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Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1997](#) -> [Nov](#) -> 'Coincidental' UFO Sightings and Natural Events

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'Coincidental' UFO Sightings and Natural Events

From: **Jim Deardorff** <deardorj@ucs.orst.edu>
Date: Tue, 18 Nov 1997 10:50:40 -0800 (PST)
Fwd Date: Tue, 18 Nov 1997 19:29:16 -0500
Subject: 'Coincidental' UFO Sightings and Natural Events

The recent Washington state UFO sightings, which were said by some to be explained both by a satellite rocket reentry and a meteor shower, raises the old question of how "coincidental" such UFO events actually are. In this Washington state case, many of the reports were of dazzling displays that lasted 5 or 10 seconds long, and could not have been due to meteors, each of whose streak lasts less than one second. And many could not have been those assigned to the reentering rocket, as it was said by authorities to have splashed into the Pacific, while the UFOs were seen over land passing from west to east. This latter info comes from callers to the Art Bell show that night. If anyone has quotes from witnesses on this, perhaps obtained from Linda Howe's report (whose audio I'm unable to download) on Art's web page, it would be worthwhile to post it here.

The earliest mention I've noticed in any literature that such UFO sightings tend to occur near the same time and place as natural events, more frequently than can be ascribed to chance, is due to Pennsylvania ufologist Stan Gordon (see the MUFON J. of Dec. 1985, p. 8). Here he states:

"Recently the MUFON UFO Journal published several articles which have shown indication that unexplained UFO activity in some cases seems to occur at nearly the same time, and in the same general location where observers have reported the passage of a scientifically explainable UFO, such as a bright meteor or a satellite re-entry. This 'covert' activity should be closely monitored by researchers to see if additional cases of this type are occurring."

I believe that Stan Gordon was right on in his analysis, and that such cases have been recurring, with this Washington state event being the most recent. This would merely mean that the "I" in SETI, which stands for intelligence, is indeed an attribute of the UFO aliens, and is of sufficiently high level to be able to stay several jumps ahead of scientists and ufologists alike. The main reason for such alien strategy, of course, would be to supply at least a modicum of deniability to those debunkers and negative skeptics whose beliefs (or belief systems, one may say) would be shattered if they were suddenly forced to believe that UFO aliens or ETs are in our vicinity, are aware of us, and are far ahead of us not only in science and technology but in intelligence and cleverness.

However, by ignoring the witnesses' reports indicating that the natural "explanation" can't explain the sightings, or at most can explain only the ordinary humdrum observance that occurred nearby in space or time, debunkers can utilize the ridicule factor, as by saying "If you believe that, I have a bridge to sell you."

Such ridicule, of course, does not address the sightings in question, but fear of such ridicule may deter ufologists from paying more attention to such cases.

I believe such alien behavior or strategy is fully consistent with their similar strategy of frequently disguising (or reshaping?) their craft to look nearly or somewhat like airplanes or even black helicopters, and at times at night to appear like stars, except for moving about suddenly at times but at other times just sitting still and being of an intensity comparable to a star. Prof. Harley Rutledge has documented cases of the latter type. The aliens thereby continue to supply deniability to the incredulous while supplying UFO evidence to those who may happen to notice that the "airplane" had no wings & tail, or at night showed improperly colored or improperly located navigational lights, etc.

Jim Deardorff

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