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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### What'S The Temperature Of The Sand?

From: James Mortellaro <[Jsmortell@aol.com](mailto:Jsmortell@aol.com)>  
Date: Tue, 27 Oct 1998 13:10:15 EST  
Fwd Date: Tue, 27 Oct 1998 16:09:27 -0500  
Subject: What'S The Temperature Of The Sand?

Dear List;

I have received numerous emails (delivered to my AOL address) since our Host/Moderator EBK ran my post on the temperature of the sand.

Since it appears to have drawn much interest, I will give the source of this piece of undigested beef...

This term "temperature of the sand" is from a true story... one which occurred back in the mid sixties at a NASA-Goddard meeting which was attended by Grumman personnel and led by the then project chief for the program I was working on, the OAO (Orbiting Astronomical Observatory). This spacecraft was a precursor to Hubbell and Grumman was the prime contractor.

I was then responsible for integrating the various experiment packages on board the flight article. For a young engineer, this was a great deal of responsibility, and so I was more than a little cocky!

At a NASA meeting, the program manager was making a complete fool of himself and I just couldn't take it any more of his stupidity.

So when the chief opened the meeting for questions, I asked, "Sir, what is the temperature of the sand?"

The NASA chief asked, "Sand? What sand?"

"The sand you have your head buried in!"

Subsequent to that particular episode, I was asked by my management to seriously consider a career in the Postal Service. I did two things. I kept my mouth shut. I kept my job.

But Jimmy doesn't work there any more. Jimmy is retired. So I decided to ask the question once more, for old times' sake.

Jimmy

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Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

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