

Report from the Contact Underground: Human Initiated Contact, The Consciousness Connection and the Virtual Experience Model ¹

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INTRODUCTION

Nearly three decades ago, one might say that I began to “walk on the wild side.” I previously had a conventional middle-class existence: a professional job, wife, children, and a mortgage to pay. Seemingly by chance, I picked up a book on UFOs. Prior, I had never given the subject any serious thought. At age 41 for no apparent reason, I suddenly found the topic fascinating. After reading about a dozen books on the subject, I got involved with some contactees. These are people that believe that they are in contact or communication with the non-human intelligence (NHI) responsible for Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs). For five years starting in 1992, I engaged in fieldwork at remote locations with teams of investigators. To my initial surprise and delight, anomalous nocturnal lights and what appeared to be bizarre structured craft actually showed up in response to our efforts to attract flying saucers. These activities were part of a human initiated contact program called the Close Encounters of the Fifth Kind Initiative (CE-5 I). It was organized by The Center for the Study of ET Intelligence (CSETI).¹ In addition to sightings, our contact teams also experienced missing time episodes, some rudimentary telepathy and other phenomena commonly labelled “paranormal.”

I coined the term “Contact Underground” to designate those groups that are staging what I call Human Initiated Contact Events (HICE) a.k.a. Close Encounters of the Fifth Kind (CE-5s). In Latin American, the “underground” is represented by Rama, a contactee network established in Peru in 1974.² They are now known as Rahma. In mostly English-speaking countries, the “CE-5ers.” carry out the work of the Contact Underground as well. Why the term “underground”? An explanation requires a brief analysis of the global contact situation.

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Flying Saucers Threaten All Terrestrial Elites

In my judgement, the flying saucer phenomenon threatens all terrestrial power: military, economic and political, but not necessarily our planet's people. Thus, until recently, an impenetrable wall of government secrecy concerning the phenomenon has been in effect. This has been called the "UFO truth embargo."³ This worldwide coverup should be understood as the result of planetary elites trying to maintain their hegemony. Why are flying saucers threatening to our planet's wealthiest and most powerful people? Here are just a few reasons:

1. They can fly circles around our militaries' top performance jet fighters.⁴ This shows that air forces are unable to "secure our airspace" from unwarranted intrusions. Thus, in this arena, our top military brass are at risk of being seen as either incompetent, impotent or both.

2. UAPs threaten economic elites. Oil and gas corporations command the largest sector of our world economy. Flying saucers are clearly not using fossil fuels. If, under conditions of world peace, the secrets of "alien craft" propulsion systems could be safely downloaded into our technological culture, we could perhaps solve the problem of global warming. This however would end the profits from what has been called the "empire of oil."⁵

3. And finally, we have the political class. United States Presidents as Commanders in Chief are empowered by the Constitution to establish and control all secrecy classifications. These regulations are at the core of the flying saucer coverup. For eight decades, the Executive Branch of the Federal Government has lied about the phenomenon. Revealing the truth would be a great source of embarrassment for all US Presidents, past and present.⁶ To carry out this secrecy regimen, a *de facto* government and corporate policy of ridicule and denial has been in effect. The following are merely some of the consequences of this program:

a. Commercial pilots have been removed from active duty and threatened with firing for reporting flying saucer sightings.^{7,8}

b. Academic scientists face the loss of the respect from their colleagues for publicly expressing an interest in this subject.⁹

c. For decades, mainstream media has systematically refused to do its job of honestly and comprehensively reporting the very important news that Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs) are real.¹⁰ This started to change in December of 2017 when major newspapers reported Navy pilots' encounters with UAPs during the previous thirteen years.^{11,12,13}

d. And most importantly, countless contact experiencers have been denied the support of their family, friends and co-workers when they have sightings and other kinds of contact experiences. This can be very troubling as I know from personal experience. Those powerful forces responsible for the coverup owe an apology to those who have been adversely affected by the de facto program of ridicule and denial. Making amends understandably would be embarrassing for both individuals and institutions and is another reason for the continuing coverup.

All these aspects of the flying saucer scene make proactively going out to engage UAP intelligences not a safe endeavor. This is especially so because the high strangeness of these encounters ultimately threatens the larger society's consensus reality. As a result, in many communities, contact activists must keep their participation in staging Human Initiated Contact Experiences (HICE) confidential. Thus, the term "contact underground" in my view is appropriate.

From 1992 to 1998 by participating in dozens of field investigations, I was able to obtain a wealth of information about the consciousness (mental) links between our contact teams and the intelligence associated with flying saucers. Most astonishing was that UAP intelligence, from the beginning of my volunteer contact work, staged sightings strongly suggesting that at times we were not observing physical objects, but rather illusory visual displays. From my personal investigations, as well as from researching the flying saucer literature, I was able to develop a model describing how illusory mechanisms of contact are employed by the NHI responsible for flying saucers. I call this new paradigm for UAP research "The Virtual Experience Model" (VEM).

As part of this introduction, a further discussion of contactees is warranted. Contactees became a prominent part of the flying saucer scene in the 1950s.¹⁴ In my judgment, the term "contactee" is in many ways outdated and inappropriate when it comes to those engaging in Human Initiated Contact Events (HICE). "Contactee" is somewhat pejorative because in my view so much attention in the past has been on contactee cults. For over 50 years, contactees have been forcefully criticized by the self-declared more "scientific" ufologists. They have strived to appear more respectable than the contactees by claiming that their investigations are science-based. Important groups like the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) with thousands of members have been called the "nuts and bolts" wing of ufology. This is because they have focused on that "hardware" as described in sighting reports. I question however the amount of "respectability" achieved when for decades the entire topic has been deliberately marginalized by the federal government, the mass media and the scientific establishment.

Although contactee new religions have been a consistent part of the flying saucer landscape, clearly not all contactees and their supporters are part of such cults. Prominent contactees, until the 1970s, promoted their individual contact experiences as the focus of their educational programs. With the advent of Rama in 1974 and the CE-5 Initiative in the 1990s, contactees have engaged UAP intelligence in fieldwork operations. In effect, some experiencers that believe they are in contact with UFO intelligence have gone from being “contactees” to become “contact workers.”

It is important to note that words with “ee” endings suggest a passive role in English, as in “employee” or “payee.” The “er” or “or” endings suggest a more active role as in “worker”, “soldier”, and “mentor.” For those that have ever joined a contact team, or have carried out contact protocols on their own, reaching out to the intelligence behind the UFO phenomenon can involve much mental, physical and most importantly spiritual work. Thus, in my judgment, the designation “contact worker” is superior to the label “contactee.”

In this paper I focus on both the consciousness connection between experiencers and UAP intelligences and what I have described as “Virtual Sightings.” This mechanism of contact is designated as a “Virtual Experience of the First Kind, or (VE-1) The other types of illusionary mechanisms, Virtual Experiences of the Second and Third Kinds are only briefly outlined below. To explain the genesis of this theory I have done the following:

1. Relate some of the highlights of my five-year involvement with the network of contact activists that I call the “Contact Underground.” I describe how a conscious link between our teams and the intelligence responsible for the phenomenon was a major aspect of the work.
2. Describe how the Virtual Experience Model was formulated as the result of interactions with the NHI associated with UAPs.
3. Discuss the limitations of the Western materialist paradigm to investigate the phenomenon.
4. Review the work of paranormal investigator John Keel whose book *The Mothman Prophecies*¹⁵, in my judgment, supports the Virtual Experience Model.
5. Describe individuals that I call “Prime Contactees” and discuss their special role in facilitating Human Initiated Contact Events (HICE) aka Close Encounters of the Fifth Kind (CE-5s).

The Virtual Experience Model, an Overview

1. Virtual Experience of the First Kind (VE-1) or Virtual Sighting

VE-1 Type a: Hologram-like projection that can be photographed and seen by all present.

VE-1 Type b: A visual display created via bypassing the conventional way that we perceive visual sensory input through the eyes. I propose that this is being done by energetically targeting the retina or possibly by focusing on the occipital cortex where visual data is organized for perception. This type of encounter cannot be photographed and can only be witnessed by people that have been targeted.

2. Virtual Experience of the Second Kind, (VE-2): a strong form of virtual reality.

In Dr. Karla Turner's *Masquerade of Angels*, she tells the story of a dramatic contact experience in which the so-called aliens created a multisensory virtual reality for an experiencer. In Chapter Four, Dr. Turner describes a transparent blue ball of light that engulfed a witness while she was in bed. Her astounded friends observed her as she reported seeing the ceiling disappear, allowing her to view what she thought was a UFO hovering over the house. A few moments later, still encased in the blue orb; she went on to describe seeing two aliens that were allegedly sitting at the edge of her bed. The other witnesses standing outside of the orb reported seeing neither the UFO nor the beings.¹⁶

3. Virtual Experience of the Third Kind (VE-3)

This third modality can also be called “Virtual Memory.” It is a technologically implanted false memory that doesn’t correspond to any previous physical event. The recollections are so vivid and of such emotional power that the experiencer is often convinced that the memories reflect actual physical occurrences. In *The Abduction Enigma* published in 1999, authors Estes, Cone and Randle discuss the issue of “screen memories.” Alien abduction theorists have proposed that screen memories are being implanted into the minds of experiencers as a way of blocking accurate recollections of Close Encounters. The authors of *The Abduction Enigma* suggest that if screen memories are possible, then why can’t the memories of some Close Encounters like Close Encounters of the Third Kind (CE-3s) and Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind (CE-4s, also called abductions) be false recollections as well.¹⁷ In proposing this theory, I am not asserting that all sightings and other kinds of interactions with UAP intelligences are

illusory. I am stating that contact involves both physical and illusory contact experiences which likely exist side by side. **It is not question of either one or the other. It is both!**

As mentioned above, I only focus here on the Virtual Sighting category (VE-1). The other kinds of Virtual Experiences will have to be discussed more comprehensively in a future publication. From the outset, I should also mention that in describing the Virtual Experience Model, the term “hallucination” should not be used. From a medical point of view, a hallucination is experienced by an individual as a manifestation of pathophysiology and cannot be a shared event. Hallucinations occur in:

1. thought disorders such as schizophrenia,
2. toxic states brought on by drugs, drug withdrawal, sepsis and
3. a host of other metabolic disorders.

History of Activism Has Influenced My Approach to the Challenge of UAPs

To explain the factors that led to my contact activism, I believe it is helpful to first describe my volunteer political work. This is because my motivation for getting involved in such a fringe topic as flying saucers, at least in part, arose from an involvement with social movements that I believe might make our world a better place. Thus, left-wing political activism has shaped how I conceptualize

The challenge of flying saucers. During the 1960s into the 1980s, I participated in the major civil rights, peace and labor campaigns of that era of radical political and social change. Throughout my education and subsequent medical practice lasting 40 years, I hoped that my participation in social movements was practicing “social medicine made large.” My volunteer activities included the following:

1. In the 1960s and 70s as a student from junior high through medical school, I first participated in and later organized anti-Vietnam War demonstrations.
2. As a newly trained internal medicine physician, I was a co-founder of the Los Angeles Committee on Occupational Safety and Health. This was a coalition of medical and legal professionals working with trade unions in a national movement to make American workplaces safer.
3. I was a leader in Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), a doctors’ anti-nuclear weapons organization that educated the public about the dangers of the nuclear arms race. We focused on the medical consequences of nuclear war. Our physician peace movement engaged in what was called “citizen’s diplomacy.” I travelled to the former Soviet Union four times to meet with Soviet doctors as part of the umbrella organization “International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.” This group was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.¹⁸

In these endeavors, I attempted to promote international peace and national social reforms that I hoped would improve the lives of the poor, middle and working-class people. I believed then, as I do now, that a just society can only be achieved by eliminating racism, sexism, and by reducing both our dependence on fossil fuels and extreme disparities of wealth. I consider these to be worthy goals, not only for the United States, but for the entire world. In my opinion, elite forces use their vast economic resources to block establishing social and environmental justice.

STAGING HUMAN INITIATED CONTACT EXPERIENCES: THE CONSCIOUSNESS CONNECTION

Although I had enjoyed reading science-fiction as a child during the 1960s and was excited about man's exploration of space, prior to December 1990, I had not given the flying saucer subject much thought. I recall reading the best seller *Chariots of the Gods* by Erich von Däniken in the 1970s, but I had no sustained interest in the subject of UFOs. Some 20 years later, on a trip to the Los Angeles Public Library, for no particular reason, I picked out a book on the subject. In May Public Library, for no particular reason, I picked out a book on the subject. In May of 1992 after reading a dozen or so UFO books, I attended a UFO meeting for the first time. There, a fellow ER physician named Dr. Steven Greer gave a lecture about the work of an organization that he had founded. It was called CSETI, Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence. He proposed that as the result of excessive government secrecy about flying saucers, a kind of citizen's diplomatic initiative was required to establish peaceful contacts with the intelligence responsible for the phenomenon. According to my colleague, he had developed a protocol that would allow investigators to attract UFOs to research sites where limited interactions might occur: signaling with lights and perhaps some "consciousness mediated communication," i.e., telepathy.¹⁹ He explained that UFO research until then was entirely retrospective. Investigators interviewed witnesses about their encounters, days, months or even years after their sightings had occurred. The quality of the information thus obtained after the passage of time would not be as good as data acquired during real time field investigations. Preferably these would be carried out by trained investigators utilizing well-tested protocols and employing still and video photography equipment. The logic of these recommendations appealed to me. Previous research had not directly engaged the phenomenon. Prominent investigative groups such as **MUFON, by employing retrospective methods, were not really studying the phenomenon directly, but instead were producing and analyzing UFO reports.**

With my background in the physician peace movement's "citizens diplomacy" and a growing interest in flying saucers, I wanted to learn more. I attended a Close Encounters of the Fifth Kind (CE-5) workshop in Florida. There on the shore of West Palm Beach I saw my first UFO. It was an anomalous nocturnal light, blue green in color that silently flew in from the sea under a dense cloud cover. Its approximate speed was 100 miles per hour at a height of less than 200 feet.²⁰ I volunteered to be a CE-5 Working Group Coordinator for Los Angeles. For the next three years, 1992 to 1995, I worked closely with the CSETI Director. I was a member of the his group's Board of Directors, was empowered to speak for the organization during TV and radio appearances, fundraise and conduct training workshops to organize new contact teams. Several personal and political differences arose between Dr. Greer and me starting in 1995 that culminated in my resignation from CSETI in 1998. Nevertheless, I have followed with interest the activities of the contact network that was established under the CE-5 banner back in the early 1990s. In subsequent years, I have done fieldwork with activists who like myself were formerly associated with the CSETI organization. I have also on several occasions gone out into the field with contact teams organized by the Peruvian based group now known as "Rahma."

