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★ STEPHENVILLE ★ EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
February 3, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

UFO witness claims harassment

Ricky Sorrells is frustrated and a little angry.

Since his interview with the Associated Press, Sorrells has stayed quiet regarding the daytime UFO sightings on his property near Dublin.

And, there is more than one reason for his silence.

Sorrells believes military officials have been harassing him by flying military aircraft over his property at low altitudes, at all hours of the day and night. Sorrells runs livestock on his place and said the cattle don't react well to the disturbances. It's also been hard to get any sleep.

Sorrells made international news along with other witnesses on Jan. 14 after the Associated Press contacted him for his story and took video of the exact spot the UFO was seen along with Sorrells' description of the object.

Not just once, but four times, he claims to have seen the massive flying object he estimates to be the length of "three or four football fields." He said he's not sure about the size because the first time he saw it was the best view. At that time, the craft hovered directly over him in the woods about 300 feet above his head and his view was blocked by tree branches.

"I don't know why it keeps coming back here," Sorrells said.

He's convinced that someone representing himself as a Lt. Colonel knows what it is — and Sorrells wants an explanation.

He said the man contacted him by telephone on Jan. 15, one day after

his interview with the Associated Press.

"I didn't worry about writing his name down or taking notes," Sorrells said. "I didn't know what was about to happen. But, I think he said he was with the Air Force."

Sorrells said the conversation started out nice enough.

"He was sort of nice to me right off," Sorrells said. "He asked to come and talk to me."

Sorrells said he told the man that he needed time to think about it and then, "He (the man) became really arrogant."

The caller told Sorrells he wasn't taking "no" for an answer and would be out to talk to him. Sorrells again tried to politely tell the man he did not wish to have company.

After that, Sorrells said the conversation became heated and he told the man not to cross his cattle guard.

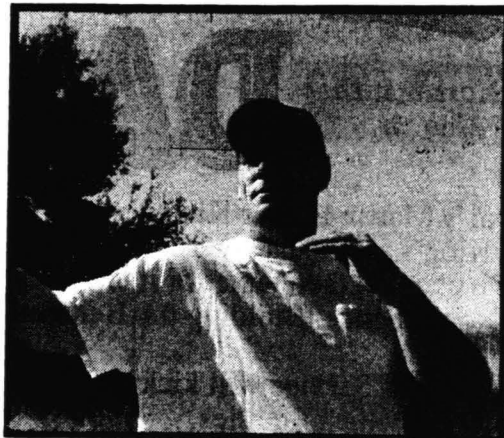
Sorrells said the man responded with, "Son, we have the same caliber weapons as you do but a lot more of them."

Looking back, Sorrells said he believes the man was in his area but not able to pinpoint exactly where he lived because he recently built a new home.

"I actually got up and looked out my window to see if I could see someone at the cattle guard. So I said if he was who he said he was, why didn't he stop flying over my air space with all those helicopters," Sorrells said. "And he informed me that it was not my air space — it was his. He told me if I'd quit talking about what I saw he would stop the helicopters."

Sorrells said since that conversation, the helicopters have quit flying over his property but the F-16s haven't slowed.

Before the conversation took place with the suspected military officer Sorrells related a late night experience with a large transport helicopter and three smaller helicopters.



"I get up at 2:30 a.m. to go to work and these helicopters kept flying over and I couldn't sleep," Sorrells said. "Because it was about time to get up and go to work, I just got up and went outside to see what I could."

Sorrells said he has a spotlight on his pickup that he uses to look for coyotes.

"I went to my truck and turned on the spotlight and shined it up at them," Sorrells said. "It was so close, I could see the pilot's reaction. He threw up his arm to block the light. He was in one of the smaller helicopters."

"Then he turned toward me and I still have the light on. I started to feel uncomfortable so I turned off the light and waved and went back inside. I was thinking I had pushed the envelope."

To top that off, Sorrells said an acquaintance, whom he would not name, and formerly a member of the military, told him, "You need to shut your mouth about what you saw."

Sorrells said he tried to pull the man aside and asked him to explain his statement.

"He just kept saying the same thing and wouldn't explain," Sorrells said. "Now he won't speak to me."

Sorrells said because the helicopters disappeared, he now feels the gentlemen was actually a member of the military, and was high enough in rank that he was able to stop that type of air traffic.

"If it is a military craft the American people need to know," Sorrells said. "A lot of people have seen things around here. I know what I saw and so do they."



UFONS - STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS SPECIAL REPORT



STEPHAVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
February 4, 2008

By **ANGELIA JOINER** Staff Writer

More twists in the Sorrells' saga

Answers.

Ricky Sorrells just wants answers. And, in light of what he's been through, it doesn't seem to be a lot to ask.

Witnessing an unidentified flying object four times since the beginning of the new year, then having military aircraft whizzing over his land and disrupting his sleep and livestock, followed by a string of mysterious phone calls and in person encounters from individuals demanding he "shut up" about what he saw, and landing unexpectedly in the international spotlight, has taken a toll on the 37-year-old man accustomed to the simple life.

"If you told me a while back that I would be sitting here talking to you about UFOs I would have said, 'No way, not in a million years,' Sorrells said. " Now, I know for the rest of my life I'll keep looking to find out what it was."

Sorrells said he is receiving a lot of support from family and friends helping him to keep an eye on things. He said that support has been a great help to him.

"I'm not going to freak out or anything," Sorrells said. "I just think the government should come forward and help us to figure out this thing. I think people should write to their congressman or something."

Sorrells said soon after his Associated Press interview went around the world in mid-January - not only was he allegedly contacted by a Lt. Colonel telling him to keep quiet

about what he saw, he was also contacted by a woman named Linda Moulton Howe.

Howe's Web site touts: "Earthfiles is a crossroads where experts, eyewitnesses and viewers meet to share the latest updates in earth and astronomical mysteries, in-depth reports that go beyond the 6 o'clock news. Earthfiles reporter and editor, Linda Moulton Howe, is an Emmy Award-winning TV producer, investigative reporter and author who goes directly to the men and women at the forefront of science and environmental challenges and to firsthand eyewitnesses of high strangeness. Earthfiles.com received the 2006 W3 Silver Award for excellence in news category. Earthfiles.com also received the 2003 WebAward for Standard of Excellence and the 2000 Encyclopedia Britannica Award honoring Internet excellence."

Sorrells said he vaguely remembered listening to her on a radio program years ago while on a road trip and her name clicked with him. It was the only familiar name he knew and she promised to do an investigation so he agreed not to talk to anyone else until she could make the trip from New Mexico. Howe arrived in Dublin last week and stayed with Sorrells and his family to conduct the investigation and left late last week.

"I told her everything I knew and showed her my property," Sorrells said. "After she left, I felt I had honored my commitment with her. Things have settled down a little and I feel free to talk about the experiences I have had. I just didn't want to do anything that would interfere with her investigation because I want the truth."

He said the last time he saw the object he was able to get a video on his camera phone and said he has seen some other "pretty good footage" taken by others.

One night Sorrells said he had four helicopters flying at such low altitude that when a spotlight was shined up at them from Sorrells' pickup he could see the pilot throw his arm up

in front of his eyes to block the light. But there has been another strange occurrence recently on his property that leads him to believe the military is involved. It was an unexpected visitor about 1 a.m. who may have left something behind.

"I was in bed asleep," Sorrells said. "I keep my bird dogs on the east side of my house and three others on the west side. The black lab doesn't bark until someone comes across the cattle guard and the Catahoulas doesn't bark until she actually sees someone. They were all barking so I got up to see what was going on."

Sorrells said he walked to his bedroom window and looked out to the top of his driveway - he saw someone.

"I went around the bed and grabbed my rifle," Sorrells said.

His family was still sleeping, so with one hand on his gun and one hand on his backdoor knob, he peered through the window of the door to see if he could spot the intruder again.

"He had positioned himself in between the car and the pickup 40 to 50 feet from my back door," Sorrells said. "He stood staring at me rocking back and forth. I didn't think his feet were moving but the next morning when looking at his tracks I could tell they were."

Sorrells said it was cold and misting rain and it was obvious the guy was "dressed for the elements with a heavy parka-like coat."

He said he strained to see if the man carried a gun but could not see one but could clearly see the face of someone he thought to be in his late 20s or early 30s judging from the way he "walked and acted."

"I'm trying to decide whether or not to open the door," Sorrells said. "We're just standing there face to face looking at each other. I'm thinking he's dressed for the elements and the dogs are raising such a ruckus he must know he's in danger of being caught. That's when I realized he wanted me to see him."

Sorrells said the trespasser had positioned himself in such a way he decided he could be vulnerable if opened his door. He thought of his family and then the man slowly turned and walked into the woods.

"He walked through an area where I'd cleared the brush so apparently he'd been there before because he knew where to go," Sorrells said.

Sorrells said shortly after the unwelcome caller disappeared the dogs calmed down and he stayed up the rest of the night to keep watch.

Later, when walking through the woods on his property with Howe, he decided to return to a bare spot where his property line ends at a fence.

"It is washed out there and I like to go there to look for deer and turkey tracks," Sorrells said. He said he's an avid hunter and keeps abreast of the wildlife on his place. He said he had not been to this particular spot in about a month.

"The first thing I saw was a man's footprint," Sorrells said. "Ms. Howe videotaped me putting my foot beside it. The sun was going down and I saw something shiny."

Sorrells said he walked over and picked up a bullet - a shiny new 25-06 Remington - with some dotted tarnished smudges.

"I think the man that I saw that night dropped this bullet and the tarnished spots are from the misting rain that night," Sorrells said. "I just think it was the military showing me they could get to me if they wanted to."

Sorrells said he just doesn't think a hunter poaching on his property would've dropped the bullet. He said he doesn't have trouble with poachers. While he knows there is no way to prove it could have been from the same man it's something he keeps mulling over. Sorrells returned home with the bullet in hand and took it apart to look at the powder to see if he could glean any information at all.

A local gun and ammunition authority said there was no way to identify if such a bullet was from a military source.

"Talking about military powder is like talking about military gasoline," he said. "There is no difference."

Meanwhile, Sorrells said he and other witnesses are considering setting up a Web site to encourage people to do what they can to influence government participation in finding out about the curious, sometimes frightening, sightings.

Texas Press Clipping Bureau

'Funny lightning' leads to video



ANGELIA JOINER photo

Jeremiah Dominey, 7, Eric Hunsucker, and David Caron stand on their front porch where the video of the UFO was taken.

By ANGELIA JOINER
Staff Writer

Stephenville resident David Caron said it was his seven-year-old grandson, Jeremiah, that first alerted him to "funny lightning in the sky."

"That was on Friday evening, January 18," Caron said. "I went out and saw the skies were clear, you know, he's just a kid. I didn't think that much about it."

It wasn't until the next night that Caron realized exactly

why his grandson made the comment and what he meant when he said, "Papa come look. There's funny lightning in the sky."

Shortly before 9 p.m., Caron said he saw something that caught his eye when looking in the direction of Selden or towards the Southeast horizon.

"I knew it wasn't a star," Caron said. "I ran in the house to get the camcorder."

That night and the next is when Caron captured video

that has now been shown on Channel 11 and 8 news. He shot the video with a JVC 32X Optical Hyper Zoom camera he purchased from a rent-to-own store a few months ago.

"I was dumbfounded," Caron said. "I didn't know what to think. You could see it much better through the camera than with the naked eye. I'm 52 and I've been all over the place and I've never seen anything that comes even close to what this looked like."

Coran said he can slow the film down on his DVD player and sometimes with the slow speed it appears to have a "hamburger shape."

Eric Hunsucker was with Caron at the time.

"I didn't really believe in UFOs," Hunsucker said. "I think until you see something like that it's just speculation."

