

Comparison of Unidentified Triangular or Deltoid Aircraft Location Patterns in Three Independent UFO Databases: NIDS, MUFON and Larry Hatch

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Abstract

In April 2001, the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) published a summary of research into a subset of our database that comprised reports of low flying triangular objects (see www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft.pdf). In that report we concluded that the extremely low altitudes reported in over thirty separate cases from around the country may constitute a safety hazard. NIDS then examined the relationship between triangular object sightings and the locations of a small subset of United States Air Force bases: i.e. the bases under the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) and Air Mobility Command (AMC). Combined, these two commands control the logistics of troop and equipment deployment within the United States and internationally. NIDS found an interesting scatter of triangular object sighting locations around air corridors between AFMC and AMC bases (see: www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft_addendum.pdf). In the latter report, we pointed out a gap in the part of the United States encompassing the plains states from which both triangular object sightings and AMC/AFMC bases were absent.

In order to examine the integrity of our data, we solicited reports on triangular aircraft sightings between 1990-2001 from MUFON (Wendy Ban and Don Weatherby) and from Larry Hatch who currently manages one of the largest UFO databases in the world (see www.jps.net/larryhat/index.html). Both these databases fulfill our requirement of being totally separate from the NIDS data collection. NIDS obtained the data on over 450 additional sightings from MUFON and Larry Hatch.

NIDS plotted the sighting locations on maps of the United States and then superimposed the locations of the AMC and AFMC bases. We find that (a) the broad trend of many triangular craft sighting locations occurring between AFMC and AMC bases in both MUFON and Hatch databases is consistent with our previous report and (b) a corridor in encompassing the plains states that is devoid of either triangular craft sightings or AFMC/AMC bases emerges from both MUFON and Hatch databases. This corridor is also consistent with the previously published NIDS data.

Based on these data from over 500 eyewitnesses (assuming minimal overlap between three databases), we hypothesize that the United States Air Force has been flying large triangular or deltoid shaped aircraft between AFMC or AMC bases. We invite comments from the interested public on this hypothesis.

Introduction

In April 2001, NIDS published a summary of research into a subset of our database that comprised reports of low flying triangular objects (see www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft.pdf). In that report we concluded that the extremely low altitudes reported in over thirty separate cases from around the country may constitute a safety hazard. NIDS then examined the relationship between triangular object sightings and the locations of a small subset of United States Air Force bases: i.e., the bases under the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) and Air Mobility Command (AMC). Combined, these two commands control the logistics of troop and equipment deployment within the United States and internationally. NIDS found an interesting scatter of triangular object sighting locations around air corridors between AFMC and AMC bases (see: www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft_addendum.pdf). In the latter report, we pointed out a gap in the mid western part of the United States from which both triangular object sightings and AMC/AFMC bases were absent.

The purpose of this paper is to examine two questions: Can the previously published data in the NIDS database on triangular objects be compared and calibrated with similar data from totally independent databases? Secondly, can the apparent absence of both triangular UFO sightings and AMC/AFMC bases in that part of the United States encompassing the plains states, as described in our previous report be explained simply by the low population in that part of the country?

Methods

NIDS solicited two databases that were entirely separate from our information sources from MUFON via Don Weatherby and Wendy Ban who currently manage the MUFON database (www.mufon.org), and secondly from Larry Hatch who manages one of the most comprehensive publicly available databases on UFOs in the world (see www.jps.net/larryhat/index.html).

Data Selection

The criteria for selection of the NIDS data are given in www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft.pdf and in www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft_addendum.pdf.

The selection criteria from the MUFON database was as follows: Don Weatherby and Wendy Ban went to the NIDS website and viewed the report there on low flying triangular objects. They noted the data fields in the table included there, and have formatted their data on triangular or wedge shaped objects to approximate them.

