

## Part F: Reprint of 2 Articles by Dr. Leon Davidson

*Publisher's Note: Early issues of Saucer News (Box 2228, Clarksburg, WV 26301) contained several articles by Dr. Davidson that expressed his unique views on the origin of UFO phenomena. Two of these are published here in photo-offset reproduction of the original magazine pages because we feel that they add to the value of this publication as an historical document. Blank areas of some pages result from the removal of cartoons, advertisements, and other material not part of the author's manuscript.*

*The article "ECM + CIA = UFO" appeared in the February/March, 1959 issue.*

*"An Open Letter To Saucer Researchers" was published in the March/1962 and succeeding issue as two parts. Later it was reprinted in Jim Moseley's Book of Saucer News (Saucerian Books, 1967).*

# ECM + CIA = UFO

-or-

## How to Cause a Radar Sighting

by Dr. Leon Davidson

### Electronic CounterMeasures

By 1945, mechanical countermeasures against radar had become publicly known. Aluminum foil strips dropped from planes reflect radar waves and clutter up the enemy's radar screens. Further developments to electronic countermeasures (ECM).

A "black box" in our bombers would pick up the enemy's radar impulses; amplify and modify them; and send them back, drowning out the normal radar return from the bomber. The modification could be a change in timing or phase and could cause the "blip" on the radar screen to have an incorrect range, speed, or heading.

By about 1950, ECM was standard equipment on our advanced bombers and was being developed for missiles. Advertisements started to appear about 1956 showing that this equipment could be used for creating simulated targets for training radar operators. I quote from an article in *Aviation Research and Development*, March 1957, pg. 22:

"A new radar moving target simulator system -- which generates a display of up to 6 individual targets on any standard radar indicator -- has been developed ... to train radar operators ... and for in-flight testing of airborne early-warning personnel... Target positions, paths, and velocities can ... simulate ... realistic flight paths... Speeds up to 10,000 knots (about 11,500 mph) are easily generated... The target can be made to turn left or right... For each target there is ... adjustment to provide a realistic scope presentation."

The reader should keep this quotation in mind when reading about radar sightings of high-speed UFOs.

### **The Central Intelligence Agency**

The CIA is the chief foreign intelligence arm of the United States and is the successor to the O.S.S. (our WWII "cloak&dagger" agency). The mission of the CIA includes waging psychological warfare.

Neither the public, the Congress, nor many people in the Government know how the CIA spends its funds (probably running over \$100,000,000 [FY 1959] per year). Its working personnel never identify themselves publicly. It doesn't publicize its office locations, its activities, or its contact men.

The CIA's policies are guided by the "Operations Coordination Board" which consists of the White House Special Assistant for national Security (formerly Robert Cutler), the Under-Secretary of State, and the Deputy Secretary of Defense (now Donald A. Quarles).

The Director of the CIA in its early days was Admiral Hillenkoetter (now retired and high in UFO NICAP circles). Since about 1950, the CIA Director has been Allen W. Dulles -- a Wall Street lawyer (48 Wall St. to be exact) -- who is a younger brother of John F. Dulles (our Secretary of State).

The role of the CIA in the flying saucer field is becoming increasingly well known as the following references show:

- Stringfield, Inside Saucer Post 5-0 Blue, page 42
- *Saucer News*, February-March/1958, pp. 7-14
- Palmer, *Flying Saucers*, Feb 1959, editorial
- *Fate*, Feb. 1959, pg. 57
- NICAP, *The UFO Investigator*, No. 4, June 1958, pg. 4.

### **Meaning of the equation ECM + CIA = UFO**

I contend that since 1951, the CIA has caused or sponsored saucer sightings for its own purposes. By shrewd psychological manipulation, a series of "normal" events has been served up so as to appear as quite convincing evidence of extraterrestrial UFOs. Some of this "normal" activity includes military use of ECM on a classified basis unknown to the radar observers who were involved, leading to the radar reports discussed in this article.

By examining the references given, the reader will see that these 3 cases are treated as good sightings by competent reliable observers. The general attitude of saucer researchers toward these cases is somewhat as follows:

These cases show that saucers are real solid objects giving genuine radar returns (Michel, pp. 83-89) and traveling at speeds up to 9,000 mph (FSFOS, pp. 161-165). These objects can maneuver remarkably well (FSC, p. 217) and perform beyond the capability of present Earth-made devices (FSFOS, p. 166). These radar blips are not due to temperature inversions (FSFOS, pp. 101-103) and Michel, p. 87). In some cases, there are simultaneous radar and visual sightings so the objects cannot be merely radar tricks (FSFOS, p.64).

