

Sgt. gives alien account

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Staff Writer

Air Force Sgt. Jeff Morse was a member of the 418th Police Squadron on the cold, clear and windy night of Jan. 18, 1978, when a little known but still lingering story of a UFO incident began to unfold on and around McGuire Air Force Base.

That is a version of events offered by Richard H. Hunt, an author on UFO and other topics, who as a veteran Ufologist says he has extensively investigated the case.

"What started out as a routine - almost boring - 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift assignment gradually took on nightmarish qualities as time passed," writes Hunt, whose work on the case is now featured on Ufology web sites.

Hunt's report offers the following account of how the night unfolded:

The moon hung high and full as Morse and his partner, Sgt. Mark Larimer, endured the cold - a fact owing to a faulty heater in their patrol car.

Shortly after 1 a.m., Morse radioed into the command post, offering to relieve guards at various base gates, so they could go to the bathroom or grab a quick bite to eat. Morse was directed to gate number five. (McGuire Historian Gary Boyd says the base does not now have, nor has it ever had, a gate number five.)

The two security officers proceeded to this gate five, located just off Texas Avenue (Route 545), which runs between McGuire and Fort Dix, the adjacent Army base.

"As they were en route to the gate, the radio suddenly crackled alive," writes Hunt. "Morse and Larimer heard a tense voice admonish them that sightings of unusual lights in the sky flying in formation had started coming in from scattered locations; that they should be on the alert for anything out of the ordinary."

Morse and his partner took the radio report as a

joke. They nonetheless got out of the car to look up and see what all the fuss was about.

"High in the sky, formations of odd-looking bluish-green lights were cavorting over the base," Hunt writes. "At first Morse and Larimer were shocked... They were single lights, not the familiar running lights of aircraft. And they were performing some pretty amazing acrobatics."

They counted 12 of the lights in all. Sometimes the lights flew in straight formations. Sometimes they gathered into a giant arrowhead. They seemed to course back and forth across the sky.

It was now about 3 a.m., and the two men could in the distance make out two police type vehicles flashing their array of roof lights along Wrightstown-Cookstown Road. The speeding vehicles seemed to be headed their way.

They soon heard over the radio from the command post that one of the vehicles was a state police cruiser, the other a Fort Dix Military Police vehicle. The sergeant on duty in the McGuire Command post had a frequency enabling him to communicate with the state police vehicle, which now wanted access to gate five.

Morse and Larimer were dispatched there, whereupon they encountered the trooper, who said he and the MP had been in pursuit of a low-flying object.

Communications, meanwhile, had abruptly cut out between the MP and the McGuire command post but only after the MP had radioed the Fort Dix command post that he had encountered an "oval object giving off a bluish green glow."

Once radio contact was resumed, the MP stuttered through an effusive narrative of how the object had hovered above his vehicle.

The MP then reported "that out of nowhere this 'thing' (his words), a being of some sort, had suddenly appeared directly in front of his vehicle.

"It was about four feet tall, grayish brown in color, with a proportionately large head, long arms, and a slender body," Hunt writes. "Badly frightened, the MP had panicked and fired five rounds from his 45 caliber pistol into the creature, and one upwards into the object hovering above him."

Security patrols on both bases converged on their adjoining fence lines, when suddenly the headlights of Morse's vehicle "revealed a motionless figure lying prone on the cold concrete in the middle of the inactive runway about 50 feet in front of them."

As Morse approached the body, he noticed "a pungent, ammonia-like stench in the air."

Morse was soon ordered to escort the state police officer off the base, as higher level security police arrived on the scene, armed with M-16s. Amid the confusion, it was clear that these new troops, who bore rank on their sleeves but no unit insignia, would take charge of tightening security immediately around the body.

Meanwhile, Morse and his partner were reduced to guarding the far perimeter of the area. But even from a distance, Morse could see "the body did not appear human" and that "it appeared slimy, almost snakelike in texture."

He saw the base "clinic personnel" spray the body with an unknown substance, then watched as a recovery team placed it in a crate. He says the crate was soon brought aboard a cargo plane for a flight to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, just outside Dayton Ohio.

Morse was soon transferred from McGuire, as were many other airmen who bore witness to the events of January 18. Morse wound up in Guam, where he first heard a radio show by Ufologist Leonard H. Stringfield, which ultimately inspired him to tell his story.