



ORBITER

The New England Aerial Phenomena Report

Editor: Jim Melesciuc
Address: 43 Harrison Street
Reading, MA 01867 USA
Hotline: (617) 944-0686

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LET THE EVIDENCE LEAD

We hear from the MSF camp that further info will be forthcoming in the very near future. Moore reports that he is being fed information by mysterious government agents and allowed to view certain top secret material i.e. documents, a video, photographs, etc on a limited time basis. These agents are directing Moore to reveal only what they want him to or else they'll close the door and nothing else will be released. This appears to be a government type of "Let's Make A Deal". Bits and pieces of info on this new second wave of material are already circulating within the UFO community and I must say it is quite bizarre.

However, the infamous MJ12 papers are stirring up a well heated controversy. A better word for it would be a mess. JUST CAUSE newsletter (issue #13) details numerous flaws and problems with the documents. The Center for UFO Studies is seeking their own independent study and encourage further investigation. The Fund for UFO Research is struggling to raise \$3,000 to have the Cutler-Twining memo of 1954 analyzed to determine when it was typed. The Fund feels that this is a crucial step in determining its authenticity. Researching and investigating the MJ12 documents and the second wave of material coming from the MSF camp is not the problem. This is what the subject is all about, Research and Investigate. Unfortunately, the problem is the Hatfield and McCoy syndrome. The UFO community is turning into feuding clans over a belief system. The will to believe or disbelieve. Everyone who has been in the field of Ufology for a lengthy time has been asked that loaded question, Do you believe in UFO's? My comeback is simply, "We have UFO reports. The contents and patterns of the reports constitute UFO phenomena. Belief or disbelief is irrelevant." In investigating and researching cases, documents, etc. the evidence lies in the contents and patterns. That is where you will find the paydirt. The evidence must lead and not the other way around. When the evidence starts being led then that person's belief system is interfering and can sometimes lead to creating evidence. That person is not being objective as an investigator/researcher should be.

Some people within the UFO community feel that enough evidence has surfaced to prove the MJ12 papers a hoax and the case should be closed. Others are wondering why the people, who should have led the way in proving the documents authenticity, are dragging their feet. Still, there are those who feel the documents have been proven until they are disproven. No matter where you stand in this controversial mess, keep the investigation professional and scientific and refrain from the Hatfield-McCoy syndrome. Let the evidence lead and it will take you to the absolute truth. The others will be walking on a sinkhole to bizarreness and discredit.

RADIO-TV LOG

December 28, 9:00 p.m. - Bruce Maccabee, Phil Klass and Whitley Streiber were guests on the Larry King Show (on CNN) hosted by Rona Barrett.

MESSAGE TO ORBITER READERS

Publishing a monthly newsletter has proved to be quite costly because of printing, postage and telephone calls in gathering information for UFO material. To offset this cost I am implementing a policy whereby readers who do not exchange newsletters, newsclippings, or other UFO-related information will be charged a fee of \$15.00 annually if they wish to continue receiving this newsletter.

Ghosts Lights and UFO's.

On page 3 of yesterday's Manchester Union Leader there was an article and photograph of a glowing circular object with a black spot that freelance police photographer, Robert Giglio, of Hillsborough shot with his camera, while following up one of the over 100 UFO reported sightings in the Bear Hill area of Henniker. This one was taken about four months ago and is the second one to appear in the papers since the one in the Oct. 17, 1979 issue. A former executive of Itek Corp. (a Mass. company which specializes in high technology optics) analyzed it, but could not solve the mystery.

If you look on the map Henniker is but a few miles from the town of Hopkinton, N.H. where similar glowing balls have been seen as far back as 1750. (See the attached letter to the editor that appeared in the Nov. 6, 1976 issue labeled: "Requests Further Reports of Eerie 'Ghost Lights'," that I first read about on page 39 of Ch. 1 in Part II of the book, Extraterrestrial Intervention, by Jacques Bergier and the Editors of INFO; Ch. 1 being labeled: "John Winthrop & UFO's in Colonial New England," by Andrew E. Rothovius of 4 Smith St., in Milford, N.H., under Part II: "Extraterrestrial Beings Among Us.")

That summer, in 1976, I also interviewed a witness to a hovering white fireball with a red border that glowed for about an hour above the Steuben, Maine Town Wharf and seen by many of the people, especially the children in town, just before dusk, which witness also said that back in the fall of 1967 their car was parked in the town gravel pit early that September night too, at about 8:30 P.M. when many "bouncing and glowing red balls" surrounded them and stalled the car on their way out.

Stonington, Maine is another spot where these globs of light occur, and in particular, above the property of Ted Graveline (who had a write-up on page 10 of The Bangor Daily News for Wed., Aug. 14, 1974) who told me, when I visited him one afternoon, that he sees them at night, because they follow this magnetic fault line up the coast through Blue Hill and Ellsworth, up to Steuben where a lady in town claims that two of these lines converge under her property and that she gets strange vibrations from some currents possibly produced by the UFO's that travel this line.

Requests Further Reports of Eerie 'Ghost Lights'
Manchester Union Leader, Nov. 6, 1976

To the Editors: With the help of my August 5th letter published on page 18 of this paper of Aug. 24, 1976 entitled "Ghost Lights," I've received some replies about glowing red balls of fire which I think are of interest: Two historic cases involve Hopkinton and Derry:

1. A man in Milford refers to C.C. Lord's "Life and Times in Hopkinton, N.H.," 1890, about Putney Hill, also known as Gould Hill, in the northern part of town facing the valley of the Contoocook. He writes that: "A patch of pine forest on the north side of this hill was said to have been an "Indian lookout," where redskin sentinels kept watch for enemy marauders. Beginning some time between 1750 and 1800, glowing, slowly moving balls floating in the air were often sighted over and near this pine forest, both by day and by night, but most often in the evenings. Around 1820, a young man, who half a century later told Mr. Lord of his experience, was followed home for almost two miles by several of these glowing balls, in the gathering dusk. They would stop whenever he himself stopped to look back at them, then resume their movement as soon as he started walking again; but they never came any closer than within 50 feet or so."

