

stand still for 3 minutes before they accelerate rapidly forward. (Illobrand von Ludwiger, "[The 'Greifswald Lights,'](#)" MUFON Central European Section, May 2000)

1990, August 4 — Day. Two hikers near the A9 near Calvine, Perthshire, Scotland, see a diamond-shaped object that appears to be shadowed by an RAF Harrier jet. The object is visible for about 10 minutes. One of the hikers takes color photographs of the incident. Desk officers from DI55 suspect the image might show a US Air Force black project aircraft. The prints are sent to the *Glasgow Daily Record* newspaper, which forwards them to the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre at RAF Brampton [now closed] for scrutiny. The prints subsequently disappear and the MoD claims there is no surviving record of the conclusions reached about the investigation. However, in October 2020 the Ministry of Defence blocks release of the photos from their scheduled declassification on January 1, 2021, until 2072 without any explanation. Former MoD official [Nick Pope](#), one of the few people to see the photos and the analysis, says the photos are authentic and show a material device of unknown origin that has no wings, no fuselage, no tail, no visible engine, and bears no inscription. Compared to elements in the landscape, the object appears to be about 98 feet in diameter. The British government continues to deny that its US ally has ever been allowed to operate experimental aircraft in UK airspace, but [David Clarke](#) discovers that a dossier of evidence was shared with US intelligence after the British expressed "concern about a possible stealthy platform flying in UK airspace." A 1992 letter from the British Defence Staff in Washington, D.C., reveals that one of the Calvine photos was brought to the US by British Intelligence officials to be examined by their US counterparts. In August 2022, David Clarke discovers a print of the actual photo that RAF officer Craig Lindsay has kept safe for more than three decades. Wim van Utrecht suspects that the photo might have been hoaxed with a Christmas tree star suspended on edge from a fishing line. Mike Bara claims the photo actually depicts a mountain peak showing above the clouds. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 148–149](#); Paul Sims, "[Alien Mystery: Government Bans Release of Secret UFO Dossier about Calvine for 50 Years,](#)" *Scottish Sun*, October 10, 2020; Nick Pope, "['Dark Forces': I've Seen Top Secret Photos of Calvine UFO Sighting—It Left Me Shell-Shocked,](#)" *Scottish Sun*, October 10, 2020; David Ramasseul, "[Ovni de Calvine: L'interminable secret,](#)" *Paris Match*, October 13, 2020; David Clarke, "[Revisiting the Calvine 'UFO' Photographs,](#)" UAP Media UK, June 29–July 1, 2021; David Clarke, "The Jox Files: Was a US 'Special Project' Captured on Film in Scotland?" *Fortean Times* 409 (September 2021): 52–53; Simon Houston, "[What Was the Calvine UFO Sighting and Are the Photos Real?](#)" *Scottish Sun*, May 2, 2022; David Clarke, "[The Calvine UFO Photograph—Revealed,](#)" Dr. David Clarke: Folklore and Journalism, August 12, 2022; Wim van Utrecht, "[A UFO with a High X\(-mas\) Factor,](#)" August 18, 2022; David Clarke, "UFO Cover-Up at Calvine," *Fortean Times* 423 (October 2022): 30–35; Ewan Mowat, "[Legendary 30-Year-Old UFO Mystery 'Tracked Down to a Lancashire Warehouse,](#)" *Lancashire News*, March 6, 2024; Jon Austin, "[UFO Breakthrough as UK's Most Famous Case 'Finally Solved' with Bombshell Explanation,](#)" *Daily Express* (UK), September 12, 2024)

1990, August 24 — 8:35 p.m. Many witnesses in northern Germany see a formation of seven luminous objects over the Baltic Sea. They hover for nearly 30 minutes near Peenemünde (on Usedom) and the Soviet-built nuclear power plant at Lubmin [shut down soon afterward]. Five people, including nuclear physicist Ludmilla Ivanova, videotape the event from Greifswald, enabling researchers to triangulate the lights and reconstruct their positions. Ufologist [Illobrand von Ludwiger](#)'s group MUFON-Central European Section obtains 6 videos and 11 photos from different observers and interviews more than a dozen witnesses. They conclude that two groups of luminous spheres hovered nearly motionless for about 30 minutes over the sea. The brighter and closer group forms a circle of 6 spheres. The second group is in the shape of a "Y," with some spheres performing individual movements. Some of them move back and forth between the two groups. They are able to move extremely fast, estimated by one witness as "supersonic velocity," then come to an abrupt stop when reaching the formation. (Jacques Vallée, "[Estimates of Power Optical Output in Six Cases of Unexplained Aerial Objects with Defined Luminosity Characteristics,](#)" *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 3 (1998): 356–357; Illobrand von Ludwiger, "[The 'Greifswald Lights,'](#)" MUFON Central European Section, May 2000)

1990, September — *New York Times* journalist [Howard Blum](#) publishes *Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials*, describing his investigation—after a tip given him by a National Security Agency official—of a mysterious agency called the UFO Working Group, a top secret, interagency body headed by "Col. Harold E. Phillips" of the Defense Intelligence Agency (actually a pseudonym for Col. [John B. Alexander](#)). Founded in 1987, according to Blum, after a flurry of suppressed UFO sightings, including the tracking on radar of a UFO by the US Space Command Space Surveillance Center, the UFO Working Group, calling on CIA, FBI, and other resources, has come up with nothing solid. It has, however, dug into many of the major events of ufology. Blum also claims that NORAD deep-space radars (the Defense Satellite Program) have tracked about 500 UFOs (fastwalkers) entering Earth's atmosphere every year. (Howard Blum, [Out There: The Government's Secret Quest](#)

[for Extraterrestrials](#), Simon & Schuster, 1990; Mark Rodeghier, “[In the Black](#),” *IUR* 15, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1990): 9–11, 23)

- 1990**, September — US journalist [Tim Weiner](#) publishes *Blank Check: The Pentagon's Black Budget*, based on his articles on black-budget spending at the Pentagon and CIA for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Weiner shows that the funding is classified above top secret and that few, if any, federal oversight investigators have the security clearances to audit this budget. He estimates its size as at least \$35 billion (although by 2012 it has increased to \$52.8 billion, according to information revealed by [Edward Snowden](#)), three times the estimated total of what it was in 1981. (Tim Weiner, *Blank Check: The Pentagon's Black Budget*, Warner, 1990)
- 1990**, September 2 — Early morning. Residents of Murmansk Oblast, Russia, see a large illuminated ball above the Arctic Ocean. It is at a high altitude, gives off no electronic signals, and moves slowly toward the Kola Peninsula. Soviet Air Defense thinks it resembles a large airship. Finally, the order is given to destroy it, and it turns out to be an enormous weather balloon. (Central Intelligence Agency, “[Airship-Like UFO Sighted over Murmansk](#),” September 4, 1990)
- 1990**, September 2 — A dozen lights are seen flying in a straight formation at various locations in Greece. While flying above Atalanti, Phthiotis, one of the lights turns red, emits smoke, and starts losing altitude, eventually making a forced landing on top of a nearby hill and setting the entire slope on fire. Other lights descend with it, and circle around the landed object. The closest eyewitnesses are about a half-mile away and describe the objects as circular and the size of tractors. The observers move closer and see “shadows” going in and out of the objects. About five hours later, the objects all take off. The following morning, locals who visit the site notice that even though the area is burned, the ground is moist and sticky. They find some metal and foam fragments that are confiscated by the police. Some spherical depressions in the ground, arranged in a circular formation, are also noted. The Greek Air Force, which is on the site within an hour after the objects depart, claims that the landed object is a satellite. (Orestis Lazanakis, “[UAP in Greece](#),” UAP Check, July 27, 2024)
- 1990**, September 13 — Shortly after 12:00 midnight. A Soviet radar unit in Samara, Russia, tracks an approaching object that apparently causes the equipment to malfunction and go blank. Going outside, the operators see a flying black triangle giving off three bright rays pass directly overhead at no more than 30 feet. It lands nearby and gives off more bursts of energy for 90 minutes. Cpl. S. Dudnik sees it knock out a radar aerial with a light beam. Two sentries, A. Blazhis and A. Varenitsa, allegedly disappear and reappear with no memory of the event and without realizing they have been missing. The ground where they were standing guard seems to be blasted by an explosion. Their wrist watches are running nearly 2 hours slow. Capt. D. Rudzit tells a military reporter from *Za Rodinu* who is investigating the incident that nothing has happened. In November, Deputy Minister of Defense Gen. Ivan Tretiak claims the incident was all a newspaper hoax. (Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle, *The Soviet UFO Files: Paranormal Encounters behind the Iron Curtain*, Quadrillion, 1998, p. 50; Good Need, [pp. 358–360, 364](#))
- 1990**, September 19 — The [KNM Stavanger](#) has a sonar contact with an unknown “U-boat” in the Norwegian Sea off Ona lighthouse, Husøya, Norway. The ship sends international warning signals but gets no response, so it drops hand grenades into the water. At 5:30 p.m., it shoots off three Terne rockets. The sonar contact ends, and the next day the search is called off. (Ole Jonny Brønne, “[Observations of Unidentified Submarine Objects in Norway](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1995): 13, 17)
- 1990**, September 27 — 10:50 p.m. Cosmonauts [Gennady Manakov](#) and [Gennadi Strekalov](#) are aboard the *Mir* space station. When Strekalov is looking down at Newfoundland through a clear atmosphere, he sees a glittering, iridescent, perfect sphere. He calls Manakov and together they study the object. Strekalov says it “shone like the balls that hang on trees at Christmas, greenish in color and all shimmering.” It appears to be 12–18 miles above the Earth. They watch it for 10 seconds when it disappears abruptly. (Central Intelligence Agency, “[Take 1 of 3—Foreign Press Note—FB PN 91-014—USSR](#),” January 11, 1991; Good Need, [p. 360](#); 2Pinotti 119–122)
- 1990**, October 1 — William Scott writes an article in *Aviation Week* on 45 sightings of strange aircraft over the southwestern part of the United States. Some of the objects move as slowly as 20 mph, then accelerate to supersonic speed. He concludes that there are at least two types of vehicles beyond the F-117A and B-2. One is a “triangular-shaped, quiet aircraft seen with a flight of F-117A stealth fighters several times since the summer of 1989.” Another is a “high-speed aircraft characterized by a very deep rumbling roar.” A third is a high-altitude, high-speed aircraft, typically observed as a bright, pulsating light, moving much faster than other aircraft, giving no engine noise or sonic boom. He also writes about some “exotic” propulsion systems used in new aircraft and comes very close to stating that these might be antigravity devices. (William Scott, “[Multiple Sightings of Secret Aircraft Hint at New Propulsion, Airframe Designs](#),” *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, October 1, 1990, pp. 22–23)

- 1990**, October 8 — 11:00 a.m. Near Grozny, Chechnya, Russia, an unidentified target appears on ground radar screens. Commander S. Prokoshin orders an interceptor jet scrambled and pilot Maj. P. Riabishev takes off in pursuit. Something makes him turn his head and he sees to his right rear two large, cigar-shaped objects. The length of the first is about 6,500 feet and the second about 1,300 feet. They are too distant to make out details. When he starts closing on them, both disappear from his field of vision, although ground radar continues to track them. (Central Intelligence Agency, "[Take 1 of 3—Foreign Press Note—FB PN 91-014—USSR](#)," January 11, 1991; Good Need, pp. 360–361; Covert 71)
- 1990**, October 10 — 9:00 p.m. Police and citizens in Skibo, Minnesota, watch formations of white objects with red and green body lights alternately hovering and darting around southeast of Hoyt Lakes at about 10,000 feet altitude. Air traffic controllers at Duluth Airport notice a series of ambiguous radar returns at 10:15 p.m. and confirm radar echoes from the Hoyt Lakes area. Two separate radars track several targets intermittently over the next hour. One controller in Duluth continuously monitors a roughly circular formation of 3–5 objects, one of which repeatedly darts away, reverses direction, and returns to the formation. An Air National Guard facility calls the Duluth tower to express puzzlement over unexplained targets appearing on their radar screen. An airline pilot flying at 11,000 feet some 40–50 miles west of Hoyt Lakes spots two distinct glowing red lights below his altitude and a few miles apart. (Dan Wright, "[Current Case Log](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 274 (February 1991):11; UFOEv II 166)
- 1990**, October 14 — 7:00 p.m. Frau Wengere and her husband are driving from Lostorf to Zürich, Switzerland, when she sees two motionless, bright white lights ahead of them to the left over a range of mountains. Her husband can't stop because there is no place to pull over. The lights of an approaching aircraft are much smaller and paler. They lose sight of the lights while driving through a village, but they see them again a little higher in the sky to the right of the road. A third light is now visible a bit to the left of the others and they watch it moving closer to the other two lights, which move from a 45° angle to horizontal, keeping the same space between them. The witnesses see two chains of red and green lights joining the two. They drive on and lose sight of the lights. (Auguste Meessen, "[The Belgian Sightings](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 3 (May/June 1991): 11, 22)
- 1990**, October 21 — 10:05 p.m. Mme. Henquinet and her 15-year-old son Stephane are at the intersection of NB47 and N30 near Rachamps, Belgium, when two lights suddenly drop toward them. But the lights disappear, and as they turn south on the N30, another light appears behind a hedge bordering the right-hand side of the road, about a dozen yards from the car. The light paces the car at the same speed, slowing down when she does. When they reach the end of the hedge, Mme. Henquinet brakes, and Stephane runs out of the car to look. They see a dark mass, more than 50 feet across, rise up rapidly and silently into the sky. On the lower part of the object is a circle of 7–8 lights. (Patrick Vidal and Michel Rozencwajg, "[The Belgian Wave](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1991): 5)
- 1990**, October 23 — 5:30 a.m. A young woman in Athus, Belgium, wakes up, looks out the window, and sees a light 1,300 feet away on or just above a nearby hill. It consists of two bright headlights directed at her. A smaller blue light is between the two white ones. About 10 minutes later, the lights rise together and move in toward her. The ground below lights up as they pass. A few moments later, the object passes silently over her house. She notices a small red light on its underside. The object then veers left in the direction of Luxembourg and disappears in the distance. (Patrick Vidal and Michel Rozencwajg, "[The Belgian Wave](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1991): 5)
- 1990**, October 23 — 9:25 p.m. Four witnesses, ages 15–17, see an unusual object with very bright lights in Pepinster, Belgium. They have the impression that the object is taking off at a low altitude about 1,640 feet away. The object moves silently to the northeast, displaying on its lower part three bright white lights in the form of a triangle. At the center of the triangle is a steady red light. The object is shaped like a pyramid with the apex pointing forward. The sighting lasts for about 30 seconds. (Patrick Vidal and Michel Rozencwajg, "[The Belgian Wave](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1991): 5)
- 1990**, Late 1990 — A US Army captain is stationed in the Iraqi desert with his unit during Operation Desert Shield. He is informed by a superior officer that his unit is not to fire on any objects that might appear within a specific, rather restricted, area of the sky. A few nights later, he and his men see several bright objects maneuvering in an extraordinary fashion. "We could not have shot them down if we had tried," he said. He does not know what they are, although UFOs are primary suspects. (Dolan II 555)
- 1990**, November — Along State Highway 59 South near Rosedale, Oklahoma, a 14-year-old boy is sitting under a tree in a wheat field, watching the area for deer, when he notices a bright white light moving north at a low altitude. It maintains a level flight. As the light gets closer, he lifts his rifle to view it through the scope and realizes there's no sound. He watches the disc-shaped object, estimating it to be 30–40 feet in diameter and 7 feet high, with white lights on the sides and a spinning motion. A blue-green light from its bottom illuminates the field below. The object flies north at a steady 40–60 feet altitude and 20–30 mph until it disappears in the distance. ("[Current Cases](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 289 (February 1993): 14, 15)

- 1990**, November 3 — The Center for UFO Studies and the Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies cosponsor a conference on “The UFO Phenomenon in the 1990s” at the Lobero Theater, Santa Barbara, California. (“[The UFO Phenomenon in the 1990s](#),” *IUR* 15, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1990): 18)
- 1990**, November 5 — Around 6:00 p.m. The pilot and copilot of a British Airways flight from Rome to Gatwick Airport notice a large, silver-shaped object over the North Sea. They bring two crew members into the cockpit to observe it with them. Ground radar sees nothing unusual. (Nick Redfern, *A Covert Agenda: UFO Secrecy Exposed*, Simon & Schuster, 1997, [p. 169](#); Good Need, [pp. 382–383](#))
- 1990**, November 5 — 6:00 p.m. Two RAF Tornados over the North Sea encounter two large round objects, each with five blue lights and several white lights around the rim. As the jets close to investigate, one of the UFOs heads for one of the jets, which is forced to take evasive action. The two objects then head north and disappear. Nothing shows up on the jets’ radar. Commercial aircraft also report odd lights over the North Sea. Other high-speed contacts take place along the border of Germany and southern Belgium. (Paul Whitehead, “[Special Report to FSR \(May 1991\)](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 36, no. 2 (Summer 1991): 10; Good Need, [pp. 383–384](#); Nick Pope, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Simon & Schuster, 1996, [p. 177](#); UFOFiles2, [pp. 140–142](#))
- 1990**, November 5 — 7:00 p.m. French pilot Jean-Gabriel Greslé is standing outside a gym in Gretz-Armainvilliers, Seine-et-Marne, France, with six of his martial arts students when a massive UFO comes into view. His first impression is of a huge crane with many lights. It is about 2,600 feet away at an altitude of 985 feet, moving downward. Another witness sees it level off and turn. It is projecting two very long, divergent beams of solid light that do not quite touch the ground. The object itself is at least 1,000 feet long and 200–250 feet thick with triangular substructures and many lights. Its rear section is trapezoidal. When it flies above them at no more than 100 mph, it somehow tunes out all surrounding noise as if carrying a “zone of silence.” As Greslé moves around a tree to view it better, it dims and moves away, disappearing into a cloud. (Good Need, [p. 382](#))
- 1990**, November 5 — 7:00 p.m. Two different explosions are heard in the area around RAF Rhendahlen in Mönchengladbach West, North Rhein–Westphalia, Germany. Two RAF Phantom jets are performing practice intercepts under strict radar control. After the second explosion at 10:00 p.m., one of the crews sees UFOs heading north in “finger” formation. (Paul Whitehead, “[Special Report to FSR \(May 1991\)](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 36, no. 2 (Summer 1991): 10; Good Need, [pp. 383–384](#))
- 1990**, November 5 — Night. Witnesses report a large, cigar-shaped object, some accompanied by spheres, over many localities in southern Poland. Hundreds of people in Opole see a group of 15–20 spheres emitting bright trails. (Poland 73–74)
- 1990**, November 7 — 7:15 p.m. An American woman tourist is swimming in the rooftop pool of the International Hilton Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Montreal, Quebec, when she sees a yellowish, oval object hovering directly overhead. Other hotel guests come to view it, as well as the pool lifeguard, who describes it as “a lighted object with six lights on the perimeter of a large circle with a ray of light emitted from each one.” Municipal police and the RCMP are called and they also view the UFO. Around 9:00 p.m., Marcel Laroche, a journalist from *La Presse*, takes some photos. The object disappears around 10:10 p.m. due to increasing cloud cover. Other people around the city and at the airport also report seeing unusual lights. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 172–174; Wim van Utrecht, “[Large Stationary Object over Montreal](#),” *Caelestia*, September 28, 2007; “[OVNI du Hilton-Bonaventure \(17 Nov 1990\)](#),” Réseau OVNI Alerte / UFO-Alert Network Facebook page, November 7, 2018)
- 1990**, November 9 — Soviet Deputy Minister of Defense [Ivan Tretyak](#) speaks with a writer from *Literaturnaya Gazeta* and confirms that fighter-interceptors have encountered UFOs in Russian air space. However, most are explainable as natural phenomena, rocket launches, or satellites. He admits that some pilots report UFOs apparently of artificial origin, but their real nature remains unknown. (Central Intelligence Agency, “[Take 1 of 2—Foreign Press Note—FB PN 91-003—USSR](#),” January 5, 1991)
- 1990**, November 22 — 5:28 a.m. Mme. Bouffieux is lying awake in bed at her home in Fleurus, Belgium, when she senses an intense light. She looks out the window, which is covered in vapor, and sees the light about 80 feet away behind the wall bordering her neighbor’s garden and in an abandoned field. After a while, the light turns off, and she sees bluish flashes erupting from a spot to the right of where the object was last seen. (Patrick Vidal and Michel Rozencwajg, “[The Belgian Wave](#),” *IUR* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1991): 7)
- 1990**, November 26 — The Belgian MEP [Elio Di Rupo](#) submits a motion to the European Parliament for a resolution to set up a European Observation Center for UFOs. Italian MEP and physicist [Tullio Regge](#), who is well-informed through the Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici (CISU) group, is appointed rapporteur. The EU Committee on Energy, Research, and Technology approves the motion and submits it on December 2. The resolution contains a multi-page justification of the effort and the topic. (Jochen Ickinger, “[UAP in the European Parliament, Part 1](#),” UAP Check, February 27, 2024)

1990, December 9 — 9:30 p.m. Mme. Cortvriendt and her husband are at the Waterloo exit of the Brussels Ring Road near Belle-Vue, Belgium, when they see a luminous triangle off to the right at an altitude of 160 feet. On its circumference are a multitude of white lights that are “bright as diamonds.” Stretching from the center of the object are four brass-colored arms in the shape of a cross. They lose sight of it as it travels away from them to the northeast. (Patrick Vidal and Michel Rozencwajg, “[The Belgian Wave](#),” *IUR* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1991): 8)

1991

- 1991** — [Milton William Cooper](#) publishes *Behold a Pale Horse*, an elaborate collection of conspiracy theories and a manifesto of the militia movement. According to sociologist [Paul Gilroy](#), Cooper claims to explain the “Kennedy assassination, the doings of the secret world government, the coming ice age, and a variety of other covert activities associated with the Illuminati’s declaration of war upon the people of America.” Political scientist [Michael Barkun](#) characterizes it as “among the most complex superconspiracy theories” and one of the most influential due to its popularity in militia circles as well as mainstream bookstores. Historian [Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke](#) describes the book as a “chaotic farrago of conspiracy myths interspersed with reprints of executive laws, official papers, reports, and other extraneous materials designed to show the looming prospect of a world government imposed on the American people against their wishes and in flagrant contempt of the Constitution.” (Milton William Cooper, *Behold a Pale Horse*, Light Technology, 1991; Wikipedia, “[Milton William Cooper](#)”; Graff 325)
- 1991** — [Mark Rodeghier](#), Jeff Goodpaster, and Sandra Blatterbauer conduct a study on the psychosocial characteristics of 27 abductees for the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, Illinois. They conclude from the data that the subjects cannot be classified as fantasy-prone personalities or as especially hypnotically responsive. However, a cluster analysis of MMPI scales reveals two types of abductees, one with higher fantasy-prone scores, more loneliness as adults, lower levels of happiness, more problems sleeping, and a greater incidence of sexual abuse as children. (Mark Rodeghier, Jeff Goodpaster, and Sandra Blatterbauer, “[Psychosocial Characteristics of Abductees: Results from the CUFOS Abduction Project](#),” *JUFOS* 3 (1991): 59–90)
- 1991** — Psychic [Sean David Morton](#) begins going to Area 51 in Nevada. He and a friend tape a glowing, disc-shaped object that approaches within a few hundred yards. Several times it shoots up then descends with a falling-leaf motion. They return with burned faces and mild radiation poisoning. Morton later shoots more video showing glowing objects with extraordinary acceleration and maneuverability. Area 51 insiders allegedly contact him, including someone who claims he transported large disc-like and bell-shaped objects that he concludes are alien. He speaks of numerous underground levels, alien bodies in liquid tanks, and even several humanoid aliens from the Pleiades. Later Morton leads tours around Area 51 and suggests that the aliens there are from “Kronnac,” a planet 800 light-years away. Morton is the subject of an article by the website UFO Watchdog, “The Shameless Psychic and His Prophecy of Lies,” which throws doubt on many of his claims. Morton sues the site for libel but the case is dismissed. In 2010, Morton and his wife are charged with securities fraud by the SEC. In February 2013, Morton is ordered by a judge to pay \$11.5 million to the SEC within 14 days. They are arrested in 2016 and begin serving federal sentences in 2017. (Wikipedia, “[Sean David Morton](#)”; Carole Masciola, “[Mysterious Earthlings Scour the Desert for Space Alien Tourists](#),” *Seattle Times*, May 2, 1993; Royce Myers III, “[The Shameless Psychic and His Prophecy of Lies](#),” February 2001)
- 1991** — The Argentine Ministry of Defense creates a small office devoted to the study of UFO sightings within the Instituto de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas de las Fuerzas Armadas, a federal agency in charge of scientific research and development. It lasts until 1997. (Milton W. Hourcade, “[Argentina: UFO Declassification](#),” UAPSG–GEFAI, July 29, 2020)
- 1991** — Visión Ovni, a national UFO research organization, is launched in Victoria, Entre Rios, Argentina, by Silvia Pérez Simondini. (Wikipedia, “[Visión Ovni](#)”)
- 1991** — The Soviet Union launches the Thread III Project, a wide-ranging scientific and technical analysis of unusual space phenomena conducted by more than 15 separate military units, scientific institutes, and the Ministry of Defense. The organization driving it is an ambiguously named group called Soviet Military Unit 73790. (Skinwalkers 115–117)
- 1991**, January — The SOS-OVNI group (formerly Association d’Étude sur les Soucoupes Volantes) begins publishing *Phénomène*, edited by Perry Petrakis, in Aix-en-Provence, France. It continues through 2001. (*Phénomène* 1, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1991))

- 1991, January 6** — 6:00 p.m. Four family members driving along the E411 motorway near Spontin, Belgium, watch a gigantic, plate-shaped UFO with many lights and a cupola pass overhead heading northwest. At 6:30 p.m., a family driving south on the A4 in Beez, Belgium, see three lights attached to an object hovering above a quarry. An army veteran named Hardy estimates the UFO to be about 260 feet long and 30–50 feet high, with the forward three lights in the form of a rectangle and a red light on the lower rear end. The bottom part is bulged out and dark gray in color. On the side, 15 portholes are lit up in white light. After parking their car on the side of the road, the witnesses watch the object for another minute or so. As soon as Hardy turns on his headlights, the object moves away to the northeast. (Patrick Vidal and Michel Rozencwajg, [“The Belgian Wave,”](#) *IUR* 16, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1991): 8, 23)
- 1991, February** — 1:00 a.m. A security camera at Birchwood Shopping Mall four miles east of Warrington, Cheshire, England, picks up a white light, seemingly tennis-ball sized, moving around an open walkway. It appears to inspect a garbage bin, climbs a wall, and at one point approaches the camera. The security guard zooms the camera in on it, revealing a white, doughnut shape. It flies away, hovering above a tree to the south, and vanishes. About 8 minutes has elapsed. (Jenny Randles, [“UFOs in Focus,”](#) *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 15–16)
- 1991, February 6?** — Evening. A woman is walking with two friends near the Etang de l’Ursine in Chaville, Hauts-de-Seine, France, when they see a large and brilliant star in the west. At nightfall, they return to their homes. One, named Sylvia, who lives on the Rue Alexis Maneyrol, goes back to look for the star and notices now that it is moving in a triangular motion. While walking back through the woods, she is struck by a beam. Suddenly, she is enveloped by a beam of light that seems to be trying to trap her, but she escapes back to her house. She goes to sleep but is surprised by an intruder in her house, a small figure in a watery-green cosmonaut suit who points to a screen showing the interior of a spaceship. The screen and figure dissolve. The next day, near a bus stop, she sees a strange figure wearing a cape who scowls at her terrifyingly. (Joël Mesnard, [“A Failed Abduction at Chaville?”](#) *IUR* 32, no. 3 (July 2009): 21–22, 24)
- 1991, February 18** — [Richard Haines](#) meets with members of the Expert Group on Anomalous Phenomena of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow to discuss UFO events in the US and USSR. (Richard F. Haines, [“UFO Activities in the Soviet Union,”](#) *IUR* 16, no 2 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 13–14)
- 1991, February 22** — 12:45 a.m. Three youths driving home from a school reunion at Maids Moreton, Buckingham, England, see a white, cigar-shaped object glowing with numerous lights. It comes closer with an unsteady, jerky motion. They park the car in a field to watch the object, which approaches to within 100 feet. As they try to leave, their engine and headlights fail to respond. A brilliant beam of light envelops the car and they hear a faint humming sound. The light beam and sound disappear suddenly, along with the UFO, and they restart the car and drive away. (Herbert S. Taylor, [“An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1,”](#) *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 19)
- 1991, March 6** — 7:58 a.m. A glowing turquoise, cigar-shaped object on an easterly course crosses the path of Air Charter Flight 866 near Kingston, Ontario, stops ahead of the airliner, then proceeds to the north. (UFOEv II, 127)
- 1991, March 12** — On two occasions an object is seen over the Tihange Nuclear Power Station, Belgium. One witness reports a UFO directly above the red lights on one of the plant’s huge chimneys, where it hovers about 1 minute, beaming one of its lights on the outside structure while another light points directly down one of the chimneys. After its inspection, it flies straight through the enormous white plume of steam before disappearing in the dark. (Kean, [p. 32](#))
- 1991, March 15** — Night. An electronic engineer in Auderghem, Belgium, wakes up and hears a barely audible, high-frequency, whistling tone. He looks outside and sees a large rectangular object at a low altitude with irregular structures on the bottom. He walks upstairs to an upper-level terrace and watches the dark-gray object drift overhead slowly without lights. The whistling noise has stopped. (Kean, [pp. 31–32](#))
- 1991, March 18** — Captain Zho, the pilot of a regional airliner over Kunshan, Jiangsu, China, sees a ring-shaped object, two rectangular objects moving back and forth, and a red blaze of light coming from the ring. (UFOEv II, 127)
- 1991, March 31** — For two nights in a row a couple in Palmarejo, Puerto Rico, hears their two Dobermans howling as if frightened, apparently upset by a peculiar sound like a phonograph record played at the wrong speed. It seems to move around the house, but the sound source cannot be located. Suddenly one of the dogs shrieks, and the husband runs outside to find two strange beings on his patio. They are 3–4 feet tall, gray, with big heads, big black eyes, and a slit for a mouth. The beings flee. The female Doberman is unharmed, but the male is found killed, with empty eye sockets and internal organs missing. (Clark III 139)

- 1991, April 11 — 7:00–9:00 p.m.** A bright, oval-shaped object that changes color from blue to red flies over the Complexo Penitenciário da Papuda, a federal prison in São Sebastião in the Federal District of Brasília, Brazil. The object is seen by dozens of residents of the Lago Sul area and by more than 20 police officers on duty that night. The first to see the UFO is Lt. Damasceno of the Independent Company of the Military Police. He calls colleagues and is greeted with jokes. But he persuades them to go outside and see the UFO. He says the object is blue when vertical but turns red when it changes position. It appears to be no more than 1,650 feet above the prison. It flies up and down and horizontally without leaving a trace, and the intensity of its lights and colors vary. Carloads of people descend upon Papuda and dozens of people observe the UFO. After 100 minutes, a strange haze begins to engage the UFO, which disappears about 20 minutes later. Damasceno informs Sgt. Petronius, a CINDACTA flight controller, that he is seeing a “strong blue light that changed to red in the direction of three hours to the right.” Petronius is following the object on radar; it seems to be rectangular and moving at about 435 mph. CINDACTA confirms that the object has been tracked over much of the Lago Sul area and close to the Brasília airport. Later, it identifies the object as a meteorological balloon, deemed an inadequate explanation by witnesses. (Clark III 874–875; Brazil 336–338; Jackson Camargo, “[OVNI sobrevoa Presídio no Distrito Federal](#),” *Fenomenum*, October 31, 2023)
- 1991, April 19? — Afternoon.** Two militiamen on patrol in Almaty, Kazakhstan, notice a flare at the top of Kok Tobe Mountain. They watch flames go up and down and then see an array of red light beams. They drive to within 650 feet of a hovering UFO. At that point, a few rays sweep across the car and it stops dead. The object then dims its lights and disappears. The men return to the police station but cannot recall how they did so. (Central Intelligence Agency, “[Alma-Ata Patrolmen Report UFO Sighting](#),” from *Tass*, April 19, 1991)
- 1991, April 21 — 8:00 p.m.** Captain Achille Zaggetti and his copilot are flying a McDonnell Douglas MD-80 Alitalia airliner with 57 passengers. They are over the English Channel just off the coast of Romney, Kent, England, and preparing to land at Heathrow Airport, London, when they see a round object or missile, about 10 feet long, approaching from their left. It is less than 100 feet away. The control tower confirms a radar target, which is now behind them. The British Army denies firing any missiles. The British Civil Aviation Authority concludes that “extensive enquiries have failed to provide any indication of what the sighting may have been.” Nick Redfern notes that the description of the UFO is consistent with a pilotless drone of the type used for defense practice. (Stephen Ward, “[Inquiry into Pilot’s Sighting of Missile](#),” *The Independent* (UK), May 6, 1991, p. 2; Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, “[Close Encounters with Unknown Missiles](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 13–14; Nick Redfern, *A Covert Agenda: UFO Secrecy Exposed*, Simon & Schuster, 1997, pp. 170–172; Nick Pope, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Simon & Schuster, 1996, p. 196; “[Britain Releases UFO Files, Disperses Some Mysteries](#),” *KPIC*, Roseburg, Oregon, October 19, 2008; “[Airliner Had Near Miss with UFO](#),” *BBC News*, October 20, 2008; UFOFiles2, pp. 135–137; 2Pinotti 113–116)
- 1991, April 26 —** A different security camera at Birchwood Shopping Mall near Warrington, Cheshire, England, records a similar object to the one detected in February in a location several hundred yards away. The camera records it for 20 minutes as it moves across the ground, passes by a road sign, climbs onto the roof of the mall, and vanishes in the sky above the M6 motorway. The camera operator lets the object enter the camera’s infrared spot beam, then switches the beam off; the light vanishes, then returns when the beam is turned back on. Investigators suspect that the light was caused by an insect interacting with the beam. (Jenny Randles, “[UFOs in Focus](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 16–17)
- 1991, May 1–7 —** [Wendelle C. Stevens](#) holds the First World UFO Congress in Tucson, Arizona, which brings together UFO researchers, witnesses, and others from Spain, Italy, Japan, Russia, Germany, the UK, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Chile, Brazil, Canada, and the US. (2Pinotti 117–118)
- 1991, May 12 — 7:00 p.m.** Farmer Moisés Campelo is walking home from his brother’s house in Campo Redondo, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, when a bright light approaches and stops right above his head, spinning slowly. His eyes begin to burn and he feels paralyzed, as if he is being sucked into the light. He remains suspended under the light for about 5 minutes, after which he is dropped to the ground. Campelo starts crawling home, but the light returns and levitates him again. This time he is suspended for 15 minutes before being dropped. He remains traumatized and sustains an eye injury. (Bob Pratt, *UFO Danger Zone: Terror and Death in Brazil—Where Next?*, Horus House, 1996, pp. 9–13; Brazil 340–342)
- 1991, May 17 — 1:30 a.m.** A nurse in Braine l’Alleud, Belgium, hears an intense hum and looks out her window to see a large triangular object moving slowly overhead. At the front of the triangle, there is a group of lights located symmetrically along the edges. They are grouped toward the front point of the triangle. At least four of these lights are white and flickering quickly, with approximately two lights on the left and on the right flickering each second, but never reproducing the same sequence. She thinks there is also a steady red light. Slightly back from

the central axis, she sees a ray of light, inclined on 45°, coming from an opening that is larger than the diameter of the flickering lights. This beam projects to the ground onto the street, and traces a brief series of figure 8s. Suddenly, after 5 seconds the UFO instantly reappears far away, its blinking lights (but not the ray) still visible. (*Vague d'OVNI sur la Belgique, Tome 2: Une énigme non-resolué*, SOBEPS, 1994, pp. 16–19; Patrick Gross, [“The Belgium Flap”](#))

1991, May 22 — A husband and wife in Nottingham, England, see an array of lights in an “elongated triangle” formation. The same object is seen 15 minutes later by another man in the area. He estimates it is about 1,000 feet high and gives off a low humming noise. (Nick Redfern, *A Covert Agenda: UFO Secrecy Exposed*, Simon & Schuster, 1997, [p. 184](#))

1991, May 22 — Col. Alvaro Fernández Rodas, head of the Flight Safety Section of the Spanish Air Staff (where the UFO archives are kept), issues an Informative Note to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Ramón Fernández Sequieros titled “The UFO Archive and Its Possible Release.” The note is the result of meetings between [Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos](#), who is developing a catalog of UFO observations by military personnel and police officers; Maj. Ramón Alvarez Mateus, head of the Air Force Public Relations Office; and the Flight Safety Section. It mentions that no investigations have been made since 1980 and that since 1988 cases are not even archived. The note recommends that UFO cases be declassified. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, [“The Spanish Air Force UFO Files,”](#) *IUR* 18, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 13; Swords 424–425, 515)

1991, June 1 — 2:38 p.m. A Britannia Airways Boeing 737 is descending for a landing at 8,000 feet near Heathrow Airport, London, England, when the pilots see an unknown object for 1–2 seconds through the windshield. It disappears rapidly on the left. The missile has a yellow-orange cylindrical body with a “wrinkled” appearance and is about 10 feet long. (Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, [“Close Encounters with Unknown Missiles,”](#) *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 14)

1991, June 8 — 6:00 p.m. Pilot Cesar Escobar and Copilot Angel David Farina are flying two passengers to Asunción, Paraguay, in his Cessna 210. While monitoring airport frequencies near Concepción, he overhears a conversation between the control tower and a Líneas Aéreas Paraguayas airliner, with the pilot reporting a brightly lit object approaching on a convergent course. The object is also showing on airport radar. He hears the pilot exclaim as the UFO speeds past. A few minutes later, Escobar sees a bright, blue-white light approaching on his right side. Just then radar control radios to ask if he has traffic on his right, and he replies affirmatively. The object paces his plane for 25 minutes within about 1,300 feet. Its intense light tends to conceal its exact shape, but it appears to be oval. Several times it moves in closer, as if playing a game, and Escobar becomes frightened. When it approaches, his instruments go crazy, including his automatic direction finder, which drifts around aimlessly. As he begins descending into Asunción Airport at 7:22 p.m., the object stops following and hovers. Anibal Gavigan, the air traffic control specialist on duty, is called by radar control and informed that a strange object has followed the Cessna 210 into the airport. He is asked if he can see it, and he can see the luminous object. After the Cessna lands, the airport lights are turned off to better identify the glowing object, which remains motionless over the field. At one point a luminous, yellow ray briefly shoots from the object to the western horizon. When it departs, the object accelerates so rapidly that it disappears after one sweep of the radar scope. (Jorge Alfonso Ramirez, [“UFO Intercepts Aircraft over Paraguay,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 310 (February 1994): 8–10; UFOEv II 144–145; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, [p. 145](#))

1991, June 16 — 1:30 a.m. A businessman stops by the side of the road to relieve himself near The Bridestones, Cheshire, England, a Neolithic site with standing stones. He sees a golden beam of light above the stones from which emerges a shower of sparks. He returns to the car, but the engine will not start. He begins to run away when a large, glowing ball heads from the sparks straight toward him. It is so bright that it causes pain in his eyes and he feels rooted to the spot. He blacks out and regains his senses several hundred yards away from his car. He is naked above the waist and his shoes are missing. As he tries to get up, he brushes down his trousers and finds that they are charged with static electricity, causing sparks to jump from his body. After staggering around, he finds his car with the keys still in the ignition. Next to the door are his shoes and shirt, folded on the ground and warm to the touch. The car starts without trouble and he drives away, realizing that it is now 3:05 a.m. (Jenny Randles, [“Much More Than Marsh Gas,”](#) *Fortean Times* 311 (March 2014): 27)

1991, June 17 — 6:30 p.m. Walter Leiss and three other passengers on board Dan Air Flight DA 4700 from London (Gatwick Airport) to Hamburg, Germany, see a wingless projectile below and to the left of the plane flying at an altitude of 4,000–5,000 feet with no vapor trail. The object is slender, gray, and cigar-shaped. The crew does not see it. (Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, [“Close Encounters with Unknown Missiles,”](#) *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 14–15)

- 1991, Summer** — An effort is made by Raven to encourage the Bush administration to reveal the US government's interactions with aliens and crashed saucers. Meetings are allegedly held in safe rooms at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Washington, D.C., with administration officials and cabinet and agency heads. Much seems to depend on the confirmation of [Robert Gates](#) as CIA director. A meeting to brief President [Bush](#) on the topic is scheduled for August but canceled due to the Soviet military coup. (Robert M. Collins and Richard Doty, *Exempt from Disclosure: The Disturbing Case about the UFO Coverup*, Peregrine, 2005)
- 1991, July** — [Kevin D. Randle](#) and [Donald R. Schmitt](#) publish *UFO Crash at Roswell*, disclosing the results of their interviews and reconstruction of the Roswell incident of 1947. They publish an update in 1994. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *UFO Crash at Roswell*, Avon, 1991; Richard Hall, "[Roswell Matters](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 3 (May/June 1993): 23; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, Avon, 1994; Clark III 951)
- 1991, July** — [Leonard Stringfield](#) issues his sixth status report, *UFO Crash/Retrievals: The Inner Sanctum*. (Leonard H. Stringfield, *UFO Crash/Retrievals: The Inner Sanctum*, The Author, 1991)
- 1991, July** — A boomerang-shaped object flies directly above two students in Copperas Cove, Texas, at an altitude of 150–200 feet. The entire surface of the object is glowing a bright white, but it does not light up the surroundings. (Powell, *Scientist*, 96)
- 1991, July 5** — Customs and bank regulators in seven countries raid and lock down records of branch offices of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which has been investigated for being involved in massive money laundering and other financial crimes and illegally gaining the controlling interest in a major American bank. In addition to violations of lending laws, BCCI is also accused of opening accounts or laundering money for figures such as [Saddam Hussein](#), [Manuel Noriega](#), [Hussain Muhammad Ershad](#), and [Samuel Doe](#), and for criminal organizations such as the Medellín Cartel and Abu Nidal. [William von Raab](#), a former US Commissioner of Customs, tells the Kerry Committee that the CIA holds "several" accounts at BCCI. According to a 1991 article in *Time* magazine, the National Security Council also has accounts at BCCI, which are used for a variety of covert operations, including transfers of money and weapons during the Iran–Contra affair. (Wikipedia, "[Bank of Credit and Commerce International](#)"; Peter Truell and Larry Gurwin, *False Profits: The Inside Story of BCCI, the World's Most Corrupt Financial Empire*, Houghton Mifflin, 1992; David Sirota and Jonathan Baskin, "[Follow the Money: How John Kerry Busted the Terrorists' Favorite Bank](#)," *Washington Monthly*, September 2004)
- 1991, July 11** — 12:21 p.m. While many people in Mexico City, Mexico, are looking to the sky to see the last total solar eclipse of the 20th century, they also notice a bright object hovering in the sky. Videos are recorded as far south as Puebla and Oaxaca. Skeptics claim the object is the planet Venus, but the full eclipse lasts just under 7 minutes, and the object is seen for more than 30 minutes—before, during, and after the event. Guillermo Arragin, a reporter, videotapes the object, and [Jaime Maussan](#), host of the Mexican version of the CBS TV show *60 Minutes*, shows the Arragin footage a week later. He asks his viewers to share any sightings they had during the eclipse. Fifteen videotapes are submitted, each taken by a witness in a different location. Maussan enlists the help of the station's video experts for digital enhancement and enlargement. The videos show solid, metallic-looking objects that reflect light. Maussan looks into balloons, helicopters, and other conventional objects, but comes up empty. The enhancements reveal a "hockey puck" shape, and many of the recorded objects pass in front of clouds. Tim Printy strongly suggests the observations were due to Venus. (*Unsolved Mysteries* Wiki, "[Mexico City UFO](#)"; Tim Printy, "[The July 11, 1991, Mexico City UFOs: Basic Astronomy Ignored](#)," February 2003; "[Most Documented Mass UFO Sighting during the July 11, 1991, Solar Eclipse in Mexico](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, January 18, 2024)
- 1991, July 15** — 5:45 p.m. The copilot of a Britannia Airways Boeing 737 on a flight from Crete to Gatwick Airport near Crawley, West Sussex, England, sees a small, black, lozenge-shaped object about 1.5 feet in diameter, smooth, and some 1,600 feet ahead and above. It is on a collision course, and within 2 seconds it passes the aircraft's wing at a distance of only 325 feet. The London Air Traffic Control Center picks up a target moving away from the plane to the southwest at 100 mph. (Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, "[Close Encounters with Unknown Missiles](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 15; UFOFiles2, [p. 137](#))
- 1991, July 26** — Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Ramón Fernández Sequeros passes instructions to the Spanish Air Regions to centralize all UFO registers into Madrid Air Force headquarters. (Swords 425, 515)
- 1991, August 4** — Night. Seven hikers near Lacul Bucura in the Retezat Mountains in west central Romania see a bright red light approaching them from behind. Thinking it might be a lost tourist, they wave their flashlights at it, but it starts zigzagging and increasing its speed. Soon they see other lights of varying colors, shapes, and

configurations, all moving in the Valea Rea. Through binoculars they take on the shape of discs with luminous portholes. (Romania 55–57)

1991, August 10 — US freelance writer [Danny Casolaro](#) is found dead in a bathtub in room 517 of the Sheraton Hotel in Martinsburg, West Virginia, his wrists slashed 10–12 times. The medical examiner rules the death a suicide. His death becomes controversial because his notes suggest he is in Martinsburg to meet a source about a story he calls “the Octopus.” This centers on a sprawling collaboration involving an international cabal, primarily featuring a number of stories familiar to journalists who worked in and around Washington, D.C., in the 1980s—the Inslaw case, about a software manufacturer whose owner accused the Justice Department of stealing its work product; the October Surprise theory that during the Iran hostage crisis, Iran deliberately held back American hostages to help [Ronald Reagan](#) win the 1980 presidential election, the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, and Iran–Contra. Casolaro’s family argues that he has been murdered; that before he left for Martinsburg, he told his brother that he frequently received harassing phone calls late at night; that some of them were threatening; and that if something were to happen to him in Martinsburg, it will not be an accident. They also cite his well-known squeamishness and fear of blood tests, and state they find it incomprehensible that if he were going to commit suicide, he would do so by cutting his wrists a dozen times. A number of law-enforcement officials also argue that his death deserves further scrutiny, and his notes are passed by his family to ABC News and *Time* magazine, both of which investigate the case, but find no evidence of murder. (Wikipedia, “[Danny Casolaro](#)”; Kenn Thomas and Jim Keith, *The Octopus: Secret Government and the Death of Danny Casolaro*, Feral House, rev ed., 2003; Cheri Seymour, *The Last Circle: Danny Casolaro’s Investigation into the Octopus and the PROMIS Software Scandal*, TrineDay, 2010; “[Danny Casolaro’s Files and Notes](#)”)

1991, September — 10:45 p.m. Security policeman T/Sgt Anthony W. Keel is working as an alert response team leader at the Ellsworth AFB Oscar Flight area 30 miles west of Opal, South Dakota, when he is dispatched to a missile launch site with multiple alarms. They arrive, clear the site, and reset the alarms. Then he gets another call for a different site with the same alarm pattern, which they then reset. On the way back to the Oscar Launch Control Facility, he gets another call, and the team can see a blue, pulsating light above the site experiencing the alarm. The light moves away as they pull in to secure the site. The light is the size of a small helicopter, semicircular and oblong, and completely silent. (Nukes 468–469)

1991, September 9 — Self-professed pranksters [Doug Bower](#) and Dave Chorley make headlines claiming they started the UK crop circle phenomenon in 1978 with the use of simple tools consisting of a plank of wood, rope, and a baseball cap fitted with a loop of wire to help them walk in a straight line. To prove their case, they make a circle in front of journalists; cerealogist (advocate of paranormal explanations of crop circles) [Pat Delgado](#) examines the circle and declares it authentic before it is revealed as a hoax. Inspired by the Tully, Australia, crop circle accounts from 1966, Bower and Chorley claim to be responsible for all circles made prior to 1987, and for more than 200 crop circles in 1978–1991 (with 1,000 other circles not being made by them). After their announcement, the two men demonstrate making a crop circle. According to University of Oregon fractal expert [Richard Taylor](#), “the pictographs they created inspired a second wave of crop artists. Far from fizzling out, crop circles have evolved into an international phenomenon, with hundreds of sophisticated pictographs now appearing annually around the globe.” (Wikipedia, “[Crop circle](#)”; William Tuohy, “[‘Crop Circles’ Their Prank, 2 Britons Say](#),” *Los Angeles Times*, September 10, 1991, p. 14; Jenny Randles, “[Round and Round in the Circle Game](#),” *IUR* 16, no. 6 (Nov/Dec. 1991): 17–18, 22–23; Montague Keen, “Doubt and Deviousness in the UK Crop Circle Scene,” in Walter H. Andrus Jr., ed., *MUFON 1992 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*, 1992, pp. 38–52; Rob Irving and Peter Brookesmith, “[Crop Circles: The Art of the Hoax](#),” *Smithsonian Magazine*, December 15, 2009; Richard Taylor, “[Coming Soon to a Field near You](#),” *Physics World*, August 2011, pp. 2–7; UFOFiles2, [pp. 120–123](#); “Necrolog: Doug Bower,” *Fortean Times* 371 (October 2018): 28–29; “[The Man Who Launched a Million Conspiracy Theories](#),” *Daily Mail* (UK), October 20, 2019; Daniel Stables, “[England’s Crop Circle Controversy](#),” BBC, August 23, 2021; Graff 318–319)

1991, September 15 — One of the cameras on Space Shuttle Discovery Flight [STS-48](#) captures several anomalous, glowing objects that float along and then sharply change direction, apparently in response to a flash in the lower left portion of the picture. NASA explains the objects as ice particles reacting to a Space Shuttle thruster firing. Astronomer [Philip C. Plait](#) discusses the issue in his book *Bad Astronomy*, agreeing with NASA. However, physicist Jack Kashner and Mark Carlotto dispute that explanation, arguing that there are two groups of correlated object motions involving at least a dozen distinct events. Kashner’s analysis reveals that the objects behaved oddly for any type of particle, ice or otherwise, and Carlotto indicates that no thruster was fired in that timeframe. (NICAP, “[STS Video Footage of Possible UAP Phenomenon in Orbit](#)”; Wikipedia, “[STS-48](#)”; “STS 48 UAP, Sept. 15, 1991 (Jack Kashner),” [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), NICAP Official YouTube channel, June 11, 2021; Mark J. Carlotto,

[“Digital Video Analysis of Anomalous Space Objects,”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 9, no. 1 (1995): 45–63; Jack Kasher, [“Anomalous Images on Videotape from Space Shuttle Flight STS-48: Examination of the Ice-Particle Explanation,”](#) *JUFOS* 6 (1995/96): 80–148; Lan D. Fleming, [“Examination of the Trajectories of Anomalous Objects Imaged during the STS-48 Space Shuttle Mission,”](#) *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 71–98; [“Space Shuttle Mission Footage: UFO or Space Debris? + The Secret NASA Transmissions: The Smoking Gun,”](#) Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, October 2023)

