

# UFO POTPOURRI

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## United pilots report UFO, aviation magazine says

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A United Airlines jumbo jet headed for London reported a close encounter with an unidentified aircraft that passed at supersonic speed beneath the 747, an aviation industry magazine said.

The Air Line Pilots Association is investigating the report filed by the pilot and co-pilot of United Flight 934 of Aug. 5 from Los Angeles International Airport, Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine said.

Los Angeles air traffic controllers said they did not spot the craft on radar, the magazine said. The United Airlines crew reported it passed less than 1,000 feet below the 747.

The pilots told the magazine they sighted the craft at 23,000 feet near George Air Force Base, about 50 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Nearby Edwards AFB radar data and flight activity showed no military craft in the area at the time, Aviation Week said.

United's pilots said the dark-colored craft was about the size of a jet fighter, with a fuselage similar to an SR-71 spy plane, except the edges of the fuselage were rounded instead of sharp. They said it lacked wings but had a tail of sorts.

*The Arizona Daily Star*

Tucson, Thursday, September 3, 1992

## Missile From Vandenberg Lights the Sky

A trail of fire from a Peacekeeper missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on Tuesday evening was seen by hundreds of Los Angeles area residents who swamped phones at Griffith Park Observatory.

Officials at Vandenberg said the missile was fired at 8:15 p.m. to Kwajalein Island, 4,000 miles down-range in the South Pacific. Coast Guard Petty Officer

L.A. TIMES  
9/16/92

Eric De Jager said, "Several vessels at sea called in reporting strange lights in the sky."

The missile was sighted from as far away as Sacramento, San Diego and Las Vegas, said Air Force Capt. Stephen Hill. An observatory staffer said he handled "50 to 60 calls, and they came in from Lancaster to the San Gabriel Valley."

A KCAL-TV Channel 9 cameraman reported he filmed a light streaking across the sky from Monterey Park about 8:30 p.m.

## United 747 Crew Reports Near-Collision With Mysterious Supersonic Aircraft

MICHAEL A. DORNHEIM/LOS ANGELES

A United Airlines 747 crew has reported having a near collision with what appeared to be a supersonic aircraft that strayed off course over the southern California desert.

The pilot and copilot of United flight 934, with a heavy passenger load from Los Angeles to London, said they saw an unusual aircraft coming directly at them and pass under the 747 by an estimated 500-1,000 ft. The incident occurred near George AFB at about 1:45 p.m. on Aug. 5. The 747 was at 23,000 ft. departing from Los Angeles International Airport on a heading of about 40 deg. magnetic to the Daggett VOR.

The several-second sighting gave the crew the impression that the other aircraft was a lifting-body configuration, and they described it as looking like the forward fuselage of a Lockheed SR-71—without wings but with a tail of sorts. They estimated the size as similar to an F-16 (49.3-ft. length) and said it had a dark color with a shiny spot on top that may have just been sun glint. The closure rate was 2-3 times normal, and the crew assumed the other aircraft was supersonic.

Defense Dept. and Air Force officials said late last week that it was not one of their secret projects. "But we're not the only ones with strange projects," he added, referring to the CIA and other organi-

*The crew described a lifting-body configuration that looked like the forward fuselage of an SR-71*

zations. However, one source told Aviation Week that the aircraft could be a top-secret drone that escaped from its testing area, but this could not be verified. George AFB is about 15 naut. mi. south of the large restricted airspace that surrounds Edwards AFB.

Last January, an object with a similar shape and size was seen being loaded at night into an Air Force/Lockheed C-5 transport at the Lockheed Advanced Development Co. "Skunk Works" facility in

Burbank, Calif. The observer described the object as looking like the forward fuselage of an SR-71, but with rounded instead of sharp chines, and he estimated it was 65-75 ft. long and 10 ft. high. The C-5 was cleared to Boeing Field in Seattle.

Los Angeles Center air traffic control said they did not see the target on radar when the 747 crew enquired after the near-collision. The FAA subsequently reviewed the radar tapes but found no primary targets or other data on the mysterious aircraft. All aircraft at the 747's altitude are required to be on an instrument flight plan and have a radar transponder.

"To us, it's simply a pilot report, and there's no evidence of anything other than the pilot comments," an FAA Western-Pacific Region official said. The military liaison to the FAA said that a review of Edwards AFB radar data and flight activity showed there were no military aircraft in the area at the time.

The Air Line Pilots Assn. is investigating the incident, and is trying to improve military range safety to prevent a recurrence, an official said. □

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# LEAP SUBORBITAL FLIGHT CLEARED

LANCASTER, CALIF.

