

January 18, 2001, email to Ed Lopez.

<What is left out of that footage in most of the TV showings was that the object that seems to be "fired" upon also EMERGED from Earth's atmosphere and then started to drift.>

"None so blind as those who will not see..", Ed.

What you were seeing on STS-63, and on 48, and on STS-80 for that matter, was a view down-sun immediately after sunrise. This was a feature common to ALL these notorious "UFO videos", so you SHOULD start to suspect there's a connection. Nearby debris is illuminated, and occasionally more of it drifts out of the shuttle's shadow and 'appears'. Now, you want to believe it EMERGES FROM EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, but there's no reason to believe that, especially when you consider the actual sunlight conditions of these video sequences. Didn't you hear the commentary about sunrise on the air-to-ground on '63? That's the point I was trying to make. On STS-63 video you can see white dots 'appearing' against the star background, because that's the direction the camera was pointed to see Mir (the flashing light closer over to the Earth's limb); on '48 and '80 the camera was depressed below the horizon to view lightning, and oh-mi-gosh when the particles 'appeared' (emerged from the shuttle's shadow into sunlight) they were against the Earth background. Natural, and normal, and non-extraordinary.

Or, of course, NASA could be SO-O-O-O stupid that instead of censoring UFO views, it actually puts them out on publicity videos, maybe to "send you a secret message that only you can recognize because you're so much smarter than the average taxpayer." I've heard that theory, too! And NASA h-a-s done some stupid things, as I've been the first to complain about.

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Subj: Re: Shuttle "Anomalies"
Date: 1/19/01 4:15:51 PM Central Standard Time
From: skepticaled (E. L.)

From: JamesOberg
Date: Thu, Jan 18, 2001, 10:49pm (EST+5)

<"None so blind as those who will not see..", Ed. >
el: "A truism that doesn't apply to me, who has great optical and mental (in)sight."

<What you were seeing on STS-63, and on 48, and on STS-80 for that matter, was a view down-sun immediately after sunrise. This was a feature common to ALL these notorious "UFO videos", so you SHOULD start to suspect there's a connection. >

el: "I do not see any connection. I've seen ice crystals come off separating stages and I've watched their behavior reacting to thrust and gravity. No connection in my eyes."

<Nearby debris is illuminated, and occasionally more of it drifts out of the shuttle's shadow and 'appears'. Now, you want to believe it EMERGES FROM EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, but there's no reason to believe that, especially when you consider the actual sunlight conditions of these video sequences. >

el: "I don't think that if you were to meet me and we'd spend some time together, say over a cup of coffee just yapping you would not leave me with the impression that I'm operating with less marbles than any other intelligent person you've ever met. For some reason that I cannot understand we are seeing the same things but we're coming to totally different conclusions. It goes without saying that since you are an authority on the subject under discussion that I should simply say "You are right, James." But, honestly, I can't. I'm not seeing what you describe. What I'm seeing is white dots (on my TV screen) that are far away and are doing things that drifting material should not be doing. I cannot accept that these are 'ice crystals' but are, instead,

something

that I cannot comprehend or give an opinion on. They may not be emanating from Earth's atmosphere but they're not simply coming into sunlight either. At least one Ph.D. has claimed otherwise and his argument, complete with charts, is more believable to me than 'ice crystals.'"

<Didn't you hear the commentary about sunrise on the air-to-ground on '63? That's the point I was trying to make. On STS-63 video you can see white dots 'appearing' against the star background, because that's the direction the camera was pointed to see Mir (the flashing light closer over to the Earth's limb); >

el: "Yet everything is in darkness, there's no sun visible and all the 'ice crystals' are in darkness yet some of them are flashing like mad, the triangle I pointed out has an 'ice crystal' appearing and drifting while the others are still, etc."

<on '48 and '80 the camera was depressed below the horizon to view lightning, and oh-mi-gosh when the particles 'appeared' (emerged from the shuttle's shadow into sunlight) they were against the Earth background. Natural, and normal, and non-extraordinary. >

el: "Please do not ignore the 'rectangular' object that appears and I describe in detail. This thing had no business being out there close to MIR or close to anything since it wasn't debris or seemed to belong to any human spacecraft and it's extremely familiar to the object that McDivitt photographed in the 1960s and by others since then. It's an unexplainable anomaly, the 'Lopez Anomaly!'"

<Or, of course, NASA could be SO-O-O-O stupid that instead of censoring UFO views, it actually puts them out on publicity videos, >

el: "This is a mini-mystery as to why whoever did the video editing/dubbing would include that anomaly, and nothing is said in the soundtrack."

