NIDS Concludes That McGuire AFB “Dead-ET” Tale Is A Hoax Which Challenges Earlier Claims By MUFON’s George Filer

The claim that an Extraterrestrial (ET) was shot to death on the night of Jan. 17-18, 1978, at the McGuire Air Force Base (or adjacent Army Fort Dix) is a HOAX, according to an investigation by the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS). The NIDS finding challenges the claims of George A. Filer, who reportedly was a USAF intelligence officer at McGuire AFB at the time [SUN #68/Summer 2001]. Filer, who is MUFON’s Eastern Region Director and produces a weekly Internet web-site on UFO reports, was one of the star witnesses at Dr. Stephen Greer’s first major press conferences for his Project Disclosure, held May 9, 2000, at the National Press Club. Results of the NIDS investigation were posted on its web-site in mid-July, but have been ignored by Filer’s own web-site (as of late August).

The dead-ET tale was first made public by (the late) Leonard Stringfield in his paper presented at the 1985 MUFON conference. He was first informed of the incident via a letter received on Sept. 23, 1980, from a James Morse, who said he had been a military security officer at McGuire at the time, when he claimed that there had been numerous UFO sightings in the area. Roughly two months later, Morse wrote again to say he now had retired from the USAF and the two men then corresponded intermittently. Three years later, Morse called Stringfield on the telephone and in a subsequent phone conversation Morse claimed that he and others involved in the incident had been flown to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) two days after the incident, where they were interrogated about same. Morse even provided the names and ranks of the (alleged) interrogators. Shortly afterward, Morse said, he and the others involved were transferred from McGuire to distant overseas air bases. Soon after this disclosure, Morse sent Stringfield a photocopy of an official Form 1569 “Incident/Complaint Report,” which seemingly confirmed Morse’s story about the dead-ET who (allegedly) had been shot by a military policeman whose name was listed.

Stringfield’s 1985 MUFON paper, which is available on the NIDS web-site, indicates he had ambivalent feelings about the veracity of Morse’s story. But when Richard Hall, a long-time UFO researcher and former deputy director of NICAP had the opportunity to interview Morse in person on Jan. 13, 1985, and Hall reported finding him credible, this prompted Stringfield to make public the dead-ET story at the 1985 MUFON conference.

In response to several requests, NIDS deputy director Dr. Colm Kelleher, whose specialty is “cattle mutilations,” tasked special investigator Roger Pinson to investigate the case. During the following few weeks, Pinson talked to dozens of persons by phone and communicated with many others via e-mail, as summarized on the NIDS web-site. Because the incident reportedly had occurred 22 years earlier, some records had been discarded, but Pinson was able to locate and interview several former key McGuire AFB officials.
Results Of NIDS Investigation

The NIDS investigation found NO corroboration for the reality of the dead-ET incident. It discovered evidence that the Form 1569 Incident/Complaint Report that Morse provided was so flawed that it probably was counterfeit. NIDS’ Pinson interviewed the former Lt. Colonel whom Morse claimed had interrogated him at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base about the incident. The officer, who had been based at McGuire AFB at the time, flatly denied that he had ever been to WPAFB. “One initial expected outcome of this report may be a number of voices claiming NIDS is naive and ‘of course senior military people are going to deny all knowledge,’” NIDS admits. But it adds, “Four senior military officers who were stationed at McGuire AFB at the time of the incident were interviewed by NIDS investigator Roger Pinson who had extensive training in interviewing and interrogation techniques as well as the detection of deception... The four military officers responded without hesitation and further, insisted that they should have known about the incident if it had occurred.”

[SUN Comment: If an ET had been shot to death at McGuire AFB, this base and Fort Dix would have been mobilized for a to-be-expected ET reprisal attack. But this did not occur.]

Dr. Greer Makes Even Wilder, Wackier UFO Claim

Dr. Stephen Greer’s latest claim is that the Government is preparing to stage a hoax extraterrestrial attack to mislead the public into thinking that ETs are hostile so we can engage in a cosmic war. Greer’s views were set forth in an e-mail message sent on June 12 to supporters, titled “COSMIC DECEPTION: LET THE CITIZEN BEWARE.” According to Greer, a covert multinational agency is producing “Alien Reproduction Vehicles” (ARVs) and performing “UFO abductions” to mislead the public. Greer claims “that after 60 years, trillions of dollars and the best scientific minds in the world pressed into action, a secretive, shadowy group—a government within the government and at once fully outside the government as we know it—has mastered the technologies, the art of deception and the capability to launch an attack on Earth, and make it look like ETs did it.”