2. Mrs. Guy Eva Speare, used to write for this paper, and on pages 165-166 of her famous book of "N.H. Folk Tales," which she compiled with Mrs. Moody P. Gore in 1932, a lady from Derry wrote about "A Legend of Saddleback Mountain in Derry," that has information about round red balls of fire as big as a brick oven that were seen there. Every library in the state has a copy of her book. — Two recent cases involve Londonderry and Manchester:

3. In Londonderry, a man threw his cigarette butt out the window of his parked car, and when he thought it didn't burn out, he opened the door, but found that it was something else. When he tried to step on the glowing red ball of fire, which hovered some 6-12" above the ground, it just simply glided to the side.

4. Two sisters in Manchester had one of these red dots of light in their house. When they tried to capture it with a cardboard box, it merely escaped by penetrating through the walls of the house, where it could then be seen outside upon occasion.

If any readers know of more historic and-or recent cases, this field office of The Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained, (S.I.T.U.) would like to be informed.

Joe Haas
P.O. Box 557

CR: R.Giordano

CR: J. Bruno

The Journal of Social Psychology, 1971, 83, 307-308.

AFFILIATION MOTIVATION AND BELIEF IN
EXTRATERRESTRIAL UFOs*

Department of Psychology, Howard University

LAWRENCE W. LITTIG

Interest in the existence of extraterrestrial life and its manifestation in the form of "unidentified flying objects" (UFOs), such as flying saucers, exhibits a persistence, in the absence of objective evidence,¹ that suggests that beliefs about such phenomena are deeply embedded in personality. To explore this possibility the relationship between affiliation motivation² and the belief that UFOs originate in other worlds was considered. Implicit in the belief that UFOs come from outer space is the assumption that life, much as we know it, exists in other worlds. This belief, it was conjectured, may represent a projection of a human disposition to be accepted and loved by others (the affiliation motive). It was hypothesized that strong affiliation motivation is associated with a belief in the alien origins of UFOs. This hypothesis was predicated on the assumption that in a peopled universe the possibilities of positive emotional responses from others are greater than in an empty universe.

The Test of Insight³ was administered to 77 undergraduate students. Their responses were coded for affiliation motivation. The range of scores was from

* Received in the Editorial Office, Provincetown, Massachusetts, on May 27, 1970. Copyright, 1971, by The Journal Press.

¹ Condon, E. U. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam Books, 1969.

² Shipley, T. E., & Veroff, J. A projective measure of need for affiliation. *J. Exper. Psychol.*, 1952, 43, 349-356.

³ French, E. G. Development of a measure of complex motivation. In J. W. Atkinson (Ed.), *Motives in Fantasy, Action, and Society*. Princeton, N.J.: Van Nostrand, 1953.

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zero to 10 with a median of four. Seven subjects scoring at the median were discarded. Subjects ($n = 34$) above the median were considered to be strong and subjects below ($n = 36$) were considered to be weak in affiliation motivation. The mean strong and weak affiliation motivation scores were 7.79 and 2.03 respectively. The hypothesis was tested by comparing responses of strong affiliation motivation subjects with responses of weak affiliation motivation subjects to Likert-type⁴ alternatives to the statement, "Further research on UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects, e.g., 'flying saucers') will reveal that they come from outer space," which was administered as part of a six-item "Current Scientific Affairs Questionnaire."

The response scale ranged from Strongly Agree (+2) to Strongly Disagree (-2) with the statement. The strong affiliation motivation subjects' mean response ($+1.15 \pm .72$) was in the direction of agreement with the statement, whereas the mean response ($-.22 \pm .97$) of the weak affiliation motivation group was in the direction of disagreement with the statement. This difference of .37, though small, was statistically significant ($t = 1.76$, $df = 68$, $p < .05$). No significant differences were present for any of the other five "neutral" items in the Current Scientific Affairs Questionnaire.

It is commonly accepted that belief in the existence of advanced forms of life on other planets can be explained by reference to psychological factors. Typically, however, such beliefs are relegated to the neurotic, irrational, or less intelligent (or are presented as scientific inferences based upon statistical probabilities).⁵ The study lends some support to the idea that the belief in UFOs, as an index of life on other worlds, is related to psychological processes, but it suggests that the relationship is with normal rather than abnormal psychology. Belief in life on other worlds tends somewhat to be a function of a very human characteristic—the need to be responded to positively by other human beings.

Department of Psychology
Howard University
Washington, D.C. 20001

⁴ Likert, R. A technique for the measurement of attitudes. *Arch. Psychol.*, 1932, No. 140.

⁵ Cameron, A. G. W., Ed. *Interstellar Communication*. New York: W. A. Benjamin, 1963.



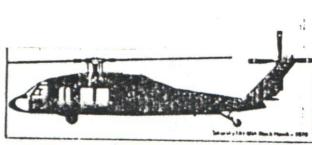
NEW ENGLAND MYSTERY HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHT

A relationship between mystery helicopters and UFO's is establishing itself in the more recent literature of UFO phenomena. These strange choppers have been reported flying at extremely low altitudes in or near areas of UFO activity. Sometimes their engines are heard and the choppers are not seen. At other times the chopper is in view of the witness but there is no engine sound. They also are colored drab black or army green without any distinguishable markings or lighting. Some witnesses also report that the windows are tinted. Other unusual behavior that researchers have noted about these helicopters is that they have shown extreme interest in military bases and missile sites.

