

THE REVIEW

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UFOs hit close to home

EMERALD L. CHRISTOPHER

Staff Reporter

While Delaware may be the home of some unusual life forms, according to the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, aliens are not among them.

Carl Feindt is assistant state director in Delaware for MUFON, a non-profit organization that investigates UFOs.

"It's really slow here," Feindt says. "There's nothing spectacular that happens in Delaware."

People from around the country volunteer as directors to investigate sightings in the state where they live, he says.

Feindt says that despite the many organizations and volunteers devoted to investigating UFOs, there are three basic questions that remain unanswered: where they come from, how they operate and why they are here.

"Remember, we can only investigate what's reported. There might be more in Delaware than we think."

Ralph Flegal, state director of MUFON for Delaware, says he has only investigated seven reports in Delaware. Of those seven reports, he says, five were determined to be planes or lights.

"All possibilities were investigated for the other two," he says. "However, we could not identify exactly what the witness saw."

Flegal originally worked for the government, but has since retired. While working for the government, he says, he was investigating UFO sightings and reported his findings to the Air Force.

The Air Force, he says, claimed that Flegal's report of a UFO could be an explained aircraft.

"I realized then, that there was more to it than what the Air Force was saying."

This instance prompted Flegal to further investigate where UFOs come from. Most likely, he says, UFOs travel to Earth from beyond the galaxy and the solar system.

"Because our planet is young they come out of curiosity," Flegal says. "They have already solved the basic concepts of physics that we have yet to solve."

He says the beings in UFOs are friendly.

"We are a hostile nation, whereas they are a very peaceful people," Flegal says. "In 15 years, I have never heard of a hostile incident."

John Schuessler, international director and founding member of MUFON says he started the organization in 1969 after a branch of the Air Force known as Project Blue Book closed. Project Blue Book was the original organization the reportings of sightings.

MUFON was established to provide a place for people to report sightings and, he says, currently it has approximately 3,000 volunteers worldwide.

This year, there have been more than 2,000 sightings reported to MUFON's website around the world, Schuessler says.

"We have about 450 resource specialists to help identify things, as well as video and photo analysts," he says.

MUFON does not work for the government, Schuessler says.

"We help the government when they need it," he says, "but if we were to work for them, we would have to follow their rules and regulations."

Schuessler says if something happens to those that witness a UFO, it's not done on purpose.

He describes an incident, known as the Cash-Lendrum Incident, which involved a UFO on Dec. 29, 1980, in Texas.

Three people in a car encountered a UFO on some back roads, he says. The driver was forced to stop the car

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when a UFO appeared hovering in the middle of the road.

A husband, wife and their child were severely burned from radiation and the heat generated by the UFO, he says.

The UFO did not harm the family on purpose, Schuessler says.

They were simply at the wrong place at the wrong time.

However, Feindt says, there are incidents when investigators are not at the right place at the right time.

Feindt gave this account of an incident that occurred in 1952:

On two separate weekends, UFOs flew over Washington, D.C. and Delaware and the UFOs were recognized on multiple radar screens.

Andrews Air Force Base was the primary air force base to protect the nation at that time. However, they were repaving their runway and jets were unable to take off. Men from the New Castle Air Force Base were called in. Whenever the jets arrived at the scene, the UFOs would unexplainably disappear and would reappear when the jets left the scene.

It was almost as if the UFOs knew the jets were there.

Despite their lifelong dedication to the study of UFOs, Feindt, Flegal and Schuessler all say they have yet to actually encounter a UFO.

"As a result of all my readings over the years, I still believe they exist," Schuessler says.

Despite the fact that many reported sightings end up being hoaxes, he says, more often than not, the sightings are real.



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