

## Sign Oral History Project

### **Oral History Interview with Joseph Patrick Jablonski (USAF, A1C, ret.)**

November-Flight, Security Alert Team  
Minot AFB, ND, 24 October 1968

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Transcription by Jim Klotz with additional editing by Thomas Tulien.

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Thomas Tulien

*Sign Oral History Project*

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**JJ Joseph Jablonski**

**TT Tom Tulien**

[Tape start]

JJ ... that much I did know and simultaneously, what was happening at Oscar Flight, was the site actually broken into and the launch [inaudible] was messed with, I guess.

TT You did know that?

TT Are you from this area originally?

JJ I'm actually from Lackawanna, which is further north originally. You heard of The Lackawanna Six?<sup>1</sup> The al-Quaida guys, that's where I'm from just south of Buffalo.

TT Give us a little bit of your background, how you got into the military, and then at what point you left the military...

JJ Well, I just enlisted in March of '67 and, because the Draft was on everybody's tail, I thought I'd have a choice, more of a choice. Unfortunately at the time, most people were

going into the security police because of Viet Nam, the majority of people wound up as cops.

TT Oh, they were setting up all the missile fields at the time.

JJ Well, it, that might have been a bit of luck because all your air bases and that were security police—protection and all the perimeters and everything—so they were just loading up on security police at the time and how I wound up going to a SAC base (laughs) is beyond me, I don't know, maybe it was a bit of luck.

TT Where did you do your training?

JJ Lackland Security Police School, and I wound up at Minot.

TT What year did you go in? You did four years at Minot?

JJ No, it's ironic, shortly after this incident I got orders for Panama, the Canal Zone, which wasn't SAC. You know, it was a little bit different to say the least. They say once you were in SAC, you'd never get out and everybody used to always fill out "dream sheets" to get out of there. And you know, I filled them out every time. I even put in for Viet Nam and couldn't get out of there. But after this, all of a sudden...

TT This occurred in October '68. You mean a few months—they'd moved you?

JJ I got an early out actually. I was down in Panama until November of '70. I got an early out for school and four months earlier I got out.

TT And then came back to civilian life?

JJ Yeah.

TT From Lackland up until the point that you were at Minot, can you give us a little more detail about that? Did you get to choose Minot?

JJ No. The orders come down and that's where you went. There were three types of security police there. There was base security, which is your regular law enforcement; there was aircraft security; and missile security. I wound up in missile security, which was probably the best, other than law enforcement, which was the best duty of all of them.

TT Why is that?

JJ Because, aircraft security, all you do is hump those planes, you know, walk around those 52's on the flight line, guys shooting their (laughs) toes off and everything to get out of that duty

TT Oh really...

JJ I mean that was monotonous. You know what the weather is, the winds and everything, you were all bundled up in parkas, carrying a carbine, walking around these, I never had to do that. Whereas missile security you were three days out, three days in. But being on a SAC base, it was tough. I mean they were always running drills and ORI's and stuff like that.

TT So, you guys would be doing ORI's too?

- JJ Oh yeah, then you had base ORI, which took everybody into consideration. You had inspectors in, you know. It was kind of interesting. I don't regret it, you meet some great people and everything.
- TT So when you first came to Minot, explain to us how that happened.
- JJ Well you had classes there and everything in missile operation. You had more school there than before you were actually assigned. I got assigned to November Flight.
- TT How much schooling, for a few months?
- JJ Ah, I'd say weeks.
- TT A few weeks? So they were just training you on the specific systems there?
- JJ Oh yeah, the coding and, you know.
- TT Yeah. So then you got a certification?
- JJ Yeah, yeah.
- TT Explain to me the classification A-1-C, I'm not real clear on that.
- JJ Oh, now you got me, Airman First Class, I don't even know what—Airman Second Class I believe was one stripe, Airman First Class was two and then they had a change where Airman First Class was actually Sergeant, became Sergeant, that was three stripes.
- TT And then beyond that what?
- JJ Staff Sergeant.
- TT All right. And beyond that, it was then Master Sergeant and Tech Sergeant?
- JJ Yeah, Tech Sergeant, see, you know more than I do (laughs). Now this maintenance guy, he was a Senior Master Sergeant, I mean, he had chevrons (gesturing along right upper arm) to see him going berserk when all this happened you know...
- TT We haven't had a chance to talk to him. Were you guys always assigned to November Flight?
- JJ Yeah.
- TT So then you didn't go to Oscar, Juliet—move around?
- JJ No. Unless there was a shortage or something, you know, it would be a temporary assignment.
- TT You guys always worked with the same people?
- JJ Pretty much but that changed too. You had people come in like this Adams guy, he had months left to go in the service, and why they put him in that I don't know.
- TT Just while we're talking about him you don't remember where his family is from do you? Was he African-American?
- JJ I believe he was. I could be wrong' cause I was thinking it was the guy on the other shift, you know, the guys that were working days—the off-duty guys.

