

Summary

August 26, 2023 8:41 AM

3 Whistle-blowers testified in front of congress regarding UFO program

- Fravor commander had encounter (2004
Tic Tac
- Graves Pilot had encounter (2014)
 - Found Americans for Safe Aerospace
- Grusch Intelligence officer
 - Alarmed about crimes and lack of oversight

Highlights

- Government has UAPs
- "Non-Human" biologics
- Stigma/harm to people who report
- Use of Holman rule to get S&I to be more forthcoming

David Fravor

August 26, 2023 8:41 AM

David Fravor	
Born	c. 1965 <div>Ohio</div>
Allegiance	<div> United States of America</div>
Service/branch	Navy
Rank	Naval flight commander

David Fravor (born c. 1965) is a retired naval pilot and Commander of VFA-41 also known as "The Black Aces". He is one of the primary witness in the 2004 USS Nimitz UFO incident.^[1] He was featured in the 2008 PBS documentary *Carrier*^[2] and has been interviewed on Joe Rogan's podcast *The Joe Rogan Experience*.

Military career[edit]

Fravor joined the military at the age of 17. He has a career spanning 24 years, 18 of which was as a Navy pilot. He had completed five tours to the Persian Gulf starting after Operation Desert Storm.^[3] He commanded a squadron of 12 airplanes consisting of 330 people. Fravor retired in 2006.^[4] USS Nimitz UFO incident[edit] Main article: Pentagon UFO videos



USS *Princeton* (CG-59) with AN/SPY-1 radar antenna visible with its distinctive white octagon shape Prior to the incident, in early November 2004, the *Ticonderoga*-class guided missile cruiser USS *Princeton*, part of Carrier Strike Group 11, started recording intermittent radar tracks on an advanced AN/SPY-1B passive scanning phased array radar.^[5]^[6] Thinking the brand new radar was malfunctioning, the *Princeton* sailors restarted and recalibrated the system but the tracks became sharper and clearer.^[7] On or around 10 November, Navy Chief Petty Officer (E-7) Kevin Day, stationed on *Princeton*, noticed groups of five to 10 radar traces that were travelling southwards in a loose though fixed formation at 28,000 feet (8,500 m) in the immediate vicinity of Catalina and San Clemente islands.^[7] He was startled by their slow speed of 100 knots (190 km/h; 120 mph) at such an altitude,^[7] but received confirmation of their presence from radar operators on other vessels.^[citation needed] The returns continued showing up continuously for almost a week, with sailors observing something moving erratically in the distance through the ship's magnified binoculars.^[7]

Encounter[edit]

On November 14, 2004, Fravor was a primary witness to the USS Nimitz UFO incident. His crew consisted of 4 members which was called to investigate an unidentified fly object flying off the coast of San Diego while they were on a training exercise. The incident was recorded by Chad Underwood who also coined the term "Tic Tac" UFO to describe the UFO. The radio operator *Princeton* instructed the pilots to change their course and investigate the unidentified radar spot observed by *Princeton*'s own radar.^[6] An E-2C Hawkeye airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft in flight at the time was contacted to conduct the intercept but the signals could only be detected after *Princeton* sent them coordinates and were too faint to obtain a precise target track.^[8]^[7] A radio operator on *Princeton* asked the pilots if they were carrying operational weapons, to which the pilots replied that they were not.^[6] The weather conditions for that day showed excellent visibility with a blue sky, no cloud cover, and a calm sea.^[9] The Navy pilots reached the intercept location without any contact on their new APG-73 radars.^[8] They looked down at the sea and also noticed a turbulent oval area of churning water with foam and frothy waves "the size of a Boeing 737 airplane"^[10] with a smoother area of lighter color at the center, as if the waves were breaking over something just under the surface.^[10] A few seconds later, they noticed an unusual object hovering with erratic movements at a height they estimated to be about 50 feet (15 m) above the churning water. Both Fravor^[11] and Slaughter later described the object as a large bright white Tic Tac, 30 to 46 feet (9.1 to 14.0 m) long, with no windshield, nor porthole, no wing nor empennage, and no visible engine nor exhaust plume.^[12]^[13]^[14] Fravor began a circular descent to approach the object.^[10] As Fravor further descended, he reported that the object began ascending along a curved path, maintaining some distance from the F-18, mirroring its trajectory in opposite circles.^[10]^[11] Fravor then made a more aggressive maneuver, plunging his fighter to aim below the object, but at this point the UFO apparently accelerated and disappeared in less than two seconds, leaving the pilots "pretty weirded out".^[10]^[14] Subsequently, the two fighter jets began a new course to the combat air patrol (CAP) rendezvous point. "Within seconds" *Princeton* radioed the jets that a radar target had appeared 60 miles (97 km) away at the predetermined rendezvous point. According to *Popular Mechanics*, a physical object would have had to move greater than 2,400 miles per hour (3,900 km/h) to reach the CAP ahead of the Navy fighters. Their jets have a maximum speed of Mach 1.8 (1,190 miles per hour (1,920 km/h)). To actually get there "within seconds" would have required an air speed of at least 42,000 miles per hour (68,000 km/h). Two other jets went to investigate the new radar location, but "By the time the Super Hornets arrived [...] the object had already disappeared." Both F-18s then returned to *Nimitz*.^[6] Commander Fravor reflected on his sighting: "I have no idea what I saw. It had no plumes, wings or rotors and outran our F-18s. But I want to fly one."^[5]

Aftermath[edit]

In a 2017 interview with the Washington Post he stated "It was a real object, it exists and I saw it" and when asked what he believes it was he speculated it was "something not from the Earth."^[15] In May 2019, Fravor was a featured speaker at the "UFOfest" in McMinnville, Oregon. Fravor and UFO conspiracy theorist Bob Lazar reportedly "spent a lot of time comparing notes", and Fravor has speculated the UFO used "gravity propulsion" claimed by Lazar to be part of a US government coverup of alien technology.^[16] In October that same year, Fravor was featured on *The Joe Rogan Experience*.^[17] Fravor had been a long time skeptic of UFO being extraterrestrial in nature. He said his newfound fame was disturbing. Fravor told VICE News believes the technology "was far beyond the technology that we have".^[18] In an interview he noted that he does not want to be associated with the aliens claims.^[19] Other skeptics consider that while unexplainable and interesting, these videos are not proof the object in question is extraterrestrial in nature. There are technical reasons for the Navy not to release more information to the public including classified specifications and limitations of military equipment. Possibilities include a plane filmed with camera movement artefacts giving the impression of sudden acceleration. Shermer reminds: "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence".^[20]

From <https://en.everybodywiki.com/David_Fravor>

Ryan Graves

August 26, 2023 8:42 AM

Who is Ryan Graves? Former Navy pilot, UFO whistleblower has Central Mass. roots

Marco Cartolano, Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Updated July 27, 2023-4 min read

[2](#)



Ryan Graves, executive director of Americans for Safe Aerospace, David Grusch, former National Reconnaissance Officer Representative of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Task Force at the U.S. Department of Defense, and retired Navy Cmdr. David Fravor are sworn in during a House Oversight Committee hearing titled Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena: Implications on National Security, Public Safety, and Government Transparency on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Several witnesses are testifying about their experience with possible UFO encounters and discussion about a potential covert government program concerning debris from crashed, nonhuman origin spacecraft. More

A former F-18 pilot with ties to Central Massachusetts testified Wednesday before a [U.S. House subcommittee hearing](#) about his experience witnessing unidentified flying objects.

[Ryan Graves](#), 37, is a former lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. Originally from Baldwinville, he graduated from Narragansett Regional High School in 2004 and earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 2008.

Graves was commissioned with the rank of ensign in the Navy through the Officer Training Command in Newport, Rhode Island, [according to 2009 article in the Gardner News](#).

He now lives in southern New Hampshire.

Graves said he was deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom, the official name for the Afghanistan War and larger War on Terrorism; and Operation Inherent Resolve, the official name for U.S. intervention against the Islamic State.

