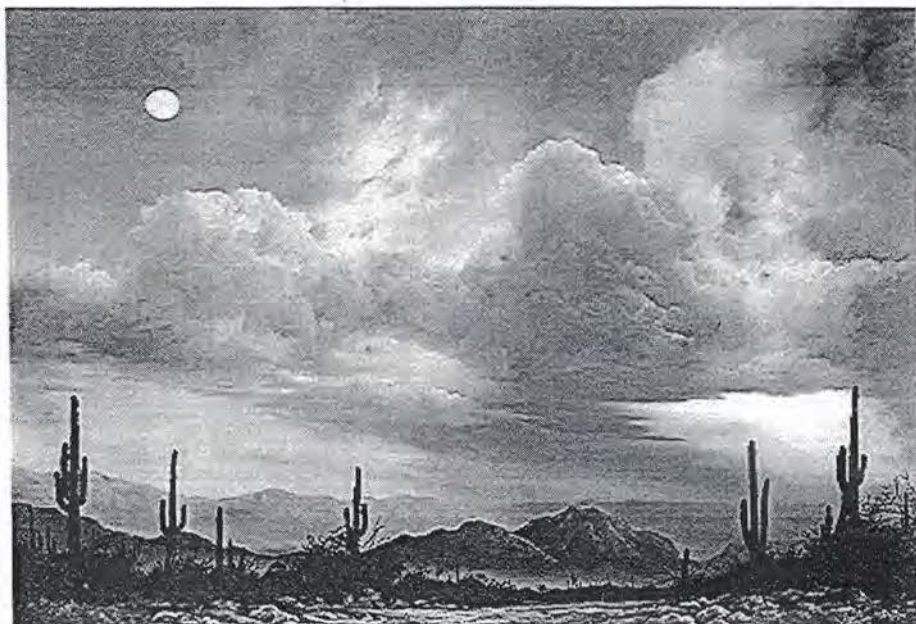


# MUFON

## Mutual UFO Network

### Arizona Chapter

# April 2001



MUFON'S Mission is the Systematic Collection and Analysis of UFO Data with the Ultimate Goal of Learning the Origin and Nature of the UFO Phenomenon

Vol. 10 #4

Visit the new MUFON AZ web site at <http://www.mufonarizona.org>

<b>Judy Varns</b> State Director 602/504-8773	<b>George Parks</b> Assistant State Dir. 520/742-6651	<b>Jason Ingraham</b> Maricopa Co. Sect. Dir. 602/866-2245	<b>Dr. Ruth Hover</b> Experiencer Suppt. Group 480/837-0446	<b>Ken Kerber</b> Pinal Co. Sect. Dir. 520/797-2157	<b>Mike Hayes</b> Mohave Co. Sec. Dir. 520/692-1233
<b>George Parks</b> Pima Co. Sec. Dir. 520/742-6651	<b>Richard King</b> Yuma Co. Sec. Dir. 520/747-7787	<b>Bill Hassel</b> Yavapai Co. Sec. Dir. 520-204-1463	<b>Tom Page</b> Coconino Co. Sec. Dir. 520-774-9379	<b>Teri Acton</b> Newsletter Producer 480/941-1226	

## Directors Message

Mufon has made many changes over the last few months! We have a new State Director - Judy Varns. We have a new Maricopa County Section Director - Jason Ingraham. We have made changes to our newsletter - printing once every two months but at least 14 pages long stuffed with sighting reports and investigators reports! We have made a change in our meeting place - the auditorium at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library at 3839 Civic Center near Osborn and Scottsdale Rd. It is nice to get out from under the eyes and conditional requirements of the Armory. We have made changes in our Mufon web site - [www.Mufonarizona.org](http://www.Mufonarizona.org). Jason Ingraham has done a great job on the web site. This web site will inform the public to Mufon meeting events in Phoenix, Sedona Tucson, Yuma County and Pinal County. It gives them direction to make sighting reports, how to get in touch with a Director, gives a list of speakers at our meetings, how to subscribe to the International and Arizona newsletters, past meeting videos and audio cassettes available and links to other web sites! All this just by logging on to [Mufonarizona.org](http://Mufonarizona.org)!

Our thanks go out to Bob Sylvester as past State Director and Jim Kelly as past Maricopa County Section Director. Our applause goes to them for their dedicated hard work at bringing Mufon-Az up to where it is today. Thank you both for all that you have done.

Some of us have visited the Tucson meetings and the Sedona meetings. Both were great. They have also in turn come to our meetings. This is what we like to see, a partnered relationship with all the Mufon members within the state.

Investigators meetings are still going on each month! This is very important since this is what Mufon is really about. Sightings have been coming our way and have been passed along to various investigators. Look for some of these sighting reports in our newsletter!

For you that are interested in finding out the truth, we welcome you to come on board and become an investigator.

**Judy Varns**  
State Director

## Directions to the Scottsdale Civic Center Library Auditorium

North on Scottsdale Rd. to Osborn Rd. Turn right on Osborn Rd. to Drinkwater Blvd. Left on Drinkwater Blvd for about a block until you see the above ground parking garage that leads into the Library. If you go past 2nd street, you have gone too far.

## MUFON AZ Meeting Information

**Pima County Chapter:** Meetings held at **Wilmot Library**, 530 N. Wilmot, Tucson. Call George Parks for more information 520/742-6651

**Pinal County Chapter:** Contact Ken Kerber for more information 520/797-2157

**Yuma County Chapter:** Meetings are quarterly. Call Richard King for more information 520/747-7787

**Maricopa County Chapter:** Meetings held every other month. See enclosed flyer for details.

**Experiencer's Meeting:** For information, call Dr. Ruth Hover at 480/837-0446

## Classified Ads

Advertise in the MUFON AZ Newsletter! Ads up to three lines long are \$5.00; business card-sized ads are \$10.00 (we can reproduce your business card in the ad). Call Jim Kelly at (480) 945-5582 for prices on larger ads. Submit your ad and payment by the first of the month to have it in that month's newsletter issue.

## Article Submission

If you have any articles or letters you would like to submit for the newsletter, please call Teri Acton at (480) 941-1226. Suggestions/articles can also be e-mailed to [tlacton@aol.com](mailto:tlacton@aol.com). Your ideas and comments are welcomed and appreciated!

## MUFON Membership Badges

Orders are being taken for your MUFON Membership Badges. These are the 1-3" x 3" blue badges with 3 lines and white print listing your name on the first line, "Arizona MUFON" on the second line, and a title or phrase such as "The Truth is Out There" on the third line. The cost is \$5.00 each, unless we have enough orders to get a price break, then they will be less. See the sign-up sheet in the front lobby at each meeting, or you can fax your order to (602) 837-0094. You may also mail your order to Ruth and Harry Hover, 16714 E. Gunsight #155, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. For more information, please call the Hovers at (480) 837-0446.

