SUNtize

Shedding some light on ULOlogy and ULOs

Memory is affected by retelling, and we rarely tell a story in a neutral fashion. By tailoring our stories to our listeners, our bias distorts the very formation of memory—even without the introduction of misinformation by a third party.

Laura Engelhardt (The problem with eyewitness testimony - Stanford journal of legal studies)

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Cover: My astronomical hobby often takes priority over my UFO hobby. Recently, I got a chance to view the stars with a 36-inch telescope. It was a lot of fun and we had an enjoyable evening in dark skies gazing at all sorts of celestial objects. While gazing through the eyepiece is the goal, the group often spent most of the time chatting and gazing up at the sky while each individual got to look through the scope. We were not "glued to the eyepiece" for most of the night.

Left: The bright star Sirius can be misidentified as a UFO. The effects of scintillation make it twinkle violently, shift colors, and appear to dance to observers, who are not familiar with the night sky.

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Is there anything more?

A nother year is about gone and we are no closer to the solution of the UFO "mystery" than we were at the beginning of the year. In fact, we can pretty much make that same statement for any year from the early 1950s to the present. It seems there will never be any solution other than the one that skeptics have been presenting since the dawn of the UFO era. I keep thinking back to the Phil Klass curse, where he proclaimed that UFOlogists will never learn anything more about UFOs than what they know now. UFO proponents have to keep asking themselves, "Is this all there is?" or "Is there anything more?" If they are honest with themselves, I don't think they will like the answers to those questions.

In order to justify the study of UFOs, many UFOlogists go back decades to find some peculiar event that they can champion as an event that defies earthly explanation. Some collect these types of cases like they were rare stamps or coins. It is their hobby. It is important to point out that mysteries abound throughout history and not all involve UFOs. Just because a case cannot be satisfactorily explained does not mean that an explanation does not exist. It just means that there may not be enough data to resolve the event to everyone's satisfaction.

Other UFOlogists seem to feel that the statistics show something significant is happening. They tabulate all the reports they can find and conclude, "How could so many people be so wrong?" The problem with this approach is that they are raw reports. We have no idea of the quality of each report or how many can be explained. Individually, they have no value. If you multiply 0 by a billion, it is still zero. Even if one were to whittle down the number of cases to only those that defy explanation to that individual, some of them may have explanations that can be found by others or the quality of the reports may not be that good. UFO statistics may simply be a case of GIGO (Garbage in = Garbage out).

Then there are those class of UFO proponents, who are waiting for "the case that skeptics will dread". There have been many such cases over the years and the skeptics are still present being critical of the claims made by Ufologists and demonstrating that most, if not all, of such cases are not as convincing as claimed.

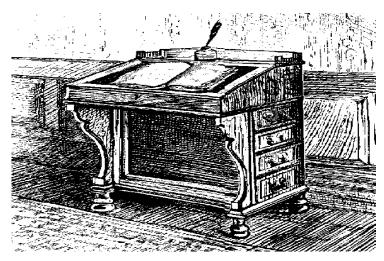
Lastly, we have those who are hoping that some UFO organization will finally convince scientists around the world that UFOs are not bunk or will lift the veil of government secrecy that prevents the truth about UFOs from being revealed. The latest version of this kind of organization is the To The Stars Academy (TTSA), which hints they have collected earth shattering evidence. What they have presented lacks provenance and details. The TTSA is no different than any of their predecessors and will never present anything significant because there is nothing significant to present. That has been the UFOlogical standard for seventy years and the TTSA is not going to change it.

This issue contains the usual articles, which involve old cases that were considered unexplained by some. It should be no surprise that they might have possible astronomical explanations. Since many of these cases happened at night, the easiest thing to examine is if any stars or planets could be involved. With enough information, one can use a planetarium program to see if there were any astronomical objects visibile that could have been mistaken for UFOs. Both the 701 club and Best Evidence columns discuss cases that might have a celestial cause for the reports.

As I was finalizing this issue, I became aware that Robert Dean had passed away. Unfortunately, his legacy will not be his decades of military service but the wild claims he made about UFOs and aliens. Hopefully, his family will have different memories that let them remember him fondly.

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



Luis Elizondo described how the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) discovered "five observables" associated with UFOs, which demonstrated they were not unearthly in nature. Robert Sheaffer quickly pointed out how the AATIP's "observables" could better be described as "assumptions". It is information gathered from written/verbal UFO reports and not based on any factual data that can be analyzed. If the history of UFO reporting has taught us anything, it has taught us that UFO reports are often exaggerated or inaccurate. The biggest problem with the TTSA is they cannot differentiate between fact and opinion.

Robert also alerted everyone, via his blog, that the investment period for the To The Stars Academy (TTSA) had expired. Of interest was Robert's reveal that the TTSA has a deficit of over 30 million dollars. Apparently, there is a difference between debt and deficit. It is very complicated but according to Isaac Koi, the deficit appears to be due to the inflated

value of the TTSA's stock.

Meanwhile, Journalist, and UFO/TTSA pitchman, George Knapp, discussed what has been accomplished by the TTSA in the past year. If you ignore all the press stunts that Knapp, and his fellow TTSA promoters, have conducted since October of 2017, the answer is little to nothing. There were no earth shattering revelations and all we hear about are the videos, which prove nothing important, and 'mysterious" samples that might, or might not be, of alien origin.

Chris Rutkowski wrote a piece (in three parts) about the history of some "alien artifacts" on his blog. It is required reading for evaluating the claims of the TTSA and understanding the provenance of some of their specimens.

As I was finishing up this issue, I noticed that MJ Banias wrote an article about the Nimitz Tic-Tac video. He pointed out that the video is the same as the one that appeared on the internet in 2007. To me, it has always appeared to be that they used the copy on the internet. One would think that the AATIP, which would have access to all sorts of DOD information, would have access to a much higher quality and longer video, which showed the entire event. Instead, we got this same clip and two others that are brief and lack additional information. I personally believe that all three of these videos all came from Robert Bigelow's group, who provided a lot of reports/data to the AATIP. They probably obtained them from the internet and private contacts.

