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NEW THEORY OVER STRANGE SIGHTINGS**Were the UFOs on a dark rendezvous?**

EXPERTS probing mystery UFO sightings in the skies above Stafford have hit upon a new theory.

The British UFO Research Association has always claimed that the flashing triangular shapes, witnessed on many occasions during the summer months were top secret American Stealth fighter planes.

Now it believes that several jets are now rendezvousing in the night sky on mid air refuelling exercises - and that is the real reason why so many people are seeing what they believe are UFOs.

BUFORA, which has dealt with 1,000 sightings in the last 15 months, reveals that there are remarkable similarities between what happened in Stafford and what took place in the sky above Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire last December.

"There is every reason to wonder if the lights were on several aircraft that were fly-

ing much higher than believed and only seemed low because the entire retinue was enormous and misinterpreted as belonging to just one aircraft," said Jenny Randles, director of investigations at BUFORA.

"In that case this would be several jets and at least one rumbling tanker in a mid air refuelling exercise, probably from the US Air Force at a base in southern England. I suspect this might well have been the case," she added.

BUFORA works on the premise that nine out of ten UFO sightings have a conventional explanation and since the first sightings has always claimed that the unusual lights and shapes were in fact secret flights of military aircraft over Britain.

The first sightings came in May and June but the height of activity in the skies came in July when there were three separate reports and David Myatt from Church Eaton

stood underneath an object for 15 minutes.

Flashing orange, red and blue lights and silent movement were common to most sightings which continued until September when a further sighting was reported at Cannock Chase which according to BUFORA is 'notorious' for them.

Stafford MP Bill Cash collated all the information and put the strange sightings to

Defence Minister Roger Freeman for official investigation. All he came up with was that they were probably due to an increase in activity of aircraft waiting to land at Birmingham Airport.

Mr Cash described that explanation as 'laughable' but is not going to be put off and is still keen to hear of any other sightings.

"It is like any other inquiry, you have to take it in steps," said the MP.