## MUFON Meeting Video Tapes Now Available

We now have video tapes for sale of some of our past meetings! Please contact Chris at Argo Productions at 1-800-576-2745. The following programs can be purchased:

Dr. Nick Begich (July 28, 2000 meeting) - \$10.00  
Don Ecker (October 25, 2000 meeting) \$15.00  
Stanton Friedman (November 15, 2000) \$20.00

Order forms will be available at all future meetings!

*Bufo Calvin lists TV programs of UFO & related subjects, which we try to pass along in this newsletter when we receive them in time. If you would like to receive them from Bufo Calvin directly via e-mail, e-mail him at [BufoCalvin@aol.com](mailto:BufoCalvin@aol.com) and ask him to send you the list.*

## On the Radio

Check local listings for programming changes

**Coast to Coast with Art Bell, 55 KFYI, 10:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 1:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.**

**Dreamland with Whitley Strieber, 55 KFYI, 8:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Sunday.**

**Mysteries Around Us with Frank Baranowski, 620 KTAR, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 p.m. - Midnight.**

## On Television

Check local listings for programming changes

**Roswell Monday 8:00 p.m. WB Channel 6 (cable) or Channel 61 (antenna).**

**X-Files Sunday 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m., Fox Channel 10 (cable and antenna); Monday through Friday 7:00 p.m. FX (cable).**

## Field Investigator Classes to be Held

The Phoenix chapter of Mufon Arizona will be holding Field Investigator classes starting sometime in July. If you have an interest in becoming a field investigator for Mufon please call Jason at 602-866-2245, or e-mail me at [Mufonjason@mufonarizona.org](mailto:Mufonjason@mufonarizona.org). All interested must be a member of Mufon International and signed up as Field Investigator Trainee. International membership forms are available at all meetings, or you can get one online at [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com). Mufon Field Investigator Manuals are also available for \$25.00 from Mufon International. Thank you, and hope to see you in July.

Jason Ingraham

Maricopa County Section Director

### *Special Announcement!*

## WORLD-WIDE DECLARATION ABOUT

### **"WORLD U F O DAY"**

#### EXTREMELY IMPORTANT WORLD-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENT

**TO ALL COLLEAGUES, U F O  
ORGANIZATIONS, RESEARCHERS,  
WRITERS, SCIENTISTS and to ALL U F  
O ENTHUSIASTS and TRUTH SEEKERS  
AROUND THE GLOBE, ABOUT  
ARRANGING**

### **"WORLD U F O DAY" EACH YEAR!**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This is Haktan Akdogan, I am the founder and chairman of "Sirius UFO Space Sciences Research Center" & "SIRIUS PUBLISHING House" located in Istanbul Turkey.. I would like to share with you a very important project; arranging together "World U F O Day" each year of July 2nd ( We thought the date of the Roswell incident would be the best day to celebrate the "World U F O Day" because it is the most known and best documented incident in modern times). We think that the celebration of such an important phenomenon at the same very day (July 2nd) in so many different countries and by the participation of millions of people worldwide will bring public and

media awareness and interest to the highest level that it deserves.

This will help tremendously for the people of Earth to know more and to become conscious about the "UFO Reality" which is so important for the evolution of mankind and the planet.

#### WHAT WE MUST DO:

1)THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT U F O DISCLOSURE MOVEMENT and in this moment many people AROUND THE WORLD have already started supporting the "World U F O Day, July 2<sup>nd</sup>". Please help to circulate the material. Use your modem, web sites, fax or write letters. Talk to colleagues, friends and relatives. Send the " World U F O Day " Declaration to your local and National institutions or individuals who have at least some interest in treating these items seriously. Please use the various capabilities you have for informing the public in your area and country to get to know the "World U F O Day, July 2<sup>nd</sup>".

2) Second step is, to send the "World U F O Day" Declaration to your local, national, and international media and networks. Let's spread this important campaign worldwide, to all the TV stations, news compaines, radio stations, newspapers, magazines, internet news portals, etc...around the world.

3) Then, during the day of 2nd July (starting this year) peaceful demonstrations and events should be held worldwide to demand world governments tell the people of the Earth the truth! In every country and every state and city around the globe, all the U F O organizations, researchers, scientists, U F O enthusiasts and truth seekers around the globe...we should all organize peaceful marches and events, maybe even in front of official buildings in order to put on more pressure to end the U F O secrecy and cover-up which has been going on for more than 50 years...this will draw all the public and media attention to the "U F O" phenomenon. This way we'll have a very effective world-wide U F O reality campaign which will procure people around the world know the truth about this reality.

It is time to show that everywhere around the globe many people seriously and scientifically work on the exploration of U F Os AND have interest in such investigations. If the people of the countries in this world realize that their scientists and many other serious individuals of all social classes ARE dealing with the investigation of the world-wide repeatedly seen U F O'S and the related phenomena since a long time, they can start to place confidence in the reality that is behind these IMPORTANT phenomena.



WE SHOULD ALL together concentrate OUR efforts on one goal: to bring the truth about the U F O PHENOMENON to light TOGETHER! It is knowledge of profound importance to which all people throughout the world should have an inalienable right to know the truth about this IMPORTANT issue and it is time to put an end to the controversy surrounding it, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THIS IS SO IMPORTANT for the consciousness of mankind and TO ACHIEVE PEACE ON EARTH AND for the development of our global society. THE PLANET HAS COME TO A CRUCIAL TIME.

I BELIEVE THAT THE DISCLOSURE OF "U F O REALITY" BY THE GOVERNMENTS WORLD-WIDE IS THE ONLY CHANCE WE HAVE LEFT TO ACHIEVE PEACE ON EARTH AND TO REALIZE WE ARE ALL HERE TOGETHER AS EARTHLINGS AND AS THE EARTH FAMILY...

ALL ORGANIZATIONS, UFO RESEARCHERS AND BELIEVERS AROUND THE WORLD, WE SHOULD ALL BAND TOGETHER TO BECOME ONE CLEAR LOUD VOICE IN JULY 2ND 2001 AT THE "WORLD U F O DAY".

SO PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD AND GET INVOLVED.

WE ARE HOPING FOR YOUR INPUT AND SUPPORT.

MAY TRUTH & PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH!

**Haktan Akdogan**

**Founder and Chairman**

**Sirius UFO Space Sciences Research Center &**

**Sirius Publishing House**

**Telephone: 90-216-369 92 48 or 369 92 52**

**Fax: 90-216-369 92 52**

**Email: ufotr@netone.com.tr**

**Address: 18 Mart Sk, No:9, C:Blok, D:15, Ciftehavuzlar-Istanbul TURKEY**

## **Current UFO Cases and Sightings**

**Courtesy of  
National UFO Reporting Center**

**Phoenix, Arizona**

**3/25/01**

**Strangely silent object streaks across sky in  
desert southwest...**

"At about 3:30am (MST) I let my dog out back, then I went into the house to put a slice of pizza in the microwave. As the pizza was warming I went outside to join my dog, and when I walked outside I noticed something moving across the sky. At first I was confused by what I was watching, because I couldn't quite make out its shape. At first it appeared to look round, kind of saucer shaped, then as it moved it looked almost cigar shaped. Suddenly after moving about three quarters of the way across the sky its shape appeared more chevron like. I should note that the backyard is on the north side of our property, so I was looking at this facing north. There was this strange silence to everything as the object flew across the sky, almost as if the object was sucking in the sound like a vacuum as it went by. The object had no lights, or light pattern on it, yet it was somewhat luminous. It seemed to be white, almost silver in color. The object flew from east to the southwest at about a 60-degree angle from the horizon, and that's the opposite direction of the flight pattern of the commercial air traffic in the area. It should also be noted that I live approximately two and a half miles from Sky Harbor Intl Airport, so I know the flight patterns of the aircraft in the night sky. This object appeared to be rather large, and to be flying at about 8,000 to 10,000 feet in altitude. It swept across the sky at a speed at least 3 to 4 times faster than anything else in the sky. The object disappeared into the night sky to the south, southwest as fast as it had appeared in the east. The whole time of the sighting couldn't have been more than 30 seconds. After losing sight of the object I could once again hear the sounds of the other objects in the sky."

