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(Special Edition)

March 2018

**Message from the State Director
 Pentagon Admits to Secret Investigations of
 UFOs**

(Special Feature Article)
 By Tom Wertman



Nine years ago, I remember examining MUFON's national apparel website. I'd recently passed my field investigators exam, and decided to reward myself with a MUFON polo and hat. What caught my eye was a T-shirt with the statement "Doing the Air Force's Job Since 1969". The quote referred to the Air Force terminated Project Blue Book and the beginning of the Midwest UFO Network, later the MUTUAL UFO Network (MUFON).

Since then our highest-level officials have denied any knowledge of government programs investigating UFOs. This is in light of Nixon's reported viewing of an alien body at Homestead Air Force base ¹, California governor Reagan having his airplane pursue a UFO ², and also, coincidentally

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as governor, Carter filing a UFO report in 1969 ³. In 1985 at the Geneva Summit President Reagan even reportedly asked Soviet Premier Gorbachev if they could put their differences aside if the world was invaded by aliens ⁴. This is the same president who initiated the Strategic Defense Initiative known as Star Wars in 1983.

More recently, former presidents Bill Clinton ⁵, George W. Bush ⁶, and Barack Obama ⁷ were questioned by late-night guest host Jimmy Kimmel about any personal knowledge they had on UFOs. George W. Bush and Barack Obama treated the question in jest and said they wouldn't say anything, or more precisely Bush stated, "He ain't saying nuthin". Bill Clinton gave the most straightforward response. He stated that shortly after assuming the role of president he had people review information on Area 51. They found no evidence of aliens, only that the location is only used for the development of secret military aircraft. Clinton also had staff look for information on Roswell, with zero results. By his nervous actions it was apparent he was prepped, but not comfortable with the question. Ben Hanson, host of the TV show "Facted or Faked: Paranormal Files" indicated Clintons body language showed definite signs of evasiveness and intension to conceal and even deceive ⁸. The question is: why?

Black Budget Funding

On December 16, 2017 a New York Times article titled "Glowing Auras and Black Money" stated the Pentagon had spent \$22 million between 2007 and 2012 to fund a shadowy program called Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP)⁹. Funding was initiated by former Senate majority leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat with a long-time interest in space phenomena. Reid enlisted the aid of fellow senators Ted Stevens (R) Alaska and Daniel Inouye (D) Hawaii to have the program funded with black money. This is a small budget by government standards, and black budget funding would help this program (uniquely named AATIP) fly under the radar with minimal, if any oversight.

Hired to oversee operation of the program was Luis Elizondo. Elizondo came to AATIP with 22 years of experience in covert operations with the Department of Defense. Elizondo's credentials

aligned with the implied nature of the so-called threat identification program. How would he staff, conduct investigations, and acquire the necessary equipment for analysis of any evidence on a \$22 million-dollar budget? Project Blue Book received 12,618 reports during its 22 years of existence. Investigations were conducted by military personnel, or consultants, using resources of the U.S. Air Force on an unspecified budget. The end result was a decision to discontinue UFO investigation based on a report prepared by the University of Colorado known as the Condon Report ¹⁰. The report in a nutshell basically stated that no UFO has given any indication of threat to national security, no evidence of technology beyond the range of present-day science, and nothing to suggest "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

Enter the Winning Bidder, Bigelow Aerospace

Some serious event, combination of events, evidence in the form of physical, photographic or new data must have prompted a reboot of the thinking by Senator Reid. But, how do you make this endeavor more successful? As I see it, one of his biggest challenges running the organization would be how to best utilize \$22 million spread out over five years. It's simple; you do this by appointing a director who subcontracts out most all other operations. Subcontracting day-to-day processes associated with investigation and research eliminates the need to interview, hire, and train qualified personnel. Elizondo reportedly opened up the subcontracting process for bidding. And the winner is, "Bigelow Aerospace!"

What qualifications would Bigelow Aerospace have in conducting UFO investigations and research? Following is some background information on Bigelow Aerospace. Robert Bigelow founded his Nevada aerospace company in 1999, is a friend of Senator Reid, has a life-long interest in UFOs, and was founder and president of the National Institute of Discovery Science (NIDSci) from 1995 to 2004 ¹¹. During its operation NIDSci was funded by Bigelow. NIDSci, or better yet Bigelow, owns Skinwalker Ranch. This is a property southeast of Ballard, Utah where alleged paranormal and UFO activities have occurred. According to Colm Kelleher and George Knapp, close to 100 incidents occurred on the property

including: vanishing and mutilated cattle, sightings of UFOs or orbs, large animals with piercing red eyes which were uninjured when struck by bullets, and invisible objects emitting destructive magnetic fields¹². Per Army Colonel John Alexander, NIDSci attempted to attain hard data using a “standard scientific approach”¹³. Research at the ranch unfortunately did not produce evidence consistent with scientific publication. The organization was shut down in 2004 due to producing little useful data.

Dr. Hal Puthoff, the organization’s Chairman of the Board, was one of the more interesting names associated with the project. Puthoff is a theoretical/experimental physicist who has conducted studies in gravitation, inertia, cosmology, and energy research. His professional career spans more than five decades, with organizations such as General Electric, Sperry, and the National Security Agency¹⁴. Puthoff’s areas of research also extended into remote viewing. I found a 1978 report written by Puthoff and Russell Targ on the Central Intelligence Agency’s website “Standard Remote-Viewing Protocol (Local Targets)”¹⁵. Based on Puthoff’s position in NIDSci, it’s apparent that the organization promoted thinking “outside the box”. If all individuals in the organization were as qualified as Puthoff, it’s apparent that the lack of producing little new data was not due to lack of qualified personnel.

How did Bigelow spend both his, and the government’s money, the second time around? This is where the water gets a little murky, and all I can do is present some facts. In 2009, MUFON entered into an agreement with Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS). MUFON was to receive funding to assist with investigation processes. This move could greatly increase the efficiency of an investigation by providing much needed funding for equipment and travel expenses. MUFON investigators are volunteers required to provide most, if not all, of their own equipment and travel expenses. In return, BAASS was to receive the data collected from these events. The data would include reports, photographs, and physical evidence¹⁶. With Bigelow’s previous association with Dr. Hal Putoff, one would have to wonder if BAASS was not only looking for trace evidence, but individuals who had experienced physical effects from UFO encounters.

From the outside this appears like a win-win situation for both groups. MUFON gets much needed funding to assist with investigations, and BAASS receives data and can provide additional guidance with investigation research to MUFON. Being the skeptic, my first concern would be is the agreement 100% reciprocal? “If I tell you everything I know, then you know what I know plus what you know.” Secondly, are both parties on the same page to all the details outlined in the agreement? Indications are the agreement started out well, but deteriorated, and was terminated by BAASS within the first year. BAASS didn’t just limit its potential avenues of resources to MUFON.

In 2009 BAASS purchased several websites associated with the reporting of UFOs which included HBCCUFO. The websites were primarily purchased from Brian Vike who stated he was retiring from the UFO community. In return, BAASS was to receive all information related to the site. If one visits the “HBCCUFO About Us” page it makes a reference to the site now being operated by BAASS. It’s interesting that they thank Vike for his service, but make no mention of who or what BAASS is, or what is done with the data they collect¹⁷.