Interacting with UAP Intelligence, Signaling with Lights and Telepathy

Protocols used by CE-5 investigators during fieldwork involve both physical and mental tools. Contact teams engage in group meditation at isolated research sites. This activity is combined with mental requests for flying saucers to appear. Powerful lights are also employed in attempts to attract UAPs.²¹ Prior to joining our LA-CE-5 team, Preston Dennett authored an article titled "Calling All UFOs." When we met in August of 1992, he told me that during outdoor events employing powerful lights and lasers, UFOs occasionally appear. One instance involved special effects light technician Rick Liebert. It occurred in San Diego in 1978. He reportedly set up a laser light show atop an office building, and a large V shaped UAP appeared with 10 lights on its bottom. It was seen by multiple witnesses.²²

In terms of telepathic communications with the NHIs associated with UAPs, witnesses describing Close Encounters of the Third and Fourth Kinds have reported such mental interactions for forty years.²³ In Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Philip Imbrogno's *Night Siege*, several cases of apparent mental communication between UAP percipients and anomalous craft are described. These occurred during a wave of sightings involving large boomerang shaped UFOs in the Hudson River Valley during the 1980s.²⁴

One case involved Mr. Edwin Hansen. He reportedly saw a flying boomerang shaped object while driving home on New Year's Eve, 1982. He slowed his car and stated, "I thought to myself, 'I wish it would come closer so that I can get a better look at it', and as soon as this thought went through my mind, the object began to descend and head straight for my car... It was so huge that it filled up the entire sky." Mr. Hansen reportedly became frightened and started honking the car's horn in an apparent attempt to scare it off. He stated, "I felt thoughts that weren't my own, but a kind of voice telling me not to be afraid."²⁵

Another sighting with apparent telepathic communication is also described in *Night Siege*. It happened when Monique O'Driscoll was driving her daughter home on February 26, 1983. The UAP was reported to be a large boomerang-shaped brilliantly lit object that must have had "50 lights on it." The witness stated, "I said to myself, 'Oh please don't go, I want to look at you some more.' At that split second, it stopped, made a complete turn, and then it was facing towards me. Then it started moving towards me, very slowly."²⁶

In my judgment when discussing the consciousness connection, the Dr. Edgar Mitchell FREE Experiencer Research Study survey data, as presented in the 800-page academic book titled "*Beyond UFOs: The Science of Consciousness and Contact with Non-Human Intelligence*", provides the most detailed and extensive information about telepathic communication with NHIs associated with UAPs. Subjects claiming contact with UAP intelligences from over 100 countries participated in the online survey program. The quantitative survey was divided into two phases (Phase 1, N=3,256 responders and Phase 2, N=1,919 responders). In these two parts, a total of 551 multiple choice questions were asked. There was also a Phase 3 which was comprised of more than 70 Open Ended questions and Dr. Jon Klimo wrote an exhaustive 200-page analysis of these open-end questions which were presented in Chapter Two of "*Beyond UFOs*". The questions on telepathy revealed how common this modality of communication is among contact experiencers. The findings are described in the summary Chapter One, of FREE's compendium *Beyond UFOs*. Author Reinerio Hernandez reported that,

"78% of our Phase 2 participants have received "some type of telepathic or thought transference, or direct knowing from NHI" ... Many also had telepathic communications with an NHI who was not physically present. We asked the question 'Did you have an encounter with an NHI being but the NHI being was not physically present?' A very large number of individuals (N=1,235, or 70.4%) of those that answered the question agreed they had communications with an NHI, but the NHI was not physically present. We also asked various other questions regarding non-physical contact and communications with

NHI: Almost one half, or 46% of the thousands of the survey respondents have had more than 10 of these types of telepathic contact experiences. 12% have had between 5-10 of these non-physical CEs and 20% had between 3-5 CEs. Thus, 68% have had 3 or more telepathic contact experiences.

The following are the categories of this telepathic communication:

- 1. 66% stated that the communication was personally relevant information.*
- 2. 52% of these dealt with spiritual or religious messages.*
- 3. 51% described the information received as philosophical or metaphysical.*
- 4. 46% stated that it was some other type of communication.*
- 5. 34% stated that the information was scientific or technological in nature.*
- 6. 34% stated that the telepathic communication dealt with global or social-political issues.*

What is interesting is that 887 individuals, or 53.4% of the respondents, stated that there was a vision, a video, or a picture associated with the telepathic communication.”²⁷

As one that participated in the survey, these results are of personal interest to me. During my second year of human initiated contact investigations, for several months I had recurrent telepathic experiences. These typically occurred while meditating or simply resting. In my mind’s eye, I visualized an assortment of NHI beings, each with his/her own personality. They shared information on spiritual as well as social-political themes. On two occasions during fieldwork, I was informed in advance where in the sky, the number of flying saucers and the time that they were going to show up. Subsequent sightings, during those separate nights of fieldwork, confirmed the “heads up” information that I had received was accurate.

The Los Angeles CE-5 Initiative Working Group

In the fall of 1992, I became a CE-5 team coordinator in Los Angeles. Our research site was in the Santa Susana Pass that separates the Simi Valley from the San Fernando Valley. It is a high desert locale in the Northwest corner of Los Angeles County. We immediately had results with repeated appearances of UAPs in the Santa Susana Pass. It is important to note that this was adjacent to a Department of Energy (DOE). That installation was built into a mountain only a few miles south of the pass during the beginning of the Cold War seven decades ago.

For the first two years of CE-5 Working Group operations, a core of remarkable people from my team became experienced field investigators. As someone that had only been reading on the subject for a year and a half, I had quite a bit to learn about Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. I benefited greatly from my coworkers' knowledge and support. They were, in my judgment, highly educated and highly motivated individuals. Drs. David and Eve Gordon were my partners in the Southern California Permanente Medical Group and were especially helpful from the very start.

Personal Details about the Los Angeles CE-5 Working Group Members.

- “Dr. David Gordon is a board-certified Family Practice physician with a bachelor’s degree in physics. While working full time as a doctor, investigating UFOs and helping Eve raise their two children, he also attended Cal State Northridge taking courses in electrical engineering that led to a Master of Science degree. With an amazing memory, his command of the UFO literature was extraordinary. Dr. Gordon was also a private pilot.
- Dr. Eve Gordon has two board certifications, one in internal medicine and the other in immunology. She also is an accomplished amateur harpist. She frequently accompanied David to air shows and became very knowledgeable about the flight characteristics of conventional aircraft.
- Datha Weybourne was the oldest member of the team. She had an extensive knowledge of astronomy from her years sailing the seven seas on her wealthy family’s yacht.
- Dr. Dixie Sullivan, with thirty-years’ experience as a clinical psychologist, provided good counsel when conflicts arose in the team.
- Captain Joe Vallejo of United Airlines had twenty-five years’ experience as a commercial pilot. His superb observational skills concerning all things that fly was a tremendous asset. Spanish is his native tongue, and he played an important role as liaison with the Peruvian contact network Mission Rama. He completed his career as a 747 “Line Captain” for United.
- Alex Ayres was a successful writer, editor, executive film producer and entrepreneur. He received a B.A. with honors from Harvard College, an M.A. from George Mason University and an M.F.A. from UCLA’s Graduate School of Theater, Film and Television. His vast knowledge in philosophy, history and parapsychology helped me understand how our contact efforts were part of the evolution of human civilization.²⁹
- Preston Dennett, a burgeoning writer in his 20s, was the youngest member on our team. Currently three decades later, he has written twenty books and more than 100 articles about UFOs and the paranormal.³⁰

At the end of the summer of 1992, our LA contact team started to work. To my surprise, we had immediate results. We witnessed a golden globe in the west at sunset on the first night. Over the next weeks, we observed red orbs to the north over Rocky Peak State Park. One floated by behind us at twilight as we hiked towards our research site in the Santa Susana Pass. At night, another red orb repeatedly moved slowly straight up and then down behind the ridgeline to the north. It seemed like it was playing the child's game of peek a boo. A most bizarre atmospheric event took place while the team was meditating in full darkness. Although there was no rain or lighting activity in the vicinity, repeated bursts of brilliant white light silently flashed on for a second or two turning night into day.³¹

I had difficulty understanding how our team had so many unequivocal manifestations of contact from the very first night that we started our investigations. The many sightings we experienced left me with the impression that we had attracted by our own efforts UAPs to our Southern California research site. It wasn't until a decade later that I realized how wrong I had been in this assessment. We had not attracted UFOs to the Santa Susana Pass because they were already there! I had failed to take into consideration what we now know about the enormous number of UFO intrusions into the airspace above the United States' nuclear facilities. In 2010, researcher Robert Hastings published the landmark work, *UFOs and Nukes*. In this book he documented repeated instances of nuclear weapon systems being interfered with by flying saucers.³² Our UFO research site, adjacent to the US Department of Energy (DOE) Laboratory, had apparently been an attraction for flying saucers long before we had arrived at the Santa Susana Pass looking for them. The following account supports this explanation.

A Report of Sabotage by a Flying Saucer at the DOE Facility

In 2006 while working in the Kaiser Panorama City Hospital ER, I admitted a patient that was a witness to what was likely an act of sabotage carried out by a flying saucer at the Department of Energy (DOE) lab near the Santa Susana Pass. The perimeter of the facility was less than three miles from our 1992 CE-5/HICE research station. The patient was a retired maintenance engineer from the DOE lab. He told me that sometime around 1989, he was in the control room monitoring the water supply for the base. Suddenly the alarms went off indicating a sudden loss of water pressure going to a section of the vast complex. I knew that the water supply was probably of great importance because it is used as a coolant for atomic reactors. Back in the 1950s there had been an environmental release of plutonium at the base because of an accidental partial meltdown of a nuclear reactor.³³ Water was supplied to the numerous facilities both above and below ground by enormous water towers at the top of the installation. From there it was carried down to the various buildings via three-foot conduits. Rockslides in the past had damaged the outside plumbing.

My patient and his co-worker grabbed their machetes and hacked their way through the brush covering the pipes. They followed the conduit down the steep rocky terrain until they came to a clearing. There they saw a thick jet of water shooting high up into the air from a damaged pipe. They examined the conduit expecting to see a jagged busted section of plumbing. To their surprise, they saw that a section of the pipe had been cleanly cut out as if done by precision power tool. As they looked around the clearing, they were astounded to see a spinning metallic disc hovering close to the ground. It was about 100 feet away and some 25 feet across. Before security could arrive, the saucer took off at tremendous speed. This dramatic report demonstrates that our repeated sightings in the Santa Susana pass were not likely the direct and exclusive result of our contact efforts. Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena were probably an ongoing security challenge at this military research installation.

Three Astounding Los Angeles Sightings Confirm the Consciousness Connection

Another surprising result of our research during the first month of operations was a series of bizarre UFO sightings. In my judgment, they confirmed that our efforts in the Santa Susana Pass had been recognized by UAP intelligence. This was forcefully brought home to me when three individuals associated with our LA contact team in September of 1992 had sightings while driving home separately in their personal vehicles. On the night of September 4th, I had a sighting of an anomalous blue-green light that slowly flew over my car at an altitude of about 500 feet. This sighting occurred while I was going south on the 405 freeway in the Sepulveda Pass. The brilliantly colored light was not attached to any conventional aircraft. This occurred after I had just left a UFO meeting. There, I had defended the practice of staging Human Initiated Contact Events to a skeptical group of prominent MUFON researchers. On September 23rd, my colleague Dr. Eve Gordon had a broad daylight sighting of a metallic disc in the San Fernando Valley. It was hovering over the Santa Monica mountains. She too was driving south when it occurred. The following night Datha Weybourne (now deceased) had a sighting of a thirty-foot-wide glowing mother of pearl spherical object. It was first seen hovering above her home as she drove south on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. She had just left an evening mediation class. As she approached the object, it slowly flew towards her above the driveway. When it passed over her car at a low altitude, Datha reported receiving the telepathic message, "You were looking for us. Well, here we are!"

UAP intelligences were able to stage these sightings at separate times and separate locations while we were all driving in the same direction. Clearly these were not random events. We had just started our outreach efforts in the Santa Susana Pass, and “they” were alerting us that our contact efforts had been noticed. In my judgment, the consciousness connections between members of our team and UAP NHI were blatantly apparent. How else were they able to stage these highly congruent events? Did they place tracking devices on our cars? No, I don’t think so. To reinforce the interpretation that these were staged encounters, there was an escalation of the dramatic quality of the sightings as they occurred in sequence. First, I saw an anomalous nocturnal light. Next, Dr. Gordon had a dramatic broad daylight sighting of a metallic disc several miles away. Finally, Dotha witnessed a glowing sphere above her home with an accompanying telepathic communication. An additional meaningful aspect of these sightings was that two of the encounters were associated with activities related to our contact efforts. I had just defended the utility of humans willfully interacting with UAP intelligences to a skeptical group of prominent researchers. Dotha’s sighting happened after she left a mediation class. This spiritual discipline is thought to facilitate communication with UAP intelligences. It appears that not only are the alleged aliens totally telepathic, but they are able to program sightings for contact workers (and anyone else for that matter) when and wherever they choose. What amazing psychic powers they must have! Given the consciousness connections that had been clearly established, after these astounding sightings, I joked with my fellow team members that, “once you join our contact network, you might never be lonely again!”

HICE vs CE-5: Is Materialist Science the Correct Paradigm in which to Study UAPs?