Wednesday, Graves testified before the House's Subcommittee on National Security, the Border and Foreign Affairs. He said he spoke on behalf of over 30 commercial air crew and military veterans who have confided similar encounters.

How Graves became an activist on unidentified aerial phenomena

In 2014, Graves said, he witnessed what he refers to as UAP, or unidentified aerial phenomena, while he was stationed at Nava Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

According to Graves, upgrades to jet radar systems led to unknown objects being detected in the airspace, and later tests and visual identification correlated the presence of UAP.

The encounters became so frequent that aircrew would discuss the risk of UAP as part of their regular preflight briefs, Graves said.

During a training mission, Graves said, two F-18s were split by an UAP that was described as a "dark gray, or a black cube inside of a clear sphere." While the squadron submitted a safety report, Graves said, there was no official acknowledgment of the incident.

"UAP are in our airspace, but they are grossly underreported," Graves testified. "These sightings are not rare or isolated, they are routine. Military aircrew and commercial pilots — trained observers whose lives depend on accurate identification — are frequently witnessing these phenomena."

Graves said a stigma exists around discussing UAP that silences pilots out of fear for repercussions. Recent government statements casting doubt on eyewitness testimony have contributed to that stigma, Graves added.

Graves said all UAP videos are classified as "secret" or above, which impedes the public's understanding and fuels distrust.

Subcommittee members 'very receptive' to testimony

In an interview with the Telegram & Gazette Wednesday, Graves said the members of the subcommittee were "very receptive" to his testimony about pilots struggling to report what they witnessed and his advocacy on behalf of witnesses.

"They asked very good questions and they seemed to understand the seriousness that this represents for our national security infrastructure," Graves said.

He said the training he went through as a pilot was rigorous and imparted much of the information about airborne vehicles that he used to assess the UAP. The objects he saw had unique flight mechanics, he said.

"It really just boils down to energy," Graves said. "As fighter pilots, energy management is what we do when we fight and these objects seem to have more or less unlimited energy. They appear to be able to be out there all day and perform very energy-intensive maneuvers at whim."

Graves maintained that documents or videos concerning UAP should not be classified because they may present a different narrative or a "fundamental truth." Classification is supposed to only be used for purposes of protecting national security or to keep the capabilities of other states or entities secret, Graves said.

On his own experiences with UAP, Graves said his squadron would typically observe objects "beyond visual range" and they would fly closer to them so the objects could be picked up by their camera systems.

The squadron had a hard time gaining a visual identification of the objects, but they eventually saw them in the near-collision incident with the two F-18s during the training mission.

UFOs have had a long history in the public imagination as the territory of science fiction stories of alien invasions and mysterious encounters. Graves said it is best to maintain an "agnostic" stance on the nature of the objects pilots have observed and take a hard look at the data surrounding these events.

About Americans for Safe Aerospace

Graves founded the nonprofit [Americans for Safe Aerospace](#) and has served as executive director since March, according to his [LinkedIn page](#). Graves said the nonprofit is a haven for UAP witnesses.

According to his LinkedIn page, Graves has hosted the Merged Podcast since January. The podcast's website states it takes a "radically open-minded approach" to the latest research and theories on UAP and hosts interviews with those who have firsthand accounts of observing them.

Last year, Graves appeared on the popular podcasts the Joe Rogan Experience and the Lex Fridman Podcast to talk about his experience with UAPs and his advocacy.

From <https://news.yahoo.com/ryan-graves-former-navy-pilot-182125964.html>

Our Mission

MISSION

Let's identify what's in our skies.

Americans for Safe Aerospace is a military pilot led nonprofit organization dedicated to aerospace safety and national security with a focus on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP). ASA was founded by Ryan Graves, a former Lieutenant U.S. Navy F/A-18 pilot, who was the first active duty pilot to come forward to Congress about UAP.

Identifying domain awareness gaps is critical to U.S. national security. If UAP are foreign assets, we must respond appropriately. If UAP continue to defy conventional explanation — we must invest in scientific research.

ASA supports military and commercial pilots and aerospace workers impacted by UAP, scientists committed to investigating this mystery, and concerned citizens who believe in transparent disclosure from our government.



From <<https://www.safeaerospace.org/#mission>>



ASA

Americans for Safe Aerospace

A military pilot-led nonprofit organization focused on UAP with over 9,000 members.

From <<https://www.safeaerospace.org/#mission>>

Retired air force officer claims U.S. covering up long-standing knowledge of UFOs

Pentagon denies claims U.S. has program to retrieve and reverse engineer UFOs
The Associated Press - Posted: Jul 26, 2023 1:38 PM EDT | Last Updated: July 27



Retired U.S. air force officer claims UFO knowledge could date back to 1930s

1 month ago
Duration:0:24

David Grusch, a former U.S. air force intelligence officer, told a U.S. congressional hearing that he believes the U.S. has possibly had knowledge of "non-human" activity — for decades. The U.S. is concealing a long-standing program that retrieves and reverse engineers unidentified flying objects, a former air force intelligence officer testified Wednesday before Congress.

The Pentagon has denied his claims, which were made at a hearing before a House oversight subcommittee.

Retired major David Grusch's highly anticipated testimony was part of Congress's latest foray into the world of UAPs — or "unidentified anomalous phenomena," which is the official term the U.S. government uses instead of UFOs.

While the study of mysterious aircraft or objects often evokes talk of aliens and "little green men," Democrats and Republicans in recent years have pushed for more research into UAPs as a matter of national security because of concerns that sightings observed by pilots may be tied to U.S. adversaries.

WATCH | Whistleblower pressed on his thinking on UFOs:



Whistleblower tries to 'keep an open mind' on UFOs

1 month ago
Duration:0:39

David Grusch, a former U.S. Air Force intelligence officer, explains why he has used the term "nonhuman" activity in discussing UFOs. Grusch said he was asked in 2019 by the head of a government task force on UAPs to identify all highly classified programs relating to the task force's mission.

At the time, Grusch was detailed to the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office, the agency that operates U.S. spy satellites.

"I was informed in the course of my official duties of a multi-decade UAP crash retrieval and reverse-engineering program to which I was denied access," he said.

- [Manitoba MP suggests Canada, allies aware of 'recovered UAP' or UFO materials in note to defence minister](#)
- [Canada attends first-of-its-kind UFO briefing at the Pentagon](#)
- [NASA UFO panel says stigma, lack of data are problems when studying 'unidentified aerial phenomena'](#)

Asked whether the U.S. government had information about extraterrestrial life, Grusch said the U.S. likely has been aware of "non-human" activity since the 1930s.

Pentagon denies coverup claims

The Pentagon has denied Grusch's claims of a coverup.



UFO WHISTLEBLOWER KEPT SECURITY CLEARANCE AFTER PSYCHIATRIC DETENTION

The star witness of Congress's UFO hearings, David Grusch, retained his clearance despite alleged substance abuse issues, FOIA documents reveal.



Ken Klippenstein

August 9 2023, 2:50 p.m.

"NON-HUMAN" BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL recovered from purported UFO crash sites. A decadeslong secret program to reverse-engineer extraterrestrial aircraft. A government cover-up employing "administrative terrorism" to silence truth-tellers.

These are some of the extraordinary claims made to Congress by Maj. David Grusch, a 36-year-old retired Air Force intelligence officer who also served as an adviser to the Pentagon's Unidentified Aerial Phenomena task force. Last month, the House Oversight Committee opened an investigation after Grusch claimed he was retaliated against for blowing the whistle on the U.S. government's alleged UAP recovery program.

Security clearances of the sort Grusch has held are subject to strict requirements, including regarding psychological episodes and substance issues. Grusch has used his high-level clearance to shore up his credibility, telling the committee: "I was cleared to literally all relevant compartments and in a position of extreme trust in both my military and civilian capacities."

