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MUFON of Ohio P.O. Box 152 Pataskala, OH 43062 www.mufonohio.com mufonohio@columbus.rr.com

July 2015

Message from the State Director



Not too long ago one of my students looked at me and said, "Mr. Wertman how old are you"? When I told him 60 he responded with "you're an old man". While the comment was not made in a spiteful way, it did make me sit back and realize that he was right. How do you respond to a comment like that? I simply said "While you have so much life ahead of you, my best years are in the rearview mirror. You have yet to experience so much, and I'm thankful for all the experiences I've had". To him age is an advantage. To me I have so many experiences to reflect back upon, of which the MUFON of Ohio conference is at the top the list.

Before I forget, since that is one of the main disadvantages of age, I would like to thank all those who participated and attended our June conference. Words cannot express the pleasure I had looking around the room and seeing all those in attendance. I would like to thank all those who sent me positive feedback and photographs of the event. The responses I received pointed out that

attendees enjoyed attending a conference with multiple topics and speakers with diverse backgrounds. They had a feeling of being part of the conference and not just spectators. This issue of our journal features photographs primarily of attendees for a reason, without attendees there be no need to put on a conference. Again I'd like to thank all those in attendance, and I look forward to providing you with an even better event next year.

As with an iceberg, a small amount of what we see is on the surface, but a much larger portion exists below. That portion contains our speakers James Fox, Nick Redfern, and Terry Ray who provided excellent talks and were involved with attendees before, after, and during the conference. Fox made the audience see his passion for the subject through stories. One in particular was when he had his late father "Mau, Mau" former President Carter. For those not familiar with the term "Mau, Mau" let me explain. Fox had tried for a long time to get President Carter on camera answering a question about his UFO sighting. Fox planted a hidden microphone on his handicapped father, while he filmed from the back of a bookstore. While the response was brief, they did get it on camera. The term they used to describe this was "Mau, Mau".

Editor's Notes

Nick Redfern, as well as the other speakers, arrived the night before the conference. Approximately twenty of us attended a short dinner at local pub. Redfern was asked questions about his books and perceptions of what was going on within this far-reaching field of UFOs to the paranormal. If anyone has the pulse of what's going on in fields from cryptozoology to UFOs, it's Redfern. Terry Ray has released a book entitled "The Complete Story of the Worldwide Invasion of Orange Orbs". This is a subject which has local interest due to the number of sightings of orange orbs around Ohio. Ray provided insight into how orbs cannot easily be explained away as Chinese lanterns. All three speakers received my sincerest thanks not only for their talks, but discussions held until the wee hours of the morning afterwards.

First and foremost I thank Terry Hamilton, without who we would not have the very accommodating Sheriff's Annex venue, for his setting up the food arrangements, MCing and clean up committee-head extraordinaire. He ran the show. Going above and beyond was Phyllis Budinger for her efforts in the newsletter and promotion of the conference. Terry and Paul Althouse handled finances and arrangements for speakers and managed our website. As if they have not done enough, our new chief field investigator Ron McGlone and State Section Director Rob Mercer also contributed. The list of those also helped include numerous field investigators and volunteers within our membership and the life of the party, Chris Parsons. All I can say is when you set at a table with James Fox and Chris Parsons there's never a dull moment.

Again I thank everyone for their contribution to making this such a successful conference. Word is getting around about the type of conference that MUFON of Ohio promotes. Peter Robbins approached myself and Phyllis Budinger petitioning to speak at our event. In summation, I can also say I'm glad this event only comes once a year. Staying up to discuss anything and everything UFO related with James Fox until the bar closed made me realize my student was right. Mr. Wertman is an old man since it took me nearly a week to recover. But I would do it again, without hesitation.

Thomas Wertman
MUFON of Ohio State Director



This issue features the complete coverage of our June 6, 2015 Conference. It was attended by approximately 110 people, and we were pleased that 23 new members joined Ohio MUFON. This editor thanks those who contributed photographs from the event (Michael Moore, Barry Scholles, Tim Culbertson and Bruce Budinger). Some of them are in this edition. A picture is worth a 1000 words so they say. And they have a lot to say in this newsletter. The conference news takes up most of the newsletter. So, the third and final installment of the "Ohio UFO crashes" will appear in the next newsletter. This installment is quite lengthy and centers on out-of-state crashes with Ohio connections.

The Bluebook files were on display at Rob Mercer's table and grabbed a lot of attention. James Fox was especially interested in them. He poured over the files and only left the table to give his talk. Also, I would like to thank Rob for two contributions to this newsletter. One describes an Ohio man's experience with an unknown craft in Germany. And he sent some recent Ohio case files which give you a flavor of the kinds of events Ohio MUFON Field Investigators encounter.

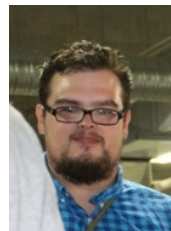


Photo: M. Moore

It was so good to see Trevor Reiter (son of the late Nick Reiter) attending the meeting. I have many fond memories of his dad and his contributions to ufology. It would appear the father's interest in ufology, and things paranormal, have transferred to the son. It was fun chatting with him.

With this conference behind us we are already making plans for 2016 speakers and how we can make it even better. As Tom indicated in his 'Director's Message', one well-known Ufologist has asked if he could speak at our conference next year. It would seem Ohio MUFON's reputation for putting on good conferences is preceding us.