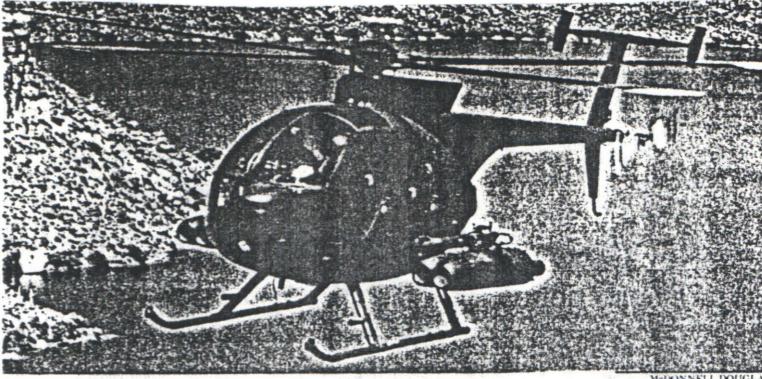
Ufologists find it futile to research and investigate these phantom choppers because dead ends are always present when trying to locate the origin of the copters and/or who is flying them.

These problems confronted me while researching the New England overflights that occurred on Sept. 10, 1987 between the hours 0130 and 0230. I received the initial report from Ray Fowler who had given a UFO presentation in the Haverhill area Thursday evening, Sept. 10. He also informed me that reporters from the Haverhill Gazette were looking into the problem. Some of the people who had participated in the presentation reported to Ray of lights in the sky accompanied by a loud roar. Ray and I speculated that it could possibly have been a C5 whose destination was Pease AFB, NH. The C5 is commonly reported as a UFO due to its huge bulk size, its lighting pattern and flight characteristics. This aircraft routinely travels up and down the Atlantic coast and at times they sporadically travel from Kansas to military bases in the New England area.

I initiated the investigation by calling Andy Brengle, staff writer for the Gazette. He informed me that some of the people he interviewed couldn't identify the object or the sound. He said a few witnesses claimed to have seen a group of unidentified choppers without navigation lights flying at tree top level at approximately 2:00 a.m. I asked Andy if any of the witnesses would be willing to speak with me on these overflights. He gave me the name of Frank Sowick, who was very cooperative with the Gazette interviewer. On Sept. 16, I made contact with Sowick. It was this interview that eliminated my suspicion of a C5 overflight. Frank told me that at 1:55 a.m. he had just returned from towing a disabled vehicle. While putting the vehicle into his Edgemont Garage he heard in the distance a low rumbling noise. Then suddenly 5 helicopters at about 100-150 ft. in altitude overflew his home and garage. He expressed to me his shock and of being overwhelmed by the sound of the aircraft. His wife immediately awoke as the house was rattled by the choppers. Frank informed me that he had them in view for about 2 seconds. They were there, then they were gone. Other details I learned during the interview was they were in a straight line formation with only the trailing chopper carrying a green light on its tail. The formation was heading north towards Portsmouth, NH. Several other witnesses that were interviewed only heard the choppers and their houses also rattled due to the abnormal low altitude. In making further inquiries I learned of more reports that were called in to police, airports, and newspapers in Litchfield County, CT, Springfield, MA Quabbin reservoir area, Fitchburg and Leominster. The witnesses all reported the same scenario in that the noise and vibrations from these military-type



choppers were loud and frightening, with several people reporting that the choppers seemed to hover over their houses.



unmarked
helicopter

Midway through the investigation I was receiving a scattering of UFO reports from the Haverhill area. A few people reported that during the chopper overflight they observed strange nocturnal lights in the area. Some people said the lights could not have been created by any conventional aircraft because no noise accompanied the nocturnal lights. Other people said the opposite, that there was a loud humming sound but nothing could be seen. I concluded that these reports were due to misidentification of the choppers or other aircraft as UFO hysteria was now becoming abundant in the area.

Barry Scanlon confirmed this from calls coming to his office. Several people in the Lowell area called to report strange lights or a humming noise. During my conversation with the reporter from the Lowell Sun he informed me that there has been "more than one incident" of these mystery chopper overflights in the past month in his area. This led to more questions on my part. Why weren't they reported then? Why are they being reported now? I also learned from Barry Scanlon that these choppers overflew the office of the Union News in Springfield that same morning. I made contact with Nancy Nelson and Curt Muller, reporters for the newspaper, who interviewed several people. The time of the overflights in the Springfield area was roughly 2:00 a.m., which confirms the fact that there were two squadrons of choppers. One squad overflew the eastern section of MA from south to north and the other flew up the western section from S/W to N/E. If these directions were calculated correctly, both squads had to fly over the restricted airspaces of Westover AFB, Fort Devens Airfield, Pease AFB and Portsmouth Naval Airstation.

I decided to give Ft. Devens Airfield a call. I was put in touch with field operations officer Major Rodrigues Harrison. I informed him of the nature of my call and inquired if any chopper flights were destined for the airfield on the date in question. He replied that there would have been no log entry if the flights did not originate from Ft. Devens. I assured him that there must be a log entry if in fact any aircraft flew into the airfield or over their airspace. I also informed him that I was familiar with their operations and procedures as I was stationed at the base for two years. He abruptly ended the conversation and transferred my call to the Public Affairs Office. I spoke with John Raspusen, a public affairs spokesman for the base. I learned from the PAO that they also were overwhelmed with calls about the chopper overflights and ran into dead ends when they inquired about their origin and destination. He also informed me that the Ft. Devens airfield carries four Blackhawk choppers and only one was up that evening and had returned shortly before midnight.

