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Directors Report

The Case of Robert Jacobs

By Dick Moss, MNMUFON State Dir.

The video Out of the Blue contains an interview with First Lieutenant Robert Jacobs, who was the officer in charge of photo optical instrumentation at Vandenberg Air Force Base during the 1960s. His assignment was to film missile launches with a large radar-controlled camera from a tracking site at Big Sur. In the video Jacobs describes an event, complete with computer graphics, that his team filmed on September 15, 1964.

Two days after the filming Jacobs was ordered to report to the office of Major Florenz Mansmann, chief science officer at Vandenberg. Jacobs, Mansmann, and two men wearing business suits then watched the film.

An object flew into the picture from the left side, maneuvered around the third-stage dummy warhead, and shot a beam of "light" at it four times from four different angles before exiting out of the picture. The warhead was traveling 11,000 - 14,000 miles per hour at an altitude of sixty miles. The "light strikes" caused the dummy warhead to tumble out of space. On the film the object appeared to be small, but Mansmann had studied it with a magnifying glass and described the object like two saucers cupped together with a ping-pong-ball-like surface on top. The beams of light came out of this top surface.

After the film was shown Mansmann asked Jacobs, "What was that?" Jacobs replied, "It looks to me like we got a UFO." Mansmann told Jacobs that he should never speak of it again. He added that if, years from now, Jacobs was ever forced to talk about this he was to say that the light beams were laser tracking strikes.

This directive puzzled Jacobs because in 1964 lasers were merely playthings in laboratories. Using lasers for tracking would become a future application.

Later, Jacobs asked if the two guys in civilian clothes were from the CIA and Major Mansmann said that they were not CIA. They had spooled off the part of the film which contained the UFO footage, cut it out with a scissors, wound it onto a separate reel and put it into their briefcase. As they were leaving, one of them said, "I don't need to remind you Major of the severity of a security breach. We'll consider this incident closed."

Mansmann later told Jacobs that the object must have been extraterrestrial. The beam of light was assumed to be a plasma beam because "it looked like a plasma beam."



Minnesota Mufon Meetings

**Sat., May 14th & Sat., June 11th
1:30-5pm**

**New Brighton Family
Service Center
400 - 10th St. NW
(located 1/4-mile S.W.
of Hwy 694 and 35W.)**

**PARK FREE!
The building is designated as
non-smoking.**

**See map on back cover
(Note: The building has no
special security, so you can
come and go as you please
and smoke outdoors. There
is also an elevator.)**

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For his work in setting up the guided missile station Jacobs was the first photographer to be awarded the Air Force Guided Missile insignia.

Eighteen years later it occurred to Jacobs that he could talk about the incident because nobody had ever told him that it was classified top secret. Mansmann had told him to never speak of it, which is different from being classified top secret.

Jacobs told his story to several magazine editors. All of them rejected the article except the National Enquirer, which printed it on Oct. 12, 1982.

The Air Force reacted that the incident had never happened, that Jacobs was never in the service nor worked at Vandenberg, and that there was no tracking station in California. But, the National Enquirer had checked out Jacobs' service record before printing his story and they knew differently.

Jacobs started getting phone calls at all times of the day or night. Somebody would scream &@*#%+ (fill in the blanks) repeatedly until he hung up. One night someone blew up his mailbox by putting 4th of July skyrockets in it. That morning at 1:00 somebody called and yelled, "Skyrockets in your box at night, oh what a beautiful sight &@*#%+. Later, when the phone rang, he would hear a humming sound ending with a click.

Jacobs also claims that his involvement was partially used against him once in losing a teaching job.

Somewhere in this time line, Sightings TV show's researcher Curt Collier wrote to Major Mansmann and asked him to confirm the details of Jacobs' account. Mansmann, now retired, responded, "The story by Dr. Robert Jacobs, it is all true as presented. I have responded only after Dr. Jacobs released the details of the sighting, negating my secrecy bond. I am writing to confirm Dr. Jacobs' account as he described it."

UFO researcher Lee Graham also tracked down Mansmann, by now a PhD at Stanford with a ranch near Fresno. He wrote back to Graham saying that everything Bob said in his story is absolutely true. Mansmann later corroborated Jacobs' story for years whenever it was brought up.

Robert Jacobs was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1967. As of January, 1987 he was a

Visual Arts professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Jacobs has his own ideas about the meaning of this event, which may have been an early demonstration of the beginnings of military dabbling in what was then known as SDI, or Star Wars. He was also convinced that higher powers within the military knew that the "demonstration" was going to happen and that his mission in setting up the tracking site was done specifically to photograph it.

The main sources for the above account were Disclosure by Dr. Steven Greer, UFO Intercepts Rocket by T. Scott Crain in the January 1987 MUFON UFO Journal, and Deliberate Deception: The Big Sur UFO Filming in the January 1989 MUFON UFO Journal.

Professional Security - Unearthly Encounters - UFOs and Security Guards by James Foster Robinson, 3/16/05
<http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/3943/114712>

You are walking the perimeter of your site in the wee hours of the morning when it is dark and still. Nothing seems to be stirring and no one seems to be about. Then the hair on the back of your neck stands up. You sense rather than hear a buzzing noise. When you look for its source, you notice a strange light in the sky overhead. And it is getting closer. Security guards and officers who work a great deal at night often see strange things. Some of the strangest are UFO's or Unidentified Flying Objects.

In the 1970's, a security guard at the local factory of Marconi's in Frimley, Hampshire, England saw an 'alien' form within a building on the site one night. This guard supposedly disappeared shortly after and has not been heard from since. Local rumor claims that many scientists who worked at the factory also committed suicide around this time. At around 7:00 p.m. on February 2, 2002, a Maysville Police Department officer moonlighting as a security guard at a power plant on the Ohio River in Kentucky spotted a strange object that seemed to be patrolling between his site and another power station across the river in Ohio. He described it as a "chevron, shaped" object that moved slowly towards the plant then turned southwest. The unknown craft had three multicolored lights in a triangular formation, red, green and white. It made

no noise at all. The guard was unable to see any type of structure behind the lights as it was too dark.