We are informed by National that when you do your shopping at Amazon, they donate 0.5% of the purchase price to MUFON Inc. They said, "Please use this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0990161> and support us every time you shop."

Finally, please remember your expiration date is listed on the address label of this newsletter.

Phyllis Budinger
Newsletter Editor



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
Harold Hileman in anticipation.

2015 MUFON Ohio Conference Presentations

As always, this year's meeting was fascinating. This time we were up-dated with information on orange orbs, media interplay, and the men-in-black which were presented by Terry Ray, James Fox and Nick Redfern respectively. Following is a synopsis of their talks

Terry Ray "Invasion of the Orange Orbs"



Photograph: Michael Moore

Terry Ray's talk centered on his research into the proliferation of orange orbs on the world. He gave a brief introduction explaining that he first saw the orange orbs in 2013 in Ocean City, Maryland. His research showed that they

were NOT Chinese sky lanterns, and convinced MUFON to create a panel called "Project Orange", which Terry heads up, to study the phenomena.

After Terry gave a brief introduction, he began his presentation with "questions and answers" in the beginning instead of at the end of the talk. The audience asked great questions in which many revelations about the orbs were revealed. Following is an itemized list of the disclosures, not necessarily in the chronological order that the questions were asked.

- Orange orbs are a new phenomenon in the UFO world. They are seen "all over the world, like mosquitos." They have been observed alone, in threes, or eight or nine. The most ever seen at one time was several hundred.

- Orange orbs look identical to the setting sun; there are no sharp edges. They are different sizes and colors. More specifically, they are big, ranging from 50 to 300 feet. While mostly orange, they have been seen to turn different colors (white, yellow, green and rainbow).

- They do all kinds of maneuvers and blink on or off. They've been seen to make a "big dipper". A number of 'vehicles' can reside within an orange orb. They have been seen to both split and merge together. They frequently discharge glittering orange stuff.

- They are inhabited by two types of entities. There are the muscular, eight-to-nine feet tall people, wearing tight fitting suits, and have normal eyes. Then there are the three foot tall people with larger heads." (The descriptions of the smaller ones are similar to those of the "Grays".) These two types are sometimes seen together. When seen together, the taller ones stand around while the smaller ones are noted to be "playing". It's almost like adults and children. No one has heard them speak. Some witnesses have felt like they were communicating with them.

- The orbs have been observed to shoot a blue beam down for transporting people. However, they do not appear to abduct people (outside of maybe a cow or two). They are not known for this. However, there have been a few incidents purported. Some hunters saw two tall people

around an uncloaked orb/vehicle trying to fix it. The hunters decided to leave, but “they” pulled them into the craft. The hunters said disgusting things were done to them. Then they were let out.

- There are red orbs which are grapefruit size and noted to be associated with the larger orange orbs. These are probes. These have been witnessed to go through walls. The red orbs can go into houses. These tend to show up when a group of people are standing outside. They get very close to the people, sometimes within six inches, and scan them up and down.

- The orange orbs have underwater bases. In the United States there are four. Two are off the coast of Florida (Sarasota and Miami areas), one off the Coast of California (Los Angeles area), and one in eastern Lake Erie (Presque Isle area). Most orbs are seen in Ohio, Florida, and California. (Not surprising.) They appear to come out at 8:30 pm in the evening and return to base by 10:30 pm. They seem to have a traffic pattern. (For example, Miami orbs fly north up the east coast, and Terry saw them returning south at 10:30 pm.) They are frequently seen flying into thunderstorms.

- The orbs have been seen to attach themselves to the perimeter of big black triangular craft. Terry thinks the entities may board the triangular craft for recreational purposes.

- The orbs are growing in number and touching down more often. There’s been at least a 10-fold increase in 10 years. More people (entities) are coming out of them. Terry said they deliberately want to be seen. They are conditioning us not be afraid of them. More and more will be observed. “They are not stealthy.” This is a ‘phased contact’ happening. There’s actually going to be physical contact in the not too distant future. They are coming in peace, and definitely want avoid confrontation. You will see them cluster around big cities. But they avoid Washington D.C., probably because of all the security cover such as surface to air missiles, etc. Their disclosure is obviously to people, but not to a government. The beings are both concerned and cautious about religions and do not want to crush the culture.

- Watch for them on the 4th of July after the Grand Finale of fireworks displays. Stay awhile and they

will come out. They know you will be looking up to see them.

We were given instructions on how to differentiate between Chinese sky lanterns and orbs. Chinese lanterns go with the wind, do not look like an orb, don’t move around each other, and make no turns. The orbs can go against the wind, look different, can move around each other, and make turns.

Terry ended his talk by discussing the MUFON “Project Orange” endeavor. He said we know where the bases are. He wants to stake them out and get a dive team to go down during the day. Hopefully he will have the funding to do this. Any volunteers? (Editor’s comment.)

James Fox “UFOs and the Media”



Photograph: Barry W. Scholles

James Fox’s presentation was a personal trip down memory lane concerning his experience in the media, especially dealing with UFOs. We were treated to a very entertaining and fascinating story of his journey. He expressed his feeling of “obligation” to present the true facts on the UFO phenomena. He said people have a right to know the most significant event happening to the human race. His personal feeling regarding the media is: if they can’t deny it, they ridicule it.

James was close to his father Charles Fox who wrote for newspapers and magazines. His father was struck with Multiple Sclerosis when James was three years old. In later years he assisted his father as he traveled to locations for interviews for news stories. So it was a natural that he acquired his father’s skills for interviewing and got into the film making profession.

