

# scientific research

An examination of aspects of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) from a scientific perspective.

Sunday, May 19, 2019

## Jacques Vallee on the National Institute for Discovery Science

### Background

Given the recent interest in the activities of [Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies](#) (BAASS) and its involvement in the Defense Intelligence Agency's Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP) between 2007-2012, some people are still unaware that Robert Bigelow, Las Vegas property developer, had previously operated a similar organization, interested in both the subjects of UAP, and the paranormal.



Bigelow's National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) operated between 1995 and 2004. Via the [Wayback Machine on the Internet](#) it is still possible to explore [some of the NIDS \(now defunct\) website](#).

With the January 2019 release of Jacques Vallee's latest book "*Forbidden Science: Volume Four*" there is an opportunity to gain some insights into the thinking of Robert Bigelow, and his NIDS, and hence into the BAASS operated AAWSAP. The following is a summary of the information contained in a number of Vallee's diary entries, which relate to the NIDS.

### The formation of the NIDS

Vallee records that Robert Bigelow rang him on 16 July 1995, and informed him that he, Bigelow was not going to continue with his funding of the "[UFO Coalition](#)" of the three major US UAP groups. Instead Bigelow intended to establish a new Institute.

"I want to work directly with the people who do research. New blood is desperately needed, there's no scientific discipline among ufologists. I'm forming an Institute and I want to attract world-class scientists to study UFOs and the paranormal including consciousness beyond death. I want you to think about it." (page 257.)

The next day Bigelow phoned again, to discuss his plans; outlining his need for 'a director who's good at administration but also understands the phenomenon.' Vallee writes 'There was a time when I would have jumped at such a job...'" (page 258.)

On 25 July 1995, Vallee and Bigelow met in person. Bigelow brought along a proposed organization chart. On 11 August 1995, Vallee advised Bigelow that he declined the position of the project's director, although he would consider a position on the NIDS science board.

Eight days later, Vallee and Hal Puthoff met the board of the NIDS. Initial members were Dean Radin and Diane Arcangel.

On 1 November 1995, Bigelow advised Vallee "of progress on our board of advisors" (page 294.) The chair was to be Dr Kit Green, Members would be Hal Puthoff, Marty Pilch, Dean Judd, General Jim Whinnery, John Petersen, Emily Cook. Bigelow was trying to get Jessica Utts, Bruce Grayson, Senator Harrison Schmidt and Richard Deckart. Discussions between Green and Vallee, revealed

### Contributors

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interviewing for three positions; namely two in the area of consciousness, and one in the area of aerial phenomena, [Ron Blackburn](#), De Angelo of SAIC, [Larry Lemke from Ames](#), were contacted. John Alexander spoke to Dr Robert Morris, and [Dr Ken Ring](#).

#### First meeting

The NIDS Science Advisory Board (SAB) met once in December 1995 for an organizational meeting. Vallee was not present.

#### Second meeting

This was held in Las Vegas on 28 January 1996. There, [Diane Arcangel](#) was assembling a library; Air Force Lt Col Peter McDuff; [Hal Puthoff](#); [Dr Kenneth Klivington](#); Marty Pilch; [John Petersen](#); [Harrison Schmidt](#); [JohnDale Solem](#); Dean Judd; were all present. [Jessica Utts](#), Air Force Brigadier General [Jim Whinnery](#); [Emily Williams Cook](#); [Ted Rockwell](#); [John Alexander](#) were also there. The meeting discussed NIDS' goals, visions and mission. Discussion ensued on Bigelow's dual focii for NIDS, to be on UAP, and survival after death. Las Vegas journalist [George Knapp](#) presented to the meeting about his research trip to the USSR.

At this meeting, Vallee learned that Bigelow became interested in survival researc "after his 22-year old son died a few years ago in the desert. Bigelow became interested in UAP because he'd experienced unusual phenomenon as a child, with his grandparents." (page 296.)

#### Third meeting

The third NIDS SAB meeting occurred on 31 March 1996. Two new members attended, one of whom was [Dr Ian Stevenson](#). Dean Jude was absent. NIDS had connected with [Illebrand Von Ludwiger](#), (abduction researcher in Germany/Austria); Chad Deetken had been sent to Puerto Rico; and Peter McDuff, went to Mexico concerning UFO sightings. Puthoff and Alexander had visited [Colonel P Corso](#). [Dr Roger Leir](#) and [Derrel Sims](#) presented on alien implants; and abduction researcher [John Carpenter](#) also presented to the SAB. Later Vallee, and Alexander met with Corso to obtain more details on Corso's claims.