Besides private websites in 2010, BAASS was able to become a point of contact for individuals wishing to report a UFO to the Federal Aviation Administration. Section 8, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Reports states: Persons wanting to report UFO/unexplained phenomena activity should contact a UFO/unexplained phenomena reporting data collection center, such as Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) (voice: 1-877-979-7444 or e-mail: Reporting@baass.org), the National UFO Reporting Center, etc.¹⁸. It is unknown as to how and why BAASS was given priority over organizations such as the U.S. Air Force, or for that matter, MUFON.

Portions of the monies Bigelow received were reportedly spent on modifications to buildings with the intent of storing files, recovered materials, and metal alloys. It is not known what, and if any, materials were recovered and where they are currently stored in this area¹⁹. The content of what really is stored there appears to be a mystery. Would truly exotic metals, or as I’ve heard them called metametals, be stored in a warehouse

attached to a manufacturing facility? Who, and if anyone, besides BAASS technicians have analyzed these materials, and have they been made available to individuals outside the UFO community? Puthoff confirmed he looked at “unusual materials” for BAASS. That was basically his statement, and the point. What did Puthoff really meant by unusual materials? Was it something truly unique and unusual to earth, or just a unique combination of materials available on earth?

Termination of the Program

During the period of 2007 to 2012, 2009 appeared to be a high point for BAASS. They had acquired data from MUFON, purchased websites, and even had its name listed as an FAA contact for UFOs. Based on AATIP reports in 2009, Sen. Reid believed the program had made such progress in unconventional Aerospace related findings that heightened security was necessary to protect discoveries. Reid went on to state “what is considered science-fiction is now science fact”¹¹. Reid’s request to Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn III for a “restricted special access program” limited to a few listed officials was denied. From what appears to be a high point in 2009 becomes a low in 2012. With the exact reasons unclear, funding was officially terminated. Politico published a statement by a former staff member stating “After a while, the consensus was we really couldn’t find anything of substance”²⁰. This sounds very similar to Bigelow’s previous endeavor.

The end result of the five-year program was: a yet unissued 490 page report, BAASS receiving an unverified amount of funding for UFO research, and even more unanswered questions hidden in government and corporate bureaucracy. Since that time Sen. Reid has left office, and Luis Elizondo and Dr. Hal Puthoff have gone on to join another organization. “To the Stars Academy” is a for-profit organization founded by former rocker of the group, Blink182 Tom DeLonge. DeLonge has assembled a distinguished panel of individuals from technical and medical fields. Many are former NIDSci and BAASS members. My question is, “Is there a connection between “To the Stars Academy” and BAASS”²¹. An article about “To the Stars Academy” is a whole other story for later time.

How the Black Budget Program Surfaced

Sometimes it takes one event to bring a secret program to light. In June of 1986 an Air Force F-19 with stealth technologies crashed in the rugged terrain near Bakersfield, Ca. The Air Force declared the crash site out of bounds to press and public, and would only acknowledge an aircraft crashed²². Eventually word leaked out that the Pentagon was developing a secret stealth capable craft with Lockheed Corporation at their “Skunk Works” site in Burbank, California.

The Pentagon’s secret UFO program also surfaced mainly because of one event. On November 14, 2014 the USS Princeton which was southwest San Diego, California detected multiple returns from far above the radar’s 80,000-foot scan radius. Contacts would drop from above 80,000 feet to 50 feet above the water in just a matter of seconds. The Ticonderoga Class guided missile cruiser was part of the Nimitz task group. The Princeton requested the assistance of two Marine F-18 super Hornets conducting post-maintenance checks, and directed both to the area 10,000 feet above the target’s current altitude. The Princeton contacted an airborne E-2 Hawkeye aircraft to assume the role of tactical management. The E-2 is equipped with a 24-foot rotating radome and the newest variant capable of detecting targets within a three-million-cubic-mile surveillance envelope²³. All the E-2 could detect was a faint signal, so control was maintained by the E-2.

Lt. Col. Kurth was in command of the Marine flight. He was surprised when asked as they flew towards the target whether they carried ordnance. While unusual to be asked to investigate an unidentified target, being asked if they were armed this close to the California coast was also unusual. As Kurth neared the target he notified the Princeton that only the other interceptor was showing on his radar. Sensors on both aircraft were limited since neither was equipped with FLIR (Forward-Looking Infrared Radar, i.e. employs thermal imaging). At that point, the interceptors were told to break off. Looking down, Kurth noticed a disturbance on the water that appeared to be about 50-100 meters in diameter. It gave the appearance of something below the surface like a shoal or ship sinking rapidly. Kurth decided to descend and make a

circular pass before returning to base. As Kurth turned the white water cleared and the ocean returned to normal.

Next to arrive on the scene were two Navy F-18 Super Hornets. Cmdr. Favor and Lt. Cmdr. Slight had been on a training mission 100 miles off the California coast when asked by the Princeton if they had ordnance. Both aircraft were only carrying dummy missiles that could not be fired. Both aircraft were almost new, but neither had FLIR. Favor observed nothing on his radar when Princeton radioed a submerged target. Favor looked down at the surface of the ocean and saw something appearing to hover 50 feet above the surface. The object appeared to be creating a disturbance that looked like boiling water²⁴.

As Favor descended, the object appeared to turn and ascend towards him, almost like it was going to meet him halfway. Then it accelerated like something Favor had never seen. Both fighters conferred, and were told to head to a rendezvous point 60 miles away called a CAP point. While en route the Princeton again radioed Favor to inform him the object had assumed their CAP point. They were still 40 miles away, while in less than one minute the object had traveled 60 miles. By the time Favor arrived, the object was gone. Favor had no idea what he saw, no wings, plumes, rotors, only that he wanted to fly one.

A government agency with a three-letter identifier was said to have conducted an investigation. Interviews consisted of flight crews, fire control officer and senior chief of the Princeton, radar operator of the E-2, and crew of the nearby nuclear submarine USS Louisville. Findings are unknown.

Somehow a video reportedly from one of the aircraft surfaced on YouTube. Speculation was obtained from Elizondo before he left the AATIP. The video was removed, and then resurfaced on Elizondo's current employer's website "To the Stars Academy".

"To the Stars Academy" Creating More Confusion

"To the Stars Academy" has posted two videos taken from aircraft. The videos are

reportedly associated with the Nimitz event. When I reviewed the videos, the first thing I noticed is they were recorded with FLIR cameras. If the pilot's stories are to be believed, these videos are either from another flight, event, or maybe even a hoax. For clarity, "To the Stars Academy" needs to specify the source. If this was a later flight just tell us. The way the videos are portrayed by various websites lead individuals to believe they are from either Kurth's or Favor's flights. Neither flight was equipped with FLIR. "To the Stars Academy" claims to have additional information, and a third yet to be released video. Why not just release everything they have, and at the same time clear up any misinterpretations of prior videos? It makes me wonder if this is a method to further their fundraising.

