

UFO INVESTIGATOR



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Soldier Relates 1966 Sighting

Vietnam UFO Incident Uncovered

Caught up in the war around them, American GIs stationed in South Vietnam in June 1966 rarely had reason to speculate about UFOs — at least until the little-known Nha Trang UFO incident took place.

The Nha Trang incident, if thorough documentation can be obtained, could become a UFO "classic," according to one NICAP investigator familiar with the case.

The sighting allegedly occurred during one of the most active periods of the Vietnam conflict, and understandably received little publicity at the time. Now, however, with American participation in the war concluded, numerous war-related incidents are beginning to emerge. One of these involves a startling UFO sighting witnessed by possibly thousands of soldiers stationed in Vietnam at the time.

NICAP investigator Raymond Fowler conducted an initial investigation into the sighting and was able to contact an eyewitness to the event.

Nha Trang, at the time of the reported incident, was a heavily defended base in South Vietnam located along the coastline. It served as the home base for more than 40,000 troops, including 2,000 American GIs.

The base was situated in a valley, with warehouses and an airstrip to the east, a fuel storage area and hills to the west, and docks and storage facilities located to the south along the China Sea (see map, page 2).

According to the witness, eight bulldozers were operating that night cutting roads around "Hawk Hill," located less than one-half mile to the west of the American compound. On another part of the base, two "Sky-Raider" prop-driven aircraft were warming up on the airstrip located less than a mile to the east. At the same time, a Shell Oil tanker lay anchored in the bay about a mile to the southwest.

The witness, an enlisted soldier holding the rank of Specialist 5, had gathered with an undetermined number of fellow soldiers around 8 p.m. in an open area of the base to watch an outdoor movie.

Outdoor films had become possible only recently, according to the witness, thanks to the arrival and installation of six, new, independently-operated, 100 KW



diesel-powered generators. One of these generators had been installed near the compound where the soldiers were seated and was being used to supply power for the movie projector.

The film had been underway for some time, according to the witness's account, when suddenly, at approximately 9:45 p.m., the sky to the north lit up! The GIs glanced up and saw what at first appeared to be a flare exploding above a ridge to the north.

"At first we thought it was a flare which are going off all the time and then we found that it wasn't," recounts a letter from the witness mailed home a few days later.

"It came from the north and was moving from real slow to real fast...Some of the jet fighter pilots which were here... said it looked to be about 25,000 feet [in altitude] ...then the panic broke loose. It dropped right towards us and stopped dead still about 300 to 500 feet up. It made this little valley and the mountains around look like it was the middle of the day; it lit up everything.

"Then it went up and I mean up. It went straight up and completely out of sight in about 2-3 seconds. Everybody is still talking about it."

Had the soldier's letter or his recent account of the incident stopped there, the case would probably not have come to the attention of either NICAP or the
(See Nha Trang Incident, Page 2)

Anthropologists Sponsor Contest on Alien Cultures

In a near future, there will be human communities outside the surface of the Earth. Can the knowledge of anthropology contribute toward widening the range of our thinking on possible cultural patterns for extraterrestrial communities? Furthermore, there are possibilities of contact with non-human cultures of extraterrestrial origins, some of which may be far more advanced than human cultures. How do we handle the contact situation, and what would be the effect of such a contact upon our psychology, philosophy and culture?

In order to explore these questions, the American Anthropological Association is planning a symposium on Cultural Patterns of Extraterrestrial Communities as a part of its annual conference to be held in November of next year in Mexico City. The Association is announcing a contest, from which the papers for the symposium will be chosen. Here are the details of the contest:

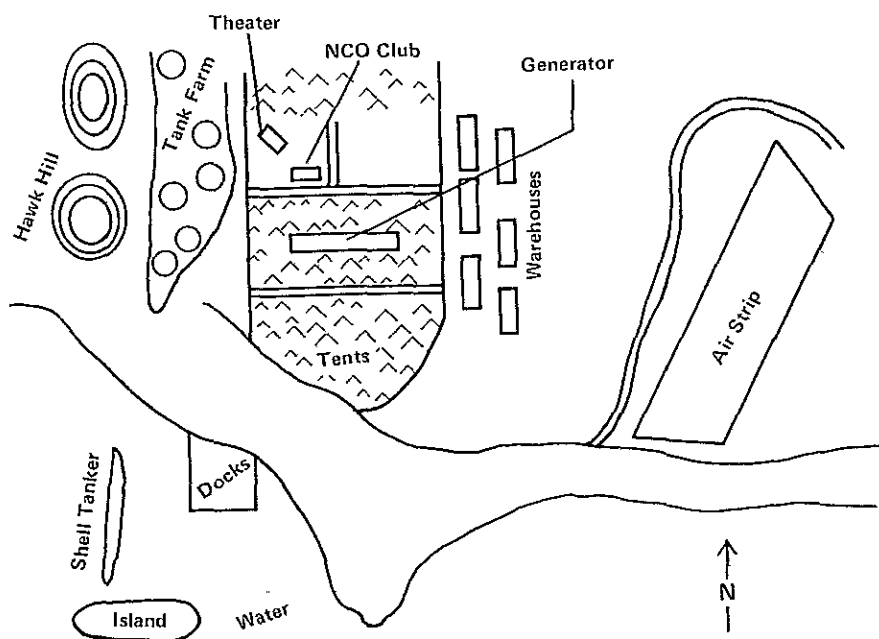
1. Each paper should deal with one or several of the following topics:

- (a) Possible cultural patterns of communities of satellites around the Earth.
- (b) Possible cultural patterns of communities on the Moon.
- (c) Possible cultural patterns of communities on or around other planets.
- (d) Cultural heterogenization between such communities and within each community.
- (e) How such communities should behave in case of contact with non-human cultures of extraterrestrial origins.
- (f) Effects of contact with non-human cultures upon our cultures, politics, psychology and philosophy.
- (g) Whether such a contact would make anthropology expand to the study of non-human cultures of extraterrestrial origins.

2. The length of the papers should be between 20 and 50 pages, double-spaced.

3. The paper should elaborate on the holistic relationship between all aspects of the community under consideration.

(See Contest, Page 2)



Drawing of Nha Trang Base (not to scale) adapted from sketch submitted by witness.

Nha Trang Incident

(Continued from Page 1)

officials from Washington that reportedly visited the base the next day. But the letter and the witness's account of the incident continues:

"What really shook everyone is that it stopped, or maybe it didn't, but anyway our generator stopped and everything was black...At the Air Force Base about one-half mile from here all generators stopped...The engines on two planes that were on the runway ready to take off stopped, and there wasn't a car, truck, plane or anything that ran for about four minutes."

In addition, the eight bulldozers working on nearby hills also ceased operating, according to the witness.

"A whole plane load of big shots from Washington got here this afternoon to investigate. It's on the radio over here. Is it at home? I swear if somebody says they saw a little green man I won't argue with them."

"Little green man" or not, the case could prove to be highly significant, despite the current lack of additional information.

Compounding this problem is the witness's inability to recall anything more than the nicknames of those he was serving with at Nha Trang.

Of extreme interest to NICAP, and apparently of equal interest to the "big shots from Washington," was the associated EM effects reportedly caused by the strange UFO.

The fact that diesel and gasoline engines scattered throughout the base all ceased to operate at the same time and remained inoperative for more than four minutes provides added mystery to the event. Included in the list of engines that ceased running at the time of the sighting, according to the witness, were those of the two "Sky Raiders" warming up on the nearby runway. One can only speculate what might have happened had they suffered a power loss while airborne.

NICAP is currently attempting to contact appropriate Army officials in an effort to obtain the names of other enlisted or officer personnel who might have witnessed the event. NICAP is also seeking to determine whether officials from Washington did in fact visit Nha Trang the next day to investigate the sighting.

Contest

(Continued from Page 1)

4. Non-anthropologists as well as anthropologists may enter the contest.

5. Five to ten papers will be selected to enter the Symposium on Cultural Patterns of Extraterrestrial Communities, and will be printed in the Symposium Volume.

6. A number of most interesting papers will receive a cash award of \$100 each. The number of winners will depend on the availability of funds which are now being raised.

7. The deadline of the papers is January 15, 1974. Mail a copy each to the following two editors:

Prof. Magoroh Maruyama
Systems Science Program
Portland State University
P. O. Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207

Prof. Arthur Harkins
Department of Education
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

8. The paper must be accompanied by an abstract of not more than 100 words. The abstract must be usable for the catalogue of the conference.

