

UFO center investigates sitings in Dane County

BELLEVILLE (UPI) — The National Center for UFO Studies has begun an investigation into a Belleville patrol officer's report of sighting an unusual series of lights Jan. 15, a center spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday.

Officer Glen Karmar reported seeing a line of bright red, blue and white lights, with the blue light in the middle shining brighter than the others, at 8:30 p.m. and then again shortly before 3 a.m., said Police Chief Jack Pace.

The sighting occurred just west of the city limits in a rural area near the Dane-Green County line, he said.

"Officer Karmar is not an idiot, like some of the people calling him now are implying. As a police officer, I see unusual things around — lights and things — all the time that can't be explained. He had his neighbor participating in a ride-along program with him at the time and the sighting was con-

firmed," Pace said.

A spokeswoman for the Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill., said Karmar and his neighbor, Jeff Fureth, would meet with center investigators Tuesday.

Don Schmitt, a center investigator from Milwaukee, is coordinating the investigation.

"Officer Karmar's sighting was confirmed by a report from Middleton, a sighting by Green and Dane county officers. Something was there. We are particularly interested that the Belleville dispatcher called the Aurora (Ill.) Federal Aviation Administration and they confirmed there was a target or object, there at the time," Schmitt said.

"The operator said the target had no transponder — a device that emits a radar beam to enable the tower to track. Now that is not unusual because some of the smaller commercial aircraft do not have

them," Schmitt said.

He said he is also looking into a report by a Monticello woman that she saw a fire in the same area as the lights, but no fire site was ever discovered.

"What we'll do is take all the reports and try to coordinate some kind of exact area where the lights were seen. The problem with nocturnal light sightings is that there is no perspective, so it is hard to tell a height or size," he said.

Karmar did report seeing a telephone pole near the lights and he did describe the proximity of the lights, Schmitt said.

Schmitt said he is reviewing about 11 reports of unusual objects or lights in Wisconsin, most which came from Kenosha and Waukesha counties.

"The next step in the Belleville investigation is to get all of our reports together and then visit the site," Schmitt said.