

Sunny Young is new Chief Investigator

Words From the State Director



I'd like to begin by announcing a passing of the torch in our Michigan MUFON Chief Investigatorship.

Lisa Shiel needs to attend to personal obligations at this time and unfortunately is no longer available to be our Chief Investigator or State Section Director of the Upper Peninsula.

As all will readily agree, Lisa has done an outstanding job helping our team integrate CMS into our investigative efforts, bringing our hunt for UFOs into the 21st Century, and she's deeply enjoyed her roles with MUFON and MIMUFON. Thank you, Lisa!

Please welcome Sunny Young as our new Chief Investigator, effectively immediately. Sunny's energy, experience, and dedication are all well-known to everyone so we are certainly blessed to have her in this role. As with Lisa, Sunny lives fairly far up north – Mackinaw City – so, she won't be able to attend most of our meetings. However, Sunny will still run the MUFON Case Management System and I'll continue to do the Field Investigator training sessions.

We are trying something new and exciting for our May meeting. Per Becky Konkolesky's suggestion from the March survey, we are having two separate presenters join us via webcam (meaning they will appear live on camera via the internet and be able to see us and answer questions from us via a webcam on our side).

continued...

On page 3

Inside this issue:

	Page(s)
UK/England Annual UFOs Police Report 2006	4
France to publish UFO archive online	5
Former Arizona Governor Now Admits Seeing UFO	6 – 7
Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma: Bill Murphy's Column	8 – 10
RFID 'Powder' - World's Smallest RFID Tag	11
May, 2007 MiMUFON Survey	14
Recent Michigan Sightings	15
Jon Nowinski of the Smoking Gun Research to speak at May Meeting.	16
From The Editor's Desk	18



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MUFON International Director of Investigations Chuck Reever will be joining us in the morning for the Field Investigator's Training and Smoking Gun Research Agency Director Jon Nowinski will be our main presenter in the afternoon.

Reever will be touching on array of topics related to MUFON's case management system and answering any questions from our investigators (how cool is that?).

Nowinski will be presenting on the Smoking Gun Research Agency in-depth investigation into the October 26, 2005, UFO incident over Andrews Air Force Base.

For those curious, the documentary on Michigan MUFON by MSU student Matt Runyan is still under production and will not be ready to view at our May meeting. However, if and when it is complete, we will show it at the next available meeting.

As with every May meeting, we will be on the main floor of Walli's in the room that's to the back and right of the restaurant (that gosh darn motorcycle gang took the top floor again).

Just as a little advance warning, we are trying to see if we can host Stanton Friedman live and in person in September. He is quite agreeable to the suggestion. It would be at a larger venue. At this time, I am looking at the Smith Theater of the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus (fingers crossed).

In the meantime, please be sure to make it out to Denver this August 10-12 for this year's MUFON International UFO Symposium.

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And looking for more good downloadable reading? Please consider subscriptions to the Smoking Gun Research Agency's Dispatch (www.sgra-media.org) or the brand new Journal of Abduction Research (www.nicap.org/JAR_page.htm).

.See you Sunday May 6 at Walli's for Jon Nowinski and Chuck Reever via webcam. Remember, it's downstairs this time.

Oh, and if at all possible, please try to make your reservations by Wednesday, May 2, as I will be out of town Thursday through Saturday (otherwise please still email or phone in after Wednesday with the assurance that there's room for you). Thank you!



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UK/England Annual UFOs Police Report 2006

Detective Constable 1877 Heseltine British Transport Police writes, "This report is now the fifth one I have completed since I launched the PRUFOS Police Database in 2002, but does not reflect the views the British Transport Police. I have discovered 213 cases starting in 1901 involving 500 British police officers. Around 100 officers have been added each year to the database resulting in a total at just over 500 to date. Since my last report 43 new cases have come to light involving 100 officers. There are 178 on-duty cases involving 460 British police officers and 35 off duty cases involving 40 officers and 213 total cases involving 500 British police officers. The most important statistic for me from the first five years of research is 75% of the 'on duty' cases are multiple officer sightings. The top three multiple officer cases are: 20 officers April 1984, Stanmore, Middlesex. On March 30-31 1993, 19 officers South Wales, Devon and Cornwall and Windermere, Cumbria involving 17 officers on August 28, 1977.

West Yorkshire County has the heaviest concentration of police UFO sightings with 25 cases recorded. North Yorkshire with 12 cases followed closely by London 11 and Staffordshire with 10 sightings. Wales and Scotland have had 14 and 7 cases respectively. The top five UFO Shapes are: Light 104, Sphere 23, Cigar 21, Triangular 13, and Saucer 13. There are 20 multiple UFO cases and two involve USOs (Underwater Surface Objects). Six cases had radar confirmation. CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF 1ST KIND) were Cigar 7, Light 5, Saucer 4, and one Oval, Diamond, Bell and Fiery Cross 1. A Shape change – Cigar/Sphere 1

Conclusion -- Five years of research have resulted in 500 British police officers being involved in 213 UFO sightings. I genuinely believe that in high calibre witness categories such as pilots the majority of cases point to an extraterrestrial conclusion. Serving as a police officer with almost 18 years service, the last 13 years as a Detective in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), I believe the cases on the PRUFOS Police database offer a wealth of evidence to support my assertion that many of these sightings represent extraterrestrial craft operating in UK airspace. Corroboration of that assertion came in November 2006 when Channel Five aired a documentary entitled 'The Great UFO Mystery'

It may be an unsettling conclusion for the public, the media and the British Government to digest but the overwhelming data over 60 years of research by leading UFO experts from around the world proves to me that some UFOs are real and represent extraterrestrial beings visiting our Earth in what can be loosely described as part of an observation or surveillance operation.

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Thanks to George Filer, Filer's Files # 9 - 2007



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France to publish UFO archive online

CNES has collected statements and documents for almost 30 years

PARIS - The French space agency said it will publish its archive of UFO sightings and other phenomena online, but will keep the names of those who reported them off the site to protect them from pestering by space fanatics. Jacques Arnould, an official at the National Space Studies Centre, said the French database of around 1,600 incidents would go live in late January or mid-February.

He said the CNES had been collecting statements and documents for almost 30 years to archive and study them. "Often they are made to the Gendarmerie, which provides an official witness statement ... and some come from airline pilots," he said by telephone.

Given the success of films about visitations from outer space like "E.T.", "Close Encounters of The Third Kind" and "Independence Day", the CNES archive is likely to prove a hit.

It consists of around 6,000 reports, many relating to the same incident, filed by the public and airline professionals. Their names would not be published to protect their privacy, Arnould said.