But police records obtained by The Intercept under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act reveal that on October 1, 2018, Grusch was committed to a mental health facility based in part on a report that he "made a suicidal statement" after Grusch's wife told him he was an alcoholic and suggested that he get help.

"Husband asked [complainant] to kill him," a police incident report produced by the Loudoun County sheriff states. "He is very angry guns are locked up."

Grusch did not respond to a request for comment emailed via his lawyer or to a voicemail left on his phone. But on Tuesday evening, Ross Coulthart, an Australian [independent journalist](#) who covers UFOs and has interviewed Grusch, [posted a statement](#) attributed to Grusch on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

"It has come to my attention that *The Intercept* intends to publish an article about two incidents in 2014 and 2018 that highlights previous personal struggles I had with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Grief and Depression," the statement reads. "As I stated under oath in my congressional testimony, over 40 credentialed intelligence and military personnel provided myself and my colleagues the information I transmitted to the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG) and I took the leadership role to represent the concerns of these distinguished and patriotic individuals." Grusch's wife, Jessica Grusch, did not respond to several requests for comment.

A former colleague of Grusch's expressed shock that he retained his clearance after the 2014 incident, which was also documented in public records obtained by The Intercept.

"I think it's like any insular group: Once you're in, they generally protect their own," said the former colleague, who asked not to be named because they feared professional reprisals.

The former colleague said that the 2014 incident was known to Grusch's superiors, a claim that Coulthart appeared to confirm in an interview on NewsNation, a subscription television network owned by Nexstar Media.

"The intelligence community and the Defense Department clearly accepted there was no issue because he was allowed to keep his security clearance," Coulthart [told](#) Chris Cuomo Tuesday night.

"Waiting for You to Kill Me"

On the evening of October 1, 2018, Grusch's wife contacted the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office to report that Grusch "was drunk" and suicidal, according to the incident report.

"She told him that he was an alcoholic and that he needed to get help," according to a narrative account from the sheriff's office. "He replied, 'I've just been waiting for you to kill me.'"

Though the names are redacted, the documents describe a husband and wife at a home that Grusch and his wife owned at the time, according to Loudoun County records. The property has since been sold. The incident report also describes the subject as "Air International Guard" and previously Active Duty Air Force; Grusch served in the Air Force and the Air National Guard.

The man "could be violent, very strong," the report notes, adding that he might be suffering from PTSD. "Sometimes makes these threats when drunk," the report continues. "Has never harmed himself."

The narrative case report describes law enforcement officers detaining Grusch under an emergency custody order and taking him to a local emergency room, where a mental health specialist decided to ask a magistrate to issue a temporary detention order. Based on the order, an officer transferred Grusch to Loudoun Adult Medical Psychiatric Services, an [inpatient program](#) in the Inova Loudoun Cornwall Medical Campus in Leesburg.

A separate police report dated October 13, 2014, describes a similar incident: a 27-year-old male "threatening suicide" at a property that county records show was owned at the time by Grusch and his ex-wife, Kendall McMurray. That property has since been sold. The report notes that "he is violent" and "has access to a weapon."

McMurray did not respond to multiple requests for comment.



Reps. Tim Burchett, R-Tenn., and Anna Paulina Luna, R-Fla., attend the House Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs hearing titled "Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena: Implications on National Security, Public Safety, and Government Transparency," in the Rayburn Building in Washington, D.C., on July 26, 2023.

Photo: Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call via AP Images

Public Law Enforcement Records

Two Republican members of the House Oversight Committee, Reps. Anna Paulina Luna and Tim Burchett, were tasked with organizing the July 26 hearing after Grusch's whistleblower claims became public. Not all House Republicans are supportive of the effort. Rep. Mike Turner, chair of the House Intelligence Committee, has taken a dim view of Grusch's claims.

"Every decade there's been individuals who've said the United States has such pieces of unidentified flying objects that are from outer space," Turner [said](#). "There's no evidence of this and certainly it would be quite a conspiracy for this to be maintained, especially at this level."

Grusch emerged as the hearing's star witness, but his evidence was largely secondhand: When asked, Grusch [said](#) he hasn't seen any of the recovered alien vehicles or bodies himself. While two former Navy fighter pilots alleged unidentified aerial phenomena, [neither](#) said anything about their provenance. Grusch was alone among the witnesses in attributing them to extraterrestrials.

"My testimony is based on information I have been given by individuals with a longstanding track record of legitimacy," Grusch said in his [opening statement](#).

Shortly after The Intercept reached out to Grusch for comment for this story, Coulthart went on Cuomo's show and said that The Intercept was planning to publish "confidential medical records" about Grusch that had been leaked by the intelligence



The U.S. is concealing a longstanding program that retrieves and reverse engineers unidentified flying objects, David Grusch, a former intelligence officer in the U.S. air force, testified Wednesday at a hearing in Congress. The Pentagon has denied his claims. (Elizabeth Frantz/Reuters)

In a statement, Defence Department spokesperson Sue Gough said investigators have not discovered "any verifiable information to substantiate claims that any programs regarding the possession or reverse-engineering of extraterrestrial materials have existed in the past or exist currently."

The statement did not address UFOs that are not suspected of being extraterrestrial objects.

Grusch says he became a government whistleblower after his discovery and has faced retaliation for coming forward.

He declined to be more specific about the retaliatory tactics, citing an ongoing investigation.

- [UFO sightings in Canada rise as U.S. jets down mysterious objects: Winnipeg researcher](#)
- [CBC EXPLAINS Why do unidentified objects seem to be popping up above North America all of a sudden?](#)
- [Pentagon committed to understanding UFO origins, says U.S. intelligence official](#)

"It was very brutal and very unfortunate, some of the tactics they used to hurt me both professionally and personally," he said.

Rep. Glenn Grothman, R-Wis., chaired the panel's hearing and joked to a packed audience, "Welcome to the most exciting subcommittee in Congress this week."

There was bipartisan interest in Grusch's claims and a more sober tone than other recent hearings featuring whistleblowers celebrated by Republicans and criticized by Democrats.

WATCH | A need for more transparency?



Retired air force officer asked about alleged U.S. retrieval of UFO 'spacecraft'

1 month ago

Duration: 1:49

David Grusch, a former U.S. air force intelligence officer, is asked about claims he has made about the U.S. allegedly having retrieved UFO spacecraft and other artifacts. Lawmakers in both parties asked Grusch about his study of UFOs and the consequences he faced and how they could find out more about the government's UAP programs.

"I take it that you're arguing what we need is real transparency and reporting systems so we can get some clarity on what's going on out there," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md.

Some lawmakers criticized the Pentagon for not providing more details in a classified briefing or releasing images that could be shown to the public.

- [N.S. expert says American UFO report could be about something else entirely](#)
- [Not enough data to analyze still-unexplained UFO sightings, U.S. report says](#)

In previous hearings, Pentagon officials showed a video taken from an F-18 military plane that showed an image of a balloon-like shape.

Pentagon officials in December said they had received "several hundreds" of new reports since launching a renewed effort to investigate reports of UFOs.

"We have not seen anything, and we're still very early on, that would lead us to believe that any of the objects that we have seen are of alien origin," Ronald Moultrie, the undersecretary of defence for intelligence and security, said at the time.

"Any unauthorized system in our airspace we deem as a threat to safety."

them to extraterrestrials.

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Shortly after The Intercept reached out to Grusch for comment for this story, Coulthart went on Cuomo's show and said that The Intercept was planning to publish "confidential medical records" about Grusch that had been leaked by the intelligence community. Coulthart, an ardent defender of Grusch, told NewsNation that "Grusch believes the government may now be behind an effort to release his medical records in an effort to smear his credibility."

"This is a document that would be, if the media had done the right thing, it would be in his police department file, in the file in the county sheriff's office," Coulthart said in his interview with Cuomo. "But Dave has checked today, because he assumed that the journalist had done his homework and just asked the local sheriff for the files. The sheriff has confirmed it did not come from him. The only other place that had this information is the intelligence community, Dave's personal files inside the intelligence community, where quite properly, when anybody is security assist, things like this have to be looked at, and somebody inside the intelligence community leaked it."

