

POLICE AND THE UFO EXPERIENCE

One of the principal objectives of the Center for UFO Studies is to serve as a place to which persons can report UFO experiences without fear of ridicule or unwanted publicity, and with the knowledge that their reports will be given serious scientific attention. Mr. James Slavin, Director of the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University, assisted the Center in laying the groundwork for a reporting network to attain this goal, by furnishing the Center with a list of several thousand police chiefs and sheriffs to which the Center distributed its toll free twenty four hour "hot-line" number, UFO CENTRAL.

This number exists for mutual cooperation. On the one hand, the Center is helped by receiving reports that have been "pre-screened", so to speak, by being first reported to a law agency. Equally important is that fact that the law agency has a authoritative scientific agency to which reports can be passed for appropriate action. This relieves the police officers of a major responsibility for "follow-up".

The response of law agencies has been most gratifying. The number of sighting reports transmitted by the police through UFO CENTRAL during the first ten months of 1974 was 299. Of these reports, 74 (25%), or one of every four cases was one in which a police officer was a primary witness. This is the essence of this report --- police-witnessed UFO sighting reports.

Experience shows that the best reports, those with the greatest information content, come from technically trained professional people.-- particularly law enforcement personnel. Police-witnessed reports are difficult to discredit; police are trained to be accurate reporters of events and are proficient in observing and recording details.