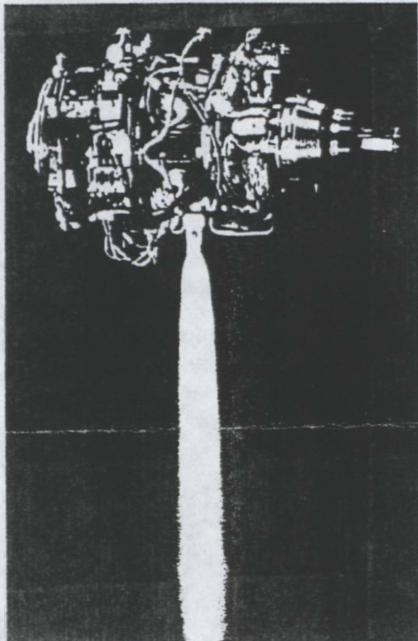
AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY/August 31, 1992 71

Rockwell International's Lightweight Exoatmospheric Projectile (LEAP) is cleared for a suborbital flight test this fall at White Sands Missile Range, N. M., after completing a 13-sec. free flight at Edwards AFB, Calif.

Flying and hovering autonomously, the 22-in., 42-lb. LEAP vehicle used an advanced infrared seeker and control system to acquire and track a heated-plate target located 328 ft. away. The target was heated to 300F.

Divert engines maneuvered the projectile at 2-4g throughout the SDIO National Hover Test Facility at the Phillips Laboratory's Edwards AFB location. It attained a hover altitude of 33 ft. during the test.

The Rockwell-developed high-resolution seeker, comprising 65,536 detectors configured in a 256 x 256 mercury-cadmium-telluride focal plane array, enabled target tracking accuracies of less than 200 microradians.



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FLORIDA TODAY, Thursday, September 17, 1992

## Distant object might shed light on comets

Associated Press

BOSTON — Two astronomers say they have sighted the most distant object ever found in the solar system, a reddish, comet-like rock orbiting beyond Pluto, about 4 billion miles from the sun.

Another scientist said the discovery could shed light on how some comets are formed, the nature of Earth's solar system and whether other stars in the universe have solar systems like this one.

"If this pans out it's absolutely fundamental to our understanding of the solar system," said Alan Stern, a scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas. "In some sense, it's almost comparable to finding a planet."

The object, about 120 miles across, is probably about a billion miles farther out than the current position of Pluto, say discoverers David Jewitt, a University of Hawaii astronomer, and Jane Luu, a researcher at the University of California, Berkeley.

Jewitt and Luu said they first spotted the object Aug. 30, using a 7.3-foot diameter telescope on the Hawaiian mountain of Mauna Kea.

"We were very excited," Luu said Wednesday. "To make sure it was right we deliberately looked at something else for an hour and then

### SPACE

Their finding was reported to the International Astronomical Union's bureau in Cambridge, where astronomical findings are relayed to scientists around the world.

The two had searched for such an object for five years, hoping to find evidence for a theory that some comets come from a ring of icy material at the outer rim of the solar system called the Kuiper Belt.

Comets are small, frozen masses of dust and gas that revolve around the sun in elliptical orbits. Scientists once thought most comets originated from an area far beyond the solar system called the Oort Cloud.

But astronomer Gerard Kuiper suggested in 1951 that there might be a belt of comet-like objects just beyond Neptune and Pluto.

The concept gained currency four years ago when a Canadian theorist showed it was nearly impossible to explain the existence of short-period comets — those that circle the sun in less than 200 years — unless they came from a belt of objects outside Pluto.

To see if the just-discovered object is part of such a belt, its orbit must be examined more closely.

## UFO hunters face greater cancer risks

UFO investigators may be leaving themselves vulnerable to cancer or suicide.

That's the warning issued by Canadian neuropsychologist Michael Persinger, one of the world's leading authorities on the effects of magnetic fields.

The danger doesn't come from ETs or their weapons, says Persinger, but from intense magnetic fields created by UFOs.

Studies of electrical engineers and technicians and those living near overhead power lines indicate they are likely to suffer a higher risk of brain tumors and leukemia, as well as depression and suicide, reports Persinger.

Because similar low-frequency fields are created by UFOs, those who study flying saucers are at risk.

Persinger suggests UFOlogists should take precautions. One way is to simply stay away from the magnetic fields. Another might involve using sensitive detection equipment to do the dirty work.

To prove his theory, the prestigious scientist is examining cancer records in areas that have been repeatedly exposed to UFOs.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1992

## New Ship Performs In Test, Japanese Say

TOKYO (AP) — The world's first ship propelled by superconducting electromagnets instead of a propeller made a successful 30-minute test voyage on Tuesday, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. said.

The success showed the possibility of building a quiet, high-speed ship with good fuel economy, said Japan's Ship and Ocean Foundation, which sponsored the project.

The 280-ton Yamato 1 is propelled by electrified sea water that is forced through ducts by a magnetic field created by superconducting electromagnetic coils, said Haruo Shibasaki of the foundation. The ship ran as planned at a speed of 6 knots (7 mph) in its first test, said a spokesman for Mitsubishi.