

# Government Statements on UAP

#### **Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena**





OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

25 June 2021

UNCLASSIFIED

'Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena', also known as the UAP Report and colloquially misnamed the Pentagon UFO Report, is a United States federally mandated assessment, prepared and published by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on 25 June 2021, which summarises information regarding UAP that include unidentified flying objects. Substantial public attention had been given to the mandated June report, fueled by statements by former high level officials in the US government, including former president Barack Obama who stated in June 2021 '...there's footage and records of objects in the skies, that we don't know exactly what they are'.

# UAP expanded classification categories Airborne Clutter Natural Atmospheric or Other Phenomena Human-related Phenomena Industry Developmental Programs Unclassified Governmental Technology Unclassified Private Technology Other

# **US Assessment Overview and Conclusions: Summary**

#### The Need For Further R&D

The report emphasizes the need to prioritize and guide future theoretical and observable studies. This relates, in particular, to nonradio 'technosignatures' — i.e. observable manifestations of technology, particularly those that could be detected through astronomical or other means.

Considering the nature of UAP, there is a need for a coherent explanation that will accommodate and connect all the facts of the events. For this purpose, interdisciplinary scientific investigation is necessary.

The crucial point is to end frivolous speculation and develop a professional approach to studying the problem. It implies a need to expand the coordination between agencies, standardise the reporting, increase investment in research, etc. The approach should account for possible social and security threats, as well as benefits.

#### **UAP** recognition

- The report states that since 2004, there were at least 144 unresolved UPA-related incidents. Over that time period, such phenomena were being taken more seriously.
- The US government has publicly acknowledged that strange aerial sightings by Navy pilots and others are worthy of legitimate scrutiny.
- Although the report does not provide solid or groundbreaking conclusions and many issues remain unclear, it should put an end to years of intragovernmental infighting over the subject.

#### **Unknown Nature of UAP**

- The stigma associated with reporting such phenomena has ended, and it is now officially recognised as very real. Moreover, the five potential UAP sources framework was proposed in the report.
- According to the title, this preliminary report is only the beginning
  of something much bigger. As we move forwards from here, the
  consequences of further targeted research could have
  unpredictable and profound effects on our understanding of
  physics, with all that implies for science-fictional technology
  advancement, and of our place in the universe.

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# **US Assessment Overview and Conclusions: UAP Recognition**

Probably one of the most important takeaways of the report is UAP recognition. Moreover, the report states that data gathering and analysis have been executed for 17 years straight. During this period, 144 unresolved UAP-related incidents were documented. One of the first questions arises whether or not general public will be able to assess the data of such incidents, including the comments from governmental authorities.

As was mentioned before, the recognition of the UAP will **reshape the structure of the current opinion-makers**, including scientists who have been studying such phenomena. This, in turn, might also affect the current R&D focus and existing policies. The unclassified origin of this report brings some other issues, namely, the report **does not provide any solid or groundbreaking conclusions**, and many issues remain unsolved, but it should put an end to years of intragovernmental infighting over the subject.

The proposal of the scientific study of UAP, University of Colorado. The study of UAP was deemed to be not scientifically interesting. The most famous UAP encounters in modern aviation history involving pilot sightings, radar tracking, and objects caught on video remained unsolved.

Deputy Secretary of Defense approved the establishment of an Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force. It shall detect, analyse, and catalogue UAP that could potentially pose a threat to US national security. The Task Force formed in 2020 has gathered more than 400 UAP cases. That is why it was brought up to a congressional hearing by two congressmen. It was the first hearing regarding this topic since 1969



2004-2015

4 August 2020

17 May 2022

1966-1968

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# Al to Identify and Track UAP

The report by the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force calls for use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning software to 'cluster and recognize similarities and patterns in features of the data points' already collected, as well as future data. It suggests using high-altitude balloons and other means to assess future UAP reports.



'The US must be able to understand and mitigate threats to our pilots whether they're from drones or weather balloons or adversary intelligence capabilities'. – **Mark Warner**, chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.



'The report is an important first step in cataloging these incidents, but it is just a first step. The Defense Department and intelligence community have a lot of work to do before we can understand whether these aerial threats present a serious national security concern'. — Marco Rubio, vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee.



The People's Liberation Army of China (PLA) stated on UAP that they are 'unidentified air conditions' – a phrase which echoes the US military's 'unidentified aerial phenomena' – but to the public, they are better known as unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

According to Wuhan-based researcher Chen Li from the Air Force Early Warning Academy, analysts have been overwhelmed in recent years by the rapidly mounting sighting reports from a wide range of military and civilian sources across the country.