9. The selected papers as well as the award winners will be announced around June 1, 1974.

Local Police Explore Forest Seeking UFO

Police officers from Elk Grove Village, Illinois, State Police and officers from the Cook County Sheriff's Department converged on a nearby forest preserve May 10, 1973 seeking the pulsating UFOs numerous residents had reported.

Hundreds of Elk Grove Township residents called police to report a display of nine bright pulsating lights they observed hovering in the sky between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m.

The lights, which prompted hundreds of phone calls to suburban police officials, sometimes zoomed off at a high rate of speed, while at other times remained stationary for as long as 25 minutes, according to many witnesses.

Most witnesses said the lights, while appearing to move independently of each other, appeared to concentrate over the Ned Brown Forest Preserve.

Sgt. Fred Schmidt, of the Schaumburg Police Department, called the lights "the weirdest thing I ever saw." Schmidt, who witnessed the lights with at least four other police officers, said he was in his patrol car on I-90 when he first spotted the UFOs.

"They looked like round vapor lights," he said. "They were very large and they were pulsating...there were nine and they were staggered...Some were stationary. Others moved up and down. At one point, they disappeared below tree level and we thought they might have touched down in the preserve. Then we saw them rise up again to about 1,000 feet," Schmidt said.

Later in the evening, according to local reports, police officers from several jurisdictions entered the forest preserve but found nothing.

Lights Seen over Canadian Border

Residents on both sides of the American-Canadian border remain puzzled about the bright lights reported over Lake Ontario for more than two hours during the evening of May 8, 1973.

Residents of Rochester, N. Y. reported the lights to local police and Coast Guard officials, seeking an explanation. Meanwhile, residents in Brighton, Ontario were making similar reports to their own local officials.

"I could see lights from Rochester clear as a bell," said Constable Angus Riddell, of Brighton. "One of the lights I saw was orange or red; it looked like a sign."

A meteorologist with the National Weather Service suggested that "lights could be bouncing across clouds over the lake, but I really wouldn't want to say that for sure because I haven't seen the lights myself. I'm just making a guess."

A Canadian meteorologist said the clouds that night were too high to reflect the lights.

A spokesman from the Canadian Armed Forces based at Trenton said no airplanes were flying from the base on the night in question.

Other officials questioned about the sightings admitted they were equally puzzled.

South African Couple Spot Portholed UFO

An English couple living in East London, South Africa, claim they observed an orange-colored UFO, "bigger than a Boeing," with portholes as big as doors hovering outside of Queenstown on January 1, 1973.

One of the witnesses, the manager of a local security firm, said he and his family were approaching Penhoek Pass in their car when they saw what they thought to be a long train curving toward the road. Suddenly, according to the witness, they realized the object they were observing was six to eight meters above the ground. It was moving slowly and silently towards a nearby town.

After hovering above the road it picked up speed, but when about 90 meters from the road, it slowed down again, said the witness.

"It glowed with an orange light and was emitting orange smoke. I couldn't see the top because of the dark, but it was much bigger than a Boeing," he said.

"The inside of the car became icy cold. I was dumbstruck — it was as if the 'beings' in the craft were watching the car."

According to local reports, a similar sighting was reported in South Africa by two railway workers in July 1972.

L.A. Experiences 'UFO Flap' in April

The Los Angeles Basin underwent a "minor UFO flap" during the first eight days of April this year, according to a report forwarded recently by a NICAP member, Ann Druffel.

According to Mrs. Druffel, the Los Angeles area experienced an unprecedented number of unexplained sightings between April 1-8, 1973. Many of the sightings, she stated, were reported by multiple witnesses who generally described "bright objects" traveling at tremendous speeds.

The first sighting occurred at approximately 6 a.m. on April 1 when a resident living in a fashionable section of Hollywood reported that he spotted a "brightly luminous" sphere fly directly over his head and disappear toward L. A. International Airport. The witness said the UFO was "flat like a plate" and was clearly visible against the still-darkened sky. The object, although traveling in a straight directional path, oscillated back and forth "like a cork bobbing on an ocean," he said.

On April 3 a number of witnesses living throughout the L. A. area observed what most described as a series of white lights, usually in pairs, traversing the sky from west to east between 7 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Each object, according to one set of witnesses, appeared as a round light, about the size of a bright star. The UFOs took about 30 seconds to complete their passage across the sky from the north-northwest to the southeast.