#### Fourth meeting

On 1 June 1996, the fourth NIDS SAB meeting took place. There were three presentations by General Whinnery, re effects of g=forces on pilots and the relationship to consciousness. Former NASA astronaut [Edgar Mitchell](#) spoke about near-death experiences. On the question of implant analysis; the implants were found to contain common elements, and the SAB seemed to lean towards them being pieces of conventional metal, which had somehow, embedded in the human body.

#### Fifth meeting

The fifth meeting was on 3 August 1996. [Senator Harry Reid](#) attended the presentation which Vallee gave. The NIDS had hired three scientists as staff members, namely a biochemist; a molecular biologist, and a physicist ([Dr Eric Davis](#).) By September 1996, the NIDS employed 11 people; 6 full time; and had purchased the [Mount Wilson ranch in Nevada](#).

Present for part of the meeting were Ian Stevenson, and Bruce Grayson, plus [Prof John Mack](#) and associates. There was discussion on a possible partnership between PEER and NIDS. A mathematician [Gian-Carlo Rota](#) also joined the meeting.

Vallee writes "Administration issues threatened to bog down the discussion, starting with the changing definition of the Institute, no longer a granting agency. Bob wants to turn it into a working body that performs its own research and building relationships with centers of expertise, so, never delegating the analysis. Thus the SAB is elected as working group rather than, merely a review and strategy board." (page 322.)

The biochemist was [Dr Colm Kelleher](#); the microbiologist and veterinarian is [George Onet](#), and the physicist was Dr Eric W Davis. The other permanent staff are John Alexander, a secretary and a receptionist. Also employed part time was George Knapp; Diane Arcangel; a Canadian studying cattle mutilations, and [Shelley Wadsworth](#) a local resident, in Nevada.

#### Sixth meeting

10 January 1997 saw the sixth NIDS SAB meeting take place. John Petersen presented on alternate futures; Bob Bigelow on the chronology of NIDS, and there was a summary of the NIDS budget.

"Bob outlined a new plan with two parts. Division I is devoted to 'survival of the human consciousness...Division II, 'Aerial Phenomena' continues surveillance of both properties, networking

► 2010 (163)

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#### Labels

[AARO](#)

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NIDS, such as John Mack's work." (page 352.)

My comment:

According to the above diary entry, both the Utah and the Nevada ranches were being surveilled. Details of the Utah ranch have been published in part; however, I can find no mention of the results of surveillance of the second, Wilson, Nevada, ranch.

#### Seventh meeting

This took place on 9 March 1997. Jessica Utts presented on the subject of statistics in parapsychology. George Onet reported on necropsy of a mutilated cow. Bigelow showed a TV documentary about near-death experiences.

Vallee found out that through the Institute, Bob Bigelow is channeling money to:

- (1) A European book by Von Ludwiger.
- (2) John Mack's exploration of multiple witness abduction cases.
- (3) Immunology related to NDEs by Kelleher and Melvin Morse.
- (4) Communication devices built by Putoff.
- (5) John Petersen's "Day after" scenarios.
- (6) An evaluation of mediums by Stevenson and Cook.
- (7) A cattle mutilation survey by Onet.
- (8) A seminar series on survival of consciousness led by Alexander.
- (9) A crop circle study by Kit and Kristin (Green's life partner), with Kelleher and Deetken.
- (10) A new Roper poll.

My comment:

On 7 June 1999, NIDS circulated a press release titled "How would humans react if ET landed" which provided the results of the (10) Roper poll on that particular "Day After" scenario.

Vallee writes "The hard truth is that the NIDS board is too busy trying to invent gadgets and feed their own projects to stop and think seriously about science fundamentals and the deeper nature of the phenomenon." (page 360.)

#### Eighth meeting

The eight meeting was on 2 May 1997. "Steve Trevino, who had just made a presentation to Kit and Bob, was there as well as **Tommy Blann**, an investigator from Texas, who now lives in Florida. An evening session was held to discuss cattle mutilations.