Advances in technology over the past three decades had prompted the decision to put the archive online, he said, adding it would likely be available via the CNES Web site.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16392923/>

UPDATE: (March 22, 2007). France on Thursday became the first country to open its official archives on unidentified flying objects (UFO), said Jacques Patenet, the head of the UFO study group at the National Centre of Space Studies (CNES).

"It's a world first," Patenet said. "It's true that in the United States you can ask for information on a case-by-case basis. But we have done the opposite by putting all the information at the disposition of the public."

The archives are available at <http://www.cnes-geipan.fr/geipan/> and currently contain 400 files, about one fourth of the approximately 1,600 UFO sightings reported in France since the 1950s.

All of the files are scheduled to be online by the end of the year, Patenet said.

http://www.playfuls.com/news_005727_France_Opens_Its_Official_UFO_Archives.html



Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, Chief of Project Blue Book, from his book, The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, 1956:

"Every time I get skeptical, I think of the other reports made by experienced pilots and radar operators, scientists, and other people who know what they are looking at. These reports were thoroughly investigated and they are still unknowns.

"We have no aircraft on this earth that can at will so handily outdistance our latest jets... The pilots, radar specialists, generals, industrialists, scientists, and the man on the street who have told me, 'I wouldn't have believed it either if I hadn't seen it myself,' knew what they were talking about. Maybe the Earth is being visited by interplanetary space ships.

WE ARE NOT ALONE:



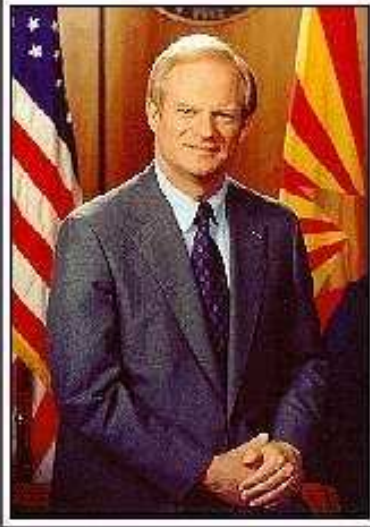
David Twichell's local cable TV show is now a one-hour radio show. Broadcast from Henry Ford Community College, **WHFR (89.3 FM)** is commercial free, non-profit, public radio - hosting the best in alternative music and programming.

Linda Moulton Howe will be the guest in June and **Dr. Lynne Kitei of "The Phoenix Lights"** will guest in July. Tune in on the first **Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM (EST)** with a new show each month.

Out of the area? Go to: **whfr.fm** and click on "tune in Live".

Former Arizona Governor Now Admits Seeing UFO Fife Symington Decides To Set Record Straight Ten Years After Famed Phoenix Lights Incident

By Leslie Kean



Ten years after the Arizona UFO incident known as the 'Phoenix Lights', former Arizona Republican Governor Fife Symington, III, now says that he himself was a witness to one of the strange unidentified flying objects, even though he originally did not say so publicly. "It was enormous and inexplicable", he said in an exclusive interview from his home in Phoenix. "Who knows where it came from? A lot of people saw it, and I saw it too."

On March 13, 1997, during Symington's second term as Governor, thousands saw multiple triangular and V-shaped craft, gliding slowly and silently across the sky for half an hour beginning at approximately 8:15 pm. Awestruck witnesses, throughout the state, estimated that the eerie, lighted vehicles were bigger than many football fields, up to a mile long.

Arizona Senator John McCain, a friend of Symington's who the former Governor describes as "open-minded", acknowledged at a 2000 press conference that lights were seen over Arizona. "That has never been fully explained. But I have to tell you that I do not have any evidence whatsoever of aliens or UFOs", he said.

The evidence for a possible UFO, which simply means something in the sky that can't be identified, lies in the fact that countless witnesses reported seeing low, gigantic, technological flying machines that blocked out the stars - not merely lights.

Now the former Governor attests to that. Symington says he saw a large triangular "craft of unknown origin" with lights, moving slowly. "It was dramatic. And it couldn't have been flares because it was too symmetrical", he says. "It had a geometric outline, a constant shape."

The sightings of the objects that evening are sometimes confused with the row of lights that appeared at about 10 pm, near Phoenix, and have been shown repeatedly on television news. These later lights were probably flares. People witnessed the objects at around 8:30 because they were outside on that pleasant, cloudless night watching the Hale-Bopp Comet.

Symington was known for ridiculing the incident at a spoof press conference, so his statement marks a dramatic turnaround. He wants to make amends to his constituents and set the record straight.

On the morning of June 19, 1997, when pressure was building from frustrated citizens who wanted answers, the Governor announced on television that he was ordering a full investigation and would make "all the necessary inquiries." "We're going to get to the bottom of this. We're going to find out if it was a UFO", he said in a serious tone.

Later that same afternoon, Symington suddenly called a press conference and told viewers that he had found the source behind the Phoenix Lights. His chief-of-staff, Jay Heiler, was escorted in by public safety police officers while handcuffed, wearing a large rubber mask and dressed as a space alien. The Governor presented the costumed extraterrestrial as the "guilty party."

KEEPING IT LIGHT

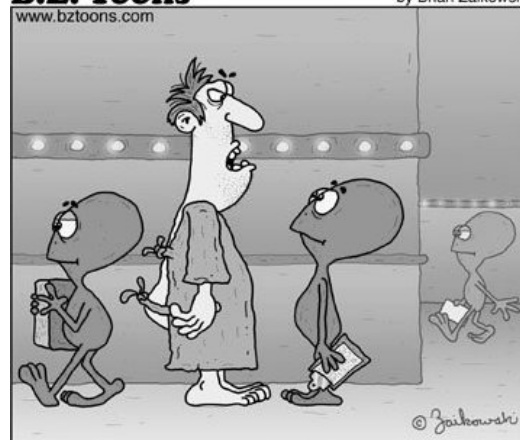
Special thanks to **Connie O'Very** of **Mi-MUFON** for the "musical aliens"



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by Brian Zalkowski



Excuse me. Where the heck do you guys
hide the men's room on this freakin' ship?

While laughter filled the room, he joked that "this just goes to show that you guys are entirely too serious."

"It was an insult to the intelligence of the witnesses", Barwood recalls. "The message to Arizona citizens was that reporting this was stupid."

"If I had to do it all over again, I probably would have handled it differently", Symington explains. He says that the state of Arizona was "on the brink of hysteria" about the UFO sighting when he called the press conference, and the frenzy was building. "I wanted them to lighten up and calm down, so I introduced a little levity. But I never felt that the overall situation was a matter of ridicule", he says.

The former Governor, a cousin of the late Missouri Senator Stuart Symington, states that the incident remains open and unsolved, and should be officially investigated. The US Government has never acknowledged that something was in the sky that night.