1991, September 19 — 6:35 p.m. Maria Kulis is visiting Medjugorje, Bosnia, and takes a photo of St. James Church from a distance of about 500 feet. When she has the film developed, she notices an odd dark object in the sky almost above the church. The image is sharp and silhouetted against a purplish-blue sky. The object would be about 6.6 feet long if it was at an altitude of 1,000 feet. (Bruce Maccabee, [“The Medjugorje UO,”](#) *IUR* 17, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 1992): 12–13, 23; UFOEv II 300–302)

1991, October — Following a request by Russian cosmonaut [Pavel Popovich](#), the KGB declassifies several documents from its so-called “Blue Folder.” The material is obtained by Vadim K. Ilyin from the late Vyacheslav Shtyepa of the Ufological Committee of the Russian Geographical Society. (Good Need, [p. 353](#))

1991, October 1 — The Air Force’s Electronic Security Command is redesignated the Air Force Intelligence Command and reacquires the Foreign Technology Division. (Wikipedia, [“Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency”](#))

1991, November 6 — The small near-Earth Object 1991 VG is discovered by American astronomer [James Scotti](#) at Kitt Peak National Observatory. The uncertainty of the object’s origin and its small size (16–39 feet), combined with rapid variation in the object’s brightness in images obtained during its close passage with Earth in early December 1991, leads to some speculation that 1991 VG might be a spent rocket fuel tank from a space mission, or even an alien artificial object. However, a detailed analysis of the available evidence confirms that there is no compelling reason to believe that 1991 VG is unnatural. (Wikipedia, [“1991 VG”](#); Duncan Steel, [“SETA and 1991 VG,”](#) *The Observatory* 115 (1995): 78–83; Mark Rodeghier, [“Alien Probe Detected in Solar System?”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 9–10; Carlos de la Fuente Marcos and Raúl de la Fuente Marcos, [“Dynamical Evolution of Near-Earth Asteroid VG 1991,”](#) *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* 473 (2018): 2938–2948)

1991, December 15 — 7:30 p.m. Clare Holcomb is returning to her home near Catlett, Virginia, from Winchester when she notices a pair of silent, low-flying bright lights. She stops the car for a better look. What seems like just a moment later, she finds herself driving 5 miles further down the road and feeling nauseous. She arrives home more than an hour later than usual. Her ear lobes are inflamed and bleeding, and her earrings have been inserted backward. In 1992, she begins having flashbacks about regular abduction experiences going all the way back to her childhood, many of them featuring her friend Diana Graves, who also begins having abduction memories. Holcomb begins consulting with clinical psychologist [David Ruxer](#) in Fairfax, Virginia. (Lisa Faye Kaplan, [“Abducted by Aliens: Two Women Share a Nightmare That’s Out of This World,”](#) *Wausau (Wis.) Daily Herald*, December 19, 1993, pp. 4B, 6B; [“The Strange Case of the Shared Alien Abduction Experiences of Clare Holcomb and Diana Graves, 1991,”](#) Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, December 29, 2023)

1992

1992 — A man is driving near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, England, when he sees a bright glow approaching from the opposite direction. Thinking it is from a speeding motorcycle, he stops the car and leaves the engine idling. As it approaches, the light changes direction and passes over the roof of the car. The engine stalls. The object seems to be emitting light all around it, but a few seconds later it disappears. (Herbert S. Taylor, [“An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1,”](#) *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 19–20)

1992 — [Jerome Clark](#) publishes the second volume of the first edition of his UFO encyclopedia. (Jerome Clark, *The Emergence of a Phenomenon: UFOs from the Beginning through 1959*, Omnigraphics, 1992; Michael D. Swords, [\[review\]](#), *JUFOS* 4 (1992): 181–183)

1992 — *El Ojo Crítica*, an independent and skeptical newsletter, begins publication in A Coruña, Galicia, Spain. (*El Ojo Crítica*, no. 1 (1992); [“\(Pre\) Historia de El Ojo Crítica”](#))

1992 — The Research Institute on Anomalous Phenomena is established in Kharkiv, Ukraine, to study UFOs and extraterrestrial visitation. It has Russian and Ukrainian ufologists on its board, and it publishes *RIAP Bulletin* (in English, edited by [Vladimir Rubtsov](#)) from January 1994 to June 2006. (*RIAP Bulletin* 1, no. 1 (Jan./March 1994);

Vladimir Rubtsov, "[Ukraine Research Institute on Anomalous Phenomena](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1993): 15–16)

- 1992** — The U.S. government funds an operational SETI program, in the form of the NASA High Resolution Microwave Survey (HRMS). The project is planned as a long-term effort to conduct a general survey of the sky and also carry out targeted searches of 800 specific nearby stars. HRMS is to be performed by radio antennas associated with the NASA Deep Space Network, as well as the 140-foot radio telescope of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia, and the 1,000-foot radio telescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. The signals are to be analyzed by spectrum analyzers, each with a capacity of 15 million channels. These spectrum analyzers can be grouped together to obtain greater capacity. Those used in the targeted search have a bandwidth of 1 hertz per channel, while those used in the sky survey have a bandwidth of 30 hertz per channel. HRMS soon draws the attention of Congress, where the program is ridiculed and canceled one year after its start. SETI advocates continue without government funding, and in 1995 the nonprofit SETI Institute of Mountain View, California, resurrects the HRMS program under the name of Project Phoenix, backed by private sources of funding. (Wikipedia, "[Search for extraterrestrial intelligence](#)"; Wikipedia, "[High Resolution Microwave Survey](#)")
- 1992** — The first confirmed discovery of extrasolar planets is made in 1992 when a system of terrestrial-mass planets is announced to be present around the millisecond pulsar PSR B1257+12. (Wikipedia, "[Discoveries of exoplanets](#)")
- 1992, January 15** — The Spanish Air Force transfers responsibility for handling UFO reports to the Air Operative Command (whose head is Gen. Alfredo Chamorro Chapinal) at Torrejón Air Base in Madrid, Spain, which updates the procedures for reporting and investigating UFO sightings by military personnel. The added responsibility is placed in the intelligence section, commanded by Lt. Col. Ángel Bastida. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, "[The Spanish Air Force UFO Files](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 13; *Swords* 425, 517)
- 1992, February** — 4:00 a.m. Near Tennant Creek, Northern Territory, Australia, five people are in a car driving around a bend when they encounter a huge area lit up from above. The engine, headlights, and dash lights cut out. They stop the car, restart it, and drive on, but 2 minutes later the same thing happens, then again 2 minutes after that. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 20)
- 1992, February 15–16** — The Center for UFO Studies and the Fund for UFO Research hold the Plains of San Agustin Conference in the Sofitel Chicago Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois, in order to examine the nature and quality of the evidence for a reported crash of a UFO and the recovery of aliens—both dead and alive—on the Plains of San Agustin, New Mexico, in July 1947. A focal point for the discussion is the testimony of [Gerald Anderson](#), who contacted investigators [Kevin Randle](#) and [Stanton Friedman](#) with his claim that he had been present on the Plains when he was 5 years old. The separate stories of archaeologists and [Grady L. "Barney" Barnett](#) at this retrieval are also considered. Moderator [Michael D. Swords](#) concludes that the evidence for the Plains of San Agustin crash is "single-witness testimony with no physical or instrumental evidence to support the story" as well as problematic and inconsistent testimony. A summary report on the conference is published in June 1992. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, *UFO Crash at Roswell*, Avon, 1991, pp. 31–32, 87–90; Thomas J. Carey, "[The Search for the Archaeologists](#)," *IUR* 16, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1991): 4–9, 21; Stanton T. Friedman, Thomas J. Carey, Kevin D. Randle, and Donald R. Schmitt, "[The Search for the Archaeologists: An Exchange](#)," *IUR* 17, no. 3 (May/June 1992): 6–12, 22–23; Donald R. Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle, "[Second Thoughts on the Barney Barnett Story](#)," *IUR* 17, no. 3 (May/June 1992): 4–5, 22; Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, "[Missing Time](#)," *IUR* 17, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1992): 21–23; *The Plains of San Agustin Controversy, July 1947: Gerald Anderson, Barney Barnett, and the Archaeologists*, CUFOS/Fund for UFO Research, 1992; John Carpenter, "[Gerald Anderson: Disturbing Revelations](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 299 (March 1993): 6–9; Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney, "[Who's the Dummy Now? The Latest Air Force Report](#)," *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 8–9; Kevin D. Randle and Karl T. Pflock, "[Barney Barnett's Crashed Saucer: Where Did It Come From?](#)" *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 15–18, 24–25; "[1947 UFO Crash and Alien Bodies Eyewitness Gerald Anderson Interviewed by Stanton Friedman](#)," Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, August 27, 2024)
- 1992, March** — US historian [David M. Jacobs](#) publishes *Secret Life*, in which he lays out a detailed study of abduction phenomenology based on his research with numerous abductees. He finds many accounts of hybrid making and clues that the aliens exploit human genes to repopulate their planet or perhaps plot a takeover of the Earth. (David M. Jacobs, *Secret Life: Firsthand Accounts of UFO Abductions*, Simon & Schuster, 1992; Mark Rodeghier, [\[review\]](#), *JUFOS* 4 (1992): 184–189; Clark III 8 Graff 338–339)

- 1992, March or April** — 4:30 a.m. S/Sgt Joseph M. Brown is posted to a security team at the Malmstrom AFB A-3 flight launch facility outside Sluice Box Canyon near Monarch, Montana. Due to an alarm-system malfunction, two men are staked out in a security camper. Just after arriving at the site, Brown sees a bright white light moving erratically through the sky with sudden direction changes and abrupt stops and starts. He watches it for 15–20 minutes, then the light moves closer to the facility. He wakes up his partner, who also watches the light. Another security team at A-10 about 10 miles away can also see the light, which is less than a mile away. They continue to watch the light until about 6:30 a.m. when it shoots up into the sky and stops. With more daylight, they see a black area around the light. (Nukes 457–461, 466–468)
- 1992, March 3** — 7:50 p.m. Roger Cross is driving on Highway 3A in Concord, New Hampshire, when he hears an unusual drumming sound. He pulls to the side of the road and sees an immense triangular object with pulsating lights flying 400–500 feet above the road. (Marler [217](#))
- 1992, March 4–5** — UFO sightings at the Benito Juárez International Airport in Mexico City, Mexico, are confirmed by radar. (Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, [p. 146](#))
- 1992, March 5** — 6:30 p.m. Military Policeman Luis Ribeiro and a colleague are hunting in the interior of Ceará state, Brazil, when a domed disc lands nearby. Five 4.5-foot tall humanoids emerge and take Ribeiro inside the craft. The beings communicate with him in Portuguese and tell him they are from “Catandório.” After a 5-hour abduction experience, he is returned to the encounter site. (Brazil 342–344)
- 1992, March 19** — 3:51 a.m. Patrolman Luis Delgado has just checked the doors on a local business at Haines City, Florida, and turns onto 30th Street. He sees a green light in his rear-view mirror. The light seems to come from a small plane that is about to crash. Just seconds later, the interior of his patrol car is illuminated with a green glow. The object begins to pace his car which is traveling about 40 mph. The object moves from the right side to the front of the vehicle several times. When it has moved to the front for the third time, Delgado slows his car and pulls off the roadway, fearing he might collide with the object. It is a color of green he had never seen before that seems to flow over the surface. It is 15 feet long with a 3-foot-thick center. The object hovers approximately 10 feet off the ground. The engine, lights, and radio on his patrol car cease to function. The object hovers in front of his car and then shines a bright white light into the interior. He exits and begins to walk backwards away from the object. He tries to radio Haines City dispatch on his radio, but it does not function. The air around him has chilled to the point that he can see his breath. The object is hovering about 20 feet northeast of his car, then it speeds away after approximately 2–3 seconds. It departs the area in a northeasterly direction at 10 feet altitude. Delgado loses sight of the object in only seconds. (UFOEv II 193–194; Herbert S. Taylor, “[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 15)
- 1992, March 23** — Near Amarillo, Texas, radio hobbyist Steven Douglass photographs a “donuts on a rope” contrail and links this to distinctive sounds. He describes the engine noise as “strange, loud pulsating roar... unique... a deep pulsating rumble that vibrated the house and made the windows shake... similar to rocket engine noise, but deeper, with evenly timed pulses.” In addition to providing the first photographs of the distinctive contrail reported by others, Douglass also reports intercepts of radio transmissions: “Air-to-air communications... were between an AWACS aircraft with the call sign Dragnet 51 from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, and two unknown aircraft using the call signs Darkstar November and Darkstar Mike. Messages consisted of phonetically transmitted alphanumerics. It is not known whether this radio traffic had any association with the ‘pulser’ that had just flown over Amarillo.” (Wikipedia, “[Aurora \(aircraft\)](#)”)
- 1992, March 31** — The Spanish Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Ramón Fernández Sequieros, issues Instrucción General 40-5, a 28-page set of procedures for UFO investigations that is issued to all units in June. Lt. Col. Ángel Bastida admits it is inspired by several questionnaires that [Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos](#) has supplied, including those used by the US Air Force. (Swords 426, 520)
- 1992, April 13** — Gen. Alfredo Chamorro Chapinal signs a proposal for full UFO document disclosure to the Spanish Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Ramón Fernández Sequieros. (Swords 426, 518)
- 1992, April 22** — The Spanish Joint Chiefs of Staff downgrade UFO documents from secret to “internal reserve” (confidential). (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, “[The Spanish Air Force UFO Files](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 13; Swords 426, 519)
- 1992, April 28** — A crop circle appears in a rapeseed field at Sutton Scotney, close to Winchester, England. (Data Research, “[Crop Circle Update](#),” *Awareness* 18, no. 2 (1992/1993): 16–17; Geoff Ambler and Paul Anderson, “[Crop Circle Report 1992](#),” *Awareness* 18, no. 3 (1992/1993): 19; “[1992: The Crop So Far](#),” *Earthquest News* 2, no. 1 (June 1992): 13; George Wingfield, “[The Return of the Circles in '92](#),” *The Circular* 3, no. 2 (July 1992): 4; Chris Talarski, “[Going around in Circles](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1992): 4–9)

- 1992, May** — The Roper Organization releases the results of its “Unusual Personal Experiences” survey of nearly 6,000 US adults devised by [Budd Hopkins](#), [David Jacobs](#), and [Ron Westrum](#), and conducted in 1991. Its intent is to determine how widespread the abduction phenomenon might be. Five indicator questions in the survey assess the respondents’ sleep paralysis, dreams of flying, missing time, observations of unusual lights inside a room, and puzzling body scars. The poll, financed by the Bigelow Holding Corporation, suggests that 2% of adult Americans (more than 3.7 million) think they have been abducted by aliens. (Geraldo Fuentes, “[Abductions: A Report on the Roper Analysis Data](#)”; Robert L. Hall, Mark Rodeghier, Donald A. Johnson, “[The Prevalence of Abductions: A Critical Look](#),” *JUFOS* 4 (1992): 131–135; Robert J. Durant, “[Evolution of Public Opinion on UFOs](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 20–22; Susan Blackmore, “[Abduction by Aliens or Sleep Paralysis?](#)” *Skeptical Inquirer* 22, no. 3 (May/June 1998): 23–28; Mark Rodeghier, “[Counting Abductees: What Can Surveys Tell Us?](#)” *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 20–21)
- 1992, May 1** — University of Connecticut psychologist [Kenneth Ring](#) publishes *The Omega Project*, in which he argues that ostensible aliens, angels, and otherworldly entities exist in an imaginal realm, a “third kingdom” between reality and fantasy that is accessible through certain altered states of consciousness that undermine ordinary perception and conceptual thinking. Through extensive psychological testing, Ring finds that abductees and those who have near-death experiences are emotionally indistinguishable, with childhoods that typically involve episodes of abuse, trauma, and serious illness. One consequence is the development of a dissociative state as a means of coping with stress; it is the key to experiencing the imaginal realm, a shamanic journey through which symbolic language and images are expressed. (Kenneth Ring, *The Omega Project: Near-Death Experiences, UFO Encounters, and Mind at Large*, Morrow, 1992; Kenneth Ring and Christopher J. Rosing, “[The Omega Project: A Psychological Survey of Persons Reporting Abductions and Other UFO Encounters](#),” *JUFOS* 2 (1990): 59–98; David A. Gotlib, “[Abductions: Imagined or Imaginal?](#)” *IUR* 17, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1992): 18–20; Clark III 886)
- 1992, Summer** — An unnamed family from Albuquerque is hiking and prospecting about 12 miles from Horse Springs, New Mexico, in the general area of the Plains of San Agustin, when they discover an odd piece of metal. They unsuccessfully try to cut it, burn it, and bend it. The discovery remains unconfirmed. (Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, “[The Hatch Enigma](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 2 (March/April 1993): 18)
- 1992, Summer** — Héctor and Jaime Feliciano watch a gigantic silent triangle pass over Salinas, Puerto Rico, heading toward the MATES Camp Santiago military base. It is a metallic dark gray with a rough undersurface containing multiple small colored lights and two large white lights. White beams shine down from the object at three points. (Jorge Martín, “[Triangular UFOs over Puerto Rico](#),” *Flying Saucer Review* 44, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 24)
- 1992, June** — Day. The captain and four crew members of a commercial fishing boat are on Georges Bank in the North Atlantic Ocean when they spot a silver-white, reflective object shaped like a barbell. They watch it for 2–3 minutes, but when the captain tries to take a photo, the object shoots upward at a 75° angle and vanishes. (Powell, *Scientist*, 52)
- 1992, June 1** — The US Strategic Command is established as a successor to the Strategic Air Command in response to the end of the Cold War. Its principal mission is to deter military attack and, if deterrence fails, to counter with nuclear weapons. (Wikipedia, “[United States Strategic Command](#)”)
- 1992, June 13–17** — The Massachusetts Institute of Technology hosts an Abductions Study Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, chaired by [David E. Pritchard](#) and [John E. Mack](#), with presentations, panels, and discussions about the UFO abduction phenomenon. UFO researchers like [Budd Hopkins](#), [David Jacobs](#), and Mack hold forth beside relative novices and abductees themselves. Representative non-US research is also contributed (Brazil, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia). Even skeptics are represented and speak. The conference marks the cracking apart of the public unity of American researchers into at least two major schools of opinion, which deeply disagree to this day. Both continue to believe that the phenomenon is extraterrestrial. Hopkins, Jacobs, and others are present to elaborate what some have come to refer to as the “Dark Marauders” view of abductions. But conference co-organizer and Harvard psychologist John Mack presents an entirely different spin: These experiences are extraterrestrially caused but are positively transformational for the human spirit. Despite the severe disagreements that follow, this gives researchers like Joseph Nyman a foundation stone authority figure around whom to rally. The so-called pessimist and optimist schools take shape right before the attendees’ eyes. A third major position exists within the US research community, the “probably extraterrestrial but I don’t know the details” viewpoint, represented at the conference in the persons of [Mark Rodeghier](#), [Stuart Appelle](#), and David Gotlib. [Kenneth Ring](#) also presents his interesting view comparing abductions and near-death experiences, and [David Hufford](#) does likewise regarding the “Old Hag” imagery of sleep paralysis. (Andrea Pritchard, et al., *Alien Discussions: Proceedings of the Abduction Study Conference Held at MIT, Cambridge, MA*, North Cambridge, 1994; Michael

D. Swords, [\[review\]](#), *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 11, no. 1 (1997): 101–104; John E. Mack, “[Helping Abductees](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1992): 10–15, 20; C. D. B. Bryan, *Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind: A Reporter’s Notebook Alien Abduction, UFOs, and the Conference at M.I.T.*, Knopf, 1995; Stuart Appelle, “[The Abduction Phenomenon at MIT](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 20–21, 24; Thomas E. Bullard, [\[book reviews\]](#), *JUFOS* 6 (1995/96): 231–248; Ralph Blumenthal, *The Believer: Alien Encounters, Hard Science, and the Passion of John Mack*, University of New Mexico, 2021; Graff 338–340)

- 1992**, July 9 — A 450-foot “Snail” pictogram appears in a wheatfield at Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, England. (Chris Talarski, “[Going around in Circles](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1992): 4–9)
- 1992**, July 17–19 — The First International Conference of the Center for Crop Circle Studies is held at King Alfred’s College in Winchester, Hampshire, England. (Chris Talarski, “[Going around in Circles](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1992): 4–9)
- 1992**, July 23 — 7:30 a.m. An abduction event takes place in a suburb of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, involving a rare case of physical evidence. Businessman Peter Khoury had at least one previous abduction experience in 1988 that left him so disturbed that in 1993 he forms a support group to help others like him. The details of his 1992 abduction slowly emerge through extended conversations with Australian ufologist [Bill Chalker](#). Khoury wakes up suddenly and finds two nude females seated on his bed, one blonde and the other dark-haired with some Asian features. They are human-like but have some odd physical characteristics: narrow heads and large eyes. Khoury says that what happens next feels weird and dreamlike, “like looking through binoculars, but through the back of my own head.” The blonde reaches out and forces him towards her. Before he knows what he is doing, he takes a small bite out of her and swallows it. There is no blood or screaming. The two beings look at each other in a puzzled way, then vanish. Khoury has a coughing fit and goes to the bathroom where he discovers a blonde hair wrapped around a body part. He turns the hair over to Bill Chalker for mitochondrial DNA analysis in 1999 (by [Horace R. Drew](#) of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification. The results are startling: DNA from the shaft of the hair reveals very rare and unusual Asian signatures common to the isolated Lahu people of China and Thailand, but DNA from the root shows sequences indicating rare Basque/Gaelic and Asian results—suggesting advanced cloning techniques and possible hybrid characteristics. (Bill Chalker, “[Strange Evidence](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 3–13; Anomaly Physical Evidence Group, “[Mitochondrial DNA Sequence Analysis of a Shed Hair from an Alien Abduction Case](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 13–16, 31; Bill Chalker, “[Aliens, Hair, and DNA](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 3–5, 10; Bill Chalker, *Hair of the Alien: DNA and Other Forensic Evidence of Alien Abduction*, Simon & Schuster, 2005; Bill Chalker, “[Peter Khoury and the ‘Hair of the Alien’: 20 Years On](#),” TheOzFiles, July 29, 2012; Clark III 651–654; Bill Chalker, “[‘Hair of the Alien,’ Peter Khoury, Betty Hill and Her Dress: A Curious Anomaly?](#)” TheOzFiles, October 23, 2022)
- 1992**, August — Crop circles appear in wheatfields near Ipswich and Strathclair, Manitoba. (Chris Rutkowski, “[‘A Looney a Look’: Crop Circles in Western Manitoba](#),” *IUR* 17, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1992): 9–12)
- 1992**, August 5 — 1:45 p.m. Pilots of United Airlines Flight 934 are flying at 23,000 feet some 50 miles northeast of George AFB [now Southern California Logistics Airport], Victorville, California, when an unusual aircraft comes directly toward them and passes underneath at an estimated distance of 500–1,000 feet. It resembles the forward fuselage of a Lockheed S-71, without wings but with a sort of tail. The size is about 50 feet long and its speed is supersonic. (*Aviation Week and Space Technology*, August 24, 1992; Clas Svahn and Anders Liljegren, “[Close Encounters with Unknown Missiles](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1994): 15)
- 1992**, August 8 — 10:30 a.m. A couple and their two children are driving from Dunstable to Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, England. The man swerves to avoid a car driving straight toward him at Hockliffe. They continue up the hill and find themselves in a torrential downpour, which they think is odd. At this point a bank of mist or fog suddenly appears in front of the car and they drive straight through it. Everything is unusually quiet and there is no other traffic around. They have no memory of driving through the fog or coming out of it. Their next memory is driving through some woods on the outskirts of Woburn Sands, some miles away from where they should have been. They remember seeing a road worker in bright yellow doing something with a manhole cover, and watching two white cars with bright headlights pointed at them. They develop another brief blank period until they reach the Fishermead roundabout, where they stop for petrol at 10:50 a.m. They get out of the car, feeling disoriented and even having difficulty gripping the car handles. The parents develop a redness on their hands, pins-and-needles pains lasting hours, and an icy-cold tingling in their heads. Their children seem less affected, but puzzled and quiet. They continue to feel a sense of reality and decide to return home early. Both parents remain preoccupied by the experience and retrace their journey the next day to make some sense of it.

- (Gloria Heather Dixon, "[Reality Tilt at Hockliffe](#)," *BUFORA Bulletin*, no. 26 (August 2001): 29–33; Jenny Randles, "Time in the Land of OZ," *Fortean Times*, no. 432 (June 2023): 31)
- 1992**, August 19 — 1:00 a.m. A witness is driving near Tucson, Arizona, when he notices a strange light in the distance. As it approaches from the northeast, it descends rapidly, moves across a field, and hovers. A cone of light emerges from the bottom that completely bathes the area, illuminating the ground. At this point the witness is about 600–900 feet away and is able to see that it is a solid object that looks like a manta ray with a dull-black matte finish. He pulls over and can hear no sound coming from it. The object moves directly overhead, and the witness gets back in the car and speeds away. He sees the object again as it stops 15 feet above a nearby farmhouse. Again a bright light comes from its base, engulfing the entire house for 20 seconds. It moves away and illuminates a large area of trees behind the house. ("[Current Cases](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 296 (December 1992): 18; UFOEv II 238)
- 1992**, August 29 — A father and his two children are driving east on the New York State Thruway west of Batavia, New York, when they notice a distant flashing of light. The light approaches them and follows the car less than 150 feet away at the same speed. The object is the length of a tractor trailer truck, elliptical in shape, and gray. The father describes the surface as clean, smooth, and without any seams or rivets. It is silent, gives off no heat, and creates no turbulence in the trees surrounding the road. It has intensely bright circular lights, and the father notes that they do not illuminate the car or the surrounding area. After several seconds pacing the car, the object recedes and moves away much faster than it had approached. (Powell, *Scientist*, 96)
- 1992**, September — The first Spanish Air Force UFO document is declassified. The process lasts until 1999, when 84 files (covering 122 cases between 1962 to 1995) are disclosed. (Swords 427, 521–522)
- 1992**, September 18 — The existence of the US National Reconnaissance Office is declassified by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, as recommended by the Director of Central Intelligence. (Wikipedia, "[National Reconnaissance Office](#)")
- 1992**, September 23 — The last US underground nuclear test, Divider, takes place at the Nevada Test Site. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Julian](#)")
- 1992**, October — The first official Spanish UFO reports are declassified, leaving only witness names redacted. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, "[The Spanish Air Force UFO Files](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1993): 14)
- 1992**, October 9 — 7:50 p.m. A fragment of the Draconid meteor stream strikes a 1980 Chevrolet Malibu owned by Michelle Knapp while she is home in Peekskill, New York. She goes outside after hearing a crash and discovers a hole in the trunk of the car and a 6-inch crater in her driveway. The stony fragment (oval shaped and about 1 foot in length) is in the crater, along with pieces of the car. The rock is still hot and weighs about 30 pounds. (Wikipedia, "[Peekskill meteorite](#)"; "[A Hot Rock from Outer Space? Meteorite May Have Hit Teen's Car](#)," *Yonkers (N.Y.) Herald Statesman*, October 11, 1992, p. 28; Mark Rodeghier, "[UFO/Vehicle Very Close Encounters](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 5)
- 1992**, October 12 — 3:00 p.m. The 1,000-foot radio telescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico points to the star at GL615.1A, some 63 light-years away in the constellation Hercules. In the Mojave Desert, the 112-foot Gladstone telescope also begins scanning the sky. NASA's High-Resolution Microwave Survey, with SETI researcher [Jill Tarter](#) on board, quickly finds a few intriguing signals, but none of them pan out. One year later, Sen. [Richard Bryan](#) (D-Nev.) is responsible for removing the project's funding. (Wikipedia, "[High Resolution Microwave Survey](#)"; John Noble Wilford, "[Astronomers Start Search for Life beyond Earth](#)," *New York Times*, October 13, 1992, pp. C1, C8; Stephen J. Garber, "[Searching for Good Science: The Cancellation of NASA's SETI Program](#)," *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society* 52 (1999): 3–11; Graff 361–363)
- 1992**, October 15 — 6:00 p.m. Witnesses in Lubbock, Texas, see a gray cigar-shaped object that becomes visible for about 20 minutes after a cloud disappears. It moves close enough to them so that they can see windows on the object. The cloud reappears and the object is no longer visible. (National UFO Reporting Center, "[NUFORC UFO Sighting 38211](#)," July 19, 2004; Herbert S. Taylor, "[Mystery Clouds and the UFO Connection](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 19)
- 1992**, October 27 — Just before 12:00 midnight. A1C Michael R. Reager and A1C Jason H. Barrier are approaching the operations hanger of the 44th Field Maintenance Missile Squadron at Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, South Dakota. A group of bright white lights suddenly appears in the air, moving rapidly in rigid formation. Witnesses assume the lights are attached to a large, dark aircraft. It hovers briefly above the hangar at 300–500 feet then moves away. (Nukes 470–472)

- 1992**, November — Night. A man in Brighton, England, calls the RAF to report a brightly lit UFO shaped like a “squashed rugby ball” hovering above his house. Through windows in its side, he can see two men wearing beige uniforms standing in front of machinery. When one of the crew members appears to notice him, the object’s lights go out and the UFO zooms away over the English Channel. (UFOFiles2, [p. 128](#))
- 1992**, November — After 10:00 p.m. Three Romanian military helicopters are flying at an altitude of 328 feet at a speed of 93 mph on a night exercise near Buzău, Romania. Col. Marcel Smoleanu notices a silent, bright-red sphere about 60 feet in diameter to his left that begins to fly parallel to the helicopters. The other pilots confirm the sighting. After a minute or so, the object accelerates sharply, makes a 90° turn, and cuts across their flight path. The helicopters slow to a hover and the object disappears suddenly. The flight exercise is scrapped and the helicopters return to the military airfield at Buzău. One of the pilots, Lt. Col. Doru Drăgoi, is called into the radar room where operators show him more than 10 unidentified targets on the screen making odd movements northeast of Buzău, including sharp 180° turns near Săpoca. Drăgoi also sees bright objects crossing overhead from east to west at an amazing speed. (Romania 110–113)
- 1992**, November 16 — Lt. Col. Ángel Bastida, head of the Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Operative Command, establishes an informal agreement of cooperation with [Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos](#) to act as a civilian consultant on the declassification of UFO reports and establish a direct contact procedure for future cases. This allows him to personally view, handle, and copy all of the agency’s original UFO case files. It ensures that all reports in official custody are released, increases the momentum of the process, and secures copies of all related documentation. (Swords 428–429; Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, “[Monitoring Air Force Intelligence \(Spain’s 1992–1997 UFO Declassification Process\)](#),” *MUFON 1997 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*, pp. 139–178)
- 1992**, December 16 — Night. Werner Noeske observes a large, brightly illuminated disc with a large triangular window in the base over Leipzig, Germany. Additional witnesses come forward, but an investigation reveals that two unrelated incidents contributed to the sightings: a “sky tracker” searchlight common in European discos, and a cargo plane that makes routine flights at the same hour. A photograph confirms the latter interpretation. (Hans-Werner Peiniger, “[UFO-Beobachtungen](#),” *Journal für UFO-Forschung*, no. 86 (Mar./Apr. 1993): 3–4)
- 1992**, December 24 — 6:09–8:15 p.m. Twenty civilian witnesses and police south and west of Monroe, Louisiana, watch a silent, boomerang-shaped UFO with bright beams of light pass over cars in a forested area and bounce up and down for 6 minutes. They see the object up close. The object is videotaped by one of the witnesses, Cecil Cullipher, in West Monroe. (W. L. Garner Jr., “[UFOs Compete with Santa for Christmas Eve Limelight](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1993): 8–11, 23)

1993

- 1993** — [Jean-Jacques Velasco](#) coauthors *OVNIs: La science avance*, with journalist [Jean-Claude Bourret](#), in which he admits the physical reality of UFOs and the probability of their extraterrestrial origin. He stresses that it’s his personal opinion, although he has been authorized by CNES to write the book. Its foreword is written by astrophysicist [Jean-Claude Ribes](#), president of the French Astronomical Society. (Jean-Claude Bourret and Jean-Jacques Velasco, *OVNIs: La science avance*, Laffont, 1993; Gildas Bourdais, “[From GEPAN to SEPRA: Official UFO Studies in France](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 13)
- 1993** — The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility begins construction north of Gakona, Alaska, just west of Wrangell–Saint Elias National Park, funded by the Air Force, Navy, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and DARPA. Its original purpose is to analyze the ionosphere and investigate the potential for developing ionospheric enhancement technology for radio communications and surveillance. As a university-owned facility, HAARP is a high-power, high-frequency transmitter used for study of the ionosphere. The most prominent instrument at HAARP is the Ionospheric Research Instrument (IRI), a high-power radio frequency transmitter facility operating in the high frequency band. The IRI is used to temporarily excite a limited area of the ionosphere. Other instruments, such as a VHF and a UHF radar, a fluxgate magnetometer, a digisonde (an ionospheric sounding device), and an induction magnetometer, are used to study the physical processes that occur in the excited region. (Wikipedia, “[High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program](#)”; University of Alaska Fairbanks, “[About HAARP](#)”; John Greenewald, “[The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program](#),” *The Black Vault*, March 13, 2023)
- 1993** — British Airways Pilot Capt. Paul Coomber is flying over Stuttgart, Germany, when he sees three white, spherical objects. They are stationary for a few seconds, then they all accelerate in different directions and disappear.

(Amanda Perthen, "Pilots Tell of Cockpit Close Encounters," *London Daily Star* (UK), July 16, 1993; UFOEv II, 116; Powell, *Scientist*, 67–68)

- 1993**, January 1 — 1:30 a.m. A taxi driver has just dropped off revelers at a remote house in Hethersgill, Cumbria, England. She heads home down a remote track toward the main road when suddenly her CB radio begins to crackle then fades entirely. Moments later her car engine and lights fail, and she coasts to a stop. She gets out, hoping to walk back to the house, when she sees a ball of light low over the road heading towards her. It swoops over her car and shoots into the sky, causing her skin to tingle. The headlights come back on, the car lurches forward, and she hears her sister talking on the CB asking where she has been for the past 30 minutes. (Jenny Randles, "The Twelve UFOs of Christmas," *Fortean Times* 374 (Christmas 2018): 29)
- 1993**, January 14 — 7:00 p.m. Residents of Jerzmanowice, Kraków County, Poland, see a flash of light just before limestone debris falls around them, breaking window panes and plunging through roofs. A local rock formation, Babia Skala, has been shattered by an apparent lightning strike, although some in the village have seen one or two bluish objects colliding with the rock face. Although the blast is seen in Kraków, registered on seismic equipment, and observed by the flight controller in Balice, the Polish Army refuses to disclose any further details. (Poland 119–120; "[Babia Skala](#)," Rowerowa Matopolska, May 26, 2015)
- 1993**, January 19 — Night. Jackie Chown and her family see a huge triangular object with flashing lights above their home in Ellastone, West Midlands, England. They chase after it in their car but lose track of it. ("[UFO Spotters Chase Mysterious 'Flashing Triangle'](#)," *Ashbourne (UK) News Telegraph*, January 21, 1993, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 283 (February 1993): 13)
- 1993**, January or February — Night. T/Sgt John W. Mills III is driving back to Malmstrom AFB near Great Falls, Montana, with another tech sergeant. Near Monarch, Montana, they watch a bright light in the sky for about 5 minutes. Suddenly it makes a sharp banking maneuver. Thinking it is a helicopter, they drive on toward Belt, Montana, where they encounter a roadblock with cars backed up for miles. The base dispatcher asks if they saw anything on their drive. When they answer yes, he tells them to proceed to the Alpha-01 missile launch facility not far away. They are redirected to Malmstrom, where they find that many "anomalies" have been reported zooming over missile sites that night. The "anomaly" they had seen apparently came down and landed near the highway west of Belt. Another light reportedly flew in and out of the open doors of the base vehicle barn; at least 4 witnesses say it was the size of a softball and flew at a height of about 10 feet. At least six balls of light maneuver around the flight line of the base at high speed and different altitudes. (Nukes 462–466)
- 1993**, February 1 — 9:00 p.m. A witness is driving in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, when he sees a large, black, triangular UFO hovering above a water tank. The object has 9 lights, including a row of lights on one side. Two police officers had seen bright beams of lights in the vicinity earlier. (Marler [218](#))
- 1993**, February 4 — 6:35 p.m. Kevin Crump and his grandmother, Betty Barnick, spot an object in the sky near Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, that spits out a blue glowing ball from its tail end, which hangs in the sky over an old school. Crump gets out and sees the UFO almost directly overhead. The moonlight reflects off its black metallic surface. It has the shape of an "oblong triangle" with a light at each point—a red light and a blue light at the front and a white light in the back. The UFO eventually moves away but returns with another bright blue light below it. (Marler [218–219](#))
- 1993**, February 26 — 11:50 p.m. Jefferson County Air Unit police officers Kenny Graham and Kenny Downs are on helicopter patrol over General Electric Appliance Park in Louisville, Kentucky, when Graham sees something like a small fire off to his left. Downs shines his spotlight on the light, which begins to drift back and forth as the spot washes over it. Then it gradually floats up to the helicopter's altitude at 500 feet, where it hovers for a few seconds before moves away at high speed, making two counterclockwise loops and doubling back to the rear of the helicopter. Graham pushes his speed up to 100 mph. The object passes them and climbs hundreds of feet into the air before descending again toward the helicopter. Graham tries to close the gap, but it eludes him. As it approaches again on a parallel course, the object releases three fireballs. Fearing a collision, Graham banks away. When his move is complete, the light has vanished. Two officers in their squad cars, Mike Smith and Joe Smolenski, also see the light and the fireballs. Smolenski tries to follow the light for a full minute before it disappears. ("[Police Officers Describe 'Dogfight' with a UFO](#)," *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, March 4, 1993, pp. 1, 5)

- 1993**, March — US Rep. [Steven Schiff](#) (R-N.Mex.) writes to Defense Secretary [Les Aspin](#), asking the US Air Force to declassify and provide him with all material relating to the Roswell crash. There is no response. After a second request, USAF Col. Larry G. Shockley refers him to the National Archives, which has no information.
- 1993**, March 12 — Paramount premieres *Fire in the Sky*, a feature film directed by [Robert Lieberman](#) that is based on abductee [Travis Walton](#)'s book of the same name. Walton is portrayed by actor [D. B. Sweeney](#). (Internet Movie Database, "[Fire in the Sky](#)"; Chris Talarski, "[Film Review: Fire in the Sky](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 3 (May/June 1993): 21)
- 1993**, March 16 — A couple who are viewing aerial activity from a hill adjacent to Area 51 in Nevada see strange lights that seem to transform themselves into an automotive vehicle. After the encounter, the witnesses sense that 30 minutes are unaccounted for. They undergo hypnosis and recall an abduction by gray-skinned aliens. The man is taken into a craft, while the woman is taken into a white van. Inside the van are two men dressed in black with black baseball caps. They administer intrusive procedures in her eyes, ears, and elsewhere. She remembers seeing electronic instruments and automatic rifles inside the van. (William F. Hamilton, "[Area 51 Encounter](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 304 (August 1993): 14–17; Clark III 734)
- 1993**, March 31 — 1:10–1:15 a.m. Dozens of people across Devon, Cornwall, South Wales, Shropshire, and central Ireland see triangular UFOs speeding across the sky. An MoD police patrol sees the lights from RAF Cosford in Shropshire, England. The UFO passes over the base "at great velocity ... at an altitude of approximately 1,000 feet." It looks like two white lights with a faint red glow at the rear, with no engine noise. The RAF police report also contains details on other civilian UFO sightings that they had learned about in the course of making enquiries with other military bases, civil airports, and local police. The police call ahead to alert the meteorological officer at nearby RAF Shawbury that the UFO is coming his way. The officer at Shawbury sees the object moving slowly across the countryside toward the base at a speed of no more than 30–40 mph. He sees the UFO fire a narrow beam of light (like a laser) at the ground and watches the light sweeping backwards and forwards across the field beyond the perimeter fence, as if it is looking for something. He hears and feels the vibrations from an unpleasant low-frequency humming sound coming from the craft. He estimates its size as midway between a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft and a Boeing 747. The light beam retracts in an unnatural way, then the object accelerates to the horizon many times faster than a military aircraft. Ministry of Defence UFO Officer [Nick Pope](#) says there are multiple sightings at different times that cannot be attributed to the reentry, concluding on April 16 that "It seems that an unidentified object of unknown origin was operating in the UK Air Defence Region without being detected on radar; this would appear to be of considerable defence significance, and I recommend that we investigate further, within MoD or with the US authorities." However, [Jenny Randles](#) suspects that the sightings are caused by the Soviet Tsyklon rocket booster 22586U, which launched the Kosmos 2238 radio satellite into orbit the previous day. Pope later comes around to that viewpoint after hearing about sightings at the same time in Ireland and France. (Jenny Randles, "[A New Broom at the Ministry](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1994): 18–20; Nick Pope, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Simon & Schuster, 1996, pp. 134–141; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneeus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, p. 146; David Clarke, "[The Cosford Case](#)," *Fortean Times* 199 (September 2005): 30–31; Kean, pp. 165–167, 251–252; Good Need, pp. 384–385, 431–432; UFOFiles2, pp. 142–143; Jenny Randles, "Irish Mid-Air Spectacular," *Fortean Times* 375 (January 2019): 33; Nick Pope, "[The Cosford Incident](#)," 2019; David Clarke, "[Case Closed: 30th Anniversary of the Cosford UFO Flap](#)," David's Substack, March 31, 2023)
- 1993**, April — [Michael D. Swords](#) examines the position of establishment astronomers on the existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life in the first six decades of the 20th century, especially regarding Mars, Venus, and deep space. He then speculates on the likely advice received by the USAF intelligence community by astronomical experts in the early days of the UFO phenomenon. (Michael D. Swords, "[Astronomers, the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis, and the United States Air Force at the Beginning of the Modern UFO Phenomenon](#)," *JUFOS* 4 (1992): 79–129)
- 1993**, April — Spanish communications technician [José Luis Jordán Peña](#) confesses for the first time to hoaxing the Ummo letters as well as the UFO sightings at Aluche, Spain, in 1966 and San José de Valderas in 1967. He says that he used the word "Ummo" because it suggests the Spanish word *humo* (smoke) and randomly chose Wolf 424 as the home star for the imaginary planet. "I wrote the reports on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and I took advantage of my trips to France, England, Mozambique, etc., or those of friends, to send letters from there." However, other hoaxers begin copying his style, and after he receives an invitation to an Ummo conference in Cuba, he decides to admit the hoax he had started 25 years earlier. (Wikipedia, "[Ummo](#)"; Jim Keith, *Casebook on the Men in Black*, IllumiNet, 1997)
- 1993**, April — Didier Gomez begins publishing *UFomania* in Paris, France. It continues through April 2015. ([UFomania](#), no. 1 (April 1993))

- 1993**, April — The Centro de Estudios de Fenómenos Aéreos Inusuales in Buenos Aires, Argentina, publishes the first issue of *Los Identificados*, a journal focusing on Argentine occupant cases. It is edited by Roberto E. Banchs and runs for 15 issues until 1998. ([Los Identificados](#), no. 1 (April 1993))
- 1993**, April 2 — When [Webb Hubbell](#) is appointed Associate Attorney General, President [Clinton](#) tells him, “Webb, if I put you over at Justice, I want you to find the answers to two questions for me. One, who killed JFK? And two, are there UFOs?” (Webb Hubbell, *Friends in High Places: Our Journey from Little Rock to Washington, D.C.*, William Morrow, 1997, [p. 282](#))
- 1993**, April 14 — 7:30 a.m. Philanthropist [Laurance Rockefeller](#) and [C. B. “Scott” Jones](#) brief President [Clinton](#)’s science adviser [John H. Gibbons](#) and his aide [Lionel “Skip” Johns](#) on the current state of ufology with the help of a briefing paper titled “The Matrix of UFO Beliefs.” The paper is written by journalist Richard Farley, who is part of Rockefeller’s UFO Disclosure Initiative. [Hynek](#) and [Vallée](#) have contributed to the paper. (Grant Cameron, “[Records from the Clinton OSTP Related to UFOs, Extraterrestrial Intelligence, and the Laurance Rockefeller Institute](#)”)
- 1993**, April 26 — 11:20 p.m. A witness in Muskegon, Michigan, is taking her dog for a walk when she notices two red lights and one white light arranged like a triangle above Muskegon Lake. The lights separate, and the white light shoots across the sky. The two red lights move back and forth like a pendulum before heading south. Another witness in Whitehall, Michigan, sees a similar display at the same time. (“[Two See Unidentified ‘Triangle of Lights.’](#)” *Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle*, April 28, 1993, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 287 (June 1993): 5)
- 1993**, April 29 — A Rockwell-MBB X-31 experimental jet fighter designed to test thrust-vectoring technology successfully executes a rapid minimum-radius, 180° turn using a post-stall maneuver, flying well outside the range of angle of attack normal for conventional aircraft. This maneuver has been called the “Herbst maneuver” after [Wolfgang Herbst](#), a Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm employee and proponent of using post-stall flight in air-to-air combat. It looks nothing like a triangular UFO and cannot match the performance of the Belgian triangles. (Wikipedia, “[Rockwell-MBB X-31](#)”; “[X-31 Performing the Herbst Maneuver](#),” NASA, September 28, 2009)
- 1993**, May 9–September 20 — Artist and ceramicist Filiberto Caponi has a series of encounters with a humanoid alien near his home in Pretore, Ascoli Piceno, Italy. He takes six Polaroid photos of the creature in seemingly painful physical conditions. (Timothy Good, *Unearthly Disclosure: Conflicting Interests in the Control of Extraterrestrial Intelligence*, Random House, 2001, pp. 140–206; Patrick Gross, “[The Filiberto Caponi Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind, 1993](#)”)
- 1993**, June 3 — *Ordinary Conversations about Extraordinary Matters*, a documentary film by [Allen Ross](#), premieres at the theatre of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois. It features interviews with attendees at [R. Leo Sprinkle](#)’s 12th Rocky Mountain UFO Conference in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1991. (Ted Shen, “[Beyond Belief](#),” *Chicago Tribune*, June 3, 1993, Sec. 5, p. 3; “[New Abduction Documentary Debuts](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 3 (May/June 1993): 21; George M. Eberhart, “[Postcards with a UFO Theme](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 22)
- 1993**, June 3 — 6:00 p.m. A passenger on a flight 15 minutes out of Los Angeles International Airport in California sees a small cloud moving in the opposite direction of the aircraft, which has leveled off at 30,000 feet. He watches it fly in between two vertical columns of clouds, then when it approaches to a point directly in line with his window, it dives into the cloud mass below at a 30° angle and disappears. (National UFO Reporting Center, “[NUFORC Sighting 07929](#),” September 6, 2002; Herbert S. Taylor, “[Mystery Clouds and the UFO Connection](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 19, 26)
- 1993**, June 5 — Reinhard Nühlen founds Deutschsprachige Gesellschaft für UFO-Forschung in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, and begins publishing *DEGUFORum* in January 1994. It is currently (2020) edited by Nikolaus Bettinger in Würselen, Germany. ([DEGUforum](#), no. 1 (January 1994))
- 1993**, June 26 — 4:00 a.m. Witnesses in Hartcliffe, Bristol, England, see a large cigar-shaped object (a possible blimp) drifting slowly and silently over the rooftops. large white light (the planet Venus) in the southeast climbing slowly upward. It fades into the lightening sky shortly before dawn. One witness takes many minutes of video of this object, compressing several hours of its appearance. The same light appears at the same time for weeks. (Jenny Randles, “[UFOs in Focus](#),” *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 14–15)
- 1993**, July 22 — Richard L. Huff in the FBI Office of Information and Privacy informs researcher [Nick Redfern](#) that it has a file on Majestic-12, although it is in “closed status.” The file title is labeled “Espionage.” (Kremlin 191–192)
- 1993**, August — Day. A witness takes a video of an odd figure on a beach at Rhyl, Clwyd, Wales. As the camera pans through the crowd on the beach, a strange semi-transparent figure in a silver suit becomes visible for a couple of

seconds standing and facing a wooden fence. Looking up, he cannot see the figure, which appears to have vanished. Investigators suspect it is merely someone in odd clothing. (Jenny Randles, "[UFOs in Focus](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 15)

1993, August 1 — MARAUDER (Magnetically accelerated ring to achieve ultrahigh directed energy and radiation) is, or was, a USAF Research Laboratory project to develop a coaxial plasma railgun. It is one of several US efforts to develop a plasma-based projectile. It began development in 1990, and its first published experiment takes place on this date. The project's initial success leads to it becoming classified, and only a few references to MARAUDER appear after 1993. No information about the fate of the project is published after 1995. (Wikipedia, "[MARAUDER](#)"; C. R. Sovinec and R. E. Peterkin Jr., "[Phase 1b MARAUDER Computer Simulations](#)," 1990 *IEEE International Conference on Plasma Science, Abstracts*)

1993, August 8 — Early morning. [Kelly Cahill](#) and her husband Andrew are returning from a party in Narre Warren North, in the Dandenong Foothills of Victoria, Australia, and are near Eumemmerring Creek south of Belgrave when they see a huge lighted object with windows in front of them on the road. It seems to have people in it, but it quickly shoots off to the left and disappears. They continue driving, and about one kilometer ahead they encounter another bright light. Her husband continues driving, and they do not recall anything else until they get home. They agree they saw a UFO but can't agree on whether they had missing time or saw people. They both can smell vomit and feel stomach pains. Kelly notices a triangular mark below her navel, which is bleeding a bit. Kelly has a strange dream immediately after the encounter, and two subsequent dreams in September, October 23, and January 1994—all involving entities and a "strange physical dimension." A few weeks later, both of them start remembering that the UFO has landed in an adjacent field and that they get out of the car to look at it. An abduction scenario ensues involving tall black beings. They also recall that there is another car stopped by the road with at least two people in it. By November 17, Phenomena Research Australia has located the couple in the other car and a woman who was with them. They have also undergone an abduction experience and have missing time. These witnesses, unknown to the Cahills, confirm the UFO landing site, and their drawings of the UFOs and entities closely coincide with Kelly's. The second group also recalls seeing a third car with one male who is gazing fixedly toward the encounter site. Unfortunately, Kelly's account of the incident is the only one that has come to light. (Bill Chalker, "[An Extraordinary Encounter in the Dandenong Foothills](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1994): 4–8, 18–20; Bill Chalker, "[Aliens, Hair, and DNA](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 3; Kelly Cahill, *Encounter*, HarperCollins, 1996; Bill Chalker, *The Oz Files: The Australian UFO Story*, Duffy and Snellgrove, 1996; Bill Chalker, "[The Kelly Cahill Case Revisited: An Extraordinary Lost Opportunity](#)," *TheOzFiles*, March 2, 2016)

1993, August 12 — 12:30 a.m. Two friends are watching the Perseid meteor shower in a dark school yard in North Lethbridge, Alberta, when they see a dark, gray-black, triangular object pass quickly and silently overhead for 4–5 seconds. Each point of the triangle has a red light on it. As it disappears to the south, it flips upward at a 45° angle. Another witness in a different location watches a similar object around the same time. Local radar does not show any unusual traffic. (David Thacker, "[Flight of the Triangle](#)," *IUR* 19, no. 3 (May/June 1994): 4–8, 23)