Coulthart went on to compare the purported leak to Richard Nixon's attempts to discredit Daniel Ellsberg, who shared the Pentagon Papers with the New York Times.

"I think there should be an inquiry into the circumstances of how sensitive records pertaining to a decorated combat veteran's file found their way to a journalist not through the proper channels," Coulthart said. "This could've been requested under FOI, as is normal, but the county sheriff has confirmed that did not happen."

In an interview Wednesday morning, Burchett [repeated the false claim](#) that Grusch's medical records had been leaked, going as far as to say that "someone needs to lose their job."

The records were not confidential, medical, or leaked. They are publicly available law enforcement records obtained under a routine Virginia FOIA request to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and provided by the office's FOIA coordinator. Copies of The Intercept's correspondence with the sheriff's office are being published with this story.

In a clip from a previous interview with Coulthart that was included in Tuesday's Cuomo segment, Grusch suggested that his struggle with PTSD was behind him.

"I served in Afghanistan and I had a friend that committed suicide after I got back," Grusch told Coulthart. "I dealt with that for a couple years and I'm proud as a veteran not to become a statistic. Totally took care of that issue in my life and it doesn't affect me anymore."

Echoes of Roswell

Coulthart's comments would not be the first instance of misinformed media coverage of Grusch's case. The law firm representing Grusch, Compass Rose Legal Group, issued [a statement](#) in June warning of "misstatements" in media reporting about the nature of their representation of Grusch, which they stressed was "narrowly scoped."

"The whistleblower disclosure did not speak to the specifics of the alleged classified information that Mr. Grusch has now publicly characterized, and the substance of that information has always been outside of the scope of Compass Rose's representation," the statement says. "Compass Rose took no position and takes no position on the contents of the withheld information."

Grusch's ability to keep his security clearance appears to contrast with the government's treatment of other employees. Shortly after President Joe Biden's inauguration, for example, dozens of White House staffers [were reportedly](#)

[denied](#) clearances for past marijuana use — including in states where it was legal.

In June, technology website The Debrief first [reported on](#) Grusch's whistleblower disclosure, casting him as a "decorated former combat officer" — a phrase echoed repeatedly by Coulthart.

"I'd like to point out that finding a decorated veteran who believes all sorts of insane conspiracy theories is not remarkable," [cracked](#) Jack Murphy, a former Army Ranger turned journalist. "I know many, and some would love it if I wrote stories about George Soros, JFK, etc."

The Debrief article was co-authored by Leslie Kean, whose [2017 New York Times article](#) helped drive much of the current wave of interest in UAPs.

The Defense Department has flatly denied possessing "any verifiable information to substantiate claims that any programs regarding the possession or reverse-engineering of extraterrestrial materials have existed in the past or exist currently," Pentagon spokesperson Sue Gough [has said](#).

"The recent UFO hearing is an embarrassment to everyone involved," Steven Aftergood, a longtime critic of government secrecy and former director of the Federation of American Scientists' Project on Government Secrecy, told The Intercept. "It's a symptom of the broader degradation of congressional discourse: by providing a forum for preposterous claims and failing to challenge them, the House committee makes legitimate oversight more difficult."

During the committee hearing, Luna referenced the 1947 [discovery](#) of mysterious aerial debris in the desert in Roswell, New Mexico, as evidence of long-standing contact with UFOs. Jesse A. Marcel, a military intelligence officer — and, like Grusch, an Air Force major at the time — said that the debris was extraterrestrial in nature, but it later became clear that it was actually the remains of a weather balloon designed to detect atmospheric conditions indicative of Russian nuclear testing.

For many years, the Pentagon refused to explain the weather balloon's true purpose due to its highly classified nature as part of Project Mogul, a top-secret Air Force program designed to detect Soviet bomb tests. Many took the secrecy, which was indeed excessive, to mean that the government must be covering up the existence of extraterrestrial aircraft.

Aftergood said the misconception at the heart of the recent House hearing is similar to the legends that grew out of the events in Roswell: "The embarrassment of the House hearings stems not so much from the issue itself but from the failure to distinguish what is real from what is fantasy."

From <https://theintercept.com/2023/08/09/ufo-david-grusch-clearance/>

From <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/david-grusch-ufo-usp-congress-testimony-1.6918486>

Bob Lazar

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:10 PM

Robert Scott Lazar ([/ləˈzɑːr/](#); born January 26, 1959) is an American [conspiracy theorist](#) who claims to have been hired in the late 1980s to [reverse-engineer extraterrestrial](#) technology at what he described as a secret site called "S-4". Lazar alleges that this subsidiary installation is located several kilometres south of the [United States Air Force](#) facility popularly known as [Area 51](#).

Lazar claims he examined an alien craft that ran on an [antimatter](#) reactor powered by [element 115](#), which at the time had not yet been synthesized. He also claims to have read US government briefing documents that described alien involvement in human affairs over the past 10,000 years. Lazar's claims resulted in bringing added public attention to Area 51 and fueling conspiracy theories surrounding its classified activities.

Lazar's story has since been analyzed and rejected by skeptics and some [ufologists](#). Universities from which he claims to hold degrees show no record of him, and supposed former workplaces have disavowed him. In 1990, he was [convicted](#) for his involvement in a prostitution ring and again in 2006 for selling illegal chemicals.

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Lazar



Claims

Lazar has achieved notoriety as an [Area 51 conspiracy theorist](#).^{[\[a\]](#)[\[b\]](#)} In May 1989, he appeared in an interview with investigative reporter [George Knapp](#) on [Las Vegas](#) TV station [KLAS](#), under the pseudonym "Dennis" and with his face hidden, to discuss his purported employment at "S-4", a subsidiary facility he claimed exists near the [Nellis Air Force Base](#) installation known as Area 51. He claims that the said facility was adjacent to [Papoose Lake](#), which is located south of the main Area 51 facility at [Groom Lake](#). He claimed the site consisted of concealed aircraft hangars built into a mountainside. Lazar said that his job was to help with the [reverse engineering](#) of one of nine [flying saucers](#), which he alleged were extraterrestrial in origin. He claims one of the flying saucers, the one he coined the "Sport Model", was manufactured out of a metallic substance similar in appearance and touch to [stainless steel](#). In a subsequent interview that November, Lazar appeared unmasked and under his own name, where he claimed that his job interview for work at the facility was contractor [EG&G](#) and his employer was the [United States Navy](#); EG&G stated it had no records on him.^{[\[a\]](#)}

Lazar has claimed that the propulsion of the studied vehicle ran on an [antimatter](#) reactor^{[\[a\]](#)} and was fueled by the chemical element with atomic number 115 (E115), which at the time was provisionally named *ununpentium* and had not yet been artificially created.^{[\[a\]](#)[\[b\]](#)} (It was first synthesized in 2003 and later named [moscovium](#)).^{[\[a\]](#)} He further said that the propulsion system relied on a [stable isotope](#) of E115, which allegedly generates a gravity wave that allowed the vehicle to fly and to evade visual detection by [bending light](#) around it.^{[\[a\]](#)} No stable isotopes of moscovium have yet been synthesized; all have proven extremely radioactive, decaying in a few hundred milliseconds.^{[\[a\]](#)} Lazar also said the craft was dismantled, and the reactor he studied was topped by a sphere or semi-sphere which emitted a [force field](#) capable of repulsing human flesh.^{[\[a\]](#)} He explained that the craft was split into two main levels.^{[\[a\]](#)} The reactor was positioned at the center of the upper level, with an antenna extending to the top,^{[\[a\]](#)} surrounded by three "gravity amplifiers". These connected to "gravity emitters" on the lower level, which can rotate 180 degrees to output a "gravity beam or [anti-gravity](#) wave" and that the craft would then travel "belly first" into this distortion field.^{[\[a\]](#)} Lazar additionally claimed that during his joining the program, he read briefing documents describing the historical involvement of Earth for the past 10,000 years with extraterrestrial beings described as [grey aliens](#) from a planet orbiting the twin [binary star](#) system [Zeta Reticuli](#). As of September 2019, no [extrasolar planets](#) have been found in the Zeta Reticuli system.^{[\[a\]](#)[\[b\]](#)} In 1989, Lazar said the seats of the saucer he saw were approximately child-sized and that he had seen alien cadavers of a corresponding size.^{[\[a\]](#)[\[b\]](#)} He also said that while walking down a hallway at S-4, he briefly glanced through a door window and saw what he interpreted as two men in lab coats facing down and talking to "something small with long arms".^{[\[a\]](#)} Three decades later, he said he did not think he saw an alien, but speculated that he saw a doll used as reference for the size of the alleged aliens, and that anickname used for them was "the kids".^{[\[a\]](#)}

