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The Saucers That Time Forgot

Cash-Landrum UFO Case Documents

C-L: Witness Testimony

C-L: Video Collection

Thursday, March 7, 2019

The US Government's Cash-Landrum UFO Investigations, Part Two

In [part one](#), we saw how the Cash-Landrum case had been investigated by the US government in 1981 by officials from Bergstrom Air Force Base in Texas, in 1982 by the Department of the Army Inspector General, and in 1983 by the nation's defense team responding to the UFO-related lawsuit. In the conclusion, we'll look at the subsequent secret investigation and how it relates to other agencies that may be covertly studying UFOs today.



ATP, The Advanced Theoretical Physics Working Group

[John B. Alexander](#) has had a long involvement in the UFO and paranormal, and participated in the DAIG investigation mentioned earlier. Dr. Alexander's publisher notes his lengthy interest and research into exotic studies: "life after death, mind over matter, UFOs, remote viewing, telepathic communications with animals, and more..." Chiefly known for his work in non-lethal weapons research, Alexander retired from the US Army in 1988 as a colonel, and along the way earned his Ph.D. in Thanatology at Walden University in 1980.

Dr. Alexander developed a network of friends and associates with similar interests, many of whom were also in the military, doing contract work for the government, the Intelligence Community, or professionals in private industry. One of those friends was Dr. Paul E. Tyler (1930 - 2013), a Captain in the US Navy, and medical consultant on the government's remote viewing program. This circle of associates was valuable when Alexander put together the Advanced Theoretical Physics Working Group. The primary purpose of the group was to determine if there was a hidden UFO government agency, but their findings were negative. The team also studied a few UFO cases, and the Cash Landrum incident was one of particular interest.

Dr. Harold E. Puthoff was a key member of ATP, and he kept his colleague Jacques Vallee informed of the group's activities. Vallee's journals record several entries on ATP, which he called "the Secret Onion." From *Forbidden Science - Volume III* (2016), by Jacques Vallee:

Hyde Street. Wednesday 24 July 1985. (page 199)

"Hal (Puthoff) and I had a lot to talk about... There was a meeting on frontier subjects in Washington recently. When Hal arrived he discovered the topic was UFOs, and the overall project was structured in multiple layers, like an onion. The meeting was classified above top secret, under a codeword. Fifteen attendees reviewed cases like

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Second irony: they came to the conclusion there must be a secret UFO project, somewhere else!"



ATP members included Ed Dames, Jack Houck, Bob Wood, Hal Puthoff and John Alexander.

Vallee provided a more detailed description of Alexander's ATP in the endnotes:

"Notes and References" section for Part Eleven: Dark Science (pages 480-481)

"It has become known that the key meetings took place under DoE supervision on May 20-25, 1985 in the secure facility of the BDM Corporation in McLean, Virginia. The group called itself the 'Advanced Theoretical Physics Conference' or ATP. Alleged participants were Samuel Finch, Oke Shannon and John Kink of Los Alamos National Laboratory; Bill Wilkinson from CIA; Howell McConnell from NSA (whom I had met in October 1972); Hal Puthoff and Jack Houck; Ed Speakman of INSCOM (Army Intelligence); Bill Souder and Bob Wood of McDonnell Douglas; Jake Stewart of the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering; Bert Stubblebine of BDM; Ron Blackburn, Milt Janzen and Don Keuble of Lockheed; Ralph Freeman, Gary Bright, radiologist Paul Tyler, Ed Dames and Lt. Col. Mike Neery. Ron Pandolfi of CIA also claims to have been involved."

