

National Institute for Discovery Science

Preliminary Report of Investigation

October 22, 1999

Subject: Reported UFO sightings near Gallup, New Mexico.

PREFACE

NIDS does not generally publish reports of investigations in the absence of laboratory analysis. NIDS is dedicated to the research and study of aerial phenomena and related topics, focusing on scientific exploration and professional investigations. However, because of the spate of erroneous reports being generated over the recent reported UFO sightings in the New Mexico area, NIDS has decided to publish its preliminary report of investigation into the sightings. Rather than point out where others have erred, either by intent or carelessness, NIDS will present the facts as obtained by our investigation. NIDS will offer no conclusion. The readers may draw their own conclusions based on the information presented. In accordance with NIDS policy of confidentiality, all names of persons or places which might identify witnesses have been deleted.

Background: On about 10-11-99, a DJ for a radio station in Gallup, New Mexico, called and told NIDS there had been several UFO sightings by members of the Navajo Nation in the past two weeks. He told NIDS the sightings were reported in the Gallup Independent Newspaper. For two days NIDS Investigator 2 tried unsuccessfully to reach the reporter. On the second attempt, NIDS was given the name of another reporter for the newspaper. He said that he worked in the Dine' branch of the Gallup Independent Newspaper, located in Window Rock, New Mexico. He said that many members of the Navajo Tribe, including tribal police officers, reported seeing strange lights in the sky on October 2, 1999. He also mentioned that there had apparently been a missile launch of some type from Vandenberg AFB, in California on 10-02-99. The launch occurred at the same general time as many of the reported sightings in New Mexico. Though some of the UFO reports may have been sightings of the launch, several of the reports had elements not consistent with the missile launch. On 10-11-99, Investigator 1 called the NIDS resident field researcher in New Mexico and asked him to investigate the happenings reported on 10-02-99.

INVESTIGATION

(Investigator 2's narrative is given in first person singular)

On 10-17-99, Investigator 1 called me at home and said that Investigator 3 had uncovered enough relevant information to warrant an investigative trip to New Mexico. Apparently, the amount of potential witnesses was extensive and demanded a hands-on investigation. Before our arrival in New Mexico, Investigator 3 arranged for a radio show interview with Investigator 1 on a radio station in Gallup, New Mexico. Investigator 3 also contacted an administrator of the Navajo Tribal Police and arranged to have the two officers of that division who had witnessed the UFO present for interviews. On 10-18-99, at approximately 1030 hrs, I received a phone call from the reporter, returning my original call from the previous week. I explained to him that I had already discovered that the UFO sightings were reported by another reporter. He said that he was interested in becoming a NIDS field researcher in the New Mexico, Gallup, area. He said that he had extensive contacts in the occult and also the Navajo tribe. I explained that we already had a field researcher in New Mexico, and further, that issue was something with which I had nothing to do. Somehow, the reporter was aware that Investigator 1 and I were on our way to New Mexico.

Investigator 3 met us upon our arrival at the Albuquerque airport at 1600 hrs, Mountain Time, on 10-18-99. He said that the reporter was insisting upon being present during our scheduled interviews with the police officers. The reporter was citing his interpretation of the freedom of information act, saying the public had the right to know the facts. Investigator 1 called the reporter from the airport and told him that he was not welcome to be present during our private interviews with the police officers. The reporter refused to concede the issue, and became difficult. Investigator 1 called the police administrator and explained our concerns about the necessities of interviewing the officers privately. The administrator assured Investigator 1 that the reporter would not be allowed into the interviews.

After leaving the airport we met with an associate of Investigator 3. He reported to Investigator 3 that he had seen a UFO with his son. It soon became apparent during our interview with the associate that he was reporting a sighting completely unrelated to the 10-02-99 sightings. The associate's sighting occurred around the middle of the previous month. His and his son's interviews will be recorded on NIDS level 1 reports and assigned their own case numbers.

Investigator 2 Sighting of an Aerial Object on I-40:

Between 1800 and 1900 hrs, while we were traveling west on I-40, from Albuquerque to Grants, I saw a light in the west sky directly ahead of us at about a 25 to 30 degree angle above the horizon. It was very bright, and at first I assumed it was a star. But then I realized that even though the sun was below the horizon, it was just barely so, and the sky was still very lighted by daylight. Then, assuming it was a plane or some type of aircraft I turned away from it to look elsewhere. About five minutes later when I looked forward through the car's windshield I saw the light still where I had last seen it. It appeared closer, but I got the impression it was because of our movement along the highway in it's direction, rather than the object's movement that we were closer. I could detect a slight elongated shape to the object. I reached into my bag and retrieved my 8X20 binoculars. The object, when viewed through the binoculars was definitely elongated, or "cigar" shaped. To me, it appeared to be glowing as a result of sunlight reflecting off it's surface. I brought the object to the attention of Investigator 1 and Investigator 3, who said they had been observing it also. Investigator 1 said he thought it was a plane. I gave the binoculars to Investigator 1 who still had the opinion it was a plane, though he said he didn't observe the object in detail. I continued to view the object with the binoculars. As the sun set lower beyond the horizon the light reflecting off the object began to diminish. The object appeared to be positioned in the sky with one end pointing predominately west, the other pointing east. As the light diminished, the west end, which was lower than the east end, became darker, though it was still visible. As the light faded from the whole object, it became more difficult to see. Then for maybe two seconds the object became bright and distinctive again, revealing a more slender, sharper focused object, before fading completely from sight. Once it faded, the object was no longer visible in any way with the binoculars or with the naked eye. Though the sky was much darker now, there was still enough light to see objects against the lighter backdrop of the sky. At no time during my intense, magnified observation of the object did I see wings or rotors. I spent six years in the USAF, usually on or near the flight-line, observing the approach, take off, and flight of military aircraft of all types, including F5s, F4s, F15s, F16s, F111s, A-10s, B-52s, KC-135s, KC-10s, C-130s, C-141s, C-5s, and the U-2/TR-1. I've also observed many helicopters and foreign aircraft. The only aircraft that could come close to the characteristics of the object that I saw would be a helicopter or possibly a blimp. But there were no visible rotors and blimps don't disappear.

NIDS INTERVIEWS WITH OCTOBER 2nd, EYEWITNESSES:

Interview: Witness
 Navajo Tribal Police Department

On 10-19-99, at about 0915 hrs, Investigator 1 conducted the following interview of Witness 1, assisted by Investigator 2 and Investigator 3:

Investigator 1: We are at the tribal police station and present are Investigator 3, Investigator 2, Investigator 1, and would you say your name?