Several years after starting volunteer contact work, I began to question whether the term CE-5 was the best one to use for our outreach efforts. In 1995, I coined an alternative acronym, HICE, “Human Initiated Contact Events.” After resigning from CSETI in 1998, I began to question the appropriateness of Western materialist science as a paradigm for flying saucer investigations. Since the 1990s, on and off I have been a member of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), organization. Its stated mission is to, “Promote research on UFOs to discover the true nature of the phenomenon with an eye towards scientific breakthroughs...”³⁴ Its investigators told me that their work was representative of “scientific ufology” and that the experiences of contactees were just “anecdotal.” As previously mentioned, MUFON researchers were diligently collecting UFO reports after the sightings had occurred, sometimes ones from the distance past. They clearly were not observing the phenomenon directly, merely interviewing those that reportedly did. In my opinion, their volunteer investigations were more like journalism than an observational or experimental science. Not surprisingly, fellow MUFON members didn’t appreciate hearing such pronouncements.

The CSETI Director made similar claims to those of MUFON, that his approach was “scientific” as well.³⁵ The Close Encounter designations of the First through Third “Kinds” were created by the astronomer and Project Blue Book consultant Dr. J. Alan Hynek. The Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind term was coined by another famous scientist, Dr. Jacques Vallee. Clearly in my view, CSETI’s calling its field investigations “Close Encounters of the Fifth Kind was an attempt to receive the name recognition and prestige associated with the work of highly trained prominent scientists involved in studying the phenomenon.

In 1997, researcher Val Germann posted an important series of position papers on the internet that questioned the appropriateness of the scientific method as employed by professional science to study UFOs. The four-part series is titled, “Science, Counterintelligence And UFOs.” Germann makes many valuable observations including the following:

1. The scientific method and professional science both rely on specific “basic” assumptions that “may not apply to the study” of UFOs, especially if they are in fact the products of another intelligence.
2. A basis assumption of science is that the cosmos is objective and that over vast areas of spacetime consistent laws of nature are in effect.
3. Whether it be an experimental discipline like chemistry or an observational science like astronomy, science requires repeatability in both experiments and observations carried out under rigidly controlled conditions.³⁶

From my personal investigations as well as from reviewing the UFO literature, it is clearly impossible for investigators to control the conditions when it comes to attempting to observe flying saucers. This is because a non-human intelligence controls almost every aspect of their engagements with us. They control when and where sightings and other types of manifestations occur. UAP associated intelligence also can target specific humans for sightings of what the witnesses identify as “flying saucers.” Conversely, the agents responsible for UAPs can deny scientists or anyone else they choose, the opportunity to observe them. This predicament was demonstrated during the Robert Bigelow financed investigation of the paranormal hot spot popularly known as “Skinwalker Ranch.” His National Institute for Discovery Science’s efforts at that location were repeatedly thwarted by an unseen intelligence that staged anomalous events in such a way that they could not be filmed or measured with scientific instruments. On several occasions equipment was mysteriously damaged physically.³⁷

Val Germann's second point listed above is particularly problematic. Western materialist science's assumption that the "cosmos is objective and that over vast areas of spacetime consistent laws of nature are in effect," doesn't seem to apply to UAP intelligences. This is because, as Dr. Jacques Vallee has observed, their actions are so bizarre that they appear to be able to manipulate spacetime itself.³⁸ Materialist science is a disciplined instrument to investigate objective mechanisms in the natural world. The actions of a mysterious non-human intelligence can in no way be described as "objective." For these reasons, we should abandon the notion that studying UFOs can be a purely "scientific" enterprise. Researchers may use scientific instruments such as radar or tri-field detectors to document in a rigorous manner observation during fieldwork, but such activities are more akin to police or counterintelligence operations than the work of science. Thus, in my judgment, the term CE-5 should not be used and the more descriptive term, Human Initiated Contact Experience (HICE) be employed instead.

The Importance of the Peruvian based Contact Network called Rama.

Other reasons why HICE is preferable to CE-5 are historical and transcultural. In 1993, I started working with the Peruvian based contact network Mission Rama, now known as Rahma. They were doing pro-active contact activities starting in 1974, over 15 years before CSETI was formed by Dr. Greer and he coined the expression "CE-5." The term that Rama used for their staged interactions with the intelligences associated with flying saucers is a descriptive one: "encuentros programados" ("programed encounters" in Spanish). It should be pointed out that people all over the world are engaging in human empowered contact that have never heard about the CE-1 through CE-5 designations. This is because in many cases they have reportedly been instructed directly by UAP intelligences how to facilitate their encounters. This was certainly true for the initial Rama activists in the 1970s.³⁹ Given this trend from the past that likely is still ongoing, why not use a term that is descriptive of what Rama and many other groups are doing without having to explain the origins and meanings of the Hynek-Vallee schema?

Prime Contactees: a Special Kind of UAP Experiencer, "Misha" Joins our Team.

After leaving the Soviet Union in 1991, a young Russian medical worker, who I shall call "Misha", settled with his family in Los Angeles. In 1992, he secured employment as an EKG technician at the Kaiser Panorama City Hospital where I worked in the ER. In October of 1993, he joined our Los Angeles CE-5 Working Group. Just 22 years old, he became the youngest member of the team. While growing up in the Belarus Soviet Republic, Misha allegedly had numerous sightings of UFOs. He even claimed to have memories of an onboard experience. To my surprise, by simply associating with him, my personal link to UAP NHI was considerably strengthened. In my judgment, his presence served as a powerful attraction for the intelligence,

presumably of an extraterrestrial nature, that is responsible for some UAPs. After a few outings with him, it was clear that our entire team's level of contact had gone way up. Our sightings during fieldwork were more numerous and more dramatic. I believe this is not an isolated phenomenon. Misha was an example of a special type of contact experiencer that I call a "prime contactee."

During my quarter century of promoting HICE, as strange as it may seem, individuals with an intimate and long-standing relationship with the so-called extraterrestrials can extend, via personal association with others, the capacity to have repeated UAP sightings. Misha was not the only contact worker that possessed this trait. Steven Greer MD also fell into the category of "prime contactee". During the initial years of the CE-5 Initiative he was a kind of "UFO magnet", drawing the phenomenon repeatedly to him when multiple witnesses were present.⁴⁰ From 1992 to 1997, I did fieldwork with him over ten times. In all but one outing, there were always clear-cut manifestations of UAPs. These included anomalous nocturnal lights and visual displays of what were interpreted by all present as structured objects that were totally unconventional. On February 1, 1993, at the base of Popocatepetl Volcano in Mexico, what appeared to be a very large triangle shaped "craft" was attracted to our team by Dr. Greer's light work. It signaled back at him, was totally silent and less than six hundred feet away.⁴¹ After resigning from CSETI in 1998, I kept in touch with contact activists that remained in the group. According to their reports, Steven Greer MD's ability to attract the phenomenon continued, albeit at a decreased level compared to the 1990s.^{42,43,44} This was also reportedly true of Sixto Paz Wells, a university student that became the leader in the Peruvian contact network known as Mission Rama. After two decades of spectacular encounters that were multiply witnessed, his effectiveness as a kind of "UFO magnet" also reportedly decreased.^{45,46}

Controversy concerning the prime contactee designation will be discussed at the end of this chapter. As a result of my work with the "prime contactees such as Misha, I evoked a lighthearted analogy to explain the capability of certain individuals to attract flying saucers. I told my Los Angeles CE-5 team that it was just like in Hollywood where, "it's not what you know, that gets you ahead in a show business career, but rather who you know!"

I experienced a boost in my psi ability the first time Misha joined us during fieldwork on October 4th, 1993, in Joshua Tree. The CSETI Director had alerted CE-5 activists that we might on occasion get a telepathic "heads up" with pertinent details about sightings that would occur during field investigations. This is exactly what happened to me. Our team of seven was camped near the base of Queen Mountain.

During group meditation, a series of mental images flashed into my consciousness. It was like watching a movie inside my mind. It portrayed a solitary saucer racing towards us from across the desert. I was able to “look” into the craft and see in my mind’s eye “the crew.” They were the typical popular ET stereotype, diminutive grey creatures with big heads. Most important was not these mental impressions, but rather the information that one craft was going to appear in the northwest at 2 a.m. This wasn’t communicated, thank goodness, as “a voice in the head”, but rather as a gentle kind of “knowingness.” The CSETI Director used the expression, “receiving information at the level of knowledge” to describe this process. Once we completed our meditation, I alerted my co-workers that “showtime” was 2 a.m.; a single craft was coming in from the northwest. As team leader, I exercised the prerogative of taking a nap starting before midnight with strict instructions for my companions to wake me just before 2 a.m., which they did. At exactly 0200 hours, a red glowing orb was seen silently flying 20 degrees above the horizon in the northwest. It was about one finger’s width in size with arm fully extended and was moving at approximately 150 miles per hour. Its distance was estimated to be about two miles away. After it crossed our position, it accelerated. The sighting lasted no more than 10 to 15 seconds.

I consider the mental/visual impressions that I received to be a form of channeling and as such in my judgment should not be the focus of contact work. Many CE-5 teams have been disrupted by channelers because they want to make what we called back in the 1990s “subjectively acquired material”, as the center of the group’s attention. For what it’s worth, and I believe it’s not much, during the October 5th field investigation I saw in my mind’s eye what appeared to be an elderly ET. He left me with the following message. “You are a young race. You have much to learn. And we are going to teach you!” Only on one other occasion did I receive a “contact download” that accurately predicted in advance when and where in the sky UAPs would manifest during fieldwork. Misha was with us on that second occasion as well.

The Consciousness Connection: Missing Time Events Across the Entire CE-5 Network

During the early 1990s, the entire CE-5 network consisted of only teams operating out of three Western US metropolises: Denver, Los Angeles and Phoenix. In December 1993, a bizarre sequence of events occurred involving contact workers from each of these cities. Misha and I had missing time together after he was on the team for just three months. The event happened on December 26th, 1993, while driving back from fieldwork in Joshua Tree. It was still very dark at about 5:30 a.m. the day after Christmas when we stopped on the shoulder of Highway 62 to signal at stationary red light. It was positioned above a hill that was close to the roadway. During previous rides on Highway 62 at night, we had never noticed the red

light. There were other unusual things happening above us on that morning. To the east and the south, I saw several slowly moving white lights in the sky. For some reason, I assumed that they were probably private pilots getting in some “night flying time.” They did not have conventional lighting however, in terms of rotating beacons or red and green wingtip lights. As we signaled at the red light above the hill, something inexplicable occurred. Instead of seeing rocks and chaparral, as the beam struck the “hillside”, the hill dissolved into mist. It was a mirage!

Suddenly a very bright white light, low in the southern sky, became visible. It was moving rapidly, flying directly towards us. It was coming from the direction of Palms Springs, and I recall thinking that it was probably some private jet. I imagined it was too early the day after Christmas for regular commercial flights. The next thing I knew was that I felt dazed. Without a word said about the hillside dissolving into mist, or the strange lights in the sky, Misha started to drive towards US Interstate 10, the road that would take us back to LA. I recall the sound of the car’s engine and it was still very dark outside. There was only a faint reddish glow in the east indicating sunrise was soon to commence. The next thing I recall was that it was bright outside, and the sun was high in the sky. I felt like we had been driving on highway 62 for hours. Usually only seven minutes is required to reach US 10 from the location where we had stopped to signal at the red light. When I got home, I noticed that it had taken us over four hours to arrive. The trip should have taken no more than two and a half hours to three hours. Several days later, Misha told me that memories had surfaced in his mind of what he believed was an “on board ET craft” experience. He thought that the missing time had occurred during our trip back to LA. I initially remembered nothing concerning the time we lost on Highway 62. Weeks later, a fragmented memory surfaced in my consciousness suggesting that we had stopped a second time on the road and that the car’s cabin was filled with a blinding white light. I have no recollection of what might have been a Close Encounter of the Third or Fourth Kinds.

This strange event was not an isolated one. During the beginning of that same month, December 1993, a CE-5 activist in Denver named Ron Russell reported experiencing about 45 minutes of missing time while at home. On December 27th, just one day after my missing time experience, the CE-5 Working Group Coordinator in Phoenix, Wayne Peterson and his entire team of seven investigators reportedly experienced double missing time while doing fieldwork in the frigid Sonoran desert. Wayne described how the strange incident started. “We decided about 11:45 to leave, we put out the fire and at the cars we checked the time. It was about 1 AM.” Wayne told me that the brief walk to the cars could not have taken the hour plus time that had elapsed. This was the first episode they reportedly experienced that night. While standing around the cars, Wayne and his wife Grace saw a bright white meteor flash by in the sky. Wayne

reported commenting to Grace about the apparent missing time. The team loitered around watching the sky for what seemed like perhaps 20 minutes. When they checked the time again it was about 2:30 AM; an hour and a half had elapsed! Wayne did not seem terribly upset by the apparent double missing time. He lightheartedly commented at the end of his brief report, “Missing time again, at least we didn’t freeze.”

There was apparent meaning in the sequence of these staged events. The CE-5 teams started going into the field, first in Denver in early 1992, then Los Angeles in August and finally Phoenix in December of 1992. This was the exact sequence of the missing time experiences reported by our network: Denver, LA then Phoenix. And as if to make sure that we got the point, the number of contact workers involved escalated from city to city: first only Ron Russell in Denver, then in Los Angeles, it was Misha and I, finally seven activists in Phoenix. In my judgment, intelligences associated with the flying saucers were communicating in no uncertain terms that they had recognized our request to have Human Initiated Contact Events (HICE). They acknowledged that ongoing relationship with them via staging missing time events across the entire CE-5 network. Here again the consciousness connection is plainly evident in these programmed encounters.

