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themselves were frequently described as odd-shaped. Of the five groups, only the reports in "Catena IV" begin to approximate the data regarding indentations at mutilation sites. If the occupants of UFOs are mutilating our livestock, they should feel right at home in Merritt's "Catena IV."

AN ENIGMA HOVERS

Any investigation which intends to probe the systematic occurrence of animal mutilations in the United States and Canada must include within its purview an aspect of the problem which will shortly be revealed in the course of any thorough investigation into the mutilation phenomenon: the appearance of unmarked or otherwise unidentified helicopters within a spatial and temporal proximity of animal mutilation sites. The occurrence of these helicopter sightings in apparent conjunction with mutilation activity has been persistent enough to supersede coincidence.

These "mystery helicopters" are almost always without identifying markings, or markings may appear to have been painted over or covered. The helicopters are frequently reported flying at abnormal, unsafe or illegal attitudes. They may shy away if witnesses or law enforcement officers try to approach; but there are accounts of aggressive behavior, as well, with witnesses chased, paced, "buzzed," hovered-over and even fired upon. At times these craft have appeared very near mutilation sites, hovering and even landing on occasion. They have been observed before and after animals have been mutilated.

"Mystery helicopters" are not new to ufology nor are they confined to a relationship with animal mutilations. Such craft figured prominently in the aftermath of UFO activity over Wanaque Reservoir in New Jersey on October 11, 1966 and over Phelps Corner, Maryland on August 19, 1968 (Reference 13). More recently, as many as twenty-three helicopters were an integral part of the Cash-Landrum UFO encounter north of Houston, Texas at the end of 1980. Is it possible that we are being confronted with UFOs disguised as helicopters? A sufficiently advanced non-terrestrial technology should have no problem constructing "helicopters" to allow them to operate surreptitiously.

Could such a "pseudo-helicopter" appear to be transformed in mid-flight into a ball-shaped UFO (or vice-versa)? In September of 1980, during an amazing and largely unpublicized mutilation siege in Colorado (References 14 and 15), John Cumby of Littleton watched an apparent helicopter between his home and the mountains west and southwest of Denver one evening at twilight. It was the low altitude of the craft, around one hundred feet, that first caught Cumby's attention. He knew it was a helicopter, as he could see it silhouetted against the western sky, although he could not see the rotor blades. Cumby told Linda Moulton Howe, then of KMGH-TV in Denver, that the dark-colored craft was about a mile away when it began to ascend. At some point Cumby realized he was viewing, no longer a helicopter, but a



silver, ball-shaped object, somewhat smaller than the original craft. A woman and six-year-old child spotted the ball-shaped object, which assumed a "square" shape as it continued to ascend. By then it had ascended beyond Cumby's view from his window. The woman reported an elongated appendage which hung down from the side of the object and appeared to move in a "fluttering" motion. The object moved to several thousand feet and seemed to vanish, only to re-appear about two seconds later far to the right of the viewer, with the appendage still fluttering. It suddenly shot straight up until it was lost from sight.

The Littleton, Colorado case is an isolated one, as most "mystery helicopter" sightings are highly suggestive of a craft composed of terrestrial hardware. This is despite reports of a variety of sounds emitted from these craft: a "jet aircraft" sound, a soft "swishing," popping, whistling, "normal" helicopter sounds--and numerous observers report "silent" helicopters. Mere principles of aerodynamics would seem to preclude the development of a totally silent helicopter. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has sponsored \$10 million in study grants to helicopter manufacturers for the development of quieter helicopters. Some sources claim that the United States military forces have developed an essentially silent chopper, but equally numerous sources dispute this claim.

Significant helicopter/mutilation waves have been recorded in Kansas (1973), Nebraska (1974), Central Arkansas (1979), throughout the Rocky Mountain states and Texas (1975) and in other more isolated situations and locales since 1973. We have cataloged over 200 reports of unidentified helicopters with a possible mutilation link (Reference 16). These events were preceded in the Midwestern United States in 1973 by a series of mystery helicopter reports associated by some with the harassment and rustling of livestock.

We will summarize the primary hypotheses regarding the origin and purpose of the phantom helicopters, as follows:

- (1) The helicopters originate from the same source(s) as UFOs and likely are, in fact, UFOs themselves, disguised to resemble terrestrial aircraft.
- (2) The helicopters are "private," "civilian" or "corporate," operated either by and endlessly-financed "cult," secret society, paramilitary organization or international cabal of industrialists, energy czars or similar manipulators.
- (3) The helicopters originate with the government of the United States, and they are directly involved in conducting the animal mutilation "mission," perhaps as part of a massive chemical-biological warfare (CBW) experiment.
- (4) The helicopters originate with the U.S. government and they are as curious about the mutilations as are the rest of us. They are present near mutilation sites to monitor the



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activities of the "real" mutilators. The military/intelligence community is conducting its own investigation, and they know little more than we "civilians" do.