**Bouse, Arizona**

**4/1/01**

**Three very bright pulsating amber lights in a  
line appear again in SSW over Plomosa  
Mt. Range between Bouse/Quartzsite Arizona...**

"About 12:35AM MST, in the SSW over the Plomosa Mountain Range (10-12miles away) between Bouse and Quartzsite AZ, the bright pulsating formation of lights appeared again tonight. I just came out of my office and spotted them in the distance...then called my husband to look. This time they were more in line rather

than a triangle at first. They hovered or moved very slowly...turned slightly and faded out into the distance over the Plomosa Mountain range. I rushed back into the office and got my 7x50s and 20x50s binoculars to watch them with. Again these were extremely bright pulsating amber lights with on other color lights. After they first disappeared, I watched the mountaintops for any "glow" or trace of them if they reappeared. They did briefly and were a bit fainter as if further away...this time as an elongated triangle. My husband got out his video camera hoping to catch them on film but was not able to. The event lasted roughly 15 minutes or so."

((NUFORC Note: Same witnesses as on 28MR01 in the same town. Good witnesses. PD))

### **Prescott, Arizona**

**3/25/01**

### **Really large white object moving west to east at very high altitude...**

"On March 25, 2001, my wife and I were driving back to our homes from Prescott with our sunroof wide open. The weather had a slight ground breeze and there was a slight haze in various areas of the skies due to airplane exhaust. Other than that the view was well over 250 miles. I was sitting in the passenger seat and was commenting on the streaks of airplane contrails that were going east to west and vice-versa. I noticed a large 767 that was flying at about 40,000 ft going west to east just cross over and above a 737 going from east to west and was commenting about that also. Then I noticed a larger than the 767 white object appearing to be stationary in the sky directly overhead. I asked my wife to pull over and we observed the object for about 5 minutes as it slowly crawled across the sky at an estimated altitude of approx 50,000 to 60,000 ft. It was not shining and was pure white. It initially appeared to have small stubby like wings coming from the oval body but that was lost as the item was moving straight easterly from us. I noted the time of initial sighting @ 1105hrs and we were stopped by the side of the road for exactly 5 minutes watching the object. We were stopped only 500 yards from the Prescott Airport (small planes only). There is also a FAA VFR station approximately 10 miles NW of the airport. There were a lot of commercial flights going east to west and vice-versa but those plane configurations were noticeable and identifiable. I asked that we start driving North on Hwy 89 back to our homes at 1106 hrs and I watched the object as we progressed northward. By the one-mile mark past were we had stopped previously, the object not only had continued easterly but also had shifted to southerly viewpoint. That told me that the object was semi-stationary and since we were the ones moving that explained the object appearing to be more in the southern view. As we continued to drive north to our home, hoping to get a camera, the object was lost above one of the haze

clouds from the lower flying aircraft. I attempted to continue to track the projected course of the object but at approximately 1111 hrs I could no longer see any objects even in the clear patches."

## **Special Report from The National UFO Reporting Center**

**March 13, 2001** - *The fourth anniversary of the Phoenix lights case saw another impressive sighting, this time over the Pacific Northwest. Observers from Seattle to Vancouver Island, BC reported a brilliant object that exhibited speed and course changes as it sped to the North. Following is the National UFO Reporting Center report:*

### **PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF BIZARRE FIREBALL WITNESSED OVER PUGET SOUND AND BRITISH COLUMBIA (VANCOUVER ISLAND) AT APPROXIMATELY 2351 HRS. (PACIFIC) ON TUESDAY NIGHT, MARCH 13, 2001.**

The National UFO Reporting has received reports from seven witnesses regarding a dramatic "fireball" event that reportedly occurred over Puget Sound at approximately 2351 hrs. (Pacific) on Tuesday night, March 13, 2001.

The first report was received via telephone at 0026 hrs., Wednesday morning, March 14, from three young men who were standing outside in the Skyway neighborhood of Seattle, located just a mile north of the Southgate Shopping Mall on Interstate 5, when they saw the object. They reported having witnessed a dramatically bright fireball, either yellow or slightly orange in color, and approximately 1/10th the (perceived) diameter of a full moon, streak from south to north in the western sky in seemingly level flight, i.e. parallel to the western horizon. Their distinct impression was that the object was maneuvering and "jinking," making at least one distinct turn to its left, as it streaked from their left to right as they faced Puget Sound to the west. Also, at least one of these three witnesses had the distinct impression that the object momentarily slowed, and then accelerated dramatically, before streaking to the north and disappearing from their sight within an estimated 5-10 seconds.

One of the three observers is a former member of the military, reportedly having worked as an aviation mechanic in the U. S. Navy, and he considers himself to be qualified to identify aircraft. He asserted to NUFORC that what he had just witnessed was not a conventional aircraft, even though it was distinctly maneuvering as it streaked to the north just above the horizon. (Written reports from these three witnesses are pending at the time of this writing.)

A fourth, quite credible witness was received from a gentleman who, at the time of the event, was sitting in his hot tub at his residence in the Normandy Park neighborhood of Seattle, located just one or two miles west of SeaTac Airport. The witness reports that he witnessed a dramatically bright fireball, distinctly yellow in color, streak horizontally from his left to right as he faced Puget Sound to the west. A long-time employee in the aviation industry, the witness estimated that the object's velocity must have at least 1,000 knots, or probably considerably higher than that, based on the high (angular) velocity with which the object passed across the clear night sky. The witness reports: "I saw a very fast moving light heading due north along Puget Sound at approximately 11:30 PM March 13 2001. Approximately 11:30 PM, looking due west from Normandy Park, just south of Seattle I saw a very fast moving light heading due north right over Puget Sound, it was low against the horizon and my guess is 5000-8000 ft high. I am in the Air and Ocean Freight business and have worked around Sea-Tac Airport for 25 + years. This was not a commercial Aircraft, it was moving way to fast and there was a single light, no blinkers. If I was to guess I would say it was moving at close to 1000 Knots, was too low to be a satellite and made no noise whatsoever." (NUFORC note: We spoke with this witness at length over the telephone, and we found him to be an unusually credible witness. He is very experienced at looking at, and identifying aircraft, and he was adamant that what he saw was not a conventional aircraft. He mentioned that the time he first indicated was only an estimate. We have corrected the time to what we feel is a more accurate time for the incident. PD).