1993, August 13 — Night. Costin and Mariana Popa are driving with their daughter Diana in a rural area a few miles south of Telega, Romania, when their car engine stops unexpectedly and the headlights go out. Examining the engine, they are suddenly hit by a "wall of air" and see a fog-like rectangular screen on the right side of the road floating 18 inches above the grass. It is pulsating every 2–3 seconds with a yellowish-white light. They hear no noise and feel no heat. After about 20 minutes the screen begins to move across the road and stops in front of them, having become a narrow band of light 90 feet long and 3 feet wide. Soon it becomes brighter and shoots into the sky and disappears. The car starts normally again. (Romania 58–59)

1993, August 14 — 1:56 a.m. Four UFOs with red and green flashing lights are seen flying at low altitude above Henri Coandă International Airport at Otopeni, Romania. They first turn up on radar, then are seen visually and observed through binoculars. (Romania 75)

1993, September 2 — 6:00 a.m. A black-and-white security camera at a private company in West Manchester, England, captures a pulsing ball of white light that appears in the northwest, moving toward the north, for several minutes. The camera operator also sees it visually. Estimates place its speed as low as 50 mph. Possible blimp. (Jenny Randles, "[UFOs in Focus](#)," *IUR* 18, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1993): 15)

1993, September 13–15 — [Laurance Rockefeller](#) holds an informal roundtable discussion with the Clinton administration on UFOs at his JY Ranch in the Teton Forest near Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Along with representatives from [John H. Gibbons](#)'s office, Richard Farley, Rockefeller, Henry Diamond, [C. B. "Scott" Jones](#), [John E. Mack](#), [Bruce Maccabee](#), [Leo Sprinkle](#), [Linda Moulton Howe](#), [Steven M. Greer](#), and Keith Thompson attend. (Grant Cameron, "[Records from the Clinton OSTP Related to UFOs, Extraterrestrial Intelligence, and the Laurance Rockefeller Institute](#)")

- 1993**, September 16 — 4:00 p.m. Pilots of two airliners preparing to land at Benito Juárez International Airport in Mexico City, Mexico, see an object like a balloon, but it is going too fast. One pilot describes it as looking like a praying mantis. (Jaime Maussán, “OVNIs sobre la Terra,” *La Epoca* (Mexico), November 19, 1993; Antonio Huneus, “UFO Chronicle: UFOs and IFOs from Mexico, Part II,” *Fate* 47, no. 12 (December 1994); Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, [p. 146](#))
- 1993**, October — Rep. [Steven Schiff](#) asks [Charles Arthur Bowshe](#), head of the US General Accounting Office, to prepare a report on the status of records related to the 1947 Roswell incident in New Mexico. (Mark Rodeghier, “[Roswell and the GAO Investigation](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 2 (March/April 1994): 3, 24)
- 1993**, October — The USAF Foreign Technology Division becomes the National Air Intelligence Center. (Wikipedia, “[National Air and Space Intelligence Center](#)”)
- 1993**, October 12 — Air Force Col. Richard L. Weaver tells researcher [Nick Redfern](#) that USAF considers both the MJ-12 group and its documents to be “bogus.” However, he concedes that there are “no documents responsive” to his request on how such a determination was made. (Kremlin 183–184)
- 1993**, October 18 — A memo on “Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Study” from a UK wing commander to the Sec(AS)2, the Air Staff deputy director, proposes a secret government study of UFOs, which will become Project Condign in 1997–2000. Paragraph 2 reads: “I am aware, from intelligence sources, that xxxxx believes that such phenomena exists and has a small team studying them. I am also aware that an informal group exists in the xxxxxxxxxxxx community and it is possible that this reflects a more formal organization.” [Leslie Kean](#) suspects that the first redacted word is “Russia” and the second is “US intelligence.” (“[Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Study](#),” October 18, 1993, UK UFO Documents, Part 1, pp. 198–199; Kean, [pp. 238–240](#))
- 1993**, October 25 — 5:30–9:30 p.m. Multiple sightings of diamond- or triangular-shaped objects with multicolored light occur around La Louvière, Hainaut, Belgium. (Patrick Gross, “[The Belgium Flap](#)”)
- 1993**, December — The RAAF formally concludes its UFO investigations in a revised “RAAF Policy: Unusual Aerial Sightings.” (Bill Chalker, “[The Australian Government and UFOs](#),” *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 22)
- 1993**, December — Héctor Escobar begins publishing *Perspectivas Ufológicas* in Mexico City, Mexico. The periodical continues until February 1996. (*Perspectivas Ufológicas*, no. 1 (December 1993))
- 1993**, December 1 — The European Parliament considers a resolution that enables the French UFO agency, Service d’Expertise des Phénomènes de Rentrée Atmosphérique (SEPRA), to carry out UFO investigations throughout the member countries of the European Community. The resolution was first proposed in 1991 by Belgian deputy [Elio Di Rupo](#) in the wake of the Belgian UFO wave to set up an all-European agency to study UFO reports. The EP’s committee on industry, external trade, research, and energy, chaired by physicist [Tullio Regge](#), holds several meetings on the proposal in consultation with SEPRA’s [Jean-Jacques Velasco](#), and approves the motion for a resolution. However, the Parliament does not have the necessary votes to implement and fund the resolution, the agency is never created, and SEPRA has its own funding problems. (George M. Eberhart, “[The European Parliament](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 2 (March/April 1994): 19; 2Pinotti 137–140)
- 1993**, December 14 — In response to a question from MP [Teddy Taylor](#), junior minister for the Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office [Alastair Goodlad](#) tells the House of Commons that “a proposal for Community research” similar to the one by the European Parliament “has not been put forward,” nor has a proposal for the establishment of a UFO research observatory. (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1993**, December 17 — The first operational Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit stealth bomber is delivered to Whiteman AFB, south of Knob Noster, Missouri, where the fleet is based. (Wikipedia, “[Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit](#)”)

1994

- 1994** — A video of a UFO is taken by a ground radar station at the Tolicha Peak Electronic Combat Range, part of the Nellis Range northwest of the Nevada Test Site. At times the UFO appears to be four globes tied together; at other times it appears to be a fuzzy, gaseous cloud. The film is genuine, according to [Steven Greer](#), who shows it at CSETI’s Congressional Briefing on April 9, 1997, in Washington, D.C. It is aired by the Fox TV show *Sightings* and a few other TV networks. (Patrick Gross, “[The Nellis Test Range UFO Video](#)”)
- 1994** — More than 300 pages of Army CIC documents relating to Operation Harass are declassified after researcher [Timothy S. Cooper](#) files a FOIA request. There is a concentration on frantic wartime efforts to find the [Horten](#)

[brothers](#), as well as an “Intelligence Requirements on Flying Saucer Type Aircraft: Draft of Collection Memorandum,” undated but prepared prior to October 20, 1947. (“[FOIA: Army CIC UFO Files Various Subjects Including ‘Horten Brothers: Flying Wing.’](#)” Above Top Secret forum, December 17, 2007)

- 1994 — [Mark Rodeghier](#), [Stuart Appelle](#), David Gotlib, and Georgia Flamburis develop and publish an “Ethics Code for Abduction Experience Investigation and Treatment.” It is approved by the CUFOS and MUFON boards. (“[News from the Field.](#)” *IUR* 19, no. 3 (May/June 1994): 3; David Gotlib, Stuart Appelle, Georgia Flamburis, and Mark Rodeghier, “[Ethics Code for Abduction Experience Investigation and Treatment.](#)” *JUFOS* 5 (1994): 55–81)
- 1994 — Wim van Utrecht founds Caelestia in Antwerp, Belgium, to collect, investigate, and document UFO reports. (Wim van Utrecht, “[About Caelestia.](#)” July 2007)
- 1994 — [Karla Turner](#) writes *Taken*, in which she describes accounts from eight women, none of whom know each other, all of whom consciously recall a large portion of their abduction experiences without the aid of hypnosis. She is disturbed to find that at least 10 people close to her seem to have a pattern of alien intrusions and disturbances. The women describe a variety of alien types: grays, insectoids, humanoids, blue humanoids, and dwarves. Several of the women describe not only hybrid nursery rooms, but also cloning rooms in which living but inert humans are suspended in liquid-filled cylinders. There are accounts of aliens apparently taking human souls and placing them into a box. One alien group appears to harvest “negative emotional energy.” Not all experiences are harmful or exploitative; some women claim to have had miraculous healings by aliens. Still, Turner suggests that this does not make the aliens humanity’s benefactors. If they cared for humans, it could be the way in which a farmer cares for cattle. Four of the women describe being abducted by human military personnel and taken to underground military facilities. Human and alien workers are sometimes described as being there. The abductees remember being questioned by military types who ask “What do you know about the alien agenda? What have they told you? What implants have you received? What procedures have they carried out on you?” A number of medical problems develop, apparently related to the abductions: cancer, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, sexual dysfunction, and suicide. One thing that perplexes Turner is why military groups would need to interrogate abductees about alien intrusions. (Karla Turner, [Taken: Inside the Alien-Human Abduction Agenda](#), The Author, 1994)
- 1994, January 4 — RAAF Wing Commander [Brett Biddington](#) informs civilian UFO groups in Australia that the number of UFO reports submitted to the RAAF has declined significantly in the past 10 years, saying “there is no compelling reason for the RAAF to continue to devote resources to recording, investigating, and attempting to explain [Unusual Aerial Sightings].” He says that reports will be forwarded to civilian groups. (Bill Chalker, “[The Australian Government and UFOs.](#)” *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 22, 36; Swords 411–412)
- 1994, January 12 — Rep. [Steven Schiff](#) (D-N.Mex.) tells the press that he has been stonewalled by the US Defense Department when he requested information about the 1947 Roswell incident on behalf of his constituents and witnesses. Schiff calls the lack of response “astounding” and indicative of a cover-up. (“[Roswell Declaration 1994.](#)” *IUR* 19, no. 2 (March/April 1994): 21; Graff 347)
- 1994, January 15 — President [Bill Clinton](#) issues an executive order to create an Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments to investigate US government records on radiation studies done at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Certain records involving programs in and around Area 51, Nevada, are excluded on the basis that the president does not have a need to know. (Wikipedia, “[Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments](#)”)
- 1994, January 28 — 1:14 p.m. Air France pilot Jean-Charles Duboc and two members of his A320 airliner crew briefly observe over Coulommiers–Voisins Aerodrome, Seine-et-Marne, France, an elliptical UFO, reddish-brown in color and possibly of large size. Radar at CODA, the Taverny air operations center, tracks the object for 50 seconds but places the target closer to the airplane than the pilot’s estimate. SEPRA investigates the case and determines that based on the radar trajectory the UFO is about 750 feet long. (Joel de Woolfson, “[UFO ‘Evidence’ Grows.](#)” *This Is Guernsey*, February 5, 2007; Gildas Bourdais, “[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies.](#)” *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 16; Kean, pp. 135–136; Good Need, pp. 401–402; “[1994-01-28: Sighting of Air France Pilot Jean Charles Duboc.](#)” Tom Owens YouTube channel, June 16, 2019; Patrick Gross, “[UFO Sighting of Flight AF-3532](#)”; Covert 171)
- 1994, Late January — The Secretary of the Air Force’s office of Security and Special Program Oversight directs its research and classification team to locate any official records on the Roswell incident. (Swords 351; Graff 347)
- 1994, February — [Leonard Stringfield](#) releases his seventh and final status report on UFO crash/retrievals. (Leonard H. Stringfield, *UFO Crash/Retrievals: Search for Proof in a Hall of Mirrors, Status Report VII*, The Author, 1994).
- 1994, February 9 — Richard Davis, director of the National Security Analysis group at the General Accounting Office, writes to Secretary of Defense [William J. Perry](#) that the GAO is initiating a review of “DOD’s policies and

procedures for acquiring, classifying, retaining, and disposing of official governmental documents dealing with weather balloon, aircraft, and similar crash incidents” to find out whether “proper procedures to ensure government accountability” were followed. (Mark Rodeghier, [“Roswell and the GAO Investigation,”](#) *IUR* 19, no. 2 (March/April 1994): 3, 24; Swords 351)

1994, February 15 — 11:00 p.m. Kerstin Hallman is on her way home from work near Grillby, Sweden, when she sees an oblong light with spikes on top. The car lights go out and the engine fails. (Clas Svahn and Jörgen Granlie, [“The Light That Stopped a Car,”](#) *AFU Newsletter*, no. 39 (September 1995): 1–2, [reprinted](#) in *IUR* 22, no. 4 (Winter 1997–1998): 12; Herbert S. Taylor, [“An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1,”](#) *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 16–17)

1994, March — In response to [Steven Schiff](#)’s getting stonewalled by the US Defense Department over information on the 1947 Roswell incident in New Mexico, airline pilot Kent Jeffrey circulates the Roswell Declaration, a statement calling for an “Executive Order declassifying any US government information on the existence of UFOs or extraterrestrial intelligence” and a release from the security oaths taken by military or civilian personnel involved in UFO cases. Promoted by CUFOS, MUFON, and the Fund for UFO Research, the declaration is signed by more than 20,000 people interested in finding out the truth. ([“Roswell Declaration,”](#) International Roswell Initiative; [“The Roswell Declaration,”](#) *IUR* 19, no. 2 (March/April 1994): 20–21)

1994, March — Night. A married couple are driving in Bestwood Village, Nottinghamshire, England, when they see a huge triangular object hanging in the sky. It has three steady white, green, and red lights and is apparently only 200 feet from the ground. Its base has a ribbed pattern. It moves off slowly to the northwest, then accelerates, changing direction to the south. ([“UFO Sighting Convinces Hucknall Man,”](#) *Hucknall (UK) Dispatch*, March 11, 1994, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 298 (May 1994): 16)

1994, March 6 — 4:30 p.m. Two men flying an ultralight aircraft 250 feet over Termoli, Campobasso, Italy, see a small, spherical object flying northward. Approximately 4 miles from them, it is lost to sight in a few seconds. Earlier in the afternoon an unknown dark object crashes on Monte Mutria, Campobasso. The witness, Angelo Gianbattista, 18, tells his father, police officer Franco Giambattista, that an airplane has fallen. Franco goes outside and spots with binoculars two dark shadows in a ravine. The military police are notified and converge on the site. At 8:00 p.m., guided by a powerful light beam, eight volunteers climb the mountain. Three helicopters hover overhead. Nothing is found, even conventional objects that might be mistaken for something else. (Renzo Cabassi, [“UFO Crash at Guardioaregia?”](#) *Italian UFO Reporter* 2, no. 4 (October 10, 1996): 2–4; Clark III 345; 2Pinotti 140–141)

1994, March 8 — 9:15 p.m. Residents of Holland, Michigan, begin observing odd lights in the sky. To some, the lights appear to be attached to one another, or at least coordinated in their movements. The commonest description is of four lights strung together, high in altitude, moving from southeast to southwest. The Graves family sees a disk with lights turning clockwise on its underside. Police officer [Jeff Velthouse](#) is dispatched to investigate, and he watches some lights through binoculars around 9:40 p.m. The Allegan County sheriff’s office contacts the Muskegon National Weather Service radar station about 30 miles to the north to ask whether they have any targets. They do, and the radar operator gives a live report, recorded by the police, of the returns he is tracking. The majority of the returns are of three, well-separated targets, sometimes in line, both usually in a triangular array. An intermittent fourth signal blinks in and out. The visual sightings last until 11:00 p.m., but the weather radar continues to see targets for another 20–30 minutes. (Michael D. Swords, [“The Holland, Michigan, Radar-Visual Case, 1994,”](#) *IUR* 24, no. 3 (Fall 1999): 3–7; Don Berliner, with Marie Galbreath and Antonio Huneus, *UFO Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence*, Dell, 2000, pp. 146–147; Swords 343; [“UFO Report ‘Vindication’ for Man Who Tracked 1994 Sightings on Radar,”](#) WOOD TV8 YouTube channel, July 29, 2021; Jazz Shaw, [“What Was Really Seen during the 1994 Lakeshore, Michigan UFO Sighting?”](#) The Debrief, January 3, 2022; Austin Harvey, [“The Enduring Mystery of the 1994 Lake Michigan UFO Incident,”](#) All That’s Interesting, October 16, 2022; [“911 Calls from Eyewitnesses of the Holland, Michigan, UFO Sightings on March 8, 1994,”](#) Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, September 2023; [“Radar Confirmation, 911 Calls, and Eyewitness Testimonies from the 1994 Lake Michigan UFO Sightings,”](#) Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, December 20, 2023)

1994, March 24 — A new effort at studying the luminous phenomena at Hessdalen, Norway, is launched by [Erling Strand](#) and Bjørn Gitle Hauge with an international workshop. They use their students at Østfold University College to build an automated station to detect activity. (Erling Strand, [“Project Hessdalen, Part 2: From 24 March 1994 to 26 February 2021,”](#) Society for UAP Studies, January 5, 2024)

- 1994, April** — The UK government introduces a Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, a limited right to access government records from the previous 30 years, as a precursor to a full freedom of information act. (Campaign for Freedom of Information, "[Code of Practice on Access to Government Information: Guidance on Interpretation](#)," April 1994, [second ed.](#), 1997)
- 1994, April** — [John E. Mack](#)'s first book on abductions, *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, is published, in which he takes the narratives quite seriously. (John E. Mack, *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, Scribner, 1994; Graff 340, 342–343)
- 1994, April 18** — [Mack](#) appears on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* with abductee Peter Faust. He tells [Oprah Winfrey](#), "Why do we treat people like they're crazy and humiliate them if they're experiencing some other entities, some other intelligence that's coming across?" ("[The Man Who Says He Was Abducted by Aliens](#)," Oprah Winfrey Network YouTube channel, April 18, 1994; Graff 341)
- 1994, May** — The Dean of Harvard Medical School, [Daniel C. Tosteson](#), appoints a committee of peers to confidentially review Department of Psychiatry Head [John E. Mack](#)'s clinical care and clinical investigation of the people who had shared their alien encounters with him (some of their cases are written up in Mack's 1994 book *Abduction*). Angela Hind writes, "It was the first time in Harvard's history that a tenured professor was subjected to such an investigation." Upon the public revelation of the existence of the committee (inadvertently revealed during the solicitation of witnesses for Mack's defense, 10 months into the process), questions arise from the academic community (including Harvard Professor of Law [Alan Dershowitz](#)) regarding the validity of an investigation of a tenured professor who is not suspected of ethics violations or professional misconduct. Concluding the 14-month investigation, Harvard then issues a statement stating that the dean has "reaffirmed Dr. Mack's academic freedom to study what he wishes and to state his opinions without impediment," concluding "Dr. Mack remains a member in good standing of the Harvard Faculty of Medicine." (Wikipedia, "[John E. Mack](#)"; John E. Mack, *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, Wheeler, 1994; Stephen Rae, "[John Mack](#)," *New York Times Magazine*, March 20, 1994, p. 30; James Gleick, "The Doctor's Plot," *New Republic*, May 30, 1994, pp. 31–32; Ralph Blumenthal, *The Believer: Alien Encounters, Hard Science, and the Passion of John Mack*, University of New Mexico, 2021; Graff 342–345)
- 1994, May** — Research psychologist [Susan Marie Powers](#) publishes a study on 20 abductees to explore the presence of PTSD symptoms. The results show that 45% of the abductees manifest PTSD symptoms and 70% manifest dissociative symptomatology. A content analysis of the narratives suggests that sexual abuse could be at the root of some of the stories. (Susan Marie Powers, "[Thematic Content Analyses of the Reports of UFO Abductees and Close Encounter Witnesses: Indications of Repressed Sexual Abuse](#)," *JUFOS* 5 (1994): 35–54; Susan Marie Powers, "[Dissociation in Alleged Extraterrestrial Abductees](#)," *Dissociation* 7, no. 1 (March 1994): 44–50)
- 1994, May 21** — 11:00 p.m. A witness in Plauen, Germany, is watching TV when she notices a light outside. She sees a disk with several rings of lights illuminating a tree and causing it to whip around violently. It is about 30 feet in diameter, and its top and bottom halves are rotating in opposite directions. After it hovers silently for a minute, it stops shaking the tree and moves behind a building and shoots away, leaving a hole in the clouds above. Two other witnesses see the disc from a different perspective and feel a strong wind. (Illobrand von Ludwiger, [Best UFO Cases: Europe](#), National Institute for Discovery Science, 1998)
- 1994, June** — The TNS Emnid Institut in Bielefeld, Germany, conducts a one-question survey on UFO beliefs among 1,069 Germans. Although the question is ambiguous, 22% respond yes and 78% no, in both the former West and East Germanies. The belief is much stronger in younger populations. (Mark Rodeghier, "[Do Germans Believe in UFOs and Extraterrestrials?](#)" *IUR* 21, no. 2 (Summer 1996): 25, 30)
- 1994, June** — Day. An object like a balloon suddenly appears in the sky above US Highway 22 and East Kemper Road in Symmes Township, Ohio, outside Cincinnati. It remains perfectly stationary until after dark. One witness takes at least three photos of it. At one point it ascends to a higher altitude. The object is approached and circled three times by local air traffic. (Patrick Gross, "[The Symmes Township Orb, USA, June 1994](#)")
- 1994, Early June** — A tree farmer named Meng Zhaoguo is at Red Flag logging camp near Wuchang, Heilongjiang, China, with two other workers when they see a strange light in the sky. Thinking it is either a downed satellite or helicopter, Meng goes to retrieve the wreckage. However, at some point he is hit in the forehead by a shining light and knocked unconscious. He wakes up at home some time later, with no recollection of how he got there. A few nights later, he wakes up in his bed to find that a 10-foot-tall female alien with six fingers and braided leg fur is in his room. He and the alien have sex for 40 minutes before it disappears, leaving a 2-inch scar on his thigh. He also claims that on July 17, he levitates through a wall and meets with a group of three-eyed aliens on their ship. He asks to see the female alien again but is rebuffed. The aliens show him images of Mars (or Jupiter), which they

claim is their home world, and tell him that “on a distant planet the son of a Chinese peasant will be born in 60 years.” His story is examined by the UFO Enthusiasts Club at Wuhan University throughout 1997. They conclude that while the initial contact may have occurred, the subsequent reported events are almost certainly untrue. However, other UFO groups in China think that his ongoing story is true. In September 2003, Zhang Jingping and the state-sponsored Chinese UFO Association give Meng a medical exam, a lie detector test, and a hypnotic regression session to prove his claims. The results supposedly confirm his story. (John Kohut, “[UFO Group Probes Claims of Sex with Jupiter Visitor](#),” *South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong), October 30, 1994; Teresa Poole, “[Close Encounters of an Intimate Kind: Peking Days](#),” *The Independent* (UK), March 17, 1995; “[Calling Occupants of Inter-planetary Craft](#),” *China Daily*, October 31, 2010; “[One of the Strangest Alien Abduction Cases in China Ever Told](#),” *Before It’s News*, July 20, 2014; Chris Saunders, “UFOs over China,” *Fortean Times* 331 (October 2015): 28–30; Michael Meyer, “[Meet the Chinese Lumberjack Who Slept with an Alien](#),” *HuffPost*, October 16, 2015; Bill Chalker, “[The Untold Story of UFOs in China: Lost in Translation or the Devouring Dragon?](#)” *New Dawn Special Issue* 14, no. 1 (January 2020))

1994, June 24 — 2:40 a.m. Three gendarmes at La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, Seine-et-Marne, France, notice a bright set of lights in the sky. They drive closer and find that the source is a stationary object with three yellow-white lights. Its underside is triangular with a central pyramidal spire that points downward. They stop their patrol car, and the object moves slowly toward them until it stops directly above the vehicle. There is no noise, smoke, or odor. As soon as they start the car again, the object moves west at high speed and becomes a speck on the horizon within a second. The total duration is 10 minutes. The police radios stop functioning, and the car becomes hot even though the windows are open. (“[Ussy-sur-Marne \(77\) 24-06-1994](#),” GEIPAN, March 22, 2007; Swords 449)

1994, July 2 — 1:30–1:45 p.m. A resident of Limelette, Belgium, is at home in the Petit-Ry neighborhood when he looks out a window and sees a group of 10 white vertical structures with rounded edges moving back and forth about 180 feet above a vacant lot. They are all about 15–26 feet high and somewhat translucent, moving in an erratic pattern. The dry grass below has risen up into the air, forming a tornado shape and spinning anticlockwise. He watches it for 2–3 minutes, and the phenomenon moves slowly to the north and disappears. Possibly a wind devil. (Wim van Utrecht, “[Dancing Ice-Lollies over a Waste Ground](#),” *Caelestia*)

1994, July 3 — The first flight of a CIA-developed Predator drone takes place at the El Mirage Field in the Mojave Desert, California. (Wikipedia, “[General Atomics MQ-1 Predator](#)”)

1994, July 31 — *Roswell*, a made-for-TV movie directed by [Jeremy Kagan](#) and produced by [Paul Davids](#), premieres on Showtime. It stars [Kyle MacLachlan](#), [Martin Sheen](#), and [Dwight Yoakam](#), and is based on *UFO Crash at Roswell* by [Kevin D. Randle](#) and [Donald R. Schmitt](#). (Paul Davids, “*Roswell: The Movie*,” *IUR* 19, no. 2 (March/April 1994): 15–18)

1994, August 23 — 5:40 a.m. A delivery man and other early risers observe a V-shaped object low in the sky above the business district of a western suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. Strobe lights emerge from the object at both its top and bottom, shining continuous beams of light on the object both while it is hovering and in flight. It disappears behind some buildings to the south. (Marler [175](#))

1994, August 31 — 8:30 p.m. Six witnesses in Mongo, Indiana, see a light glowing through the treetops to the southwest at a low altitude. It looks somewhat like the Moon, but it starts moving from behind the trees into an open area near a road and hovers. It looks like a domed disc with a white strobe light on top of the dome. A bright red light on the bottom flashes 3–4 times like a strobe, then the object disappears to the southeast within 2 seconds. One of the witnesses takes at least four good pictures with a Vivitar fully automatic 35 mm camera with a standard lens and loaded with 400 ASA color film. Dogs do not react to the object. (NICAP, “[The Mongo Photos](#)”; Patrick Gross, “[The Mongo Multiple Visual and Photographic Case, August 31, 1993](#)”)

1994, September 8 — In response to Rep. [Steven Schiff](#)’s request for information, Col. Richard L. Weaver, director of security and special program oversight of the USAF Office of Special Investigations, publicly releases the *Report of Air Force Research Regarding the “Roswell Incident,”* a 23-page executive summary (dated July 27) that concludes that “the material recovered near Roswell was consistent with a balloon device and most likely from one of the Mogul balloons that had not been previously recovered.” (*Report of Air Force Research Regarding the “Roswell Incident,”* in Col. Richard L. Weaver and 1Lt. James McAndrew, *The Roswell Report: Fact versus Fiction in the New Mexico Desert*, US Air Force Headquarters, July 1995, pp. 5–32; Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney, “[The Air Force Report on Roswell: An Absence of Evidence](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1994): 3, 20–24; Karl T. Pflock, “[Roswell, the Air Force, and Us](#),” *IUR* 19, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1994): 3–5, 24; Swords 351; Graff 347–351)

- 1994**, September 13 — 5:30 p.m. As Larry Gardea is hunting for bear near Luna Canyon in Mora County, New Mexico, he sees a cow lying dead some 30 feet away. In the place where its rectum should be is a large, cylindrical hole. Ten feet beyond that cow is another one, apparently alive, sitting on its knees. At that moment a dozen cattle stampede in the opposite direction, and Gardea hears a loud humming noise coming from the nearby woods. A third cow is suddenly propelled through the air nearby at near ground level, as if carried by an invisible beam. Gardea fires two shots and the humming stops. (Clark III 138)
- 1994**, September 14 — 8:50–9:05 p.m. A brilliant ball of fire with a long trail of sparks is seen over a wide range of territory in Zimbabwe, Botswana, and southern Zambia, followed by a sonic boom. Some people see three large lights in front, with from 8–20 smaller lights behind. Many report that the objects are traveling very fast from north to south; others see it moving slowly, and one man says he walked along with it more than 320 feet. Geologists [Euen Nisbet](#) and Kathy Silva, working in Zvishavane, Zimbabwe, report that the display takes a minute to cross the sky on a path angled about 10° away from north to south. Witnesses at Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe, variously see three orange-red lights with trails, a bright link with a dark center and 14 lights flashing around it, a light flying at treetop level, a row of green lights with a trail, and an object several times larger than a Boeing 747. Possibly debris from the rocket that launched the Russian satellite Kosmos 2290. (Cynthia Hind, “[UFO Flap in Zimbabwe](#),” *UFO Afrinews*, no. 11 (February 1995): 4–18; Cynthia Hind, “[UFO Flap in Zimbabwe](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 20–21; James Oberg, “[Zimbabwe: 1994 Sep 14 near 18:51 UTC](#),” PowerPoint presentation)
- 1994**, September 16 — 10:00 a.m. Some 60 children in a grassy playground outside Ariel School in Ruwa, Zimbabwe, see three or four objects landing in the “rough bush area” about 330 feet away. An entity of some kind emerges from the largest object and stands on top. It has long, straight, black hair tied back with a headband around its larger than normal head, stands about 3 feet tall, and is dressed in black. Some of the younger African children are afraid it is a Tokoloshe, a folkloric entity. After 15 minutes, the craft and entity fade from view. The headmaster asks each child to draw what they saw. Researcher [Cynthia Hind](#) interviews them on September 17 and psychologist [John E. Mack](#) several months later. (Cynthia Hind, “[Report on Space Activity in Zimbabwe](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 320 (December 1994): 6–7; Cynthia Hind, “[The Children of Ariel School](#),” *UFO Afrinews*, no. 11 (February 1995): 19–25; Cynthia Hind, “[Ariel School Report \(cont’d\)](#),” *UFO Afrinews*, no. 12 (July 1995): 7–14; Cynthia Hind, “[Recent UFO Sightings in Africa: The Cultural Implications](#),” in *UFOs: Examining the Evidence*, the Proceedings of the 8th BUFORA International UFO Congress, 1995, pp. 35–38; Cynthia Hind, “There’s an Alien on the Playground!” *Fate*, April 1997, pp. 46–48; John E. Mack, *Passport to the Cosmos*, Kunati, 2008 ed., pp. 42–43; “[Never-Before-Seen Photos Reveal Extraordinary Wedge-Shaped Impressions](#),” *Daily Mail* (UK), May 20, 2022; Internet Movie Database, “[Ariel Phenomenon](#)”; Charlie Wiser, “[Ariel School: Something Glinting in the Trees](#),” Three-Dollar Kit, 2022; Austin Harvey, “[The Ariel School Phenomenon, When Dozens of Schoolchildren in Zimbabwe Claimed They Met Aliens](#),” All That’s Interesting, May 11, 2023; Oliver D. Smith, “[The Ariel School UFO: A Dust Devil?](#)” *SUNlite* 15, no. 3 (May/June 2023): 7–10; “[‘Encounters’ Ariel School UFO Incident Denier Dallyn Vico Interviewed in 2008](#),” Ariel Phenomenon YouTube channel, October 10, 2023; Liz Tung, “[Documentary Explores the UFO Sighting That Changed the Course of 62 Children’s Lives](#),” WHYY-FM, Philadelphia, October 23, 2023; “[The Definitive Documentary of Ariel School UFO Sighting, Now Streaming](#),” EINPresswire, November 13, 2023; Christopher Sharp, “[BBC Journalist Allegedly Threatened by CIA over 1994 UFO Landing Case in Zimbabwe](#),” *Liberation Times*, May 17, 2024; “[Rare Interviews and Articles with Children Who Witnessed the Ariel School UFO Landing in Ruwa, 1994](#),” Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, June 3, 2024; “[Ariel School UFO Landing Site Visited, Children Interviewed by Cynthia Hind on Sept. 20, 1994](#),” Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, July 26, 2024)
- 1994**, September 26 — An aircraft crash at RAF Boscombe Down in Wiltshire, England, appears closely linked to US black missions, according to a report in *Air Forces Monthly*. Further investigation is hampered by USAF aircraft flooding into the base. Special Air Service personnel arrive in plainclothes and in an Agusta 109 helicopter. The crash site is protected from view by fire engines and tarpaulins, and the base is closed to all flights soon afterwards. A USAF C5 Galaxy is redirected to the station, which takes the disassembled aircraft back to the US. (Dreamland Resort, “[RAF Boscombe Down’s Black Day](#),” April 12, 2005)
- 1994**, Fall — Terry and Gwen Sherman purchase a 512-acre ranch in western Uintah County, southeast of Ballard, Utah. The couple soon encounter various types of UFOs and paranormal phenomena, including cattle mutilations, bigfoot, flying orbs, discarnate voices, crop circles, poltergeist activity, electromagnetic anomalies, orange portals, and a giant wolflike creature. [Colm Kelleher](#) and coauthor [George Knapp](#) subsequently write a book, *Hunt for the Skinwalker* (2005), in which they describe the ranch being acquired by [Robert Bigelow](#)’s National Institute for Discovery Science in 1996 for \$200,000 to study the sightings at the ranch, soon dubbed the

Skinwalker Ranch after the shape-shifting creature in Navajo folklore. Between June and August 1997, NIDS personnel observe anomalies on every occasion they are at the ranch, but they are unable to prove anything scientifically. Among those involved are retired US Army Col. [John B. Alexander](#) who characterizes the NIDS effort as an attempt to get hard data using a “standard scientific approach.” However, the investigators admit to “difficulty obtaining evidence consistent with scientific publication.” (Wikipedia, “[Skinwalker Ranch](#)”; Colm Kelleher and George Knapp, *Hunt for the Skinwalker*, Paraview, 2005; Gildas Bourdais, “[Hunt for the Skinwalker: New Challenge for the ETH?](#)” *IUR* 31, no. 1 (January 2007): 25–31; Clark III 1073–1075; John B. Alexander, “From Los Alamos to Skinwalker Ranch,” *Fortean Times* 363 (February 2018): 39–41)

- 1994**, October 1 — TV host [Larry King](#) broadcasts “Larry King Live at Area 51,” which includes a prerecorded interview with former Sen. [Barry Goldwater](#), who says: “I think the government *does* know. I can’t back that up, but I think that at Wright-Patterson field, if you could get into certain places, you’d find out what the Air Force and the government knows about UFOs... I called [Curtis LeMay](#) and I said, ‘General, I know we have a room at Wright-Patterson where you put all this secret stuff. Could I go in there?’ I’ve never heard him get mad, but he got madder than hell at me, cussed me out, and said, ‘Don’t ever ask me that question again!’” (“[UFOs: Oct 1, 1994, Filmed Outside Area 51](#),” SmokingMan47 YouTube channel, November 28, 2015)
- 1994**, October 7 — 10:00 p.m. Jerzy Bulczyński and his family in Biskupice, Poland, see two identical large discs with rotating rings consisting of smaller spheres, all grayish-green in color and around 6–8 times the size of the full moon. (Poland 88)
- 1994**, October 8 — 8:00 p.m. Military personnel at Poligon Nadarzyce airbase near the village of Nadardyce, Poland, report a spherical UFO surrounded by a ring of lights. It changes shape to a triangle and an ellipse. In reaction to the initial report, Krzesiny AFB sends two MiG-21 interceptors that allegedly experience technical malfunctions during their pursuit. The Polish Army concludes that the phenomena were caused by a laser searchlight operated by the local Olimpia Circus. (Poland 87–89)
- 1994**, December 1 — A strong, flaming light with a train-like rumbling noise causes destruction to 1,700 square feet of woodland in the Guiyang Baiyun Duxi Forest Farm near Guiyang, Guizhou province, China. Trees are broken off at the same height and some roofs are damaged. Although a probable airburst from a meteor, some Chinese researchers argue it could be a ufological event. (Bill Chalker, “[The Untold Story of UFOs in China: Lost in Translation or the Devouring Dragon?](#)” *New Dawn Special Issue* 14, no. 1 (January 2020))
- 1994**, December 7 — Peer [Roy Mason](#) asks in the House of Lords what official UFO records are kept and whether they can be made public. [Oliver Eden](#), 8th Baron Henley, responds that the Ministry of Defence examines UFO reports solely to determine if they have any “defence significance.” (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1994**, December 24 — 6:50 p.m. More than a dozen firemen and deputy sheriffs see a triangular-shaped UFO in Monroe, Louisiana, off and on for two-and-a-half hours. The two deputies describe the object as enormous with two large, blinding lights on the front. It moves silently above their vehicle at tree-top height before accelerating slightly and disappearing with a tremendous burst of speed. About 30 minutes later, another object is seen by a dozen witnesses near Philpot Road just south of Monroe. Several witnesses notice that its two bright lights in the front are not illuminating the ground or the trees. (Powell, *Scientist*, 96–97)
- 1994**, December 29 — 9:45 p.m. A mother and her six children are driving northwest on Zaring Cutoff Road west of Dusty, Washington. To the east she sees three bright yellow lights that appear to be sitting in a snow-covered field. She stops the car to look and realizes that the lights are attached to triangular objects, each with stubby wings and a bright light on the nose. They move slowly and pass in front of the car to a field on the left. Suddenly they pivot 90° and move parallel with the road toward the southeast, maintaining the same configuration. Each has a window on the bottom that emits a bluish light and a buzzing sound. (Marler [225–226](#))

1995

- 1995** — Astronomer [Carl Sagan](#) publishes *The Demon-Haunted World*, in which he aims to explain the scientific method to laypeople and encourage them to learn critical and skeptical thinking. He explains methods to help distinguish between ideas that are considered valid science and those that can be considered pseudoscience. Sagan states that when new ideas are offered for consideration, they should be tested by means of skeptical thinking and should stand up to rigorous questioning. He argues that the chances of extraterrestrial spacecraft visiting Earth are vanishingly small. However, he does think it plausible that Cold War concerns contributed to governments misleading their citizens about UFOs, and writes that “some UFO reports and analyses, and perhaps voluminous

files, have been made inaccessible to the public which pays the bills ... It's time for the files to be declassified and made generally available." He cautions against jumping to conclusions about suppressed UFO data and stresses that there is no strong evidence that aliens are visiting the Earth either in the past or present. He worries that fake news and conspiracy theories will become the reality of the future, predicting: "I have a foreboding of an America in my children's or grandchildren's time—when the United States is a service and information economy; when nearly all the manufacturing industries have slipped away to other countries; when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues; when the people have lost the ability to set their own agendas or knowledgeably question those in authority; when, clutching our crystals and nervously consulting our horoscopes, our critical faculties in decline, unable to distinguish between what feels good and what's true, we slide, almost without noticing, back into superstition and darkness." (Carl Sagan, [*The Demon-Haunted World: Science As a Candle in the Dark*](#), Random House, 1995; Wikipedia, "[The Demon-Haunted World](#)")

- 1995** — From 1995 through March 2004, Project Phoenix conducts observations at the 64-meter Parkes radio telescope in Australia, the 140-foot radio telescope of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, and the 1,000-foot radio telescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. The project observes the equivalent of 800 stars over the available channels in the frequency range from 1200 to 3000 MHz. The search is sensitive enough to pick up transmitters with 1 GW EIRP to a distance of about 200 light-years. (Wikipedia, "[Search for extraterrestrial intelligence](#)")
- 1995** — The National Research Council of Canada announces that it will no longer accept UFO reports for analysis. As a consequence, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigations on its behalf ceases. Ufologist [Chris Rutkowski](#) casually suggests that the NRC could forward any non-meteoritic sightings it runs across. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 11)
- 1995** — The China UFO Research Organization in Beijing has now collected more than 5,000 reports of UFOs in Chinese airspace. (Good Need, [p. 403](#))
- 1995**, January 6 — 6:48 p.m. Capt. Roger Wills and First Officer Mark Stuart are piloting a British Airways Boeing 737 aircraft with 60 passengers when they are buzzed by a bright wedge-shaped object as they are preparing to land at Manchester Airport, England. The object appears only yards in front of the airliner as it flies at 4,000 feet. It is so close that Stuart instinctively reacts by ducking down inside the cockpit. It has small white lights, makes no attempt to change course, and makes no discernable sound or turbulence. The object does not appear on radar. Possibly a fireball meteor. (Harvey Elliott, "UFO 'Buzzed' Airliner at Manchester Airport," *The Times* (London), February 2, 1996; David Boras, "[UFO Nearly Collides with British Airliner](#)," *IUR* 21, no. 1 (Spring 1996): 26–27; "[UFO Near Miss over the Airport](#)," *Manchester (UK) Evening News*, February 18, 2010; Good Need, [pp. 402–403](#); UFOFiles2, [pp. 137–139](#); Marler [140–143](#), [266–269](#); Patrick Gross, "[Air Misses](#)")
- 1995**, January 12 — Around 5:00 a.m. Farmer Beto Lima is hunting armadillos on his property near Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil, when he finds an object the size of a Volkswagen Beetle floating on a pond. He manages to pull it to the shore when suddenly liquid flows from it and two creatures emerge. One of them is hairy and clawed like a sloth, the other is apparently dead and looks like a child. The object is lightweight, and Lima carries it into his house. Brazilian soldiers allegedly retrieve the wreckage and the creatures. ("[O caso Roswell nordestina: Queda da UFO na Bahia, em janeiro de 1995](#)," UFOs-Wilson, May 20, 2012; Brazil 521–529)
- 1995**, February — A Boeing 737 is starting a landing approach at 7,900 feet at Guiyang Airport [now Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport], Guizhou province, China, when its anti-collision system detects an object rushing toward the aircraft. Some 6,000 feet away, the pilot sees a UFO changing from a rhomboid to a circular shape and from yellow to red. The pilot lands safely, even though the object remains on his radar screen for some time before disappearing to the south. (Good Need, [p. 403](#); Patrick Gross, "[Air Misses](#)")
- 1995**, February 20 — In briefing notes on the safety implications of UFO close approaches for the Joint Airmiss Working Group in the UK, former British Airways Capt. Graham Sheppard comments: "It would not be surprising to discover that, in the past, unexplained aeroplane losses have been caused by instinctive maneuvering to avoid a conflicting UFO... The commercial sensibilities of the airlines should now be set aside along with the media's inability to give serious treatment to the subject. Otherwise this discrete and notifiable hazard to aircraft safety will continue to be concealed and thus gratuitously omitted from the briefing syllabus." (Good Need, [p. 404](#))
- 1995**, February 22 — Researcher [Timothy S. Cooper](#) receives a document purporting to be the first annual report of the Majestic 12 Project, supposedly written in 1951 and referring to possible virus contamination stemming from retrieval of the Roswell aliens. [Nick Redfern](#) has examined it and says it is definitely a hoax, though it could possibly represent disinformation from Russia. (Timothy S. Cooper, "[Research Synopsis on the Majestic](#)")

[Documents.](#)” The Author, December 30, 1999; Nick Redfern, “[Why the Majestic 12 ‘1st Annual Report’ Is a Hoax.](#)” Mysterious Universe, July 30, 2019; Kremlin 202–208)

- 1995,** March 8 — A military radar installation near Luzern, Switzerland, detects a series of anomalous radar targets that, taken together, appear to make up the straight-line trajectory of an unidentified object traveling at a speed near Mach 3. The consistency in velocity and direction of the three track segments strongly suggests that it is a single object traveling about 150 miles in just over 4 minutes, which corresponds to an average velocity of about 2,147 mph. Another track going in the same direction was picked up 70 seconds after the first one dropped off the radar, separated by a few miles. This time the system recorded six consecutive returns, each registering a radial speed component of about 2,088 mph. Again the system dropped the track. A minute later the Luzern radar records hits on yet another object, loses it again, and detects it three more times over 40 seconds before it is dropped for the final time. (Bruce Maccabee, “[Atmosphere or UFO? A Response to the 1997 SSE Review Panel Report.](#)” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 13, no. 3 (1999): 421–459)
- 1995,** March 14 — 3:40–4:00 a.m. Ismailovich Borovkov wakes up to a bright light shining in his home on Serebristy Boulevard in St. Petersburg, Russia. He sees a bright orange light hovering outside the window for 10 minutes, then it suddenly diminishes to a point and disappears. Borovkov hears a loud ringing in his right ear. Around 4:00 a.m., another resident sees a UFO over the Pulkov Highway. (“[Close Encounters over St Petersburg, March 14, 1995.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 12)
- 1995,** March 14 — 7:00–8:00 p.m. A further cluster of UFO sightings, some of them close encounters and one a radar-visual case, take place around St. Petersburg, Russia. At 7:10 p.m., Tatiana Mikhailovna Kalvarskaya is near the Ozerki subway station when she sees an object above Prosveshcheniya Prospekt. It looks like a glowing yellow ellipse with spots of brighter yellow on its surface. Two other perfectly spherical objects move in front of it. Later she sees the objects hovering above a construction site on the other side of Engelska Prospekt. Shortly afterward, the objects disappear at about the height of the construction cranes. After sunset, Mikhail Petrovich Baryshok and other air traffic personnel at Pulkovo Airport see a distant triangle with several lights that also appears on their radar screens. (“[Close Encounters over St Petersburg, March 14, 1995.](#)” *IUR* 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 12–15)
- 1995,** March 30 — 8:30 a.m. Farmer Jan Pienaar, 45, is driving in the North West Province, South Africa, when his truck stops dead. About 240 feet ahead is a huge object on three landing pads. It has the form of two inverted soup plates with a pudding bowl on top, and the upper level has portholes. The object buzzes like a “giant electric beater.” He gets out of the car but feels paralyzed as if a magnet is holding him. After 3–5 minutes the UFO takes off, and he regains his senses and the car starts up. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1.](#)” *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 17)
- 1995,** April — The Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici begins publishing *UFO Forum*, edited by Giuseppe Verdi in Vittoria, Italy. It continues through at least October 2001. (*UFO Forum*, no. 1 (April 1995))
- 1995,** April 10 — 7:30 a.m. An 11-year-old boy is on his way to school with his mother and two younger sisters near Merweville, South Africa, when they see a strange object on a side road. It looks like a cloud but is stationary. Then it moves north, although the prevailing wind is to the west, and disappears behind some clouds. The object is about the size of a large truck. (Marie van Staden, “[A Peculiar Cloud-Like Object.](#)” *UFO Afrinews* 13 (February 1996): 10–13)
- 1995,** April 14 — President [Bill Clinton](#) issues Executive Order 12,958, which establishes a system to automatically declassify information more than 25 years old, unless the government takes discrete steps to continue the classification of a particular document or group of documents. The order takes effect on October 14, 1995. (US Department of Justice, “[FOIA Update: Executive Order 12,958.](#)” 1995)
- 1995,** April 18 — 9:00 p.m. A woman in Prospect, Chebucto Peninsula, Nova Scotia, sees a large, brilliant, white light hovering in the sky to the northwest. She can see its reflection on the surface of the still water. She calls her husband, who gets binoculars and determines there are two lights side by side. After several minutes or so, his mother on the floor above says she can see the light too. As soon as they switch the deck lights off for a better view, the two lights start moving directly toward their house, and he watches it slowly fly about 100 feet above the house. It seems to be a rectangular object about 200 feet long by 100 feet wide. It disappears behind the tree line. (Don Ledger, “[The Flying Triangle Phenomenon.](#)” *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 7)
- 1995,** May 5 — 4:15 a.m. A senior master sergeant and an airman are patrolling the perimeter of the Ghedi Air Force Base near Brescia, Italy. Suddenly they notice an unusual yellow light zigzagging and maneuvering in the sky, much bigger than a star and heading toward the northern part of the airfield. After several minutes it increases in size and becomes a round, orange object as big as the full moon, moving at least 186 mph before hovering a while

and zooming away. It returns and leaves twice more, the last time descending to 65 feet above their patrol vehicle. They think this time it will land, but it ascends and zooms away again. They prefer not to report the incident. (2Pinotti 150–151)

1995, May 25 — 10:30 p.m. An America West B-757 airliner is cruising at 39,000 feet near Bovina, Texas. To their right and somewhat below their altitude, Capt. Gene Tollefson and First Officer John J. Waller see a row of bright white lights that sequence on and off from left to right. Waller contacts the Albuquerque FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center while the sighting is in progress and checks with military installations in the area, but no explanation can be found. As the airliner proceeds to the west and the object begins dropping behind, the crew sees it against a background of thunderclouds. When the background clouds pulse with lightning, the UFO appears as a dark, wingless, elongated cigar-like object around the strobing lights. Though they do not know the exact distance, Tollefson and Waller estimate the object to be 300–400 feet long. One of the air traffic controllers at Albuquerque contacts NORAD, which confirms an unidentified radar target in the vicinity. But this later proves to be a small aircraft whose transponder is not initially operative. (NICAP, [“America West Airlines Flight 564 / NORAD/ F-111 Incident”](#); Walter N. Webb, *Final Report on the America West Airline Case, May 24–25, 1995*, Fund for UFO Research, July 1996; [“1995: The America West UFO Sighting,”](#) ufocasebook.com; Patrick Gross, [“Texas, May 1995”](#); UFOEv II 66–67; [“UFO History America West Flight 564 Encounters Huge Cigar Shaped UFO,”](#) AmericanHotChicks YouTube channel, October 24, 2013; John Greenwald, [“America West Airlines Flight 564 UFO Case, May 25, 1995,”](#) The Black Vault, June 18, 2021)

1995, June 15 — 2:30 a.m. A triangular UFO with two other brightly lit round objects is seen over RAF West Drayton [now closed], England. (Marler [143](#))

1995, June 22 — 1:00 a.m. Soldiers guarding a military ammunition dump in the southern Carpathian Mountains near the Buzau River, Romania, notice several bright lights in the valley below. They are attached to an object that begins ascending and approaching them from the southwest. It is a flat triangular object with rounded edges that passes straight above their unit, illuminating the ground from a height of about 150 feet. They can hear a loud buzzing noise. It glides to the northeast over the mountains near Întorsura Buzăului and disappears. The next day the unit is rounded up and told never to speak about the sighting. (Romania 94–95)

1995, July — USAF Headquarters publishes, through the Government Printing Office, *The Roswell Report: Fact Versus Fiction in the New Mexico Desert*, by Col. Richard L. Weaver and Lt. James McAndrew, blaming the Roswell debris on a top-secret Project Mogul balloon array sent aloft to detect signs of Soviet nuclear explosions. The first part of the 1,000+-page document is an introductory summary, supported by 31 attachments, by Weaver that was released in September 1994. The second part is a synopsis of Project Mogul balloon research findings by McAndrew, with additional attachments and appendices. A photo section includes photos of various Air Force personnel and Mogul scientists. The report claims Mogul flight number 4, launched on June 4, 1947, was responsible for the Roswell debris. The attachments and appendices are mostly memos dealing with the Air Force requests of its departments for Roswell records; statements and interviews with persons connected with Project Mogul; and New York University progress reports on the Constant Level Balloon project (a study to determine how balloons and their payloads could be maintained at high altitudes for long periods of time). About 95% of the report is padding. (Robert A. Galganski, [“The Roswell Debris: A Quantitative Evaluation of the Project Mogul Hypothesis,”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 2 (March/April 1995): 3–6, 23–24; Charles B. Moore, Robert G. Todd, Mark Rodeghier, and Kevin D. Randle, [“Project Mogul and the Roswell Crash: An Exchange,”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 2 (March/April 1995): 7–9, 19–22; Col. Richard L. Weaver and 1Lt. James McAndrew, [“The Roswell Report: Fact versus Fiction in the New Mexico Desert,”](#) US Air Force Headquarters, July 1995; Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney, [“The Final\(?\) Air Force Report on Roswell,”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 5–6; Richard Hall, [“Fact vs. Fiction in the Pentagon,”](#) *IUR* 20, no. 5 (Winter 1995): 7–8; Swords 352–354; [“Air Force Reports on the Roswell UFO Incident,”](#) Military Wiki; Clark III 32)