Witness 1: Deleted.

Investigator 1: Okay, we're just asking Witness 1 to go through the incident of October 2nd, just to tell us how it happened, what he saw. We'll probably ask questions as you talk.

Witness 1: The date was October 2nd. I came on at approximately 1823 hrs. That's my regular tour of shift. I called in and I got to district at 1900 hrs. Did some paper work. Then right about 200 hrs I left the PD and was going north. I was on my way to housing to meet my officer to do some selective enforcement and set up a road block. So I left from here and I went north on state route ***. That's when I passed ***** housing. That's about eight miles from here, north, from *****. Just when I was passing by there, that's when I heard Witness 2, got on the air, and he says there's a UFO over here at *****.

So then the dispatcher came back on and told him, "why don't you get on it." I think the dispatcher didn't believe him or something. She said, "why don't you get on it." I looked over to my left that's when I seen a light, like a cone shape coming out of the sky. It was very skinny when it comes out, but then as it comes down toward the ground it widens up. Right at the end it's really bright. The color I saw was orange. It was orange. That's what I saw, it was orange coming down. This was right at 2006 hrs. See this is our activity officer's log. And once you get something on here you can't modify this. So once it's saved, it's saved. So right at 2006, that's when I called my dispatch and told them I see it too. A beam coming out of the sky. So I looked over at it and the beam was still there. I was driving at the time so I pulled over. Pulled off the road and I looked at it and it was still there. That's when two of my officers, they work for me. They were ahead of me. They said they were close to mile post 90 somewhere around that area, close to. They came back on and said, "yeah, we see it too, we see it too." They were close to *****. We were all headed that way.

Investigator 1: How far ahead of you were they?

Witness 1: About 70 miles.

Investigator 1: About 70 miles, and they could see it too?

Witness 1: Yes, they came back on the air and said, "we see it too."

Investigator 1: 70 miles north of you?

Witness 1: Uh, huh.

Investigator 1: From where you were, where was it. Was it in the southwest?

Witness 1: It was west, around *****.

Investigator 1: So it was west?

Witness 1: West of where I was about 15 miles.

Investigator 1: 15 miles?

Witness 1: Yes.

Investigator 3: You were on state road ***?

Witness 1: ***, yes.

Investigator 3: And it was west of state road ***?

Witness 1: Yes, way out there by *****. You could see there where a lot of vehicles coming in at the time. They were coming back from Ship Rock Fair Day. And there was a lot of vehicles going north. I'm pretty sure they saw it too. Cause there was a lot of vehicles coming. I pulled over.

Investigator 1: Now, the orange cone shape. Was it moving or was it stationary?

Witness 1: It was stationary where it was at. It seemed like it went fast from where it was at. And the next second it was out in the ***** housing. That's approximately 15 miles from where ***** is.

Investigator 1: So the next second it seemed to have moved?

Witness 1: Yes, to me it seemed to have happened that quick. Then it seemed that it went out west again, real quick. This time I would say it would have been like at *****.

Investigator 1: So then it moved a second time to *****? You were driving obviously, so you couldn't look at it all the time.

Witness 1: That's when I pulled over. I looked at it again. That's when it moved back quick.

Investigator 1: Did it seem like it jumped?

Witness 1: The light just moved. That's the way I saw it. All of a sudden it went off. Just like shutting a flashlight off. Then right where it was at there was a glowing mist. You could actually see it glowing. That's when I called Witness 2. That's when he said it was glowing. Cause he could see the outline. Where that beam was at, the one I saw, after it disappeared it was like a mist like this. Just this part was glowing. You could see the outline of it here. You could actually see it.

Investigator 1: Was it a cloudy night, or a clear night?

Witness 1: It was a clear night.

Investigator 3: Where was officer ***** at?

Witness 1: He was at *****.

Investigator 3: He was right there close too?

Witness 1: He's the one that called it in. So when I looked to my left and I saw it too I told the dispatcher, "right, I see it too." I told her right at 2006, "Yeah, I see it too. There's a beam coming out of the sky. I don't know what it is." It was glowing and then it dissipated, in less than a minute. After that you could see the stars.

Investigator 1: But when it was happening, you couldn't see the stars?

Witness 1: No, because of the clouds. After the light went out I looked at it and you could see the glowing, the outline, I told ***** I could see it too. Then I left and I looked over there again and it was a clear night. You could see the stars and the ***** Mountains there.

Investigator 2: Was it windy that night?

Witness 1: No, it was warm cause we had a roadblock out. We set up a roadblock till about 2 o'clock. It was warm.

Investigator 2: Were you looking for DUI's. Was that was your selective enforcement was about?

Witness 1: Yes. And after that we all went over to, we had a sub-office out in *****. We were talking about it. Officer ***** was kind of shook up by it.

Investigator 3: Officer ***** and Officer***** were up in *****?

Witness 1: Yes, they were. They left before me. They were ahead of me about 70 miles. And they seen it too.

Investigator 2: From you, it was to the west. Right?

Witness 1: Yes.

Investigator 2: Did they indicate where it was from them? Was it to the west from them also?

Witness 1: Yes. ***** thought it was in ***** , the light, and that's about 140 miles from here. From where he was at it was like in the west.

Investigator 2: So it was basically west of all of you then?

Witness 1: Yes. ***** said he thought it was in *****.

Investigator 3: Are those two officers stationed at the ***** district.

Witness 1: Yes, they work for me. They're sub officers.

Investigator 1: When you were looking at the orange beam, did it actually go up into a point, like you've drawn? It seemed like it was coming from the sky?

Witness 1: Yes, like a beam. The first thing that came to my mind was, " shoot, what is that?" I thought like it was the end of the world.

Investigator 1: It looked like what did you say?

Witness 1: Like the end of the world.

Investigator 3: Was the beam real wide? How wide do you estimate the beam was?

Witness 1: From where I was at, I would say pretty wide, like 50' maybe.

Investigator 3: So it must have been a pretty bright beam if you saw it that easily?

Witness 1: Yes. See it probably was there when I was going, but I didn't think nothing of it. I was just going out there to do my job, till ***** came on the air and said, "there's a UFO out here." And the dispatcher says, "why don't you get on it?" I guess she was just making a comment. So when I looked over to my left and I seen that, "hey, there is a beam," and I told the dispatcher, "there is a beam coming out of the sky." I said, "I don't know what it is, but there's a beam coming out of the sky."