When James told his father he wanted to make a UFO documentary, Charles was skeptical. His father was a non-believer. His dad’s turning point was when James interviewed astronaut Gordon Cooper about his sightings. His reasoning was that

if an astronaut witnessed UFO events and talked about it in public, it must be true.

There were antidotes of interviews with famous people which included video clips and photographs. These were very amusing and interesting. They follow.

In his interview with the famous Steven Hawking, James was questioning him on the "String Theory". James patiently waited for Hawking to type his answer which took a very long time as he pecked out one letter at a time with his "machine". When he had finished, James excitedly took the note in great anticipation of an earth-shattering reply. It read "I thought this meeting was to talk about computers, not God."

James decided he wanted to get Jimmy Carter to say on tape that he saw a UFO. Carter was at a book signing. He set up an "ambush" using his father. He bought five to seven books. He then wired a microphone on his father. A camera was setup on the backside of a table. His father, in the wheelchair, was rolled up to Carter, loaded with books to sign. His father said, "Can you tell us what happened to the UFO issue?" Carter said, "I saw one but it disappeared." He said there was an investigation, and not much came out of it. We saw the clip.

Another interview involved Governor Fife Symington of Arizona on the Phoenix sighting in 1997. Symington said, "I saw that thing too. I was a witness. I knew right away that this wasn't from this world." He said that he made many inquiries about it. Symington's wife said after the event, "He was white as a ghost."

Symington almost got James an interview with Bill Clinton. It seems Clinton owed Fife a favor. He saved Bill from drowning in college days. He dragged Clinton out of the "drink" by pulling on his long hair. At any rate, Hillary was running for senator at the time of the request. So the interview didn't happen.

He then discussed his projects and productions. We saw interesting clips selected from some of these.

James decided to do a National Press Club event in 2007 in Washington D.C. He organized a unique gathering of the most credible witnesses from several countries, such as air force generals, astronauts, military personnel, commercial pilots and government officials. He had to raise \$100,000 to bring them all in. We saw video clips from this event.

Documentaries such as the well-known and accurate "Out of the Blue" were produced in 2002. He was strapped for money in this documentary. He interviewed celebrity witnesses such as President Gerald Ford and Gordon Cooper. "Out of the Blue" was aired on TV's Sci Fi Channel.

"I Know What I Saw" was produced as a film in 2009. James wanted to get this one into theaters. He wanted a wider audience than shows like "Hanger 1" which he said just "preach to the choir". There were lots of worries and obstacles. In the end production standards did not suffice for a film. So when it was finished, he sold it to the History Channel for TV. However, the airing of this production did two good things.

The first was Larry King sent Steven Spielberg a note, which resulted in a private showing of the production at Spielberg's house. On July 6, 2009, Spielberg sent King a letter about it, in which the first sentence said "With great curiosity, I watched the documentary you sent over and found it compelling." Later on in the letter he expressed a wish for "disclosure". James was excited about the letter because he considered the word "compelling" an endorsement. However he was not permitted to release the contents of the letter by Larry King's staff. Recent inquiries to the staff were not answered so he went public with it. We were shown a slide of the letter.

Tracy Torme (movie producer and screenwriter, as well as the famous "Velvet Frog" singer's son Mel Torme), also saw "I Know What I Saw" and liked it. Torme wanted to do a documentary UFO feature film with "everything accurate" although actors would take some parts. This led to James' new project "701", which is in progress. He has raised enough money to do 90% of the shooting. It was named "701" because that's the number of cases that remained unexplained in the Project Bluebook files (out of 12,618 cases). The Bluebook

cases range from the years 1947 to 1969. This will be a feature film. They will also do a four hour mini-series for TV and the National Geographic Channel. Then there's the offer of a \$100,000 reward for proof of an ET craft.

We were teased with clips of interviews from "701". There was the Kenneth Arnold sighting by Mt. Rainier Washington in 1947. Then there were three CE3 entity encounter events which include: the Zimbabwe Incident witnessed by school children (1992"); Lonnie Zamora's UFO landing in Socorro, NM (1964); and the Varginha, Brazil entity incident witnessed by children (1996).

During questions and answers, James related that he believes that UFOs are not dangerous. He mentioned the best witness he ever met (Ricky Sorrells) who was a deer hunter and metal worker. He is a big man with a very pleasant personality. James went to Stevensville, Texas after that event. The witness observed a large UFO the size of two department stores. He even stood under it. There was no air disturbance. And, it took off "in a blink". Being religious, he was having a hard time with his faith. He was harassed by helicopters constantly going over his property. He called the military base to have them stop. The reply was, "You stop talking about your UFO."

When James was finished he drew the symbol Lonnie Zamora saw on the craft that landed in Socorro, New Mexico.



Nick Redfern
"From MIBs to..."



Photograph: Barry W. Scholles

Nick Redfern is a prolific writer on the subject of UFOs and the paranormal. We were treated to a presentation of information from his latest book "True Stories of the Real Men in Black". This presentation covered the history of the Men-in-Black (MIB) phenomenon.

He gave some of his background on how he became interested in UFOs. His father, in the Royal Air Force, was a "radar mechanic" in the NATO exercise "Main Brace" held in the UK. UFOs with unheard of maneuvers were observed. He later told Nick about the incident. This piqued Nick's interest in UFOs. This eventually led to him taking interest in MIBs.