The PLA's task force dedicated to the unknown objects increasingly relies on AI technology to analyse its data, according to Chen's report, which is in line with several other military studies published in domestic journals most recently – in August 2021.

# **Preliminary Assessment: UAP Update**

The US officials say Pentagon is committed to understanding UFO origins

On the 17th of May 2022 two officials, Ronald Moultrie and Scott Bray, appeared before a House of Representatives intelligence subcommittee for the first public US congressional hearing on the subject in a half century. It came 11 months after a government report documented more than 140 cases of UAP that US military pilots had observed since 2004.



Bray, deputy director of naval intelligence, said the number of UAPs officially catalogued by a newly formed Pentagon task force has grown to 400 cases. Both officials chose their words carefully in describing the task force's work, including the question of possible extraterrestrial origins, which Bray said defense and intelligence analysts had not ruled out.

#### 'They are real'

Subcommittee chairman Andre Carson stressed the importance of the taking UAP seriously. 'UAP are unexplained, it is true. But they are real', Carson said, raising concerns that Pentagon officials have previously focused on 'low-hanging fruit', cases that are relatively easy to explain while 'avoiding the ones that cannot be explained'.

Last year's report said UAP sightings probably lack a single explanation, with more data and analysis needed to determine whether they represent some exotic aerial system developed by a secret US government or commercial entity or by a foreign power such as China or Russia

#### DoD Announces the Establishment of the Airborne Object Identification

Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks, in close collaboration with the Director of National Intelligence, directed the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security (USDI&S) to establish within the Office of the USD(I&S) the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronisation Group (AOIMSG) as the successor to the US Navy's Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force. The AOIMSG will synchronize efforts across the Department and the broader US government to detect, identify, and attribute objects of interests in Special Use Airspace (SUA), and to assess and mitigate any associated threats to safety of flight and national security. To provide oversight of the AOIMSG, the Deputy Secretary also directed the USD(I&S) to lead an Airborne Object Identification and Management Executive Council to be comprised of Department of Defense (DoD) and Intelligence Community membership, and to offer a venue for US government interagency representation.

The AOIMSG's purpose will be to 'synchronize efforts across the department and with other federal departments and agencies to detect, identify, and attribute objects of interests' in Special Use Airspace such as DoD training ranges and installations, the memo states.

Incursions by any airborne object into US SUA pose safety of flight and operations security concerns and may pose national security challenges. DoD takes reports of incursions – by any airborne object, identified or unidentified – very seriously and investigates each. This decision is the result of planning efforts and collaboration conducted by USDI&S and other DoD elements under the direction of Deputy Secretary Hicks to address the challenges associated with assessing UAP occurring on or near DoD training ranges and installations highlighted in the DNI preliminary assessment report submitted to Congress in June 2021.



The group will serve as the successor to the Navy's Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force, which is in the process of transitioning to the AOIMSG, a Defense Department spokeswoman told *Air Force Magazine*.

**Kathleen Holland Hicks** 

# **Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program**

The Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was an unclassified but unpublicised investigatory effort funded by the United States government to study UFOs or UAP.

The programme was first made public on 16 December 2017. The programme began in 2007, with funding of \$22 million over the first 5 years until the available appropriations were ended in 2012. The programme began in the US Defense Intelligence Agency.



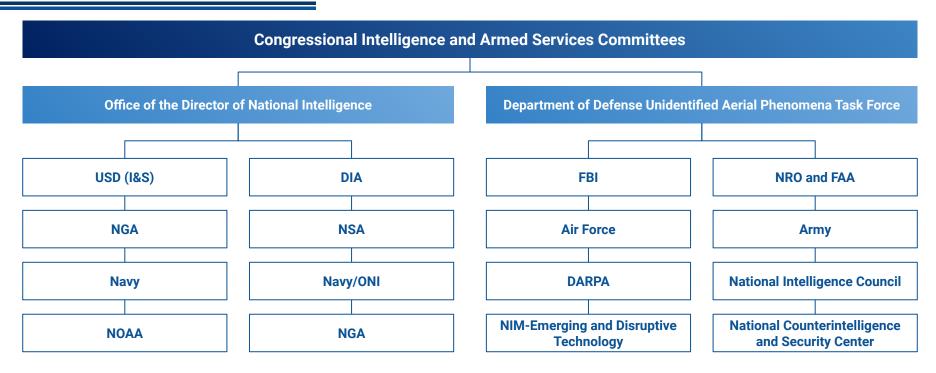
#### **Successor program**

In 2020, the Pentagon acknowledged the existence of a programme similar to the AATIP called the Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force (UAPTF). The unclassified but previously unacknowledged programme was made public during a June 2020 hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The programme has been giving classified briefings to congressional committees and aerospace executives for over a decade. Former Senator Reid stated in reference to the successor programme, 'It is extremely important that information about the discovery of physical materials or retrieved craft come out'.