A fifth witness, a young, college-educated, woman, was standing on the porch of her residence in West Seattle, about to begin writing in her journal. Out of the corner of her eye, she witnessed a small, though noticeably bright light, suddenly appear in the clear, cloudless night sky almost due west of her position, approximately 25-35 degrees above the horizontal plane. Almost instantly, the light grew into a dramatically bright, yellowish orange light, and it streaked from her left to right, passing through approximately 75-80 degrees of arc in approximately 10-15 seconds. She was able to distinguish 3-4 individual lights on the object, and it appeared to her to have some kind of distinct shape. The witness reports: "My girlfriend works nights and leaves our West Seattle home at about 11:45 each weeknight. After she leaves, I often go out on the back porch to write in my journal. The porch faces west, overlooking Blake and Vashon Islands and Puget Sound. I had just stepped out on the porch and was admiring the clear night sky when an

object traveling very, very fast crossed from the south to the north. It caught my eye because I thought it was a shooting star, but then I realized that it was flying within earth's atmosphere. Moreover, it had least 3 distinguishable bright orange lights in an oblong formation. It was too dark for me to make out the outline of the vessel itself. It flew at about the height on the horizon as a plane would, but was totally silent and at about 10 times faster -- it took about 10 seconds for it to cross the sky. To reconfirm my thought that it could not possibly be a plane that had just passed, moments later one in fact did fly by (presumably coming from SeaTac airport as they often do), and I could make out its shape, hear it clearly, and it was much slower than what I had just seen. I took out my journal and wrote: "3/13/01: It's dark and I can't see to write well. I just saw something cruise through the night sky. It had orange lights and was very, very fast and completely silent. A plane just flew by, too, but slower - much slower - and I could hear it pass. It must have been a satellite but it seemed so close." (NUFORC Note: We spoke with this witness, and believe the witness is an excellent source of objective information. Very lucid, very eloquent, and a very clear on the object that was observed. It is noteworthy that this report strongly suggests that there were multiple, individual lights on this object. PD)

The next witness who reported sighting apparently the same object was sitting on the edge of his bed, looking out a west-facing bedroom window, in his home in the Shoreline/Richmond Beach neighborhood of Seattle. His house is situated just 100 yards from the shoreline of Puget Sound. He reports witnessing a bright yellow or orange light streaking from his left to right, apparently in generally horizontal flight. He emphasized how rapidly the object was moving across the sky to the north. The witness reports: "Out of the corner of my eye I first noticed a bright orange object, across Puget Sound, traveling west to east at a very high speed. It appeared just above the horizon and flew at a very constant speed and passed my line of vision to the north of me. It was bright in the center and seemed to appear dimmer as it radiated out, and then brighter on its edge. It did not streak across the sky like meteors I have seen. It did not leave a trail, smoke or sparks and it seemed to travel parallel to land. It was much larger than a star, but appeared about a tenth the size of a full moon. Since it did not change in size or shape as it moved, I assume it must have been very high in the sky. I heard no sound, and I often do from aircraft flying in the area. I ran downstairs from my bedroom to try to catch sight of anything on the other side of my house and saw nothing. I then noted the time on the clock on the wall as being 11:52 PM."

Other witnesses, located in Victoria and Ladysmith, British Columbia, on the southern tip and eastern shore of Vancouver Island, report witnessing what we presume to have been the same object. However, their reports apparently have the object going east, which suggests that the object may have altered its ground track. Their written reports will be posted when they arrive at NUFORC.

An object is reported to have been photographed with a sky-camera, located in British Columbia and maintained by a group of astronomers there, at 2345 hrs. (Pacific) on March 13. It may be the same object that was reported by the above witnesses. Another professional group reported a sighting at 2350 hrs. which may also be a sighting of the same object.

## **CONFIRMED: Calama (Chile) UFO was MIR Stratospheric Balloon** From UFOcity.com

March 12, 2001 - In mid-February of this year the news media covered the sighting of a luminous object, which was seen by aeronautical personnel of Calama's El Loa aerodrome and two commercial flight aircrews. The luminous object seen by these aeronautical witnesses on February 16 at around 10:45 local time was described as circular, very shiny and apparently suspended over the aerodrome at a considerable height, and then showing movement toward the west.

According to these witnesses, the observation lasted approximately 30 minutes. The analysis of all the background information collected by the Comité de Estudios de Fenómenos Aéreos Anómalos (CEFAA) revealed that on the previous day, February 15, a MIR (Montgolfière Infrarouge) stratospheric balloon was launched from the locality of Bauru, Brazil as part of the MIR 2000/2001 program being developed by CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), a dependency of France's CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) with the support of Brazilian universities.

The MIR balloon is heated by solar radiation by day and by terrestrial infrared radiation at night. It is made of a special polyester blend 12 microns thick and has an overall volume of 40,000 m<sup>3</sup> and a diameter of over 100 meters. It can carry a 60 Kg. payload and its upper section is coated with a thin layer of aluminum; its lower section is transparent, allowing it to "capture" energy flows rising from the earth. It operates at altitudes in excess of 30 Km. during the day and between 23 and 18 km. at night. Its flight has a duration of between two and three weeks, depending on its altitude and cloud cover. The program's goal is to study special plasmas at the border between the magnetosphere and the ionosphere during the magnetic sub-storm period (Interboa Experiment).

The MIR balloon's trajectory is monitored by a special automatic telecommunications system on the HF band known as "Chacal" (jackal) and by the INMARSAT satellite.

The information furnished by CNES to CEFAA today notes that the fourth MIR balloon launched at February 15, was monitored at 13:38 UTC (10:38 hours local time) over the Calama Sector at an altitude 34,700 meters and a speed of approximately 200 km/hr. --information which coincides with the background information gathered by CEFAA earlier.

## **Sen. John Glenn's Amazing Statement on TVs 'Fraser'** From UFOcity.com

*Verbatim Transcript of Senator John Glenn on  
"Fraser" Tuesday, March 6, 2001:*

"Back in those glory days, I was very uncomfortable when they asked us to say things we didn't want to say and deny other things. Some people asked, you know, were you alone out there? We never gave the real answer, and yet we see things out there, strange things, but we know what we saw out there. And we couldn't really say anything. The bosses were really afraid of this, they were afraid of the War of the Worlds type stuff, and about panic in the streets. So, we had to keep quiet. And now we only see these things in our nightmares or maybe in the movies, and some of them are pretty close to being the truth." The entire plot of the show was designed to support John Glenn's appearance. Fraser was jealous of John Glenn and felt competitive about sharing airtime on the radio. In the pivotal scene, Fraser and a female character were arguing with each other inside of an isolated sound room while Glenn faced the camera directly and delivered the above soliloquy. The entire scene had a very strange, non-comedic feeling and seemed to have nothing to do with what the rest of the show was about.