Investigator 1: Did the beam actually go all the way down to the ground, or did it stop before the ground?

Witness 1: I would say that it probably didn't go all the way to the ground. I don't know if it did, but from where I was at.

Investigator 3: How high did it appear to come out of the sky?

Witness 1: I would say less than a mile. Because it wasn't coming from all the way out of the atmosphere, it was coming from maybe half way down.

Investigator 1: And it started at just a single point and just kind of came out?

Witness 1: Yes.

Investigator 2: Were there any other colors besides the orange, that you noticed?

Witness 1: To me that color was orange. After it disappeared there was like a bluish, greenish, glow.

Investigator 1: A bluish, greenish mist?

Witness 1: Yes.

Investigator 2: Was there any sound associated with it?

Witness 1: No. It was quiet. There was nothing going on.

Investigator 3: Did your department receive any calls after that?

Witness 1: Not my department. I don't know if they did, but after that I hit my scanner button on my radio and the McKinley County Sheriff, I think they saw it too. Because they were looking for something. I don't know what it was. They were saying it was back by the Hogback area.

Investigator 3: Was it the McKinley county dispatch?

Witness 1: It was the McKinley county dispatch. I think his name is *****.

Investigator 3: Is he stationed there.

Witness 1: He's out of Gallup, sheriff's department. They were looking for, I guess, they saw something that night too. I don't know what it was. They thought it was a, what we heard was it was a crash. A jumbo crash, or a craft, or a military aircraft or helicopter that went down. And they were looking right around Hogback area. They seen it there.

Investigator 1: Was there talk about a helicopter going down or something else happening?

Witness 1: That's what I heard over the radio, maybe a helicopter or a crash, something. The county was looking for it. In the Hogback area. And when they got there they didn't see nothing. I guess they had a lot of calls coming in. Cause people saw something out there. That's all I heard from county. And by that time I lost their frequency because I went out

further north. And when we got together in ***** and were talking about it. ***** was kind of shook up about it but I told him not to worry about it. I don't know what it was.

Investigator 1: He was shook up, you mean he was scared of it?

Witness 1: He was scared of it.

Investigator 2: What time does it get dark around here?

Witness 1: It gets dark around 6:30 to 7:00 o'clock.

Investigator 2: So by this time that you're talking about its already complete darkness?

Witness 1: It was pitch darkness out there.

Investigator 2: You don't even see a glow on the horizon from the sun?

Witness 1: It was pitch dark.

Investigator 1: So when you looked over there the first time you saw it, it was just there, it was bright?

Witness 1: It was already there, because I would have never saw it if it wasn't for *****.

Investigator 1: And how long do you think was the total time from the first time you saw it until it blinked off, how long do you think that was?

Witness 1: I would say it was less than a minute and a half.

Investigator 1: So during that time you pulled over to watch it?

Witness 1: Yes.

Investigator 2: You said that was at 8:06?

Witness 1: Yes, that's when I told dispatch that, "I see it too." I said, "There's a beam coming out of the sky."

Investigator 1: Is that what you heard on the radio? That he reported initially a UFO? Did he say anything else on the radio?

Witness 1: All he said is, "there's a UFO right here. I see a UFO." That's all he said. Then the dispatcher came on and said, "why don't you get on it?" She was kind of laughing. I think she probably thought ***** was joking. That's when I looked over and I seen that beam.

Investigator 1: Did you notice anything unusual with your police scanner? It wasn't effected in any way?

Witness 1: No, it wasn't effected at all.

Investigator 1: When the thing blinked out like a flashlight, was that mist there immediately afterwards or did it appear slowly?

Witness 1: It was right there in an instant. You could see the outline. Then I looked over toward the northwest and I thought maybe its one of those reflections from the north pole. I thought that was it, but then it wasn't. Its weird cause it only stayed in one place. And from where I was at you could see the outline.

Investigator 1: It had a definite shape?

Witness 1: Yes.

Investigator 1: So was there any flash or anything unusual except this thing going out before the appearance of the mist?

Witness 1: No.

Investigator 1: It was just the light went out and the mist was there?

Witness 1: Yes. And that glow stayed there for just about a minute. And after that you could see the stars.

Investigator 2: *****, from where you were, what angle in the sky would the top of the cone be? What would you estimate?

Witness 1: (indicated about 20 degrees above horizon).

Investigator 2: The same for angle for the mist?

Witness 1: Yes. It seemed the mist was huge.

Investigator 3: How close do you think ***** got to it?

Witness 1: I think he would have been pretty close because he was chasing it.

Investigator 3: Was he communicating with somebody the entire time he was chasing it?

Witness 1: Dispatch.

Investigator 3: How long did that last?

Witness 1: From the time he called it in to the time it disappeared, I would say it was no more than five minutes.

Investigator 1: I'm interested in this mist. You said it was glowing. Did you get the impression that it was internally lit or externally lit? In other words, how come it was glowing? Was it glowing from within, or was there something else shining on it to make it glow?

Witness 1: I would say it was glowing from the inside.

Investigator 1: When it disappeared, did it kind of fade away or did it just vanish?

Witness 1: It was gradually. You could see it then it just gradually disappeared. When it was doing that you could actually see the outline.

Investigator 1: So it was getting smaller and smaller?

Witness 1: No, just a glowing that eventually faded out.

Investigator 1: Ok, so the glowing was fading.

Witness 1: While that was happening you could see the outline of it.

Investigator 1: You could still see the original outline?

Witness 1: When it first started glowing, then it gradually faded away. That's it. I thought it was the lights from up north, but it wasn't. Cause I was looking all around.

Investigator 3: You never did manage to see where the glow originated?

Witness 1: No. But when the light went off right where it was at you could see that glow.

Investigator 1: So there was no part of the mist that seemed to disappear first? It just seemed to all get fainter? Like it was a uniform thing?

Witness 1: Yes.

Investigator 1: Unless anyone has anymore questions we can ask if you have ever seen or heard anything else unusual?

Witness 1 described a flash of light he caught out of the corner of his eye the following Saturday night while he was writing a citation. Another officer apparently saw it also. Neither of them can account for what it was. Witness 1 thought it was a meteor, but the other officer did not think so. Witness 1 also told us that since the first article was written in the Gallup Independent Newspaper about the lights on 10-10-99, several members of the tribe have called him saying they saw them too.

