

Don't Look Up!

The TBD-Fate of the World's Largest UFO Archive, a U.S. Government and Private Partnership

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Interesting. The October 2021 publication of a book written to correct the record about the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP) got little mainstream press in the U.S. You would think a title like *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon: An Insider's Account of the Secret Government UFO Program* would be front page news, as it was on June 25, 2021, when the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) released the long-awaited "Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena."¹

The first paragraph of this nine-page ODNI report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) says the following:

This report provides an overview for policymakers of the challenges associated with characterizing the potential threat posed by UAP while also providing a means to develop relevant processes, policies, technologies, and training for the U.S. military and other U.S. Government (USG) personnel if and when they encounter UAP, so as to enhance the Intelligence Community's (IC) ability to understand the threat. The Director, Department of Defense Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force, is the accountable official for ensuring the timely collection and consolidation of data on UAP.

You know what would really help them with the "collection and consolidation of data"? A lot of data on UAP. The kind that AAWSAP generated. The 252-page *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*, written by AAWSAP creator James Lacatski, Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies' (BAASS) Colm Kelleher and journalist George Knapp, details the Pentagon's UFO study that ran from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and was executed by BAASS.

After a multi-year study costing tens of millions of dollars—first financed privately by aerospace executive Robert Bigelow with his National Institute of Discovery Science (NIDS), then with AAWSAP—the government-private sector partnership conducted ten years of work. According to *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*, the AAWSAP

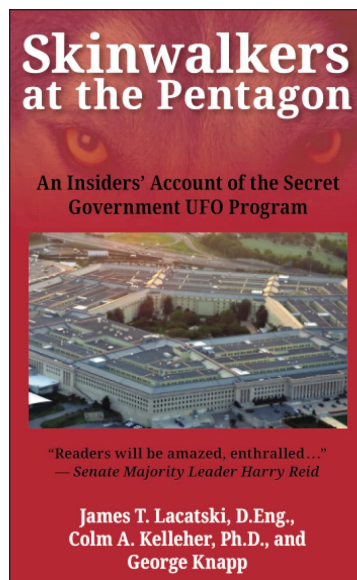
paper archive of 104 reports in three-ringed binders stood six feet tall. Those, together with corresponding electronic files, were sent to the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington in 2009 and 2010, where the majority are still sitting on shelves.

One of the biggest projects conducted by AAWSAP from September 2008 to December 2010 was the construction of a massive data warehouse of UAP cases. The AAWSAP data warehouse comprised eleven separate databases, each with a separate focus. This material covers everything from what physically was observed, to medical and psychological effects and histories on people who interacted with UAPs.

"There is a strong school of thought that there is too much controversial material in the AAWSAP program archives that makes people in the U.S. Government scared regarding the UFO topic," said Colm Kelleher, co-author of *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*, who headed up first the private UAP initiative and then the Congressional-funded, DIA run project executed by BAASS.

According to Kelleher, some proponents argue that the government should focus only on Level 1 UAPs—performance and sensor driven data. Kelleher said, "According to these people, UFO performance and technology should be focused on, but everything else is not the business of the U.S. Government." Yet in *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*, the authors stress that for UAP Task Forces to only focus on Level 1 investigations would be to ignore voluminous data on UAP interactions with humans which have been collected globally since 1945.

In 2017, the *New York Times* published what was then an important report, "Glowing Auras and 'Black Money': The Pentagon's Mysterious UFO Program."² The story acknowledged that the U.S. Government was involved in UFO research, which contradicted a long history of denial. However, some of the information it did not correctly report the players, financing and extent of the project, and when *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* was published in October 2021, the *Times* did not



correct the record.

Kelleher noted, “Four years since the *New York Times* article came out, we [book authors] were aware of a persistent drumbeat that only 3% of the DIA UFO program had been reported. The media have been acclimated to that so I think that is one reason for the reluctance.” The purpose of the book was to explain the other 97% of the program about which the public had been kept in the dark since the 2017 *New York Times* article.

Another reason why mainstream media has not focused on the book involves the fact that it is admittedly a fuse-blower. On one hand, it sets out to correct the record on the history of the AAWSAP and does so exhaustively. But what Kelleher refers to as “too much controversial material” is indeed that. If it was just weird aircraft that doesn’t seem to fit any known categories, that would be one thing. And there are plenty of those, not least the revelation that the now-famous “Tic Tac” incident off the USS Nimitz, showing Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) footage of a fast moving object, was filmed by stunned F/A-18F pilots. (One of the pilots, marine Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Kurth, who was flying off the Nimitz that day and provided a list of witnesses, was hired by AAWSAP as a program manager.) The AAWSAP report on the incident was completed in 2009, years before the June 2021 U.S. Government report was made public.