1995, July 1 — Dusk. As a Varig Airlines flight is descending about 37 miles from Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, the commander sees a very bright disc-like object spinning in the sky in a curious way. The UFO is about 215 feet in diameter and emits a bright white light. As they approach the landing, the light speeds up and crosses in front of them. (Clark III 201; Brazil 543–544)

1995, July 15 — 2:45 p.m. Two witnesses (an emergency room nurse and her husband) are driving home (probably along State Highway 8, adjacent to the Naugatuck River) after a fishing trip to Harwinton, Connecticut. A shadow crosses the road as they are driving north, and they look up to see a large metallic disc about 500 feet in diameter at an altitude of about 200 feet, over trees about a half mile away. The object is traveling 65–70 mph and its surface is metallic gray with a band of apparent panes of dark glass and facets on its upper portion. It passes

- behind trees to the right in about 10–15 seconds. A group of independent witnesses at another location does not observe the object. (Mark Cashman, “[The Harwinton Daylight Disc](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 14–19)
- 1995**, July 28 — The US General Accounting Office releases *Results of a Search for Records Concerning the 1947 Crash near Roswell, New Mexico*, which says that all administrative records from Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico from March 1945 to December 1949 have been destroyed, as well as outgoing messages from October 1946 to December 1949. This is perhaps not unusual for the time, as record retention and disposition procedures were unclear; however, [Nick Redfern](#) suggests the possibility that the records were destroyed or removed to hide evidence of unethical radiation and other experiments on unwilling human subjects. The GAO agrees with the Air Force that the wreckage was most likely from a Project Mogul balloon train. The report is in response to a request by Rep. [Steven Schiff](#) (D-N.Mex.). (*Results of a Search for Records Concerning the 1947 Crash near Roswell, New Mexico*, General Accounting Office, July 1995, [reprinted](#) in *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 3–6; Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney, “[What the GAO Found: Nothing about Much Ado](#),” *IUR* 20, no. 4 (July/Aug. 1995): 7–8, 24; Swords 354–355; Nick Redfern, *The Roswell UFO Conspiracy*, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 134–139; Graff 351–353)
- 1995**, July 29 — 12:15 a.m. Five witnesses in Low Bradfield, South Yorkshire, England, watch a triangular object, “bigger than a commercial airliner, “flying flat side forward. A low humming sound is heard. (Marler [143–144](#))
- 1995**, July 31 — 6:10 p.m. Aereolíneas Argentinas Flight 734, a Boeing 727 with three crew and 102 passengers, is in the landing pattern for San Carlos de Bariloche Airport, Rio Negro, Argentina. Capt. Jorge Polanco suddenly sees a white light bearing down on the aircraft before halting only 300 feet away. The object then makes a turn and flies parallel to the 727. It looks like an inverted flying saucer as large as the airliner, has two green lights at each end and a flashing orange light in the center, and very powerfully illuminated, according to the captain. As Polanco begins to land, the runway and airport lights go out, so he is forced to climb back to 9,800 feet, accompanied by the UFO. Airport chief Maj. Jorge Orviedo reports that the airport’s radio support is cut off, and there is a blackout in many parts of the city. When the ground lights come back on, the UFO shoots away at tremendous speed. The object is also observed by a Gendarmeria Piper PA-31-310 that is flying 1,900 feet above the 727. (Good Need, [pp. 403–404](#); Patrick Gross, “[Air Misses](#)”; Covert 42, 170–171)
- 1995**, August 8 — Two airliners, one from TAM and the other from Rio Sul Serviços Aéreos Regionais, watch a UFO over Macapá, Amapá, Brazil. TAM Cmdr. Marcos Aurélio de Castro reports that he and his copilot see a metallic glow ahead of them to the right. The air traffic center cannot see anything but notes that the Rio Sul flight has reported something similar 5 minutes earlier. Suddenly the silvery object approaches the TAM aircraft. The sighting lasts about 10 minutes. (Clark III 201–203; Brazil 544–545)
- 1995**, August 14 — 11:55 p.m. An enormous, roughly triangular object is seen by three family members near the Brighton Racecourse, Sussex, England. (Marler [144](#))
- 1995**, August 25 — About 12:35 a.m. An apparent fireball meteor streaks through the sky toward the south and seemingly crashes in Windsor, Ontario, around 12:40 a.m. Police and air traffic controllers across Ontario and in New York state are flooded with reports. A Windsor police spokesman says the object is seen coming from Detroit with a fiery tail. It crosses the Detroit River, streaks across Windsor and disappears in the city’s south end. According to Staff Sgt. Lloyd Grahame of the Windsor police, a witness reports smoke from the area where the fireball lands, but this is apparently caused by a coincidental arson fire in a Windsor trailer park. (Blair Crawford, “[‘It Lit Up the Sky’: Mystery Fire May be Linked to Meteorite, Expert Says](#),” *Windsor (Ont.) Star*, August 25, 1995, p. 1; “[Police Searching for Meteorite](#),” United Press International, August 25, 1995; “[The ‘Canada Fireball’ Windsor Incident, August 25, 1995, with Peter Davenport](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, January 9, 2024)
- 1995**, August 27 — 9:30 a.m. Tim Edwards shoots a video of a disc-shaped object hovering then darting about the sky over Salida, Colorado. A series of ripples or moving lights are seen to rotate from left to right on the object, which stays just above the sun while Edwards, his daughter, and four construction workers also watch. UFO investigators are not impressed with the video, which might be spider web or cottonwood fluff. [Bruce Maccabee](#) thinks it might be a genuine UFO. (“[Colorado Man and His Films Bring UFO Meet Back to Earth](#),” Salt Lake City *Deseret News*, November 30, 1995; Jennie Zeidman, “[The Will to Believe: Gnats, Moths, and Cottonwood Fluff from Outer Space](#),” *IUR* 21, no. 4 (Winter 1996): 14–17; Bruce Maccabee, “[Salida: An Analysis of the Video](#),” *IUR* 21, no. 4 (Winter 1996): 17–19; “[UFO Video Salida Tim Edwards 1995](#),” UFOvideodotcom YouTube channel, October 4, 2012)
- 1995**, August 28 — Fox TV broadcasts for the first time the “alien autopsy film,” a 17-minute black-and-white film supposedly depicting a secret medical examination and autopsy of an alien by the US military. The program, hosted in the US by [Jonathan Frakes](#), is given the title *Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction*. The film is broadcast by Channel 4 in the UK as a segment of “The Roswell Incident.” London-based entrepreneur [Ray Santilli](#) presents it

as an authentic autopsy on the body of an alien recovered from the 1947 crash of a flying disc near Roswell, New Mexico. The film footage is allegedly supplied to him by a retired military cameraman who wishes to remain anonymous. Experts, including pathologist [Cyril Wecht](#), special effects specialist [Stan Winston](#), and cinematographer [Allen Daviau](#), are shown commenting on the film's authenticity. The program causes a sensation, with *Time* magazine declaring that the film has sparked a debate "with an intensity not lavished on any home movie since the [Zapruder](#) film." Fox rebroadcasts the program twice, each time to higher ratings. But even after segment director [John Jopson](#) tells producer [Robert Kiviat](#) that he suspects the entire film is a fake, Fox makes it clear that such suspicions will not be allowed. [Mike Maloney](#), a former photographer for the London tabloid *Daily Mirror*, says it is the same footage that he saw in the late 1970s at a private viewing in the Los Angeles house of a Disney executive. In 2006, Santilli admits the film is not authentic but rather a staged reconstruction of footage (using sheep brains and jelly stuffed into puppets made by a UK sculptor John Humphreys) that he claims to have viewed in 1992, but which has deteriorated and become unusable by the time he made his film. The military cameraman is portrayed by a homeless man in Los Angeles. Santilli claims that a few frames from the original are embedded in his film, but he never specifies which ones. Producer [Spyros Melaris](#) claims that he has made all the auxiliary footage, including that of the homeless man. The existence of an original filmstrip of the alleged autopsy has never been independently verified. [Philip Mantle](#) of BUFORA has spent more than 25 years examining both the footage and the story surrounding it. (Wikipedia, "[Alien Autopsy \(1995 film\)](#)"; Internet Movie Database, "[Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction?](#)"; "[Alien Autopsy](#)," Orbitalmedia YouTube channel, February 14, 2013; Richard Corliss, "[Autopsy or Fraud-topsy?](#)" *Time*, November 27, 1995; Joseph A. Bauer, "A Surgeon's View: Alien Autopsy's Overwhelming Lack of Credibility," *Skeptical Inquirer* 20, no. 1 (January 1996): 23–24; Kent Jeffrey, "[Santilli's Controversial Autopsy Movie: A Comprehensive Review](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 335 (March 1996): 3–13; Michael Hesemann and Philip Mantle, *Beyond Roswell: The Alien Autopsy Film, Area 51, and the US Government Coverup of UFOs*, Marlowe, 1997, pp. 182–210; "Eamonn Investigates: Alien Autopsy," UFOHighway YouTube channel, September 19, 2010, [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#); Philip Mantle, *Alien Autopsy Inquest*, The Author, 2007; Philip Mantle, "[Alien Autopsy Film, R.I.P.](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 1 (August 2008): 15–19; Nathalie Lagerfeld, "[How an Alien Autopsy Hoax Captured the World's Imagination for a Decade](#)," *Time*, June 24, 2016; Philip Mantle, *Roswell Alien Autopsy: The Truth behind the Film That Shocked the World*, Flying Disk Press, 2017, revised ed., 2020; Stu Neville, "Effects, Lies, and Videotape: 25 Years of the Alien Autopsy," *Fortean Times* 395 (August 2020): 32–36; Nigel Watson, "Alien Autopsy: The Interview," *Fortean Times* 395 (August 2020): 37–40; Graff 353–354)

- 1995**, September 21 — The USAF Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory issues a *Report on Project Mogul* by 1Lt. James McAndrew. (1Lt. James McAndrew, [Report on Project Mogul: Synopsis of Balloon Research Findings](#), Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, September 21, 1995)
- 1995**, September 29 — 8:50 p.m. A witness in Stanley, Durham, England, watches a strange triangular object through binoculars. It flies pointed-end forward and has a pulsing red light on its front tip and steady white lights on its other tips. (Marler [144](#))
- 1995**, September 29 — 9:30 p.m. Near Vejle, Jutland, Denmark, a 24-year-old man is driving when the dashboard lights behave erratically, the wipers go on, and his dog gets agitated. Then the engine goes completely dead. Without warning, a powerful light explodes over the vehicle, coming from a huge disc, some 40–50 feet in diameter, directly above the car. His dog is whining and trying to hide under the front seat. After a short time, the intensity of the light diminishes. Through the windshield, he sees that the disc is slowly moving forward toward some nearby trees. The man notices that the bottom of the disc is not flat, but has "triangles" or "spikes" on roughly one-third of its top. The bottom appears flat with a mosaic of small, intensely pulsating lights arranged in concentric circles, ever closer towards the center. As the object reaches the trees, it has to tip its left side up to avoid touching them. The object moves on and disappears in a matter of seconds. After 3–4 minutes, he tries the car's ignition and the headlights and digital clock turn on. The car starts up and he drives off. ("[Bilstop med Effekter](#)," *UFO-Nyt* 1996, no. 1, pp. 4–5; Kim Moeller Hansen, "Car Stop Encounter in Denmark," in Hilary Evans and Dennis Stacy, eds., *UFOs 1947–1997: Fifty Years of Flying Saucers*, John Brown, 1997, pp. 188–193; Kim Moeller Hansen, "[Witness Reports UFO Stops Car along Denmark Road](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 450 (October 2005): 9–11; Herbert S. Taylor, "[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 17–18)
- 1995**, October 1 — 11:00 p.m. Fernando Beserra and Wilson da Silva Oliveira are fishing off the Ilha do Major, a mangrove area near the Rio Piaçabuçu adjacent to São Vicente, São Paulo, Brazil, when a bright yellow object approaches swiftly and silently, landing on a nearby islet. Their boat engine fails as the UFO passes over, but they

restart it and flee the area. They return the next morning and find an area of dry vegetation twisted clockwise in a circle 18 feet in diameter. Four marks of apparent landing gear are also found, each measuring 4 by 6 inches and half an inch deep. Researchers from the Instituto Nacional de Investigações de Fenômenos Aeroespaciais find that in the soil samples obtained within the burned area seeds germinate easily, but those planted in the samples harvested outside the circle do not germinate and are attacked by fungi. (Thiago Luiz Ticchetti, [“UFO Landing in São Vicente: UFO Lands and Leaves Marks on Ground,”](#) Nexus Newsfeed, October 2, 2019; [“Caso de OVNI avistado em São Vicente completa 25 anos,”](#) *Diário do Litoral* (Santos, São Paulo), March 9, 2020; Brazil 354–360)

1995, October 15 — 9:30 a.m. Adolfo Zaráte, 74, is working in the fields near Kilometer 126 on the Autopista Nacional near Torriente, Cuba, when he sees an oval object bathed in a greenish light descend and land about 200 feet away from him, emitting a bluish electrical flame. Zaráte hides behind some bushes and watches two small men, one inside the craft and the other outside and leaning against an open hatch. They are wearing divers’ suits with a facial attachment like a gas mask. The one outside gathers up some taro plants and brings them inside. Then the UFO emits some whitish smoke, a powerful blast of air, and a blue flash before it ascends vertically. At about 12 feet up, the object is engulfed in a bright glow and vanishes at top speed into the clouds. Local police find the adjacent shrubs bent and two holes where landing pods presumably were. (Jorge Martín, [“UFOs and Humanoids in Neighbouring Cuba,”](#) *Flying Saucer Review* 44, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 19; Ricardo Potts, [“Flying Saucers over the Caribbean,”](#) *OVNI*, July/Aug. 2000, pp. 3–4)

1995, November 1 — [Laurance Rockefeller](#) persists in lobbying the Clinton administration for UFO disclosure, which will “accelerate the recognition of a new paradigm of consciousness which recognizes the oneness of mind, body, and spirit.” (Laurance Rockefeller to William J. Clinton, [“Lifting Secrecy on Information about Extraterrestrial Intelligence as Part of the Current Classification Review,”](#) attached in Henry L. Diamond to John Gibbons, November 1, 1995)

1995, November 27 — 6:20 p.m. Mohammad Ahsan and four colleagues see two triangle-shaped objects emitting laser-like blue rays splashed with red over Dubai, United Arab Emirates. They are silently moving from the al-Hamriya Fish Market southeast toward Dubai International Airport. ([“UFO Sighting in UAE Reported,”](#) *Saudi Gazette*, November 28, 1995, via *UFO Newscipping Service*, no. 317 (December 1995): 16)

1995, November 30 — During a Christmas tree lighting event in Belfast, Northern Ireland, President Clinton responds to a Belfast schoolboy who has written him a letter: “No, as far as I know, an alien spacecraft did not crash in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. And Ryan, if the United States Air Force did recover alien bodies, they didn’t tell me about it, either, and I want to know.” ([“Remarks on Lighting the City Christmas Tree in Belfast,”](#) in *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: William J. Clinton*, Government Printing Office, 1995, Book II, pp. 1813–1815)

1995, December — Real-estate developer [Robert Bigelow](#) founds the National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas, Nevada, to research and advance serious study of various fringe science and paranormal topics, especially ufology. It holds its first organizational meeting in December. Bigelow soon hires retired US Army Col. [John B. Alexander](#) part-time and biochemist [Colm Kelleher](#) as deputy administrator. Alexander puts together a Scientific Advisory Board that includes ufologist [Jacques Vallée](#), parapsychologist [Harold E. Puthoff](#), astronaut [Edgar Mitchell](#), mathematician [Gian-Carlo Rota](#), physicist [O’Dean Judd](#), physicist [Johndale Solem](#), astronaut and Senator [Harrison Schmitt](#), psychologist [Albert Harrison](#), and [Christopher \(Kit\) Green](#) as chair. The first official board meeting takes place in January 1996. NIDS is headquartered in a two-story building off the Las Vegas Strip and has a 24-hour UFO hotline. Staff is sometimes sent on a Bigelow jet to UFO sighting locations and cattle mutilations. The teams carry expensive equipment to detect EM anomalies and radiation, and infrared and spectrometry equipment. NIDS disbands in October 2004. (Wikipedia, [“National Institute for Discovery Science”](#); Colm A. Kelleher, [“What Is NIDS?”](#) [PowerPoint], July 15, 2000; Brandon M. Mercer, [“The UFO Hunters: Meet the Scientists Who Are Serious about Explaining Strange Flying Phenomena,”](#) *TechTV*, January 17, 2003; John B. Alexander, [“From Los Alamos to Skinwalker Ranch,”](#) *Fortean Times* 363 (February 2018): 38–39; Skinwalkers 14–15, 31; Graff 386–389)

1995, December 12 — 2:30 p.m. Farmer Egon Kratz and his son-in-law, Adilson Marcílio, are working on their Bela Vista Farm off Highway 227 about 5 miles from Ituporanga, Santa Catarina, Brazil, when a bright, silent, disc-shaped object appears low above some nearby trees, moves swiftly about 30 feet from the ground, and disappears into a valley. On December 15, Marcílio and some friends return to look for traces and find much of the vegetation scorched. Technicians from the Federal University of Santa Catarina arrive on December 20 to collect

soil samples and rocks. Kratz notes in January that much of the foliage and vegetation where the UFO has passed is dead or defoliated. (Brazil 350–353)

1996

- 1996** — The Institut des Hautes Études de la Défense Nationale, a French strategic planning agency, decides to create a 12-member COMité d'Études Approfondies (COMETA) to review well-documented UFO cases and cooperate with agencies in other countries to assess national security factors. It is chaired by French Air Force General [Denis Letty](#) and begins by interviewing French witnesses, consolidates the best information, and presents its research to appropriate French agencies. (Wikipedia, "[Rapport COMETA](#)")
- 1996** — [Nick Pope](#), a former Ministry of Defence official who served on the Sec (AS) 2a UFO desk in 1991–1994, publishes a memoir titled *Open Skies, Closed Minds* that recounts his conversion from UFO skeptic to believer due to his investigation of cases that seem to be evidential. He concludes that "extraterrestrial spacecraft are visiting Earth and that something should be done about it urgently." (Nick Pope, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Simon & Schuster, 1996; Wikipedia, "[Open Skies, Closed Minds](#)")
- 1996** — La Fundación Anomalía is created by a group of Spanish ufologists headed by José Ruesga Montiel in Santander, Cantabria, Spain. It takes over publishing *Cuadernos de Ufologia* from the Colectivo Cuadernos in 1997 and publishes a new journal, *Anomalía*, from September 2000 to 2011. (*Anomalía*, no. 1 (September 2000))
- 1996**, January 13 — Oralina Augusta de Freitas is watching TV in her home near Varginha, Minas Gerais, Brazil, when she sees a UFO hovering over the cattle, which are agitated. She calls her husband, Eurico Rodrigues, and they watch the object, which is the size of a microbus and the shape of a submarine. For 40 minutes the object flies less than 20 feet above the ground, heading toward town. The object has a hole in its structure through which white smoke is billowing. Pieces of its fuselage sway in the wind. ("[ET de Varginha: Caso completa 20 anos com mistérios e incertezas](#)," G1, January 20, 2016; Clark III 1222)
- 1996**, January 13 — 4:00 a.m. Businessman and pilot Carlos de Souza is driving from Três Corações to Varginha, Minas Gerais, Brazil, along Highway 491. About 3 miles from Varginha, he hears a sound like an engine rumbling, so he stops by the side of the road and gets out of his vehicle. He sees a cylindrical airship 33–40 feet long and 13–16 feet in diameter flying about 395 feet above him toward Varginha. It is metallic, polished, and reflects the morning sunlight. He notices a hole in the right side of the ship and white smoke pouring out. After it crosses the highway, de Souza gets into his car and starts chasing it. When it crashes into the woods, he finds a dirt road that leads him to the scene, which is covered with debris that looks like tinfoil. He picks up a larger piece that is thin and light. When he kneads it, he is amazed to see that it returns to its original state. Further away, he sees an Army helicopter, two tarpaulins, an ambulance, and three cars. He smells a powerful ammonia odor and is startled by a military police officer who approaches him and shouts, "Go away, you saw nothing." Two more soldiers appear and force him to leave, so he returns to his car, drives away, and stops at a restaurant. A man approaches him and asks if he is Carlos de Souza. He replies yes, and the man calls him over and says, "What you saw, I saw too. You should not talk to anyone about it." The man then relates details about de Souza's private life. Meanwhile, two soldiers from the Escola de Sargentos das Armas in Três Corações contact ufologists [Ubirajara Franco Rodrigues](#) and [Claudeir Covo](#) about the incident to tell them that the area has been cordoned off and that trucks are loading odd material. There are rumors that NORAD has alerted the Brazilian authorities that it has tracked a large number of UFOs over the western hemisphere and that one has penetrated Brazilian airspace. (Wikipedia, "[Incidente de Varginha](#)"; Clark III 1222; Good Need, pp. 369–376; Roger K. Leir, *UFO Crash in Brazil: A Genuine UFO Crash with Surviving ETs*, Book Tree, 2005; "[ET de Varginha: Caso completa 20 anos com mistérios e incertezas](#)," G1, January 20, 2016; Patrick Gross, "[The Varginha Affair](#)")
- 1996**, January 20 — 8:00 a.m. The Varginha, Brazil, fire department receives a call from someone who asks them to investigate a strange creature seen in a park north of the Jardim Andere neighborhood. At 10:00 a.m., firefighters arrive expecting to find a wild animal, but they encounter a 5-foot-tall bipedal entity with red eyes and brown skin. Fish peddler João Bosco Manoel comes across firefighters Sgt. Palhares, Cpl. Rubens, and soldiers Santos and Nivaldo, who are carrying a net with a strange being inside it. One of its feet is brown, and the firefighters are trying to conceal it from curious onlookers. A smell of ammonia permeates the scene. (Clark III 1222–1223)
- 1996**, January 20 — Afternoon. According to testimony by an ex-soldier, uniformed military men open fire while they are sweeping the small forest near Varginha, Brazil, where the creature had been found earlier. A soldier becomes frightened when he sees a creature apparently helping a wounded comrade. Two shots strike its belly and one its chest. A fourth shot hits its shoulder. These two creatures differ from the earlier one and have black hair.

Immediately afterward, soldiers come out of the woods carrying the creatures in two black sacks. Something is moving in one of them. (Clark III 1223)

1996, January 20 — 3:30 p.m. Sisters Liliane Fátima da Silva, 16, and Valquíria Aparecida da Silva, 14, and their friend Kátia Andrade Xavier, 22, are crossing a vacant lot at Rua Dr. Benevenuto Bráz Viêira in the Santana neighborhood of Varginha, Brazil, when they encounter a thin, hairless, dark-skinned creature with dark veins, two legs with enormous two-toed feet, two arms with only three fingers, a huge head two three bony protrusions (one on each side and one in the center), and huge red eyes crouching beside a wall. At first they think it is a statue, but then it turns its head and they think it is a devil. They run home and call their mother, Luzia Helena da Silva, but when they return to the vacant lot, all they find is two footprints and an awful stench. (Wikipedia, “[Incidente de Varginha](#)”; Clark III 1223–1224; “[ET de Varginha: Caso completa 20 anos com mistérios e incertezas](#),” G1, January 20, 2016; “[Caso Varginha Minuto a Minuto](#),” João Marcelo YouTube channel, July 13, 2016; Brazil 494–509)

1996, January 20 — Around 6:00 p.m. After a hailstorm halts the search for several hours, the Varginha, Brazil, search units venture back into the woods. Two plainclothes officers of the Military Police Intelligence Service, one of them Marco Eli Chereze, locate and capture a fourth creature, forcing it into the back of their car. They bring it to a health clinic but are turned away, so they take it to the Hospital Regional do Sul de Minas, where the first examinations are performed. (Clark III 1224)

1996, January 21 — 2:00 a.m. Marco Eli Chereze returns home to his mother’s house to change clothes because his are drenched with rain. He begins to fall ill. (Clark III 1225)

1996, January 21 — The strange creatures are transferred to Hospital Humanitas Unimed in Varginha, Brazil. There are many reports of unusual movements of the Army, the police, and the fire department between the two hospitals. Vehicles are also seen arriving at a hospital in Belo Horizonte, where allegedly one of the creatures dies. (Clark III 1224)

1996, January 22 — The Brazilian military uses three trucks and several other vehicles to move the covered bodies. The trucks are parked on the side of Hospital Humanitas Unimed, and a series of cover-up operations are performed involving doctors, nurses, soldiers, firemen, and military police. The bodies inside the three trucks go to the Escola de Sargentos das Armas in Três Corações, Brazil. (Clark III 1224)

1996, January 23 — 4:00 a.m. A military convoy leaves the Escola de Sargentos das Armas for Campinas, Brazil. (Clark III 1224)

1996, January 23 — 9:00 a.m. The creatures are delivered in a metal box punctured with holes to the University of Campinas in São Paulo, Brazil, where doctors Fortunato Badan Palhares and Conradín Metz begin performing autopsies. Lab workers are prevented from entering the site. According to three military sources, at least one creature is taken to underground labs located at the university. Another creature is referred to the Legal Medical Institute at the Cemitério dos Amarais in Campinas. Army officials continue making decisive movements around Campinas through April. There are rumors that metal fragments of an unknown origin are taken to the Brazilian Departamento de Ciência e Tecnologia Aeroespacial in São José dos Campos, São Paulo, where they are examined in secret underground facilities. The same day, a cargo aircraft takes off from Canoas Air Force Base, Rio Grande do Sul, transporting three containers, a box, several soldiers, and a sophisticated radar system to be deployed near Varginha. (Clark III 1224)

1996, January 25 — The US military arrives in Campinas, Brazil, by helicopter, where the entire university is on standby. (Clark III 1224–1225)

1996, January 26 — Several scientists and military personnel linked to NASA arrive at the University of Campinas, Brazil. The cover story is that US scientists are choosing Brazilian scientists to take part in future space missions. (Clark III 1225)

1996, February 6 — Marco Eli Chereze, 23, one of the military policemen involved in the Varginha, Brazil, creature capture, begins exhibiting strange symptoms and notices inflammation and a small abscess under his left arm. At the barracks infirmary, physician Robson Ferreira Melo performs surgery to remove the abscess, found to be due to staphylococcus. Then Chereze develops a fever and pain all over his body. (Clark III 1225)

1996, February 11 — Chereze is admitted to Hospital Bom Pastor in Varginha, Brazil.

1996, February 12 — Chereze is transferred to the emergency room of the Hospital Regional do Sul de Minas, Brazil, suffering from intense pain in the lower back and fever.

1996, February 15 — Chereze wakes up very tired and in a state of torpor, with signs of cyanosis. He is transferred to intensive care, where his condition deteriorates rapidly. Chereze dies at 11:00 a.m. An autopsy confirms septicemia caused by a urinary infection, but the cause of death is unclear, according to Dr. Cesário Lincoln Furtado, who says it is highly unusual for a young man to quickly acquire an immunodeficiency followed by an

attack of three kinds of virulent bacteria. Doctors order his body to be cremated immediately, but his family will not allow it. The death certificate gives the cause of death as acute respiratory failure, sepsis, and pneumonia. The family begins a legal challenge to have the records released. (A. J. Gevaerd and Ubirajata Franco Rodrigues, [“Varginha Case: New Revelations,”](#) translation of [“Novas revelações agitaram Varginha,”](#) *UFO Brazil*, no. 102, August 1, 2004; Clark III 1225; Brian Dunning, [“Brazil’s Roswell: The Varginha UFO,”](#) Skeptoid Podcast, October 11, 2022; [“Exclusivo: Médico e legista doutor João Janini fala sobre o Caso Varginha e Marco Chereze,”](#) *Revista UFO*, May 4, 2023; [“Leslie Kean: The Varginha Case,”](#) TOE Clippings YouTube channel, April 18, 2023)

- 1996**, March 1 — 6:00 p.m. A man driving past a field in Southport, Merseyside, England, sees a triangle-shaped object with a white light in each corner and a green light in the center. It stays motionless for 5 minutes before it starts circling the field. Then it stops and the lights merge into one long green light. Without warning, it takes off and disappears. ([“Mystery in the Evening Skies,”](#) *Southport (UK) Visitor*, March 8, 1996, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 325 (August 1996): 13)
- 1996**, March 9 — 10:50 p.m. Two groups of motorists at Gallows Corner, Romford, East London, England, watch a triangular UFO as large as a soccer field with a white light in each corner and a pulsating orange light in the center. (Marler [220–221](#))
- 1996**, March 12 — Two hunters are snowmobiling near Trout Lake, Northwest Territories, Canada, when they come upon two metallic “spaceships” blocking their trail. Both objects are about 300 feet in diameter, with a bright light on their tops and windows on their sides. One stands on three legs while the other hovers. As the hunters drive around the objects, the lights go out. Later, Trout Lake officials find large rectangular impressions in the snow. (Mark Rodeghier, [“UFOs in Canada—1996,”](#) *IUR* 22, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 32)
- 1996**, Spring — Psychologists [Leonard S. Newman](#) and [Roy F. Baumeister](#) write the lead article on abductions in *Psychological Inquiry*, admitting that many of the accounts are hard to dismiss as lies or hallucinations. They suspect that abductions are escapist fantasies fueled by masochism and bondage. (Leonard S. Newman and Roy F. Baumeister, [“Toward an Explanation of the UFO Abduction Phenomenon: Hypnotic Elaboration, Extraterrestrial Sadomasochism, and Spurious Memories,”](#) *Psychological Inquiry* 7, no. 2 (1996): 99–126)
- 1996**, April 21 — Around 9:00 p.m. Terezinha Gallo Clepf is celebrating her 67th birthday at the restaurant at the Parque Zoobotânico Municipal Dr. Mário Frota in Varginha, Brazil, when she steps onto a porch to smoke a cigarette. She looks to her left and sees a strange creature with bright red eyes and a yellow helmet on its head. It is behind a fence that circles the porch. They stare at each other. Clepf goes back into the restaurant but soon comes back out and the creature is still there. She gets her husband to take her home. (Clark III 1225)
- 1996**, April 29 — Luzia Helena da Silva is visited in Varginha, Brazil, by four men in suits who do not identify themselves. After hearing her daughters’ story of their January 20 encounter, they offer the family a large sum of money to record a video denying what they had seen that day and claiming the whole thing was a joke. (Clark III 1225)
- 1996**, May 7 — In response to a question by MP [Martin Redmond](#), Minister of State for the Armed Forces [Nicholas Soames](#) tells the House of Commons that the papers held by his department relating to the events at Rendlesham Forest in 1980 are unclassified. (Isaac Koi, [“UFOs in Parliament \(UK\),”](#) Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1996**, May 8 — Brig. Gen. Sergio Pedro Coelho Lima, commander of the Escola de Sargentos das Armas in Três Corações, Brazil, reads a statement saying that no officer at the school has participated in the alleged operation. He insists to journalists that nothing unusual has happened in the city. When asked what the ESA military was doing on January 20, he replies that the military was “working for the sake of the Army and the nation.” In 1999, the story is amplified when a Major Calza says a “dwarf, disfigured and mentally retarded,” was behind some of the creature reports in Varginha. (Clark III 1225, 1226)
- 1996**, May 17 — 8:00 p.m. Hildo Lúcio Gardino, 20, is traveling from Três Corações to Varginha, Brazil, when she sees a strange creature on the side of the road. She dims her headlights and speeds past as the creature places its hands over its eyes and flees into the woods. (Clark III 1225)
- 1996**, May 22 — 3:30 p.m. A motorist on the West Tamar Highway near Bradys Lookout State Reserve in Tasmania, notices an upright, vapor-like trail to the north. The trail changes into an upright, bronze-colored cigar shape that disappears in front of their eyes. ([“Northern Flap,”](#) *TUFOIC Newsletter*, no. 79 (October 1996): 3; Herbert S. Taylor, [“Cloud Cigars: A Further Look,”](#) *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 13)
- 1996**, May 29 — About 1:00 p.m. A vertical, misty cloud is seen against the clear blue sky above Launceston, Tasmania. It forms into a vertical upright cylinder that seems to have a long hole. The witness and a friend look away for a

second, and the object is gone. ("[Northern Flap.](#)" *TUFOIC Newsletter*, no. 79 (October 1996): 3; Herbert S. Taylor, "[Cloud Cigars: A Further Look.](#)" *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 13)

- 1996, June 2** — 9:30 p.m. A woman and her parents observe a multicolored UFO darting around over the Gulf of Mexico from the deck of their home in Perdido Key, Florida. (Carole Baker, "[Colorful UFO Darts over Gulf Waters.](#)" *Pensacola Beach (Fla.) Islander*, June 19, 1996, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 324 (July 1996): 8)
- 1996, June 10** — In response to a question by MP [Martin Redmond](#), Minister of State for the Armed Forces [Nicholas Soames](#) tells the House of Commons that the papers held by his department on Rendlesham are the report by the USAF deputy base commander at RAF Woodbridge, internals staffing papers, and public correspondence. (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\).](#)" Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1996, June 17** — 10:30 p.m. A witness is driving east on East Kingsfield Road in the northern part of Pensacola, Florida, when he sees a large, black triangular object. He pulls to the side of the road to watch, as does a truck in front of him. The object has a single white light at each corner and hovers directly above the road. A red blinking light is at the center. ("[Triangular Shaped Craft Hovers over Witness.](#)" *Pensacola Beach (Fla.) Islander*, July 10, 1996, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 325 (August 1996): 5)
- 1996, June 24** — Day. Spasso Maximovitch notices an unusual object in the western sky over Rosh HaAyin in central Israel. He grabs his video camera to film it, just as a glowing white oval-shaped object appears some 20° west of the object and streaks toward it at high speed. Within 3 seconds it strikes the stationary orb, causing a huge explosion in the sky that seemingly destroys both objects. Stunned, Maximovitch stops filming immediately after capturing the explosion. (Patrick Gross, "[UFO Mid-Air Crash—or Military Drill—Filmed in Israel](#)")
- 1996, July** — Day. A private pilot is flying his Piper Cherokee PA-28-140 from Waterville, Nova Scotia, to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, at 3,500 feet. While over Cape Blomidon, Nova Scotia, the pilot's father-in-law (next to him in the right seat) spots a chrome-colored sphere 60 feet in diameter about 2 miles away and traveling at the same speed as the aircraft but about 500 feet lower. The pilot banks gently in its direction, and the sphere speedily darts toward Springhill, Nova Scotia, 20 miles away, and hovers there as a bright dot, then disappears. The pilot is distressed about the encounter and is distracted for the rest of the flight. (Don Ledger, "[Two Spherical UAP Cases Witnessed by Pilots in Canadian Airspace.](#)" *IUR* 33, no. 2 (July 2010): 9, 22)
- 1996, July 4** — [John P. Timmerman](#) investigates a mystery crop circle found in a wheat field belonging to Dan Arend off County Road 126 near Paulding, Ohio. (John P. Timmerman, "[The Paulding, Ohio, Crop Circle.](#)" *IUR* 21, no. 3 (Fall 1996): 24–26)
- 1996, July 8** — Minister of State for the Armed Forces [Nicholas Soames](#) tells the House of Commons that his department evaluates UFO reports solely for their "defence significance" and "to date no sighting has provided such evidence." (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\).](#)" Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1996, July 9** — 12:30 a.m. Police Sgt. Marian Mancu and volunteer guard Maricel Rusu are patrolling on the main road through Certești, Romania. Rusu sees a lighted object descending silently, causing nearby neon lights to vary in their intensity. Mancu hears a whistling sound and sees an object with flashing blue and red lights hovering 2 feet above the pavement. Three small people with elongated heads, white faces, big eyes, and scaly bodies are moving around inside it. The object is top-shaped, 15–20 feet across and 8 feet tall, and has a girdle of lights around the edge like a rainbow. After 2 minutes it rises vertically, its lights become brighter, and nearby streetlights go out. It turns northwest and departs with tremendous speed. Other residents of the town witness unusual light phenomena. (Romania 135–146)
- 1996, July 17** — Dusk. A woman near Langruth, Manitoba, is startled to see a disc-shaped object moving quietly and slowly through her farmyard. The object, 9–12 feet in diameter and 2.5 feet thick, has slit-like lights along its edge. The next morning, she finds three circular patches of deep green growth in the area where the object had been. She thinks her well water has been affected by the incident. (Mark Rodeghier, "[UFOs in Canada—1996.](#)" *IUR* 22, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 32)
- 1996, July 24** — Minister of State for the Armed Forces [Nicholas Soames](#) tells the House of Commons that in the past five years "RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom air defence region." In response to a question from MP [Martin Redmond](#), he states that the RAF cases of November 5, 1990 [over the North Sea], and March 31, 1993 [RAF Cosford], were deemed not of "defence significance." (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\).](#)" Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

- 1996**, August 3 — Sen. [Harry Reid](#) (D-Nev.) attends the fifth meeting of the National Institute for Discovery Science scientific advisory board in Las Vegas, Nevada. [Jacques Vallée](#) delivers the main presentation. Reid stays in frequent contact with [Robert Bigelow](#) afterward. (Skinwalkers 15; Graff 390–391)
- 1996**, August 12 — 9:40 p.m. A witness in Smithton, Illinois, sees a faint, dull-red, glowing triangular object as he is looking for the Perseid meteor shower. It appears from the south, flies north above his house, and vanishes after 10 seconds. (Marler [171](#))
- 1996**, August 17 — A couple camping in Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba, see a strange blue light dancing behind a hill. When they investigate, they find an object moving along the ground, occasionally emitting flames from its base. After a short while, it zips into the sky, then returns and hovers near them. It then shines a beam of light around the ground, illuminating them at one point. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada—1996](#),” *IUR* 22, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 32)
- 1996**, August 18–20 — Journalist [Gary Webb](#) publishes his “Dark Alliance” series in the *San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News*, with one long article and one or two shorter articles appearing each day. It claims that “For the better part of a decade, a San Francisco Bay Area drug ring sold tons of cocaine to the Crips and Bloods street gangs of Los Angeles and funneled millions in drug profits to a Latin American guerrilla army run by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.” This drug ring “opened the first pipeline between Colombia’s cocaine cartels and the black neighborhoods of Los Angeles” and, as a result, “The cocaine that flooded in helped spark a crack explosion in urban America.” The *Mercury News* continues to pursue the story, publishing follow-ups to the original series for the next three months. Other papers are slow to pick up the story, but African Americans quickly take note, especially in South Central Los Angeles where the dealers discussed in the series are active. They respond with outrage to the series’ charges. By the end of September, three federal investigations are announced: an investigation into the CIA allegations conducted by CIA Inspector-General [Frederick Hitz](#), an investigation into the law enforcement allegations by Justice Department Inspector-General [Michael Bromwich](#), and a second investigation into the CIA by the House Intelligence Committee. After his resignation from *The Mercury News*, Webb expands the “Dark Alliance” series into a book that responds to the criticism of the series and describes his experiences writing the story and dealing with the controversy. A revised version is published in 1999 that incorporates Webb’s response to the CIA and Justice Department reports. The February 2000 report by the House Intelligence Committee in turn considers the book’s claims as well as the series’ claims. Webb’s reporting in “Dark Alliance” remains controversial. Many writers discussing the series point to errors in it. The claim that the drug ring of Meneses-Blandón-Ross sparked the “crack explosion” has been perhaps the most criticized part of the series. Webb commits suicide in 2004. (Wikipedia, “[Gary Webb](#)”; Wikipedia, “[Dark Alliance \(book\)](#)”; Gary Webb, *Dark Alliance: The CIA, the Contras, and the Crack Cocaine Explosion*, Seven Stories, 1998, [revised ed.](#), 1999)
- 1996**, August 29 — 8:00 p.m. A mechanic notices a white mass of light at Port Arthur, Tasmania. His car acts up a bit, but the light vanishes, and it returns to normal. At 9:30 p.m., on the return trip, the white mass returns and paces the car for several kilometers. The engine misses and the headlights go out. He can now see a cigar-shaped object about 650 feet away, so he gets out, checks the engine, and finds nothing wrong. The UFO moves off and the car starts again. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 20)
- 1996**, September 10 — The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It opens for signature in New York on September 24 and is signed by 71 states, including five of the eight then-nuclear states. The treaty will enter into force 180 days after the 44 states listed in Annex 2 of the treaty have ratified it. These “Annex 2 states” are states that participated in the CTBT’s negotiations between 1994 and 1996 and possessed nuclear power reactors or research reactors at that time. As of 2016, eight Annex 2 states have not ratified the treaty: China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, and the United States have signed but not ratified the treaty; India, North Korea, and Pakistan have not signed it. (Wikipedia, “[Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty](#)”)
- 1996**, September 16 — Day. A witness is repairing a fence on his property near Valley, Alabama, when his dog starts barking loudly. Going over to his dog, he looks up to see a low-flying space-capsule-shaped UFO hovering and moving slowly over one of his cow pastures. He takes six photos of the object. Black to dark green in the photos, the cone-shaped object, when enlarged, shows a black Teflon-like covered bottom and a flange or rim that goes around near the top. In each photo the UFO is shown at a slightly different position and altitude, making it more difficult to hoax. (Patrick Gross, “[Mysterious Photos](#)”)
- 1996**, September 23 — Night. A woman, her 10-year-old son, and a teenage friend are driving toward Freuchie, Cupar, Scotland, when they see a large, black, triangular-shaped object hovering above a farmer’s field and part of the road. The object extinguishes its lights and moves away. They continue to Freuchie to buy a jar of coffee, but on

the way back to their home in Falkland, a similar object passes above their car. The 10-year-old screams, thinking it will crash into the car. When they arrive home, they tell the story to the woman's teenage daughter, who convinces her mother to drive back and look again. As they drive between Falkland and Newton of Falkland, they see on the left several red, blue, and green rays of light rising up from the forest floor. In the sky are thousands of tiny white lights like stars but only 1,000 feet above them. Above Falkland Hill, they see a large orange ball hovering above the hill, emitting sparks. They stop the car to watch a "long column of blue light" in front of the forest. They then notice "hundreds of small grey creatures bending down and picking up boxes of cylinders and taking them toward a larger structured object" that is nestling in a small clearing. To the right are taller gray beings and there is a ball of immense white light sitting in the farmer's field. They also see small creatures 3.5–4 feet tall with small, childlike bodies, large pear-shaped heads, black almond-shaped eyes, encased in bubbles and flying toward their car. One child notices a creature standing outside the car, whereupon they drive away quickly from the area. A massive blue burst of light flashes over the whole area. They return once more and encounter the creatures again. The teenager feels her head being "pushed down toward the front of the car" and feels like she is being "taken." Subsequent encounters take place, as well as poltergeist activity in their farmhouse. Strange bruises appear on the woman's arm. (Malcolm Robinson, *The Falkland Hill UFO Incident*, Kindle Scribe, 2022; "[Falkland Hill UFO Incident](#)," *The Courier* (Dundee), January 14, 2023)

- 1996**, October — Psychologist [Stuart Appelle](#) evaluates factors of deception, suggestibility, personality, sleep phenomena, psychopathology, psychodynamics, environment, and event-level alien encounters as origins of the abduction experience. He argues that no one theory enjoys enough empirical support to be accepted as a general explanation. (Stuart Appelle, "[The Abduction Experience: A Critical Evaluation of Theory and Evidence](#)," *JUFOS* 6 (1995/1996): 29–78)
- 1996**, October — A police officer in South Yorkshire, England, watches a dull matte-black colored triangular object with three red lights twirling at each corner of the triangle. It hovers directly over his vehicle and shines a bright blue beam that illuminates his patrol car for a few minutes. When the beam shuts off, the object takes off at terrific speed and performs some acrobatic maneuvers, including instantly going into reverse, before disappearing over the horizon. (Powell, *Scientist*, 68)
- 1996**, October 5 — 2:00 a.m. Police Constable David Leyland in Skegness, Lincolnshire, England, sees some rotating colored lights in the sky and reports them to the coast guard. Police in nearby Boston see a single, stationary bright light, while the crew of an offshore tanker report another colored light. Air traffic control radar at Claxby by Normanby, Lincolnshire, picks up a strong target over Boston, and RAF Waddington near Lincoln also picks up an unidentified target in another position. Talk of a UFO wave becomes embellished in the media, and MP [Martin Redmond](#) calls for an investigation by RAF Air Defence. Wing Commander [Norman Hutchinson](#) conducts an in-depth investigation of all the sightings and radar targets, producing a 23-page report that he completes on November 13. It's pretty clear that the mysterious radar blips are a permanent radar echo caused by the 273-foot steeple of St. Botolph's Church in Boston, the stationary white light is Venus, and astronomer [Ian Ridpath](#) identifies the rotating colored lights as misobservations of Sirius and Vega. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 159–162](#); David Clarke, "The 1996 East Anglian UFO Flap," *Fortean Times* 223 (July 2007): 28–29)
- 1996**, October 5 — 10:00 a.m. Businessman-pilot Haroldo Westendorff is flying a single-engine EMB-712 Tupi (Piper PA-28 Cherokee) over Ilha da Saranhonha, near São José do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, when he sees a gigantic object about the size of a football stadium. It is pyramidal in shape with 8 sides, on each of which are 3 protruding domes. Westendorff follows it for 2 minutes. The UFO is revolving slowly on its own axis and moving toward the ocean. A hatch opens on top of the object and three disks emerge and fly away quickly. When Westendorff tries to get closer, the UFO emits reddish rays, causing him to maneuver about 650 feet away. Soon the object begins to rise at great speed. Operators at the Infraero control room at Pelotas Airport visually confirm the observation. ("[Caso Ufológico Haroldo Westendorff, 1996](#)," Canal Fenomeno OVNI YouTube channel, January 18, 2015; "[Completam-se 20 anos do Caso Haroldo Westendorff](#)," Portal UFO, October 5, 2016; Clark III 203; Brazil 545–548; "[Caso Haroldo Westendorff](#)," Portal Fenomenum, June 15, 2016)
- 1996**, October 15 — 11:00 p.m. A couple is driving near Trois Rivières, Quebec, when they see three strange triangular objects flying in the northern sky. One object, shaped like a "topper" and much larger than an airplane, aims an intense white light at their car for 20 minutes. They feel like "time was stopped." Dozens of other people in the region see UFOs that same night. (Mark Rodeghier, "[UFOs in Canada—1996](#)," *IUR* 22, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 32)
- 1996**, October 16 — In the UK House of Commons, MP [Martin Redmond](#) asks the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs about its consultations with France regarding UFOs; and a list of the times that MI6 or the

Government Communications headquarters has monitored UFO investigations in the past 10 years. (Isaac Koi, [“UFOs in Parliament \(UK\).”](#) Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

- 1996, October 16** — 8:30–9:00 p.m. Many people over a wide area of south-central Ohio and northern Kentucky phone police to report strange lights in the sky. A husband and wife watch a fiery orange object near Ripley, Ohio, for 20 minutes. Charles Fite and Bill Adams in Aberdeen, Ohio, see several lights to the north in a “T” formation. A man in Tollesboro, Kentucky, reports 8–10 objects in a group that blink out and reappear in three-minute intervals. An airport operator in Jackson, Ohio, receives two calls describing a group of red lights moving erratically in the northwestern sky. Terry Howard, between Waverly and Chillicothe, Ohio, videotapes a group of glowing objects at about the same angle of altitude as the moon. Ohio UFO investigators suspect that the sightings are a result of military maneuvers by the Ohio Air National Guard. (Terry Endres and Ron Schaffner, [“UFO Flare-Ups in Ohio.”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 9–13)
- 1996, October 17** — MP [Martin Redmond](#) continues to ask numerous questions in the House of Commons about official UK investigations of UFOs and collaborations with other governments. (Isaac Koi, [“UFOs in Parliament \(UK\).”](#) Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1996, October 25** — 2:00 a.m. A family sees a bowl-shaped disc with five rectangular windows in Gypsumville, Manitoba. It is seen through binoculars as it directs a beam of light down at a lake it is hovering above. Two nights later it returns, moving high above the lake. They drive to the home of a neighbor who joins them outside to watch four objects flying in formation. Two of the objects suddenly change direction and disappear from view, then the other two shine beams of light on the lake again and disappear by moving into the clouds. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 195–196)
- 1996, November 5** — In response to MP [Martin Redmond](#)’s request for a list of all UFO encounters by RAF pilots since 1966 that have not been released to the public, Minister of State for the Armed Forces [Nicholas Soames](#) replies that can be done only at a “disproportionate cost.” He adds that “Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace or the UK air defence region are identified by all available means, including interception.” (Isaac Koi, [“UFOs in Parliament \(UK\).”](#) Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1996, November 16** — Day. During an exhibition by the Brazilian Air Force’s Smoke Squadron over the coastline of Santos, São Paulo, Brazil, one of the EMB-312 Tucano aircraft’s wings breaks off and causes it to crash. A piece of the wing falls on a swimmer and kills him. A video taken at the time of the accident shows a small spherical object approaching the aircraft from behind and passing just at the point where the wing breaks off. Ufologist Reginaldo de Athayde analyzes the video images and finds that the object is physical, metallic, reflective, and boasts a speed five times greater than the airplane. It measures about 3-by-3 feet in diameter and has a speed of 746–932 mph. It passes about 6.5 feet from the wing of the plane. (Clark III 205; Brazil 549–551)
- 1996, December** — 11:00 p.m. T/Sgt Anthony W. Keel is engaged in a field training exercise about one mile from the Weapons Storage Area at Ellsworth FB near Rapid City, South Dakota. He looks at the top of a hill and sees a light bobbing around and moving west to east. About 10 minutes later, he looks up again and sees it moving east to west and then back several times. It now moves in a straight line east away from Ellsworth but stops and hovers 2–3 miles from the base. Then it makes several short darts in different directions. After about 5 minutes, the radio operator announces that all flights from Ellsworth are grounded. The light eventually blinks out. (Nukes 469–470)
- 1996, December 11** — 7:00–9:00 p.m. At least 31 people in the Yukon Territory, Canada, witness a giant UFO. Indications are that it may be the size of several football stadiums. The sightings principally take place in four locations in the central Yukon along a 134-mile stretch of the Klondike Highway: Fox Lake, Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, and Mayo, with 6, 9, 8, and 8 witnesses respectively. In one observation around 8:15 p.m., two witnesses are driving northbound from Whitehorse to Carmacks in two separate vehicles when they spot a huge UFO with multiple lights above frozen Fox Lake. One of them gets out of his vehicle, and the object moves towards him until it is directly overhead, then passes over a hill to the east and eventually disappears. Shortly afterward, a witness is tending his trapline northeast of Pelly Crossing when he sees a long row of lights slowly moving over the hills. When he accidentally points his flashlight toward it, the object starts speeding toward him; when he cups his hand over the light, the object stops. It is now hovering about 900 feet in front of him. The object is silent; a beam of light coming from its base sweeps the ground once, and there are other light beams coming from the front and back. After the witness runs across a small clearing, he turns around and the object is gone. Around the same time, two witnesses are traveling northbound just south of Pelly Crossing when they see a huge row of lights slowly moving from left to right. They estimate the row of lights is as wide as the Big Dipper. From this and five other observations, investigator Martin Jasek estimates from triangulation calculations that the object’s size is between one-half mile and 1.1 miles in length. Tim Printy is convinced it is a satellite re-entry.

