

1970s Data Helps Identify January 5th Illinois UFO As Extraterrestrial

"The UFO Handbook," authored 21 years ago by Allan Hendry--then director of the Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS)--provides valuable insights to explain UFO sightings by multiple witnesses during the pre-dawn hours of Jan. 5, 2000, in west-central Illinois. UFOlogists and the news media were especially impressed because of the unusual descriptions of the UFO and because several of the witnesses were small-town law enforcement officers.

Hendry's book reports the results of his investigation of 1,307 UFO reports submitted to CUFOS--many of them by law enforcement officers. Hendry discovered that 360 of these UFOs--nearly 28% of ALL the UFO sightings reported to CUFOS--turned out to be bright planets and stars, as highlighted in Chapter 2, titled: "The UFO Imposters: Nocturnal Light IFOs (identified flying objects)." In a later chapter Hendry analyzed the professional backgrounds of those who had submitted UFO reports that turned out to be IFOs. Law-enforcement officers had the worst record: 94% of their UFOs turned out to be IFOs.

BRIGHT CELESTIAL BODIES GENERATE WIDE VARIETY OF UFO DESCRIPTIONS

One of the characteristics of UFO reports generated by bright planets/stars, Hendry learned, is the *"large variety of shapes reported."* Also a variety of colors: *"Starlight can be refracted into a rapid sequence of colors. Red, white, and blue are the most common....The effect is especially prominent when the planets/stars are near the horizon."* (Emphasis added.) Hendry also cautioned about the autokinesis effect: *"If one stares intently at a star in the dark without a frame of reference, it can appear to 'wander' about in the sky....Atmospheric refraction--an illusion of motion can be created....This effect is especially pronounced near the horizon....Moving clouds [are] usually responsible for dramatic [UFO] 'disappearance'."*

According to long-time UFO researcher Jacques Vallee, who has authored many books on the subject, "No single object has been misinterpreted as a 'Flying Saucer' more often than the planet Venus." BY A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE, A VERY BRIGHT PLANET VENUS WAS JUST RISING IN THE SOUTHEAST ON JAN. 5 AT THE TIME OF THE ILLINOIS UFO SIGHTINGS. The principal witness said the UFO looked like *"a bright star...awful low."*

Following are two of many examples of UFO reports generated by Venus:

* On Aug. 25, 1972, the Associated Press reported that three police officers from Arkansas City, Kan., after spotting a bright UFO in the pre-dawn hours, had contacted a local newspaper reporter, Ms. Beth Lilley, who joined them around 4:20 a.m. Initially, as she later reported, the UFO appeared to be round with beams of light extending from its edges, but a few moments later the UFO suddenly was surrounded by a glowing circle with red twinkling lights in front. Soon, the UFO appeared to change into a triangular shape. When Ms. Lilley returned home, around 5:20 a.m., the UFO was still visible and she got her camera and photographed it. Fortunately, her photo also showed a few stars which later enabled an astronomy professor to accurately determine the UFO's position and to identify it: VENUS.

* On Mar. 19, 1975, the front page of the Yakima, Wash., Herald-Republic reported that three men had seen a UFO in the western sky around 10 p.m. The UFO was reported to be *"cone shaped with greenish-bluish light at the top and a sort of pale flame light at the bottom."* The witness added: *"I never saw anything like it before."* One female witness described the UFO as *"A great big, huge light...like a bright round ball...with sort of streaks in it."* She said the UFO had

"hovered" but occasionally "moved sideways." The next issue of the newspaper reported that the UFO had returned the following night, resulting in many more UFO reports. This prompted an amateur astronomer to look at the UFO when it returned the third night. He identified the UFO as Venus.

NIDS Interviews Illinois UFO Witnesses

The National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), created by wealthy Las Vegas businessman Robert Bigelow to conduct research on UFOs and "cattle mutilation" [SUN #60/Nov. 1999], had earlier informed many law enforcement agencies of its interests. NIDS requested that it be notified via its toll-free "hot line" of UFO reports so it could promptly send its own investigators to interview witnesses. As a result, two NIDS investigators were promptly dispatched to Illinois. The NIDS Website currently posts a complete transcript of the (obviously very pro-UFO investigators') interviews with all the witnesses. (For reasons of privacy, NIDS identifies the witnesses only by number so SUN will do the same.)