Phoenix city councilwoman Frances Barwood was the only elected official to launch a public investigation in 1997, but she received no information from any level of government. Barwood spoke with over seven hundred witnesses, including police, pilots and former military, who provided very similar descriptions. "The government never interviewed even one witness", she says.

Symington also attempted to find an explanation. He called the Commander at Luke Air Force Base, the General in charge of the National Guard, and the head of the Department of Public Safety in 1997. None of these officials had answers, and they were "perplexed", he says.

In 2000, the Department of Defense maintained that it could not find any information about the triangular object, in response to a court-ordered search requested by a U.S. District court in Phoenix, as part of a class action suit filed by witnesses. "How could they possibly not know about these huge craft flying low over major population centers? That's inconceivable, but it's also frightening", Barwood commented.

Symington's announcement is bolstered by the fact that similar flying objects have been documented by the governments of England and Belgium. On March 30, 1990, the Belgian Air Force sent two F-16s armed with missiles to intercept a black triangular UFO displaying bright lights on its underside. The object could accelerate or dive at tremendous speeds, starting from a stationary position, as recorded on radar. It flew at the speed of sound without making a sonic boom. The Belgian Ministry of Defense released all its data on the UFO to the press, after eliminating American stealth aircraft and all other possible explanations.

On the night of March 30, 1993, three years later to the day, a vast triangular-shaped craft, also capable of rapidly accelerating in seconds from a virtual hover, was seen by over a hundred witnesses in England, including police officers and military personnel. The British Ministry of Defense stated that "none of the usual explanations put forward to explain UFO sightings seem applicable" and concluded that the evidence showed that "an unidentified object (or objects) of unknown origin was operating over the UK."

According to an April 1993 MOD document, the agency sent a letter to the US Embassy which was "disseminated to all 'interested Agencies' in the US" to find out whether the March UFO could have been attributable to some US prototype such as the Aurora. "The answer I got back was extraordinary", reports Nick Pope, the MOD official who investigated the 1993 sighting. "The Americans had been having their own sightings of these large, triangular-shaped UFOs and wanted to know if the RAF might have such a craft." This statement, four years before the display over Arizona, contradicts the 2000 claim by the US DOD that the department had no information at all about the triangles.

To this day, US officials continue to keep the lid on the Phoenix Lights and other well-documented American sightings of mysterious giant triangles.

"I wish that government entities would stop trying to shut down these investigations by putting out some flakey story", says Symington, a long-time pilot, drawing an analogy to the November sighting of a hovering disc by many aviation witnesses at O'Hare airport, which the FAA explained away as a "weather phenomenon."

"It was absolutely breathtaking, I mean when I saw it, I said this is definitely a UFO. I have never seen anything like this in my life." Symington said.

Leslie Kean is an investigative journalist whose articles have appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines around the world such as the Boston Globe, Baltimore Sun, Providence Journal, Sacramento Bee, Atlanta- Journal Constitution, Newark Star Ledger, The Nation magazine, International Herald Tribune, Globe and Mail, the Sydney Morning Herald, the Bangkok Post, the Kyoto Journal, and the Journal of Scientific Exploration. Her stories have been syndicated through Knight-Ridder Tribune, Scripps-Howard, New York Times Wire Service, Pacific News Service and the National Publishers Association. She is the co-founder of the Washington-based Coalition for Freedom of Information.

Source & References:

Leslie Kean

<http://www.ufocasebook.com/symington.html>

Thanks to MiMUFON member Patty Donahue for this submission.



Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma

Bill Murphy's Column

by Jacques and Janine Vallee
New York, Ballantine Books, 1966

Introduction to the Vallee Reviews:

In my review of the recently-published *Grass Roots UFOs*, by Michael Swords *et al.*, I mentioned Dr. Swords' list of a few of the best reading materials in ufology. My reviews will emphasize these works, because they afford the most responsible basic grounding with the elite scholarship on the subject, with all its controversies, personalities, and history. As members of an organization whose express purpose is the scientific study of UFOs, we should be familiar with these seminal books.

There are three books by Dr. Jacques Vallee on this "top twenty" list: *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* (1965), *Challenge to Science* (with Janine Vallee, 1966), and *Passport to Magonia* (1969). It's no accident that Vallee has placed more books on the list than anyone else; the man must be one of the top ten luminaries in the field, has thought longer and more penetratingly on the subject than most anyone else alive, and his development of interests, including his movement away from the ETH (Extraterrestrial Hypothesis) has made him a self-regarded maverick in the field. In many instances Vallee was breaking new ground in the positions we'll consider in these three reviews. There are themes here that will deserve much attention in this column in future. Then, too, *how* Dr. Vallee makes his points – his choice of examples, his use of language – deserves our admiration. All in all, Vallee furnishes some of the clearest, most powerful arguments yet made for taking the ufological subject seriously. Having covered the first book *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* in my previous review, I will now consider the 1966 collaboration between Jacques Vallee and his wife Janine.

Challenge to Science

Jacques Vallee is a physicist, mathematician, and astronomer; Janine Vallee is a psychologist by training and a data analyst by profession. These are formidable credentials which the authors fully bring to bear in this study. Dr. Vallee's 1965 book *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* argued that UFO reports need to be the subject of serious scientific study, and proposed a basic scheme for UFO classification. *Challenge to Science* goes further; it elaborates upon the groundbreaking classification scheme presented in *Anatomy* and first published by the Vallees in 1963 (see pp. 261ff), presents the results of several data analytical studies, and suggests the formation of a world-wide body to study what is actually a worldwide phenomenon. The great value of this book is, to me, the effective use of data analysis in support of the scientific studies Jacques Vallee has advocated in his earlier book.

The first two chapters present some fascinating and classic worldwide UFO cases; the next two deal with a scientific approach to the subject, with Aime Michel's work as a central point (more on that later). The book then discusses how UFO waves actually develop, ways to recognize commonplace manifestations in UFO reports, an historical and worldwide look at such reports, the question of "cycles" of UFO activity, the search for patterns in UFO reports, and some technological issues. A Conclusion proposes avenues for further research for what the Vallees seem to believe is a soluble problem.