Meeting: On 10-19-99, after interviewing Witness 1, we went to the Navajo Tribal Police and spoke with the administrator to help establish good public relations with his division and also to set up another interview appointment with Officer ***** who failed to keep his scheduled appointment with us at 1000 hrs. Officer ***** arrived at the station around 1100 hrs. He agreed to meet us at the station that night at 2300 hours when he was scheduled to work his next shift.

Interview: Investigator 1

On 10-19-99, at 1300 hrs, we met the station manager for the Radio Station in Gallup, New Mexico. At 1400 hrs, Investigator 1 was interviewed live on the radio concerning the mission and goals of NIDS and the UFO sightings seen on 10-02-99, as well as sightings of an historical nature. While Investigator 1 was being interviewed, Investigators 2 and 3, manned the phone lines and completed level one NIDS reports for callers reporting recent or historical sightings. Additionally, Investigator 1 responded on the air to listeners who called the on air line in response to the show. Between them, investigators 2 and 3 received sixteen calls reporting the 10-02-99, sighting, and another nineteen calls reporting sightings of an historical time frame. The on air show lasted about two hours, going one hour beyond the projected time due to the volume of callers and apparent interest in the show. Almost all of the callers were members of the Navajo tribe. Investigator 1 handled twenty-three calls live on the air, seven of which were reports of the 10-02-99, sighting. Calls continued to come into the station even after the show was over. The station manager later provided us with twenty more names of callers who called after we departed the station that day. Altogether we left New Mexico with about seventy-six names of people reporting UFO sightings from the radio station callers and including personal interviews.

Upon returning to NIDS, Investigators 1, 2, 3, and 4, conducted follow up telephone calls of most of the level one reports initially received in New Mexico. The results were annotated on the level one reports and the NIDS database.

Interview: Witness 2
Police Officer
Navajo Tribal Police Department

On 10-19-99, at 2300 hrs, Investigator 1 conducted an interview of Witness 2 with the assistance of Investigators 2 and 3:

Investigator 1: Its 2305. What date is it?

Witness 2: 10-19-99, Tuesday.

Investigator 1: Ok, Tuesday, 10-19-1999. And we're with Witness 2. Present are Investigators 1,2, and 3. I'm just going to ask Witness 2 to state in his own words what he saw on the night of October 2nd. So it's all yours.

Witness 2: You want me to get my log book?

Investigator 1: If you don't mind. Ok, there was a break in recording while Witness 2 went to get his logbook. Anytime you're ready. And if you don't mind we'll just ask questions as you go along.

Witness 2: About 2000 hrs, I was dispatched to do a prisoner relay from here to *****which is about 25 miles to 30 miles west of*****. On my way between, I had just passed the reservation west of*****. That's right by*****. And that's when I noticed through the top of my windshield, the corner of my windshield, I noticed a light, I mean it was bright. It was lighting up pretty big. Then I looked up and slowed down and the more I looked up I seen lights come down. And the way I seen the lights they looked like fingers, like that. You could barely see the outline underneath of whatever it was. I mean I don't know what it was. And that's when I called in. I said, "I have a UFO here." I called it into dispatch. I go, "I'm going to see if I can catch it." Cause it was about a mile and a half away and about 800 feet above the ground. And it was moving west, cause I know because it was moving fast. I tried catching it. I tried going about 120 and I still

couldn't catch it. And that was about 2008 hrs. That's when I first seen it. I kept calling it in and trying to catch it. Then I go, "now it's gone." This was about close to*****. I passed *****and I was going towards*****. And that's when I seen it was gone. I couldn't see it no more. But where the lights were coming down, where I seen it before there was a big ol, I mean it was big, like a big round cloud like. It didn't look like any regular cloud. It looked like smoke, but it was blue. I mean glowing blue for a good five to ten minutes. Then I called it in. That's when I slowed down. I didn't see nothing. It just faded away. That's what I seen. Then when I got to *****I stopped and got off my unit and I tried looking to see where that mist was but it was gone. There was nothing there.

Investigator 1: Now, the first thing you noticed was a bright light through your windshield. If you were going to compare it to the size of the full moon would it be bigger or smaller?

Witness 2: Not bigger than the moon distance wise. But I'm talking like, it was bigger than the moon but it was between, like say if the moon was on the horizon it would be between me and the moon, but it was bigger.

Investigator 1: It was bigger. You're assuming it was closer. But from your perspective if you were comparing both of them in the night sky, from your perspective it was bigger.

Witness 2: Yes.

Investigator 1: Now, the second thing I wanted to ask you was about the fingers of light. Were they fingers of light or were they, what were they exactly?

Witness 2: They looked like rays of light. I'm just saying they looked like fingers to describe them. Let me see if I can sketch them for you. What I seen was barely an outline like this. It looked like this. You could barely see this. It was dark up here so you couldn't see. What I seen was lights coming down like this. Like stalactites.

Investigator 1: All the way down to the ground?

Witness 2: No. Not all the way to the ground. You know how a torch burns. Remember them small propane torches like silver smith's use. Remember how that flame sticks out. It looked like that but it wasn't blue. It was reddish orange. It kind of looked like a rocket. But I couldn't see what was above here. But I could see this stuff right here.

Investigator 1: Now you said you saw some kind of outline or a shape, whatever. What did you mean by that?

Witness 2: Just something coming up like this. And the lights were coming down. I couldn't see anything else.

Investigator 1: Now, this something here, what was your impression?

Witness 2: Well, the way I described it in my report it looks like a upside down peanut butter cup.

Investigator 1: Like a Reses peanut butter cup?

Witness 2: Yes, like a Reses peanut butter cup upside down.

Investigator 1: And below that were these fingers of light?

Witness 2: Yes. I didn't count how many. I just said, "wo, and I was trying to catch up."

Investigator 1: Where was the light that you first saw in relationship to this part?

Witness 2: See, my windshields right here right? My windshield comes down. This what I seen. My windshield, I was driving, my steering wheel was right here. This is what I seen.

Investigator 1: Ok. Now you said that was about 800' above the ground. Was this part 800' above the ground, or this part, the lights?

Witness 2: The lights. I don't know how far apart these were, but the lights, they were really big.

Investigator 1: Did you notice whether they were hitting the ground?

Witness 2: I didn't see them hitting the ground. I just seen it here.