Nick started with MIB history. About 1950, Albert Bender was the first to attract international attention in his writings about UFOs. He was a strange individual. He lived in Bridgeport, Connecticut and was also interested in the paranormal and Edger Allen Poe. He converted his attic into a chamber of horrors with occult creepy stuff, which included spiders. He set up the IFSB (International Flying Saucer Bureau). Then he strangely appeared to be suddenly silenced. He dissolved IFSB, and did not write about UFOs for the next 10 years.

The story Bender tells on his estrangement from the subject goes as follows, as indicated in his book "Flying Saucers and the Three Men". He would walk to the movies every night. There would be characters in black standing in the shadows watching him, and in the theaters too. He said no one else could see them. They had white shimmering eyes, fedora hats and black ties. They could materialize and dematerialize. The more he delved into UFOs, the more he saw them.

In late 1953 in his bedroom, he smelled sulfur and brimstone, and three figures showed up. Through telepathic communication they told him to get out of the UFO subject. He did not. They appeared again to him and issued another warning. He became paranoid, intimidated and frightened. So in 1953 he walked away from the UFO subject.

Then Gray Barker took over where Bender left off. He wrote about MIBs in "They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers". Barker got to know Bender. Bender became even more paranoid after this book. He got back into the subject briefly. Then Bender and Barker coauthored a book "Flying Saucers and the Three Men". Bender did a promotion for the book, and then was never seen again.

In the 1960s the second wave of investigations began with Brad Steiger. He became interested when a friend told him he was being followed in London. They described weird, vampire type people.

Tim Beckley became interested when UFO investigators Jack and Mary Robinson told him that they were intimidated by MIBs standing and watching them. He called Jim Moseley, and he and Jim drove over to Jack and Mary's apartment in Jersey City. They saw a man in a long black coat and hat, and Jim snapped a picture. They stopped the car, turned around, and he was gone. Following is the only known photograph of a MIB.



Photograph: Jim Moseley

Later in the 1960s John Keel came into the picture. He wrote about Moth Man in Pt. Pleasant, WV an area also known for its UFO sightings. MIBs appeared to intimidate any witnesses. Women in Black (WIB) began appearing at this time. They come into houses posing as census takers etc. In 1967 the Silver Bridge collapsed and 46 people were killed. Keel thought that Moth Man appearances just before the collapse was a warning of the pending event. The MIBs fit Bender and Steiger's descriptions.

Keel felt they were multi-dimensional, and possibly represented a multi-dimensional police force. This is also Nick's opinion "they pop in and out". They are from another realm.

Nick brought up an association of MIBs with Loch Ness monster sightings. The monster sightings date back at least 1,500 years. Every year, Ted Holiday would take three weeks of vacation and go to the site in an attempt to get a

photograph of the monster. In the 1970s Ted Holiday was trying to photograph a possible monster sighting, and the camera kept jamming. He got the feeling someone was looking at him. He turned around and saw a MIB (with a helmet and 'oozing' evil) watching him. A year later he had a heart attack at the site where he saw the MIB. He died young. His theory was that the MIB is a sophisticated 3D program inserted into our world to do a specific task. The MIBs typically appear at the doorstep. All they do is attempt to silence people.

In the 1990s "Marie" created a group with abduction experiences. Then weird things began happening. She saw MIBs on her property, and received strange calls. There were three types of calls: electronic voice; strange sounds; dead phone. The group disbanded because of these events and the problems stopped.

Nick then focused his talk on "Who are MIBs"?

1) Government Theory: A few (not all) may be from a "shadow agency" hiding truth by big business and world individuals. The regular government doesn't know what's going on. They dress up like real MIBs to intimidate. Nick noted that the government, FBI and military issued documents which suggested they were all baffled by MIBs.

2) Time Traveler Theory: Nick thinks MIBs are not primarily from the government. They look out-of-tune. The clothing is 1950s. That is, they wear fedoras, old clothing styles, drive 1950s cars. He offered a theory. "What if they are time travelers?" "What if a disaster occurs in 40-50 years with all records destroyed, and the only things left are a few records from the 1950s. Therefore, they might come back to our time dressed like the 50s. In many cases they ask, "What time is it?"

3) Demon Theory: A theory offered by a priest (Ray Shane), and former Nebraska MUFON state director, suggests they are demons masquerading as ETs. His 'disciples' believed they were being visited by demonic entities.

Nick mentioned that MIBs have visited people tampering with Ouija boards. There is no UFO component.

He noted that there appears to be vampire parallels to the MIBs. He listed the commonalities such as: vampires have to be invited in; usually they turn up at night, they don't come in unless invited; when they do come in they threaten, then leave, shuffling in a single file. People become ill as they are being threatened, and feel the MIBs were sucking energy when they looked at them.

There are paranormal aspects to it. Nick advised not to get involved in the study unless you can handle it.

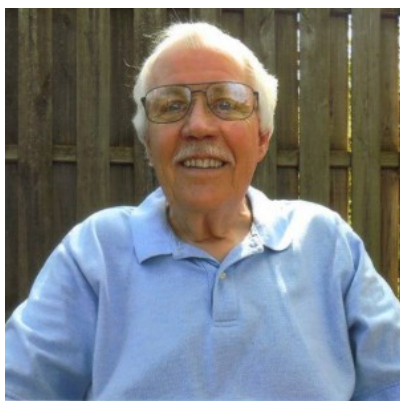
He finished his presentation with a warning. If you encounter MIBs: "Don't answer the door! Don't let anyone in!"



