

AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERT L. SALAS

- (1) My name is Robert L. Salas
- (2) I was born on August 13, 1940
- (3) [REDACTED]
- (4) In March 1967 I was a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. I was a Missile Combat Crew member assigned to the 490th Missile Squadron (Minuteman Missile). My principal duty was to monitor the readiness and security of the ten nuclear missiles under our control and to launch missiles if ordered by higher authority.
- (5) The events described below likely occurred on or about March 24th, 1967. On the night in question, I was on Alert duty at Oscar Flight Launch Control Center (LCC), 490th Strategic Missile Squadron, 341st Strategic Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana. I was on duty as the Deputy Missile Combat Crew Commander (DMCCC). The Missile Combat Crew Commander (MCCC) was 1st Lieutenant Frederick Meiwald.
- (6) When the incident began Lt. Meiwald was taking a scheduled rest period. Sometime during the evening I received a call from my Flight Security Controller (FSC), the ranking NCO of the security team topside. He reported to me that he and other members of the flight security team had been observing some "lights" in the sky making unusual maneuvers. He stated that he did not think they were aircraft since they were traveling at a very high velocity and making unusual directional changes. He also said there was no engine noise. He said he thought that this was so unusual that he thought he should report it to us. I thanked him for his report but I did not consider it significant at that time and terminated the conversation.
- (7) Within minutes, I received a second call from the FSC. His voice was highly agitated and he was screaming as he told me he was looking out the large window facing the front gate of the facility. He said there was a large glowing, pulsating red oval shaped object hovering over the front gate. He told me it was about 30-40 feet in diameter. He also said he had his men outside with their weapons drawn observing the object. I asked him if there was a structure to the object and he said he was having difficulty seeing any structure because of the glow of the light. He then asked if I had any direction for him. I simply told him not to allow anything inside the perimeter fence. He then abruptly cut off the conversation and said he had to go because one of his men was injured.
- (8) I immediately turned to wake my commander Lt. Meiwald and began telling him about the phone calls from the FSC. As we were talking, alarms and indicators at the commander's console which showed the status of the missiles under our command began to go off. At this point we went through our checklist procedures. The indicators for all or nearly all ten missiles showed as red-colored FAULT lights which meant that the missiles were disabled and could not be launched. Some of the missile indicators also had security violation lights illuminated meaning a possible security incursion at those sites. When Lt. Meiwald queried the fault system (VRSA) the message given on most, if not all the missiles was 'guidance and control system failure'. During these checklist

procedures, Lt. Meiwald phoned the Wing and Squadron Command posts. After these phone calls, Lt. Meiwald said to me "The same thing happened at another flight", or words to that effect.

- (9) Since we had received security violation lights at one or more of the launch facilities (LF) I phoned the FSC and directed a security team response to those sites. During this conversation, the FSC reported that the object had flown off. Upon approaching and inspection of one of the LFs where the security team had been dispatched, the team reported seeing a similar object.
- (10) The missiles under our command remained disabled for the rest of our tour of duty. We were relieved by another crew the next morning and were transported back to the base for a debriefing by our Squadron Commander, Col. George Eldridge. Before departing Oscar flight I spoke with the FSC on duty about the object he saw and he could add nothing more to what he described to me earlier. He did say that one of the men had received a minor injury on his hand, but this injury did not result from any action by the object.
- (11) Upon return to Malmstrom AFB, we met with 490th Squadron Commander Col. George Eldridge and another officer who was assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). Col. Eldridge assured us that the incident was not part of any Air Force exercise and he could not explain why it happened. The officer from AFOSI told that us the incident was classified SECRET and we were not to speak about it to any other person.
- (12) At no time during the remainder of my tenure in the U.S. Air Force was I further contacted or questioned by any investigative body regarding the above events. There were no further de-briefings or explanations of any kind given to me as to why the missiles failed as described above.
- (13) I have not been paid nor given anything of value to make this statement and it is the truth to the best of my recollection.

Signed: *Robert L. Sales*

Date: July 7, 2010

Signature witnessed by: *Tammi Skiba*
Tammi Skiba

Notary: _____

State of California County of
Ventura
Subscribed and sworn to (in witness)
before me on this 7th day of July, 2010, by
Robert L. Sales
I proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence
to be the person(s) who appeared before me.
Signature *John Anthony Maggio*
(Notary)

