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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Handling the News Media: What MUFON Members

From: **Francisco Lopez** <d005734c@dcfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us>  
Date: Mon, 30 Dec 1996 04:03:08 -0500 (EST)  
Fwd Date: Mon, 30 Dec 1996 10:46:18 -0500  
Subject: Re: Handling the News Media: What MUFON Members

From: "MRGATE::"A1::MW1SHELTON" <MW1SHELTON%MRGATE.A1.decnet@shawnee.edu>

From: NAME: Mack Shelton <MW1SHELTON@A1@SPEEDY>  
To: WINS%<d005734c@dcfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us>@SPEEDY@MRGATE@SPEEDY

Bravo!! Someone finally came out and told the real side of the story!!

I'm in the military, USN to be exact. I also work as the editor-in-chief of a newspaper and what you said about stories from the street can be related to. I get stories of all sorts from people who "are in the know" but they turn out to be exaggerations of just plain lies.

Being in the military and holding a secret clearance in underwater dynamics, I am obligated to certain classified materials. I know the security procedures about handling the things I know. What the public doesn't realize is just because it is classified as "SECRET" that doesn't mean that the info contained in the secrecy has anything to do with any cover up.

Case in point: I was asked if my ship had any nuclear weapons on it. At the time (10 years ago, and the ship has since been sold to another country), we had several, but I could not say if we did or if we didn't. The standard response was and is, "I can neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons onboard the USS ----."

As far as receiving any reports about UFOs, in my area of Ohio we had three cases, both of which were solved. The first came when several small groups of lights were seen rising up from a nearby field. The second was a group of lights hovering over the Ohio River. A third happened down river towards Cincinnati when several small light were seen flying over an island.

This is what each of them were: 1) The military WAS involved in the first case. A group of reservists were out on weekend training and were firing their rifles and using tracers. Tracers produce a light when fired and at night are particularly fascinating. 2) A "small" civilian film company known as Fuji Films was flying their Fuji Blimp that night and the next day for a promotional tour. Blimps have billboard lighting (check out the Goodyear blimp) 3) two kids were on the island and had tin cans with candles in them. They had a way to capture the hot gas produced by the candle flame, thus making an illuminous balloon.

See the trend? Many people, reputable or not, make a "rush to judgement" on things they don't understand.

I am not saying UFOs do exist and not that ALL sightings are explainable. I believe that some form of life exists elsewhere, on the moon, Mars, in

the Crab Nebula, or in the ocean and rainforests. But, until I see one, I must be a little skepticle.

The military has their reasons for doing what they do. Area 51, though having the reputation of UFO studies, is a secret base UNKNOWN official by Washington, D.C. Why? Simple. Invent a car or a new shoe. You do not want the world to steal your secrets. So, you devise a secret test bed to study and enhance your designs. Does the public scream and holler about it? Maybe not. But mention something that flies and whatch out! You'll have every UFO enthusiasts that follows the dreams and misgivings of Brad Stieger in your face.

Sincerely,

Mack W. Shelton, Jr.

USN / Editor-in-Chief: The Chronicle

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