It seems that somebody is finally going to put video systems to work in recording UFO events. Christopher O'Brien is a UFO hobbyist, who has been writing about UFOs in the San Luis Valley of Colorado for some time. Based on his writings, I have to wonder how objective his work will be. I made a brief trip in the area and it is pretty wide open with mountains in the east and west. The skies I saw were dark and transparent even in areas where there was some minor light pollution. That being said, I have to wonder what kind of results will be obtained. It would be interesting to see if the recordings are used to verify/investigate UFO reports being made in the area in addition to other unusual events that might be recorded. Will the reports be accurate or will they show individuals exaggerating the events to the point identification is difficult?

The Lonnie Zamora sightings became a talking point again. Some time ago, Dave Thomas shared with me the information he recently published on his web site. I found the information interesting but had to wonder if the explanation was plausible. It involved students playing with dynamite and an old barrel. Apparently, they would light the dynamite and the barrel would fly up into the air creating quite a show. It was stated that Zamora stumbled into their little exercise and they quickly departed. Zamora apparently saw the last "liftoff" of the barrel and though it was a UFO. When Kevin Randle and Tony Bragalia got a hold of the information, they tracked down the source and talked to him. Kevin described their subsequent investigation and his conclusions on his blog.

Apparently, MUFON seems to think rumors are evidence that something really did happen. While they classified the case as "For information only", I have to list it as "unreliable report". According to Marsh, somebody sent a report to MUFON that stated they heard a story from another unnamed individual at Malmstrom AFB, where a UFO apparently shutdown the base's power. Can we really classify a second hand story that was not verified as a credible event. These kind of poor reports are those that generate a lot of UFO myths. Giving them credibility just encourages more of these kinds of reports. Is that what UFOlogy wants? A collection of cases that can't be verified and have the potential for being a hoax?

November 6, 1957 Danville, Illinois

November 6, 1957--Nr. Danville, Illinois. State Police chased UFO for 15 miles, experienced radio failure.¹

The section for the November 1957 wave has the following description of Danville:

State Troopers chased brilliant white UFO for fifteen miles, experienced failure of their short wave radio; during chase, object changed color to amber, then bright orange. [Section VII]²

Section VII states:

Brilliant white light, changing to amber and orange, viewed 20 minutes; cruiser radio failed.³

This information is not that detailed. Can we get more information from other sources?

Other sources

went through the newspaper archive and found most of the same information one found in the UFO evidence. Most of the articles state that the two officers pursued the UFO. The time of the event is hard to pinpoint. The "Daily register" implies the events happened around 7:30 PM.⁴

Loren Gross' "Fifth Horseman of the apocalypse. UFOs: A history" does provide us with additional information not found in most of the other media reports. Gross quotes come from the Danville, Illinois "Commercial-News". He describes the officers starting in Danville around 6 PM.

6 November. Near Danville, Illinios. (6?:00 p.m.)

Police radio mysteriously goes dead?

Things were quiet at the Vermillion County Jail until the phone rang. The state trooper on duty, Calvin Showers, picked up the receiver. A press ac count tells us an unidentified Alvin farmer was on the line: "The farmer told Showers there was a lighted object 'right overhead' and moving in a southeastly direction. He said it was 'bigger than a star. (64.) Phone calls reporting UFOs was not a big thing so Showers took no action on this report, however the situation changed when the phone rang again a moment later. The same press account tells us:

"...another call came to the jail, this time from a service station operator at Moore's Corner, about 10 miles north of Danville on Route 1. He,too, said 'something' was right overhead and moving in a northwestery direction." (65.)

This was enough for trooper Showers. He and trooper John Matulis set out for Moore's Corner in their patrol car. The two troopers were about four miles from Danville when they first sighted the UFO which had the general appearance of a star but much larger than any star they had ever seen. The "thing," the lawmen said, was the size of a softball (at arm's length?). The newspaper story on this incident quotes trooper Matulis as saying: "It was round and had a glow to it. It changed from white to a bright orange." (66.) Trooper Showers also has something to say, mentioning that the thing would brighten and then dim somewhat. The troopers had the impression the UFO was changing direction.

Radio fails:

"The troopers said they lost radio contact from the point north on the Dixie until they reached Main and Gilbert Streets, saying they tried to call the jail four or five times. When they finally made contact, the operator told them that was the first time he had heard them." (67.)

Moreover: "The radio was in good working order before and after they saw the object." (68.)

"What did they see?" "i don't know." Our story continues:

"Showers and Matulis continued west to Oakwood, then turned south on the Sugar Creek Road to near Fairmount, keeping the object in view all the time. "They said it moved away in a southwesterly direction, apparently not changing direction or altitude. Neither would venture a guess as to its heighth.

"They turned back at the point near Fairmount. "What did they see? 'I don't know,1 Showers said simply. "That's for somebody else to figure out.'

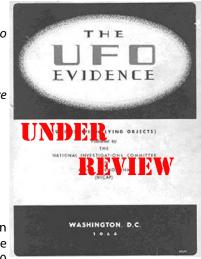
"It should be noted that both men are trained observers. Lt. John T. Henry of District 10 Headquarters at Urbana said: 'Show

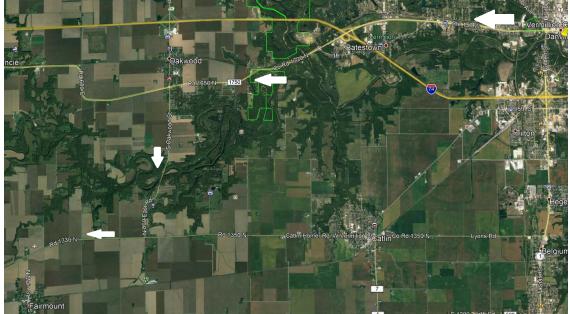
ers and Matulis are veteran troopers. I'm sure they saw it ex actly as they described it in their report.'