PUTTING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER: THE GENESIS OF THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE MODEL, VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES OF THE FIRST KIND (VE-1s)

“Impossible” Aerial Phenomena (IAP)

In September 1992, I experienced a bizarre sighting in broad daylight. This event initiated what I believe was series of staged encounters from 1992 to 1997 that led me to develop the Virtual Experience Model. It commenced during my first week as a volunteer CE-5/HICE team leader. At around 5 PM, I was driving home from my ER job in the San Fernando Valley. As I approached the on-ramp to the 405 Freeway heading south, I noticed the strangest airplane that I have ever seen. **Painted fire-engine red, it sported wild yellow lightning bolts painted on a fuselage that was only about fifteen feet long. It looked like a vintage World War One fighter made from wood, but instead of being a biplane, it had only a single pair of wings that were ridiculously short extending only about eight feet on either side. Where the pilot should have been seated behind the single prop engine, there was no canopy, no windshield and to top it off there was no pilot!** It was traveling north at less than seventy feet above the super-highway and its speed was impossibly slow, no more than 60 miles per hour. An engine sound could be heard, but it seemed muffled. The slow speed and short wings should have made flight impossible, but there it was flying by me at a distance of less than 100 yards. **This was the first piece of a puzzle that I would be putting together for the next decade where I eventually concluded that this was a holographic projection.**

High Strangeness at Robson's Mining World

In the spring of 1993, the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence held an in-depth three-day training. Over 60 ET contact enthusiasts attended. The workshop took place in the middle of the Sonoran Desert, 30 miles west of the town of Wickenburg, at the site of an abandoned mine. "Robson's Mining World" was described on the Internet as an "authentic Gold Mining Town," that offered "the world's largest collection of antique mining equipment." The participants were mostly professionals in their 30s, 40s and 50s and could be categorized as "New Age." Although I had been a CE-5 Working Group Coordinator for eight months, culturally and ideologically my team was far more grounded in materialist science than the "love and light" crowd that attended the workshop. Thus, I experienced a sense of culture clash between my Western scientific beliefs and the more spiritual, Eastern mystical orientation of many of the other participants.

After each night's activities, the group came together to discuss the results of the fieldwork. One individual gave a very strange report. "Fred" (a pseudonym is used for confidentiality purposes) was a transportation worker from Hawaii. He told his fellow investigators that he had observed a purple-colored, saucer-shaped UFO for several minutes. When the sighting was happening, he did not point out this finding to the other investigators in the team. Fred reported that he had observed the object while standing alone, but he was separated by only a few yards from several others. No one else noticed the unusual object that Fred reported viewing.

We asked Fred how was this possible? How could he, among some sixty fieldwork participants, be the only one to report seeing a purple saucer? His response was strange to the point of causing concern about his mental stability. Fred stated that other members of his group had been "turned off." This term suggested that he believed that their consciousness had been altered (presumably by NHI) in such a way that they were incapable of observing the craft that only he was allowed to witness. This term "turned off" was disturbing because it is employed to describe how a contact experiencer's bedpartner can be rendered unconscious during anomalous events labeled "alien abductions."

Fred's bizarre report caused concern not only among the working group coordinators, but also for a PhD clinical psychologist. Dr. Dixie Sullivan had volunteered to keep an eye on the emotional stability of the trainees. She had over thirty-years-experience as a psychotherapist. There had been some attempt to screen the applicants for mental health problems. On the application form for joining a CE-5 contact team, there were questions about alcoholism/drug abuse and mental illness. I was particularly dismayed by the

possibility that one of our own CE-5 trainees had experienced a visual hallucination. My concerns about Fred's mental stability were apparently off base. For the next five years, I maintained close contact with him. I saw him at meetings, received email from him and spoke to other co-workers in the UFO field who were aware of his activities. All the reports demonstrated that he continued to function successfully, not only in his highly responsible job, but also as a volunteer contact worker. In retrospect, I wondered whether Fred had got it reversed. It was he and not his co-workers that had been placed into an altered state of consciousness allowing the image of a flying saucer to be projected into his mind. This event was just one more piece of the puzzle from which the Virtual Experience Model would emerge.

Anomalous Shooting Star Displays Linked to Consciousness

Numerous high strangeness contact experiences happened to me once Misha became a team member. These firmly established in my mind that some sightings of UFOs were not of physical objects, but instead were illusory visual displays. Several of these contact events occurred during fieldwork, and one happened while I was on the phone with him. If what I experienced with Misha has been happening to other UAP witnesses, as I assume is likely, then an important mechanism of UAP contact was revealed. These shared encounters with the young Russian EKG tech led me to the troubling proposition that illusions were being produced by advanced psi technology that was interfacing with human consciousness. The result is that UAP percipients are being left with the impression that they are witnessing physical objects presumed within the UFO subculture to be "extraterrestrial spacecraft."

In October of 1994, a group CE-5/HICE investigators travelled to our research site at the base of the Queen Mountain in Joshua Tree National Monument. Misha was with us, and we noted a strange pattern of meteor sightings. Ordinarily during fieldwork, one scans a section of the sky for several minutes. Then, if nothing of particular interest is happening, one turns away to look at another section of sky. During this night, I noticed that as soon as I changed the part of the sky that I was viewing, a pale shooting star appeared. This was particularly strange because each meteor looked very much like the previous one. This happened five times in a row! Each "shooting star" sighting had the same color, same length of trail and the same duration. I mentioned to Misha how weird it was that every time I looked at a different section of sky, these stereotypical "meteors" had appeared. He claimed that the same thing was happening to him and that it had occurred over 20 times in a row! None of the other investigators present described witnessing this bizarre pattern. We were left with the impression that there was a probable mental link between us and some NHI that was fabricating "meteor" displays for us. As strange as it sounds, we concluded that an invisible intelligence had been

observing us and could “time” the meteor visual displays to our viewing different sections of heavens. Events that occurred the following month during another field trip to Joshua Tree confirmed for us in no uncertain terms the illusory nature of these stereotypic “shooting star” displays.

On November 10th, 1994, Misha and I returned to the Queen Valley. It was even colder that night and the park was deserted. It was just the two of us. Negro Hill is a three-hundred-foot-high rock pile located just to the south of our usual “back country” campsite in Joshua Tree National Monument. In the sky Above Negro Hill, on several occasions both Misha and I had witnessed some very unusual shooting star displays. A particularly bizarre one had a wild zigzag downward trajectory. On this November night, we stood together looking towards Negro Hill when Misha reported seeing a “shooting star” above its crest. I however saw no such thing. I was a bit surprised since I had been looking in the same general direction as Misha. We continued scanning the sky above the hill.

My co-worker again reported viewing a meteor trail that I did not see. I became suspicious that this might be something important. Why could I not see what he was observing? At forty-four years of age, my vision was still quite adequate. I didn’t require corrective lenses until several years later. Granted, Misha was twenty years my junior. His vision was reportedly excellent. I reasoned that I still should have been able to observe what he reported viewing. I asked him if the two “shooting stars” had a similar appearance. He replied that they did. According to my Russian friend they had the same brightness, color, length of trail and the same angle vis-a-vis the horizon. According to him, they had all appeared in the exact same spot in the sky above hill. I started becoming excited. I had him point to the exact location where he had seen the two “meteors.” I stood just next to him looking down his arm as he pointed to the spot.

“There’s another one”, he said. To my surprise I saw nothing but dark sky and a few faint stars. “Was it just like the first two?” I asked. Misha again assured me that they all appeared the same. I suspected what might be going on and told Misha, “Ask them to show me!” He did just that and I immediately saw a pale shooting star appear above the hill. It moved down at a forty-five-degree angle before quickly fading out. My heart began to pound with excitement. “Misha, tell me, was that the same as the other sightings you had?” Indeed, according to my friend, they were the exactly the same.

My heartbeat faster as I made the request, “Tell them to show me again.” “Show Dr. Burkes!” he said. Immediately, I saw a second shooting star display appear in the same location of sky as my first sighting; I was dumbfounded. The image had the same brightness, length of trail, angle to the horizon and the same duration. Misha confirmed that the “meteor” that I had just witnessed was no different from his four previous

sightings. I paused trying to get my mind around what was happening. A stereotypical display of a shooting star had repeatedly been seen by first Misha and then by me, but only after he requested that I be allowed to see the display. It seemed almost certain there was a consciousness link between us and the unseen intelligence responsible for these strange sightings. This was evidenced by their repeated appearance on request. I had failed to observe the first few displays even though I was looking at the same section of sky that Misha had been viewing.

Some unseen non-human intelligence, presumably the extraterrestrials, had just given me a demonstration of what I imagine is an extraordinary capability. It is their ability to selectively stage sightings for one observer but not another. Could they have been blocking my perception of a real shooting star? This seemed impossible because each display was exactly the same as the last. Real meteors don't line up and fall in the exact same manner repeatedly. Most importantly, they don't appear on request! It seemed far more likely that some NHI was simulating an image of a shooting star by targeting Misha's visual apparatus. Initially I was left out of the "show." On repeated requests however, they had targeted the two of us and only then was I able to perceive the display. Another possibility was that my sensory apparatus had been blocked in such a way that I was not able to perceive the first three displays. This sequence of events was so strange; I wondered who would ever believe this account as being true? There was just the two of us, standing side by side in the cold desert darkness.

Feeling somewhat silly, I found myself addressing the unseen intelligence that I assumed was responsible for the "meteor performance" that we had just witnessed. I thanked them for what they had just shown me. I remember saying something about how, "two in a row for me was good," (five in a row for Misha was even better) "but that here on Earth we have this notion of what we call "coincidence." I desperately wanted them to do it again. I asked Misha to request another shooting star display. He complied. The young Russian said, "Show Joe!"

We watched the sky and waited. Whereas the first two "shooting stars" had appeared immediately, this time there was a delay of about 10 seconds. It was a pause that I imagined was pregnant with meaning; perhaps it was a dramatic build up, as if to say, "Don't you know what we are doing here? Pay attention this is important!" After the pause, a third alleged "shooting star" appeared on request. And indeed, it was the same as the two previous ones for me and the five prior sightings reportedly for Misha. If an unseen NHI can create visual displays of shooting stars, why not then of flying saucers? I believe it is important not to underestimate the significance of this event. In describing the mental capabilities of the so called "visitors", it has been said that they can access one's consciousness as readily as you or I can access light by turning on a wall switch. Well, I guess one might say that I had just "seen the light" (in the sky) and by helping me to develop the Virtual Experience Model, "it was good."

Anomalous Visual Displays on the Ceiling, Los Angeles and Las Vegas

Eight months later, on the night of July 29th, 1995, Misha and I were on the phone chatting. It was about 10 PM when Misha said, “Joe, I see lights on my ceiling.” He then described the following. He reportedly witnessed a multitude of tiny lights on the living room ceiling of his apartment. They formed a series of concentric circles, “like a galaxy,” he said. They were flicking on and off. The image covered several square feet of the ceiling. The lights then coalesced to form a 3D image of an “extraterrestrial.” My Russian friend said that the strange image had a holographic appearance to it. The being according to Misha was a typical so called “Zeta Reticulan” ET. The entity was small in stature, with grey skin, a large head and widely spaced wrap-around dark eyes. He identified the being as “Zan” who had allegedly interacted with Misha during a number of his “ET encounters” over the years. I immediately wondered if this might be another staged encounter to further inform me about UAP intelligence’s extraordinary psi capabilities.

Misha told me that as he watched these images, his right eye started tearing profusely; he insisted that he wasn’t crying. Some kind of energy that presumably was producing the image was also irritating his right eye. I asked him to get out his camera. His immediate response was, “No Joe, no pictures allowed! They don’t want that!” I then asked him to do the following.

“Misha,” I said, “please close your right eye and tell me what you see.” He complied and then said, “I still see him, Joe.” I then asked him to alternately close one eye and then the other and then both. The holographic-like image of the ET was reportedly still clearly visible. “That’s it!” I thought. I surmised that the image was probably being created by some form energy being directed into Misha’s right optic nerve. It was truly amazing! The entire experience lasted about three minutes. Misha reported some mild discomfort in the right eye during this strange event, but apparently there were no lasting ill effects.

The question arises, “How can I be certain that Misha didn’t hoax this encounter by falsely claiming that a holographic-like displays appeared on his ceiling?” After all, I didn’t see the concentric circles of flickering lights and then the 3-D image of the alien “Zan.” I believe UAP intelligence may have provided a solution for this concern by staging another high strangeness event. It happened to an acquaintance of mine that I shall call “Richard” and on the very same night that Misha and I had chatted on the phone.

Richard was a businessman from Orange County that had decided to join our CE-5 team. Around the middle of July 1995, I sent him some training material by mail. A few days after my conversation with Misha on the phone, Richard shared a bizarre story. It happened on the night of July 29-30; he was staying at the Luxor Hotel on the 19th floor. He said to me, “I know you probably won’t believe this Dr. Burkes, but several nights ago I had the strangest experience.” He then went on to state that on the previous Sunday morning between 1 and 2 a.m. on July 30th, he suddenly awoke. This reportedly took place just three hours after my conversation with Misha.

While lying in bed and staring up at the ceiling, Richard saw the central red light on the fire alarm stop flashing. Then a spiral pattern of flickering lights, perhaps 20 or 30 in number reportedly appeared on the ceiling. Robert became alarmed when he realized there was no reasonable explanation for the lights that he was staring at. He was on the 19th floor of a hotel. In his opinion, there was no way streetlight could come in through the window, especially since the curtains were closed. In addition, he observed that there was no other source of light in the room that could account for what he was seeing. As he watched the weird display, his apprehension grew. The thought occurred to him that this might be an alien contact experience. He told me that he said to himself, “Oh, I don’t think I can handle this.” Immediately after having this thought, the flickering lights reportedly disappeared, and the normal red flashing light of the smoke detector turned back on. Richard stated that he then, “passed out.” He assured me that this experience was not a dream.

Up until that point in time, Richard and I had never met in person. There was no way in the world that he could have known about my conversation with Misha. Richard and Misha lived 50 miles apart and were not acquainted. What they did have in common, however, was that they were in communication with me. Both events of high strangeness involved an anomalous light display on the ceiling that looked like stars spinning around a galaxy. This detail, plus the fact that the weird events had occurred just a few hours apart, ruled out any reasonable notion of coincidence as an explanation. In addition, it made Misha’s account more credible because another person reported a very similar bizarre experience.

Discussion of these High Strangeness Events

In my judgment, these high strangeness experiences in Joshua Tree, Los Angeles and Las Vegas were not random events. I strongly suspect that UAP intelligence staged these encounters with the apparent goal of showing me how they create visual displays for experiencers. The tearing of Misha’s right eye may very well have been a side effect from some kind of intelligently directed energy. It both produced an image and irritated his eye triggering a lacrimal gland response. I repeat, even with his eyes closed Misha

allegedly could still see the image of the stereotypical grey ET. As far as what happened in Joshua Tree, the evidence strongly suggests those sightings were staged as well. On a night in October, we were primed for understanding that there was a probable consciousness link between us and an unseen intelligence that was projecting visual displays of meteors. The following month while doing fieldwork at the same location, a series of meteors were seen by one observer and not the other while viewing the same section of sky. On request, three stereotypical shooting star displays appeared that we both were able to witness.