One witness, a military pilot, said the UFOs were "much too fast" for airplanes.

Another witness, observing the lights through binoculars, said they appeared to be "egg-shaped" with their greater length parallel to the horizon and "appeared to be made of metal."

Similar reports, according to Druffel, were received during the next five days from numerous communities throughout the L. A. area.

One of the most unusual reports came on April 8 from two adults who had been hiking in the hills above Hollywood around 4:30 p.m. According to the hikers, they had been resting under a tree when they spotted a group of four, star-like objects about 60-70 degrees high in the northern sky. The objects, they said, were fairly bright and appeared to vary in intensity.

While viewing the first set of lights, the witnesses observed what they described as a "red sphere, edges clearcut," very high in the sky at about the same altitude as the star-like objects. The sun reflected off of it, and it did not appear to be a light source of its own, they said. According to the witnesses, the red sphere "maneuvered" about the same portion of the sky occupied by the white lights, but its motion did not seem to have any recognizable pattern in relationship to the other lights.

When first seen, the red sphere was moving west to east and traveled approximately 15 degrees in about 10 seconds before it disappeared, according to one of the witnesses. It was then observed coming back on approximately the same path in the opposite direction. Once again it disappeared.

SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

June 2, 1973 — Divernon, Ill. A Jacksonville, Ill. resident and a number of his friends claim they observed a UFO with "bright running lights" and a large orange-red light beneath it. They said the object lit up the entire landscape beneath its flight path. One witness claims he watched the object for more than 10 minutes before it moved quickly towards the north. There was no sound coming from the object, according to the witness.

May 2, 1973 — Lowell, Mass. A 15-year-old resident of Lowell claims she was about to fall asleep around 11:45 p.m. when a sound similar to that of an electric razor coming from outside her bedroom caught her attention. Crouching on the edge of her bed and peering out the window, she claims she saw two large rectangular lights descending rapidly from the WSW at an elevation of about 30 degrees. The lights stopped abruptly over a neighbor's house and appeared to direct a ray of light down onto the roof. According to the young girl, the object began to move slowly towards her own house, continuing to direct the "ray" of light. The object retraced its path back towards the neighbor's house and then accelerated suddenly and disappeared in the SW.

March 4, 1973 — Corvallis, Ore. A local resident told state police he spotted a "huge" bullet-shaped object about 10:20 p.m. over the northeastern section of the city. According to the witness, the UFO was about 15 feet in diameter, 40 feet high, and traveling at an altitude of 300 feet. The object had been descending rapidly, when first spotted, then tipped on its side and sped away.

FEEDBACK/Readers write

"STAR MAP" COMMENTARY

Dear Editor:

I have just received a copy of the *UFO Investigator* with the article about the star map. I wish to clarify two points. The first one is the statement that the map rolled down like a window shade. In *Interrupted Journey*, a question mark should have followed this statement, for I am asking myself this question. In my recall later, I was standing there when the leader touched the wall. At that point, something in the hall attracted my attention and I turned in that direction. When I turned back to the map, it was on display. So I asked myself -- it rolled down like a window shade? I was really asking how this map came to be in this position, and I was acquainted only with maps in school which rolled down in this manner. I have thought about this quite seriously and I am of the opinion now that the wall opening slid back in some manner.

The second point: "Using this slim information as her basis, Ms. Fish..." In July 1969 Marjorie Fish drove to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and spent several days as my guest. We spent hours discussing the star-map, which she taped. I described the map as 3-D; it had depth to it. It was like looking out, far out into space. Also she saw the original map which I drew. On this, I had made an erasure and changed the line from Zeta I Reticuli to G86. On my first drawing, I had made this line slant downward, then erased this and changed the line to the position which is shown on the published map. Now we know that my first line was the accurate one. During the years, Marjorie has been doing this research, we have always been in contact with each other, and she always sent me copies of her latest work, although I do not understand astronomy.

I think that clarification of these two points should contribute to a better understanding of the star map. I neglected to say that prior to 1969, Marjorie had written to me several times to question me about the map.

Betty Hill
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

MORE ON "STAR MAP"

Dear Editor:

Recently I received a copy of the May 1973 *UFO Investigator* from a friend. For a long time I have been interested in the "Interrupted Journey." I found the article on this topic most interesting. However, I believe that one item was overlooked in making this report.