Lazar claims to have earned a master's degree in physics from the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) (MIT), and a master's degree in electronic technology from the [California Institute of Technology](#) (Caltech);^{[\[a\]](#)} however, there are no records of Lazar attending either MIT or Caltech.^{[\[a\]](#)} His supposed employment at a Nellis Air Force Base subsidiary has also been discredited by skeptics, as well as by the United States Air Force.^{[\[a\]](#)[\[b\]](#)}

His alleged employment as a physicist at [Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility](#), within the [Los Alamos National Laboratory](#), is mentioned in multiple New Mexico newspaper articles from the summer of 1982, which focus on his interest in jetpowered cars.^{[\[a\]](#)[\[b\]](#)} ^{[\[a\]](#)} KLAS found a Robert Lazar in a 1982 Los Alamos National Laboratory phone directory, but the laboratory repeatedly denied having any records on him.^{[\[a\]](#)} Lazar alleges that his records have been erased; however, skeptics such as [Donald R. Prothero](#), [Stanton T. Friedman](#), and Timothy D. Callahan have found this to be implausible. According to Prothero, "He was employed not by the government but rather as a technician working for a private company that contracted work at Los Alamos."^{[\[a\]](#)}

Lazar's story has drawn significant media attention, controversy, supporters, and detractors. Lazar admits that he has no evidence to support his core claim of alien technology.^{[\[a\]](#)[\[b\]](#)[\[c\]](#)[\[d\]](#)[\[e\]](#)[\[f\]](#)[\[g\]](#)[\[h\]](#)[\[i\]](#)[\[j\]](#)[\[k\]](#)[\[l\]](#)[\[m\]](#)[\[n\]](#)[\[o\]](#)[\[p\]](#)[\[q\]](#)[\[r\]](#)[\[s\]](#)[\[t\]](#)[\[u\]](#)[\[v\]](#)[\[w\]](#)[\[x\]](#)[\[y\]](#)[\[z\]](#)}

In 2017 Lazar's workplace was raided by the FBI and local police which Lazar theorizes was to recover "element 115", a substance he says he took from a government lab. Records obtained through a freedom of information request show the raid was part of a murder investigation.^{[\[a\]](#)}

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Lazar

What Does UAP Mean, and Is This the New Term For UFO Now?
What is a UAP and what does UP stand for? Find out why NASA recently selected a crew to collect as much data as possible on these unidentified objects in the sky.
By Monica Cull Feb 14, 2023 12:45 PM



(Credit:Natural Earth Imagery/Shutterstock)

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This article was originally published on Oct. 26, 2022 and has been edited to include recent information on UAPs and unidentified objects.
A 16-member crew from NASA will study Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena. According to a NASA press release, the team will analyze and establish the framework for future studies around UAPs for NASA and other organizations. UAPs are of interest to national security and air safety since there has been an increase in UAP sightings from pilots, military personnel and civilians. Especially after the recent downing of a Chinese balloon and three other unidentified objects, NASA wants to collect as much data as possible on these phenomena.
What is A UAP?
UAP stands for Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena, updated from Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs) — formerly known as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).
A UAP can almost always be identified, according to Leslie Kean — investigative journalist and author of the book UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go on the Record. In her book, Kean discusses how people can identify UAPs or UFOs 90 to 95 percent of the time as:
"weather balloons, flares, sky lanterns, planes flying in formation, secret military aircraft, birds reflecting the sun, planes reflecting the sun, blimps, helicopters, the planet Venus or Mars, meteors or meteorites, space junk, satellites, sundogs, ball lightning, ice crystals, reflected light off clouds, lights on the ground or lights reflected on a cockpit window."



(Credit: Shutterstock/Something Special)

However, what are the other 5 to 10 percent of unidentified objects seen in the sky? With recent UAP footage released and NASA's team of experts, we want to look at how UAPs got their start and what we know about the recently declassified UAP videos.

Read More: Fact or Fiction: What Is The Truth Behind Alien Conspiracy Theories?

1947 — Famous UFO Sightings: Mount Rainier and The Roswell Incident
The year 1947 is famous for two alleged UFO sightings. The first incident occurred when civilian pilot Kenneth Arnold flew a small aircraft near Mount Rainier. Arnold claimed to have seen nine blue, crescent-shaped objects moving at an estimated 1,700 mph in a "V" formation. Arnold described the shapes moving like "saucers skipping on water," thus creating the term, flying saucer.
At first, Arnold believed that these were military crafts since World War II had recently ended and the Cold War was beginning. However, the military claims there were no military aircraft in the sky around Mount Rainier that day.
The second incident happened after a rancher near Roswell, New Mexico heard about the possible UFOs near Mount Rainier and discovered the wreck of what appeared to be an extraterrestrial spaceship. William "Mac" Brazel found metallic objects, plastics and other debris and quickly reported them.



(Credit:Steve Lagreca/Shutterstock)

Officials from the Roswell Army Air Force Base came to collect the debris, explaining that the wreck was a downed weather balloon, not a flying saucer. However, this sparked a series of conspiracy theories around the incident, including a video of an extraterrestrial dissection.
However, in 1994, the U.S. military released a report explaining how the weather balloon had actually been a spy balloon to try and monitor Soviet nuclear tests as part of Project Mogul. And in 1997, the U.S. Air Force released The Roswell Report: Case Closed, debunking the dissection theory.

Read More: Life Elsewhere in the Universe: When Did We First Consider the Possibility?

2020 — Declassified Surveillance UAP Videos
The U.S. Navy officially declassified three surveillance videos of UAPs in 2020, after they leaked to the New York Times in 2017. One was from 2004 and two were from 2015. F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter pilots took the videos in restricted airspace during a military training exercise.
1. FLIR: USS Nimitz
November 14, 2004, a UAP was recorded about 100 miles southwest of San Diego, CA.
USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, including the missile cruiser USS Princeton, were performing drills. Among the group were two F/A-18F Super Hornet fighter pilots. During the training, they were suddenly asked to proceed to new coordinates for a possible real-life situation.
Before this, a radar operator in the group had been picking up anomalous aerial vehicles (AAVs) — the Navy's term for UAPs — for several days at an altitude of over 80,000 feet. However, after detecting AAVs at lower altitudes, the two pilots

What is a UAP? What the acronym means, why they're different from UFOs, and what a Congressional hearing revealed

Chris Panella
Jul 28, 2023, 1:58 PM EDT



Unidentified aerial phenomena and unidentified flying objects have some similarities, but the terms describe different sightings. Drew Angerer/Getty Images

- Recent testimonies before Congress and meetings with NASA have renewed interest in UAPs and UFOs.
 - There are differences between UAPs and UFOs, especially related to potential proof of alien life.
 - Here's everything you need to know about UAPs and UFOs — including what they stand for.
- Get the inside scoop on today's biggest stories in business, from Wall Street to Silicon Valley — delivered daily.
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On Wednesday, a former intelligence officer testified in front of Congress that the US government has evidence of alien life.
While ex-Air Force officer David Grusch's comments were shocking — but in line with his previous wild claims that the Vatican was part of a massive UFO cover-up — they did renew public interest in UAPs and UFOs.