I will now endeavor to show that the attitude expressed above is unfounded if the existence of ECM equipment can be postulated.

### **The "Invisible Saucers"**

The "classic" radar sighting in its purest form is the case of the "Invisible Saucers" given in Chapter 15 of Keyhoe's Flying Saucer Conspiracy (FSC, pp. 217-221). A brief abstract follows:

"In late September (1952) as UFO sightings were increasing all over Europe... a strange U-formation ... of 40-to-50 UFOs ... changed with a precise movement from a U-formation to 2 parallel lines... and then reformed in a perfect 'Z'... Cloudy skies had hidden them ... but the third appearance came on a bright clear day ... at noon... But this time ... the UFO formation was invisible to the human eye (just as on the 2 previous days)... 4 more times the mystery formation returned at noon... For over a month, this story was kept from the public... The War Office spokesman said that he had been given top-level orders to 'maintain the utmost secrecy'..."

Keyhoe's Washington contact -- "Paul Redell" -- says of this case (FSC, p.219):

"Yes, I know about it. And I'm pretty sure it's happened here too... I believe that the answer is tied in with some highly classified research I've heard about... There's one lead I can give you... The Nansei-Shoto thing is exactly the same as what happened over England. Some day when the lid is lifted, I'll explain it."

*(The Nansei-Shoto affair is discussed on page 221-224 of FSC and is also mentioned in the following section in this article.)*

Note that there is no claim of visual confirmation in this English case as reported by Keyhoe. A test or demonstration of ECM by military authorities in England could have accounted for this case and for Redell's remarks.

### **The Washington Airport Sightings and the Official Explanations**

An important and well-known case is the Washington National Airport radar sightings of July 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 1952. I have no space to quote the case here. But it is written up in Ruppelt (pp. 209-228), Michel (pp. 84-89), and Keyhoe (FSFOS, pp. 62-70).

At a July 29, 1952 press conference at the Pentagon, General Samford (Director of Air Force Intelligence) answered questions about these radar sightings. *The New York Times* front-page story of July 30, 1952 (in quoting from Samford's statements) contains the following "official" viewpoints:

"We are learning more-and-more about radar... Radar is capable of playing tricks for which it was not designed... These instances were good observations of something. But not good observations of what radar was designed to observe."

*(Naturally, the General did not mention ECM because this was a classified subject at the time. But it seems obvious that this is what he was guardedly referring to.)*

The General also said that an experienced radar operator assigned to define saucers on the radar screen was subject to curiosity stimuli that would result in overemphasis. He said that he was satisfied that none of the saucer "sightings" represented the flight of any material object.

*The New York Times* news summary for that day also stated: "The pickup of the aerial objects on radar screens was of 'radar ghosts' and not actual things."



Along this line, a *Washington Post* article by John G. Norris (July 29, 1952) stated:

"A high Navy officer suggested that they were a revisitation of the 'ghosts of Nansei-Shoto'. He referred to the rash of spots which appeared on radar screens... in 1945... never fully explained... believed generally to have been caused by... 'electronic noise' from the many radar sets in the area."

*(It may be surmised that the Nansei-Shoto affair was an accident due to the proximity of many naval radar sets. Which led to the realization of the possibility of ECM.)*

[StealthSkater note: more on the Nansei-Shoto incident is archived at [doc](#) [pdf](#) [URL-doc](#) [URL-pdf](#) and [doc](#) [pdf](#) [URL-doc](#) [URL-pdf](#) . Also makes me wonder if this could have seeded the mythical "Philadelphia Experiment" => [doc](#) [pdf](#) [URL](#) ]

### **The Gulf of Mexico sighting**

Space permits only a brief discussion of the Gulf of Mexico case of December 6, 1952 -- one of the mainstays of Keyhoe's theories (FOFOS, pp. 161-166). The case involved a radar training plane returning from a night's practice.

Suddenly radar blips apparently going 5,000-to-9,000 mph were seen. Although this case is supposed to contain visual confirmation, I quote from p. 165:

"The closest the objects came was approximately 20 miles... Flashes of light were noted... I saw a blue-white streak travel from front to rear..."

