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UFO Researcher: Information Is Available

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Robert Hastings says his interest in UFOs began in 1967 when he was present at an air traffic control tower on Malmstrom Air Force Base, near Great Falls, Mont. Five UFOs were tracked on military radar.

Hastings, an independent UFO researcher, photographer and film maker, lectured Tuesday at New Mexico State University at Carlsbad before about 70 people on his efforts since 1967 to uncover government information on UFOs.

The UFOs he witnessed on military radar at Great Falls hovered over ICBM silos for half an hour and then flew away at an estimated speed of 5,000 mph, far faster than any aircraft known to man.

Hastings joined the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena shortly thereafter to pursue his interest in UFOs. NICAP was founded in 1955 and its effectiveness peaked in the 1950s and '60s, said Hastings. However, the Freedom of Information Act of 1966 was a great boon to UFO researchers in their efforts to gain UFO information from the CIA, the FBI and the U.S. Air Force.

Air Force documents, said Hastings, prove "beyond a reasonable doubt" that UFOs exist.

"It is my opinion that it is simply a question of time before this information comes tumbling out to the public," he said.

Documents on UFOs released from the CIA, FBI and Air Force in the 1970s, said Hastings, are available to any citizen who will write the public affairs divisions of these organizations.

The audience viewed a film, written, directed and narrated by Hastings, in which it was mentioned that a recent Gallup Poll concluded that that 57



Staff Photo by Jay Klee

UFO SPEAKER — Robert Hastings relates experiences

and information about UFOs to a crowd at NMSU-C Tuesday.

percent of adult Americans believe that UFOs are real, and only 27 percent think the objects are imaginary.

On June 14, 1979, Hastings stated, the CIA released a flood of previously secret documents about UFOs — more than 1,000 pages worth. Project Bluebook, the Air Force's much publicized investigation into UFOs, ended officially in 1969.

"The military and government claimed to have no further involvement in the phenomena," Hastings stated, but he added that it was far from the truth.

Documents available to the public since that time reveal that the search for UFOs continued through the National Security Agency, the CIA and the White House.

It is Hastings belief that the

government agencies have been fearful of public panic over UFOs and, consequently, have attempted to downplay reported sightings.

"For nearly 30 years the CIA has secretly conducted a public campaign to convince the public that UFO's are man-made objects or natural phenomena," he said. Some of the tactics the CIA has used, he said, included hiring scientist to "debunk" the UFO theories, by offering natural explanations such as swamp gas.

Disclosures of government information on UFOs have come from active and former military pilots, declassification of government documents under the FIO act, and through law suits, said Hastings.

The film offered a brief history beginning in 1947 of UFO sightings in America.

In April of 1947 a massive wave of sightings were reported over every state in American except Georgia and West Virginia. The majority of sightings were near military rocket test sites and atomic weapon development centers according to military reports.

The Pentagon responded to public alarm by putting out a press release attributing the sightings to small meteors, flattened hail stones, and solar reflections on small clouds, said Hastings.

But a letter to the Pentagon by an Army Air Force General stated in part, "the phenomena is real and not visionary or fictitious."

In a press release Hastings noted, "There's an abundance of hard evidence at this time of an ongoing coverup. I believe the government's policies are very shortsighted to keep the public so totally in the dark regarding seemingly vital information that affects not only Americans but the entire human race."