(NICAP, "[Dec. 11, 1996: Yukon Territory](#)"; Martin Jasek, "[22 Witnesses Report Giant UFO in Yukon](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 382 (February 2000): 3–12, reprinted in *Flying Saucer Review* 45, no. 3 (Autumn 2000): 1–13; Martin Jasek, "[22+ Witnesses Observe a UFO Larger Than a Football Stadium, Yukon Territory, Canada](#)," UFO*BC, February 3, 2000; Martin Jasek, *Giant UFO in the Yukon Territory*, UFO*BC Special Report no. 1, June 2000; Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 188–194; Chris Rutkowski, "[The Cold, Hard Facts about UFOs in Canada](#)," *IUR* 34, no. 1 (September 2011): 22–23; Robert Sheaffer, "[‘Top Ten’ UFO Case: Yukon, Canada, 1996—Busted!](#)" *Skeptical Inquirer* 36, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 2012): 22–23; Thomas E. Bullard, "[Is the Anomalist on a Fool’s Errand?](#)", *Paranthropology* 5, no. 1 (January 2014): 8–9; Tim Printy, "[December 1996 Yukon UFO Revisited](#)," *SUNlite* 6, no. 2 (March/April 2014): 10–19; "[Thirty Witnesses Encounter the Biggest UFO Sighting Ever Reported | Close Encounters](#)," Quest TV YouTube channel, February 11, 2020; "[A Giant UFO Was Witnessed by 31 People in the Yukon Region, Canada, December 11, 1996](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, February 13, 2023; "[Jean Van Bibber and Other Eyewitnesses on Seeing a Giant UFO in the Yukon Region, Canada, Dec. 11, 1996](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, June 28, 2024)

1996, December 18 — In response to a question from MP [Ieuan Wyn Jones](#) about the near miss at Ringway Airport on January 6, 1995, Under-Secretary of State for Transport [John Bowis](#) tells the House of Commons that “the incident was assessed by the joint airmiss working group, consisting of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The group found that both the degree of risk and the cause of the incident were unassessable.” (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#)," Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

1996, December 19 — A Boeing 757-200 operated by China’s Southern Airlines takes off from Beijing on a routine flight south to Wuhan. As the jetliner reaches an altitude of 31,500 feet, the copilot spots a bright flash in the sky just ahead of them. A silver-gray metallic UFO strikes the top of the 757’s cockpit, cracking the outer windshield. The pilot immediately declares an in-flight emergency and radios Beijing’s Capital International Airport, requesting permission to land. The plane lands safely 10 minutes later. (Patrick Gross, "[Air Misses](#)")

1997

1997 — In his 1997 article “Dead Cows I’ve Known,” cattle mutilation researcher Charles T. Oliphant speculates that cattle mutilations are the result of covert research into emerging cattle diseases and whether they can be transmitted to humans. He suspects the NIH, CDC, or other federally funded bodies are involved, and they are supported by the US military. Part of this is based on allegations that human pharmaceuticals have been found in mutilated cattle, and that necropsies show cattle mutilations commonly involve areas of the animal that relate to “input, output, and reproduction.” To support his hypothesis, Oliphant cites the 1990 Reston Ebola virus case in which plainclothes military officers, traveling in unmarked vehicles, entered a research facility in Reston, Virginia, to secretly retrieve and destroy animals that were contaminated with a highly infectious disease. (Wikipedia, "[Cattle mutilation](#)"; Ted Oliphant III, "[Mad Cow Disease and Cattle Mutilations?](#)" Our Strange Planet, 1997; Ted Oliphant III, "[Dead Cows I’ve Known, Part 3](#)," 1998)

1997 — Contactee [Billy Meier](#)’s ex-wife Kalliope in Switzerland tells interviewers that his photos are of spaceship models he has crafted with items like trashcan lids, carpet tacks, and other household objects (verifying the allegations made by California skeptic [Kal K. Korff](#) in 1981), and that the stories he told of his adventures with the aliens were similarly fictitious. She also says that photos of purported extraterrestrial women “Asket” and “Nera” are really photos of Michelle DellaFave and Susan Lund, members of the singing and dancing troupe [The Goldiggers](#). It is later confirmed that the women in the photographs are members of The Goldiggers performing on *The Dean Martin Show*. ("[Asket and Nera Photo Deconstruction](#)," Billy Meier Case)

1997 — [Douglas Torr](#) and [Timir Datta](#) are involved in the development of a “gravity generator” at the University of South Carolina. According to a leaked document from the Office of Technology Transfer at USC and confirmed to *Wired* reporter [Charles Platt](#) in 1998, the device would create a “force beam” in any desired direction and that the university plans to patent and license this device. No further information about this university research project or the “Gravity Generator” device is ever made public. (Wikipedia, "[Anti-gravity](#)"; Charles Platt, "[Breaking the Law of Gravity](#)," *Wired*, March 1, 1998)

1997 — Chile sets up a new government agency tasked with studying UFO reports. (Kean, [p. 116](#))

1997, Winter — 3:00 p.m. Sgt. John F. Duffy is serving as loadmaster and radio operator aboard a KC-130R Hercules cargo plane flying at an altitude of 24,000 feet north of the Horne Islands in the South Pacific. He notices a white object on the left side of the aircraft. At first it seems stationary, then appears to jump behind a nearby cloud,

moving in a horizontal direction and disappears after only 2 seconds. (Richard F. Haines, "[South Pacific Sighting, 1997](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 11–12)

- 1997**, January 10–12 — Roswell witness [Jesse Marcel Jr.](#) undergoes a second series of hypnosis sessions, this time with Washington, D.C.–area clinical psychologist [Neil Hibler](#). They are paid for by Roswell Declaration author Kent Jeffrey, who concludes that Marcel is indeed describing weather balloon debris. However, this interpretation is disputed.
- 1997**, January 13 — Morning. A woman driving on Highway 1 from Abbotsford to Chilliwack, British Columbia, notices a fluffy cloud in a clear sky that “bursts downward” with a bright white light three times in succession. It dissipates, leaving behind a black bar. After 5 minutes, a solid stream of white light comes downward from it and another black bar appears, about 45° below the first one. They both start moving east in a wavy motion. She loses sight of them when she gets off the freeway at the Sardis exit. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[Satellite Objects and Cloud Cigars](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 26)
- 1997**, January 27 — 10:40 p.m. A man is driving on a quiet back road just south of Llangynidr, Powys, Wales, when he sees a “massive star” moving toward him. His car radio fails, and he is unable to use his mobile phone to call for help. He stops and gets out of the car. The glowing tube of smoky gray and blue light descends and encircles the car, remaining for 5 minutes. The witness can move around in the cloud but can hear no sound associated with the object. After the glow vanishes, he remains frightened and a bit sick. The car is coated with dust of unknown origin. He drives home to Newport, and the following morning he notices a skin rash. (Jenny Randles, “A Sprinkling of Star Dust,” *Fortean Times* 392 (May 2020): 33)
- 1997**, February 22 — Near Aklavik, Northwest Territories, Canada, two silver-gray objects follow five people along a road. They hover above the highway then glide smoothly down to the snow behind them. The objects have rows of windows with bright blue light shining through them. After 15 minutes, the objects are lost to view as the witnesses turn along an ice road. (Chris Rutkowski, "[1997 Canadian UFO Survey](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)
- 1997**, February 27 — 7:30 p.m. A luminous blue sphere appears over Aviano Air Base, Italy, and hovers. After it disappears, a larger, orange-yellow-red sphere appears, and six fighters are scrambled to intercept it. The jets circle around the sphere but it disappears. (2Pinotti 155)
- 1997**, March — Cheltenham, England, researcher Robin Cole and his UFO group named Circular Forum have looked into the activities of the nearby Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) facility known as the Oakley Installation. He issues an unpublished report on their findings, titled “GCHQ and the UFO Cover-Up,” which includes information on radar/visual encounters reported by RAF personnel in the 1950s, evidence that GCHQ studied gun-camera footage of UFOs taken by British military pilots, the fact that the GCHQ library contains numerous UFO publications, and evidence that GCHQ still monitors military UFO encounters. Shortly afterward, he is visited by two Cheltenham policemen who ask him about a UFO group called the Truth-Seekers. It turns out they are actually from the Special Branch of the Metropolitan Police, a counter-terrorism division. (Wikipedia, “[GCHQ](#)”; Nick Redfern, “[Paranoia or Surveillance?](#)” *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 7–9; Nick Redfern, “[UFO Encounters, Saucers, and Secrets](#),” *Mysterious Universe*, August 23, 2018; Nick Redfern, “[UFO Researchers: What Can Happen When You Go Looking for Secrets](#),” *Mysterious Universe*, September 18, 2020)
- 1997**, March 3 — The Moynihan Commission on Government Secrecy, chaired by Sen. [Daniel Patrick Moynihan](#) (D-N.Y.), after conducting an “investigation into all matters in any way related to any legislation, executive order, regulation, practice, or procedure relating to classified information or granting security clearances,” issues its final report. It concludes that secrecy is a form of government regulation; that excessive secrecy has significant consequences for the national interest when policy makers are not fully informed, the government is not held accountable for its actions, and the public cannot engage in informed debate; that some secrecy is important to minimize inappropriate diffusion of details of weapon systems design and ongoing security operations as well as to allow public servants to secretly consider a variety of policy options without fear of criticism; that the best way to ensure that secrecy is respected, and that the most important secrets remain secret, is for secrecy to be returned to its limited but necessary role; that secrets in the federal government are whatever anyone with a stamp decides to stamp secret; and that a new statute is needed to set forth the principles for what may be declared secret. Moynihan reports that approximately 400,000 new secrets are created annually at the highest level, Top Secret. (Wikipedia, “[Moynihan Commission on Government Secrecy](#)”; Donald R. Burleson, “[UFO Secrecy and the Law](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 16–17)
- 1997**, March 6 — 6:45–10:30 p.m. Dozens of UFOs descend from the sky and briefly hover above Aviano Air Base, Italy. They zoom toward Venice Marco Polo Airport before heading toward Istrana and Treviso air bases, where they

remain hovering in the sky for a while before returning to Aviano. The display repeats several times, despite Italian and US fighters attempting to intercept them. (2Pinotti 156)

- 1997, March 8** — 3:00 a.m. *Folkestone Herald* journalist Sarah Hall is driving through Burmarsh, Kent, England, when she sees a large triangular object descend and hover above a field some 700 feet away near Dymchurch. It has a disc attached to it on the back and a big light on the front. When she pulls to a stop, it shoots away to a spot about 1,500 feet away and hovers. It does this four times, making a humming sound, and moving westward in increments for only a few seconds at a time. The UFO seems to be twice the size of an airliner. Other witnesses to a strange object come forward after Hall writes an article about her sighting. The residence of Conservative Home Secretary [Michael Howard](#) in Lympne is one epicenter. (Good Need, [pp. 385–387](#))
- 1997, March 13** — 6:55–10:30 p.m. Aerial lights of varying descriptions are seen by thousands of people (many of whom are looking for Comet Hale-Bopp) in a space of about 300 miles from Henderson, Nevada, at 6:55 p.m., through Phoenix to the edge of Tucson, Arizona. Tim Ley and his family at first see a tiny arc of five white lights just after 8:00 p.m. in the northwestern sky. They slowly draw nearer (around 30 mph), and Ley discerns a V-formation flying no more than 100 feet above the ground. The lights hold this pattern for more than 15 minutes, leading him to believe they are on one structure. Ley's report is the most detailed, but there are many others. There are two distinct events involved in the entire incident: a triangular formation of lights seen to travel around 8:10–9:30 p.m. from Paulden to Tucson, passing over Prescott and Phoenix. Some witnesses see a huge carpenter's square-shaped UFO, containing five spherical lights or possibly light-emitting engines. Gov. [Fife Symington](#) is one witness, although he does not reveal this until 2007; he calls the object "otherworldly." One overriding characteristic prevails: The UFO is a massive solid object, not merely lights, and it appears low in the sky, blocking out the stars behind it. Many witnesses say it is the size of multiple football fields and up to one mile long. Reports vary in terms of the number and color of lights and their movements. The second group of events is a series of stationary lights seen in the Phoenix area around 10:00 p.m. The Air Force identifies this group as magnesium LUU2 flares dropped by A-10 Warthog aircraft in a training exercise at the Barry Goldwater Range in southwest Arizona as part of Operation Snowbird; news coverage later shows a video taken around 10:00 p.m. by an amateur photographer that clearly shows the flares, not the earlier UFO. Phoenix city councilwoman [Frances Emma Barwood](#) is the only elected official to launch a public investigation, but she receives no help from any level of government. She speaks to more than 700 witnesses who call her office, including police officers, pilots, and former military personnel. Minimal coverage is provided at the time by the media, even in Phoenix. (Wikipedia, "[Phoenix Lights](#)"; NICAP, "[The Phoenix Lights Case: More Than Lights and Flares?](#)"; William F. Hamilton, "[Mass Sightings in Arizona](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 349 (May 1997): 3–6, 14; Tony Ortega, "[The Great UFO Cover-up](#)," *Phoenix New Times*, June 26, 1997; Bruce Maccabee, "[Phoenix Lights Revisited](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 370 (February 1999): 3–8; Bruce Maccabee, "[Report on Phoenix Lights Arrays](#)," 2000; Donald R. Burleson, "[UFO Secrecy and the Law](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 16; Lynne D. Kitei, *The Phoenix Lights: A Skeptic's Discovery That We Are Not Alone*, Hampton Roads, 2004; "[Former Arizona Governor Says He Saw 'Phoenix lights' UFO](#)," *American Chronicle*, March 18, 2007; Thomas E. Bullard, "[Defending UFOs](#)," *IUR* 34, no. 2 (March 2012): 12–13, 30; Kean, [pp. 247–249, 253–261](#); "[UFO's with Boyd Bushman and His Last Interview on Area 51 and UFOs over Tucson, Arizona](#)," Michael Thomas YouTube channel, October 24, 2014; Good Need, [pp. 387–390](#); Clark III 901–905; Patrick Gross, "[The Phoenix Lights, Arizona, USA, March 14, 1997](#)"; Graff 377–379; Tim Callahan, "[The Phoenix Lights: The Fallibility of Human Perception and Memory](#)," in Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Richard Heiden, eds., *The Reliability of UFO Witness Testimony*, UPIAR, 2023, pp. 39–44; "[Eyewitnesses Talk about the Phoenix Lights Mass UFO Sighting from March 13, 1997](#)," Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, February 29, 2024; "[Eyewitnesses Talk about Videotaping the Phoenix Lights UFO Incidents on March 13, 1997](#)," Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, August 2, 2024)
- 1997, March 15** — 5:00 p.m. An object explodes in the air and crashes to the ground near Węgorzewo in northeastern Poland. The debris is allegedly retrieved by soldiers. The Polish Army denies all knowledge of the incident, but Col. Zdzisław Czekierda of the General Staff admits there is a special division that has gathered information about UFO sightings since the early 1980s. (Good Need, [p. 391](#); Poland 117–118)
- 1997, March 21–23** — A Space and UFO Science Symposium is held at Cosmo Isle Hakui, a museum of space history in Hakui, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. Symposium speakers include [Richard F. Haines](#), [Jesse A. Marcel Jr.](#), [Bruce Maccabee](#), [R. Leo Sprinkle](#), hypnotherapist [Derrel Sims](#), podiatrist [Roger K. Leir](#), and crop circle researcher [Colin Andrews](#). (Richard F. Haines, "[The 1997 Space and UFO Science Symposium at the Cosmo Isle–Hakui Center, Japan](#)," *IUR* 22, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 15–18, 36)
- 1997, March 24** — 10:00 p.m. Reports come in from the public that there is a low-flying aircraft over Howden Moors, Yorkshire, England. These reports soon turn into accounts of bright flashes, loud booming noises, and "several plumes of black smoke" rising from somewhere in the woodlands of the open countryside. Several search

operations from several different counties are launched, both on foot and in the air. These continue through the night. The main concern is that a light aircraft or a helicopter has come down. However, no survivors or any wreckage is discovered during the search, which goes on well into the following day. At one stage, no-fly zones are put in place, an action that some UFO researchers later find suspicious—particularly when there are commercial airliners “stacking” as a result. Despite all of this activity, the official word from the military is that there is no crash at all. It is simply a mistaken sighting—despite many reports from the general public. Soon, rumors circulate from the many volunteer searchers. The most prominent comes from a unit of Yorkshire Water workers who happen to be in the area. They see a wrecked pile of metal in a clearing and a “military presence” that is loading “body bags” onto a Sea King helicopter. When the military is confronted with this, they claim they are merely moving equipment. An explanation remains elusive, although a military exercise did take place, at least 3 groups of observers reported UFO-like sightings, the sonic events did take place, and at least 1–2 civilian aircraft are reported in the area. (David Clarke, [“The Howden Moors Incident, Part 1,”](#) *BUFORA Bulletin*, series 2, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1998): 21–25; David Clarke, [“The Howden Moors Incident, Part 2,”](#) *BUFORA Bulletin*, series 2, no. 6 (Oct./Nov. 1998): 23–27; David Clarke, [“The Howden Moors Incident, Part 3,”](#) *BUFORA Bulletin*, series 2, no. 7 (Dec. 1998): 20–23; Robert Moore, [“The Howden Moors Event: Some Preliminary Conclusions,”](#) *BUFORA Bulletin*, series 2, no. 7 (Dec. 1998): 24–26; David Clarke and Martin Jeffrey, [“The Mystery of Howden Moors: Part One,”](#) *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 13–20; David Clarke and Martin Jeffrey, [“The Mystery of Howden Moors: Part Two,”](#) *IUR* 24, no. 3 (Fall 1999): 24–28; David Clarke, [“Howden Moor: Roswell Meets Peak Practice,”](#) *Magonia*, no. 70 (March 2000); David Clarke, “The Howden Moor Incident,” in Jenny Randles, Andy Roberts, and David Clarke, *The UFOs That Never Were*, London House, 2000, pp. 33–52)

1997, March 26 — 3:30 p.m. The San Diego County Sheriff’s Office takes a 911 call from a man later identified as Richard Ford, reporting a group suicide in a house in Rancho Santa Fe, California. Two deputies find 39 bodies of identically dressed, androgynous-looking men and women. Autopsies establish that each had drunk a lethal combination of vodka and barbiturates then smothered themselves with a plastic bag. Videotaped statements left behind explain that the suicides, members of a religious millenarian cult called Heaven’s Gate, were leaving their “earthly vehicles” behind and expect to board a spacecraft trailing Comet Hale-Bopp. It was founded in 1974 and led by [Marshall Applewhite](#) and [Bonnie Nettles](#) (formerly called Bo and Peep). (Wikipedia, [“Heaven’s Gate \(religious group\)”](#)); Todd S. Purdum, [“Videotapes Left by 39 Who Died Described Cult’s Suicide Goal,”](#) *New York Times*, March 28, 1997, pp. A1, A19; Gustav Niebuhr, [“On the Furthest Fringes of Millennialism,”](#) *New York Times*, March 28, 1997, pp. A1, A18; Frank Bruni, [“Leader Believed in Space Aliens and Apocalypse,”](#) *New York Times*, March 28, 1997, pp. A1, A19; Clark III 566–567; Curt Collins, [“UFOs: Going to the Next Level,”](#) *The Saucers That Time Forgot*, September 1, 2022)

1997, March 30 — A mother and her three children are chased along a highway near Whitehorse, Yukon, by an object “like a small satellite dish.” At one point, the object is directly above the car at treetop level. (Chris Rutkowski, [“1997 Canadian UFO Survey,”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)

1997, March 30–April 1 — Aerial lights are seen for several nights west of Arica, Chile, and over the Pacific Ocean, causing some alarm. Witnesses include civil servants and aeronautical experts at Chacalluta International Airport. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation issues a public statement confirming the observations. (Kean, pp. 190–191)

1997, April 10 — Rear Adm. [Thomas R. Wilson](#), vice director of intelligence for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets in a Pentagon conference room with former astronaut [Edgar Mitchell](#) and UFO Disclosure founder [Steven M. Greer](#) to discuss the rogue nature of certain “special access programs” (SAPs) connected to the study of alien technology that are dominated by private contractors. Others allegedly there are retired Cmdr. Will Miller, Adm. Mike Crawford, Gen. Patrick Hughes, Shari Adamiak (Greer’s assistant), and Stephen Lovekin. Greer claims he has extracted a pledge from Wilson during the meeting to investigate SAPs involving UFO technology. But Wilson soon reports that he doesn’t have the proper security clearance to inspect those files. As Greer informs a Portland, Oregon, audience in 2001, Wilson says, “I am horrified that this is true. I have been in plenty of black projects, but when we tried to get into this one,” he was told, and I quote, ‘Sir, you do not have a need to know.’ The head of intelligence Joint Staffs. You don’t have a need to know. Neither did the CIA director, and neither did the president.” In a July 4, 2008, appearance on *Larry King Live*, Mitchell tells the audience he had learned the admiral “had found the people responsible for the cover-up and for the people who were in the know and were told, I’m sorry, admiral, you do not have need to know here and so, goodbye.” Shortly afterward, Wilson admits meeting with Mitchell but denies he was ever refused access. (Steven M. Greer, [“Dr. Steven Greer Disclosure Project Talk, Sept. 2001, Portland, Oregon,”](#) UFO Evidence; Steven M. Greer, *Disclosure: Military and Government Witnesses Reveal the Greatest Secrets in Modern History*, Crossing Point, 2001; Steven M. Greer,

Hidden Truth, Forbidden Knowledge, Crossing Point, 2006, pp. 158–160; “[Astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell Recounts Admiral Wilson Story on CNN’s Larry King Live, 7/4/08](#),” The Black Vault YouTube channel, June 17, 2020; “[Admiral: Never Looked for UFO Data](#),” *Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune*, August 6, 2008; Dolan II 538–539; Kean, pp. 234–235; Joe Murgia, “[The Wilson/Davis Documents: My Twenty-Three Year Journey, Part 1](#),” [Part 2](#), UFO Joe, June 21, 2020)

1997, April 20 — 1:40 p.m. A woman is sitting on a park bench along the St. Clair River in Sarnia, Ontario. A grayish-white object suddenly appears in front of her, suspended vertically, with the bottom party positioned 25° above the horizon. The object has tubelike shape, rounded at both ends. She then notices a white spherical object that seems to have been ejected from the first. It travels a short distance north to Lake Huron and vanishes. The original object then disappears after another few seconds. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[Satellite Objects and Cloud Cigars](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Spring 2004): 26)

1997, May 18 — Day. A tradesman sees a “flying entity” near Ponte a Mensola in the hills northeast of Florence, Italy. It descends vertically and lands in a field not too far away. He approaches it and sees that it is a man wearing black overalls with a red belt, helmet, and dark glasses, and with no apparent flying apparatus. The intruder notices him and disappears in the long grass, which is flattened where the man has landed. (2Pinotti 156–157)

1997, May 27 — 10:45 p.m. Ed Granoski and some friends on the south shore on Oneida Lake, New York, watch multiple amber lights hovering above the north shore of the lake. They first see three lights in triangular formation; these fade out and three more appear. When these fade out, five lights appear in a different formation. The fading and reappearing continues until about 12:30 a.m., with as many as 12 lights visible at once. At 3:00 a.m., the lights reappear, fading in and out for about 45 minutes. Another display occurs at 10:45 p.m. on May 28. Videos taken by the witnesses show the lights reflecting as separate sources on the water’s surface. (National UFO Reporting Center, “[NUFORC UFO Sighting 2249](#),” January 28, 1999; “[Strange Past Events on Oneida Lake: UFO Sightings??](#)” Oneida Lake Chronicles, January 31, 2001; “[The Oneida Lake, New York, UFO Lights, May 28, 1997 \(+ Raw Video Footage\)](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, November 10, 2024)

1997, May 30 — About 11:20 a.m. Writer [Georgina Howell](#) is crossing the tarmac at Kirkwall Airport in Orkney, Scotland, to board British Airways Flight 8773 to Aberdeen when she notices a silvery chevron about 45° in the sky to her left. She thinks it is odd, but suspects it is some kind of aircraft. Suddenly she falls down on her face, sustaining some minor scrapes and bruises. Asked why she fell, she says she was looking at a sky object, but it is no longer there. Later, she hears about chevron-shaped objects over Phoenix. (Good Need, pp. 390–391)

1997, June — US Army Col. [Philip J. Corso](#) writes, with [William J. Birnes](#), *The Day after Roswell*, a tell-all memoir about the Roswell, New Mexico, crash and retrieval. Much of the book is an account of Corso’s claims that he was assigned to a secret government program that provided some material recovered from a crashed spacecraft to private industry (without saying where the items came from) to reverse engineer them for corporate use. Corso was a special assistant to Lt. Gen. [Arthur Trudeau](#), who headed Army Research and Development, and was in charge of the Foreign Technology Desk. In this position, he would take technological artifacts obtained from Russian, German, and other foreign sources and have American companies (including IBM, Hughes Aircraft, Bell Labs) reverse engineer that technology. The book contends that several aspects of modern technology such as fiber optics and integrated circuits were developed by using information taken from the craft. Corso also claims the world was “at war” with extraterrestrials and that the Strategic Defense Initiative project in the 1980s was part of that campaign successfully concluded in Earth’s favor. The book concludes with information about Project Horizon, a 1959 US Army plan to construct a base on the Moon. When first released, the book contains a foreword written by Sen. [Strom Thurmond](#) (R-S.C.), for whom Corso had served as an aide. Thurmond writes, “He has many interesting stories to share with individuals interested in military history, espionage, and the workings of our Government.” The foreword does not mention anything about UFOs, since Thurmond has assumed the book is a straightforward memoir. When he learns about the book’s contents, Thurmond asks for his foreword to be retracted, saying, “I know of no such ‘cover-up,’ and do not believe one existed.” (Wikipedia, “[The Day after Roswell](#)”; Philip J. Corso with William J. Birnes, *The Day after Roswell*, Pocket Books, 1997; George M. Eberhart, [review], *IUR* 22, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 22–24; Good Need, pp. 424–425; Nick Redfern, *The Roswell UFO Conspiracy*, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 145–151; John Greenewald, “[Unreleased FBI Documents Shed Light on Lt. Col. Philip Corso’s Controversial Claims](#),” The Black Vault, July 31, 2024)

1997, June — Roswell Declaration author and pilot Kent Jeffrey announces that he is unable to find sufficient evidence of an extraterrestrial crash in New Mexico in 1947 and that the Corona debris was probably from a Project Mogul balloon. (Keau Davidson, “[UFO Fan: Roswell Saucer Story Is Bunk](#),” *San Francisco Examiner*, June 23, 1997; Kent Jeffrey, “[Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 350 (June 1997): 3–17; Kent Jeffrey,

[“Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth,”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 79–101; Michael D. Swords, [“A Different View of ‘Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth,’”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 103–125; Robert M. Wood, [“Critique of ‘Roswell: Anatomy of a Myth,’”](#) *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 1 (1998): 127–140)

- 1997, June** — Night. Two police officers responding to an emergency call in Daniec, Poland, see two bright spheres maneuvering 1,000 feet to the left of their patrol car. The lights stop, then accelerate, and make sharp turns in the air. One of the lights approaches them to about 40 feet away, while the other is still circling above a field. Suddenly, both lights depart at high speed. (Poland 110–111)
- 1997, June 6** — The Gomzyakov family is traveling on the Krutikha River, Altai Krai, Russia, when they see a luminous flying object moving at a speed of 300 mph. The object turns around over the Ob River and flies north. An hour later, they arrive at the village of Krutikha, where they see another object engulfed in brownish gas and emitting powerful floodlights toward the ground. Another crescent-shaped object appears carrying a light that is 8 times as big as itself. The family watches the display for 15 minutes, after which all the objects move off to the north, leaving behind an odor reminiscent of blast furnaces at a steel factory. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia’s USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, p. 127)
- 1997, June 8** — A former police officer sees a turquoise object that seems to land in a field near a highway he is driving along at Treherne, Manitoba. It remains on the ground for 10–15 minutes and appears to have a light on its front and back. The witness is inexplicably frightened. (Chris Rutkowski, [“1997 Canadian UFO Survey,”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)
- 1997, June 18** — *USA Today* breaks the media silence about the Phoenix, Arizona, UFOs in a front-page story. NBC and ABC evening newsrooms pick up the story and nickname the object(s) the “Phoenix Lights.” (Richard Price, [“Arizonans Say the Truth about UFOs Is Out There,”](#) *USA Today*, June 18, 1997, p. 4; [“1997 NBC News Report on the Phoenix Lights w/ Tom Brokaw and Robert Hager,”](#) Roadside Television YouTube channel, March 8, 2019)
- 1997, June 18–19** — Evening. Grzegorz Nowak and four friends are visiting the monument to the Battle of Annaberg in Góra Świętej Anny, Poland, when they see glowing fireballs playing about on the hill and a large orange sphere. They try to communicate with the fireballs by flashing their headlights on and off; one of the lights responds with a similar signal. They watch other aerial objects and two of the youths have some missing time of more than an hour. The next night, they improve their headlight signaling. An enormous cigar-shaped object appears, shooting out multicolored lights that hover almost directly above them. Some of the orange spheres seem to transform into cloaked beings, each carrying a light ball. Some Polish researchers consider this a concocted episode amplified by fantasy proneness. (Poland 85–87; [“Seria dziwnych zdarzeń w Opolu w 1997 roku,”](#) UFO-Relacje.pl, February 13, 2020)
- 1997, June 19** — Arizona Gov. [Fife Symington](#) calls a press conference, stating that “they found who was responsible” for the Phoenix Lights. He proceeds to make light of the situation by bringing on stage his 6-foot-4 chief of staff [Jay Heiler](#) dressed in an alien costume and proclaiming him “the guilty party.” He jokes that the media is taking the story “entirely too serious” as Heiler removes the mask. Symington also notes that he requested information from the commander of Luke AFB near Glendale, Arizona, the general in charge of the Arizona National Guard, and the head of the Arizona Department of Public Safety. But none of them have an answer for what the lights were. In 2007, Symington responds to an Air Force explanation that the lights were flares: “As a pilot and a former Air Force Officer, I can definitively say that this craft did not resemble any man made object I’d ever seen. And it was certainly not high-altitude flares because flares don’t fly in formation.” In a December 10, 2008, episode of the television show *UFO Hunters* called “Arizona Lights,” Symington says that he contacted the military asking what the lights were. The response was “no comment.” ([“Symington Claims He Saw UFO in Phoenix Sky,”](#) *Tucson (Ariz.) Citizen*, March 24, 2007, p. 4; Kean, [p. 249](#))
- 1997, June 24** — 7:30 p.m. A woman in Lachlan, Tasmania, is home alone in her kitchen when she notices a bright light source on the window blinds. Looking outside, she sees a large circle of light seemingly at ground level, some 550 feet to the east of the house. The circle is in a paddock at a higher elevation and in front of the trees and the other end. She goes outside, but can’t see any further details or hear any sound. The light does not reflect on any of the nearby trees. Later, the light disappears. ([“UFOs in Tasmania,”](#) *IUR* 22, no. 4 (Winter 1997–1998): 28)
- 1997, June 24** — USAF releases *The Roswell Report: Case Closed*, by Capt. James McAndrew, stating that any alien bodies found at Roswell, New Mexico, were really anthropomorphic test dummies carried aloft in high-altitude balloons, and the unusual military activities were balloon launch-and-recovery operations. Although the dummy tests occurred several years after 1947, witnesses had been confused about the exact date. Claims of alien bodies at Roswell Army Air Field hospital are a combination of two incidents: the [June 26, 1956, crash](#) of a Boeing KC-97G Stratotanker at Roswell-Walker AFB in which 11 crew members die; and a May 21, 1959, manned balloon

mishap, in preparation for Project Excelsior, at Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, in which Capt. [Joseph Kittinger](#) is injured. The Project Mogul balloon is still invoked to explain the 1947 debris field at Corona, New Mexico. (Capt. James McAndrew, [The Roswell Report: Case Closed](#), Headquarters US Air Force, 1997; Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney, [“Who’s the Dummy Now? The Latest Air Force Report,”](#) *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 7–10; Swords 355–357; [“Air Force Reports on the Roswell UFO Incident,”](#) Military Wiki; Clark III 321; Graff 356–358)

- 1997, June 24** — SETI astronomer [Jill Tarter](#) is scanning the skies with the Parkes Observatory radio telescope in New South Wales, Australia, when a signal appears from the direction of the red dwarf star YZ Ceti, 12 light years away. It starts out as a dash of white dots and persists as long as the telescope is directly pointed at it, and each time it moves slightly away, the signal vanishes. However, [Seth Shostak](#) at the SETI Institute determines after a few hours that the telescope has picked up the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, a European Space Agency spacecraft investigating the solar wind. (Sarah Scoles, *Making Contact: Jill Tarter and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*, Pegasus, 2017, pp. 13–18; Graff 373–376)
- 1997, June 28** — Four witnesses in Blind River, Ontario, watch the flight of a triangular red object with jagged edges and a “square forward section.” Within seconds of its disappearance, an egg-shaped object appears in the same location and flies along a similar path, flaring every two seconds into a bright white from a dull gray. (Chris Rutkowski, [“1997 Canadian UFO Survey,”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)
- 1997, June or July** — Twilight. A Polish passenger on a ferry to Stockholm, Sweden, watches a large ball of light, 30 feet across, follow the ship’s course low over the surface of the Baltic Sea. As many as 10 smaller spheres emerge from the upper part of the object and remain 10 feet away from it. Some darker colored spots can be seen rotating on the surface of the original light. After several minutes, the lights go off. (Poland 121–122)
- 1997, July** — Witnesses, one of whom is an Air Force and Coast Guard veteran, at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, see a “square of eight lights” in the sky. Fifteen minutes later, a silent boomerang-shaped object glides above them “like a huge bat” at low altitude. Its underside is covered with hundreds of small, dim, rectangular lights. (Chris Rutkowski, [“1997 Canadian UFO Survey,”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)
- 1997, July 3** — Two witnesses driving along Highway 16 near Nojack, Alberta, see a “black ring” with faint lines hanging down into a motionless “big puff of smoke.” It is in view for 5 minutes. (Chris Rutkowski, [“1997 Canadian UFO Survey,”](#) *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)
- 1997, July 14** — 10:49 p.m. Air traffic controllers at Henri Coandă International Airport at Otopeni, Romania, are supervising the landing of an airliner when they notice a light about 3 miles distant between Buftea and Corbeanca and well below the scattered cloud layer. It does not appear on radar. The duty officer turns the airport video cameras toward the UFO and records its image for 2 hours. Through binoculars the light is seen to have a horizontal band colored white, orange, and red. When the airport lights are switched on for another landing, the light blinks out and reappears in a different location, this time looking like two light balls joined together. The lights appear brighter when the airport lights are on and dim as soon as they are turned off. The lights disappear abruptly at 1:10 a.m. (Romania 75–77)
- 1997, August 3** — The *New York Times*’s [William J. Broad](#) reports on a study, “The C.I.A.’s Role in the Study of U.F.O.’s, 1947–90,” by National Reconnaissance Office historian Gerald K. Haines in a CIA journal, *Studies in Intelligence*, that Project Blue Book had known that more than half of UFO reports in the 1950s and 1960s by citizens and aviation experts were based on “fleeting glimpses of U-2 and SR-71 spy planes.” Rather than acknowledging their existence, Blue Book came up with “false cover stories” like ice crystals and temperature inversions. Not a single linkage of a reconnaissance flight to a UFO report is provided. These allegations are treated uncritically in the news media. One-time Blue Book head [Robert J. Friend](#) says the story is “laughable” and denies ever having to conceal U-2 sightings. [Bruce Maccabee](#) points out that the greater number of UFO sightings are at night when U-2s cannot be seen, and even in the daytime a U-2 flying at 72,000 feet is “essentially invisible.” Haines also reveals that in the 1970s and 1980s CIA analysts devoted some time to “counterintelligence concerns that the Soviets and the KGB were using US citizens and UFO groups to obtain information on sensitive US weapons development programs (such as the Stealth aircraft), the vulnerability of the US air-defense network to penetration by foreign missiles mimicking UFOs, and evidence of Soviet advanced technology associated with UFO sightings.” (Gerald K. Haines, [“CIA’s Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947–90,”](#) *Studies in Intelligence*, 1997, pp. 67–84; William J. Broad, [“CIA Admits Government Lied about UFO Sightings,”](#) *New York Times*, August 3, 1997, p. 12; Mark Rodeghier, [“The CIA’s UFO History,”](#) *IUR* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1997): 3–6, 36; Bruce Maccabee, [“CIA’s UFO Explanation Is Preposterous,”](#) 2000; Swords 349–350; Clark III 926–927; Kremlin 187–188)

- 1997**, August 4 — Two forest rangers in different towers near Hadashville, Manitoba, simultaneously observe a silver ball that hovers above the trees some distance away. A second object approaches the first and the two travel away together. (Chris Rutkowski, “[1997 Canadian UFO Survey](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)
- 1997**, August 9 — 5:07 p.m. Swissair Flight 127 to Zürich, Switzerland, is flying northeast over Queens, New York, near John F. Kennedy International Airport, when pilots Capt. Philippe Bobet and First Officer Kurt Grunder see a cylindrical, glowing-white object, about the size of a fuselage of a small light aircraft, heading toward the Boeing 747 at high speed. The airliner is in level flight at 20,000 feet and cruising at 390 mph in a cloudless sky, and the UFO is 100–200 feet above it. There is no noise from the object, and no trail or wake disturbance is detected. The near collision lasts about only one second. The object is not detected on radar, and it does not trigger the aircraft’s collision warning system. The object is explained as a weather balloon, which is spotted by a United Airlines pilot in nearly the same location and height 72 minutes after the incident. (NICAP, “[Swiss Air Has Near Miss with UFO](#)”; Don Berliner and Robert J. Durant, *Near Miss with a UFO: Swissair Flight 127*, UFO Research Coalition, 1999; Robert J. Durant, “[Swissair Jet Has ‘Near Miss’ with UFO](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 377 (September 1999): 3–9; Good Need, [pp. 405–406](#))
- 1997**, August 12 — 1:00 a.m. Two police officers are on patrol near Lacock Road in Corsham, Wiltshire, England, when a triangular object flies past them at only 30 feet altitude and 45–50 mph. It heads to the northeast and is joined by a second object that seems to be following it. Their speed increases as they are lost to sight within seconds. (Marler [144–145](#))
- 1997**, September — Didier Charnay begins publishing *UFO Log* in Grenoble, France. It continues through autumn 2000. ([UFO Log](#), no. 1 (September 1997))
- 1997**, September 29–October 3 — Through the auspices of the Society for Scientific Exploration and funded by [Laurance Rockefeller](#), who has a long-time UFO interest, English physicist [Peter A. Sturrock](#) holds a workshop at the Pocantico Conference Center in Tarrytown, New York, in which UFO researchers present their best data to a panel of scientists agreeable to hearing them out. The panel is charged with deciding whether the available physical evidence can produce results that will lead to the resolution of the UFO question. For the panel, Sturrock recruits astronomers (and SSE members) [Thomas E. Holzer](#) and [Charles R. Tolbert](#), electrical engineer [Von R. Eshleman](#), geophysicist [J. R. Jokipii](#), photoanalyst [François Louange](#), geologist [H. Jay Melosh](#), atmospheric physicist [James J. Papike](#), radiation physician [Günther Reitz](#), and plant biologist [Bernard Veyret](#). To present the UFO evidence, Sturrock brings in aviation psychologist [Richard F. Haines](#), German ufologist [Illobrand von Ludwiger](#), CUFOs director [Mark Rodeghier](#), retired NASA engineer [John F. Schuessler](#), Norwegian ufologist [Erling Strand](#), science professor [Michael D. Swords](#), computer scientist [Jacques Vallée](#), and SEPRA director [Jean-Jacques Velasco](#). The panel makes several observations: The UFO problem is not a simple one, and it is unlikely that there is any simple, universal answer; whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying them; studies should concentrate on cases that include as much independent physical evidence as possible; continuing contact between the UFO community and physical scientists could be productive; and institutional support for research in this area is desirable. After four days of presentations and discussions, Sturrock announces that the panel will issue a statement to be drafted later that encourages UFO study by scientists. (Michael D. Swords and Mark Rodeghier, “[The History-Making Sturrock Workshop](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 3–8; Peter A. Sturrock, et al., “[Physical Evidence Related to UFO Reports: The Proceedings of a Workshop Held at the Pocantico Conference Center, Tarrytown, New York, September 29–October 4, 1997](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 12, no. 2 (1998): 179–229; Peter A. Sturrock, *The UFO Enigma: A New Review of the Physical Evidence*, Warner, 1999; Clark III 1115–1117)
- 1997**, October 3 — The Chilean Comité de Estudios de Fenómenos Aéreos Anómalos begins operations in Santiago, Chile. Air Force Gen. Gonzalo Miranda has created the agency within the Department of Civil Aeronautics after the series of sightings in Arica earlier in the year. CEFAA is charged with compiling, analyzing, and studying every incident involving anomalous aerial phenomena observed by any aviation personnel, civil or military. (Kean, [p. 191](#))
- 1997**, October 14 — In the UK House of Lords, [Peter Hill-Norton](#) asks about an exploding object off the Isle of Lewis on October 26, 1996, and the radiation readings reported during the Rendlesham incident. Minister of State for Defence Procurement [John Gilbert](#) responds that the Isle of Lewis incident did not appear to involve aircraft and that the radiation readings were too long ago to require an assessment. (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1997**, October 17 — In an effort to gauge the vulnerability of military satellites to laser attacks, the US military tests a directed energy weapon, Mid-Infrared Advanced Chemical Laser (MIRACL) developed by the US Navy in 1980,

against an aging USAF reconnaissance satellite. From its location at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, MIRACL sends two blasts of its deuterium fluoride laser against MSTI-3 at a distance of 238 miles. The Pentagon claims mixed results because a computer glitch prevents the satellite from reporting back that the second shot has struck the target. ("[Call it a MIRACL](#)," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 54, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1998): 5–6)

1997, October 28 — [Peter Hill-Norton](#) asks more niggling questions about the Rendlesham affair in the House of Lords. (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#)," Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

1997, November 4 — 6:00 p.m. Between Minehead and Porlock, Somerset, England, a man driving home in foggy conditions sees three white beams of light that suddenly permeate the fog from above and converge into a circle on the hood of his car. The electrical system fails, and he cannot restart it. After about 5 minutes the light beam disappears suddenly and the headlights come back on, so he resumes driving. When he gets home, he finds that his watch and car clock are 5 minutes slow and that a compass placed near the car gives a reading 90° from true. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 20)

1997, November 10 — In response to a question from MP [Nigel Jones](#), Under-Secretary of State for Defence [John Spellar](#) tells the House of Commons that no UFO sighting has revealed any evidence that UK air space has been breached by foreign military activity. (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#)," Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

1997, November 13 — Night. Two witnesses are driving home near Lac La Biche, Alberta, when they see a diamond-shaped object, consisting of three white lights in the front and one red light in the rear, suddenly "turn on." It hovers above trees about 900 feet away, and they can see the bottom of the object. (Chris Rutkowski, "[1997 Canadian UFO Survey](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)

1997, November 17 — Night. A woman sees an "inverted triangular object with no wings" outside her home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It has many rows of lights across its surface and is "lavender and steel gray" on one side, which is illuminated. (Chris Rutkowski, "[1997 Canadian UFO Survey](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)

1997, November 28–30 — The panelists from the [Sturrock](#) workshop reconvene in a San Francisco, California, hotel to draft a statement on science and UFOs, but the language continues to be hashed out and debated for months. The process goes on until April 27, 1998, when the report is sent to the editorial office of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*. The report's release engenders a mostly positive press response, but with little effect on scientists' continuing refusal to examine UFO reports. (Clark III 1117)

1997, December — Retired Sergeant-Major Cherd Chuensamnaun is deep in Buddhist meditation at his home in Nakhon Sawan, Thailand, when he begins receiving communications from space aliens. The following day his skeptical son and son-in-law Jaroen Raepeth are lifted up from the living room sofa and thrown outdoors into the yard. His daughter Wassana sees a 33–50-foot long UFO outside at treetop level. Cherd continues to transmit messages from the extraterrestrials (who hail from Pluto and another planet named Loku) until his death in 2000. His family now continues the tradition, and nearby Khao Kala hill regularly attracts crowds of meditating UFO enthusiasts. According to the opinions of a theologian from Silpakorn University, this cult is based on a combination of beliefs in [ghosts](#), [god](#), [aliens](#), and Buddhism combined. (Richard S. Ehrlich, "[The UFO Seekers Flocking to a Remote Thai Hilltop in Search of Buddhist Aliens](#)," CNN, October 6, 2019; "Buddhist Aliens," *Fortean Times* 388 (January 2020): 6)

1997, December 7–14 — The first World Forum of Ufology takes place in Brasília, Brazil, coordinated by the Brazilian Ufologists Commission. The coalition of researchers is comprised of [Claudeir Covo](#), from the National Institute of Aerospace Phenomena Investigations (INFA); Rafael Cury, from the Núcleo de Pesquisas Ufológicas (NPU); Reginaldo de Athayde, from Ufological Research Center (CPU); [Marco Antônio Petit](#), from Fluminense UFO Research Association (AFEU); and [Ubirajara Franco Rodrigues](#) and [Ademar José Gevaerd](#), both from the Brazilian Center for Flying Saucer Research (CBPDV), the largest UFO group in the country. The event culminates in the Brasilia Letter, a document signed by nearly all ufologists present, representing their nations and research entities. The letter conveys the position of ufologists to the Brazilian government to take the necessary steps required to clarify the UFO question. (A. J. Gevaerd, "[Brazilian Researchers Organize the Biggest UFO Conference Ever](#)," *UFO Updates*, December 8, 1997; Clark III 209; 2Pinotti 161)

1997, December 8 — Night. After two brightly lit objects fly above Surrey, British Columbia, a large, disc-shaped, pewter-colored craft spins and bobs around in the sky. The witnesses give chase in their car, but lose sight of it. (Chris Rutkowski, "[1997 Canadian UFO Survey](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)

1997, December 14 — Seven people in Vancouver, British Columbia, see an object shaped like an "@" sign. It zooms into view and stops in mid-flight, appearing as a "flattened silver pyramid." It bobs up and down then disappears suddenly. (Chris Rutkowski, "[1997 Canadian UFO Survey](#)," *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)

- 1997**, December 22 — An object like an “airplane wing cross-sectioned” is seen by a witness near Halifax, Nova Scotia. It has a solid appearance and is slow-moving, disappearing after 8 minutes. (Chris Rutkowski, “[1997 Canadian UFO Survey](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 15)
- 1997**, December 31 — 11:30 p.m. Many people in the area of Rzeszów, Poland, watch a spherical orange object. Jan Skobran and Maciej Robert see it briefly before it disappears. At 11:50 p.m., it reappears and they videotape it on VHS. After about 40 seconds it disappears, but another shows up at 12:20 a.m., pulsating with an intense orange glow. Seconds later it disappears, but another light appears over the Słocina forest. (Poland 153–154)

1998

- 1998** — The Roper Organization conducts a second survey on abductions, using the same indicators as its 1991 survey. This one is commissioned by [Robert Bigelow](#)’s National Institute for Discovery Science. Results indicate that the number of potential abductees has dropped from more than 3.7 million in 1991 to 2.2 million in 1998. (Mark Rodeghier, “[Counting Abductees: What Can Surveys Tell Us?](#)” *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 21–23)
- 1998** — Podiatrist [Roger K. Leir](#) publishes *The Aliens and the Scalpel*, in which he reviews his investigation of alien implants since 1995. Leir has performed surgery to remove small objects from the feet and hands of 17 abductees. [Robert Bigelow](#)’s National Institute for Discovery Science provides the funding for the analysis of these objects. Some of the findings are potentially noteworthy—the objects are found on the left side of the body, most of them fluoresce under ultraviolet light, some are magnetic, and most appear metallic and seem to emit radio signals. Calcium, copper, and iron are the most common constituents. Critics dismiss the objects as tiny slivers of metal or glass embedded in tissue and find no evidence for radio emissions. None of the objects reveal any apparent technological structure. (Roger K. Leir, [The Aliens and the Scalpel: Scientific Proof of Extraterrestrial Implants in Humans](#), Granite, 1998; Roger K. Leir, “Alien Implants and Physical Evidence,” *MUFON 2005 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*, MUFON, 2005; Clark III 11)
- 1998** — Multiple student projects at Østfold University College result in the establishment of an automated station, the Blue Box, at Hessdalen, Norway, to detect luminous phenomena. The main instrument, a video camera attached to a personal computer with analyzing software, is in operation nearly continuously, with the help of students from the University of Wurzburg and the University of Bologna, but the project lapses in February 2021 with the retirement of [Erling Strand](#). (Erling Strand, “[Project Hessdalen, Part 2: From 24 March 1994 to 26 February 2021](#),” Society for UAP Studies, January 5, 2024)
- 1998**, January — [David Jacobs](#)’s book *The Threat* expresses his belief that the aliens are not doing research; rather, they are carrying out a deliberate and massive breeding program using individuals from childhood onward and families for generations. The aliens create pregnancies, steal fetuses, and grow hybrids in vats and incubators. When those hybrids become children, they require emotional nurture from humans to thrive, so the aliens bring abductees back to touch and interact with the children. The abductees report seeing hybrids that look less and less like the gray aliens. Another series of hybridizations occurs as the aliens breed or engineer early-stage hybrids into progressively more human late-stage hybrids, who are all but indistinguishable from ordinary people (blond, blue-eyed Nordics). Some adult hybrids assist the aliens in their work, while others live on earth and mingle with humans for a time. Jacobs raises the alarm that apparent benevolence from the aliens is a con to lull us into complacency and hide their true intentions. (David M. Jacobs, *The Threat: Revealing the Secret Alien Agenda*, Simon & Schuster, 1998; Thomas E. Bullard, “[Apocalypse in Gray](#),” *IUR* 23, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 20–27; Clark III 9, 10)
- 1998**, January 2 — 9:30 p.m. Fernando Mariano de Oliveira and Luciene da Cunha Lopes are in a townhouse on the Rua Luis Augusto Ferreira in the Capão Redondo neighborhood of São Paulo, Brazil, when they see a small luminous sphere about 8 inches in diameter moving up and down in the sky at variable speeds about 500 feet away from them. Other family members join them to watch the silent white light, and the neighborhood dogs bark constantly. Fernando’s brother, Alan Bruno de Oliveira, 10, picks up a camcorder and films the light with the help of his cousin Katiuscia da Cunha Lopes for 4.5 minutes. The light disappears around 10:00 p.m. (Brazil 385–392; “[Intelligent Controlled Orbs / Spheres Witnessed in Capão Redondo \(Brazil\), Mexico, and the UK](#),” Eyes on Cinema YouTube channel, June 4, 2024)
- 1998**, January 11 — 1:00 a.m. A pair of dark triangular objects appear to merge together over Cuddington, Cheshire, England. (Marler [145](#))