- JJ Yeah, and there was a guy by the name of Kerry Snuggs from North Carolina. Was he mentioned at all?
- TT No, that's the first time we've heard that name.
- JJ Now, when this was happening, when these guys were screaming—because they had come to the LCF to get food and gas, fuel up before they went there, you know, whatever they needed.
- TT Oh, the maintenance team.
- JJ Yeah, they weren't at that site a half hour when all this started, I mean, everybody came outside. What I'm saying is Snuggs and everybody they all came outside. November-7 is visible, you know, it's flat (gestures indicating flat land). You could see the lights you know, being a Big Sky country and no trees you could see everything from the LCF.
- TT So you could...
- JJ We were outside watching the lights and everything.
- TT But that's 10 miles south of you, that's quite a ways [9.5 miles according to the grid map].
- JJ I thought it was the closest flight, but you know—
- TT There was another guy with you, who was the other off-duty SAT Team member?
- JJ That was Les Akre, he was from St. Cloud.
- TT Do you recall the off-duty FSC?
- JJ No, I don't. It might have been Harris.
- TT How about James Bond?
- JJ He was my boss. He was the desk Sergeant [Staff Sergeant].
- TT He was on duty that night.
- JJ Yeah, right.
- TT OK. So let's talk a little about your regular duties as a security policeman. You had three days on, three days off, was that it constantly?
- JJ Yeah.
- TT What'd you do on your days off?
- JJ Well, they didn't give you much time. They always had training, and, like I said, you had base ORI's, you had Squadron ORI's. SAC Headquarters which was at Offutt, and they flew in unannounced, in fact, I went on leave once, I had to get a room at the Ramada Inn to make sure. How I got off base I don't know, but I had a room at the Ramada Inn right across from the airport there (laughs) that was the only way, you know, because once the ORI hit, nobody could get off base.
- TT When you report what's the process for getting out there? Can you walk us through that?
- JJ They used to have busses take us out, but most of the time they were choppers—
- TT You'd report to where, the missile wing or base operations?

- JJ Well, I can't even think of what they called it, but you stood Guard Mount which was inspection and everything before you got on the helicopter or the busses, and they made sure you had all your cold weather gear and everything you know, you were liable to have all that with you. Then they flew you out and if you were on day shift you went right duty. If you were on nights you hit the hay. So I think it was a 7:00 o'clock to 7:00 shift, so we came on at 7:00 that night, and this happened about 3:00 a.m. I believe 2:00 a.m., 3 a.m. something like...
- TT Between 3:00 and 5:00 was most of the activity. Oh, so you guys had been on all night, what do you do all night?
- JJ Oh, you'd be surprised.
- TT Well, explain then.
- JJ Every time you had, you thought you had a few minutes (laughs) an alarm went off, so we had ten sites. The birds—
- TT But a lot of them reset, right?
- JJ —the birds used to set, no, you had to run them all the same way.
- TT Which was what?
- JJ As if there was an infiltrator on the site you know, you had the code to get in, code to get out with the capsule crew, you had plows that used to set off the inner zone if they got too close to the fence because it's all (gestures indicating surrounding fence) because it's all farmland and the vibrations used to set off the alarms, you had birds, you had the reflection of the snow on the antennas used to set them off, so it was constant.
- TT Do you remember the processes by which you accessed those sites and what area of those sites you had access to? Did you have a key?
- JJ A site key for the padlock on the gate.
- TT Right. Did you have that with you all the time or did you get that from the FSC?
- JJ See, I don't even remember now if we had keys.
- TT Did you deal with Keys and Codes?
- JJ Did the... see, I don't remember.
- TT Now, but that would probably be something that was at the LCF, right?
- JJ Right, you had the combat crew [that] could turn on the site lights for starters, and then you had to authenticate.
- TT Was there a phone right there in the Soft Support?
- JJ No, you did it by mobile radio.
- TT OK.
- JJ See, I don't remember now about the keys. I think we did have a key 'cause I remember having frozen fingers, and then you did, first you did an outside check. The SAT Leader would have to round the perimeter outside of the fence. Then you gained access, you got on

site and you were in it as if someone was on site. The Leader would actually go into the support building.

TT Soft Support. Oh, so you had a key for that too.

JJ I don't remember now.

TT Well, you must have, how else would you get in there?

JJ I don't know if there was a combination lock or—

TT Ah, OK. But those are the two areas you could access, right?

JJ Yeah.

TT You couldn't access the hatch for the silo?

JJ No.

TT You had no keys. They didn't give you the combos for that?

JJ No, but part of the check, you had to actually lift the—what was it? I can't think of that now, part of the check was seeing and lifting that door, that hatch to see if that combo launch facility was tampered with or whatever.

TT How would you know if it was tampered with? So there was a hatch, what type, was it a metal door?

JJ I believe there was.

TT Or was it like a Navy hatch?

JJ I think that might have had a lock on it too.

TT Yeah, if you had to access the silo you know, the missile...

JJ There was no way you could. No, we were just security. Actually, the support building was the closest we'd ever get to and that wasn't me. That was the other guy, he went down there and made his check to see if the generator...

TT How did you designate—?

JJ By rank. See now you got me thinking about that, I don't even know. All I know is we had to authenticate to get on the site, and whether that was us opening the gate or not, and they put site lights on for us.

TT That's basically, the FSC calls the control guys underground, tells them to turn the lights?

JJ Right, it was all done by the capsule crew.

TT Yeah, they really were in charge of the security out there, weren't they?

JJ Well yeah, monitoring the alarms and everything. They'd phone up and call the desk Sergeant and he'd dispatch us. Everything was two-man policy you know.