In Brazil, a security guard who worked at the Pesqueiro do Rubinho reported seeing a red object that landed on the Itapeti Mountain, in Mogi das Cruzes, Sao Paulo's municipal district May 26 1999. The craft, which made a buzzing noise, left marks like feet in a circle approximately 2.4 meters in diameter with a smaller circle in the middle. The UFO was so bright it lit up a lake below. After five minutes the strange craft flew away leaving a terrified security guard who was afraid to go back to work.

A number of years ago, a security guard working the late shift at Cairo Mill in Waterhead Oldham Greater Manchester, England, heard a noise outside the mill. Investigating he saw a saucer-shaped craft with a large window, thirty meters in diameter and lit with a blue light hanging over the building. After five minutes, the strange object shot up into the sky and disappeared. That was not the only thing that disappeared that night. Apparently the factory cat disappeared also at the same time. Was it a UFO abductee?

In Modesto, California in 2002, a security supervisor and one of his guards were surprised to see what they thought was a giant UFO right over their building. They described it as being at least a football field wide with a steady, white light on the left and a blinking red light on the right. They could not discern any structure but were sure it was one craft. The UFO made no sound as it flew over their building and then over some buildings a distance away. The strange object then stopped and the red light made complete circle around the white light before it took off north at a high rate of speed. Another security supervisor, hearing of the UFO, said he also had seen it a month earlier.

A security guard one Sunday afternoon in July 1996, along with a pilot and a gamekeeper found a nine hundred and fifteen foot spiral composed of one hundred and fifty-one circles in the fields across the busy A303 road from Stonehenge in England. The huge formation took only forty-five minutes. The guard and the two other witnesses said that it was not there just before 5.30 pm but was there shortly after 6.00 pm.

On a late night shift July 28 2004, a security guard in southwest Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, spotted a

disc shaped object with flashing red and yellow lights in the west sky over his site. The UFO would hover for ten minutes and then shake violently from side to side and up and down for thirty minutes. The guard went back into his shack to write his reports. Later he came outside to see it the mysterious craft was still there. It was but had been joined by seven friends all stretched across the night sky doing the same shaking. Then one craft started to fly near him. The guard got nervous and called the police. When they arrived it was too light out to see much.

Sometimes, guards say they saw something when they didn't. Maybe they were just bored and wanted some excitement. In the summer of 1967, an unidentified security guard working the night shift in a lumber yard claimed he had fired six shots at a cigar-shaped UFO one night and produced four flatten bullets that he said had hit the UFO but did not damage. When police investigated they found that he had fabricated his story and the guard confessed that he made up the story. The flatten bullets were from rounds he had fired at a steel drum.

The above stories are just a few of the many sightings of UFOs by security guards and officers that I have in my files. A whole book could be written about unearthly encounters by Security Guards and UFOs not to mention ghost and strange critters. If you have had such experiences, drop me a line and tell me about them.

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NASA quote:

'Not everything seen on the night sky is understood.'

The CE4 Corner
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May/June, 2005 - There may be more than you think

In my conversations with close encounter experiencers one of the most common complaints I hear is that experiencers feel as if they are alone. But a quick look at some numbers suggests that there are far more encounters, and many more experiencers, than one might think. While we may never know the exact numbers, we can make some order-of-magnitude estimates. The numbers we find are surprising.

The Roper Polls of Unexplained Experiences(1) have estimated that from one tenth of a percent to one percent of the population have had enough unexplained events in their life for person to be considered an experiencer(2). In a typical metropolitan area of roughly two million people, this suggests that from two thousand to twenty thousand people may have undergone one or more close encounters - a staggering number to think about. For the experiencer it means that you have a lot of company. For UFO hunters, it says that the skies over the metro area should be extremely busy.

The Air Traffic Control Problem

Any model of the Visitors as a physical “nuts and bolts” presence must deal with this massive scale. This issue is what I call the “Air Traffic Control” problem. If abductions are all entirely physical events then we can see that the phenomenon must truly be massive in scale. Simply put, too many UFOs would be needed to sustain the large number of reported UFO sightings and alien abductions. Let’s examine the scope of this phenomenon and see just how vast it must be - and what some alternative scenarios might exist.

Several contemporary researchers suggest that UFO visitation is a purely “nuts and bolts” phenomenon - using technology which, although advanced, in principle is understandable. Many also suggest that this apparent “program” of UFO abduction has been steadily expanding throughout recorded history, especially in recent times(3). Indeed, many experiencers have suggested this to me during interviews and/or hypnotic regressions. So let’s assume for the moment that, for some reason, the Visitors are present, physical in nature, and expanding their operations. Using these

assumptions, we can estimate just how huge the scope of this phenomenon must be.

Let’s temporarily accept the estimate that one percent of humanity may be abductees. One researcher claims that for each abductee there are at least 150 abductions in a lifetime. Let’s also assume a typical lifetime to be about 75 years. This results in an average rate of two experiences per year. From these figures alone we can estimate the scale of the phenomenon.

One percent of the population of the United States of America, each experiencing two events per year, gives us about two events per hundred people per year. Dividing this number by 365 days/year yields about one abduction per twenty thousand people per 24 hour period. In a typical large metropolitan area, such as the greater Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area in Minnesota, there are approximately 2 million people, which gives us about 100 abduction events per 24 hour period.

Let’s arbitrarily assume that one UFO flight is required to perform 10 abductions. This would reduce the number of UFO flights to 10 per night over a metro area, but still means that our urban skies should be teeming with UFOs. Let’s further assume that this rate of one abduction per 20,000 people per night applies worldwide. We know that there are about 6 billion people in the world, which results in about 300 thousand abductions per night. If we again assume about 10 abductions per UFO flight, we would need 30 thousand UFO flights per night, every night, to sustain such a global UFO abduction program.

