

UFOs?

HERE AND MAYBE IN YOUR GARDEN!



UFO photographed from above in 1971 by official mapping aircraft of the Costa Rican government.

Leslie Kean's extremely credible book chronicles one of mankind's biggest mysteries.

UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go on the Record by Leslie Kean (Harmony Books, an imprint of The Crown Publishing Group)

A stunning 70,000 UFO sightings a year are reported. Unidentified flying objects in a wide range of sizes, shapes, colors and behaviors have

been photographed in both conventional and infrared formats and observed on radar. In addition to saucerlike disks, UFOs have been described as cigar-shaped and delta-winged (lately the most frequent), as well as circles, squares, triangles and shape-shifters.

Encounters suggest UFOs are not hostile or aggressive, even if approached by military jet-fighters. When facing imminent attack, they have demonstrated an ability to temporarily disable weapons systems on responding aircraft and may even have (for a short time) disabled nuclear missiles stored in hardened silos.

It's all spelled out in Leslie Kean's comprehensive book. The author is no wing nut. Kean is an established investigative journalist with a long list of impressive mainstream credits.

Kean presents numerous UFO events worldwide, especially those involving aviators, public figures, respected scientists and large groups of civilians—in essence, extremely credible eyewitnesses. Moreover, *UFOs* boasts a foreword by John Podesta, President Bill Clinton's chief of staff and former member of the National Security Council, as well as cochair of President Barack Obama's transition team. His overview of the book adds major credibility.

"The time to pull the curtain back on this subject is long overdue," Podesta writes. "*UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go on the Record* involves just such an effort, and it appeals to open-minded people such as myself. Presenting the facts, the book includes statements from only the most credible sources."

As Kean reports, UFOs are diverse and strange. They can be as small as a yard in diameter, such as the one that showed up in a French scientist's yard. The object hovered a couple of feet above the ground for around 20 minutes, in daylight, while the scientist carefully observed it at close range, taking notes. Then it shot straight up in a whoosh, "as if yanked by a strong suction," momentarily straightening the blades of grass underneath.

Or a UFO can be a mile or so long, such as the one observed in 2007 by commercial pilot Ray Bowyer, who was at the controls of a plane bound for the Channel Islands between England and France. The sighting was confirmed by ground radar and also witnessed by some of Bowyer's passengers.

A chapter by Jean-Jacques Velasco, head of the French government's UFO agency for more than 20 years, notes the frequent presence of UFOs near nuclear weapons storage facilities. Velasco suggests the relationship between the two is so apparent, it cannot be coincidental. Employing decades of experience, Velasco speculates that UFOs might be monitoring nuclear weapons during periods of heightened alert. He suggests UFOs may be able to interfere with missile launches, citing an incident on March 16, 1967, during which 20 nuclear missiles were temporarily "shut down" in Montana while UFOs were observed nearby.

In 1966, at an Air Force base in North Dakota, operations in a Minuteman missile system were "adversely impacted" while UFOs

were sighted for over three hours by multiple observers. Two UFOs were tracked on radar. Later that day security alarms went off, and an inspection team discovered a 20-ton concrete silo door had been opened. But there were no tire tracks or other physical evidence to explain why that had happened.

At the conclusion of the chapter "France and the UFO Question," Velasco states: "The UFO phenomenon is definitely related to something controlled and intelligent. ... If they are artificial probes they cannot be of terrestrial origin...."

UFOs have even been observed by politicians, most notably former President Jimmy Carter, Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) and Fife Symington.

While governor of Arizona, Symington was one of the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people who reportedly observed a massive, delta-shaped UFO that appeared in the sky above Phoenix and surrounding areas. That mysterious illuminated object was described as bigger than multiple football fields and perhaps a mile long.

In a chapter Symington contributed to *UFOs*, his recollections include: "A solid structure rather than an apparition, it was dramatically large, with a distinctive leading edge embedded with lights. ... As a pilot and a former Air Force officer, I can say with certainty that this craft did not resemble any man-made object I had ever seen."

Another highly publicized UFO encounter occurred at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in 2006. There, a disk estimated to be between 22 and 88 feet in diameter hovered over the United Airlines terminal for more than five minutes before zooming away, leaving a remarkably distinct hole in the cloud cover. The disk not only was observed by many highly credible witnesses, but also was discussed on ground crew radios and may have been photographed—with the photo later suppressed. Kean reports that witnesses elect to remain anonymous because they fear losing their jobs if they come forward.

In her book, Kean covers so many fascinating events, it is tempting to retell them all. One more, however, will have to suffice. In the chapter "The Extraordinary Incident at Rendlesham Forest," she turns to Sergeant James Penniston and Colonel Charles I. Halt of the U.S. Air Force. The event took place around Christmas 1980 at a joint British-U.S. air base in England.

Here's the short version: Penniston, who at the time had top-secret U.S. and NATO security clearance, and two other airmen go into the forest in the early-morning darkness to investigate

a suspected plane crash. In the woods Penniston spots a bright light emanating from a triangular craft—roughly nine feet long, 6.5 feet high and fully intact—sitting on the ground.

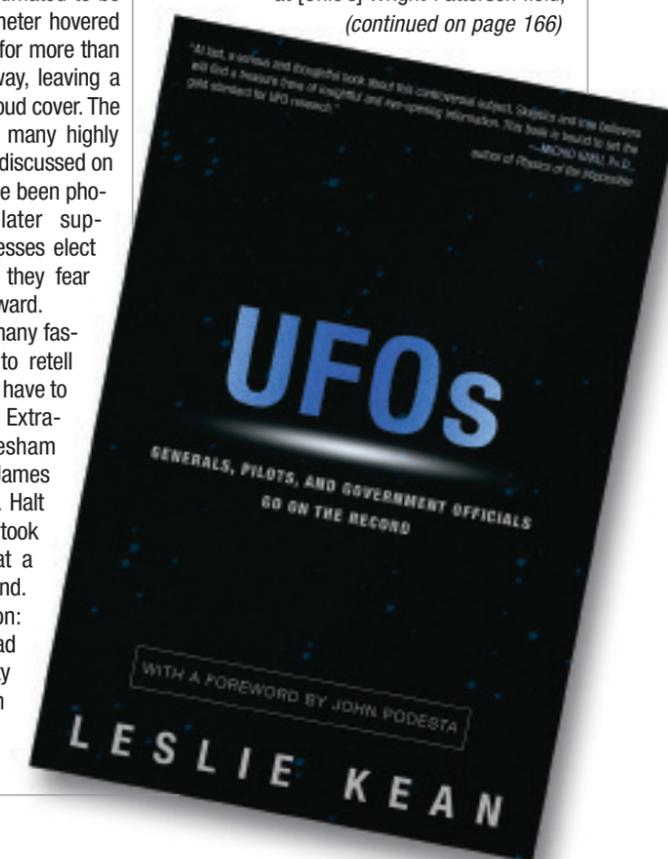
Penniston and his colleagues step closer. He circles the UFO, touches it, takes pictures and makes sketches (including, as depicted in Kean's book, an attempt to reproduce symbols etched into the craft). Forty-five minutes later, lights from the UFO intensify, and it takes off, without noise or air disturbance.

Two days later other UFOs are sighted in the same place. Colonel Halt investigates with others, and they see a red-orange oval with a black center that bursts into five white lights. More objects arrive, and one of them sends down a white beam. Similar beams are seen near weapons storage areas in the distance. Eventually the UFOs take off, leaving behind a large number of very rattled airmen.

The Office of Special Investigations secretly looked into the event, interviewing some young witnesses "harshly" with the use of the "truth serum" sodium pentathol, Halt writes. All were told not to talk about UFOs or there would be consequences. Now retired, Halt claims some of the witnesses remain deeply disturbed by the UFO encounters and their subsequent interrogations.

In a chapter titled "Government Cover-up: Policy or Myth?" the late Barry Goldwater—a staunch conservative, longtime Arizona senator and 1964 Republican nominee for President—is quoted on UFOs: "I think the government *does* know. I can't back that up, but I think that

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Unidentified craft emitting multicolored lights, photographed in 1987 by state police officer over Route I-84 near Waterbury, Connecticut.

PHOTO COURTESY COLLECTION OF PHIL IMBROGNO

if you could get into certain places, you'd find out what the Air Force and the government knows about UFOs."

If UFOs turn out to be from other worlds or dimensions beyond those we are currently aware of, or even from another time, this would be one of the most important revelations in the history of mankind. It could upset every segment of our civilizations and our most fundamental definitions of who we are. Perhaps it would also cause economic and political ruin, at least for those who benefit from our current social systems. However advanced the extraterrestrials are, their technology would certainly replace ours if they chose to share it. What happens to ExxonMobil if all fuel is free? And just what is the nature of that "curtain" Podesta says should finally be pulled back?

In the United States, UFO sightings elicit little attention. Government officials, the scientific community and mainstream publications ignore them or question the credibility of eyewitnesses. The naysayers then offer ludicrous explanations, suggesting the observed objects were Venus, Jupiter, helicopters, airplanes, weather balloons or the hilariously oft-cited swamp gas of decades ago.

Concerned that discussion of the UFO phenomenon is being undermined, Leslie Kean counters with a chapter titled "Militant Agnosticism and the UFO Taboo." It's written by the distinguished scholars Dr. Alexander Wendt and Dr. Raymond Duvall, who essentially smash each argument offered by skeptics—such as "They Can't Get Here," "They Would Land on the White House Lawn" and "We Would Know if They Were Here."

This skepticism, in part, is what Kean is looking to confront and change, thereby clearing the way for more witnesses to come out of the closet. It would be wonderful if the evidence in her book moves the government to tell us what it knows about UFOs. But don't hold your breath. If a giant object materializing over Phoenix doesn't open things up, what will?

Leslie Kean's *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go on the Record* is available at Amazon.com. For more info, go to UFOsOnTheRecord.com.



Harry Walsh writes about technology and an assortment of topics, usually offbeat. The onetime oceangoing tugboat captain, who has taught English at two universities and a college, lives in the woods of Marshalls Creek, Pennsylvania, with a gorgeous wife and three big dogs. 🐕