There are differences between a UAP and a UFO. Here's what the two terms mean, and how seriously should we take the testimony that the US military is keeping the existence of aliens a secret.



Another image from a video showing a UFO filmed near San Diego in 2004. CNN/Department of Defense

What does UAP mean?

UAP stands for "unidentified anomalous phenomena."

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It was previously an acronym for "unidentified aerial phenomena," but the Pentagon, NASA, and other organizations tweaked it in December 2022 in order to represent "submerged and trans-medium objects," a defense official said at the time.
The term describes documented events or objects in the sky that cannot be explained naturally. These could be instances not entirely understood on a scientific level, or instances where an aerial object does something in the sky that can't be explained under normal circumstances.
Hundreds of military commercial pilots have reported UAP encounters, often citing video footage, photographs, or sensor readings that supposedly show inexplicable objects.
While some turn out to be weather balloons or drones, others aren't immediately identifiable.

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ADVERTISING



The transition from using UFO to UAP was to better encompass a variety of phenomena and strange sightings. Bettmann/Getty Images

UAP vs. UFO

UFO — which stands for "unidentified flying object" — was coined by the Air Force in 1952.
Before that, interest in UFOs really took off in 1947 when pilot Kenneth Arnold claimed to having seen a flying disc while on a flight. Shortly after, conspiracy theories spread that an alien flying saucer crashed in Roswell, New Mexico. Military officials insisted it was part of a weather balloon.
Both of these events cemented UFOs in the public consciousness, creating a cultural phenomenon that would persist for decades.
Portrayals of UFOs haven't changed much from those initial events. In popular culture, UFOs are typically represented as flying saucers, while extraterrestrial beings are typically portrayed as two-legged, almost humanoid grey or green creatures.

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November 14, 2004, a UAP was recorded about 100 miles southwest of San Diego, CA. USS *Nimitz* Carrier Strike Group, including the missile cruiser USS *Princeton*, were performing drills. Among the group were two F/A-18F Super Hornet fighter pilots. During the training, they were suddenly asked to proceed to new coordinates for a possible [real-life situation](#). Before this, a radar operator in the group had been picking up anomalous aerial vehicles (AAVs) — the Navy's term for UAPs — for several days at an altitude of over 80,000 feet. However, after detecting AAVs at lower altitudes, the two pilots were sent to intercept the objects.

At first, the pilots couldn't see the AAVs, but they did notice a disturbance in the water. Suddenly, a Tic Tac-shaped aircraft appeared, moving quickly and erratically before speeding off. While the encounter wasn't captured on video, a different pilot was able to record the [aircraft leaving](#).

2. GOFAST

In January 2015, a craft similar to the one seen near San Diego was seen off the eastern coast of Florida by F/A-18F Super Hornet fighter pilots from the [USS Theodore Roosevelt](#). Commentary can be heard between the pilots, asking one another what they thought the object was.

3. GIMBAL

Around the same time and in the same area as GOFAST, the GIMBAL video shows an AAV moving fast and against the wind. The pilots are shocked as it pivots sharply on its axis. In the video's audio, you can also hear the pilots mention that ["there is a whole fleet of them."](#)

After releasing these videos, the government issued a nine-page report that said there had been [144 reported UAP](#) sightings between 2004 and 2021. As the NASA team gets to work, only time will tell if these UAPs can be identified.

From <<https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/what-are-uaps-and-what-do-we-know-about-them-so-far>>

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"Unidentified aerial phenomena" became a more common phrase in recent decades, and in 2020, the Pentagon established a Navy-led UAP Task Force to spearhead investigations into reports and rumored sightings.



A woman looks at a UFO display outside of the Little A'Le'Inn, in Rachel, Nev., the closest town to Area 51, July 22, 2019. AP Photo/John Locher, File

Do UFOs exist?

Grusch, an ex-intelligence officer and now whistleblower, told lawmakers on Wednesday that he knew of "a multi-decade UAP crash retrieval and reverse-engineering program" by the government, and had knowledge of crashed aircraft that contained non-human biologics.

Two other witnesses, Navy pilots David Fravor and Ryan Graves, also told Congress about their experiences with flying objects.

"The American people deserve to know what is happening in our skies," Graves said.

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Fravor had previously told [The New York Times](#) about a 2004 encounter with a whitish, oval-shaped aircraft that "accelerated like nothing I've ever seen."

"I have no idea what I saw," Fravor told a pilot at the time. "It had no plumes, wings or rotors and outran our F-18s." But, he added, "I want to fly one."

Despite their testimony under oath, the witnesses didn't provide evidence supporting their claims.

While it's unclear what exactly UAPs are or whether or not they definitely exist, the government is still taking investigations into reports of UAPs seriously.

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In June 2022, NASA announced a study team focusing on available UAP data. The group, along with the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office — a portion of the US Office of the Secretary of Defense — said in May 2023 that they needed better data to identify UAPs.

They proposed a method using ["unclassified crowd-sourced data"](#) from the general public to collect information on potential sightings to figure out what the anomalies are.

From <<https://www.businessinsider.com/what-is-a-uap-meaning-congress-ufo-hearing-2023-7?top1>>

UFOs and aliens bring a divided US Congress together

Published
26 July

Share
Media caption,
Watch: Non-human bodies were recovered from UFO crash site
By Kayla Epstein
BBC News

If the truth is out there, the US Congress wants to know.
The House of Representatives convened a landmark panel on unidentified anomalous phenomenon (UAPs), known more colloquially as UFOs, on Wednesday, in the most serious acknowledgment yet that mysterious sightings deserve scrutiny at the highest levels of government.
US lawmakers were "not bringing little green men or flying saucers into the hearing... we're just going to get to the facts," Republican Tim Burchett said at the beginning of the meeting. Yet the testimony at times strayed into the unknown.
Over the course of two hours, [three witnesses shared their encounters with objects](#) that defied physics and told of pilots afraid to speak up, biological material recovered from crafts, and alleged retaliation against whistleblowers. All acknowledged that anomalous phenomena were a potential national security threat.
The hearing produced no serious bombshells - nor a confirmation of alien life - but the fact that the witnesses received a major hearing before Congress was notable in and of itself. Lawmakers and witnesses alike used the panel to demand greater transparency around UAPs from the military.



IMAGE SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES
Image caption,
Washington's public embrace of UFOs as a policy issue has moved with astonishing velocity. Retired US Navy commander David Fravor once again recounted his encounter with a "tic-tac" shaped UAP in 2004 that moved in a way that baffled aviators, footage of which was released in 2017 and publicly verified by the US Navy two years later.
"The technology that we faced was far superior than anything that we had, have today, or are looking to develop in the next 10+ years," Mr Fravor said.
David Grusch, an ex-Air Force intelligence officer, hinted that government officials had suppressed information and punished whistleblowers, but claimed he could not elaborate further in public due to classification laws.
'Human or non-human?'
In one notable exchange, Nancy Mace, a South Carolina Republican, asked Mr Grusch elaborate on what he knew about non-terrestrial bodies.
She asked him if "biologics" were recovered from any crafts retrieved by the government. Referencing his previous media interviews, Mr Grusch responded that "biologics came with some of these recoveries".
Were they human or non-human? Ms Mace asked.
"Non-human, and that was the assessment of people with direct knowledge on the programme I talked to," Mr Grusch responded. During a different line of questioning, he confirmed he had never personally seen an alien body.
Witnesses also called for an official reporting process for military personnel or members of the public to report unexplained sightings.
"We need a system where pilots can report without losing their jobs," said Ryan Graves, executive director of Americans for Safe Aerospace.
Congress seemed eager to grant that request by the end of the session.