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
Sheriff Risner welcomes us to the Annex as Captain Hamilton looks on.

Rick Hilberg – “Lifetime Achievement” Award

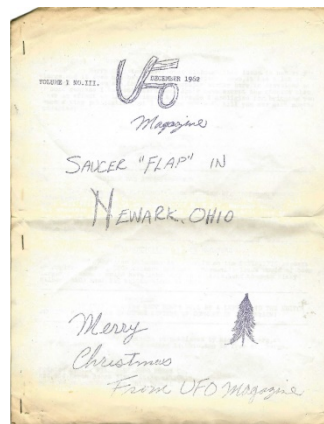
By Thomas Wertman



Approximately two years ago a young man showed up at a local Ohio organization devoted to the study of UFOs. It was the first time he ever

attended a UFO meeting, and shortly after the start, he began to completely dominate the discussion. He claimed to be an experiencer and was currently writing a book on the subject. Addressing the group of approximately twenty he said we didn't know what this whole subject is about, but he did. What offended me most about his comment was the lack of respect to experienced UFO researchers in the room. In today's environment there seems to be less focus on history, but what happened today. Individuals like this young man could learn so much from someone with Rick Hilberg's experience.

Hilberg's roots in ufology came after he attended his first organized meeting in the summer of 1958. Fascinated with the subject, he then became active in several small groups and eventually decided to publish his own newsletter. While the current generation may associate UFO Magazine with William Birnes of the UFO Hunters series, Hilberg printed his original version on a "Spirit Duplicator" in December 1962. The publication then became a professionally printed newsletter, featuring articles by many of the leading ufologists of the time. After creating what was considered to be one of the best UFO publications of the 1960s, Hilberg sold his interest to Flying Saucer Digest in 1970. Hilberg became of the co-editor of the publication in 1990 when Robert S. Easley stepped down, then editor in 1999 upon Allan Manak's death. Flying Saucer Digest is published on a quarterly basis and remains one last "ufazine".



Hilberg also published other newsletters and magazines including the latest release titled "Rick Hilberg's Book of Weirdology". In 1964 Hilberg was one of the founding members of the Congress of Scientific Ufologists, later called the National UFO Conference. Last weekend I was honored to attend

the 50th reunion of the group in Cleveland, Ohio. While the group is dwindling, the passion is still there even after all these years. I wonder if the current generation of your full researchers would be willing to put forth the same effort as those of the past. Take away cell phones, the Internet, and email, then replace them with rotary dial phones, regular Postal Service mail, logging lots of miles in a car, and a lot of late nights typing information.

The "Lifetime Achievement" award in ufology presented by MUFON of Ohio in 2015 is only a minor token of our appreciation for all the work that Hilberg has contributed since 1958. I look forward to Hilberg's participation in this field for many years to come.



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
The audience.

New Chief Field Investigator – Ron McGlone

By Thomas Wertman



When MUFON International Director Jan Harzan appointed me state director of Ohio he reminded me that no one person can do all. He has to delegate. At my regular 8:00 to 5:00 job I found very few people I could depend upon. It wasn't that they didn't have the time or ability to contribute,

they simply lacked the desire. I ended up gravitating back to 'do it yourself', and the 8:00 to 5:00 job became 7:00 to whenever. A vampire definitely had a better chance of seeing daylight than I did. Attempts to motivate assigned team members were unsuccessful, especially in light of medieval torture techniques being against company policy. That's why I breathed a sigh of relief when I left that organization.

Those that know me have heard me say I have two jobs, one to earn a paycheck, and the other I wish I was provided a paycheck so that I could do it full-time. What makes working in MUFON of Ohio so enjoyable is the willingness of individuals to pitch in without being asked. Not only do they pitch in, but they go above and beyond, and it reflects on the organization. That's why with only slight hesitation, Ron McGlone was appointed Chief Field Investigator for Ohio. The reason for my hesitation was the difficulty of choosing between two extremely well qualified candidates. Ron McGlone and Rob Mercer are two valuable components of this organization, and I think the hardest decision I had to make since taking the helm of the organization was which one to choose. But again, to show you the quality of this organization, when discussing my plans with both, Rob nominated Ron for the position.

Thinking back, I remember the first time I met Ron. It was an investigation involving what the witness described as a black box hovering slightly above a County Road. The object was about 2 feet in size, gray-to-black in color, a surface that appeared somewhat like an object giving off heat, and having four pedestals for support. The witness had just rounded a corner on a winding road and had no time to react before hitting the object. From the minor damage to the witness's car we were able to extract samples of melted plastic, dirt with a foreign matter and hair. Analysis of the hair samples identified the 'UFO' as an unfortunate raccoon. The plastic melted from friction of the damaged inner fender well pushing against a car tire.

It's not often that investigators start off with a case like this. While we did not find remnants of an alien drone, the investigation did provide excellent training on how to conduct an investigation. I have the utmost faith in Ron McGlone and know he will

do extremely well in the position of Chief Field Investigator for MUFON of Ohio. I would also like to commend State Section Director Rob Mercer for the outstanding job he has done since becoming an investigator. I feel that we have one of the strongest organizations in MUFON and see both of these individuals helping to take the organization to the next level.



Photograph: Bruce Budinger

James Fox at Rob Mercer's table pouring over his Bluebook files.