"Approximately eight telephone calls were made by residents who spotted the object." (69.)⁵

Analysis

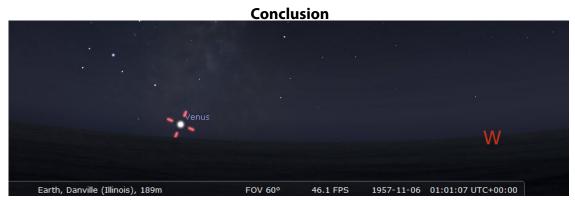
Missing in all of the news accounts is a time frame for these events. We do have two times of 6:00 and 7:30. This implies the events probably happened between these two points in time.





The troopers proceeded north from the jail to investigate a sighting made by a witness. They noticed the UFO after they got about four miles away from town. There is no direction given but it must have been towards the west or south because they then turned around and headed back into Danville. The officers did this because there were no major roads that went west or southwest from that location because Lake Vermillion was in the way. When they got into the center of town, they drove westward. This pursuit eventually went towards the southwest. According to the UFO evidence, this pursuit lasted about 20 minutes or 15 miles.

The first thing I wondered was if there was a celestial object in the west or southwest. Visible in the southwest was the brilliant planet Venus, which set around 7:15 PM CST. This matches a potential time line where the troopers left the station around 6:00-6:30 PM, went north about ten-fifteen minutes and then noticed the UFO to their southwest. At this point they attempted to contact the Jail until they got back into the center of town. They then traveled west and then southwest in pursuit for 20-30 minutes. It seems that their pursuit ended when they could no longer see the UFO. In this scenario, the end of the chase coincided with Venus setting.



While we cannot say for certain that Venus was the source of this report because of the lack of a definitive time line, one has to give the possibility serious consideration. In my opinion, it is likely that Venus was the source and any radio interference was caused by something else. The case should be labeled "Probably Venus" and removed from the "best evidence" list.

Notes and references

- 1. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) <u>The UFO evidence</u>. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble.1997. P. 136.
- 2. ibid. P. 166
- 3. ibid. P. 64
- 4. "Two state troopers claim object affects radio". The Daily Register. Harrisburg Illinois. November 7, 1957. P. 9
- 5. Gross, Loren E. The fifth horseman of the apocalypse UFOs: A history 1957 November 6th. 1997. P. 50-1.

THE 701 CLUB: CASE 2219 NOVEMBER 12, 1952 LOS ALAMOS, NM

on Berlinner lists the case as follows:

Nov. 12, 1952; Los Alamos, New Mexico. 10:23 p.m. Witness: security inspector. Four red-white-green lights flew slowly over a prohibited area for 15 minutes.¹

Sparks' entry mentions that it could not be a balloon or a plane but, other than that, adds little else.²

The Blue Book file

The file is pretty barren. Besides the record, which states the winds were generally in the east direction and no aircraft were allowed over the prohibited area, it consists of a simple message that does not indicate direction of observation or elevation of the object(s). It mentions the objects were moving "slowly" north.³ The message does give the following description of the four objects:

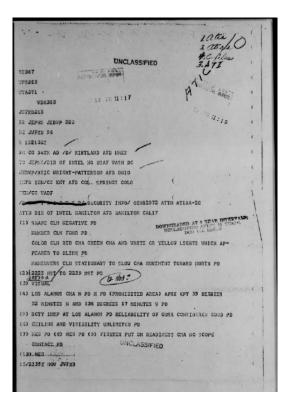
SHAPE CLN NEGATIVE PD

NUMBER CLN FOUR PD

COLOR CLN RED CMA GREEN CMA AND WHITE OR YELLOW LIGHTS WHICH APPEARED TO BLINK PD

MANEUVERS CLN STATIONARY TO SLOW CMA MOVEMTMT (sic) TOWARD NORTH PD

This means there were four points of light that were stationary sometimes and showed some slow northward motion. These points of light flashed different colors. They were visible for 15 minutes. We don't know if they disappeared or if the observer simply stopped watching them and went about their business.



Analysis

With so little information, I could simply reclassify this as insufficient information but I always want to see if there is a potential explanation. I think the description given in the message matches the kinds of descriptions I have seen of scintillating stars. The diurnal motion of the stars rising could result in the belief in motion of the lights moving northward. While most stars have a westward component to their motion, They also increase in angle of elevation above the horizon. Any such elevation increase could be misperceived as moving northward.

We don't know the location of the observer or the exact direction they were looking. However, based on the information available, we can assume the observer was at the approximate location listed. This is two miles east of the main facility. All of the prohibited areas were to the east, south, and west of him.

That brings me to consider the possibility that he was looking east/southeast and saw the bright winter stars rising. Both Sirius and Procyon were in the southeast. Due east were the stars Castor and Pollux. Additionally, the bright stars in Orion were towards the southeast but higher. Towards the southwest was the first magnitude star Fomalhaut. All would scintillate enough to give the



A photograph showing some of the bright winter stars visible in the evening sky. While this was taken in January, the same stars would have been visible in the southeastern sky in November.

appearance of blinking various colors. All but Fomalhaut would have an increase in elevation with time, which could be mistaken for slow movement towards the north.

It is important to point out that this security inspector was the only person, who saw these objects even though they were visible for at least fifteen minutes. None of the security patrols or security posts made any reports and radar reported no contacts. This makes one conclude that what was seen was not that prominent or unusual.

Conclusion

n my opinion, this case should be reclassified as "insufficient information" since there is little data to make any analysis. It is also my opinion that the observer possibly misperceived scintillating stars. If this is correct, two of the UFOs were probably Sirius and Procyon. One can take their pick of other first magnitude stars in the sky as the other two objects. Whether it is classified as "insufficient information" or "possible stars", this case should be removed from the list of unidentifieds.