Witness #1, who "triggered" the other UFO reports by notifying his local police department, reported that the UFO initially appeared to be "a bright star...awful low for a star." Despite this (and similiar descriptions by other witnesses) NIDS investigators did NOT even consider the possibility that the UFO might have been Venus. Instead, NIDS investigators did consider that the UFO might have been a B-2 stealth bomber, based at Whiteman AFB, Mo., but a check showed that no B-2s had been airborne. Also considered but rejected was the possibility that the UFO might have been a secret giant blimp, like a small experimental model built 30 years earlier by a company called Aereon.

Following are a few highlights of the NIDS interviews with Illinois UFO witnesses:

- * Witness #1: "It was two or three stories high just like a floating house up there, with many windows and a very bright light inside....I seen (sic) many lights underneath, red lights....Wasn't a sound....It was moving very slow..." (Observation duration: five min.)
- * Witness #2: "Like two gigantic lights....All of sudden was one large, bright light....now it changed into kind of like an elongated cigar shape....It was southeast of me [the approximate direction to Venus]....It was stationary the entire time..." (Observation duration: five min.)
- * Witness #3: "Big, wide thing....Had three huge white lights....Looks like an arrowhead....The real small flashing lights...were red or green....It looked like a diamond or a triangle..." (Observation duration: 20 sec.)
- * Witness #4: "It was huge....Shaped like a fat arrowhead....had a white light on each side of the rear and one in the center. And a red light at the very bottom....It was close and low...was just hovering....[Altitude] was between 500 and 1,000 ft....It was just hovering, no sound just maybe a real low type of buzz..." (Observation duration: 10 min.) Witness #4 took one Polaroid camera photo of the UFO which showed three lights.
- * Witness #5: "It was just a big closed end on the backside, boomerang-type thing....Six or eight [bright lights] around each side....Nothing across the rear....Was only 500 to 1,000 feet off the ground..." (Observation duration: two min.)
- * Witness #6: "The only reason I would have noticed it [UFO] was because the Millstadt guy called me on the radio....Red, white [lights] and there may have been some blue. The white ones were at the extremes, the red were in the middle....It went north and it wasn't going very fast..." (No estimate of observation duration.)

* **Witness #7:** (While driving to work at approximately 6:50 a.m. when Venus would have been at a higher elevation of about 22 deg.) *"Triangular-shaped and it had a couple really bright lights and seemed like many other smaller lights around it. It looked to me to be motionless....It was just at dawn."* (Observation duration: four min.)

* **Witness #8:** (Previous night, Jan. 4, at approx. 10:30 p.m., from Lake Forest, Ill., approximately 300 miles north of Jan. 5 observers.) *"V-shaped....Much bigger than a 747....Multiple bright lights. The whole entire bottom was lit up....It was headed straight southwest....where it was that the police officers saw it..."* (Observation duration: one min.)

Clearly the Jan. 4 Lake Forest UFO, reported following the considerable publicity received by the UFO reports from west-central Illinois, was not Venus.

NIDS "Preliminary" Conclusions

Highlights of what NIDS calls a "Preliminary Physics Analysis" follows: *"After reading through the witness testimonies and examining the details of their descriptions, the NIDS staff physicist came to the conclusion that there was not enough ancillary information to develop a firm hypothesis that could describe the physics of the craft that was observed....However, a consensus emerged from the testimonies that are helpful in forming a description of the craft and its aerial performance characteristics, which leads to a tentative hypothesis for the physics while eliminating conventional technology as an explanation."* (Emphasis added.)