The Vallees are ambivalent in their treatment of the USAF effort to deal with UFO reports. On p. 37 they say that potential new discoveries about the laws of nature were what prompted the armed forces to "gather sightings in a very systematic manner for nearly twenty years." This is too generous in terms of intent and methodology. Indeed, in their introduction (p. xvi) they state "We believe that these studies ... are based on data on which no attempt at classification has been made, in which significant sightings have remained smothered in a mass of mistakes and misinterpretations, in which the sites of the events have been located only vaguely, and into which the official data-gathering system has introduced obvious selection effects that no one has sought to correct or even to describe." In actuality, the Air Force initially was focused on the questions "Are they hostile?" and "Where do they come from", and then "How can we get rid of the interest in them?" Also, reading Ruppelt, Jacobs *et al.* shows that certain classes of reports were routinely trashed, that cases were often "explained" on the flimsiest of grounds, and that at times at the end of a year the annual Air Force "accounting" of the effort was "improved" by classing cases as "explained" that had been catalogued otherwise. Of course, the authors are finishing this book not too long before the University of Colorado project. The Vallees criticize both the USAF's and also American amateurs' approaches to cases; though the two groups proceed from different principles, the end is the same: cases are treated in isolation. The Air Force viewed their case files "as a collection of accounts to be explained one by one", while the amateurs "regard their files as a collection of valuable occasions of amazement." (p. 201).

Pp. 60ff. describe the attitudes towards the UFO problem in the scientific community. Partly due to the media frenzy, the UFO phenomenon rapidly passed the initial stage at which it could have been the subject of systematic research on a vast scale; Jacques Vallee has noted elsewhere a similar phenomenon in France during its 1954 “wave” (page 66, *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*). So where does that leave the scientists, those people most capable of studying the matter seriously? There are psychosocial “debunkers”, bent on proving that all is hoax, hallucination, and media “hype”, because everybody knows there’s nobody out there, and even if there is, everybody knows “you can’t get here from there” – the interstellar distances are too vast. Then there are the “nuts-and-bolts” extra-terrestrial aficionados, who properly are less-medieval in their thought processes about the possibility of extraterrestrial life, but make the “leap” of believing a material object is at the source of the UFO phenomenon, before they’ve studied the data (the Vallees find the very terms “flying saucer”, “unidentified flying object”, and “unconventional aerial object” to be “lamentable, for they all contain within themselves the idea that there is a material object at the source of the observed manifestations.”). The majority of the scientific rank and file widely – and, perhaps given these two “extremist camps”, wisely -- reserve judgment.

The Vallees spend a considerable amount of time on Aime Michel’s “orthoteny” theory of UFO appearances, which they call the first organized application of the scientific method to the analysis of UFOs. This attempted to relate the incidence of appearance of certain UFO types to various geometric shapes and straight lines that could be mapped over a geographical area. Though they in the end cannot confirm Michel’s claims, the Vallees say “a body of knowledge has been accumulated and a large edifice of techniques has been built, and this development reaches far beyond the negative conclusion on the straight-line hypothesis” (p. 95). This making of ufology a scientifically-discussible topic to my mind satisfies a criterion that Henry H. Bauer would later propose for a mainstream science. In the 1990 *Journal of UFO Studies* (“Extraterrestrial UFOs: A Respectable Idea?” pp. 177f) Bauer suggests as a requirement for making the study an established field that it produce lines of research “that will be productive *irrespective of their actual outcome*”.

Pages 129-131 present twelve reports all resulting from the misidentification of the planet Venus. The variation in the size, color, and reported antics of the object observed are remarkable, and at first glance might seem to weaken the case that UFOs are other than misperceived natural phenomena. But here the Vallees make a powerful counterpoint: the perfect sincerity and honesty of most such witnesses, doing their “civic duty” “by giving clear descriptions of what they have seen to authorities, is actually a great strength, because these make it easier for experts to separate the “noise” from the “signal”, to remove the chaff from the wheat, so that the strong cases can be studied for possible new insights. The Vallees state: “To use the erroneous sightings – numerous as they may be – to support the claim that the UFO phenomenon does not exist is simply dishonest, for objective and calm analysis of the facts shows that the ‘rumor’, the ‘noise,’ can be eliminated precisely *because* of the reliability of the witnesses.”

In the later *Passport to Magonia* (p. 156) Jacques Vallee talks about the right of a scientist to change his mind. Page 136 shows powerfully just how far Dr. Vallee did move in his opinions. The Vallees observe that:
the psychiatrist and the sociologist will be tempted to include in a study of UFO’s certain reports of “miracles” and other unusual happenings that are unquestionably linked, just as the “flying

saucer” sightings are to an emotional matrix. We feel that physicists should not let themselves be drawn into discussion of these cases beyond a general review of the theories about them; they should center their study on reports that can be pinpointed in longitude and latitude and are free of any typically religious or legendary context.

This latter, however, is precisely what Jacques Vallee will do in his *Passport to Magonia: On UFOs, Folklore, and Parallel Worlds* (originally published in 1969). We have already noted in the *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* review Dr. Vallee’s search for a unifying explanation for all UFO reports; in *Challenge to Science* (p. 232) there is the statement “we declare useless any explanation that applies only within certain limits of time or space, or within certain strict boundaries, or for only a reduced sample of cases”. Vallee will attempt in *Passport to Magonia* such a unifying explanation, based upon his interest in the historical antecedents to the “fresh” reports he has actually researched, at the cost of in my view overemphasizing certain cases, if not rejecting any others. In particular, Type II B reports, stationary objects that give rise to secondary phenomena (see p. 66), are very important in *Challenge to Science* (see p. 204); but in *Magonia* they will be fairly pushed into the shadows by contact cases, which hardly figure in the Vallees’ classification system in the first two books. If UFO phenomena are multifarious in cause, a search based upon only the ETH or a folkloric approach is unlikely to succeed.

In Chapter Nine (The Search for Patterns) the Vallees apply data analysis and find patterns during the 24-hour day for the different types of UFO reports, not just UFO reports generally (pp. 177f). They carry out an orderly approach to disproving the debunking explanation of UFO landings, showing convincingly “that what seems to be an unorganized mass of rumors is in reality correlated very strongly with phenomena of a physical, rather than psychological, nature.” (pp. 184ff). In the course of attacking the

debunkers, the Vallees again take up a theme from *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, “the noisy crowd of American ‘contactees’ and ... a majority of the UFO groups that spring up everywhere as soon as the UFO question regains national publicity.” (p. 186). These people see UFOs because they want to see UFOs, through religious fervor or youthful enthusiasm or a need to feel important. It is well to recognize that this kind of activity and mindset is not science. Appendix V, p. 291, discusses how a survey the Vallees conducted of then-current American UFO groups led the authors to conclude that the leaders of the UFO movement in the U.S. are conservative (avoiding abductions and Jungian explanations); suspicious of foreign observations; and unscientific (they just disperse UFO reports, lacking the means for effective scientific research). This is a consistent drumbeat of the debunkers, but this warning is coming from one who was at the time one of the leading positive proponents of ufology. The authors make a good case for serious study of the physical characteristics of a UFO report “without trying to credit the results *a priori* to a particular story” (p. 211) – in other words, to reserve judgment on whether the report supports any general viewpoint on UFOs until the facts of that report are all in and studied. Any consideration as to why ufology is not taken seriously by scientists, academics in general, and by a “critical mass” of the general public, must come to grips with this issue of nonobjectivity and lack of scientific approach among the UFO community – still a problem perception today. While we have earlier noted that smaller groups within the scientific community “rushed to judgement” too early, we amateurs still tend to be viewed in the same way – as “enthusiasts” trying to prove a point we take on almost-religious faith. In short, we need to clean up our act, and promote that we are doing so.

