The Great Trident Sub-Launched Missile
California Freak-Out of Nov 7, 2015
[and what it can teach us about UFO witnesses]

James Oberg
November 16, 2015
Draft-2
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA — The video is stunning. After a few seconds of being just a bright dot in the sky, the object erupts in an ominous, bluish, alien-esque light for close to 30 seconds. In a video that's now been seen over three million times on YouTube, Julien Solomita (YouTube/JSOLO) rushes to the roof of his building just in time to catch the object that many believed was a UFO.
Weirdness and beauty in the sky

Link tbs
Trident missile launch sparks UFO freakout in Los Angeles and on Twitter
Overview

- What was it?
- What’s the missile story?
- Why do they look that way?
- What did witnesses report seeing?
- What witness perceptions WOULD be useful?
- Which photos were useful?
- Which photos were bogus?
- When and where has a mass freak-out from sub-launched missile launches happened before?
- What was the ‘official story’ of this event?
- What does this event teach us for the future, about what weird once-in-a-lifetime sky spectacles can seem like?
Fairly ‘standard’ missile launch plume

• Have been seen and described for half a century
• Special circumstances of twilight [ground dark, missile plume high enough to catch over-horizon sunlight]
• This one California, November 7, 2015, 6 PM local time
• Others seen in Florida, Norway, Russia, Australia, China, Spain, even aboard International Space Station
• Usually “once in a lifetime” for startled viewers
• Witness accounts vary enormously in quality with many, many misperceptions of motion, distance
• Without launch documentation, identifying cause as a missile can be harder than one might expect
All over the world, startled crowds have been confronted with such once-in-a-lifetime sights.

Residents of Astrakhan marvel at missile plume, 2013.
GET A GRIP

• It was a Trident missile launch from a sub
• It was not a secret space force warp drive
• It was not a UFO
• It was not Chinese, Russian, or North Korean
• It was not an interdimensional portal
• It was not a wormhole
• It was not a black hole
• It was not an angel or a demon
• It WAS mighty impressive and for many, scary
Half a century into the Space Age, why do many NOT know what rocket launches look like?

• Twilight launches look particularly spectacular
• News coverage of previous launches shows only early phases viewed from near the launch pad
• Many still EXPECT rockets to go straight UP
• Estimating flight direction high in the sky is more difficult than commonly imagined
• Brightness variations are easily misinterpreted as distance variation
• Often, “What You See Is What You Expected” is the dominating principle
• Widespread “UFO Culture” predisposes perception
• Many people get enormous thrill in imagining they are in possession of secret or illicit knowledge, that makes them smarter than other people who are brainwashed.
Many still EXPECT rockets to go UP [Effects of line-of-sight geometry]

From near launch site, eyeball viewing angle actually goes ‘steady’ briefly and then begins going down as engine plume widens in more vacuum state. Most people still don’t know this.

http://www.thespacereview.com/article/971/1
Climb-out angle for ICBM vs satellite can be similar, but ICBMs shut off engines MUCH sooner.

Modified from link TBS
Spectacular launch apparition requires a particular rare solar illumination condition

As with observing artificial satellites, best results are obtained only when observer is in a dark region, and object is high enough to be in full sunlight from ‘over the horizon’. Depending on local season and latitude, this may only occur for about 5% of any 24-hour period. Throw in local cloud cover and the odds of a random launch making such a show are surprisingly low.

http://www.saao.ac.za/~wgssa/as3/roberts.html
TWILIGHT = "JUST RIGHT"

NIGHT = TOO DARK
DAY = TOO BRIGHT
Rocket plumes aren’t like jet plumes or flamethrower plumes or smoke plumes

- First 50-60 kilometers of ascent, smoke trail is narrow, hemmed in and buoyed by air
- This ‘floating’ portion is quickly zig-zagged by strong high-altitude crosswinds
- Entering purer vacuum above the von Karman ’line’ [~ 100 km], plume widens to fan shape
- Both engine exhaust [wide fan] and hydraulic pressure generator [to steer engines] exhaust [narrow trail] can leave visually distinguishable plumes
- Earlier [lower] portions of plume may not be fully sunlit for some ‘twilight flights’ [time-of-day dependent]
In space, plumes are even weirder than THAT!!