"The overall witness consensus is that of an arrowhead or triangular-shaped craft of immense size in comparison with Air Force C-5 or Boeing 747 airline transports--approximately 400-600 ft....The craft also appeared to be 2-3 stories (40-60 feet) thick....The craft had mounted on its underside three downward pointing bright white lights located near its corners, a red light near the center, possible additional red lights...and a row of multicolored lights along one side....There also appeared to be large windows with light emanating through them....Witnesses observed the craft to be hovering, slowly rotating about a vertical axis, a combination of the first two followed by slow linear motion or hovering followed by sudden linear accelerations sending the craft across the sky to the witness's apparent horizon...." (Emphasis added.)

WILL VENUS EXPLANATION FOR ILLINOIS UFO BE ACCEPTED?

SUN predicts that the Venus explanation for the Illinois UFO will be rejected by many, if not all, of the "witnesses," by NIDS's investigators and by many UFO researchers. Very rarely are persons willing to admit that they mistook a bright planet for a UFO. Additionally, many of the Illinois-UFO witnesses have now become local celebrities as a result of media coverage and their appearance on radio-TV shows, including the famous Art Bell talk show. (The transcript for Witness #1 suggests he had a prior interest in UFOs when he said that he *"used to listen to the [Art] Bell [show] from midnight until 5 in the morning."*)

Tim Cooper Offers His Diverse Views On His Majestic-12 Documents

Tim Cooper, who provided a massive number of "new" (allegedly) Top Secret "Majestic" documents to Dr. Robert Wood and his son Ryan [SUN #55/Jan. 1999], offers a bewildering variety of assessments of their authenticity, and who might have created them, in a lengthy treatise posted Dec. 30 on the Internet. One of many conflicting theories suggested by Cooper, who is suspected of having created many (if not all) of the documents, matches the one proposed by International Space Sciences Organization (ISSO), created by wealthy Silicon Valley software expert Joe Firmage. ISSO recently suggested that *"many, possibly all, the so-called MJ-12 UFO documents"* are disinformation created by the U.S. government to fool the USSR and other Communist countries [SUN #61/Jan. 2000].

According to Cooper, *"the Majestic documents, in all probability, are an attempt by informed person(s) to reconstruct for researchers a historical narrative based on non-existent and authentic documents supported by published facts with classic disinformation techniques....The question of whether they are genuine, authentic or real is not the issue here. The important point...is the information contained in the documents themselves. For in these documents and the Freedom of Information Act material already released, and the published facts contain the answers we all seek. The truth may be found in our individual perceptions..." (Emphasis added.)*

*"I would like to draw your attention to some little known and misunderstood facts that surfaced in my year-long review of the questionable documents as a whole. First...is they do not presume to be designed to mislead Ufologists into accepting what some experts believe are (sic) bad history or poorly done reporting of facts. To those who have taken the time to carefully research the data, they [Majestic documents] have yielded unexpected surprises which has (sic) opened up new pathways to other documents that would have otherwise not been located in official archives. That's important and essential to understanding the design and intent of the writer(s) who were responsible for their creation..." (Emphasis added.) **[If SUN comprehends Cooper's convoluted logic, he claims that the Majestic documents were created to help UFO researchers.]***

"In my own humble opinion, the Majestic documents are basically reliable as far as content is concerned with the exception of the questionable hypothesis that there are other intelligent, thinking, machine-building cultures visiting planet earth on a regular, day to day basis."

[BUT THESE COOPER MAJESTIC DOCUMENTS ARE CITED BY THE WOODS AS IMPRESSIVE EVIDENCE OF FREQUENT ET VISITS.]

"The documents may be a product of either U.S. or Soviet disinformation whose target may be the [other country's] defense establishments....It may be the work of a lonely, disgruntled and frustrated Ufologist who desperately wanted to project his own personal belief in aliens from another world on the rest of us....Or they [Majestic papers] could be real....Or the whole thing is just a hoax by someone who enjoys seeing the UFO community upset and split apart by personal differences and wants a good laugh on everyone....Authenticating any Majestic document may be improbable in the present environment and could take many years of painstaking research and analysis which, in either case would be a costly and controversial undertaking..." according to Cooper.