Final Words

When the news broke about the Pentagon's acknowledgement of a secret program it sent waves through the UFO community. Was this the beginning of disclosure? I don't think so. What we know is 22 million Black Budget dollars were appropriated by Senator Reid. An agency called AATIP was established and overseen by Luis Elizondo. A large portion of the funding went to Bigelow Aerospace. Bigelow Aerospace used that money to acquire data, purchase websites, and reportedly research and store materials. Bigelow is a friend of Reid, and Reid may have been helping out a friend. Funding was terminated for AATIP in 2012, most likely due to lack of findings. What about the reported metamaterials? We may never really know. Bigelow could possibly have some unique materials and is attempting to reverse engineer them, or maybe just adding to the UFO mystique. The flight videos posted on the "To the Stars Academy" website are interesting and could benefit from providing source information.

Finally, here's my 'what if'. What if the 22 million was intended to detract from another Black Budget program which is still operating with deeper pockets and greater resources? The announcement last fall would be like the magician who wants you to look at one hand so you don't see what he's doing with the other.

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Editor's Notes By Phyllis Budinger



Certainly since the Pentagon revelations there has been a surge in UFO interest by the public, as well as an increased volume of UFO related items on the internet. It would be remiss if Ohio MUFON did not do research into the Pentagon revelations. Tom Wertman has done this. His findings are presented as a feature article in this issue. As a result, Ohio MUFON has made this newsletter a 'Special Edition' and expanded its coverage to 20 pages instead of the usual 16.

There was a board meeting in Chagrin Falls, Ohio on December 2, 2017. The logistics for the Ohio Conference have almost been completed. The date and venue has been approved as well as restaurant reserved for dinner after the conference. We thank Bruce Budinger for doing much of the

“leg work” on this! The conference will be held August 18, 2018 at the Quality Inn Conference Center in Bellville, Ohio. The Quality Inn will provide a special discount in rate for those attending the conference and spending an overnight. Bellville is close to our old Ashland site, that is, it’s a few exits south on I71 of the Ashland exit. We are currently deciding on the speakers. There will be another newsletter in July containing all the details of the conference as well as bios of the speakers.

You will notice that on the front page the officers listing has changed slightly. Terry Hamilton is now Assistant State Director. We have listed Bill Jones, our founder and mentor, as “Honorary Director Emeritus”.

We thank the following for their contributions. Tom Wertman, for his outstanding research on the Pentagon revelations. Thanks also go to Bill Murphy for his book review, and to Ron McGlone for his input on the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant events and statistical report on Ohio UFO sightings. Paul Althouse called attention to the newest Robbie Graham publication. As always, we are grateful to Rick Hilberg for his Ohio Retro Items.

Davis-Besse Power Plant (Oak Harbor, Ohio) Frequent UFO Visitations

**By
Ron McGlone and Phyllis Budinger**



It is known that UFOs frequent nuclear power plants. In my (Phyllis) UFO files, I noted the “whistle blower” on the Pentagon files, Luis Elizondo, reported UFOs are often observed “...in the vicinity of nuclear facilities, either ships at sea or power plants”. Our own Davis-Besse in Oak Harbor Ohio (near Port Clinton) is no exception.

My husband and I own a condo on the shores of Lake Erie about 35 miles east of Toledo. The shoreline curves to the northwest where we have a direct view of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant. It’s about 4-5 miles “as the crow flies”. Our son, who has been living in our condo for almost two years, has told me he occasionally sees strange

lights at night by the power plant. About 50 miles to the north is another nuclear power plant which services Detroit.

Our son has been telling me about seeing unknown objects (always by the power plant) ever since he's been living there. Usually he sees two or sometimes three, and always early morning ca. 5:00 a.m. or so, because that's when he gets up for work. I happened to be there on November 18, 2017, and my son woke me up and said: “Get up mom, it’s out there!” Only one was there this time, and it appeared to be on the surface of the water. The lighted object became very bright and then dimmed down. The brightness lasts about a minute, then it darkens for somewhere between 5-10 minutes. When there are two or three, one appears to be at the water's surface, and the other(s) are high up and stationary and also brighten and dim, but not in unison with the surface UFO. (One will brighten when the other is dim etc.) On November 18th the lake was extremely rough with waves rapidly rolling in, and most of the boats are out of the water at this time of the year.

Our son saw one again on December 9th doing the same thing. The lake was calmer this time. He has seen them when the lake was frozen. This time he did look through some very high power binoculars which are on a tripod which we had aimed at the cooling tower. He saw just light and no definition. I left a bunch of questions for him the next time he sees them. I want to get the timing on the brightening/dimming down with the surface UFO and compare to the brightening/dimming of the stationary/hovering UFO(s). Also, I want to document the frequency of the visits. And, I have a bunch of other questions. I have no explanation for these.

Ron McGlone, our Chief Field Investigator, presents a report of a sighting at the same Davis-Besse plant on October 29th around 3:30 a.m. (CMS report: 87710). The witness' report of the incident follows (edited for clarity) and also the results of his investigation. So others are also observing this phenomenon.

The witness report:

“I was visiting family in Oak Harbor, OH on October 29th, 2017 for a Halloween party. They live

very close to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant. I was driving past the plant on my way home to Columbus at around 3:30 a.m. and noticed something floating up and down above the reactor.

I pulled off and got out of my car, it did this for maybe 3-4 minutes before it flew up about 50 feet and seemed to just slowly hover over the buildings. There were 6 lights, 2 at each corner, a white and blue light side by side in each corner. The blue light would brighten when the white light would dim and vice versa. It did this for a few minutes then it just shot up and away at a 45 degree angle and was so fast it looked like a streak of blue light I heard no noise except for this pulsing vibrating sensation in my ears until it shot away.”

Ron’s Investigation:

I was unable to make contact with the witness, but did speak with the head of security at the plant. The security guy did seem somewhat interested, but also seemed quick to dismiss it as probably a hobbyist with a quadcopter drone. Being a drone pilot myself, I don’t believe the object was a drone.

I’ve found it very difficult or stressful to fly one at night in an unfamiliar area, and/or risk crashing into a power line or something. There’s also the thought if your drone did go down inside a nuclear power plant, you may face prison time for an act of terrorism. I’d doubt you’d get your drone back anyway.

Other reasons why I tend to rule out the drone theory was the weather that early morning. There was a directional wind change from WSW-West at 7-8 mph which may have its own challenges, and I would think a drone operator would really stand out as being suspicious standing near a power plant at 3:00 in the morning. I also failed to find any typical drone manufactured to have the type of lighting array as described by the witness, most outdoors type drones use the red/green colors, typical of aircraft.

During my investigation, I did speak with someone that lives within distant sight of the power plant, which told me of seeing strange lights in the sky on several occasions. The security guy did mention there’s a 16,000’ no fly zone at the plant

and at the time of the report there were no known aircraft with transponders anywhere near the area.

Tom Wertman informed me (Phyllis) that there are other recent events near Port Clinton. These occurred recently (January 26, 2018 and January 28, 2018). It is documented in CMS file: 89890. It is currently under investigation by Jim Phipps. These witnesses had two sightings.”