<maybe to "send you a secret message that only you can recognize because you're so much smarter than the average taxpayer." >

el: "I don't know about secret messages but you are right that I'm so much smarter than the average taxpayer and non-taxpayer. Just because you and I disagree on something doesn't mean that we will always disagree on everything. We have different mental sets that allows us to interpret data differently. BTW, I'm not a taxpayer any longer because when I reached 62 last March, I had already filed for Social Security so now I'm even more relaxed and things like UFOs, aliens, space anomalies, etc., are still fun to stay on top of but I'm not as hot to trot as I used to be in my younger days."

<I've heard that theory, too! And NASA h-a-s done some stupid things, as I've been the first to complain about. >

el: "The millions/billions that have been wasted with nothing in return! Think of all the schools, hospitals, pay raises for teachers, etc., that could have been accomplished with the money that NASA (and SETI) has wasted with no benefit to anyone except those with jobs at NASA. I'm not against exploration but we have one hell of a planet right under our feet that we don't know much about. _That's_ where our money should have gone. Educate earthlings first. Let's take care of our own. But, nobody gives a damn, especially politicians who are out for their own aggrandizement. But why should I talk about that since I don't know anything and my eyes/brain are lying to me? BTW, George Filer (Filer's Files) wants to include my 'STS-63 Anomalies' article on his site and he asked me if it would be necessary to get your permission to mention your name. I never did in the past and my article is on a few sites, including a spanish site, but I should have and now I am asking you if it's okay for George's site. Please reply, I'll tell George I'm waiting for your reply."

alt. paranet.

Subject: STS-63 Anomalies

From: skepticaled@webtv.net (E. L.)

Date: 1/20/01 9:51 PM Central Standard Time

STS-63 Anomalies

In late 1999 I started communicating via e-mail with James Oberg (Computer Systems Analyst) about our different POVs regarding the infamous STS-48 footage where a drifting white object, amongst a field of similar-looking white objects, seems to be "fired" upon from Earth and the white object angles away at an extremely high speed. I could not accept the official NASA explanation that we were looking at ice crystals (from now on ice crystals said with tongue in cheek) coming into the sunlight, and space debris from the Shuttle, and that the Shuttle was responsible for the cosmic ack-ack fire which repulsed the object, etc.

This is the explanation Oberg also offers and no matter how much he tried he couldn't convince me. I, and many others, think we saw something else.

For some reason James suggested that I view the STS-63 POST FLIGHT PRESENTATION videotape available from the NASA HQ Library. He did not specify what I was supposed to look for but I guessed it had to do with a similar situation as far as the insinuated ice crystals. I borrowed the tape from NASA and when it arrived I got down for some serious viewing to see what James wanted me to see.

The STS-63 videotape consists of the Shuttle Astronauts being presented by the Mission Commander, followed by footage and slides of their Mission activities. Thirteen minutes into the video I discovered what I consider a major find. The scene shows a sunlit Earth filling more than half of the TV screen with the rest being dark space. It is an upside down view. The MIR Russian Space Station is shown in the middle of the screen. Mission Specialist Mike Foale starts to describe a maneuver the Shuttle is going to make around MIR to give it a look-over inspection. As he says "...Because of that uncertainty...", a rectangular shape enters the screen from the middle right, is seen against Earth and travels toward the top center of the TV screen. Just before it disappears it seems to start to make a slow end-over-end maneuver that is not seen finished. No comments are heard on the tape regarding this object. This object is identical to the one photographed by Astronaut McDivitt back in the '60s and constantly seen in UFO documentaries on TV.

About 21 minutes into the tape one of the two female Astronauts says that they have one last chance to say goodbye to MIR and the scene changes to a night scene reminiscent of the STS-48 footage, with a lot of ice crystals hanging around and a meteor flashes by. Even though the narrator says that MIR is in the middle of the frame, it's not recognisibly visible. This footage is only seconds long but I played the tape many times to see what was going on in that dark scene. I noticed that some ice crystals were pulsing. At the bottom right of the TV screen a triangle of ice crystals can be seen. The bottom ice crystal is seriously pulsing. Then from between the top two crystals another ice crystal emerges and starts to drift away from the triangle. Just like in STS-48.

When I told Oberg of my discoveries his only reply was, "Interesting." His supposed purpose for my watching this videotape must have backfired and I'm glad to have been able to add to my POV about the STS-48 footage. What is left out of that footage in most of the TV showings was that the object that seems to be "fired" upon also EMERGED from Earth's atmosphere and then started to drift. I don't believe ice crystals can do that, especially if the other ice crystals seem to be standing still, with a couple of exceptions. I agree with Dr Jack Kasher's explanation.

Jim replies to Ed in the spirit of civility established by our new President:

<<About 21 minutes into the tape one of the two female Astronauts says that they have one last chance to say goodbye to MIR and the scene changes to a night scene reminiscent of the STS-48 footage, with a lot of ice crystals hanging around and a meteor flashes by.>>

Ed, if you can't tell the difference between night and day, it's clear as day you will misinterpret the visual phenomena on these tapes. The segment you are discussing is at sunrise, exactly the same lighting conditions as on STS-48 and STS-80, when the camera is full-open looking down-sun toward the dark earth and horizon. Dots in the scene first appear precisely at sunrise, plus some appear afterwards as they drift out of the shuttle's shadow.