Woods' Credulity Revealed By Their Explanations For Why Cooper Failed His "Lie Detector" Test

It was not until nearly four months after Tim Cooper took a "lie detector" test given last April 23 by a very experienced polygraph examiner (William Stanley Lane) that **Robert and Ryan Wood** issued a press release which was headlined: **"FAILED POLYGRAPH YIELDS UNEXPECTED BENEFITS" [SUN #59/Sept. 1999].** (Based on Cooper's response to three relevant questions repeated during three tests, polygraph examiner Lane concluded that the **"Probability of Deception is 0.99."**)

One of the three relevant test questions that Cooper was asked during three subsequent tests was: *"Did you lie when you said that you received the 'Majestic Documents' in your mailbox."* Cooper responded "NO," which the polygraph examiner concluded was false. According to the Woods, the reason that Cooper lied was that he was trying to *"protect the identity of his two covert sources."* **Nonsense:** Prior to administering a test, a polygraph examiner carefully reviews with the subject every question that will be asked to assure that the subject can answer with an unequivocal and completely truthful "Yes" or "No." If not, the question is rephrased to the subject's satisfaction. (One of the non-relevant questions posed to Cooper during the test was: *"Are you afraid I may ask you a question on this test which we have not reviewed?"*)

According to polygraph examiner Lane, Cooper also responded falsely when he answered "No" to the relevant question: *"Did you lie when you said you gave those documents to Bob and Ryan Wood?"* The Woods' explanation: Cooper had also given some of the documents to Stanton Friedman and Timothy Good. The Woods' excuse would only be valid if Cooper had been asked if he gave the documents only to the Woods. (It has been rumored that Cooper sold the Majestic documents to the Woods and/or Joe Firmage.) The Woods did not even try to offer a possible explanation for why Cooper failed his third relevant test question: *"Did you lie when you said you have not altered the documents in any way?"* and he responded "No."

RPIT Analyst Sees Match Between Symbols On Debris In Ramey Office Photos And Those In Santilli Film--Which Is Admitted Hoax

The latest finding of the Roswell Photo Interpretation Team's (RPIT) British photo-interpretation/computer-enhancement specialist, Neil Morris, increases doubts about his ability to accurately assess the debris photographed in Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey's office on July 8, 1947. Morris now claims to see a match between the "symbols" visible on portions of the Brazel ranch debris photographed in Ramey's office and "symbols" on debris allegedly filmed at the "crash site," which was exposed as a hoax in late 1998 [SUN #56/March 1999].

[By way of background on the "symbols," Mac Brazel--who described the unfamiliar debris he found on his ranch in an interview in the offices of the Roswell Daily Record on the night of July 8, 1947, reported *"...there were some letters on some of the parts. Considerable Scotch tape and some tape with flowers printed upon it had been used in the construction."* The explanation is that the radar targets had been manufactured by a New York City toy producer who used surplus tape from its toys to reinforce the kite-like devices, according to Charles B. Moore who headed the New York University team conducting experiments with constant-altitude balloons for Project Mogul. Moore's team launched the string of balloon-borne radar targets on June 4, 1947, which is believed to have created the Brazel ranch debris.]

In early 1995, British film distributor Ray Santilli privately showed to several British UFOlogists what purportedly was a movie of two doctors' efforts to save the life of an ET, seemingly performed in a poorly illuminated tent erected near the (alleged) UFO crash site. This footage, referred to as the "Tent Segment," also contained some "crash debris" and allegedly was obtained from a former Army Air Force photographer. Later, Santilli sold worldwide what purportedly was the filming of an autopsy of an ET, photographed by the same cameraman in 1947--which was telecast on the Fox network on Aug. 28 and again on Sept. 4. The Fox TV show, titled "Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction?," was produced by Robert Kiviat. It did not include the "Tent Segment." Although Santilli claimed he had spent two years trying to authenticate the film, when Eastman Kodak agreed to analyze a few frames of the original film to determine its vintage, Santilli never accepted the offer [SUN #35/Sept. 1995].