Witness report: First sighting: January 26th 2018 6:54pm

“I was standing in my parent’s driveway when I witnessed a very bright glowing circle/oval to the NW heading in my direction. It reminded me of something I caught on video during the summer that ended up disappearing from my gallery. It was actually the exact same thing I had seen during the summer. The thing I first noticed was that there were no lights blinking, so I knew it wasn't a plane or helicopter. It was just a bright white glow as if a star had come down from space and was instead low in the sky and on a straight path. The second thing I noticed was that as it got closer, everything was silent. My parent's house is in a very quiet area. There is no sound whatsoever. The thing moved like it was almost just floating along. It was much lower in the sky than any plane would ever be in the area. In the video, the thing moves straight past the moon, headed directly for a star. When I say "and it's going" at 58 seconds, it almost unnoticeably changes direction and ends up passing between the moon and star instead. Near the end of the sighting I was watching the object in the sky and noticed that my phone was still accidentally capturing the bright star the object had passed by. I looked away from the object for a few seconds to try and adjust my phone to continue capturing the object and within that time the object had in some way disappeared. It was just gone. There was no cloud cover. It was like it hit a delete button and was immediately gone”

Witness Report: Second Sighting: 1 hour drive away from first sighting January 28th 2018 6:14pm

“I was driving west on the highway when my child said "hey that looks like that thingy we saw at Grandma's!" It indeed did. It was a bit different experience, because rather than being pitch black dark in a quiet area, it was sunset in the city. It was

moving north to south right out in front of us. No blinking lights again, and low. I managed to get a bit of video but when the thing went behind the clouds it NEVER came out the other side. The clouds weren't large or anything either. It would have taken maybe 5-7 seconds for the thing to pass through to the other side. It behaved in the same way, looked the same, no sound, just a bright glowing star-like, low flying object. I will send the second video by email to an area investigator." (There is a video of this event.)

I will try and report any follow up on these cases when the Jim Phipps reports the results of his research.

Jan Harzan (National MUFON Director) suggested we should set up instrumentation to measure the phenomena at Davis-Besse. I am hoping that we can establish if there is a regularity in their appearance. That way we could approximate when they will appear. And, I feel confident they will. Anyone for a sky watching party?



(Robbie Graham gave us permission to print the following article. He has amazing insight on the UFO phenomena. We printed another article by him in our October 2016 newsletter. It can be found on the following web address



[http://mysteriousuniverse.org/2017/](http://mysteriousuniverse.org/2017/11/signs-and-wonders-interpreting-shyamalans-alien-blockbuster-in-the-age-of-hyperreality)

[11/signs-and-wonders-interpreting-shyamalans-alien-blockbuster-in-the-age-of-hyperreality](http://mysteriousuniverse.org/2017/11/signs-and-wonders-interpreting-shyamalans-alien-blockbuster-in-the-age-of-hyperreality). Ed.)

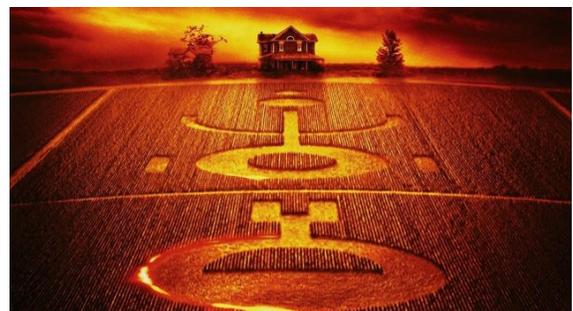
Robbie Graham has lectured around the world on the UFO subject and has been interviewed for the BBC, Coast to Coast AM, Canal+ TV, Channel 4, and Vanity Fair, among many others. His articles have appeared in numerous publications, including The Guardian, New Statesman, Filmfax, and Fortean Times. He holds first class degrees in Film, Television and Radio Studies (BA hons) and Cinema Studies (MA) from Staffordshire University

and the University of Bristol, respectively. He is the author of *Silver Screen Saucers: Sorting Fact from Fantasy in Hollywood's UFO Movies* (White Crow Books, 2015) and the editor of *UFOs: Reframing the Debate* (White Crow Books, 2017). Visit robbiegraham.uk

'Signs' and Wonders: Interpreting Shyamalan's Alien Blockbuster In the Age of Hyperreality
Robbie Graham
November 18, 2017

Inspired by the crop circle phenomenon, the 2002 movie *Signs* draws broadly from the UFO mythos and, in one of its more comical scenes, has three of its characters huddled together in tinfoil hats, wracked by paranoia. Beyond such cliché, however, M. Night Shyamalan's film exhibits a deeper—perhaps subconscious—awareness of the UFO phenomenon and of the effects of its mass-mediation in the post-modern world.

In the film, a Pennsylvanian farming family—headed by old-fashioned priest and widower Reverend Graham Hess (Mel Gibson)—is thrown into turmoil when a crop formation appears overnight in their corn field. From TV news coverage we learn that hundreds of similar crop 'signs' have appeared suddenly and simultaneously around the world, baffling experts. Graham is quietly concerned and seeks to distance his family from the inexplicable events unfolding around them by refusing them access to the media circus now spoon-feeding the hungry masses. "See, this is why we're not watching TV," says Graham, "people get obsessed." For Graham, despite the undeniable physical reality of the sign in his corn field, and his own gut instinct that something strange is afoot, it is only through their mediation by TV news reports that the bizarre events can assume a sense of the 'real.'



Discussing Jean Baudrillard's notions of hyperreality, John Storey notes that, "Representation does not stand at one, removed from reality, to conceal or distort it, it is reality"; implicitly aware of this, Graham opts to sever his own access to media imagery, leaving him free to interpret the outside events as he chooses and to continue to inhabit his own secure, albeit emotionally stagnant, reality. It is only when Graham catches a glimpse of an alien in his corn field one night that he submits to his family's desire to be mediated ("Okay, let's turn on the TV"). It is Graham's submission to television that plants him firmly in the "present age" to which Feuerbach refers in *The Essence of Christianity*: an age "which prefers the sign to the thing signified, the copy to the original, representation to reality, the appearance to the essence..." For Graham, the grieving widower and priest faced with an incomprehensible threat to his family, now, more than ever, "Illusion only is sacred, truth profane."

oblique reference the famous "Varginha incident" of 1996 in which three teenage girls claimed to have been traumatized by a daylight encounter with an unearthly entity in the Brazilian city of Varginha.



M. Night Shyamalan directs Abigail Breslin.

Several scenes later, the whole family has succumbed entirely to the mystical power of their television as they stare passively at the numerous "lights" now hovering over Washington DC and over hundreds of cities worldwide. Such is the magnetism of their TV screen that, rather than driving to the nearest city in an attempt to see the lights for themselves, or even simply stepping outside to glance up at the sky, the family considers it more natural to watch the events on television and, most importantly, to record them. "We have to tape this," urges Graham's son, Morgan, "this is very important... the history of the world's future is on the TV right now," telling his younger sister Bo (Abigail Breslin), "We need to record this so you can show your children this tape and say you were there." Clearly, the Hess family understand, as theorist John Fiske does, that the postmodern media do not simply provide, "secondary representations of reality; they affect and produce the reality that they mediate," and that, "all events that 'matter' are media events."