Larry Hatch sent NIDS his database of triangular shaped objects in the United States. This data included all DLT (deltoid) in the map area from January 1990 to the latest listing (2000). DLTs for Mr. Hatch's purposes are any angular craft, i.e. boomerangs, rectangles, triangles in addition to the classic "flying triangle." There are about 360 such cases in the Larry Hatch database.

Results

Next, NIDS created maps of the locations of the triangular object sightings for both MUFON and Hatch databases using exactly the same methods employed for our database. The locations of the AFMC and AMC bases were superimposed upon the map displaying the locations of the triangular or deltoid sightings.

Figure 1 shows the NIDS data, as previously shown. Figure 2 shows the MUFON data and Figure 3 shows the Larry Hatch data with the same AMC and AFMC bases shown.

A comparison of the three maps indicates that there is minor variation between NIDS, MUFON and Hatch databases. However the basic correlative pattern showing a trend towards clustering of triangular/deltoid objects around flight paths between AFMC and AMC bases appears consistent. Secondly, the absence of either UFO sightings or AFMC/AMC bases that occurs in the area of the United States encompassing the plains states with minor variations appears consistent in all three databases.

Population Density

A population density map of the United States is included in order to test the hypothesis that the corridor in the plains part of the United States that is devoid of both UFO sightings and AFMC/AMC bases (see Figures 1, 2, and 3) reflects population density. See: www.school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/worldbook/atozpictures/mp000397.html.

It can be seen from the population map that with the exception of the strip of high-density population along the west coast of the United States, most of the Western states are thinly populated. Therefore, we consider that the narrow corridor in the part of the United States that encompasses the plains appearing on all three maps is not merely reflecting population densities. Since thinly populated states west of the corridor have both AMC/AFMC bases and UFO sightings, the empty corridor is unlikely to only reflect population density.