An interesting commentary occurs at the end of Chapter Nine, in which the Vallees discuss the “psychosociological phenomenon that is the supporting context of the UFO reports” in the impact of a UFO sighting in Premanon, France (I’d note in passing that Michigan’s Dr. Ron Westrum is one of the foremost scholars in this sociological area of UFO studies). The authors say: “The cause of the sightings can be discussed according to physics, but their most important consequences are psychological and social. Whatever its physical nature, the phenomenon has made us aware of the limitations of our philosophies, of the obscurities in our beliefs, of the weakness of our knowledge.” Again, we perhaps see here the foreshadowing of Jacques Vallee’s later UFO development. Page 209 lists several serious problems listed with the ETH hypothesis; Jacques Vallee will develop these most clearly in his “Five Arguments against the Extraterrestrial Origin of Unidentified Flying Objects”, a 1989 paper reprinted as an Appendix in his later book *Revelations* (thanks to an anonymous Michigan ufologist for this reference).

In the Conclusion to *Challenge to Science*, the Vallees suggest:

- centralizing “all the files, official and private”
- to initiate the classification, indexing, and information-gathering under the aegis of an international scientific commission
- creating a team whose members would encourage discussion, debate, even controversy, publish their findings and investigations, and have investigative capability through local qualified data-gathering scientific groups across the world.

Efforts have periodically been made to unite many of the growing non-governmental case-files available within the U.S., and on a smaller-scale to work towards point three, but the lack of governmental participation within the U.S. and internationally has stifled progress towards these goals. One wonders how the study of ufology would have been different, had these excellent suggestions been implemented.



Monthly Statistical MUFON Report for February & March 2007

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In February 2007 there were 179 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS. 153 of which were in the United States.

There were five sighting reports for this period in Michigan.

Most impressively of the worldwide sighting reports, there were 12 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 13 Entities observed.

In March 2007 there were 238 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS. 204 of which were in the United States. Of these, six were reported from Michigan.

Most impressively there were 19 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 24 Entities observed.

To review the CMS data yourself go to www.mufon.com and click on "UFO Case Files" to 1.) Easily look at the Last 20 Sightings, or 2.) Do a customized search of the CMS database by date and/or location, or 3.) Logon to CMS for even more detailed UFO sighting information about your State and the World.

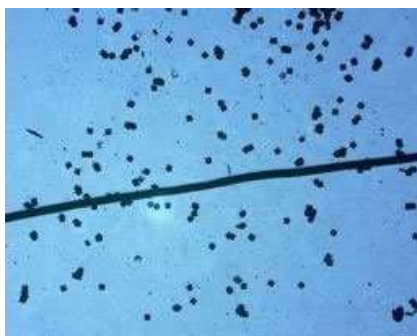


RFID 'Powder' - World's Smallest RFID Tag

By Bill Christiansen
Technovelgy.com



(Hitachi mu-chip tiny RFID tag)



(Powder RFID chips next to a human)

The Predictions of Science Fiction Writers Coming True in Today's World.

The world's smallest and thinnest RFID tags were introduced yesterday by Hitachi. Tiny miracles of miniaturization, these RFID chips (Radio Frequency IDentification chips) measure just 0.05 x 0.05 millimeters.

The previous record-holder, the Hitachi mu-chip, is just 0.4 x 0.4 millimeters. Take a look at the size of the mu-chip RFID tag on a human fingertip.

Now, compare that with the new RFID tags. The "powder type" tags are some sixty times smaller.

The new RFID chips have a 128-bit ROM for storing a unique 38 digit number, like their predecessor. Hitachi used semiconductor miniaturization technology and electron beams to write data on the chip substrates to achieve the new, smaller size.

Hitachi's mu-chips are already in production; they were used to prevent ticket forgery at last year's Aichi international technology exposition. RFID 'powder,' on the other hand, is so much smaller that it can easily be incorporated into thin paper, like that used in paper currency and gift certificates.

Science fiction fans will have a field day with this new technology. In his 1998 novel *Distraction*, Bruce Sterling referred to bugged money:

"They always played poker with European cash. There was American cash around, flimsy plastic stuff, but most people wouldn't take American cash anymore. It was hard to take American cash seriously when it was no longer convertible outside U.S. borders. Besides, all the bigger bills were bugged."

These tiny RFID tags could be worked into any product; combined with RFID readers built into doorways, theft of consumer goods would be practically impossible. It's not clear from the references provided, but even if this chip needs an external antenna, the attached antenna would be a tiny ribbon of wire more narrow than a human hair and only a fraction of an inch long.

How far away could you be, and still read the information from this "powder RFID?" The source article is very thin; however, the mu-chip mentioned earlier is readable from a distance of 25 centimeters (about ten inches) with an external antenna like the one mentioned in the preceding paragraph. This doesn't sound like much, but it's certainly enough to read people going through doorways, for example.

These devices could also be used to identify and track people. For example, suppose you participated in some sort of protest or other organized activity. If police agencies sprinkled these tags around, every individual could be tracked and later identified at leisure, with powerful enough tag scanners.

<http://www.technovelgy.com/ct/Science-Fiction-News.asp?NewsNum=939>

Thanks to Betty Reid for submitting this article.



Michigan MUFON

State Section Directors Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2007

The March 11 state meeting was held at Walli's Restaurant in Flint, Michigan.

Bill Konkolesky, State Director, called the Section Directors' meeting to order at 3:55 PM. In attendance were David Twichell, Rebecca Konkolesky, Gary Golem, Ann Huff, David Bleicher, Darlene Bleicher, Bob Peterson and Wendy Smith.

The membership surveys that were completed and returned during the state meeting were discussed. Replies to the question of what do you want to gain through MIMUFON included support meetings. Bill suggested that we add to the Newsletter a request to contact the State Director if you are interested in hosting or attending local meetings. Gary requested that a local membership list and state meeting attendance lists be distributed to State Section Directors. Bob noted that in years past he had hosted a local meeting in the Kalamazoo area, which was attended by 6 or 7 people.

