

NOE TORRES, “MEXICO’S ROSWELL”



Noe Torres During Recent UFO Investigation in Candelaria, Texas (Photo by Brad Newton)

South Texas author and UFO researcher Noe Torres has written *Mexico's Roswell*, *Aliens in the Forest*, *The Real Cowboys & Aliens*, *Ultimate Guide to the Roswell UFO Crash*, *Fallen Angel*, and four other books. Born and raised in Edinburg, Torres has maintained a life-long interest in UFOs that was inspired, in part, by a strange encounter his mother had in Mission in the 1940s. In 2006, he collaborated with California UFO researcher Ruben Uriarte on the book *Mexico's Roswell*, which led them to numerous media appearances and conference speaking engagements around the country. Torres appeared on the History Channel's "UFO Hunters" television series, and the "Mexico's Roswell" case was also featured on the History Channel's "UFO Files" and "UFOs of the 1970s."

Noe has spoken at numerous UFO events, including the annual Roswell UFO Conference, the Border Zone UFO Festival, the Las Vegas Crash Retrieval Conference, the Laredo UFO Conference, and others. He is also involved in planning and organizing UFO-related events throughout the U.S. and was responsible for organizing the City of Roswell's 2012 UFO Conference held at the Roswell Museum & Art Center.

Torres has appeared several times on "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noory, the Jeff Rense Program, Jerry Pippin's "UFO Files," and many other radio programs. Torres holds a Bachelor's in English and a Master's in Library Science from the University of Texas at Austin and has been a librarian since 1988.

New Witnesses Surface in "Mexico's Roswell" Case

As the scenic border town of Presidio, Texas, prepared for its first annual UFO festival in October 2012, inspired by a reported 1974 UFO crash about 40 miles northwest of town, two long-time area residents came forward with a remarkable tale of seeing a "glowing fireball" in the sky at the same time as the UFO incident. 82-year-old Johnnie Chambers, a legendary school teacher in Ruidosa and Candelaria, remembers seeing the strange fireball,

"It was just a big explosion in the sky – mostly round. I can see it in my mind, but it's hard to describe. I would say the width of it was about four or five miles and of course, it was up pretty high in the sky." Chambers' son, John, who was ten years old at the time of the sighting, remembers that he and his mom were driving back to Ruidosa from Chinati Hot Springs when "all of a sudden a big old glow, fireball-looking thing, appeared over the mountain over there. We stopped and watched it for a while. It was quite a fireball."

Their testimony is especially interesting to UFO researchers Noe Torres and Ruben Uriarte, whose 2007 book *Mexico's Roswell* describes an alleged 1974 mid-air collision between an airplane and a UFO in precisely the same area where the Chambers saw the fireball. It is also claimed that on the day following the mid-air crash, a U.S. helicopter convoy arrived at the crash site and carried the UFO away, pausing briefly to set off a massive explosion that destroyed all remaining evidence at the scene.

Afterward, the helicopters moved back across the border into Texas, crossing over just north of Candelaria. According to John Chambers, several Candelaria-area residents said they saw U. S. military helicopters flying back across the Rio Grande from Mexico a day or two after Chambers saw the glowing fireball.



John Chambers (left) and his mother, Mrs. Chambers (right) - Photo by Brad Newton

The Chambers were driving west on Hot Springs Road, facing toward Mexico, when the strange blazing orb suddenly erupted in the sky over the Mexican mountain range that fronts the Rio Grande River. “It was just ‘boom,’ and it was there,” Mrs. Chambers remembers. She pulled her car over, and she and her son got out and watched the fireball. John Chambers recalls that their vantage point was ““about halfway from Chinati Hot Springs back to Ruidosa. About halfway back – it’d be about four miles from Ruidosa, approximately.”

