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NORAD:

We don't try to explain unexplained phenomena

The report of unidentified sightings in Little River County along with the photos published last month were reviewed by NORAD near Colorado Springs, Colo., and was summarized by a spokesman for the agency. "We don't try to explain unexplained phenomena."

After reviewing the accounts of the sightings and the photos along with the information concerning the photos with times, dates and locations, Capt. Thomas Niemann said, "It's terribly fascinating, I'm afraid I'm not having any luck with the receptiveness of people at this end in terms of what to do with it."

Niemann is stationed at the U.S. Space Command of NORAD (North American Air Defense Command) at Peterson Air Force Base.

The photos had previously been reviewed by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock planetaryarium who recommended NORAD.

Niemann was asked if NORAD was able to identify the aircrafts as military and he said "no" with an explanation. "See, the NORAD sensors are oriented toward the ocean and... away from the coast line and not internally."

In other words, your best bet was the FFA (Federal Aviation Administration) and when they couldn't help, most of our correlation would be things entering what we call our air defense identification zone around the United States. ...

In other words, they say right now, in terms of NORAD sensor capabilities and correlating against

our records, we can't correlate it," said Capt. Niemann.

"We can't tell you it was a military aircraft and we don't necessarily monitor any testing and evaluation that's going on by the other U.S. agencies, be they civilian or military, and since it was happening internally," he said.

Niemann said he was attempting to locate an agency in Washington, DC., called NICAP (National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena). Niemann contacted the newspaper Wednesday (Feb. 24) saying he found the agency no longer exists.

"I'll be perfectly honest with you the biggest problem I'm having is the fact that in 1969 the United States Air Force abandoned what they call Project Blde Book. And what this does has the very familiar scent of a UFO. And, consequently I'm running into resistance from people pursuing it," said Niemann. The Blue Book project allowed the U.S. Air Force to investigate, but was shut down after 20 years.

In questioning, the newspaper asked again if the object might be military. Niemann said, "No, they were rather tight-lipped about it. Just because the official position now is that we don't try to explain unexplained phenomena. Does that make sense? I had some folks trying to help... and I'm afraid we just ran into some dead ends."

"I was hoping to put some of your concern and confusion to rest, but I'm afraid to this point I haven't

had any success in doing so," he said.

The Little River News contacted Goddard Space Flight Center of NASA in Greenbelt, Md., near Washington, D.C., who agreed to review the photos for possible computer enhancement. Niemann said the agency would be the next "best step" within the system.

And random sightings have continued in the area.

James Paul "Bicycle" Jones of Foreman said prior to Monday night, Feb. 22, "I hadn't paid a lot of attention to this." But as he and his wife were traveling north on Highway 41 toward Foreman around 10:15 p.m., both saw a light Jones described as "huge, much brighter than an automobile or electrical light. It was a tremendous light going on and off."

The Joneses were driving between the bayou bridge north of Red River and the Royal Church when they noticed the light to their right or to the east in direction of the REA substation and pulled to the side of the road to watch.

Jones said the light was going on and off and appeared to be around three corners of a mile from them at tree-top level. It moved across the field and everytime the brilliant white light went out, he said they could see an orange glow below it which disappeared when the white light came back on.

They watched the light for about 16 minutes until it went out completely.