The AAWSAP archive work contains so many valuable angles of reporting on the Nimitz case and on other events, including a computerized multi-domain simulator environment that was used for the first time in a UFO event study and resulted in a 114-page report that states, “It is hypothesized that through this broader ranging ANSYS analysis, additional theoretical constructs can be generated for UAP and USO [unidentified submerged object] behavior. This, in turn, could provide the scaffolding for advanced engineering concepts.”

Besides “sensor driven data,” both NIDS and AAWSAP recorded years of anomalous events. Definitely aircraft that did not fit any known technology. Holes in the sky that appeared and disappeared. Large, cryptozoological animals such as enormous wolves that walked on two feet and materialized out of nowhere. Technological objects or voids that emitted menacing fields that changed the air temperature and made seasoned Special Forces and Pentagon people feel as though they were facing a mortal threat. Flying orbs of plasma balls incinerated dogs, followed and collided with people, resulting in incidences of autoimmune disease and cancer, all followed by extensive medical reporting by these project teams. Perhaps weirdest of all, these phenomena and humanoid creatures not only followed investigators home but showed up in their families’ and friends’ homes, with a ubiquitous effect that happened to nearly every person who set out to investigate Skinwalker Ranch. This hitchhiker effect was also seen in many individuals who had intense encounters with UAPs with no relationship to Skinwalker Ranch. *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* notes, “Without disclosing confidential information, the authors of this book can say that this pattern applied to Tic Tac pilots as well as select members of AATIP.” [Emphasis added here; AATIP is the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program.]

The AAWSAP archive also includes reports written by subject matter experts to forecast aerospace technology of the

future. Thirty-eight separate papers were commissioned, written and published as Defense Intelligence Research Documents (DIRD) on the classified DoD “Internet” known as the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communication System (JWICS). Throughout 2010 and afterwards, these 38 DIRDs became highly praised and sought after nuggets for hundreds of DoD personnel interested in advanced aerospace technology.

Completely separately, an engineering team was tasked by AAWSAP to design the detailed hardware and software engineering for a UAP surveillance platform that could be deployed in remote locations. There was also extensive reporting done with witness interviews on UAP incursions into U.S. nuclear missile launching and weapon storage sites. Far more is listed in the Appendix sections in the back of *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*.

The background of the archive and what is in it is thoroughly documented in *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*. On one hand, the book sets out to correct the record on the history of the AAWSAP. On the other, it presents an enormous question. What next? It seems fitting that we delve further into the background of the foundations of this archive, and consider that question of “what next.”

Well-Executed Private Space Enterprise

The story begins with a very competent real estate-aerospace-phenomenology-investigating billionaire. Robert Bigelow made his fortune in Budget Suites extended stay hotels. When he was young, Bigelow’s maternal grandparents related an incident that occurred when the family was driving in Nevada and were confronted with a UFO that filled the front of their car window with light. They lost track of time and returned home terrified.

This story filled Bigelow’s imagination as a child and made him determined to become involved with space exploration. He has the distinction of putting more private research money into researching UAP and paranormal phenomenon than anyone in the world.

Bigelow’s business acumen was demonstrated by what he was able to do with Bigelow Aerospace. In the 1990s, NASA worked on developing expandable habitats to save the cost of launching spacecraft. This program, called TransHab, showed success and promise but after a billion dollars spent, Congress passed a resolution shutting it down in 2000. Bigelow licensed the TransHab technology and set to work to develop it. In 2006 and 2007, Bigelow launched Genesis I and II, proof of concept expandable spacecraft, from Kazakhstan. He financed this himself. He went on to develop and build spacecraft such as Galaxy, Sundancer and B330, the company flagship space station. On April 8, 2016, NASA launched the pathfinder BEAM (Bigelow Expandable Activity Model) in the trunk of Elon Musk’s SpaceX Dragon. On April 16, BEAM was berthed to the Tranquility Node on the International Space Station (ISS), which made it the first privately owned human-rated craft to permanently attach to the ISS. The best part? Instead of the hundreds of millions of dollars of development by larger aerospace corporations, BEAM cost less than \$18 million. “NASA got to test this novel expandable technology for pennies on the dollar,” was how NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Garver put it.³ After two successful years of use, NASA extended the contract with

Bigelow to use BEAM for a multiple year “Life Extension” contract on Tranquility Node 3 on ISS.