Hunsucker thought the lights looked like some kind of writing in the sky.

See **VIDEO** on Page A3

VIDEO

"It's almost like they are trying to communicate with us," Hunsucker said. "It reminded me of Egyptian hieroglyphics."

Caron said he did not see any jets with the object. He said Steve Allen helped him to get the video copywrited.

Both men believe it was something "from another world."

"I don't think our technology could create something like that," Hunsucker said. "It's almost like it was bending light and jumping around moving very fast."

Coran said someone with more expertise, could use the landmarks in the video to approximate how far away it was. He also said he didn't hear anything except the cars passing on the road in front of where he lives.

When asked if the footage could have been altered in any way, both men said they don't own computers and "can barely turn one on."

Coran and Hunsucker swore the footage has not been tampered with.

From all of the grandchildren running around the house it was clear that Coran was

rich with a loving family but not much else. He's unemployed and would like to sell the film to help out with his daily living expenses until he can land another job.

"Any thing would help," Coran said. "People keep saying this will be worth a lot of money but so far nobody has offered any."

Steve Allen said he feels the Japanese may buy the film or another foreign country may show interest and he wants Coran to get as much money as he can. While not exactly what Allen and friends saw on Jan. 8, he said, "It comes closer than anything else I've seen."

Steve Hudgeons, senior field investigator of MUFON, made a special trip from Fort Worth to look at the 14 minute-video.

"To me it looks authentic but I'm not a video analyst," Hudgeons said. "With some effort I personally could create what I saw, but I don't think this is what has been done. I never have seen anything like this. It looks like a high-speed object. The sounds in the background and the voices add authenticity to the video."

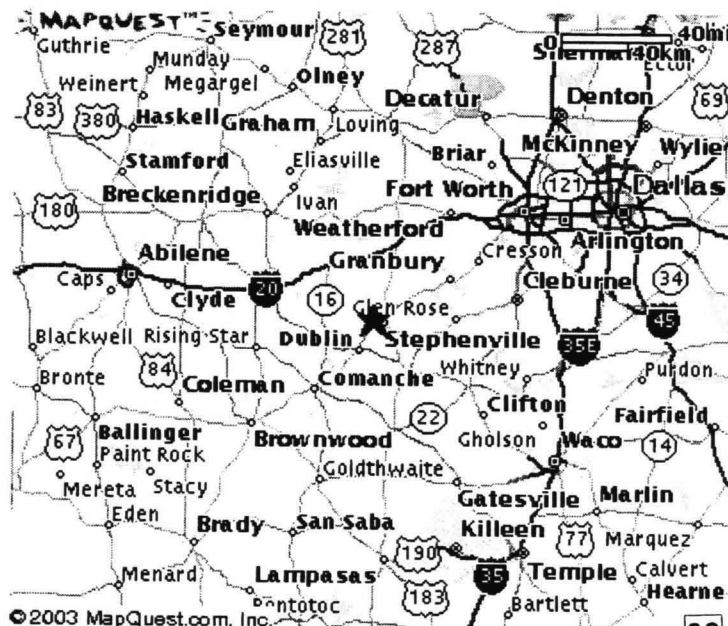
Also, the photo taken near Glen Rose of a similar object adds authenticity because these people don't even know each other."

Hudgeons was referring to the photo the Empire-Tribune ran on Friday of a red colored object taken by a man in Glen Rose who does not wish to be identified.

Continued from Page A1

Because Coran does not have a telephone, anyone interested in purchasing the video can write to him at P.O. Box 2046, Stephenville, Texas 76401.

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STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 28, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Brazilian news crew investigates sightings

If anyone in the world hasn't heard of Stephenville, Texas, it could only be for one reason - they're not listening.

Stephenville continues to capture national and international attention with news crews coming from all over the world. Last weekend, a Brazilian news crew came, while another is expected to come from Japan.

The UFO sighting on Jan. 8, by Steve Allen and friends, traveled around the world in about 14 hours after it hit the Associated Press.

Allen's courage in coming forward with his story prompted many others to do the same.

People like James Fox, a documentary film producer, are encouraging individuals to write to their congressmen and representatives to demand congressional hearings on the subject of unidentified flying objects.

The Air Force stopped investigating UFOs in 1969 and the last congressional hearings on UFOs were in the late 1960s -- more than 40 years ago.

Allen said he is still receiving phone calls and photos along with video from many sources.

Meanwhile, the latest tip Allen has received, and planned to check out on Saturday in his Cessna airplane, was activity at a military installation base between Walnut Springs and Meridian.

"I'm told the base was supposed to have closed several years ago," Allen said. "But, recently, activity has been seen there in the way of Hummers and helicopters."

Allen is speculating that perhaps the old base has reopened following publicity on recent UFO sightings, not just in the Stephenville area, but around the world.

Allen said he was told the Japanese are working to build a consortium of countries that will compare notes on UFOs.

Allen said a retired military man that worked at this particular installation contacted him and said the crews there used to set up "a mock up of the F-16 jet on a pedestal so that it could be tested to see if radar would pick it up."

Allen said the base was a 3,000-acre secret facility, which includes a concrete runway and employed lots of military people.

"I'm just going to do a fly over and see what I can see," Allen said. "I'm told that if you Google for an aerial view it comes out as a blur, but I haven't had time to check that out myself."

Allen also said the anonymous picture donor (see Friday's E-T for the photo of the red object) from the Glen Rose area, came to his office on Friday, to view the David Caron video shown on Channel 11 and 8 TV news.

"They said, 'That is exactly what we saw,'" Allen said. "As a matter of fact, the lady really got on to her husband for not thinking to get a video instead of a still photo."

Andre Tal, correspondent for RECORD TV-EUA in Brazil, said his editor sent him from New York to check out the UFO sightings in Texas because "they are so spectacular."

"We came special for what is happening here," Tal said. "Now, we will relate it back to what is happening in the San Paulo State of Brazil."

Tal then pulled up his station's news reports on a computer at Allen's office. He translated the Portuguese broadcast as it occurred.

"At 4 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20, a noise thought to be wind, woke up a worker on a sugar cane plantation," Tal said. "It was in Rio Landia."

Tal said a lot of people including the owner of the sugar cane farm saw an object hovering over the field. He said it was a large object with dim yellow-orange lights and it appeared for just a few minutes.

Tal said the worker interviewed by his station exclaimed that it was hard to believe what he was seeing was "real and not a dream." He said another witness said the object was loud, "like a train."

Allen said this was a contradiction in what he had seen because there was "no noise at all and the lights were bright."

Tal said his countrymen are skeptical but the country as a whole is talking about this particular sighting. He said his government has not made any statements regarding the incident.

"This was a very frightening experience for those that saw it," Tal said. "And, it is believed the object touched down because an area of the sugar cane was flattened."

Tal said anyone interested in viewing the broadcast, that will be watched by 20 million people in Brazil, on those interviewed in the Erath County area, should go to www.mundorecord.com and click on Domingo Espectacular and choose a box labeled Sunday. From there he said to search for OVNI or UFO. He wasn't sure under which label it would be listed.

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 25, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Japan interested in UFO sighting

Steve Allen is haggard.

He's hardly sleeping and his mug is becoming familiar on news programs all over the world.

Still, he's not given up on his quest for video or photos of what he says was an unidentified flying object he saw with friends on the evening of Jan. 8.

The sighting was so odd it defies explanation, and he's been heard to say over and over, "It definitely wasn't from these parts. The military only wishes they had something like that."

"Videos are starting to come out," Allen said. "I've gotten about ten but only two are worth anything."

Allen said the video aired by Channel 11 News Wednesday night is "just a snippet" of the 14 minute film he now has in his possession from a source not wishing to be identified, and it comes closest to being what he, Lance Jones, and Mike and Claudette Odom saw on that life changing night.

"It's not exactly what we saw, but it was changing shapes," Allen said. "I think this is it."

He is receiving phone calls and e-mails from all over the globe. Allen said he can hardly run his businesses because of the international interest in the sighting. He said all he wants is to get to the bottom of it - he wants to know where it came from - and exactly what the government knows about it.

"Tokyo is very interested in interviewing all of the witnesses," Allen said after he received a call from a news source in Japan. "They are interested in purchasing the video. I expect a plane load of them over very soon. The Japanese say all of the countries are trying to get together a consortium of countries documenting UFOs and paranormal activities. Mexico recently released film of F-16s in pursuit of a UFO. Everybody is beginning to open their books and disclose to the public except for the U.S. And I have a message for Mr. Bush, 'Please Mr. Bush, the jig is up - the cat's out of the bag - tell us what is going on.'"



STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS
SPECIAL REPORT

★ STEPHENVILLE ★ EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHAVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 27, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Pilots dispute military statement

At least three pilots in Stephenville disagree with the military's press release issued Wednesday.

Steve Allen, Don "Doc" Stewart and Todd Downs all say if Stephenville and the Selden area are in the Brownwood Military Operating Area, it's news to them.

A press release issued by Major Karl Lewis of the 301st Fighter Wing Public Affairs at the NAS Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, stated, "Ten F-16s from the 457th Fighter Squadron were performing training operations from 6 to 8 p.m., Tuesday January 8, 2008 in the Brownwood Military Operating Area (MOA), which includes the air space above Erath County."

All three pilots say that space does not include all of Erath County. It only includes a small portion of Dublin and does not include Stephenville or the Selden area at all.

"Stephenville is 11 miles from the MOA," Stewart said, as he pointed out the area on an aeronautical sectional map.

Downs, who is an employee at Clark Field in Stephenville, said there is a GPS fixed point located on the airport grounds that the military uses and while it's not unusual for the jets to be in the area, he believes the press release leads people to believe that all of Erath County air space is included in the MOA and that's incorrect. He said jets fly through on the way to the MOA.

Downs said he does not understand why the military would issue such a release two weeks after repeatedly denying the base had any planes in the area.

"I don't understand why they would do that at all," Downs said. "They're not hard to know that they are there. It doesn't make sense. I've seen them come by me before. They are real loud and it's not hard to know that they are there."

Ken Cherry, state director of Mutual UFO Network, said he thinks the military "came clean for several reasons."

Allen and friends reported early on that F-16s were "chasing" the mysterious lights when they saw them for the second time at Selden on the evening of Jan. 8.

"We have filed freedom of information acts and that may have prompted them to make the

statement," Cherry said. "This only proves our witnesses are more reliable than the Air Force."

Another witness, Leroy Gaitan said what he saw that night could not have been jets.

"There's no way F-16s can maneuver like that," Gaitan said. "I really think it's some kind of military project or experiment. Too many people have seen things.

"I have spoken to at least one person (witness) the military has contacted," Gaitan said.

On Thursday evening's Larry King Live episode, James Fox, documentary filmmaker, seemed to confirm Gaitan's information with his statement. Fox said when visiting Stephenville he spoke to one man "who, unfortunately, was not willing to go on the record," and who claimed he was being harassed by the military.

Allen has said videos and photos are pouring in from everywhere and Cherry said his organization is analyzing many of them.

"We've seen a lot of pictures but they have been lens flares or odd cloud formations," Cherry said.

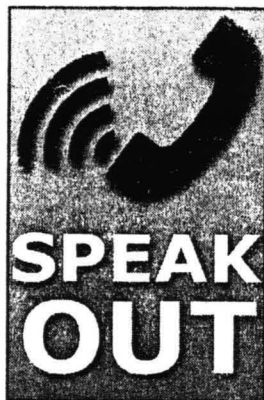
When asked about the recent footage in Allen's possession aired by Channel 11 News he said, "The video is interesting and merits further analysis. All others have been eliminated that have come to us so far."

Steve Hudgeons, senior field investigator with MUFON, met with Allen Saturday to view the entire 14-minute video captured by a person not wishing to be identified.

Allen said a Japanese source is interested in purchasing the video.

