

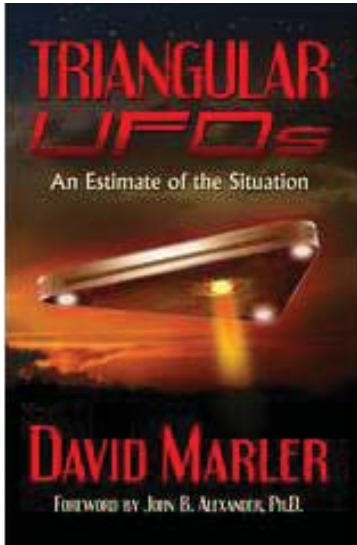
BOOK REVIEW

Triangular UFOs: An Estimate of the Situation by Dave Marler. Richard Dolan Press, 2013. 288 pp. \$15.90 (paperback). ISBN: 978-1490465814.

For truth in advertising, the reader should know that I wrote the Foreword to this book a few years ago. It should be obvious, therefore, that I was positively disposed toward the content. There is, however, a good reason for my support of his work. Dave Marler is a superb researcher with a methodic and conscientious approach to the UFO topic. Most important, he is careful not to say more than he can back up with hard data. His research efforts are supported by one of the most meticulously kept UFO archives anywhere, which he maintains at his home near Albuquerque. It is replete with rare documents and rightfully would make most other UFO researchers envious. In truth, the pristine condition of his archives is indicative of the care he puts into all his activities.

For this book, Marler's approach entails comprehensive research into an important subset of the UFO phenomena; something that no one else has attempted previously. While several people have written short papers about triangular UFOs, his efforts are in-depth and compelling. I was particularly impressed that this work circumvented one of my main concerns, i.e. "What constitutes a UFO?" Unfortunately, it is a term used broadly and without clear definition. Reports of UFOs range from little balls of light, often high in the sky, to large physical objects, possibly more than a mile across. In addition to objects small and far away, there are other observations by credible witnesses at very close proximity to the craft. There should be real concern about the enormous variability in observations when considering this global issue. There are just too many varieties of craft to accommodate any single simple solution. Positing little grey guys from Zeta Reticula, who have come to collect sperm, or more perversely, conduct anal probes, just won't do it. To his credit, Marler avoids pronouncing the craft as extraterrestrial. For him the provenance is just unknown.

As with any good research project, the first step is to establish parameters delimiting the topic and making it manageable; and Marler has done that. While most people think of UFOs as being round or saucer-shaped, they actually come in many varieties. The most frequently reported sightings are strange lights in the sky. Triangular-shaped ones, however, are second-



highest when all reports are categorized by shape, even more than disks.

This book provides the first extensive examination devoted exclusively to those reports of large triangular-shaped UFOs. Employing exacting data analysis, the author conclusively eliminates the most popular conspiracy theory about their origin—that they are products of secret research of the U.S. government. Of course not all sightings are denounced. However, since the observations of triangular-shaped UFOs began before the Wright Brothers' famous venture at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, government development of those craft can be categorically eliminated. Specifically,

he puts the nail in the coffin with the discovery that large triangular UFO reports occurred as early as 1882. That was more than two decades before the first powered flight in 1903. Obviously, those observations put triangular UFOs far beyond the technological grasp of any human source.

Regarding more recent sightings of triangular UFOs, conspiracy theorists still repeatedly take the position of secret government research. It matters not that such a conclusion defies both facts and logic. While the government does develop advanced aircraft in secret, it does not conduct test flights of well-illuminated prototypes near major metropolitan areas. Yet, that is where many of the large triangular UFOs have been observed. Marler explores many of these easily observed sightings in great detail.

As an example, Marler cites a notorious incident that took place in the early morning hours of January 5, 2000. The case is important as there are multiple highly credible witnesses, including law enforcement officers from four different police departments. They described a brightly illuminated object, at relatively low altitude, moving at slow speeds. Such an open display hardly sounds like a secret project. The flight characteristics are important to note. After quietly traversing many miles across the rural areas of southern Illinois, the unidentified craft turned to the northeast, and then rapidly accelerating shot off at speeds estimated to be more than 12,000 mph. Interestingly, no sonic boom was heard, despite the fact that the UFO obviously broke the sound barrier. Noteworthy is that this UFO came within a few miles of Scott Air Force Base, home of the Air Mobility Command, yet did not cause alarm at the field.

In the Illinois case, as with others, Marler is a first-hand investigator. On his own dime he travels to areas of reported sightings and personally interviews the witnesses. He has demonstrated the ability to find previously unknown witnesses and talk with them. In the Illinois case cited, he found such a witness and uniquely determined that there may have been two triangular UFOs traveling in parallel that night. Marler prefers old cases that have stood the test of time. Then he is able to tease out new details, even decades after the original reports. In this book he devotes four chapters to exploration of historical data and reveals numerous cases that most UFO investigators have never heard of before.

The bottom line to this book is that large triangular UFOs have been seen in many areas of the world. Most important, they have been around for a long, long time. They have been reported by numerous credible witnesses and offer an important subset of the UFO phenomena, one worthy of serious scientific study. Like Dave, I sincerely hope scientists will be able to get past the debunkers, hoaxers, and the credulous true believers. At some point in time, maybe that will happen. Given the history of large, triangular UFO sightings, it is most probable that they will continue to perplex us for a long time to come.

JOHN ALEXANDER