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Radar check fails to back UFO sighting

By Marilyn Adams
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A federal probe of a UFO encounter over Alaska has run out of leads — but UFO buffs remain intrigued.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Tuesday that investigators found no radar recording of a giant object following a Japan Air Lines 747

cargo jet for 500 miles Nov. 17.

The finding means there's no independent evidence of the crew's sighting of a walnut-shaped object the size of two aircraft carriers with wavering, yellow-white lights, traveling with two smaller objects.

Earlier, the agency reported a controller in Anchorage saw two radar images — one for the jet and one for a large ob-

ject the crew said paralleled them for 55 minutes.

FAA investigators interviewed pilot Kenju Terauchi and his copilot in Anchorage. The jet carried French wine and no passengers.

Analysis of the electronic radar record shows both images are the 747 — one from the FAA radar signal and one from the jet's transponder, FAA

spokesman Paul Steucke said.

The Air Force has dismissed a blip on its radar at Elmendorf Air Force Base as "random clutter."

Though the crew is credible, the lack of a radar record "won't make it as strong a case as it was," said  Andrus, director of the National UFO Network in Seguin, Texas. Still, "right now we consider this

case worthy of a lot of work."

Said Richard Haines, a NASA official who researches UFO sightings in his spare time: "This has some interesting dimensions, but it's a typical encounter."

Said Steucke: "We take the crew's sighting seriously. I think they saw what they saw. What the phenomenon is that created it, we don't know."