The question of speakers for state meetings included Linda Moulton Howe. Ann added that she would like to know more about investigations in other countries. Bob suggested that we could ask foreign investigators to prepare a taped lecture. Becky mentioned the possibility of a live web cast, since Walli's has a no cost wireless Internet connection available. To support this type a communication a web cam would be necessary.

David Twichell suggested that we invite Stanton Friedman to lecture, since he had expressed interest during an interview for David's program. David offered to contact him and inquire about the price. The availability of Budd Hopkins was discussed, and though he has experienced recent medical issues he may have rejoined the lecture circuit. Bill offered the possibility of tapping Oakland Community College to host a Friedman lecture, on a Friday, in place of the September or November 2007 state meetings, much like the Nick Redfern presentation of September 2004.

David Bleicher mentioned that he does not use the MIMUFON laptop computer for library business, and suggested that a member might be interested in owning it. Ann decided to evaluate the machine, and will purchase or return it in May.

Profits from the MIMUFON store totaled \$23. Chuck Lietzau generously donated the speaker's collection to MIMUFON, a total of \$85.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy Smith, March 28, 2007.



General George S. Brown, USAF Chief of Staff, addressed the appearance of UFOs during the Vietnam War at a press conference:

"I don't know whether this story has ever been told or not. They weren't called UFOs. They were called enemy helicopters. And they were only seen at night and they were only seen in certain places. They were seen up around the DMZ (demilitarized zone) in the early summer of '68. And this resulted in quite a little battle. And in the course of this, an Australian destroyer took a hit and we never found any enemy, we only found ourselves when this had all been sorted out. And this caused some shooting there, and there was no enemy at all involved but we always reacted. Always after dark. The same thing happened up at Pleiku at the Highlands in '69."

(Department of Defense transcript of press conference in Illinois, October 16, 1973.)

Eugene Cernan, commander of Apollo 17:

"I'm one of those guys who have never seen a UFO but I've been asked, and I've said publicly I thought they were somebody else, some other civilization." Los Angeles Times, Jan. 6, 1973

38th Annual International MUFON Symposium

2007 International UFO Symposium

Sponsored by the Mutual UFO Network

"An Estimate of the Situation: The Extraterrestrial Hypothesis"

August 10-12, 2007

Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel

Denver, Colorado

Attention: Early registration will begin in April!

Speakers as of March, 2007

Stanton Friedman - 60 Years of Roswell

Dr. Rudy Schild - The University Community Response to UFO Research

Richard Dolan - The Extraterrestrial Presence on Earth: Why It is Revolutionary

Timothy Good - NEED TO KNOW: UFOs, the Military and Intelligence

Brad Sparks - Startling new revelations on the origins of MJ-12

Kathleen Marden - New evidence on the Betty and Barney Hill Case

John Greenewald - The UFO Hunters

Sam Maranto - The O'Hare Airport and Tinley Park Sightings

Michael Nelson - Startling new evidence on the Portage, Ohio UFO case

Robert Salas - Faded Giant - The Malmstrom Air Force Base encounters

<http://mufon.com/symposia.htm>

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Hotel reservations may be made online at: <http://marriott.com/hotels/travel/dentc-denver-marriott-tech-center> or by calling the Marriott Tech Center Reservation Line at 888-238-1491 or 303-779-1100. Use the "MUTMUTA" group code to guarantee the \$72.00/night MUFON rate. The price is good from August 10 – 15, 2007 if registered by the August 1 cut-off date. Even if you are late registering, please tell the registration agent you are attending the MUFON symposium. All rooms credited to MUFON go towards paying for the facilities we will be using.

Hotel Parking: Important note about Hotel Parking: If you are staying at the Marriott, you will not have to pay for parking – your guest room key will be used to validate parking. If you are not staying at the Marriott but are attending the conference, please bring your parking ticket to the main registration desk or the Colorado MUFON table to be stamped and avoid having to pay for parking.

Make your meal choices for both Friday night's dinner and the Saturday luncheon when you make your reservations at <http://mufon.com/symposia.htm> or when calling (970) 221-1836 or (970) 221-1UFO



May, 2007 MiMUFON Survey.

At our March meeting, we distributed a member survey to get some feedback as to what or who you might like to see at future meetings and what else MUFON and MIMUFON might be able to consider in terms of activities outside of our meetings.

So, let's get to it. Here, broken down by survey question are some of your comments and some feedback from myself and the rest of the Michigan MUFON Board...

Question 1: What is your interest in the UFO phenomenon?

Responses here spanned the familiar spectrum of spiritual exploration to "nuts and bolts" UFOlogy. It should be no surprise that a number of respondents indicated personal experiences have brought them to join MUFON.

The diversity of interest, opinion, and experience of our members is really what keeps our organization a healthy open-minded group.

Question 2: Do you have any suggestions for future speakers at state meetings?

Many suggested the perennial favorites like Stanton Friedman, Linda Moulton Howe, Budd Hopkins, and Erich Von Daniken. Dr. Levengood was also (and is frequently) mentioned, however, he is not currently seeking lecture opportunities.

Since this survey was given, Friedman and Moulton Howe were both approached for consideration for a fall opportunity at a larger theater venue in the Detroit area. I'll put it this way, neither speaker comes cheap. I'll go out on a limb and predict what we are likely to see is one of them come out in September at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College. Planning on this is still in the early stages, but hopefully this will work out.

Also, a suggestion was made that we try hosting presenters by webcam. Walli's does have free wireless internet access and so we are trying this suggestion for our May meeting. If it's deemed a success, we'll see if we can't pull in more presenters to remotely join us at some of our meetings down the road, as well.

First person reports were something that was suggested, too. We have had a handful of members sharing personal experiences lately and this will certainly continue whenever possible.

Questions 3 & 4: What kinds of events might MIMUFON consider sponsoring...and do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Let's touch on some of these comment by comment...

"Organize a group to travel together to the Symposium."

Sounds like fun. If anyone would like to carpool (or schedule a flight) with other members, please indicate this to the group at our May meeting, or let our editor David Twichell or myself know so that we might help you spread the word.

"Include member submissions of personal experiences, etc. in the newsletter."

I hope everyone understands that this has always been encouraged. If you have something you'd like to include in the newsletter, please submit it to David Twichell for consideration.

"Collect donations for technology upgrades."

If anyone would like to make donations to MIMUFON for any purpose, please do...it certainly is tax deductible.

"Hold state section meetings."

This definitely allows the opportunity to meet more often for those who would like, often in a laid-back environment like someone's home, and closer to your home. Meetings like this have and do actually occur sporadically, too. This really relies on the motivation of the members in a given area. Please contact your State Section Director if you would like to attend or even host a state section meeting.

As a wrap up...

Thanks so much for all your valuable input in helping our Michigan MUFON shine and grow.