Ohio Man and Former GI Seeks Answers

Submitted by Rob Mercer

A man from Sidney, Ohio told of his encounter with a UFO to Rob Mercer. He said he filed a report to MUFON International. It turns out Roger Marsh, editor of the MUFON Journal, wrote a story from the man's CMS (Case Management System) report and published it on the MUFON website (www.mufon.com). The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, gave us his permission to tell his story. He is in hopes that someone will see it who can give him some answers. The following is as published on the MUFON website

The events take place in Grafenwöhr (Grafenwoehr) West Germany during the summer of 1966. Grafenwöhr was a major training area for N.A.T.O. forces and located close to the Czechoslovakian border.

"I was in the weapons platoon of a rifle company in the (U.S.) Army. The weapons platoon was made

up of four armored personnel carriers, which were 13-ton, lightly armored, tracked vehicles [M113]. Three of the APC's were 81mm mortar gun crews, and the one I was in was the fire directions center. I was a driver at the time.

"We, approximately 14 men, were on a training mission out in the field by ourselves. The gun crews had set up their mortars and the fire directions center had 'laid in' the guns, which is sighting them using aiming stakes for the gun crews to put their sights on.

"I was tired at dusk and rolled out my sleeping bag in a nice grassy area under a tree and beside my APC. Another sergeant did also. I went to sleep quickly.

"Three men, one on guard duty, were watching a star or light in the sky apparently pulsing with different colors. Two of the men went on to their sleeping bags and the guard stayed up. My squad leader was on radio watch, because we had been warned we might have aggressors trying to sneak up on us that night.

"The next morning, I awoke to find several men talking in a group about not being woke up for guard duty. Just then my squad leader emerged from the APC and said he had fallen asleep at the radios for some strange reason. This had never happened to him before.

"My platoon sergeant, one of the three watching the light the previous night, told of being in a dream state and hearing the guard yelling frantically for help. The sergeant said he couldn't move, but could hear.

"About 09:00 [AM] we heard and saw the guard that was on first watch coming down a hill about 200 yards away. When he reached us he was hysterical and crying. He said, 'I thought all of you were dead.' He then recounted his story.

"When two of the three men watching the star the previous night went to bed, the guard went toward the wood line, where we had set up camp. The guard then turned toward a clearing to the west of camp and said a craft had landed there in front of him. It had numerous lights of changing colors all down its side.

“The guard saw three figures emerge from the craft. The figures didn’t walk on the ground – they seemed to be floating just above the ground and bobbed side-to-side. The guard yelled for them to halt. When they didn’t stop, he thought about turning on his flashlight, but something in his head said ‘no’. The guard grabbed an aiming stake and tossed it at them. The guard was carrying a rifle but no live rounds were issued because they were not on a range at the time.

“He kept hearing a voice in his mind that said, ‘Don’t be afraid, we won’t hurt you.’ The guard heard one of the beings in the woods behind him and felt he was being trapped so he ran away. He came upon another group of GI’s some distance away and told them his story. He pleaded with them to come to our position and they wouldn’t. They assumed he was intoxicated on something.

“He stayed with them until morning and then came back toward our position. Looking down a hill he saw a silvery, cigar-shaped craft still where it landed the night before. He ran back to the other GI’s and again begged them to come with him. They again refused to come.

“He waited a few more hours and then came back to our camp when all of us saw him. He told us the story, and someone found the aiming stake he had thrown.

“The sergeant that slept a few yards from me said he had the strangest dream of being examined in a brightly lit operating room. He also said he had an awful headache in the top of his head. Along with this, the grassy area where we slept appeared to have had a core sample taken from it. A round spot of grass and dirt a few inches deep were missing. The platoon sergeant recalled hearing the guard yelling desperately for help but he could not move.

“My APC had the infrared lenses cracked and everything electrical was burned out. I remember the maintenance crew in our company asking what happened. They had never seen this kind of damage to a vehicle before. My APC had to be towed in to base that night, later to be sent back to Ordinance.

“The Colonel, our battalion commander, wanted some explanation for all of the damages. When he was told, he said he could not file an official report, because only one person was a witness to the event.

“My personal experience of that night involved a watch I was given for graduation. It was anti-magnetic and glowed in the dark, but that night it stopped working and glowing. I knew the guard who was on duty that night, and after the incident he was very emotionally disturbed. He was sent away and I never saw him again.

“I don’t have any recollections myself of that night, but I really would like to know what that was. I am leaving the other men’s names out for their privacy. In 1966, I was in US Army-A Company-2nd Battalion-21st Infantry-24th Division.”

Grafenwöhr is a town in the district Neustadt (Waldnaab), in the region of the Upper Palatinate (German: Oberpfalz) in eastern Bavaria, Germany. It is widely known for the United States Army military installation and training area, called Grafenwöhr Training Area (Tower Barracks), located directly south and west of the town.



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
Patty “Kakes” and Chris Parsons.

Recent Ohio CMS (Case Management System) Files

Submitted by Rob Mercer

Following are CMS files as written by the witnesses. They are not edited for spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Case #63410 Hamilton County, Ohio Feb.17, 2015
8:30PM

An orb/ball object entered my bedroom window frame from south to north (I have a 1,000 ft panoramic view of the downtown Cincinnati skyline). The object flew horizontal at around 1,500 ft and looked to be traveling at 100 miles per hour before it decelerated to a dead over the valley in between downtown and my high rise residence. At this point the object appeared to be about one mile away, and had to be as big as a school bus. It was absolutely brilliant orange glow and rotating. After hovering for maybe 5-10 seconds, it began to travel northeast, moving away from me and dimming until it disappeared completely. It had no trail and trajectory was 90 degrees to surface, no descent or ascent - but velocity, 100 mph to 0 - then changed direction - at hover, I ran to get to get my smart phone - had the flash on which reflected in the glass window - and by the time I adjusted everything it had already dimmed - I chose to run to the window first so I wouldn't miss or lose any personal observation.