A star map prepared on the Earth does not show the Sun as a fixed star. Likewise, I don't

newsnotes

SCI FI WRITER BACKS UFOs

Science fiction writer Robert A. Heinlein says in the debate on UFOs, he is "more on Hynek's side than on Condon's."

Heinlein recently told NICAP member Karl Pflöck, also a science fiction writer, that "in spite of his honors and reputation, Condon seems unaware of the principle of confirmation." In terms of the evidence for UFOs, Heinlein said, this means that a bad case does not disprove a good case. While "it is hard to have an opinion on UFOs...in general," said the famous author, it is difficult to ignore "the kind of thing Clyde Tombaugh reported."

Tombaugh, the astronomer who discovered the planet Pluto, observed a strange pattern of nocturnal lights from his home in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in August 1949.

Citing the Tombaugh report "as historically factual as the assassination of Caesar," Heinlein said no amount of "kook cases" could cancel out this and other evidence, such as radar-visual reports.

Heinlein also acknowledged that Eric von Daniken's theory of ancient visitation by extraterrestrial beings is a "feasible" hypothesis. "I think it's quite possible, but we don't have enough data to reach any firm conclusions. I do think that there are many civilizations throughout the universe and probably a large number of civilizations in this galaxy. After all, it is 100,000 light years wide. That's quite a lot of real estate."

think that any of the stars shown on the map in this report represent the stellar neighborhood from which the map is supposed to be viewed. I made a crude three dimensional model of those stars that I could identify (those having only Gliese numbers I cannot identify) and tried looking at it from various directions to see if there was some direction from which it looked like the map by Ms. Fish. I found that the only direction from which it could be so viewed was from a direction north of Vega, and from a distance of at least 50 light years. The fit was not perfect, but it was best from that viewpoint. Perhaps it can be refined, if the extra stars can be added. According to "Atlas Coeli II - Katalog 1950.0" (Becvar), there is only one star in that direction between spectral types F2 and K1, i.e. GC 25904, at R.A. 18^h 50^m 5, Decl. +52° 05', distance 66.5 L.Y., spectral type dG8. If the area and distance criteria are enlarged somewhat, there are several other possibilities: 36 Dra., GC 25980, GC 26604, Kappa Cyg., GC 27068 and GC 27206. I hope that the above report will be useful to you.

Kenneth C. McCulloch
Baker Lake, Canada

Second Issue of "UFO Quarterly" Due This Month

Alleged government conspiracy, UFO detectors, and hidden reports from Utah are the subjects slated for the second issue of NICAP's new *UFO Quarterly Review*, to be published this month.

The article on conspiracy is a discussion with two men who have had long experience with government secrecy, including former NICAP Board member Harold Cooper, who spent 19 years with the CIA. Drawbacks to magnetic detection of UFOs are outlined in a technical paper by physicist David Webb, who did a study of detectors set up at Exeter, New Hampshire. And UFO sightings from a rural section of the American West are described by scientist Dr. Frank Salisbury in an illustrated excerpt from his new book, *UFOs over UTAH*.

The *Quarterly* is available only to active NICAP members at the rate of \$5.00 for four issues. If you haven't subscribed, you may do so now by sending your name, address, and NICAP registration number with payment to NICAP. You will receive the first issue, published in April, as well as the latest one when you subscribe.

DISGRUNTLED ABOUT ESTIMATES

Dear Editor:

Having been disgruntled about the following for quite some time, I just had to get it off my chest.

How in the world, without knowing the size of the sighted object in the first place, can a person say: "It was 2000 feet in the air;" "It looked like it was at an altitude of 80,000 feet;" "It couldn't have been over 100 feet in the air.?"

OR, not knowing how far away the object is, how can it be said: "It was the size of a Greyhound bus," "It was at least 100 feet long," etc. etc.

To me, it doesn't look good for NICAP to print such statements without saying something about the fact that a person has *absolutely no way of knowing* the distance of an object unless he knows its size, nor the size unless he knows the distance (plus the fact that he'd have to know its size in the first place in order to know the distance!).

I have been a member for quite some time, as I believe there is SOMETHING going on, though I'm not a fanatic about the UFO question.

Keep up the good work.

Robert John Allen
Lubbock, Texas