In Jacques Vallee's entries on the ATP over the years, it is clear that the project never received funding or became an official government program. Dr. Kit Green "refused to take part in the meetings as long as no budget had been allocated to give it an official status." (*Forbidden Science Volume III*, 18 May 1986. P. 243)

John Alexander described ATP in June 2018, *EdgeScience* #34, "The Department of Defense and UFOs Redux," comparing his 1980s group with the AATIP effort from 2007:

"(AATIP) was just another in a series... of inadequate efforts to investigate one of the most perplexing issues to ever confront humanity... from 1984 through 1988, long before Senator Harry Reid was able to earmark funding for the DIA project, I ran a similar, albeit unfunded, effort... the name we employed for this project was Advanced Theoretical Physics (ATP)."

Dr. Alexander briefly discussed the group's interest in the C-L incident:

"One disturbing case ATP looked into became known as Cash-Landrum, named for the victims, two women and a boy, who were inexplicably exposed to high levels of radiation. The source was an unidentified craft that appeared to be in trouble above a desolate country road just north of Houston. We explored the Cash-Landrum case in depth because of lawsuits initiated against the U.S. Government under the assumption that the incident was caused by an experimental craft of ours that had caused the serious injuries. The case was later dismissed."

We have no record of the extent of the ATP's study of the Cash-Landrum case, but we can get a hint of it by reading the comments on it by Dr. Alexander and his colleague, Dr. Paul Tyler.

In a 1993 lecture at MUFON's Albuquerque, New Mexico, group, Dr. Tyler discussed his work with the ATP. The *NM MUFON News* # 12 (Jan. 1994) featured an article summarizing his talk:

Dr. Tyler was a consultant for the CIA and other agencies. "There were always people

▶ 2020 (12)

▼ 2019 (8)

▶ December 2019 (1)

▶ October 2019 (1)

▶ August 2019 (2)

▶ June 2019 (1)

▼ March 2019 (2)

[The US Government's Cash-Landrum UFO Investigation...](#)

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▶ February 2019 (1)

▶ 2018 (11)

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Behind the Lines



[Curt Collins](#)

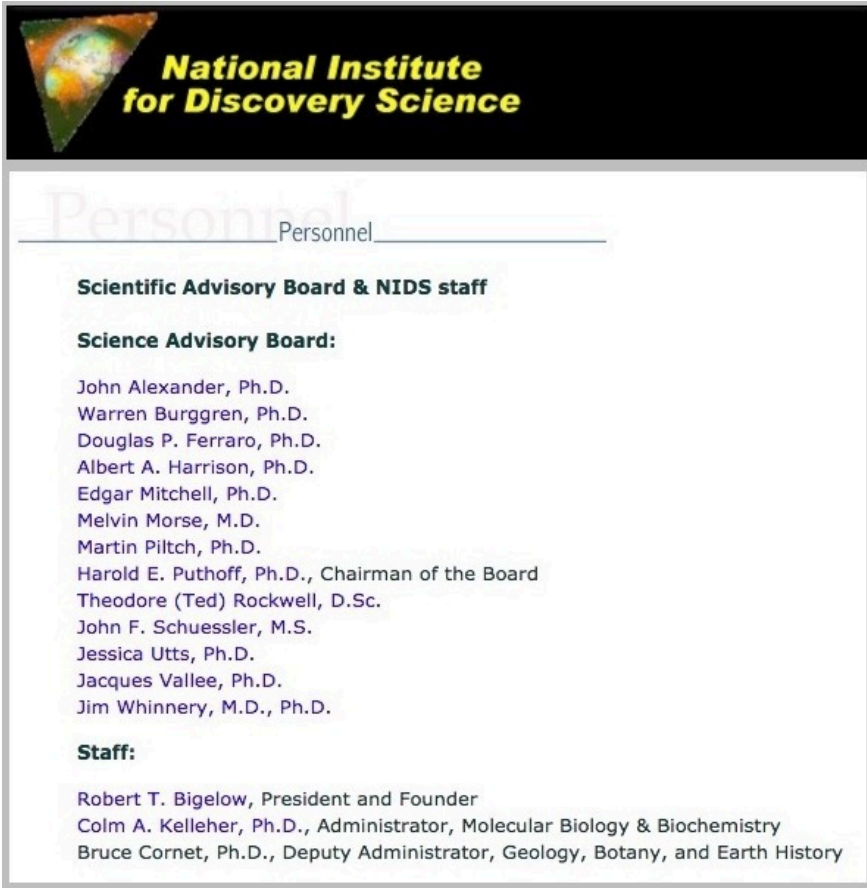
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have or had at the time.” Also, the reported helicopters didn't “fit into the military pattern.” There were not enough helicopters in Houston at the time nor people there to pilot them (it was Christmas week) - it wasn't a military operation. How does Dr. Tyler explain this case? “UFOs can do things we can't. Maybe they use holograms. If they want to confuse us they could put holograms into systems that we have.”