Investigator 1: And it was moving away from you?

Witness 2: Yes.

Investigator 1: Was it moving quickly?

Witness 2: Very quickly. When I first seen it, I said 2006 or 2008, within 2 minutes it was gone. That's how fast it was.

Investigator 1: Within two minutes.

Investigator 2: Were you ever stationary when you saw it?

Witness 2: No, I was trying to catch it. This was my first time. I'm the type of person that says I'll believe it when I see it. And I wanted to get close enough to see it.

Investigator 1: Now, when you estimate that it was about 800' off the ground, how would you estimate that, roughly?

Witness 2: Cause I live by a mesa over here, and that's like what? Two hundred feet? That's how high that plateau is. That's how I gauged it.

Investigator 1: And how far from you did you figure it was?

Witness 2: Between half a mile to a mile away. That's when I first seen it. Then it was gone.

Investigator 1: It was receding?

Witness 2: Yes.

Investigator 3: It was lifting up?

Witness 2: Yes, kind of going up. And then when it took off, up in the sky, where these lights were, there was a round cloud. And it was blue. It wasn't perfectly round, it was like a mist. It was all glowing.

Investigator 1: Now, was it this kind of blue? Or was it lighter or darker?

Witness 2: You know how the rainbow blue is? It was between the purple and blue. Purple-ish blue.

Investigator 1: Like indigo blue.

Witness 2: Yes.

Investigator 1: You said you stopped your vehicle at one stage.

Witness 2: That was where I was supposed to meet the prisoner. And that's in*****. Almost between the canyon. It's called the *****church. That's when I stopped there. I got off and looked around for this stuff, the mist, but it was gone, clear. As far as you could see, stars, there was no clouds in the sky.

Investigator 3: There was nothing else in the sky? You didn't hear anything?

Witness 2: No. I was, I had my radio on.

Investigator 3: What kind of radio do you have? Do you have any scanners?

Witness 2: Scanners? Yes, our radios scan.

Investigator 3: How many?

Witness 2: About 32.

Investigator 3: Did you notice any difference in your scanning?

Witness 2: No. My radio was working fine.

Investigator 3: So you operate out of this office here?

Witness 2: Yes.

Investigator 3: Is every district on a different channel?

Witness 2: Yes. A different frequency.

(Investigator 3 asked Witness 2 several questions about his scanner at this point).

Investigator 2: Did you activate your emergency lights while you were chasing the light?

Witness 2: No. What if they abducted me. I was thinking I have my pistol. What if they want my pistol. Oh, man, I forgot my AR-15 at home.

Investigator 3: What was the highest speed that you reached?

Witness 2: 120 mph.

Investigator 1: Could we have a copy of this drawing? (See Attachment 1)

Upon completion of this interview, we followed Witness 2 to the point where he first spotted the light and began his pursuit. From there we followed him to where he broke off the pursuit. The following day, 10-20-99, at about 1400 hrs. we went to the starting point of Witness 2's pursuit and video recorded the stretch of highway all the way to the point at which he broke off the pursuit. The entire stretch of highway would have accorded Witness 2 a clear and unobstructed view of anything in the western sky.

Interview: Witness 3
McKinley County Sheriff's Department

Investigator 1: It's now Wednesday, the 20th of October, and it's 0945 hrs. Present at this interview are Investigators 1, 3, and 2; and can you say your name into the tape recorder?*****. I want to ask Witness 3 to relate the experience he had in his own words. During that time, maybe we can ask you questions.

Witness 3: It was Saturday, October 2nd, '99. Me and my wife and a couple of the neighbors and their son went up on top of ***** Mountain. And we didn't see no lights. It was just beginning to get dark. You could still see the orange in the back, the sunset. And we came over the top of this hill and we went down into this little canyon and boom! There it was. I don't know, like a saucer shape deal. Almost looked like a cigar in the sky. But it had one, big bright light that came straight down, one that came off to the left front, the right front, at angles, and to the left rear and the right rear at angles. We just stood there and watched it. And they asked, "What is it." I was like, "Oh, there putting up a satellite or something for.....?. Cause I knew what it was. This is not something that you see regularly. Plus in that part of the mountains, there isn't nobody that lives up there.

Investigator 1: So, it hadn't quite got dark yet?

Witness 3: Well, the sun was completely set, but you could still see the orange in the sky.

Investigator 1: Do you have any idea what time it was, roughly?

Witness 3: I would say between 7:30, 8:00 o'clock, somewhere around there. Because that's about time the sun sets.

Investigator 1: So what part of the sky was it? Was it north, or south?

Witness 3: It was to the north.

Investigator 1: It was to the north. Ok. Now you said you were in a canyon. What in relationship to where you were, if you wanted to point right up into the sky 90 degrees, and right along the ground, at say 0 degrees, where was the thing in the sky as you looked at it?

Witness 3: I would say from where we were driving straight this way, and we were looking up out of the canyon, I would say about 45 to 60 degrees, or somewhere around there.

Investigator 1: Did you get any idea o how far away it was?

Witness 3: I would say about two to three hundred yards. It wasn't very far.

Investigator 1: Just describe the shape of what you saw.

Witness 3: The shape of it was almost looked like a cigar in the sky. It was flat on the bottom but it was kind of rounded on top. And then the light that came from it came right from the middle. And it was almost like to a point at the very top of where it was and it kind of came down like that, like a pyramid shape. But it was bright, bright, brighter than anything you could possibly look at unless you went to Saudi Arabia and seen some rockets go off.

Investigator 1: Now, was it brighter than a car headlight shinning at you?

Witness 3: Yep. Really, really bright.

Investigator 1: Was it moving?

Witness 3: No. At that time it was just sitting right there. It was stationary. It wasn't moving or nothing.

Investigator 3: How far off the ground was it?

Witness 3: Cause where we were looking at it, we were looking out of the canyon. But the rim was right here, and it was almost sitting like right on top of that rim. Cause you could just barely see a little bit of daylight from the bottom of the rim and the bottom of the UFO.

Investigator 1: So it was right above the canyon wall?

Witness 3: Uh-huh.

Investigator 1: Did you hear any noise?

Witness 3: No. Cause right then and there we shut everything off. We was listening, like, "what the hell is that." And there was no noise.

Investigator 1: If you were asked how big it was, if you had any way of comparing it, say, you know how when you look up at a full moon and you see the full moon in the sky, you have a reasonable idea of how big that is; compared to the full moon, how big do you think that thing was?