A year ago, Greer issued a press release which claimed that if the Government had revealed its UFO secrets, including anti-gravity propulsion, “that could have prevented the September 11 tragedy” [SUN #70/ Winter 2001-02]. SEEMINGLY, GREER NOW BELIEVES THE U.S. CAN EASILY WIN THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM—INCLUDING IRAQ’S SADDAM HUSSEIN—AND PLANS TO LAUNCH A HOAX WAR AGAINST ETs. GREER ASSUMES THIS WILL NOT RESULT IN REAL WARFARE.

Greer cites the claim of one of his “witnesses” named Mark McCandlish—an artist who claims to have been employed by many aerospace companies—that “the United States not only has operational anti-gravity propulsion devices, but we have had them for many, many years, and they have been developed through the study, in part, of extraterrestrial vehicles over the past 50 years.” (Emphasis added.) [SUN Comment: But we still outfit our newest aircraft, such as the F-22 and F-35 (Joint Strike Fighter) with “old fashioned” jet engines and buy aerial tankers needed to re-fuel jet-powered aircraft.]

Greer claims that “space-based weapons are already in place.” FALSE. One possible defense against ballistic missiles is to use space-based high-energy lasers. But to date NO experiments have been conducted to demonstrate feasibility. USAF hopes to conduct feasibility-demonstration tests in several years—IF Congress will provide the funds.
UFO-Abduction Reports Experience Sharp Decline

John Velez reports a sharp reduction in the number of persons reporting they have been abducted by a UFO to the Abduction Information Center web-site that he has operated for the last seven years. Although the number of web-site visitors ("hits") has continued to increase to an average of about 550 per day, the number of persons reporting a UFO abduction has declined from "5-15 per day to maybe one or two a week," according to Velez. He adds that Mark Rodeghier, Scientific Director of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), also reports a significant decline in the number of UFO-abduction reports it has received over the last few years. Velez says he has questioned other researchers who have "also experienced a drop in the number of abduction reports over the last few years."

Harvard psychiatrist Dr. John Mack, who became very interested in UFO abductions in the early 1990s and created Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER), has folded PEER into another organization called "The Center for Psychology & Social Change," according to Will Bueche, communication's advisor to the new center. As quoted in a brief article in the June issue of the "MUFON UFO Journal," Bueche reveals that, "PEER itself has been largely inactive for the past year, though we have continued to assist the media, as efforts have shifted towards the new "Institute for Psychological & Spiritual Development." The closing of the PEER web-site reflects this shift in focus and resources...In case you are wondering about the future of Dr. Mack's interest in the subject of alien encounters," Bueche said, "Dr. Mack has remarked that 'Passport to the Cosmos,' his second book on alien encounters, is his final word on the subject, or at least the last book he will devote in full to it."

Other "Straws In The Wind"

Tom P. Deuley, long-time official of MUFON who is playing a key role in its effort to obtain credible scientific data to assess the reality of UFO abductions, confirmed Velez's observation in a brief letter-to-the-editor in the May issue of the "MUFON UFO Journal." "In the process of our research and solicitations we are in general finding that there are fewer abductions in the past few years and especially few cases of repeat abductions," according to Deuley. "We have now solicited about as broadly as we can short of advertising directly to the public. Unfortunately we have not had sufficient response to fill our needs for the project...If [fewer UFO abductions] seems to be true in your area, we would appreciate a response to that effect...[to] verify that abductions are indeed decreasing."

UFO-abduction guru Budd Hopkins did not mention any decline in the published version of his 2002 MUFON conference paper, titled "The Abduction Phenomenon--Where We Are Now." The abstract claimed: "There are several things we can say we know with assurance about the UFO phenomenon, and there are quite a few theories we can confidently pronounce as wrong. However, there are many aspects of the phenomenon, particularly abductions, which are still being studied and evaluated." Hopkins first discredited skeptical prosaic explanations. Then he attacked theories of three "pro-UFOlogists"-- Dr. John Mack, Dr. Stephen Greer and (the late) Lt. Col. Philip Corso.