- Unlike atmospheric plumes suspended by buoyancy, plumes in space are clouds of effluent particles following ballistic trajectories so they behave in a literally unearthly manner.
- Exhaust velocity is typically ~ 2 km/sec so early in ascent the particles are quickly flung back down into the atmosphere.
- But as vehicle climbs and accelerates, with speed in the range 3-4 km/sec, the particles ejected from an already-fast-moving vehicle still retain significant forward speed with significant upwards angle – they are ‘lofted’ en masse through space, seem to ‘follow’ the missile, and only slowly disperse and fall.
- This odd effect is enhanced as upper stages pitch over closer to horizontal – and a special category of recent Russian ICBM tests actually burn the third stage angled slightly downwards, thus giving plume particles a substantially greater UPWARDS initial component and extending their lifetime before air impact.
- NONE of this behavior is what normal people would EXPECT.
- AGAIN: NONE OF THIS BEHAVIOR IS WHAT WITNESSES EXPECT.
Witnesses need to measure the sky

Stretch out your arm as shown here.

Witnesses need to record direction of sighting [and report their location as well]

Observer-centric descriptions such as “over the lake” or “toward Albany” are useless without recording [even if during a subsequent site revisit] azimuth as accurately as possible. Surprisingly large numbers of reports are made useless by neglecting to describe the observer’s location.

Recollections of clock time can have astonishingly large errors. Duration estimates can diverge from actual events by factors of 2, 3, or more [best trick – sing a favorite song and remember how often you repeated it].
Where did THIS apparition come from?

- Wide range of guesses by witnesses
- Ambiguity in official DoD pronouncements
- Seemed ‘over land’ or “right over the city”
- Accurate azimuth estimates extremely rare
- Photographs with known landmarks usable
- DoD had issued NAVWARN message ahead
BOTH missile launches WERE predicted

NAVAREA XII 363/15 [1 of 5][[WWWWSFOLDER]]
EASTERN NORTH PACIFIC. CALIFORNIA.
HAZARDOUS OPERATIONS.
1. HAZARDOUS OPERATIONS 071600Z TO 080300Z AND
091600Z TO 100300Z NOV IN AREAS:
A. BOUND BY
32-09N 119-30W, 32-36N 119-30W,
32-27N 117-34W, 32-00N 117-34W.
C. BETWEEN 32-12N 32-54N AND 131-00W 127-12W.
D. BOUND BY
29-42N 159-12W, 30-42N 159-24W,
31-54N 152-00W, 30-54N 151-42W.
E. BOUND BY
12-30N 151-00E, 13-30N 150-00E,
17-15N 157-30E, 16-15N 158-30E.
2. CANCEL THIS MSG 100400Z NOV 15.//

[Translation] From
Nov 7, 8 AM PST to 7 PM,
and Nov 9, 8 AM to 7 PM

Region ‘A’ is
west southwest
from San Diego

Zone ‘E’ is located 500 km
north of Kwajelain Atoll
[8°43’N 167°44’E].

Issue date November 2, 2015
Specified zones – launch and first stage disposal [missile seen from as far as Idaho, Utah, Arizona]
Launch area from NAVWARN bulletin
Awesome shot contains vital data

• Link/credit
View from downtown Los Angeles
[google street view courtesy Chadwickus]

Google map allows estimation of azimuth approx 210 degrees.
Photo azimuth puts missile right on predicted path
What did the missiles do?

• Aimed at far western Pacific Ocean
• Followed standard fast three-stage ascent on constant heading
• ONE amazing stabilized video captured post-burnout bus deployments of multiple warheads
• ICBM post-insertion maneuvers fairly standard
• Decoy deployment process probably very highly sensitive
November 2, 2015 – NAVWARN message issued

NAVAREA XII 363/15 [1 of 5][[WWNWSFOLDER]]

EASTERN NORTH PACIFIC.
CALIFORNIA.
HAZARDOUS OPERATIONS.
1. HAZARDOUS OPERATIONS 071600Z TO 080300Z AND
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   E. BOUND BY
      12-30N 151-00E, 13-30N 150-00E,
      17-15N 157-30E, 16-15N 158-30E.
2. CANCEL THIS MSG 100400Z NOV 15.