Vallee writes "Another aspect of the phenomenon that had become clear is its human origin. Carcasses have suffered injections and traction by clamps or other devices. It is common for the animals to be dropped, sometimes from considerable heights. Also common is the sight of helicopters." (page 365.)

"The Science Board spent most of the day discussing the Utah ranch in closed session. Three members were missing: Ian Stevenson, Melvin Morse and GianaCarlo. So there were thirteen of us with Bob..." (page 365.)

Edgard Mitchell gave a summary of the April 8-10 1997 Greer briefings.

"Most of the afternoon was spent discussing candidates for the position of consciousness at UNLV." (page 369.)

#### Ninth meeting

At the ninth meeting on 19 July 1997 "Ian Stevenson, Emily Cook and Bruce Grayson have sent abrasive letters criticizing the lack of research." (page 377.)

"We heard good staff reports about the Utah ranch." (page 378.)

#### Tenth meeting

17 October 1997 saw the tenth SAB meeting. "What if two-way communication does happen?' Bob asked. He is convinced that one-way exchanges (from 'them' to Eric) have already taken place, in the form of telepathic messages and dreams." (page 391.)

Fragmente

French research

Garry Nolan

HIBAL

Hynek

hypnagogic imagery

Intelligence agencies

Investigation reports

James E McDonald

Jenny Randles

Kit Green

M

Mark Pilkington

MI5

MI6

migraine

Mitchell

Monthly Australian reports roundup

NASA

National Science Foundation

New book alert

New Zealand UFO files

New Zealand; Disclosure

NIDS

Niemtzow

Nimitz 2004

North West Cape incident

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suggested using the Nevada (Wilson) ranch as a control site against the Utah property." (page 392.)

#### Eleventh meeting

The eleventh meeting took place on 11 January 1998. "Colm gave an excellent report on work at the ranch, then discussions centred on Bob's plans to raise the visibility of 'aerial phenomena' to the national level. Against Kit's protestations he led us through elaborate exercises designed to align us to his scheme. I stressed that the aspect of NIDS I most admired was precisely that we hadn't tried to grab headlines." (page 401.)

"The Utah ranch is quiet...There hasn't been a single new case of a physical UFO there." (page 401.)

Vallee missed part of this meeting so Bigelow filled him in on Bigelow's proposal to sponsor two new studies, "on the subject of the social effect of an announcement of (1) a major asteroid fall and (2) the reality of UFOs as extraterrestrial craft." (page 402.)

Vallee on Bigelow. "He has a deeper agenda, an inner certainty that a dramatic development (spectacular display by the phenomenon or striking announcement by the government) will happen 'soon.' When I pointed out that research at the ranch could lead to a statement about the reality of UFOs, however, he said he'd practically given up on this, the evidence would never be good enough...Yet Bob believes there is an MJ-12 and that the Phenomenon has done things that could have large impact, but the public was appraised as not being ready." (page 402.)

#### Twelfth meeting

The 12th meeting was on 25 April 1998. "...is our Institute becoming 'just another Shirley Maclaine with lasers?' someone asked with humor."

"After the last session Bigelow spoke to Kit on the phone for a long time, trying to convince him that events at the ranch were real and couldn't be explained on psychological grounds." (page 409.)

#### Thirteenth meeting

Martin Pilch chaired the meeting on 11 July 1998. There was a review of the Sturrock/Rockefeller project. Colm Kelleher reported on the ranch.

#### Fourteenth meeting

At the 10 October 1998 meeting, "The group reviewed the first three years of NIDS." (page 420.)

"Today the Board...tackled the challenge posed by Bob Bigelow of engaging the scientific community. I said it didn't make sense to speak in the same sentence of getting visibility with the public AND with science (two radically different things,) impressing the media while gaining the confidence of secret sources (an obvious contradiction) taking an advocacy position while research is incomplete and crusading for the extraterrestrial visitation hypothesis while testing theories that may not involve ETH at all."

"Look at the data from the Utah ranch," I said, "where we have every paranormal phenomenon except for flying saucers." (page 426.)

#### Fifteenth meeting

Vallee noted about the 8 January 1999 meeting, "Bob Bigelow is still fascinated with 'Day After' scenarios...he went over the history of our efforts, from the initial interest to appeal to the military to the more recent idea of having our own contingency plan if it turned out, as he put it, that 'we are cohabiting on the Earth with non-human entities that controlled our destiny.'" (page 439.)