What the Numbers Tell Us

The numbers described above, although approximate, clearly reveal what I call the “Air Traffic Control Problem”. They reveal a phenomenon which, if entirely physical in nature, must be truly massive in scale. There are simply too many UFOs and abductions for this to be a small scale nuts-and-bolts phenomenon. In order to coordinate such a massive abduction program - and even to simply prevent UFOs from running into each other - some sort of significant ET infrastructure, including a UFO air traffic control system, would be required. Unless this truly is as massive as we have estimated, something about our model of the UFO abduction as a purely physical event must be incorrect.

Based upon the above calculations, we can draw some further conclusions about such a nuts-and-bolts abduction paradigm. The first thing we note that there would have to be many thousands of UFOs in the air, on the ground, or in near-Earth space at any given time. To estimate just what kind of a support effort this would require, let's make the (very human) assumption that these UFOs would also need a ground crew to perform maintenance. If we assume a support crew of one to ten ETs per UFO, we end up with tens to hundreds of thousands of ETs. This would require a huge base or mother ship, which would presumably be massive and difficult to conceal. The numbers imply that unless this vast ET infrastructure exists to support the rate of UFO abductions, one or more of the following must be true:

- 1) Each abductee has one to two orders of magnitude fewer experiences than the highest estimates claim. The number of abductions which occurs in the lifetime of an experiencer is arguable. A few rare abductees have indicated that they have had only one (!) encounter. Others have described a very large number (my estimate is over 100). Based upon what experiencers tell me, my guess is that the number is between 10 to 100 events during a lifetime
- 2) The number of abductees is far less than the suggested one percent. A conservative interpretation of the Roper poll results might suggest that perhaps the fraction of people who are abductees is only one-tenth of a percent. This implies that instead of 20,000, there are only 2000 abductees in the Twin Cities metro area. But this still implies that abductees have a lot of company.
- 3) UFOs are able to escape detection except on very rare occasions. This would imply that they had some visual and radar evasion technology - not an unreasonable speculation if we extrapolate our own stealth technology a century or two into the future.
- 4) A large fraction of abductions are nonphysical. Thus they may not require a physical UFO visit. This would argue (at least in part) against a physical nuts-and-bolts nature of UFO abduction, and would imply that it is in some way less material.

It is not clear which of these possible resolutions to the air traffic control problem is the correct one. Perhaps all of them are to some degree valid. My own view is that an understanding of the resolution

to the "Air Traffic Control" problem is one of the "master keys" to our understanding of the UFO/CE4 phenomenon.

In examining the issues of the scale, and thus the nature of the close encounter phenomenon, we begin to get a feel for the magnitude. We can no longer think of such encounters as rare, isolated events and must even begin to question whether we can understand them as physical visitations. Perhaps they are even stranger than we think. We likewise note how common they are within our society. To those who are not experiencers this may be startling. But for those who are and who feel isolated, there may be a degree of comfort in knowing that there are more of you than you might think. You are not alone.

1 Unusual Personal Experiences: 1991 and 1998 - National Institute of Discovery Sciences:

http://www.nidsci.org/news/roper_surveys.html

Discussion of the 1991 and 1998 Roper Poll of Unusual Personal Experiences Notes: The criterion for being an experiencer is experiencing 4 of 5 indicators of the phenomena more than once. The overall estimate of the 1998 poll is that approximately 1% of the population fit this criterion.

2 A word on phraseology: Many have argued that "The phenomenon" is actually many phenomena, which is quite probably true. However, I will use the term "phenomenon" as an aggregate for all UFO and encounter related events. In addition, many consider their encounters to be "contacts" - a positive view. Others call them "abductions" - a negative view. Still others refer to them as "experiences" - which is, in my view, a more neutral view. I use the term "experience" as a catch-all phrase for a close encounter event.

3 David Jacobs, "Thinking Clearly about UFO Abduction", on www.ufoabduction.com:

<http://www.ufoabduction.com/ICARSite/thinking1.htm>

The Age of Missing Information The Bush administration's campaign against openness.

By Steven Aftergood, March 17, 2005

<http://slate.msn.com/id/2114963/>

The government does a remarkable job of counting the number of national security secrets it generates each year. Since President George W. Bush entered office, the pace of classification activity has increased by 75 percent, said William Leonard in March 2 congressional testimony. His Information Security Oversight Office oversees the classification system and recorded a rise from 9 million classification actions in fiscal year 2001 to 16 million in fiscal year 2004.

Yet an even more aggressive form of government information control has gone unenumerated and often unrecognized in the Bush era, as government agencies have restricted access to unclassified information in libraries, archives, Web sites, and official databases. Once freely available, a growing number of these sources are now barred to the public as "sensitive but unclassified" or "for official use only." Less of a goal-directed policy than a bureaucratic reflex, the widespread clampdown on formerly public information reflects a largely inarticulate concern about "security." It also accords neatly with the Bush administration's preference for unchecked executive authority.

No comprehensive catalog of deleted information exists, which is part of the problem. What follows is a representative selection of categories of data that have been withdrawn from public access in the Bush years, with reflections on what they mean.

-Department of Defense Telephone Directory. The Pentagon phone book is a useful tool for reporters, students of defense policy, or others who might wish to contact the Pentagon or gauge the size and shape of the bureaucracy. Anyone could buy it at the Government Printing Office Bookstore until 2001, when it was marked "for official use only." A GPO Bookstore notice advises that it is no longer for sale to the public.

Questioned about the change, a Defense Department official spoke vaguely of "security concerns." This is hard to swallow, since other agencies have failed to follow suit. The Department of Energy, for example, handles information and materials as sensitive as any in government, and it publishes its telephone and e-mail directory on its Web site. Why was this new wall erected between the public and its government?

-Los Alamos Technical Report Library. In 2002, the Los Alamos National Laboratory removed from public access its unclassified technical report library, which contained thousands of unclassified Los Alamos technical reports written over a half century. Many are highly specialized studies, comprehensible only to experts. In some cases, although unclassified, they bear directly and uncomfortably on the technologies of nuclear weapons production. But most of them are fundamental studies of materials science, metallurgy, physics, and engineering pursued by the lab over decades.