Authority: NAVAIRWARCEN 301645Z Oct 15.
Date: 020743Z Nov 15
Cancel: 10040000 Nov 15

Although alert message does NOT explicitly list event as ‘missile test’, the five linear-aligned zones are typical of launch, first stage impact, shroud impact, second and third stage impact – and since Kwajelain impact site is already permanently controlled air space, no explicit call out is needed there.
Post-boost countermeasures deployment [typical] [after approx 3 minute launch phase]
Post-boost warhead deployments
Sequence of warhead events after completion of boost phase [Trident]

Vertical scale exaggerated
Stabilized telephoto view of 13 minutes
http://youtu.be/cc0_wZat4nl
Annotated video of warhead deployments

http://imgur.com/gallery/ylKYd
Details of warhead deploy -- extraordinary

THIRD STAGE TERMINATION AND CLEARANCE. BOOST PHASE NOW OVER
AKA 3RD STAGE SEPARATION

WARHEADS /GUIDANCE SYSTEMS "ASSEMBLY"

Time on clip 1:35
low altitude orbit

link
Hundreds of other videos, literally millions of hits

- Examples TBS
CAUTION: Posted images NOT all authentic
Example this time: Major photo blooper

• Most photos had no information on location or azimuth/elevation of object – so useless
• Only a handful had such critical information
• Views were from north of track with object motion left to right, at varying angles from abeam to nearly end on
• One set of images [featured on Drudge and other newspaper websites around the world] showed view from SOUTH of track – how??
Strange shot from impossible angle

NOVEMBER 7, 2015

LIGHT IN CALIFORNIA SKY ON NOVEMBER 7: FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO LOS ANGELES, REPORTS OF UFO, COMET, OR NAVAL TEST FIRE ABOUND [VIDEOS]

PAULA MOONEY

• Missile launched due west from near center of red box, and climbed and pitched over even farther west.
• To get plume view from left of track slightly aft of abeam, photographer would have to be located off Mexico coast
Image was used around the world

‘Spooky’ California missile test sparks frenzy on social media

Same-angle different image had strange climate feature [look closely]

Media used ‘Southern California’ photo showing snow covered ground – but didn’t notice.
Origin: “Humanoid History” tweet tries to be helpful, but innocently muddies the waters badly

Apparently in an attempt to allow comparison of witness views of the California event to other rocket launches around the world, the tweet sent out four explicitly-identified stock images of launches from Plesetsk in NW Russia – but mass media published them as views of THIS event. Angle on plume would have required photographer to be on boat south of San Diego.
Witness reports

- Collected from posts on youtube and news websites – hundreds of videos, thousands of reports
- Most accounts were basically accurate
- Many reported unusual direction and speed changes
- Some reported features like ‘headlights’
- MANY were from people who were SURE that it just could NOT be a missile because it violated some strongly-felt but delusional feature of ‘real missiles’
Typical witness report

• Nov, 7 2015 @ 10:07 PM
• If this is what i saw at 6pm pacific time directly to the south of my home then it was a rocket launch. i got to see the last 2 stages and it was heading due west out over the pacific. a strange direction to go for a rocket launch since it requires a bit more velocity to reach orbit. also its exhaust plume had a whitish green glow to it.
• im wondering if this could coincide with the launches nasa did on the atlantic coast last month that released barium clouds for a study. in there description of that launch they said it could leave a plume glowing blueish green or purplish red.
• i took a picture but it looks like it couldnt pickup the glowing exhaust plume but imma try to give it a closer look once im done posting this and upload it to my computer.
• maybe someone who knows how to use some photo editing software can tweak it to bring out the plume.
Hey everybody, I was off highway 152 in Gilroy. I was eating outside Sonics and took a video of this thing at close range, you can see the fuel Vapor or whatever it is.

This was unlike any rocket/missile I have ever seen. It was able to hover and change directions. It was coming directly overhead and then stopped for a minute and just sorta Hovered/loitered for a minute.