VICTORIA ADVOCATE
Victoria, Texas
January 17, 2008

Texas Press Clipping Bureau



I do believe in UFOs because I saw one like last night ... around 2. I don't know if people just might not believe, but I know what I've seen, and hopefully y'all can catch one, too.

CHRISTOPHER
VICTORIA

★ STEPHENVILLE ★ EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHAVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 24, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Military mistake?

Major admits F-16s in Erath
County skies on January 8

The U.S. military knows something Erath County residents knew all along.

There were F-16s in the area the night of Jan. 8 - ten of them to be exact - when Steve Allen and friends saw an unidentified flying object appearing to be chased by two jets.

Two weeks after the sighting, Major Karl Lewis of the 301st Fighter Wing at the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base issued a press release admitting an error and releasing the fact that there were ten F-16s on training missions over Erath County that night.

Lewis said the information was released on Wednesday morning after an "internal communications error" was discovered.

When asked to clarify exactly what the error was, Lewis said, "That falls into operational procedures and we can't compromise those procedures because it could have an affect on operational security."

Lewis said he moved forward with a press release "in the interest of public awareness."

The document said, "Ten F-16s from the 457th Fighter Squadron were performing training operations from 6 - 8 p.m., Tuesday January 8, 2008 in the Brownwood Military Operating Area (MOA), which includes the airspace above Erath County."

When asked what, exactly, the jets were doing that evening Lewis calmly said, "I can't speculate about what they were doing. We're a nation at war."

Steve Allen has a question for the military now.

"If those jets were supposed to be in a military operating area then why were they over Selden?" Allen asked. "Selden and Stephenville are not supposed to be in those areas and Dublin is just right on the edge."

Allen said as a pilot he is required to get a new aeronautical sectional map every six months.

"They should be held accountable for what they were doing here," Allen said. "We kept saying there were F-16s in the area and nobody believed us."

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 22, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Bright lights still shining on Stephenville

James Fox, 39, and his camera crew dropped in on Stephenville this weekend to interview area residents for the upcoming movie "Beyond the Blue."

"This one is a full-length movie," Fox said.

He said he focuses on interviewing military and government officials but expects the interviews with locals to appear somewhere near the middle as a break involving civilian accounts.

Fox was a panel guest on the Friday night Larry King Live show, which featured witnesses of the Jan. 8 UFO sighting in Selden and he's also the producer of the documentary on UFOs, "Out of the Blue," which he sold to the Discovery Channel in 2003.

He said he expects the new movie to be complete by the end of March. Fox said what first piqued his interest was his own sighting.

"I'd seen something inexplicable in 1994," Fox said. "There were five of us that saw it. We were on Highway 375 in Nevada just outside Rachel. It flew silently. Now, I believe it was a covert military craft."

He is successful in his efforts to make credible films about a complex subject. He said he is the first to get President Jimmy Carter to go on record with his sighting and has also interviewed President Gerald Ford.

But, Fox said there was a day when he couldn't even get his family to

support him in his efforts.

"My dad is a mainstream journalist and he tried for two years to talk me out of making films about UFOs," Fox said. "He just kept telling me it was a waste of time. Then, finally, he sat down with me to interview an astronaut and only then did he come away saying, 'Maybe there is something to this.'"

For his first movie, UFOs: 50 Years of Denial, Fox said he was on a "shoestring" budget.

I did my own camera work and my own editing because I couldn't afford to pay someone," Fox said. "I did work on the side editing for other people and just whatever to make some money."

Fox said there were times he would look up at the sky and say, "What am I going to do?" Then when he was 26

Group takes statements about UFO sightings

DUBLIN, Texas (AP) — Interviewers with the Mutual UFO Network met with about 200 people who said they saw something mysterious in the night skies over Stephenville in late December and early January.

"We believe there is some sort of phenomenon in action here," said Kenneth Cherry, director of the network's Texas chapter. "We see a pattern. But it will take months to investigate."

The network is dedicated to "scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity," according to its Web site.

While members of the organization met Saturday with the witnesses, at least a couple hundred onlookers gathered as well, some wearing aluminum-foil hats.

Several dozen people — including a pilot, county constable and business owners — insist they have seen a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast. Some reported seeing fighter jets chasing it.

Maj. Karl Lewis, a spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, has said no F-16s or other aircraft from his base were in the area the

night of Jan. 8, when many sightings were reported.

James Huse, a retired electronics technician, said what he saw on Jan. 8 was neither a helicopter nor a plane.

Steve Allen of Glen Rose, who said he was a pilot, said the lights he saw while sitting around a campfire were brighter than the glare from welding.

"The first time we saw it, the duration was three minutes; then it started slowing down and passed us, and the lights in the back reformed into an arc shape, and they would flash on and off with no particular pattern," he said. "Then those changed into two vertical lines. It was totally silent."

Network investigators asked the witnesses to sketch what they saw and to answer questions about the direction, distance and flight of the object they saw.

Cherry said the organization will study the material and release its findings on whether what happened in Stephenville can be explained.

"We do not promote the existence of alien ships," Cherry said. "All we are trying to do is figure out if we can explain it or not, and then we'll let the chips fall where they may."



KLTV-7
Tyler-Longview, Texas
January 18, 2008

Woman Believes Blimp Source Of UFO Sightings

An East Texas woman says she captured pictures of what she believes everyone is mistaking for a UFO sighting. Cherika Johnson of Longview snapped shots of a blimp that was flying over Louisiana on Saturday. Johnson believes this is what many have seen and incorrectly identified as a UFO.



"When I saw the one from Louisiana the photo from last night I thought that maybe they were mistaking the UFO for what I saw as a blimp because it kind of had the same similarities and shape" says Johnson.

We reported earlier this week that according to an AP poll, 14 percent of Americans say they have seen a UFO.

he sold his movie to Discovery Channel and it was on the air by the time he was 29 years old.

He said he's put up with some ridicule.

"People would call me 'UFO Boy,'" Fox said. "And I was like, 'No, that's not me.'"

The tables started to turn about eight years into it, he said, and last Friday's appearance on Larry King Live was his third in the last six months.

Fox said he was educated in Paris, France but he gets his journalism skills from traveling around the world with his dad watching him interview and write.

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 22, 2008

Texas Press Clipping Bureau

★ STEPHENVILLE ★ EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 20, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Media swarms Dublin

The downtown streets of Dublin swarmed with vehicles, spectators and camera crews Saturday, turning the normally quiet town into a media frenzy during the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) meeting.

MUFON Senior Field Investigator Steve Hudgeons said he brought 50 witness report forms and seven field investigators to the meeting - but it wasn't nearly enough to handle the throngs of people who came. The forms went quickly and MUFON representatives made it clear that the publicity was not something to which they were accustomed.

"The good side of the publicity is more and more people are coming forward," Ken Cherry, state director said. "These are not people that come forward to seek the lime light. We know there is definitely something going on. Something significant has occurred. We are approaching 100 people that have seen this."

While several individuals claimed to have photos and video footage of the mysterious object, Hudgeons said he had not viewed any that he believed were actually unidentified flying objects.

"The photos we get are almost always poor quality," Hudgeons said. "Lots of times we see lens flares and bugs and things."

Hudgeons also said he had not had a chance to view everything that was brought to the meeting.

Witnesses to the strange lights viewed on Jan. 8 as well as in years past came forward in droves but some left without reporting when cameras were turned their way. One woman told this reporter she had viewed the phenomenon 40 years before.

Hudgeons said MUFON will come back to the Rotary Building in about a month, and media would not be allowed, in order for individuals to have a chance to report in a more private setting.

Cherry took questions from the reporters and the crowd but first said he wanted to explain something about the term UFO.

"UFO doesn't mean a spaceship from outer space," Cherry said. "It only means something not identified."

He also said there would be no quick answers and he believes a full report will not be available for at least a

year due to the large number of witnesses involved.

"We usually have about 100 sightings a year in Texas," Cherry said. "There are so many now it's about to shut down our reporting system."

"This is amazing," Cherry said. "It's unheard of. We've had more than 50 credible reports within the last few days."

Normally, Cherry said a report would involve one person or a family seeing something.

"This is the most significant mass sighting since 1997 and the Phoenix lights," Cherry said.

Cherry said he has talked to professionals from all walks of life including ranch owners and business owners and others. Some reports he said go back for years.

Cherry said his organization will approach the investigation in a scientific manner by proving first what it is not and then narrowing down to identify exactly what was seen.

As far as future sighting go he encourages anyone that is able to get a photo because that is what is most helpful in proving what was seen.

"A number of folks just stood there awe struck and had a camera available," Cherry said. "And they're kicking themselves for not thinking to take a picture."

★ STEPHENVILLE ★ EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 14, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

UFO witnessed in Cleburne by expert

Jason Greywolf Leigh, an expert on UFOs and a resident of Cleburne, will go on the air tonight at 10 p.m. CDT, for the Canadian station <http://xzone-radio.com> hosted by Rob McConnell to discuss the sighting so many in the area witnessed the evening of Jan. 8.

But the best part is Leigh witnessed the same event from Cleburne in the east-northeast sky and had already started documenting his account before he saw the Empire-Tribune article on Jan. 10.

"I sent him (McConnell) an email Tuesday night after my sighting, or two days before I was contacted by Councilman Murphy about the sightings there," Leigh said. "It adds more credence to not only that of your people's sighting, but to mine as well!"

Leigh is well known for having filmed the June 11, 1995, daytime footage of a UFO over Cleburne. He said it is rated as one of the top 5 films of UFOs in the world and is extremely rare because it occurred in the light of day.

"My broad daylight footage could not be disputed, as I had first gone in person to the small Cleburne airport and 'looked' at the flight log and times: no planes in the area at the time, then I called the FAA in Fort Worth, tape recording the call, as I spoke to the operations manager who admitted they had booked a 'bogey' in the Cleburne area that 'disappeared' off the screen after 'x' minutes," Leigh said. "He even asked me what it was! After we had talked, I

told him that not only was I a freelance journalist, but that I saw/videotaped the UFO and recorded our call."

Leigh said before you can prove a UFO - you must first prove what it is not - so after the Jan. 8 sighting of what appeared to be a "large blue star that zipped off as quick as that," he got busy. And busier still, when he glanced at the north-northeast sky and saw a jet aircraft at above 20,000 feet, "zooming in the direction that the blue star took." Then he noticed another jet as he was peering into the west-southwest sky and it, too, was at least 20,000 feet, as it was leaving a trail, he said.

He said the first thing skeptics will say is that what you saw was a star, in particular, Venus.

"The moon is the size of a quarter with your arm fully extended," Leigh said. "This object would be the size of a dime with arm fully extended which is 60 times larger than any star."

But to quiet naysayers, he logged on to starpathways.com and researched Venus. Leigh found on Jan. 8 there was a new moon so that would mean a black sky.

"Venus would be due west and as evening progresses it sinks below the horizon," Leigh said. "Sunset was at 5:38 p.m. It was after six in the evening so it was dark. It was cloudless, although a brisk wind out of the south. You've got to do your homework with this sort of thing."

Many area residents have questioned what appeared to be an increase in military air traffic in the skies and Leigh documented that as well.

The next day Jan. 9 at 10:30 a.m. he documented four jets, "leaving 'chem trails' and making zigzagging patterns in the cloudless bright blue sky" and took photos.

"Until you see something as dramatic as a UFO; you will never be the same again - ever," Leigh said. "I always suggest to those who have seen them for the first time to read a few of my articles, which gives some idea of how to prepare a report and how to go about 'proving' what they saw as opposed to what else 'it' or 'them' could have been."

★ STEPHENVILLE ★ EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 16, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Reward offered for UFO picture

A \$5,000 reward for authentic video that would confirm a UFO sighting in Selden on Jan. 8 is being offered by Glen Rose business owner, Steve Allen.

