

My Lifelong Interest in UFOs
by James Carrion
April 2006

When I was a young boy of 11, I was fascinated by stories of aliens, UFOs and related phenomena, and began my own news clipping collection. My mother subscribed to all the major tabloid publications and they provided many of the news articles in my collection.

My family moved to Puerto Rico around this time and it was there that I had my first exposure to others interested in the subject. There was a local UFO group that was actively involved in going to El Yunque, Puerto Rico's national park and rain forest where they attempted to communicate and meet with alien species. Unfortunately, my father did not allow me to accompany the group as he believed that UFOs were evil and demonic in nature. According to other group members, their communication attempts were successful.

I was also actively involved with researching Chupacabra activity and all of the Laguna Cartagena UFO sightings. One of my father's dogs was even the possible victim of a Chupacabra attack. Even to this day, Puerto Rico is a hotbed for UFO activity. I left Puerto Rico to join the U.S. Army where I worked as a Russian Linguist and Signals Intelligence Analyst and I was stationed for two years in Augsburg, Germany.

In 1987 I left the military and moved to Tallahassee, Florida to attend college. While living there, I became fascinated with the story of the Gulf Breeze six, a group of young soldiers that went AWOL from their base in Augsburg, Germany to search for UFOs in Gulf Breeze. All six of these soldiers were also military intelligence analysts (from a sister unit) and I was intrigued as to what would cause a group of young, intelligent and psychologically competent individuals (having achieved top secret clearances with special background investigations) to pursue their quest while knowing they could face possible prison time and charges of treason. One of the Gulf Breeze six even attended the MUFON symposium that was being held in Pensacola at the time. That was the first time that I heard of MUFON.

In 1996 I moved to Greeley, Colorado with my wife Lisa so she could attend graduate school at the University of Colorado. I quickly found myself attending the MUFON Denver meetings and joined MUFON soon after. I traveled with MUFON Colorado members to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident and that same year I passed my MUFON investigator exam and was assigned as state section directory for North Eastern Colorado. When I moved to Bellvue, Colorado, I vacated that position and took over as the North Western Colorado section director.

In 2003 I proposed to the board the Pandora Project, and after board approval, I began work on the project. Since the files remained in Denver, it was difficult to remotely manage what is essentially a very hands-on volunteer-based project. In 2005 I moved the MUFON files to my home in Bellvue so I could have more of an active role. Since then, I along with a paid part time worker, have processed all of the U.S. files, a very time intensive task of separating out discreet cases, assigning each case a unique Pandora number which is entered into a computer database and then placing each case in a new labeled folder. The files are then scanned by a third party imaging company. Up to date, over 9000 U.S. cases have already been scanned and archived on DVD. The remaining international and other miscellaneous files will be archived soon.

I believe, as Dr. Hynek did, that if we collect enough sighting data and put in the proper electronic format, we will start to see patterns emerge that we did not previously notice. My goal is to put together the largest UFO database in the world that can be easily accessed by our own research teams for data-mining purposes. To that end, I recently met with Dr. Mark Rodeghier to discuss adding CUFOS' files to the Pandora Project.

After reviewing most of the files MUFON has amassed over the years, I am in still in awe at the dedication and professionalism shown by many MUFON investigators who took their investigation work seriously and through obviously many hours of hard work, selflessly contributed quality data to this body of knowledge. My goal is to make their efforts count.

In 2003 I was invited to participate in the MUFON reorganization meetings that resulted in the revised MUFON mission statement and goals, as well as the closing of the MUFON store front. I was asked to join the board soon after and have proudly served on it since.

I consider myself a skeptical believer in UFOs – skeptical from the point of view that I don't take a UFO sighting at face value, but believe that each case should be rigorously investigated with an open but scientifically discerning mind. At the same time, I believe that the UFO phenomenon is real, and although I have never had a UFO sighting myself, I can't discount the thousands upon thousands of sightings experienced by others.

I also sincerely hope one day within my lifetime that UFOLOGY will be fully embraced by most mainstream scientists instead of being treated as a pseudo science and an object of ridicule, and that MUFON will be the major catalyst in effectuating that change.