What other reasonable explanations are there to explain this testimony? Could the visual displays represent actual meteors being flung out in space by some unseen agent in such a way as to appear the same during their descent through Earth atmosphere? No, that is absurd considering the distances, the rotation of Earth and other parameters involved. The episodes appeared to involve holographic like projections for Misha and Richard and have all the markings of staged events as well. Both started with a circular pattern of flickering lights on the ceiling the very same night!

In terms of the big picture, the Close Encounters literature involves over a hundred different types of structured objects that are called “alien craft.” Triangles, discs, globes and numerous others have been described. Where are the bases that manufacture, supply and repair this multitude of alleged craft? If the mechanism of contact that I call a “Virtual Sighting,” or VE-1 is valid, then such a vast infrastructure would not be required if many of the different types of “craft” witnessed were not actual physical objects, but instead were illusionary visual displays. The technology used might be holographic like in nature for some displays, in which case all observers present would be able to observe them, (VE-1a category). The same logic applies to the plethora of alien phenotypes (classifications based on appearance), such as the “Nordics,” “Greys,” Reptilians,” and dozens more including alleged human/alien hybrids. If anomalous shooting star displays are illusory, why not employ the same kind of technology interfacing with human sensory neural networks, to create visual displays of different “races” of beings. **I must repeat the proviso that I am not asserting that all UAPs and encounters with non-human beings are illusory. I am proposing that both physical craft and beings as well as illusionary ones are being presented to witnesses.** Later in this chapter, I offer criteria by which investigators might be able to decipher which encounters are physical and those that are more likely to be virtual.

In John Keel's classic work, *Operation Trojan Horse* the 1996 edition, he cleverly describes this dilemma.

“Our UFO catalog now contains flying cubes, triangles, hexagons, doughnuts, spheres, objects shaped like giant metal insects and transparent flying jellyfish. We've got UFOs with wheels, with wings, with antennas, with pointed domes, flat domes, no domes at all. We've got objects of every color of the spectrum... We've got wheel less automobiles cruising along deserted backroads a few inches above the ground. And we have unmarked airplanes and unidentified helicopters and jets flitting about flap areas. We have just about everything except a basic assembly line model that has appeared consistently in many years and in many places.

In other words, we have thousands upon thousands of UFO sightings that force two unacceptable answers upon us:

1. *All the witnesses were mistaken or lying.*
2. *Some tremendous unknown civilization is exerting an all-out effort to manufacture thousands of different types of UFOs and is sending all of them to our planet.*

The governments of the world have seized upon variations of the first explanation. The UFO enthusiasts of the world have seized upon variations of the second explanation. The UFO enthusiasts accept the second. I do not accept either one.”⁴⁷

I concur with John Keel's analysis that has been so very helpful in my developing the Virtual Experience Model. This theory postulates that UAP associated non-human intelligences have both the physical and psi technologies allowing them to create a dazzling array of illusions that witnesses perceive as physical objects and beings.

The Consciousness Connection Full Throttle: Weird Helicopters in the Sepulveda Pass and Keel's “Reflective Factor”

On the morning of March 29th, 1994, before driving to work, I received a call from contactee friend Misha. He told me that the previous evening he had another UFO sighting while driving through the densely populated San Fernando Valley. Misha reported seeing a disc-shaped object that apparently was being pursued by several helicopters. The saucer was at an altitude of less than a thousand feet. The story was bizarre. I presumed that his sighting was not of some top-secret US military device. Just imagine the uproar with thousands of witnesses if the craft had to stage an emergency landing in a community of nearly a million people. Misha's notion that the helicopters were chasing an alien craft didn't make sense either. UFOs typically can fly circles

around top performance military aircraft. I reasoned that the relatively slow-moving helicopters, even in “hot pursuit mode,” would never be able to keep up with a “real flying saucer.” I postulated that Misha’s sighting might very well be an illusory event staged by NHI. After sharing this sweeping speculative analysis and feeling rather clever, I said, “good-bye” to him and started my drive to work going north on the 405 Freeway.

As I reached the middle portion of the Sepulveda pass, I noticed two military helicopters above the eastern rim of the canyon. This was strange because there are no major military bases located in Los Angeles. What was even more bizarre was that one was a vintage aircraft, an old Sikorsky, the kind first developed in the 1940s. I recognized its typical rounded nose with the cockpit located high up above the cabin. The other was a “Huey” (a Bell UH 205). I was immediately struck by the wild colors on both choppers. The Sikorsky, instead of the standard dark green, was a wild brilliant candy green. It looked like something out of a carnival! The Huey appeared a bit more respectable, it was painted a dark olive, but on the side of the craft was a candy green circle that surrounded the US star insignia. I thought, “This is strange. I have a conversation with Misha about his sighting possibly being an illusion and now am witness to craft fit for the circus.” Was this just an amazing coincidence, or was I being given a rather theatrical visual display, like what I thought was Misha’s the previous night? Perhaps it was another clue that might help me understand an important mechanism of contact.

My vehicle reached the top of the Sepulveda Pass. I was just a few miles from where Misha reportedly had his sighting the night before. I watched the helicopters, now located above me and to the right. They were moving back and forth perpendicular to the freeway. Despite my circumstances, surrounded by fast moving commuter traffic, I sent out a contactee-styled mental message of welcome. To my surprise, the Huey immediately moved away from the old Sikorsky. It was heading my way! I continued thinking thoughts of welcome. The Huey was now above my vehicle, and I noticed that it was descending rapidly. The chopper leveled out at less than 100 feet above the roadway. For the next mile, it kept pace, flying fifty yards out in front of me. I could hear the chopper’s engine, but it seemed quite muffled. The roar should have been deafening, but it wasn’t.

In John Keel’s “The Eighth Tower”, the legendary paranormal investigator discusses a weird aspect of the contact drama that I suspect sheds light on my helicopter encounter.

“Allied with the synchronous events is what I call the reflective factor. Somehow the phenomenon reflects back material that supports whatever beliefs or theories motivate the investigators. Once, just for the hell of it, I doodled with the notion that some of our parahumans might be aquatic. They were often seen wearing turtleneck sweaters and I wondered, not very seriously, if their turtlenecks might be concealing something like gills. Naturally, I didn't discuss this preposterous

*theory with anyone, but - and this was utterly amazing to me - the week I played with this idea I suddenly received a letter from a young man in Florida who described a remarkable encounter. He had been hitchhiking and was picked up by a very strange man who had gill-like flaps on his throat. I've never received any other reports of this type. It is a one-of-a-kind."*⁴⁸

I suspect that the “reflective factor” described by Keel was operational in my encounter with the strange choppers in the Sepulveda Pass. I mention to Misha my theory about his sighting being illusory. A short while later “lo and behold”, an unseen NHI treats me to what I imagine is an interactive experience employing illusory displays of two helicopters. In my judgment, these were not mere coincidences. Synchronicity is a regular component of contact events. Misha’s sighting and my encounter were linked not by causality, but instead by meaning! These sightings in their totality suggest that I received yet another set of clues confirming the validity of what I eventually would call the Virtual Experience Model.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS SUPPORTING THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE MODEL

Encounter in Joshua Tree with a “jumper.”

On November 3, 1993, I received a phone call from Misha. He said that we must go out into the field on Veterans Day. Misha told me that during deep meditation, a series of images passed through his mind. They were so vivid that he described what happened as “a kind of out of body experience.” In an altered state of consciousness, he found himself “flying” eastward across Southern California. He reportedly was headed towards our research station in Joshua Tree National Monument. As he mentally flew past miles of tract homes, he could see below him American flags decorating front porches and governmental buildings. Afterwards, he checked the calendar and discovered that Veterans Day was coming up.

The first storm of the rainy season was scheduled to hit Southern California on the holiday. The previous month I had received an accurate telepathic alert predicting when and where in the sky a UAP would manifest. It was a red orb that had delighted the entire team. As a result, my co-workers were eager to do fieldwork. It was my impression, however, that most Los Angelinos think the world is coming to an end when the temperature drops below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Combined with the prospect of getting wet, only Misha and I volunteered to do fieldwork during the Veterans Day holiday. Our research site was in the northern tip of the Queen Valley. It required driving to a remote wilderness parking area called a “backboard.” From there we hiked a mile into “the back country.” As we drove into the park, we found the upper elevations had been spared by the storm. Even before we arrived at the backboard, we had a pair of sightings. At 10:20

p.m., we spotted a golden globe flying slowly and silently to the west against the wind of the incoming storm. Its appearance along the road suggested that it might have been waiting for us. At the wilderness parking lot, we had another sighting at about 11 p.m. This time two more golden globes appeared low in the sky. They too were moving westward. In neither of the two sightings did the objects respond to our light signals. We hiked into the back country along a dry riverbed and set up our tents.

At 3 a.m., Misha called my attention to a tiny bright light that was moving erratically in the eastern sky. It was strobing very rapidly and moved in straight lines in a jerking fashion. The combination of strobing and jerks made the flight path look like a series of tiny jumps, so we labeled the object a “jumper.” Although it was a point of light to the unaided eye, later that night when another jumper approached us, through binoculars it appeared to be a half moon. There was an interactive component to the encounter as well. Using our signal lantern, we traced in the sky simple geometric shapes: a circle, a square and a triangle. To our delight, the jumper’s flight path imitated our light work. Each time we drew a shape, the brilliant light changed direction and in a jerking fashion traced out the very same form we had just drawn. A second jumper later appeared and the first stopped strobing. As a single point of light, it slowly drifted upwards and then stopped, taking on the appearance of an ordinary star.

We then focused our attention on the second light that silently came towards us. It was very close to the desert floor. It followed a path along the dry riverbed on which we had hiked to reach our research site. In a jerking fashion, the brilliant light approached us. It was so low to the ground that it appeared as if it repeatedly was touching down on the ground. The light made its way towards us slowly in a series of jumps. It was now clearly less than one mile away and was very bright. Through binoculars I observed its superstructure: a brilliantly illuminated hemisphere, a kind of upside-down bowl shaped “craft.” Its white light had a harsh glow, as if emanating from a powerful fluorescent bulb. Through the binoculars it did not have a 3-dimensional appearance. Instead, it appeared totally flat, as if cut out from a sheet of metal. At about a distance of one-half mile, it stopped its approach. While continuing its jerky movements, it turned to the left, still traveling very close to the desert floor.

Our encounter was over. We retraced our steps across the sand to the wilderness parking lot. We trudged along the same path on the dry riverbed as the second jumper had taken. We looked for markings on the sand where the jumper had appeared to repeatedly “touch down.” The only marks on the ground were our boot prints from the previous night’s hike to our research site. This absence of physical evidence and the flat 2-dimensional appearance of the half-moon seen through binoculars, in my judgment were more consistent with a visual display than with a sighting of an actual physical object. These observations are additional evidence supporting the illusory mechanism of contact called a Virtual Experience of the First Kind (VE-1).

Two Sightings that Appeared Exactly the Same, Occurring Under the Same Circumstances

Katherine Carroll is a retired government worker. She goes by the name “Kat.” She told me that she was employed as a County Deputy Sheriff for 15 years and as an emergency medical technician as well. She considers herself a contact experiencer. Prayer and meditation are regular daily activities for her. In May and July of 2017, she reportedly had two sightings of UAPs that appeared to be exactly the same. They occurred while she was meditating in the backyard between 10 and 11 p.m. Both were preceded by a “subtle urge” to open her eyes and look up. The first sighting started with a brilliant diamond shaped flash of light occurring directly overhead and slightly to the north. She stated that, “It grew momentarily and then shrank down to nothing.” As soon as the diamond shaped flash ended, she noted the appearance of another “object” very close to the location of the flash. Kat described the event as follows:

“This was a large ‘craft’ that was either an oval or tear drop shaped. I cannot recall which because as soon as it was fully illuminated, it shot towards the east with a bit of illuminated tail behind it, like when you wave a sparkler in the air... I heard no sound and from the initial flash to when it accelerated out of sight was roughly three seconds...”

Kat told me that she thought it might have been as big as the Goodyear Blimp because its image in the sky was as large as the length of her hand (wrist to fingertips) with arm fully extended. Kat searched the Internet and news reports, reasoning that something as massive as what she had witnessed probably should have been seen by others. She stated however that she could find no such corroboration. Two months later in July of 2017, she had another sighting that seemed to be the same as the first. It too occurred as she came out of meditation and opened her eyes. Just as before, a diamond shaped flash of light was followed by the immediate appearance of an oval with a tail of sparkles. The second sighting was in the same general vicinity of the sky. In both instances, the UAPs, “had a clear outline, but only the bottom was noticed. I could not discern any height or depth, only the vivid outline.”⁴⁹

It is significant to note that Kat didn’t merely witness two anomalous nocturnal lights that might be expected to be similar. Instead, she reported witnessing a pair of complex visual displays involving diamond shaped flashes, and then flat tear shaped “objects” with sparkles trailing behind them. If her sightings were projected visual displays, they could very well appear flat, as indeed these two sightings reportedly were.

In analyzing this report, which explanation seems more likely? Were her sightings of a physical craft, possibly piloted by non-human beings that staged their maneuvers in just the right way so that they would appear the same to one observer on the ground two months apart? Or were her dual encounters the product of technology used to project visual displays, i.e., Virtual Experiences of the First Kind? The fact that both sightings were preceded by meditation should not be overlooked. From my years of volunteer contact work, I have learned that meditation has an established track in facilitating contact and communication with non-human intelligences associated with UAPs. In my judgment, the two sightings that Kat described are consistent with illusory visual displays that I call “Virtual Sightings”, i.e., VE-1s.

THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE MODEL AND THE “IMPOSSIBLE” AERIAL PHENOMENA OF “THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES”

John Keel in his 1975 book, *The Mothman Prophecies*, described a wave of sightings of strange, winged creatures around the West Virginia town named Point Pleasant. These bizarre encounters took place from November 1966 till early 1968 and occurred during a wave of UFO sightings in the same area. A large bat-like creature was repeatedly seen. It was described as being over six feet tall with the figure of a man and enormous wings. One of its most striking features was the monster’s eyes. They were large, bright red and terrifying. **It reportedly was able do things that no flying mammal or bird can do. As described in multiple reports, Mothman could take off straight up, as well as flying over 80 miles an hour, in both instances without flapping its wings!**

After the Point Pleasant Silver Bridge collapsed on December 15, 1967, killing scores of people, the sighting reports of Mothman petered out. Over one hundred adults described seeing the creature. The illusory nature of these encounters is strongly suggested by the eyewitness testimony of numerous observers that John Keel interviewed at length.⁵⁰ My assessment is that what these observers witnessed might be called “IAPs”, impossible aerial phenomena. As such, their sightings support the Virtual Experience Model’s VE-1 (Virtual Experience of the First Kind) as a mechanism of contact. (The following case reports are from a PDF file of *Mothman Prophecies* downloaded from the Internet. It is without pagination. All quotations are from this PDF edition without page numbers.)

Two Married Couples Were Among the First to See Mothman

On the night of November 15, 1966, at 11:30 PM, two young couples from Point Pleasant, the Scarberrys and the Mallettes, were driving on deserted back roads in an abandoned WWII TNT munitions complex. They were shocked to see two bright red circles. Roger Scarberry, eighteen years old, stopped the car, and both couples noticed that the lights were part of a creature. Rodger described it as being shaped like a man, six to seven feet tall and grey in color.

In terror, the young couples drove away as fast as they could, but they saw the monster again on a hill by the road. Speeding by, they witnessed the beast spread its large bat-like wings and take off straight up into the sky. It followed them. Completely terrified, Roger floored it, reportedly going one hundred per hour, but the monster kept right up with them without flapping its wings.⁵⁰

Other Terrifying Encounters

The next night, November 16th, another group of people reportedly saw Mothman. The Wamsley family and Mrs. Marcella Bennett were driving to visit a friend. It is important to note that their encounter started with what one could call “an anomalous nocturnal light.” They noticed a large red light moving in the sky above the old munitions plant. They told John Keel that it did not appear to be an aircraft. Arriving at their destination, the group suddenly saw the creature. Mrs. Bennett reported that it looked like it had been lying down. It then slowly rose up and they could see its glowing red eyes. The creature appeared headless. As it unfolded its wings from behind its back, Mrs. Bennet and the Wamsleys ran into their friend’s home locking the door. They could hear it walking around the porch and its red eyes stared at them through the window.

It is highly significant that these Mothman sightings were occurring during a wave of UFO sightings taking place in the same area. Just a few hours after the Warmsley family encountered Mothman, Mrs. Roy, a music teacher, was awakened by her dog barking at 4:45 a.m. She lived across the Ohio River, just opposite the abandoned TNT plant. She looked out her kitchen window and saw a large object in a field. It reportedly was hovering at tree top level and was brightly illuminated with green and red lights. It left rapidly with a kind of zig-zag movement.

The witnesses mentioned above, the Scarberrys and the Mallettes were not the only people that observed Mothman’s bizarre flying characteristics that defy the laws of flight for living creatures. On November 25th, 1966, Thomas Ury was driving near the World War Two TNT plant. There, he reportedly observed a manlike figure grey in color. The creature was standing in a field. It spread its wings and ascended like a helicopter going straight up into the air. The monster sped after him. According to Ury, it was able to keep up with his vehicle that was travelling at over seventy miles per hour.⁵⁰

Impossibly Large Birds Were Also Reported.

Mothman and flying saucer sightings were not the only anomalous aerial phenomena happening along the Ohio River near Point Pleasant West Virginia; unusually large birds were also being reported. On November 26, 1966, for two hours, a family witnessed a flock of incredibly large birds. Each one was “as big as a man.” The birds reportedly had a “wingspread of at least 10 feet.” The witnesses reportedly couldn’t see the terrifying red eyes described by other witnesses, but they did report the birds’ heads were somewhat red.⁵⁰

An even larger bird was seen flying a few weeks later. It appeared just across the river from Point Pleasant at the Gallipolis Ohio Airport on December 4, 1966. At first several pilots on the ground described it as looking like a plane. As it approached, they reportedly realized that it was an enormous bird with an extremely long neck. Its altitude was estimated to be about 300 feet. The creature was flying at about 70 miles an hour. One man shouted that it looked like a prehistoric animal. **Like Mothman it too was not flapping its wings.** Author John Keel points out that Mothman was poorly suited for flight aerodynamically. The monster was larger than a big man, and therefore probably weighing over two hundred pounds. To take off and stay airborne, the creature would probably need more than the ten-foot wingspan that witnesses said it had. Keel made the following wry comment,

“... large birds take off by running along the ground and flapping their wings frantically. My favorite, the gooney bird of the Pacific, runs back and forth desperately trying to build up airspeed and then, more often than not, falls flat on his face... Mothman, with his helicopterlike takeoffs, was impossible.”⁵⁰

Was Mothman a living breathing physical being? All the evidence points to the answer, “No!” Unlike real flying animals, it repeatedly was observed to soar at high speed and take off vertically like a helicopter, in both maneuvers without flapping its wings. Despite the involvement of local police, hard evidence such as animal droppings or footprints, was never found. In addition, none of the witnesses described animal scents or any bizarre aromas in the locations of the sightings. So, what then was the monster? This absence of physical evidence and its impossible flight parameters support an illusory explanation for its appearances. In my judgment, the phenomenon that was called “Mothman “was a Virtual Experience of the First Kind (VE-1).

Flying saucer encounters appear to be staged events. Typically, sightings last a short period of time as they fly by, or hover briefly and then depart. Investigators have observed that their behavior seems to be nonsensical, with no other purpose than to show themselves to witnesses, or as researcher Grant Cameron has described it, to get us to say “Wow!”⁵¹ As in the music teacher Mrs. Roy’s sighting, UFOs often sport multi-colored lights. One wonders what purpose

the colorful visual displays serve, beyond attracting our attention and perhaps delighting us in the process. In a similar fashion, both Mothman and the unusually large birds appearing around Point Pleasant did not engage in any meaningful activity. Unless, as in the case of Mothman with its enormous red eyes, the goal was to frighten the witnesses.

If indeed these impossible aerial phenomena are being staged for us, what might be the purpose of having both UFOs and Mothman appear in a specific locale over many months as described in *The Mothman Prophecies*? After all, Mothman like a ghost, appeared out of nowhere and like a phantom mysteriously disappeared leaving many questions and few answers. I submit to the reader the proposition that perhaps matching sightings of Mothman with sightings of UFOs in the same area was an attempt at communication by a non-human agent responsible for both kinds of sightings. I suggest that the takeaway message is that both of these “impossible” aerial phenomena are not only illusory in nature but are perhaps caused by the same NHI. In the November 16th, 1966, encounter, Mrs. Bennett and the other witnesses first saw an anomalous nocturnal light (according to Keel the most common type of UFO). Minutes later, Mothman with its terrifying enormous red eyes showed up. The linking of the two phenomena, in both massive waves as well as in individual encounters, suggests that the same NHI is responsible for both and is using illusory technology to alert us that we are not alone in the universe.

Two Sets of Teenagers with Similar Encounters Exactly Three Years Apart

Even more significant in terms of pairing UFOs to Mothman was an event that John Keel called “one of the classics in ufology.” In *The Mothman Prophecies* Chapter Three, he recounts a narrative that he found in the UK’s Flying Saucer Review from June 1972. On November 16th, 1963, four teenagers saw an anomalous nocturnal light just as in the Bennett/Wamsley encounter. At first, they reportedly thought it was just a very bright star. Its movements however caught their attention. They briefly lost sight of it and then inexplicably the four teenagers reportedly experienced an overwhelming fear. One would think an anomalous “star” should not have triggered such a reaction. They began running. When the light reappeared, it had become an oval-shaped object, gold in color. The UFO pursued them. However, when they stopped to catch their breath, the object stopped as well. John Flaxton, age 17, stated that he,

“‘felt very cold...’ Suddenly a tall, dark figure emerged from the woods and waddled toward them. It was completely black and had no discernible head. Mervyn Hutchinson, 18, described it as looking like a human-sized bat, with big bat wings on its back. All four took off as fast as they could go.”⁵⁰

Roger Scarberry according to John Keel was 18 years old when on November 15, 1966, at just before midnight, he drove his young bride with another couple to the derelict munitions factory. There they were chased by Mothman. Considering the time difference between West Virginia and the UK, this event occurred when it was already November 16th in England exactly three years to the day after another group of teenagers in 1963 encountered a Mothman like creature in Great Britain as described above. The UK encounter importantly started as a UFO event. **Two groups of terrified teenagers on opposite sides of the Atlantic having similar monster sightings exactly three years apart. Was this just another coincidence? In my opinion, they were not!** I imagine that these two cases are a kind of cookie trail left for researchers. They help us put together the pieces of a puzzle that forms what Keel called “a mosaic of the paranormal.”⁵⁰

In my judgment, the simultaneous wave of monster sighting, as well as UAPs at Point Pleasant, were staged deliberately by NHI in the same locale to demonstrate how illusions play an important role in contact drama. This type of illusory phenomenon has likely been occurring for centuries, if not for millennia. Both John Keel and Dr. Jacques Vallee have observed that during every era, anomalous aerial phenomena are interpreted according to the cultural expectations of the time. In ancient times they were perceived to be fiery chariots. In the 1890s during the dirigible like Airship Wave of sightings, the strange objects were assumed to be the products of a brilliant inventor working secretly.^{52,53} More recently as mankind ventures into space, they are extraterrestrial spacecraft.

Does UAP Intelligence Have Access to our Entire Storehouse of Memories? Can They Create Auditory as well as Visual Illusions?

Wayne Peterson was the CE-5 Working Group Coordinator for Phoenix during the 1990s. On a regular basis, we shared the results of our investigations on the phone. He told me about one fieldwork outing that apparently involved an auditory illusion of considerable personal significance for him. On the night in question, Wayne’s team was doing contact work in the desert under clear skies. Wayne told me that he had become quite familiar with not only the appearance of various planes going overhead, but also the sounds that they made as they moved across the sky. On this night, Wayne and his team heard the roar of what he identified as a 747 Jumbo Jet moving slowly overhead from horizon to horizon. To his surprise, they could not see any of the FAA required lights on what he initially thought was surely a large commercial aircraft by the characteristic sound it made.

A while later, things got even stranger when the sound of a Mack truck slowly tracked overhead. His team reported that no aircraft lights were associated with the pounding engine sound. In the final high strangeness event of the night, Wayne's team heard a sound moving across the sky that no one, except Wayne, had ever been heard before. He recognized it immediately as the clanking sputtering of his grandfather's old diesel tractor. It was the one that he used to ride on as a child during visits to the family farm. Again, there were no lights in the sky associated with this unique sound. Wayne was certain that it was exactly like the noise made by his grandpa's ancient piece of farm equipment. Wayne told me that when this happened, he realized the following. An unseen intelligence that our contact network was interacting with, probably had complete access to his entire store of memories. They apparently were able to telepathically extract from his consciousness the unique memory trace of a sound heard in childhood. They then produced a replica of it as an auditory illusion that his entire team heard.

We should not underestimate the potential significance of what Wayne reported to me. If UAP intelligence can telepathically access a unique memory from his childhood and reproduce it as an auditory illusion, what are the limits to their powers? In my judgment, this account is a powerful example of the consciousness connection that experiencers have with UAP intelligences. It is also supportive of the Virtual Experience Model's VE-1, Virtual Experience of the First Kind. Instead of creating what I suggest is the more common visual illusion, an unseen non-human intelligence apparently manufactured an auditory one.

Yet another case where UAP NHI has accessed stored consciousness information of a contact experiencer was the case of my friend Reinerio (Rey) Hernandez, who also happens to share my hypothesis that the UAP Phenomenon, and all of the "paranormal" Contact Modalities, all interrelated under Consciousness and that we are living inside a Spiritual and Virtual Reality. This particular experience is detailed in Rey's new book titled "*The Mind of GOD: A Spiritual-Virtual Reality Model of Consciousness & the Contact Modalities*".

Rey details the first, among many times, that he has called down a UAP, this time right in front of his house. Rey states as follows:

"While watching this object, I heard a telepathic voice, which was my daughter's voice, that stated: "Daddy, next time you see a UFO please let me know. You and mommy have seen a UFO and I want to see one too". The voice sounded like my daughter was right inside my head. Note that I had never previously had a telepathic communication and it appears like someone is talking right next to you except it is not a voice but direct information going inside your consciousness."

Rey informed me that he had never spoken with his daughter about his experiences and certainly not about UFOs. Rey now concludes that the UAP intelligence has the capacity to upload your consciousness memories, including prior verbal communications with a family member, such as his daughter. This intelligence can then rescrumble, change the order of these conversations, and download these reformatted sentences from his daughter, or anyone else, via telepathic communication, where you believe that your daughter is actually telling you this message even though she never previously communicated this information to you. Thus, the UAP intelligence has the ability to upload your conscious memories, the ability to change these memories, and then the ability to download the reprogramed information to you. UFO intelligence functions like an information computer system-- uploading memories, reformatting this memory and downloading this reprogramed memory information straight to your conscious thoughts.

During this experience, Rey also had another revelation, that what he was seeing was actually a “**Holographic Projection**”. The very large and up close UAP he was interacting with was not physical but instead, was a non-physical intelligence from an unknown source. The UAP intelligence he was interacting with read his thoughts and instantaneously deleted the holographic projection he was seeing and immediately replaced this prior image with a completely new projection. The following is Rey’s quote from his book, *The Mind of GOD: A Spiritual-Virtual Reality Model of Consciousness & the Contact Modalities*.⁵⁵

“After about 10-15 minutes of observing this object, my friend, Luis... and his wife... were shocked and constantly asked me “what is that?”. I told them in Spanish “You know very well what this is”. For the next 10 minutes, each tried to come up with an explanation of what they were seeing but they clearly could not come up with one that adequately explained what they were watching. They both doubted whether this was indeed a CAP-UFO and discussed the following possibilities: circus lights; lights bouncing up from the car headlights from the street behind us; atmospheric conditions; lightning; and that it must be some type of large light “anomaly”.