On Dec. 28, 1998, the "Tent Segment" was exposed as a hoax in a Fox TV program produced by Robert Kiviat, who had earlier produced "Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction?" The program included Elliot Willis, who closely resembled one of the "doctors" and who admitted he had played that role in the segment which he said was a hoax created by AK Music, a British film production company. In response to the "Tent Segment" expose, Santilli said that he also doubted its authenticity because the (alleged) cameraman could not recall having filmed it. Because of doubts that the "Tent Segment" was authentic, Santilli said, he declined to sell it for TV broadcast. Santilli added: *"Neither that studio [which created the "Tent Segment"] nor anyone associated with it had anything whatsoever to do with the 'Alien Autopsy' film."*

Despite the "Tent Segment" disavowal by Kiviat and Santilli, RPIT's Morris still sees a close match between the "symbols" on the Ramey office debris and the debris in the "Tent Segment." MORRIS SAYS HE "FINDS THE EVIDENCE COMPELLING" THAT AT LEAST THAT PORTION OF THE "TENT SEGMENT" IS AUTHENTIC. (Emphasis added.)

MUFON's New Leader Offers Views On "Majestic Documents"

John Schuessler, who will soon succeed **Walt Andrus** as head of the world's largest UFO organization--MUFON (Mutual UFO Network)--believes that some of the "new Majestic" documents provided by **Tim Cooper** are authentic, but he avoids specifics. Schuessler offered the following views in an interview with **David Baker** of Britain's Yorkshire UFO Society (YUFOS), reprinted in the January issue of the **MUFON UFO Journal**: *"I have no doubt that some of the material has been faked and fed to researchers as disinformation. Stanton Friedman did a good job of digging into the original MJ-12 material. Now we have Dr. Robert Wood and Ryan Wood digging into a host of new documents. I worked with Dr. Wood for a number of years and know him to be an outstanding and careful researcher. This research couldn't be in better hands. I have seen some of the new documentation that is original paperwork, and it is outstanding. It is time for other capable researchers to stop finding reasons why they believe this material is not real and start looking at the vast accumulation of documentation of data that indicates otherwise."* (Emphasis added.)

(During Schuessler's 30 years as a UFO researcher, his most famous case was the **Cash-Landrum** incident of Dec. 29, 1980, which prompted him to conclude that the three witnesses had been exposed to severe radiation from their [alleged] observation of a giant UFO. When **SUN** reported **Betty Cash's** demise in late 1998, Schuessler challenged our statement that "so far as is known, Betty never suffered from or was treated for leukemia or other radiation-induced health problems." When Schuessler complained about this **SUN** statement, we volunteered to publish a correction if he would "provide specific information as to the dates and institutions where Betty Cash was treated for radiation-induced health problems during the last 10 years prior to her death" or provide us with a copy of Betty's cause-of-death certificate indicating radiation exposure. Schuessler refused to provide the requested documentation [SUN #59/Sept. 1999].)

The Woods now have had at least several months to have the alleged "original paperwork" and the ink used in signatures analyzed by a competent forensic laboratory to determine whether they date back to the late 1940s/early 1950s. The Woods have not publicly disclosed on their Majestic Website whether such an analysis has been conducted, or the results. Nor have the Woods publicly responded to the disclosure in the November, 1999, issue of **SUN** (#60) that the typewriter used to prepare the "4th Annual MJ-12 Report" (allegedly typed in 1952) has an identical "elevated 8" mechanical flaw as the typewriter Cooper used to write two letters to British UFOlogist Timothy Good on Oct. 4 and Oct. 7, 1991.

STILL ANOTHER "BLOOPER" DISCOVERED BY UFO RESEARCHER

IF, as proposed by **Joe Firmage's** International Space Sciences Organization (ISSO), many or all of the Majestic documents were prepared by U.S. government disinformation experts to fool the Soviets, it is logical to expect that the documents would have been carefully checked for "technical accuracy" on matters known to Soviet intelligence specialists. Yet two of Cooper's Majestic documents contain a title description that was obsolete at the time the documents allegedly were written--according to sharp-eyed UFO researcher **Brad Sparks**.