I then made contact with Nancy Nelson, a reporter for the Union News (Springfield, MA) who interviewed several people in western Mass. Some of these people are affiliated with the Union News and were in the Union News office at the time of the mystery chopper overflights. She added that after two days of phone calls, nobody knows where they come from.

Staff Sgt. Steve Mahohn (PAO) at Pease told the Union News that they were Army choppers with the 82nd Airborne from Lexington, Kentucky. The problem is that the 82nd Airborne is not stationed in Lexington, KY but at Fort Bragg, NC. Rick Giordano, a New Hampshire UFO investigator called to confirm that no Blackhawk-type choppers were stationed at Pease AFB. I decided to call Ft. Bragg and the 101st Airborne. A public affairs officer at Fort Bragg informed me that the 82nd was on TDY (temporary duty) at Camp Drum, NY and added that they should not have overflown MA. He suggested the flights might have originated from Ft. Campbell where the 101st Airborne are stationed. A call to Ft. Campbell and I learned that no military maneuvers were scheduled by the 101st in any part of New England.

I find it quite astounding that these phantom choppers are buzzing U.S. cities and towns, frightening hundreds of citizens and the top notch military outfits such as the 82nd and the 101st airborne and the personnel at New England military bases have no knowledge of their origin and destination.

I followed up on the info given to me from the PAO at Fort Bragg and made contact with Camp Drum, NY. I talked with a Sgt. Murphy (Media Affairs) about the overflights and inquired about the 82nd Airborne being TDY at Camp Drum. Concluding our conversation, Sgt. Murphy assured me he will follow up on the info I related to him and will contact me in a day or so. I made a few more calls and spoke with the FAA and a couple of National Guard and reserve units in the hope of obtaining further new information. In the interim I learned that the Sikorski S-70-UH60A Blackhawk is replacing the UH 1, the popular aircraft of the U.S. Army Cavalry during the VietNam conflict.

After a couple of days passed, Sgt. Murphy contacted me and did in fact confirm that the 82nd was TDY at Camp Drum on the dates in question. However, to my suprise, they did not arrive by helicopter! Questions still remain unanswered and probably will. I must add that unmarked military choppers are not rare. I have seen them during daylight hours even in metro Boston. They were, however, flying at a reasonable altitude unlike the phantom choppers I covered in this article.

Investigating this case and researching other mystery chopper reports in material such as Clear Intent, Andreasson Affair, and the infamous Cash-Landrum case, one has to wonder if this is new MIB phenomena of the latter half of the 20th century, or a covert military operation to cause confusion and intimidation of UFO witnesses, as depicted in the motion picture Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Someone has the answers.



To gain a fresh and objective perspective on the UFO problem, the UFO Subcommittee of the AIAA, from its inception in 1967, decided to place specific, well-defined questions to UFO experts of high scientific qualifications but strongly divergent views. Surprisingly, the factual answers the Subcommittee obtained in a series of interesting interviews were strikingly similar. Differences occurred in certain quantitative estimates and in the degree of emphasis, but not in principle.

It was at the next step where the views began to diverge: subjective judgment as to the scientific significance of the problem and the need to pursue and explore it. Obviously, such opinion depends on the criteria applied by the individual, and much of the discord appears to be due to a lack of analysis of these criteria. It is at this stage where guesses and speculations creep into the discussion and lead to controversy.

In the opinion of the UFO Subcommittee, such speculations are entirely premature and no position is absolutely defensible at this point in time. This applies specifically to statements that the extraterrestrial hypothesis ("ETH") is "the least probable" or "the least unprobable" explanation (National Academy of Sciences, Review of the "Condon Report"; James E. McDonald's statements). There is no scientific basis for assessing such probabilities at this time.

The Subcommittee was greatly perturbed by the paucity of thorough scientific and technological analysis applied to practically all observations before the Condon study. The few, often courageous, efforts by individuals to come to grips with this problem should be viewed more from an aspect of focusing attention on the problem rather than of solving it, since there is little doubt that it takes more than a personal effort to investigate fully a problem of such complexity.

In the opinion of the committee, the Colorado University study, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects," (the "Condon Report," Bantam Books, New York, 1969) at this time represents the most scientifically oriented investigation published on the UFO problem. Attacks directed against the study seem to overlook the almost insurmountable difficulties which a short-time, one-shot project of this type faces: building up the multi-

disciplinary, unbiased talent, accumulating practical experience, collecting hard information, sorting out the signal from the noise, applying the best analytical methods, and writing and editing a report in less than two years.

To understand the Condon report, which is difficult to read, due in part to its organization, one must study the bulk of the report. It is not enough to read summaries, such as those by Sullivan and by Condon, or summaries of summaries, on which the vast majority of readers and news media seem to rely. There are differences in the opinions and conclusions drawn by the authors of the various chapters, and there are differences between these and Condon's summary. Not all conclusions contained in the report itself are fully reflected in Condon's summary. For example the optical/radar chapter contains the following statement on the Lakenheath case (1956):

The apparently rational, intelligent behavior of the UFO suggests a mechanical device of unknown origin as the most probable explanation of this sighting. However, in view of the inevitable fallibility of witnesses, more conventional explanations of this report cannot be entirely ruled out.

On Colorado Springs case (1967):

In view of the meteorological situation, it would seem that AP (anomalous propagation) was rather unlikely. Besides, what is the probability that an AP return would appear only once and at that time appear to execute a perfect practice ILS approach.