Notes and references

- 1. Berlinner, Don. "The Bluebook unknowns". NICAP. Available WWW: http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm
- 2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List-NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.26. Jan. 31, 2016. P. 161.
- 3. "MSG CG Kirtland AFB to director of intelligence HQ USAF" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: https://www.fold3.com/im-age/9169731

Project Blue Book case review: July-December 1955

This is the sixth edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the second half of 1955. Like the previous evaluations, I tried to examine each case to see if the conclusion had merit. I added comments to help clarify the explanation or if I felt it was not correct or adequate.

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
July	Hollywood, CA	Unreliable report	Agreed. Report made over five years after the event.
1	Sacramento, CA	Balloon	Agreed
5	Newfoundland	1. Venus	Agreed
		2. Anomalous Propa- gation	
5	Georgetown, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
5	St. Marlboro, MA	Saturn	Agreed
5	Charleston, Me	Insufficient data	Agreed
5	Manhasset, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
6	Gulliver, MI	Balloon	Agreed
7	Baltimore, MD	Soap Bubbles	Agreed
7-12	Penbrook, PA	Unreliable report	Agreed
8	Augusta, ME	Meteor	Agreed
8	Tampa, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed
8	Mira Loma, CA	Meteor	Agreed
8	Hollywood, CA	Meteor	Agreed
8	Arlington, CA	Meteor	Agreed
9	Newport Beach, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed
11	Toulab, France	Balloon	Agreed
11	Bigfoot, TX	Balloon	Agreed
11	Charleston/Greenville, ME	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Stockton/Bakersfield, CA	Meteor	Agreed (listed as ten minutes but that was the duration of the ion trail and not the initial meteor)
11	China Lake NAS, CA	Balloon	Possible Moby Dick hi balloon from Lowry AFB.
12	Steward AFB, Newark Valley NY	Balloon	Agreed (sounds like grab bag balloon)
12	Trent, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
12	LaCanada, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Philadelphia, PA	Meteor Shower	Agreed. Five meteors seen over a twenty-minute period.
13	La Habra, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
13	Long Beach, Glen Avon, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Orlando, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed
14	Madrid, Spain	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Orlando, Miami, Palm Beach, FL	Meteor	Agreed
14	Palm Beach, FL	Meteor	Agreed
15	Gulf of Mexico	Balloon	Agreed
17	Canton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
17	Newfoundland	Balloon	Agreed

July 1955

18	Seattle, WA	Stars/Planets	Agreed (no positional data to determine which star but had characteristics of star observation)
19	Monroeville, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Lincoln, NE	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Newport, PA	Hoax	Could not locate witness. Hoax because witness may have given a fake name. Insufficient information.
21	Richland, WA	Balloon	Agreed
21	Seattle, WA	Insufficient data	Possibly same high altitude balloon as Richland.
21	Syracuse, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Santa Maria, CA	Blimp	Agreed
22	Aberdeen, WA	Balloon	Agreed
22	Old Town, ME	Insufficient data	Agreed
23	Kirkland, WA	Capella	Agreed
23	Pittsburgh, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing case file. Possible star.
23	St. Cloud, MN	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Van Nuys, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
24	Akron, OH	Reflection	Agreed
25	Syracuse, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
25	Glendive, MT	Arcturus	Agreed
25	Minneapolis, MN	Insufficient data	Possible star
26	Kansas City, KS	Balloon	Agreed
28	Pleasant View, WA	Balloon	Agreed
29	Columbus, NE	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
30	Shelby, IA	1. Vega	Capella
		2. Capella	
30	Winstead, CT	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Portland, OR	Aircraft	Possible balloon
30	Rego Park, NY	Searchlights	Agreed
30	Spokane, WA	Balloon	Agreed
31	San Diego, CA	Insufficient data	Probably Capella

August 1955

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Late Ju- ly-Early Aug	Mulberry Corners, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made to UFO group in December. No date giv- en making it difficult to evaluate.
Aug	Platte County, MO	Unreliable data	Insufficient data. Report made 2 and a half years after event. No date. No direction of observation.
1	Danville, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
1	Rialto, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of observation.
2	Fresno, CA	Balloon	Agreed
3	Charlotte, NC	Meteor	Agreed
3	McDonald, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Malden, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Duration not listed.
7	Akron, OH	Balloon	Agreed
7	Hobart, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made 10 years after the fact.
7	Rochester, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of observation.

7-8	Saginaw, MI	Arcturus	Agreed
9	Akron, OH	Balloon	Agreed
9	San Diego, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
9	British Columbia, Canada	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Levelland, TX	Meteor	Agreed
10	Albuquerque, NM	Balloon	Agreed
10	Corvallis, OR	Capella	Agreed
11	Iceland	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
11	Glenwood, IA	Balloon	Insufficient data. No direction of observation.
11-12	Beloit, WI	Meteors	Agreed
12	Pinecastle AFB, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
12	St. Edward, NE	Balloon	Agreed
12	Battlecreek, NE	Balloon	Agreed
14	St. Paul, MN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Positional data incomplete.
14	Wadena, MN	Stars/planets	Probably Vega
14	Crystal, MN	Meteor	Agreed
15	London, England	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Klamath, OR	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
16	Hollywood, CA	Meteor	Agreed
17	Roseville, CA	Balloon	Agreed
17	Las Vegas, NV	Psychological	Agreed
17	Newport Beach, CA	Meteor	Agreed
17	Seattle, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Alahambra, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed
18	Seattle, WA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Winds from north up to 1500 meters. Consis-
	,		tent with track of object.
19	Ishpeming, MI	Meteor	Agreed
22	Madrid, Spain	Balloon	Agreed
22	Cutlerville, MI	Capella	Agreed
22	Sacramento, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Arlington, VA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Harrisburg, PA	Insufficient data	Possible meteors
24	North Branch, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Green Bay, WI	Ноах	Agreed
25	Pattilion, NE	Insufficient data	Agreed. Positional data missing.
25	Fordland, MO	Inversion	Agreed
25	Chicago, IL	Unreliable report	Agreed
26	Muscatine, IA	Stars/planets	Insufficient/inconsistent data. Positional data missing. Sky con- ditions listed as "night and day"?
26	Paisley, OR	Balloon	Agreed
26	Burbank, CA	Balloon	Agreed
28	Riceville, IA	Arcturus	Agreed
29	Hermosa Beach, CA	Balloon	Agreed
29	Mulberry Corner, OH	Psychological	Agreed
30	Old Greenwich, CT	Hoax	Agreed (file contains Kelly-Hopkinsville sighting, which is not listed in the BB system and is separate from this sighting classi- fied as hoax)