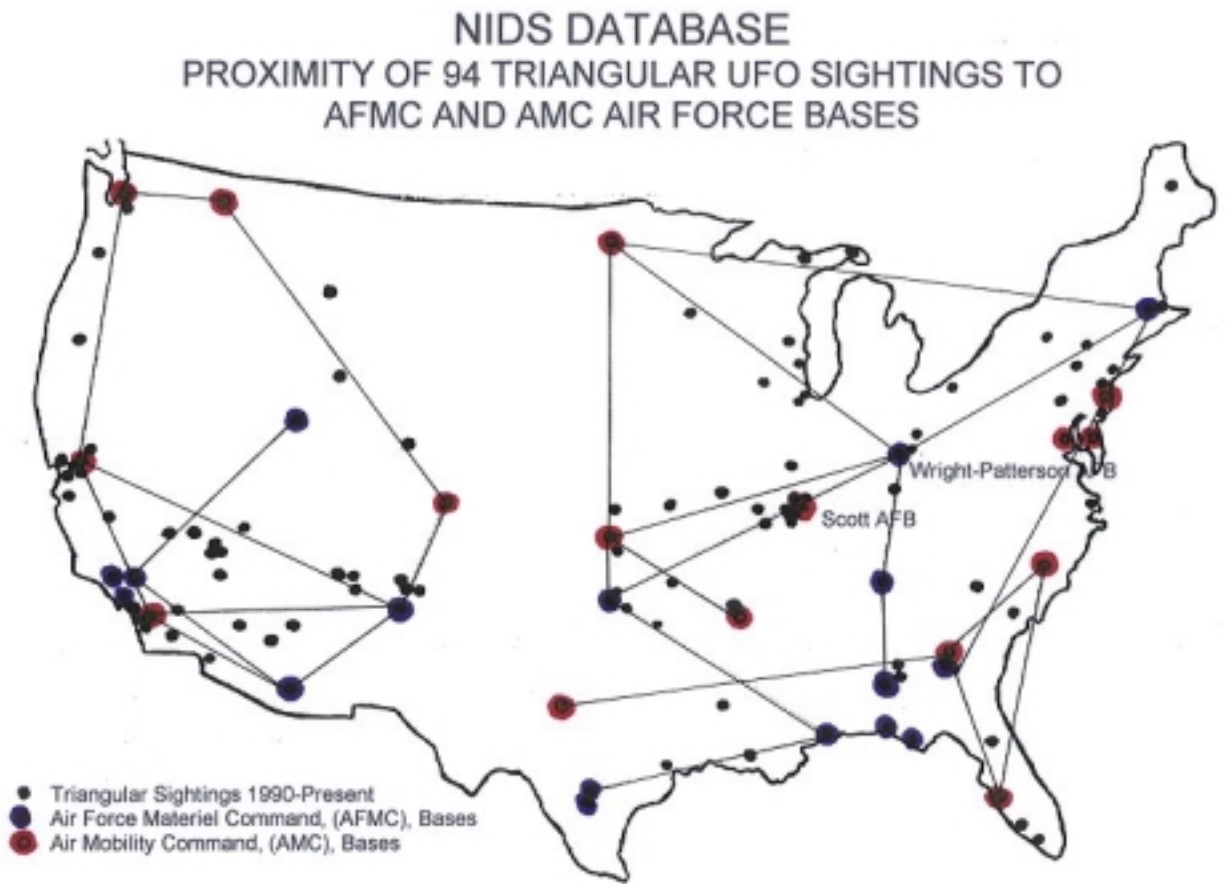


Figure 1. NIDS Database.