TT Yeah. So you never did rotate? I suppose then you got familiar with the problems in that area...

JJ Where all the sites were too.

TT Yeah. Were you ever on a camper team?

- JJ Once.
- TT Was that a special designation?
- JJ Well, they were shorthanded at the time and they were pulling guys off the regular—they had to pull one day of duty—when they couldn't reset a site. I was on a Camper Team and only once had to pull it. Yeah, I didn't like that. (laughs)
- TT I mean what, sitting in the truck the whole time?
- JJ No. You had to make your checks.
- TT Oh, they kept you moving.
- JJ Oh yeah. You didn't know what was going on, whether you were being watched, 'cause they did actually infiltrate a site, and I put a guy on the fence (laughs)...
- TT Oh yeah?
- JJ I caught hell for it, but I was doing my job.
- TT Yeah. Oh you mean, somebody from outside the base?
- JJ It was in the support building—one of the Lieutenants, oh yeah. When the Squadron themselves ran the tests you didn't know...
- TT They were testing you?
- JJ Oh yeah.
- TT Oh, OK. So they, oh, so you were sitting out there and they sent a guy out to go into the Soft Support...
- JJ No, we weren't sitting out there, they'd actually infiltrate a site you know, this was all coordinated to see your response time and see if you ran the checks right and everything.
- TT Oh, so you found this Lieutenant out there.
- JJ Oh yeah, I put him on the fence.
- TT Do you carry a gun?
- JJ Yeah, yeah.
- TT That's kinda dangerous. I'd hate to be the guy doing the testing.
- JJ (Laughs). Well, he gave us high marks for it so evidently we did it well.
- TT How often did they do that, just periodically?
- JJ Ah, they didn't do that one too often because of the weather up there, you know.
- TT Yeah, huh. Did you guys interact with the Targeting Teams when they'd come out to the sites?
- JJ No, we kept their distance.
- TT So they probably had their own separate security detail?
- JJ Oh yeah.

- TT If people wanted to access that site it was usually maintenance, Targeting Team, I suppose that's about it?
- JJ Yeah.
- TT I suppose the maintenance guys, basically they just what, called in and you just verified that they were on the site? Or would that have to come to the—
- JJ Oh, they'd have to come to the—everybody had the code, the code pages too you had to authenticate with the capsule crew.
- TT So they'd bring their codes and keys, they'd have to come and talk to the FSC?
- JJ Well, over the radio, yeah.
- TT Right, you'd assist the maintenance guys if they needed help?
- JJ Well, if there was a maintenance team on the site, there had to be security there too.
- TT So OK, you had to be there.
- JJ Well, it wouldn't be me it would be, you know, someone that would come up with them from the base I assume.
- TT Yeah, if they're opening the silo.
- JJ Yeah.
- TT But if they go into Soft Support...
- JJ No, they'd do the authentication and everything, and they'd do everything through the capsule crew. And if it didn't look right to the capsule crew, then they'd dispatch us.
- TT Right. So you'd do 12 hours on, 12 hours off. All six of you would be out there for three days and all six of you would go back, and a new team of six would come in?
- JJ Right. Plus the capsule crew so it'd be a total of eight. Well, actually, nine with the site maintenance guy, the janitor or whatever you want to call him. And a cook too so that's ten.
- JJ You said you were at those sites, recently?
- TT Oh yeah, they are still active. They have Minuteman III's.
- JJ Yeah, they were deposing or whatever when I was there.
- TT They got triple warhead MIRV out there now. Yeah, Grand Forks is closed down but Malmstrom and Minot and I think Whiteman and the one up in Wyoming, F.E. Warren? So the security alarms would go off on a periodic basis?
- JJ Yeah, they would always... like I said...
- TT You'd have 6, 7, 8 of them a night or something? I saw some of the figures and I was amazed at how often they were going off. But now it was usually just the outer alarms?
- JJ Yeah.
- TT I mean, did you respond to inner alarm?
- JJ We responded to both.

- TT I don't know if you can recall this but how often would there be problems with the inner alarm? I mean the inner alarm would seem like less of a problem than the outer alarm...
- JJ Right, they were mostly outer alarms, unless, like I said, somebody got too close to the vibration, the farmers plowing their land, but that didn't happen too often. Usually, when there was an inner alarm you more or less figured somebody's playing games with us—somebody's teasing us or something's malfunctioning, which when they did that, they had to actually post a Camper Team there until they could get a maintenance team.
- TT So when you got an inner alarm it was serious? You knew you were going to respond because it's not going to reset itself? It was just the perimeters that reset.
- JJ Yeah.
- TT OK. Let's just walk through what you can recall. You had been out there all night; it was pretty early in the morning...
- JJ Well we were...
- TT How did you first hear about this? Were you seeing anything? Over the weeks before that or weeks after that were you seeing strange stuff in the sky?
- JJ No, I never saw anything prior to that, no. I had heard stories about the bases up there, about mutilated cattle—Camper Teams, you know, finding mutilated cattle.
- TT At Minot?
- JJ I don't know if it was Minot.
- TT But, you had been out there, how did you first hear about this?
- JJ About this incident? Well, this team had stopped, like I said, to gas up, pick up food...
- TT That maintenance team.
- JJ Yeah, and whatever else they needed there, I don't know, paperwork or whatever you know, 'cause they had come by bus I believe and, they were just loading up, they fueled up, or vehicles, not busses. Actually, their vehicles, trucks and whatever and we were all in the facility and, like I said, within a half hour, seems to me like a half hour they were screaming on the radio...
- TT Do you recall where they were headed for?
- JJ That's November-7.
- TT OK, you do recall that.
- JJ See, you're saying November-7. I know it was one of the most visible from the LCF. It was almost in direct line...
- TT The base would have been just to the left of it I would think. You could see the base, right?
- JJ Minot? The air base? No.
- TT Oh, you couldn't at all.
- JJ Oh, no. (laughs) I forget how far it'd be...
- TT No, what I'm saying, at night, you could see the glow of it?