We actually thought it was a Helicopter because it was FLASHING a REALLY REALLY BRIGHT white light towards us... After a minute or two we realized it wasn't a helicopter when it stopped loitering and started heading NorthWest...

Personally I think this was some new technology, it didn't make a sound and was pretty close to us. I'm not sure what kinda rocket can do that kinda maneuver and not make a sound... Pretty amazing.
Anyways the video I have shows it coming up from the south but is coming from Over Land NOT water. But I think maybe that's because I'm on the coast by Gilroy (101/152 Sonics) it might have started over water but because it was coming Northwest maybe I was just at a point were its trajectory took it over NorCal for a few miles.

Also as to the loitering/hovering I observed: It was coming Directly over head and seemed to pause for a minute or so, then became An EXTREMELY BRIGHT White light. Then Changed Direction and headed MORE WEST than North, which it was originally headed Northwest but not so much West as the new Trajectory.......  

I think what explains that is the rocket maybe was between booster firing stage or something and since it was coming directly at us seemed to not move for a minute. Then the next stage of the booster kicked on and that was the REALLY bright white light I saw, and maybe when that was igniting it also changed its trajectory more west and that's why it changed direction and seemed super bright for a second is because the booster turned toward us and appeared like a spot light from a helicopter..

The video I have is right after the flash/booster kicks on because that's what made me run to the car and grab my phone. Also it shows the green exhaust/fuel plume and there's a few trees between us and the rocket from our viewpoint. We were facing directly south and the beach is directly west of where we were. So that shows/proves it came over land here in NorCal for at least a short while.
EyeWitnesses

• **arensel84** -- I saw it directly overhead in Bakersfield, CA. It was stationary, then moved west as amazing colors burst out, leaving a greenish blue hue that lingered for 20 mins. This was illuminated substance. After going west it stopped again. Then it went directly up towards space. It made a teardrop tail as it went up.

• **arensel84** -- I saw it as it began making a spot light effect. At first I thought it was the police copter. This thing had some serious energy technology!
More eyewitnesses

- **TheRoot Message** -- I saw it first hand from the beginning... I was standing at my door looking towards the mountains with the ocean behind it (I'm 20 miles from the coast of Malibu). Then saw a fire like object flying up into the sky, and watched if fly for about 45 seconds then BAM it exploded into some nuclear / radiation like substance that looked like an alien transforming with the most amazing colors/gas show I have ever seen.. A huge gas like substance covered the entire sky immediately and poured down ... It looks like some sort of nuke/gas bomb.

- **sploofmonkey** == The missile 'theory' is not plausible, they move at high speeds, and this object was moving quite slow. Observing the object, it first appears as a blue orb, than a light orange orb, then back to blue. The object starts to expand in size, at blue light, then a blue beam appears behind object, about 100 yards long. The orb starts to expand and then dissipates along with blue beam and disappears. Could be some kind of hi-tech fireworks/pyrotechnics attached to a drone.
Motion misperception

- **Tine Woodbe**  I saw it first hand standing right at the shore. It looked similar to the video you linked right up until it appears it exploded into a massive bright light miles in diameter, then a cloud trial could be seen falling from the apparent impact area into the ocean. Seen with my own eyes, have photos. Also, it was traveling south to northeast, coming toward land! still miles out mind you, but too close for comfort as far as I'm concerned. I'm not thinking government conspiracy or UFO's or any crazy s--t, just appears to have been a military test that didn't go as planned, s--t happens.

- Trail ... was coming somewhat toward us rather than going across the sky, then much of the sky lit up into a bright light and a trail of smoke fell into the ocean. Photos and video I captured and what I've seen online are decent, but seeing it first hand it was very clear because the light was so bright you could see the smoke trails very clearly. And the plume glowed a whitish/green in the night sky for a long time afterward. I'm not all that freaked out about the event itself, the military has amazing tech, it's just the trajectory and the proximity to a metropolitan area that has me puzzled, concerned and somewhat irked.