AATIP was headed by Luis Elizondo. Elizondo resigned from the Pentagon in October 2017 to protest government secrecy and opposition to the investigation, stating in a resignation letter to US Defense Secretary James Mattis that the programme was not being taken seriously. Elizondo said on 19 December 2017 that he believed there was 'very compelling evidence we may not be alone'.

# **USA Agencies Involved in Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Monitoring**



The mission of the task force is to detect, analyse, and catalogue UAP that could potentially pose a threat to the US national security. As DoD has stated previously, the safety of personnel and the security of operations are of paramount concern. The Department of Defense and the military departments take any incursions by unauthorised aircraft into training ranges or designated airspace very seriously and examine each report. This includes intrusion checks, which are initially reported as UAP, where the observer cannot immediately determine what is being observed.

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#### **American Presidents About UFO**

#### Ronald Reagan, 40th US president

Reagan appeared more enthralled with UFOs than all the US leaders, encompassing Nixon. Reporter Billy Cox documented the many mentions of extraterrestrials in Reagan's talks and commented about 'Ronald Reagan's abiding fascination with extraterrestrials'. One of Reagan's daughters also mentioned her father's obsession with UFOs and life on other planets.



#### Bill Clinton, 42nd US president

Former President Clinton took a sincere interest in UFOs during his presidency from 1993 to 2001. Clinton genuinely wanted to know what the US government knew about UFOs, according to the memoirs of his associate attorney general Webster Hubbell. Clinton told Jimmy Kimmel in 2014 that he had aides search Area 51 'to make sure there was no alien down there'.



#### **American Presidents About UFO**

#### Joe Biden, 46th US president

Biden says last three flying objects were likely tied to private companies, recreation or research.

President Biden sought to allay any concerns and fears about the recent spate of unidentified flying objects, saying there is no evidence the latest three aerial objects shot down are related to the surveillance operations of a foreign nation.



President Biden addressed recent unidentified flying objects (UFOs), stating that there is no evidence linking them to foreign surveillance activities. The intelligence community's assessment suggests that these objects were likely balloons associated with private companies, recreation, or scientific research institutions studying weather. President Biden emphasized that the US does not seek a new Cold War with China and expressed his intention to hold discussions with President Xi Jinping.

The president highlighted the improved radar sensitivity, which has led to an increase in detecting these objects. An interagency group has been formed to develop a strategy for handling them, and any object posing a threat to the safety and security of the American people will be promptly addressed. The ongoing search for remnants of a Chinese spy balloon off the coast of South Carolina has yielded recovered parts, including an antenna array. The White House has formed an interagency team to study these unidentified aerial phenomena, ensuring transparency and providing briefings to members of Congress.

#### **National Space Forces: United States of America**

The United States Space Force (USSF) is a separate and distinct branch of the armed services, established under the Department of the Air Force on 20 December 2019, when the National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law with bi-partisan support, creating the first new branch of the armed services in 73 years. The establishment of USSF resulted from widespread recognition that space was a national security imperative.

The USSF Headquarters and Office of the Chief of Space Operations (CSO) are located in the Pentagon, just like the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. This staff focuses on establishing a fully functioning headquarters preparing to execute the full scope of its organise, train, and equip responsibilities; and, in conjunction with the US Air Force, developing a detailed plan to transfer forces into the US Space Force. As a new military service, USSF leverages the Department of the Air Force for more than 75% of its enabling functions to significantly reduce cost and avoid duplication. The Department of the Air Force provides support functions that include logistics, base operating support, IT support, audit agencies, etc.

Motto:	Semper Supra
Personnel:	16,000+
Spacecraft:	75+
Headquarters:	Pentagon





John W. Jay Raymond, the Chief of Space Operations, serves as the principal uniformed adviser to the Secretary of the Air Force on Space Force activities. The CSO presides over the Office of the Chief of Space Operations, transmits plans and recommendations to the Secretary of the Air Force and acts as the Secretary's agent in carrying them out.