- 1998, February** — Night. Two young men are driving from Opole to Niemodlin, Poland, when the car radio goes off and the engine of their Polski Fiat 125p fails just as a large object flies over them. The lights, radio, and engine come back on by themselves after the object is gone, but they can still see it in the west as it apparently descends toward the road a mile or two ahead. From the top of a hill, they see it emitting a dazzling light and hovering above the trees. Suddenly it approaches them, flying 65–100 feet off the ground, and they speed ahead into town. (Poland 84–85)
- 1998, February 17** — An Army intelligence document summarizes the “Bioeffects of Selected Nonlethal Weapons,” including microwave, acoustic, and radio-frequency directed energy devices. As for RF energy, “There is no sound propagated through the air like normal sound. This technology in its crudest form could be used to distract individuals; if refined, it could also be used to communicate with hostages or hostage takers directly by Morse code or other message systems, possibly even by voice communication.” And, “The phenomenon is tunable in that the characteristic sounds and intensities of those sounds depend on the characteristics of the RF energy as delivered. Because the frequency of the sound heard is dependent on the pulse characteristics of the RF energy, it seems possible that this technology could be developed to the point where words could be transmitted to be heard like the spoken word, except that it could only be heard within a person’s head. In one experiment, communication of the words from one to ten using ‘speech modulated’ microwave energy was successfully demonstrated. Microphones next to the person experiencing the voice could not pick up the sound. Additional development of this would open up a wide range of possibilities.” (US Army, “[Bioeffects of Selected Nonlethal Weapons](#),” February 17, 1998)
- 1998, Early March** — William Weitzel and the Fund for UFO Research discover and later secure copies of the unsanitized, pre-redaction record copy 16mm microfilm of the Blue Book Files, filmed at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama, in February 1975 that the National Archives inadvertently makes available at the Archives II facility in College Park, Maryland. ([Sparks](#), p. 6)
- 1998, March 17** — UK Member of the European Parliament [Eryl McNally](#) cites a letter from a constituent asking about Europe’s position on UFOs. The Commission’s answer, given April 15, is simply that the Commission has no jurisdiction in the matter. (Jochen Ickinger, “[UAP in the European Parliament, Part 2](#),” UAP Check, February 28, 2024)
- 1998, March 30** — In response to a question from MP [Helen Jackson](#), Under-Secretary of State for Defence [John Spellar](#) tells the House of Commons that “a number of military aircraft were booked to carry out low-flying training in northern England” on the evening of March 24, 1997 [the Howden Moors incident], but no UFOs were reported to his department. (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1998, April 7** — Under-Secretary of State for Defence [John Spellar](#) tells the House of Commons that [regarding the Howden Moors incident] that “is not possible, twelve months after the date in question, to state precisely where military aircraft activity was being carried out.” (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1998, April 22** — 9:20 p.m. A former Canadian F-104 pilot watches a UFO embedded in a cloud of green light fly toward the south over his car as he is driving near Whistler, British Columbia. It is visible only a few seconds. Other witnesses further south see the UFO stop over Puget Sound for 5–10 seconds, jump instantly to another location, and hover again before speeding away to the south. (George Filer, “[Washington Large Disc with Hole in Its Center](#),” Filer’s Files, #34-2007, August 22, 2007; Nukes 495)
- 1998, April 22** — 9:23 p.m. Civilian Larry Swanson sees a disc-shaped UFO fly silently north to south at about 300–400 feet altitude over the center of Naval Submarine Base Bangor [now Naval Base Kitsap] on the Kitsap Peninsula, Washington. At one point, the disc tilts slightly, allowing Swanson to view its underside, which is glowing white except for a central circular area about 30 feet in diameter. It slowly glides out of sight. (“[Sighting Report](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, January 28, 1999; Nukes 494–498)
- 1998, June 5** — 10:30 p.m. Paul Best and his girlfriend are driving near Llanidloes, Powys, Wales, when they notice three triangular objects that are rounded on the bottom. They remain stationary for 6–7 minutes, then begin moving slowly before shooting away at high speed. (“[UFOs Spotted near Llani](#),” *Welshpool (UK) County Times*, June 12, 1998, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 351 (October 1998): 14)
- 1998, June 25** — 2:00 p.m. A witness and her children in Cleveland, Ohio, see 8 white, balloon-like objects moving across the sky into a large cloud, pausing before entering it one by one. They watch the cloud and follow it to the horizon, but the objects do not emerge. (National UFO Reporting Center, “[NUFORC Sighting 05423](#),” September 19, 2002; Herbert S. Taylor, “[Mystery Clouds and the UFO Connection](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 16)

- 1998**, June 26 — Early morning. Two witnesses spot a triangular UFO hovering above Corbett Hospital in Stourbridge, England. The object has white lights at each corner and projects a white beam of light onto the buildings. ([“Strange Shape in Sky,”](#) *Wolverhampton (UK) Express and Star*, July 10, 1998, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 351 (October 1998): 11)
- 1998**, July 2 — 8:00 p.m. A couple working outside in their yard at Ticonderoga, New York, see a soundless, wingless object moving swiftly through the sky. The man takes a video of it as it flies past the eastern side of St. Mary’s Church. Probable aircraft. (Bruce Maccabee, [“‘Flying Peanut’/Double UFO Video Seems to Be Authentic,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 369 (January 1999): 3–7; Wim van Utrecht, [“Luminous Peanut over Ticonderoga, New York,”](#) *Caelestia*)
- 1998**, July 15 — [Peter Hill-Norton](#) again brings up UFOs in the House of Lords and asks how the Ministry of Defence is reviewing sighting reports. Minister of State for Defence Procurement [John Gilbert](#) reiterates that UK airspace is not being violated, although he does say that the ministry received 609 reports in 1996, 425 in 1997, and 88 from January to June 1998. (Isaac Koi, [“UFOs in Parliament \(UK\),”](#) Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1998**, July 21 — 11:19 p.m. An object the size of a small trailer appears suddenly over Napoleon, Ohio. It is emitting a dense fog and stays stationary for 7 minutes, then branches out and grows until 5 smaller craft are seen circling it. The large object seems to dissolve and disappear, the smaller objects still circling for another few minutes. ([“NUFORC UFO Sighting 11877,”](#) National UFO Reporting Center, February 16, 2000; Herbert S. Taylor, [“Cloud Cigars: A Further Look,”](#) *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 13)
- 1998**, August 6 — During a test of China’s first supersonic drone at the Badain Juran Desert weapons test base, Lanzhou province, China, engineer Zhao Xu and others see two large, silent fire masses with radiating beams descend from the sky just as the test drone is about to take off. Zhao asks a cameraman from the observation tower to come down and film the phenomenon. As he is stumbling down, the two fireballs take off again. (*Wuhan Evening News*, October 25, 2010; Bill Chalker, [“China’s ‘Nimitz’ UFO/UAP Event,”](#) TheOzFiles, April 23, 2023)
- 1998**, August 10 — 12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. At least four witnesses at Quirindi, New South Wales, see “20 silver balls” performing complex maneuvers. Angel hair streams from the objects during acceleration and right-angle turns. The substance consolidates into long, white strands that slowly fall to earth, draping on telephone lines and trees. It is white, cotton-like, and strong, requiring a good tug to break, but quickly sublimates to nothing on handling. A sample is sent to UFO researcher [Bill Chalker](#) for analysis. Microscopic imaging by indicates it is spider web. Another witness in Piallaway, New South Wales, reports similar material at 2:00 p.m. (Brian Boldman, [“An Analysis of Angel Hair, 1947–2000,”](#) *IUR* 26, no. 3 (Fall 2001): 10; Keith Basterfield, [“Angel Hair: An Australian Perspective,”](#) *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 7; Brian Boldman, [“Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review,”](#) *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 107–108)
- 1998**, August 21 — Israeli-American astrophysicist [Mario Livio](#) speculates that extraterrestrials are not particularly rare, it’s just that the most likely time for them to have developed was 3 billion years ago. (Mario Livio, [“How Rare Are Extraterrestrial Civilizations and When Did They Emerge?”](#) arXiv, August 21, 1998)
- 1998**, September 13 — A sensationalized TV documentary, *The Secret KGB UFO Files*, is released in the US and hosted by actor [Roger Moore](#), who recounts a dubious story about a Soviet crash/retrieval in Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russia, in March 1969 that involved an alien autopsy. (Internet Movie Database, [“The Secret KGB UFO Files”](#); [“The Secret KGB UFO Files, 1998,”](#) M TUFONC YouTube channel, September 24, 2019)
- 1998**, September 14 — Lt. Col. Enrique Rocamora, in charge of declassification of UFO reports for the Spanish Air Force from 1993 to 1999, enters the 57th staff course at the Escuela Superior del Aire in Madrid, Spain. Along with consultations and contributions from [Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos](#), he creates a massive monograph, “The Process of Declassification of UFO Documentation in the Air Force,” with 10 chapters and 16 attachments amounting to 296 pages. (Swords 428, 523)
- 1998**, September 28 — UFO researchers [Ion Hobana](#), [Harald Alexandrescu](#), and [Dan D. Farcaș](#) establish the Asociația pentru Studiul Fenomenelor Aerospațiale Neidentificate (ASFAN) with offices in the Admiral Vasile Urseanu Astronomical Observatory in Bucharest, Romania. (Romania 69–70; ASFAN Romania, [“Association for the Study of Unidentified Space Phenomena \(ASFAN\), Romania”](#))
- 1998**, October — [Scott Corrales](#) begins publishing *Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology*. It persists through December 2004 but continues as a blog in December 2005. ([Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology](#), no. 1 (Fall 1998); [Inexplicata blog](#))

- 1998**, October 14 — Following a request in the House of Lords by [Peter Hill-Norton](#), Lord Chancellor [Derry Irvine](#), Baron Irvine of Lairg, provides document references and titles of all open files at the Public Record Office that contain information about UFOs. (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1998**, October 18 — 12:40 p.m. Dave Rose is at Sandwell Valley, West Midlands, England, with his parents when they see a motionless sphere in the sky. After 20 minutes another object, a metallic-looking triangular UFO, also appears. The triangle moves from side to side in short bursts before vanishing completely. The sphere dwindles to a dark spot in another 10 minutes. (“[Did You See This UFO?](#)” *Wolverhampton (UK) Express and Star*, October 29, 1998, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 353 (December 1998): 12)
- 1998**, October 19 — Minister of State for Defence Procurement [John Gilbert](#) tells the House of Lords that “there is no requirement for anyone to submit UFO sighting reports to the MoD, other than for military air defence purposes.” (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1998**, October 19 — Four different radar stations in Hebei province, China, pick up an unknown target moving above a military flight training base near Cangzhou. At least 140 observers at the base see the object as a small star that grows larger and larger as it descends. It has a mushroom-shaped dome on top and a flat bottom covered with rotating lights. Two light beams extend from the base of the object. The base commander scrambles a Shenyang J-6 fighter, which gets to within 2.5 miles of the UFO over Qing County, whereupon it abruptly shoots upward. The UFO plays cat and mouse with the jet, appearing and reappearing. Permission to fire on the UFO is denied by ground control. The fighter is forced to return after running low on fuel, and the UFO disappears before other aircraft arrive. (*Hong Kong Standard*, November 4, 1998; Good Need, [p. 393](#); *South China Morning Post*, June 4, 2021; Bill Chalker, “[China’s ‘Nimitz’ UFO/UAP Event](#),” TheOzFiles, April 23, 2023)
- 1998**, November 6 — 3:00 a.m. A man is driving with his wife near Childers, Queensland, when he sees an object moving quickly across the road. Five minutes later he sees a green beam of light shining down from the sky. The light source seems to be about 3,000 feet above them. Both he and his wife, who is asleep in the car, experience swelling in the hands and lips, as well as headaches. They both feel compelled to take their wedding rings off and sense that something else will happen to them. (“[Australian CE2](#),” *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 12)
- 1998**, November 6 — 7:00 a.m. A witness in Bothell, Washington, sees a thin, horizontal cloud that tilts and descends. A taller horizontal cloud tilts to the left, but it soon appears to be a dark, cylindrical object. Two small oval clouds emerge from a larger cloud. All of the objects slowly descend past the Cascades Mountains. A few jets fly toward them one at a time, until 9:30 p.m. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[Mystery Clouds and the UFO Connection](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 4 (July 2005): 26)
- 1998**, November 11 — 11:55 a.m. Two daylight discs are seen by Ms. R. M. Jones as she is driving through Alexander, Arkansas: “The first was larger, more white, more stationary and lasted longer. The second was a white cigar sort of thing, sort of shimmery.” (“[UFOs Dominate Night Sky over Arkansas](#),” *UFO Roundup* 3, no. 49, December 7, 1998)
- 1998**, November 19 — Minister of State for Defence Procurement [John Gilbert](#) provides the House of Lords with a list of 76 Air Staff Secretariat files dating back to 1985 that contain information about UFOs. (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 1998**, November 27 — 7:00–7:30 p.m. A woman is driving east on 25 Mile Road north of Mount Clemens, Michigan, when she sees a “highly intense,” basketball-sized ball of white light coming directly at her from the right at high speed. There is no sound and no time to avoid a collision. The object hits the car with a low thud, but the car’s motion is not affected. She does not see it again and continues driving home. Upon inspecting her car, she finds a cream-colored residue where it hit the car, forming a streak about 12–13 inches long that is broken in several spots. The residue is saved and after several months it is sent to analytical chemist [Phyllis Budinger](#) for tests and analysis. The results show prominent components of kaolin (aluminum silicate), a hydrated metal (perhaps manganese) oxide, and a celluloidal material. Only the oxide is not attributable to the car’s own finish. There is no evidence of heat transferred to the car’s paint. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFO/Vehicle Very Close Encounters](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 3–5)
- 1998**, November 30 — Night. Bright blue-white lights are seen throughout Sussex County, Delaware. One man reports a “large blue light that was moving all over erratically,” with smaller lights coming from the larger one. Local researcher Jane Segal receives reports that “fighters from Dover Air Force Base were flying all over the region.” (“[UFOs Seen by Many in Southern Delaware](#),” *UFO Roundup* 3, no. 49, December 7, 1998)
- 1998**, December — 5:45 p.m. Christopher Cabrera is at the end of his patrol shift at Area 2 in Nellis AFB in Nevada and chatting with a few other guards. All four of them notice three extremely bright amber lights in front of them in

the southeast blinking sequentially in a vertical, triangular formation. The bottom two lights are about 100 feet off the ground and a quarter-mile away. They seem to be attached to one solid object that blocks out the stars behind it. It remains eerily silent. The event lasts about 10 seconds and the lights are so bright that it looks like daytime. The guards report the incident to the Flight Chief, who tells them not to repeat the story to anyone or they will be eligible for dishonorable discharge. (Robert L. Hastings, "[Triangular-Shaped UFO Sighted at the Nellis AFB Nuclear Storage Area](#)," *UFOs & Nukes*, April 23, 2015)

- 1998**, December 2 — Night. UFO activity in Brisbane, Queensland, consists of a bright white light, an orange ball of light, and a missing time experience, all by different witnesses. ("[UFOs Converge on Brisbane](#)," *UFO Roundup* 3, no. 49, December 7, 1998)
- 1998**, December 3 — 11:30 p.m. A witness is driving in Kirkland, Washington, when she notices a cluster of four white lights and one red light to the south. They seem to be approaching, and when she arrives home she sees they are attached to a large equilateral triangle that passes overhead. (Marler [227–228](#))
- 1998**, December 11 — During mission [STS-88](#), the crew of Space Shuttle *Endeavor* takes photos of an unusual dark object in low earth orbit. Conspiracy theorists claim it is an alien satellite, dubbed the Black Knight, in polar orbit around the Earth. However, the object is later identified as a thermal blanket that became dislodged and lost during a December 9 EVA by astronauts [Jerry L. Ross](#) and [James H. Newman](#) during their installation of antennas on the International Space Station. (Wikipedia, "[Black Knight satellite conspiracy theory](#)"; Lorenzen, *UFOs: The Whole Story*, Signet, 1969, p. 220; James Oberg, "[Phantom Satellite?](#)" PowerPoint presentation; Martina Redpath, "[The Truth about the Black Knight Satellite Mystery](#)," Armagh Observatory and Planetarium, July 18, 2013)
- 1998**, December 17 — Minister of State for Defence Procurement [John Gilbert](#) provides the House of Lords with a list of 38 files related to UFOs held by the Public Record Office covering the period 1970–1985 and which are scheduled for release under the 30-year rule. (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#)," Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

1999

- 1999** (or 2000) — Retired NASA psychologist [Richard F. Haines](#) founds the National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena as a place for pilots, crews, and air-traffic controllers to report their UFO sightings on a confidential basis. Ted Roe is executive director and Haines is the chief research scientist. ("[New Organization Promotes Aviation Safety in UFO Sightings](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 22, 30; Richard F. Haines, "[NARCAP's Project Sphere: Are Spherical UAP a Threat to Aviation Safety?](#)" *IUR* 33, no. 2 (July 2010): 4–5; Clark III 553)
- 1999** — Austrian astrobiologist [Helmut Lammer](#) and his wife Marion publish *MILABS: Military Mind Control and Alien Abduction*, a review of people claiming to have been abducted by military personnel who interrogate them about their UFO experiences, remove or insert implants, and perform medical examinations and memory eradication. (Helmut Lammer and Marion Lammer, *MILABS: Military Mind Control and Alien Abduction*, IllumiNet, 1999; Helmut Lammer, "[Preliminary Findings of Project-MILAB: Evidence for Military Kidnappings of Alleged UFO-Abductees](#)," October 16, 1996; Helmut Lammer, "[Further Findings of Project-MILAB: Looking behind the Alien/Military Abduction Agenda](#)," August 13, 1997; Malcolm Robinson, "[MILABS: Military Mind Control and Alien Abduction](#)," Strange Phenomena Investigations England, 2001)
- 1999** — Harvard University psychologist [John E. Mack](#) publishes a second book on abductions, *Passport to the Cosmos*, in which he continues to focus on the experience as transformative and ultimately benevolent. Much of the experience consists of a life lesson in symbolic form, Mack asserts. The hybrids combine the human and alien in a shared mission to save the Earth. The nurturing of hybrid children emphasizes the importance of emotion, and the otherness of the aliens awakens a sense that humans are not the apex of existence. The shock and terror of kidnap by unearthly beings breaks the illusion that the world is under our control. Although Mack hears the usual accounts of examinations and reproductive procedures from dozens of other experiencers, he still reads these events as symbolic agents of the larger purpose to save Earth from humans and humans from themselves. Whether or not the abductors are extraterrestrial hardly matters. (John E. Mack, [Passport to the Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters](#), Crown, 1999; Clark III 9, 10; Graff 344–345)
- 1999**, January 22 — [Peter Gersten](#), executive director of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, files a FOIA lawsuit in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona, to release documents relating to the Phoenix Lights and (later) the St. Clair Triangle in Illinois in 2000. The Department of Defense files a motion to dismiss the suit. Assistant US Attorney

- Richard Patrick says the department has conducted a reasonable search for information requested by Gersten's group and cannot find any records. ("[UFO Lawsuit to Get Hearing](#)," *Phoenix Arizona Republic*, February 4, 2000)
- 1999**, January 22 — 7:03 a.m. A witness driving south on State Highway 3 near the off-ramp to Naval Submarine Base Bangor [now Naval Base Kitsap] on the Kitsap Peninsula, Washington, sees an orange volleyball-sized light 20 feet above the overpass moving at 60–70 mph toward the base. ("[Sighting Report](#)," National UFO Reporting Center, February 11, 2003; Nukes 498)
- 1999**, February 3 — A British Debonair Bae146 charter jet encounters a "long cylindrical object" the size of a battleship while flying at 28,000 feet over the North Sea off Denmark. The captain observes rows of square portholes on the UFO just before it bathes the airliner in incandescent light. The object comes to an abrupt halt, then accelerates past the airplane at an incredible speed. RAF radar stations track the object, which is also seen from three other nearby aircraft. A Civil Aviation Authority source says the object is tracked by a military radar station in Yorkshire after it enters British air space. ("[North Sea Encounter](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 2 (Summer 1999): 31)
- 1999**, March — [Kevin D. Randle](#), [Russ Estes](#), and [William Cone](#) publish *The Abduction Enigma*, offering a rigorous critique of the alien explanation for the abduction phenomenon and arguing instead that abductee personalities, cultural ideas, and investigator influences have coalesced to create false memories. (Kevin D. Randle, Russ Estes, and William Cone, [The Abduction Enigma: The Truth behind the Mass Alien Abductions of the Late Twentieth Century](#), Forge, 1999; Thomas E. Bullard, [\[review\]](#), *JUFOS* 7 (2000): 94–106)
- 1999**, March 5 — Midnight. A diamond-shaped UFO is blamed for the unexplained collapse of a theatre roof in Kimberley, British Columbia. An object covered with flashing lights is seen by several witnesses prior to the incident. (*East Kootenay (B.C.) Weekly*, March 23, 1999; "[Recent UFO Cases](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 31)
- 1999**, March 24 — Night. Five people in the towns of Brinsley, Nottinghamshire, and Crich and Belper, Derbyshire, England, watch a flying object that looks like a black wedge with two bright headlights. The blunt end of the wedge is facing forward as it flies at about 35 mph. ("['Black Wedge' Seen in Skies over Town](#)," *Belper (UK) News*, March 24, 1999, via *UFO Newsclipping Service*, no. 360 (July 1999): 13)
- 1999**, April 2 — Two Chilean national police officers see a UFO hovering above Mount Balmaceda in Puerto Natales, Tierra del Fuego, Chile. They see red, green, and yellow lights on the object, which performs several side-to-side displacements as it hovers near the summit. (*La Tercera* (Santiago), April 4, 7, 1999; "[Recent UFO Cases](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 31)
- 1999**, April 7 — 10:58 p.m. A woman is looking through the second-story window of her home in East Falmouth, Massachusetts. She sees strange, double, white lights resembling car headlights attached to a triangular object silently moving across the sky through the maple trees. It is in view for only 4–5 seconds. ("[Recent UFO Cases](#)," *IUR* 24, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 31)
- 1999**, May 17 — The Berkeley SETI Research Center releases SETI@home, a project to analyze radio signals with the aim of searching for signs of extraterrestrial intelligence. Until March 2020, it is run as an internet-based public volunteer computing project that employed the BOINC software platform. It is hosted by the Space Sciences Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, and is one of many activities undertaken as part of the worldwide SETI effort. (Wikipedia, "[SETI@home](#)")
- 1999**, June 9 — A huge fall of "white filamentous threads" covers hedges, trees, and power lines over 10,000 square kilometers in Esperance, Western Australia. Some strands are 30 feet in length. Witness Marilyn Burnet has a sample analyzed and finds copper, aluminum, zinc, iron, sodium, manganese, silicon, and other minerals. (Brian Boldman, "[Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review](#)," *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 108; Keith Basterfield, "[Angel Hair: An Australian Perspective](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 7–8)
- 1999**, June 30 — 11:00 a.m. Two witnesses are walking their dog in the Park Zachodni in Wrocław, Poland, when they see a blue-gray, disc-shaped object with a row of blue lights pass over the trees to the northeast. Another similar object follows a similar path shortly afterward. (Poland 83–84)
- 1999**, July — A man's car is stuck in a rut at Campo, California, as he is returning home from a fishing trip. As he is getting back into the car, he notices a bright white sphere about 40–50 feet away. It is only 4–5 feet in diameter and 25 feet above the ground. The man takes 10 steps toward the object, then it shines a bright blue beam at him for a few seconds. The beam does not turn off; instead it retreats back into the bottom of the object "as if it was on a string." The UFO slowly glides away. (Powell, *Scientist*, 99–100)

- 1999, July 2** — Abduction researcher and folklorist [Thomas E. Bullard](#) expands on his description of the abduction experience in an examination of 437 reports from the literature. He looks at location and duration, the sequence of the episodes and common events within each, the appearance and behavior of the entities, interior and exterior descriptions of the UFO, and the mental and physical controls the aliens use on the abductees. (Thomas E. Bullard, “What’s New in Alien Abduction? Has the Story Changed in 30 Years?” *MUFON 1999 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*, MUFON, 1999, pp. 170–199; Clark III 13–22)
- 1999, July 16** — A 90-page report, *Les OVNI et la Defense: A Quoi doit-on se Préparer?* (UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare for?), is published as the result of an in-depth study of UFOs carried out over several years by an independent group of former advanced workshop participants at the Institut des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale in Paris, France, and by other experts. Before its public release, it is sent to President [Jacques Chirac](#) and Prime Minister [Lionel Jospin](#). The report is prefaced by Gen. [Bernard Norlain](#) of the Air Force and begins with a preamble by [André Lebeau](#), former president of the Centre National d’Études Spatiales. The Comité d’Études Approfondies (COMETA) group, collective author of the report, is presided over by Gen. [Denis Letty](#) of the Air Force. The report analyzes various UFO cases and concludes that UFOs are real, complex flying objects, and that the extraterrestrial hypothesis has a high probability of being the correct explanation for the UFO phenomenon. The study recommends that the French government should adjust to the reality of the phenomenon and conduct further research. (Comité d’Études Approfondies, “UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?” [part 1](#) and [part 2](#), July 16, 1999; Gildas Bourdais, “[The French Report on UFOs and Defense: A Summary](#)”; Gildas Bourdais, “[Quasi-Official French Document Looks at Defense Issues Related to UFOs](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 377 (September 1999): 10–13; Leslie Kean, “[UFO Theorists Gain Support Abroad, But Repression at Home](#),” *Boston Globe*, May 21, 2000; Mark Rodeghier, ed., “[The 1999 French Report on UFOs and Defense](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 20–22, 30; Gildas Bourdais, “[From GEPAN to SEPRA: Official UFO Studies in France](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 10; Swords 449–450; Graff 383–385)
- 1999, July 27** — Day. Several people living near the shore of Lake Backsjön, near Gunnarskog, Värmlands, Sweden, see and hear a rocket-shaped object plunge into the water. The object is 6–10 feet long and descends at high speed, creating a splash in the water before sinking. One witness contacts the rescue station at Arvika, who in turn contact the police and military. Stellan Jansson, chief of staff for the I 2/Fo52 Värmland Regiment, interviews the witnesses. In September, the army begins an intensive search of the lake under the code name Operation Sea Find using divers, sonar equipment, and a mini-sub. The operation conducts a 10-day search and examines 75% of the lake, but the search is discontinued on September 16 after finding no evidence. On October 1, a secret report is completed for military intelligence in Stockholm. (Clas Svahn and Eileen Fletcher, “[The Swedish Military and UFOs](#),” *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 16–17; Swords 370; Clas Svahn, “[Backsjön: Militär letade efter störtat föremål](#),” Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige)
- 1999, September** — The peer-reviewed *European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies* is launched in Southampton, England, by Totton College psychology professor Craig A. Roberts. Its editorial board features UFO researchers in the UK, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, France, and Italy. It continues through the September 2002 issue. (*European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies*, launch volume (September 1999))
- 1999, September 30** — 10:35 a.m. A serious criticality incident takes place in the Tokaimura uranium processing facility operated by JCO in the village of Tokai, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. The accident occurs as three workers are preparing a small batch of fuel for the Jōyō experimental fast breeder reactor, using uranium enriched to 18.8% with the radioisotope uranium-235 (with the remainder being the fertile uranium-238). It is JCO’s first batch of fuel for that reactor in three years, and no proper qualification and training requirements appear to have been established to prepare those workers for the job. A precipitation tank reaches critical mass when its fill level, containing about 35 pounds of uranium, reaches about 11 gallons. The two technicians who receive the higher doses die several months later. (Wikipedia, “[Tokaimura nuclear accidents](#)”)
- 1999, October 9** — The last flight of a temporarily reactivated SR-71 Blackbird takes place. (Wikipedia, “[Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird](#)”)
- 1999, October 9** — 7:57 p.m. While fishing off Fort Pickens near Pensacola, Florida, an ex-Air Force security policeman and a city police officer watch a triangular UFO with high-intensity blue arcing lights traveling west over the Gulf of Mexico in a zigzag fashion. It is about 200 feet in the air, a quarter of a mile distant, and moving at 115–350 mph. At least four times it seems to hover for 30 seconds. After 15 minutes, it moves away to the west. (George Filer, “[Florida Triangle with Blue Ionization near Gulf Breeze](#),” Filer’s Files, #43-1999, October 18, 1999)
- 1999, October 10** — 11:45 p.m. A couple in Lewiston, Michigan, see a hazy, pulsing object outside their bedroom window. Other lights seem to be flying around it, so that it resembles moths flying around a light bulb. They

- watch it for 45 minutes, then go back to sleep. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[Cloud Cigars: A Further Look](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 13)
- 1999**, October 29 — 5:45 p.m. A man and woman in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, see a nickel-colored object emerge from a strange contrail-like cloud and fly back into it. A few seconds later, it shoots out again and circles around it for 15 minutes. About an hour later, they see jets flying around, apparently searching for the object. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[Cloud Cigars: A Further Look](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 13)
- 1999**, November 11 — A sample of "angel hair" is recovered from a fall in Sacramento, California, and sent to analytical chemist [Phyllis Budinger](#) for Fourier Transform infrared spectrometry analysis. She finds that the fibrous material is not spider web but consists of a silk-like substance containing secondary amide linkages similar to protein. It also contains volatile hydrocarbons. (Brian Boldman, "[An Analysis of Angel Hair, 1947–2000](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 3 (Fall 2001): 14–15)
- 1999**, November 11 — 8:30 p.m. Two men are loading gravel onto a truck in Tomelilla, Skåne, Sweden, when they see a boomerang-shaped object flying overhead, blocking out the stars. The object is solid and observed for 5–10 seconds. UFO-Sweden researchers [Clas Svahn](#) and [Anders Persson](#) check with the Swedish military for their radar data at the time and find that it has recorded many targets. They conclude that a flock of migrating birds, probably eiders, flying in formation is responsible. (Clas Svahn and Eileen Fletcher, "[The Swedish Military and UFOs](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 17–18)
- 1999**, November 20 — Evening. A family in Makinen, Minnesota, notices a bright red light in the southern sky. They rush outside for a better look and estimate that its brightness is three or four times that of Jupiter. After watching the object for 3–4 minutes, they retrieve a camera and binoculars. Through the binoculars, the father thinks that the object is changing configuration, from four lights forming a square to 50 lights in a straight line centered between the four lights. The object hovers and pulsates, then begins moving off toward the north and finally disappears behind some trees. (William I. McNeff, "[Family Observes Strange Object](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 384 (April 2000): 11)
- 1999**, December — Cao Gong, a middle-aged man from Beijing, China, claims he is abducted by aliens and flown to Qinhuangdao, Hebei province, in a UFO. The entities look like humans but have large hands and are very pale. [Zhang Jingping](#) of the World Chinese UFO Association begins to investigate the Cao case in April 2000 and has him hypnotically regressed by a psychologist from Suzhou. Cao also passes a lie detector test at the Beijing Bureau of Public Security. Cao remembers meeting in the spacecraft a Chinese girl who looks about 13 years old. She tells him the aliens cured her of a disease. Zhang brings Cao to the Tangshan Bureau of Public Security in July 2000, where the police construct a computer reconstruction of the girl's face according to his description. In November 2002, Zhang leads a group of students from Beihang University on a trip to Qinhuangdao to look for the girl. They arrive in Qinglong County and begin a blind search among the area's 400,000 inhabitants. On the second day, an old man recognizes the girl in the image. They locate her and she turns out to be 15 years old. Zhang brings her back to Beijing to meet Cao Gong, who identifies her as the girl he met. (Bill Chalker, "[The Untold Story of UFOs in China: Lost in Translation or the Devouring Dragon?](#)" *New Dawn Special Issue* 14, no. 1 (January 2020))

2000

- 2000** — Ufologist [Richard H. Hall](#) completes a sequel to NICAP's 1964 report to Congress. *The UFO Evidence, Volume II* covers UFO sightings since 1964. (Richard H. Hall, *The UFO Evidence, Volume II: A Thirty Year Report*, Scarecrow, 2000)
- 2000** — [Walter Andrus](#) retires as director of MUFON and is replaced by [John Schuessler](#).
- 2000** — Ufologist [Chris Rutkowski](#) and Ufology Research of Manitoba begin receiving UFO reports made to Canadian agencies, allowing them to create a yearly statistical report on sightings in Canada. (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada's UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, p. 11)
- 2000** — [Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos](#) launches UFO FOTOCAT, a project to create a worldwide catalog of UFO photos. He eventually accumulates close to 13,000 cases in the database. Based on its content, Ballester Olmos releases eight research reports as of August 2020. ("[The Year 1954 in Photos \(Expanded\)](#)"; "[Argentina: The Year 1965 in Photos](#)"; "[Avistamientos OVNI en la Antártida en 1965](#)"; "[Norway in UFO Photographs: The First Catalogue](#)"; "[Spheres in Airborne UAP Imagery](#)"; "[An Approach to UFO Pictures in France](#)"; "[Belgium in UFO Photographs, vol. 1 \(1950–1988\)](#)"; and "[The Marfa Lights: Examining the Photographic Evidence \(2003–2007\)](#)")

- 2000** — The National Nuclear Security Administration is created by Congress in the wake of the [Wen Ho Lee](#) spy scandal and other allegations that the Department of Energy's lax administration has resulted in the loss of nuclear secrets to China. It is a semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy responsible for safeguarding national security through the military application of nuclear science. (Wikipedia, "[National Nuclear Security Administration](#)")
- 2000** — Polish journalist and author [Igor Witkowski](#) publishes *Prawda o Wunderwaffe*, describing a purported top-secret Nazi technological device or secret weapon called Die Glocke ("The Bell"). It is later popularized by military journalist and author [Nick Cook](#) in *The Hunt for Zero Point*, who associates it with Nazi occultism, antigravity, and free energy research. Mainstream reviewers have criticized claims about Die Glocke as being pseudoscientific, recycled rumors, and a hoax. Die Glocke and other alleged Nazi "miracle weapons" have since been dramatized in video games, television shows, and novels. (Wikipedia, "[Die Glocke \(conspiracy theory\)](#)"; Igor Witkowski, *The Truth about the Wunderwaffe*, European History Press, 2013; Nick Cook, *The Hunt for Zero Point: Inside the Classified World of Antigravity Technology*, Broadway, 2002)
- 2000** — The results of the Russian *Setka* program are disclosed by [Boris Sokolov](#), coordinator of *Setka-MO*, and [Yulii Platov](#), deputy coordinator of *Setka-AN*, in an article in the *Bulletin of the Russian Academy of Sciences*. According to them, 90% of the anomalous atmospheric phenomena observed in Russian territory can be explained by the effects of human activities (especially rockets and weather balloon launches), while the remaining 10% are unexplained. For the latter cases, they could be rare or still unknown natural phenomena. However, no evidence is found of UFO landings, crashes, close encounters, or alien abductions. No evidence of an extraterrestrial UFO origin has emerged either. [Paul Stonehill](#), a Russian UFO scholar, believes that only the results of *Setka-AN*'s studies are disclosed, while those of *Setka-MO* still remain secret. Stonehill further claims there is nothing to indicate that anyone in the *Setka* program attempted to seriously analyze the cases that remain unexplained. (Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle, *The Soviet UFO Files: Paranormal Encounters behind the Iron Curtain*, Quadrillion, 1998, pp. 43, 52; Pyotr N. Rybalko, "[Bureaucratized Pseudoscience](#)," *RIAP Bulletin* 6, no. 2–3 (Apr./Sept. 2000): 11–12; Boris Sokolov and Yulii Platov, "[A History of State UFO Research in the USSR](#)," *Skeptical Briefs* 10, no. 4 (December 1, 2000))
- 2000** — Mathematician [Karsten Jöred](#) replaces [Arne Gjärdman](#) as head of UFO investigations at the Swedish National Defence Research Institute. He holds the position until 2006. (Swords 370)
- 2000** — Alleged abductee [Stan Romanek](#) of Loveland, Colorado, claims his first UFO experience. He has many experiences with aliens since then, allegedly discovering mysterious wounds on his body that glow under a black light and claiming electronic communications with aliens. He also claims aliens have followed his car, visited his home, and communicated with him telepathically. In 2003, he claims he woke up and found himself wearing a ladies' flannel nightgown, which makes him suspect he has been abducted and returned in woman's clothing. Romanek eventually comes to suspect that the clothing belongs to another supposed abductee, [Betty Hill](#). When asked if the gown has been tested for Hill's DNA, Romanek claims that it has not because the test is too expensive. Appearing on *ABC Primetime* in 2009, Romanek makes the unsubstantiated claims that he underwent hypnosis by [R. Leo Sprinkle](#), a psychologist who specializes in alien abduction cases. Romanek claims that under hypnosis he wrote out the Drake equation, a formula used to estimate the number of communicative extraterrestrial civilizations in our galaxy, and then added "x100" to it. Skeptic [Joe Nickell](#) suggests the equation is written through simple memorization. On August 8, 2017, Romanek is found guilty of felony possession of child pornography. (Erik Dofge, "[New Alien Video Shines \(Photoshopped\) Light on UFO Hoaxers](#)," *Popular Mechanics*, June 8, 2008; Alan Scherstuhl, "[In Kansas City, Celebrity UFO-Filmer Stan Romanek Finds an Audience of Believers—and One Reporter](#)," *The Pitch* (Kansas City), August 13, 2009; "[Man Claims Aliens Send Him Messages](#)," ABC News, August 18, 2009; Joe Nickell, "[Abductions or Hoaxes? The Man Who Attracts Aliens](#)," *Skeptical Inquirer* 34, no. 3 (May/June 2010): 19–20; Jack Brewer, "[Ufology Indicted](#)," *The UFO Trail*, August 7, 2016)
- 2000, January 5** — Shortly after 4:00 a.m. The "St. Clair Triangle," "UFO Over Illinois," "Southern Illinois UFO," or "Highland, Illinois UFO" sighting takes place over the towns of Highland, Dupo, Lebanon, Shiloh, Summerfield, Millstadt, and O'Fallon, Illinois, all within the vicinity of Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County. Five on-duty police officers around these locales, along with various other eyewitnesses, report a massive, silent, triangular or rectangular craft operating at an unusual treetop-level altitude and speeds. The officers are able to track the object and maintain radio contact with each other throughout the event. One of the police officers manages to get a single yet ambiguous Polaroid photograph of the object. Investigator David Marler initially concludes that, despite some differences in descriptions, the reports indicate a single unknown object with bright lights flying below 1,000 feet altitude. However, later reports suggest there are as many as three objects. The incident is

examined in the ABC special *Seeing Is Believing* with [Peter Jennings](#), an hour-long Discovery Channel special *UFOs Over Illinois*, an episode of the 2004 Syfy series *Proof Positive*, and a 30-minute independent documentary titled *The Edge of Reality: Illinois UFO, January 5, 2000* by Darryl Barker Productions. (Wikipedia, "[Black triangle \(UFO\)](#)"; "[Police Officers in St. Clair County Report Seeing Early-Morning UFO.](#)" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 9, 2000, pp. D1–D2; "[UFO Sighting Brings Media Attention, Investigative Team to Southern Illinois.](#)" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 12, 2000, pp. A1, A6; "[UFO Baffles Observers.](#)" *Waterloo (Iowa) Republic-Times*, January 12, 2000, p. 2; "[Buffs Baffled by UFO.](#)" *Chicago Sun-Times*, January 20, 2000; David B. Marler, "[Illinois Police Officers Track UFO near Scott AFB.](#)" *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 383 (March 2000): 3–8; Robert T. Leach, "The Illinois Arrowhead," *UFO Magazine*, May 2000, pp. 42–51; Internet Movie Database, "[UFOs over Illinois](#)"; "[Illinois UFO, January 5, 2000.](#)" *IUR* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 16; "[Hypothesis: The Illinois Flying Triangle Is a Department of Defense, Not an ET Craft.](#)" National Institute for Discovery Science, July 2002; Darryl Barker, "[The Illinois Triangle: Do We Have the Technology?](#)" Darryl Barker Productions, August 2, 2002; Internet Movie Database, "[Proof Positive.](#)" Episode 108, November 24, 2004; Internet Movie Database, "[Peter Jennings Reporting: UFOs, Seeing Is Believing](#)"; "[UFOs: Seeing Is Believing \(2005\), ABC Documentary.](#)" Movie Buff Guy YouTube channel, June 18, 2019; Thomas E. Bullard, "[Defending UFOs.](#)" *IUR* 34, no. 2 (March 2012): 33; Marler [26–60](#); Skinwalkers 106–108; Covert 170; William J. Granger, "[The St. Clair Triangle: A Look Back.](#)" *SCU Review* 5, no. 2 (May 3, 2024): 15–21; Tim Oliver, "[Review of 'Hypothesis: The Illinois Flying Triangle Is a Department of Defence, Not an ET Craft,' National Institute for Discovery Science \(NIDS\), Las Vegas, NV, July 2002.](#)" *SCU Review* 5, no. 2 (May 3, 2024): 22–25)

2000, January 5 — [Bill Sweetman](#) writes in *Jane's International Defence Review* that there are approximately 150 "special access programs" within the Pentagon at the close of 1999, many of which are unacknowledged. They often have completely independent systems of classification, with total control exercised by the program manager. He concludes that most are dominated not by Defense personnel but by private contractors. He has no idea how they are funded. (Bill Sweetman, "[In Search of the Pentagon's Billion Dollar Hidden Budgets: How the US Keeps Its R&D Spending under Wraps.](#)" *Jane's International Defence Review*, January 5, 2000)

2000, January 10 — 9:00 p.m. A young man near Sézanne, Marne, France, encounters an extremely bright white light near the town water tower. He shields his eyes as the engine of his van cuts out and the radio stops working. After about one minute, the light goes out, his dashboard lights switch on again, and he can restart the van. French gendarmes investigate but can find no discernible cause. (Mark Rodeghier, "[Vehicle Interference near Sézanne.](#)" *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 8–9)

2000, March 1 — In a campaign press conference in Stockton, California, Sen. [John McCain](#) (R-Ariz.) acknowledges that the Phoenix Lights incident "has never been fully explained, but I have to tell you that I do not have any evidence whatsoever of aliens or UFOs." (Kean, [p. 250](#))

2000, March 30 — 5:00 a.m. Leah Isaac, a friend, and their small boy are driving on the Klondike Highway at the west end of Little Fox Lakes, Yukon Territory, when they spot a 40-foot wide disc hovering some 300 feet away. The UFO shoots across the road at "incredible speed," then stopped abruptly for a split second before shooting off at a 90° angle. The car's headlights dim and the tape deck ceases working when the UFO is nearby. Leah's analog watch stops, and her friend's digital watch goes blank. (Martin Jasek and Mark Rodeghier, "[Vehicle Interference at Little Fox Lake, Yukon.](#)" *IUR* 25, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 23–24, 32)

2000, March 30 — US District Court Judge [Stephen M. McNamee](#) dismisses the CAUS lawsuit seeking documents on the Phoenix Lights in Arizona, concluding that "a reasonable search was conducted" by the Department of Defense, even though no information was found. (Kean, [pp. 251–253](#))

2000, April — Sergio Sánchez and Diego Zúñiga launch the UFO magazine *La Nave de los Locos* in Santiago, Chile, which continues until October 2006. ([La Nave de los Locos](#), no. 1 (April 2000))

2000, April 17 — For the first time, Aerial Images, Inc., of Raleigh, North Carolina, working with Microsoft, Kodak, and a Russian satellite company, posts online five photos showing the long-secret Area 51 test site near Groom Lake, Nevada. (Mary Manning, "[At Last, a Glimpse of Area 51.](#)" *Las Vegas (Nev.) Sun*, April 18, 2000)

2000, Early July — Evening. Ceri Kenyon is walking home in Littleborough, Greater Manchester, England, when he sees a flickering object in the sky. As he approaches, he hears a buzzing sound and sees that it is a triangular object surrounded by lights. (Marler [223–224](#))

2000, July 17 — 10:50 p.m. A witness in Silverdale, Washington, sees four orange lights descending to the west over the Olympic Mountains. When the second to last light is gone, the witness sees a flash like an explosion. About 15 minutes later, another orange light appears, moving south to north at a speed too slow for a meteor. It descends

behind the same mountain. A Blackhawk helicopter is visible in the same area at the same time. ("[Sighting Report](#)," National UFO Reporting Center, February 11, 2003; Nukes 498–499)

- 2000**, August — Two police officers in Halifax, Nova Scotia, watch a large, triangular-shaped object hovering just above the trees. It is about 660 feet on each side. (Don Ledger, "[The Flying Triangle Phenomenon](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 7)
- 2000**, August 5 — 11:30 a.m. A witness spots a silver disc in the sky over Old Noarlunga, South Australia, and calls out his wife to watch. Over the next 90 minutes they see 3 whitish additional balls and something that looks like a helicopter, all traveling west to east. Long, silver, cobweb-like substance falls in large wads or strands. Once touched with a stick, it shrivels up and evaporates. Similar material falls on Moana and Aldinga Beach, where one witness also sees a bright light. (Keith Basterfield, "[Angel Hair: An Australian Perspective](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 8)
- 2000**, August 20 — 3:09 p.m. Two blurry round objects appear in a photograph hovering above the copse of trees next to the High Water Mark of the Rebellion Monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield, Pennsylvania. They are not noticed at the time the photo is taken. (Patrick Gross, "[Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA, 2000](#)")
- 2000**, September — UFO researchers [Karl Pflock](#) and [Peter Brookesmith](#) organize an invitation-only symposium to re-evaluate the [Betty and Barney Hill](#) abduction case in depth. It takes place at the Indian Head Resort in Lincoln, New Hampshire, near the site of the abduction event itself. The other researchers are [Dennis Stacy](#), [Marcello Truzzi](#), [Thomas E. Bullard](#), [Hilary Evans](#), [Robert Sheaffer](#), [Joe Firmage](#), and [Greg Sandow](#). Betty Hill joins the group for an evening's entertainment and a morning tour of the site where the abduction took place. The essays written by participants, along with reflections by [Walter N. Webb](#) and an appendix by [Martin S. Kottmeyer](#), are compiled in *Encounters at Indian Head*. (Karl T. Pflock and Peter Brookesmith, eds., *Encounters at Indian Head*, Anomalist, 2007; Robert Sheaffer, "[Betty Hill's Last Hurrah: A Secret UFO Symposium in New Hampshire](#)," *Skeptical Inquirer* 31, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 2007); Greg Sandow, "[The Hill Case and the Limits of Ufology](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 4 (March 2008): 3–7, 19–28)
- 2000**, September 3 — 9:30 p.m. A man is out walking in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England, when he sees a large and unusual aircraft looming up over the skyline. It is black with no discernible tail section and is shooting three powerful beams of light from dome-like globes set in a triangular pattern on its underside. Small red lights appear on the tips of its swept-back wings. (UFOFiles2, [pp. 139–140](#))
- 2000**, September 27 — 9:45 p.m. Four men are camped in a trailer at a rural hunting camp near Challis, Idaho. One goes out to the truck for food and sees a massive, dark, triangular object hovering motionless above him. He yells for the others to come out, lights on the object turn on, and it slowly moves toward the nearby mountains. When it reaches one, it tips upward and ascends the side of the mountain vertically. When it reaches the top, it tips forward and disappears from sight. (Marler [228–229](#))
- 2000**, October 2–6 — Astronomers [Iván Almár](#) and [Jill Tarter](#) propose the Rio Scale to quantify the impact of a potential extraterrestrial contact. They develop the 0–10 scale at the 29th Review Meeting on SETI at the 51st International Astronautical Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The scale was modified in 2011 to include a consideration of whether contact is achieved through an interstellar message or a physical extraterrestrial artifact, including all indications of intelligent extraterrestrial life, such as technosignatures. (Wikipedia, "[Rio scale](#)"; "[The Rio Scale](#)"; "[Declaration of Principles Concerning Activities Following the Detection of Extraterrestrial Intelligence](#)," International Academy of Astronautics, SETI Permanent Committee, 1989; Meghan Bartels and Space.com, "[To Fight Fake News, SETI Researchers Update Alien-Detection Scale](#)," *Scientific American*, August 1, 2018; Graff 401–403)
- 2000**, October 15 — [Richard Haines](#)'s National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena releases a 90-page report that summarizes more than 100 UFO incidents reported by pilots and their crews, including 56 near misses, all affecting aircraft safety. Most cases involve multiple witnesses, and many are backed by ground radio communications and radar corroboration. Experienced pilots present accounts of objects, ranging from silver discs to green fireballs, flying loops around passenger aircraft, pacing planes despite pilots' evasive attempts, or flooding cockpits with blinding light. Haines documents cases with electromagnetic interference on navigation and operating systems. He writes that a crew's ability to perform its duties safely is disrupted when the crew is faced with "extremely bizarre, unexpected, and prolonged luminous and/or solid phenomena cavorting near their aircraft." The primary danger is in the human response, since the objects do not appear to be hostile and seem to be able to avoid collisions using extraordinary maneuvers. (Richard F. Haines, "[Aviation Safety in America: A Previously Neglected Factor](#)," National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, October 15, 2000)

- 2000, October 31** — After sunset. A woman delivering pizzas in Cygnet, Ohio, is stopped along Cygnet Road when she sees an elongated, football-shaped object clearly visible just beyond a thin grove of trees ahead of her. It is slowly moving westward toward and above Interstate 75, which is busy with cars and large trucks. It hovers for a few seconds and turns brighter, then shoots off westward in a streak of light. Two men driving north on I-75 also see the object. (John P. Timmerman, "[Possible Close Encounter in NW Ohio](#)," *IUR* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 18)
- 2000, November** — 7:00 p.m. A retired law enforcement officer and several friends are cooking dinner over an open fire in a wooded area near Elsberry, Missouri, when they see a huge flying wing with white lights on each end. It seems to be flying completely silently at 3,000 feet. They watch it for 30 seconds before it disappears into the southeast.
- 2000, November 4** — Two witnesses near the Del Lago Golf Club north of Vail, Arizona, see a teardrop-shaped object flying at 300 feet. It has multiple lights around its perimeter. They drive toward it, flashing their lights, and the object climbs another 300 feet and moves west along some railroad tracks. Two A-10 Thunderbolt II fighter aircraft appear and try to follow the object, but it accelerates and loses them. (George Filer, "[Arizona Formation of Flying Triangles](#)," Filer's Files, #49-2000 (December 11, 2000))
- 2000, November 4** — 8:45 p.m. A family in Scottsdale, Arizona, sees a triangular formation of three bright lights in the southern sky blinking irregularly. The object they are attached to is larger than a commercial airliner that happens to pass by. (George Filer, "[Arizona Formation of Flying Triangles](#)," Filer's Files, #49-2000 (December 11, 2000))
- 2000, November 20** — 8:45 p.m. An 11-year-old boy on the north side of Phoenix, Arizona, watches three dark triangle-shaped objects maneuvering and hovering. (George Filer, "[Arizona Formation of Flying Triangles](#)," Filer's Files, #49-2000 (December 11, 2000))
- 2000, November 28** — 7:00 p.m. Jason Ingraham sees a flying triangle with a deep red blinking light on each point in Phoenix, Arizona. It moves northwest for about 10 seconds, then it leans to the left and begins to rotate in a clockwise motion. It makes a full rotation before disappearing behind some distant trees. There are 6 normal airplanes in the sky at the same time. (George Filer, "[Arizona Formation of Flying Triangles](#)," Filer's Files, #49-2000 (December 11, 2000))
- 2000, November 30** — The UK Freedom of Information Act 2000 is given royal assent but will not come into full force until 2005. The legislation creates a public "right of access" to information held by public authorities. (Wikipedia, "[Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)")
- 2000, December 1** — 6:45 p.m. A witness in Avondale, Arizona, sees a bunch of lights in the shape of a triangle to the southeast. Helicopters seem to be flying around it. (George Filer, "[Arizona Formation of Flying Triangles](#)," Filer's Files, #49-2000 (December 11, 2000))
- 2000, December 4** — The UK Ministry of Defence notes in a "loose minute" that DI55, the space weapons section of the Defence Intelligence Staff, has completed a study of UFO reports, concluding that there is nothing of value in its assessment of "threat weapons systems" and will carry out no further investigations. It will be released in 2006 as the Project Condign report. (UK Defence Intelligence Staff, "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP): DI55 Report," December 4, 2000, in David Clarke, comp., [Project Condign documents](#), pp. 46–47; David Clarke and Gary Anthony, "[The British MoD Study: Project Condign](#)," *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 7–11; David Clarke, "Secrets and Lies: The MOD, UFOs and UAP," *Fortean Times*, no. 437 (November 2003): 16–17)
- 2000, December 13** — 10:00 pm. A group of five people is traveling in a Volkswagen on a dirt road 9 miles from Iturama, Minas Gerais, Brazil—João Caiana, his wife Valdeir Martins, daughter Magui Martins, a 3-year-old granddaughter, and an 18-year-old friend. Some odd colored lights in the sky seem to follow them for 2 miles. Suddenly the interior of the car begins to get hot, and a light gray entity with big eyes approaches them. Everyone loses control and seems to be sucked into a UFO for an abduction scenario. (Laura Maria Elias, "[Caso Caiana: Desdobramentos de um clássico de Ufologia Miniera](#)," *Portal UFO*, February 1, 2015; Brazil 393–396)
- 2000, December 19** — 6:10 a.m. Reporter Alfonso Reyes is observing the eruption of Popocatepetl southeast of Mexico City, Mexico, and taking time-exposure photographs. On one 20-second exposure he catches a bright luminous object that contrasts with the smoke of the eruption and seems to make a turn toward the crater. He does not actually see the object and only discovers it after the photo is developed. (Patrick Gross, "[UFOs Photographed over Erupting Mexico Volcano](#)")
- 2000, December 24** — 7:00 p.m. A woman living in the Baranówka neighborhood of Rzeszów, Poland, sees a light outside her window on the 4th floor of an apartment building. It makes unusual maneuvers like a figure-8 and zigzags, and is joined by another light that flies at a constant speed. Both are about 5 feet in diameter. She snaps two motion-blur photos with her Minolta that shows an object hovering above the apartment block opposite her. The second object approaches the first one and they fly away together. (Poland 151–153)

2001

- 2001** — [G rard Brachet](#), the new director of CNES, decides to audit SEPRA. It is conducted by an outsider, [Fran ois Louange](#), an expert in photoanalysis who has participated in UFO studies at CNES. (Gildas Bourdais, “[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 13)
- 2001**, January 1 — 12:01 a.m. Five people driving along Highway 3 south of New Plymouth, New Zealand, spot an orange object about 30–50 feet in diameter pacing their car 100 feet above them. They pull over to watch and see three similar objects hovering and swaying around. They look like they are changing color from metallic glowing orange to metallic deep purple and shades of blue. One more larger object appears on the horizon and speeds toward the other four. Each seems to react in a way similar to an army unit and forms a line and disappears almost instantly to the south. As they leave several minutes later, they realize they haven’t seen any traffic for 30 minutes and only see some as they enter New Plymouth. (George Filer, “[New Zealand Discs Start New Millennium](#),” Filer’s Files, #2-2001 (January 9, 2001))
- 2001**, January 5 — 10:30 a.m. A white, “self-lit” cigar-shaped object with a small vapor trail is seen at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Its hops forward in its progress through the sky before it moves out of view behind a mountain. It returns and flies back again. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2001](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17)
- 2001**, January 14 — Late afternoon. Witnesses on both sides of the hill see a small object appear to strike the telecommunications mast on top of Snaefell, Isle of Man. Two women on horseback see a 20-foot-long object that crashes in a shower of sparks and smoke. The emergency services think a small plane has crashed, because they have lost power and are using a backup generator. As light fades, however, helicopter crews can see damage to the mast, but no sign of wreckage. The UK government blames a model aircraft. (Jenny Randles, “[Mysterious Island: The UFO Legacy of the Isle of Man](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 14)
- 2001**, January 22 — 12:30 a.m. Barnaul Airport in Altai Krai, Russia, shuts down after a slightly tilted, oscillating, disc-shaped object is detected hovering above its runway. The crew of an Ilyushin Il-76 cargo plane refuses to take off, claiming they can see a luminous object. An incoming Yakovlev Yak-40 passenger plane also sees an object at Barnaul and lands at another airport. Sergei Kurennoi, the chief airspace controller at Barnaul, sees the object at an elevation of 15°–20° above the horizon above the end of the track. With his binoculars, he distinguishes a solid structure that radiates light of various colors (red, green, purple). Nothing is tracked on radar. The UFO noiselessly takes off to the northwest, changes direction to the southwest, and vanishes after 90 minutes. (Patrick Gross, “[UFO Shuts Down Russian Airport](#)”)
- 2001**, January 25 — In the UK House of Lords, [Peter Hill-Norton](#) asks the Ministry of Defence what is the “highest classification that has been applied in any MoD document concerning UFOs.” Minister of State for Defence Procurement [Elizabeth Symons](#) replies that a “limited search through available titles has identified a number of documents graded Secret. The overall classification of the documents was not dictated by details of specific sightings of UFOs.” In response to questions about Rendlesham, she says that records dating from 1980 no longer exist and that “Special Branch officers may have been aware of the incident but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security.” (David Clarke and Gary Anthony, “[The British MoD Study: Project Condign](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 32; Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 2001**, January 30 — Minister of State for Defence Procurement [Elizabeth Symons](#) answers further questions about the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident in the House of Lords. (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 2001**, January 31 — 3:30 p.m. As many as 10 witnesses observe two cigar-shaped “shining lights” in the sky, hanging motionless over the horizon at Gjoa Haven, Nunavut. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2001](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17)
- 2001**, January 31 — The entire USAF Solid State Phased Array Radar System goes into operation at five units worldwide including Beale AFB near Marysville, California; Cape Cod Air Force Station in Massachusetts; Clear Air Force Station, Alaska; RAF Fylingdales in north Yorkshire, England; and Thule Airbase in Greenland. These radars are designed primarily to detect ICBM or sea-launched cruise missiles directed at the US. (Wikipedia, “[Solid State Phased Array Radar System](#)”)

2001, February — French ufologist Dominique Weinstein creates a massive catalogue of 1,305 UFO sightings by pilots from 1916 to 2000. She finds that 606 cases (36.7%) are sightings by military pilots and crews; 444 cases (26.9%) are by civilian pilots; and 196 cases (11.8%) are by private pilots. In 200 cases (12.1%) the visual observation is confirmed by on-board or ground radar. And in 57 cases (3.45%) the pilots note electromagnetic effects on one or more of the plane's transmission systems. (Dominique F. Weinstein, "[Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty Years of Pilot Sightings, a Catalog of Military, Airliner, and Private Pilots Sightings from 1916 to 2000.](#)" National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, February 2001)

2001, March 11 — 6:30 p.m. An irregularly shaped object like a cluster of red spheres flies against the wind above a witness in Calgary, Alberta, who manages to take a photograph. (Alberta UFO Study Group, "[UFOs over Alberta: Last Year 2001.](#)" May 3, 2002; Mark Rodeghier, "[UFOs in Canada, 2001.](#)" *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17)

2001, April 1 — 10:30 p.m. Farm manager George Hofer and several children from the Rosedale Hutterite Brethren Colony near Etzikom, Alberta, see a brilliant fireball falling and apparently striking the Earth only a few miles away. On April 16, Ken Masson, who farms 13 miles south of Etzikom, discovers a circular, crater-like formation on his land. On May 1, Pano Karkanis of the University of Lethbridge Department of Geography visits the site, interviews the witnesses, measures the crater, and takes soil samples. The crater is 6 inches deep, with an inside diameter of 7.9 feet, surrounded by a mound of dirt 16 inches high. He notes four indentations inside the circle that he suspects are caused by rainwater. The dirt inside is cracked and sere, and he finds some odd reddish-brown particles of dirt on the mound. He concludes the crater was formed by a meteorite fragment that vaporized, leaving only the reddish-brown particles. Meteorite impact expert [Alan Hildebrand](#) at the University of Calgary doubts the crater was made by a meteorite. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 204–206)

2001, April 24 — Around 10:15 p.m. A couple living on the 4600 block of Wilkerson Road in Waynesville, Ohio, see a circular, lighted object hovering silently to the south. Its light is pulsating, changing both in color and brightness, and seems to be surrounded by a gridwork or cabling. They call the Waynesville police, and the officer dispatched to the scene sees two objects. The UFOs recede into the distance as other police cars arrive. ("[911 Dispatcher and Police Officers Talk about UFOs in Waynesville, Ohio, on April 24, 2001.](#)" Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, July 14, 2001)

2001, May — Christian Morgenthaler founds the Sciences et Phénomènes Insolites du Ciel et de l'Aéronautique in Odratzheim, Bas-Rhin, France. It publishes the *SPICA News* from January 2002 to December 2010. ([SPICA News](#), no. 1 (January 2002))

2001, May 3 — In the UK House of Lords, [Peter Hill-Norton](#) asks the Ministry of Defence why the UFO documents it referred to on January 25 were classified secret. Minister of State for Defence Procurement [Elizabeth Symons](#) replies that "One document was classified 'Secret' with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could be of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was given the same classification. Generally, however, notifications of and correspondence on the subject of UFO sightings are unclassified." She adds that the ministry received 229 reports in 1999 and 210 reports in 2000. (David Clarke and Gary Anthony, "[The British MoD Study: Project Condign.](#)" *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 32; Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\).](#)" Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

2001, May 9 — Twenty government workers from military and civilian organizations speak about their experiences regarding UFOs and UFO confidentiality at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The press conference is initiated by [Steven M. Greer](#), founder of the Disclosure Project, which has the goal of disclosing alleged government UFO secrecy. The purpose of the press conference is to build public pressure through the media to obtain a hearing before the US Congress on the issue. Aerospace illustrator [Mark McCandlish](#) testifies that gravity control propulsion research started in the 1950s and successfully reverse engineered the vehicle retrieved from the Roswell, New Mexico, crash site to build three Alien Reproduction Vehicles (ARVs) by 1981. McCandlish describes their propulsion systems in terms of [Thomas Townsend Brown](#)'s gravitators and provides a line drawing of its interior. The diagram closely resembles the drawing provided earlier in [Milton William Cooper](#)'s book *Behold a Pale Horse*. Another Disclosure Project whistleblower, [Philip J. Corso](#), states in his book *The Day after Roswell* that the craft retrieved from the second crash site at Roswell had a propulsion system resembling Brown's gravitators. Corso's book also features several gravity control propulsion statements made by [Hermann Oberth](#). Although major American media outlets report on the conference, interest quickly dies down, and no hearing

takes place. (“[Group Calls for Disclosure of UFO Info.](#),” ABC News, May 10, 2001; “[UFO Spotters Slam ‘US Cover-Up.](#),” BBC News, May 10, 2001; Jean-Pierre Petit, “[I Have a Doubt about ‘Disclosure.](#),” March 19, 2003; Wikipedia, “[United States gravity control propulsion research](#)”; Gideon Lewis-Kraus, “[How the Pentagon Started Taking U.F.O.s Seriously.](#),” *The New Yorker*, April 30, 2021)

- 2001, Early June** — A Hellfire missile is successfully launched from an MQ-1A Predator drone on a replica of [Osama bin Laden](#)’s Afghanistan Tarnak residence in Area 51, Nevada. A missile launched from a Predator explodes inside one of the replica’s rooms; it is concluded that any people in the room would have been killed. However, the armed Predator does not go into action before the September 11 attacks. (Wikipedia, “[General Atomics MQ-1 Predator](#)”)
- 2001, June 23** — 9:45 p.m. Three witnesses are sitting in their yard in Fernandina Beach, Florida, when they see a bright white light with a bluish tinge descend and hover about 2,000 feet due east of them above the ocean. After one minute it emits a mist from three points on its underside so that it appears to be sitting on a cloud. Then it emits mist from its upper area and becomes enshrouded with the light shining through. Then the light blinks off, leaving only a cloud that stands there for about one minute. It disappears 5–10 seconds afterward. (National UFO Reporting Center, “[Sighting Report.](#),” March 21, 2003; Nukes 506–507)
- 2001, June 30** — 10:30 p.m. Electrical power goes off in the small village of Nănești, Romania, even though the lights in neighboring villages are still on. A number of witnesses notice a red, round ball moving slowly in the air. When it stops it begins to spin, turning into a rotating segmented ring of pale yellow light. The ring becomes larger in diameter, coming closer to the ground where it gets as large as 600 feet in diameter. After a short period of time it climbs again, still rotating but shrinking and turning into a red dot that moves around in the sky until it starts rotating again and repeating the cycle some 8–20 times over the course of 45 minutes. Some witnesses see it as a dark red cloud lit from inside by squares of light. The display ceases sometime after midnight and the power returns mysteriously at around 2:00 a.m. (Romania 70–73)
- 2001, July 9** — 11:30 p.m. A man and his daughter watch six orange, oval objects flying in a V-formation toward the west at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2001.](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17)
- 2001, July 11** — 5:45 p.m. A witness is driving south on State Highway 3 in Hanover, Massachusetts. He notices a white light to his right. It is disc-shaped and silver in color. It has a strange aura around it “similar to the heat that rises off a hot road.” It wobbles a bit as it passes overhead. (“[Massachusetts Flying Saucer and Orbs.](#),” Filer’s Files, #30-2001, July 22, 2001; Covert 55)
- 2001, July 14–15** — Evening–night. Dozens of Staten Islanders and residents of Carteret, New Jersey, observe lights in the southwestern sky on a clear, cloudless night. The lights appear in various formations at about 45° above the horizon. Witnesses view the scene from Arthur Kill Road and the West Shore Expressway on the New York side. The Waterloo Cafe, located opposite the Blazing Star Burial Ground on Arthur Kill Road, provides the most significant witnesses. The consensus of their testimonies reveals a series of lights, numbering from 4–5 to as many as 16–20, bright orange or orange-red in hue, and appearing as solid round objects. Witnesses number about 50, including the owner of the cafe, but not all come forward. Those who do, agree that there was no sound emanating from the lights, and no one can see any wings. The lights are often no more than 1,000 feet in the air, often described as flying in an inverted V-shaped configuration. Unknown targets without transponders, some at heights of 99,000 feet, are picked up on radar at Newark International Airport. (“[New Jersey Preliminary Investigation.](#),” Filer’s Files, #30-2001, July 22, 2001; “[New Jersey Lights.](#),” Filer’s Files, #31-2001, July 29, 2001; “[New Jersey Lights.](#),” Filer’s Files, #32-2001, August 7, 2001; “[New Jersey Carteret Case Investigation Continues.](#),” Filer’s Files, #33-2001, August 14, 2001; “[New Jersey Oval UFO.](#),” Filer’s Files, #34-2001, August 22, 2001; Dennis K. Anderson, “[The Arthur Kill Sightings, July 14–15, 2001.](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 2 (Summer 2003): 3–6, 26–27; Covert 169)
- 2001, August 3** — Day. A Brazilian Air Force pilot and four others are taking supplies from Belém to Salvador, Brazil, aboard a C-130 Hercules transport. One of the military officers draws the colonel’s attention to a disc-shaped object that is accompanying the plane about 60 feet away. Ground control cannot detect anything on radar. The object has a brushed gray color and is the size of a bus. It has a dome at the top and flat at the bottom. The sighting lasts about 10 minutes. (Clark III 208; Brazil 559–560)
- 2001, August 6** — Afternoon. Two Turkish Air Force pilots from 122 Squadron are practicing maneuvers in a Cessna T-37B Dragonfly jet trainer over the Gulf of Çandarlı, an inlet of the Aegean Sea in western Turkey. 1Lt. İlker Dinçer and his student Lt. Arda Gunyel are surprised by an extremely bright object, shaped like something

between a disc and a cone, with a pod on its lower part. Ground control has nothing on its radar. The UFO approaches the Cessna at high speed, then positions itself alongside, behind, and above the jet. It plays cat and mouse with the plane for some minutes before it disappears at high speed. The Turkish Air Force announces that it is a weather balloon. (Good Need, [pp. 393–394](#))

- 2001**, August 12 — 12:25 a.m. Five people watch seven gray objects flying in a straight line over Victoria, British Columbia, which change position in flight into a hexagonal formation and ascend into the sky. They are lost to view after 15 minutes. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2001](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17)
- 2001**, August 17 — 9:30 p.m. An astronomer in Mitchell, Manitoba, hears loud booming sounds and runs outside to see three steady lights in triangular formation moving east to west. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2001](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17)
- 2001**, August 20 — Dozens of passengers on the *Rogalin* ferry returning from Sweden to Gdansk, Poland, with 50 passengers on board watch an object 10 feet in diameter rise to the surface about 500 feet away. It approaches the boat, submerges, and maneuvers underwater. After three minutes, the ferry leaves it behind. (Poland 121–122)
- 2001**, August 25 — 3:27 p.m. An astronomer and others at St.-Laurent, Quebec, watch two solid-appearing objects moving slowly through the clear sky. They take some photos. (Fédération OVNI-Alerte Québec Canada, “[Voici un résumé des plus récentes observations OVNI rapportées à la FOAQC à ce jour](#),” 2001; Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2001](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17; UFOdna, “[25 Aug 2001, St-Laurent, Quebec, Canada](#),” 2007)
- 2001**, October 4–5 — Keith and Amy Rylance, along with a business partner named Petra Heller, claim a complicated abduction at their property near Gundiah, Queensland. Three different police jurisdictions are involved in the investigation, as well as the Australian UFO Research Network. The alleged events include abduction, teleportation, time distortion, aliens, “solid light,” physical traces, and men in black. Bill Chalker’s later assessment is that “Further enquiries indicated that the affair may have been some misguided or bizarre scientology mediated saga, which seemed more convoluted and unbelievable than the suspect UFO story. So much of the information we had gathered, some with the assistance of police, pointed towards a hoax. None of our many critical questions and queries were satisfactorily responded to. Information gathered later increased our certainty that our final conclusion was that the case was a hoax.” (Bill Chalker and Diane Harrison, “The Gundiah Mackay Abduction Milieu,” *Australasian Ufologist* 5, no. 4 (2001): 26–28; Kate Johns, “The UFO Report: I Was Abducted by Aliens,” *New Idea*, November 17, 2001, pp. 32–35; Marcus Lowth, “[The Gundiah Mackay Incident: The Abduction of Amy Rylance](#),” *UFO Insight*, September 19, 2018; “[Amy Rylance Talks about Her Alien Abduction Experience, Gundiah/Mackay, Australia, October 4–5, 2001](#),” Eyes On Cinema YouTube channel, September 8, 2022; Bill Chalker, “[The 2001 Gundiah Queensland UFO ‘Abduction’ of Amy Rylance](#),” TheOzFiles, July 31, 2024)
- 2001**, October 16 — In the House of Lords, [Peter Hill-Norton](#) asks about the January 14, 2001, report that a UFO struck the communications mast on Snaefell Mountain on the Isle of Man. Minister of State for Defence Procurement [Willy Bach](#) replies that a search helicopter found nothing. About Rendlesham, he adds that “There is no indication, from the papers held on file that MoD raised any further questions with Lieutenant Colonel Halt following receipt of his memorandum in 1981.” (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)
- 2001**, November 3 — 12:10 a.m. Steve and Donna Chmara are driving west on the Trans-Canada Highway just past Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, when they notice a bright light far ahead of them. The light approaches rapidly and appears right in front of their car. The light is brilliant but doesn’t hurt their eyes. It lasts only a second or so then it disappears. Donna looks up through the sunroof and sees it at the height of a telephone pole and to the right of their car. Still driving, she continues to watch it for another minute. It is boomerang-shaped, has a polished metallic surface, and appears to be pacing the vehicle, flying backward. It turns to the northeast, and the Chmaras can see round, thruster-like engines at the end of each wing, then it flies away silently. The car’s clock still reads 12:10 a.m. (Laurie Mustard, “[This Was One Weird Close Encounter](#),” *Winnipeg (Man.) Sun*, October 4, 2002, p. 6; Powell, *Scientist*, 103)
- 2001**, November 5 — Apache County sheriff’s deputies attempt to arrest [Milton William Cooper](#) at his Eagar, Arizona, home on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and endangerment stemming from disputes with local residents. After an exchange of gunfire during which Cooper shoots one of the deputies in the head, Cooper is fatally shot. Federal authorities report that Cooper has spent years evading execution of a 1998 arrest warrant for tax evasion. According to a spokesman for the Marshals Service, he vowed that “he would not be taken alive.” (Wikipedia, “[Milton William Cooper](#)”; “[Arizona Militia Figure Is Shot to Death](#),” *Los Angeles Times*, November 7, 2001, p. 24)
- 2001**, November 11 — An oval object with several lights flies on an irregular path above Policeman’s Point, Yukon Territory. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2001](#),” *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17)

- 2001**, November 15 — 5:55 p.m. Near Ribolt, Kentucky, a MUFON member reports seeing a bright orange light with four radiating beams, similar to an airliner's headlight. A second identical light appears slightly to the left and above the first, resembling two planes in close proximity. Stopping to investigate, the witness notices additional lights forming a semicircle to the left and below the second light. The lights remain static, bright, and flicker-free. As the witness reaches for a camera, all the lights suddenly disappear. Despite seeing multiple airplanes afterward, none resemble the strange lights. There is no sound throughout the encounter. A friend later mentions seeing similar lights one month earlier. (George A. Filer, "[Filer's Files](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 405 (January 2002): 16, 17)
- 2001**, November 15 — 8:00 p.m. A huge diamond-shaped UFO with an elongated bottom, a light on each end, and an orange light in the middle is seen flying toward the northwest in Boyne City, Michigan. After five minutes, it returns, heading southwest. When it's over the city, all the lights start spinning around, and the light on the right side veers off from the main body. (George A. Filer, "[Filer's Files](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 405 (January 2002): 16, 18)
- 2001**, Mid-November or early December — The crew of a Southwest Airlines flight approaching Albuquerque, New Mexico, notices a triangular object less than 500 feet from the front of the aircraft. A flight attendant sees "bright blue pilot lights" on the object and describes it as a "flying skyscraper" made of "solid black steel." The pilot turns on the speaker to hear excited chatter about the object from air traffic control and hears that reports are coming in even from Canada. Passengers begin seeing the object as well. More than 100 people on the airliner observe the object. (Donald Burleson, "[Looking Up](#)," *Roswell (N.Mex.) Daily Record*, July 16, 2023)
- 2001**, December — Peru sets up a new Air Force agency, the Departamento de Investigación de Fenómenos Aéreos Anómalos (DIFFA), tasked with studying UFO cases. It is founded and directed by Comandante Julio Chamorro because "these anomalous events had occurred frequently enough over national territory to create a danger, and we recognized that they needed to be taken seriously." It is first publicly acknowledged in February 2003 by Col. José Raffo Moloche, but it closes in 2008 ("[Perú reabre oficina para recopilar datos sobre ovnis](#)," BBC News, October 20, 2013; Kean, [p. 189](#))
- 2001**, December 11 — 8:06 p.m. Pilots of a commercial airliner flying above Craik, Saskatchewan, see lights that they think belong to another aircraft at a higher altitude, but air traffic controllers have no other aircraft on their radar. (Mark Rodeghier, "[UFOs in Canada, 2001](#)," *IUR* 26, no. 4 (Winter 2001–2002): 17)

2002

- 2002** — The SETI Institute publishes *SETI 2020: A Roadmap for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*, a report on four meetings of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Science and Technology Working Group from August 1997 to May 1999. The report outlines a strategy for SETI to be carried out through 2020. (Ronald D. Ekers, et al., eds., [SETI 2020: A Roadmap for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence](#), SETI Institute, 2002; Graff 387–398)
- 2002**, January 18 — The Sirius UFO Space Sciences Research Center opens in Istanbul, Turkey, with an exhibition area that showcases UFO incidents in both Turkish and English. ("[International UFO Museum Opens in Turkey](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 28)
- 2002**, February 2 — 2:53 a.m. A witness is driving down a road in Clermont, Florida, when he sees a silent, bright light over Lake Minnehaha. The object passes over his car at about 15–20 feet in the air, and his engine dies. It shoots off like a slingshot and disappears. The car starts again. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 18)
- 2002**, February 20 — 8:15 a.m. A witness aboard a cruise ship off the southern coast of Puerto Rico sees an irregularly shaped object like a cloud high in the sky. He takes a photo, then leaves to attend a meeting. Analysis indicates that the object is most likely a Tethered Aerostat Radar System airship used to provide radar data in support of the US drug interdiction program. (John P. Timmerman and Mark Rodeghier, "[Snapshot from a Cruise: An Aerostat Sighting](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 13–14)
- 2002**, March 15 — 9:30 p.m. Lisa Stone is driving with her 16-year-old son when she sees a triangular object with white lights that is maneuvering around Magazine Hill, outside Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The object is massive, perhaps the size of a university football field. She drives directly underneath, and "hail" starts falling from it. The object

does a figure eight before heading in the direction of Fall River to the northeast. (Don Ledger, "[The Flying Triangle Phenomenon](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 7, 23)

2002, April — Skandinavisk UFO Information begins publishing *UFO-Mail* in Ringsted, Denmark. ([UFO-Mail](#), no. 1 (April 2, 2002))

2002, Summer — Two men see an object over Mosinee, Wisconsin, that shines a straight, 5-foot-wide beam of light on the Wisconsin River like a searchlight. The beam does not change shape as the object goes higher above the water. (Carl W. Feindt, "[Beam of Light into a Body of Water](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 23.

2002, July 26 — 1:00–1:55 a.m. Near Andrews AFB, Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C., independent witnesses 8 miles apart become aware of unusual and persistent aircraft activity. In both locations, witnesses see odd lights or objects pursued by one military jet. Two pairs of fighters take off from Andrews at 1:00 a.m., remain airborne for 50 minutes, fly at low altitude using afterburners over residential areas, and pursue an unidentifiable light on three occasions. Gary Dillman, working late shift at a sand-and-gravel operation in Brandywine, Maryland, sees the first two fighters at 1:00 a.m., then at 1:30 a.m. and 1:40 a.m. he sees a glowing, round, hard-edged orange object that one of the fighters is chasing. The pursuit takes place between broken clouds at about 4,000 feet and a light overcast at about 6,000 feet; the unknown object and fighter are about 1–2 miles away. In Waldorf, Maryland, around 1:35 a.m. Renny Rogers feels the walls of his home rattling from a low-flying aircraft and goes out to see a single jet fighter. At 1:40 a.m., he sees a bright, pale-bluish light in the north-northeast moving at a high rate of speed. He calls a neighbor to come watch the display. Soon a fighter comes over his house in obvious pursuit of the light and about 1,000–2,000 feet behind it. The four fighters return to base around 1:50 a.m. (Kenny Young, "[UFO Violates D.C. Airspace](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 413 (September 2002): 11; Joan Woodward, "[The Washington, D.C., Jet Chase of July 26, 2002](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 4 (Winter 2002–2003): 3–7, 22–25; Good Need, pp. 394–396)

2002, August — The Roper market research firm conducts a telephone poll, sponsored by the Sci-Fi channel, to ask a national sample of adult Americans a series of questions about UFOs and abductions. The results indicate that two-thirds think there are other forms of intelligent life in the universe, 56% think that UFOs are something real, 48% think that UFOs have visited Earth in some form, 11.6% have seen a UFO at close quarters, 72% think the US government is not telling everything it knows about UFOs, and 21% think that humans have been abducted by other life forms. (Mark Rodeghier, "[Attitudes toward ETI, UFOs, and Abductions](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 4 (Winter 2002–2003): 10–14)

2002, August — Day. Three witnesses in Szczuczyn, Poland, watch a V-shaped object with brilliant white lights at each of its corners moving slowly from west to east with its flat point forward. (Poland 99)

2002, August 5–18 — A third team of Italian researchers, code named EMBLA and led by [Massimo Teodorani](#) and Gloria Nobili, visits Hessdalen, Norway, and collects evidence pointing to an unknown atmospheric light phenomenon "able to produce a luminous power of up to 100 kW." However, a 2003 analysis by Matteo Leone demonstrates that the lights reported by the EMBLA team are consistent with automobile headlights. (Massimo Teodorani, "[A Long-Term Scientific Survey of the Hessdalen Phenomenon](#)," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 18, no. 2 (2004): 217–251; Matteo Leone, "[A Rebuttal of the EMBLA 2002 Report on the Optical Survey in Hessdalen](#)," 2003)

2002, August 7 — A circular, bright-metallic object about 3 feet in diameter touches ground near Prinos, Trikala, Greece, and leaves a series of small circular, square, and triangular depressions, all arranged in a spiral, similar to a circle with an opening or a capital G. The eyewitnesses, who are on the field when the landing takes place, hide behind their vehicle and watch as a door opens and three short beings emerge from the object carrying a drill-like instrument. They pick up some dirt with the device and return to their craft, which then takes off. The witnesses identify the creatures as *Maimounia* (leprechauns). (Orestis Lazanakis, "[UAP in Greece](#)," *UAP Check*, July 27, 2024)

2002, August 13 — 2:15 a.m. A woman watching the Perseid meteor show in Cow Bay, Nova Scotia, sees a large meteor with a long tail appear out of Ursa Major and arch over her head to the southeast. Suddenly it disappears as if it has passed behind something. She also sees a straight, black line advancing through the sky, then a "perfect black triangle of gargantuan proportions" crossing directly over the clearing around her house. It is pitch black and enormous, moving only about 10 mph and taking 5 minutes to disappear over the trees to the northwest. Ufologist [Don Ledger](#) investigates and finds that radar at Moncton Center in New Brunswick had picked up an unidentified target at that time and place. (Don Ledger, "[The Flying Triangle Phenomenon](#)," *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 3–7)

- 2002**, September 6 — 10:00 p.m. Police on patrol in Sampacho, Cordoba, Argentina, receive an alert on their car radio about several UFOs above the Cerro Sampacho. They appear to be silently hovering at an altitude of 5,000 feet. ([“Argentinsk politi ser åtte UFOer,”](#) *UFO-nytt*, 2002, no. 2, p. 21; [“UFOs Seen in Argentina,”](#) *IUR* 27, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 4)
- 2002**, September 9 — 10:30 p.m. A family is traveling in a pickup truck northward along Provincial Highway 24 between Achiras and Sampacho, Argentina. In the vicinity of Cerro Aspero, they notice an intense red light in the sky moving from the southwest. It looks like an intense red beam with bright flashes behind it. In the front is something like an arc of light. The object seems as if it about to fall on top of them, but it changes course and heads toward the mountains in the south. ([“UFOs Seen in Argentina,”](#) *IUR* 27, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 4; [“Another UFO Spotted near Sampacho, Argentina,”](#) *UFO Roundup* 7, no. 39 (September 24, 2002))
- 2002**, September 16–24 — Scientists from the University of New Mexico initiate an archaeological dig at the debris field site near Corona, New Mexico, funded by the Sci-Fi channel. The team finds a small number of artifacts of unknown provenance and some soil deformation anomalies, but no furrow or unusual debris. (Sci Fi Channel, [“*Sci Fi Declassified: The Roswell Dig Diaries*,”](#) Pocket Books, 2004; [“The Roswell Dig Diaries,”](#) *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 11)
- 2002**, Late September — 5:45 p.m. Security Policeman Christopher Cabrera is on guard an entry control point at the Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field [now Creech AFB] in Clark County, Nevada. He looks toward the base and sees an amber/red object hovering above it. He stares at it for about 2 minutes then suddenly a red beam shoots out from the orb and hits the side of the nearest mountain. The beam lasts about one minute and Cabrera notices what looked like molten rock dripping from the mountain. The beam abruptly ceases and the orb just disappears. A few seconds later, the molten effect on the mountain also dissipates. (Robert L. Hastings, [“Triangular-Shaped UFO Sighted at the Nellis AFB Nuclear Storage Area,”](#) *UFOs & Nukes*, April 23, 2015)
- 2002**, October — A “three-foot diameter orb” quickly moves along the perimeter fences of Area 2, a weapons storage area of the Nevada Test Site [now the Nevada National Security Site]. It eventually outpaces the security teams that attempt to pursue it in Humvees. (*Nukes* 513)
- 2002**, October 1 — The US Strategic Command is restricted by Secretary of Defense [Donald Rumsfeld](#), merging with the US Space Command and assuming all duties for full-spectrum global strike, operational space support, missile defense, intelligence, and planning. (Wikipedia, [“United States Strategic Command”](#))
- 2002**, October 4 — 7:06 p.m. A rotating CCTV camera at Terminal 2 in Kota Kinabalu International Airport, Sabah, Malaysia, records a video of an oblong object passing by in seconds. No unusual object is tracked by the airport radar. A security guard sees the object moving silently west to east before disappearing in the hills. (Patrick Gross, [“Radar/Visual/Camera UFO Case at Airport in Malaysia?”](#))
- 2002**, October 10 — Day. A military pilot off the coast of Southern California or Baja California, Mexico, is looking down at the ocean at a 78° angle and sees, at a 7,238-foot visual slant range, a submerged, white, egg-shaped object about 20–50 feet below the surface. It is about 130 by 200 feet in size and appears silent and stationary. (Keith Basterfield, [“A BAASS Data Report of a 2002 Submerged Egg-Shaped Object in the SOCAL OPEAREA,”](#) Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, May 13, 2022)
- 2002**, October 16 — Rear Adm. [Thomas R. Wilson](#), who has retired as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency on July 29, has a meeting in Paradise, Nevada, with [Eric W. Davis](#) of EarthTech International Inc., an astrophysicist who is a member of the National Institute for Discovery Science and an associate of [Harold E. Puthoff](#). He talks about his previous meetings with Cmdr. Will Miller, in which he admits he was denied access to an Unacknowledged Special Access Program dealing with reverse engineering an alien craft. Davis takes 15 pages of notes, which are leaked to researcher Grant Cameron and others in April 2019. (Eric W. Davis, [“Eric Davis Meeting with Adm. Wilson”](#) [notes], *Imgur*, April 19, 2019; Richard Dolan, [“The Wilson Leak: Latest Developments,”](#) Richard Dolan Member Forum, June 19, 2019; [“The Admiral Wilson Leak: Evidence of USAPs \(Unacknowledged Special Access Programs\) and Reverse Engineering of Extraterrestrial Technologies,”](#) *Metallicman*, December 23, 2019; Joe Murgia, [“The Wilson/Davis Documents: My Twenty-Three Year Journey, Part 1,”](#) [Part 2](#), *UFO Joe*, June 21, 2020; Billy Cox, [“Reviving the W-D Memo,”](#) *Life in Jonestown*, September 5, 2024)
- 2002**, October 18 — A fall of angel hair covers a large area of Alessandria, Italy, including roofs, cars, and trees. A sample is recovered and examined by the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche in Parma and shows “unequivocally” that the filaments are not organic, but similar to synthetic polymer textile fibers. They have a clear alternation of bright and dark segments. The Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione Ambientale in Turin disputes the finding and proclaims the material spider web. (Brian Boldman, [“Angel Hair Physical Analyses: A Review,”](#) *JUFOS* 9 (2006): 108)

- 2002**, October 21 — The US Department of Defense issues a manual, *Decision Logic Table Instructions for Recording and Handling Visual Information Material*, that covers “UFO and other aerial phenomena images.” (John Greenewald, “[The DoD Manual That Outlined UFO Photograph / Video Handling Procedures](#),” The Black Vault, May 11, 2021)
- 2002**, October 23 — 7:40 p.m. Pilot Thomas J. Preziose takes off from Mobile, Alabama, in a Cessna 208B single-engine cargo plane en route to Montgomery. Six minutes later, he collides with an unknown object at 3,000 feet and descends uncontrolled into swampy water in the Big Bateau Bay in Spanish Fort, Alabama. The pilot’s final words are: “Night Ship 282, I needed to deviate, I needed to deviate.” A strange red residue (“transfer marks”) is found coating at least 14 different areas of the downed airplane that are widely separated in location both inside and outside the aircraft. The engine block has been split. The final NTSB report indicates that the accident is caused by pilot disorientation. However, an independent investigation finds numerous discrepancies with regard to both the FAA documentation and the NTSB investigation. The composition of the red residue is variously found to be tere- and isophthalate polymer with possible presence of inorganic silicate compounds; and epoxy material with some inorganic silicate filters. (Joe Danborn, “[Cessna Collided with ‘Unknown Object,’ Says NTSB](#),” *Mobile (Ala.) Register*, April 14, 2004; “[NTSB: ‘Collision with Unknown Object’ Killed Mobile Pilot](#),” Aero News Network, April 15, 2004; Mike Ahlers, “[Plane’s Wreckage Puzzles Investigators](#),” CNN, May 22, 2004; “[NTSB Solves Riddle of ‘02 Small-Plane Crash](#),” *Washington Post*, January 11, 2006; “[Red Marks’ Confound Accident Investigators](#),” *Aviation International News*, July 24, 2007; Bureau of Aircraft Accidents Archives, “[Crash of a Cessna 208B Super Cargomaster off Mobile: 1 Killed](#)”; Kean, pp. 61–62; Aviation Safety Network, [[incident summary](#)]; National Transportation Safety Board, [[Project Summary, ATL-03-FA-008](#)], April 22, 2014; “[Night Ship 282 Cockpit Voice Recording](#),” dontbesojumpy YouTube channel, August 5, 2015; “[Cessna Collides with UFO in Alabama: The Preziose UFO Crash](#),” Paralopedia YouTube channel, May 26, 2016; Marcus Lowth, “[Just What Did Happen to Tom Preziose? Contact, or Cover-Up?](#)” UFO Insight, November 8, 2017; “[Mysteries and Oddities: The Mystery of What Impacted Night Ship 282 and Caused It to Crash](#),” williamdefalco YouTube channel, March 29, 2022)
- 2002**, October 31 — Astronomers [Margaret C. Turnbull](#) and [Jill Tarter](#) publish a catalog of nearby habitable stellar systems, each at least 3 billion years old, stable, and supporting liquid water on the surface of a habitable planet. (Margaret C. Turnbull and Jill C. Tarter, “[Target Selection for SETI: 1. A Catalog of Nearby Habitable Stellar Systems](#),” arXiv, October 31, 2002)
- 2002**, November — After an audit, photoanalyst [François Louange](#) recommends the reactivation and redevelopment of SEPR. The report is picked up by the French press. (Gildas Bourdais, “[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 13)
- 2002**, November 8 — The Sci Fi channel sponsors a symposium on “Interstellar Travel and Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Science Fiction or Science Fact?” at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Speakers include astrophysicist [Richard Conn Henry](#), theoretical physicist [Michio Kaku](#), astrophysicist [Bernard Haisch](#), computer scientist [Jacques Vallée](#), aviation expert [John Callahan](#), and physicist [Peter Sturrock](#). (“[UFO Seekers Search for Respect](#),” *Wired*, November 15, 2002; Guy Gugliotta, “[A Trip as Far Away as Space-Time Will Allow: Scientists Contemplate Ideas, Impossibilities of Interstellar Transit](#),” *Washington Post*, November 17, 2002; “[GWU’s SciFi UFO Symposium](#),” *IUR* 27, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 22)
- 2002**, November 16 — A boomerang-shaped object surrounded by mist is seen in the Old Town district of Rzeszów, Poland. (Poland 92)
- 2002**, November 21 — 7:00 p.m. [James Bunnell](#) sees a pulsating light on the side of a mesa near Marfa, Texas. It is yellow and hovers for 8–10 minutes, then begins descending, blinks out, and reappears as a bright red light that lasts only 2–3 seconds. (James Bunnell, *Hunting Marfa Lights*, Lacey, 2009, pp. 67–68)
- 2002**, November 28 — Night. Two policemen in Buenos Aires, Argentina, see a large light maneuvering in the sky and emitting colored sparks before it approaches their patrol car. The light reverses its course, and the engine and headlights fail. About 30 minutes later, the object moves away, the car starts again, and the siren suddenly comes on. The UFO paces them to one side before it finally disappears. Five police cars are involved in the incident. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 20)
- 2002**, December 2–13 — The Sci Fi channel airs a fictional miniseries about UFOs and abductions titled *Taken*, produced by [Steven Spielberg](#). The show takes place from 1944 to 2002 and follows the lives of three families: the Crawfords, who seek to cover up the Roswell crash and the existence of aliens; the Keys, who are subject to frequent experimentation by the aliens; and the Clarkes, who sheltered one of the surviving aliens from the crash. (Wikipedia, “[Taken \(miniseries\)](#)”; Internet Movie Database, “[Taken](#)”)

2002, December 26 — Roswell, New Mexico, witness [Walter G. Haut](#) signs an affidavit that asserts he had seen bodies recovered from the 1947 crash in a temporary morgue at Roswell Army Air Field. Haut dies December 15, 2005, and the affidavit is released by his family. (Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, *Witness to Roswell: Unmasking the Government's Biggest Cover-Up*, New Page, 2007, [pp. 215–217](#))

2003

2003, January 10 — 4:45 a.m. A witness in Lockport, New York, opens the window and sees a pulsating light hovering in the distance. It is flashing white, red, and yellow but is perfectly stationary. After 7 minutes, the light becomes very bright, dims out with a reddish hue, and winks out. (“[New York Pulsating Object and Five Discs](#),” Filer’s Files, #5-2003, January 28, 2003; Covert 57)

2003, January 31 — 10:30 p.m. Two witnesses in Villeneuve, Alberta, watch a large white object described as “two saucers rim to rim” move slowly through a farmyard and over some houses, then out of sight. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)

2003, February 8 — 1:00 a.m. Carlos Eduardo Montilho wakes up in his home in Guar I, Brasilia, Brazil, to tend to his dog in the backyard. An intense white light comes down about 23 feet in front of him that is attached to an oval object about 10 feet in diameter. The grass stirs beneath it as if blown by wind, and it is making a humming sound. His wife starts screaming for him to get back inside. He retreats to the kitchen, where they both watch the object for 3 minutes before it rises slowly and disappears. The dog is asleep the entire time. (Brazil 400–402)

2003, February 12 — 9:02 p.m. A dark triangular object with some sort of structured undercarriage is seen flying over Vancouver, British Columbia. It is in view for 3 minutes by two witnesses. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)

2003, February 15 — The National Air Intelligence Center becomes the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), which coordinates a “wide variety of complex space/counterspace analytical activities.” (Wikipedia, “[National Air and Space Intelligence Center](#)”)

2003, February 19 — 9:20 a.m. A fast-moving silvery object “like a cruise missile” flies swiftly across snow-covered fields near Raymore, Saskatchewan, heading north. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)

2003, February 25 — 7:30 p.m. A witness in downtown Bremerton, Washington, looks up and sees a triangular object with a light at each point flying silently over Naval Submarine Base Bangor [now Naval Base Kitsap] on the Kitsap Peninsula, Washington, at an altitude of 800–1,000 feet. (“[Sighting Report](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, March 4, 2003; Nukes 499)

2003, March 3 — 7:55 a.m. The driver and passenger of a truck traveling along a highway in Houston, British Columbia, watch as a silver object the size and shape of an Airstream trailer flies alongside them, then zooms away. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)

2003, April — 2:30 a.m. Some Air Force security policemen for Area 2, a weapons storage area of the Nevada Test Site [now the Nevada National Security Site], are having a meal outside when they notice a red glow at their feet. The light is coming from a giant sphere perhaps 100 feet across approaching them from the south. By the time they notice it, the reddish-orange object has passed silently overhead at about 75 feet altitude in a few seconds. Apparently, it projects a zone of silence and exerts a zone of pressure directly below it, causing the guards’ ears to pop. It disappears over some mountains to the north, where it apparently explodes in a burst of white light with no sound or shockwave. Building in intensity, the explosion keeps growing until it is painful to perceive through closed eyes, then quickly dies down. The light effects last for 5 seconds. The security controller orders all outside units to search for the downed object. They look until 7:00 a.m. but find nothing. (Nukes 512–515)

2003, June — The Turkish press announces that Turkey’s National Intelligence Service has received a top-secret request from the US Central Intelligence Agency for details on all its latest UFO reports. The Service accordingly asks the Turkish Air Force, Turkish Airlines, and other agencies to submit reports. It recommends that the Air Force should establish an investigative agency headed by a colonel. (Good Need, [p. 394](#))

2003, June 5 — 4:45 p.m. Shortly after TAM Flight 3287 takes off from Palmas–Brigadeiro Lysias Rodrigues Airport in Palmas, Brazil, to Brasilia, air traffic control asks the pilot if he can see any other aircraft near his plane. He cannot, but ground control says there is another object in his flight area. When they are over Palmas, the copilot

sees a gigantic object on the right side of the plane. It is metallic and surrounded by bright multicolored lights. It flies as if it is sliding with no friction. The UFO follows the aircraft for almost an hour before moving away. (Clark III 203–205; Brazil 548)

- 2003**, June 10 — Serbian astrophysicist [Milan M. Ćirković](#) theorizes that because it is reasonable to assume that there is an inhabited planet somewhere 3 billion years older than Earth, we are likely to encounter an alien civilization significantly older than 1.8 billion years. (Milan M. Ćirković, “[The Temporal Aspect of the Drake Equation and SETI](#),” arXiv, June 10, 2003)
- 2003**, July 5 — The Sci-Fi Channel places a stone marker at the Roswell debris field site to commemorate the 1947 crash. (Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, *Witness to Roswell*, New Page, 2007, [p. 223](#))
- 2003**, July 7 — 10:30 p.m. A witness in Verdun, Quebec, watches a gray, teardrop-shaped object moving slowly at low altitude over rooftops, making an unusual whirring sound. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)
- 2003**, July 28 — 12:45 a.m. Hundreds of witnesses see a large, white, moon-shaped object flying over the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, zigzagging from northwest to southeast and changing direction in some cases to move over local mountains and drop into valleys. At 1:00 a.m., a beam of white light arches across the sky from horizon to horizon and persisting until at least 2:00 a.m. Dubbed the “Okanagan Arch,” the beam is seen from Kamloops to Jaffray. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 207–209)
- 2003**, August 6 — 12:32 a.m. Three witnesses in North Bay, Ontario, watch as a gray, cigar-shaped object, stationary in the sky, becomes “wavy” and then suddenly disappears from view after 5 minutes. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)
- 2003**, August 10 — 2:22 p.m. A large fuselage-shaped object flies low along a road, under some guy wires, and among trees in Whitehorse, Yukon. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)
- 2003**, August 11 — 6:00 p.m. Diana Luca and her mother are chatting at the kitchen table in her home in New Westminster, British Columbia. Out of the corner of her eye, Luca spots a black object behind the trees in the back alley. The two step out on the patio for a better look and see a UFO flying behind the trees and over the top of the shorter ones. The object, flat and shaped like a Frisbee, flips on its underside, which is as red and shiny as a Coke can. She calls her husband, Mark Murphy, who is inside. By the time he gets to the porch, the UFO looks cigar-shaped and is an estimated 1.8 miles away. Murphy rushes inside to get a camcorder and gets the rest of the sighting on tape. (“[UFOs over British Columbia](#),” *Vancouver (B.C.) Courier*, March 15, 2004; “[B.C. Sighting](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 27)
- 2003**, August 20 — Day. Frank Delephine takes a video of a formation of five yellowish lights leaving a smoke trail above the beach at Nowa Karczma on the Vistula Spit, Poland. (Poland 125)
- 2003**, August 23 — Three witnesses observe a saucer-shaped object with protrusions for 30 seconds as it flies above some cars on a highway in Winnipeg, Manitoba. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)
- 2003**, August 26 — Members of the Defense Committee on the Chilean Chamber of Deputies analyze information on UFOs for the first time. It hears testimony, largely reports from pilots and air traffic controllers, provided by the Comité de Estudios de Fenómenos Aéreos Anómalos and the director of OVNIvision (both UFO research groups in Chile). Defense Committee Chairman Arturo Cardemil tells the media that UFOs have sometimes disrupted air-traffic operations. (George Filer, “[Chile: Congress Acknowledges Importance of UFO Research](#),” Filer’s Files, #36-2003, September 3, 2003)
- 2003**, September — 10:30 a.m. Arthur A. Larson is sitting in a truck at a gravel crossroads near Clara City, Minnesota, when he sees a round, black object at an altitude higher than a passing passenger jet but below the cirrus clouds. He watches it for 10–12 seconds and estimates its speed as 3,000–5,000 mph. (Arthur A. Larson, “[Recent Minnesota Sighting](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 25)
- 2003**, September 11 — A triangular object with red lights flies over two people in Whitehorse, Yukon. (Mark Rodeghier, “[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 13)
- 2003**, November 21 — 4:37 a.m. Robert Williams goes to the back door of his home in Deerfield Township, Livingston County, Michigan, for a smoke when he notices an extremely bright light hovering about 50–60 feet above Bennett Lake. He watches it for about 2 minutes then goes to get his mother Christine to look at it as well. It is about 1,800 feet away and just below the treeline. After another 3 minutes it begins moving slowly closer to them. Gradually it passes them and they can see a definite disc shape with white lights around the perimeter and blue

lights around the bottom. ("[Witnesses Report Unusual Object over Bennett Lake, Michigan](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 437 (September 2004): 9–10; Covert 69)

2003, December 8 — 8:45 p.m. An unusual white, oval object with a ring of blue lights hovers above a house in Houston, British Columbia, dropping sparks. It then flies steadily toward the mountains and is lost to sight. (Mark Rodeghier, "[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 14)

2003, December 24 — 1:00 p.m. Three people in Airdrie, Alberta, watch a chrome-colored "marble" hanging motionless in the sky. After about 15 seconds, it vanishes without a trace. (Mark Rodeghier, "[UFOs in Canada, 2003](#)," *IUR* 28, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 14)

2004

2004 — Afternoon. A Brazilian pilot flying an ATR 42-300 twin turboprop airliner has a near-miss with a luminous sphere near the São Paulo–Congonhas Airport, Brazil. The encounter lasts 14 minutes. (Richard F. Haines, "[Near Miss with UAP near São Paulo Airport](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 3 (July 2009): 9–18, 23–24; Robert J. Durant, "[Commentary on the São Paulo Near Miss](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 3 (July 2009): 19–20)

2004 — [Vadim Chernobrov](#) registers the All-Russian Scientific Organization, Kosmopoisk, as an international association. (Wikipedia, "[Kosmopoisk](#)")