Dr. Tyler's conclusions on the Cash-Landrum incident were in sync with what Alexander presented in *UFOs: Myths, Conspiracies, and Realities*, where he said it was “a very solid case, in which the observations and facts just don't make sense or support any prosaic hypothesis.” Alexander also speculated the helicopters were not physical, in a discussion of his precognitive sentient phenomena hypothesis, or PSP:

“One possibility would be that the UFO could employ holographic technology to create the UFOs. Another alternative is that the UFO was able to project that imagery directly into the brains of the observers, thus actually manipulating their perception of reality. It is interesting to note that the phenomenon would allow substantial physical injuries to the observers. Based on this case, and a number of others in which physical injuries have occurred, the PSP must not be mistaken as benign.”

Dr. Alexander's ATP dissolved in 1988 after finding that no agency wanted to fund the project as an official government project. However, that didn't exactly mean the end, as Alexander and many of the members remained interested in the UFO topic and moved on to other things.

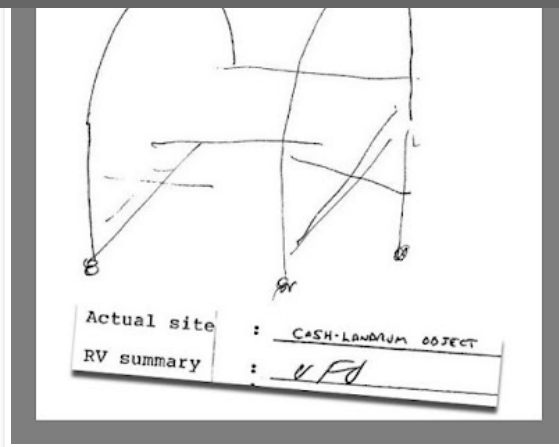


The screenshot shows the website for the National Institute for Discovery Science. At the top left is a logo featuring a stylized globe. The text "National Institute for Discovery Science" is displayed in yellow and white. Below this, the word "Personnel" is written in a large, light font. Underneath, there is a section titled "Scientific Advisory Board & NIDS staff". This section is divided into two sub-sections: "Science Advisory Board:" and "Staff:". The Science Advisory Board members listed are John Alexander, Ph.D.; Warren Burggren, Ph.D.; Douglas P. Ferraro, Ph.D.; Albert A. Harrison, Ph.D.; Edgar Mitchell, Ph.D.; Melvin Morse, M.D.; Martin Piltch, Ph.D.; Harold E. Puthoff, Ph.D., Chairman of the Board; Theodore (Ted) Rockwell, D.Sc.; John F. Schuessler, M.S.; Jessica Utts, Ph.D.; Jacques Vallee, Ph.D.; and Jim Whinnery, M.D., Ph.D. The Staff section lists Robert T. Bigelow, President and Founder; Colm A. Kelleher, Ph.D., Administrator, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry; and Bruce Cornet, Ph.D., Deputy Administrator, Geology, Botany, and Earth History.

Dr. Alexander and Dr. Hal Puthoff went to become a player in Robert Bigelow's [National Institute for Discovery Science](#) (NIDS). In 2004, NIDS was closed, but later replaced by Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS), with Puthoff and some of the team remaining. In 2007, AATIP contracted BAASS, with Puthoff directing the scientific studies. In 2018 Puthoff and Colm Kelleher of BAASS went on to join Tom DeLonge's To The Stars Academy (TTSA).