Describing the object, he says, “It was fist-sized [from his viewpoint], like if you hold your fist out away from you – maybe even a little bigger. It was quite a fireball. It was darker in the middle and radiated out from there. It was between orange and reddish. It wasn’t really, really fire-red – blazing red – but it had a little orange in it, but right in the center, it was red. It seems like the center was a little brighter. It was bright red around the center and kind of orange around the edges.”

He adds that the object never moved as they watched it and didn’t seem to decrease in intensity. “It was stationary. I can’t remember how long it glowed. I don’t remember if we stayed and watched it until it stopped glowing or if we drove on to Ruidosa. It didn’t move up or down.”

“It stayed up there for a while,” he said. “We thought it was a fire. We had seen fires many times before on the other side of the mountain, and you’d see a glow at night – but not like that. It was different kind of glow. It was different from just a fire glow or anything like that. It was like the sun going down on the other side of the mountain is the way my mom and I remember it. It was kind of like the sun going down, but the sun had already gone down – so it was almost like the sun coming back up.”

Regarding how high up in the sky it was, John Chambers said, “There are high mountains over there. It was up above the mountains. Maybe at about 10 o’clock high. Of course, if we had been farther back toward Hot Springs, it wouldn’t have been as high – I mean we were dropping down in elevation as we were coming back to Ruidosa.”

“It seemed to be on the other side of the mountain, and it [the fire] came up over the top

of the mountain,” Mrs. Chambers remembers. “We thought it might be a plane crash. We previously had a military plane crash up at the ranch [10 miles north of Candelaria]. A military plane crashed up there on the mountainside. I didn’t happen to see it, but we had some hunters out there at the time that did see it. That’s what it looked like to me – a huge explosion. I thought a plane had crashed into the mountain.”



The Mountain Over Which the Chambers Saw a “Fireball” (Photo by Brad Newton)

John Chambers added, “We figured that it was a plane crash. But it would have to be a big plane to make that big of a fireball.”

The sighting began at around sundown and continued for perhaps up to half an hour. “It wasn’t quite dark yet. It was getting dark, but it wasn’t dark,” Mrs. Chambers said. After watching the fireball for several minutes from their stopped car, the Chambers continued driving down the mountain toward Ruidosa, but they drove slowly in order to continue watching the fascinating sight. Mrs. Chambers recalls, “We watched it all the way down the mountain – I imagine at least 5 or maybe 10 minutes more. We didn’t keep driving at regular speed. We slowed down and kept watching it.”

At some point, as they neared Ruidosa, the fireball suddenly disappeared. John Chambers said, “By the time we drove about four miles to the house, I don’t remember any more glow. Of course, were dropping way down, you know, down there by the river. Of course, with those steep roads, you wouldn’t be able to see it at all times, especially when you get down low and you’re heading away from it [as the road winds]. As I remember, when we

got back to the house, we turned and looked back in that direction, and it was gone or it might have been a little glow.”

Mrs. Chambers also does not remember exactly when the object disappeared from their view. “It stayed for a few minutes and then just disappeared,” she said.

Although neither witness remembers the exact year or date of the sighting, Mrs. Chambers believes that it could have been 1974. “I taught in a one-room school house in Ruidosa from 1972 to 1975, and it seems that it happened a year or two before the school moved to Candelaria.”

“The story about the helicopters is especially intriguing,” Torres said. “John Chambers says that they never saw any military helicopters in the area prior to this event – so this really stuck in the minds of the local people who saw them. Also, it was very strange that the helicopters would be coming back across the border from Mexico. Also unusual is the fact that the sighting of the helicopters occurred right after the strange fireball in the sky.”

“We’re not certain yet how what Mrs. Chambers and her son saw is related to the Mexico’s Roswell case, but we have a strong suspicion that it is related,” said Noe Torres, who co-authored the book *Mexico’s Roswell*. “We don’t know if the fireball they saw might have been the result of the initial mid-air collision between the airplane and the UFO. Or, it could have been the bomb that was reportedly detonated to hide the evidence at the UFO crash site.”