- [ADD] "Somewhat toward us," not coming directly at us, but northeast coming from waters south of U.S. off Mexico coast.
Distorted perceptions of motion and location

- **Spartan** -- This object flew right above my place, I live 50 Miles east of San Francisco.
- **Lancer Savage** -- I saw it yesterday it was scary as f**k, I was in palmdale cali and it was bright turned off and than it went straight towards us! I ran thinking that it would land on palmdale!
- **Jim Saetern** -- Witnessed this evening from Stockton CA. Object look like it was heading North. After the bright trail it look like turn heading northwest.
- **SI RICKO** -- I live in the city of corona california this was right over my house I seen it all.
- **Bryon Guyton** -- The one I saw didn't head in a constant direction it actually paused and then changed direction. The interesting thing is that it kept moving away slowly but the direction of the light went from facing me to facing away.
- **Joker Aye** -- It's not a missile idiots. Missiles are not capable of being still nor spiral in colors
Reports of unusual features

• **TRUTH HAS NO AGENDA** -- I was there saw the whole thing while walking my dogs at sunset cliffs san diego - it came up from BELOW the horizon lighting up the ocean long before we actually saw anything (it was that far out to sea) then it looked like lights from an aircraft. once it reached the zenith of the sky it stopped and created a HUGE halo of light with a green light at the center. and then over 20 minutes it all faded away. ...

• **Jacob Poston** -- ok so I was at ski beach tonight and happen to witness this first hand and it started as a small light that started to expand to an orb straight up no missile it created an orb of epic proportion was almost like a small sphere of light that was visible for a total of 30 min was definitely mind blowing and was breath taking no doubt in my mind that it was a worm whole or star gate 2 objects came out during expansion!!!!
Skeptical of official explanations....

- **Aaron Andrade** -- missiles and rockets don't light up like that and dim down shift and go away from the earth leaving behind a trail much less two trails like that so I don't buy that story... meteorites, comets and other objects don't have the spotlight effect and the don't burn as consistently or as long as that thing did, this object looked like a helicopter spotlight shining through a really thin cloud causing a glare, I don't that story either, this was something else, the government lies about this stuff and most sceptics don't go with anything but comets and things like that because if it's not one it's the other...

- **Matthew Lavoie** --- Well, I bartend at a bar on the Venice Beach boardwalk, and I can tell you my whole bar saw it. You could see the lights in front of the (rocket?) exhaust....the Navy says it was a Trident test. So my first question is: Do Trident missiles have lights or exhaust somewhere along the fuselage that would explain this instance?

- **Neal G** -- Those are flares at 1:50. I believe some time portal was opened up again (in the beginning). As it looks like light coming "out" of a section or a hole in the sky.
Previous similar events?

- Trident launch a year earlier
- September 2013 Trident in N. Atlantic
- Poseidon SLBM tests, mid-1970s
Another launch [not quite as spectacular]

Precursor event – Trident of September 12, 2014

TRIDENT MISSILE LAUNCH SPARKS UFO REPORTS

On the morning of September 12th, west coast observers were treated to an interesting sky display that generated UFO reports and a lot of media attention. This event demonstrated, once again, that UFO organizations do not appear to be interested in solving UFO cases. Instead, they choose to promote UFO mysteries.

The event

Around 6:00 AM, on the 12th of September, observers in California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada reported seeing a large comet-like object in the sky that was visible for several minutes. This image of object (see image to the left) taken from the south facing camera of Kneeland airport in northern California demonstrates how prominent it was to the observers.1

The most likely source of the event was something launched from Vandenberg AFB but there were no launches that morning. Another source that was considered was that it was a meteor. However, meteors do not last that long and their debris trails/ion trains usually do not appear like this. When I saw the images, I thought that it was a venting rocket booster that was in orbit. However, Ted Molczan assured me that there was no booster that could have produced the display. For 24 hours, I was stumped until I read one news report involving a statement by the US Navy.

