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Military Takes Blame for UFO Lights

From: RSchatte@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Jul 1997 23:21:39 -0400 (EDT)
Fwd Date: Sat, 26 Jul 1997 00:49:31 -0400
Subject: Military Takes Blame for UFO Lights

NO URL for this as it comes from AOL Newsprofiles, although this story is more than likely web-posted somewhere.

Rebecca

Forwarded message:
Subj: Military Takes Blame for UFO Lights
Date: 97-07-25 22:59:42 EDT
From: AOL News

.c The Associated Press

By STEVE ELLIOTT

PHOENIX (AP) - Military flares - rather than UFOs - might be behind those mysterious, bright lights that caused such a stir in Arizona four months ago.

Visiting jets from the Maryland Air National Guard were using high-intensity flares over a bombing range near Phoenix the night of March 13, when many people reported seeing lights, military officials said Friday.

The flares would have created quite a light show in southwestern Arizona, where many people reported seeing the lights in a boomerang formation. The lights, captured on videotape, created a media frenzy when the tape aired nationally last month.

Capt. Drew Sullins, a spokesman for the Maryland Air National Guard, said eight of its A-10 ground-attack jets were flying training missions that night over the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range, 60 miles southwest of Phoenix.

The planes were dropping high-intensity flares from 15,000 feet to illuminate the target area, Sullins said. The flares fall slowly by parachute and illuminate a wide area.

Before returning to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson that night, the planes dumped all their remaining flares at high altitude, which would have created what one pilot called "one hell of a light show," Sullins said.

But the flare explanation may not solve the mystery. It doesn't explain sightings that came from northwestern Arizona - up to 200 miles away.

And Frances Emma Barwood, the Phoenix city councilwoman who's been pushing for the Air Force to investigate the lights, said the explanation was just too convenient.

``If that is their explanation then they need to do a re-enactment so people can say that's what they saw or not what they saw,' ' she said.

AP-NY-07-25-97 2250EDT

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