One of the documents is a purported one-page field order, dated 04 July 47, dispatching an intelligence team to New Mexico; the other document, dated 22 July 1947, purports to offer an intelligence assessment of "fallen airborne objects" recovered in New Mexico July 4-6, 1947. Both documents use then obsolete "G-2" terminology which misidentifies Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Chamberlin as "Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2." Chamberlain (seemingly) initialed the July 4 memo without correcting the erroneous title. His correct title at the time was "Director of Intelligence" or "D/I of the War Dept. General Staff," according to Sparks. He notes that the G-2 designation was abolished more than a year earlier, on June 11, 1946, according to War Dept. Circular #138, issued May 14, 1946. However, "G-2" was revived in the 1950s, according to Sparks. (For many more "bloopers" in Cooper's Majestic documents, spotted by several UFO researchers, see **SUN** #55/Jan. 1999.)

Filer's Files: "Garbage In, Garbage Out"

Filer's Files, a popular series of UFO reports which appears regularly in the MUFON UFO Journal and on the Internet, demonstrates the validity of the old adage: "Garbage In, Garbage Out." It is produced by George A. Filer, MUFON's Eastern Director, who claims he first became interested in UFOs in 1962 when, as a USAF pilot, he chased one in England. In Filer's column, he makes no effort to filter out obviously phony reports. For example, Filer's Files in the January issue of the MUFON UFO Journal includes the following (which also appeared in Filer's Internet column):

"In 1953 I was a radar tech at Perrin Field, north of Dallas. I was performing routine maintenance on a Plan Position Indicator [radar display] when I spotted a huge blip in the New York area. [SUN Comment: New York was more than 1,500 miles distant from Perrin Field, whose radar had a maximum range of roughly 300 miles.] I called an officer, who was the [radar] operator, and we watched as the blip split into nine smaller ones, flying in formation. Radio contact from the [Texas] radar hut was made to Denver and Salt Lake bases, and they confirmed the sighting. [SUN Comment: A radar in Denver would be roughly 1,800 miles away from the UFOs and a radar in the Salt Lake area would be roughly 2,200 miles distant.]...F-86 fighters from Perrin Field and other fighters from Denver and Salt Lake were ordered to intercept and destroy [SUN Comment: Curious that interceptors from air bases much closer to New York were not launched.]...We watched as the fighters were heading to intercept. The UFOs had crossed the border of Oklahoma and entered Texas by this point. When the fighters got to about 20 miles of interception, the UFOs stopped dead in the air, made a right-angle turn, and took off towards the Northwest. We calculated their speed at about 8,000 miles per hour.

"There were eight officer radar operators and three radar techs in our hut during this episode. Within 10 minutes after the final sighting a group of about eight men in civilian suits and 14 uniformed armed guards came into the hut, separated us, and took us at gunpoint to a hangar on the other side of the field. We were each interrogated for about four hours, and during that time had to draw diagrams of what we saw and write a written narrative of everything that took place during this encounter. After having the fear of God put into us about NEVER talking about this incident to anyone, we had to sign a document that threatened us with a \$10,000 fine and 10 years imprisonment for violating the Official Secrets Act." (Emphasis added.)

DESPITE THE (ALLEGED) SECRECY PLEDGE AND THE SEVERE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION, THE PERSON INVOLVED GAVE HIS NAME AND FILER PUBLISHED SAME. SUN HAS OPTED NOT TO REVEAL THE MAN'S NAME LEST HE SPEND HIS CLOSING YEARS IN PRISON.

SHORT SHRIFT:

* Filer offers advice to NASA for its future Mars probes: The Jan. 21 edition of Filer's Files on the Internet suggests that ETs may have been responsible for the failure of the recent Mars Polar Lander and its earlier Mars Orbiter. Filer recommends that NASA's new team of experts who are examining the causes "include some UFO investigators....John Schuessler or Dr. Bob Woods (sic), both former experts in aviation [and] space would be my choice." Filer also volunteered his own expertise, noting that when he was in the USAF, "I frequently briefed generals, and on occasion, Congressmen. [I] would be happy to help NASA save a couple hundred million on the next probe." (SUN promptly sent Filer an e-mail seeking more information on when he had "frequently briefed generals, and on occasion, Congressmen," and on what subjects. Although more than a month has elapsed, Filer has not yet replied.)