• Tim Printy link TBS
This launch too was pre-warned

- NAVAREA XII 309/2014 (GEN)
- (Cancelled by NAVAREA XII 323/2014)
- NORTH PACIFIC.
- MISSILES.
- 1. HAZARDOUS OPERATIONS 110800Z TO 180001Z SEP IN AREAS:
  - A. BOUND BY
    - 34-24N 124-45W, 34-38N 123-00W,
    - 35-00N 123-00W, 35-20N 124-45W.
  - B. BETWEEN
    - 34-30N 34-54N AND 127-54W 129-06W.
  - C. BOUND BY
    - 34-06N 134-30W, 34-12N 131-18W,
    - 34-48N 131-18W, 34-36N 134-30W.
  - D. BOUND BY
    - 29-12N 161-30W, 30-06N 157-24W,
  - E. BOUND BY
    - 15-54N 165-00E, 18-00N 169-00E,
    - 18-42N 168-30E, 17-00N 164-36E.
- 2. CANCEL THIS MSG 180101Z SEP 14.
- ( 060940Z SEP 2014 )

These boundaries include an area about 200 miles SSW of San Francisco and another area that was between Kwajalein and Wake island.
Even experienced skywatchers stumbled....

- The American Meteor Society ['AMS'] used [eyewitness] data to give us a location for where the object was seen. It was most interesting that the bulk of observations pointed towards the launch area identified by the NOTAM provided by Molczan.

- Another item revealed by the AMS data is the fact that some observers just got their directions mixed up. This indicates the inherent problem with isolated UFO reports. Individual witnesses might get their directions wrong. It is only when one gets a collection of individual sightings from different locations does it become clear where the observed object was probably located.
UFO groups rejected missile explanation

MUFON and NUFORC... data was so bad, that Jason McClellan, of Open Minds and “Hanger one” fame, concluded that “experts” were perplexed by this event and implied that this UFO was something that could not be explained.

September 10, 2013 event in Atlantic Ocean

Recent Trident launch accidentally imaged from Canary Islands

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-v_LsiRQLLj4/UkK7R4HuZOI/AAAAAAAACj0/7gfV-Zwsbd8/s1600/missile_map.png
(090508Z SEP 2013)
HYDROLANT 2203/2013 (57)
(Cancelled by HYDROLANT 2203/2013)

SOUTH ATLANTIC.
ROCKETS.
1. HAZARDOUS OPERATIONS 091400Z TO 140130Z SEP IN AREA BOUND BY
09-18S 000-26W, 09-50S 000-32E,
12-03S 002-39E, 13-40S 004-09E,
14-09S 003-49E, 13-06S 001-56E,
11-05S 000-58W, 10-55S 001-05W,
09-56S 000-50W.
2. CANCEL THIS MSG 140230Z SEP 13
The potential target area is in the eastern part of the South Atlantic, between St. Helena and the coast of Gabon and Congo.

http://sattrackcam.blogspot.nl/2013/09/more-on-september-10-mid-atlantic.html
Observatory camera caught plumes

Side view of post-launch warhead deploy burns possibly analogous to back-end views in video from Nov 7, 2015 California event

• Tbs link langbroeck
Major series of ‘unsolved UFO cases’ were seen from Canary Islands in 1970s
[solved as Poseidon launches, 2004 – see Ballester-Olmos]

- The UFO incidents so explained are the following:
  - **November 22nd, 1974, Madeira Island.** A red light was seen climbing very quickly, then created a circular halo. This phenomenon recurred three times.
  - **June 22nd, 1976.** From the horizon a point of light was climbing, developing until it became a big brilliant semicircular halo. A foreign tourist was able to take a photo of the phenomenon.
  - **November 19th, 1976.** A point of light began to climb in a spiral, developing and expanding up to a gigantic diameter.
  - **March 24th, 1977.** A reddish light seemed to emerge from the sea, and was seem climbing very fast, revolving and leaving behind a big halo which lasted ten minutes.
  - **March 5th, 1979.** The most spectacular one. Multicolored concentric rings were seen at the horizon. From them a point of light moved out leaving a luminous jet that began to expand developing a huge bright dome. Tens of photos were obtained that were mistakenly considered as UFOs by the most sensationalist Spanish ufologists.
Solution to Canary Islands ‘UFO Wave’

• Newly released US DoD files showed pattern of salvo-fire test launches at the dates/time of previously-unsolved major cases