Allen first reported the mysterious lights to the Empire-Tribune on Jan. 9. for a story, which printed on Jan. 10

He and friends reported seeing intensely bright lights with military jets in pursuit in the Selden skies, and, so far, nobody seems to even have a cell phone picture. Some have claimed there was an increased military presence in the sky.

"I'm desperate for video or photographs," Allen said.

Allen said the story "hit the big time" Tuesday morning as TV news trucks and cameras converged on his place of business in Glen Rose, then made their way to Stephenville.

Allen said he expects to do a taped interview with a representative from Good Morning America at 7 p.m. Tuesday evening (last night) scheduled to air today, he said. He also did several radio interviews.

Certainly, Stephenville was all over the news including CNN and the World Wide Web.

Dozens of individuals saw the mysterious object with brilliant lights and several witnesses reported seeing military aircraft appearing to be scrambling in pursuit a short time afterwards.

The Mutual UFO Network will be in town at 1 p.m. Saturday with field investigators to conduct interviews and give directions to those with first hand accounts.

The meeting will be held at Erath County Dairy Sales & Livestock Commission located on U.S. Highway 377/67 South.

military air traffic in the past week has prompted the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) to schedule a meeting for 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at Erath County Dairy Sales & Livestock Commission located on U.S. Highway 377/67 South.

MUFON Texas Senior Field Investigator and Assistant State Director Steve Hudgeons said field investigators from Waco, Fort Worth, and Dallas will be on hand to interview witnesses and complete sighting reports. He said MUFON is interested in Steve Allen's first hand account of intensely bright lights and military jets over the Selden community last Tuesday night as well as other accounts.

"I have read the papers and have been sent several e-mails from people that have heard of this sighting and it looks as if there are a good many people that have either seen this or have heard about it," Hudgeons said. "I will bring down a team of investigators and we will do a mass interview and then do a later follow-up with a selected group."

Hudgeons said it is the unusually high number of people that claim to have witnessed the event as well as the credibility of those involved that has prompted his organization to become involved.

Founded in 1969, the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation dedicated, through its volunteers, to resolving the scientific enigma known collectively as unidentified flying objects (UFOs),

according to its Web site, www.mufon.com.

The world wide organization headquartered in Denver, Colorado has two publications; the monthly MUFON UFO Journal addresses all aspects of the subject, and The International UFO Symposium Proceedings offers a yearly in-depth analysis of the UFO subject by world-renowned researchers, according to their Web site. Each is available to MUFON members and the public.

Allen said he has received a barrage of phone calls from others witnessing the Tuesday night event as well as reports of military air traffic but also received calls from individuals describing similar accounts. The accounts include a woman that said she saw the same thing in 1967 and worked to solve the mystery with former Sheriff David Hale. But, she said no conclusions were ever drawn.

Allen said he has been speaking with a Hillsboro resident who wishes to remain anonymous but is offering a substantial reward for authentic local pictures or videos to assist with validation of the claim. Allen is the owner of L & S Enterprises and Texas Freight in Glen Rose and can be reached at 254-898-1117.

Hudgeons said he encourages anyone with photos or film footage to wait until he can view the material at the meeting before turning it over to anyone else.

"Even if someone says they are from MUFON, don't turn it over," Hudgeons said. "I feel that someone from a government entity will pose as MUFON and try to take them."

Major Karl Lewis of Naval Air Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (Carswell Field) reported Friday that no military aircraft from his establishment were in the area Tuesday night. When questioned about military air traffic in the Stephenville area he said there could be a number of reasons for that and most likely it's because of training missions related to the Brady area.

"There were no F16s from this unit operating and no other pilots from our unit reported a UFO," Lewis said.

He also said the jets could have been in the area but from a different base or they could have been F18s, which are similar in appearance.

Lewis said after reading newspaper accounts of what area residents saw he has a plausible explanation — something that he has witnessed himself in his 32 years as a pilot.

"I think it was a consortium of lights. It sounds like sun reflection of an aircraft traveling at high altitude," Lewis said. "That can cause an intensely bright light like that. Sometimes you can't look at it because it is so bright. As the angle of the sun changes, the color dulls because the sun is setting on the horizon and it's hitting the aircraft at a different angle."

Lewis said intense orange, red or white lights as well as other colors may be seen when this occurs. He also said it could have been natural light phenomenon or a visual illusion caused by natural atmospheric conditions.

Hypothetically, Lewis said, an object of the reported size traveling through the atmosphere would leave a catastrophic "sound signature or footprint."

"An aircraft traveling that fast and at that low altitude would leave an approximate path of four miles wide of damage," Lewis said. "Low and fast like what was described, would leave a path similar to that of a tornado - it's a pressure differentiation."

Another point, he said, was something that fast and low to the ground would create thermal heat, which would create a vapor trail and none was reported.

Lewis said he knows of a plane traveling at mach one speed at an altitude of 5,000 feet, which caused a cinderblock house to collapse, so he doesn't believe what witnesses spotted was actually a craft of any kind.

(See Monday's edition of the E-T for an eyewitness account of the Tuesday evening event in Cleburne. The witness first saw what he claims is a UFO in the Cleburne area in 1995 and will be interviewed on the X-Zone radio show in Canada Monday evening Jan. 14.

★ STEPHENVILLE ★ EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 13, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

All eyes on the skies

Mysterious lights in the sky and what some believe was an increased

January 31 2008

Texas Press Clipping Bureau

ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS
Abilene, Texas
January 31, 2008

It's the Big Country's UFO story that keeps going and going ...

Secret technology might account for UFO sightings

By Trish Choate
Scripps Howard News Service

"For national security reasons, of course, they're disinclined to tell us about it," said Michael Shermier, executive director of the Skeptics Society and editor of Skeptic magazine.

In addition to Shermier, an author of more than 20 books on secret and stealth technology, a think-tank expert and a former "Skunk Works" chief weighed in.

Among the possibilities: The government is conducting a campaign of disinformation, spreading UFO stories to cover up the truth, which is out there.

Or eyewitnesses surprised by fast-moving spheres and a gigantic "mother ship" simply saw jets from a nearby base.

Please see MILITARY, Page 8A

WASHINGTON — Put the alien theories on hold; at least that's what some experts would suggest.

Instead of beings from outer space visiting Big Country skies, the Air Force could be secretly working out the kinks in the next U-2 spy plane or B-2 stealth bomber.

U.S. military pilots could have been at the helm of unidentified flying objects decked out with secret technology, accounting for reports from Erath, Brown and Comanche counties in the past month.

After all, the military possesses experimental technologies the public might not know about until decades after development.

Chamber can do."

Danley said business owners have shown a good sense of humor about the sightings and have used them as a marketing tool. Signs at local businesses and restaurants indicate that UFOs are welcome and that UFO parking is available.

Barefoot Athletics has produced two different T-shirt designs commemorating the sightings and have sold about 6,000 shirts, said Joaquin Cortez, designer of the shirts. He said the shirts are still selling, and the store has about 600 in stock.

Dublin Dr Pepper has also sold T-shirts depicting Dr Pepper being beamed up to a flying saucer. The caption on the Dr Pepper T-shirt says, "We all know why they're here."

Please see UFO, Page 8A

By Jane Pratt
Special to the Reporter-News

STEPHENVILLE — More than three weeks after sightings of UFOs were first reported in Erath County, rumors continue to spread about international media companies coming to the area to cover the events.

July Danley, president and chief executive officer of the Stephenville Chamber of Commerce, said she has heard that media companies from Brazil and Japan are coming to Stephenville, but she has not received any information regarding their arrival.

"We have had lots of calls and e-mails from people who are curious about the sightings. I even had a phone call from a travel agency saying people wanted to come here for a tour," Danley said. "We are having a board meeting this week and will discuss what the

MILITARY

From Page 4A

This includes the UFO sighting Jan. 8 around Stephenville, the day the Air Force said it had jets on a training mission in the area.

John Pike, a defense and intelligence expert, said he believes the government has thrown up a smokescreen before, like with Area 51 in Nevada, to discredit witnesses.

"If they get people seeing lights all the time, and they don't know what it is, one way of making the whole thing seem silly is to have people recall flying saucers," said Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org. "And that way the whole story just kind of goes away."

Area 51 has played a role in modern American mythology, from alleged secret military technologies to purported alien spacecraft. Beliefs vary as to the truth about the southern Nevada location.

Back in the 1950s, the Air Force exploited the UFO scenario to divert attention from the U-2 being tested at a secret base in Nevada, said Bill Sweetman, who's written extensively on stealth and black technology.

"Airline pilots who didn't know that a secret airplane was out there would see this object way up above them, and they would report it as a UFO," he said.

Those sightings led to "Project Bluebook," efforts to make people think they'd seen a natural phenomenon or something unexplainable — not a secret airplane, Sweetman said.

He didn't want to hazard a guess about whether West Texans have spotted secret aircraft, but he was doubtful.

"Why would you fly it near a

populated area at all?" he said.

And it's impossible to speculate whether the Big Country UFOs were sign of a secret program, said retired Air Force Col. Tom Ehrhardt, a former Pentagon chief of "Skunk Works," or the Strategy, Concepts and Doctrine Division.

"That particular location for it seems improbable because, usually, we have more secure sites to do that sort of thing in than there," said Ehrhardt, now of the nonprofit Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington.

Sites such as Area 51, he said.

"But you never want to say this isn't one of those because I don't have that knowledge," Ehrhardt said.

Theories to the contrary, the UFO story hasn't gone away yet.

"Our initial analysis is that we have at least two very promising pieces of evidence," Ken Cherry, state director for the nonprofit Mutual UFO Network, said.

Video and still images show spheres in incredible maneuvers at high speed in the Big Country, Cherry said. Others have told MUFON of "a mother ship" a mile long and a half mile wide.

But could fast-moving spheres simply be the afterburners of 10 F-16s?

In an about-face, the military said 10 F-16s from the 301st Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base were on a training mission Jan. 8 in an area including Erath County.

Maj. Carl Lewis, a fighter wing spokesman, said it was just a mistake when he first told reporters the base had no planes in the sky that day.

"I did my best to correct it as soon as possible," Lewis said.

But the story has wings.



STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS
SPECIAL UFO REPORT

UFO

From Page 4A

Kenny Horton, assistant manager of Old Doc's Soda Shop in Dublin, said the first batch of 132 shirts sold out the day the MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) group met in Dublin with area residents who said they spotted unidentified flying objects. Horton said the soda shop is now on its fourth batch of T-shirts and selling 30 to 40 shirts a day on the Internet at dublindrpepper.com.

"We are glad to be making money off of this deal, and it has been a lot of fun," Horton said.

"We have enjoyed being a part of the whole deal. The UFOs came to Dublin for Dr Pepper and to Stephenville for the milk."

Dublin Dr Pepper is donating \$5 of every sale to the Relay for Life. So far, Horton said, more than \$2,000 has been donated to that organization.

Sandy Reed, executive director of the Dublin Economic Development Corporation, said the publicity has been good for Dublin and Dublin Dr Pepper.

"It is hard to calculate the economic benefit of the number of people who attended the MUFON meeting on Jan. 19," Reed said. "It has been a fun thing for us, and we have no complaints."

Military disputes UFO claims; folks beg to differ

Stephenville residents aren't buying explanation that fighter jets were in the area.

BY ANGELA K. BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WORTH — So much for aliens in Texas dairy country.

At least that was the message Wednesday when the military said 10 F-16 fighter jets were training in the Stephenville area the night dozens of residents reported seeing a UFO.

Although Air Force Reserve officials in Fort Worth initially said none of their planes was in the area Jan. 8, they said Wednesday that they were mistaken and wanted to set the record

straight "in the interest of public awareness."