James Carrion

Summary of professional qualifications

1996 - Present Mountain View Systems, LLC. Bellvue, Colorado

Chief Executive Officer and Founder

- Manage a private computer training company that specializes in accelerated computer technical training and computer based tutorials (CBTs).
- Lead instructor and curriculum designer.
- Winner of the 2005 and 2006 Information Technology Professional magazine award for best accelerated technical training.

1995-1996 Florida State University Tallahassee, Florida

Computer Services Manager

- Responsible for computer support for all University Administrative departments (5000 personnel).
- Managed a staff of 20 computer technicians/engineers.
- Managed a help desk that provided excellent customer service and technical support to computer end users.
- Responsible for evaluating, purchasing and implementing multi-million dollar computer network hardware and software systems.

1994-1995 Datafax, Inc. Tallahassee, Florida

Computer Technical Trainer

- Taught Microsoft and Novell technical training classes to computer professionals.
- Provided computer consulting services to local companies and organizations.

1987-1994 Florida State University Tallahassee, Florida

Computer Support Engineer

- Responsible for evaluating, proposing, purchasing, and implementing computer hardware and software systems for all University Administrative departments (5000 personnel).

1983-1989 United States Army (Active and Reserve)

Signals Intelligence Analyst/Russian-Spanish Linguist

- Responsible for interception and analysis of foreign voice communications for the National Security Agency (NSA) targeting the former Soviet bloc countries prior to the end of the cold war.
- Flight crewmember on voice intercept missions (flights) between Key West, Florida and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Education 1989-1991 Florida State University Tallahassee, Florida
M.A. International Affairs

1987-1989 Florida State University Tallahassee, Florida
B.A. Russian Language with a Minor in Spanish

1983-1984 Defense Language Institute Monterey, California
Completed 47 Week Intensive Russian Language Course

**MUFON
Qualifications**

2003-2006
MUFON International Board Member

- Proposed and implemented the Pandora Project with the goal of digitizing all MUFON investigative files, newspaper clippings, and other related UFO documentation for data archiving and data mining purposes.
- 100% of the MUFON United States file scanned/archived on DVD representing 9000 case files and 61,500 pages of documentation.

1996-2006
MUFON Colorado State Section Director

- Responsible for MUFON investigations for North East Colorado and subsequently North West Colorado.
- Co-founder of the Greeley UFO discussion group

Languages Fluent in Spanish, Working knowledge of Russian

Objective To take MUFON to the next level by increasing membership, increasing fund raising, streamlining and automating business operations and providing more services to MUFON members. To establish and improve mutually beneficial relationships with other UFO organizations and researchers. To enhance MUFON's public image and to preserve its integrity and history. To positively promote MUFON as a serious scientific organization dedicated to solving the mystery of UFOs for the benefit of humankind.

My Vision for MUFON
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In 2003, it was my pleasure to participate in the MUFON International business board strategy meeting that redefined MUFON's Mission and Goals. As International Director, my primary focus will be to support this mission and to meet these stated goals, while at the same time being sensitive to the diverse needs of MUFON members and benefactors.

MUFON Members

MUFON's financial viability is directly related to its paid membership and my first priority will be therefore to increase membership by both acquiring new members while at the same time retaining existing members. To increase membership, I will work closely with our Director of Public Relations to create a structured and viable public relations/advertising plan. It is obvious from the numerous UFO related documentaries that play continuously on the cable TV channels, that there is a high interest in the subject of UFOs among the general population. We need to reach this population and clearly explain to them what MUFON's mission and goals are and the benefits MUFON extends to its members. The Internet can be used as an effective PR tool for this purpose. There are a number of Internet based strategies that I have used quite successfully in my private business after the 2001 downturn, which have provided effective advertising at little to no cost.

To retain members, MUFON must constantly increase the value of membership by adding new and enhanced member services. Members should perceive themselves as part of a vibrant and dynamic organization that constantly has member's interests in mind. For example, MUFON should offer members-only online newsgroups (web-based) where members can network and share information with their peers.

MUFON has a very diverse membership that encompasses everyone from the unquestioning believer on one side to the hard core skeptic on the other end of the spectrum. MUFON cannot afford to alienate (no pun intended) any of its members by adopting a dogmatic stance that tends to favor one UFO hypothesis over another. The UFO mystery is not a black and white issue, but one of many shades of grey. UFO sightings range from the common "saucer" hardware to experiences that fringe on the paranormal and MUFON must be willing to investigate and research all UFO sightings and related phenomena with an open mind.