The Chambers had put the incident completely out of their minds until recently when Charles Angell, a friend of John Chambers, talked to him about the *Mexico’s Roswell* book in a chance meeting during which Angell told him about the upcoming UFO festival in Presidio. As Angell briefly described the book to him, John Chambers suddenly exclaimed, “I remember seeing that!” He told Angell that, although he had never heard about the UFO part of the story, he did recall seeing a large fireball in the sky. Angell then arranged for Torres to interview both Chambers and his mom by phone, at which time they disclosed the facts of their sighting.

During the interview, John Chambers made another startling revelation to Torres – that within a day after he saw the strange glow in the sky, several area residents observed a group of military helicopters moving back into the U.S. from the Mexican side, including one large, twin-rotor helicopter. “It was several, maybe three or four,” he said. This observation also fits in with the “Mexico’s Roswell” scenario, in which military helicopters, after recovering the UFO in Mexico, brought it back across the Rio Grande River into Texas.

John Chambers adds, “People up at Candelaria said they saw them. In those days, there just wasn’t a whole lot of flying going on. It wasn’t like now with the B-1, military, and all that, you know, come through here. Back then, you didn’t see a whole lot of that. They said they saw these helicopters – I don’t think they were real close to the town, because some of those people lived on ranches away from the town. They did see our military helicopters coming back out of Mexico. It was somewhere in that same time-frame [as the sighting of the fireball], like maybe the next day, or it could have been that same day.”

When asked if the helicopters might have been part of a routine military exercise, he replied, “They [the military] didn’t fly down here much until the late 70s or early 80s. That’s when they put this radar down here at Valentine. They put that in there and were trying to

see if they could fly low enough to where they wouldn't be picked up by the radar.”

Mrs. Chambers admits that her son probably heard a lot more from local residents about these mysterious events than she did, because he used to spend a lot of time visiting with friends in the small town of Ruidosa. She said, “John used to go around town after school and eat at different peoples’ homes and visit with them. He was the teacher’s son – so he was pretty much pampered. So he had a chance to talk to different people about what we saw. I didn’t have time to visit with the others about it.” That is why she doesn’t dispute her son’s remembrance that other Ruidosa residents also saw the glowing fireball and that they also saw the military helicopters coming back into Texas from across the border.

ARTICLE: 1966 UFO Incident North of Edinburg, Texas



Statement from J.J. “Joe” Ponce of Edinburg, Texas

Classification: UFO sighting with trace evidence (vegetation and buildings burned)

Type of craft: Cigar-shaped, luminous (no further description)

Number of witnesses: 9

Location: Farm to Market Rd 490, approximately 4 miles west of U.S. Highway 281.

Closest towns: Linn-San Manuel, Texas

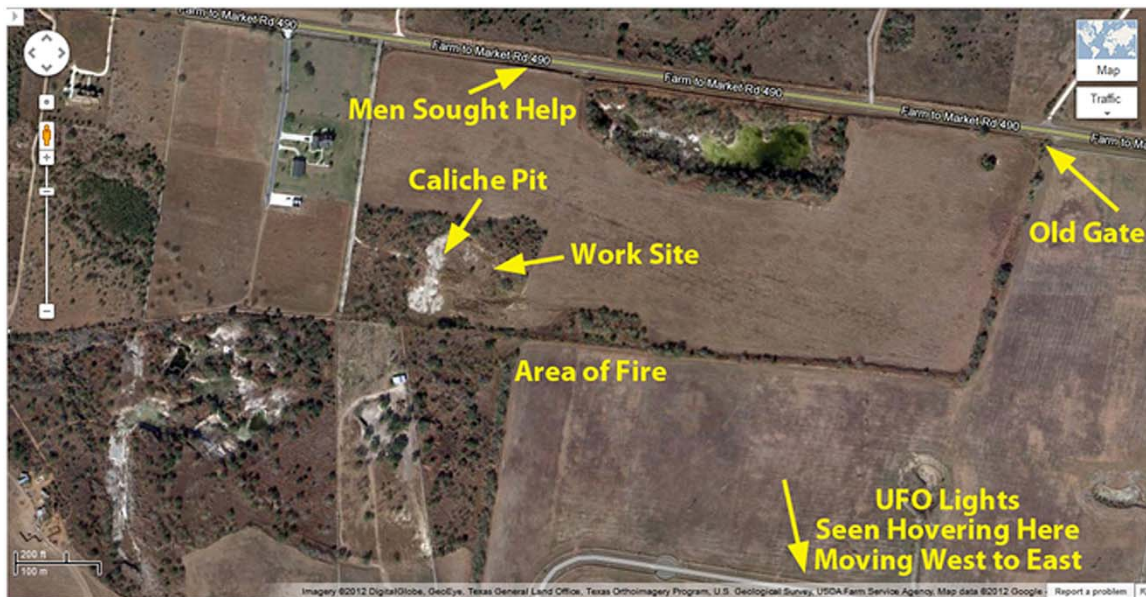
Approximate coordinates: 26.452343,-98.164483