The survey you filled-out is ongoing as it is now part of the annual membership renewal/application form. So please be sure to take the time to fill it out each time you renew. And, remember, of course, anytime you have a good idea, please share.



Recent Michigan Sightings

It was very windy when I let my dog out to do her business at 5:24 AM. I know the time because the microwave is right by the side door to our kitchen. It was a mix of high clouds and swirling winds with a storm brewing to the west. I stared into the N by NW sky over 3/4 of the way up there were a series of lights spaced well apart moving at the exact same speed as the others. There were 6 of them total. I saw the one and it was dead silent except for the wind occasionally gusting. I first thought it was a distant star until I followed it and it WAS moving. I noticed through the breaks of clouds that there were others not too far away. Obviously no set pattern, but they all moved at exactly the same speed. It would not have helped to have my camera as they were too far away to get a good shot. The clouds moved in a few minutes in to my tracking and it was over. I wish I could have gotten my telescope out of the garage to get a better view, but time was not on my side. Then I tried to get back to bed, knowing that what I just saw was inexplicable. But I know what I saw.

Sincerely, Mark Simon

Berrien Springs, MI: occurred on February 8th 2007. The witness states: "Traveling Northbound on Old U.S. 31 from Niles, MI at about 11:00 pm, I spotted a light far into the West (toward Lake MI) that was very visible for my whole 20 min. drive. It was a light, which was circling clockwise, yet erratically. As I arrived home, the light seemed to have moved from the far West to what seemed to be almost directly over Old 31. I woke up my father to witness this. He is a private pilot who is familiar with the skies. I did not have to point this light out to him, as it was very apparent. After staring at the light for about 10 min., he told me that he had no idea what it was either. The color was white, and reminded me of xenon (ze-non) light; there were no beams at all. (very light cloud cover was present). There was absolutely no apparent source, and we were even unable to tell if it was coming from or towards the geosphere. After observing this phenomenon for about 15 min. we went inside, puzzled."

Sanford, MI: occurred on February 1st 2007 at 8:45 PM. The witness state: "I was out walking the family dog on a somewhat cold evening. It was dark except for the street lights over the middle of the village street. I was walking due east under a slightly overcast sky and I could only see the brightest stars through the very thin layer of clouds. I heard a dull, low frequency roar directly over my head and immediately thought it was a DC-9 or similar size commercial jet coming into the local airport about 25 miles away. However, as I looked up, I realized I wasn't looking at the bottom of an airliner. A triangular shaped object with 3 round glowing white lights and a fourth larger one in the middle of the 3 was about 1000 to 2000 ft off the ground. It moved quickly in a perfectly straight line without any wobble or side to side movement at about 100-200 mph. The interesting feature was that the entire bottom was lighter than the darker sky and there was a small red light that hung down slightly at the "back" of the object and was glowing steadily (not blinking). The center, round, white light had a second ring around it and it was bigger overall than the three other lights at the corner of the object."

The two above thanks to nuforc.com

After seeing this triangular object on Monday April 9th, I returned the following Monday, April 16th and managed to film it. I have over 5 minutes of footage of the craft. It was silent, had no FAA lights, it had 3 bright blue lights on it's rear, a red light in the bottom center, and a bright white light on the front. The video has been uploaded to Youtube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWR_Gd4r32Q.

I first witnessed the object at 10:04 PM at Jean Klock Park Benton Harbor while in the parking lot looking at my friend's engine. The second time was on the bridge on Lake Court Road, and the Third (Which I video taped) was at Lion's Park Beach Saint Joseph MI. All the times I lost sight of the object it flew out of my view over Lake Michigan. All the sightings happened within the same relative time.

My reactions were nothing but ambitious to watch it as long as I could. I knew it wasn't anything conventional, and I have heard of many other sightings similar to this one.

Thanks to MUFON.com

Eagle , MI: "I looked out my window and saw what looked like a star moving toward my direction and stop. I thought it could be my eyes playing tricks on me but I called my 13 year old son and we ran outside quickly just in case. We watched it change colors like a diamond would sparkle but it wasn't natural. We took turns looking and it was too hard to decipher exactly but we soon knew it wasn't a helicopter. During this whole thing the colors would change from yellow light to green, red, blue, bright flair whitish blue."

Thanks to Patty Donahue MiMUFON FI



Smoking Gun Research Agency In-depth Investigation Into the Recent UFO Incident over Andrews Air Force Base



In October 2005 fighter jets were scrambled from Andrews AFB in Maryland after civilian and military Air Traffic Control picked up an Unidentified Flying Object over the state. The object reportedly displayed “unconventional flight characteristics,” such as coming to a complete stop and turning around, shooting off at unmatched speeds, and disappearing in and out of radar contact. On the evening of October 26, after several times of being scrambled from Andrews AFB, one of the pilots in the air reportedly radioed that he was in pursuit of an object with what appeared to be bright lights traveling extremely fast. Several witnesses in towns surrounding Andrews AFB reported seeing this “chase” take place. This is not the first time such an event has happened in the skies around Andrews AFB.

Jon Nowinski, Founder & Director of the Smoking Gun Research Agency, was attending the University of Maryland in College Park (approximately 20 miles from Andrews AFB) during the time of this incident. He was not a witness to this incident, but a few days later was pulled aside by a friend who works at the base who wanted to tell him about activity going on there. This friend described discussions he had heard, and activity he had seen, on the base all related to what he said was a “UFO chase.” Jon’s investigator nature kicked in and he just couldn’t resist “shaking the cage.” Immediately he contacted Andrews AFB, the U.S. Air Force, and other military and civilian departments to see what information he could gather.

It has now been over a year since the 2006 incident occurred, but many witnesses have come forward to report their observations. In addition, Jon has had the opportunity to speak with some base personnel and other members of the military who have added to the investigation. From the evidence gathered, it can be determined that on October 26, 2005, the military fully believed that there was an object in the skies over Maryland, and it further appears that at least one pilot of an F-18 Fighter Jet was in pursuit of “something” which out-flew his every efforts to catch up.



MUFON Field Investigator’s Training

MUFON International Director of Investigations Chuck Reever will be joining us in the morning for the Field Investigator’s Training. **The training session begins at 10:00 AM.**

Make Your Meeting Reservations Today!

Phone in your reservations to State Director Bill Konkolesky at (248) 515-9568 or email at wjk@mimufon.org no later than **Wednesday, May 2**. Please leave your name, number attending in your party, and a telephone number where you can be reached, in case we need to contact you. Please let us know as soon as possible, whether you will be attending. Thank you.