Condon's own conclusions have been widely misquoted. He says:

"... Scientists are no respecters of authority. Our conclusion that study of UFO reports is not likely to advance science will not be uncritically accepted by them. Nor should it be, nor do we wish it to be. For scientists, it is our hope that the detailed analytical presentation of what we were able to do, and of what we were unable to do, will assist them in deciding whether or not they agree with our conclusions. Our hope is that the details of this report will help other scientists in seeing what the problems are and the difficulties of coping with them.

"If they agree with our conclusions, they will turn their valuable attention and talents elsewhere. If they disagree, it will be because our report has helped them reach a clear picture of wherein existing studies are faulty or incomplete and thereby will have stimulated ideas for more accurate studies. If they do get such ideas and can formulate them clearly, we have no doubt that support will be forthcoming to carry on with such clearly defined, specific studies. We think that such ideas for work should be supported.

"... Therefore we think that all of the agencies of the federal government, and the private foundations as well, ought to be willing to consider UFO research proposals along with the others submitted to them on

an open-minded, unprejudiced basis. While we do not think at present that anything worthwhile is likely to come of such research each individual case ought to be carefully considered on its own merits."

Condon's chapter, "Summary of the Study," contains more than its title indicates: it discloses many of his personal conclusions. Making value judgements was no doubt one reason why Condon was asked to handle the project. One is happy to obtain the judgement of so experienced and respected a man; but one need not agree with it. The UFO Subcommittee did not find a basis in the report for his prediction that nothing of scientific value will come of further studies.

In reviewing the material accumulated to date, the Subcommittee found an exceedingly low signal-to-noise ratio, as illustrated by the statistics of the Air Force's Project "Bluebook" quoted in the University of Colorado study, which showed 3.3% unidentified observations (253 out of 7741 available at that time*). This figure is frequently disputed, but its order of magnitude (5%) appears to be correct, taking all available reports into account. The fact that the Condon study itself arrives at a much higher percentage of unexplained cases—namely, at about 30% (35 out of 117)—is primarily due to the preselection of specific cases for investigation. The precise figure is hard to assess, for the Condon report does not lend itself easily to this type of analysis, the same cases being treated often in different sections and under different identifications. (*The final figures, according to our information, appear to be 701 out of 12,618 or 5.5%.)

It has been variously estimated that the reported cases, approximately 20,000, represent only 5 to 15% of the total observations, since most observers either do not go to the trouble of an official report or fear ridicule. In turn, various polls suggest that 3 to 5% of the U.S. population claim to have seen UFOs. It follows, then, that the available reports which can be classified as "unidentified" represent a very small percentage of all UFO sightings on the one hand, but not a negligible number of observations on the other.

It is interesting that, contrary to public opinion, the estimated percentage of "hoaxes" is likewise small (less than 5%) and that the great majority of UFO sightings can be ex-

plained by known phenomena (about 75%) while 15 to 20% contain insufficient data. In other words, what may appear to the untrained observer as strange and unexplainable is in most cases known and explainable.

Taking all evidence which has come to the Subcommittee's attention into account, we find it difficult to ignore the small residue of well-documented but unexplainable cases which form the hard core of the UFO controversy. They represent only a small fraction of the "unidentified" cases and are characterized by both a high degree of credibility and a high abnormality ("strangeness" in Hynek's terminology). Although none of them offers to our knowledge quantitative recordings by calibrated instruments for permanent inspection, they are often called "hard cases."

The Subcommittee has tried to explore the nature of this hard-core residue and found estimates to vary between 10 and several hundred cases, depending in part on a subjective judgment as to the criteria for a "hard case." High credibility is generally accepted for observations by multiple independent witnesses of known and reliable background or by multiple independent sensing systems (reported by multiple independent operators) or both; high abnormality or strangeness, when no known natural phenomena whatsoever seem to fit the observations. It is clear, then, that the hard-core residue represents less than 1% of the total available reports.

Those used to working under controlled laboratory conditions find it difficult to consider seriously any observation which is not available in recorded form for quantitative inspection. As a matter of fact, they make this a criterion for a "hard case." On the other hand, there are those, including some members of this Subcommittee, familiar with the intricacies of research in the complex and uncontrolled laboratory of the atmosphere, who find this less of a deterrent. They discover parallels between the UFO problem and certain atmospheric phenomena which fall in the class of rare events. A rare event always involves at first a question of the reality of a qualitative observation. Later, scientific investigation, usually combining statistics and physics, resolves this question one way or the other.

Although the University of Colorado report deals only with a very small fraction of the existing observational material (less than 1%), it offers itself enough substance of the described

sort, especially if additional information extracted by McDonald is added to some of the cases. In fact, the Subcommittee finds that the opposite conclusion could have been drawn from its content, namely, that a phenomenon with such a high ratio of unexplained cases (about 30%) should arouse sufficient scientific curiosity to continue its study.

The issue seems to boil down to the question: Are we justified to extrapolate from 0.99 to 1.00, implying that if 99% of all observations can be explained, the remaining 1% could also be explained; or do we face a severe problem of signal-to-noise ratio (order of magnitude 10⁻³)?

In the opinion of the Subcommittee, this question must be asked critically and objectively in each individual case. In cases which do not fit the extrapolation alternative, the further question should be explored: "Do they evidence common attributes?" It appears to the Subcommittee that the University of Colorado group has made no serious attempt in this direction.

If it is already difficult to reach a consensus on what constitutes a hard case, it appears even more difficult to find agreement on the advisability and importance of continued research. As mentioned earlier, it is at this point where the controversy often becomes heated because criteria for such assessment are not well-defined.