The reality of the situation is unpalatable for Graham, so he opts to filter it through the lens of television.

As the family watch live footage of numerous UFOs over Mexico City, Graham's brother Merrill (Joaquin Phoenix) quips: "the nerds were right"—a reference to the generic UFO believers he had mocked in an earlier scene. Shyamalan's decision to have the alien craft arrive over Mexico City was inspired by the real-life mass-sightings of UFOs over this same locale during the solar eclipse of July 11, 1991 when hundreds of people witnessed what appeared to be a number of hovering, metallic, disc-shaped objects. *Signs* again draws from the UFO mythos during a scene in which Merrill reacts with horror as the TV news runs grainy, daylight footage of an alien prowling the backstreets of Paso Fundo, Brazil. This is an



Glued to the screen.

As the saucer-shaped lights twinkle overhead, the anchorman informs viewers that “This image has not been adjusted or enhanced in anyway. What you’re seeing is real. It’s unbelievable.” Later in the film, Graham asks himself, “Is this really happening?” Such dialogue points to an awareness on Shayamalan’s part that the literal existence of UFOs is difficult to accept, not because of what UFOs might represent (otherworldly intelligences), but because of how the phenomenon has been mediated (i.e. ridiculed) for over sixty years. Shayamalan’s concerns along these lines are expressed subtly in his decision to confine his UFOs and aliens securely to his characters’ TV screen as objects of media scrutiny for all but a few seconds of the film’s total running time.



“What you’re seeing is real. It’s unbelievable.”

The extent to which the family’s perception of UFOs has been historically mediated is also effectively illustrated through their inability to envisage what horrors might be unfolding beyond the four corners of their TV screen. When both their television and radio cease to function as a result of the unseen invasion outside, in the total absence of media to guide their perceptions, the Hess family are lost, as demonstrated when a terrified Merrill asks: “What’s going on out there?” A question to which Graham can only respond: “I can’t even imagine.” Indeed, in an earlier scene, when Merrill does attempt to make use of his imagination, he can’t help but fall back on iconographic imagery conjured by classic UFOlogical fiction, describing the scenes on TV as being “like *War of the Worlds*.”

During the film’s climax in which an alien intruder holds Morgan hostage in the Hess family’s living room, Shyamalan again chooses to objectify the aliens through television—this time quite literally. When Graham finally sees the alien up close it is in the form of a reflection in his TV

screen, and, again, when the creature is defeated and lies dying on the floor, we see only its reflection in the glass of the television. Are aliens real, or do they exist purely as media constructs? In *Signs*, Shayamalan seems to answer the question with a question: “in today’s hyperreal society, does it even matter?”



One of several shots in ‘Signs’ in which the image of the alien is distorted quite literally through the televisual medium.

Signs is an anomaly in the UFO subgenre. Consciously or not, it engages with the UFO subject through the intellectual framework of spectatorship and hyperreality. As a meditation on UFOs as a media abstraction (viewed most comfortably through the filter of television), the film serves as a reflection of popular attitudes towards the phenomenon today, demonstrating that, when it comes to UFOs, even Hollywood in its mass-mediation of the phenomenon is acutely aware that there is no longer a clear distinction between a ‘real’ event and its media representation.



On November 2, 1957, a sighting very similar to the classic Levelland, Texas ones was reported by Mrs. Mary McCullough and Sandy Miller of Youngstown, Ohio, who were driving home together from work early that morning. Although the two women disagreed on some of the details of the sighting, they did agree that the unusual object was

in view for about five minutes and that it was egg-shaped. When first sighted, the UFO was just off the ground, some distance away. It then disappeared from view, reappeared, and then seemed to move through a nearby cemetery, a few feet up in the air. It next came to rest on a road near the cemetery. It was then sighted again, moving through an open field. Finally the thing "faded away" according to the witnesses, and was seen no more.

Source: "Jim Moseley and the Saucer News Years," Rick Hilberg 2007.



(The following article has some interesting stories. Some you might take with "grain of salt". But, the article is well referenced. If you want to see the reference sources of each story go to the indicated website. Ed.)

10 Lesser-Known UFO Encounters Of World War II

(<http://listverse.com/2017/11/10/10-lesser-known-ufo-encounters-of-world-war-ii>)

Marcus Lowth
November 10, 2017

Although there were numerous accounts of "foe-fighters" during the six years of World War II, underneath the sensational reports were encounters that didn't make it into the public arena until many years later. These sightings were much more specific than mere orbs in the sky, with several even involving encounters with actual flesh and blood beings.

While much of Europe engaged in bloodshed and spreading misery to all corners of the continent, some individuals would experience incidents that perhaps quite literally came from out of this world. Were they close encounters? Were they "war nerves?" You decide.

(10) Daniel Leger And The Aviatrix



In July 1943, 21-year-old Frenchman Daniel Leger was on a day's leave from German compulsory work service at a labor camp near the Baltic Coast of Poland. He would run into a situation that was equal measures strange and fascinating.

He had taken a shortcut to the nearby town of Exelgroud. As he was making his way through the sand dunes, he could make out a strange object sticking out of the sand ahead. In front of it stood a woman with long, blond hair who was dressed all in black. She appeared to be trying to free the metallic object. Believing the woman to be one of the German test pilots from the nearby naval base, he thought it wise for him to back away. Before he could do so, however, she turned her gaze to him.

She spoke to Leger in a language he didn't understand, but from how she motioned her arms, he understood she wanted him to help her free what he believed to be a top secret German aircraft. He moved forward and proceeded to pull away sand from around the object. After ten minutes or so, the craft was free. The woman's tone was one of obvious gratitude.

She touched a silver square button on her belt, which opened a doorway in the object. She motioned that he should stand back before she entered the craft, the doorway sliding shut behind her. The UFO began to rise slowly, glowing slightly, before shooting upward and vanishing. Only years later, when more and more reports of UFOs were becoming known, not to mention the exploration of space in the 1950s and 1960s, did Leger begin to believe the woman was quite probably an extraterrestrial and that the top secret aircraft was actually her spaceship.

(9) German Fighter Planes Attack 'Gray Cloud'



The incident with the aviatrix (female pilot) was not Leger's first strange encounter of an apparently extraterrestrial nature. Two years earlier in 1941, he witnessed, along with many other people of a French village, an object that looked like a "gray cloud" but seemingly had more mass to it. The fact that German fighter planes were following this cloud also brought people's attention to it.

The planes would take turns engaging the object and attacking it. However, whenever they got within a certain distance from the cloud, their engines would completely shut down, leaving the planes to free-fall away. Only when they had fallen a certain distance would their engines spark back to life, allowing the pilots to regain control.

The one-sided aerial battle would play out before the throng of onlookers below and went on for over an hour. When Leger attempted to research the incident years later, he could find no mention of it in any newspapers, local or national. He reasoned that as the German war machine had full control of such mediums during this time, it is perhaps not surprising that no record of the account—aside from his own—exists.