31	Trenton, NJ	Balloon	Agreed
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September 1955

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Sep	Oakland, CA	Meteor	Agreed. Missing exact date and time. Description appears to be a meteor.
1	Teddington, England	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
1	Hawthorne, CA	Balloon	Agreed
2	Sequin, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Spencer, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of observation.
3	Bellingham, WA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Atlanta, GA	Searchlight	B-36 in area but denied using photo flash. Possible Aircraft landing light.
4	Nellis AFB, NV	Balloon	Listed as possible Moby Dick High flight #97. However, it is also possible this was a sighting of Jupiter.
4	New York City, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
4	La Grand, IA	Stars/planets	Agreed
6	Red Hook, Washingtonville, Poukeepsie, Albany, NY	Meteor	Agreed
7	Washington DC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
7	Colfax, IA	Balloon	Agreed. Missing positional data. Description appears to match balloon.
7	Baltimore, MD	Arcturus	Agreed
8	Mattapan, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Lowell, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Cedar Rapids, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Cincinnati, OH	Capella	Agreed
9	Rock Garden, TN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
10	Dakota City, NE	Insufficient data	Agreed
12	Middlebury, VT	Balloon	Agreed
12	Baltimore, MD	Birds	Agreed
12	Huron, OH	Balloon	Agreed
12	Mountain view, Castle AFB, Hollister, CA	Meteor	Agreed
13	Wegenstette, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
13	Palmdale, CA	Test Vehicle	UNIDENTIFIED. Description sounds like some form of test vehi- cle but no evidence supplied to verify.
14	NY state	Insufficient data	Agreed. No location, no duration.
16	Santa Cruz, CA	AA firing	Agreed
17	Waterloo, IA	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Positional data missing making positive identification impossible. Description sounds like scintillating stars.
17	Blue Mound, IL	Stars/Planets	Possible Moby Dick Hi balloon
17	Bellingham, WA	Arcturus	Agreed
18	Springfield, IL	Aircraft	Agreed

18	Peoria, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Data was inconsistent. Speed estimate of 30-40 knots does not match length of sighting (a few seconds).
19	St. Paul, MN	Balloon	Agreed
20	Martinsburg, OH	Aircraft	Possible balloon. Motion was with low level winds.
21	36.3N 73.55W Atlantic	Balloon	Agreed
22	Vermillion, OH	Balloon	Agreed
22	Kankakee, ILL	Searchlight	Agreed
22	Lodi, OH	1. Searchlight	Agreed
		2. Aircraft	
23	Leonape, PA	Balloon	Agreed
23	Cedar Rapids, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Gulfport, MS	Pyrotechnics	Agreed
25	Pittsburgh, PA	Blimp	Agreed
27	Tarryton, NY	Searchlight	Agreed
28	Brownville, ME	Arcturus	Agreed
28	Riceville, IA	Arcturus	No case on file because actual date is August 28, 1955
29	Creston, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Storm Lake, IA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
30	Cedar City, Utah	Balloon	Agreed

October 1955

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Lafayette, IN	Balloon	Insufficient data. Report made three years after event.
1	Shelby, IA	Balloon	Agreed
1	Cleveland, Vermillion, War- ren, OH	Aircraft	Confusing case. Multiple events seen over a period of two months compiled by UFORC and checked by AF investigators. Conclusions were of aircraft in some instances. Others were insufficient information or unreliable report.
1	Valentine, NE	Insufficient data	Possible birds
2	Holyoke, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Poughkeepsie, NY	Meteor	Agreed
2	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Fomalhaut
3	Alexandria, VA	Meteor	Agreed
3	Oxford, PA	Balloon	Agreed
5	Ellensburg, WA	Balloon	Agreed
8	Loogootee, IN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Glenwood, IA	Balloon	Agreed
9	Springfield, IL	Insufficient data	Agreed
9	Baltimore, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Traverse City, MI	Arcturus	Agreed
9	Barberton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
9	Glenwood, IA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10	Marshall, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10	Morengo, IL	Altair	Agreed
10	Storm Lake, IA	Stars/planets	Agreed
11	Point Lookout, MD	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED

11	Earnest Harmon AFB, New- foundland	Balloon	Agreed
12	Elkton, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Washington, DC	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made over phone by anonymous source.
14	San Angelo, TX	Meteor	Agreed
16	Cheyenne, WY	Locomotive	Agreed
17	Yuma, AZ	Meteor	Possible birds
18	Sloan, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Winnipeg, Canada	Arcturus	Agreed
19	Essex Junction, VT	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Knoxville, TN	Aircraft	Possibly Capella that disappeared behind clouds
20	Minnesota	1. Meteor	Agreed
		2. Inversion	
22	Cleveland, Euclid, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Grand Rapids, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Exeter, NH	Stars/planets	Based on description on card, I agree with conclusion. Insufficient information to identify which star.
22	Sonora, CA	Meteor	Agreed
22	Rialto, Monrovia, CA	Meteor	Agreed
22	Battle Creek, MI	Aircraft	Possibly Fomalhaut seen through thin overcast
23	Pasadena, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
24	Marshalltown, IA	Balloon	Agreed
25	Steward AFB, NY	Balloon	Agreed
28	Zonguldak, Turkey	Mirage	No case on file but based on description on record card it is possible for some form of mirage was seen.
28	Wagoner, OK	Meteor	Agreed
28	Elmdorf AFB, AK	Meteor	Agreed
29	Fairfield, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
31	Williston, FL	Refueling op	Agreed
31	Stephenville, Newfound- land	Aircraft	Possible balloon
31	New York, Washington DC	Meteor	Based on newspaper clipping that I could not locate in the files. Since reports came from at least two locations over a wide range, a meteor seems likely.

