

# NICAP

## & the website archive

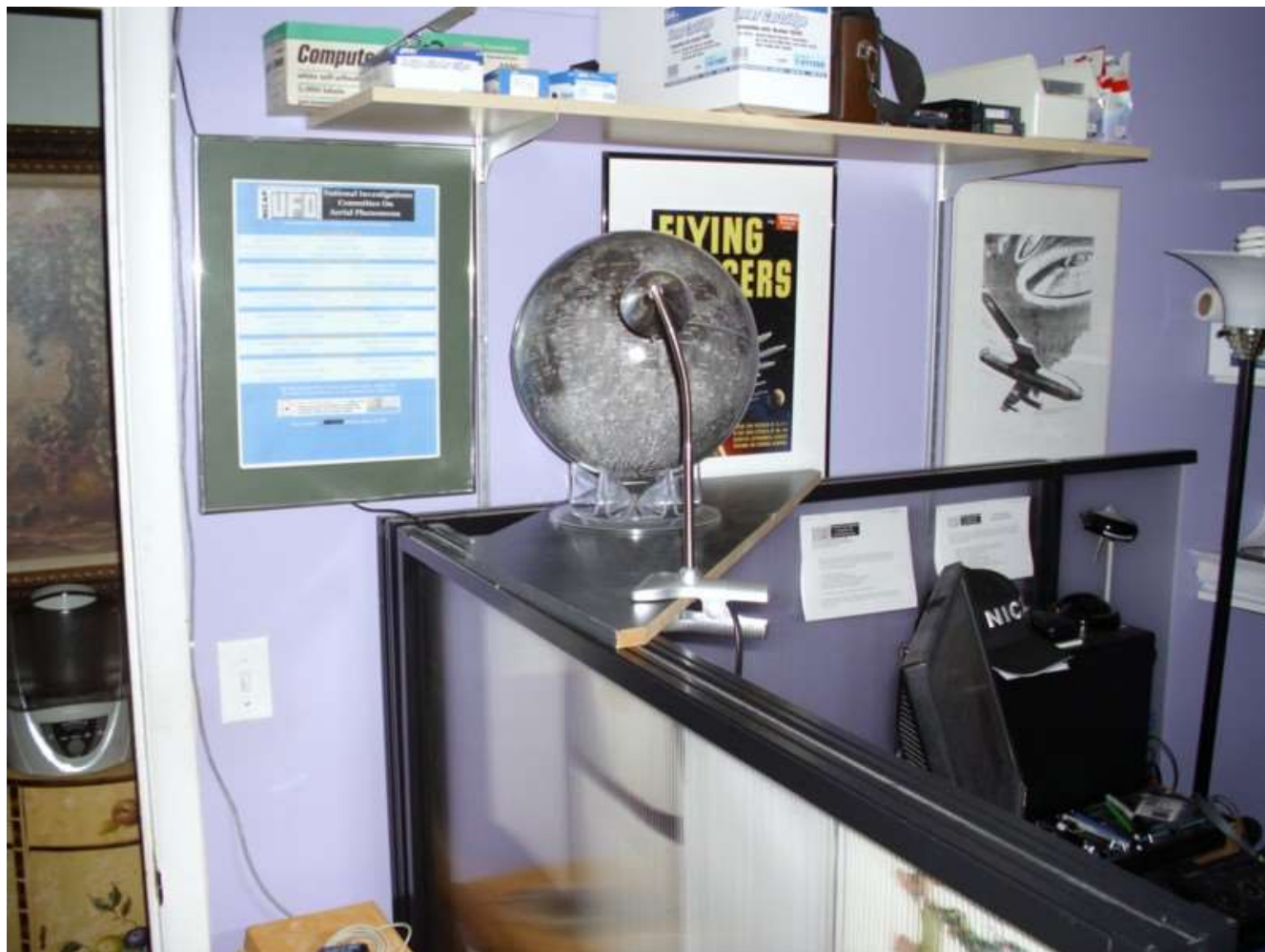
by fran ridge



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On December 15, 1997 I launched a major UFO project. A lot went into the preparation and planning, but thanks to two great organizations, APRO & NICAP, a considerable amount of work had already been done. With the advent of the computer and internet, and the amazing tool of email, I established an investigation and research team I call the A-Team (Ref. 1) . It was comprised of many UFO experts, 34 at present, some now deceased. My main staff, our "trio", was composed of two other work horses, Jean Waskiewicz and Dan Wilson. Jean was a master material archivist, a computer and internet expert, and there would have been no NICAP archive without her. Dan was a Project Blue Book researcher and his work inspired the best documentation on the site. Both were also members of my Nuclear Connection Project. We had computers, printers, flatbed scanners, and access to Project Blue Book files. I don't think the FBI or the CIA had a better set-up for getting to the bottom of the UFO issue.