Date: October or November 1966 (exact date unknown)

Time: Approximately midnight

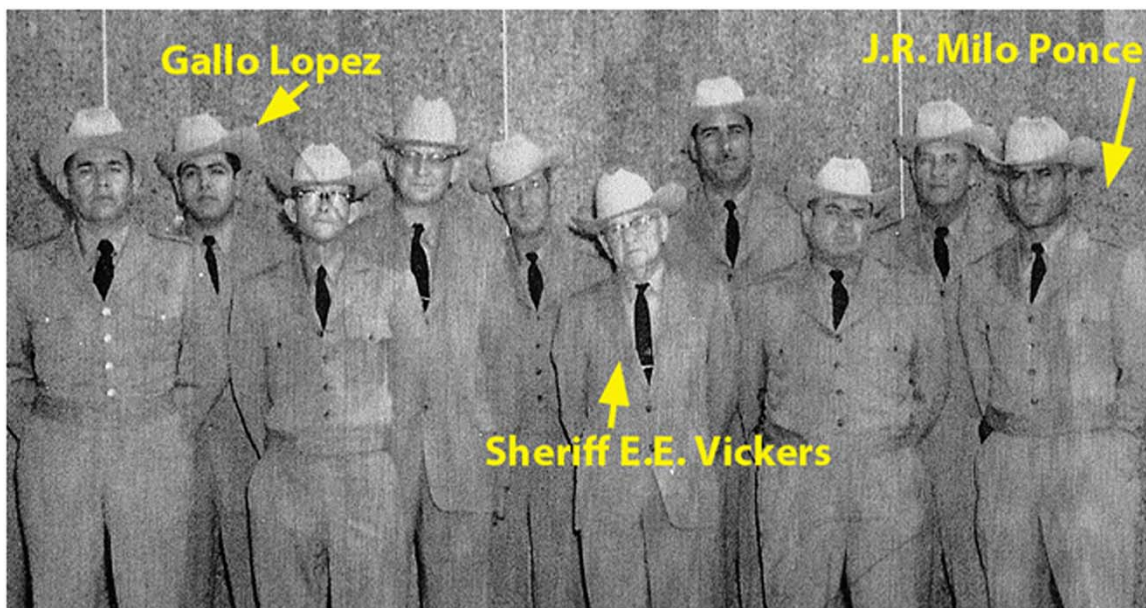
In October or November of 1966, J. R. “Milo” Ponce, a deputy sheriff with the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Department, received a phone call at around midnight from the sheriff’s

department dispatcher, George Rapp. The dispatcher stated that someone had called in to report a group of “disturbed” men standing alongside Farm to Market Highway 490, north of Edinburg, Texas, near Laguna Seca Road.



Map Showing Area of Encounter (Credit: Google Maps)

The eight men, who were digging a gravel pit in the area for a company out of North Texas, were greatly agitated. They were yelling and screaming for help alongside the road. A motorist must have seen them and then driven to a nearby truck stop, where they apparently called the sheriff's department.



Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department in 1965 (Courtesy J.J. Ponce)

According to Joe, “When my father received a phone call from the sheriff's department,

I heard him asking George Rapp, the dispatcher, if it was serious or if it was a prank call. Rapp told him that the men seen along Highway 490 appeared to be very frightened about something they had seen, and they also said they needed help putting out a fire. My father got dressed, got in his vehicle, and responded to the call.”



Joe Ponce Points Out the Gravel Pit

The site in question is a ranch located approximately four miles west of Highway 281, owned at the time by Samuel Gonzalez, now deceased. The charred and burned area was about one quarter mile into the ranch next to some very large gravel pits.

The pits were being dug out by a crew of eight men from north Texas. The men, who were all Anglo and whose identities are not known to me, were “roughneck” types. All of them told the same story of that eerie night. One of the men had been so frightened that he urinated in his pants. The men were later taken to the sheriff’s office, where they were interviewed and then allowed to spend the night. They told sheriff’s deputies that they would never return to the site of the incident, and they reportedly left town the next day, happy to escape with their lives.

Milo Ponce’s son, Joe Ponce, says, “Although I did not witness this incident, I heard several different people give the same details about it at separate times. There was a police report filed, but I don’t know if it would still be around. I will tell the story as I heard it from my father.”

The workers told deputies of having seen bright lights and of hearing a loud humming or throbbing sound. They also experienced sudden, strong winds on an otherwise calm night, and they saw flames shoot down out of the sky, setting ablaze all the surrounding area, including their vehicles and their mobile home.

A local resident, known as “Manito,” who lived near the gravel pit, reported seeing a “cigar-shaped object” that hovered over the field that night. Manito had seen this and other bright lights hovering over the surrounding fields prior to the night of this incident. The gravel pit workers themselves stated that they had seen strange lights hovering around the area on other occasions, prior to the night of the fire. Spanish-speaking people who lived near the area called these eerie night lights “La Luz del Llano,” which in English means “the light in the fields.” According to Joe Ponce, this area has been known for years as the site of strange phenomena.

Firefighters eventually arrived at the scene of the fire, but by the time they got there, the flames had mostly died out. Ponce’s dad said that, on the following morning, he and another deputy returned to the scene and found everything, including the crew’s sleeping quarters, destroyed by fire.



Twisted Scrap of Metal Found at the Site

Among what was damaged or destroyed by the fire was: a 12’ x 60’ mobile home that the crew were using as sleeping quarters, a couple of pick-up trucks, a bobtail truck, and an excavating machine. “It was all charred,” Joe Ponce remembers, “All that stuff had been burned.”

Ponce says, “Years later, after I returned from the Army in 1972, I visited the area with my father. He pointed out the location and you could still see an odd shape area where nothing would grow. The sides of the pit appeared to have been burned all the way to the top 25-30 feet high.”

Joe Ponce says that Sheriff E. E. Vickers told his dad that he had been approached by

two men dressed in military uniforms asking to see the report about the incident. Vickers, a resident of Donna, Texas, was the county sheriff from 1955 to 1969. Apparently, Vickers thought the men might have come from Moore Air Base, which is located about six miles southwest of the site where the incident happened, but the base had been closed by the Air Force in 1961 and was no longer a military institution at the time of the incident.

“No more was ever said of the incident and my father never spoke about it anymore,” Ponce says.

His father later became captain of the Highway Patrol and then ran for office and was elected county commissioner for three terms. He was known for his humble service, and the county honored him by naming a park after his retirement and death. The park, called J. R. “Milo” Ponce Memorial Park, is located 8 miles east on Highway 2812, in the Hargill area.