• [http://www.ikaros.org.es/misiles.htm](http://www.ikaros.org.es/misiles.htm)
• [http://www.ikaros.org.es/canen.htm](http://www.ikaros.org.es/canen.htm) [english]
• “Navy Missile Tests and the Canary Islands UFOs”, by V.J. Ballester Olmos and Ricardo Campo Perez, International UFO Reporter, vol 29 [4(winter)], 2005, cover and pp 3-9, 26

November 19, 1976, Canary Islands

- On November 19, 1976, the Commanding General of the Canaries' Air Zone, Gen. Carlos Dols de Espejo, and his aides observed first-hand another large halo while flying on an Air Force T-12 transport plane. The crew of a Spanish Navy training ship and the personnel at the Gando Air Base also reported the phenomenon.

- Richard Dolan discusses the Canary Island Sphere Incident and addresses the 'threadbare' debunker argument (around 19:20)
Canary Islands, mid-1970s

In context of later sightings and images, visual similarity with other missile tests is compelling
"... The object stopped tenths of a second and then moved horizontally almost up ... then stopped less than half a second ... picked up a foot or gates as they closed the jets (?) And rushed off to the sky ... It gave off smoke, fumes or light energy ..."

(Antonio Gonzalez Llopis, photographer. From the vicinity of Puerto Rico. Isla de Gran Canaria.)

• Link tbs
"... Suddenly there appeared a very strong focus, behind the mountain to Tenerife ... I had a pyramid and had a rocking motion. It was moving at slow speed ..."
(Owner of an art studio. Playa de Mogan. Southwestern Gran Canaria).
"This was not a missile. The" trail "was totally different ..." (Gilberto Naranjo. Technical TVE. Izaña).

"We saw some small items that fitted the large disk ..." (Witnesses who refused to provide their identities. Island

- Link tbs
The ‘humanoids’

• One intriguing report from the Canaries flap had achieved superstar status in UFO pantheon
• While other witnesses were watching a fuzzy globe of light near the western horizon, a Spanish doctor returning home from a night house call reported seeing a globular craft inside of which he perceived shapes of two humanoids
• He judged the globe to be floating over the road about a hundred meters in front of him.
• He did not report ALSO seeing the fuzzy globe seen by all other witnesses in the same section of the sky
Dr. Francisco Padrón León.

“...as we entered the last part of the road, the car lights pointed at a slightly luminous sphere that was stationary and very close to the ground, although I can't say for sure if it was touching it; it was made of a totally transparent and crystalline-like material, since it was possible to see through it the stars in the sky; it had an electric blue color but tenuous, without dazzling; it had a radius of about 30 m., and in the lower third of the sphere you could see a platform of aluminum-like color as if made of metal, and three large consoles. At each side of the center there were two huge figures of 2.50 to 3 m. tall, but no taller than 3 m., dressed entirely in red and facing each other in such a way that I always saw their profile."

"Then I observed that some kind of bluish smoke was coming out from a semi-transparent central tube in the sphere, covering the periphery of the sphere's interior without leaking outside at any moment. Then the sphere began to grow and grow until it became huge like a 20-story house, but the platform and the crew remained the same size; it rose slowly and majestically and it seems I heard a very tenuous whistling."

"The sphere, now high, was moving slowly toward Tenerife; suddenly it reached enormous speed like none I ever saw in an airplane; the sphere dissolved into a bluish spindle-shape with red underneath; a brilliant white halo was formed close to the object, which bit by bit was forming another very brilliant blue halo. It disappeared in the direction of Tenerife."
Impressive UFO sighting Canary Islands, Spain, 5 March 1979
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC6E3RIQM_g
More artistry

http://www.ufocasebook.com/CanaryIsland.html
June 22, 1976 event

• Actual transcript- Captain Atrevida.
• "At 21:27 (Z) hrs. on 22 June, we saw an intense yellowish-bluish light moving out from the shore towards our position. At first we thought it was an aircraft with its landing lights on. Then, when the light had attained a certain elevation (15 - 18 degrees), it became stationary."
Official US Defense Department records show multiple launches on the dates in question.