CLASSIFIED AS UNKNOWN

Case #63925 Greene County, Ohio March 12,
2015 9:58PM

Outside looking at stars facing south, I saw a triangle shape object all lit up heading north. There was no sound as it glided past, It moved at a fairly quick speed. As I tried to follow it's direction, it seemed to vanish. This happened at 9:57 pm. I have seen UFOs in my area in the past but never filed a report. I knew what I saw and know it was not a bird or airplane, it gave off it's own light. I was excited when I saw it and disappointed when it seemed to disappear. I immediately went into the house and told my boyfriend what I saw. I continued to look for it but did not see it again.

CLASSIFIED AS UNKNOWN

Case #64364 Lake County, Ohio March 31,2015
10:20PM

I was going to my parents house with my one year old daughter. As I was getting out of my car, I just happened to look up and saw a huge!!!!!! Glowing Amber ball of light. The light took my

breath away! I ran to the front door and yelled for my brother to come out and look. He came out, I ran my daughter inside and gave her to my mom. It was about 3-4 houses down from my parents house and looked to be less than 100 ft above the house and trees. Lake Erie is right there.

CLASSIFIED AS UNKNOWN

Case #64948 Muskingum County, Ohio June 1979

It was around 1:00 am in June 1979, I was on my way home from work. Usually there was very little traffic on my way home. I was riding my motorcycle when I noticed a funny looking light in my mirrors, I slowed down and looked back, the light was big and bright and in the air not on the road. I stopped in the middle of the road, when I looked back, it was hovering above me, it looked like the sun, I had shut my motorcycle off and I could not hear any noises, I was in a area with no houses or buildings around for a few miles. The object just stayed in one place for a few seconds then it just vanished, it shook me up pretty good, I started my bike and flew home, I have only told a very few people about this, still do not know what it was.

CLASSIFIED AS UNKNOWN

Case# 65415 Clermont County, Ohio May 11,
2015 3:45AM

I was taking the dogs out about 3:45, when I opened my front door I noticed a red light and a blue light that seemed like it was under my neighbor window. I thought someone was breaking in. Suddenly there were 2 round circles of swirling, primary color, lights. One stayed lower to the ground but not on the ground. The other looked the same but playfully kept going around the bottom circle in a oval path. At one point the upper circle flew down and into the lower circle and then flew back into the air and continued to move around the lower circle. Neither dog noticed right away because there was no sound. when the dogs finally noticed them they growled and started barking. The circles did not change. I went inside to wake my husband, I did not want to be the only one to see this amazing event. We watched out the window for a minute and then we no longer could see them. No

pictures were taken, I was so fascinated I did not even think about taking a picture, maybe next time.

CLASSIFIED AS UNKNOWN

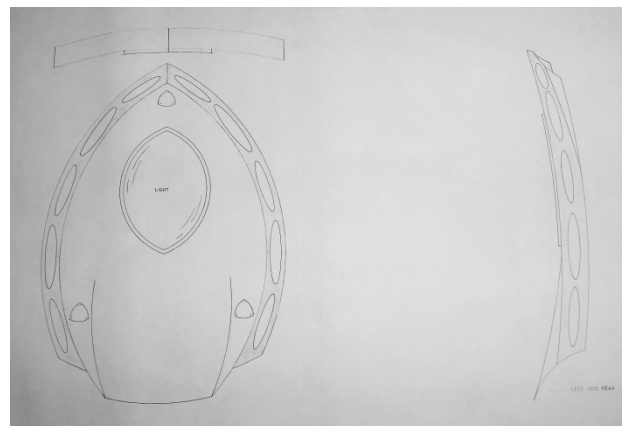
Case #65823 Cuyahoga County, Ohio May 23, 2015

While walking home from work early in the morning. Between two major streets it was very peaceful and quiet, and I was taking in the stars. I looked left (east) and saw two orange red glowing spots above the trees and roof-lines. The objects were in a steady glide and kept spatially relative to each other. There were no other familiar, identifying lights and they caused sound nor emitted any vibrations. I stopped to watch them and noticed they left no streaks behind them in transit and were not "shooting" at a fast rate of speed as a shooting star or meteor would. As they glided above, they dimmed at first and the left one blinked out, The remaining one dimmed a bit more then disappeared from sight. I scanned the sky around the area they had been but could see no indication of their presence. I scanned then in the direction they seemed headed and again saw them further to my right (west). They were again noticeably bright. As I observed, they were now on a more north westerly track. Once again, they dimmed, as before, one blinked out but the other remained dimly glowing for a short time and then disappeared. I scanned the skies for a few moments and saw nothing else so I continued my walk, still checking the sky. Thinking the experience was over, and perhaps 150' to 200' further along, again out of the eastern sky, two more objects of the same description appeared above the trees and roofs. These also glided steadily and in a spatial relationship with each other, making no sound or vibrations. I stopped to watch. Directionally, the path of these two was different, heading on a WSW tack. Again they dimmed and one after the other, they blinked out. At this point in my walk, I was close to my destination and there is a lot more light pollution in the area. I could not spot any further indication of them. We get to observe annual meteor showers in this area and I have seen shooting stars, some close to the ground. I know what those look like. These were none of those.