* "The aliens' presence on earth is not to warn us to take better care of the planet," according to Hopkins--as suggested by Dr. Mack.

* "The abduction phenomenon is not a quasi-military operation being carried out by soldiers...or by squads of CIA agents in scary black cars," as claimed by Dr. Greer.

* UFO abductions did not cease about two decades ago when President Reagan's "Star Wars" system was covertly implemented, as claimed by Corso in his book "The Day After Roswell."
**New Disney Movie Promotes Media Interest In “Crop Circles”**

The new Disney studio movie called “Signs,” which opened on August 2nd, has generated much media attention on “crop circles,” which some claim are created by extraterrestrials and UFOs. Crop circles had their genesis nearly three decades ago in Britain but have recently spread to other countries including Canada and the U.S. The movie stars Mel Gibson, who discovers crop circles in cornfields on his Pennsylvania farm. (Crop circles in fields of fully grown corn are very photogenic but are much more difficult to create than in fields of wheat, oat, barley and other usual crops, which have much lower structural strength.) The movie, which opened in 3,264 theaters around the U.S., grossed a near-record $60.3 million during its first weekend. The movie’s director, M. Night Shyamalan, was featured on the cover of Newsweek magazine, which carried a banner headline that read “The Next Spielberg.” (Director Steven Spielberg first achieved fame via his movie “ET.”)

A somewhat skeptical feature article in The Boston Globe, written by Vanessa E. Jones, was headlined “‘Signs’ Brings Bonanza Of Books, Documentaries And TV Shows In Its Wake.” According to the article, a segment on crop circles recently ran on a Barbara Walters’ portion of ABC’s “20/20” TV show, and “cable channels from Discovery to History to Learning plan to air specials.” The article noted that another movie, titled “Crop Circles: Quest For The Truth,” was scheduled for an Aug. 23 release. And another movie, titled “A Place To Stay,” was looking for a distributor. The article also listed several recent books that also promoted crop circles.

When crop circles first appeared in England, some scientists sought a natural explanation, such as mini-tornadoes. However, as the crop circles became more complex in their designs, some UFOlogists concluded that they were created by ETs. But in 1991 two Englishmen—Doug Bower and Dave Chorley—publicly confessed to having covertly made many of the early crop circles as a prank. Currently, most crop circle researchers admit that most crop circles are created by human hoaxers but claim that a few defy such explanations. Colin Andrews, a leading British-born researcher who now lives in the U.S., concedes that roughly 80% of the crop circles are created by human hoaxers but he claims the remainder defy such prosaic explanations. Andrews hesitates to attribute them to ETs, but he notes that most crop circles occur in southern England within a 40-mile radius of famous Stonehenge.

**Stacy Poses Excellent Question About Crop Circles**

Another relatively balanced article sparked by the new Disney movie was published in the Aug. 1 edition of the San Francisco Chronicle and authored by Rick DelVecchio. It quotes a very sage question posed by Dennis Stacy, who served as editor of the MUFON UFO Journal for about a decade until his growing skepticism about UFOs led to his departure. Initially, Stacy was quite impressed with crop circles, prompting him to make two trips to England for a first-hand investigation, which led to his subsequent crop-circle skepticism. Stacy asks: If crop circles are created by ETs to convey messages to Earthlings, why are the crop circles in Britain so elaborate while those elsewhere—such as those in Canada and the U.S.—are so relatively primitive? [SUN Comment: One possible explanation is that ETs send their most experienced crop-circle makers to England. Another
possible explanation is that the extraterrestrials have learned that the British are very much smarter than Canadians or Americans in interpreting the intended messages of complex crop circles.]