- JJ No, well maybe it could be Aurora Borealis for all we know.
- TT No, I'm saying, you know I would think at night you could see Minot out there for a long distance...
- JJ No, I don't recall that. Anyway for, within a half hour they were, you could hear them on the radio yelling and you know...
- TT Oh they called?
- JJ Yeah that this thing was hovering above them or whatever. And we all went outside. Naturally, me and the other guy had to respond. On our way to the pick up, you know, everyone else was outside and you could see it (gestures to sky).
- TT So the off-duty guys were out there too?
- JJ Yeah, yeah....
- TT And the FSC?
- JJ Well, he was in contact with the, he had to stay...
- TT Ah, so you guys just went outside and you were trying to see it—what they were talking about.
- JJ Yeah.
- TT Do you recall what they told you they were seeing in any specifics?
- JJ No, they were hysterical (laughs) like I said. Oh yeah, you could see it. And me and the other guy got in the pickup and started going down there...
- TT How long would it take you to get down there?
- JJ Probably within 15—maybe 15 minutes, 20 minutes.
- TT OK. How fast could you drive on those dirt roads?
- JJ Well, we were going pretty, pretty good—they were all dirt roads.
- TT You drove a pickup down.
- JJ Yeah. Actually, he was driving because he was leader. But he wanted no part of this (laughs).
- TT Yeah, explain that, what do you mean? Adams...
- JJ He was hysterical too.
- TT He was? Adams? I mean let's go back, did you guys see what they were seeing from N-7...
- JJ Oh yeah, we saw the lights.
- TT What were they doing?
- JJ Just lights hanging above the site (gestures indicating large light in sky). You could see the site lights plus this thing above it, alternating, you know, all kinds of pretty colors (laughs). And, we got there and they were hysterical, I mean the site was wide open we drove right in.
- TT But did [the light] remain there the whole time you drove down?

JJ Yeah.

TT So they remained in a similar position.

JJ It was like the headlights of the truck were like [pauses]. I don't even know if I put this in my report, but I saw lights coming off that, like smaller—smaller craft, going like (gestures horizontal, back and forth flight). I kept pointing out to him (excitedly) “Look at that, look at it!” I mean I was 21 years old the adrenaline was pumping. Someone said to me, “Were you scared?” I was too excited to be scared. When we got there, you know to see a man with that rank running, I mean they were all telling us “Shoot it Shoot it!”

TT They were?

JJ ...when we pulled up. Right.

TT Shoot it? It's that close?

JJ Evidently, it was close in the beginning and then it moved off, but it stayed in the vicinity you know it gained altitude or whatever, and you could not hear any engines.

TT Yeah. Now, what were you seeing on your drive down?

JJ I was seeing smaller things...

TT Out of your windshield, straight ahead?

JJ Every time we turned, lights you know (gestures side to side) it's like they knew we were coming (laughs).

TT Explain that.

JJ Whatever it was knew that someone else was coming you know, that there was a response, that's what I thought. And I saw all these other things, I mean you're talking (waves arm indicating wide sky) a big sky there and I was pointing it out to him and he says “Don't even...” (chuckles). He didn't want no part of this, I mean I ended up doing most of the talking on the radio.

TT Were you in charge of the radio or was it Adams?

JJ He was supposed to be. Yeah, well this is after we got there and we had told them we arrived and everything and you know, watched all these guys running around like...

TT So were they on a radio and you guys were on a separate radio?

JJ They were originally, I believe, and when we got there we took over because we were talking to my boss—the capsule crew, I mean there were so many people on that radio that...

TT Who else, do you recall?

JJ People from the Squadron, people at the base, then when they scramble—then when they diverted the 52, I was talking to the 52 people.

TT You were talking to the pilot?

JJ Uh, somebody...

TT Talking back and forth, or listening to it?