*I did not tell them that I was the one that had “called down” this object because that would have caused even more confusion for them. After 10 minutes of them trying to “explain” this object, I started laughing out loud because their explanations became more outrageous and laughable. I still do not know why I did what followed. It was as if I had “talked” to this intelligence all of my life. **I then told this intelligence telepathically: “My friends don’t believe you, you better come up with some better bullshit than this.”***

Immediately, the entire object completely disappeared and what replaced it was something totally different. The old object was replaced by a new object. What now appeared were hundreds of large light objects, like large orbs the size of a large Volkswagen car, that appeared inside the location of the disappeared original object. These large orb-like objects then began to rapidly turn themselves on and off, on and off, on and off, like the strobe lights in the back of a bicycle at night. This occurred instantaneously after I had thought “you better come up with some better bullshit than this”. These were not stars in the sky appearing at a distance. Instead, these very large orbs were located at a close distance less than 10 meters above my friend’s home and went up approximately 100 meters and back approximately 600 meters. These large orb objects were on top of my neighbor’s house, the total size was like a small football stadium. I could have thrown a rock at the bottom of one of these orbs and hit it.

Because my friends were doubting what they were seeing, and because I telepathically thought to myself “they don’t believe you, they don’t believe you”, the UFO intelligence, the Mind of GOD, wanted to put on a show for us to demonstrate to us that in fact what we were watching was not man-made”

Rey’s discussion is yet another example of the Virtual Experience Model, when after his thought that the object he and his friends were watching was not convincing enough to his friends, Rey conveyed to the UAP intelligence that “**they don’t believe you, they don’t believe you”-- In other words, give me a better holographic projection.** The UAP intelligence “read” his telepathic thoughts and completely and instantaneously changed the image of what he, his daughter, and his friends were watching. It was after this event that Rey understood that the UAP was not what Ufology was perceiving them to be. This intelligence had the ability to upload memories, change these memories, and then upload new memories and voice patterns to him. They also had the ability to holographically project images and even instantaneously change these holographic UAP images at will. At that point he hypothesized that the UAPs were not physical solid objects but instead, are consciousness-based perceptions from an unknown interdimensional intelligence.

Is it safe to assume that UAP NHI would only access the full storehouse of memory for just Wayne Peterson or Rey Hernandez? Is it not likely that they can reach into the minds of all contact experiencers? In the last section of this chapter, I discuss how UAP intelligence can access the human mind when it is in the unconscious state of sleep. If these mechanisms of psychic interactions that I am describing are valid, then the implications for future human-NHI relations are immense. A sudden realization of UAP intelligence’s awesome psychic powers by the masses of our planet could conceivably incite terrible fear to the point of panic. Knowledge of this tremendous psi capability is something that humanity should be introduced to gradually. I therefore encourage the

UAP research community, and especially activists within the Contact Underground, to search out similar cases for analysis in a cautious and responsible manner.

Why might UAP- NHI stage Virtual Sightings?

To answer this question, it is helpful to review a dark side of human-UAP interactions. Conflict between flying saucers and military pilots has been part of UAP history since the 1950s. Research by author Frank Feschino Jr. has revealed that the “hot pursuit” orders issued by military brass in 1952 may have even resulted in pilot deaths in the USA.⁵⁴ In the UK, “shoot them down” orders were issued in 1957 as described by retired US military pilot Milton Torres. His case came to light when the British Ministry of Defense released documents describing his encounter with a UFO. He reported receiving the order to fire his entire armament of 24 rockets at a flying saucer that appeared on radar. It was reportedly the size of a “B-52 Bomber.” Before he was able to carry out this order, the UAP disappeared from his radarscope.⁵⁵ Some two decades later over Tehran, US government documents indicate that other dangerous encounters occurred. In 1976, pilots of the Royal Iranian Air Force pursued a brilliantly illuminated craft from which a smaller object was sent out towards an F-4 that approached the larger UAP. Thinking that he was under attack, one pilot attempted to launch his missiles. Suddenly he lost all instrumentation, including radio communication. As he broke off his attack, his radio and other equipment became operational.⁵⁶ As discussed previously, it appears likely that many flying saucers sightings are staged for the sole purpose of attracting our attention. If however, they operate in what might be from their point of view “hostile territory”, the use of illusory technology could provide safety for craft and any crews that might be piloting them.

As reported in the New York Times in a series of articles starting in December of 2017, Navy pilots have described the astounding flight capabilities of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. These unknowns are reportedly able to move at hypersonic speeds and then come to abrupt stops. When filmed in the infra-red spectrum they don’t emit a typical exhaust plume. UAPs reportedly were able to operate in the vicinity of Navy jet fighter groups for 12 hours continuously without any apparent refueling.⁵⁷ Such marvels of aeronautical engineering have been part of UAP history since the late 1940s.^{58,59} The flying saucer civilian research community has speculated that to achieve such advancements, the technological culture of the NHI responsible for UAPs could be thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands of years more advanced than our own. What if eons of uninterrupted scientific progress of the so-called aliens also included advances in mental technology? The creation of what I call “Virtual Experiences”, in my judgment, would be the logical outcome of such psychic technological progress.

Methodological Proposals for Identifying Cases Confirming Virtual Sightings (VE-1) as a Mechanism of Contact

If the Virtual Experience Model is valid, then researchers will need to develop protocols to seek out additional confirmatory cases. To create such research tools, it is helpful to review the encounters that led to the concept of Virtual Sightings i.e., Virtual Experiences of the First Kind (VE-1):

- My sighting of the red wooden plane with short wings, no canopy and no pilot, occurring the first week that my contact team started investigations in Los Angeles in 1992.
- “Fred’s” sighting of a purple flying saucer at Robson’s Mining World in March of 1993, he alone reported seeing it despite 60 other sky-watchers being present.
- In November of 1993, during a prolonged interactive encounter with UAP “jumpers,” one seen at close range through binoculars had a flat 2-D appearance as if made from sheet metal. The UAP appeared to repeatedly “touch down” but left no trace on the desert floor.
- In December of 1993 while driving back from fieldwork on highway 62, I observed an anomalous stationary red light atop what I thought was a hillside. As I signaled at it with a powerful light, the hillside dissolved into mist. I called it “a mirage.”
- My March 1994 sighting of two military helicopters with bizarre paint jobs over the 405 in the Sepulveda Pass. I had just discussed with Misha the idea that his sighting of a flying disc pursued by helicopters was a staged illusory display. This sequence of events was consistent with what John Keel called the “reflective factor.”
- In the fall of 1994 during two field investigations in Joshua Tree, anomalous stereotypical meteor visual displays were repeatedly seen. On the first night in October, they appeared each time a new section of sky was observed. On the second night the following month, the “shooting stars” were initially visible to only one witness. Amazingly on request, both witnesses were able to view the “meteors.”
- In July of 1995, anomalous flickering lights appeared on the ceilings of two separate witnesses that I knew personally. In Misha’s encounter, they allegedly coalesced into a holographic like image of an ET being. This image was

reportedly still visible with eyes closed and one eye tearing. This suggests that an energetic stimulation of that eye had created the illusory visual display.

- Kat Carroll’s two sightings in 2017, rich in complex details, appeared to be exactly the same. Both occurred while she was coming out of deep meditation. The oval shaped “object” appeared flat, without “any depth or height.”
- In “Mothman Prophecies” a large bat-like creature was repeatedly described as carrying out impossible maneuvers:
 1. taking off vertically like a helicopter
 2. flying at speeds up to 100 miles per hour
 3. in both (1 and 2) without flapping its wings
- A wave of sightings of both UAPs and Mothman, not only occurred at the same time in the same place, but several of the encounters with Mothman started off as UFO sightings. This was followed immediately by the appearance of the terrifying winged creature. Two such cases supplied by John Keel are mentioned above in this report. One involved the 1963 UK incident in which an anomalous bright star turned into a golden colored oval shaped object. Then a Mothman like creature appeared. The other case was described by the Wamsley family and Mrs. Marcella Bennett. They saw a large red light that did not appear to be a conventional aircraft. Then Mothman appeared and chased them into the house.
- Auditory illusions can also be employed as with Wayne Petersen’s case in which his team heard the sound of his grandfather’s tractor moving across the sky.
- And finally, the case of Rey Hernandez, which occurred in late August of 2012, where he called down his first UAP after 15 minutes of a meditation based on love. He then received a telepathic communication from the voice of his daughter telling him that she wanted to see a UFO even though she never previously told him this information. This was another example of how UAP intelligence can upload and reprogram your historical memories and then download them to you and make you believe that this telepathic information is correct. Rey’s case was also important because it is a prime example that demonstrates that the sightings of UAPs might be Holographic Projections from an unknown interdimensional reality. In Rey’s case, after informing this UAP intelligence that the image they were projecting, the image of a football stadium-sized light object directly on top of him, did not convince his friends, that large UAP “craft” was immediately replaced by a totally separate image, an image of very large orbs, directly on top of him, blinking on and off where these large orbs would take turns “powering up and powering down”, growing and decreasing in size. This new projection

occurred only after Rey informed the UAP intelligence, ***“You better come up with some better bullshit than this because my friends don’t believe you.”***

Most investigators in modern day research groups like MUFON (or NICAP and APRO in past decades), have focused on the "hardware" and “flight characteristics” of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. In my experience with volunteer investigatory groups, this includes both MUFON and those staging human-initiated contact, up until recently they have never seriously considered the proposition that illusionary technology is being employed by UAP intelligences in some flying saucer sightings. This, however, is changing. Group leaders in contact teams after learning of the Virtual Experience theory are starting to report cases supporting this model.

According to the Virtual Experience Model, “Virtual Experiences of the First Kind” are illusory visual displays of UFOs and alien beings, that are created by an advanced NHI’s technology. In a Virtual Experience of the First Kind Type a, the proposed mechanism might involve something akin to holograms in which multiple witnesses can view and even photograph the visual displays staged for them. Another proposed mechanism is by direct stimulation of witnesses' optic neural pathways, using perhaps some kind of “psychotronic” technology. I call this a Virtual Experience of the First Kind Type b. This appeared to be operational in Fred’s 1993 sighting of a “purple saucer” in Arizona. I suggest that the same mechanism was employed in Misha’s reported sighting of an alleged ET being that he called “Zan.” It allegedly appeared on his living room ceiling as his right eye was tearing. This indicated some kind of energy was irritating his eye. The same illusory mechanism was apparently also used in Joshua Tree. This was when I initially could not see the “meteor” displays that my co-worker had just described. Only after requesting that I observe the “shooting star”, not once, but three times in a row, was I able to witness the exact same visual display that Misha reported seeing. In this type of encounter, only the individual (or individuals) targeted can view the projected image (VE-1 type b). This latter type of encounter obviously can’t be photographed because it is the result of the human neurosensory apparatus being energetically stimulated.

The Virtual Experience Model was conceptualized in great part by my noting discrepancies in the observations between two or more UAP witnesses. Obviously, such inconsistencies in the details of sightings can only be known when multiple witnesses are present. In many UAP reports given to MUFON and other reporting agencies, there is only one witness. Even if multiple observers are present, they are usually not carefully interrogated to pick up inconsistencies suggesting an illusory mechanism. In “Fred’s” sighting of a purple flying saucer at Robson Mining World, he alone among 60 potential

witnesses reported seeing a purple saucer. The immediate reaction of his co-investigators was that he might be suffering from mental impairment, or perhaps he was simply lying. These explanations were eventually shown to be improbable because of Fred's continued employment in a highly responsible profession during several decades, as well as his being an effective field investigator in the CE-5 network over many years.

Sensitivity is Required When Questioning Witnesses for Discrepancies

To identify these Virtual Sighting cases, investigators will have to look for inconsistencies in the descriptions of encounters when multiple witnesses are present. In a societal environment of ridicule and denial, considerable push back from UAP percipients would likely occur if such inconsistencies were misinterpreted as the results of delusion or lying. This issue is less problematic in teams organized to stage HICE (Human Initiated Contact Experiences) aka CE-5s. This is because an environment of trust is typically established within these groups as the result of their spending long periods of time together in the field.

The Virtual Experience Model (VEM) is not likely to be readily accepted at this time. I understand that this proposed mechanism is disturbing for both contactees and those whose focus is to collect sighting reports. Unfortunately, among many of my fellow contact workers, there is the tendency to believe that every anomalous light or structured object appearing in the sky represents "friendly ETs in their spacecraft." Many contact experiencers have a strong emotional attachment to the ET hypothesis that can lead them to put blinders on and not be willing to analyze their encounters critically. What I am suggesting is that some, perhaps many, but certainly not all sightings are illusionary in nature. For the "scientific ufologists", the Virtual Experience Model is also problematic. My impression of the so-called "nuts and bolts" school is that they approach the phenomenon as if it were some aeronautical engineering problem. In my opinion they fail to understand the central role of consciousness in the contact drama unfolding all around us. After fifty years of collecting sighting reports, how much more can be learned by dutifully documenting the flight characteristics of still another "unknown?" If the Virtual Experience Model is valid, MUFON investigators might have to face the fact that for decades, in so many cases, they have been pursuing phantoms.

This proposed model is preliminary in nature. I encourage UAP investigators in general, and especially contact experiencers with recurrent sightings, to examine UAPs in the light of this hypothesis. As a contact worker in the loose network of investigators that I call "the Contact Underground", I have been given the rare opportunity to directly engage UAP intelligences in a prospective manner by staging real time investigations with fellow activists. I encourage all flying saucer witnesses to attempt to interact with the non-human intelligence responsible for this strange and exciting phenomenon. UAPs are shrouded in mystery. Nevertheless, I believe that by directly engaging the

intelligences responsible for flying saucers, there is much to be learned about the mechanisms of contact. This particular knowledge will play an important role in helping humanity eventually solve the mystery of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena.

PRIME CONTACTEES ARE ON A CONTINUUM OF CONTACT EXPERIENCERS

In this final section, I return to the class of contact experiencer that I call “prime contactees.” From my experience as an organizer of networks of contact workers, I learned that the “primes” have a special importance for staging Human Initiated Contact Experiences. Thus, during my efforts to organize contact teams in the 1990s, I searched for individuals that might fall into this category. Prime contactees typically have some of the following characteristics:

1. Apparent contact with UAP intelligences from childhood or as a young adult. This involves special training in consciousness-based communication (telepathy) and the concomitant development of other advanced psychic abilities. Primes often start to meditate in their adolescence, sometimes without any apparent parental or other adult supervision.