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Before ATP, Dr. Hal Puthoff was one of the original SRI (Stanford Research Institute) team members and creators of the Remote Viewing program, which takes us to a final bit of trivia. The Cash-Landrum case was the subject of a remote viewing exercise documented in CIA files. In his article, [Remote Viewing & UFOs](#) at ATS, researcher Isaac Koi noted:

As some of you know, the CIA released over 92,000 pages of material relating to "Star Gate" (and various other official remote viewing projects in the USA, such as "Gondola wish", "Grill flame", "Center Lane" and "Sun Streak") in around 2004... it should of course be recognised that most of the documents in the Stargate archive do not relate to UFOs.

However, a few did, and one of the remote viewing documents recorded a session on 26 January 1988 looking into the "Cash-Landrum Object," where the remote viewer was "GP," Gabrielle Pettingell, and the interviewer was "ED," Ed Dames, who was part of Alexander's ATP.

Link to Isaac Koi's description of the Cash-Landrum Object session:

[Remote Viewing & UFOs: Section F2: Cash-Landrum sighting](#)

Link to complete 16-page session file:

[Stage IV-V Training, Cash-Landrum Object, Viewer 95 26/01/88](#)

Peeling the Onion



The "Secret Onion" nickname used by Jacques Vallée for ATP referred to the metaphor "peeling the onion," which means getting a deeper understanding of something by examining it layer by layer. The irony is that the only thing behind the layers is more onion. John Alexander's ATP group found no evidence that there was still a secret UFO investigation. His colleague Dr. Paul Tyler revealed in his 1993 Albuquerque, NM, lecture that the ATP searched, but, "In every agency, I ran into people interested in UFOs. But it wasn't their job and there was no money to look into it, so tidbits got filed into personal file cabinets!"

the public relations disaster problem of the Air Force's Project Blue Book.

The Cash-Landrum UFO case is unique in that it has involved the US government at several levels, from Congressmen to the Federal Court, and official investigations by two military branches, as well as an informal study involving the Intelligence Community. Unfortunately, the investigations shed no light on UFOs, but there's much that can be learned about the Government's response to the case. It harkens back to the early days of confusion about flying saucer sightings. The military branches assumed the UFOs were something real, and were asking each other, "It wasn't us, but is this something you guys are up to?"

...

For further reading on the ATP UFO study, see the collection of information at *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - scientific research* by Keith Basterfield, where he's interlaced data from sources such as John Alexander's *UFOs: Myths, Conspiracies, and Realities* and Jacques Vallee's *Forbidden Science Volume III, Jacques Vallee and the 'Secret Onion'*.

Posted by Curt Collins at [7:30 AM](#)



Labels: [AATIP](#), [Cash-Landrum Case](#), [Investigation](#), [John B. Alexander](#), [Project Blue Book](#), [Robert Bigelow](#)

4 comments:



purrlgurr1 March 12, 2019 at 6:23 PM

So, an unofficial ad hoc group of mostly UFO advocates undertook a study of the case and found it interesting. No surprise there. Then NIDS (Bigelow, the government boondoggle guy, and his UFO cronies) enters the picture along with the woo woo branch of the CIA. Honestly, this all seems part of a Hail Mary pass attempt when a significant amount of traditional investigation failed to score anything.

Of course, there was overt and covert government investigation of the case. After all, there were very high-profile allegations as well as a lawsuit against the government for significant damages.

Cash-Landrum was so widely covered by the media, from TV shows to newspapers (I read about it then in one of Chicago's major dailies) as well as the tabloids perpetually on display at supermarket checkout stands. No wonder there was pressure from inside and outside government to find out what happened.

