

That UFO Podcast

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- Bringing you up to date news, interviews and guests from around the world of UFOs, UAP & connected phenomena
- Hosted by Andy McGrillen
 - Podcast [appearances](#)
- That UFO Podcast May 2021 [Blog](#) Post about UAPTF

Aliens, UFOs, and the American People

Belief in Aliens

One third of Americans do not find the existence of alien life too incredible. In a 2019 survey by Gallup, 33 percent of U.S. adults said that they believed that alien spacecraft have been among some UFO sightings in the past. 60 percent of respondents said that they believed all UFO sightings could be chalked up either to human activity or a natural

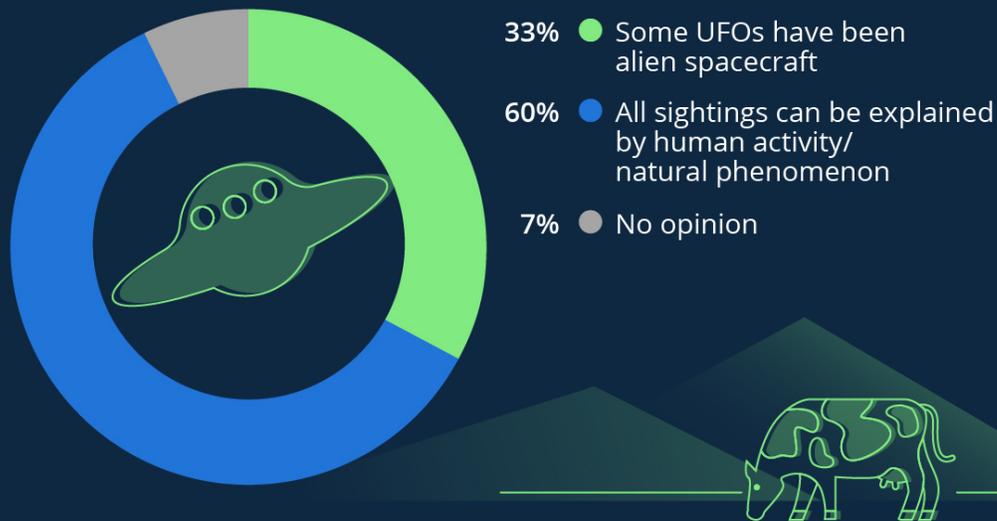
phenomenon. The world might find out who is right when the U.S. government publishes its unclassified report to Congress on the matter.

It's not only belief in extraterrestrial life that is common among Americans. Many also believe that the government has long known more about the existence of alien life forms than it lets on. This standpoint was made popular in the modern myths surrounding the Area 51 classified Air Force facility in Nevada or the Roswell incident, which saw a flying object – now believed to have been part of the Air Force's secret high-altitude balloon project - crash near the New Mexico town in 1947. In the latter case, the U.S. armed forces actually stoked the rumors, allegedly because the alien story was a welcome alternative to giving away the classified project.

Also in 2019, more than half of Americans said that it was very or somewhat likely that the government was hiding something about UFOs. ([Source](#))

One Third of Americans Believe in Aliens

Survey responses from U.S. adults on the existence of alien spacecraft among UFO sightings (2019)