IMAGE SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES
Image caption,
David Fravor (left), Ryan Graves and David Grusch (right) all testified before US lawmakers on Wednesday
"UAPs, whatever they be, may pose a serious threat to our military and our civilian aircraft, and that must be understood," Robert Garcia, a California Democrat, said. "We should encourage more reporting, not less on UAPs. The more we understand, the safer we will be."
While both Republican and Democratic lawmakers took the subjects seriously, a few expressed scepticism that extraterrestrial activity was afoot.
'Alien incompetence'
Eric Burlison, a Missouri Republican, attempted to poke holes at the concept that pilots saw alien objects. He said he found it difficult to believe beings who could travel billions of miles to reach us would be "incompetent" enough to crash on Earth.
He asked whether any of the UAPs could actually be craft created by military contractors, or belong to secret agency programmes that other government entities had hidden.
Washington's public embrace of UFOs as a policy issue has moved with the same astonishing velocity as the mysterious objects, going from shadowy backroom meetings with a handful of enthusiasts to a full-blown, televised panel that received the same serious questioning as any other national security matter.
In 2017, the issue burst into the open [when The New York Times reported](#) the existence of a secret Pentagon programme to investigate unidentified aerial phenomenon.
The programme was backed by former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who represented the state of Nevada - and therefore, Area 51.
Media caption,
The Pentagon released videos in 2020 to "clear up any misconceptions"
The New York Times, as well as an organisation called To The Stars Academy of Arts and Science, also published three videos showing unexplained encounters with UAPs. Since that time, the US military has gradually acknowledged these encounters while declining to speculate about their origins.
Investigating UFOs, now known to many as UAPs, has become a rare bipartisan issue in Congress. Lawmakers of both parties have called for investigations and military transparency. In 2022, the House Intelligence Committee held a hearing about the secretive Pentagon programme. Nasa held a public hearing [on the matter in June](#).
Both former presidents Barack Obama, a Democrat, and Donald Trump, a Republican, have addressed the issue in public interviews. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said he was open minded.
"What we believe is that there are unexplained aerial phenomena that have been cited and reported by pilots - Navy and Air Force," Mr Kirby said. "We don't have the answers about what these phenomena are."
In a rarity for a televised congressional hearing, nearly all the lawmakers focused their questioning on the subject at hand on Wednesday.
"Many Americans are deeply interested in this issue," Jared Moskowitz, a Florida Democrat, said. "And it shouldn't take the potential of nonhuman origin to bring us together."

Here are the 5 most memorable moments from Congress' UFO hearing
Former military officials made a series of mystifying claims about unidentified aerial phenomena under oath at Wednesday's congressional hearing.
TAP TO UNMUTE

July 26, 2023, 6:15 PM EDT
By [Michael Mitsanas](#)
Three former military officials told Congress Wednesday that they believe the government knows much more about [UFOs](#) than it is telling the public.
A House Oversight subcommittee held a hearing on UFOs — officially known as unidentified aerial phenomena or UAPs — and heard mystifying testimony about unexplained object sightings and government possession of "nonhuman" biological matter.
Lawmakers on the committee, baffled by some of the testimony, repeatedly noted that UAP sightings are an issue of bipartisan concern and raise national security questions. Separately, some accused the federal government of endeavoring to conceal key UFO-related information from the public, though they did not provide evidence to support those allegations.
"The sheer number of reports, whistleblowers and stories of unidentified anomalous phenomena should raise real questions and warrant investigation and oversight. And that's why we are here today," Rep. Robert Garcia, the top Democrat on the subcommittee, said in his opening statement. "UAPs, whatever they may be, may pose a serious threat to our military or civilian aircraft. And that must be understood."
These UAP sightings, experts say, might be attributable to balloons, drones, optical illusions or even the blinking lights of a commercial airliner. The Pentagon has said they have seen no evidence linking UAPs to alien activity, though they have [not ruled out](#) that explanation.
Here are five of the witnesses' main claims from the hearing:
Government is 'absolutely' in possession of UAPs
David Grusch, a former U.S. intelligence official, told the panel that he is "absolutely" certain that the federal government is in possession of UAPs, citing interviews he said he conducted with 40 witnesses over a four-year period.
The former U.S. intelligence official said he led Defense Department efforts to analyze reported UAP sightings and was informed of a "multidecade" Pentagon program that endeavored to collect and reconstruct crashed UAPs.
Asked by Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Fla., how such a program is funded, Grusch claimed that the effort is "above congressional oversight" and bankrolled by a "mi appropriation of funds." "Does that mean that there is money in the budget that is set to go to a program but it doesn't and it goes to something else?," Moskowitz asked.
"Yes. I have specific knowledge of that," Grusch said, though he did not provide more details, claiming the information remains classified.
'Nonhuman biologics' were found at a crash site
Grusch, who underscored that he has not personally spotted a UAP, told the panel that he knows of "multiple colleagues" who were injured by UAPs. He also said he has interviewed individuals who have recovered "nonhuman biologics" from crashed UAPs.
Grusch said he prefers to use the term "nonhuman" rather than alien or extraterrestrial.



UFO whistleblower alleges 'nonhuman' biologics found at crash sites
JULY 26, 2023 300:51

Asked by Rep. Eric Burlison, R-Mo., to substantiate the crashed UAPs claim, the former intelligence official said he could not divulge specific details, once again claiming the information was too sensitive to share with the public.
He did, however, describe the nature of what he saw: "I have to be very careful here ... [but] what I personally witnessed, myself and my wife, was very disturbing."
A Pentagon spokesperson [told NBC News](#) that Grusch's claims are false.
Officials must establish a 'safe and transparent reporting process'
Some lawmakers and witnesses pushed the federal government to establish clear channels to communicate UAP information with both the public and the military, and said the military should establish a comprehensive reporting process for unidentified objects sightings.
[Ryan Graves](#), a former Navy pilot, told the panel that military pilots do not feel adequately briefed on UAPs, which he said leaves them unprepared to respond to UAP encounters.
The former Navy pilot claimed that commercial airline pilots have spotted UAPs too.
"There has to be a safe and transparent reporting process for pilots both on the commercial side and the military side to be able to report UAPs," Garcia said.



Ryan Graves, executive director of Americans for Safe Aerospace, testifies Wednesday. Drew Angerer / Getty Images
Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C., echoed the calls for more transparency. She noted that Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick, the director of the Pentagon's All -Domain Anomaly Resolution Office, had previously told Congress that there was "no credible" evidence of extraterrestrial life.
Grusch objected to Kirkpatrick's claim, prompting Foxx to say that "contradiction is a perfect example of why we need to inject transparency into our government."
Stigma associated with sightings 'silences' possible witnesses
Some witnesses and lawmakers at the hearing argued that the stigma associated with reporting UFO sightings — as well as the alleged harassment of those who work to investigate them — may be hindering efforts to determine their origins.
Graves told the panel that stigma "silences" pilots who fear "professional repercussions," which he said is "compounded by recent government claims questioning the credibility of eyewitness testimony."
The Federal Aviation Administration has [no mechanism](#) for pilots to report UAPs, and instead directs them to civilian groups that are often dismissed as the domain of cranks and conspiracy theorists.
Those institutional hurdles led Graves to form a [first-of-its-kind group](#) that pushes for policy changes, serves as a hub for pilot whistleblowers and advocates for more disclosure by the military and other government agencies.
Lawmakers said they hoped the hearing could help assuage pilots' fears of speaking out.
"This hearing will not be the end of this discussion, but a new chapter and start. We should encourage more reporting, and more study of UAPs," Garcia said. "The more we understand, the safer we are."
UFO spotted accelerating to 'supersonic speeds'
David Fravor, a former Navy commander, said he and three fellow military pilots spotted a white Tic -Tac-shaped object in 2004, hovering below their jets and just above the Pacific Ocean. As he descended to inspect the sighting, he claimed the unidentified aircraft — which he said bore no visible rotors, wings or exhaust — began to ascend and approach his fighter jet.
He claimed that the UAP then vanished, only to reappear a few seconds later, but this time it was spotted 60 miles away.
Fravor told the committee that the technology he and his team encountered defies logical explanation.
"The technology that we faced is far superior to anything that we had," Fravor claimed. "And there's nothing we can do about it, nothing."