November 1955

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Nov	Hungary	Insufficient data	Agreed
1	Solidad, CA	Jupiter	Agreed
1	Corpus Christi, TX	Insufficient data	Possible stars Altair and Vega
1	Lakeland, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Elmira, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Ocala, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Beatice, NE	Stars/planets	Agreed. No positional data to determine actual source.
5	Council Bluffs, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Dade City, FL	Meteor	Agreed
7	Jefferson, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon

7	Atlantic Ocean	Moon	Agreed
8	Idaho	Meteor	Agreed
9	Dover AFB, DE	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	Regulus and Jupiter	Agreed
12	Glen Avon, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Barrington, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. Positional data unavailable.
14	Deming, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
17	St. Louis, MO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Glen Avon, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Lake City, TN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
20	Boston, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Van Dyke, MI	Insufficient data	Meteor
21	Oklahoma City, OK	Balloon	Agreed (possible grab bag balloon from Goodfellow AFB, TX)
21	Washingtonville, Brooklyn, NY	Meteor	Agreed
22	Santa Anna, CA	Meteor	Agreed
24	Hokkaido, Japan	Moon	Agreed
25	La Veta, CO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
25	Lemax, IL	Parhelia	Venus
28	Cleveland, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Positional data unavailable.

December 1955

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Pueblo, CO	Contrail	Agreed
5	McIntosh, MN	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Mariana, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed
7	Kotzbue, AK	Meteor	Agreed
8	Chama, NM	Helicopter	Agreed
11	Colorado Springs, CO	Meteor	Agreed
11	Camp Pompino, CA	Betelgeuse	Agreed
12	Lincolnville, ME	Meteor	Agreed
13	Cincinnati, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
13	Colorado Springs, CO	Meteor	Agreed
13	Caddo Lake, LA	Balloon	Agreed
13	Arlington, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Charleston, WV, Shaw AFB, SC	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus setting
15	Atlanta, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Mt. Laguna, CA	Test Vehicle	High speed aircraft. No evidence to indicate it was a "test vehi- cle".
17	Red Oak, IA	Meteor	Agreed
17	Oklahoma City, OK, Olathe, KS, Lincoln, NE	Meteor	Agreed
20	Decatur, NE	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Forrestville, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
21	Caribou, ME	UNIDENTIFIED	Moon. See SUNlite 8-6

24	Riverside, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Lack of good positional data prevents possible solution.
27	Utica, NY	Stars/planets	Possibly Jupiter
31	Denver, Bergen Park, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Charleston, SC	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
31	Lyons, NE	Insufficient data	Possibly the star Sirius and planet Jupiter

Reclassification

There were 266 cases in the Blue Book files from July to December of 1955, that I evaluated. In my opinion, of these 43 were improperly classified (about 16%). This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been reclassified. Some of the sightings really did not have enough information for evaluation and other cases that had been listed as "insufficient information" had potential explanations.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
7/5	Manhasset, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7/13	La Habra, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7/20	Newport, PA	Ноах	Could not locate witness. Hoax because witness may have given a fake name. Insufficient information.
7/21	Seattle, WA	Insufficient data	Possibly same high altitude balloon as Richland.
7/23	Van Nuys, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7/25	Syracuse, NY	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7/25	Minneapolis, MN	Insufficient data	Possible star
7/30	Shelby, IA	1.Vega	Capella
		2. Capella	
7/30	Portland, OR	Aircraft	Possible balloon
7/31	San Diego, CA	Insufficient data	Probably Capella
Aug	Platte County, MO	Unreliable data	Insufficient data. Report made 2 and a half years after event. No date. No direction of observation.
8/1	Danville, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8/11	Glenwood, IA	Balloon	Insufficient data. No direction of observation.
8/15	Klamath, OR	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
8/18	Seattle, WA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Winds from north up to 1500 meters. Consis- tent with track of object.
8/23	Harrisburg, PA	Insufficient data	Possible meteors
8/26	Muscatine, IA	Stars/planets	Insufficient/inconsistent data. Positional data missing. Sky conditions listed as "night and day"?
9/1	Teddington, England	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
9/4	Atlanta, GA	Searchlight	B-36 in area but denied using photo flash. Possible Aircraft landing light.
9/4	Nellis AFB, NV	Balloon	Listed as possible Moby Dick High flight #97. However, it is also possible this was a sighting of Jupiter.
9/13	Palmdale, CA	Test Vehicle	UNIDENTIFIED. Description sounds like some form of test vehi- cle but no evidence supplied to verify.
9/17	Blue Mound, IL	Stars/Planets	Possible Moby Dick Hi balloon
9/20	Martinsburg, OH	Aircraft	Possible balloon. Motion was with low level winds.
Oct	Lafayette, IN	Balloon	Insufficient data. Report made three years after event.
10/1	Cleveland, Vermillion, War- ren, OH	Aircraft	Confusing case. Multiple events seen over a period of two months compiled by UFORC and checked by AF investigators. Conclusions were of aircraft in some instances. Others were insufficient information or unreliable report.

