



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:
Ed Rothschild
PodestaMattoon
202/393-1010

Larry Landsman
SCI FI Channel
212/413-5837

SCI FI SUPPORTS NEW SCIENTIFIC INITIATIVE TO INVESTIGATE UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

Unprecedented Cooperative Joins Together Major Organizations To Engage Scientific Community

Washington, D.C. - Recognizing the need to establish the scientific legitimacy of investigating unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), SCI FI Channel today announced a new initiative that brings together the major organizations investigating this still mysterious phenomenon and establishes a multi-group effort to study the physical evidence associated with UAP reports.

This unprecedented initiative, supported by the SCI FI Channel, joins together all of the major organizations that study the phenomenon—the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR), the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the National Aviation Center for Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP), the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), and the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC).

The goal of the effort is to engage the interest of the broader scientific community with cases featuring trace physical evidence. The cooperative will spearhead thorough scientific investigations of these cases with the intent to publish results

in mainstream scientific journals. The groups have created a joint website where members of the public, as well as scientists, can report current UFO sightings (www.ufoscience.org).

"For nearly 50 years, numerous organizations and individuals have reported on and studied the UFO phenomenon," said Dr. Mark Rodeghier, Scientific Director of CUFOS. "Until now, these organizations have not combined their accumulated knowledge, expertise, and resources to establish and oversee a systematic, rigorous effort to investigate scientifically promising UAP cases."

At an organizing meeting held this past June in Washington, D.C., leaders of these organizations agreed to develop a framework and protocols to conduct rapid investigation and analysis of cases with physical evidence. "Obtaining and analyzing physical evidence is the best way to determine the validity, and potential causes, of the UAP phenomenon," said John Schuessler, International Director of MUFON.

"It is our hope that by working with scientists who can subject this phenomenon to rigorous investigation and laboratory study, we can understand more about the likely causes of UAP, whether it occurs with discernible patterns or trends, whether existing knowledge is adequate to provide explanations, or whether the phenomenon represents something truly unexplained," said Don Berliner, Chairman of FUFOR.

In addition to landmark documentary programming, last year SCI FI launched a Washington, D.C. based public advocacy initiative

to draw greater attention to the UFO phenomenon by the media, scientists and opinion leaders. Those interested in more information on SCI FI's supported public advocacy initiative can log on to www.freedomofinfo.org. On December 12 the channel will premiere UFO INVASION AT RENDLESHAM, a new two-hour special hosted by Bryant Gumbel, exposing what has come to be regarded as the most significant military-UFO incident in history (www.scifi.com/rendlesham).

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