While a selective re-evaluation and withdrawal of individual reports might have been warranted on nonproliferation grounds, Los Alamos elected to remove them all. "The resource you are requesting is not offered to the public," says a Web notice. An index of many of the withdrawn reports, and some of the reports themselves, are available from the Federation of American Scientists.

-Historical Records at the National Archives. Worried that sensitive information may have been improperly declassified in the late 1990s, government agencies took to scrubbing public records at the National Archives and elsewhere, pulling untold thousands of public records for "review" and possible reclassification. Many 30- or 50-year-old archival collections are a shadow of what they were just a few years ago.

On a recent visit to the National Archives, American University historian Anna Nelson recalled, "I found four boxes of Nixon documents full of nothing but withdrawal cards," signifying records that had been removed. In another collection of Johnson records concerning the 1965 intervention in the Dominican Republic, "I found a box of 55 withdrawal cards."

Not all archive withdrawals are unwarranted. For instance, documents containing classified nuclear-weapons design information were discovered in otherwise declassified records collections, as this recent DOE report on inadvertent disclosures indicates. But the scope of current withdrawals goes beyond what's necessary and poses arbitrary obstacles to historical research.

-"Orbital Elements" and Launch Dates. The U.S. Air Force records the orbits of Earth satellites in its "orbital elements" database. For nearly 20 years, it has made the database available to the public through NASA. But beginning at the end of this month, it will be subject to new government restrictions on distribution, including restrictions on any analysis of the underlying data.

"This is a crisis," wrote David Finkleman in a letter to Space News earlier this year with pardonable hyperbole. The new policy, he explained, "could ... impair international efforts to mitigate space debris and prohibit all who use DoD space surveillance data in their research from discussing or publishing their work without the approval of the Office of the Secretary of Defense."

And for what? The current policy "has operated for decades without ever compromising national security."

Most recently, the tide of space-related secrecy has even swept over the launch schedule for unclassified Air Force missions. As reported by Janene Scully in the Santa Maria Times on March 13, "Vandenberg's unclassified schedule Web site has evolved from giving detailed information such as launch dates and liftoff times to more recently revealing only the month for a mission. Now even that is gone."

-The Military Retreat from the Web.

Beginning in 2001, the U.S. Army began moving online content from public Web sites to a password-protected portal called Army Knowledge Online. Untold thousands of documents, from policy directives and regulations to newsletters to after-action reports and all kinds of other records—all unclassified—disappeared from public view.

Since there is no reliable inventory of what's been removed, the loss to democratic oversight of defense policy is incalculable. Last year, the Air Force followed the Army lead, disabling numerous formerly public Air Force Web sites and moving data to a restricted portal. A U.S. Air Force official presented the change as a public service to Inside the Air Force. "By removing redundant, confusing, or inappropriate information available to the public, the [Air Force] will deliver a more consistent and coherent message to the public."

-Energy Department Intelligence Budget.

The budget of the tiny Office of Intelligence in the Department of Energy had been unclassified for as long as anyone can remember, and certainly for more than a decade. In fiscal year 2004 it was \$39.8 million dollars, about one tenth of a percent of the estimated \$40 billion that the U.S. now spends on intelligence.

But in 2004, DOE categorized the amount requested and appropriated for its intelligence program as classified information, because its disclosure "could reasonably be expected to cause damage to national security."

This is an ironic move, considering that budget information is one of the only two categories of government information to which the public has an explicit constitutional claim (the other is the Journal of Congress). Moreover, the publication of

intelligence-agency budgets was one of the 41 recommendations proposed by the 9/11 commission as a means of combating the excessive secrecy that has undermined the performance and the accountability of U.S. intelligence agencies.

No official explanation for the change is forthcoming, beyond the national security claim. One department official said that the classification action was taken at the request of the Central Intelligence Agency, which found DOE's unclassified intelligence budget inconsistent with its position that no such budget information should ever be disclosed.

-Aeronautical Maps and Data.

Last November, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency publicly announced its intent to halt distribution of a series of aeronautical maps and other publications that had long been available to the public. The proposal, based partly on security grounds and partly on intellectual property claims, immediately drew respectful protest.

Librarians, environmentalists, and others complained to the NGA—a defense agency that is part of the U.S. intelligence community—that these maps and publications are now part of their professional toolkit as well and would be sorely missed. Biologists used them in the mapping of species distribution. Engineering firms used them in construction projects. While too specialized to be missed by the general public, this data contributes to the public well-being.

The list of government records removed from public access during the Bush administration goes on and on, and includes environmental data from Environmental Protection Agency reading rooms, various unclassified records on the safety of chemical and nuclear plants, and other infrastructure data. This purge reverses the "openness initiatives" of the previous administration during which government Web sites emerged by the thousands and nearly a billion pages of historically valuable records were declassified.

The information blackout may serve the short-term interests of the present administration, which is allergic to criticism or even to probing questions. But it is a disservice to the country. Worst of all, the Bush administration's information policies are conditioning Americans to lower their expectations

of government accountability and to doubt their own ability to challenge their political leaders.

Information is the oxygen of democracy. Day by day, the Bush administration is cutting off the supply.

Steven Aftergood is director of the project on government secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists, where he writes the Secrecy News newsletter.

[This has obvious negative implications for UFO research and disclosure, but goes even further (see next article) keeping Gov. information out of the publics' hand on a whole-sale basis. - JH, Ed.]

**WAXMAN ON SENSITIVE BUT
UNCLASSIFIED
From: SECRECY NEWS
Vol. 2005, Iss. 24, Mar. 17, 2005**

Burgeoning controls on "sensitive" information "are being invoked improperly to block the release of information that is not classified," wrote Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) in a March 1 letter reporting the findings of a staff study.

"Some of the examples we reviewed involve absurd overreactions to vague security concerns. In other examples, the Administration appears to have invoked the [sensitive but unclassified] designations to cover up potentially embarrassing facts, rather than to protect legitimate security interests."

