



Part 7: UFO Crash/Retrievals: Status Report III - Amassing The Evidence

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"...they had just witnessed a large military force capture an object which a lot of people would call a UFO. He added that 'this realization came as quite a shock to us all.' He and a majority of the others felt it was too alien to be man-made."

Source: U. S. Army Intelligence Operative

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To be more computer-friendly, the reprint has been divided into parts. Here begins **Part 7** of *Status Report III*, written in June 1982. The series of status reports, I through VII, were written by Leonard H. Stringfield from 1978 to 1994. Previous *Status Report IV* begins at **Earthfiles 021205**. Leonard Stringfield died on December 18, 1994.



Big Spring, Texas northeast of Midland, allegedly 50 miles from secret Army Intelligence training base and 16 acre Air Force 'facility' in 1968.

Continued: CASE B-2: 1968, U. S. Army Intelligence School, Near Big Spring, Texas

December 14, 1980, letter from Larry W.: He described it as consisting of a large metal building or warehouse, one or two small guard houses, and a nearby concrete helicopter landing pad. No airstrip or runways were visible in the immediate vicinity. The warehouse itself was surrounded by an 8-foot chain-link fence which was topped off with rolled barbed wire. The perimeter of the entire site, including pad and buildings, was enclosed in a double '10-foot-high, barbed-wire-topped, cyclone fence.' Dogs trotted in the 5-foot corridor separating the two fences. Guard towers with lights stood at each corner of the compound.

DR stated that on several occasions, he and others had clandestinely observed unusual activity at the Air Force site. (He felt that such blatant security often attracts unwanted attention.) He cited two specific reasons why he was personally convinced that the base was operated by the Air Force. First, 'no uniformed member of any other branch of the service was ever seen gaining access to the main building.' Second, 'only blue, officially-marked Air Force vehicles ever entered or left the compound.' DR said that the feature which struck him as most unusual about the site were conspicuous 'stacks of large tires.'

He explained that while large flat-bed tractor trucks were often seen entering the warehouse, none (to his knowledge) ever left! He felt that the tires were somehow 'left over from the disassembly of the trucks.' DR certainly did not know what they were involved in. He did, however, believe that the Air Force had 'some sort of large, underground working shop set up.'

DR stated that as the months progressed, it became increasingly obvious that 'special preparations' were being made at both the Army school and the Air Force site. Security was tightened even further. Written orders were issued not to observe, talk about, or go near the Air Force compound. He went on to state that while the majority of his class accepted these orders, some could not. One group in particular, led by a soldier of 'Italian descent,' decided to find out exactly 'what all the fuss was about.'

Unfortunately, DR said this group of 'five or six' individuals never achieved their goal. They were caught wearing Air Force fatigues trying to enter the compound. They were not heard from again for 'about a month.' All but one was eventually returned to the Army Intelligence School.

In the interim, quite a shake-up had occurred at the school. Some students were transferred out and the Commanding Officer had been replaced. The new C. O. issued strict orders not to discuss past events regarding the Air Force facility. DR said that the new C. O. stressed that further security breaches would not be tolerated. (Was this one tolerated?) No one was allowed to question any of the returning class members who had 'gone down the road.'

Incredibly, DR said that no one wanted to! He remembered that of the five or six who had tried to find out what was going on, all but one returned. (No one ever found out what happened to the missing individual.) The others, however, had all 'undergone extensive brain-washing techniques,' according to DR.

Indeed, DR was convinced that their 'psychological profiles' had actually been somehow altered. He told me that 'they really did not want to remember what happened.' They kept to themselves as a group and were the subject of many rumors. (He recalled that one of these rumors centered around the sudden, rapid graying of one individual's hair!)

This, to say the least, was an interesting and highly peculiar accounting thus far. I must admit that while DR certainly did not appear to be a 'weirdo,' his story was incredible. I must also point out that in the almost full semester that I had worked with him, he always impressed me as being serious, mature and conscientious. His sincerity in relating the chain of events impressed me so much, in fact, that later in the evening I decided to write down a few pertinent notes. I verified these notes the next day. DR was kind enough to add some supplemental sketches at that time. He always responded directly to my questions, although he did choose his words carefully. He definitely did not appear to be making up anything! Specifically, I feel that in addition to its somewhat sinister portent, this might be why his account has remained in my memory all these years.

DR continued on into the 'heart' of his story. He stated that approximately two or three months after the security breach, all Army personnel in and around the school were restricted to their quarters. Near dusk and after dinner, DR said that he returned to the barracks to find that 'all of the windows had been blackened out by an opaque material.' Armed Air Force guards now appeared and ushered him and all other Army personnel into their respective barracks. They remained with loaded weapons to 'prevent us from going outside,' DR said. DR also recalled that 'the men who had gone down the road earlier, just sat in the corner like zombies.' Their enthusiasm had by now totally disappeared.

DR and a few others decided that 'they had had enough.' They all agreed to risk an attempt at looking outside. They felt that it all might 'just be worth it,' even in the receding light of dusk. They gained access to a small crawl space in the attic above their bunks. Using a large screwdriver, they succeeded in 'poling a hole through the rafters and shingles on the roof.'

When they looked out, DR told me that each person in turn observed an 'intense twinkling light descending in rapid, jerking movements down through a beautiful sunset.' DR specifically recalled that it appeared to be changing or 'shifting colors through the visible spectrum' as it came down. (My notes do not show it, but I think that he also said there was a slight whirring noise at this time.) The light now began to 'gradually diminish in intensity and take on a definite form!'

DR said that 'the light had transformed itself into an object. It hovered for just an instant, began to oscillate in an arc from side to side, and finally dropped the remaining few feet to the ground.' He emphasized that 'it was in no way a conventional craft.'

One of his friends now came up into the attic with a pair of binoculars. DR told me

that the object had 'settled slightly in to the sand' and 'appeared to be disc-shaped with a small bulge on top.' He also noticed that the 'air shimmered around the craft as if it were extremely hot.' No occupants were ever sighted by anyone. DR commented that 'this did not mean there were not any.'

Air Force police immediately surrounded the object at a distance of 'several hundred feet.' DR used these men and the somewhat familiar terrain as a scale to estimate that the 'craft landed perhaps just a mile or so away.'; He thought it was between '50 and 100 feet in diameter.' He also noticed from their rather restricted vantage point that helicopters now began to hover above the scene. Search lights came on at intermittent intervals. He also heard several jet aircraft crossing 'overhead at low altitudes.' Someone else saw two or three dark flat-bed trucks backing up to the object. A 'large crane and several huge tarpaulins' were the last details DR noticed as darkness fell. He recalled that all of them were quite 'excited and wanted to see what happened next.' However, they decided to go downstairs since none of them felt very secure about what they were doing.

DR and his friends were careful as they crept down from the attic. After awhile, however, they all 'began to whisper' among themselves about what they had just seen. They all agreed on one thing: they had just witnessed a large military force capture an object which a lot of people would call a UFO. He added that 'this realization came as quite a shock to us all.' He and a majority of the others felt it was '*too alien* to be man-made.' They further agreed it would be very unwise to ever 'discuss what that meant again.'

The next morning before breakfast, DR observed that the Air Police had cordoned off the landing area and the craft was gone! He was sure that it had been taken 'down the road to the warehouse.' It was a day of 'somewhat lessened restrictions and heightened tensions.'

This unsettled atmosphere continued for the next two months until class graduation. DR stressed at this point in his story that what happened in the next few months has troubled him a lot. He also added that it provided the impetus 'for no longer keeping the whole account a secret.'

It began with their orders overseas. Without exception, the whole class was issued orders to Viet Nam. Although DR spent 18 months in and around the Mekong Delta area, he later traced some of his friends to Cambodia. He pointed out that he was shot at several times 'under rather unusual circumstances.' Specifically, these 'potshots' usually occurred when he was alone and '99% of the time in non-combatant' areas. Once in a Saigon hotel, DR recalled a shot rang out which just missed his head. He had the presence of mind to dig it out of the woodwork intact and later to weigh it. He told me that the number of grains 'corresponded exactly to that of an American .38 caliber slug.' DR was certain that it was not Soviet-made! He now began to suspect that his situation was really more dangerous than it should have been for 'someone who rarely went out into the field.' (Without going into specific details, he also mentioned that he began to 'exercise due caution' when alone.)

His suspicions were later confirmed when he learned that almost half of his original class were officially listed as 'K.I.A. or M.I.A.' More distressing even than this, however, was the news that of those who had actually witnessed the capture (or whatever of a UFO) from the attic, all except DR and another soldier were now either dead or missing! DR left Viet Nam after 18 months feeling extremely 'lucky just to be alive.'

DR returned to Texas in 1971. He told me that he was determined to 'put it all behind' him by leading a normal civilian life. However, he did add that 'memories of the whole incident continued to plague him.' He recalled one instance that particularly upset him. Specifically one night at dinner in a Dallas restaurant, DR's new bride introduced him to a relative who was coincidentally a Colonel in the Air Force. DR said that later in the evening he asked the Colonel if he had ever 'heard of an Air Force facility near Big Springs?'

The Colonel immediately ushered DR into the men's room where, according to DR, he took 'care to ensure that we were alone.' The Colonel then proceeded to 'interrogate' him about the base at Big Springs. He specifically wanted DR to volunteer the details of any 'strange craft' that he might have witnessed landing! Up to that time, DR said he had not told the complete story to anyone. He certainly was not going to tell the Colonel anything either. He simply mentioned to the officer that he had heard 'vague rumors about a UFO crash in the area.' DR politely omitted any references to a controlled descent made apparently under military supervision.

Then, according to DR, the Colonel began to 'vehemently insist' that he instantly forget anything relating to Big Springs Base.' DR of course asked for an explanation, but the Colonel responded with concerns about 'national security.' The Colonel did tell DR, however, that the 'whole operation was set up in the national interest.' He categorically denied to him that it had anything to do with a UFO. DR told me that he persisted in his inquiry about a UFO. At this point, DR said the Colonel 'became rather upset' and stated that he might have to initiate measures to ensure DR's cooperation.

DR was very specific about his conversation with the Colonel. He told me that any mention of a UFO together with Big Springs Base brought on 'unsettling ramifications.' So much so that after his discussion with the Colonel had ended so abruptly, DR went back to the table and immediately left with his wife. He added that 'it ruined what could have been a nice dinner.'

At this stage, let me say that I honestly believe that any reasonable person would have a few serious doubts about DR's whole story. Let me again stress, however, that these doubts should mainly be due to the incredible nature of the account itself and not to DR. At no time, even when relating specific details of 'the incident' did he ever appear to be uncertain or contradictory. His demeanor was always one of credible sincerity.

I cannot, on the other hand, rule out that his story was an aberration resulting from a hidden psychological trauma suffered in Viet Nam. I seriously doubt this, however. I felt that the two of us had a good rapport. Perhaps this was the reason he confided in me. He did not, so far as I could ascertain, tell anyone else the whole account, nor did he request that I keep it a secret. Simply stated, someone in our drafting class brought up the subject of UFOs one day and, one thing leading to another, DR began to relate his incredible account of the 'Big Springs Incident' (as I call it). It certainly is worthy of conjecture, particularly in light of the recent movie, *Hangar 18*. It also, like the movie, is more than a slight bit sinister in its implications.

I did make some effort to locate DR and have him verify the contents of this letter. Unfortunately, I didn't have any luck. He is not listed in the telephone directory, nor does Arizona State University have any additional information on him. I have not tried to substantiate any details of his purported UFO retrieval. You should be aware that quoted phrases and words in this letter are, however, taken directly from the notes made during and immediately after my discussion with DR. It was, of course, necessary for me to at times rely on my memory alone. This was done mainly for the sake of continuity. I endeavored to be as accurate as possible in my interpretations.

Leonard H. Stringfield COMMENT: Whatever the explanation for the event, mystery helicopters are involved as they have been reported in and around other military installations researched by Tommy Blann. Notably, unmarked choppers are often reported near cattle mutilation sites. Of recent concern, (choppers were also reported) in the well-publicized Cash-Landrum case occurring near Dayton, Texas, on December 29, 1980. In this incident, over 20 choppers were allegedly observed escorting a fiery UFO which caused three people to be hospitalized for suspected radiation effects.

CASE B-3: 1974, California Specialized Training Institute, Camp San Luis Obispo



San Luis Obispo is south of Hunter Liggett Military Reservation,
but the Camp San Luis Obispo location is unknown.

Randall Clement, Truckee, California, has been a willing and able contributor to my special research project long before I published *Status Report II*. In 1981, he found a big piece to the puzzle from a new source - a sergeant in the California Highway Patrol. In 1974, the sergeant, attending classes in an Officers Survival Course at the California Specialized Training Institute at Camp San Luis Obispo, was privy to hear a former high ranking Army officer, who addressed the group, make what he considered high level disclosures about the UFO. Clement's letter of March 10, 1982, covered the disclosures follows:

Randall Clement, March 10, 1982 Letter:

I am a dispatcher for the California Highway Patrol and have been for almost 2 years. Prior to that, I was a dispatcher for the Shasta County Sheriff's office in Northern California. For the past 5 years, I have primarily focused my attentions toward those undocumented sightings made by law enforcement officers. That is to say, policemen who would rather not have a police report made of their (UFO) sightings, for fear of being deemed mentally incompetent in their job.

In November of 1981, at a Dispatch Center in Central California, Sgt. X, a 15 year veteran officer with the CHP, approached me to request if I had any UFO material that he might borrow to read. After assuring him that I did and said I would mail him a package of MUFON literature if he would let me have his address, he declined the offer. Instead, he asked me if I had any knowledge of a crashed saucer incident that had taken place in New Mexico.

I explained that I had direct information from people who had knowledge of recovered UFO and supposed alien bodies from an incident that occurred in New Mexico. Upon obtaining my promise that his name would not be mentioned or used, he related the following story:

About Sgt. X: In 1974, the Sgt. attended an Officer Survival Course at the California Specialized Training Institute at Camp San Luis Obispo. The teacher/instructor of the course was Mr. Y. He is a retired high official from the U. S. Army.

The Sgt. claimed that Mr. Y announced to the class one day that he had information of a crashed saucer in New Mexico and the recovery of occupants of the UFO. He further stated that there was no harm in releasing this information to the class because the U. S. Government would be releasing the information to the public within three months.

The Sgt. believed from the way Mr. Y was relating the story that he was possibly at the scene of the recovery as it sounded that the information was firsthand. The subject was talked about for a few minutes with Mr. Y refusing to answer any direct questions about the UFO incident with members of the class. Then the survival class was resumed. I have seen a copy of the announcement of courses offered at the California Specialized Training Institute. Without going into any detail, Mr. Y has quite a list of degrees, credits and qualifications, including 1) U.S.A. Military Police; 2) U.S.A. Command and General Staff College; 3) Army War College.

Further contact with the Sgt. was unable to obtain any further information on Mr. Y. The Sgt. was unable to recall any more details of the short conversation from that day.

At this time, I am attempting to locate other officers who might have attended this class during the same general time span to see if they heard Mr. Y. tell the same story. So far I have been unable to locate any CHP officers who attended.

As some people know, 1974 was the year that it was rumored the U. S. Government was going to make a press announcement regarding a recovered UFO to the public. It has been a long, long wait.

Leonard H. Stringfield COMMENT: The officer's disclosure, according to the CHP sergeant, is significant. His reference to an imminent 1974 government announcement declaring UFOs were of extraterrestrial origin is extraordinary, indeed. I knew that a report was quietly circulating among responsible researchers in late 1974 which anticipated such an announcement, perhaps jointly by the U. S. and France. According to notes in my UFOlog, December 3, 1974, I was alerted by Walter Andrus, Director of MUFON, to be prepared as Public Relations Director to rush to Chicago to join him and Dr. Allen Hynek of CUFO in a press conference if official word was released. 'Straws in the wind,' I noted,

'were rife that the announcement would be made December 15, 1974, by President Gerald Ford.'

On the suggestion of Andrus, I prepared a tentative press release, got both his and Hynek's approval, and we waited. In my UFOlog entry for December 16, 1974, I noted: 'Wonder what President Ford and Giscard d'Estaing, President of France, are discussing in Martinique beside the oil problem?'

If UFOs were on the agenda, we can only guess. The Martinique meeting ended with nothing said about UFOs. The biggest story ever, was never told."

Continued in **Part 8** - 1962 UFO Crash in New Mexico?

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