But some residents remain convinced it was no human-made aircraft, saying the military's revelation actually bolsters their claims. Some insist they saw at least two fighter jets chasing a large object with bright lights.

"This supports our story that there was UFO activity in that area," said Kenneth Cherry, the Texas director of the Mutual UFO Network, which took more than 50 reports from locals at a meeting last weekend. "I find it curious that it took them two weeks to 'fess up. I think they're feeling the heat from the publicity."

Well-respected business owners and a county constable were among dozens who swear that what they saw was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane. They also

said the object's lights changed configuration, unlike those of a plane.

"I guarantee that what we saw was not a civilian aircraft," Steve Allen, a pilot and freight company owner, said Wednesday.

Allen said that the planes' training area in the Brownwood Military Operating Area that includes Stephenville's Erath County does not include the airspace where he saw the object. Also, Jan. 8 was not the only day sightings were reported.

Maj. Karl Lewis, a spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, declined to comment on the nature of the military training or say if it took place on other days.

He initially said folks may have seen an illusion caused by two commercial airplanes and reflections from the set-

ting sun. On Wednesday, he said he should not have speculated about the reported sightings.

Anne Frazor, who owns a fabric store in Stephenville, about 70 miles southwest of Fort Worth, said many in town have seen military aircraft zoom overhead from time to time as part of training operations. But she said that is different from what she saw Jan. 8.

"I couldn't begin to say what it was, but to me it wasn't planes," Frazor said.

Since the reported sightings two weeks ago, the 17,000-resident town has had some fun with the international publicity. Several stores put new messages on their marquees, including "Aliens welcome."

"What we want is the government to admit there are UFOs and what they know about them," Cherry said.

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Keyword: StrangeNews

To read stories or view videos of other unusual happenings in the world.

"I find it curious that it took them two weeks to 'fess up. I think they're feeling the heat from the publicity."

KENNETH CHERRY
Mutual UFO Network Texas director

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS NEWS
San Antonio, Texas
January 24, 2008

January 24 2008
Texas Press Clipping Bureau

San Antonio Express News
San Antonio, TX
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BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE
Beaumont, Texas
January 25, 2008

Texas Press Clipping Bureau

Air Force flip-flops fueled UFO mystery

It's the kind of admission that conspiracy theorists love to see. When UFOs were spotted above Stephenville in early January, U.S. Air Force officials said they had no planes operating in the area and didn't know what central Texans were seeing in the sky. Now a different story has emerged.

Air Force Reserve officials now admit that 10 F-16 fighter jets from a Fort Worth base were training in the Stephenville area on Jan. 8, the night of many sightings. The brass wanted to clear up that little misunderstanding "in the interest of public awareness."

Regardless of how you feel about little green men, that's a lousy way for the Air Force to operate.

It's hard — or it should be hard — to lose track of 10 fighter jets. Someone in command should have known the fighters were flying that night and said so. The story-switching has now made some Texans wonder whether the Air Force is trying to set the record straight ... or cover it up.

The Air Force could have avoided this flap by telling the truth from the start. That's a good practice for government officials to follow on big stories, small ones and even ones about UFOs.

EPOCH TIMES
New York, New York
December 27, 2007 - January 2, 2008 [Weekly]
Cr: Gene Duplantier

In Japan, UFO debate invades politicians' space

TOKYO (Reuters)—A debate over flying saucers has kept Japanese politicians occupied for much of this week, ensnaring top officials and drawing a promise from the defense minister to send out the army if Godzilla goes on a rampage.

"There are debates over what makes UFOs fly, but it would be difficult to say it's an encroachment of air space," Defense Minister Shiniguru Ishiba told a news conference Thursday.

"If Godzilla were to show up, it would be a dispatch for disaster relief."

His remarks came after the top government spokesman was asked Tuesday about an opposition politician's demand that the government confirm the existence of unidentified flying objects.

"Personally, I definitely believe they exist," chief cabinet secretary Nobutaka Machimura said, drawing laughter from reporters.

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda took a more guarded stance later in the day, saying he has yet to confirm their existence.

The debate started Tuesday when the cabinet issued a statement in response to the opposition lawmaker's question, saying it could not confirm any cases of UFO sightings.

Not all lawmakers are enthralled.

"Give me a break," ruling party lawmaker Toshihiro Nikai was quoted as saying by the Yomiuri newspaper. "There are many (other) things politics has to respond to."



KCBD-TV NewsChannel 11
Lubbock, Texas
January 17, 2008

Some Lubbock Residents Spot A UFO Traveling Across Texas

In recent weeks several UFO sightings have been reported near Stephenville, Texas. Some say the mysterious lights traveling across Texas are now lighting up the Lubbock sky.



NewsChannel 11 received phone calls and e-mails from several viewers Wednesday night after we showed this home video taken just south of Fort Worth Monday night. Witnesses in the area described seeing four orange lights in a straight line.

That sighting came one week after residents in Stephenville claimed they saw a UFO as well.

A phenomenon several people say they have seen appear locally.

For a brief moment Tuesday morning, Texas Tech student Brian Callahan says he felt as though he'd entered the twilight zone.

"The light was so brilliant it was like a white light I've never seen," says Callahan.

Callahan spotted the mysterious object just Northeast of his house located between Frankford and Erskine.

"The thing that boggled my mind most of all was its speed. I've never seen anything move that fast. I've never seen any plane move that fast," says Callahan.

Callahan's description sounds relatively similar to a UFO citing a week ago in Stephenville.



"I saw bright lights that glowed and then faded," says one Stephenville resident.

"It looked faster than a jet," says another Stephenville resident.

And then there's home video taken just Monday night South of Fort Worth. Witnesses claim four orange lights appeared in a straight line in the night sky.

Sightings Callahan had not heard of until he began research on the Internet.

"With the universe being so big you gotta wonder what's up there sometimes," says Callahan.

NewsChannel 11 showed the video to Ron Wilhelm and Lee Powell in the Physics Department at Texas Tech.

After a look at the lights, the men say it's time for a reality check.

"I don't know what that is. It looks like a star or a satellite," says Wilhelm.



Both Wilhelm and Powell claim what may appear out of the ordinary to some actually does belong right there in the sky.

"There are certain satellites they give off a big flash as they rotate," says Wilhelm.

"I've certainly seen meteorites break up and leave a glowing trail behind them," says Powell.

"A fireball is a glowing meteor. It's a hot rock that shoots across the sky," says Wilhelm.

What about extra terrestrial life?

"I think there is confusion whether there is life on other planets or whether life is visiting us from other planets. The probability that life somewhere else is high but probability of life visiting us is very much lower," says Wilhelm.

Texas investigators from the Mutual UFO Network Plan to look into the Stephenville sightings this weekend and Tech student Callahan is traveling there to tag along.

This isn't the first time there have been alleged UFO sightings in Lubbock. One of the most popular sightings was in 1951--a set of triangle shaped lights now known as "The Lubbock Lights."



STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS
SPECIAL UFO REPORT



nbc5i.com (Online)
Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
January 16, 2008

Pilot Says He Can Explain Stephenville UFO Sightings

FORT WORTH, Texas -- A Fort Worth medical helicopter pilot said he knows what caused the strange lights that appeared in the sky near Stephenville last week.

Chuck Mueller was flying a medical helicopter from a Fort Worth hospital, heading south just after sunset last Thursday. He said he saw unusual lights on the horizon near Granbury.

"We were maybe five minutes into the flight when we saw the lights come on, one little orange light, and then another one and another one in sequence across the sky," he said.

His description is similar to what a county constable and dozens of others in Stephenville had described seeing two nights earlier.

"And it was something that I'd never seen before," Mueller said. "And I looked at the medic and he looked at me, and we were like, 'What was that?'"

Mueller, a former Army pilot in Iraq, said an explanation "kind of hit" him.

"I'll bet that was an airplane dropping flares, dispensing flares as he was flying along," he said. "It all makes sense. The color was right."

Stephenville is close to the Brownwood Military Operations Area, a major training area for fighter jets.

Other witnesses said they would like to believe Mueller's theory, but it

doesn't answer all of their questions.

"But it doesn't explain these little lights," Erath County Constable Lee Roy Gaitan said. "And then the thing about it is just the speed."

They said the lights zipped across the sky at lightning speed.

"An airplane can't do that," Gaitan said. "A helicopter can't do that."

An Air Force spokesman at Fort Worth's Joint Reserve Base said there were no military planes at all in the area last Tuesday.

Was it lights, or was it aliens

British man believes he has proof we're not alone

Sparse dark clouds dotted the sky over Chawton, Hampshire, England, on the evening of June 22, 2002, when Ashley Martin stepped outside with his camcorder. In the distance he could see the construction of his sister's house, but was surprised when something dropped out of the clouds.

The time was 9:35 p.m.

"I noticed a very bright white light approaching from the east," he said. "I decided to take a closer look at it and I zoomed in."

The strange, hovering light he captured on video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgVWJ1vWen8) seemed to throb as it flew closer. Ashley's video moves from lack of a tripod, but the object seemed to creep closer during the seven-minute recording.

"I soon realized that this was not a normal object," he said. "It was pure white, pulsating ... After a few seconds of travelling in a level direction it suddenly, and without warning, dropped down."

At one point, the object almost disappeared into a cloud before dropping below it.

"When it emerged from out underneath the cloud it had gotten bigger but was still ... traveling at an angle, then stopped stationery and flashed out several times," Ashley said. "It then moved off again."

The light hovered a few more minutes until it disappeared.

"During the course of me filming it, it gave off an orangey-red glow a



Jason
Offutt

FROM THE SHADOWS AMAZING TALES OF THE PARANORMAL

Jason's book of ghost stories, "Haunted Missouri: A Ghostly Guide to Missouri's Most Spirited Spots," is here. Order online at: tsup.truman.edu, www.amazon.com, or visit Jason's Web site at www.jasonoffutt.com.

few times, then completely disappeared," Ashley said.

The object almost immediately dematerialized, then the video ends.

But this wasn't the last unidentified flying object Ashley saw. Eleven days later, one appeared again.

"On July 1, I saw another alien spacecraft," he said. "This was in the same place as the first object and was similar but not the same. I filmed this object for 20 minutes."

Although already a firm believer in UFOs, the sightings gave Ashley something he'd never had - proof. But, they also brought more questions.

Ashley, considering the light

might be something manmade, contacted people who might be able to explain the light in his videos. An American company expressed interest and asked to see the video.

"I had all the footage from my first video put onto a second video and sent it all the way across the Atlantic to America," Ashley said.

He sent his video to a company in Lampasas, Texas, with the understanding the footage might make it onto a television program. He never heard from the company again.

"Disappointingly and annoyingly they never bothered to respond on what they thought of the footage," he said.

Ashley's sightings may be more common than not. Worldwide, eye-witnesses report about 70,000 UFOs yearly, according to the Mutual UFO Network, a UFO research organization. The reports range from lights to physical craft to alien contact, and there's no way to gauge how many sightings aren't reported.

Although Ashley is sure he saw something not of this world, he also realizes there could be a terrestrial explanation.

Either way, he's happy he saw the lights in the sky.

"I have always believed in UFOS and their existence," Ashley said. "But never in my wildest dreams did I believe that I would actually see them myself. I count myself extremely fortunate and privileged to see them."

Jets were training near where UFO reported, Air Force says

Texans unsatisfied by the explanation

By Angela K. Brown *Camp*
ASSOCIATED PRESS *2165*

FORT WORTH, Texas — Fighter jets were training nearby the night dozens of Stephenville-area residents reported seeing a UFO this month, Air Force Reserve officials said yesterday, backtracking on earlier statements.

The announcement did little to satisfy residents of Texas dairy country who swear that what they saw in the sky Jan. 8 was no airplane. Some said it even bolstered their claims, because several people reported seeing at least two fighter jets chasing an object.

