington, D.C. The first roll of microfilm includes a list of contents for all of the rolls and finding aids. Photographs scattered among the textual records have also been filmed separately on the last two rolls of film.

Copies of the microfilm rolls are available at \$12.00 per roll. Orders should be addressed to: PUBLICATION SALES BRANCH (NEPS), National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20408. Orders for the film which contains list of contents is (\$2.00). Photocopies of specific pages are \$0.15/page (minimum of \$2.00). Orders may be placed with the Modern Military Branch (NNMM) at the same address. For information on motion picture film, sound recordings and some still photographs the Audio-visual Archives Division (NNV) should be contacted.

UFOs COAST TO COAST

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toward home. The witness stated that she never looked back until she was about five miles from the observation point. She saw nothing more of the UFO. When she arrived home, the witness woke up her husband. The woman tried to explain her encounter to her husband but by this time all of her emotions gave way and she became "hysterical." Her husband became frightened and concerned because he had never seen his wife behave this way before. He calmed her down enough to find out what had happened. The couple did not know what to do about the unusual experience and they went to bed.

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

May 27, 1976 Houston, Texas

A witness who desires to remain anonymous reported observing an object that he could not identify while driving to work at 9:20 pm. The weather conditions were cloudy which handicapped the witness's visibility. The witness described the object as best he could, by stating that it seemed to resemble the Good Year Blimp because of the geometrical configuration of lights (red, green and blue). The object was sharply outlined and remained at a level flight pattern with no sporadic motions. The speed was estimated to be that of a single wing aircraft. The witness lost sight of the object after it passed behind his moving vehicle.

June 5, 1976 Merced, California

An adult family of three were driving west on California's state highway #140 on a clear starry evening at approximately 11:30 pm. The witnesses noticed a cigar-shaped object in the western sky about 40 degrees above the horizon. The UFO appeared to be hovering and at first glimpse, "Looked as if it were lit, end to end, by a continuous ribbon of light. A red light glowed on the top." The ribbon-like light began to break-up into separate blocks and appeared to be coming from separate square-shaped doors or windows in the craft. These lights then began blinking on and off with no definite pattern. One witness estimated the size of the object to be eight times the diameter of half the moon.

The craft made some erratic motions and at one point appeared to roll over on its end and resembled a wheel with spokes—each spoke appearing to bear a row of yellow lights. Another erratic motion put the craft into its original cigar-shaped looking position.

The witnesses spotted a police officer's car and stopped to inform him of their bizarre experience. He stated that it was probably some type of blimp that has been seen on different occasions. NICAP is presently investigating this possibility.

The witness spent a restless night awaking abruptly in a state of fear.

The next morning the witness was still very upset but could not decide what to do. On the second day, she went in person to the Exeter Police Station to make her report. She was still very nervous and edgy about the incident.

The description of the craft given by the witness was that it was as large as a four room bunaglow. The craft was smooth but not shiny. A dome was affixed to the top of the craft and appeared to be translucent but nothing could be seen inside. The UFO remained absolutely stationary in the sky during the entire sighting.

The evaluation of the case has been classified "significant" in the unknown category. Throughout the investigation, the witness gave an honest account and did see "something" at close range which

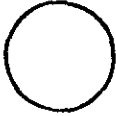




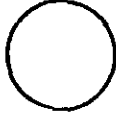









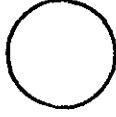


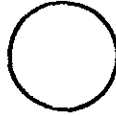




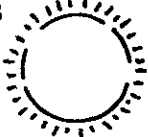






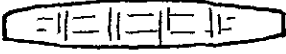

cannot be explained in terms of present day knowledge.

FEBRUARY 19, 1976—Marysville, California

At approximately 7:00 pm, the Sutter county sheriff's office received a call reporting a UFO being observed by two witnesses. Deputy Gerald Teplansky was dispatched to the scene and was able to observe the objects for about five minutes. The deputy stated that he saw "Three red-orange, glowing objects hovering in a triangler formation." He soon saw another similar object "Streak northward across the sky," before all four objects disappeared. Spokesmen from nearby Vandenburg and Beale Air Force Bases reported that neither facility had craft that would fit into the category described.

COMMONLY REPORTED UFO TYPES

NOTE: These drawings are hypothetical constructions, generalized from hundreds of UFO reports. They are intended to indicate basic shapes which have been reported, and are not necessarily completely accurate in every detail. Additional details sometimes reported, such as "portholes," projections, body lights, etc., are not portrayed. The general types shown do represent with reasonable accuracy virtually all UFOs which have been reliably described in any detail. Examples of each type appear in the left-hand column.

UFO SHAPE	BOTTOM VIEW	BOTTOM ANGLE		SIDE VIEW	
1. FLAT DISC		A  oval	B 	A  "lens-shaped"	B  "coin-like"
2. DOMED DISC		A  "hat-shaped"	B 	A  "World War I helmet"	B 
3. SATURN DISC (Double dome)	A 	B  elliptical or "winged oval"	 "diamond-shaped"	 "Saturn-shaped"	
4. HEMISPHERICAL DISC		 "parachute"	 "mushroom" "half moon"		
5. FLATTENED SPHERE				 sometimes with peak	
6. SPHERICAL (Circular from all angles)	A  metallic-appearing ball	ball of glowing light	B 		
7. ELLIPTICAL	 "football" "egg-shaped"				
8. TRIANGULAR			 "tear-drop"		
9. CYLINDRICAL (Rocket-like)	 "cigar-shaped"		10. LIGHT SOURCE ONLY  "star-like" or "planet-like"		