The B330 followed from Bigelow Aerospace, with Robert Bigelow investing \$350 million of his own money on a 330-cubic foot volume autonomous space station when inflated. It could be launched at 60 cubic meters. B330 could support four astronauts indefinitely in and beyond low earth orbit (LEO). Chief scientist Colm Kelleher pointed out, “In short, B330 was a flexibly designed space station capable of operating in LEO as a stand-alone space station, on the lunar surface, in Lunar Gateway as a transit point to the Moon or Mars, or even as a Mars transit spacecraft.” In a way, Robert Bigelow had extended his background and created a Budget Suites Hotel for space.

Frustratingly, Covid shut down Bigelow Aerospace in 2020 as work was ramping up on B330. The design of B330 remains a major contribution to space exploration.

Robert Bigelow, Skinwalker Ranch and AAWSAP

Robert Bigelow purchased a 500-acre property in the middle of the Uinta Basin in Southeast Utah in 1996, known since 2005 as Skinwalker Ranch. He bought the property because of its remarkable history of unusual phenomenon. The extraordinary story of what happened after his purchase of that land is detailed in the 2005 book *Hunt for the Skinwalker: Science Confronts the Unexplained at a Remote Ranch in Utah* by journalist George Knapp and Colm Kelleher.

In August 1996, Nevada Senator Harry Reid, who had a long interest in the UFO area, agreed to attend a board meeting of Bigelow’s NIDS. There three new full-time staff members—biochemist Colm Kelleher, physicist Eric Davis and microbiologist/veterinarian George Onet—were introduced. Kelleher was hired to be the chief scientist, with a multidisciplinary team of scientists and a high profile scientific advisory board. NIDS and its investigation of Skinwalker Ranch, as well as the pursuit of NIDS’ mandate, were underway. The best description of NIDS’ work is detailed in *Hunt for the Skinwalker*.

Hunt for the Skinwalker captured the attention of the DIA’s James Lacatski, as it detailed years of UFO phenomena in the Uinta basin and specifically on the Skinwalker Ranch property. Unusual aircraft, flying orbs containing plasma balls, bizarre otherworldly creatures and cryptozoological large animals. For years, there had been a full spectrum of UFO oddities that Bigelow and his scientific crew committed to investigating and documenting. It was Lacatski who approached Robert Bigelow and got the ball rolling on continuance of this work. The next stop was to secure funding working with Senator Harry Reid, the former Democratic Senate majority leader, as well as Senators Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Ted Stevens of Alaska.

The timing and details of how the AAWSAP program came to be is meticulously detailed in *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*. The aforementioned *New York Times* article² broke the fact that there was a government UFO program but called it AATIP instead of AAWSAP.

Skinwalker Ranch is in close proximity to military bases, where classified craft and technology were developed and tested. This could be part of what was being seen around the ranch, as is the case for some reports of UFOs near U.S. military bases and operations. As AAWSAP geared up, the now-

famous 2004 “Tic Tac” event from the USS Nimitz was not yet public. Retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Kurth, who had been the commanding officer of the Red Devils, the Marine Squadron that was part of the USS Nimitz strike group, came to interview with the Bigelow organization, now contracted to run the AAWSAP investigation. He had been in the air the day of the “Tic Tac” encounter and asked by tower to investigate a mysterious airborne contact. Kurth supplied a list of witnesses to Kelleher. Kelleher in turn contacted Lacatski, who called up his friend Jonathan Axelrod, a senior aerospace engineer at Naval Intelligence, who brought in more witnesses, and also ended up working for AAWSAP.

With classified technology related to weapons technology, aircraft and surveillance, it seemed NIDS and later the AAWSAP program would walk a fine line on how information was released and held in these areas.

Kelleher addressed this. “There are so many special access programs. We were told that when we talked to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) people. We were told the Air Force does hide some of their advanced technology programs behind the UFOs. Some of the Special Access programs that the Air Force and Navy utilize do hide behind the UFO topic, which has been advantageous in their view, to hide behind that because everyone dismisses it, which can aid to avoid potential leaks in security. I could see that. The fact is, there was a program run for 27 months that was extremely successful at producing a very large data flow that is presently on shelves at DIA and it could conceivably serve as a template for a future U.S. Government UFO program. I guess that’s where we are coming from. There are a lot of problems with the U.S. Government getting involved with the UFO program. It has historically not been a shining example of efficiency with respect to how it has dealt with UFOs.”