Witness 3: From where we were, I would say at least four to five car lengths this way. And then maybe two stacked up, in the middle and then they kind of went down at an angle. Almost looked like a cigar.

Investigator 1: Were there any lights on the cigar shape itself, or was there anything that you noticed beyond the shape of the cigar?

Witness 3: Just the lights. The one that came out of the middle, and then the ones that came out each corner.

Investigator 1: What color were those lights?

Witness 3: You see this light here, like up on a street light there, are really, really, bright, bright orange.

Investigator 1: Bright orange, like almost like neon?

Witness 3: Yes. Almost like this would look like in this area.

Investigator 2: Like the amber's on your car?

Witness 3: Yeah. Exactly like that.

Investigator 1: Now, you said that you were with, how many people did you say you were with?

Witness 3: There was four of us altogether. Me, my wife, the neighbors son across the street, and my wife's friend.

Investigator 1: Now, you were in your car, and you stopped your car to look at this?

Witness 3: Yes.

Investigator 1: Then, did you get out of your car?

Witness 3: No. We were in my truck.

Investigator 1: How long did you look at it for?

Witness 3: Maybe about a minute, or a minute and a half. And then I started the truck up and I flashed the lights to see if anything would flash back. And nothing. So I thought, well lets try and get down into here and get up on top. Let's get a better look. And just that little ways, and I was moving it too. And we got up to the top and we looked back down, and there was nothing. But when we looked back down, and I had my lights down there it was like a gray, a fog that was left there. But it all kind of all moving to that direction. So I thought, wow, from the fog moving that direction, I assumed it took off that way.

Investigator 1: So you were right on the hill looking down?

Witness 3: We were down looking up at it then when it went down around and came up on top we came down this way so we were up on top of the angle from the east. And that's when it took off.

Investigator 1: So, you saw the cloud actually below where you were looking? It was below you?

Witness 3: Uh-huh.

Investigator 1: Can you describe that cloud?

Witness 3: It was almost like the stuff that they have at the discos. You know that smoke that comes out. And it kind of hangs around at the bottom. It had to be heavier than air. It was cold that night too. It was heavier than the air because it went down to the bottom.

Investigator 1: What color was the cloud?

Witness 3: It looked like almost like smoke-ish, gray.

Investigator 1: Do you have any idea of how close to the ground it was?

Witness 3: To me, from where we were at it looked like it was on the ground.

Investigator 1: So from your vantage point, you were looking down at this cloud and it seemed like it was close to the ground.

Witness 3: Uh-huh.

Investigator 1: Do you have any idea what kind of area the cloud covered?

Witness 3: I would say maybe from about here to across the street.

Investigator 1: So that would be from here, would be like thirty yards, maybe a hundred feet to slightly more, maybe one hundred and twenty feet. Now you said the cloud looked like it was moving?

Witness 3: Yeah. Southeast. That's why I assumed the aircraft, whatever it was, took off that way. But when we got around that corner, it didn't take us very much time to get around that corner and up on top to look down. Maybe twenty-five to thirty seconds at the most. We were moving it pretty good.

Investigator 1: And you didn't see any evidence of what you had seen up on top at that stage except the cloud?

Witness 3: Yeah, but it was still bright though. That was another thing too. It was, the area was so bright, but I was so much into looking down into where it just was that I couldn't see nothing. But it was so bright that you could see the trees that were at angles coming across the road on account of the shadows that bright.

Investigator 1: So, where was the light coming from then?

Witness 3: I don't know. All I seen and after that it was gone.

Investigator 1: So, when you first looked down at the area, then, it was bright enough for you to see the trees and all of that at the same time that the cloud was there. Is that correct?

Witness 3: While we were looking down, I could see the cloud and everything down here and they were kind of sucking off that way. But since it was heavier it might have been cause it was rolling down that way. That's why I thought the aircraft took off that way. Because it was like, still. There was no air moving, no wind, nothing at all that night. It just started moving off. And I looked down and thought, "where the hell did it do?" And then you could just see like bright light cause it cast the trees all the way across the road where we were at. It just lit everything up. It was just super, super bright.

Investigator 1: So, after the cloud disappeared, the area became illuminated?

Witness 3: Uh-huh. It was just like a flash.

Investigator 1: Did that illumination, was it in the sky also?

Witness 3: It had to be in the sky, because where I was at, the truck was parked like this, and I was looking down, so it had to be up here, because I didn't see any light. And I was sitting forward looking like, "where the hell is it?" And it cast a big shadow across us. But there was other people up there a little bit further, up at ***** Lake. When I asked them if they saw anything they said they didn't see nothing. And it ain't that far from where we were to ***** Lake.

Investigator 1: How far do you think?

Witness 3: About a mile.

Investigator 3: Where is this place located from here?

Witness 3: It's right up the mountain. Northeast of here. About four or five miles.

Investigator 3: Did you see anything else come out of the aircraft?

Witness 3: To me it looked like there was even smaller ones in the back. But I could be sure.

Investigator 1: Smaller what?

Witness 3: Smaller little cigar shaped, little deals in the back. The one that we saw was right here. But in the back you could almost see like there was other ones.

Investigator 1: So it was behind this object that you saw the smaller ones?

Witness 3: Yeah. But I can't be for certain that's what they were. But I definitely saw the bigger one but it looked like there was smaller ones in the back.

Investigator 3: How many?

Witness 3: Maybe two or three. Cause there was other, you know the light that I'm describing that came out of the one was real bright. It was almost like a cone shape. But there was a couple more that were just as bright, like that, farther behind, but I could see were the other four came out on this one like at angles. And this one came out in a cone shape. But then I seen one over here and then another one right in here.

Investigator 2: Now, for clarification, which way were you looking when you saw it?

Witness 3: Up north.

Investigator 2: So it was north of you when you saw it?

Witness 3: Yeah. We were up. It was sitting right up here. The light was coming down and it had the four coming off at angles. And then there was almost like another one that was right underneath it and another one right over here to the right of it.

Investigator 1: So there were possible three?

Witness 3: Yeah. But I can't verify those other two but I know I definitely saw the big one.

Investigator 1: Did you get the impression the other two objects were smaller?

Witness 3: Yeah. Either that or they were farther away.

Investigator 1: And when you went up to the top, there was only one cloud. When you were looking down from where your truck was pointing down, was the cloud roughly in the same spot as where the craft had been?