While giving credit where credit is due I must begin with the awesome files of two major organizations, neither of which was able to enjoy and benefit from the computer age. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) was a UFO research group started in January 1952 by Jim and Coral Lorenzen, of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The group was based in Tucson, Arizona after 1960. APRO had many state branches, it remained active until late 1988. NICAP, was based in Washington DC, began in 1956 with T. Townsend Brown, but more notably Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, then Richard Harris Hall. It was active into the 1980's as well. Once our archive site was established we quickly won over NICAP's Richard Hall who was a major contributor up until his death in 2009.



A lot of what you see and hear on the many TV shows these days is inspired and documented by the NICAP site which I created. Most of which was not credited of course. Every subject or UFO report of the early years that had been written or talked about had to be categorized and re-documented. Most of the cases I knew about from the writings of Maj. Donald Keyhoe and Richard Hall, and especially Captain Edward J. Ruppelt were re-examined. We went to the source, most of the time the Project Blue Book files, to see if what we had read earlier was the truth, then copied those files and linked to them from the case directories I created, giving credit each time to the source

and the researcher. The site has over 2200 incidents from the U. S. Force Project Blue Book files alone, 1500 more than the original UNKNOWNS, all documented by researcher, A-Team member, Brad Sparks.

Very early in the project I had to develop a filing plan before things got out of hand. My work as state director for MUFON in the 1980's helped in that area and I had created some of ideas for investigation forms attached to UFO reports as early as 1970. Ray Fowler and I both created forms for special evidence, photo cases, E-M cases, nuclear radiation incidents. MUFON adopted them for investigation and I created several others so that there were eventually 11 total. I then used those same numbers for categorization. I put them in reverse order here because it just so happens that the case value was higher.

- Category 11 - Over 3,000 sightings from aircraft by Dr. Richard Haines, over 240 cases of which are listed on the NICAP site with the AVCAT Project. To see the actual breakdown by month see:

[http://www.nicap.org/avcat\\_brief.htm](http://www.nicap.org/avcat_brief.htm)

- \* Category 10 - Over 200 cases involving a nuclear connection, several radiation injury cases, many incidents from Robert Hastings files.

- \* Category 9 - With the RADCAT Project we produced over 460 radar case directories along with supporting documents from the Blue Book files. To see the actual breakdown and cases filed, see this report:

[http://www.nicap.org/radcat\\_brief.htm](http://www.nicap.org/radcat_brief.htm)

- \* Category 8 - Photographic Evidence. Over 13,000 cases catalogued by Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos.

- \* Category 7 - Humanoid Cases (hundreds), including many abduction reports by David Webb.

- \* Category 6 - Over 5600 Physical Trace cases documented, 4104 involving UFO visual sightings (Mark Rodeghier, CUFOS).

- \* Category 5 - Medical Cases. Being compiled.

- \* Category 4 - Over a hundred cases of UFO sightings involving animal reactions on the NICAP site alone by Joan Woodward. Those looking for more can use our MUFON link on the home page and do a search for this category or any other type of UAP report.

- \* Category 3 - E-M Effects. Over 500 cases associated with UFO sightings (Mark Rodeghier, CUFOS). 185 E-M cases documented involving UFOs near aircraft (Dr. Richard Haines). 250 listed on the NICAP site. 144 compass needle cases listed by Eric Herr.

- \* Category 2 - Hundreds, if not thousands, of compelling close encounters by credible observers whose testimony in court would be taken at face value.

\* Category 1 - The best of that group (which probably total in the millions of reports), of distant encounters, nighttime objects (Nocturnal Lights) or Daylight Objects are represented.



When a key case or hot topic would be put before the team I would create a case directory and we re-opened the case. Each directory had a category or NICAP case logos (Ref 2) I created all of those as well.