10/1	Valentine, NE	Insufficient data	Possible birds
10/2	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Fomalhaut
10/9	Glenwood, IA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10/10	Marshall, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10/17	Yuma, AZ	Meteor	Possible birds
10/19	Knoxville, TN	Aircraft	Possibly Capella that disappeared behind clouds
10/22	Battle Creek, MI	Aircraft	Possibly Fomalhaut seen through thin overcast
10/23	Pasadena, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
10/29	Fairfield, CA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
10/31	Stephenville, Newfoundland	Aircraft	Possible balloon
11/1	Corpus Christi, TX	Insufficient data	Possible stars Altair and Vega
11/7	Jefferson, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
11/25	Lemax, IL	Parhelia	Venus
12/14	Charleston, WV, Shaw AFB, SC	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus setting
12/17	Mt. Laguna, CA	Test Vehicle	High speed aircraft. No evidence to indicate it was a "test vehicle".
12/21	Caribou, ME	UNIDENTIFIED	Moon. See SUNlite 8-6
12/31	Charleston, SC	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
12/31	Lyons, NE	Insufficient data	Possibly the star Sirius and planet Jupiter

Summary

The 16% incorrect evaluation value was similar to the 17% from the first half of 1955. One of the cases was reclassified as "UN-IDENTIFIED" simply because no potential solution could be offered. I found this case confusing because it does sound like some sort of test vehicle but there was no test craft in the area. It could be the witnesses distorted their report making it difficult to identify the source. There were still a large number of cases that involved nothing more than a single message or a letter written by a witness. Such reports are difficult to evaluate and it is too bad that the staff at Blue Book was unable to obtain more information about these cases.

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SUBSTITUTING FACTS WITH OPINION

Curt Collins recently directed me, and others, towards a presentation given by the To The Star's Academy (TTSA) expert, Luis Eli-Zondo, to an Italian UFO group called "Centro UFOlogico Nazionale" (CUN). As I examined the video, I, as well as others, noticed that there were a lot of problems with the presentation. There seemed to be several factual errors and repeating of many UFO myths. What concerned me most is a statement made by Mr. Elizondo at the beginning of his lecture:

"...facts is(sic) more important than opinion...I have tried to remove my opinion from the facts and the data."1

This gave the viewer the impression that what he presented was based on nothing but facts and data. However, what was presented was not factual at all.

Fact vs opinion

The Oxford dictionary states a fact can be defined as, "A thing that is known or proved to be true."² They define an opinion as, "A view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge."³ This means that in order to declare something a fact, it needs to be proven/established. If Elizondo was truly interested in facts, he needs to demonstrate his claims are facts and not his opinion.

Foo fighters

The first bullet point Elizondo made was that the government had studied "foo fighters" in the early 1940s. My opinion of the "investigation" by the military was suggesting they might be a German secret weapon. However, during the war, there seemed to be little effort by the military to thoroughly investigate these reports.

The "foo fighter" mystery has always been an interest to UFOlogists. However, close examination of the facts indicated that much of the mystery revolved around "air stories" told by pilots and magnified by news reports. There are several articles on line mentioning the foo fighter story that should be required reading. I recommend the following to help understand the "foo fighters" story better:

- "Are the Photos illustrating the ufological productions dedicated to Foo-Fighters represent these Foo-Fighters?"⁴ by Gilles Fernandez
- "The foo fighters of world war II" by "Saturday night UFOria".5
- "The Nazi UFO Mythos. 01 Foo Fighters" by Kevin McClure⁶

It is hard to say what the "foo fighters" were but one thing is clear, there is little evidence, other than reports made by pilots operating aircraft under combat conditions, that the "foo fighters" represented actual craft.

Of course, Luis Elizondo thinks the "foo fighters" were craft piloted by non-human intelligences. The evidence he presented in this talk was a photograph of showing some white dots, which he identified as "foo fighters", near a formation of B-17s. Mr. Elizondo added this was taken by an Italian pilot. That seemed odd to me because it looked like some stock footage showing B-17s flying in formation that probably was photographed/filmed from the upper turret of one of the lead craft in the formation. The white dots look like emulsion defects in the negative or print. Both Curt Collins⁷ and I discovered locations⁸ on the Internet that present this image. Both indicate it was in Italy in 1945 but never mention the source or the "fact" that an Italian pilot was involved. Italy had surrendered in 1944, so I am not sure how an Italian pilot could have photographed the B-17 formation. In any case, without provenance, it is hard to consider this photograph a "fact" and it appears to be nothing more than "wishful thinking", which I classify as "opinion".

Radar in the 1940s

Elizondo also stated that, in the early 1940s, there were "radar-visual" events that were explained as weather anomalies. I am Unaware of any documented radar-visual events during the war that were explained away by the US government as anomalous propagation (AP). Perhaps Elizondo was referring to "the battle of Los Angeles", which I addressed in SUNlite 3-1.⁹ The archaic radar in that incident was not the type of radar used later in the war. While it could detect actual aircraft at distances, it could also produce false targets that could be misinterpreted as aircraft. It took a lot of experience to identify the targets on those old A scopes. It is very possible that the crews of these radar had little or no such experience in early 1942. The history of radar development and studying how radar responds to various forms of weather is well documented. Unfortunately, UFO proponents like Elizondo ignore all of this information in order to promote their opinion that just about any unexplained radar target is some sort of physical object that defied physical laws.

Roswell

lizondo's comments about Roswell indicated he really was not familiar with the actual FACTS about the event:

A crashed weather balloon does not usually merit the response of a colonel, several flat bed military vehicles, and an armed force.¹⁰

Marcel was a Major, which is two ranks below a colonel. Colonel Blanchard never went to the Foster Ranch and, instead, went on

leave that had been planned before the event happened. This is a fact.¹¹ There is no evidence, other than stories told decades later, that confirms the Roswell myth that flat beds were sent to retrieve debris and military personnel, with weapons, were sent out to cordon off the area or sent into town to threaten civilians. Elizondo was just promoting his opinion, based on UFO mythology, and not presenting factual information. For somebody who proclaimed that he was interested in facts, he seemed uninterested in determining what was factual and what was not.