How do we know the lighting conditions? Obviously not because the sky turns blue, Ed. This is outer space. We know this because the shuttle's orbit is mathematically determined and shareware programs can specify the exact moment (actually, a 7-8 second transition period as the sun clears the horizon) when the shuttle and everything near it emerge from Earth's shadow. Besides, on the tape you watched for STS-63, they actually comment on 'sunrise', which you will hear if you listen to it yet again.

Mir is the flashing light over close to Earth's limb, it's a nav beacon which they are watching. You also see several dots 'appear' in mid-screen against the star background, all of them moving away from center of screen, that is, away from the center of the shuttle's umbra. They don't come into existence here, they merely become visible, the same way that dots 'appear' on STS-48 and -80 video as the camera is pointed more on Earth (for the mesoscale lightning observation experiment), they 'appear' (become sunlit) with Earth in the background, giving the illusion that they 'take off' from Earth.

So to understand these dots on STS-63, you have to establish the ambient lighting conditions -- was it day or night. Naturally, if you don't know such a basic feature as this, you will misinterpret the apparitions.

The 'meteor' is also easy to misinterpret, and I had a long discussion with Mike Foale about this. Meteors are seen by eyeballs in orbit. However, I believe these white streaks are just fast-moving nearby particles stretched by the latency of the vidicon optics. This effect is also widely seen, even stars leave streaks when the camera is panning rapidly.

The phenomenon of ice particles and other shuttle-generated debris 'appearing' as they move out of the shuttle's shadow is well known from other video sequences, such as one on STS-75 in which a water dump is performed just prior to, and then extending through, sunrise. Naturally, these explanatory videos are NOT going to be shown to you by the TV shows whose purpose is to excite and delude you. I'm just dismayed that so many intelligent and enthusiastic people are so defensive about remaining loyal to the counterfeit points of view foisted on them by commercial deceivers, crackpots, and con men.

<< Even though the narrator says that MIR is in the middle of the frame, it's not recognisibly visible.>>

Look for the flashing dot near the horizon. It's not easy to see.

<< This footage is only seconds long but I played the tape many times to see what was going on in that dark scene. I noticed that some ice crystals were pulsing.>>

Naturally, as unsymmetric ice particles rotate in sunlight, they pulse.

<< At the bottom right of the TV screen a triangle of ice crystals can be seen. The bottom ice crystal is seriously pulsing. Then from between the top two crystals another ice crystal emerges and starts to drift away from the triangle. Just like in STS-48. >>

Exactly. Just like on STS-48. And for the same reason. The lighting conditions were identical. This was my intent -- which obviously backfired, as you say -- in referring you to this video so you 'would see the light', which you haven't yet. But to know the conditions are identical, you have to rely on, or develop your own, expertise about telling the difference between day and night in space.

Think of this: the people presenting you these videos as 'unexplainable' know that some information about the scenes would be inconvenient or awkward if their target audience realized the full story, so they just withhold that information from you. Sometimes they even just make up false features of the video, or paste different voice tracks over video sequences. Their intent is to deceive you. Please resist allowing it to be so easy.

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Subject: Re: STS-63 Anomalies

From: JamesOberg

Date: 1/21/01 10:23 AM Central Standard Time

Ed, here was your earlier comment on illumination conditions that illustrated why your interpretation has gotten off track:

EL ": "Yet everything is in darkness, there's no sun visible and all the 'ice crystals' are in darkness yet some of them are flashing like mad, the triangle I pointed out has an 'ice crystal' appearing and drifting while the others are still, etc.""

Of course there will be no sun visible, it's behind the camera, and the only thing in the field-of-view that is illuminated is the nearby ice/debris. The 'crystals' are NOT 'in darkness', this is an interpretation you have made subconsciously, perhaps expecting the presence of sunlight to be indicated by a 'sky' behind them. That's your earthside mental habits misleading you.

On 48 and 80, at the time of sunrise, a slight glare appears along an edge of the FOV, caused by scattered light onto the camera housing from sunlit structures of the shuttle. But the sky stays black (naturally), and the earth in view stays black since it's still in pre-dawn darkness. Only the objects floating nearby show the presence of bright sunlight which bathes the entire shuttle.

That's why we see fewer scenes like this with station missions, because the camera usually has station structure in view. At sunrise, the structure gets bright and the camera auto-iris and gain control tighten down, so small sunlight dots fade out and vanish below the brightness level needed to be detected. These views -- 48, 63, 80 -- occur when there is no shuttle structure in the FOV, it's a requirement for this particularly class of visual phenomena.

Is the pattern becoming clear. Are you starting to see the light?