- JJ Well, I actually had to give them coordinates because, when they got above the site, because they normally scrambled the fighters for stuff like that—and the fact that they sent the 52, the 52 was coming in from Guam or someplace. I mean a 52 is big. By the time the 52 turned this thing was, it was over here (points far right), and then I'd give one coordinate, and then the thing was over here (points far left) and they knew this thing was playing games with them. So the adrenaline was pumping...
- TT Yeah, I'm just trying to visualize what you...
- JJ ...but as far as...
- TT Do you have a clear visual of what it was you were seeing? I suppose you were so excited at the time it's hard to...
- JJ Well whatever it was, you couldn't make the shape out. It was long and slender you know (gestures long, slender shape) with lots of lights on it, but they had in the debriefing that it was the size of a 52 with a tanker—it had come up on base radar as that big. But the thing of it was the lights, which were alternating, I mean they were bright white to a, like an amber-red and to a green, back...
- TT If you're seeing it right now how big in the sky was it—what would you compare it to?
- JJ Like I said...
- TT ..a nut or a grapefruit or a basketball?
- JJ Oh, it was bigger than that, I mean...
- TT So relative to your perception it was...
- JJ It was like the size of the 52. I mean but you couldn't make, as far as shape, you know 'saucer-like,' whatever, it was oblong (gesturing) I'd say, slender with lots of lights on it.
- TT Lots of lights, explain that.
- JJ Well (gestures upward, circles hand), bright lights. Now these lights that I saw coming off of it while we were going down there were like what you were saying—small you know, almost like shooting stars but they weren't because they were actually maneuvering (gestures curving paths), and they were going towards (pointing) that direction of Oscar Flight.
- TT Oh, they were. So they were going up north.
- JJ Yeah.
- TT So this object you were seeing in the south- southeast—or what was the direction?
- JJ In the southeast, I'd say.
- TT Yeah, and so those objects would have been going to the east of you up north maybe?
- JJ Yeah. And he [Adams] saw them too, but he didn't want to see them (laughs). I said, "Look at what's going on!" I mean...
- TT So those little objects did they just disappear, or did they come back?
- JJ They faded out. But there were so many of them.

- TT Like how many? More than ten?
- JJ Oh yeah. This is when we first started out you know, then we focused mainly on that site because we were getting more in a straight line and then we weren't seeing any more of them.
- TT Well in the official report it talks about that, on your way down that you're seeing...
- JJ Did I put that?
- TT I can't remember if it's somebody else talking about it, or if it's you, but at some point you saw two objects and one came under the other and disappeared.
- JJ Yeah, yeah.
- TT ... it's similar to what you're describing, but not as involved as what you're describing. It sounds like only a couple of objects.
- JJ Like it had separated...
- TT But on the other hand, there were reports from Juliet, Mike, and Oscar who all saw more than one object. They could have triangulated that if the investigators had tried to determine the angle of elevation you know, they could have pinpointed where it was. Do you think there was more than one object there that morning?
- JJ There was one when we got there. Whether it became one (moves hands together) I don't know.
- TT At what point did the B-52 appear relative to what we've talked about so far?
- JJ They told us that a 52 was on the way.
- TT This is later now?
- JJ This is probably after [pauses] 15-20 minutes of being there.
- TT At the site.
- JJ Right, they had diverted a 52 to help them out—to tell them where this thing was. I think they were picking it up anyway, every time the 52 took a turn—the thing was over here (gestures position in sky), then it was over here (gestures different position in sky). And I mean it just moved like nothing I ever saw.
- TT How long did you observe the B-52 in the area?
- JJ The 52 had to stay there at least 10 minutes.
- TT Where did you first see it? You're at N-[7] basically looking south, right?
- JJ It would have to be south, see, I don't even know in relation... where was November, was it south?
- TT I can show you actually [pointing to map] there's the base...
- JJ All right. So we were actually west of the base?
- TT Yeah, you were northwest [pointing to map]. This is Oscar, that's November right here.
- JJ Yeah, we were...

- TT That's you guys there so N-7's right down here, so yeah, you were northwest. There was a Camper Team over here at Oscar-6, McDowell and Johnson...
- JJ Vennedall (laughs) [pronounces: "veen-a-doll"]
- TT Did you know him?
- JJ Yeah. Unfortunately, I don't know if it was after that or what, he got busted. His .38 went off in the house I guess—fell asleep in a chair and it fell and went off and he lost his stripes.
- TT Did you know Bajiar?
- JJ Bajiar, yeah.
- TT I think he's deceased.
- JJ [Pauses looking at map] Gregory Adams. Yeah I can remember taking that ride (laughs)—actually November-4 was between the LCF and I thought that [N-7] was the closest base—but it was November-7. You're talking 37 years ago.
- TT Yeah. So the B-52 comes by and then do you recall what that B-52 did?
- JJ He just basically hung there and made his turns and I guess they identified it too, and then they picked it up and then they lost it and they wanted to know where it was in relation to where they were, and you know—"He's on your right wing now"—as soon as they made a turn, the thing was behind them (gestures maneuvering) and it just played games with them, I don't know.
- TT Yeah. You were in radio contact so you were listening to that the whole time?
- JJ I was talking to all of them (laughs), the adrenaline was pumping, you know.
- TT OK, so the B-52 was around there and you could see it for a while...
- JJ Oh yeah.
- TT How could you distinguish it?
- JJ By the lights.
- TT So it had its landing lights on.
- JJ Yeah.
- TT Could you hear it?
- JJ Oh yeah. Hear only that, I mean, I didn't hear any other noise...
- TT The maintenance guys mentioned in their reports that the object made a sound, kind of a muffled jet sound....
- JJ A faint, yeah. Once the 52 got there though, there was no way you'd be able to hear...
- TT Do you remember seeing the 52 and the object at the same time?
- JJ Oh yeah, yeah.
- TT Relative to each other? How?