2. Primes have repeated sightings of UFOs. These often occur when other people are present to verify the “primes” ongoing contact experiences.

3. They experience a strong sense of “mission” that may involve informing the public about the importance of contact with UAP intelligences. Primes may form independent contact teams or join existing ones.

4. The most advanced “primes,” from my experience with them, have ongoing two-way telepathic mental communication with UAP intelligences.

This last feature is particularly risky for prime contactees. If the larger society learns of such capabilities, those individuals will be mistakenly labeled as a “kooks” and be subjected to intense ridicule. Their sanity will almost certainly be questioned and forced psychiatric evaluations might even result. Primes, if they lack spiritual development, may also exploit their status and become self-styled “gurus.” Such individuals are sometimes accused of developing a following that they exploit for financial gain or to gratify their egos at others’ expense.⁶⁰

In 2014 when I first discussed this special type of contact experiencer on social media, I was surprised to see a controversy result. The importance that I assigned to “primes” because they help stage Human Initiated Contact Events (HICE) was criticized

by fellow senior activists. I was told that such a category was “elitist.” I was accused of trying to create a “popularity contest” in which the ordinary contactees’ role would be deemed as “insignificant” next to the “supreme status” of the so-called “primes.” In addition, fellow organizers of the contact network advised me that I was potentially being “divisive” and should not discuss the topic further for the sake of maintaining unity.

Mental Links Exist on an Unconscious Level in Contact Experiencers

I responded to the criticism by stating that “primes” were at one end of a continuum of contact experiencers. I argued that an ongoing mental link is likely present between every member of a CE-5 team and UAP intelligences, whether people in our network were aware of such connections or not. Thus, those that I called primes were not so very “special” after all. Previously I described several examples of encounters representative of this. During the first month of my LA based team’s investigations in 1992, three people associated with our group, including me, had highly congruent sightings while driving home. These staged encounters were in my opinion facilitated by some kind of telepathic connection that we were not aware of.

In the following year (1993) as described previously, a series of missing time episodes occurred across the entire CE-5 network in the Western United States. My fellow team leader Wayne Peterson and I were not aware of the consciousness connections necessary to stage these high strangeness events. I believe that excepting Misha, none of the seven other individuals involved in these three “programed” missing time events had a clue as to the mental links that were involved. In my judgment, the events unfolded in such a coordinated way that I strongly suspect we were all being monitored telepathically, albeit on an unconscious level.

In the summer of 1997, I did contact work in Southern England. Crop circle investigator David Kingston invited me to do a CE-5 workshop on the coast south of London. I also did fieldwork with a contact worker that I shall call “Tracy Travis”, a pseudonym. I had read about her work filming bright, orange-colored orbs flying over Lake Ontario. She had family in the UK and was planning to do fieldwork in the southern England. So, we met up there. For three nights we had amazing sightings outside a town called Maidenhead, 25 miles west of London.

From listening to Tracy describe her volunteer contact activities, I realized that she shared many of the attributes of “primes.” She showed me the videos of the UAPs that she had obtained back in North America. They were truly impressive. Brilliantly illuminated orange-colored orbs could be seen in broad daylight flying between sailboats on Lake Ontario. In one video, a spectacular golden disc hovered over the water by a distant shore of the lake. This “craft” looked to be at least one hundred feet across. Tracy remarkably had no need to meditate. She apparently

attracted the phenomenon without the typical mental preparation that was part of the protocols that I had become accustomed to.

During our conversations, she revealed to me how she had obtained her videos and I realized the depth of her consciousness connection with UAP intelligences. Tracy said that it was her custom to drive to a camp site on the shore of Lake Ontario. Typically, this happened in the afternoon. She then positioned her video camera pointing at the lake and started filming. Following this she reportedly lay down on the ground and took a nap for about an hour. When she awoke and looked at the video footage recorded, lo and behold, orbs and other UAPs were clearly evident. She never reported experiencing conscious telepathic communications. Clearly however, a robust consciousness link was present both when awake and while she was unconscious, asleep at the campsite.⁶¹

During the summer of 1997 in England, I met another contact worker that I call “Joe”, a pseudonym. His story possibly reveals how UAP intelligences might psychically interact with potential contact workers while they are asleep and years before they manifest any interest in the phenomenon. I had learned from UK activists that he headed a team going out into the field on a regular basis. They were reportedly signaling at UAPs. The “craft” allegedly were signaling back at Joe’s team. We met in a London working class neighborhood. I was expecting to meet a fellow middle-class individual with a regular meditation practice and an interest in spirituality. Joe was a surprise. He was a big burly guy in his early twenties. Six feet tall with a crew cut, he could have been a rugby player. He worked as a butcher and reportedly had never practiced meditation. In addition, Joe had no particular interest in religion or spirituality.

Over a meal of fish and chips, he told me what he was doing with his “mates.” In small groups at night, they were going out by Gatwick International Airport. They positioned themselves in fields beyond the runways and used “torches” to signal at small glowing discs that were high in the night sky above the airport. Joe told me that this activity had been going on for a few months. From the broad smile on his face, he appeared happy to report that the UFOs signaled back at them. I was eager to find out if Joe might fit into the profile of his being a “prime contactee.” He clearly, however, wasn’t a good match. He denied having

any UFO sightings over the years. He had never studied astronomy or eastern philosophy. He had heard of CSETI, and the CE-5 program, but that was it. I was perplexed. I asked him about meditation equivalents. Was he a musician or artist? The answer was “No.” What about yoga? He denied being a practitioner of that discipline. He told me that he liked drinking beer while watching football on the “telly” with his “mates.”

An Inexplicable Event Suggesting Psychic Training When Asleep.

Joe paused, and then told me about a strange experience he remembered having when he was just about 14 years old. Like some adolescents, he had the habit of staying up half the night watching TV. It was his custom to view the tube while sprawled out on the living room couch. One morning at around 3 AM, he woke up on the couch. The TV was still on, but it was so late that all programming had ceased. Only a snowy kind of static display appeared on the screen. Instead of finding himself recumbent, his usual position when watching TV, he was sitting upright, and his legs were crossed in a what he described as a “full lotus position.” “So, you were a Yoga student,” I said. He insisted that he was not. He had never studied Yoga. In fact, it was only several months after waking up in front of the TV with both legs crossed that he saw a magazine picture identifying the difficult pose as “full lotus.”

What is the significance of this strange account? How many teenagers describe awakening in the challenging Yoga position called “full lotus?” How many young men in their early twenties are going into the field to signal at UFOs? It was no coincidence. I suspect that while in a trance like state, he was trained to assume the difficult yoga position and was still in that pose when he woke up in front of the TV. In my judgment, this account strongly suggests that UAP intelligences can prepare experiencers for contact work at an unconscious level. This may be occurring years before an experiencer decides to become a contact worker. Thus, specialized psychic training might very well be provided to a host of future contact activists just like Joe, without their being aware of the training on a conscious level. The only memory he was left with was his sitting in front of a blank TV screen while in full lotus when he came out of trance. Years later, I suspect that he may have received a subtle mental suggestion for him to get involved in UFO fieldwork as a contact team leader. I must admit that he made a most unusual choice of a site for his flying saucer interactions, i.e., just beyond the runways of a major airport.

Joe apparently is not the only contact enthusiast to report going into full lotus while asleep. Starting in 2014 several times per year, I placed an article about “Joe” on social media. In June of 2019, a woman reportedly in her mid-twenties named Courtney responded to my posting. She too is from the UK. In social media messaging, Courtney identified herself as a contact experiencer with recurrent sightings of silver-colored discs. This reportedly was occurring three to four times per year. Although she denied ever requesting a sighting, sometimes they occur in the presence of her partner. Courtney identified herself as a contact experiencer with recurrent sightings of silver-colored discs. This reportedly was occurring three to four times per year. Although she denied ever requesting a sighting, sometimes they occur in the presence of her partner. Courtney stated that she was working as a customer service representative in a small casino. She

told me that she had never mediated. Occasionally she attends yoga classes but apparently was never able to achieve the difficult full lotus position in class. One night in May of 2018, she reportedly awoke in bed at around 3a.m. To her surprise, she was in the full lotus pose. Courtney described this as only happening once. Courtney denied being a sleepwalker. She admitted to having frequent dreams with UFO themes. She stated, “I’ve had little bruises and cuts appear all over my body too, which I couldn’t explain. I often have premonitions that come true or get deja vu a lot.” She added, “I don’t know if that is anything to do with sightings I’ve had.” In my judgment, they are all related and consistent with her status as a contact experiencer.

Although never having been part of any organized outreach effort, Courtney did admit to a sense of “mission” that many contact experiencers describe. She stated, “I’ve always had a leader like attribute and see myself as someone who wants to teach/help/guide others. I feel as though I’ve been put here to do that and help ‘save’ human civilization.... I don’t know yet, in what way I will help, but I just have this strong feeling/urge to help and explore the unknown.”

Courtney’s narrative demonstrates several features shared by the so-called primes: frequent UAP sightings, sometimes in the presence of another witness, stated psychic ability in terms of premonitions “that come true”, a strong sense of mission to serve some important cause, and a willingness to share these experiencers with others by giving me permission to use her real name. (I chose not to include her surname as I am accustomed to preserving a measure of confidentiality in what I know are sensitive matters.) The intriguing aspect of her story is that like “Joe”, she described waking up in full lotus position, a pose that she reportedly could never do while awake. In this, we see a clue suggesting ongoing psychic interactions while she is unconscious. Both Joe and Courtney’s cases of young people from the UK have features demonstrating that there is a spectrum of contact experiencers on which the so-called “primes” stand at one extreme. This was the gist of my rebuttal to my critics back in 2014. Full blown “prime contactees”, in a proverbial sense, are “the tip of the iceberg.” They should not be seen as “supreme” in anyway, but rather exist as part of a continuum of contact experiencers. Some may choose to join what I call “the Contact Underground” as Joe did by becoming a contact team leader. Others like Courtney may choose not to get involved in that way.

What are the implications of this proposed covert mechanism of mental interactions? Perhaps on a worldwide basis, every person that has ever had a bona fide flying saucer sighting, unbeknownst to them, has a hidden personal history with flying saucer intelligences. I suppose it might be described as a kind of secret life. Perhaps it is one existing deep within the darkest unconscious realms of the minds of contact experiencers targeted for telepathic contact. These last two cases that I describe, however, hardly prove such a notion. If UAP “central intelligence” can target and interact with

experiencers for years, with the subjects having no conscious memories of these psychic interactions, perhaps a sudden interest in UFOs, which many flying saucer fans describe, is a kind of limited “remembering” of pre-existing unconscious relationships with UAP intelligences. And the sense of mission that contact activists describe after their first sighting might be the unveiling of a previously hidden long-standing relationship with the non-human intelligence responsible for flying saucers. This proposed mechanism of contact has personal significance for me. Three decades ago, I “took a walk on the wild side.” For no apparent reason, I picked up a book about flying saucers at the local public library. Subsequently, I chose to become very heavily involved in this controversial subject. I still wonder why I made those fateful decisions so long ago.

CLOSING STATEMENT

Based on my years of work facilitating Human Initiated Contact Experiences, it is my hope that mankind has entered a new era of gradual rapprochement with flying saucer intelligences. I imagine that a process of this importance and magnitude will unfold over many generations, perhaps even longer, over centuries. If properly planned and executed, this process might allow humanity to achieve over time a direct, cooperative and more equitable relationship with UAP intelligences. I imagine such a historic achievement will create tremendous opportunities for human advancement. In 2018 with co-author Preston Dennett, I published a report of 10 cases of medical healings done by the NHI associated with UAPs. The witnesses had a diverse set of diagnoses including: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, deep venous thrombophlebitis, an avulsed (torn off) cornea and a baseball sized lung mass that on X-ray was almost certainly cancer.⁴⁴ Direct peaceful contact with advanced non-human cultures could possibly benefit Earth civilization, not only in medicine, but also in materials engineering, transportation and most importantly the acquisition of non-polluting energy sources.

This last category will likely be of increasing significance as the harmful effects of climate change related to fossil fuel use become more evident. As a former volunteer peace and social justice activist from the 1960s into the 1980s, I strongly suspect that achieving some kind of sustainable world peace will be a prerequisite for such technology transfers. Veteran flying saucer researcher, the sorely missed Stanton Friedman, in his numerous public lectures bemoaned the destructive effects of what he called our “continuous tribal warfare.” He also pointed out that the “aliens” appear to be incredibly well prepared for their interactions with us. He stated that ET did not just “fall off the cabbage wagon.” It is my hope that as our relationship with UAP intelligences develops further, they might offer limited assistance to help us deal with the seemingly insurmountable challenges confronting humanity.

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Bio: Dr. Joseph Burkes is a retired internal medicine physician and a life-long volunteer peace and social justice activist. He is a volunteer UFO investigator since 1992 and currently serves as a medical consultant for the Consciousness & Contact Research Institute and previously with the Dr. Edgar Mitchell FREE Foundation, FREE. During the 1960s and 1970s he participated in the US civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements. In the 1980s he was an activist in “Physicians for Social Responsibility”, PSR. The global umbrella organization of PSR, “The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War” won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for their efforts to inform people and government leaders about the medical dangers of nuclear war and the nuclear arms race. He continues to promote the worldwide efforts of activists that he calls “The Contact Underground.” Dr. Burkes’ writings focus on the mechanisms of contact. These include his “Virtual Experiencer Theory” which describes the role of illusion during close encounters and the “intelligence-counterintelligence model” for UFO investigations. Most importantly he sees the need to establish world peace based on social justice as a necessary pre-condition for establishing full direct relations with the non-human intelligences responsible for the flying saucer phenomenon. In Dr. Burkes’ view they are assisting humanity during this period of rapid transformation of Earth civilization. He is co-author of “*Paths to Contact, True Stories from the Contact Underground*” edited by Jeff Becker. He is also co-author with Preston Dennett of a chapter on *UAP Medical Healings* in the FREE compendium, “*Beyond UFOs.*” Dr. Burkes lives in Northern California with his wife Yael, four small dogs and a 106-year-old desert tortoise named Moishe.