There was a lecture by [Michael Lindemann](#), futurist. Puthoff put Lindemann in touch with Petersen, "which led to the idea of running 'First Contact' scenarios under the sponsorship of [Firmage](#). For silly reasons were not supposed to know that Joe is involved. We ended up discussing Kairos. Al Harrison pointed out that 'After spending \$2 million Firmage had failed to have any impact. The idea of going to the public is fundamentally flawed.' That took some wind out of Bob Bigelow's sails. Yet he remains convinced we are confronted with a 'scenario-selecting agent,' which implies that 'our state of acceptance will determine when and how confirmation occurs.' (pp439-440.)

"Bob got up to dictate our new role: to provide information on sightings and other events. Bob and Colm will contact us twice and each member will be expected to call with current information. With a group as busy as this, I don't think that's realistic. Bob' strengths as a visionary business manager (high demand for on-time results, quantifiable budgets with tight schedules) are not the best tools in fundamental research: one needs to pick extraordinary staff members and trust them: to give them

[Group members](#)

[Socorro](#)

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[Stratospheric balloons](#)

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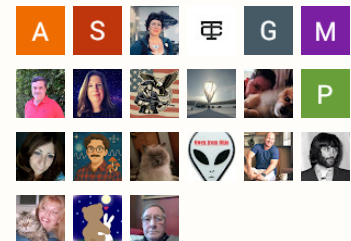
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### The Utah ranch and UAP

Why was the Utah ranch selected? The answer lies on page 326, in a diary entry dated 15 August 1996. Vallee, speaking about a ranch in Nevada which was being looked at by Bigelow, with a view to purchase, writes "...another more interesting situation had popped up - a ranch in Utah where cattle mutilations, strange lights and bizarre objects were being reported 'almost daily.'"

However, as far as UAP went, Vallee points out, the volume of the UAP events at the Utah ranch was extremely low. On page 353 of his book, Vallee cites meeting with three NIDS staffers. "Expectations of frequent sightings of UFOs at the Utah ranch have not materialized." they said, "so what are we supposed to work on?"

By 11 January 1998, (page 401) "The Utah ranch is quiet, with no new incidents. There hasn't been a single new case of a physical UFO there."

And by 10 October 1998 (page 426) Vallee says "Look at the data from the Utah ranch" I said, "where we have every paranormal phenomena - except for flying saucers."

### The NIDS mission

Initially, Robert Bigelow stated "I want to work directly with the people who do the research" as cited by Vallee on 16 July 1995. Vallee states (3 August 1996) "Bob wants to turn it into a working body that performs its own research." On 10 January 1997, "Bob outlined a new plan..." By 9 March 1997, the Institute was funding projects across the areas of abductions, near-death experiences; cattle mutilations; and crop circles. On 10 October 1998, Bigelow wished the SAB to see how best to engage the scientific community. On 9 January 1999, "Bob got up to dictate our new role, to provide information on sightings."

It seems to me, on reading the discussions on the mission of the NIDS, that it kept changing, and this was solely at Bigelow's instigation.

### Parallels between the NIDS and BAASS

Some parallels can be drawn between the 1995-1999 NIDS era, and the later 2007 to 2012 AAWSAP BAASS contract era.

In a 19 March 2018 interview with former Senator Harry Reid, the New York Magazine revealed that Bigelow, around 2006/2007 received a letter from a senior employee of a federal national security agency. That employee told Bigelow "I want to go to your ranch in Utah." After which, the employee visited the ranch and was impressed enough that they assisted Reid by writing the AAWSAP Defense Intelligence Agency solicitation document. Although Reid does not provide the employee's name, the DIA documentation states that the AAWSAP manager was one James T Lacatski.

Journalist George Knapp, and film producer Jeremy Corbell, both insist that the Utah ranch was a focus of the BAASS investigation (BAASS received the AAWSAP contract.)

However, the DIA solicitation is silent about anything to do with activities on any ranch. Hence, here is an obvious contradiction, which is impossible to unravel without direct input from James T Lacatski and Robert Bigelow. Neither of whom have ever spoken publicly about this.