Witness 3: Yeah. Pretty much.

Investigator 3: So you got to within two hundred yards, you say, from it?

Witness 3: Uh-huh.

Investigator 2: What color was the craft itself?

Witness 3: Dark gray colored. I couldn't really see, but it was more and more just like a silhouette.

Investigator 1: Did you see any objects sticking out from either end?

Witness 3: No. Nothing. Just like a cigar. It was flat on the bottom, and rounded on top. It freaked me and my wife out. My wife has never seen anything like that before. She was always real skeptical as far as anything else, seeing anything.

Investigator 1: Just to confirm. It was stationary when you were looking at it. There was no movement at all.

Witness 3: No movement at all.

Investigator 2: So each time you actually saw the object itself, it had a backdrop of sky?

Witness 3: Yeah.

Investigator 2: Not terrain?

Witness 3: No.

Investigator 2: But then later when you saw the cloud it had a backdrop of terrain?

Witness 3: Yeah.

Investigator 2: Not sky?

Witness 3: No. We were looking out of the canyon and then when we went around to the top we were looking back down.

Investigator 1: You said you flashed your headlights at it. Was that just before you took off to go to the top?

Witness 3: Yeah. I flashed them a couple of times to see if this whatever it was, was shinny and could see it a little better, but nothing.

Investigator 1: It didn't effect the movement of this thing? It just stayed where it was?

Witness 3: Yeah. Pretty much. And then we went around the corner from right here till we got up on top we lost sight of it. All we could see was just the cloud and everything on the bottom. I was driving and when I asked my wife about last night she saw something totally different than I saw.

Investigator 1: What did she see?

Witness 3: She saw it was moving. Like turning. I said I didn't see that. She said you have to tell them.

Investigator 1: This was the same object? She thought it was turning?

Witness 3: Yes.

Investigator 1: Away from her?

Witness 3: I don't know. I didn't get that. I was like, "Oh, really. Well you're going to have to tell them. Cause I never seen that."

(See Attachment 2 for drawing of UFO by Witness 3).

At this time, Investigator 1 asked Witness 3 to describe any other UFO sightings that he had experienced. Witness 3 described an incident that occurred in October or November of 1998.

Witness 3: It was about three or four o'clock in the morning. It was like one of those bright streetlights. There was maybe three or four of them. But they were moving. You could see that. They were just moving around. I sat there, listening, listening, nothing. I got my binoculars out and was watching them for a long time. About ten minutes. Then I started getting freaked out so I just jumped in my unit and blazed into Gallup. Cause then I was thinking, "damn, my radio's not going to work, my units not going to work. I don't want to be stuck out here by myself. They don't know where I'm at."

Investigator 1: How big do you think these objects were?

Witness 3: They were a long ways away.

Investigator 2: And it was only lights that you saw?

Witness 3: Yeah. Cause it was pitch black.

Investigator 1: Ok. You describe those movements as ...were they fast movements?

Witness 3: Yeah. Real quick.

Investigator 1: Describe the difference between that and the way a helicopter or an airplane moves?

Witness 3: There ain't no helicopter that moves this fast. Just real quick, with angles. One second it's here and then it's over here. Kind of like fireflies in the sky.

Investigator 1: And they were all the same color orange?

Witness 3: Uh-huh.

Investigator 1: Did you think they were four different objects or they were one object?

Witness 3: No, they were different.

Investigator 1: So they were moving at different angles?

Witness 3: Different angles, different, they were all moving at the same time. One would come up towards me and the other would shoot back. Up towards me at an angle and then back down. Just whatever angle you could possible think of.

Investigator 3: How far away were you?

Witness 3: I don't know. It's kind of hard to describe. Maybe about a half a mile.

Investigator 1: Again, the angle of the sky, if you were raising your hand 90 degrees...?

Witness 3: About 45 degrees.

Investigator 1: So you were inside your vehicle. Had you stopped your vehicle?

Witness 3: Uh-huh.

Investigator 1: Did you roll down your windows at all?

Witness 3: I was going southbound on ***, so that left me sitting this way watching them out my driver's side window with my binoculars.

Investigator 1: Did you hear any noise?

Witness 3: No.

Investigator 1: So they were still there when you decided to head back to Gallup? They were still in the sky?

Witness 3: Yes.

Investigator 1: Did they ever remain still? Did they ever hover?

Witness 3: Just for a little while. And then they'd move again. They never stayed there for more than five seconds.

Investigator 1: Would you have any estimate of the kind of distance they were covering each time they moved?

Witness 3: It was all at different distances cause one would move up like this...like there was one particular one that wouldn't move very far. It was staying right in the middle, but the other ones would move way out here then shoot way across and way up in the air and come back down. That was different ones, but there was that one particular one that stayed in the middle and didn't go very far.

Investigator 1: Was that in anyway different from the other ones? Did it look different?

Witness 3: No, it was the same.

Investigator 3: What kind of a night was this? Was it cloudy, was it clear? Can you remember if the moon was out?

Witness 3: No, the moon wasn't out.

Investigator 1: Could you see stars?

Witness 3: Yeah, I could see stars because right here was the edge of a cliff right here, you could see the base of the cliff right here, and they were about right here.

Investigator 1: Before you left, did you notice any effect on your car at all? I mean did you have your radio on, your police scanner?

Witness 3: Yes, I had them on.

Investigator 1: Was there any effect on that?

Witness 3: No.

Investigator 1: No static or anything like that?

Witness 3: No. And just to make sure that something like that wasn't going on, every once in a while I kept reaching over there and keying my mike and seeing if I was getting a response back. The dispatcher would say, "whoever is keying your mike your coming in very 10-1." Then I knew they could still hear me. I was still keeping my eye on them because I always heard different things, that electronics start going crazy.

Investigator 1: Did you call in this to your dispatcher?

Witness 3: No. they'd think I was crazy if I did that. So I never told anybody about this either.

Investigator 3: I want to ask you one more thing about October 2nd. At the beginning of the interview you mentioned you were probably in Saudi Arabia?

Witness 3: Yeah. I was in Saudi Arabia.