(8) The Revelations Of Charlotte Mann



In early 1941, around 24 kilometers (15 mi) from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, according to the startling information given by Charlotte Mann, her grandfather, Reverend William Huffman, was standing in front of a ruined aircraft unlike any other he had seen. He had been contacted late that evening and asked by the military to attend.

Parts of the craft looked to have broken away during the impact with the ground, although one large "disc-shaped" section was clearly visible and mostly undamaged. It had a metallic look to it and was extremely shiny. Most chilling were the three bodies that lay neatly next to the ruins, having been removed from the crippled ship by the military personnel in attendance. According to what Huffman would tell his family upon returning home, including the 13-year-old Charlotte, the corpses were definitely not human.

Huffman was asked to say prayers and blessings over the bodies. As he did so, he could see that they were covered from "head to foot in what looked like wrinkled aluminum foil." He also stated that he could see no visible injuries.

Many pictures were taken by plainclothes men who mingled with the military and police. Two of them even held up one of the "little men" under each arm before posing for a picture. Charlotte would state that her grandfather had shown this picture to his family before warning them they must never speak of it again, something that Huffman never did.

(7) UFO Crash At Military Base



In 1942, in a location described only as “somewhere north of Georgia,” a UFO crashed right on the grounds of a US military base, causing considerable damage to both the base and the craft.

According to the account, one side of the silver-colored craft was completely torn away, allowing easy viewing into its interior, which was mostly of the same silver color as the exterior. The craft appeared to be separated into three compartments. They were what appeared to be a control room, a cockpit which also contained four separate seats, and a section below the main compartments that had some kind of trapdoor exit—presumably for the beings to leave the vehicle.

Respected UFO researcher Leo Stringfield would bring the account to the public in his book *UFO Crash Retrievals: Search For Truth In A Hall Of Mirrors*. According to his research, the story was given to him by the anonymous mother of one of the military personnel at the base. Although there have been several secondhand witness statements in relation to this account, no other firsthand accounts have come to light.

(6) UFO Retrieval By US Naval Intelligence In Mexico



UFO researcher James Harder states that a UFO crash and retrieval occurred in late 1941 (some sources state around Halloween) in Sonora in Mexico. A US Naval Intelligence team supposedly took control of the downed craft shortly after the incident, moving it to an unknown location inside the United States.

According to Harder’s research, family members of the recovery team were told of the account, with

one unnamed nephew of a retrieval team member even claiming to have seen photographs of dead extraterrestrial bodies being held up by his uncle. Speaking with UFO researcher Timothy Good, the witness stated years later that his uncle “was holding up a small, spindly dead body, about three and a half feet tall. The picture had been taken by a friend. A small pile of other small bodies was over to one side. The UFO took up nearly the entire frame.”

It sounds preposterous that such “souvenir pictures” would be taken amid such a situation. However, imagine if the incident had happened today (however bizarre the notion of UFOs might be to you). It is not that much of a stretch to think, particularly given the technological advancements of mobile phones and how many of us use them, that people would act in such a way.

(5) UFO Encounter Above Nuclear Plant



In the summer of 1945, only weeks away from the end of World War II, Roland D. Powell was helping to train young pilots in the specifics of aircraft carrier operations. He was also responsible for guarding the top secret plutonium-producing Hanford Engineering Works, which sat around 100 kilometers (60 mi) from Pasco, Washington.

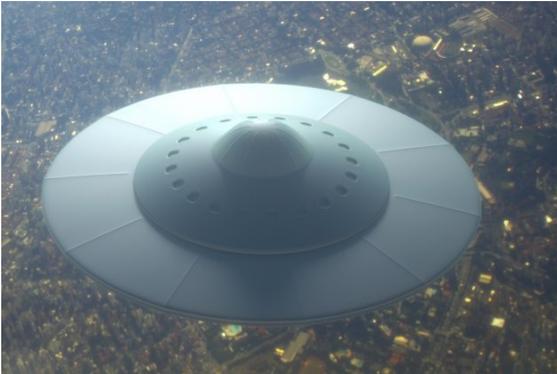
This particular afternoon, the radar at Pasco picked up on an extremely fast-moving object that had since become stationary over the nuclear plant. Powell would be part of the squadron sent out to see what the strange object was. He would later recall it to be “the size of three aircraft carriers” and that it looked extremely streamlined. The estimated altitude was around 19,800 meters (65,000 ft). He would also recall seeing some kind of vapor that would periodically be dispersed from portholes around the edge of the craft.

(3) UFO Flies Alongside Pilot Off California Coast

As the planes—Grumman F6F Hellcats—could only achieve altitude of 11,300 meters (37,000 ft), they were unable to draw level with the mammoth object. They would ultimately return to base, whereupon the lightning-fast object vanished directly upward.



(4) Official Documentation Of Massive ‘Mother Ships’



According to an official report made by the Ministry of Defense, following a mission in Turin in December 1942, the entire crew of a Lancaster bomber would witness a huge airborne ship around 60 to 90 meters (200–300 ft) long. Four pairs of red lights were visible on the craft’s underside, and later estimates of its speed would put its pace at around 800 kilometers per hour (500 mph). The object stayed in sight for around five minutes before the lights went out, and it seemingly vanished.

Furthermore, a footnote in the report would indicate that the captain of the bomber stated he had witnessed the same object three months previously during a mission over the skies of Amsterdam. This time, however, the object was below their plane, but the lights were still visible until the craft moved out of view.

Some skeptics have wondered if these particular sightings of “mother ships” were actually secret (at the time) experiments with larger aircraft that would ultimately become the jumbo jets of the modern age. There exists no evidence, official or otherwise, that this was the case, though, and the sightings remain a mystery.

As he was flying over the Pacific Ocean on a glorious day off Long Beach, California, on April 5, 1943, pilot Gerry Casey noticed a flash of light in the direction of Santiago Mountain. He quickly realized a craft was coming toward him, which he would later describe as being “unlike any airplane [he’d] ever seen.” He noticed how it began to wobble slightly in the air, and then in an instant, it was just off the left wing.

A student was also in the plane. However, he was practicing “blind flying” (where the student places a hood over his head and relies solely on the navigation equipment) and was unaware of anything out of the ordinary. Casey ordered him to come out from under the hood.

The strange craft was now flying alongside them. Casey reached for his camera, but just before he was about to take a picture, the thought occurred to him that the “propeller-less” plane might be a secret experimental craft. If this was the case, he believed he might face penalties, even charges, from his superiors for photographing military secrets. He put the camera away.

The craft then made a “curved turn” toward the ocean and shot off out of sight. Both Casey and his student would later estimate the speed to be somewhere close to 11,200 kilometers per hour (7,000 mph) and reckoned that the entire encounter lasted no longer than 90 seconds. Much like Daniel Leger, who we mentioned at the beginning of this list, Casey wouldn’t make the connection to what he saw being an otherworldly craft until years later when other reports made him reexamine his own encounter.

