



UFO Crash in Sedona?

by Tom Dongo
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During the Memorial Day weekend of May 28-30, 1994, an event of national significance occurred near Sedona, Arizona. The information I have gathered points to several probabilities. I think what occurred was either the crash of a UFO, a major landing of a UFO, the downing of a jet fighter by a UFO or vice versa, or something else which may have been a combination of any of the above.

A friend in Air Force Intelligence (generally known as O.S.I.) once said to me that in an intelligence investigation if as few as two circumstantial events point directly to a separate probable event, then the separate event is assumed as fact and the investigation proceeds from there. That is the point I have arrived at here. All evidence, both direct and circumstantial, points to the landing, crash or otherwise, of an airborne object of extreme interest to the U.S. military and our national government. Quoting from a letter to a Cottonwood, Arizona, UFO researcher from a Nevada private investigator who had knowledge of the details of an event during its occurrence: "I just happen to think that you might be sitting on top of the hottest opportunity to expose a covert government operation that's ever come along. This has the possibility of becoming the most definitive exposé ever to surface revealing government and ET-related activities. The Roswell incident [the Roswell, New Mexico UFO crash of 1947] could be a second-rate story compared to this." In a few sentences I think that statement accurately sums up the Sedona area Memorial Day weekend series of occurrences.

Related incidents and sightings point to the days between May 25 and June 2 as being the key period. I am going to present in chronological order this information I have gathered and my own conclusions. Because there was nowhere to go externally for answers to the puzzling sightings and experiences being reported, other sources of information were sought. Therefore, following the accounts I have written about these occurrences are channeled viewpoints from trusted sources. I purposely and intentionally did not and do not want to know what the channels reported, as I did not want it to influence my writing and research in any way. So what I have written is totally separate from the channeled material and is presented from a rather clinical research perspective.

The strange events of the 1994 Memorial Day weekend began for me personally in this manner: About 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 29, I was driving northeast in the left lane on highway 89A entering Sedona when a tractor-trailer rig passed me in the right lane – the slow lane. The truck was going about ten miles an hour over the posted 40 mph speed limit. The cab itself was ordinary and a drab white color. But the flatbed trailer it was pulling drew my attention. Being a researcher of the unusual and one who is naturally curious anyway, I look at and take note of anything out of the ordinary. When the white cab passed me, I got a good look at the flatbed it was hauling. What was extremely odd about it was the cover material over the load. I had never seen anything like it. It was a thick olive-drab plastic, stretched so tight that it looked like Saran Wrap stretched over a platter of cut-up vegetables. The plastic was the same color and thickness as a Vietnam body bag once so often shown on television. There was one round object standing upright in the center of the load that was about four feet high and appeared to be hollow. It was about 30 inches in diameter and looked quite sharp, similar to a length of steel pipe.

The plastic must have been extremely strong, as it was not torn by the edges of this round object. When truckers cover a flatbed load they usually use inexpensive, clear plastic tarpaulins or plain or waterproof canvas tarps. When the odd flatbed passed me I had not yet heard any current reports of strange sightings in the Sedona area. The highly unusual tarp, however, stuck in my mind. Shortly after I got home came a flood of information from many sources. The town was beginning to buzz with strange stories. Too much was happening too fast to be the work of a few paranoid or intentional rumor-makers.

There was an urgent phone message to call a woman friend who



Figure 1. Courtesy Miller Johnson

is a UFO investigator in Cottonwood. Cottonwood is a city of about 6,000 fifteen miles southwest of Sedona. I returned her call that afternoon of the 29th. As soon as she picked up the phone she exclaimed, "Do you know what is happening around here?!" She was so excited that I was instantly alerted and at the same time a little miffed that I didn't know what "it" was. (I am usually the first one around here to hear dramatic news of any kind.) Turns out she had been investigating the stories for two days. She continued with startling news of dozens of military helicopters landing on the ground in Cornville; FBI all over Sedona; dead, possibly mutilated cattle found on House Mountain; UFOs flying over Cottonwood daytime and nighttime; and a group of mountain bikers being stopped and turned back at gunpoint near the mouth of Secret Canyon by the U.S. military with M-16 assault rifles. She went on to say that *Senators Dole and Mitchell had been seen in Sedona a week before all this unusual activity began. I was not expecting such an avalanche of stimulating news and was a bit speechless at first. I thanked her for calling me, and we agreed to stay in close contact to share information and see what else might develop in the meantime.*

While I stood there trying to integrate this bewildering information and make some sense of it, the phone rang. The call was from a woman in Tucson, also a UFO researcher, who exclaimed in a concerned, agitated tone, "Tom, what the hell is going on in Sedona?"

I just got a call from a friend in the U.S. Senate. I was told that there was some sort of an incident, maybe involving a UFO, near Sedona and that the military was preparing to seal off all routes into and out of Sedona. What's going on?" My Tucson friend, who knew nothing of the other incidents being reported in the Sedona area, could not have been influenced by those stories. I asked her if her Senate friend knew what had happened here. She replied that her friend might have known, but didn't tell her. I got the impression that her friend wanted to leak information but was afraid to be more specific. It could be, I thought, that her friend in the Senate was, like everyone else, just trying to find out what was going on.

My investigator/researcher brain shifted into high gear as I began to smell a UFO crash. I have been near this sort of thing before. I knew the signs. And I knew I had to move fast before the trail got cold. In the UFO business, hours or days can mean the difference between a major event or a cold, unverifiable rumor. I started calling people on the phone and asking lots of questions. One thing quickly led to another, and I had more and more pieces of the puzzle. At the time I was also all too well aware of the military's quick-recovery teams. These teams are stationed around the country and can be mobilized and at the site of a UFO crash in a matter of hours. When one of these teams arrives at a crash site, they clean up the site so well that it is generally restored to its original condition.

I am asked sometimes how a UFO can possibly crash, given their technology. For one thing, it's evident that they occasionally do have mechanical problems, sometimes with disastrous results, such as the presently well-published UFO crashes at Aztec, New Mexico; Roswell, New Mexico; and Kecksburg, Pennsylvania. I have also seen on videotape a Russian Air Force colonel (in uniform) vehemently telling an American UFO researcher that both the U.S. and the Russians have particle-beam weapons fully capable of shooting down an alien spaceship. The Russian colonel demonstrated, on camera, a small version of their beam weapon. It was impressive. He said the Americans have an operative beam weapon that is far more destructive than the one they have. A close associate and friend of mine who is an American Air Force colonel says he watched as one of these U.S. beam weapons was being readied for firing, although he did not see it in operation.

The question is, are they shooting back? I think so, because the Russian colonel said that in a Soviet effort to collect a UFO, three of their most advanced M.I.G. fighters were shot down by UFOs. He says they now have a hands-off policy toward UFOs.

Speed, prudence and caution are my guidelines, because I know what I might be dealing with. During the course of my investigation a man told me that he had heard that several roads out in the desert had been blocked by military vehicles. I had no way to verify this report/rumor, but what gave it a measure of credibility was that I heard the rumor before anyone else knew what the Tucson woman had told me. I was the first local person to hear of the possibility of Sedona being sealed off.

It seems that a hornet's nest of UFO and paranormal-type activity was stirred up that Memorial Day weekend. I am certain that most, if not all of it, was directly connected even though some of the reports seemed to be unrelated. I say that because all of what I narrate here occurred during a period of about ten days, with Memorial Day the focus. Those events are as follows, as close as I could put them in chronological order.

On May 29 at 8:23 p.m. a red-ringed UFO was seen moving in unusual aerial patterns in the eastern sky as seen from Cottonwood. This UFO was watched by four adults and was described as glowing and pulsating. Then two smaller, white-glowing objects flew directly over the four witnesses at a high rate of speed. One UFO was flying straight, but the other was erratic, as though it were having some sort of control problem. Both white UFOs then disappeared into a cloud. The red-ringed object had also moved out of sight. That same evening at 10:22 p.m. – again from Cottonwood – nine adult witnesses observed two red-ringed UFOs flying seemingly in a search pattern for one and one-half hours in the direction of House Mountain. House Mountain lies halfway between Sedona and Cottonwood and is adjacent to the small settlements of Cornville and Page Springs. During the course of my investigation several people had asked, "How come all this stuff didn't appear in the local newspapers?" My answer was that the mainstream media ignore UFO activity and stories these days, and even if somebody dragged a spaceship into town behind their pickup, newspapers probably wouldn't report it.

In a separate sighting that Sunday night, four adults watched two orange balls of light fly at high altitude over Cottonwood and disappear to the southwest over Mingus Mountain. This was at 11:45 p.m. I might add here that the "UFOs" the U.S. government has been flying at the supersecret Area 51 base 100 miles north of Las Vegas in almost every instance glow a bright orange color. It seems that these UFOs have either been constructed with alien help or been "back engineered," meaning built or reconstructed by salvaging a

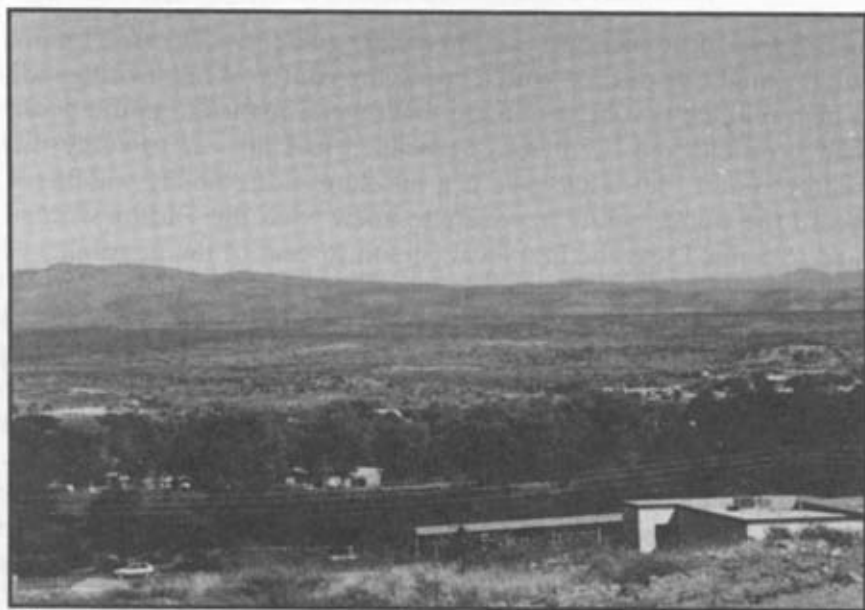


Figure 2. House Mountain from the south.

crashed (or donated) alien craft. These craft, it seems, are being flown by U.S. military personnel or are a joint venture by U.S. and alien pilots. I have an excellent nighttime color photo taken by a California physicist of one of these very same Area 51 craft. Were these orange balls of light that were flying over Cottonwood U.S. government craft? I think they were. Either that or the same ships being flown by aliens.

Also on May 29, a Cottonwood man and his wife watched a single glowing orange object slowly fly over Cottonwood at an altitude of approximately 6000 feet. They remarked that the UFO was very bright orange and moved south at a leisurely speed. At 9:30 p.m. on the same night the red-ringed UFOs were again seen, this time near House Mountain, which is 5127 feet high from a base elevation of about 4000 feet. It is an expansive, rather rounded and unpopulated desert mountain with a base circumference of approximately ten miles. That same evening, also at 9:30 p.m., a dark UFO "the size of a football field" with two blinking lights on either end flew slowly east between House Mountain and Camp Verde. Witnesses said this object flew in a slow, sweeping motion, and while it was in view two red-glowing UFOs were seen hovering far above the enormous dark UFO. This lasted for over 40 minutes before the three objects disappeared in the distance. The next day (May 30) two black military helicopters were seen flying around the same area

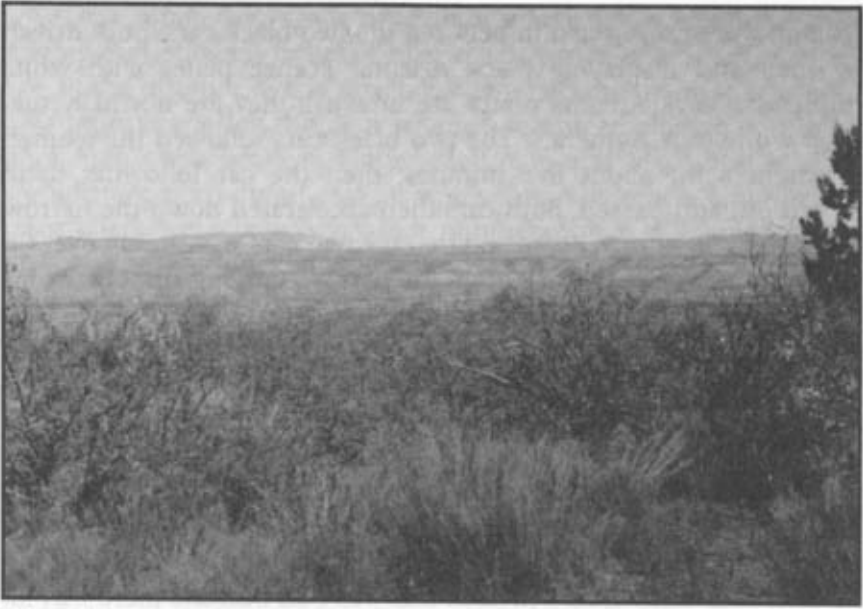


Figure 3. House Mountain from the west.

where the one large and two smaller UFOs had been seen the night before.

During the entire three-day Memorial Day weekend, U.S. Apache and Cobra attack helicopters were flying at low altitude, particularly in the Sedona area. They were flying, patrol fashion, in groups of two to six. At one point five Apache helicopters flew in a line south to north over Sedona at a height of 300 feet or less. These are loud, powerful helicopters. I spoke to an ex-military man who told me that some of the helicopters he saw over Sedona that weekend were combat-ready, with loaded rocket launchers. Four of these helicopters flew over me and were indeed equipped with loaded rocket launchers and, in my opinion, seemed to be looking for something to shoot at.

Again that Sunday holiday, a group of four women UFO researchers who had been noticing the odd activity around House Mountain decided to go there to investigate. They had driven along the road on the south and west sides of the mountain and had seen nothing unusual. Deciding to return to Cottonwood in early afternoon, they were near Cornville when two black cars came racing up behind them at a high rate of speed. Both approaching cars, the women said, were shiny black, new, and each had short antennas sticking out both the driver's and the passenger's side windows. One black car passed the four women and pulled in front—close. The

women were now boxed in between the two black cars, both driven by men and displaying black Arizona license plates with white numerals. Black Arizona plates are unusual; they are normally maroon with white numerals. The two black cars followed the women researchers for about five minutes; then the car following them pulled out and passed. Both cars then accelerated down the narrow highway. The women estimated that the two cars were going over 80 mph as they sped out of sight on the narrow, curving rural highway.

The women, again curious and thinking they were in the clear, went back to House Mountain to look around some more. They turned off on unpaved National Forest Road 120, which leads into a remote area where several dead cattle had been found the day before by a local man. He said the cattle may have been mutilated UFO style, but not being an expert in that field, he could not be sure. On one long, open section of 120 were the imprints of a wide-tracked vehicle. The tracks went off into the desert, coming to an end behind an area with thick brush. In itself this was odd because there was no evidence of work being done on the gravel road by maintenance crews. Ranchers do not use tracked vehicles in this area. They almost exclusively use four-wheel-drive or two-wheel-drive pickup trucks.

The four women then made a wide loop around House Mountain, taking photos as they went. They continued on State Highway 179 into the Village of Oak Creek, then on into Sedona, turning left onto State Route 89A to return to Cottonwood. As the women were passing the Sedona city limits, two black military helicopters appeared out of nowhere and began pacing them. The helicopters followed them fifteen miles, all the way to Cottonwood. They even followed them along the winding back roads to the home of one of the women. This activity was witnessed by the husband of one of the women. He remarked that from his higher vantage point it was obvious that these two black multimillion-dollar military helicopters had been following them. The question is, why? Did the four women get too close to something they were not supposed to see? All of the photographs taken by the women that afternoon came out black. Photos on that same roll of 35-mm film taken several days before developed normally. This has happened before around here during UFO activity. It takes strong radiation to black out a roll of film like that. In one other case I know of similar to the four women's experience, it was obvious that some sort of device was "beamed" toward the photographer. The photographer in the second case was shooting photos of a ball of white light hovering near her in the open desert near Sedona.

That same day, again on Sunday, May 29, a Cornville man driving east on rural route 119 between Cornville and McGuireville saw in the distance over a dozen military helicopters on the ground. This report says that the man counted seventeen helicopters sitting on a high mesa between House Mountain and McGuireville. This would have been about two air miles from where the four women researchers were that day when photographing and tracking imprints of a large, tracked vehicle and subsequently followed by two military helicopters. It seems those seventeen helicopters were positioned in a staging area ready to move at a moment's notice to a nearby area. Near what? Why? Why would seventeen combat-type helicopters be concentrated in one unlikely rural area far from the nearest air base, which would have to be either Luke Air Force Base or the partly decommissioned Williams Air Force Base in Phoenix, 130 miles away? With all the unusual activity around the south side of House Mountain that weekend, it would be a safe assumption that that was one of the areas, or the single area, upon which the military was focusing its attention.

To backtrack a bit, about ten days before Memorial Day weekend, radio station KFYI in Phoenix reported that Senators Dole and Mitchell were seen in Sedona and were allegedly engaged in a high-level, supersecret meeting of some sort. This clandestine meeting ties in nicely with the unusual events the weekend of May 29-30. Coincidentally with this, a retired man in Colorado who spends a great deal of his time following clandestine government activity called an associate of mine and said that he had just heard a rumor that the U.S. government was preparing to move some of its functions and operations to the Sedona area. Again, so many diverse and extraordinary occurrences happened in such a short time span that one has to assume a connection.

Furthermore, on Memorial Day weekend one of the largest hotels in Sedona was booked solid by FBI agents on short notice – so many agents that a person had to be assigned to locate lodgings for them in other area motels and hotels. What were Senators Dole and Mitchell, a raft of FBI agents and 17 attack helicopters doing in the Sedona area, in an out-of-the-way, rather average American town in the same time frame? Those activities alone suggest something of extreme significance, something the general public was not informed of, to be sure.

This next incident took place in Sycamore Canyon, a 33-mile-long canyon three miles northeast of Cottonwood. This incident happened on Memorial Day, the 30th. I'll call this man Ray. Ray is in

his late twenties and is the son of a local rancher. Deciding to hike into Sycamore Canyon, he left the ranch at 7:30 in the morning. The going was a little slower than he had anticipated, so that he was only about halfway to his destination by late afternoon. The sun was low on the horizon when he noticed that high up in the cliffs something was following him. He said that whatever it was, it glowed white and was somewhat bell-shaped. It seemed to be trying not to be seen. Then things really got strange. He said that he soon came upon the carcass of a dead animal about the size of a young coyote. The carcass probably weighed about twenty pounds. What was odd about it, he said, was that it had not been dead long and looked like an animal that was half cat and half fox or coyote. Even more odd was the fact that its stomach seemed to have been removed by someone or something—there was only loose skin and a hollow cavity where the stomach had been.

As he continued down the canyon, high above and to the right two white-glowing, triangular-shaped craft appeared. They made no sound and seemed to float along the canyon rim high above him. Then, he said, it took him five or six hours to walk a distance of just over a mile. He doesn't remember, but he feels he may have had as much as five hours of missing time.

This is not the first time this sort of thing has happened there. Almost an identical incident involving two Cottonwood men took place ten years ago in the same general area. Ray did not know these men.

A week before May 30 a local couple had gone to an isolated location to inspect some property they were interested in purchasing. There were a number of buildings on the sale property, and as they were going through the buildings they discovered some papers on the floor of one of them, a small cottage. Most of the papers had handwriting on them and appeared to have been left by someone who had spent some time in the cottage. On one of the sheets of paper was written "Abduction is the Art of the Kidnapper." A connection to Ray's experience?

Two other Memorial Day weekend reports involved people being stopped at gunpoint by military personnel deep in the canyons west of Sedona. Before I go into those incidents I should explain the topography of the Sedona area to give the reader a better mental reference. To the south of Sedona is mostly open desert, with a few high, forested mountain ranges spaced here and there all the way to Mexico. To the north and east lies the Mogollon Rim, which is the southernmost edge of the Colorado Plateau—the largest plateau in

the world. The Mogollon Rim is an almost vertical wall, created by earth movement in prehistory, and is punctuated here and there by a series of canyons. The Rim is at an elevation of 6000 feet, whereas Sedona's elevation is 4500 feet. To the west of Sedona are the famous canyonlands. These are Sterling Canyon, Bear Sign Canyon, Secret Canyon, Long Canyon, HS Canyon, Boynton Canyon, Fay Canyon, Red Canyon, Hartwell Canyon and Lincoln Canyon. Most of these canyons originate at Secret Mountain, which can be likened to the hub of a wagon wheel. The deeper canyons are like spokes radiating to the east, west and south. The Colorado Plateau connects to Secret Mountain from the north.

In one incident three people were riding mountain bikes on May 28 and suddenly encountered a number of military types dressed in black uniforms with no insignia, armed with M-16 military assault rifles. The bikers were about a mile from the mouth of Secret Canyon. They were told they were in an area they shouldn't be (this is in Coconino National Forest) and to turn around and go back the way they had come. They did. I have since learned that the U.S. military, at least elite units, do indeed wear black uniforms when guarding sensitive areas or installations. I have been told by an ex-army intelligence officer that elite army units do operate in the Secret Canyon area. Furthermore, I have been told by another military source that military personnel have to have a top-secret clearance to go into that area. Why? No one knows.

On the 29th or 30th I got a report that two off-duty policemen were hiking to the east of Secret Canyon in nearby Sterling Canyon and ran into a young, armed, U.S. Marine who reportedly told the two officers they could go no further. This is the tenth incident of this type I know of that has occurred in that same general area in the past five years. I have been told by a military source that a U.S. citizen (or anyone else) has a lawful right to demand, in a situation such as I just mentioned, the soldier's name, rank and specific orders as to why he is there. But, I suppose, with an M-16 pointed at your nose you're not likely to want to push it.

In yet another Memorial Day weekend incident, a Cottonwood woman gave me the following report in a taped interview. "At 9:35 p.m. May 30 my son (a design engineer) and I were out in the front yard star gazing at the sky. I was looking through my binoculars when all of a sudden a streak of light came from the direction of Sedona. It was soon over my driveway. When I saw the streak approaching, I thought it was a single light. But when I honed in on it through my binoculars, I saw that it was actually two vessels, one

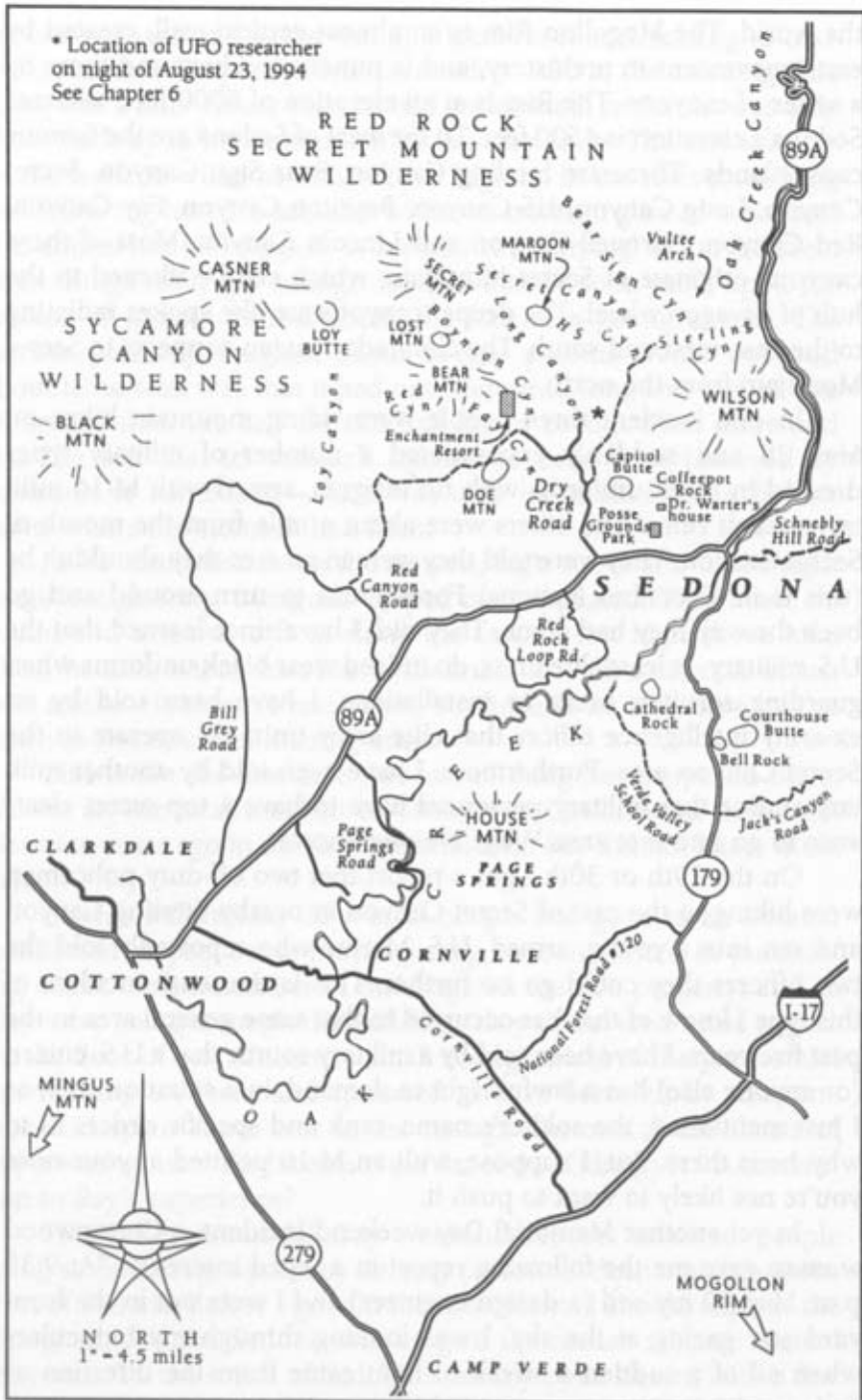


Figure 4. Map of Secret Canyon area.

right on the tail of the other. The one in the front was a ball of white light. It looked as if they were going to crash into each other. Then they started maneuvering. I thought the one in the rear was a jet plane. I could hear the engine on one but not the other. The one in back had two white running lights. I had expected to see red or green, which I thought was mandatory, but the lights were both white." (Author's note: Jet fighters can display just about any combination of running lights. They can be steady all-white, all-red, flashing red, green or white strobe lights or any combination of these or still other mixed combinations. I have often seen jet fighters flying at night at high speed with no running lights at all. I am not certain what the F.A.A. regulations are, but I would wager that fighter pilots ignore them at will.)

"From the tail end of the jet in the rear there was a continuous red glow or flame, as though the pilot kept igniting the afterburners to keep up with the ball of white light. It appeared to be trying to ram the ball of white light. It actually looked like they were mad at each other. It looked like they were trying to kill each other up there. The white sphere of light was about the same size as the jet, maybe a little bigger, but not a lot." (Author's Note: Most jet fighters have a wingspan of about thirty feet.)

"Only when I got my binoculars on them could I see that I was looking at two crafts, they were that close. Every time the jet tried to ram the, what I'll call, starship, the starship would gently get out of the way. It was as if the starship was toying with the jet. They started doing some interesting maneuvering up there that I had never seen before, the one trying to follow the other, but not too successfully. The starship made a sharp U-turn and the jet had to make a long, looping turn to catch up. The starship headed in the direction of Sedona. The jet caught up with it and they both looked as one light again as they disappeared into the distance."

The next day, Tuesday the 31st, at 4:20 a.m. Cheryl K., a Sedona resident, was on her way to Phoenix. She was halfway to Cottonwood on Highway 89A (near where the UFO and jet fighter were last seen) when she came up behind a trailer rig making a right turn onto Red Canyon Road, also known locally as Two Trees Road. What was unusual about this rig was that the truck was towing a piggy-back trailer—two flatbed trailers instead of one. She evidently knows trucks, because she said that this one had additional struts under each flatbed in order to support an extremely heavy load. (By law, 60,000 pounds is the legal load limit for a trailer rig. This one could have carried twice that weight—120,000 pounds or more. Evidently

this one could do just that, as she remarked that the truck was also unusually large. Military tractor trailers are bigger and they can pull far more weight than a public or commercial rig.) The large rig turned off 89A and headed toward Red Canyon.

Just a few days after that, a man who lives in the Red Canyon area was returning home at 10:30 in the evening. On that narrow and unpaved desert road, he came up behind a piggy-back trailer rig. It looked brand new, he said, and it was pulling two flatbed trailers. On each flatbed was a bright yellow, tall, boxlike container. There was a pickup truck leading the rig, and both big and small trucks pulled over and stopped when the local man drove up behind them. The man said that the whole thing was very strange. It seemed as if the trucks did not want him following them or getting too good a look at what they were hauling or where they were going. As the man slowly drove around them, he said he got a pretty good look at the whole setup. He added that there was absolutely no reason for a rig like that to be out there. There was no construction or anything else anywhere near that area that could explain its presence. I checked with some of the residents who live in that area. They agreed that there was no logical reason why a truck like that would be out there.

The local man passed the truck with the yellow containers and the leading pickup truck. He drove slowly along the road ahead to see where they were going. From a distance he watched the two trucks turn left onto Red Canyon Road and head toward Highway 89A, the same road Cheryl K. saw the empty trailer rig turn off 89A onto Red Canyon Road. The obvious question is, what was in the two yellow boxes on the flatbed trailers and where did they pick up or drop off their load?

I am going to include at this point some later sightings that I believe are directly related to the Memorial weekend events. On June 12, 1994, in the Page Springs/Cornville area, a dozen or so residents watched for thirty minutes a silver cylindrical UFO moving back and forth over House Mountain as if it were looking for something. Also on June 12, a Cottonwood woman observed a silvery-gold cylindrical UFO fly over Mingus Mountain heading northeast in the direction of House Mountain. On June 2 a helicopter pilot flying over a remote forested region west of Prescott (50 miles southwest of Sedona) said that he flew over a large contingent of military troops in an area where he felt troops should not be.

In the early spring of 1994 on a half-dozen separate occasions, airliner-sized military cargo planes were seen flying at treetop level across the desert near Red Canyon — usually at two or three in the