* **More wild UFO tales on the Internet:** The lead item on the Website of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) for Feb. 11 is headlined: "AIR FORCE SHOOTS DOWN UFO. June 26, 1981, at approximately 16:20 hours, an object was targeted on radar on the west coast over the Pacific Ocean. This object was descending at a high rate of speed and heading toward a heavily populated area on the California coast line. The object was making left and right turns as if to slow down the rate of descent....Attempts were made by the U.S. Air Force to communicate with the object, no response was received. The Air Force was then given the O.K. to shoot the object down, which they did. They fired two missiles at the object. Results were [a] direct hit. Unclassified message was routed that basically read: Possible satellite fragment heading toward populated area. USAF shot down with two missiles." The anonymous writer claims: "I was on active duty at the time and I saw the object as well as the message. You may investigate this event, but I must be left out. Good luck. --H.T." [SUN Comment: In 1981, neither the USAF nor any other U.S. military service had any missiles that could be used against objects entering from space, such as ballistic missiles or UFOs. It would be nearly three years later before President Reagan launched his "Star Wars" program to develop such missiles. Today, such hit-to-kill missiles are still under development and are not expected to be operationally deployed for another 5-10 years.]

* **Dr. Mack disappointed in response to new UFO-abduction book:** Harvard psychiatrist Dr. John E. Mack has confided to friends that he is disappointed in the news media reaction to his new book "Passport to the Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters" and its skimpy sales. When Mack's first book on the subject, "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens," was published in 1994, he appeared on many TV network and cable shows, including even CNN's "Crossfire" (with SUN's editor). The reviewer of Mack's new book in Kirkus Reviews concluded: "The abductees quoted by Mack believe that the aliens are in some sense messengers of God, or Source, as they call this power....Only the most dedicated abduction devotees will be able to read this [book] all the way through without intense skepticism." A recent Amazon.com Sales Rank for Mack's book is 17,729 (meaning that Amazon.com has sold more copies of 17,728 other books per week since their publication). But the Mack book is doing better than David Jacobs' recent book, "The Threat," whose Amazon.com Sales Rank is 23,100.

* **UFO-abduction expert Bullard praises new skeptical book:** Dr. Thomas E. (Eddie) Bullard, long-time pro-UFOlogist whose research into UFO-abduction cases had convinced him that they "are consistent because they have an experiential basis of some sort," as he reported at the last MUFON conference [SUN #59/Sept. 1999], will praise a new book that debunks such tales. His review is to appear soon in the Journal of UFO Studies (JUFOS), published by the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS). The book, titled "The Abduction Enigma," is jointly authored by Kevin D. Randle, Russ Estes, and Dr. William P. Cone. (Randle is a long-time pro-UFOlogist and Roswell researcher; Estes is a documentary-film producer who has interviewed more than 100 "abductees," and Cone is a psychologist who has treated many "abductees.") "Randle, Estes and Cone have written a milestone book and created a crisis for abduction research in the process," according to Bullard's review. "It is grounded in the realities of abductee personality and investigator practice....Abduction investigation has remained a painfully amateur effort without standards or regulation in procedures where, as the false-memory controversy demonstrates, even trained professionals fall prey to error and self-deception....We all owe a debt of bruised gratitude to Randle, Estes and Cone. Either they have essentially solved the mystery of UFO abductions, or they have provided the kick in the seat needed to stir UFOlogists...into a more disciplined attack on the phenomenon." But the new book has a poor Amazon.com Sales Rank of 141,005. When Bullard's review is published in JUFOS, it may become more difficult for MUFON, CAUS, Filer's Files and leading "abductologists," such as Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs and Dr. Mack, to continue to publicly ignore the new book.

 NOTE: Opinions expressed in SUN are those of its editor--unless otherwise noted--and do NOT necessarily represent the views of any organizations with which he is affiliated. We deeply thank DR. GARY POSNER for his help in proofreading.

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