

# Were those UFOs or aircraft?

WYTHEVILLE (UPI) — Many residents say some of the 3,000 unidentified flying objects seen over Wythe County since 1987 were probably military aircraft, but some people at a UFO conference held in Wytheville over the weekend think they may have been something else.

The conference was called to try to determine what has been seen over this rural, mountainous county of 26,000 about 75 miles southwest of Roanoke.

The 3,000 sightings have made Wythe County the UFO capital of the world, said conference organizer Danny Gordon, who said he has seen unidentified flying objects 43 times, including one that paced his car at 25 mph.

The sightings began in October 1987 and during the next few weeks dozens more were reported.

The mystery appeared to be solved when a technical sergeant with the Tennessee Air National Guard said the people in Wytheville had been seeing in-air refueling of planes on training flights.

But a skeptical Gordon said that when he called a base commander to confirm that report, the officer told him the planes do not refuel below 18,000 feet and that what people saw could not have been his planes.

Gordon does not doubt that some of the UFOs were military planes refueling, but that doesn't answer all

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## Were those UFOs over mountains?

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the questions, he said at the conference Saturday.

Another participant said he saw a UFO in October 1988.

"We watched this flying object coming toward us," said Roger Hall, 50, who makes parts for sawmill equipment. "It was a large, silent thing. We stood there and watched it fly by. It was less than 1,000 feet off the ground and maybe 1,500 feet out, and it wasn't making any noise."

Hall, who is a pilot and a friend of Gordon, said it was unlike anything he had ever seen before.

The conference, which was held at Wytheville Community College and attended by about 100 people, is the last Gordon will hold "unless we have a landing or something," he said.

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