From <[https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56372498](#)>

Gang of Eight (intelligence)

For the group of US Senators who wrote a comprehensive immigration reform bill in 2013, see [Gang of Eight \(immigration\)](#). For other uses, see [Gang of Eight](#).

The **Gang of Eight** is a colloquial term for a set of eight leaders within the [United States Congress](#) who are briefed on classified intelligence matters by the [executive branch](#). Specifically, the Gang of Eight includes the leaders of each of the two parties from both the [Senate](#) and [House of Representatives](#), and the [chairs](#) and [ranking minority members](#) of both the [Senate Committee](#) and [House Committee](#) for [intelligence](#) as set forth by [50 U.S.C. § 3093\(c\)\(2\)](#).

Under normal conditions, the [President of the United States](#) is required by Title [50 U.S.C. § 3091\(a\)\(1\)](#) to "ensure that the congressional intelligence committees are kept fully and currently informed of the intelligence activities of the United States, including any significant anticipated intelligence activity as required by [the] title." However, under "extraordinary circumstances", when the President thinks "it is essential to limit access" to information about a [covert action](#), [50 U.S.C. § 3093\(c\)\(2\)](#) allows the President to limit reporting.

[Background](#)^{[[edit](#)]}

The term "Gang of Eight" gained wide use in coverage of the controversial [warrantless surveillance of American citizens by the National Security Agency under the George W. Bush administration](#), in the context that no members of Congress other than the Gang of Eight were informed of the program, and they were forbidden to disseminate knowledge of the program to other members of Congress. The Bush administration asserted that the briefings delivered to the Gang of Eight sufficed to provide [Congressional oversight](#) of the program and preserve the [checks and balances](#) between the executive and legislative branches.^{[[u](#)]}

The non-partisan [Congressional Research Service](#) prepared a legal analysis on January 18, 2006 that noted: "If the NSA surveillance program were to be considered an intelligence collection program, limiting congressional notification of the NSA program to the Gang of Eight, which some Members who were briefed about the program contend, would appear to be inconsistent with the law, which requires that the 'congressional intelligence committees be kept fully and currently informed of all intelligence activities', other than those involving covert actions."^{[[u](#)]}

However, as noted by [David S. Kris](#), former Assistant Attorney General for National Security at DOJ: "As it turns out, however, [Rep. Nadler](#) was in fact aware of the bulk metadata collection in 2009, and (as discussed in the text) wrote to the Department of Justice about the collection at the time. In response, DOJ sent him a letter in December 2009 noting that the government was making available to all Members of Congress information about the bulk collection and compliance issues that had arisen."^{[[u](#)]} In 2011, as it did in 2009, the Executive Branch again made documentation available to all members of Congress to explain reauthorization of [Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act](#).^{[[u](#)]}

[Senator Feinstein](#) stressed in July 2013, "I know of no federal program for which audits, Congressional oversight and scrutiny by the Justice Department, the Intelligence Community and the Courts are stronger or more sustained."^{[[u](#)]}

Former Attorney General [Alberto Gonzales](#) repeatedly made references to the "Gang of Eight" when being questioned about the warrantless surveillance/domestic spying while testifying at the [Justice Department](#) Oversight hearing held July 24, 2007.

Members, 118th Congress^{[[edit](#)]}

Under the "gang of eight" system, the executive branch of the United States discloses highly sensitive intelligence information to the following members of Congress:^{[[u](#)]}

- [United States House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence](#):
- [Mike Turner](#) (R-OH), Chair
- [Jim Himes](#) (D-CT), Ranking Member
- [United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence](#):
- [Mark Warner](#) (D-VA), Chair
- [Marco Rubio](#) (R-FL), Vice Chair
- Leadership in the [United States House of Representatives](#):
- [Kevin McCarthy](#) (R-CA), Speaker
- [Hakeem Jeffries](#) (D-NY), Minority Leader
- Leadership in the [United States Senate](#):
- [Chuck Schumer](#) (D-NY), Majority Leader
- [Mitch McConnell](#) (R-KY), Minority Leader

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gang_of_Eight_\(intelligence\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gang_of_Eight_(intelligence))

What Is the Gang of Eight?

B. TurnerLast Modified Date: July 30, 2023

Gang of Eight is a nickname used to refer to a group of eight members of the United States (US) Congress. It includes four members from the Senate and four members from the House of Representatives. According to the National Security Act of 1947, these eight individuals are the minimum number of people who must be notified of all intelligence activities undertaken by the US president and the executive branch of government. Alerting the Gang of Eight serves as an alternative to briefing the entire Congressional Intelligence Committee, while still meeting all national security laws.

Prior to 1947, the US president had great power in terms of initiating intelligence programs, or spying on people both domestically and abroad. To prevent abuses of power and preserve privacy rights, Congress passed the National Security Act of 1947. Under this Act, the president must inform the Congressional Intelligence Committees of all intelligence or spying operations. The Act makes an exception for extreme circumstances however, and allows the president to inform only eight specific members of Congress rather than the entire committee. In situations where secrecy is of the utmost importance, the president may elect to brief only the Gang of Eight, who are not permitted to share this information with anyone else.

The members of the Gang of Eight may change with each election, but this group is always made up of the individuals who fill the same eight positions. They include the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate, as well as the committee leaders and ranking members of the Intelligence Committees of both of the House and Senate. This ensures that the group is made up of members of both major political parties, as well as members from both chambers of the legislative branch.

By informing the Gang of Eight of intelligence activities, the president is able to meet legal reporting requirements while still enjoying a great deal of power over spying and information gathering. With fewer people informed about covert operations, the president is able to conduct intelligence activities more effectively, with reduced risk of leaks or interference. Informing only a small group also helps to streamline operations and allow certain processes to occur more efficiently.

The National Security Act does not define exactly what situations are considered extreme enough to merit informing only the Gang of Eight. This has led to great debate over abuse of power and privacy concerns. The debate over this subject has increased dramatically in the US since 11 September 2001, when terrorists struck several major targets in the US and many lives were lost. News reports of the use of torture during interrogation and other questionable techniques have led many to argue that greater oversight is needed, and that informing the Gang of Eight is not enough.

From <https://www.unitedstatesnow.org/what-is-the-gang-of-eight.htm>

Holman Rule

August 26, 2023 8:59 AM

The Holman Rule

January 17, 1876



Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives

[About this object](#) Once and future Speaker Thomas B. Reed and Appropriations Committee Chairman William Holman are shown leaving the House Chamber through its main door in 1892.

On this date in 1876, by a vote of 156 to 102, the U.S. House of Representatives first adopted the Holman Rule that sought to institutionalize reductions in government spending through changes in House rules of operation. Proposed by the “watchdog of the Treasury,” Representative [William S. Holman](#) of Indiana, it modified House Rule 120 which prohibited appropriations “for any expenditure not previously authorized by law.” The only exceptions concerned public works in progress and contingency funds—generally applied as salary raises for government workers. The Rules Committee reported a change to Rule 120 that would allow legislative language in relevant appropriations bills to cut federal outlays. Holman explained that the Appropriations Committee held the authority under Rule 120 to increase spending, and now “we shall be able to retrench expenditures.” Opponents to the new rule, such as former Appropriations Chairman [James A. Garfield](#) of Ohio, warned that Appropriations would gain “such a general sweeping power” as “to render obsolete the power of all the other committees of the House.” Iowa’s [John A. Kasson](#) feared that the committee could replace the priorities of the authorization committees with its own. The House then proceeded to adopt the Rules Committee report. That the vote was along party lines indicated the majority’s expectations that the change would arm them in their upcoming battles with a Senate and President of the opposite party.

From <<https://history.house.gov/Historical-Highlights/1851-1900/The-Holman-Rule/>>