(2) UFO Forces Soviet Pilots To Abandon Bombing Mission



Soviet pilots Boris Surikov and Major Bajenov, during a 1944 bombing mission targeting oil refineries in Romania utilized by the Germans, each noticed a strange and unusual craft fly toward them out of nowhere. Their position was in what is now Southwest Ukraine.

Each thought the UFO to be one of the “new German weapons” that newspapers were reporting around the world, although Surikov would later state that neither of them had “seen anything like [it].” When Surikov spoke of the incident years later, he would liken the object to the space shuttles used by the United States.

Surikov would also tell how their plane (which was of considerable size and bulk in its own right) began to shake erratically. The oil pressure began to shoot upward, and Surikov stated he could feel a “strong electrostatic charge” whenever he leaned too close to the cockpit window. Each pilot was equally concerned with the full bombload their plane carried as they were with the bizarre object outside.

The huge craft would move away from them at speed after only a few minutes, but the effects it had on their plane continued. Finally, Bajenov, being the higher-ranking pilot, gave the command to jettison their payload immediately. Each pilot agreed to say nothing of the incident, and in particular of dropping their bombs before reaching their target, not only for fear of mocking by their fellow pilots but also for fear of reprimand by their superiors.

(1) Madeleine Arnoux’s Humanoid Sighting



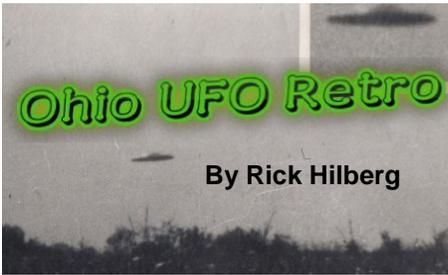
Surely one of the most bizarre sightings is that of 13-year-old Madeleine Arnoux, who in the summer of 1944, while picking berries in the small village of Le Verger in France, witnessed not only a strange flying object but also its astonishing humanoid occupants.

Madeleine, who spoke about the incident years later, stated the object to be a dull, metallic gray color and “about the size of a small car.” Beside the object, she could clearly see strange beings, about 1 meter (3 ft) high and dressed in “sort of brown-colored overalls.”

She noticed how the atmosphere around her had suddenly changed to an electric “thunderous state.” More worrying for the young girl was her inability to move despite her desperately wanting to. All the while, the beings in front gave no indication that they were aware of her presence and went about their business—whatever they were doing.

Suddenly, her body obeyed her commands, and she ran toward her bike several meters away. By the time she had bent down to pick it up and stood upright again, the beings and their strange craft were nowhere to be seen.

Over the years, Madeleine has discounted those who have wondered whether she may have seen German soldiers, or perhaps members of the French Resistance, or even that she imagined the whole incident, stating had it been soldiers or resistance members (who she had encountered relatively frequently), they would have approached her. And as for imagining it, in her words, “I know what I saw!”



On October 16, 1973, during the large Midwestern UFO wave, a woman from Chillicothe claimed that three UFOs forced her car off the road. Mrs. Shirley Johnson reported, "The kids and I were driving home from my mother's home when three huge lights - two white and one greenish - zoomed down. Two white lights were on either side of my car while the green one was in front."

She said the lights suddenly swooped back up into the sky and left without emitting any sound.

While police officers of the town of Greenfield were sighting a UFO at the time Mrs. Johnson and her children were, one Greenfield officer said he chased one for several miles in his police cruiser. Patrolman Mike Conlin said it was an object about 100 feet in diameter, and glowed with a bright white light. "It had a red area on top of it as if it was overheated. There was a dull humming sound that increased in frequency as the object increased its speed."

Source: *The Last Great Flap 1973 1974*, Rick Hilberg 2001.



Top Secret, Totally Classified Airline Seeking Flight Attendant (Job Opening at Area 51)
by Bridget Hallinan
January 10, 2018

https://www.cntraveler.com/story/top-secret-totally-classified-airline-seeking-flight-attendant?mbid=nl_012318_Daily&CNDID=42711875&spMailingID=12802415&spUserID=MTg1NDYxMjY1NTgxSO&spJobID=1322121021&spReportId=MTMyMjEyMTAyMQS2



Direct flights to Area 51, anyone?

To qualify as Janet Airline's flight attendant, you need prior experience. Oh, and "Active Top Secret Clearance."

We've all got that one friend or relative that's obsessed with aliens. They regularly mutter "the truth is out there" under their breath, and eagerly invite you over for *X-Files* marathons. Their house probably has a designated wall for newspaper clippings, extraterrestrial theories, and unreasonably long yarn threads. And don't even get them started on *Stranger Things*.

If your favorite extraterrestrial enthusiast is on the job market (and happens to have prior experience, of course), we've found the perfect job: a flight attendant at Janet Airlines. According to *USA Today*, the highly classified, Air Force-owned airline service—which may or may not actually exist—ferries employees to and from top-secret facilities in the U.S. Are your eyebrows raised? Ours are. Working in conjunction with AECOM, who posted the job listing, Janet flies out of a heavily guarded, discreet terminal in Las Vegas's McCarran International Airport. Their planes have been spotted on the tarmac; however, no one knows where they fly to.

As you'd expect with any government project stamped with a "Top Secret" label, people assume that aliens are involved. It's been hypothesized that Janet frequents Area 51's landing strip, in addition to other vague, but mysterious, locations. If you get an interview with Janet, you might just find out—or at least learn what the company name refers to. Is it "Just Another Non-Existent Terminal," as *The Telegraph* offers, tongue-in-cheek? Or something

much more hum-drum, like “Joint Air Network for Employee Transportation?” (Seriously, we're wondering. Please ask.)

There are aspects of the job description that seem pretty standard for a flight attendant—briefing passengers on emergency procedures, knowing first aid, and making sure travelers are comfortable. But it's also *highly* desired that you have “Active Top Secret Clearance” and can be level-headed and clear-thinking while handling “unusual incidents and situations.” Which probably means you'll need Ellen Ripley-skill levels in case a rogue alien attacks your aircraft—this definitely isn't a job for the faint-hearted.

If this sounds like your dream job say hi to E.T. for us.

(Editor's note: Since posting the above article, the job listing has been removed and is no longer available.)

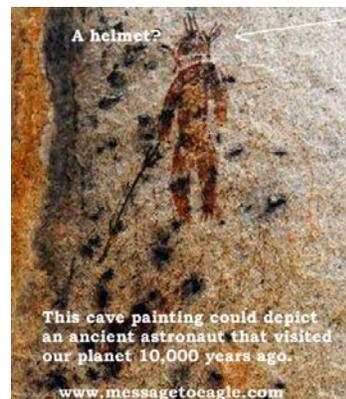


NASA to investigate 10,000-year-old mystery rock that 'shows paintings of UFOs and aliens' By Callum Hoare

(Published 14th February 2018)

(<https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/weird-news/681762/Alien-news-NASA-ISRO-prehistoric-paintings-UFO-discovered-India-Charama-spaceship-video>)

A NUMBER of prehistoric drawings have sparked a local government to seek the help of NASA after the images appeared to depict extraterrestrial life. *(There is a video in this article in which the narrator explains how a number of art pieces have been revealed. They are purported to be drawn 10,000 years ago. Ed.)*



Discovered in Charama, India, the images appear to show aliens and UFOs, similar to scenes of a sci-fi movie.