- JJ Only as far as, you know (gesturing right) it to the right of them (gesturing left), then would be hanging up to the left of them. By the time that 52 turned, made a turn it was behind them again you know.
- TT OK how did the B-52 disappear?
- JJ They just started going back to the base. The next thing you know, this thing wasn't there any more. The debriefing was actually how I found out that this thing was actually following them back to the base.
- TT Yeah, you guys are seeing one thing and they're coming in, they're like 40 miles out and they got one pacing their wing. So it looks like there's two objects out there, not just one. And they look to be pretty similar.
- JJ Only (laughs, shaking head) they said it was the size of a KC [-135] and a 52 together on the radar, base radar.
- TT So the B-52 disappears, then what do you do?
- JJ He and I...
- TT It's still you four guys out there?
- JJ Two guys, just me and him.
- TT What about the maintenance guys?
- JJ They went about their business I guess. After that and he and I...
- TT Do you remember them being, staying on the site?
- JJ Pretty sure they did.
- TT But you don't have much recall of them at that point?
- JJ No, because he and I had, what, four more hours on our shift so we patrolled after that and watched the sky.
- TT Yeah. So you stayed on the site there?
- JJ For a short time. I mean we basically went on patrol after that.
- TT Oh, you checked the sites and so forth. Some of the other ones, too?
- JJ Yeah, because we had heard what was going on at Oscar too. I don't know if they told us to stay out you know...
- TT How did you hear that, and at what point did you hear that?
- JJ I don't know. We heard it at the time that they were having inner zone—they had an inner zone I believe it was, because the launch door was actually tampered with and the gates were wide open. Another thing, I guess somebody from Wright-Patterson had to come out the next day and found all this radiation.
- TT Oh, you did know that.
- JJ Yeah, on the site so I don't know if it was after the fact or when we got back to the thing if Bond told us that, you know "Oscar's having" you know, you hear about Oscar or whatever, that they had an IZ.

- TT You don't recall if you heard that on the radio at the time or after?
- JJ I don't know if they were on the same frequency as us or not. I think they were.
- TT I believe they were into your phone patch...
- JJ Yeah.
- TT The only way I know that is because there's an actual log from the Base Operations Dispatcher. He kept a log of all you guys talking you know, coincident, and he talks about Smith in there, so he must have had Smith on there. He had Mike on there, Juliet, Bond was on there, and the B-52 control tower, RAPCON so...
- JJ The missile wing probably...
- TT Probably but see, there's no information—that's sort of the higher guys listening...
- JJ Yeah, yeah.
- TT Were you aware that anybody up in the higher echelons was paying attention to what was going on at the time?
- JJ Oh, I figured with the amount of people that were involved this wasn't going to be swept under the rug. And then I think when we were debriefed by a Lieutenant Colonel, I don't know if he was the Base Ops guy or what, but the forms we filled in the interview were done by him, and he had told us a lot of the stuff such as the size of this thing. Definitely saw something, and you know...
- TT When did he do that, the next day?
- JJ When we came in, I think it was—I don't know if we were scheduled to come in that morning. I don't remember if we had another night or not.
- TT My impression is that you guys were out there at least for another day, maybe two.
- JJ That's possible.
- TT Yeah, your report form, your date on that is the 25th or 26th [actually 25th Oct], and probably when you came in you filled it out.
- JJ [nods]
- TT So you did some security checks and then went back to N-1?
- JJ Right.
- TT Do you recall that drive back? Anything happen during that drive back?
- JJ No, I was watching. I was excited about it. In fact, I had made light of the thing with this guy [Adams] because he needed it after this, because like I said, he was...
- TT ...he was scared or he just didn't want to be involved?
- JJ Yeah, he said he was too short for this stuff, you know, meaning time left in the service. I forget if he was in 'Nam or, he was somewhere in the east I think, and this was new to him. He had just probably went through school and everything, and they probably put him out there to serve a couple months, or a little less than a year maybe, he didn't know why he

was put in, because he's one guy that probably would have preferred to be in aircraft security (laughs)... 'cause it took a while to learn some of this stuff.

TT Do you remember your missile crew—the guys underground?

JJ In the capsule? No, I don't.

TT Those guys were separate from you basically. They were doing 24-hour alerts so they were rotating every 24?

JJ No, they were out there for three days also.

TT Oh, were they?

JJ Yeah.

TT Basically all you guys were on alert (laughs) for 30 years, you know. SAC was amazing. It's really something to be proud of.

JJ Yeah. I mean you didn't know who was playing games with you or if it was going to be a real thing. They were testing you constantly it was never ending. You had no free time, not much free time. That's what they said, "you'll never get out, and you'll serve four years up here. The only way you'll get a pass out of here is to another SAC base," which I found it ironic to go to a place like the Canal Zone, 'course a lot of guys went before me and told me that they were looking for guys, you know, 'you ought to put in for it and try it,' at that skill level. One guy had left and said "keep putting in for it, you might get it" and I don't know if anybody pulled strings or if this thing here had something to do with it, but I got out of SAC, and (laughs) that was a major accomplishment. It was tough, I mean, it was all spit polish, it was four years of boot camp if you're in SAC, I mean constantly.

TT Well LeMay established that, didn't he? I don't know how else you'd handle nuclear weapons without that.

JJ Yeah, which was a good thing you know...

TT What do you, what did you think it was?

JJ It made a believer out of me, almost instantly.

TT That these things existed?

JJ The fact that I saw guys with so much rank, supposedly experienced—I don't know if they ever ran into something like that before—running around like kids, the fact that they were saying "Shoot it, Shoot it!" when we pulled up I mean...

TT Are you talking about Robert O'Connor?

JJ I really don't know.

TT But whoever was the highest rank at N-7 at the time is who you're referring to?

JJ (Nods yes). See, I never met them personally. All I know is I saw a guy with stripes up and down his arm, you know, actually in frantic (laughs)—I mean we could see it and evidently the thing had come closer to them before we were there.

TT Well, they were just 500 feet away at times.

JJ Yeah, so it was actually hovering right above 'em.

- TT Yeah. Did you at any time, besides the B-52; did you see any other aircraft during that whole time?
- JJ No, 52's on the base you could hear them coming in all the time—there's a lot of noise. That's why, you know, I'm not sure how far the base was, had to be 30 miles? You'd never hear aircraft up there anyway.
- TT So the B-52's had regular routes around the base...
- JJ Yeah, well the 52 had to be low too, I mean, he wasn't way up there, he was...
- TT If he was at 20,000 would you even see him?
- JJ Probably not.
- TT Yeah. So he had to be down below maybe 10...
- JJ Yeah. That's why when you ask me in relationship, who knows? This thing could have been above him from my perspective rather than right at the same level.
- TT Were you aware of the fact that at some point this thing landed? At any point in your experience did you see it, or know that it landed?
- JJ Like I said, Adams and I—every time we saw a light in the sky, (laughs) I mean, we were riding around you know, and I made light of the situation that—remember the show *The Invaders*?
- TT Yeah, of course.
- JJ Anyway I said to Adams the people up there were aliens, I said, 'you know, it looked like they landed in a barn at one point...I mean bright lights (gestures coming down). But you don't know because of the elevation of the roads and everything whether if it's a vehicle, I mean it's pretty dark out there. We were over the ground and as far as it landing I don't know. Once the 52 went back, I don't think we really saw anything you know, viable after that.
- TT Yeah. [Reading from the documents] "When first dispatched..." this is you, "When first dispatched to N-7 another object exactly the same appeared out of the east and had picked up speed on a path moving toward the other. Never did see the two join or meet as the second one disappeared and no longer could be seen." Adams concurs, "when enroute to N-7, another object appeared, same as the first one, they seemed to get pretty close at one time, and all of a sudden one disappeared."
- TT You have any thoughts about that?
- JJ That's probably what happened. I mean, my recollection has probably dimmed. I mean there was so much going on at once.
- TT Here's a description of the object that you gave. [Reading from Jablonski's AF-117 report form]. "Object was self-luminous with glowing orange-red, white, greenish alternating, and at times combinations could be seen. Object appeared rather solid although not very wide and slender in shape, edges were fuzzy, lights were much too bright to determine the exact shape, the object appeared much brighter than a star." In terms of the movement and in response to whether this was due to your movement," you noted, "No, not due to our movement but the behavior pattern of the phenomenon. Object appeared a orangish-red

lighted, seemed to switch to almost completely white and there was some green. This pattern was not always the same, and at certain times a combination of all could be seen at once. Object at first seemed to hover, then move away, speed up always alternating in color, then lights would vanish, then return some five minutes later.”

JJ Yeah.

TT Adams responded, “Our movement had no relationship to appearing and disappearing of UFO. UFO seemed to assume a stationary position at first, then a hovering position, it would speed up. The reddish-orange light kept changing, white and occasionally green lights were self-luminous and very bright, size and shape hard to distinguish. I could never distinguish the shape because of the bright light, however, it seemed to be shaped as a wiener.”

JJ Yeah. I can go along with that.

TT “This is the best description I can give, but I am completely, I am not completely sure of the shape.” And you guys made some drawings too. And later you say, [reading] “At the time when the B-52 entered the vicinity, the object had various maneuvers which occurred basically in one general area. It stayed pretty well south southeast of the launch facility...”

JJ LF, yeah.

TT [reading] “...but had several times started northward and westward.”

JJ Right.

TT That make sense? It’s moving northward and westward but seems to be returning back to the south southwest?

JJ Right, right...

TT [Reading from Jablonski’s AF-117]. “For some reason it appeared to be trying to travel west but we never did see it take the direct path.” Do you know what that means?

JJ Because the lights were not always on it. When it made a move you know, it was without the lights.

TT Oh really?

JJ Right. That’s what was so tough with the 52 because they wanted coordinates and everything, but when the lights were off you could not see it, you know, as dark as it was. Only when it’s lights were on you know...

TT You’re talking about the B-52 now.

JJ No the object.

TT So your impression was the thing was there all the time but it, the lights would go on and off so you couldn’t see it when the lights went off.

JJ Right.

TT ...then the lights would go back on.

JJ When it made a move it’s usually when the lights were off.

TT Oh, and then the light would appear in another spot.