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Source – Ballester-Olmos and McDowell
Discussion [Canary Islands]

- US missile tests clearly involved in these sightings
- Sightings still listed as unsolvable events by worldwide UFO experts
- Witness misinterpretations of size, distance, and motion strikingly similar to California 2015
- Sphere-and-twin-humanoid story intriguing with coincidence in timing/direction with other reports more consistent with missile launch
- ABSENCE of “humanoid” witness accounts of ALSO seeing missile launch in the same region of sky is suggestive of substantial imaginating
“Norway spiral” // December 2009

- Massive world-wide freak-out
- Russian ‘Bulava’ ICBM launched from submarine in White Sea
- Pre-launch NOTAM warning issued for air/sea traffic in the area
- Pre-dawn twilight illumination
- Unusual persistence of double spiral probably due to third stage failure of thrust-dump ports
- Not seen in Russia due to sunrise

• link
Minotaurs from Vandenberg

Link/credits
Topol ICBM from Kapustin Yar [diving on ABM radar test range]

-- Post-sunset twilight
-- Third stage burn canted slightly down
-- Warhead deploy spinup
-- Multiple flights
-- Observed in Russia, central Asia, Middle East, and once by astronauts on space station
November 18, 2015 – another Russian missile test “over IKEA store” in Omsk!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ElYik7MaqU
Florida - September 3, 2015 – Predawn Atlas launch

After November 7th launch [sweet – on my birthday] I pointed out that the alert message was still posted and the specified time period had not run out.

Second launch [Nov 9] was revealed in press release

Sent up earlier in the day, nobody noticed

Nice collection of launch and on-board photos also released
U.S. Navy’s Trident II D5 Missile Achieves New Test Flight Reliability Record

- **Sunnyvale, Calif., Nov. 10, 2015** – The U.S. Navy conducted successful test flights Nov. 7 and 9 of two Trident II **D5** Fleet Ballistic Missiles built by Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT). The world’s most reliable large ballistic missile, the D5 missile has achieved a total of 157 successful test flights since design completion in 1989. The D5 is the sixth in a series of missile generations deployed since the sea-based deterrent program began 60 years ago.

- The Navy launched the unarmed missiles in the Pacific Ocean from a submerged Ohio-class submarine. The missiles were converted into test configurations using kits produced by Lockheed Martin that contain range safety devices and flight telemetry instrumentation. The test flights were part of a demonstration and shakedown operation, which the Navy uses to certify a submarine for deployment following an overhaul.

- “This reliability record is a testament to the unwavering dedication to the deterrence mission by the Navy program office, the submarine crews and the industry team,” said Mat Joyce, vice president of Fleet Ballistic Missile programs and deputy for Strategic and Missile Defense Systems, Lockheed Martin Space Systems. “Building on a six-decade history of success, we’re moving into the future by implementing new engineering methods that will pave the way for continued innovation and performance.”

The U.S. Navy tested two Trident II D5 fleet ballistic missiles Nov. 7 and 9 in the Pacific Ocean. One of the missiles is shown here shortly after its launch from a submerged submarine. Photo: U.S. Navy.
Overbright image to extract missile outline

https://www.stratcom.mil/images/d/original/26_DSC4938_151105.jpg
Aboard the USS Kentucky

https://www.stratcom.mil/image_library/events/385/-/
VIPs board sub at dawn – where?

151107-N-ZW825-004 PACIFIC OCEAN (Nov. 7, 2015) Cdr, U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Adm. Cecil D. Haney (rt) speaks with Commander, Navy Strategic Systems Programs (SSP), Vice Adm. Terry Benedict, aboard a tugboat bound for the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Kentucky (SSBN 737), Nov. 7, 2015. Haney, Benedict and several congressional members boarded the Kentucky to observe the 156th successful test flight of an unarmed Trident II D5 missile.

Conclusions/Recommendations

• Sky is full of spectacular stuff
• Some of it can be really, really important
• Anybody can be a witness
• Make the effort to be a source of usable data, not of garble and distracting noise

• Measure your perception and WRITE IT DOWN
• Read other reports and interpretations with realistic assessment of human perceptual limits
• WATCH THE SKIES