# National Space Forces: People's Republic of China

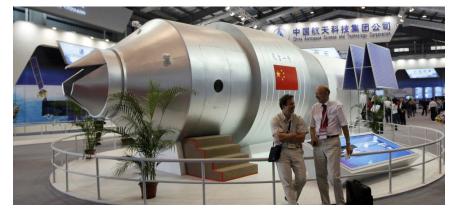
In late 2015, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) initiated reforms that have brought dramatic changes to its structure, model of warfighting, and organisational culture, including the creation of a Strategic Support Force (SSF) that centralises most PLA space, cyber, electronic, and psychological warfare capabilities.

The reforms come at an inflection point as PLA seeks to pivot from land-based territorial defense to extended power projection to protect Chinese interests in the strategic frontiers of space, cyberspace, and the far seas.



The Strategic Support Force reports to the Central Military Commission (CMC) and oversees two co-equal, semi-independent branches: the Space Systems Department, which leads a space force responsible for space operations, and the Network Systems Department, which leads a cyber force responsible for information operations.





# **National Space Forces: Russian Federation**

Established in 2015, the Russian Space Forces exist as a separate branch within the Aerospace Forces. The space forces' areas of responsibility include space situational awareness, early warning of ballistic missile attack, satellite launches and operations, and maintaining all elements of the space infrastructure at a high degree of readiness.









One of the tasks assigned to the space forces is the detection of threats to Russia in space and from space, and, if necessary, fending off these threats. This mission, however, does not include missile defence, which is assigned to the air- and space-defence forces. The Russian military is aware of the nature of modern warfare, which relies on situational awareness and reliable communication, including that provided by satellite-based systems. It is logical to assume that the disruption of these systems would be an important element of Russia's military strategy in space, especially as its potential adversaries become increasingly dependent on space assets.

# **Churchill Essay on Aliens**

Buried within the archives of a museum in Missouri, an essay on the search for alien life has come to light, 78 years after it was penned. Written on the brink of WWII, its unlikely author is the UK political leader Winston Churchill.

The 11-page article – 'Are We Alone in the Universe?' – has sat in the US National Churchill Museum archives in Fulton, Missouri from the 1980s until it was reviewed by astrophysicist Mario Livio in the journal *Nature*.

Churchill sees great opportunity for exploration in the Solar System. 'One day, possibly even in the not very distant future, it may be possible to travel to the Moon, or even to Venus or Mars', he writes. By contrast, he notes, interstellar travel and communication are intrinsically difficult. He points out that it would take some 5 light-years to travel even to the nearest star and back, adding that the nearest large spiral galaxy to the Milky Way (Andromeda – one of the 'spiral nebulae', as he calls them) is more than several hundred thousand times as far away as the nearest stars.

Churchill used his characteristic inspirational speeches and support for science to combat the darkness of conflict. This second devotion resulted in the development of radar, which was critical in the defeat of Nazi Germany and a surge in scientific progress in postwar Great Britain.



Churchill's championing of science led to the development of the radar. Regis Duvignau/Reuters

# **Government Responses on Extraterrestrial Activity**

One of the NASA divisions is the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (OSMA), also known as the Planetary Protection Office. A part of its mission is to 'rigorously preclude backward contamination of Earth by extraterrestrial life'. In 2020, the Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono stated that Self-Defense Forces pilots have never encountered a UFO and that he does not believe in UFOs. He also said he would consider issuing protocols for such encounters. In 2016, the Chinese Government released a white paper detailing its space programme. According to the document, one of the research objectives of the programme is the search for extraterrestrial life. It is also one of the objectives of the Chinese Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) programme.

In 2018, the German Ministry of Economics stated that the German government has no plans or protocol for the case of a first contact with aliens as the government perceives such event as 'extremely unlikely'. It also stated that no cases of a first contact are known.

In 2020, chairman of the Israel Space Agency Isaac Ben-Israel stated that the probability of detecting life in outer space is 'quite large'. But he disagrees with his former colleague Haim Eshed who stated that there are contacts between an advanced alien civilisation and some of the Earth's governments.

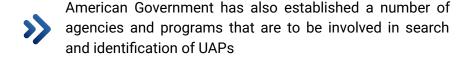
# **Summary**



Governments, especially the American, tend to put more attention to UAPs during the last decade.

US Government has released a Preliminary Assessment

regarding Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in 2021. It summarized the existing evidences of flying objects that were not identified by the government in any way, classified these objects more thoroughly than before and emphasized the importance of further research of the topic.



- Some high-rank government officials have proclaimed their thoughts on aliens throughout history. However, most of them seemed sceptical, but still interested.
- USA and China have established their Space Forces not so long ago. However it doesn't seem that they plan to fight aliens.