Nevertheless, after all investigations described in both posts, nothing of note was found. Why? Likely because what was seen, though it scared the bejesus out of the witnesses because it was totally unfamiliar to them personally, was something neither exotic nor even noteworthy, but rather purely mundane.

Sorry UFO faithful, none of this investigative activity lends the Cash-Landrum claim a shred of credibility. When you throw all these resources at it but come up with no answers to hang your hat on, that doesn't automatically make it a covered-up ET spacecraft or secret government test. In fact, just the opposite. It casts very serious doubt on the claim.

[Reply](#)

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Anonymous April 7, 2019 at 10:37 PM

Thanks for preserving purrlgurr1's reply, Curt. I'm posting this as a reply to her older comment so that she'll see this.

purrlgurr1: I don't agree re: your view that the more prosaic the phenomenon of interest, the less likely it is that an investigation will elucidate it. I've seen so many studies by Tim Printy, Martin Shough, etc. where they've been able to develop very convincing prosaic explanations of UAP cases, sometimes very old ones. Conversely, the tendency seems to be that when the prima facie "strangeness" of cases is high, even the really solid investigators are more likely to ultimately deem them "unknown," especially Shough. This is my impression, at any rate, and it leaves me fairly confident in my claim about prosaic cases being more likely to yield clear answers when subjected to scrutiny.

I'm not sure the following from you is entirely accurate: "their thought was the Second Coming NOT an alien space craft nor government test." Consider what Curt has to say on

Judgment Day" (quoted again from Curt). But it seems to me that that was simply the thought that jumped to their minds from the initial shock of the experience. I don't see that in itself doing much to defuse the anomalous quality of the event (which isn't to suggest that there aren't other considerations that do have that defusing effect).

"As for McDonald, I don't find him to be credible as a corroborating witness to whatever Cash-Landrum saw."

That is a reasonable view. Curt, who seems to have researched the CL case more thoroughly than anyone else, agrees with it, if I recall correctly (please correct me if I'm wrong, Curt). That said, it does seem that the women's ability to see whatever was at the heart of the event was impaired by the associated extremely bright light. In those viewing conditions, it doesn't seem totally unreasonable to me that they could've misperceived the triangular craft that McDonald reported as something more akin to a diamond. Skeptics correctly observe that far more extreme misperceptions have occurred in the history of UAP.

[Reply](#)

Anonymous [March 26, 2019 at 6:52 PM](#)

Your argument doesn't make sense to me. Surely the more prosaic the phenomenon of interest, the more likely extensive investigation would be to turn up a clear answer.

Of course, it could be that mundane or exotic, there will be little to find no matter how much study is conducted. But I do think something significant that lets us break through the uncertainty *just a bit* did come up at one point. Specifically, the testimony of McDonald, in which he reported a strange flying object fairly similar to that described by the more prominent witnesses, suggests, to my mind at least, that something unusual did happen.

[Reply](#)



Curt Collins [April 7, 2019 at 7:43 AM](#)

purrigurr! submitted a reply to Matty, but I accidentally deleted it. Fortunately, I still had a copy from the site's email notification. She said:

"The more mundane what was seen, the LESS likely it is an investigation would turn up anything because something commonplace (though totally unfamiliar to Cash-Landrum) wouldn't be noted. It was nothing special to anyone but them.
So your rebuttal makes no sense to me.

I now believe this event boils down to an extreme emotional over-reaction by the witnesses to something they didn't immediately recognize. Being Christian women, their thought was the Second Coming NOT an alien space craft nor government test. All that came later after Ufologists got involved with them.

To me, the only thing of interest left about Cash-Landrum is the shoddy behavior of some in the UFO community who attached themselves to the pair like barnacles, exploiting and transforming their experience into something it wasn't originally.

As for McDonald, I don't find him to be credible as a corroborating witness to whatever Cash-Landrum saw.

Nope. I'm over and done with thinking Cash-Landrum has anything to offer. It's just another dead end in a UFO history that's littered with them."

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