After Glenn finished delivering the speech, he returned to the control room where Fraser and the woman were arguing. At this point he realizes that he was being taped and says that he needs to take the tape; he was unaware that he was being recorded and this information "can't get out to the public."

Thus, it appears that public comedy -- things the common people are relating to -- is one of the main vehicles through which the disclosure is finally being realized.

## MISSING LEGEND

### Sea search planned for Earhart's lost plane in effort to solve 64-year-old mystery

By **AARON DAVIS**  
The San Jose Mercury News

March 18, 2001

Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared without a trace about 1,700 miles southwest of Hawaii on what was supposed to be the second-to-last leg of her around-the-world journey.

Exactly 64 years to the day after Amelia Earhart first took off from the Bay Area attempting to fly around the world, about 400 people turned out on Saturday in San Carlos to hear that a team plans to locate her ill-fated plane somewhere in the Pacific Ocean.

If successful, the multimillion-dollar expedition would rival the recent discoveries of the Titanic and the Liberty Bell 7 space capsule.

But unlike those high-profile stories where the sinking was witnessed by hundreds of people, locating the plane Earhart vanished in over the Pacific Ocean on July 2, 1937, would lay to rest decades of imaginative myths about what happened to the famed aviator.

And there are plenty of stories: During World War II, American GIs reported spotting her on at least a dozen islands in the South Pacific, books have been written claiming she was actually a United States spy, captured and executed by the Japanese. In the 1950s, it was reported she had been rescued and was living anonymously as a homemaker in New Jersey.

Just last month, the supermarket tabloid Weekly World News announced they'd found Earhart -- now 103 -- living on a diet of pineapples on a deserted island.

But as the wild stories continue, a couple who have previously called the Bay Area home are on the brink of showing the world that the simplest explanation for what happened to Earhart is probably the right one: She ran out of fuel and crashed within a few days of completing her month-and-a-half long journey.

Elgen and Marie Long lived in San Mateo for 25 years. They've written "Amelia Earhart: The Mystery Solved," spending the last three decades researching Earhart's attempt to circle the globe.

And now, with the discovery of a sealed report on Earhart's last flight that supports the Longs' theory, some of the nation's leading aeronautics engineers and a world-renowned deep-sea recovery team say they're ready to start looking for the missing twin-engine plane.

Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared without a trace about 1,700 miles southwest of Hawaii on the second-to-last leg of her around-the-world journey. The two were trying to find a lima bean-shaped spit of land called Howland Island to refuel.

"She crashed a little bit to the left of nowhere, so all of this has some measure of uncertainty," said Dave Jordan of Nauticos, a deep-sea exploration firm based in Hanover, Md. The first to descend to the deck of the Titanic, to find the Israeli submarine Dakar and to find the Japanese fleet sunk at Midway, Nauticos boasts a perfect record in its deep-sea searches. "We don't expect that our search for Amelia Earhart will be our first failure."

Earhart was attempting to punctuate her return to Oakland by landing on July 4, 1937. She had first taken off from Oakland on March 17 of that year. Because of trouble, she soon had to start over. Her trip officially began on May 20.

But a welcome-home party never came. After successfully completing nearly 20 legs of her round-the-world trip, Earhart's last flight -- a 2,556-mile trek from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island -- was cut short by the thinnest of margins, less than 100 miles.

It came down to details like her plane being fueled up in the heat of the day when the gas had expanded; that no one had accounted for a strong head wind over the Pacific; and that her navigator, Noonan, was using a map that showed Howland Island six miles east of its actual location, according to Long and his partners.

"It all adds up, everything checks," said Steve Lyons, of the PBS science series "Nova," who's credited with organizing much of the search plans for Earhart's Lockheed Electra plane. "This is a priceless piece of American history. All we need is a chance to go look for it."

Finding the plane could cost \$4 million. The team is in the process of lining up investors and had as much as half the total covered. But the recent downturn in the stock market has made investors wary, Elgen Long said. They have no start date for the search.

If able to proceed, the search area will be a 500-square-mile patch of ocean floor northwest of Howland Island. Long believes Earhart's aluminum plane is resting intact more than three miles below the surface of the Pacific.

"I think it's going to stick out like a basketball on a gymnasium floor," Elgen Long said. "We are going to find her and everybody is going to be able to see that plane."

## America orders £17bn fleet of spy satellites

From The Times of London  
March 18, 2001

THOUSANDS of American scientists are being quietly recruited to build a vast new network of spy satellites, in a top secret \$25 billion (£17.5 billion) project that will enable America to peer into every corner of the globe at any time with far greater accuracy.

A group of Californian aerospace companies will employ about 20,000 people to build the new generation of spy satellites over the next 20 years in what is believed to be the biggest intelligence-related contract, the *Los Angeles Times* reported yesterday.



# Tom Dongo

Speaking on

## ***“Mysterious Sedona”***

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**May 6th, 2001 from 1:30pm to 6:30pm**

**Tom is a resident of Sedona and has written seven books on and about Sedona’s mysteries. He has appeared on “Hardcopy”, “The Paranormal Borderline”, “The Learning Channel”, “Encounters” along with numerous local radio and TV stations, and several BBC and Japanese programs. Tom has amassed one of the world’s largest collections of “High Strangeness” photographs. At this MUFON presentation, he will share dozens of the best slides from his collection! Tom will be selling signed copies of his books immediately after this special event at the:**

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Using high-powered telescopes and radar, up to two dozen spy satellites will be able to photograph anywhere in the world, day or night, regardless of the weather, zooming into specific areas and sending back thousands of images. The project is expected to be comparatively more costly than the building of the atomic bomb.

There are about half a dozen spy satellites now in orbit, but these will be replaced by smaller, more powerful and more versatile satellites that will play a key role in American intelligence-gathering for decades.

The project, officially known as Future Imagery Architecture, is being co-coordinated by the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), one of the most secretive and well-financed government intelligence agencies.

The NRO has released only a brief statement, saying that Boeing has won the contract to launch and operate "the nation's next generation of imagery reconnaissance satellites". The Federation of American Scientists recently concluded that the satellite project "will be the most expensive programme in the history of the intelligence community".

About 5,000 scientists and computer programmers will be brought into the project over the next five years, during the initial design phase. Thousands more will be needed to build and operate the system.

"The programme is so secret that most of the people who work on it won't have a good sense of what they are doing," Loren Thompson, a defense analyst at the Lexington Institute, was quoted as saying.

The project was partly inspired by intelligence problems encountered during the Gulf War, when military commanders complained that satellite reconnaissance photographs were late to arrive, patchy and insufficiently detailed.

The new system will be able to focus on a single area for twice as long as the existing satellites, beaming back up to 20 times as many high-resolution images of activity on the ground.

The NRO, which dates back to 1960, has an annual budget of \$6 billion and spends more than either the CIA or the National Security Agency.

The *Los Angeles Times* calculated that the Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb, which employed up to 125,000 people starting in 1942, cost the equivalent of \$20 billion in today's dollars.