Given Vallee's comments about the level of UAP activity, at the Utah ranch between 1995 and 1999, one can pose the question as to what was the level of UAP activity when Lacatski visited the ranch around 2006/2007? Was it the UAP activity or other paranormal activity which caught his attention? If it was the paranormal attention, then how come the DIA solicitation document doesn't mention this?

### In summary

The diary entries in Vallee's latest book, allow us some deeper insights about the thinking of Robert Bigelow, and the work of the NIDS, than I had previously had.

By [Keith Basterfield](#) at [May 19, 2019](#)



Labels: [AATIP](#), [AAWSA](#), [Bigelow](#), [Vallee](#)

## 8 comments:



[Robert Sheaffer](#) May 20, 2019 at 3:57 AM

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UFOs were being seen widely at certain places in Mexico, including the airport in Mexico City. You only needed to go there if you wanted to see them, it was said; of course, that wasn't true.

I wrote about this tour in my book "UFO Sightings" (Prometheus Books, 1998):

"Maussan claimed to have access to huge amounts of radar UFO evidence from the airport in Mexico City, and he seemed to be able to contact the airport radar operator at any time on his cellular phone, which he did while speaking to us. One of the tour members who works for the Bigelow-funded National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas took a keen interest in getting tapes and other data from the supposedly frequent appearances of UFOs on the radar, for analysis in the United States. However, when Maussan was asked to provide hard data from the radar, suddenly for reasons that were unclear to us, that data became very difficult to obtain" (p. 304).

Maussan promised to send that data to interested researchers and wrote down our addresses, but nothing was ever received. As the tour progressed, the NIDS guys and I were thought of as the three skeptics by the other tour members, for our emphasis in getting hard evidence. At the end of the tour, everybody agreed that, in spite of spending hours looking at the sky in the hottest of UFO hot spots in Mexico, we did not see anything out of the ordinary.

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**Keith Basterfield**  May 20, 2019 at 5:40 PM

Hi Robert, Thank you for this information. It adds to my thinking that NIDS, despite their fine collection of scientists, may, at times, have been no better at their research than many of the UFO researchers Bigelow thought about when he said (Cited by Vallee 16 July 1995) "there's no scientific discipline among ufologists."



**Isaac Koi - New Uploads** February 21, 2025 at 12:19 AM

Hi Robert - The comments about you in the NIDS documents on that Mexico tour indicate, um, some irritation with you. :)

---

Reply

**Anonymous** May 20, 2019 at 6:30 AM

Hi Keith,

Nice blog.

Interesting that FB says "...a senior employee of a federal national security agency. That employee told Bigelow "I want to go to your ranch in Utah." After which, the employee visited the ranch and was impressed enough that they assisted Reid by writing the AAWSAP Defense Intelligence Agency solicitation document"  
Last year it was also confirmed

"...One of the scientists who helped figure it out is a physicist named Dr. Hal Puthoff. He wrote the proposal that helped Bigelow land the contract to study UFOs...."

<http://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/i-team-understanding-the-science-of-ufos/959525544>

Maybe there is a missing link between the two?

However it still seems there is something missing in this story of how we went from NIDS>BAASS>AATIP.

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**Keith Basterfield**  May 20, 2019 at 5:38 PM

Hi anonymous, there certainly seems to be missing information that we are not party to, and may never know about.

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[FLERE OPLYSNINGER](#) [OK](#)

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**Keith Basterfield**  May 20, 2019 at 5:39 PM

Thanks Grant.

Reply



**Keith Basterfield**  May 20, 2019 at 5:37 PM

This comment has been removed by the author.

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What was CAPELLA? The CAPELLA data warehouse was a collection of a number of internationally sourced databases, compiled by Bigelow Aerspa...

# CASE #563

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### CASE ID

#563 of 924

### CONTEXT FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

(PUBLIC DOMAIN) - 8 January 1999 — Bob Bigelow states in a NIDS meeting that he remains fascinated by John Petersen's brief of "Day After" disclosure scenarios and adds there needs to be a contingency plan if it is confirmed "we are cohabiting on the Earth with non-human entities that controlled out destiny." On this date, Hal Puthoff also connects futurist Michael Lindemann with Petersen who would create first contact scenarios with sponsorship from Joe Firmage. Bigelow remains convinced UAP is a "scenario-selecting agent" which implies humanity's acceptance of it will determine how and when confirmation occurs.

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