Since almost anything seen from a plane will seem to travel from front to rear (even wisps of clouds or particles from the exhaust), this is not conclusive visual confirmation of a flying saucer.

Unknown to the airmen on the plane, this incident could have been due to ECM operations either for the purposes of training the crew or for demonstrating ECM's capabilities to those high officials who would later get to see the "eyewitness" report made out by the crew.

In any case, it also provided a good radar sighting for the saucer files. On p. 159, Keyhoe states that this case was especially given to him as one which supported his interplanetary mothership theory.

I conclude with Keyhoe's words from p. 165:

"Of all the official reports I'd seen, this was the most astonishing. That it had been released to me seemed to mean only one thing. Clearly, Intelligence... ('the CIA??')... wanted the public to see this conclusive proof that the saucers were interplanetary machines."

### **What Really Happened in the Radar Cases?**

I do not claim that all radar sightings of flying saucers are caused by the use of ECM equipment. However, I believe that the radar sightings discussed in this article had no connection with real objects capable of speeds of thousands of miles-per-hour. Instead, I maintain that these particular reports were

due either to accidental or purposeful generation of signals in the radar sets from special ECM equipment.

The ECM operations would have been conducted under normal secrecy rules befitting their novel military character. The ECM personnel may not even have realized that their operations would give rise to these UFO reports. The reports of the radar personnel show that they were not aware of any ECM possibilities and were genuinely "taken in" by the display.

Such proceedings would seem normal, honest, and perfectly proper in the name of military R&D. But I think we must draw the line at the next step -- **misleading publicity**. I believe that the CIA "promoted" publicity on these sightings (at least the American cases) for the purpose of fostering stories about the "interplanetary" nature of flying saucers. Shrewd manipulation of normal military moves through top-level contacts enabled the CIA -- without any extensive staff of operations -- to perform certain necessary facts. A few examples are given below.

- (1) The jet interceptors which guard Washington were moved from Andrews Air Force Base (4 miles away) to New Castle, Delaware (90 miles away) to "permit runway repairs" during the month of the sightings in Washington. This accounted for the delays and lack of sufficient interceptors. With the jets based at Andrews AFB, an ECM hoax could not have been carried off.
- (2) Ruppelt was prevented from traveling around Washington to collect facts from eyewitnesses. He states how he was unable to get taxi fare or a staff car on July 21<sup>st</sup> (Ruppelt, pp. 216-21). And on July 29<sup>th</sup>, he says (p.221):

"Major Fournet and I spent the entire morning 'just leaving' for somewhere to investigate 'something'. Every time we would start to leave, something more pressing would come up."

A reason for the CIA to have kept him immobile appears on p. 224:

"... Had someone gone out and made a more thorough investigation... it would have taken some of the interest out of the 2 radar reports. It took me a year to put... together...., but it could have been collected in a day of concentrated effort."

*He then quotes some data which cast doubt on the validity of the visual confirmations of the Washington radar sightings.*

## **Conclusion**

It should be noted that the Washington sightings were predicted in advance to Ruppelt privately by a CIA scientist a few days before they took place (Ruppelt, pp. 209-210). This is quite consistent with the contention that the CIA "sponsored" the sightings.

Those who find it hard to believe that a Government agency would participate in such trickery should read "How Insiders Kept Their Great Service" article in *Life* magazine, Jan. 5 1950, pp. 20-31. Note particularly the sentence in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph:

"A group of Signal Corps trailers... were brought under false orders at night... with the connivance of a cooperative but mystified Provost Marshall and parked in a remote spot on the base."

When the full story of these 1952 radar sightings is finally told, I am sure that there will be many such instances revealed involving ECM equipment.

Researchers who want to learn the truth about flying saucers should learn all they can about ECM. Then let them consider whether they will admit that this may be a solution to these radar sightings.

**Books cited:**

FSFOS ..... Keyhoe, Flying Saucers From Outer Space, Holt, New York, 1953  
FSC..... Kehoe, The Flying Saucer Conspiracy, Holt, New York, 1955  
Michel..... The Truth About Flying Saucers, Criterion, New York, 1956  
Ruppelt.... The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, Doubleday, Garden City, 1956

[StealthSkater note: further essays/references to Leon Davidson are archived at (a) [doc](#) [pdf](#) [URL](#) [doc](#) [URL-pdf](#) and (b) [doc](#) [pdf](#) [URL-doc](#) [URL-pdf](#) ]

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