There is still a major problem that the ODNI report “Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena” identified,¹ where it says, “if and when individual UAP incidents are resolved they will fall into one of five potential explanatory categories: airborne clutter, natural atmospheric phenomena, USG or U.S. industry developmental programs, foreign adversary systems, and a catchall ‘other’ bin.”

The “catchall ‘other’ bin” basically means, “We don’t know what this stuff is,” or some permutation along those lines. If the U.S. Government admitted in 2021 that there are UAP and that they don’t know what it is and where it comes from, the AAWSAP archive and its use becomes even more valuable. Such an archive is not just records of things that have happened in the past, even recent past. The proposition written by the project directors is to have a multi-disciplinary ongoing source of information for collection and analysis.

A Historically UFO-Frequented Area

The Uinta Basin, where Skinwalker Ranch is located, was well-traveled by historian Gregory Thompson, who worked as a researcher for the American West Center at the University of Utah (UU) for 15 years before moving on to the J. Willard Marriott Library in 1983 until his retirement in 2021. He retired as Associate Dean for Special Collections. There he spearheaded the documentation of the West’s busi-

ness, natural and cultural history.

"At the American West Center, we did a lot of interviewing with Native American tribal people," Thompson said. The Duke American Indian Oral History Project was granted to UU and the American West Center in December 1966 by philanthropist Doris Duke. The project, conducted from January 1967 to December 1972, was under the leadership of C. Gregory Crampton and Floyd O'Neil was field research director. Thompson described O'Neil as a uniquely qualified researcher who taught history for 50 years. He said O'Neil "started out in the Uinta Basin. He could understand and speak Ute. I learned this because to save money we almost always roomed together on the road and he sometimes would start to talk in his sleep in French, Italian, English and Ute. The Ute language would wake me up, as it was kind of frightening. It is a staccato-like language and it has an abruptness about it. It's not melodic like the romance languages."

Thompson, working with O'Neil, spent much time with the Northern Ute tribal bands, including the Whiteriver, the Uncompahgre and the Uintah. "Floyd is the one who was really the person guiding interviews at the Uintah Ouray Ute reservation in Eastern Utah. The Skinwalker Ranch is adjacent to the reservation."

Thompson told me the process of doing the interviews involved a respectful investment of time—for him, five years. It was a number of years before anyone they interviewed spoke to him about Skinwalkers, and when the Native people did, it was with care. Mysterious creatures, witnessed separately or in conjunction with mysterious flying craft and other phenomena, had been observed for generations in the area, long before the military air bases had flown experimental craft.

"We worked with a number of tribes developing tribal histories and archives. One project involved the White Mesa Utes in Southeastern Utah and San Juan County. That was south of Moab. The White Mesa is near Blanding and Monument Valley. There's a group of mostly Utes, some Paiute and Navajo but mostly Utes, who are administratively associated with the Ute Mountain Utes in Colorado, just over the hill. They believed there were spirits they called Skinwalkers that were considered to be non-friendly elements. They were feared."

Thompson continued, "Certainly there was this idea among the Utes—part of this was being told at White Mesa where Paiutes and Utes intermarried. People talking about this could have been of both tribes because the reservation land there was a mixture. There was talk about the Skinwalkers, what their sense of it was, what their belief was and about why they had so many dogs around their homes. The dogs were the first wave of announcing the Skinwalker spirits. They'd raise a ruckus. They were the alarm system. I think it was a more commonly held concept of the Ute people. We didn't often hear about it. What struck me is that the people we interviewed spoke about this so infrequently that I remember being stunned because this one particular woman we were interviewing knew we were recording her and she spoke of the Skinwalkers, as an open and real thing."

Thompson noted that he found it interesting that the Skinwalker Ranch bordered the Ute reservation where he and O'Neil conducted interviews. For years he wondered how the ranch got its name, given that Native Americans "use the landscape around them in their naming of individ-

uals or events or places." Kelleher clarified that "Skinwalker Ranch" was coined after their first book *Hunt for the Skinwalker* was published in 2005.

