

US radar monitors jet-hounding UFO

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From Michael White
in Washington

THE US Federal Aviation Administration is not officially investigating the unidentified flying object "two times bigger than an aircraft carrier", which a veteran Japanese pilot insists pursued him for 400 miles above Alaska. "We are not investigating as there is nothing to investigate," says a spokesman,

Unofficially, the position is more complicated, since the mysterious walnut-shaped presence, accompanied by the two smaller walnuts, was not only spotted by Captain Kenju Terauchi, his co-pilot, and crew but by FAA and air force radar in Anchorage — though it has not shown up on the radar tapes. So

On a planet increasingly sophisticated about such things, Captain Terauchi's testimony is certainly unusual. The captain, aged 47, who has been a pilot since his teens and who, the FAA confirms, has no drug or alcohol involvement, says he was heading for Anchorage at the controls of his Japa-

nese Airlines Boeing 747 cargo plane in clear evening weather when he noticed that he had company-lights.

"They were flying parallel and then suddenly approached very close" Captain Terauchi told investigators. Despite the limited vision available from flight 1628's cockpit, he caught a brief glimpse of his guest in silhouette. It was a very big one — "two times bigger than an aircraft carrier," he said through an interpreter.

What separates this incident from most reported to the FAA or the Mutual, Ufo network's hot line in Seguin, Texas, is that the FAA admits picking up radar sightings of the incident — revealed this week — on November 17. The flight controller reported that the object stayed with Flight 1628 for 32 minutes and came as close as five miles.

Captain Terauchi has one explanation. "We were carrying Beaujolais from France to Japan," he revealed. "May be they wanted to drink it."

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