- JJ Right. It's when it was hovering that you could actually see all these (gestures), all these pretty lights and everything you know. That's when it was staying in one place. But when it actually went to move you might see a little white, and then nothing—blank you know, and then here it is over here (gestures to upper right), then here it is over here (gestures to upper left) I mean...
- TT That's the first time I heard anybody describe it that way.
- JJ Yeah.
- TT Now I understand better the confusion.
- JJ Right. That's why it was so hard to get this 52 to you know—where is he now? I mean, good question! (laughs)
- TT That's like an otter in the lake...
- JJ Yeah! Right.
- TT ...when they go under the water, you never know where they're coming up next. OK here's the Base Operations Dispatcher, and I'm pretty sure he's referring to you guys who were in your vehicle on your way back to N-1—time's about 4:40 [reading] “At that time N-7 picked up object again, 3 miles west of site. Stationary, seems to be on the ground, lights bright orange, then illuminated to white, then white disappeared and green came on.” That ring any bells?
- JJ Yeah.
- TT And then these are his final entries here “04:44: Disappeared.” “04:45. In sight—stationary position.” At 5:04: “Object has moved—still west of N-7. Now stationary once more.” At this point it has moved quite a bit to be in the west. And at 5:10: “2 miles east of N-7—object still 5 miles west of him approximately 50 feet off ground stationary green lights.” Were you on the radio as you were driving back up there, did you continue to be in contact?
- JJ I don't recall.
- TT Yeah, and what they're saying is, “object still 5 miles west...
- JJ Which is possible because they would not just let us ride around, I mean we would have to return. I don't see them just going out for a joy ride watching the sky, we were still following lights.
- TT Yeah, right. Here's you again [reading] “When the plane had started to travel to the base and after it was out of sight, we had also started back to N-1. Our attention was again caught when it appeared approximately 5 miles due west where it remained until it disappeared about 15 minutes later.” So you're driving north and this thing would be to your west and you watched it, apparently you watched it, it was “...5 miles due west where it remained until it disappeared...” 15 minutes afterward, so, that would have been almost your whole drive up...
- JJ Right.
- TT That thing was sitting on the horizon at what you thought to be 5 miles away. So that's you, oh “It had appeared as before, starting bright orange-red to white and finally green. The

object was stationary at the time and had appeared approximately 1,000 feet off the ground. The green light started to diminish slowly until no longer seen.”

JJ Right.

TT Like the green light just...

JJ Right.

TT “Jablonski again described the object at the time of their last sighting, as previously stated although the object appeared to be solid matter, the illumination rendered no logical shape to be determined. It had appeared quite slim and not very wide. The object appeared to move more westerly each time, but never could be seen in the westerly direction until the last and final illumination at 5:10 lasting until approximately 5:18 when it no longer could be seen.”

JJ Huh. You know I forget all that. I forget the length of the report I mean...

TT Well, you saw that thing until 5:18.

JJ Right, right.

TT You first saw it at 3:08, so you guys watched it for over two hours and 10 minutes.

JJ Right.

TT Here’s Bond, [reading from Bond’s AF-117]. Bond responded to the same question regarding how it disappeared. “Appeared to land and slowly changed to a dim green. After about 15 minutes it disappeared (gradually).” So while you guys were driving up he saw the exact same thing you were seeing...or I suppose you were talking...

JJ Oh we would have to be because, like I said, we would not be just out there on our own.

[Transcript end]

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<sup>1</sup> “The Lackawanna Six” (following from AltPress: <http://www.altpressonline.com>)

In prosecuting and sentencing six men from Lackawanna, New York under a law known as the Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, our Government violated their First Amendment freedoms and denied them the Due Process of Law.

The men were charged with attending an al-Quaida training camp in Afghanistan in the Spring of 2001. After they were arrested in September 2002, each defendant admitted training at the camp but denied any intention to engage in acts of terrorism.

The Lackawanna Six were sentenced in December 2003. Muktar al-Bakri had just been married before he was arrested. He was given a sentence of ten years. Yasein Taher, married with one child, received a sentence of eight years. Shafal Mosed was also sentenced to eight years. At the time of his sentencing, Mosed said, “I was never part of a sleeper cell or affiliated with any terrorist organization. I was part of a group of people who made a terrible mistake...” Mosed had been convinced by recruiters in early 2001 that it was his religious duty to travel to the camp. He left without completing the training.

Yahya Goba was sentenced to ten years. The Court refused to recommend that he be imprisoned in the federal prison closest to his wife and daughter in Lackawanna. Faysal H. Galab, married with three children, received a sentence of seven years. Former president of his Lackawanna mosque, Sahim Alwan, married, was given nine and one-half years. He had faked an ankle injury so that he could leave the training camp early. The men were charged under the federal anti-terrorism statute with providing material support to al-Quaida which, prior to September 11, 2001, had been designated by the Secretary of State as a “foreign terrorist organization.” The designation was published in the Federal Register, a thick compendium of federal rules and regulations not found on the shelves of most local public libraries. Specifically, the men were charged with providing material support in the form of training. The training consisted of paying for a uniform, attending the training camp where they learned to use weapons, and standing guard duty. The charges against them also specified viewing videotapes concerning the bombing of the USS Cole and speeches by Osama Bin-Laden.

None of the defendants engaged in acts that were, at the time, obviously criminal in nature. It was not until several months after their return from Afghanistan that planes crashed into the World Trade Center, and the United States embarked on its virtually endless “war on terrorism.”

The maximum sentence faced by the men under the charges brought against them was 25 years. All of the defendants were in their twenties when arrested. Each defendant was convicted on the basis of a guilty plea entered into in order to avoid the possibility of receiving the maximum sentence. As part of the plea arrangement, the Government agreed to forego “any right it has to detain the defendant as an enemy combatant...”