"This supports our story that there was UFO activity in that area," said Kenneth Cherry, the Texas director of the Mutual UFO Network, which took more than 50 reports from locals at a meeting last weekend. "I find it curious that it took them two weeks to 'fess up. I think they're feeling the heat from the publicity."

Officials at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth initially said none of their planes had been in the area, but yesterday they said

10 F-16s were there that day. The officials said they were mistaken and wanted to set the record straight "in the interest of public awareness."

Maj. Karl Lewis, a spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at the base, declined to comment on the nature of the military training or say whether it took place on other days.

Lewis had said earlier this month that residents might have seen an illusion caused by two commercial airplanes and reflections from the setting sun. Yesterday, he said he should not have speculated about the reported sightings.

From well-respected business owners to a county constable, several dozen people say they saw a flying object that was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane. They also said its lights changed configuration, unlike those of a plane.

"I guarantee that what we saw was not a civilian aircraft," Steve Allen, a pilot and freight company owner, said yesterday.

The planes' training area in the Brownwood Military Operating Area includes Stephenville's Erath County, but Allen said it does not include the airspace where he saw the object. Also, Jan. 8 was not the

only day sightings were reported.

Anne Frazor, who owns a fabric store in Stephenville, about 70 miles southwest of Fort Worth, said many in town have seen military aircraft zoom overhead from time to time as part of training operations. But she said that wasn't what she saw Jan. 8.

"I couldn't begin to say what it was, but to me it wasn't planes," Frazor said.

Since the reported sightings two weeks ago, the 17,000-resident city is having fun with the international publicity. Some high-schoolers made T-shirts depicting a flying saucer beaming up a cow with the messages: "Stephenville: the new Roswell" and "They're here for the milk!" Several stores put new messages on their marquees, including "Aliens welcome."

This week Tarleton State University is even hosting a lecture by a UFO researcher on the U.S. government's secret response to UFOs, based on previously classified documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Air Force says it has not investigated UFO sightings since 1969 when it ended Project Blue Book, which examined more than 12,600 reported UFO sightings.

UFO fervor spreads far beyond Texas

Reports of strange object over Stephenville fuel debates, jokes worldwide

BY MATT FRAZIER
AND BRYON OKADA
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — Thanks to dozens of reports of a strange, silent object over this town about 70 miles southwest of Fort Worth, UFO stories have filled newscasts, newspapers and online reports around the world.

"Dozens in Texas Town Report Seeing UFO," read an online headline for *The Washington Post*.

"Multiple reports of UFO-like sighting in Texas town," proclaimed Canada's CBC News.

UFO photos were among the top Yahoo searches Thursday morning, along with Katie Holmes and Prince William's girlfriend.

The reported sightings have become a catalyst on blogs and in chat rooms, triggering scientific and philosophical debates, religious inquiries, conspiracy charges and bad Texas jokes.

"It's amazing how this has taken on an international profile," said Kenneth Cherry, president of the Texas chapter of the Mutual UFO Network. "I've had calls from Japanese and British newspapers. I'm supposed to be doing *Larry King Live* on Friday."

All this attention is not enough, says one group in New York, which believes this should be a top issue for the presidential candidates.

But in Stephenville, a dairy town of 15,000, most people just

thought the UFO sightings were fun.

A UFO is parked outside a Stephenville business.

"It's been interesting today," said Treva Thompson with the Stephenville Chamber of Commerce. "My son and some of his friends made helmets out of tinfoil and are walking around town."

City Secretary Cindy Stafford has been going about town in a green alien mask. Some high school students are making alien T-shirts. One automobile dealership put up a sign saying UFOs could be traded in there.

It's not that people are making fun of those who say they saw a UFO, said Sara Vanden Berge, managing editor of the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune*. With such a small population, the witnesses, including county Constable Leroy Gaitan, are too well-known.

It's just that aliens are a fun and welcome change from cowboys and rodeos.

"There are some people who are taking it very seriously," Vanden Berge said. "But there is a large group of people having a good time with it. They are just having fun with the idea."

Others across the country are also having fun with the idea.

Some of the comments on the Internet and airwaves over the past couple of days:

Why did the Stephenville resident cross the road? To get to the other UFO.

Is the UFO over Stephenville looking for Jewel and Tasty

BBQ? (The singer Jewel has been connected with legendary rodeo competitor and Stephenville resident Ty Murray.)

President Bush has hired real aliens to get rid of the illegal human aliens.

Not amused by the jokes is Dennis Balthaser, UFO researcher and former director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M.

"Once again the media is not taking this seriously, and that makes it difficult to investigate," Balthaser said.

Supporting this idea is the Washington-based Paradigm Research Group, which dedicates itself to getting the federal government to acknowledge and disclose information about extraterrestrials on Earth. This week it renewed its long call for the mainstream media to take the issue seriously, saying it should demand answers from the presidential candidates regarding the issue.

The group says it has compiled 1,700 news accounts of UFOs since 1947.

"What you discover is the local and regional press covered the issue pretty straight," executive director Stephen Bassett said. "The phenomena is laid out. But when it comes to the top tier — the major networks and papers of record in the U.S. — they have not done their job."

The problem is obvious, says one responder to a news blog: The media is conspiring with the government to keep the existence of UFOs a secret.

One post from South Carolina offered a different idea: "I don't know y'all, but it seems to me like a tourist attraction scam."

ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS Abilene, Texas January 20, 2008

UFO

From Page 4A

corner with a placard asking ET to contact his mother because she was worried.

Amy McDonald, president of the Dublin Rotary Club, said she was surprised when she saw some of the ones who came to the meeting.

"The level of people who have actually seen something and are willing to tell their stories surprised me," she said. "I had thought they would all be kind of weird, but they were not."

Ken Cherry, state director of MUFON, told the crowd that the number of sightings that have been reported since Jan. 8 are "amazing." He said all witnesses reported seeing something a mile long and one-half mile wide with a series of lights.

"We know something is going on," he said. "At this point, the Air Force excuse that it was two commercial jets just doesn't hold water."

Ordinarily, there is just one person who reports a sighting for his organization to investigate. When a number of people report seeing the same thing, it is more credible.

"I would compare this to the 1997 sighting in Phoenix when a large aircraft was sighted by people across the state," Cherry said.

He said the investigators are trying to eliminate all known possibilities. Photographs help a lot, he said, but there are not many of those.

But Cherry's wife said privately that often when photographs are submitted, they are fake and someone is trying to make money from them.

More than 20 witnesses lined up to talk to the MUFON investigators in a room away from the crowd. The media were not allowed in the room during the interviews.

"When witnesses talk to each other, it contaminates the information," Cherry said.

Because of the number of people who discussed the recent sightings with the investigators, Cherry expects it will be at least a year before a final report will be released.

MUFON is an international scientific organization with more than 3,000 members worldwide. It is composed of people seriously interested in studying and researching UFOs with their mutual talents, areas of expertise and investigative efforts.

Witnesses recount their stories to UFO experts in Dublin

By Jane Pratt
Special to the Reporter-News

It seems UFO fever has hit the Big Country.

More than 200 people, including more than a dozen from various media, filled the Rotary Building in Dublin Saturday to hear what the representatives of the Mutual UFO Network had to say about the recent UFO sightings in Erath County.

Those in attendance ranged from witnesses who came to talk with investigators to those who were just curious about what would be said about the sightings to those who thought the whole thing was a joke.

Some wore T-shirts with slogans relating to the sightings, and one young man stood on the

Please see UFO, Page 11A

Six investigators to meet with UFO witnesses in Dublin

By Angelia Joiner
Special to the Bulletin

DUBLIN — The Mutual UFO Network has arranged for six field investigators to be in Erath County Saturday to interview witnesses to the recent UFO sightings in the area.

They will meet with area residents beginning at 1 p.m. at the Rotary Building in Dublin, and witnesses will have tables and chairs available to complete official sighting reports.

Ken Cherry, MUFON state director, said he has received at least 50 phone calls since Jan. 8.

"Typically, we send one investigator and at the most two," Cherry said. "We've never had anything like this where we've had this many witnesses within the state or really the whole country."

Cherry said MUFON had already planned to investigate before the case began receiving international media

attention earlier this week.

"The number and the credibility of the people is exceptional," Cherry said. "I would have preferred not to have the media attention because I think it will hamper our efforts."

Cherry said the meeting is not for entertainment, and no speeches will be given — it will just be "hard working field investigators taking reports."

Cherry said the investigators have

to be certified through the MUFON training program, and interviews will be conducted in a professional manner.

Anyone who witnessed the event is asked to attend. Cherry said others who have seen unusual objects on different dates are also asked to come by, or to visit www.mufon.com.

Cherry said a documentary film crew for the History Channel will be filming this week.

Another crew from New York City will also film for an upcoming documentary tentatively titled "If," according to Molly Abrams, production coordinator for Break Thru Films. The company has recently received the Alfred I duPont-Columbia University Award for the film "The Trials of Daryl Hunt," she said.

See UFO on Page 8A

Continued from Page 1A

Several Erath County residents have reported seeing an unexplained object with flashing lights about 3,500 feet above ground around 6:15 p.m. Jan. 8. It was silent, but the lights spanned about a mile in length and a half-mile in width. One man who saw the UFO is a private pilot with 30 miles of experience. It flew away at a high rate of speed, but appeared again about 10 minutes later.

Founded in 1969, the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation dedicated, through its volunteers, to resolving the scientific enigma known collectively as unidentified

flying objects (UFOs), according to its Web site, www.mufon.com.

The world wide organization headquartered in Denver, Colo., has two publications; the monthly MUFON UFO Journal addresses all aspects of the subject, and The International UFO Symposium Proceedings offers a yearly in-depth analysis of the UFO subject by world-renowned researchers, according to its Web site. Each is available to MUFON members and the public.

ANGELIA JOINER is a staff writer for the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune*.

Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO TRIBUNE-HERALD
Waco, Texas
January 15, 2008

By Ken Sury

Man who drove into Waco VA in '98 saw UFO

Thanks to eagle-eyed reporter J.B. Smith, that story about the UFOs in Stephenville now has a Waco connection. An Associated Press video about the sighting has an interview with Jason Leigh, the same Cleburne resident who ran his car into the Waco Veterans Affairs Regional Center in March 1998 and had a 14-hour standoff before surrendering peacefully.

We didn't even know he was out on the streets again.



KLTW-7
Tyler-Longview, Texas
January 18, 2008

By Bob Hallmark

Letourneau Experts Refute UFO Sightings

The Stephenville UFO sighting has again sparked East Texan's interest about unidentified flying objects. But is there a more logical explanation of these sightings that people believe are extra-terrestrial? The mysterious images captured in Stephenville have captivated UFO enthusiasts, and echo of Orson Welles war of the worlds.

Conventional cult theory is the visitors get here from another planet by traveling at light speed. But is that even possible?

"It would take more energy than all of the oil all of the coal all of the nuclear fuel wouldn't even be close to enough to create the kind of ship moving at that kind of speed," says doctor Ted Forringer of the Letourneau university physics department.

Often analyzing sighting videos, Letourneau University professors say there are some clues in the Stephenville video that don't add up. Like running lights on the mysterious craft.

"Well the fact that it has identifying lights, two white ones and a red one flashing. All civil aircraft have a flashing red beacon on them," says Letourneau Dean of Aeronautic Engineering, Fred Ritchey.

But could advanced technology overcome the laws of physics?

"Einstein discovered in his theory of relativity it would require and infinite amount of energy in order to increase something's speed to the speed of light, there's nothing to say that there couldn't be a worm hole. We can't exclude it, but they've never been observed" Forringer says.