I asked Greg Thompson if he had heard of Skinwalkers or UFOs in this area in any other context? He mused, "Area 51 is not terribly far west of the Uinta Basin and Skinwalker Ranch but what I've heard about such phenomena are to the west, not east of Salt Lake City. It's usually Area 51 and Wendover where people ask, 'What the heck is going on over there?' That area has a reputation for unusual, even weird, sightings and activities happening. It is secure. You can't go on it. The military there really control it. Area 51 comes up to Wendover. Above Area 51 there is a stacked pattern 75 miles north. It was the nuclear location for bombs that were exploded in the period after World War II. Area 51 has a common border with the nuclear bombing site. That area goes close to the greater Wendover site, which today is considered the training location for fighter pilots and airplanes. There is live training. You can't be out there, as you would get raked. That is a stretch of land where you hear joking and comments about weird, strange and unusual and potential harmful things happening. You never know for sure if there is truth, accuracy or myth."

When pressed as to whether he had heard about the kind of phenomena reported in the two Skinwalker books and by the AAWSAP investigators, Thompson, a lifelong responsible historian, said, "If you're including the downwinders, the whole area of northern Utah was riddled with explosions that were made after World War II. When I speak to people in these areas, these discussions have the disclaimer 'I haven't seen but this is what I hear.' People in these areas convey a sense of spirits, sensations, an awareness of out of body experience such as you're talking about. The down-winder area includes the Uinta Basin. It goes into Idaho and into Montana. Parts of it get into Canada. The wind currents carry it. When you look at the weather of the U.S., the trash bag for continental U.S. weather storm action exhausts out to the Saint Lawrence River. So, when bombs were exploded at the site of Las Vegas, the entire country up and across the plains and north of the plains to the east was all exposed. The greater portions were southern Utah and Nevada and Colorado, near Silverton...The wind patterns blow to the west. It's a big swath. At the Marriot Library, there have been efforts to document and use GIS [geographic information system mapping] and other tools to show how the pattern spread and where the air flowed..."

Would Thompson support the use of oral histories or folklore in such an archive as that generated by AAWSAP? He thought before responding. "The real question you're asking is, if that kind of documentation is believable and useful in research? Would it support scientific investigation? That's always the big issue certainly in history but definitely in folklore and the nature of it. It's seen as at least partly not true. It falls in a belief system vs. our sense of scientific examination."

I asked Thompson if there is an issue with Native American oral histories or testimonies being taken seriously.

"Yes," Thompson responded, "It becomes difficult. When you go into federal court, for instance, in most cases that is not considered evidence. We've dealt with that because we were involved with more than several legal actions where tribes were suing the federal government for land rights,

water rights, resource extraction rights, for water, for religious access rights. You had to work hard to get permission to submit oral testimony. You could because of two points: There may be no other type of evidence-gathering medium existing, and two, American Indian people in our continent mostly are verbal. The stories were handed down over numerous generations with an amazing level of accuracy that has been shown on multiple occasions. Floyd and I would talk about how amazed we would be on how accurate these oral histories with native people were as opposed to white person's history. There were always certain people in the tribe trained to learn and pass on the history of the group. That allowed you to go back multiple generations instead of a generation or two. Whites aren't good at that. One of the things it taught me as a historian was to listen. To have a context with what you are listening to, and to be aware of the generational sense of the material you are listening to in an interview. Alan Nevins at Columbia University helped foster the use of oral history as historical fact. He and Louis Starr started the Oral History Association."

Thompson believes that Native American stories can become an important aspect of the AAWSAP archive. "I just came from a meeting about the American West Center's oral history collection to be put in the library. Two-thirds of them are Native American based," he added.

There are particular cultural aspects to gathering and evaluating such material that his decades of historical work taught him. Cultural difference is an important thing to consider. He said, "When you are on the front rounds doing the American Indian interviews you are struck by what you hear vs. when I go off and interview someone in the white community, a businessman or something, it is a different ballgame."

Thompson is always a very busy man. For him to take the time to speak about the work on historic archives, it was clear he supported the furthering of the AAWSAP archive. Part of the proposed continuance of the project was to do more oral histories of people on and off reservations in the Uinta Basin and elsewhere in the U.S. to collect and expand a past and current history of UAP sightings.

Part of the suggested oral histories also would include the following, according to Appendix II of *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*: "Oral History of selected individuals will also include collection of information (including classified reports) on all government and government agency activities in relation to the performance and behavior of advanced aerospace vehicles in CONUS air space since 1947. Such reports will include, but will not be limited to: (a) reports, photographs, other imagery, physical samples pertaining to investigations of all AAV [advanced aerospace vehicle] cases that were *not* included in Projects SIGN, GRUDGE, and Blue Book, (b) all investigation reports of AAV activity in the vicinity of Air Force bases and nuclear weapons storage areas, (c) investigations and reports pertaining to AAV activities in other countries, (d) all information regarding recovery of crashed AAV's in other countries."

Proposed Advanced Technology Center

There is not a unity of understanding and communication between government departments that touch upon these

areas for so many reasons, not least of which is that people are busy working on what they have to work on. The authors of *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* propose an Advanced Technology Center (ATC) for the archive that would track reports and physical samples of very advanced technologies which, according to public record, are in the custody of certain aerospace and government contractors as well as other government sources. A major objective of ATC, Appendix II of the book states, "is to extend the analysis of this putative technology beyond the present limits as a means of developing novel countermeasures to future technological threats. Many of these concepts have been discussed with multiple private sector companies and civilian sector leadership." They propose an analysis of strengths and weaknesses of previous research on the technological material. "Implicit in this first report would be the capacity of ATC to create horizontal linkages between the vertical stovepipes that currently exist in the Intelligence Agencies and within multiple aerospace corporations."

Current Status

What is the current status of the U.S. Government regarding the investigation of UAPs? Kelleher responded, "In a nutshell, the new program—called Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronization Group (AOIMSG)—is now located at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security (OUSD-I&S), which is very problematic because this organization historically has not been proactive in investigating UAPs."

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Skinwalkers at the Pentagon: The Future (Appendix II)

The latter part of the book *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* is very important to read and consider. There are multiple Appendixes there that lay out a comprehensive information map for UAP study and work in the field. AAWSAP and Bigelow Aerospace Chief Scientist Colm Kelleher explained in an interview that he and DIA's Dr. James Lacatski put together this Appendix of what they were already doing at AAWSAP. Kelleher noted, "Appendix I is what's on the shelves at DIA and Appendix II is the proposed future UFO program." Kelleher agreed to answer some questions about the future of the AAWSAP work.

Macy: Did you have meetings about taking Appendix II further?

Kelleher: We did have some meetings with some U.S. government program entities back in 2013-14 but not since

then. We're really thinking that this book in the middle of this tremendous amount of interest in forming an official U.S. government program is, in our opinion, a very good vehicle for moving the ball down the field. Especially Appendix II.

Macy: The book relates investigations into technologies that are genuinely terrifying to read about. There are reports of colored orbs or plasma balls, that in the first book incinerate the rancher's dogs. In this book, the balls show up with a "hitchhiker effect," following investigator's home across the country in several cases, which itself is something to consider, but just these orbs for consideration now. They appear, they menace people. In some cases you did extensive medical case histories on instances AAWSAP followed where orbs ran into people who then developed cancer or Hashimoto's or other autoimmune diseases. Did you ever find any weapons basis for such a technology?

Kelleher: No, but the U.S. Government and others are known to have the capacity to use non-ionizing radiation. As you know, getting any information to special access programs is not possible unless you are read in and have a need to know. We were never able to confirm anything like that. We don't have any evidence that these were U.S. Government devices.

Macy: What do you think they are?

Kelleher: I would guess they are another manifestation of this "intelligence" that operates under this vast umbrella called the UFO. It's got so many technological capabilities that this would be very easy, considering what we know of the 75-year history and beyond. I would put it in the category of these unexplained anomalous phenomena.

Macy: Several people working for different arms of our Defense departments said to me to consider what I'd read about microwave weapons used on diplomats in Cuba and China, that it might be something that interfered with people's brains and distorted their perceptions. But still, how did they end up with medical symptoms?

Kelleher: One hypothesis is that they produce non-ionizing radiation. Somewhere in the electromagnetic spectrum that can cause multiple effects including on stem cells or somewhere down the cell differentiation pathways. That's a hypothesis but obviously we need a lot more data. In *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* we document some medical injuries as a result of close encounters with UAPs in which the victims experienced intense sunburn on their skin, metallic taste in the mouth, hair falling out and atypical blood profiles (anemia, abnormal lymphocyte/neutrophil ratios) that collectively look suspiciously like some form of non-ionizing radiation. However, additional cases and research on those cases is needed before any definitive statements are made.