Earlier, Condon's statement was quoted that "clearly defined, specific studies . . . should be considered and supported." In this connection he calls attention to "important areas of atmospheric optics, including radiowave propagation, and of atmospheric electricity in which present knowledge is quite incomplete. These topics came to our attention in connection with the interpretation of some UFO reports, but they are also of fundamental scientific interest, and they are relevant to practical problems related to the improvement of safety of military and civilian flying."

The Subcommittee finds this statement of the Condon report a better criterion for support of UFO-related studies than the claim by some ETH exponents that UFO research deserves maximum support as long as there is a ghost of a chance that UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles, or the opposite claim that proof for the ETH must be provided before serious consideration of the UFO problem is justified. Both opinions strike the Subcommittee as unwarranted.

We have already expressed our disenchantment with arguments about

the probability of the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs, since there is not sufficient scientific basis at this time to take a position one way or another. However, in view of the infancy of our scientific and technological knowledge (approximately one century), the Subcommittee would agree with this statement by Condon: "We must not assume that we are capable of imagining now the scope and extent of future technological development of our own or any other civilization, and so we must guard against assuming that we have any capacity to imagine what a more advanced society would regard as intelligent conduct." On the other hand, we find no convincing basis for his statement, "It is safe to assume that no ILE (intelligent life elsewhere) from outside of our solar system has any possibility of visiting Earth in the next 10,000 years." (When does one start counting?)

The question arises whether there is a need at all to speculate on a specific hypothesis, such as ETH, in order to decide on the significance of a scientific problem, or whether any known phenomenon in nature is worth investigating. We think it is, but we recognize at the same time that the UFO problem may require expensive tools of technology. Therefore, the question of cost, priority, and relative importance of this problem within the total spectrum of research cannot be overlooked.

The UFO Subcommittee feels that the ETH, tantalizing though it may be, should not be dragged into this consideration as it introduces an unassessable element of speculation; but the Subcommittee also strongly feels that, from a scientific and engineering standpoint, it is unacceptable to simply ignore substantial numbers of unexplained observations and to close the book about them on the basis of premature conclusions.

There is an interesting parallel between the history of the UFO problem and the history of weather modification ("rainmaking"). After almost 20 years of taboo by the scientific community, weather modification has now achieved scientific recognition due to the fact that some courageous, high-caliber scientists entered the arena. This has resulted in a revision of the viewpoint of the National Academy of Science.

The immediate question is how to attack the UFO problem without the pitfalls of past attempts. There is little doubt that the short-time, one-shot approach of an *ad hoc* team is neither promising nor economical. This is es-

BACKGROUND

At the suggestion of the AIAA management, the Technical Committee on Atmospheric Environment and the Technical Committee on Space and Atmospheric Physics jointly formed a UFO Subcommittee in 1967.

The Subcommittee was asked to arrive at an unbiased assessment of the present situation and to serve as a focal point in the AIAA for questions regarding the UFO problem. In appointing the Subcommittee, special care was taken to insure that none of its members was committed one way or another on this issue.

In its attempt to get to the heart of the matter, the Subcommittee naturally found the UFO problem complicated and often buried in what appeared to be a maze of preconceptions, emotions, bias, hasty conclusions, and excessive and misleading publicity.

The Subcommittee soon recognized that it is much too early to expect a meaningful interpretation of UFO phenomena. Rather than enter the arena of speculation, it directed its efforts toward finding out whether or not a scientific problem exists at all. The accompanying report describes the approach the Subcommittee took and the results it obtained. —J.P.K.

AIAA UFO SUBCOMMITTEE

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Environmental Research Laboratories,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Boulder, Colo.

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NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories

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Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.

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Meteorology Research Inc., Altadena, Calif.

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Robert Rados
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

Donald M. Swingle
U.S. Army Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Secretary: Vernon J. Zurich
NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories

pecially true if the study team decides as the University of Colorado group did to concentrate on current rather than past observations. As the UFO statistics show, this results in the devotion of precious time to investigating the noise, rather than the signal. It was mentioned earlier that the Colorado University study faced formidable odds because of the short duration of its contract. If the recom-

mendation of the O'Brien committee to negotiate multiple contracts for continuing investigations had been followed, this difficulty would perhaps have been avoided. There is also little hope to expect a solution of this extremely complex problem by the efforts of a single individual.

The Subcommittee sees the only promising approach as a continuing, moderate-level effort with emphasis

on improved data collection by objective means and on high-quality scientific analysis. This would eliminate the difficult problem of witness credibility. An economic and technically sound approach involving available remote-sensing capabilities and certain software changes will require some thinking on the side of the aerospace engineering community. Proposals along this line are already in the hands of the Subcommittee. The financial support should be kept at a moderately low level (It is estimated that a small fraction of the costs of the University of Colorado study would be required initially) until reevaluation of the situation allows another assessment. Without such an effort the controversy can be expected to suffer further polarization and confusion.

The Subcommittee feels that a strictly scientific-technological view of the UFO problem leads to this conclusion and that, for a technical committee, there is no need to stress the public and social aspects of the UFO controversy, which may have subsided only temporarily and will continue to clamor for a more conclusive and convincing answer. The Subcommittee is aware of several books on UFOs to be published in the near future. What is needed now is a moratorium in the UFO discussion—with an objective, wait-and-see attitude on the part of the scientific and engineering community, the government, and the public.

The approach recommended by this committee requires not only the attention of the scientist and engineer, but also a readiness of government agencies to consider sound proposals in this field without bias or fear of ridicule and repercussion—or, as Condon expresses it, "on an openminded, unprejudiced basis." This perhaps is our most important conclusion.

