

# **ATTEMPTED CREATION OF UFO PHENOMENA: A PILOT EXPERIMENT**

by

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Could it be that we're linked together in a 'psychic internet', and that our collective imaginings can sometimes make people experience hallucinations and/or paranormal physical phenomena? The outcome of such subconscious interaction could be purposive. For example, if there's a widespread desire to believe that extra-terrestrials are visiting Earth, the psychic internet (collective subconscious mind) might generate phenomena suggesting that we are indeed being visited by aliens. (In itself, this wouldn't invalidate the extra-terrestrial hypothesis.) Similarly, if there's a widespread desire to believe in life after death, the psychic internet might fabricate 'evidence' suggesting that we survive bodily death. (In itself, this wouldn't disprove the notion of post-mortem survival.) But the hypothesized psychic internet could be a complex and somewhat unpredictable mechanism rather than an all-wise 'higher mind', and some of its manifestations might serve no clear purpose or even be harmful.

Conceivably, the workings of the psychic internet could enable UFO cases to feed off themselves. For example, if an area became known as a UFO hot-spot, the collective imaginings of members of the public might serve to generate further UFO phenomena there. Similarly, if a location acquired a reputation for being haunted, collective mental activity might engender further ghostly manifestations at the site. Possibly, then, with sufficient publicity, a spurious case could evolve into a genuine one!

Evidence from laboratory-based parapsychological research shows that paranormal effects can be instigated deliberately (see, for example, Radin, 1997). Tyrrell (1973) refers to cases in which people have deliberately made apparitions of themselves appear to others. He states: "I have found records of 16 occasions on which this...has been tried with success, and in most cases success has been achieved on the first attempt." (p. 35). Interestingly, he notes that on several of the recorded occasions, the agent went to sleep after concentrating his mind strongly on the percipient, and it was then that the apparition was seen. Tyrrell also refers to an experiment in which someone looked at a bright disc and tried to make a percipient see it. The latter reportedly saw luminous clouds, which concentrated into a disc.

In the light of such accounts, one might ask whether UFO experiences could be created in a similar way. Arguably, though, if the concept of a psychic internet is valid, it might be better to have multiple agents, all visualizing the same thing. If that strengthens the process, the effects might go beyond short-lived sensory phenomena, and include electrical, mechanical, photographic, and biological manifestations, thereby giving the UFO event a degree of physical reality. The pilot experiment described below was designed to explore such possibilities.

## **METHOD**

The proposed experiment was outlined in a short article (McCue, 2005) that was posted on BUFORA's website. It included an appeal for participants. But the website elicited very few volunteers, so direct approaches were made to a number of people, inviting them to volunteer. In all, 13 participants were recruited.

A house in a rural area was chosen as a possible 'target site'. The occupants, whom I'll refer to as Mr and Mrs X, are a middle-aged couple. I've not inquired about their beliefs concerning paranormal and UFO events, although my impression is that Mr X, at least, has no particular interest in the subject. I sent him the aforementioned article (McCue, 2005) and eventually obtained permission from him to 'target' the site.

Prior to the start of the experiment (11th December 2005), twelve of the visualizers were sent: (a) the aforementioned article (McCue, 2005) (to remind them, if necessary, of the nature of the experiment); (b) the script for the intended UFO events (see Appendix), and two associated drawings; (c) two photographs of the target site. This material was also sent to the thirteenth visualizer, but because of an administrative error, it went out late, on 13<sup>th</sup> December. I did some visualizing myself, bringing the total number of visualizers to 14. But unlike the other visualizers, I knew the identity of the occupants and the location of the target site (which I have visited on occasions). Of course, the occupants of the target site weren't sent the script or told of its contents.

The visualizers were asked to familiarize themselves with the two action sequences described in the script, and to spend at least 15 minutes, twice a day, trying to imagine the events occurring. They were asked to try to 'will' them to happen. I asked the participants to visualize both sections of the script during each visualization session; and I suggested that:

The visualization sessions could be carried out in any suitable place of your choosing, even in bed. Regarding the second of the visualization sessions to be carried out each day, it might help if you do it shortly before the time you normally fall asleep.

In my article (McCue, 2005), I suggested that the visualizers could, if they wished, tape-record the script and listen to the recording during the visualization sessions.

The participants were asked to carry out the twice-daily visualization sessions for a fortnight, the last day being 24<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

## **RESULTS**

In an e-mail to Mr X on 29<sup>th</sup> December, I said:

I'd be grateful if you'd let me know whether anything unusual has been experienced in the vicinity of your house since the experiment began, on Sunday, 11th December. In addition to any information about sights, sounds, etc., could you tell me whether you, [your wife], or any other occupants of the house have had any unusual subjective impressions or dreams since the experiment began?

Replying on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006, Mr X stated: “We have nothing to report in the case of unusual activity during the time span of the experiment.” I responded to his e-mail that same day, noting that a delayed effect was conceivable, and asking him to let me know if anything should occur. But at the time of writing (8<sup>th</sup> January 2006), I’ve heard no more from Mr X. Therefore, I presume that nothing of note has occurred.

Notwithstanding the negative report from Mr X, it’s conceivable that some people in his locality witnessed phenomena related to the experiment, although I’ve no evidence of that. Using Internet search engines, I’ve looked for information about possible UFO sightings in the vicinity of Mr and Mrs X’s home, but I’ve not come upon any such reports for the period in question. It’s possible, of course, that sightings have gone unreported, or that reports of recent sightings haven’t yet reached the Internet. On balance, though, it appears that the experiment failed to produce the intended effects.

## COMMENTS

I don’t know whether all of the volunteer participants fully complied with the instructions for the experiment. (I must admit that there were a couple of days when I failed to carry out two visualization sessions, although I made up for it by having an extra session on other days.)

If I were running the experiment again, I would probably specify a minimum of only one visualization session per day, thereby reducing the demand on participants’ time. Reducing the tasks demands would presumably make it easier to recruit participants.

As noted, the volunteer participants weren’t told the location of the target site or informed about the identity of the occupants. But perhaps a positive outcome would have been more likely if the visualizers had visited the target site and met the occupants before the experiment started. However, that might have been difficult, if not impossible, to arrange; and I don’t know whether Mr and Mrs X would have agreed to their identity and address being made known to strangers.

If the effects of individuals’ visualization efforts are additive, a detectable telepathic or psychokinetic influence would be more likely with a large number of visualizers. Possibly, then, the experiment would have succeeded if there’d been more visualizers. Equally, if success depends on the participation of people with special characteristics, a large pool of volunteers would be helpful, since it might include more people with the necessary attributes.

Questions could also be asked about the couple living at the target site. For example, were they insufficiently ‘psychic’ to respond to what was being attempted?

An experiment of this type could be carried out over a much shorter period (e.g. for just one night). With a short duration, the experimenter(s) could probably arrange to be at the site, with recording equipment. And with less being demanded of their time, people would presumably be more likely to offer their services as visualizers. Other

variations would be possible, e.g. having participants carry out their visualization sessions at the actual target site.

I'm not planning to run another experiment of this type – at least, not for the time being. But if anyone else intends to carry out a similar study, I'd be interested in hearing about it.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I'm very grateful to the volunteer participants for their assistance, and I'd like to thank Mr X for letting me use his home as the target site, and for providing photographs of it.

## **REFERENCES**

McCue, P. A. (2005). *Creating UFO phenomena: A proposed experiment & call for participants.*

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## **APPENDIX: THE SCRIPT<sup>1</sup>**

### Day-Time

A large sausage-shaped object is stationary in the sky about a thousand feet directly above the house. It seems to be silver-grey. Its length is about 400 yards and its width is about 50 yards. No windows or portholes are visible. Several minutes pass. Five smaller objects now emerge, one after the other, from the underside of the large UFO and descend slowly towards the house. They appear to be black or dark grey, and they're all the same size (diameter about 2 feet) and of the same shape. They land silently on the flat roof areas of the house. The air is now filled with a buzzing sound, which gradually grows louder. Two of the small objects now float down on to the grass to the left of the driveway. As they land on the grass, the two objects become bright red. There's a hissing sound and the air becomes laden with an odour reminiscent of perfume. The objects on the grass now revert to their original black or dark grey colour, and all five of the small objects now float up towards the large UFO and seem to disappear into it, whereupon it shoots up into the sky at an amazing speed and disappears from sight. Concave indentations are left in the grass beside the driveway, and some of the grass appears to have been singed.

### Night-Time

A large sausage-shaped object is stationary in the sky about a thousand feet directly above the house. It's glowing brilliantly, with a light green colour. It's the same size as the large UFO described above. A cone-shaped beam of brilliant orange light now shines from the UFO, completely encircling the house. After a few minutes, the cone-shaped beam of light changes colour, to a brilliant purple. Ten small objects (with the

same shape and size as the small objects described above) now emerge from the large UFO and descend towards the house. They're all glowing with a brilliant white light. They fly around the house, repeatedly, at a low speed, pausing for a few seconds as they pass the windows, as if they were viewing the inside of the house or its occupants. After some minutes, they suddenly shoot back to the large UFO and seem to disappear into it. The large object now shoots up into the sky at a fantastic speed and disappears from view.

<sup>1</sup>The script sent to the volunteer participants included three parenthetical references. They referred, in turn, to two illustrative drawings and one of the photographs of the target site. Since I'm not reproducing the drawings and photograph here, I've not included these references.