Most of the research and development work on the new breed of satellites is likely to be carried out at the Boeing plant in El Segundo, California, and the company has started recruiting technicians from Lockheed Martin Corporation, the company that built many of existing spy satellites. Refugees from ailing high-tech and Internet companies are also being recruited.

"I don't think most people are aware of how big this thing is," a spokesman for the California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency, said.

The new satellites will be about two thirds smaller than the 15-ton models now in orbit, and positioned further out in space, making them far harder to detect.

Advances in optical and radar technology will enable the satellites to take pictures with greater frequency, while the higher orbit will allow the target area on the ground to be filmed for a longer period.

A spokesman for the NRO declined to give details of the massive space-spying project but confirmed that a new species of satellite would be launched starting in 2005 that would be "more capable of fulfilling the nation's imaging needs".

## *Inherited photo may show the image of an alien craft*

By JANINE GILBERTSON

New Hampshire Union Leader Correspondent

**WINDHAM** March 8, 2001 — When his grandfather died in 1988, Claude Riendeau of Windham inherited something out of this world.

Wilfred Stringer bequeathed Riendeau his 1977 photograph of what he believed was a spaceship he captured on film near his hometown, the small Canadian town of Chartierville, just across the border from Pittsburg.

Riendeau, who copyrighted the photo, recently launched a Web site ([www.galaxygateproducts.com](http://www.galaxygateproducts.com)) to sell T-shirts, posters and postcards bearing the extraterrestrial image.

"The orders are coming in," Riendeau said. "We've had orders from Canada, Mexico and as far away as Russia. We also got an order request from the UFO Museum in Roswell, New Mexico."

According to Riendeau, his grandfather was driving near Chartierville's famed "Magnetic Hill" one September evening when he heard a heavy wind blowing. He then claims to have seen a glowing half-orb descend silently and land a few hundred yards in front of him. Stringer had his camera in the car and snapped a picture.

Riendeau said it is not considered unusual to have such an encounter in that area.

"My cousins and I used to see things up there all the time," he said. "People all over Chartierville claim to have seen UFOs."

When the picture was left to him, Riendeau knew he had to do something with it.

"I decided that if it was a good picture, I would start the copyright and trademark process and do something with the picture," he said.

He took the photograph to a 1996 Mutual UFO Network gathering in Portsmouth to hear what the experts had to say about the authenticity of the image.

Riendeau said Dr. Richard Haines of NASA's Ames Research Center called it "a very interesting photo." UFO expert Stanton Friedman, a UFO researcher for more than 20 years, also examined the picture. Riendeau said that Friedman called it "a great photo."

Another noted UFO researcher, Antonio Huewnes, told Riendeau he thought it was probably one of the

finest examples he's ever seen of a UFO photo. While at the gathering, Riendeau also made contact with the inspiration for the movie "Fire in the Sky," Travis Walton.

Riendeau took his faded photograph to a Boston graphics firm so the image could be enhanced and made into a four-color process that could be printed on T-shirts.

Riendeau said the company tried to retain rights to the image that they produced from the original photo.

## **Strange ice rings baffle researchers Unidentified frozen objects**

**Jim Bronskill**

**Southam News**

**From National Post Online**

OTTAWA March 8, 2001 - Mysterious ice rings in Ontario and Quebec are baffling investigators tracking the appearance of strange circles in ponds and fields across Canada.

Cold, hard facts about the frozen phenomena are scarce, making it too early to tell if the rings are related to their better-known cousins, the crop circles that continue to turn up in farmers' fields worldwide, says a newly released report.

Two rural ice-ring cases are among 11 sightings described in the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network's annual summary report for 2000. The network, a non-profit organization, collects information about circles from farmers and other contributors.

The round ice formations have been documented only rarely in Canada, the U.S., Germany and Russia, said Paul Anderson, the network's Vancouver-based director. "We're lucky if we hear of one."

Early last December, a woman in the eastern Ontario town of Delta awoke to find an ice ring almost five meters in diameter on the pond behind the family barn.

"She just swore up and down that it wasn't there the night before," said Mr. Anderson. "When they went out at six in the morning there it was, a perfect ring."

He said the ice was apparently too thin to walk on, making a hoax unlikely. "How someone would do that from the shore, I don't know."

Another circle, on Lac Pelletier, in Quebec's Laurentian mountains, was reported in November by a visiting British researcher. A series of circles and rings was discovered on the same lake in 1999, the report says.

One theory suggests an ice ring is formed by a current flowing into a pond. It moves in a circle and

affects the freezing pattern, said Mr. Anderson. "That's the only explanation that makes any sense."

Though round patterns have shown up in ice, grass, dirt, clay banks and sand, crop circles remain the most common rings. Of the various types of circles reported last year, seven were found in Saskatchewan, two in Ontario, one in Manitoba and one in Quebec.

A number of the formations featured "significant physical anomalies" such as deformed, twisted seed heads on many of the stalks in a dumbbell-shaped pattern discovered last August at Moosomin, Sask.

As with a set of circles found near Orillia, Ont., dogs refused to go near the formation, the report says. The camera of a man who investigated a circle near Saskatoon failed to work properly inside the formation, while shots taken outside were normal.

The odd occurrences suggest that whatever might be responsible for the circles emanate a form of electrostatic energy, said Mr. Anderson.

The report says some cases, like the July, 2000, report of 20 to 25 circles that appeared in the fields of an Alameda, Sask., farmer in 1999, simply come too late for researchers to study first-hand.

"Cases like this reaffirm our opinion that a significant number of formations, mainly single circles or small groups of circles, never get reported at all. Therefore, they remain uninvestigated, and may be more common than we think."

## **New clue to Star Trek version of the universe**

**by Tim Radford**

**The Guardian Online**

For the first time, astronomers have indirect evidence that there could be billions of earthlike planets in the galaxy, many of them home to forms of extraterrestrial life.

The clue to a Star Trek version of the universe, according to Norman Murray of the University of Toronto, can be read in the distinctive light from more than half the stars in a sample of the galaxy. If there was iron in the starlight, he argued, there could be rocky planets wheeling around it.

"If there are bodies in orbit around these stars, at least the probability that there is life - similar to what we consider to be life - has to be more likely than it would have been before we discovered this evidence," Professor Murray said. "It is one more indication that life may be common in the galaxy."

Since 1995, using subtle observational techniques, astronomers have detected the presence of 55 planets, all the size of Jupiter or bigger, orbiting around faraway suns.

But all of them would be vast balls of gas, and all of them were very close to their parent stars, which was why they could be detected. In such star systems, there would be no room for rocky planets like Earth, Mars and Venus, on which water could flow and an atmosphere could form. And such rocky planets would be too small to see across the light years of space.

But Prof Murray told the American Association for the Advancement of Science in San Francisco that there was another way to look for evidence of earth-like planets.

Bodies such as Earth and Mars were about 30% iron. Meteors and asteroids were about 20% iron. Comets were mostly water, but even they contained iron, and crashed into the sun at the rate of at least one a day.

In the life of a solar system, lumps of rock and iron equal to the mass of a planet or two would be swept into the outer envelope of the sun.