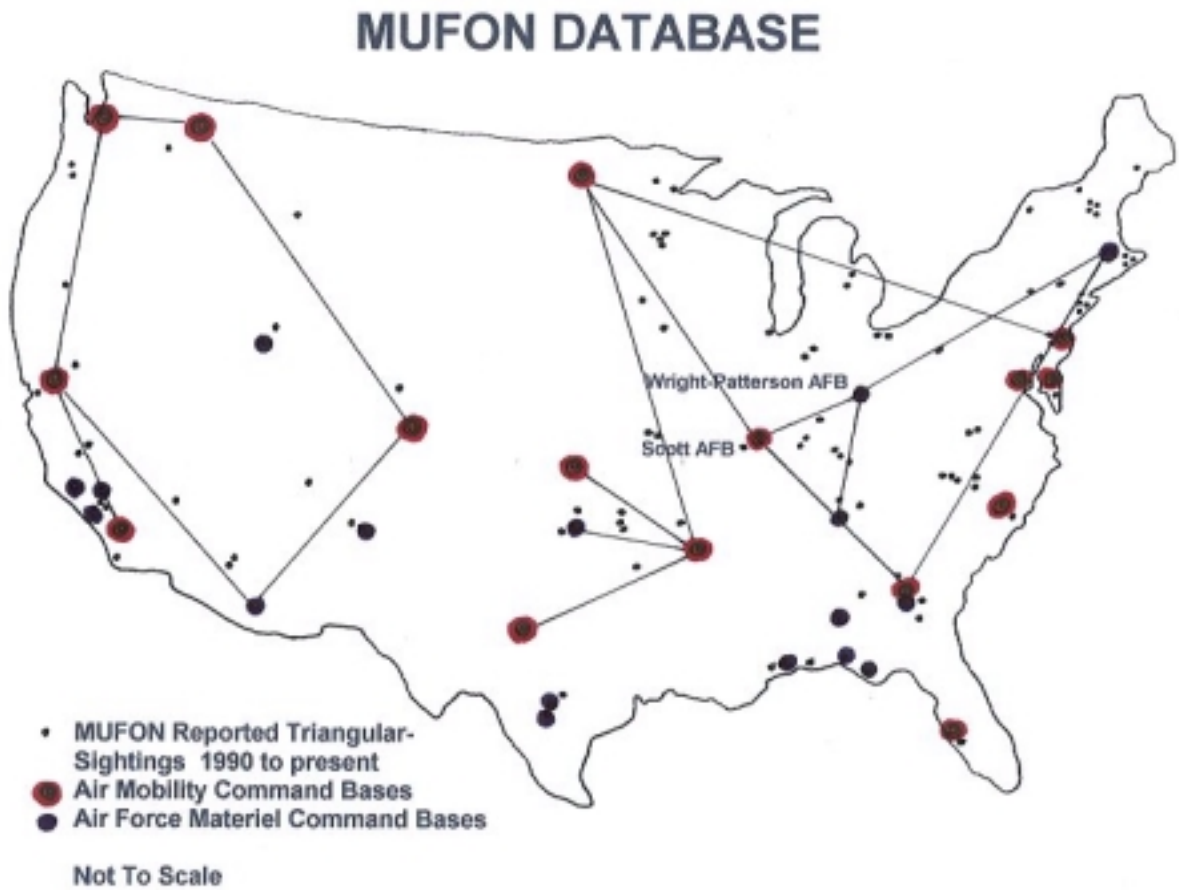


Figure 2. MUFON Database.

