

Extraterrestrial  
Institute

# Latest Government Updates and Research on UAP

[www.extraterrestrial.institute](http://www.extraterrestrial.institute)

# United States and Canada

In late January 2023, a large high-altitude balloon of Chinese origin, believed to be involved in signals intelligence gathering, was spotted near Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. It was later shot down off the coast of South Carolina on February 4. Additionally, three smaller unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) were detected in northern North America, with one being shot down over Alaska on February 10 and another over Canada's Yukon Territory on February 11. These incidents highlight the United States' policy on UAP threats, considering them as potential risks to air safety.



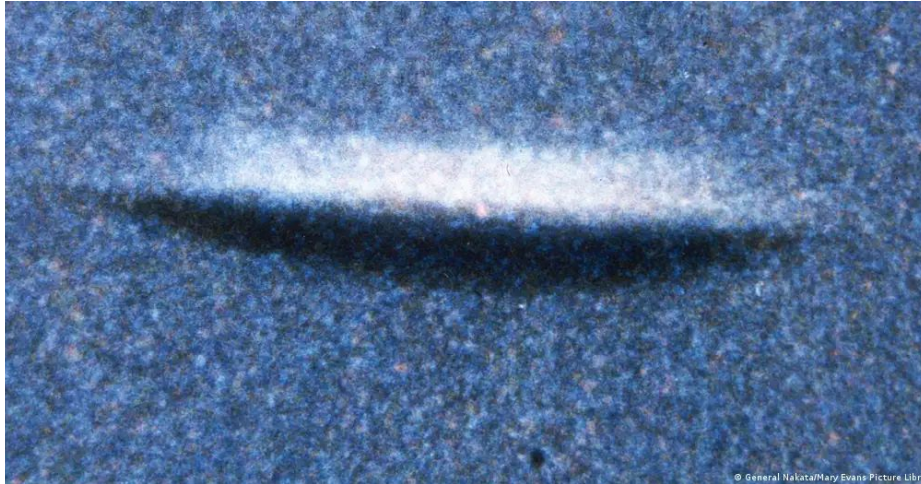
*The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) reported investigating a total of 510 UAP incidents between 2004 and 2021, with an additional 247 incidents since 2021 and investigations into 119 sightings before 2021. The Pentagon established the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) to study UAP reports and make policy suggestions based on their findings. As of March 2023, 171 UAP reports investigated by AARO remain uncharacterized. AARO, building upon the work of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force (UAPTF), demonstrates the U.S. government's commitment to taking UAPs seriously.*

In terms of international collaboration, Canada works closely with the United States through NATO and NORAD. Due to the absence of Canadian fighter jets, an American jet shot down a UAP over Yukon on February 11 under the authority of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The Canadian government also initiated its own investigation into UAPs, known as the Sky Canada Project, involving multiple government and civilian agencies. The findings of this investigation are expected to be released in early 2024.

Annie Fu/Ricki Lee/Insider

# Japan

Ever since the 2012-2020 government of Shinzo Abe, Japan has taken a more aggressive approach to its national security. This includes attitudes toward UAPs. In 2020, Abe's defense minister, Taro Kono, announced that his ministry was considering establishing official procedures to deal with UAPs. Referring to them as UFOs, Kono claimed that Japan Self-Defense Forces (SDF) had never reported seeing any UAPs, and commented that he personally did not believe they existed. However, he encouraged SDF pilots to take pictures of any UAPs they might encounter and to report sightings. Kono's comments were reiterated the following year by Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato, representing the administration of Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.



© General Nakata/Mary Evans Picture Library

General Nakata/Mary Evans Picture Library/picture-alliance



**Present defense  
minister Yasukazu  
Hamada**

However, in the wake of the February 2023 events in North America and the admission that several Chinese spy balloons had flown over Japan since 2019, the Japanese government began to echo American attitudes toward immediate UAP threats. Present defense minister Yasukazu Hamada announced he would like SDF assets to have permission to shoot down UAPs and foreign spy balloons based on the potential harm to civilian air traffic.

# China

At the same time the United States and Canada were dealing with their trio of UAPs, the Chinese government dealt with its own UAP threat. On February 12, 2023, an object was detected flying above Chinese territorial waters near the major People's Liberation Army Navy base at Jianggezhuang in Shandong Province. The Chinese government did not provide much more information regarding the object other than announcing plans to shoot it down. It is unknown if this happened, although local fishing boats were apparently asked to assist in debris recovery. Less than a week later, on the afternoon of February 16, the airspace above the large city of Shijiazhuang in Hebei Province was shut down due to the presence of a UAP described by civil aviation authorities as a possible balloon. Airspace was reopened and flights resumed after two hours without further official comment, but not without online speculation.

**Regarding the February 12 incident, there is a remarkable similarity between the reaction of Chinese authorities toward the UAP and the reaction of the American and Canadian governments toward the three February 2023 UAP sightings.**

Similar to the United States, China has its own official UAP military investigatory body called the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which labels UAPs as "Unidentified Air Conditions." Researcher Chen Li from the PLA Air Force Early Warning Academy observed a rise in UAP activity reported by the PLA in 2019. While not as open as AARO, the PLA has sufficient reports to explore and has employed artificial intelligence to augment its human resources.



The PLA has a dedicated task force to investigate sightings.  
Photo: Shutterstock

# India

The government of India does not seem to have any public policy regarding UAPs, nor has it invested in any official UAP investigatory body, military or otherwise. Between August and October 2012, the Indo-Tibetan Police Force reported over a hundred sightings of “Unidentified Luminous Objects” over the Chinese side of the Tibetan border, which investigators attributed to Chinese intelligence operations. Indian Army soldiers stationed on the border in Arunachal Pradesh noted more UAPs over Tibet in 2013. Despite the apparent lack of interest on the part of the government, India has a very active civilian UFO investigation community.