- (5) They know much more than "civilians" do. The helicopters are of military origin. The government of the United States possesses a very substantial amount of knowledge about the mutilators, their means, motives and rationale. The government may be attempting to persuade mutilation investigators and the populace as a whole that perhaps the military might be behind the mutilations, a diversion away from the real truth. This implies some prior knowledge to enable the helicopters to arrive around the time of a mutilation. Interestingly enough, some of the unidentified helicopter sightings have occurred shortly after a mutilation attack, indicating that this postulated ability to anticipate mutilation attacks may be far from perfected.

Our present inclination is to suspect that the truth may lie with some combination of numbers (4) and (5).

Many detractors of the reality of classic mutilations take the easy way out by simply ignoring the phantom helicopters. But they are an important and inherent part of the mutilation mystery and an understanding of their role would aid us in understanding this graphic, yet subtle, yet complex enigma.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions are few and far between. Louis Girodo, chief investigator for the District Attorney's office in Trinidad, Colorado--a veteran mutilation investigator and observer--has posed a question. Dispensing with the cases in which death-from-natural-causes and subsequent natural predation have been misinterpreted as "classic" mutilations, we are left with a residue of thousands of true animal mutilations (Footnote 1). Girodo asks if it is conceivable that a mere human agency could conduct these thousands of mutilation-attacks with impunity, without making a serious mistake, without being captured or caught-in-the-act.

We have cited UFO and unidentified helicopter sightings at or near mutilation sites. We have referred to two cases in which observers witnessed livestock mutilations during a UFO abduction. All of these events are in the minority. In the vast majority of mutilation reports, nothing out of the ordinary is seen or heard, and there are few if any tracks or other evidence. It not only appears that the mutilators act with seeming impunity, but with a certain arrogance, as well. The phenomenon seems theatrical at times, sometimes subtly so. Is this a presentation of some perverse and crisply orchestrated allegory? Is someone gauging our reactions? Or is the rationale more prosaic, in a relative sense?



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There is no obvious attempt made to conceal mutilated carcasses. It has been suggested that victim animals are abducted, mutilated, and then returned. There is some limited evidence supporting that contention. But if the animals are taken and mutilated elsewhere, why bring them back? Many carcasses could easily be dropped into some remote canyon or arroyo. It could be that the carcasses are not purposely placed, rather that the mutilators simply do not care where they are left. Or that, when in doubt, they believe in putting things back where they find them (Footnote 2).

We cannot know if the classic animal mutilations have had their "heyday" and if they will eventually be relegated to some historical "Fortean footnote." Their reality and impact is not to be denied. If they cease entirely, two questions will be raised: What has become of the coyotes, rodents, birds and other scavengers which detractors claim have always been the "real" mutilators? And, somewhat chillingly, one must ponder to what end the energies and resources of the "classic" mutilators are now being directed.

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FOOTNOTES

1. A conservative estimate for the total number of "classic" animal mutilations in the United States and Canada would be 5,000, although totals as high as 10,000 to 12,000 are frequently cited. Little meaningful statistical assemblage and analysis has been undertaken in the mutilation probe. Also, there are indications that a significant number of mutilation attacks go unreported.
2. Not only have U.S. military sites and missile installations been plagued by UFOs and unidentified helicopters, but a few carcasses of mutilated animals have been discovered on or near military reservations. In Colorado, mutilated carcasses were found near the Air Force Academy and NORAD headquarters. In 1975 a calf was reportedly found mutilated on the Fort Hood Army Reservation in Central Texas. A reliable source has informed us that, on or about July 24, 1979, a mutilated bovine was discovered on Kirtland Air Force Base near Albuquerque, New Mexico. According to the account, a base photographer was called out to take photos.



Thomas R. Adams

Tom Adams is a native of Paris, Texas. While attending East Texas State University in 1970, he joined a team conducting a follow-up investigation into the death of "Snippy" the horse in southern Colorado, an early animal mutilation case which attracted worldwide publicity at the time of its occurrence in 1967. While the focus of the investigation was to have been socio-psychological in nature, the investigators found themselves impressed and fascinated, not only by the extraordinary aspects of the animal mutilation itself, but by the abundance of UFO sightings by credible witnesses in that area of southern Colorado.

As animal mutilations began to be reported in northern Texas in late 1974, Tom noted the similarities between those events and aspects of the "Snippy" case, and he began to gather data in earnest. In January of 1978, he inaugurated Project Stigma and its journal, Stigmata, in an effort to serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding "classic" animal mutilations. In 1980 in the privately-published The Choppers...And The Choppers, he examined the link between some animal mutilations and sightings of unidentified helicopters, and provided a catalog of approximately 200 such events.

He currently serves MUFON as State-Section Director in northeastern Texas, having been a member since 1970. He was recently named MUFON's Animal Mutilation Specialist, as MUFON recognizes the viability of exploring the mutilation phenomenon's potential link with the UFO mystery. He is editor and publisher of STIGMATA and a "Fortean" journal, CRUX. Research interests include cryptozoology, archaeology, paleontology and the marriage between psychic analysis and objective investigative techniques. He has investigated trance mediumship and aspects of the assassination of President Kennedy. Tom Adams can be reached at P.O. Box 1094, Paris, Texas 75460.