Rep. Waxman identifies several of those examples in his 12 page letter, a copy of which is posted here (500 KB PDF file):
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/congress/2005/waxman030105.pdf>

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<http://www.fas.org/sgp/news/secrecy/index.html>

**Don't Breathe the Moondust
When humans return to the Moon and
travel to Mars, they'll have to be careful
of what they inhale.**

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2005/22apr_dontinhale.htm?list33838

April 22, 2005: This is a true story.

In 1972, Apollo astronaut Harrison Schmitt sniffed the air in his Lunar Module, the Challenger. "[It] smells like gunpowder in here," he said. His commander Gene Cernan agreed. "Oh, it does, doesn't it?"

The two astronauts had just returned from a long moonwalk around the Taurus-Littrow valley, near the Sea of Serenity. Dusty footprints marked their entry into the spaceship. That dust became airborne--and smelly.

Later, Schmitt felt congested and complained of "lunar dust hay fever." His symptoms went away the next day; no harm done. He soon returned to Earth and the anecdote faded into history.

But Russell Kerschmann never forgot. He's a pathologist at the NASA Ames Research Center studying the effects of mineral dust on human health. NASA is now planning to send people back to the Moon and on to Mars. Both are dusty worlds, extremely dusty. Inhaling that dust, says Kerschmann, could be bad for astronauts.

"The real problem is the lungs," he explains. "In some ways, lunar dust resembles the silica dust on Earth that causes silicosis, a serious disease." Silicosis, which used to be called "stone-grinder's disease," first came to widespread public attention during the Great Depression when hundreds of miners drilling the Hawk's Nest Tunnel through Gauley Mountain in West Virginia died within half a decade of breathing fine quartz dust kicked into the air by dry drilling--even though they had been exposed for only a few months. "It was one of the biggest occupational-health disasters in U.S. history," Kerschmann says.

This won't necessarily happen to astronauts, he assures, but it's a problem we need to be aware of--and to guard against.

Quartz, the main cause of silicosis, is not chemically poisonous: "You could eat it and not get sick," he continues. "But when quartz is freshly ground into dust particles smaller than 10 microns (for comparison, a human hair is 50+ microns wide) and breathed into the lungs, they can embed themselves deeply into the tiny alveolar sacs and ducts where oxygen and carbon dioxide gases are exchanged." There, the lungs cannot clear out the dust by mucous or coughing. Moreover, the immune system's white blood cells commit suicide when they try to engulf the sharp-edged particles to carry them away in the bloodstream. In the acute form of silicosis, the lungs can fill with proteins from the blood, "and it's as if the victim slowly suffocates" from a pneumonia-like condition.

Lunar dust, being a compound of silicon as is quartz, is (to our current knowledge) also not poisonous. But like the quartz dust in the Hawk's Nest Tunnel, it is extremely fine and abrasive, almost like powdered glass. Astronauts on several Apollo missions found that it clung to everything and was almost impossible to remove; once tracked inside the Lunar Module, some of it easily became airborne, irritating lungs and eyes.

Martian dust could be even worse. It's not only a mechanical irritant but also perhaps a chemical poison. Mars is red because its surface is largely composed of iron oxide (rust) and oxides of other minerals. Some scientists suspect that the dusty soil on Mars may be such a strong oxidizer that it burns any organic compound such as plastics, rubber or human skin as viciously as undiluted lye or laundry bleach.

"If you get Martian soil on your skin, it will leave burn marks," believes University of Colorado engineering professor Stein Sture, who studies granular materials like Moon- and Mars-dirt for NASA. Because no soil samples have ever been returned from Mars, "we don't know for sure how strong it is, but it could be pretty vicious."

Moreover, according to data from the Pathfinder mission, Martian dust may also contain trace amounts of toxic metals, including arsenic and hexavalent chromium--a carcinogenic toxic waste featured in the docudrama movie Erin Brockovich (Universal Studios, 2000). That was a surprising finding of a 2002 National Research Council report called 'Safe on Mars: Precursor Measurements Necessary to Support Human Operations on the Martian Surface'.

The dust challenge would be especially acute during windstorms that occasionally envelop Mars from poles to equator. Dust whips through the air, scouring every exposed surface and sifting into every crevice. There's no place to hide.

To find ways of mitigating these hazards, NASA is soon to begin funding Project Dust, a four-year study headed by Masami Nakagawa, associate professor in the mining engineering department of the Colorado School of Mines. Project Dust will study such technologies as thin-film coatings that repel dust from tools and other surfaces, and electrostatic techniques for shaking or otherwise removing dust from spacesuits.

These technologies, so crucial on the Moon and Mars, might help on Earth, too, by protecting people from sharp-edged or toxic dust on our own planet. Examples include alkaline dust blown from dry lakes in North American deserts, wood dust from sawmills and logging operations, and, of course, abrasive quartz dust in mines.

The road to the stars is surprisingly dusty. But, says Kerschmann, "I strongly believe it's a problem that can be controlled."

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CROP CIRCLE STATISTICS FOR 2004 RELEASED - 22/02/2005

<http://www.swirlednews.com/article.asp?artID=796>

The 'International Crop Circle Archive' (ICCA) team, based in Germany and led by ANDREAS MÜLLER, have released their annual round-up of recent crop circle facts and figures...

ICCA ANNUAL REPORT 2004

In 2004, 229 crop circles and formations were discovered and documented world-wide, which

resembles a clear decrease in relation to last year's number, which was 250.

Included as well is a counting of those formations that were definitively man-made. Please note that these figures do not claim to show the exact and total amount of hoaxing, but list only those formations DEFINITELY of a man-made origin (like official projects of hoaxing, adverts, experiments or art).

The statistic counts only crop circles in a more or less classical sense as geometrically flattened vegetation, but does not count formations in other media such as soil, sand, ice, etc., but of course those were documented and archived by ICCA as well.

First, a brief comparison with total figures from past years:

1996 - 240
1998 - 187
1999 - 245
2000 - 279
2001 - 197
2002 - 241
2003 - 250
2004 - 229

2004 - crop circles per month
(from the total of 229):

January: 1
February: 0
March: 1
April: 2
May: 19
June: 62
July: 81
August: 45
September: 10
October: 5
November: 0
December: 1
Unknown date: 2

2004 - crop circles per country

(The first number shows ranking, the number following the country name shows the actual amount, while the last figure shows the percentage of the total):

1) England: 77 – 33.88 %
2) Germany: 30 – 13.2 %
3) USA: 21 – 9.24 %
4) Czech Republic: 19 – 8.36 %
4) Italy: 19 – 8.36 %
5) Canada: 16 – 7.04 %

6) Poland: 15 – 6.60 %
7) The Netherlands: 11 – 4.84 %
8) Belgium 6 – 2.64 %
9) Switzerland: 5 – 2.20 %
10) Denmark 3 – 1.32 %
11) Australia 2 – 0.88 %
12) France 1 – 0.44 %
12) Austria 1 – 0.44 %
12) Russia: 1 – 0.44 %
12) Spain 1 – 0.44 %
12) Sweden 1 – 0.44 %

Man-Made - Hoaxes/Experiments/Art

Origin unknown: 195 – 85.80 %

Man-Made: 32 – 14.08 %

ANDREAS MÜLLER

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Research <http://www.interakt.co.uk>

A THEORY TO EXPLAIN DARK MATTER by William I. McNeff, MNMUFON ASD

One of the biggest mysteries in physics is the nature of so-called “dark matter”. Its existence is inferred by the motion of stars on the outskirts of galaxies: the stars move much faster than would be allowed based on estimates of the amount of matter in the galaxies. A well-accepted theory in physics is the theory of zero-point energy, or by its old nickname, “The Dirac Sea”, after physicist Paul Dirac who originally proposed it. This theory holds that seemingly-empty space is actually seething with energy of many different types, so much that the energy in the amount of space the size of a baseball is enough to boil all the oceans on Earth. In addition, virtual particles are continually created -- pairs of electrons and positrons for example, particles and anti-particles, which then quickly annihilate each other. I propose that dark matter may be this matter which comes into existence so briefly and then passes out of existence. During the time that it exists, it should exert a gravitation force, the force that is seen as the effect of dark matter. Calculations of the density (mass per unit volume) of this matter should be possible. This could then be checked against the known effects.

One argument against the theory is that it appears that dark matter is less concentrated at the centers of galaxies. However, in addition to gravity, dark matter may produce a force that acts in opposition

to gravity on other particles of dark matter, but with a different equation (not square law like gravity). Such a repulsive force could account for the lower density of dark matter near the centers of galaxies.

It would be good to hear from someone who knows more physics than I do, if there could be any truth in this theory. If there is, remember, you heard it here first!

Engineers devise invisibility shield
[news@nature.com](http://www.nature.com/news/2005/050228/full/050228-1.html) by Philip Ball
28 February 2005

<http://www.nature.com/news/2005/050228/full/050228-1.html>

Electron effects could stop objects from scattering light.

The idea of a cloak of invisibility that hides objects from view has long been confined to the more improbable reaches of science fiction. But electronic engineers have now come up with a way to make one.

Andrea Alù and Nader Engheta of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia say that a 'plasmonic cover' could render objects "nearly invisible to an observer". Their idea remains just a proposal at this stage, but it doesn't obviously violate any laws of physics.

"The concept is an interesting one, with several important potential applications," says John Pendry, a physicist at Imperial College in London, UK. "It could find uses in stealth technology and camouflage."

Cloak of many colours

Types of invisibility shielding have been developed before, but these mostly use the chameleon principle: a screen is coloured to match its background, so that the screened object is camouflaged.

* The concept could find uses in stealth technology and camouflage. * John Pendry, Physicist, Imperial College, UK

For example, inventor Ray Alden in North Carolina has proposed a system of light detectors and emitters that project a replica of the scene

appearing behind an object from its front surface. Researchers at the University of Tokyo are working on a camouflage fabric that uses a similar principle, in which the background scene is projected on to light-reflecting beads in the material.

But the invisibility shield proposed by Alù and Engheta in a preprint on arXiv [1] is more ambitious than this. It is a self-contained structure that would reduce visibility from all viewing angles. In that sense it would be more like the shielding used by the Romulans in the Star Trek episode "Balance of Terror" in 1966, which hid their spaceships at the push of a button.

Scatter-brained

The key to the concept is to reduce light scattering. We see objects because light bounces off them; if this scattering of light could be prevented (and if the objects didn't absorb any light) they would become invisible. Alù and Engheta's plasmonic screen suppresses scattering by resonating in tune with the illuminating light.

Plasmons are waves of electron density, caused when the electrons on the surface of a metallic material move in rhythm. The researchers say that a shell of plasmonic material will scatter light negligibly if the light's frequency is close to the resonant frequency of the plasmons. The scattering from the shell effectively cancels out the scattering from the object.

For visible-light shielding, says Engheta, nature has already provided suitable plasmonic materials: silver and gold. To reduce the scattering of longer-wavelength radiation such as microwaves, one could make the shield from a 'metamaterial': a large-scale structure with unusual electromagnetic properties, typically constructed from arrays of wire loops and coils.

Alù and Engheta's calculations show that spherical or cylindrical objects coated with such plasmonic shields do indeed produce very little light scattering. It is as though, when lit by light of the right wavelength, the objects become extremely small, so small that they cannot be seen.

Size matters

Pendry warns, however, that the concept as it stands is "no magic cloak", because it would have to be delicately tuned to suit each different object it

hides. Perhaps even more of a drawback, he points out, is the fact that a particular shield only works for one specific wavelength of light. An object might be made invisible in red light, say, but not in multi-wavelength daylight.