Eyewitness J. R. “Milo” Ponce (left) with his wife Olga

DR. ROBERT GROSS, “SCIENCE & THE PARANORMAL”



Dr. Robert Gross

Robert W. Gross, PhD, an educator with 23 years of teaching experience, currently resides in McAllen. He holds a doctorate from Penn State University, where his dissertation was awarded a rating of excellent. During his career, he has served as a speaker and writer with more than a dozen articles published in professional journals and lectures presented at local, state, and national conferences.

Dr. Gross became involved in UFO research in 1985, at which time he joined the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU), a group committed to the scientific study of paranormal phenomena. Four years later, UFO research suddenly became extremely personal to him, as he experienced his very own close encounter of the first kind (visual sighting of a UFO).

Dr. Gross has more than 25 years' experience as a researcher with a variety of paranormal investigation groups, including PASU, the Las Cruces Paranormal Investigators (LCPI), and the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), of which he is currently a member.

In 1997, Dr. Gross served on an advisory committee working with the makers of the movie *Contact*, a film about contact with extraterrestrial life based on the novel by Carl Sagan. In 2007, he appeared in a short, UFO-related film, *Andrombulance*, filmed in New Mexico.

Dr. Gross was a featured speaker at the 2012 Edinburg UFO Conference, the 2012 Laredo UFO Conference (*laredoufo.com*) and is scheduled to speak at the 2013 Roswell UFO Conference (*roswell2013.com*). He has also spoken at many other venues regarding his paranormal investigations. In the article below, he tells of his own close encounter with a UFO in 1985.

ARTICLE BY DR. ROBERT GROSS: A Close Encounter of the Lasting Kind

On or about April 16, 1985, I was officially welcomed into the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU) as a Researcher and a Field Investigator. Exactly one week later I was assigned by PASU's Director of Operations to lead an investigation in Rural Pennsylvania. My first case was allegedly a healthy mix of some traditional unexplained phenomena: a UFO sighting, a close encounter of the third kind, psychic phenomena, religious apparitions, a poltergeist, a dancing OUIJA Board, and a long-past grandmother who rocked.

After reviewing the case, it was my job to contact the individual who initiated the report. As a field investigator, I gathered basic information about alleged paranormal activities. Thus, after a detailed phone interview, I set out with another PASU field investigator to investigate the bucolic site.

PASU was the ultimate Paranormal Investigation Unit. We were an all-volunteer, nonprofit scientific research organization made up of professionals: Scientists, physicians, engineers, biologists, zoologists, ufologists, writers, journalists, pilots, metallurgists, investigators, astronomers, researchers, university faculty, college administrators, educators, attorneys, consultants, technologists, businessmen, executives, psychologists, law enforcement officers, and government officials.

As a field investigator I had a specific code of ethics to guide me, procedures to follow, and checklists to check off. The group convened during every month but December. The meetings were closed—intended for members only. During the meetings we regularly discussed matters that were sensitive in nature.

Both in the field and during those meetings, it was imperative that we adhered to a scientific method for organizing our information. Most scientific methods insist that the investigator:

- Observe,
- Research,

- Hypothesize,
- Predict,
- Experiment, and
- Draw a Reasonable Conclusion.

By the summer of 1989, I had become a relatively seasoned paranormal investigator and researcher. In Pennsylvania, the summer solstice had recently occurred when I experienced my very first and only Close Encounter of the First Kind. Astronomer J. Allen Hynek developed the *Hynek System* which described A Close Encounter of the First Kind to be: *A visual sighting of an unidentified flying object (UFO) within 500 feet of the witness.*

Unfortunately, my encounter was not part of a field investigation. Therefore, I was not quite as prepared as I could have been. Fortunately, my observational skills were intact that night.



Dr. Robert Gross

As I was driving, I became mindful of a moving object and focused on it as it lifted from behind a white guardrail. The object floated to a place just beneath the low hanging branches of a large chestnut tree. As it rose effortlessly, it changed color: From deep black, to a camouflage-like grey with black color, and then to a solid grey-white color. As the object moved out from underneath the branches, its body resembled a Manta Ray, but almost translucent.