Investigator 3: Did you see a lot of rockets fired?
Witness 3: Yes.
Investigator 3: Did this incident look like a rocket like you witnessed in Saudi Arabia?
Witness 3: The brightness of the rocket taking off just from the fire itself, it was brighter than that. That's the only thing I can compare it to. We were about from here to the school when the rockets were taking off, the patriots. It was really bright. But this was no damn rocket.
Investigator 2: What did you do in Saudi Arabia?
Witness 3: *****

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Reported by Investigator 2:

On 10-20-99, upon returning home after our investigative trip to New Mexico, my wife told me that our son, had seen a launch earlier in the month. I asked him to tell me what he had seen. He said that sometime in the first week of October, he and a friend were driving west on a street in Las Vegas, (NFD), when they saw a missile behind the Charleston Mountain area. He said he could actually see the missile, as well as its bright exhaust. At one point he said he could see two parts drop away from the main missile, presumably 1st and 2nd stages of the rocket. He said this was all visible for a few seconds, then the missile and plume faded from sight to be replaced by a glowing cloud of various colors. I found it hard to believe that he could actually see the missile itself, but another source told me that he once witnessed a missile launch from several hundred miles away and was able to see the actual rocket.

On 10-21-99, I read a printout of an Associated Press news article on the internet concerning the October 2, 1999, missile launch at Vandenberg AFB. It read as follows:

Jennifer Canaff of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization has told the Gallup Independent that a missile launched from Vandenberg AFB on the California coast coincided with the time a UFO sighting was reported by Navajo tribal officials and others, at 8 P.M. Oct 2nd. It was a historic launch from Vandenberg—the first successful intercept of a ballistic missile warhead, Canaff said. A Minuteman 2 missile was the target. And before its warhead re-entered Earth's atmosphere, an interceptor rocket destroyed the Minuteman over the Pacific Ocean. Vandenberg officials say they're told the launch was seen by people as far away as Iowa.

Interview:

On 10-21-99, I called a source at Vandenberg AFB, California. The source verified information in the previously mentioned article. I asked the source some additional questions about the launch:

Investigator 2: What time did the launch occur?
Source: 7:01 PM, Pacific Time.
Investigator 2: What would the launch look like from a long distance, say several hundred miles?
Source: There is no consistent visual effect. Different rockets use different fuels. Each exhausted fuel can have it's own diverse effect on the visual spectrum. There is one effect, called the "Twilight Effect," which sometimes occurs when a missile is launched one hour before or after sunset, or one hour before or after sunrise. This is caused when the missile and it's exhaust, having reached an altitude higher than the shadow of evening or night, is lighted by the sun's rays. The combination of temperature, altitude, winds, sunlight, and fuel vapors can create a visible show for those observers in areas where full or partial night has fallen. The observers are watching from a darkened area, vapors being lighted high in the atmosphere by direct sunlight, creating a prism effect in some cases. But the effects can never be predicted because of so many natural and man-made variables.

Investigator 2: What type of fuel did the Minuteman missile use?

Source: A solid fuel.

Investigator 2: Almost every witness we interviewed in New Mexico described a glowing mist or cloud appearing as the bright light faded. My son here in Las Vegas attests to seeing that also. What is the cause of that mist or cloud?

Source: Without going into great detail, when the missile reaches 100,000 feet, the lack of air and pressure causes the plume to spread out very quickly creating a huge cloud. The color and glowing effect are just a continuation of the twilight effect mentioned earlier. These effects only last until the vapors dissipate or the rotation of the earth causes the vapors to be enveloped by the approaching night.

Investigator 2: My son said he could see the actual rocket as well as stages separating. We're in Las Vegas. Is it possible that he could see these things?

Source: Yes.

Interview:

On 10-27-99, I called the Witness 3 residence and spoke to Mrs. Witness 3. She said that her husband was not at home. Mrs. Witness 3 was pressed for time but agreed to answer a few questions:

Investigator 2: Concerning the object you and your husband saw, did you get the impression it was a solid object or a light form only?

Mrs. Witness 3: It was a light.

Investigator 2: How far away was the light from you?

Mrs. Witness 3: About 1/4 of a mile.

Investigator 2: How many lights did you see?

Mrs. Witness 3: Just one bright light. But after a little while it seemed to get wider.

Investigator 2: Did the light appear to move?

Mrs. Witness 3: No. I think it was stationary.

Investigator 2: Was there any noise?

Mrs. Witness 3: No.

Investigator 2: Your husband said there was a mist. Did you see that?

Mrs. Witness 3: Yes. It was very big.

Investigator 2: Was the mist near the ground, or was it in the sky?

Mrs. Witness 3: It was in the sky.

Investigator 2: Can you describe it for me?

Mrs. Witness 3: I think it was gassy, you know, made of gas. It was glowing by itself. It was yellowish at first, but then it turned bluish before it faded away.

Investigator 2: Did you ever see any mist or cloud of dust near the ground?

Mrs. Witness 3: No, nothing like that.

Re-Interview:

On 10-28-99, Investigator 5 called Witness 3 at my request to clarify some confusing points in his testimony of 10-20-99. During this telephonic interview, Investigator 5 said that Witness 3 was a little less than cooperative, and also did not want the conversation recorded. The following is directly from Investigator 5's memorandum:

"I asked him to clarify the direction of his sighting, specifically requesting him to tell me where he was, and where the lights seemed to be. He insisted that the lights were north/northwest of him. I told him I was looking at a map of New Mexico and asked him then where he had been. He directed me from Gallup, north on **** to *****, then west on an unidentified road. He said that's where ***** Mountain is, about a mile from the junction of these two roads, northwest of*****. And from where he was, at*****, the light was north/northwest of him.

When I asked him about this mist and its location, he said he had been in the canyon, then drove up and out, in a horseshoe or J-shape, to the top of the plateau, and looked back down into the canyon which goes far beyond where he had been, and there observed the mist. I asked him again if he saw the mist where he had just been, and he said the mist was in the canyon, but not exactly where he had been. I asked if perhaps what he saw was dust from his vehicle as he drove out of the canyon, and he said no-the mist was in a part of the canyon where there are no roads, and not where he had just driven.

This canyon has "fingers" of valleys, then it opens into another canyon. This is where he saw the mist. There are cliffs on the other side of the canyon from where he was."

On 10-29-99, at 0950 hrs, Investigator 2 spoke to Witness 3. He could add nothing to what he already reported. He said he would try and get hold of a topographical map of the area of his sighting and send it to us with annotations concerning his experience. If Witness 3 sends the map, it will be attachment 8.

More eyewitnesses are being interviewed and this report will be added to when additional data becomes available.