CLASSIFIED AS UNKNOWN

Case #66244 Hamilton County, Ohio October 27, 2013

While outside on an extremely clear evening night sky watching, I was also looking west watching aircraft leaving the Northern Kentucky Cincinnati Airport. I was watching the traffic through high powered binoculars. The planes were coming east and then turning north. I turned to the west to look in that direction again and then turned around east. At this point I saw a bright flood like light coming towards me. The light was attached to a teardrop shape craft that I estimate to be about 100 feet long 60 feet wide. It was dark in color, but I could make out some kind of symbol on the bottom side. The craft continued in a straight path towards me. When it got within about a mile, some kind of vapor surrounded it for about 10 seconds and then it just disappeared as if it cloaked out. The attached sketch shows what it looked like from my vantage point.



INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS

Case #66483 Pickaway County, Ohio June 20, 2015

Leaving the Winery on Tarlton Road and we were about ready to get into the car. We were looking at how beautiful the moon was and saw an object in the sky. We thought it was a ballon but then it continued to get bigger and change shape as it was moving by. The object was very dark in color black from where we were standing. We first saw it in the western sky and it moved toward the eastern sky in a floating motion. There were light green and blue light shining up in the sky. Very light in color. We were just in shock and wanted to know

what it was. It wasn't light enough to see it clear. It went over the tree line and out of sight.

INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS

Case #66824 Lorain County, Ohio June 20, 2015
10:00PM

I was at my mothers house in Elyria, Ohio walking down the stairs after washing the hair dye out of my hair, when this orange flashing light caught my attention. I called my mom to the upstairs window and said "mom this isn't a plane, its too big and its bright bright orange and it looked bigger than a plane flying over the house". She had saw one when she was younger and she said it looked similar. As I was looking at it, it just disappeared. We went outside and it was then in the backyard over the tree line. It disappeared a second time and came back down the road further. This is when I finally realized hey I should video this thing. I wish I would have sooner especially when it was sooo much closer. It would move then stop and hover and then move and disappear. I was in such aw that I couldn't believe it and didn't even think to take my phone out to video the best and closet part of it. I ended up going inside after a while because I was getting eaten alive my the bugs outside. However I called my boyfriend and cousin and they said that they saw three UFOs in a triangular shape down the street from where I was.

INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS

Case #67005 Coshocton County, Ohio June 22,
2015

I was sitting around the fire with my Brother, Wife and a friend when I noticed that my Wife and Brother are both staring up at the sky. Before I knew it the four of us had our eyes locked on an object that seemed to have a very undefined shape, could stop in mid flight and change direction instantly. When I first looked up I assumed that I was looking at a plane, even though I could not make out a definitive shape. But soon it was obvious to all of us that we were not looking at a plane when the craft's flight pattern changed numerous times. When I looked to the sky, the object was a dull light with what appeared to be a small cloud or smoke that was following it around covering it. I watched it for a moment, then I

realized it was making some very unusual turns. We all watch it's aerobatics for a few minutes then I remember commenting "it's so blurry , it's hard to make out a shape". Almost instantly, it stopped in midair, to the north of us and the white lit up cloud disappeared to reveal a some what smaller craft, or a yellow/orange/red colored light which sat there for 30 seconds or so then just disappeared all together. All of us left the bonfire that night feeling that we witnessed something very important, something none of us had ever witnessed before. Something it has been difficult to stop thinking about.

INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS

Case #67107 Madison County, Ohio April 2015

I was driving back to London, Ohio from Sidney. Along with me were my mother, my oldest daughter (9) , and my youngest daughter (2). We were driving down Route 56 toward London. As we drove over a hill my nine year old saw lights, the craft was moving so slow it flew out over a field. As we got closer the craft turned around flew back out over the road and hovered above the truck. I stopped the truck in the middle of the road , and I rolled the window down too look at it. I got my phone out to take a picture of it, but the phone would not pick up the lights on the craft or anything else. The screen on the phone just stayed black. At this time my mother and my two year old were both yelling, my mom was screaming for me to drive and my two year old was terrified shaking and crying so hard. There was no noise coming from the craft at all, it was so low I could have stood on top of the truck n touched the bottom of it. As I drove away it just sat there, then just disappeared.

INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS

MORE CONFERENCE PICTURES



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
The Sheriff's Annex



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
James Fox and Tim Culbertson.



Photograph: Michael Moore
Jon Fry and Nell arrive.



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
The lunch line.



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
Daniel Menosky inspects the lunch table.



Photograph: Bruce Budinger
The Panel Discussion
Nick Redfern, James Fox, Tom Wertman.



Photograph: Michael Moore
Ron McGlone and Rob Mercer looking on



Photograph: Michael Moore
Paul and Terry Althouse checking people in.



Photograph: Tim Culbertson
Meeting is over. Bruce Budinger cleaning the coffee pot.



Photograph: Michael Moore
James Fox and Pete Hartinger.



Photograph: Tim Culbertson
It's clean up time. What's this? Tom Wertman with hands in pocket, Terry Hamilton working his fanny off, and Nick Redfern waiting for the bus.



Photograph: Michael Moore
Rob Mercer and family in front of his table.



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