So, he said, those stars which were anemic - with a low signature of iron in their light - probably had no orbiting rocky planets. Although iron is forged in the thermonuclear cores of stars, the only way it would appear in the outer sheath would be as dust attracted from its orbiting companions.

He studied the spectra of 640 sun-like stars, and found that 466 of them had at least half a planet's worth of iron in their atmospheres. There are about 100bn stars in the Milky Way, and there are about 100bn galaxies in the observable universe.

If even a small percentage had rocky planets in the "habitable zone" near enough to the parent star for water to remain liquid, that means potentially a large number of homes for life.

Prof Murry said: "Up to this point, it's a complete unknown. The methods used to detect planets cannot detect bodies of that mass, although that may well change. Up to this point there has been no indication. No, one other indication is that we haven't got any signals from somebody out there.

"We are just making this argument by analogy. It happened in our solar system. We see the same signature in these other solar systems. And we just conclude that that seems like a likely possibility, that those systems look like ours. Presumably you could have rocks without planets, but then the question would be how did they get on to the stars? In our solar system, they are perturbed by massive bodies."

He examined only a fraction of the galaxy, but he assumed that it resembled the rest of the galaxy. "I'm just making a statistical argument," he said. "Probably more than half have accreted this material, and therefore probably more than half of the stars in our galaxy have accreted that material. The number of stars in our galaxy is about 100bn."

## Tomb of "Giants" Unearthed in Peru

Jennifer Mapes  
National Geographic News  
February 15, 2001

Archaeologists have unearthed a series of tombs rich with treasures of an extinct Peruvian culture. The 1,500-year-old graves held five unusually tall young men surrounded by textiles, ceramics, llama skeletons, and decorative metal works.

The remains are Moche, a culture that thrived on the desert-like coast of northern Peru between A.D. 100 and 800. A farming and fishing community, they constructed irrigation canals, pyramids, palaces, and temples.

The origins of the Moche remain unknown, according to lead archaeologist Christopher Donnan. The skeletons, found during a 1997-99 National Geographic-funded expedition, may yield clues to their culture.

## Cold Polar Rings Help Form Clouds That Destroy Ozone

From SpaceNews.com  
March 30, 2001

According to a technical paper that will appear in the March 30 issue of the journal *Science*, newly discovered, narrow rings of cold air over Earth's poles help create colorful clouds that destroy ozone.

The ozone layer acts as a guard to life on Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation. The writers of the paper believe they have solved the decade-old mystery of how glowing, ozone-destroying clouds that contain nitric acid and water form road-dust-size particles that later spread to decompose ozone.

"Large polar stratospheric cloud (PSC) particles are born inside narrow temperature rings around Earth's poles in absolute darkness," according to Azadeh Tabazadeh, lead author of the paper and a scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley. "Strong winds blow these special clouds away from the cold rings to fill the polar air with ozone-destroying particles. The aerial extent of these clouds is often larger than the United States despite the fact that the clouds initially form inside a narrow temperature ring," she said.

The paper's co-authors are Eric Jensen and Katja Drdla of Ames, Brian Toon from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and Mark Schoeberl of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.

The PSCs form in the stratosphere, the part of Earth's atmosphere between about 9 and 30 miles altitude, which includes the ozone layer. The cold rings where they form



circle both poles at an altitude of 12 to 20 miles. PSCs provide surfaces that convert benign forms of chlorine into reactive, ozone-destroying forms.

The large particles in PSCs also remove nitrogen compounds from the air, a process called "de-nitrification." Nitrogen compounds in the atmosphere usually moderate the destructive impact of chlorine on ozone. "An ozone hole forms every spring over the Antarctic in the Southern Hemisphere which is colder than the Arctic," said Tabazadeh.

According to the authors, increased de-nitrification over the Antarctic can cause the "ozone hole" to grow. Tabazadeh said a NASA satellite measured the largest ozone hole ever over the Antarctic, last year. "It is possible that the area of the Antarctic ozone hole may spread even farther than that measured last winter before the hole recedes to what it was in the 1970s," she added.

"On the other hand, the warmer Arctic climate in the north is becoming colder, more like the Antarctic in the south. This could lead to more dramatic ozone loss in the future over the Northern Hemisphere, where many people live," Tabazadeh said.

The authors also report that for the first time, NASA satellite observations displayed widespread de-nitrification reaching 20 to 50 percent in the Arctic stratosphere during the 1999-2000 winters.

"Increased de-nitrification in the Arctic can delay the recovery of the ozone layer despite the fact that ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) levels are declining in the atmosphere due to international agreements," Tabazadeh said.

Nearly ten years ago, scientists found that man-made chlorine and bromine compounds create most ozone depletion. Manufacturers made the chlorine compounds, "CFCs," for use as refrigerants, aerosol sprays, solvents and foam-blowing agents.

Fire fighters used bromine-containing halogens to put out fires. Manufacture of CFCs ended in 1996 in signatory countries under the terms of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.

"Scientists used to believe that as chlorine levels decline in the upper atmosphere, the ozone layer should slowly start to recover. However, greenhouse gas and soot emissions, which provide warming at the Earth's surface, lead to cooling in the upper atmosphere. This cooling promotes formation of more clouds that destroy ozone," Tabazadeh added.

## **Most Complete Scientific Ghost Investigation Begins**

### **April 5, 2001**

### **From Paranormal News**

Today in Edinburgh marked the beginning of the most in-depth scientific investigation to date studying the existence of ghosts. During the next two and a half months, 10 researchers with the help of 200 citizens will try to record the presence of various types of spirit beings. They will utilize the most state-of-the-art equipment available to find what lurks in the dungeons of

Edinburgh Castle, the vaults beneath South Bridge, and Mary King's close, under the High Street.

Richard Wiseman, a psychologist at Hertfordshire University, is leading the investigation. He is not convinced of the existence of ghosts but is willing to be converted. "I am not a great believer in spirit hypotheses but we have equipment which is more sensitive than what has been used before. The difference is that we will be logging all the information and the good thing is that the public can also join in," he said.

The researchers chose Edinburgh because of a high concentration of paranormal personages and unusual events. "It is probably the most haunted city in Europe. A lot of people report unusual experiences, particularly in the underground city," said Dr. Wiseman.

The team will be using thermal imagers, geomagnetic sensors, temperature probes, and night vision equipment to monitor the locations. The initial results will be presented on the final day of Edinburgh Science Festival. "I would be totally delighted if we did detect something. But if a spirit did come out in front of me I would be out of there pretty quickly," Dr. Wiseman said.

During his last investigation, he examined claims that Catherine Howard, the fifth wife of Henry VIII was still roaming Hampton Court Palace screaming in terror about being beheaded. The study, reported last week to the British Psychological Society's annual conference in Glasgow, indicated a more logical physical cause - two cold, drafty areas, one of which was next to a concealed door.

According to Dr. Wiseman, more was found in Hampton Court, but he is not revealing what lest anything prejudices what might be revealed in Edinburgh. "We think we are on to something in terms of understanding why people have these experiences - something that we did not know before," he said. Dr. Wiseman does not doubt the reality of the powerful experiences people report. It is in how these events are interpreted that causes the debate.