Survey of 1,522 U.S. adults, 18 and older, Aug 1-14, 2019
Source: Gallup



statista

Belief in UFOs

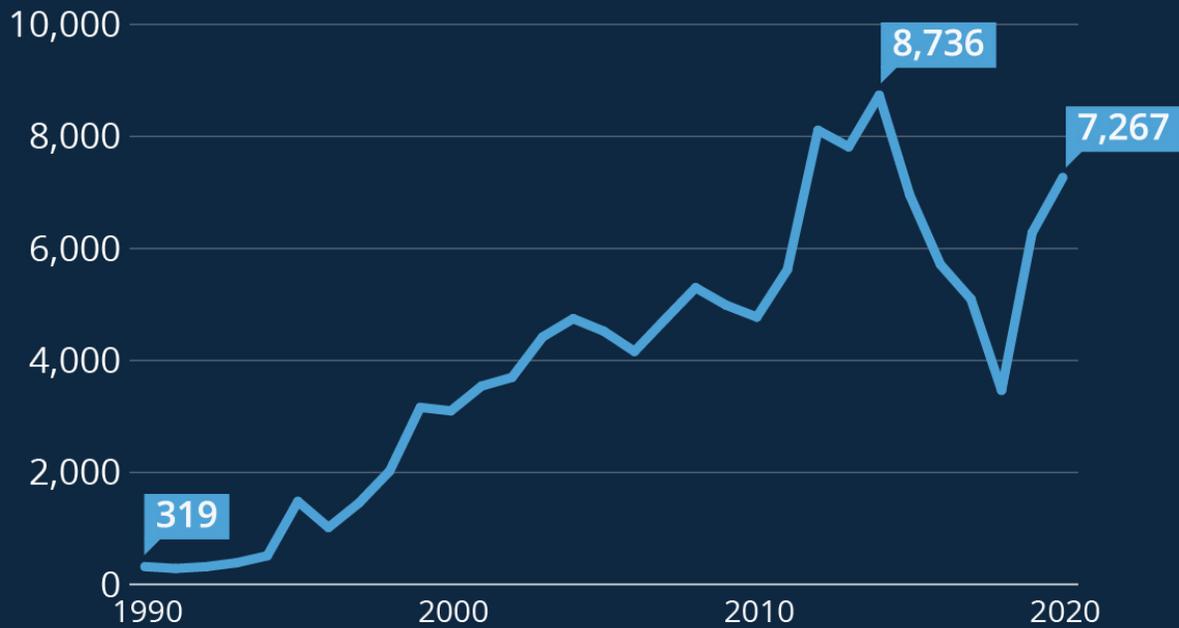
UFO encounters and sightings have frequently been dismissed for a range of reasons such as attention-seeking behavior or the misinterpretation of logical events. Encounters between some of America's top fighter pilots and mysterious objects that have been tracked by sophisticated sensors are now generating real attention.

Three videos have emerged from the targeting pods of U.S. Navy Super Hornets that were taken in 2004 and 2015, revealing strange sphere-shaped objects travelling at speed through the sky. Former Navy fighter pilot David Fravor and Lieutenant Commander Alex Dietrich were interviewed on "60 Minutes" this week about their encounter with one of the strange objects off the San Diego coast in 2004. They, along with two other pilots onboard the jets, observed an area of roiling whitewater in the middle of the calm ocean. "We saw this little white Tic Tac-looking object. And it's just kind of moving above the whitewater area", Fravor said before adding that "it gets right in front of me and just disappears".

It was tracked by the advanced radar suite on-board the guided missile cruiser USS Princeton which acquired it 60 miles away after a matter of seconds. Both aviators could not provide a logical explanation of what they saw and Fravor said "there's definitely something out there that was better than our airplane". Ahead of the report being published, National Intelligence Director John Ratcliffe told Fox News in March that "there have been sightings all over the world". Elaborating, he said that "when we talk about sightings, the other thing I will tell you, it's not just a pilot or satellite or some intelligence collection. Usually, we have multiple sensors that are picking up these things". ([Source](#))

UFO Sightings Are Taking Off Again

Global UFO sightings
recorded from 1990 to 2020



Source: National UFO Reporting Center



statista 

The Beginnings of UAPTF and the Report

The issue gained momentum in December 2017, when the *New York Times* reported on a \$22 million Department of Defense program established in 2007 and championed by Harry Reid, the former Democratic Senate majority leader. Known as the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, it was designed to examine military encounters with UAPs.

Over the next few years, lawmakers and Defense officials began to take interest as more Navy pilots shared their accounts of frequent run-ins with UFOs, and several videos of the encounters were released. By June 2019, senators were reportedly “coming out of the woodwork” to be briefed on the phenomena, which resulted in a vote by the Senate Intelligence Committee in June 2020 that first green-lit the idea for a UFO report. A provision — which set the six-month timeline and added some additional funding for the project — was tucked into the Intelligence Authorization Act for the 2021 fiscal year, which passed as part of the December stimulus package.

As the senators on the Senate Intelligence Committee wrote last year, they were “concerned that there is no unified, comprehensive process within the federal government for collecting and analyzing intelligence on unidentified aerial phenomena, despite the potential threat.” At the time, Marco Rubio was the chair of the Committee, so he will deliver the report when it is ready. ([Source](#))

Early Look at the Report

On June 3, the New York *Times* reported that senior administration officials who were briefed on the UAP report had found no evidence that the objects seen by Navy pilots over the past decade are not of this Earth. Nevertheless, the *Times* states intelligence officials “still cannot explain the unusual movements that have mystified scientists and the military.”