MUFON Benefactors

While increased membership numbers can sustain the ongoing financial viability of MUFON and keep the doors open, it is the large donor contributions that will allow MUFON to meet its research project goals. I will maintain an updated list of top priority projects that need funding and actively solicit donations for these projects. These projects will be very specific with clearly defined goal and monetary requirements and will be

results-oriented, producing a tangible end product. I will set up a new donor-tracking software program will help keep track of all benefactor transactions and communication and ensure that MUFON always presents itself to current and potential benefactors as a professionally managed organization.

Goals

As the MUFON Business Board has been actively performing strategic planning over the last three years, the following proposals are additional ideas that I have for meeting MUFON's stated goals:

I. Investigate UFO sightings and collect the data in the MUFON Database for use by researchers worldwide.

What differentiates MUFON from the many other UFO related organizations in the world is its widespread and well structured investigator network. To continue to meet this goal and to maintain MUFON's status as the premier UFO investigative organization, I propose the following strategies:

- Increase the number of certified investigators by providing additional incentives and benefits for MUFON members who pass their investigator exam (i.e. special access to the Pandora files).
- Provide current investigators relevant and current training material (sample investigated cases and supplemental investigative skills training material) so they can continue to hone their investigative skills
- Require that all MUFON investigators periodically complete continuing education self-paced training classes to maintain their certification
- Create an incentive system for field investigators to complete and submit their investigative reports electronically to MUFON in a timely manner.
- Create an incentive system for past field investigators and former MUFON members to submit their completed investigative reports to MUFON.
- Create an incentive system for investigators to login to CMS on a periodic basis and to submit their case files electronically
- Use the MUFON Journal to showcase investigators who do an outstanding job in their case work
- Work closely with the Director of Investigations to make sure that the MUFON investigative apparatus is working as efficiently as possible

II. Promote Research on UFOs to discover the true nature of the phenomenon, with an eye towards scientific breakthroughs, and improving life on our planet.

As mainstream science has failed to embrace the field of Ufology but has instead relegated it to the status of "Pseudo-Science", I will work hard towards establishing its legitimacy. The public and I am sure some in the scientific and government community are eager to know what MUFON unequivocally knows or hypothesizes about the

phenomenon that can be backed up with quality scientific research . MUFON has already identified a number of future research teams and projects that I will do my best to both kick-start and see these to fruition by actively fund-raising for project funding and ensuring that project teams are working effectively and on schedule.

I propose the following strategies to help our research efforts get underway:

- Compile a bibliography of all the serious scientific studies of the UFO phenomenon that have been done so far.
- Send out a survey to all MUFON science consultants to ask for their willingness to get involved, their time and financial requirements, and their suggestions on making the research teams as effective as possible
- Create an online and secure virtual meeting space where project teams can share their data
- Use project managements software to track each project and publish periodic reports on project status, met goals and milestones

III. Educate the public on the UFO phenomenon and its potential impact on society.

MUFON should be a household name as recognizable as Nike or Apple. I will work very closely with the Director of Public Relation, who has a very important role to play in ensuring that we reach the masses and educate them on what MUFON is and does.

I propose the following strategies:

- Create a standardized press kit that can be sent to requesting media organizations
- Create standardized training kits for elementary, middle and high schools and colleges that can be used by teachers.
- Expand our speaker bureau and get them involved actively speaking at civic organizations, professional conferences, etc. using branded MUFON material (powerpoint slides, pamphlets, brochures, etc.)

Other Priorities

One of my top priorities will be to engage the younger generation of today and promote their active involvement in researching and solving the UFO mystery. In addition I will promote current and future women Ufologists, who are an important and integral part of our research community. I will also reach out to all UFO organizations in the International Community and forge strong mutually beneficial relationships as the UFO mystery is a worldwide phenomena.

Finally I will promote a strong code of ethics among all MUFON members. Ufology is fragmented today because of inter-personal conflicts, rumor mongering, personal attacks,

and political infighting. I will promote tolerance, cooperation and respect and will encourage all MUFON members to live by a higher ethical standard.