

## How Well Did Cooper Remember Other Astronaut Stories? Note of Interest: September 1998

The question we are faced with is this: how accurate are the stories told by Gordon Cooper if they can't be verified by any other sources?

Cooper has given one case in which his account CAN be compared against other records, and a calibration of his narrative accuracy can be made from this.

On the FOX TV "Paranormal Borderlands" (hosted by Jonathan Frakes), interview with astronaut Gordon Cooper conducted by Yolanda Gaskins, Cooper talked about the "McDivitt UFO" of 1965.

***Cooper: "To my knowledge, the only thing that was ever seen on any of our space flights -- and believe me, all of us would like to have seen something -- was on Jim McDivitt's Gemini-7 mission where they saw this glint of something metallic off in the distance. And he reported, and nobody had it listed on the ground, so he tried to get a picture of it. But the sun unfortunately was glinting off of it so bright, all you got was a glint, there was no detail of what it was. But never any further sighting of it."***

The following factual problems can be extracted from this story:

1. "...Jim McDivitt's Gemini-7 mission...." Actually, it was Gemini-4, in June 1965. Frank Borman commanded Gemini-7 in December 1965.

2. "... where they saw...." Actually, only he (McDivitt) saw anything, his co-pilot Ed White was asleep.

3. "...this glint..." McDivitt has given extensive descriptions of his sighting and has never used the word "glint" or any other term which would imply a reflection off the object. He has talked about sun glare on the dirty Gemini window, however.

4. "...of something metallic..." McDivitt has never used this or any synonymous term to describe the nature of the object's composition, he has

refused to speculate on this feature.

5. "... off in the distance...." McDivitt explicitly stated that he could not tell the object's distance. It was either a small object close up or a large object far off, but he properly has testified that its range was impossible to determine.

6. "And he reported, and nobody had it listed on the ground, so he tried to get a picture of it." McDivitt saw and attempted to photograph the object while he was out of range of tracking sites, and by the time he was back in contact, the object was no longer visible. This sequence of events is completely garbled.

7. "...nobody had it listed on the ground..." Hours after the report, ground specialists tried to see what they had records ("lists") of that might correlate with the sighting. A "Pegasus" satellite was suggested. Later, the Gemini-4's own booster rocket in a nearby criss-crossing orbit was also suggested. So it's not true that there was nothing on "lists", but that was a long post facto analysis.

8. "But the sun unfortunately was glinting off of it so bright..." McDivitt has never described sunlight glinting off the object.

9. "..., all you got was a glint..." You didn't even get that: there was no photograph of the object that turned out. McDivitt was satisfied that the shots he had quickly fired off did not work.

10. "...there was no detail of what it was...." McDivitt described it visually in quite a bit of detail: beer-can shaped, with an arm sticking out.

In conclusion, I have identified ten major factual errors in this brief oral passage from Cooper's memory. If this is as good as his other testimony is, then the need for independent verification becomes even more critical.

I humbly solicit a rational discussion of this interpretation and this conclusion.