"Either it's a civilian aircraft or it's a military aircraft that the military is not acknowledging. Once you eliminate the impossible then you have the probable" Ritchey says.

"The laws of physics are applicable throughout the entire universe. At this point, it belongs in the category of science fiction" Forringer says.

Letourneau professors do not discount the possibility of advanced technology, but stress that physical laws would still apply.

Aurora alien mystery resurfaces

JUSTIN JOURNAL
Fort Worth, Texas
February 1, 2008

JOHN ENGLISH
CONTRIBUTION WRITER

Reported sightings of unidentified flying objects near Stephenville and Dublin in recent weeks have breathed new life into an age-old mystery—are we alone?

While most Americans are familiar with the Roswell Incident of 1947, it is believed by some that a North Texas community had its own brush with the paranormal 50 years earlier.

Aurora, a town of about 1,000 people located along Texas 114 near Boyd, was allegedly the site of a UFO crash in 1897.

The “airship” was alleged to have crashed into a windmill and been destroyed, with the alien creature on board given a proper burial in the Aurora Cemetery.

Aurora resident Jim West was inspired to write a science fiction novel based on the incident called *DNAlien*, but even he said he is not sure whether to believe the reported sighting was legitimate, or a well-orchestrated hoax.

“Number one, you have to believe that a spaceship actually crashed here,” West said. “You have to believe that there was a body in it and that they buried it in the Aurora Cemetery. I’m non-committal. I wasn’t here then, and I don’t know. It may have happened, it may not have.”

West, who was a career Air Force and former American Airlines pilot, said he also has his reservations about the explanation for what was reported in Stephenville.

“Initially, the Air Force came out and said they didn’t have anything flying,” West said. “Then they came out and said they did have something flying, which were the 10 F-16s. This morning, I saw all the lights going. Now, I’m ex-military. I flew fighters—they don’t do that. But, watching that picture, I don’t know. Was it some kids out there with some sparklers doing this and they took pictures of it? I don’t know.”

In West’s book, the government comes out and exhumes the alien’s body from the Aurora Cemetery and begins a project where they combine the DNA from the alien with a human embryo to create a new species.

Trouble arises, however, when the creature escapes, and the government has to capture it

before anybody finds out what has happened.

“There is a government conspiracy in it,” West said.

According to the Aurora story, the military confiscated several metal fragments from the crash for analysis, which were never returned.

Cindy Stafford, Stephenville’s City Secretary, was not familiar with the Aurora incident, but did say the sightings in Stephenville and Dublin were still hot topics last weekend.

“It is pretty much the talk of the town right now,” Stafford said last Friday. “It’s dying down a little bit. I do think it is odd that the people who came forward and said they saw something also said they didn’t hear a sound. An F-16 is not absent of sound.”

Ned Adcock, who has been keeping up with the incident in Stephenville and Dublin, is the caretaker for the Aurora Cemetery and has lived across the street from the historical landmark for the last 50 years.

Adcock said, while many people stop at the cemetery to look around, he believes the Aurora incident is a myth.

“I think it’s just a big joke,” Adcock said. “There are two different old people I knew here that lived during the 1800s. One told me that he saw the spacecraft hit the windmill. The other one said that that guy was drunk. The guy who told me that lived to be 103, and he told me that there was nothing to that until a bunch of drunks got together and decided they’d cook up a good story. Whether that’s true, I don’t know.”

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a civilian UFO research organization, is conducting an investigation into the sightings at Stephenville and Dublin.

Patricia Cherry, liaison to the state director for MUFON, said that the Aurora incident is a major event in the history of UFO research, and said the reported sightings at Stephenville and Dublin may prove to be as well.

“We took about 50 reports from witnesses,” Cherry said. “It is going to be a long investigation...we don’t assume anything, but the latest reports by the military are kind of fishy, when you just consider the logistics involved. When the military has a maneuver like that, it’s not just an unknown thing;

they know about it.

“The incident is significant in that the witnesses were so credible.

Some of them were experienced in flying planes and ex-military. A few of them were police and councilmen, and most of them reported seeing lights doing really strange things, and moving much faster than an airplane would. We’re going to keep looking.”

Justin Journal
FORT WORTH, TX
Circ. W. 3500

February 1 2008

Texas Press Clipping Bureau



Jim West



An alien is said to have been buried in the Aurora Cemetery after a spaceship crash landed nearby in 1897.

W.H. MISKIEWICZ/PHOTO CORRESPONDANT

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD.

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD
Brownsville, TX
January 13, 1908

MYSTERIOUS AERIAL CRAFT

Makes Another Trip From Texas
to Mexico.

Seen Navigating the Air Above Browns-
ville Sunday Morning. Disappear-
ing Over Tamaulipas.—Spec-
ulation as to its Object

The mysterious airship that has been seen twice going over Brownsville towards Mexico, and once returning to this side, was seen again yesterday morning between eight and nine o'clock navigating the air above this place, flying serenely over the Rio Grande, and disappearing in the atmosphere above our neighboring Mexican state of Tamaulipas. The craft was very plainly seen by a number of our citizens yesterday, being described as cigar shaped and with a good-sized car attached to it. The occupant or occupants of the car could not be discerned, however.

The strange aerial wanderer continues to excite wonder as to its probable object in making trips back and forth between Texas and Mexico, as well as regarding its probable starting place and destination. Some of the customs and immigration officials are of the opinion that the ship may be engaged in smuggling, or in bringing over Japanese or other persons who have failed to pass the immigration officials along the border. This is quite possible, of course, and the frequency of the trips gives some color to the suspicion. In any event, whether on pleasure bent, or whether engaged in illicit traffic of some sort, the fact remains that the owners and operators of the car are violating the laws of both Mexico and the United States, by crossing the

border into either country without reporting to the customs or immigration officials.

This incident gives rise to speculation as to the possibilities of smuggling or illegally entering the country by airship, and the impossibility of the government's preventing it, except by the establishment of an airship service, in which event our customs and immigration officers will have to be aeronauts, in addition to the many other requirements of the service.

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD.

BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD
Brownsville, TX
December 2, 1907

Mysterious Air Craft Seen Again.

A short time ago a mysterious air craft, which was said by some to be a parachute and by others a small balloon, was seen sailing over Brownsville going over into Mexico. Nothing more was heard of the matter, and it could not be ascertained where it descended, or whether it came down to terra firma at all. Its strange appearance was almost forgotten, until Saturday afternoon what is supposed to be the same mysterious craft was again seen cleaving the azure sky over the direction of Matamoros, and this time, it was noticed that it was steering towards the United States. It finally disappeared in a northeasterly direction. Quite a number of persons at the ferry saw it and watched it for some time. It was so high that its shape could not be plainly discerned, but it was thought to be somewhat oblong and appeared to have a large basket dangling from it. Just what is the meaning of the strange air craft no one can say. Some think it may be a new smuggling scheme or trick for bringing in Chinese or other tabooed foreigners in defiance of the customs and immigration authorities, while others surmise that it is merely an airship, whose owners are taking a winter outgoing in this balmy atmosphere.

JAN 23 2008

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

2165



Local woman spots UFO

by Kirk Boxleitner
The Arlington Times

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS — Kathy Firnstahl knows how her story might sound, but she also knows that she saw something.

"People are so afraid to reveal what they've seen that wives might not tell their husbands, and parents might not tell their children," said Firnstahl, who recently saw an unidentified flying object near her home. "I hope that, by coming forward, I can give other people who have seen these things the sense that they're not the odd ones out."

For Firnstahl, her UFO sighting was an unexpectedly exciting conclusion to an otherwise unremarkable New Year's Eve. At 6:24 p.m., she noticed the time when she realized that her

dog had been barking for nearly 10 minutes. Firnstahl had been distracted by reading the newspaper and watching TV, but when she heard what type of bark her dog was making, she took notice.

"She's a Karelian Bear Dog," Firnstahl said. "They're used for tracking bears and warn them away. Over the years, I've learned what each of her barks have meant, and this one said there was a stranger and a vehicle on the property."

This piqued Firnstahl's curiosity, since her neck of the woods is so quiet that she not only hears cars on her driveway, but on her neighbors' driveways, and yet, she hadn't heard any cars approaching. When she went to the window, she didn't

Kathy Firnstahl points to where she saw an unidentified flying object, hovering approximately 50 feet in the air and 400 feet from her house, at 6:24 p.m., Dec. 31, 2007.

KIRK BOXLEITNER The Arlington Times

▼ UFO page A2

▼ UFO Continued from page A1

Local woman spots UFO near her home

see a car, but she did catch a glimpse of something.

"I don't even know if it was a glimmer of light," Firnstahl said. "My dog was still standing in the same spot, facing away from the drive and barking."

The back of Firnstahl's property faces Cheops Hill, and that was where she saw something that she still can't describe fully. After she peeked out the window of her door, since she'd dealt with trespassers before, she stepped outside and spotted a partially shadowed, silvery object hovering near the trees.

"It was about 75 feet wide, since it spanned the distance between two of the trees," Firnstahl said. "We've had helicopters fly over and land here. I've been to air shows, and my dad flew planes. I know what they look like. What I saw literally made me stop breathing for a moment."

Firnstahl was able to distinguish a semicircle of red, green and yellowish-white

lights, on an object that appeared to taper inward at its top and bottom, except that she couldn't see the top or bottom of the object. The lights didn't blink or revolve, but remained steady, she said.

"I know what helicopters and small planes sound like," Firnstahl said. "This wasn't it. It was a steady, not-unpleasant, motorized humming, with an undercurrent of a slightly lower tone. I don't have the words to describe it."

After a couple of minutes, during which she used familiar landmarks to estimated that the object was hovering approximately 50 feet in the air and 400 feet from her house, Firnstahl realized that she was alone, without anyone to confirm what she was witnessing, she called her neighbor, Randy Parsons.

"When she called me up, she was out of breath," Parsons said. "Whatever she'd seen was not normal."

Firnstahl had returned to her house to fetch her cell

phone, but once Parsons picked up, she found herself tongue-tied.

"I was so overwhelmed," Firnstahl said. "I think I opened the window, stuck the phone out and told him, 'Listen to my dog,' since he knows her barks, too. I'm not normally a demanding person, but I demanded that he go to his gate and wait for me to pick him up."

Even though the object had disappeared by the time Firnstahl stepped outside again, she was becoming so frightened that she didn't even take the time to scrape the frost off her windshield, and instead simply drove by rolling down the window and sticking her head out.

"Time was a factor," Firnstahl laughed.

After Firnstahl picked up Parsons, they drove to the nearby lake, where Firnstahl suspected the object might have gone, but found no sign of it, either then or the next morning, when they searched the spot where she saw it hovering.

"She saw something," Parsons said. "She started taking notes right away, after it happened."

On the morning that Firnstahl chose to tell her story to The Arlington Times, she read about presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich's UFO sighting in the news, and noticed the similarities of tapered objects with semicircles of red and green lights around their edges. Still, she doesn't claim to know what she saw, and she hopes that admitting she saw something won't cause problems for her loved ones.

In spite of this, her unexplained experience has left her more optimistic.

"It's given me a deep sense of hope," Firnstahl said. "There's so much trouble in the world, but I feel so grateful now."

Contact Kirk Boxleitner
at 360-435-5757 or
kboxleitner@arlingtontimes.com.

Unidentified falling object seen Christmas Eve

By Walt Caldwell

Mountain Echo editor

There's no question that something extremely bright fell from the sky around 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve in the mountains between Fall River and Big Valley. Too many people saw it.

There's also no question that it isn't identified, there are no official reports on the

sighting

Jackie Callahan, one of those who say it, says, it appeared to be either a plane on fire or a meteor.