According to local archaeologist JR Bhagat it is unclear as to what the images reveal.

He said: "The findings suggest that humans in prehistoric times may have seen or imagined beings from other planets which still create curiosity among people and researchers.

"Extensive research is needed for further findings.

"Charama presently doesn't have any such expert who could give clarity on the subject."

He also revealed that some of the features of the paintings were unclear and the characters appeared to be wielding weapons.

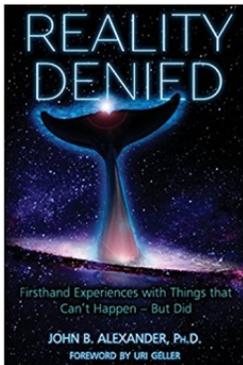
He added: "The paintings are done in natural colours that have hardly faded despite the years.

"The strangely carved figures are seen holding weapon-like objects and do not have clear features.

"Specially, the nose and mouth are missing.

"In few pictures, they are even shown wearing space suits. We can't refute possibility of imagination by prehistoric men but humans usually fancy such things."

Reality Denied: Firsthand Experiences with Things that Can't Happen – But Did
Anomalist Books, 2017, 318 pages
Review by Bill Murphy



John B. Alexander is one cool dude. At least, that's the impression you get from reading his biography at www.johnbalexander.com, or poring over his "UFO/Phenomenology Interests" page at the same website. And the near-veneration I saw accorded him

at a 2016 Society for Scientific Exploration meeting seems to back that up. Yes, Alexander has "been there and done that" – and that is precisely why these two books are so interesting and valuable. Alexander knows the "movers and shakers" in the military and government, and has been involved in some seriously heavy stuff during his employ and

travels of discovery. And this informs his works with an authenticity few others can approximate.

UFOs and Reality Denied are in some ways two very different books, yet there is an underlying theme coursing through them. In this review I'll concentrate on the books separately, then pen a few closing paragraphs uniting the two as expressions of the same stream of thought.

UFOs: Myths, Conspiracies, and Realities chronicles Alexander's general military and business career and largely, within that remarkable *cursus honorum*, his UFO interests and attempts to learn whether there was some clandestine Pentagon UFO program. Alexander came away with the feeling that there wasn't, and possibly that was true during the time he and others in his ad hoc interagency group met. Though Alexander was wrong to doubt that there existed such more recently, his reasons were logical. And the rebuff his group received at proposing a similar, earlier program failed for reasons eerily like what Senator Harry Reid claims ended the direct funding of the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program in 2012. UFOs is a semi-autobiographical look at Alexander's collision with or perspectives on some major UFO-related themes, such as Phillip Corso's The Day after Roswell, the Condon Committee, Majestic 12, his "best" UFO cases, and reverse-engineering UFOs. The first couple of chapters introduce names, titles, places, and interests together in a fairly compact arena, and keeping track of things can be challenging, but the rest of the chapters flow from that groundwork, so it's worthwhile to read those initial sections carefully. One really helpful practice is Alexander's provision of short summaries at a chapter's end that reinforce the information transfer.

Alexander is by no means a believer in the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis (ETH) as a primary UFO explanation, but instead has a larger theory uniting UFOs and other paranormal phenomena under the umbrella of Consciousness. This will also link UFOs with Reality Denied, Alexander's more recent book. At the outset let me acknowledge that I hold an Assistant News Editor position for The Anomalist, publishing house for Reality Denied. I contribute weekday listings and brief discussions of current online articles. However, I do not benefit financially from the sales of The Anomalist's books.

Reality Denied is a wide-ranging excursion into the realms of Consciousness, whether it's UFOs, faith healers, or Voodoo ceremonies. Just reading the chapter titles gives you some kind of charge, knowing that Alexander is going to have something interesting and first-person to say about them. "The Traveling Poltergeist", "On Being Dead", and "Reindeer Shamans of Mongolia" promise a good read, and deliver. With this book, I'd recommend reading only one chapter at a time, whereas with UFOs I generally devoured several chapters at one sitting, aided there by a generally linear timeline. With Reality Denied, each chapter has its own specific topic, and I think that reading one, then cogitating on it and savoring it and the images it conjures up, is a smart move. Personally, I found the chapters on Brazilian and Voodoo most informative and therefore most interesting.

Alexander has frank things to say in his concluding chapters of Reality Denied. Alexander warns against following "nefarious self-proclaimed 'prophets' who are basically running age-old con games." But Alexander does believe that many psychics are legit. He also trusts the value of non-materialist belief systems as opposed to western materialist Science. In common with UFOs, Reality Denied describes a controlling agent he terms PSP (Precognitive Sentient Phenomena), which determines what humans will observe and under which conditions. It's also Tricksterish in makeup, and seems to adjust in certain UFO sightings to things "staying just ahead of human capabilities but not beyond imagination." There's a natural evolution in what is perceived between the airships of the 1890s and the Tic-Tac of the 2004 Nimitz gun camera footage.

The second major theme proposed in UFOs and returned to in Reality Denied is what Alexander calls the "Step Back" concept. This idea is that phenomena should not be researched in isolation, so look for larger patterns that express themselves in individual events. For instance Alexander notes Kenneth Ring's work on similarities between near-death experiences and alien abduction reports. Alexander also sees commonalities between accurate observations of events and folklore. There's even an homage of sorts to "Avatarish" inter-species communication in the "Speak to Me (Dolphins and Whales)" chapter. Levitation,

firewalking, precognition, spontaneous healing, and forkbending all get their time in the sun, and all represent the workings of different aspects of Consciousness, which is in the UFOs' case, more real than are the UFOs themselves.

UFOs: Myths, Conspiracies, and Realities and Reality Denied: Firsthand Experiences with Things that Can't Happen – but Did are two valuable additions to a paranormal library. Written in solid English, they are comprehensible and exciting excursions beyond the borders of consensus reality.



Rating: out of 5.

Ohio Sighting Statistics for 2017 and for January 2018 By Ron McGlone

Ohio gets its fair share of UFO sightings reported to MUFON, having a total of 183 for 2017. Of that number only 55 reports were concluded as an Unknown event or object. This means that our current six investigators have solved 108 of the reports received in 2017, as either an Identified Flying Object (IFO), which could be natural phenomenon or a man-made object, or a hoax. There were 20 reports that just didn't have enough information or way to contact the witness, to begin an investigation.

Of the 55 unsolved UFO reports, most were of strange lights/orb types, and then you have the actual sighting of crafts. Most of the craft type reports were being triangular shaped crafts and a couple of square/rectangle shaped objects. Many of the reports come from the northern section of Ohio, one in which I personally investigated, was at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant located along the Lake Erie coast on October 29th. The results of this investigation are presented on page 7 of this newsletter.

January 2018 National MUFON UFO Statistics report a total of 495 sightings in the United States with California leading the way with 67 reports. Ohio came in 7th place with 17 reports. The most commonly reported shape of the UFO was a sphere, followed by triangle shaped craft, and a variety of types making up the rest.