Finally, the Subcommittee believes the decision by the Air Force to divorce itself from the UFO problem should be completed by allowing the files to be archived by a civilian agency, either government or university, after proper safeguards for the protection of witnesses and their names as well as full declassification procedures.

This Subcommittee intends to publish additional information on the UFO problem in the AIAA journals to give the members of AIAA an opportunity to form their own opinion. This information will include typical examples of the so-called "hard-core residue" and some potential engineering approaches to a solution of the controversy. ■

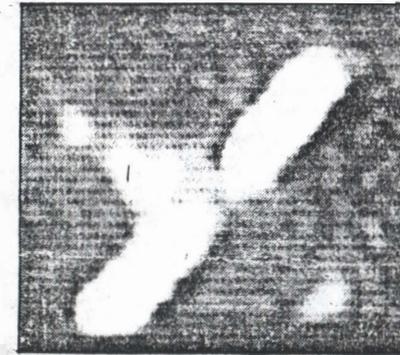
Boston Globe 14 Dec. 87

HOW & WHY

9. Gazing at stars on a clear night, I saw what appeared to be stars glide silently across the sky. Are they satellites, supersonic Air Force planes, or what? C.D., Sudbury.

A. If they moved in a straight line at a steady speed, and if you saw them soon after sunset or before dawn, they were probably satellites. Satellites are easily visible when the sky is dark and they are high enough above the Earth to be still in sunlight, so that they reflect brightly.

The most spectacular satellite visible now is the huge Soviet space station Mir (Russian for "peace"). With its attached Kvant astrophysics module and occasional supply ships docked to it, the station can be 110 feet long. By far the largest object now in orbit, it reflects enough sunlight to make it comparable to a bright star. Because of its size and brightness, astronomers at the University of Arizona, using a large telescope, recently were able to photograph Mir from the ground.



Courtesy/David Harvey Steward Observatory
High-resolution image of Mir

Mir can be seen passing over Boston three times this week, according to Kevin Griffin, spokesman for the local chapter of the National Space Society: Tonight, it will rise in the west at about 5:59 p.m. and set a minute later in the northwest; on Wednesday, it will rise at 5:03 p.m. in the west and set three minutes later in the northeast; Thursday, it will rise in the northwest at 5:23 p.m. and set in the north two minutes later.

Martian landscape

The Omni Space Almanac states that some of the discoveries made by Viking I and II orbiters were: the Martian sky is pink because of the suspended particles of red dust; the soil is red because it contains oxidized iron; the atmosphere contains all the gasses needed to support life, but they're not in the right proportions; and surface winds are light, about 15 mph.

SEP 10 1987

NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY INC.

'UFO' seen again in city

By ANDY BRENGLE
Gazette Staff Writer

HAVERTHILL — For the second time within a month, residents in the Humphrey Street area have reported a loud low-flying unidentified aircraft waking them up late at night.

"I thought I was going to be knocked out of bed," said Alba Williams of 10 Humphrey St. Williams, who lives at the address with her husband, said she could hear the "unbelievable sound" of the aircraft for about 15 seconds before it blasted by overhead.

She said it also woke her husband at 1:48 a.m. this morning.

Not knowing whether the craft sounded like a helicopter, propeller plane or jet, she said she could feel its vibration. She guessed a "chopper" but couldn't confirm it.

Gina Sweeney, of 4 Tappan St., said she and her husband were also woken by the "extremely loud sound."

"It sounded like it was in trouble," she said of the craft. Sweeney likened the noise to that of a C-6 military transport plane. The sound lingered, she added.

Williams said the craft — star shaped with at least four lights going around — flew only 10 to 20 feet above the trees "extremely fast." It was going in a northeast direction "parallel to Route 108 and 110," she said.

A spokesman at the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Route Traffic Control Center in Nashua, N.H., said the office received two calls in reference to low flying aircraft. One call reported the Haverhill incident about 1:45 a.m.

The other call came from Barre concerning a low-flying

aircraft incident in that town about 1:30 a.m., the spokesman said. Barre is just east of the Quabbin Reservoir about 20 miles northwest of Worcester.

Claudio G. Gualco, an officer at the Burlington FAA office, said his office had received no report of the incident. Gualco, who said his office receives occasional calls on such incidents, said it's difficult to track down low-flying aircraft unless the witness gets a tail number. Radar rarely picks up low-flying aircraft.

People can request a complaint form from the office and send it in. The office doesn't take formal complaints by telephone.

"What upsets me is that the FAA knows nothing about it," Sweeney said.



Richard Hall of Brentwood devotes much of his time to the study of UFOs.

E.T., call Mr. R. Hall

Researcher hot on trail of otherworldly beings

Col. Press
By LARRY PERL
Associated Staff Writer

Few people ever got paid full time to investigate UFOs.

"I'm one of them," said Richard Hall of Brentwood.

From 1958 to 1967, Hall was director of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

He was a college graduate with a philosophy degree and a growing conviction that unidentified flying objects were a reality.

But he was virtually alone in his conviction. He recalled that his \$9,000 salary was "laughable" — and so was his resume when he resigned reluctantly to seek a more normal, better-paying job.

"It hurt my career drastically to be involved in the subject," he said. "Some people literally laughed in my face."

Much has since changed in Hall's life. The investigation committee now exists only as an archive of reports of UFO sightings. Hall's full-time job has nothing to do with UFOs: He reads, indexes and writes.

Please see UFO, A7

Researcher devotes spare time to UFOs

UFO from A1

summaries of congressional reports as an abstractor for the Congressional Information Service in Washington.

But Hall, 66, is still hot on the trail of "beings from elsewhere," as the volunteer secretary/treasurer of a non-profit corporation called Fund for UFO Research Inc., based at his house on 39th Street.