The Best Explanation: Britain Has Its Own Expert Crop-Circle Makers

In the spring of 1998, New Zealand got its first gigantic crop circle whose complexity was comparable to the sophisticated circles found in Britain. The 100 circles with an outer diameter of 300 ft. were created by three British “professionals”–John Lundberg, Rod Dickinson and Will Russell—who are members of a volunteer group, called CIRCLEMAKERS, which had created many of the English crop circles during the last decade. They had been flown to New Zealand by NBC-TV, which was making a documentary titled “Unmasked: The Secrets of Deception” that was broadcast on NBC-TV stations in the U.S. during May of 1998. They created the giant crop circle in southern New Zealand in less than four hours at night as observed and recorded by NBC cameramen, having earlier obtained permission from the farmer whose crops were involved.

The Circlemakers are an outgrowth of a 1992 competition held in Britain to create the most sophisticatedly beautiful crop circles in darkness. The next-best prize was won by an American student in Britain, named Jim Schnabel. He later described his experience in a book titled “Round In Circles: Poltergeists, Pranksters and the Secret History of the Cropwatchers.” Schnabel recalls, on the Circlemakers web-site [www.circlemakers.org], “As I began to make circles myself, I noted that my own mistakes or unconscious idiosyncracies, were transformed magically by Cerealogists [crop-circle researchers] into special accomplishments that no human could possibly duplicate....A crop circle pictogram, fabricated with the aid of several pints of Guinness [ale] and a wood-and-rope stalk stomper, was later alleged, with the most sensitive instruments, to be buzzing with radioactivity.”

Understandably, there is “no love lost” between crop-circle hoaxers and those who claim that some of the circles have been created by paranormal forces or ETs.

Maccabee Admits He Was Fooled By Hoax UFO Photos

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, who is considered by some UFOlogists to be one of the most rigorous investigators and an expert on authentication of UFO photos, recently admitted he was the victim of photo hoaxers. The incident involved two similar UFO photos, allegedly taken by two different men in the vicinity of Lawton, OK. The first Lawton photo reportedly was taken March 11, 2002, at about 1:30 a.m. using a digital camera by a man identified by Maccabee as JW. It was brought to Maccabee’s attention by UFOlogist Jim Hickman, who has a UFO web-site. JW reportedly was watching the UFO during a drive home where he had access to a camera. Shortly after taking the photo, the UFO darted off and disappeared, which explained why he had taken only a single photo. The photo showed a very unusual rectangular-shaped red UFO, accompanied by two groups of several much-smaller green lights. JW responded to many Maccabee questions about the (alleged) incident and took several photos at Maccabee’s request to enable him to determine the optical characteristics of JW’s camera.

On the night of May 20 another man, reportedly a military policeman at the large Army base in Lawton, reported he had encountered a very similar UFO and photographed it using a digital camera he carried in his car. This man, identified as TJ, was quoted by Maccabee as saying “they were the strangest objects in the sky that I ever saw!” Maccabee was very impressed by the similarity of the Mar. 11 and May 20 UFO photos, seemingly taken in the same area on different dates by two different persons.

Maccabee concluded: “Unless someone has a better idea, I would have to classify this as a True UFO (TRUFO), which might be some sort of Alien Flying Craft (or two such craft).”
On Aug. 4, Maccabee was alerted to a recent web-site posting by a “John Baker” which described how to create hoax UFO photos using a digital camera, a personal computer and Lasso Tool software. Then the web-site suggested that the hoax-UFO photo be submitted to a UFO web-site for expert analysis. A few months later, create another hoax-UFO photo similar to the first and submit it to the same UFO web-site, but use “a different alias.” THE WEB-SITE INCLUDED A HOAX-UFO PHOTO SIMILAR TO THE LAWTON UFO PHOTOS TAKEN BY JW AND TJ.

Maccabee’s Reaction To Discovering He Had Been Fooled

Maccabee promptly conceded that the Lawton UFO photos were hoaxes. He offered a lengthy commentary to minimize the impact of the incident: “A hoax was initially considered as a possibility. However direct communication with photographer ‘JW’ indicated that he was cooperative...It is obvious why the hoaxer did it: to show that UFO-believers/UFOlogists are all nuts and ready to believe anything...Did the hoaxer prove his point? No...One digital photo case proved to be a hoax...is less than a drop in the bucket as compared to over 50 years of UFO sightings collected and analyzed by various military, government and civilian organizations...The hoaxer failed to prove what he intended. But he did...provide a warning to the UFO community that there are people willing to take the time to create photographic evidence and, of more importance, to follow through by creating a plausible sighting story and allowing themselves to be investigated. In doing so they waste their own time and the time of investigators—time that could be better spent investigating the sightings reported by honest people.”