And crucially, the effect only works when the wavelength of the light being scattered is roughly the same size as the object. So shielding from visible light would be possible only for microscopic objects; larger ones could be hidden only to long-wavelength radiation such as microwaves. This means that the technology could not be used to hide people or vehicles from human vision.

But that need not undermine other potential uses, Engheta says. For example, the effect could be useful for making antiglare materials.

Another possible use for plasmonic screening is microscopy, he adds. Light microscopes could surpass their usual resolution limits by using tiny probes to measure the light field very close to the object being imaged. Such probes could be made 'invisible' so that they don't disturb the imaging signal.

And of course the shielding would work fine for concealing large objects such as spaceships from sensors or telescopes that used long-wavelength radiation instead of visible light. © 2004 Nature Publishing Group

References

[1]. Alù A. & Engheta N. Preprint, <http://arxiv.org/abs/cond-mat/0502336> (2005).

The Roswell Wreckage – An Analysis By William I. McNeff, MNMUFON ASD

“The objects [UFOs] are real and not something visionary or imaginary...”— Memo by Gen. Nathan Twining.

Thanks to Jesse Marcel Sr., we have what amounts to the results of a “strength of materials” test run on a piece of original Roswell wreckage at the Foster ranch (where Mac Brazel was foreman). Marcel said that at the ranch site they took a piece of extremely light material, as thin as cigarette paper and a couple of feet across, laid it on the ground and struck it a blow with a ten-pound sledge hammer. The sledge hammer bounced off the

material and left no visible dent. As I found out from living in Tucson for two years, desert ground is hard but would be dented by a blow from a sledgehammer. This procedure would result in the material being subjected to a force of at least several thousand psi. Based on my experience, steel to withstand such a force without deformation would have to be about an eighth of an inch thick. Estimating the wreckage material as .010” to .020” thick, compared to steel .125 thick, would mean that the Roswell material was about six to twelve times as strong as steel. This is high strength indeed, but this is at least a reasonable ballpark estimate

Other descriptions of this thin material stated that it had a “memory” and when bent or creased, returned to its former shape. The Roswell base sent a crew of men to pick up the material on the Foster ranch. Marcel stated that some of the men picking up material, in addition to hammering on it, tested it by attempting to crease it and by attempting to burn it. Marcel said they were not able to dent it, burn it or crease it. Mac Brazel’s son Bill Brazel, who collected small amounts of the material during a two-year period after the crash, said that he, too, was unable to crease or dent it. No country on earth made such materials in 1947.

It could be objected that Marcel exaggerated in his accounts of the Roswell wreckage. However, since the Roswell air force wing was the only atomic bomb wing of the time, one would expect that Marcel would be one of the most reliable intelligence men available. His promotion after Roswell shows that he was held in high esteem by the Air Force, in spite of his allegedly having misidentified a weather balloon as a “flying saucer”. Late in life when he was asked about Roswell, Marcel’s self-interest would have dictated that he not acknowledge anything unusual about the Roswell incident at all, since he should have realized that his military pension could be in jeopardy. His willingness to talk about this could be attributed to an opinion that the world had a right to know that alien craft have visited this planet. In my opinion, Marcel should be held in high respect for his actions, both at the time of the Roswell incident and subsequently, and his opinion that the crashed object was not of this earth should be held in high respect also.

[It looks as if aliens aren't the only ones to do this sort of thing (see below)- JH, Ed.]

**Chip reads mind of paralysed man
Ian Sample, science correspondent,
March 31, 2005, Guardian**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/life/science/story/0%2C12996%2C1448908%2C00.html>

A severely paralysed man has become the first person to be fitted with a brain implant that allows him to control everyday objects by thought alone.

Matthew Nagle, 25, was left paralysed from the neck down after a vicious knife attack in 2001. He uses a wheelchair and is unable to breathe without a respirator, and doctors say he has no chance of regaining the use of his limbs.

But following an operation at New England Sinai Hospital in Massachusetts, Mr. Nagle has become the first patient in a controversial trial of brain implants which could help disabled people to be more independent by tapping into their brain waves.

During the three-hour operation, electrodes were attached to the surface of Mr. Nagle's brain. They were positioned just above the sensory motor cortex, where the neural signals for controlling arm and hand movement are produced. Surgeons completed the operation by fitting a metal socket to Mr. Nagle's head so he could be hooked up to a computer.

The scientists, lead by Professor John Donoghue, a world expert in neurotechnology at Brown University in Rhode Island, used a computer to decipher the brain waves picked up by the implant. In early trials, Mr. Nagle learned to move a cursor around a computer screen simply by imagining moving his arm.

By using software linked to devices around the room, Mr. Nagle has since been able to think his TV on and off, change channel and alter the volume. "Eventually, we want him to be able to use it to control the lights, his phone and other devices," said Prof Donoghue.

In the most recent tests, performed earlier this year, Mr. Nagle was able to use thought to open and close an artificial prosthetic hand and move a robotic arm to grab sweets from one person's hand and drop them in another. He has also sharpened

his skills at computer games by playing the old arcade game Pong.

Prof Donoghue hopes the implant, called BrainGate, will ultimately allow paraplegics to regain the use of their limbs. "If we can find a way to hook this up to his own muscles, he could open and close his own hands and move his own arms," he said. "We're very encouraged by Matthew, but we're cautious. It's just one person. There's further to go, but we're absolutely on the way."

Guardian Unlimited © Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

Grant Cameron Lecture

Grant's Cameron will present a lecture on Thursday, May 19 at 7:15 PM at the New Brighton Family Service Center, 400 - 10th St. NW, New Brighton, MN (located 1/4-mile S.W. of Hwy 694 and 35W.) in the conference room on the ground level. (Same meeting place as our regular monthly MN MUFON meetings, but different room.) Cost will be \$10 at the door.

Check <http://www.mnmufon.org/event.htm> for updates and more details.