And these days, fewer people laugh at him. "The whole subject is more respected now, by far," he said, mentioning several recent best-selling books on the subject.

The corporation raises roughly \$25,000 a year to give to people researching reports of UFO sightings. It's good, solid research, Hall said. It includes investigations of radar sightings, analysis of photographs of UFOs and psychological profiles of people who have reported seeing them.

"It hurt my career drastically to be involved in the subject. Some people literally laughed in my face."

Richard Hall
UFO Investigator

Publicly, the U.S. Department of Defense has pushed the evidence of UFOs since 1969, when the Air Force scrapped Project Bluebook, a program to investigate UFO sightings up to that time. The Air Force concluded that such sightings posed no national security threat and that there was no evidence of extraterrestrial beings.

"It's not worth looking into," Defense Department spokesman Lt. Col. James Jarrette said last week.

But Hall produced a slew of unclassified documents showing military investigations of UFOs over Air Force bases over the years. He said the military's public indifference just piques his "intellectual curiosity."

More than ever, Hall is convinced that UFOs and alien beings exist — and that the public has a right to know about them.

He said he doesn't particularly want to meet any, especially since so many people have claimed to have been abducted and experimented on by aliens.

He doesn't think such beings are hostile; otherwise, they would have attacked. Nor does he think they're friendly; otherwise, they would not have treated those they kidnapped as "laboratory animals."

He is convinced that if such beings are ever captured, they should be set free immediately so as not to antagonize them. "We're dealing with creatures of vastly superior capabilities," he said.

GLoucester Daily Times
GLOUCESTER, MA
A 11, 112
SEP 11 1987
NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY INC.

Noisy flying object sighted in Amesbury

By ANNE MARIE REIDY
Essex County Newspapers

AMESBURY — Aeronautical and military sources say they've been unable to identify a "star-shaped" flying object that made a "terrific" noise early yesterday morning.

Several Amesbury residents reported they were frightened by a loud noise overhead between 1 and 2 a.m. Similar reports came from Merrimac and Haverhill.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radar center in Nashua, N.H., also reported calls about a loud noise.

But neither the FAA nor officials at Pease Air Force Base could identify the aircraft.

A Haverhill woman, Alba Williams, reported hearing a loud noise at 1:48 a.m., and seeing a star-shaped craft with four or more lights going around it, flying extremely fast. It was going northeast, parallel to Route 110 and Route 108, she said.

"It was right on top of us; it was really loud and frightening," said Lorraine Salamon, a chemical sales representative who lives in Amesbury.

"It woke both me and my fiance out of a sound sleep," Salamon said. "It was there all of a sudden, for 10 — it could have been 30 — seconds, and then it was gone. It didn't fade gradually."

"I thought some aircraft got screwed up and almost landed on our house," she said. "I never thought it could be a UFO or anything like that."

"Yeah, we heard it, about a quarter past one," said Norman Hamel of Amesbury. "I thought it was a helicopter going over the house, flying quite low."

"I went out and looked, but I didn't see anything, even with the full moon," Hamel said. "Evidently, I wasn't looking in the right direction."

Jack Sanborn, who lives nearby, said he didn't hear a thing.

But a neighbor across the street, Cynthia Costello, wife of state Sen. Nicholas Costello, said, "We certainly did hear it."

"It was a terrible, terrible noise; it was deafening, and scary," she said. "It woke me up, and it woke Nick up; he was sleepy, and said he thought it must have been a helicopter looking for something."

What was that noise in the late night sky?

By ANNE MARIE REIDY
Daily News Staff

AMESBURY — Neither aeronautical nor military sources have been able to identify a "star-shaped" flying object that made a "terrible" noise early yesterday morning.

Several Whitehall Road residents reported they were frightened by a loud noise overhead between 1 and 2 a.m.

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DAILY NEWS
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NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY INC.

UFO: What was that noise in the night sky?

Continued from page A1

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"I thought some aircraft got screwed up and almost landed on our house," she said. "I never thought it could be a UFO or anything like that."

"Yeah, we heard it, about a quarter past one," said Norman Hamel of Whitehall Road. "I

thought it was a helicopter going over the house, flying quite low."

Jack Sanborn, who also lives on that section of Whitehall Road, said he didn't hear a thing.

But a neighbor across the street, Cynthia Costello, wife of state Sen. Nicholas Costello, said, "We certainly did hear it."

"It was a terrible, terrible noise; it was deafening, and scary," she said. "It woke me up, and it woke Nick up; he was sleepy, and said he thought it must have been a helicopter looking for something."

"I don't know what it was, but it was something I had never experienced — the sound or the feeling or the fear I had," Mrs. Costello said. "I just thought something was going to descend on us; I felt something terrible was going to happen. I felt imminent danger."

"We had plenty of calls on it," said Merrimac police dispatcher Mark Sayers last night. "We had two right after it happened, at 2 a.m. And I had one tonight about

"The woman who talked to me said it sounded like the plane was going to land in her back yard," he said.

Neither West Newbury nor Groveland reported any calls to the police station.

"We've been getting calls on that all day," said a spokeswoman at the FAA's Nashua radar center.

"We've had calls from as far away as the Providence police department about this," she said. "And we've had quite a lot of calls from irate citizens. Somebody was awful busy between 1 and 2."

Jim Powers, the regional duty officer in charge last night at FAA's New England headquarters in Burlington, said his office had not logged any complaints of this sort yesterday.

"I checked with all our military night facilities, and we didn't have anything taking off at that time," said Sgt. Steve Manke, of Pease Air Force Base's information office.