

FLA

# Airliner crew reports strange lights

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Federal Aviation Administration says it cannot explain strange flashing lights that spooked the crew members of a Japan Air Lines 747 cargo plane as it flew over northern Alaska last month.

"We are not investigating as there is nothing to investigate," Paul Steucke, FAA spokesman in

Anchorage, said Tuesday.

He said the military has been unable — or unwilling — to provide any information to explain the incident. "They're saying nothing," Steucke said.

The incident began at 6:19 p.m. on Nov. 17 as the JAL plane was headed for Anchorage on a flight from Europe, via Iceland, on its way to Tokyo. As the aircraft entered U.S. airspace at the junction

of the Canadian border and the Beaufort Sea, the pilot reported seeing unusual white and yellow flashing lights.

The lights were approximately eight miles away, at the same altitude of 35,000 feet and traveling at the same speed and in the same direction as the JAL plane, the pilot reported.

Steucke said the pilot called the air traffic control center, and

asked if there was any reported traffic in the vicinity. A controller replied that there was no known traffic in the area, but that he had an unidentified blip on his radar.

Steucke said a subsequent review of the radar tapes did not reveal any such object, but that the controller insisted it was there.

As the lights kept pace with the 747, the pilot requested permission to change altitude. As he descended to 31,000 feet, the lights followed "in formation," Steucke said.

The pilot then requested permission to make a 360-degree turn to see if the lights would follow. Upon completing the maneuver, the pilot reported losing contact with the lights.

## UFO inquiry reopened

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Federal Aviation Administration has reopened its inquiry into what happened the night a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 cargo crew reported seeing UFOs over Alaska, an FAA spokesman said Saturday.

FAA investigators interviewed Capt. Kenju Terauchi, the pilot, for a second time Friday and are reviewing radar records from the evening of Nov. 17, when an unexplained blip appeared on radar screens as the JAL crew reported seeing mysterious lights.

"The reason we're exploring it is that it was a violation of airspace," FAA spokesman Paul Steucke said.

and baby were doing fine today, planning to go home to meet older brother Luis Jr., age 9.

Luis Estrada Sr., however, won't be on hand for his son's homecoming. Estrada had tickets to visit his family in Colombia after Christmas — after the time Robert was supposed to make his entrance.

But Robert didn't show, and Linda didn't want her husband to miss his trip, so Luis, 43, got the good news by phone early Thursday.

"He was all excited," Linda said

The second baby born in the county arrived at University of Michigan Hospital, at 12:58 p.m. Jan. 1. The new mother, Yu-jiing Shyu, and son, 6 pounds, 11 ounces, were reported doing fine today.

Robert won't be going home in the traditional blue.

He's in red — a T-shirt from the hospital proclaiming Robert "First one here in the New Year."

DETROIT FREE-PRESS 1/4/87

M. TRUZZI  
VIA  
COUD-F