

## **Background on the Kecksburg Incident**

An object landed in the tiny town of Kecksburg, PA on December 9, 1965. It was observed as a fireball in the sky across several U.S. states and Canada. Four witnesses have provided independent, corroborated descriptions of the object and its location in the Kecksburg woods. Dozens of others - including fire fighters, newspaper reporters, and a news director at radio station WHJB who was on the scene taping interviews - describe the military presence at the crash site, the cordoning off of the area, and the retrieval of an object transported by an army truck. Many witnesses have provided signed affidavits for investigator Stan Gordon, who has been working on the case for over three decades. (For more information, see Gordon's website at <http://www.westol.com/~pauf0>.)

At the scene, officials told residents that a meteor crashed. The next day, the U.S. Government declared that nothing fell that night and nothing was found. This is the official U.S. Government position. However, witness reports and newspaper articles at the time clearly establish that something fell and that it maneuvered in the sky before impact. In all likelihood, the object was either a highly advanced space probe or an unknown object from outer space.

The files of Project Blue Book, the official Air Force investigation into UFOs terminated in 1969, state that no space debris entered our atmosphere that day. "Aluminum type" fragments were retrieved in Michigan and sent to Project Blue Book. (Where are they now?) A Blue Book memo says that no object was found in Pennsylvania. (Blue Book only had a "Secret" clearance and had the role of reporting information to the public; it is likely that the retrieval of this object was classified higher than Secret and thus Blue Book may not have been informed.)

A Russian space probe, Cosmos 96, malfunctioned on the same day as the Kecksburg object, and this has been suggested by some as a plausible explanation. However, data provided by the US Space Command shows that Cosmos 96 came down over Canada at 3:18 am; the crash in Kecksburg occurred at approximately 4:45 pm. Orbital coordinates obtained from the Goddard Space Center also prove that Cosmos 96 did not come down in Kecksburg. The Russian Space Agency (equivalent of our NASA) stated that it could make no correlation between Cosmos 96 and the incident at Kecksburg. The Russian Embassy also stated that there is no proof that any Soviet spacecraft landed in Kecksburg. In addition, witness descriptions of the object do not fit the size or other characteristics of Cosmos 96 or possible debris from it, as far as we know.

No matter what it is, the issue here is the public's right to information, especially 37 years after the incident.