Maccabee’s credibility as a rigorous UFO-photo analyst and case investigator “nose-dived” in the late 1980s when he endorsed ALL of about two-dozen hokey-looking UFO photos taken by ED WALTERS of Gulf Breeze, FL. The UFO photos were taken with an old Polaroid camera which can very easily make double exposures, and Walters had earlier used it to make photos of “ghosts.” Maccabee accepted a $20,000 payment from Walters for writing a single chapter which endorsed the authenticity of the UFO photos in Walters’ book. Later, he co-authored with Walters a book, titled “UFOs Are Real: Here’s The Proof,” which further exploited Ed’s UFO photos.

In Maccabee’s commentary on the recent Lawton case, he notes that he spent more 100 hours investigating a video showing a UFO flying low over a suburb of Mexico City, allegedly shot on Aug 7, 1997. He fails to mention that it was exposed as a hoax by JEFF SAINIO, who has more expertise in UFO video analysis [SUN #54/ Nov. 1998]. Although Sainio also “authenticated” all of the Walters’ UFO photos in Sainio’s earlier days, he and Maccabee split over the authenticity of a UFO video shot in Carp, Canada [SUN #20/Mar. 1993]. Maccabee later conceded that it might be a hoax.

Birnes Admits Errors In Corso Book But Praises His Co-Author

William J. Birnes, who co-authored the popular book “The Day After Roswell” with (the late) Philip J. Corso (a retired Army Lt. Colonel), conceded that the book has a few errors. But he blamed the tight publication schedule, intended to have books to sell during the 50th anniversary celebration in Roswell. (Birnes’s paper was presented at the recent annual MUFON conference in Rochester, NY.) SUN’s lengthy critique of Corso’s book expressed the view that “it is the most factually flawed and self-contradictory book on the subject ever published” [SUN #49/Jan. 1998]. For example, Corso’s book states that the Roswell Incident debris, discovered by rancher Mack Brazel, was “shipped to Fort Bliss, Texas, headquarters of the 8th Army Air Force.” Every other book on the Roswell Incident and every article on the subject CORRECTLY states that the 8th AAF headquarters was in Fort Worth, TX, where the debris was brought for examination—by Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey. These and other errors
were not corrected later when a soft-cover version of Corso’s book was being prepared, according to Birnes, because “Corso was the only person who could make changes in the manuscript [and] he was too ill.”

In Corso’s book he claims that in the early 1960s “for two incredible years” he was the head of the Foreign Technology unit under Lt. Gen. Arthur Trudeau—then the Army’s director of research and development. Birnes admitted that “Corso spent only 90 official days in Foreign Technology before he was moved to another position.” Corso claims that for 14 years, the Army did not know what to do with the very advanced ET technology recovered from the Roswell debris, which included semiconductor microcircuits, lasers and night-vision devices. Corso claims he suggested covertly transferring such ET technology to American companies which would obtain American patents on same.

For example, Corso claims that he turned over the ET microcircuit to Motorola and Bell Labs (which had invented the transistor and had obtained a patent on Dec. 23, 1947). Clearly, Corso was unaware that neither Bell Labs nor Motorola was a pioneer in microcircuitry. The first patent applications were filed by TEXAS INSTRUMENTS on Feb 6, 1959, and by FAIRCHILD SEMICONDUCTOR (now INTEL) on July 30, 1959. THIS WAS MORE THAN A YEAR BEFORE CORSO CLAIMS HE SECRETLY LEAKED ROSWELL MICROCIRCUITS TO BELL LABS AND MOTOROLA SO THEY COULD OBTAIN PATENTS.

[SUN's editor—as the senior avionics editor for Aviation Week magazine—wrote the very first article on microcircuits in April of 1957, based on a very primitive chip with only a few transistors and resistors which recently had been fabricated on a single semiconductor chip. Because microcircuits offered so many potential advantages for aircraft and missiles, we followed advances in the technology very closely. Of the three military services, the Army showed the least interest in the new technology.]