According to the *Times*, the report also finds that the “vast majority” of 120 incidents analyzed did not involve U.S. military or government technology, which appears to “eliminate the possibility that Navy pilots who reported seeing unexplained aircraft might have encountered programs the government meant to keep secret.” ([Source](#))

Possible Report Content

The report must include “detailed analysis of unidentified aerial phenomena data and intelligence” collected by the Office of Naval Intelligence, the FBI, and the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force.

It goes on to call for “a detailed description of an interagency process” for how such data will be collected and analyzed going forward, and recommendations for further UFO research and funding. It goes on to call for “a detailed description of an interagency process” for how such data will be collected and analyzed going forward, and recommendations for further UFO research and funding.

The report will likely provide details on several UFO sightings by Navy pilots that were reported in the *New York Times* in 2017, and later declassified by the Pentagon.

The law ordering the report says it must address whether these incidents pose any potential national security threat, and whether they may be “attributed to one or more foreign adversaries”; more specifically, whether there’s any indication that “a potential adversary may have achieved breakthrough aerospace capabilities that could put United States strategic or conventional forces at risk.”

Recent Presidents and Their Response to UFOs

President Joe Biden has successfully dodged recent attempts to get him to weigh in on unidentified aerial phenomena. “President Obama says there is footage and records of objects in the sky ... and he says we don’t know exactly what they are — what do you think?” a reporter asked the president at a May 21 press conference. Biden deflected, saying “I would ask him again,” before smiling and leaving the podium.

Since leaving office, Obama has been more open about his interest in the topic. Days before the question to Biden, the ex-president appeared on *The Late Late Show With James Corden*, where the show’s music director Reggie Watts asked him about his theories on the paranormal. “When it comes to aliens, there are some things I just can’t tell you on-air,” Obama quipped.

“Look, the truth is, when I came into office, I asked, ‘Is there the lab somewhere we’re keeping the alien specimens and spaceship?’ They did a little bit of research and the answer was no,” Obama continued. “But what is true — and I’m actually being serious

— is that there's footage and records of objects in the skies that we don't know exactly what they are. We can't explain how they moved, their trajectory, they did not have an easily explainable pattern. I think that people still take seriously trying to investigate and figure out what that is. But I have nothing to report to you today.”

For his part, Donald Trump never took UFOs all that seriously while in office. In the few instances when he commented on the matter, he usually deflected, promising to “take a good, strong look”.

Current News Update

June 23, 2021 Article

Key Take Aways:

There is no evidence to date that points to a sci-fi scenario of aliens from another galaxy visiting Earth. But the recent uptick in mysterious airborne objects — spotted mostly by naval pilots over U.S. military installations as well as at sea — has lawmakers worried that a foreign adversary like Russia or China has developed technology that Western governments can't identify.

“There's stuff flying in our airspace and we don't know who it is and it's not ours. So we should know who it is, especially if it's an adversary that's made a technological leap,” said Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), the vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

“We don’t know,” Rubio added. “But how can we have stuff flying over restricted military airspace and not even be curious — not to mention concerned — about who it is and why they’re here?”

The report set for release this week, which Congress mandated, is intended to end the stigma often associated with UAPs and emphasize to Americans that the intelligence community views the sightings as a major vulnerability for the U.S.

Sources familiar with the briefings said the officials walked through the steps the Pentagon is taking to try to identify the unexplained sightings and figure out their source or sources. Pentagon officials also used the briefings to highlight the potentially advanced nature of the technology being used.

“There have been questions about the sightings and whether they’re natural phenomena, whether they’re drones, whether they’re weather balloons or vehicles from nation-states or non-state actors spying on our military or spying on U.S. citizens,” said Rep. André Carson (D-Ind.), who chairs a key subpanel on the Intelligence Committee.

“It’s always concerning when some of our foreign adversaries have a competitive technological edge over us,” added Carson, who participated in the briefings.

The report is also expected to disprove some of the more wacky theories about certain sightings, which have fueled conspiracy theories about extraterrestrial life. The fact that the U.S. government is even producing a report on the matter — sought by Congress in last year’s defense policy bill — shows that top officials are trying to move past the sci-fi reputation of UAPs. ([Source](#))

- [Are UFOs Visitors from Space? Government Report Won't Rule It Out](#)
- [Pentagon UFO report: Here's what we know](#)
- [Pentagon to release official report on UFO sightings by end of June](#)