The flying object banked toward my car. As it banked, it glowed. It radiated a fluorescent green color that mimicked a luminous watch dial. The glowing UFO flew directly over my car. Next, it abruptly dipped almost touching the road surface of the opposite lane. Then, it shot up at about a 45 degree angle and flew north at a phenomenal speed.

After years of research, I hypothesized that the aerial anomaly I observed in 1989 qualified as a paranormal phenomenon. Furthermore, I predicted that atmospheric anomalies exist.

On December 3, 2004 two eyewitnesses in West Virginia had a close encounter with the same object during daylight hours. My Close Encounter of the First Kind was corroborated.

ISMAEL CUELLAR, “LAREDO PARANORMAL”

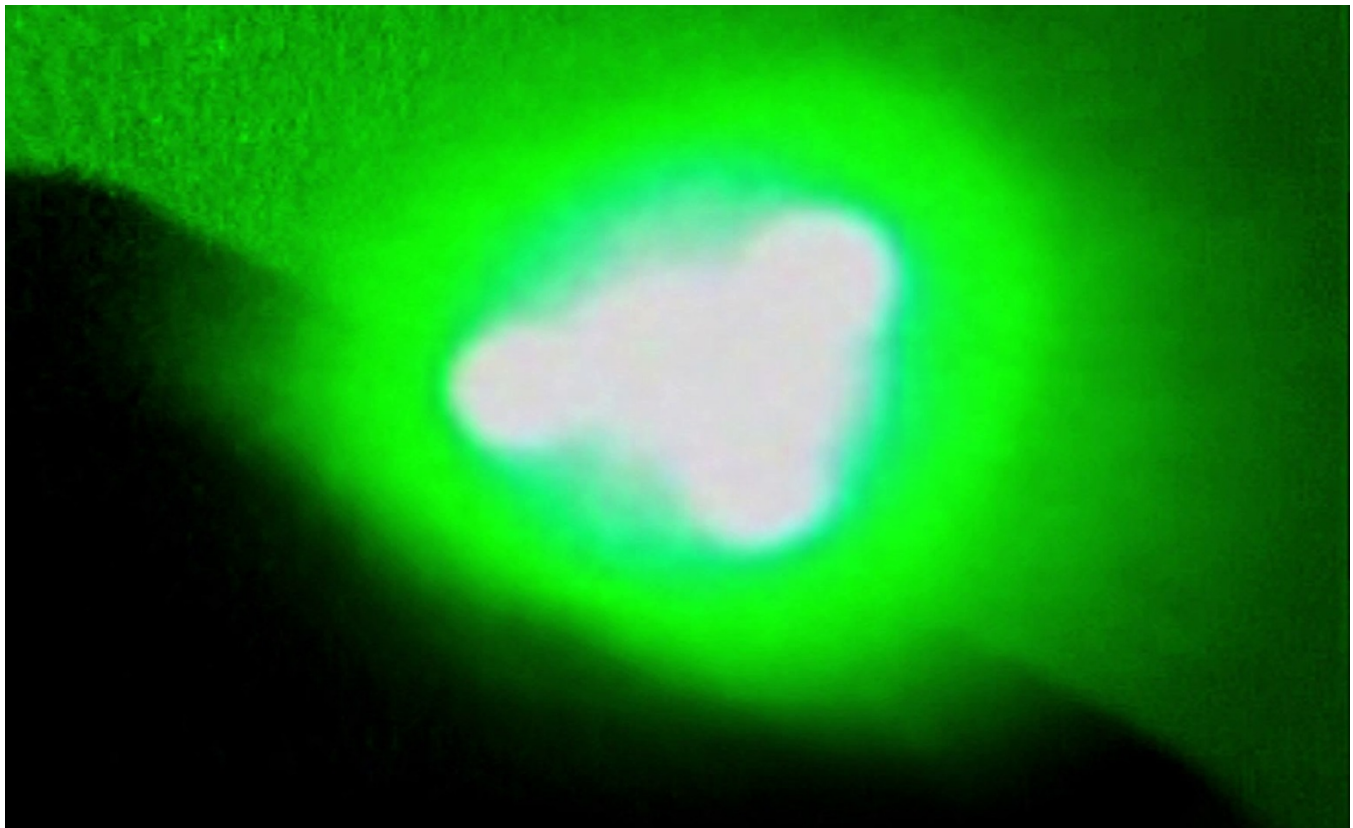


Ismael Cuellar Speaks at 2012 Roswell UFO Festival (Photo by Noe Torres)

Ismael Cuellar, a law enforcement agent in Laredo, Texas, is director of the Laredo Paranormal Research Society (LPRS), a group that uses cutting-edge scientific instruments to investigate paranormal phenomena, such as UFOs, mystery orbs, spirit entities, and more.

Ismael and his group speak frequently to groups, demonstrating the techniques they use for detecting things that cannot normally be seen by human beings. He was a featured speaker at the 2011 & 2012 Laredo UFO Conferences, the Roswell 2012 Conference, the 2012 Edinburg UFO Conference, and the Border Zone UFO Festival.

Ismael filmed some incredible UFO footage shown on the night of October 23, 2011, using night vision technology. The strange object he filmed could not be seen with the naked eye. Before releasing his video to the public, LPRS had it carefully analyzed by a number of film experts who subjected it to various tests using filters. It remains completely unexplained. Ismael said, “While panning the night sky with our third generation night vision, an object over northeast Laredo. The craft was totally shrouded in infrared light which is invisible to the naked eye. Resembling a triangle and with spheres at each of its vertices, this UFO had no sound of any propulsion and silently cruised at approximate altitude of 1000 feet and traveling around 80 mph in a southerly direction.



Triangle UFO Captured Over Laredo (Photo by Ismael Cuellar)

“This UFO footage was personally viewed by Jaime Maussan and Stanton Friedman during recent visits to Laredo. Both were surprised by what they saw. Mr. Maussan was so amazed with the video that he made a short documentary of the phenomena on his televised show called *Tercer Milenio*, which predominantly airs in Mexico. Once the footage was added to Jaime Maussan’s YouTube channel it managed to receive over 45,000 views.

“LPRS took the captured evidence a step further by using the professional experience of videographer Jose Carlos Rodriguez, who currently works for the federal government. He

managed to enhance the video using a software with different types of filters that brings out the actual solid structure of the object.



*Ismael Cuellar (left) Explains to Stanton Friedman the Marfa Laser Experiment
(Photo by Brad Newton)*

“After examination of the newly enhanced video it appeared that the craft had an additional sphere and vertex hidden in its shrouded infrared cloak. Resembling a four sided pyramid with its apex pointing in the direction of its path. The captured phenomena proved that Laredo has its share of UFO activity in its own night sky.

Also recently, Ismael and his group have gained statewide attention for their research into the mysterious orbs of light that have been appearing near Marfa, Texas, since the 1800s. These strange apparitions have baffled both scientists and the general public, with attempted explanations ranging from UFOs to ghosts to swamp gas to geothermal forces – and virtually everything in between. Beginning in 2011, LPRS decided to tackle one of the country’s most enduring unexplained phenomena, the so-called “Marfa Lights.”

Using laser beams and other high technology, the group made some amazing discoveries that had never been observed before. When a handheld laser was pointed at the lights, they tended to “react” by moving left, right, up or down. In some cases, when struck by the laser beam, the lights would wink out and then reappear when the laser was moved away from them.

The group’s second laser experiment, in October 2012, made the front page of the *San Antonio Express-News*, in which a photo of Ismael appeared, shining a laser out into the West Texas desert with the caption: “Laredo Paranormal Research Society director and co-

founder Ismael Cuellar points a laser at the Marfa Lights on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012 at the Marfa Lights Viewing Area, nine miles east of Marfa, Texas. The LPRS was part of the Border Zone International UFO Festival held in Presidio, Texas.”