More Corso Claims

Following Corso’s death, his son opened a web-site. If one joined its “Insider’s Club” for a modest fee (as SUN did) one gained access to even wilder tales that had been omitted from the father’s book and which he had hoped to include in another book. For example, Corso claimed to have encountered a live ET in an abandoned gold mine on the White Sands Missile Range in 1957. As Corso described the incident, “At first I thought I saw a coiled rattlesnake. Then, in the faint shimmering light...a figure began to emerge...No words were spoken—only a type of self-contained mental spiel. A request filtered through my head to close down our powerful pencil-beam radars, with which I complied” [SUN #66/Nov. 2000].

Birnes reminded his MUFON audience of Corso’s views on the assassination of President John Kennedy: “It was what he uncovered about the JFK assassination that was potentially sensational and has implications and resonance right through the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King to the Iran Contra scandals of the Reagan Administration, and, perhaps, right up to the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. All of these events, Corso said, are linked by what he called ‘a secret government’ inside the CIA, which has operated for its own purposes and under its own policy since the 1950s.” Corso’s claim that there were really TWO Lee Harvey Oswalds was confirmed, according to Birnes, when audio tape recordings of President Lyndon Johnson’s telephone conversations were made public.

The Corso web-site was abruptly terminated without explanation. But Birnes indicated that he and the Corso family hope to publish a new book. Birnes also has authored several articles about Corso in “UFO” magazine, of which he is the publisher.
Scientists, Academics Criticized For Lack Of UFO Interest

Dr. David M. Jacobs, one of the leading researchers in UFO abductions, criticized the lack of interest of scientists and academics in UFOs—but rationalized same—in his presentation at the recent annual MUFON conference in Rochester, NY. "For many years," Jacobs said in his published paper, "UFO researchers have agonized over the scientific community's lack of participation in the subject...In the beginning of the controversy, the conventional paradigm of a psychologically originated phenomenon, along with misidentifications seemed sufficient to explain the objects. By 1953 the apparent inability to measure the subject...capture one, or obtain any other evidence of their existence other than eye-witness, radar, and photographic evidence—all of which in scientists' minds were untrustworthy. coupled with the seemingly impossible extraterrestrial hypothesis, had already coalesced into a culture of ridicule."

In the mid-1950s, with the advent of "contactees" such as George Adamski, "their tall tales seemed to confirm the belief that UFOs belonged more in popular culture than in the laboratory," Jacobs said. In the late 1960s came the University of Colorado investigation, under Dr. Edward U. Condon. According to Jacobs, Condon's report "Suggested shamefully and dishonestly that the subject was unworthy of further study." [SUN Comment: In the introduction to the final report, Condon wrote: "Our general conclusion is that nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge. Careful consideration of the record leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby." Condon's prediction proved correct, after 55 years of UFO research.] (Emphasis added.)

More Barriers

Another barrier cited by Jacobs is the growing popularity of Government coverup theories, which suggest that "not only does the government know that UFOs are extraterrestrial, it is using scientists to mount a super-secret study of the subject...generations of those scientists have leaked nothing about their studies to their colleagues....And it has managed to do this through over 55 years in spite of the enormous number of scientists who would be working on the subject." Jacobs admitted that reports of UFO abductions are difficult for academics to accept. According to Jacobs, "For academics who know nothing about hypnosis and abductees, it would be difficult to imagine weaker evidence...The old contactee idea of benevolent aliens has reentered into UFO and abduction lore...This has added another layer of cultural improbability even beyond that produced by the amply improbable notion of reproductively oriented aliens kidnaping victims.

"To make matters worse, much of the UFO scene in the past decade has been marked by the entrance of self-promoters, self-aggrandizers, con-men, mentally disturbed individuals, publicity seekers, and other disreputable individuals, all of whom have gathered faithful believers willing to go anywhere while aggressively challenging any criticism of their opinions. Some are adept at gaining press attention," Jacobs charged. (Emphasis added.)

Despite the foregoing, Jacobs said he places the blame "directly on the shoulders of the academic and scientific community. It is their unconditional responsibility to deal with the subject but they have not done so. Their lack of concern, interest, and study has been disgraceful." (Emphasis added.)