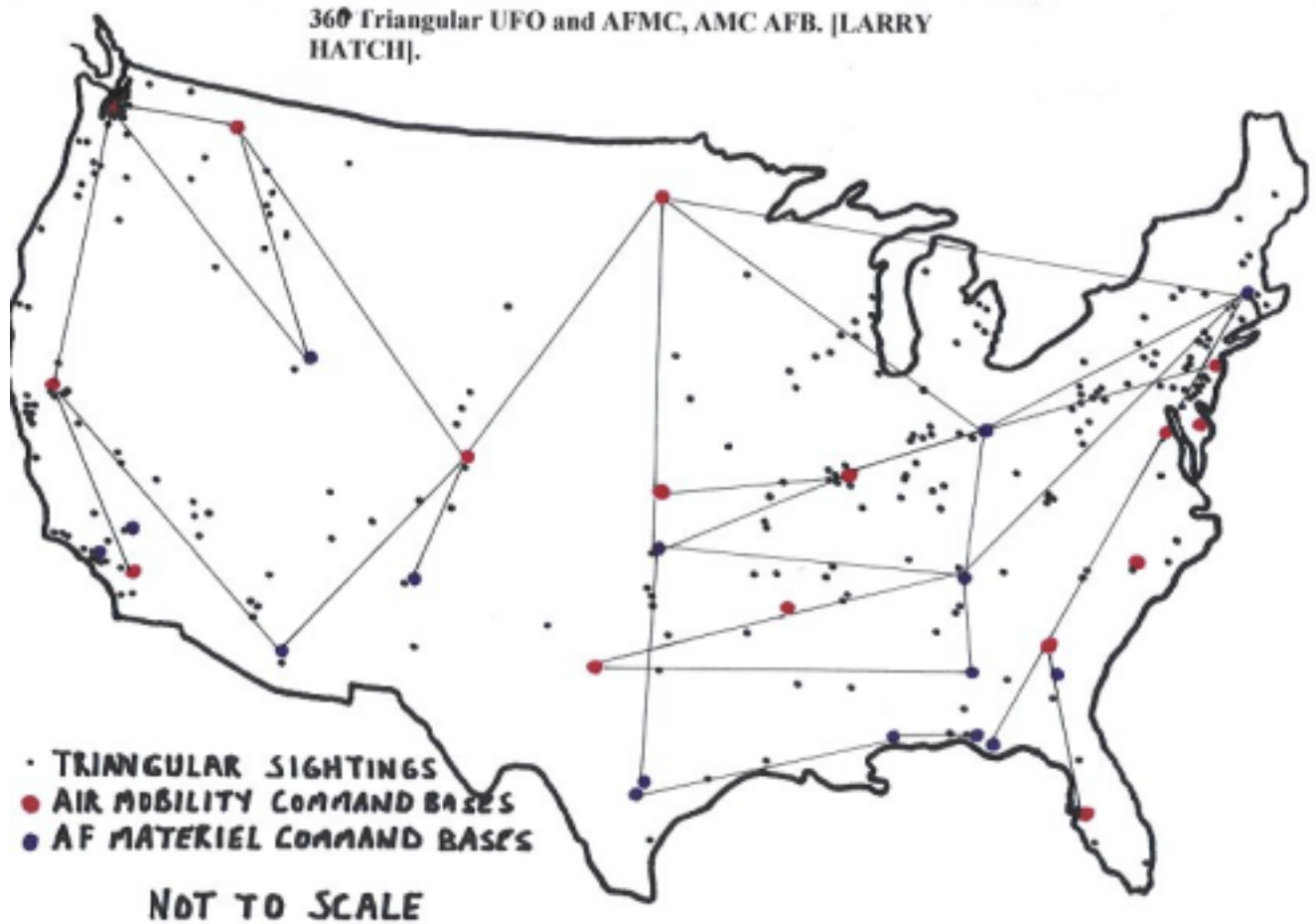


Figure 3. Larry Hatch Database.

Discussion

The similarities between Figures 1, 2&3 are striking. The locations of the sightings in all three databases appear to be within the margin for error in assigning them to flight corridors between AFMC and AMC bases. There are four caveats that should be borne in mind when attempting to interpret these maps. Firstly, it has not escaped our notice that the lines on the illustrative maps in Figs 1, 2 and 3 are linear while most flight paths are actually curved. Flight paths between bases that are curved would also lie within the scatter of UFO sightings between AFMC and AMC bases.

Secondly, we recognize that drawing straight lines between AMC and AFMC bases is an arbitrary, illustrative method that does not reflect the actual density of flights between particular bases. Rather, for our purposes the maps are illustrative of probabilities of witnessing aircraft that are deployed from any of these bases and are witnessed after take-off or before landing along the flight paths between bases. The maps are not meant to represent

actual flights. The exact flight paths of aircraft between AFMC and AMC bases are not available in the public record. In particular, the flights of unacknowledged aircraft between these bases are certainly not available.

Thirdly, we recognize that the maps do not represent the many transcontinental flights that undoubtedly occur between AMC or AFMC bases. Fourthly, we have not yet examined the overlap in eyewitness reporting to NIDS, MUFON and Larry Hatch databases. To accomplish this we would need to violate our eyewitness confidentiality policy. We are reluctant to do this. Thus, in claiming more than 500 eyewitnesses to these triangular objects from three separate databases in the present report, we are aware that this claim has not been properly scrutinized.

When we take the above four caveats into account they limit the predictive accuracy of our map data. Nevertheless, we can use the maps to illustrate broad trends in testing the hypothesis that the triangular/deltoid aircraft spotted by over 500 eyewitnesses in the last decade (if we add the three databases together) are possibly consistent with the deployment of unacknowledged aircraft from and between AMC or AFMC bases. Further, the fact that specifically AFMC or AMC bases appear to be in association with the hundreds of triangular object sightings leads us to speculate that these unacknowledged aircraft are large troop or material carriers that may be openly deployed sometime in the future. The identification of unacknowledged aircraft by those not in the need to know loop is an inexact science. We think the above data provide a useful starting point in studying this subject. Secondly, the data provide us with material to answer the perennial question on the minds of those who witness the “UFO”: are they “ours” or “theirs”?

Finally, we note the absence of both AMC or AFMC bases and triangular aircraft sightings in the same corridor occurring in both Hatch and MUFON databases. This exact corridor is replicated in the NIDS database. Examination of the population density in the United States shows that this corridor is not just a reflection of the population density. It is possible that the majority of sightings of large low flying triangular objects being reported is consistent with unacknowledged aircraft either shortly before landing or shortly after take-off at an AMC or AFMC base. The empty corridor may simply reflect a paucity of flights of the putative unacknowledged aircraft in the plains since there are no AMC or AFMC bases in the area for take-off or landing of these aircraft.

We invite comments from the interested public on this report. We are particularly interested in hearing from eyewitnesses who have seen triangular or deltoid objects in the United States or Canada.

Acknowledgements

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