

CALLAHAN PRESENTATION SUMMARY

UFO INCIDENT INVOLVING A JAPANESE B747 IN THE VICINITY OF ANC - NOV 1986

As the Division Manager for the FAA Washington headquarters Accidents, Evaluation and Investigations, I was responsible for the quality of air traffic service provided to the FAA users .

When informed of the “UFO incident involving a Japanese B747 in the Alaskan region” I ordered the RADAR recorded data and voice tapes flown to the FAA Technical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey for evaluation and analysis by both FAA Hardware and Software experts.

After reviewing the play back of the event on a controller’s scope, referred to as a “PVD” and receiving a detailed analysis of the incident, I briefed the FAA Administrator and members of President Reagan’s scientific staff, CIA, etc. on the following:

During the play back of the event I observed a primary radar target in the position reported by the Japanese pilot. The intermittent primary target stayed in close proximity to the B747 for approximately 31 minutes. Both the FAA controller and military NORAD controller reported observing the RADAR return of the “UFO” target on their “scopes”. There was no noticeable weather” in the area. “You can see into next Tuesday” was reported by a United pilot.

The UFO was painted as an extremely large primary target. As a result of the lacking run length identification the FAA computer system treated the UFO RADAR return as “weather” and transmitted it to the controller’s PVD via a non recorded line. (All known aircraft are programed in the FAA computer systems “Run Length” table.)

At the conclusion of the hand-off briefing the CIA advised they were “confiscating all the data, this event never happened, we were never here and you are all sworn to secrecy.” They also advised they would not notify the media as “it would scare the public.”