Macy: The story that opens the book has three special forces veterans with extensive combat and intelligence backgrounds—Jonathan Axelrod, Jim Costigan and David Wilson—walking on the Skinwalker Ranch in a preliminary investigation. They feel the air temperature drop and as they

proceed they see through the night scopes a void up ahead that blocks out light from the surrounding area. Walking on, they start to sweat and have nervous symptoms of extreme fear. These seasoned vets are all convinced if they go any further they are in mortal danger. They retreat and they distance themselves and it stops. Do you think that was a UAP related phenomena or a military technology?

Kelleher: I think UAPs are technological...

Macy: I misstated. Do you think this was a weapons technology that was around the area, such as a microwave technology acting on the men, or...?

Kelleher: Without more data, it is impossible to differentiate between those. We have heard for twenty-something years that some of the events in northeastern Utah could be advanced military technology, but again, there is no way of pinning that down. Apart from getting read into the programs, we don't know if it is speculation or actual facts. The consistency of the events that happened first between 1994 and 1996 and back to the NIDS group—all the scientists, all the investigators, helpers on the property—and after the NIDS group—security officers—had a lot of these experiences on the property. Then Robert Bigelow sold the property to Brandon Fugal and his team experienced the same thing year after year. So, if the U.S. Government is testing toys, they've been testing them for about 27 years now. And before that we spoke to people in the environment around Skinwalker Ranch and they told us that these phenomena go back to the 1930s. I find it difficult to believe that the U.S. Government is responsible for a lot of this stuff going back so many years. What would be the point of doing it year after year?

Macy: You mean, you would think the technology would advance?

Kelleher: I know the main concern here in the U.S. is a flight safety issue and a national security issue. Those were the two items hit on by the June 25, 2021 UAP task force report. These are the kind of steps we would propose, but we would also propose that a future program focuses on human effects, and human effects obviously means physiological effects, psychological effects, medical injury cases. All of that needs to be focused on because ignoring that, we miss a part of understanding the potential effects of the UFO phenomena on people.

Macy: The medical follow up you did with the people who had been affected...you would like that kind of follow up and reporting done on anyone with these experiences who has been affected?

Kelleher: Yes. It has to be long-term. That is what is missing from the UFO field in terms of resources. The ability to conduct over several months or years to follow people who have had these close encounters. Whether it is physiological effects or medical injuries, these people have to be followed not just for a couple of weekends, but for months and years. That's where you see the true human effects of the UFO phenomena. That is what we pioneered with AAWSAP. We did

have the resources to do that and we did do that. That's absent from the field because of the lack of resources.

Macy: Would you like to be re-funded for a continuation of AAWSAP?

Kelleher: I would certainly consult. But in terms of boots on the ground, it's kind of "been there and done that." I'd be happy to consult on such a program but would not be happy to go back to boots on the ground.

Macy: Do you want the government to fund it?

Kelleher: Ideally it would be a public/private partnership. Just like the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) organization was put together to execute the AAWSAP contract. The BAASS organization had all the speed and agility and flexibility of a private enterprise and the funding came through the U.S. Government but it was a collaboration. Jim Lacatski and I spoke together and had email contact two to three times a week. We were very closely working together. The great model is the NASA SpaceX commercial crew program. That's another example, the original contract of SpaceX, where the majority of the research and development was done by a private corporation. NASA, as we all know, is no longer capable of doing that kind of thing.

I think the membership of the current UAP task force has a lot of smart people involved, savvy people who are more than cognizant of the contents of the *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* book. I would start with that critical mass. There are people who are savvy and experienced. The tendency of the U.S. Government is that these people get rotated out and new people get rotated in, people without that expertise, so that the collective intellectual capital is lost. So, I'd start with the current taskforce at UAP...

Macy: And private partners, private sector?

Kelleher: I'd have to think of that in terms of private companies. I know Robert Bigelow isn't because for him it's "been there, done that." It would have to be somebody on the same par as Bigelow Aerospace.

A final word can be supplied by Senator Harry Reid, one of the driving forces behind the U.S. Government support of the AAWSAP program: "I believe that there is information uncovered by the government's covert investigations into unidentified aerial phenomena that can be disclosed to the public without harming our national security. The American people deserve to know more." (*New York Times* OpEd, May 21, 2021)

About the Author

Marianne Macy has been doing oral histories relating to the history of cold fusion since 2007 and is writing a book on cold fusion's start to the present day. She reports on new energy, integrative medicine and social/business issues.