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36th Annual MUFON International Symposium

July 21 - 24, 2005 in Denver, Colorado

DO NOT miss this year's symposium in Denver in July! If you do you'll miss these fantastic speakers:

MC - Tracie Austin-Peters
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Paola Harris- Secret Eyewitness
Alan C. Holt- UFO Propulsion Prospects
Roger K. Leir- New Implant Removal Cases
Dr. Edgar Mitchell- Lunar Astronaut
Scott Ramsey- The Aztec New Mexico Crash
Esen Sekerkarar- The Best UFO Cases from Turkey
R. Leo Sprinkle- The ET Presence: Cons & Pros
Dr. Claude Swanson- Paranormal Evidence

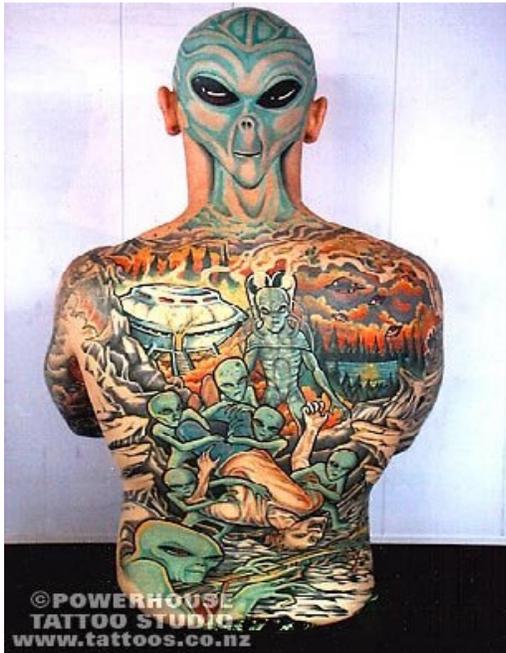
New Technology Package: \$165 per person (price before July 12, \$155), includes: all speakers, Friday

night reception & dinner with speaker and Saturday lunch with speaker.

Evidence Package: \$120 per person (price before July 12, \$110), includes: all Saturday and Sunday speaker presentations (does not include Friday night and Saturday lunch events).

Register at: <http://mufon.com/symposia.htm> or call 303-932-7709 or e-mail: mufonhq@mufon.com.

Would you tattoo this on your back?



Or perhaps your arm?



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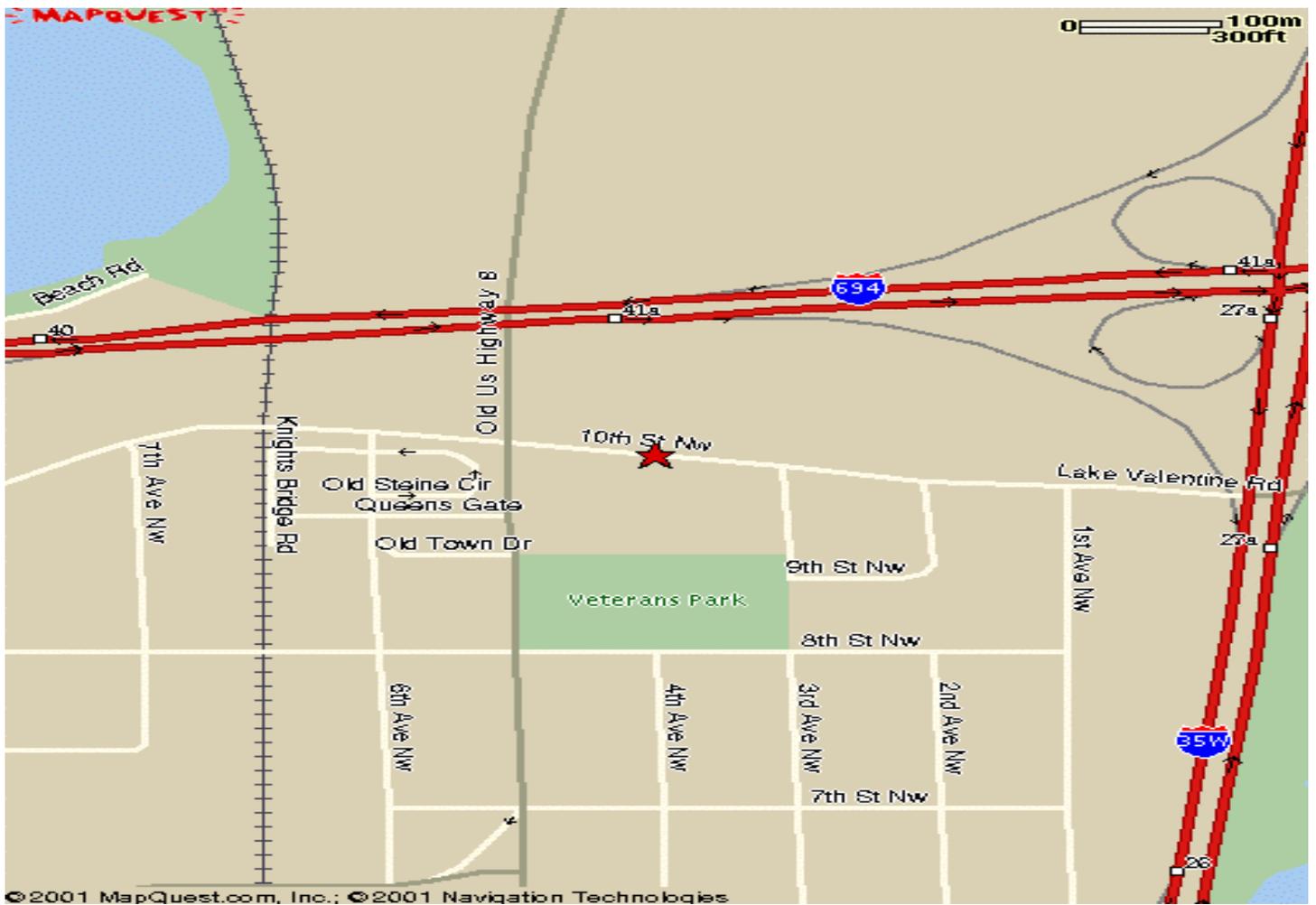
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