The image, taken from the viral video, shows an unidentified object in the sky. (Twitter/@WowTerrifying)



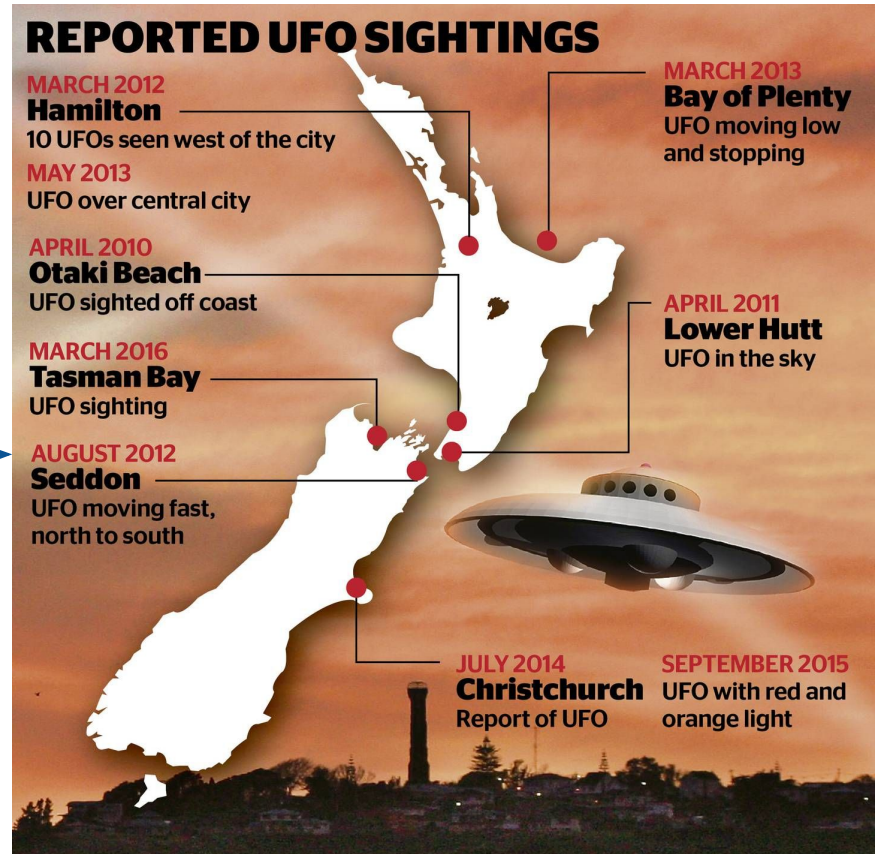
Lucknow residents spotted mysterious lights in the sky. The video was recorded by residents of Malihabad.

# Australia and New Zealand

Following the 2021 ODNI report, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) announced that it would not undertake any similar investigations. Air Marshall Mel Hupfeld, chief of the RAAF at the time, commented that he was aware of the American report only through what he had seen in the media and was unaware of any UAP reports made by RAAF pilots. In June 2021, a RAAF spokesperson confirmed that it had no protocols in place to deal with any threats posed by UAPs.

Ufocus NZ Research Network runs a comprehensive online archive of sightings reported to it, the most recent of which was "an airborne object surrounded by red strobing light" in Katikati in February.

New Zealand was ahead of the game regarding government transparency, with the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) releasing a treasure trove of UAP reports in 2010. These files consisted mainly of reports submitted by the public and military pilots to the RNZAF from 1954 through 2009. None of the reports were officially investigated by the New Zealand government, which claimed it lacked the resources to do so.



# High-Level Authorities Representatives on UAP



"The U.S. government has been studying unidentified aerial phenomena for quite some time, and I think it's important for the public to know that this is a very real and serious issue."

**Luis Elizondo, former head of the Pentagon's Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP)**

"The UAP Task Force is committed to a comprehensive and scientific approach to the identification of UAP. We are working to gather data, analyze it, and share it with our interagency partners."

**Ronald Moultrie, Current Director of the Pentagon's Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) Task Force**



"The UAP Task Force has identified 144 reports of UAP that remain unexplained. These reports involve objects that have been observed in the air by military pilots and other trained observers."

**Scott Bray, Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence**

# High-Level Authorities Representatives on UAP



"The Pentagon's acknowledgement of UAP is a major step forward, but it's only the beginning. We need to know more about these objects and their origins."

**Daniel Sheehan, a lawyer who has represented several military personnel who have reported UAP sightings**

"The Pentagon's report on UAP is tantalizing, but it doesn't offer any definitive answers. We need more data and more analysis before we can say for sure what these objects are."

**Avi Loeb, an astrophysicist at Harvard University**



"The UAP Task Force has identified a number of cases where UAP have exhibited unusual flight characteristics, such as moving at high speeds without any visible means of propulsion."

**Christopher Mellon, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence**



# High-Level Authorities Representatives on UAP



"There are a lot more sightings than we're talking about. The phenomenon is real, and it's a national security threat."

**John Ratcliffe, former Director of National Intelligence**

"The UAP Task Force is working to improve our understanding of these objects and to ensure that we are not being caught off guard by any potential threats."

**Ellen Lord, former Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment**



"The UAP Task Force is a serious effort to get to the bottom of these sightings and to understand what they represent."

**Troy Wade, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency**