

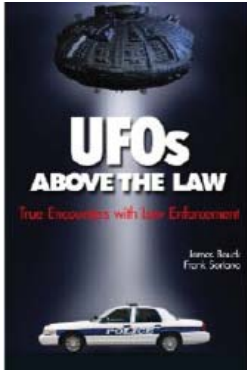
UFOs: Above the Law, True Encounters with Law Enforcement
by James Bouck and Frank Soriano. Atglen, PA: Shiffer Publishing,
2011. 192 pp. ISBN 9780764339202.

No man is above the law, so they say. But what about non-man, that is non-humans or aliens, be they extraterrestrial or interdimensional or whatever? Are they “above the law?” According to this book they are, literally, as when a police officer looks up and sees a UFO that appears to be an AFC (alien flying craft) above him.

Before you say “That is silly because there are no AFC so they couldn’t appear ‘above the law,’” you should read this book and see how many times law enforcement personnel have reported UFOs that seem to be AFCs. According to Edward Condon, director of the so-called “scientific study of UFOs” carried out at the University of Colorado at the request of the Air Force in the latter 1960s, only poor observers report UFOs. If this were true one would expect that UFO reports from police would be as scarce as hair on a billiard ball because law enforcement officers are trained to be good observers. However, as demonstrated in this book, police are as likely to report UFO sightings as are people in other jobs and professions.

Momentary break for “Truth in Reviewing.” Before continuing I should disclose that the book was written because of me. Well, that may sound a bit “proddish,” but the fact is that I suggested to Frank that he should write a book such as this. It was back in 1998 while I was investigating a videotaped sighting by Frank (which is described in the book) that Frank started telling me of sightings by other law enforcement officers and corrections officers (e.g., prison guards) with whom he was acquainted. From my study of the history of UFO sightings I knew that law enforcement officials had reported sightings, but, so far as I knew, these sightings had not been collected into a book. So I mentioned it to Frank. He thought it would be a good idea, so during the following decade he and Jim Bouck collected reports and wrote the book. It was a long time coming, but it is now here, a compendium of police and corrections officer sightings from around the world. I should point out that I had no part in writing the book and I have not given them a “blurb” to use in advertising. And they have had no part in this review.

Police officers understand the importance of maintaining credibility. They are trained to observe and report events. Whether the events are brief and “frantic” or of some duration, the officers involved should remain “calm, cool, and collected.” They realize that in criminal cases they may be called to testify about criminal activities they have witnessed and their testimony could result in fines, prison sentences, or even death of the perpetrator. What



they report may be contested by defense attorneys who would grab onto anything that could reduce the credibility of the officer's testimony. Therefore police avoid doing things that might reduce their credibility . . . and one of the things that reduces credibility is reporting a UFO sighting, especially a sighting that might be an AFC. So, although a search of the literature will turn up police reports, they are mostly those that made it into the press or news media, usually without the expressed permission of the officer(s) involved. But there are many sightings that have not been reported because

of the credibility issue. Both types of sightings, previously reported and previously unreported, are discussed in this book.

The first few chapters serve as an introduction to the subject and describe the approach used by the authors regarding their selection of reported sightings. They begin with a few famous non-police sightings and military sightings and then get to the "good stuff": a selection of 38 sighting reports spanning the years from 1964 (Socorro, New Mexico) to 2008 (Stephenville, Texas). In their discussion of the Laconia, New Hampshire, sighting of August 1974, you can almost ride along with the police cruiser as the sighting develops through the transcribed recording of the conversation between the dispatcher and the officers. Then come thirteen reports from other countries (Argentina, Brazil, France, Japan, United Kingdom) followed by fourteen police "chase" cases. Through a transcript of conversations, the reader can follow all the action that occurred during the April 24, 2001, police "chase" in Warren County, Ohio. The next chapter contains a selection of police officer cases investigated by the late reporter Bob Pratt followed by a chapter on corrections officer sightings. This is followed by chapters on subjects that will be familiar to those who have studied the subject of UFOs: government activities, astronaut reports, sightings by famous people, and alien abductions. Then come chapters that recount sightings by the authors themselves, followed by their conclusion. They believe that the fact that law enforcement and corrections officers have reported seeing craft-like flying objects, similar to what has been reported by other people, increases the probability that at least some UFOs are in fact AFCs. It is likely that, as a result of this publication Frank and Jim will receive more reports from officers of the law, leading to the publication of a second book or a revision with additions to the first book. If the latter happens, I hope the errors in editing can be corrected.

BRUCE MACCABEE