## **Secret agency labors to release its secrets NSA: Workers scramble to declassify a growing mountain of aging top-secret documents.**

*Source: The Sun - Baltimore, Md.*

**April 10, 2001**

Inside a large yellow warehouse within the iron gates of the National Security Agency, thousands of boxes stuffed with the nation's secrets are piled to the ceiling.

For decades this place has been hidden from public view, a catacomb holding more than 15 million pages of documents filled with information about everything from the Vietnam War to

President Kennedy's assassination to the Persian Gulf war.

Some of the documents may never be declassified. But for five years now, since former President Bill Clinton ordered that all documents 25 years old or older be turned over to the public, the agency has been in a mad dash to keep up, sorting through a never-ending deluge of paper, tapes, photographs and film, putting aside the documents they believe could threaten national security.

Called the Declass Factory, its workers - almost all of whom are former agency employees working on contract - sift, sort and read from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in this one-time fortress that now reflects a subtle shift in agency philosophy.

For almost a half-century, the agency prohibited employees from even revealing where they worked. Now they sometimes stumble upon their own names in documents and secret projects from 30 years ago, as they prepare to release them to the public.

On any given day, more than a hundred workers in three rooms sort the documents, scan them into a computer or review them for content.

Stan Schneider, known among his colleagues as the "grand pooh-bah" of the shop, recently scanned a document marked "Top Secret" with the title "Evaluation of AFSA-23 Translations." Another reviewer and former employee, Cole Miller, sat at the cubicle across from him with headphones on, listening to classified briefings from the Vietnam War, occasionally shaking his head and letting out a chuckle.

Schneider said the work can range from tedious to exciting - his document, he said, being an example of the former.

"We classified this stuff 30 years ago, and now we're declassifying it," Schneider said. "All these people here worked at levels where they had broad exposure to many [signals intelligence] assignments; ... we've worked all the wars. Part of the fun of it is remembering things, saying, 'Hey, remember working this conflict? Or remember that person? What a kook.'"

The area is broken up into "pods," - a series of cubicles - from which one person designated the "pod god" assigns documents to different people, trying to match their areas of expertise.

The process is methodical and efficient. Each day, most reviewers read 100 to 200 documents, which average about three pages each.

Last year, more than 15,000 boxes moved from the archive room through the factory. Since 1996, the agency has reviewed 50 million pages, releasing 35 million of them to the National Archives. For those that remain classified, the boxes return to the agency's archive, where, unless requested, they will sit for another 10 years before they are reviewed again.

The group has become so effective at moving through volumes of paper, the declass factory will soon begin to review all Freedom of Information requests as well. Until now, agency employees have handled these requests, but they are six years behind.

Besides reviewing all papers 25 years old and older, the group also must review all congressionally ordered material, such as searches for Nazi war crimes documents, and any piece of paper leaving the agency's Fort Meade campus, headed to Capitol Hill or other intelligence sites.

So far, officials say the shift to electronic communication has had little effect on the factory because the group is only now reviewing information from the early 1970s.

But computers have hardly slowed down the amount of paper and documents the agency is generating - it arrives in boxes each day to be archived. Those documents do not include employees' notes or transcripts of decoded material - all of which is sent to the agency's incinerator.

The NSA has long been a closed bunker, where documents sent to its archives may never again see the light of day.

Mike Ketcham, NSA's deputy chief of information policy, said part of the reason the agency has embraced the government's declassification order is because the agency would like to reveal more information about itself.

"This agency really is a vital part of national defense," Ketcham said. "Maybe if we release documents showing the successes we've had during the war in Korea and World War II, maybe they'll understand that what we're doing is really important.

"If we can't give the public a better understanding of what we do, we'll lose their support and we'll lose our ability to do our job," he said. "That's the banner we've picked up here. We all know what we've done. It would be great if people outside here knew, too."

Schneider said the reviewers are bound by strict guidelines that limit what can remain classified. Each week, they meet to discuss changes to the law and examine procedure.

"I can't just say I don't like this document because I don't like its looks," he said, pointing to his screen. "I have to select a reason" - for example, that it would reveal a spying technique.

Still, a lot of the decisions can vary, he said.

"There are days when you feel liberal, and there are days when you feel conservative," Schneider said. "But that's why we have three levels of review. Hopefully, with three sets of eyes we'll get it right."

Schneider and many of his colleagues are especially sensitive to protecting the right information. Schneider says they can all remember one time or another when an eavesdropping operation was compromised and months or even years of work were suddenly wasted.

"We're all Cold War warriors around here," Schneider said. "We sat for maybe 12 hours in front of our computer screens doing [signals intelligence]. If we can, in an unclassified way, tell those stories, it will help tell people what the agency has done. Maybe it will give the guy paying our bills an idea of what they have bought for their money."

## **USAF Searches for UFOs**

### **From Skywatch International**

NEW YORK (REUTERS) -- IBM said on Wednesday it sold the U.S. Air Force a supercomputer to help it to identify unidentified flying objects.

The Air Force's Space Surveillance Team, based in Maui, Hawaii, will use the supercomputer to hunt outer space for old satellites, foreign spacecraft, and other UFOs that may be hurtling toward Earth, IBM said.

The IBM system will be used to detect and identify some 9000 objects currently flying around in Earth's orbit. The computer can process 480 billion calculations per second -- making it about 40 times faster than the IBM "Deep Blue" supercomputer that defeated chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997.

That processing capability will be used to improve blurry telescopic images of space objects, allowing Defense Department military officials to identify the object.

The new supercomputer was part of a \$10 million system upgrade, IBM said.

## **Rantings from a frustrated Ufologist**

**By Jim Kelly**  
**MUFON Field Investigator'**

The new buzzword in Ufology is Cosmic because it usually denotes an all encompassing topic; that is until the lecture you are attending is over and the only thing that you have received is a lighter wallet in return.

When attending a UFO lecture, if you keep hearing phrases from the speaker such as "cut me a check to support my cause" or "I don't have time for stupid people" head for the exit as soon as possible!

"Buy my book if you want the answers" is the new meditation Mantra that rings in my ears on a continual basis. Then when I buy the book, I end up with new questions and no answers!

A local UFO investigator is now comparing the Fatima Miracle to the Phoenix Lights incident. Can I have some of that wine please?

Which UFO investigators can you trust for providing you with good, reliable information? If you are really into the subject, start with the classic case studies and work your way up. Stanton Friedman, Kevin Randle and Timothy Good are always reliable. J Allen Hynek put out excellent work if you can locate his books at a second hand store. Just remember that the more reading and verification of information you do on your own will aide in your quest for the truth.

Television media is now a bigger problem than governmental cover-up when it comes to publicizing UFO incidents. The television media is so ignorant of the subject that they will only attempt to interview people that say the most outrageously stupid things. Why won't they cooperate? When stupid people say stupid things, ratings are higher.

Next issue: Alien abduction

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