Fall River Mills Fire Chief Chuck Bethel says he was on the road in the vicinity of the scales on Highway 299 east of McArthur, responding to a report of a couple of spot fires on

the mountain when he saw an extremely bright, bullet-like object go down in the vicinity of Sugar Pine Basin southeast of the summit. He said he thought it was too bright to be a meteor when it hit. He thought it was a piece of space debris.

Delores Beasley, head of public relations for NASA at Ames Research Laboratory

said December 27 that she didn't have any reports of a meteor strike or any other incident, such as falling debris or rocket on Christmas Eve.

The duty officer at Cal Fire in Bieber said he didn't know anything about the incident. Neither did personnel at the U.S. Forest Service's Big Valley Rang-

er District in Adin, or the Shasta Trinity Cal Fire Unit in Redding which covers the Fall River Valley as County Fire.

A spokesman for Hat Creek Ranger District said he hadn't heard anything about it.

The Shasta County Sheriff's log didn't have any reports of the incident.

Redding Division Highway Patrol Officer Mark Roberts researched the CHP log and talked to other officers and was unable to locate any information regarding a sighting.

The Federal Aviation Administration's Flight Service Center researched its data base and has no reports of missing aircraft.

MOUNTAIN ECHO
Fall River Mills, California
January 2, 2008

Fall River Mills, CA
(Shasta Co.)
Mountain Echo
(Cir. W. 2,500)

JAN - 2 2008

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

SISKIYOU DAILY NEWS
Yreka, California
January 22, 2008

Yreka, CA
(Siskiyou Co.)
Siskiyou Daily News
(Cir. 5xw. 6,000)

JAN 22 2008

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

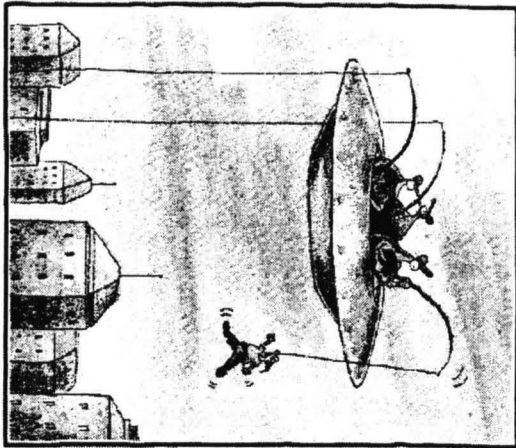
Possible UFO sighting reported

By BRAD SMITH
Daily News Staff Writer

YREKA — Stephenville, Tex., residents aren't the only ones reporting unidentified flying objects above their community. A few weeks ago, Yreka resident Mary Hay reportedly saw a strange aircraft fly above her while she was at the Valero gas station on South Main Street.

According to Hay, she was purchasing some kerosene and saw something moving across the sky. It happened on Jan. 8, sometime around 8 p.m., she said.

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Sighting

Continued from page 1

some kerosene and saw something moving across the sky. It happened on Jan. 8, sometime around 8 p.m., she said.

Describing the object as "slightly wedge-shaped," Hay said it had three rows of lights underneath it, the

middle row longer than the others. The object flew from east to west, "then disappeared very quickly," she said.

This is the first time that something like this has happened to Hay.

Since her sighting, she has told some of her family, friends and co-workers. While

some have scoffed at the notion of UFOs and aliens, others have told her that they have seen the same thing and that she shouldn't feel "weird" talking about it.

"I didn't even know about the (Stephenville) Texas UFOs until a few days ago," she said.

According to the

Associated Press, several people have reported seeing UFOs since Jan. 8. The sightings have made national news, even causing CNN's Larry King to do a show about them.

Ruben Uriate, director for Northern California's Mutual UFO Network, said that Hay's sighting is "one of

many."

"There's been a spike in reports," he said.

He speculates that the Stephenville sightings have raised awareness and that "people are looking up at the skies; paying more attention."

Uriate said that Hay shouldn't feel uneasy talking about her claim. Many pilots,

law enforcement and military personnel have stepped forward, he stated, reporting their experiences.

For more information about reporting a possible UFO, see the Mutual UFO Network (www.mufon.com) or the National UFO Reporting Center (www.nuforc.org) Web sites.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.



SAWYER COUNTY RECORD
Hayward, Wisconsin
January 23, 2008
Credit: Richard Heiden

Talk of Bigfoot has Seeley abuzz

By Will LaBreche
Staff Writer

According to the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department, two deputies responded to an alleged Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, sighting on Highway 63 just south of Seeley on the evening of Jan. 3.

Since then the sighting has been the topic of conversation in that small community, with multiple reported sightings being called in to the Sawyer County Record office since.

Chief Deputy Tim Ziegle confirmed that two deputies responded to the call, only to find footprints and hair at the site. But "unless Bigfoot was wearing boots," Ziegle laughed, "I think it's pretty much a prank."

"A lady called in and said 'You probably think I'm nuts, but I'm not ... I have not been drinking.' She reported seeing a Bigfoot or someone dressed in an ape suit on Highway 63 near Stark Road," Ziegle said. "We sent a

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Olympia, WA
(Thurston Co.)
The Olympian
(Cir. D. 33,808)
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THE OLYMPIAN
Olympia, Washington
January 26, 2008

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

OLYMPIA

Man behind Bigfoot film among speakers today

2/65 Experts on tales of Sasquatch will speak today at the Washington State Capital Museum, 221 21st Ave. S.W.

The presentations will be from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Admission is free, with a suggested \$2 donation to the museum.

Speakers include Robert Gimlin, who filmed an image supposedly of Bigfoot about 40 years ago in Northern California, and Ric Hjertberg of the Bigfoot Field Research Organization, who will talk about research techniques and upcoming Bigfoot expeditions.

The program is offered in conjunction with "Giants in the Mountains: The Search for Sasquatch," an exhibit at the museum through September.

For more information, contact the Washington State Capital Museum and Outreach Center at 360-753-2580 or go to www.washingtonhistory.org.

bigfoot from page 1A

couple officers up there and what they found was a set of foot tracks going from the road to the timberline and back to the road and they also found a long, black hair." He affirmed that there have been no sightings since then.

But the story takes a curious turn from there.

According to another reported sighting obtained by the Record, a Wausau man, who wishes to remain unnamed, and his nephew were snowmobiling on a trail just southwest of Seeley when they saw something unusual cross the trail.

"I don't know what I saw, but my nephew and I both saw something very real," he said. "We only saw legs from the hips down as it was caught in the headlights of our snowmobiles. It stepped out of the woods,

walking upright, and stepped across the trail right in front of my nephew who was ahead of me 20-30 feet.

"The legs were long (and) covered with long dark hair," he continued. "My first thought was it was a drunk walking through the woods after leaving the Sawmill Saloon, but that makes no sense. We were quite a ways west of the Sawmill and there is no trail or crossing anywhere near there for someone to be walking."

After gunning their snowmobiles past, the two turned around to explore the area and find tracks. But they had not marked the spot with a landmark and were unsuccessful at finding any sign when they returned to the area.

"We saw these legs for only a very brief moment, but again, it was very real,"

he added.

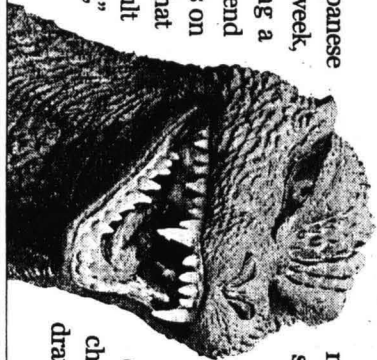
Following up on the sighting, a number of possible theories have been revealed.

Cindy Ferraro of the Sawmill Saloon said that one potential explanation is that something was roused when the managed portion of the Uhrenholdt Memorial Forest south of Highway 00 was cleaned up a few months ago. She said a friend who lives in the Seeley Hills area has reported unusual behavior coming from her dogs lately; they seem to be agitated by something out of the ordinary.

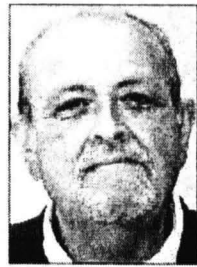
At this point, the only confirmed sighting was debunked by Sawyer County deputies; the rest is just the talk of the town.

Comments:
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A debate over flying saucers kept Japanese politicians occupied for much of last week, ensnaring top officials and drawing a promise from the Defence Minister to send out the army if Godzilla, pictured, goes on a rampage. "There are debates over what makes UFOs fly, but it would be difficult to say it's an encroachment of air space," Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba told a



news conference on Thursday. "If Godzilla were to show up, it would be a dispatch for disaster relief." His remarks came after the top government spokesman was asked on Tuesday about an opposition politician's demand that the government confirm the existence of unidentified flying objects. "Personally, I definitely believe they exist," chief Cabinet secretary Nobutaka Machimura said, drawing laughter from reporters. *Reuters*



AL
DUNN

Farmington man ponders mystery tracks

Journalists, by nature, are typically a suspicious, cynical lot.

Taking everything with a grain of salt is our credo, embedded by life experience – especially in us old timers – that everything is not simply what it appears to be.

The old saying, "show me, I'm from Missouri" comes to mind here.

So, when Brode Powers from the town of Farmington called Tuesday to report some "very strange footprints on my property," the first thoughts were: "OK, there must be a full moon coming."

But after checking out the story and seeing the footprints first hand, it must be reported: these are some very strange footprints.

Dare we say Bigfoot?

Powers is a 41-year-old UPS driver, living on a wooded, bucolic, 10-acre parcel of land on Shalom Drive with his wife and two, 20-pound cairn terriers of the licking persuasion.

A couple of weeks ago his wife, Katherine, mentioned she saw some funny tracks in the snow, but like many husbands, Brode dismissed it out of hand. He's not now.

DAILY NEWS
West Bend, Wisconsin
January 23, 2008
Credit: Richard Heiden

"I was clearing the driveway (Wednesday morning) and there they were," he said.

The prints – about 2 feet in length and spaced about 4 feet apart, measured in stride, from heel to toe – start on his neighbor's adjoining parcel to the south and continue on to the front and past his home. What's really surprising is that the

Please see **TRACKS/A7**



Amber Bingen/Daily News Staff
Brode Powers of the town of Farmington measures a huge track in his front yard in the town of Farmington Tuesday afternoon. It measured 28 inches.

Tracks: Could it be Bigfoot?

prints are almost linear, like the, er, creature, was balancing a tightrope. Another puzzling aspect is that the prints track straight to a 7-foot tall archway he has on the property, but then instead of going through, go around.

So that suggests the thing is taller than 7 feet.

"OK, now I'm thinking, my wife's not crazy," he said.

Distinguishing marks within the prints – like toe or heel imprints – are not visible because of the quality of the snow that fell Monday and Tuesday morning.

Powers said he was tempted to follow the tracks, but did not want to disturb the prints. He also admitted he was a little apprehensive as to what he might find.

"Yeah, a lot of that, too," he said with a laugh.

What made his hair kind of stand on his head, he said, is that almost that same night his wife first reported seeing the the tracks he heard a "strange howling" that came from his woods.

"I know what coyotes sound like and I'm used to other animal noises that come from across the street (the Shalom Nature Preserve is across the street). My dogs were going nuts so I shined a spotlight into the woods, but I didn't see anything," he said.

He called the Sheriff's Department he said, and the deputy opined that it may have been an animal, cat or rabbit, who may have been leaping from spot to spot, making the big print with its entire body.

"But then he saw the tracks by



Amber Bingen/Daily News Staff
Huge tracks cross the Powers front yard in the town of Farmington.

the gazebo archway and said he was changing his mind," he said.

"He said it was a little perplexing," Powers said.

Powers said he used to joke with his wife about seeing Bigfoot on their property, just to get a rise out of her.

No longer.

"I've never seen anything like it in my life."

(Al Dunn is a Daily News staff writer.)