Michigan MUFON Meeting

at Walli's East Restaurant

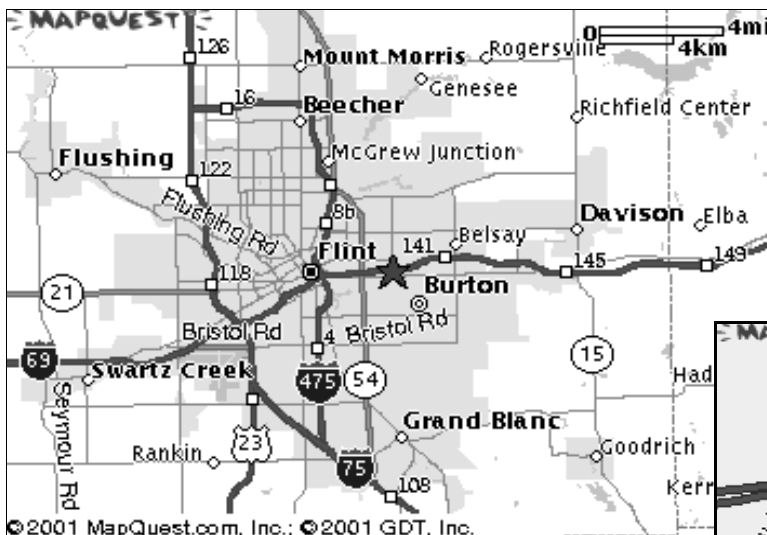
Sunday, May 6, 2007

Members \$13.00 / Non-Members \$15.00

First time guests are \$5.00.

10am FI Training: With Chuck Reeve
12pm Buffet Lunch
1:30pm Jon Nowinski of Smoking Gun Research
4:00pm MIMUFON Announcements & Necessary Business

MIMUFON Board members: Please plan to attend the brief meeting following the guest speaker.



Walli's East Restaurant
G1341 South Center Rd
Burton, Michigan
(810) 743-9600



- Exit 139 off of I-69
- Just East of I-475
- SE Corner of South Center Rd & Faith Way

From The Editor's Desk



David Twichell

Viva La France!

Say what you will about the French – my hat is off to them when it comes to the acknowledgment of the UFO reality.

On July 16, 1999, French officials published a ninety-page report entitled, "UFOs and Defense: What Must we be Prepared For?" ("Les Ovni Et La Defense: A Quoi Doit-on se Préparer?"). The "COMETA" (Committee for in-depth studies) report is the result of several years of study into the UFO phenomenon by top French military officials and scientists. The committee is an independent group of former "auditors" at the Institute of Advanced Studies for

National Defense, or IHEDN. Before it was released publicly, it was sent to French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

The list of committee participants include:

General Bruno Lemoine, of the Air Force (FA of IHEDN), Admiral Marc Merlo, (FA of IHEDN).

Michel Algrin, Doctor in Political Sciences, attorney at law (FA of IHEDN).

General Pierre Bescond, engineer for armaments (FA of IHEDN).

Denis Blancher, Chief National Police Superintendent at the Ministry of the Interior.

Christian Marchal, chief engineer of the National Corps des Mines and Research Director at the National Office of Aeronautical Research (ONERA).

General Alain Orszag, Ph.D. in physics, and armaments engineer.

They found that most sighting reports are either misidentifications of conventional objects or natural phenomena and one or two percent were outright hoaxes. However, at least five percent were cases for which a prosaic explanation could not be offered. After citing several of these cases and the method of their investigation, the committee concluded that the phenomenon is real and not imaginary and that they were most likely of extraterrestrial origin.

Their recommendations are:

1. Inform all decision-makers and persons in positions of responsibility.
2. Reinforce means of investigation and study at SEPRA.
3. Consider whether UFO detection has been taken into account by agencies engaged in surveillance of space.
4. Create a strategic committee at the highest state level.
5. Undertake diplomatic action with the United States for cooperation on this most important question.
6. Study measures that might be necessary in case of emergencies.

In addition, the COMETA report criticizes the United States for what it calls an "impressive repressive arsenal" on the subject. It accuses the U.S. of having implemented a disinformation and restrictive military regulation policy that prohibits public disclosure of UFO sightings.

They cited Air Force Regulation 200-2, "Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting," which prohibits public and media release of any information concerning unexplainable aerial phenomena. An even more dramatic example is the Joint Army, Navy, Air Force Publication 146, which promises to prosecute anyone within its jurisdiction for disclosing reports of UFO sightings that are deemed relevant to U.S. security. This includes pilots, civilian agencies, merchant marine captains, and even some fishing vessels.

Edgar Mitchell, former astronaut and the sixth man to walk on the moon, is one of many advocates of UFO disclosure. In commenting on the COMETA report, he said, "It's significant that individuals of some standing in the government, military, and intelligence community in France came forth with this." Mitchell adds, "People have been digging through the files and investigating for years now. The files are quite convincing. The only thing that's lacking is the official stamp."

Now the French government has taken it one step further in releasing its highly sensitive classified documents in an admission that the UFO phenomenon is real. Does this mean that UFOs exist in France but are nothing more than a 21st century myth in America? Is the French government and military more knowledgeable of the phenomenon than we – or just more forthright with their citizens? Has anyone heard of a panic in the streets of Paris since this information has been released?

Perhaps it is time for our government to follow suit, engage mainstream science in the pursuit of serious study of UFOs and vindicate those who have been claiming sightings and abductions for the past 60 years.

Since that fateful day in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947, the powers-that-be knew the day would come when such disclosure would be unavoidable. That day is here!

David Twichell

MiMUFON Newsletter Editor.

Michigan MUFON Contact List

The following people are the State Section Directors for Michigan. If you have questions, comments, sightings, or any other report, please contact the State Section Director covering your county.

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Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, St. Joseph

Isabella, Mecosta, Oseola, Clare
TBA

You will note that not all counties are covered with section directors. In that case you can contact any of the following state officers.

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When possible, contact by e-mail is the best method to reach most of the people on this list, but does not preclude using the telephone numbers if desirable. If you call please be patient as most of the people are not available during the daytime hours. When you leave a message, please speak clearly and leave you telephone number, city, state, and brief message explaining your contact. We will return your call at the earliest convenience.

ATTENTION: If you would like to start receiving your newsletter or invitation via email, please email the editor at news@mimufon.org

Suggestion Box.

Please help us improve our organization with your comments and suggestions.

What is your interest in the UFO phenomenon?

What kind of events should MIMUFON sponsor?

Do you have any suggestions for future speakers at state meetings?

Any other comments or suggestions?

Mail to: Michigan MUFON, PO Box 8532, Kentwood, MI 49518-8532

For the 2007 calendar year memberships (if you are a member) or subscriberships, please use the form below and send it, with a \$25.00 check or money order to:
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