The Washington DC sightings

This is Luis Elizondo's description of the Washington DC sightings of July 1952:

In the early 1950s, the United States had another very significant event over our nation's Capitol. Once again, these objects were identified both with the naked eye and again on radar, and unlike Roswell, many people had cameras and were able to take photographs. And what you see here are real photographs, along with the story - the headline story that came out.¹²

The images he had in this slide showed some lights behind the capital building and image that had a headline type font. Elizondo apparently did not realize that the image of UFOs behind the capital building was a CGI image taken from a TV program.¹³ It was based on an actual image from the 1950s that showed something similar but the lights were determined to be nothing more than internal lens reflections by lights below the building. The "headline story" image actually came from a 1954 "weird science-fantasy" comic book that described the sightings! It was not an actual headline from a newspaper. Was Elizondo so lazy he could not be bothered to research any of this or get an actual image from a real newspaper?

Contrary to what Elizondo stated, there were no photographs of the events that night that defied explanation. Additionally, quite a few of the visual sightings reported that night had little to do with the radar contacts being seen by the operators. An analysis by the Colorado UFO study, and other experts, indicate that the DC radar contacts had more to do with AP and less to do with alien spaceships:

In summary, the following statements appear to be correct:

- 1. The atmospheric conditions during the period 19-20 and 25-27 July, 1952, in the Washington, D. C., area, were conducive to anomalous propagation of radar signals;
- 2. The unidentified radar returns obtained during these incidents were most likely the result of anomalous propagation (AP);
- 3. The visual objects were, with one or two possible exceptions, identifiable as most probably meteors and scintillating stars.¹⁴

Once again, Elizondo seemed to be confusing fact and opinion. Either he did no research on the matter or was unwilling to examine all the data/facts.

More mistakes

Dather than go through the rest of the slides, I think it would be best to just summarize the various mistakes I saw.

UAPs were hovering over nuclear tests in Nevada in the late 1940s. The problem with this claim is that such testing did not happen in Nevada until the 1950s. I can only assume that he simply confused the state of New Mexico, where nuclear weapons were located, with Nevada.

- By the 1960s, some government officials thought UFOs were of Soviet origin. This is not accurate. While this was a concern in the late 1940s, the apparent USAF opinion in the 1960s was that UFOs were a waste of time.
- UFOs were responsible for the Echo flight missile shutdown. The actual USAF evaluation of Echo flight found good reason to reject UFOs being involved and, instead, it was determined that the fault was caused by an electrical malfunction.¹⁵
- Elizondo personally interviewed one, or more, of the Rendlesham witnesses and determined that the case was a close encounter of the third kind. He implied that a report of some kind from the TTSA is forthcoming. I am unaware of any aliens being seen at Rendlesham but that is what Elizondo appears to be stating. The truth about Rendlesham was revealed long ago and I mentioned a lot of it in SUNlite over the years. Ian Ridpath's research¹⁶ coupled with James Easton's work indicated that what happened could be explained. I suspect any TTSA report on the case will be based on what the witnesses told them in the past few years and NOT based on the evidence that was collected in the early 1980s.
- Luis Elizondo presented two space shuttle videos as evidence of alien spaceships operating in low earth orbit. The problem with
 his conclusion is that both the STS-48 and STS-80 cases were satisfactorily explained as being ice particles that surround the
 shuttle. Astronaut Tom Jones, who was on STS-80, was quite confident that UFOlogists were making something out of nothing.¹⁷ Now the TTSA appears to be promoting these cases.

Is it AATIP or AAWSAP?

Most of the rest of Elizondo's presentation had to do with the TTSA and history of the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP). He presented a document that shows the origins of the program and it states the program's title was the "Advanced aerospace weapons system applications program" (AAWSAP). I guess the question is, "What was the program's official name" and why are FOIA requests coming back empty? Only Elizondo knows for sure and he seems to be unwilling to come forth

The bottom line

While the US government felt that the AATIP/AAWSAP did not accomplish anything, Elizondo seems to think otherwise. He states the following conclusions could be reached based on the available information¹⁸:

- Military accounts by trained observers are validated by electromagnetic data Optical, infrared, radio frequency
- Analysis of videos indicate advanced technology not currently in US Inventory

The problem with those statements are that we have not seen one analysis of videos or UFO reports that supports these claims. In fact, most analyses done by independent groups, like Metabunk, indicate that what is seen in these videos can be plausibly explained! Why can't they reveal the provenance of these videos and any actual analysis that had been done? What we have seen to date does not support these conclusions.

TTSA = Facts don't matter?

Based on what we see of his presentation, it seems that Elizondo is more pitchman than analyst. His presentation was full of Berrors and/or exaggerations that was not supported by any actual facts. Some of these claims could easily have been researched and verified but they weren't. If one cannot get the simple details right, what does it say about the rest of the research? Saying something is so without providing some actual facts to back them up is opinion and not fact. This indicates that the TTSA is not pursuing facts but pursuing what they want to believe.

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MORE BLUE BOOK MOON IFDS

After last issue's article, Herb Taylor contacted me with some additional cases and pointed out an error I made in my listing of Cases¹.As a result, I wanted to add to the list from last issue and also make a correction.

The error I made involved the Akron, Ohio case that I listed as February 21, 1961. It was actually January 21, 1961, which was, very likely, the moon. So, I now agree with the classification. The February 21 case was actually on February 22. It was never classified as the moon. I had made an error on transcribing the date, which sent me towards the February 22 case.

Date	Location	Comment
2/10/51	North Atlantic Ocean	BB listed this as an Aurora. Klass gave a good evaluation in <u>UFOs: Identified</u> that demonstrated this was the moon.
11/24/55	Hokkaido, Japan	Agreed
8/5/63	Fairfield, IL	Agreed
8/15/68	Yellow Springs, OH	Agreed

These are the additional cases mentioned by Herb in a follow-up e-mail in September 2018:

The Moon as an IFO

n my review of Blue Book cases, I will continue to look for potential moon misidentifications. I would not be surprised if I don't find a few cases that were actually the moon and were incorrectly classified.

Notes and references

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