A good sample of case directories is the famous Washington National Sightings of July 19/20 and July 26/27, 1952 (Ref. 3). These were category 9's (radar cases), and my main consultants were Dr. James E. McDonald, Barry Greenwood and Dan Wilson. A lot of the documents on that directory that were found in the Blue Book files had developed bad links, and later Barry Greenwood provided pdf files so that we would not lose them again. The important thing in these cases that had been written about decades before, was transparency. Most of the famous cases never lost any value, some turned out to be better than originally described. Explained cases or hoaxes were so-labelled. The best way to access cases on the NICAP site is by going to the chrono for that year. If the entry has a blue hyperlink you are in luck - there is a directory and that dir has (or should have in most cases) links to actual documents or articles, etc.

A more recent re-investigation was the Mantell case. All of us had written that one off a long time ago, but a local TV station insisted on an interview in 2006 and for some reason had picked the sensational incident at Fort Knox, near Louisville, Kentucky where a pilot was killed chasing a UFO in January of 1948. The only way I would do the interview was to show WFIE how we investigated a case, and hoping they would accept our conclusion. But within a few months we were astonished to find we had been wrong all along and had official documents to prove it. The directory has a hyperlink to our complete 200-page report.  
[https://www.nicap.org/480107fortknox\\_dir.htm](https://www.nicap.org/480107fortknox_dir.htm)

Other important NICAP pages deal with subject matter like the famous "Chop Clearance Letter" (Ref. 4). Albert M. Chop was the head of the Air Force Press Desk during famous incidents of the early 50's and he was authorized by the Air Force to provide 42 formerly-classified reports to Maj. Donald Keyhoe. Using this checklist we were able to get the actual reports rather than the narratives Keyhoe provided in his books.

We were able to do the same thing with the famous TOP SECRET "Estimate of the Situation" (Ref. 5) Major Dewey Fournet was liaison officer between Projects Grudge/Blue Book and the Pentagon in 1952. (Ruppelt told us that Dewey got hot on the subject right away and helped Blue Book a great deal in getting things straightened out in the Pentagon. His job was just supposed to be part time, but within a matter of months he was working on it full time. Fournet was the most confirmed believer Ruppelt had run into in the Pentagon. He had access to all of their reports, read them all over very carefully, and was absolutely convinced. His most notable effort was the famous "motion study" (Ref. 6) that "proved" the UFOs operated under intelligent control. (In 1979 interviews with Brad Sparks, Col. William A. Adams and Col. Weldon H. Smith said that in Jan 1953 Smith signed Fournet's study and sent it to Adams who also signed and approved Fournet's study concluding that UFO's were extraterrestrial. Col. Adams said he sent the study up the chain of command, to the Deputy Director for Estimates, Col. Jack Morrow, who also signed and approved the study and sent it to the D/I, Maj. Gen. John A. Samford. This study was presented to the Robertson Panel (CIA) in January of 1953 and was rejected. After being released from active duty from the Air Force, Fournet became a member of NICAP's original Board of Governors. With his notes we were able to basically reconstruct the EOTS.

It has been 27 years since I set up and began coordinating work on the NICAP archive site. The A-Team is still in-place and there are so many other benefits to the use of the NICAP site. Some really educational sections are the bios, WHO WAS and WHO'S WHO folders. But the best thing to do is go to the site

<https://www.nicap.org/>

and bookmark it. You'll be glad you did.

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Referenc

Ref. 1

<https://www.nicap.org/a-team.htm>

Ref. 2

<https://www.nicap.org/CATEGORIES/NICAPcaselogos.htm>

Ref. 3

[https://www.nicap.org/520719wns\\_dir.htm](https://www.nicap.org/520719wns_dir.htm)

Ref.4

<https://www.nicap.org/chop.htm>

Ref. 5

[https://www.nicap.org/reports/eots\\_ufois.htm](https://www.nicap.org/reports/eots_ufois.htm)

Ref. 6

[https://www.nicap.org/motionstudy/motionstudy\\_ufois.htm](https://www.nicap.org/motionstudy/motionstudy_ufois.htm)

Various Ridge papers

<https://www.nicap.org/papers/ridge/>

Ridge Investigations

<https://www.nicap.org/Ridge-Investigations/>

Books on Amazon

Go to Fran Ridge UFO Books