2004 — Night. Three teams of security policemen at Nellis AFB in Nevada are sent to investigate a mysterious light seen in a distant corner of the weapons storage compound in Area 2. Upon arriving at the location in vehicles, they cannot see any light. However, seconds later, one policeman spots a towering, silhouette-like, 8- or 9-foot-tall figure, visible against the moon-lit sky. It quickly turns and runs. After disappearing over a rise in the terrain, with six Security Policemen in hot pursuit, the unknown intruder seemingly vanishes into thin air. (Robert L. Hastings, "[Triangular-Shaped UFO Sighted at the Nellis AFB Nuclear Storage Area](#)," *UFOs & Nukes*, April 23, 2015)

2004, January — CNES decides to close SEPRA, perhaps because engineer [Jean-Jacques Velasco](#) is publishing a book, *OVNIs: L'évidence*, in April. (Gildas Bourdais, "[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 13; Swords 450)

2004, January 4 — 8:30 p.m. An Aer Lingus Boeing 737 with 135 people on board is about 2 miles off the east coast of Ireland approaching Dublin Airport. It is being followed in for landing on Runway 10 by a British Midland Airbus A330-200 at a distance of 6 miles. Both are at an altitude of 3,000 feet and moving at 287 mph. As the 737 approaches Slane, the A330 crew observes unidentified traffic take off vertically from a field. The object has bright strobe lights and is triangular in shape. It begins to circle the 737, which experiences a power drain. The A330 sees a purplish glow surround the 737, whose captain requests a course change to avoid the object, which is passing in front of the airliner. The UFO angles to the port side and the 737 experiences a huge wake turbulence and an increase in outside air temperature to 327° F. for about 15 seconds. The A330 also feels the turbulence, and the UFO heads southeast at great speed. When the 737 lands, the crew cannot raise the speed brakes on the wings, which are found to be damaged, as if dented by a hammer. There is also aircraft skin damage and hydraulic damage to the brakes caused by the UFO wake. (Good Need, [pp. 406–410](#); Dermot Butler and Carl Nally, *Conspiracy of Silence: UFOs in Ireland*, Mercier, 2006, pp. 41–42)

2004, January 4 — 10:30 p.m. Another Airbus 330-200 is approaching the east coast of Ireland, bound for Dublin Airport, when the crew sees a flashing strobe light over Slane, County Meath. As the aircraft throttles back to 265 mph at 2,500 feet, the UFO takes on a triangular shape, passes in front of the plane, and gives off a bright flashing light. The UFO begins circling the Airbus in an aggressive manner. The crew expects a collision with the object, which is about 360 feet wide. The interior lights dim (power drain) and the encounter continues for 8–10 minutes as passengers watch. At one point, wake turbulence from the UFO triggers the wind shear warning device. Other aircraft in the vicinity are watching the encounter and listening in to radio transmissions. Just 2 minutes before landing, the UFO shoots away to the southeast. (Good Need, [pp. 407–410](#); Dermot Butler and Carl Nally, *Conspiracy of Silence: UFOs in Ireland*, Mercier, 2006, pp. 42–43)

2004, January 17 — 7:45 p.m. A witness at Bass River, New Brunswick, sees a bright, fast-moving fireball. Around 11:00 p.m., a couple near Saint-Louis-de-Kent, New Brunswick, watch two flashing lights low in the west. They descend rapidly then fly in front of the witnesses at tremendous speed. They then stop and settle above some trees on the eastern horizon and disappear. A man in Caraquet is looking south and sees two objects, one on top of the other, flying west to east. They take 5 minutes to cross the sky but do not look like airplanes. In Moncton, another witness sees a single light moving steadily and rapidly across the ocean toward the east. In Saint Paul, another

witness sees two lights heading toward the northwest, They make no sound, rotate around each other, hover, then leave at high speed. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, pp. 210–211)

- 2004**, January 20 — European Parliament Member [Nello Musumeci](#) submits a proposal to create a Europe-wide “body for the study of unexplained atmospheric phenomena.” He suggests that the European Commission should pay special attention to UFO studies by various European space centers and recommends SEPRA in Toulouse, France, as a model. The question is tabled on January 22. (2Pinotti 213; Jochen Ickinger, “[UAP in the European Parliament, Part 2](#),” UAP Check, February 28, 2024)
- 2004**, January 21 — A man is driving on the Trans-Canada Highway 10 miles north of Sussex, New Brunswick, when he sees a blinking light off to his left, apparently hovering above the road. As he approaches, he sees the object is composed of two bright white lights that seem to be attached to a structured object. It descends and hovers above a field. The witness can’t pull over, so the light is soon lost to view behind him. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, p. 211)
- 2004**, January 22 — 9:00 p.m. S/Sgt Shawn Burke of the 86th Operations Support Squadron stationed at Ramstein Air Base outside Ramstein-Misenbach, Kaiserslautern, Germany, sees a row of seven lights directly overhead and glowing a bright white. When the clouds become thicker, the display disappears briefly, then reappears and become more elongated, looking more like lines than dots. Burke takes a few photos. They remain stationary all night. His cellphone and the internet in his building goes out when the lights get brighter. Possible light pillars. (Wim van Utrecht, “[Seven Unidentified Lights over Ramstein Air Base](#),” Caelestia)
- 2004**, January 25 — 6:26 p.m. A woman and her son watch a strange triangular object in the sky above Richibucto, New Brunswick. It has sparkling lights on top and a V shape on its underside. In a telescope, they can see it is a large gray object with something like a round door on the bottom. It suddenly speeds up and disappears in the distance. (Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, *The Canadian UFO Report*, Dundurn Press, 2006, p. 211)
- 2004**, January 27 — Night. Alec Birch, who has confessed to faking a UFO photo in 1962, takes a series of color slides showing the town hall in Retford, Nottinghamshire, England, for a photography competition. He sees nothing unusual at the time, but on examining one transparency he finds an image that appears to be an elliptical UFO. Ruling out lens flares and aircraft, he contacts the Ministry of Defence, which sends the slide to the Defence Geographic and Imagery Intelligence Agency for analysis. The agency reports back to the MoD on August 2, saying that no definite conclusions can be reached, but “it may be coincidental that the illuminated plane of the object passes through the centre of the frame, indicating a possible lens anomaly, [for example] a droplet of moisture.” (UFOFiles2, [pp. 147–148](#))
- 2004**, February 10 — Raymond Mulhall and seven other witnesses in Meanwood, Leeds, England, watch an object descending silently. It is about 50 feet in diameter and 18 feet thick. It appears to land in an area called the “Witches Quarry.” They find damaged trees and three triangular imprint marks, 25 feet apart. They can feel heat rising from the soil. (Ted Phillips, “[Physical Traces](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 462 (October 2006): 18; Covert 26)
- 2004**, February 20 — 2:00 p.m. Lt. Ribeiro of the Brazilian Air Force is retuning on a flight from São Paulo to Recife, Brazil. He is ordered to intercept a radar return that he can visually confirm as a yellow light. During the interception, the light remains stationary. Suddenly it begins moving toward the aircraft and gets very close. The pilot can only see a sphere of light coming closer, so he maneuvers sharply to the right. At this point his plane is illuminated by a beam of light. Seconds later everything is back to normal and the object is gone. (Clark III 206; Brazil 553–554)
- 2004**, March 1 — In a further reply to the January 20 question on the creation of a European Commission body to investigate UFOs, it cites a November 2003 white paper in which the function of the European space program is to understand “atmospheric phenomena.” (Jochen Ickinger, “[UAP in the European Parliament, Part 2](#),” UAP Check, February 28, 2024)
- 2004**, March 5 — Mexican Air Force pilots flying a C-26A Metroliner using infrared equipment to search for drug-smuggling aircraft record 11 unidentified objects on infrared video and radar near Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche, Mexico. The objects are not visible to the crew. Secretary of Defense Gen. [Gerardo Clemente Vega](#) issues a press release on May 12 accompanied by videotape that shows moving bright lights at 11,500 feet. Mexican journalist [Jaime Maussan](#) interprets the videotape as “proof of alien visitation,” but science writer and skeptic [Michael Shermer](#) is critical of witness accounts that vary wildly, saying, “it was like a fisherman’s tale, growing with each retelling,” while NARCAP suggests the lights are most likely burn-off flares on offshore oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. (Mark Rodeghier, “[Special Failures Down Mexico Way](#),” *IUR* 28, no. 4 (Winter 2003–2004): 12–13,

28; Dwight Connelly, "[Unique Mexican Encounter](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 434 (June 2004): 4–5; "[NARCAP Statement on the Mexican FLIR Case](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 17; Robert Sheaffer, "[The Campeche, Mexico 'Infrared UFO' Video](#)," *Skeptical Inquirer* 28, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 2004): 36–40; Alejandro Franz, "[Mexican Air Force FLIR's video lights are not UFO's, Part II](#)," Alcione.com, August 16, 2009; "[Mexican UFOs Identified](#)," Cap. Alejandro Franz YouTube channel, August 7, 2010; "[2004 Mexican Air Force FLIR's Video Lights Are Not UFO's](#)," Cap. Alejandro Franz YouTube channel, February 20, 2018)

- 2004**, April 15 — [Ademar José Gevaerd](#)'s Brazilian Ufologists Commission launches a campaign called "Freedom of Information Now!" with the goal of convincing the Brazilian government to publicly release official information on the Varginha case, the Official Night of the UFOs, and the Trindade Island photos. (Clark III 209)
- 2004**, April 30 — 10:25 p.m. A witness is traveling west on Oak Tree Road in Woodbridge Township, New Jersey, when he notices a jet-black cylindrical object floating northeast at a height of less than 1,000 feet. He estimates it is about 75 feet in length. It crosses in front of him above Wood Avenue, changes to a V shape and speeds up in that direction. Two small spheres are attached to it at each end. (George Filer, "[New Jersey Shape Changer](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 434 (June 2004): 14; Covert 54, 71)
- 2004**, Summer — Two security guards at a glass factory in Częstochowa, Poland, watch a large, oblong-shaped object with two bright yellow lights on both ends fly 90 feet above their guard post. (Poland 110)
- 2004**, June 13 — 11:00 p.m. A couple and their two cousins in Sandy, Utah, see a transparent triangular object fly silently above them. It seems fuzzy on the edges. It only takes 2 seconds to disappear behind some trees. A smaller triangle appears, headed southeast. It looks like two shaded triangles that are somehow linked. ("[Our UFO Sighting: The Story](#)," Underground Vine, June 13, 2004; "[Utah: Two Transparent Triangles](#)," Filer's Files, #27-2004, June 23, 2004; Covert 55)
- 2004**, July — A security guard at a US forward operating base near Baqubah, Iraq, notices a bluish light hovering above the base. He tries to call it in by handheld radio without success. He then uses a military radio that can hop across different frequencies, but the results are the same. He is unable to contact either the sergeant of the guard or the battalion radio center. (Powell, *Scientist*, 86)
- 2004**, July 23 — 10:15 p.m. A husband and wife and two teenage children are driving on US Highway 10 between Mondovi and Durand, Wisconsin, when they notice strange red lights above a field to the south. When they turn the car around, a triangular object passes slowly above their car at about 300 feet. It is black and gray with three white lights underneath. They watch it until it disappears behind some trees. ("[Double Sightings of Lights and Triangle Reported by Wisconsin Family](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 439 (November 2004): 3; Covert 41)
- 2004**, July 31 — CNES is now embarrassed by its decision to close SEPRA and is planning a rebirth. (Gildas Bourdais, "[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 14)
- 2004**, August — The National Institute for Discovery Science releases a report, "NIDS Investigations of the Flying Triangle Enigma," with analyses of triangle-shaped UFOs in the US, Belgium, and elsewhere. ("[NIDS Investigations of the Flying Triangle Enigma](#)," August 2004)
- 2004**, August 21 — Three red lights hovering in a triangular formation are seen by several witnesses in Tinley Park and Oak Forest, Illinois. Further observations take place on October 31, 2004; October 1, 2005; and once again on October 31, 2006. The lights are captured on video by some witnesses. The video evidence suggests that the lights keep the geometrical shape and move as if they are attached to each other through a dark object. The incident is examined in a *Dateline NBC* episode on May 18, 2008, and in the episode "Invasion Illinois" of the television series *UFO Hunters* that premieres on The History Channel on October 29, 2008. (Wikipedia, "[Black triangle \(UFO\)](#)"; Marler [211–216](#))
- 2004**, August 28 — 10:11 p.m. A circular metallic UFO the size of an airliner is seen above the Pemex oil storage and distribution terminal in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico. It is accompanied by six luminous spheres at an altitude of about 3,300 feet. The larger craft performs erratic maneuvers at high speed. (*El Universal* (Mexico City), August 29, 2004; "[Recent UFO Reports](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 25; "[Mexico: Six UFOs Reported over Tapachula \(2004\)](#)," *Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology*, December 2, 2023)
- 2004**, September 12 — Evening. Laura Simmons sees a "silent, abstract blob almost like the underside view of a manta ray shape, moving quickly, quietly across the sky" above Fulton Street in San Francisco, California. She describes it as "very large, almost gossamer, sprinkled with lights but almost like dusted with luminous powder." ("[Recent UFO Reports](#)," *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 25)

- 2004**, September 16 — 9:00 p.m. Brian Junkin, Chuck Martin, and three children in Poulsbo, Washington, watch a multicolored light move erratically for 10 minutes about 500–1,000 feet above the canal adjacent to Naval Base Kitsap on the Kitsap Peninsula. The light keeps changing colors from green to red to orange. Flashes of light also come from what appear to be corners of an underlying object. Another light comes speeding in from the north on a straight course and stops close to the first light, which continues to dance around. Suddenly, both lights blink out at the same time. (“[Sighting Report](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, September 29, 2004; Nukes 499–502)
- 2004**, September 17 — 3:39 a.m. A woman in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, wakes up to a humming sound and lights shining through her window. She runs out and sees a large object “shaped like a large submarine” with lights. It has beams of lights shining down the middle of it in a straight line from one end to another. She hears a loud thunderclap and the object rises higher until it is lost to sight. (Joseph Trainor, “[Saucers Up North](#),” UFO Roundup 9, no. 38 (September 22, 2004); “[Recent UFO Reports](#),” *IUR* 29, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 25)
- 2004**, September 27 — Early morning. A five-member team of geologists and glaciologists (including Rajiv Kalia, [Sunil Dhar](#), Sushil Singh) led by [Anil V. Kulkarni](#) of the Indian Space Research Organization’s Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad are on a research trip in the barren Samudra Tapu valley, Himachal Pradesh, India, at an elevation of 17,000 feet. They spot a strange white, oblong object about 3–4 feet on the top of a mountain ridge that is floating just a few feet from the ground and approaches the camp to a distance of 160 feet. Kulkarni and Dhar grab cameras and take several photos. It has a cylindrical head with 2 balloon-type attachments and looks like a robot walking. The object hovers motionless for a few seconds, then starts a steep ascent, hovers another 5 minutes, then rises high in the sky. Kalia says it does not look like a man-made object. (“[UFO Sighting in Himachal Lahaul-Spiti District Remains a Mystery](#),” *India Today*, February 13, 2006; Mark Rodeghier, “[Scientists Would Investigate Sightings by Other Scientists—Wouldn’t They?](#)” *IUR* 30, no. 3 (May 2006): 22–23)
- 2004**, October 1 — The US Air Force 20th Space Control Squadron at Eglin AFB, Florida, takes over the operation of the US Navy’s Space Surveillance System until 2009. (Wikipedia, “[Air Force Space Surveillance System](#)”)
- 2004**, October 4 — Pilot [Brian Binnie](#) reaches a world record altitude of 367,490 feet in SpaceShipOne, an air launched rocket plane. (Wikipedia, “[Brian Binnie](#)”)
- 2004**, October 4 — Air Force Instruction 10-206 is updated, specifying that CIRVIS reports of UFOs be submitted to the North American Aerospace Defense Command. ([Air Force Instruction 10-206](#), Operational Reporting, October 4, 2004)
- 2004**, October 20 — [Robert Bigelow](#) shuts down the National Institute for Discovery Science for “lack of UFO activity.” (Robert T. Bigelow, “[Bigelow Shuts NIDS Down](#),” Rense.com, October 20, 2004)
- 2004**, October 21 — The Ukrainian Scientific Research Center for Analyses of Anomalies “Zond”, the direct successor to various local Soviet commissions on anomalous phenomena, becomes the largest UFO research center in Ukraine. The organization continues to collect and digitize all Ukrainian and ex-USSR UFO archives. (SRCAA “Zond” [website](#); Mikhail Gershtein, “[A Short History of UFO Research in the Former Soviet Union](#),” UAP Check, July 6, 2024)
- 2004**, October 27 — Day. The crew of a military jet near Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California, observes a dark gray, egg-shaped object, approximately 62 feet long, engaging in high-speed maneuvers at 45,000 feet. It is moving east at 575 mph, then makes an aggressive vertical turn. (Keith Basterfield, “[A BAASS Data Report of a 2002 Submerged Egg-Shaped Object in the SOCIAL OPEAREA](#),” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, May 13, 2022)
- 2004**, October 28 — Night. An Iranian Air Force F-14 is on combat air patrol near the heavy water reactor near Khondab, Iran, when it picks up an unidentified target at a distance of 50 miles away that is making rapid changes in altitude, heading, and speed. The pilot is ordered to bank toward the target after regional command receives a visual confirmation from an Arak Air Defense Group observer. Approaching at 22,000 feet, the pilot spots the target at 5,000 feet. The object is spherical and has a green halo surrounding it and a green light on its tail end. When the pilot turns toward the light, it disappears then reappears a few miles away, apparently moving at a speed of Mach 7 or greater. The F-14 is ordered to turn all lights off and descend to pursue the target. At 7,800 feet the target disappears again, but after the F-14 makes a turn at 7,000 feet, it picks up the target again and flies 2,000 feet below it. The F-14 arms its weapons and the pilot requests clearance to engage the object. Every time the radar officer attempts to lock on the object, the radio, radar, and other instruments become jammed. Finally, the F-14 ascends to 19,000 feet because it is low on fuel and spots the object one last time at low altitude. The pilot returns to the 8th Predator Tactical Fighter Base in Isfahan. (*Air Forces Monthly*, December 18, 2017; “[Iran UFO Reports Revealed](#),” Key Aero, December 18, 2017)

2004, November 10 — Navy Chief Petty Officer Kevin Day, stationed on the guided missile cruiser [USS Princeton](#), notices the clear radar traces of 8–10 objects traveling southwards in a loose though fixed formation at 28,000 feet in the immediate vicinity of Catalina and San Clemente islands, California. He is startled by their slow speed of 120 mph but receives confirmation of their presence from radar operators on other vessels. Regular observations are made of a similar number of objects over the following six days. The objects are also faintly detected by an E-2C Hawkeye plane after *Princeton* sends them coordinates. (“[No One Seemed to Believe Me, Ep. 2 Clip, UFO](#),” Showtime 2021; Kevin H. Knuth, Robert M. Powell, and Peter A. Reali, “[Estimating Flight Characteristics of Anomalous Unidentified Aerial Vehicles](#),” *Entropy* 21, no. 10 (October 2019))

2004, November 14 — 9:30 a.m. Navy Commander [David Fravor](#) (with copilot Lt. Appezato) and pilot Lt. Alex Dietrich (with copilot Lt. Cdr. James Slaight), flying two McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornets some 80 miles southwest of San Diego, California, on a routine training mission, are diverted from their exercise to investigate some unusual radar contacts detected by the cruiser [USS Princeton](#) that is part of the [USS Nimitz](#) Carrier Strike Group. Unusual targets have been showing up on the *Princeton*’s radar system for several days—objects at more than 80,000 feet and moving slowly at 100 mph. On this day, the flight paths of the objects are different, descending in as little as 0.78 seconds to various altitudes from 28,000 feet to 50 feet or less above the water. Controllers on one of the Navy ships report objects that are dropping out of the sky from 80,000 feet and going “straight back up.” The closest radar target is 60 miles due west of the USS *Nimitz*. Arriving at the location, Fravor spots a smooth, white “Tic-Tac”—shaped object, with perhaps two small appendages hanging below its center, moving in random directions about 50 feet above the water. Dietrich remains at 20,000 feet, but Fravor descends to 12,000 feet to investigate the object, which seems to be about 47 feet long. From the other F/A-18, Slaight describes it as off-white in color with no markings or fins and completely silent. Suddenly the object turns one end toward his aircraft and rises toward him, engaging in a “pirouette” as they approach each other, less than a mile apart. Fravor decides to cut directly across to intercept the Tic-Tac, which then accelerates at high speed and disappears within a second. [Robert Powell](#) later estimates its velocity as around 35,280 mph and a minimum constant acceleration equivalent to 803 g-forces. After the first team returns to the strike group, a second F/A-18 team, led by Chad Underwood, takes off at approximately 12:00 noon, this time equipped with an advanced infrared camera (FLIR pod). This camera records an evasive unidentified aerial system on video. Underwood says “he never had visual, only seeing the object via FLIR.” The video shows the object breaking lock as it suddenly moves to the left of the screen and disappears. The footage is publicly released by the Pentagon in 2017 and is known as the 2004 USS *Nimitz* [FLIR1 video](#). It officially sheds some light on a decade-old story that had been largely unknown and unreported, aside from a 2015 secondhand story on FighterSweep.com that, in spite of providing many details, remained unconfirmed at that time. Jonathan Axelrod [Naval officer [John F. “Jay” Stratton Jr.](#)], investigating the case in 2009 for BAASS, concludes that the object “was no known aircraft or air vehicle currently in the inventory of the United States or any foreign nation,” and that it remained “stationary with little or no variation in altitude transitioning to horizontal and/or vertical velocities far greater than any known aerial vehicle with little or no visible signature.” Analysis of the FLIR footage by [Mick West](#) of Metabunk claims that the impressive sudden departure is an illusion; the object does not actually move except when the aircraft’s own infrared camera moves. West thinks the object resembles an “out-of-focus low-resolution backlit plane” filmed at a distance. However, Robert Powell estimates its acceleration at 41–81 g-forces. (NICAP, “[Object Outmaneuvers 2 Jets over Pacific](#)”; Wikipedia, “[Pentagon UFO videos](#)”; Paco Chierici, “[There I Was: The X-Files Edition](#),” Fighter Sweep.com, March 14, 2015; Helene Cooper, Leslie Kean, and Ralph Blumenthal, “[2 Navy Airmen and an Object That ‘Accelerated Like Nothing I’ve Ever Seen](#),” *New York Times*, December 16, 2017; “[Navy Pilot Recalls Encounter with UFO: ‘I Think It Was Not from This World](#),” ABC News, December 18, 2017; Jonathan Axelrod, “[Executive Summary](#),” Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Application Program, January 2018; Keith Basterfield, “[Did the AAWSA Program / AATIP Really Start in 2007?](#)” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, May 16, 2018; “[2004 USS Nimitz Navy Strike Group Incident Report](#),” Scientific Coalition of UAP Studies, March 3, 2019; “[Scientific Findings Regarding a Major U.S. Navy Encounter with UFOs](#),” Scientific Coalition of UAP Studies, April 25, 2019; Tim McMillan, “[The Witnesses](#),” *Popular Mechanics*, November 12, 2019; Matthew Phelan, “[Navy Pilot Who Filmed the ‘Tic Tac’ UFO Speaks: ‘It Wasn’t Behaving by the Normal Laws of Physics](#),” *New York*, December 19, 2019; Mick West, “[Explained: New Navy UFO Videos](#),” Metabunk, April 27, 2020; “[Pentagon Declassifies Navy ‘UFO’ Videos \(Video 1/3\)](#),” ABC News YouTube channel, April 27, 2020; David Clarke, “Echoes and Angels: UFOs on Radar,” *Fortean Times* 403 (March 2021): 40–42; Greg Taylor, “[Tic-Tac Tactics: Pilot Discusses the U.S. Military’s Engagement with a UFO in 2004](#),” Daily Grail, June 18, 2021; Pavithra George, “[‘Normalizing’ UFOs: Retired U.S. Navy Pilot Recalls Tic Tac Encounter](#),” Reuters, June 24, 2021; Skinwalkers 45–46, 111–114, 118–119; Bill Whitaker, “[UFOs Regularly Spotted in Restricted US Airspace](#),” CBS News, August 29, 2021; “[Famous Navy UFO Is](#)

[Camera Glare Hiding Something ‘Really Interesting,’ Researcher Says,”](#) *The Independent* (UK), March 18, 2022; Internet Movie Database, “[A Tear in the Sky](#)”; Keith Basterfield, “[The ‘Tac Tac’ Encounter: A Forgotten Participant](#),” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, August 1, 2023; Luke M. Herrington, “[Cutting the Chaff: Overlooked Lessons of Military UAP Sightings for Joint Force and Interagency Coordination](#),” *Joint Force Quarterly*, no. 110, July 7, 2023; Keith Basterfield, “[That 140 Page ‘Secret’ Report on the 2004 Nimitz Events](#),” Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, August 7, 2023; Baptiste Friscourt, “[AARO Director Fails to Obtain Nimitz Case Data](#),” UAP Check, November 18, 2023; Graff 405–408; Covert 103–119; Powell, *Scientist*, 19, 77–80, 115, 127–130; John Greenewald, “[Heavily Redacted UAP Briefing between UAP Task Force and NASA Released](#),” The Black Vault, October 10, 2024; George Knapp, “[Inside One of the Most Consequential UFO Encounters of All Time: The ‘Tic Tac’ Incident](#),” KLAS-TV, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 11, 2024)

2004, November 16 — An unmanned NASA X-43A hypersonic scramjet, the fastest free-flying air-breathing vehicle, achieves a speed of 7,546 mph. (Wikipedia, “[NASA X-43](#)”)

2004, December 11 — 3:00 a.m. A woman wakes up in her home in Mount Holly, New Jersey, and sees two red basketball-sized lights floating in the corner of the bedroom. A third red plasma disc about 12 inches in diameter enters the room and hovers above her sleeping husband. It remains about a minute and flies outside through the wall. (“[New Jersey: Miniature UFO](#),” Filer’s Files, #3-2005, April 12, 2005; Covert 56)

2005

2005 — More than 9,500 UFO reports and related documents (of an estimated 15,000) are digitized by Library and Archives Canada and made available online. It releases a virtual exhibition titled “Canada’s UFOs: The Search for the Unknown.” (Chris Rutkowski, *Canada’s UFOs: Declassified*, August Night, 2022, pp. 11–13)

2005, January 1 — The UK Freedom of Information Act 2000 comes into full force. Around 120,000 requests are made in the first year. Private citizens make 60% of them, with businesses and journalists accounting for 20% and 10% respectively. However, requests from journalists tend to be more complex and consequently more expensive. UFOs are one of the three most popular FOI requests made to the Ministry of Defence. (Wikipedia, “[Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)”; UFOFiles2, [p. x](#))

2005, January 15 — UFO researcher [Keith Basterfield](#) interviews a man in Adelaide, South Australia, whose British father had worked for MI5 after World War II. His father had told him in 1959 when he was 12 that the American military had been experimenting in 1947 with monkeys and pigs being dropped in devices equipped with retrorockets from stratospheric balloons to test them for eventual space rocket research. In one of these experiments, which were conducted at night, they used 2–3 live humans with a hydrocephalic condition (enlarged heads caused by excess cerebrospinal fluid) whom they obtained from a facility. The retrorockets failed, the balloon crashed, and a rancher found the material and one of the humans who was still alive. A medical retrieval team came for it. The UFO cover story for this crash near Roswell, New Mexico, was concocted to keep the experiments secret. (Keith Basterfield, “[Jacobsen, Redfern, and an Adelaide Informant](#),” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, July 8, 2011; Nick Redfern, *The Roswell UFO Conspiracy*, Lisa Hagan, 2017, pp. 153–163)

2005, January 31 — 10:00 p.m. Two men ice fishing at Columbia City, Indiana, encounter a large triangle above the east end of the pond. It crosses the frozen water at a low altitude, then hovers for some seconds before rising silently upward, leaving a trail of steam from the surface of the ice. The men try to call the local sheriff, but their cellphones are dead, as is their electrical fish locator. After the object disappears, they find a two-inch hole in the ice where the object had hovered. (Jenny Randles, “UFOcal Points,” *Fortean Times* 196 (June 2005): 28)

2005, January 31 — 12:00 midnight. A large oval mass is seen floating above a cornfield at Wood River, Nebraska, by a man leaving his parents’ house. It rocks slightly from side to side for some 10 minutes and then sends out bursts of light toward the ground before climbing upward, seeming to suck up an object, apparently a large cow, from the field below. (Jenny Randles, “UFOcal Points,” *Fortean Times* 196 (June 2005): 28)

2005, February 7 — 2:00 a.m. In the farming area of El Paraiso, Mar del Plata, Argentina, a resident hears a noise like a strong wind or turbine and sees two misty yellow lights drifting above a copse of trees and climbing slowly. Other witnesses hear and see the phenomena, and others are awakened by their farm animals going crazy and dogs howling as if in pain. At dawn, two circular marks are found near the copse. Police forensic experts take samples

of an ash-like deposit that leaves a greasy smear when touched. Meanwhile, the daughter of one of the locals involved is having nightmares about a UFO trying to catch her. (Jenny Randles, "UFOcal Points," *Fortean Times* 196 (June 2005): 28)

2005, February 24 — *UFOs: Seeing Is Believing*, a two-hour American TV documentary narrated by [Peter Jennings](#), airs on ABC-TV. The show mentions the [Kenneth Arnold](#) sighting, the Phoenix lights, southern Illinois triangle-shaped UFOs, and the Roswell incident, which Jennings sneeringly dismisses as a myth. Guests include [James McGaha](#), [Seth Shostak](#), [Jill Tarter](#), [Stanton Friedman](#), [Budd Hopkins](#), [Susan Clancy](#), and [Michio Kaku](#). (Wikipedia, "[UFOs: Seeing Is Believing](#)"; Internet Movie Database, "[Peter Jennings Reporting: UFOs, Seeing Is Believing](#)"; Chris Mooney, "[Doubt and About: Out of Balance](#)," *Skeptical Inquirer*, March 3, 2005; "[UFOs: Seeing Is Believing \(2005\)](#), ABC Documentary," Movie Buff Guy YouTube channel, June 18, 2019)

2005, February 27 — [Richard Doty](#) appears on [Art Bell](#)'s Coast to Coast radio program and describes his disinformation campaign against [Paul Bennewitz](#). ("[Greg Bishop and Richard Doty, Coast to Coast AM with Host Art Bell, Interview Transcript](#)," February 27, 2005)

2005, April 27 — Late morning. Air traffic radar detects an unidentified target in restricted air space near Ronald Reagan Washington International Airport in Arlington, Virginia, causing President [George W. Bush](#) to be taken to a bunker and Vice President [Dick Cheney](#) to be evacuated to safety. The target gets within 7 miles of the airport, then vanishes. Although it is not identified, officials argue it is caused by a radar anomaly. ("[Radar Blip Causes White House Security Scare](#)," *Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times*, April 28, 2005, p. 10)

2005, May 1 — Night. A biotechnologist and his daughter are driving on the Central Oregon Highway about 50 miles southeast of Bend, Oregon. They notice three bright blue objects zigzagging around each other about 300 feet away above a field. Suddenly two of the lights move toward them and through their vehicle. One passes through the windshield and passes through a window. The second passes through the man's left arm and upper body, exiting his right arm. He feels a bit hazy, but notices the light is spherical and about the size of a softball. Still driving, the man feels nauseous and scared. The next 45 minutes into Bend seems like 3 hours. Days later, he develops a red rash on the left side of his face and loses some hair on that side. His ankles swell, and he loses some sight and hearing on the left. In the next few weeks, he gains about 50 pounds (although exercising and dieting) and sleeps a lot. In February 2007 he is diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in his left chest, a pre-cancerous condition, and undergoes surgery in May, his health gradually improving by the end of 2008. (Skinwalkers 70–75)

2005, May 3 — 5:30 a.m. A witness sees strange red and white lights crossing the flight path into Dulles International Airport in Virginia, west of Washington, D.C. (Jenny Randles, "UFOcal Points," *Fortean Times* 199 (September 2005): 26)

2005, May 4 — 10:00 a.m. Angler John Walker sees an object the size of a house, shaped like a large gray bullet, in the sky above Squeaking Point, Tasmania. He estimates its height at 150 feet. It moves extremely slowly, taking 15 minutes to cross his view. (Jenny Randles, "UFOcal Points," *Fortean Times* 199 (September 2005): 26)

2005, May 8 — Night. A witness captures video footage of pulsating, kaleidoscopic lights over the Denbigh Moors near Llanefydd, North Wales. The lights had appeared for several nights and remained visible for a lengthy amount of time. (Jenny Randles, "UFOcal Points," *Fortean Times* 199 (September 2005): 26)

2005, May 9 — 9:30 p.m. A man getting into his car in Bradford, West Yorkshire, England, spots a huge, pulsating mass overhead, shaped like a double cross, and brilliantly studded with red, green, and white lights. It stays visible for a long time. The witness goes to bed at 1:20 a.m., and the object, or a similar one, is still visible. (Jenny Randles, "UFOcal Points," *Fortean Times* 199 (September 2005): 26)

2005, May 9 — 11:25 p.m. A woman outside her house in Kuujuaq, Quebec, watches multi-colored lights heading northeast at a slow pace and low altitude. (Jenny Randles, "UFOcal Points," *Fortean Times* 199 (September 2005): 26)

2005, May 11 — 11:28 a.m. Radar trackers spot a plane entering the Air Defense Identification Zone around Washington, D.C. As the aircraft bears down on Washington from the north and officials cannot contact the pilot, the White House's internal threat level goes from yellow to orange and then to red within four minutes. Fighters are scrambled, and occupants and visitors to the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the White House are sent scurrying for safety. The aircraft flies over the vice president's residence and comes within moments of reaching the White House and close to being shot down. Officials say 35,000 people are evacuated from the Capitol and adjacent office complexes. An additional 200 are evacuated from the White House. First lady [Laura Bush](#) and former first lady [Nancy Reagan](#), who is visiting, are ushered to a bunker beneath the White House for safety, and Vice President [Dick Cheney](#) is taken to a secure location. The airplane is a Cessna 150 piloted by two aviators flying

with outdated maps from a rural Pennsylvania airstrip and they are lost. Authorities say the pilots are so clueless that when officials finally make radio contact and order the plane to divert at 12:06 p.m., the fliers refuse, asserting their right to proceed. The F-16s then fire four bright flares across the plane's nose, and the two men realize the gravity of their situation. The plane then veers northwest, out of town, escorted by the interceptors, security helicopters, and a US customs jet. The 15-minute aerial encounter is watched by rapt workers in downtown Washington office buildings. ("[Confused Fliers Trigger Capitol Scare](#)," *Washington Post*, May 12, 2005)

2005, May 20 — [Ademar José Gevaerd](#) leads a delegation of ufologists who meet with Brazilian Air Force officials in Brasília, Brazil, headed by Brigadier Telles Ribeiro, chief of the Air Force's Center for Public Communications. In an interview after the meeting, Gevaerd says his group has been shown information on three specific cases: the testimony of the head of Varig, Nagib Ayub, on a UFO seen in the airspace in Rio Grande do Sul in 1954; testimony from pilots who pursued 21 UFOs flying over São Paulo, São José dos Campos, and Rio de Janeiro in May 1986; and a Brazilian Air Force investigation of UFOs held in 1977 in Pará by Col. [Uyrange Hollanda](#), who died in 1997. According to Hollanda, "we detected at least nine forms of objects. Probes, flying saucer-shaped spaceships... All reports were sent by the 1st COMAR to Brasilia." (Wikipedia, "[Ademar José Gevaerd](#)")

2005, June — British author [Nick Redfern](#) publishes *Body Snatchers in the Desert*, which purports to show that the 1947 Roswell crash may have been military aircraft tests using Japanese POWs, suffering from progeria (an early aging syndrome) or radiation effects. He has interviewed elderly whistleblowers—a woman he calls the Black Widow, Al Barker, Bill Salter, and a retired military man he calls the Colonel. In 2001, the Black Widow claims to have worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, at which time elements of the US government conducted high-altitude balloon tests with attached gondolas that contained live test subjects and sometimes dead bodies. These subjects were handicapped humans, possibly Japanese, including sufferers of progeria. She claims to know of 3 classified balloon flights in May–July 1947. The bodies were brought to Oak Ridge under stringent security. In 2003, the Colonel states that Roswell and other crashes were a cover for research linked to high-altitude balloon experiments. He mentions crashes in May and July 1947 of two experiments with handicapped persons on board. (Nick Redfern, *Body Snatchers in the Desert: The Horrible Truth at the Heart of the Roswell Story*, Paraview, 2005)

2005, June 19 — 3:10 p.m. Three witnesses in Silverdale, Washington, see a black, rectangular object fly silently in a straight line and constant speed from south to north almost directly above the town. ("[Sighting Report](#)," National UFO Reporting Center, June 20, 2005; Nukes 502–503)

2005, June 28 — Early morning. Following reports of unidentified lights above Dublin Airport in Ireland, a UFO 30 feet wide and 10 feet high approaches dangerously close to a commercial aircraft flying at 3,000 feet. The plane experiences intense waves of heat and wake turbulence. A strobe light on the object induces dizziness and nausea; the copilot vomits a few times, but after a while both pilots feel strangely relaxed. After heading in the direction of Malahide, County Dublin, the UFO returns and continues further harassment, causing the aircraft to become uncontrollable for a few minutes. The pilot reports to London Air Traffic Control Centre: "Need assistance... We have a hostile craft and we have made dangerous maneuvers to avoid it." London confirms the presence of unauthorized air traffic. Some RAF Tornados are scrambled and reach the aircraft 25 minutes later, but there is little they can do except escort the plane to a UK airport, accompanied by the UFO. (Good Need, [pp. 409–410](#); Dermot Butler and Carl Nally, *Conspiracy of Silence: UFOs in Ireland*, Mercier, 2006, pp. 229–232)

2005, July — The new CNES director, [Yannick d'Escatha](#), again creates a department for UFO investigations. Another engineer, Jacques Patenet, replaces [Jean-Jacques Velasco](#) as head. It is under the authority of CNES but reports to a steering committee (Comité de pilotage) called COPEIPAN, headed by [Yves Sillard](#). The committee has 15 permanent members: representatives of civil and military authorities, and representatives of the scientific world. (Gildas Bourdais, "[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 14; Swords 451)

2005, July 5 — 8:50 p.m. A woman is driving home from a fishing trip at Sargent, Texas, on FM2611 when her lights blink twice and the engine goes dead. She gets out of the car to check the battery cables, and sees a bright bluish glow lighting up a wooded area across the highway. The light gets brighter and moves upward through the trees. The outer edges of the light seem to vibrate or tremble slightly. The higher it goes the faster it gets until it disappears. The car starts right up afterward. (Herbert S. Taylor, "[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#)," *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 18; Covert 72–73)

2005, July 22 — Industrial chemist [Phyllis Budinger](#) reports on her laboratory tests on stains from the dress that abductee [Betty Hill](#) was wearing on the night of her abduction in 1961. The samples indicate protein and oily materials

from an external source. She also reports on materials brought back from a recent abduction by [Stan Romanek](#), which prove to be bismuth trioxide, used in the making of ceramics and glass but uncommon in everyday situations. No direct link between the materials and an extraterrestrial source can be established. (*MUFON 2005 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*)

- 2005**, Late July — 7:30 p.m. Just as an airliner is making its final approach to the Santa Rosa Airport, La Pampa province, Argentina, the airport control tower operator notices an unknown, luminous object moving slowly and parallel to the aircraft. The flight plan operator is alerted, and they both watch the UFO stop, emit a brilliant flash of blue-white light, move again, emit another flash, and vanish. The airliner crew does not see the UFO. (Good Need, [p. 411](#))
- 2005**, August 4 — 10:30 p.m. A witness in Fernandina Beach, Florida, sees two rose-red objects approach from the ocean and move silently to the south, disappearing in about 75 seconds. (“[Sighting Report](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, September 2, 2005; Nukes 507)
- 2005**, August 27 — 8:45 p.m. Dennis Speed is outdoors at his home in Lenah Valley, Tasmania, when he sees a formation of six orange lights approaching from the north. They are the size of bright stars and are moving slowly below the cloud level. Suddenly, they scatter about 1,650 feet apart, and a white aura appears in the sky around them. He watches them for 15 minutes. Up to 9 oranges UFOs are seen elsewhere in Hobart. (“[Orange UFOs over Hobart](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 18)
- 2005**, August 29 — 12:50 p.m. Carlos R. Peña sees a completely black object moving east to west at 3,200–9,800 feet over Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It remains visible 40 seconds flying in a straight line, except for one point when it curved slightly. (“[Dominican Republic: A UFO Sighting over Santo Domingo \(2005\)](#),” *Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology*, December 3, 2023)
- 2005**, September 1 — The 30th Reconnaissance Squadron, which operates Lockheed Martin RQ-170 Sentinel drones, is activated at Tonopah Test Range Airport in Nevada. RQ-170 Sentinels have been deployed to Afghanistan, where one was sighted at Kandahar International Airport in late 2007. This sighting, and the Sentinel’s secret status at the time, leads [Bill Sweetman](#) to dub it the “Beast of Kandahar.” (Wikipedia, “[Lockheed Martin RQ-170 Sentinel](#)”)
- 2005**, September 17 — 10:30 a.m. A man is at his home on 31st Avenue in Peoria, Arizona, when he sees a bright object approaching from the east. Seven other objects appear around it, staying in the same spot for about 15 minutes, then moving to the left quickly. They go higher, moving left to right and right to left, almost hitting each other. They are completely silent. (Joseph Trainor, “[Seven Spherical UFOs Seen in Peoria, Arizona](#),” *UFO Roundup* 10, no. 39 (September 28, 2005); “[Spherical UFOs in Arizona](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 1 (October 2005): 32)
- 2005**, September 20 — Attorney and Army Reserves Brig. Gen. [Stephen Lovekin](#), who had worked for the Army Signal Corps in the 1950s and early 1960s, speaks with writer [Peter Janney](#) about the extraterrestrial presence on Earth and the official coverup. He claims that in 1995 he attended a conference on the Strategic Defense Initiative in Monterrey, Mexico, that included high-level US and Russian participants. The purpose of SDI is to protect both countries from incursions by UFOs, he alleges. (Dolan II 289)
- 2005**, September 22 — The French UFO agency is given the name Groupe d’Études et d’Information sur les Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés (GEIPAN) in order to emphasize the “information-gathering” aspect of the agency. At its first meeting, it renews the agreements with a network of specialists so that it can work effectively on new cases. (Wikipedia, “[Groupe d’Études et d’Information sur les Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés](#)”; Gildas Bourdais, “[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 14; Swords 451)
- 2005**, September 29 — Space scientist [Yves Sillard](#) is interviewed on Radio France International about GEIPAN. He states that the UFO phenomenon is serious and involves many witnesses who deserve an answer about what they have seen. The sightings, he says, include impressive radar-visual cases and landing traces. (Swords 451–452)
- 2005**, October — Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, formerly the Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, activates the Joint Unmanned Aerial Systems Center of Excellence and the 3d Special Operations Squadron (the latter is the 1st MQ-1 Predator squadron in the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). (Wikipedia, “[Creech Air Force Base](#)”)
- 2005**, October — Cognitive psychologist [Susan Clancy](#) publishes *Abducted: How People Came to Believe They Were Kidnapped by Aliens*, in which she describes her psychological testing of a sample of abductees. These tests reveal a propensity for false memories and magical ideation, making abductees more likely than average to imagine, be led by investigators, and integrate cultural scripts like the abduction story into memory. Clancy demonstrates that alien abduction stories give people meaning and a way to understand their own lives and

circumstances. It also gives them a feeling that they are not alone in the universe. *New York Times* reviewer [Benedict Carey](#)'s takeaway is that "in this sense, abduction memories are like transcendent religious visions, scary and yet somehow comforting and, at some personal psychological level, true." However, Clancy fails to ask her subjects about their religious beliefs. (Susan Clancy, *Abducted: How People Came to Believe They Were Abducted by Aliens*, Harvard University, 2005; Benedict Carey, "[Explaining Those Vivid Memories of Martian Kidnappers](#)," *New York Times*, August 9, 2005; Clark III 7)

2005, Early October — 12:30 p.m. The crew of a Magnicharters Boeing 737 encounters a luminous disc in the air corridor over Oaxaca state, Mexico, at 20,000 feet. The object emerges from one cloud and enters another at a distance of 12 miles from the aircraft. (Good Need, [p. 411](#))

2005, November 1 — An anonymous email is received by Victor Martinez, who runs a discussion list for retired intelligence people who are interested in UFOs. This person, in return for anonymity, passes on a huge volume of information each month for the next three years, all of it extracts from an alleged original document—a top secret, 3,000-page report compiled by the Defence Intelligence Agency in the late 1970s. The major revelations are: There were two crash sites in New Mexico, one southwest of Corona, and the second at Pelona Peak, south of Datil. The Corona site was discovered a day later by an archaeological team, who reports the crash site to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department. One live entity (EBE 1) was found hiding behind a rock; it and some dead bodies were later transferred to Los Alamos National Laboratory. Roswell Army Air Field took the craft and sent it on to Wright-Patterson AFB. The second site was not discovered until August 1949 by two ranchers. It took the sheriff several days to reach this crash site. He took photos, drove back to Datil, and notified Sandia Army Base, which recovered six bodies that were first sent to Sandia then to Los Alamos. The live entity established communication and supplied the name of his home planet, Serpo, in our constellation of Zeta Reticuli. It died in 1952 after being allowed to use a communication device in the crashed UFO to contact his home planet. An alien/US military meeting was set for April 1964 in Alamogordo, where the aliens (nicknamed Ebens) landed and retrieved their comrades' bodies (which had been frozen). In 1965, the US had an exchange program with the aliens, where one entity was left behind and 12 trained Americans (10 men, 2 women) left for Serpo from the Nevada Test Site. They were supposed to stay 10 years, but something went wrong. In 1978, seven men and one woman returned; two had died on Serpo, and four others decided to remain. Of the 8 that returned, all have since died, the last in 2002. A few months after the documents became known, a UK Ministry of Defence official nicknamed "Chapman" claims the events were not as described but that the document is real, as he had seen it in 1969 or 1970 in London. He claims it was a CIA document authored by [Alice Bradley Sheldon](#) (a science fiction author using the pseudonym James Tiptree Jr. who worked for the CIA in 1952–1955) in response to Soviet disinformation in the 1960s about nuclear bombs in the US. (Wikipedia, "[Planetary objects proposed in religion, astrology, ufology, and pseudoscience](#)"; Rational Wiki, "[Project Serpo](#)"; William J. Birnes, "Project Serpo: Truth or Dare?" *UFO Magazine*, Feb./Mar. 2006, pp. 32–34; Mark Pilkington, *Mirage Men: An Adventure into Paranoia, Espionage, Psychological Warfare, and UFOs*, Skyhorse, 2010; Kremlin 161–166)

2005, December 15 — The Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor, a single-seat, twin-engine, all-weather stealth tactical fighter aircraft developed for the Air Force, officially enters service. USAF officials consider the F-22 a critical component of the service's tactical air power. Its combination of stealth, aerodynamic performance, and avionics systems enable unprecedented air combat capabilities. (Wikipedia, "[Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor](#)")

2006

2006 — The UFO Research Coalition (CUFOS, MUFON, Fund for UFO Research) launches an Abduction Monitoring Project (later changed to Ambient Monitoring Project), an effort to create a compact, multi-instrumental device to be placed in the homes of recurrent abductees to record magnetic, electrical, and atmospheric anomalies over an extended period. The goal is to compare any reported abduction experiences with the anomalies to see if they coincide. After considerable difficulty with the design and construction of these boxes through 2008, data are recorded from participating abductees. However, funding is not available for the analysis needed to reach any conclusions. (Tom Deuley, "[The Ambient Monitoring Project: Data Collected in Abductee's Homes Being Analyzed](#)," *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 483 (July 2008): 3–7, 15; Jack Brewer, "[What Happened to the Ambient Monitoring Project?](#)" *The UFO Trail*, April 2, 2014)

2006, January — GEIPAN's Jacques Patenet announces that the organization will make its UFO files available to the public worldwide and placed on the CNES website. (Swords 452)

2006, April 18 — In response to a question from MP [Norman Baker](#), Under-Secretary of State for Veterans [Don Touhig](#) tells the House of Commons that [Nick Pope](#) “worked as a civil servant within Secretariat (air staff)” and that “part of his duties related to the investigation of unidentified aerial phenomena reported to the Department to see if they had any defence significance.” (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

2006, May 10 — In response to a question by MP [John Hayes](#), Under-Secretary of State for Defence [Tom Watson](#) tells the House of Commons that “Over the last five years evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace from a reported unidentified flying object has been assessed on 12 occasions; in no case was there considered to be any actual risk.” (Isaac Koi, “[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#),” Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

2006, May 15 — The UK Defense Intelligence Staff releases (after a September 2005 Freedom of Information Act request by [David Clarke](#) and Gary Anthony) a 400-page report on a secret UFO study, codenamed “Condign,” undertaken by DIS between 1997 and February 2000. *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region*, written by former Marconi Electronic Systems scientist Ron Haddow, draws on approximately 10,000 sightings and reports that have been gathered by the DI55, a section of the Directorate of Scientific and Technical Intelligence (DSTI) within the Defence Intelligence Staff. The report concludes that UFOs have an observable presence that is “indisputable,” but also that no evidence has been found to suggest they are “hostile or under any type of control.” According to its authors, the majority of analyzed UFO sightings can be explained by the misidentification of common objects such as aircraft and balloons, while the remaining unexplainable reports are most likely the result of a supernatural meteorological phenomenon not fully understood by modern science. This phenomenon is referred to in the report as “Buoyant Plasma Formation,” akin to ball lightning, and it supposedly produces an unexplained energy field that creates the appearance of a Black Triangle by refracting light. The electromagnetic fields generated by plasma phenomena are also said to explain reports of close encounters due to inducing perceptual alterations or hallucinations in those affected. The Condign report suggests that further research into “novel military applications” of this plasma phenomenon is warranted, and that “the implications have already been briefed to the relevant MoD technology manager.” The report also notes that scientists in the former Soviet Union have identified the close connection between the ‘UFO phenomena’ and Plasma technologies,” and are “pursuing related techniques for potential military purposes.” The report describes people who believe themselves to have had close encounters as being convinced of what they said that they had seen or experienced, but also as not representing proof that such encounters are real. It attributes a number of cases to the “close proximity of plasma related fields” which it said can “adversely affect a vehicle or person.” (“[Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region \(The Condign Report\): Summary of Contents](#),” The Real UFO Project; UK Defense Intelligence Staff, *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region*, released 2006; David Clarke and Gary Anthony, “[The British MoD Study: Project Condign](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 3–13, 29–32; Kean, pp. 173–175; UFOFiles2, pp. 149–155; David Clarke, “[Lost and Found](#),” David’s Substack, October 11, 2023; David Clarke, “Secrets and Lies: The MOD, UFOs and UAP,” *Fortean Times*, no. 437 (November 2023): 16–17)

2006, May 16 — At least three green fireballs brighter than the moon but not as bright as the sun blaze over northeast Australia. A farmer sees one with a blue tapering tail pass over the mountains of the Great Divide about 75 miles west of Brisbane, Queensland, then watch a phosphorescent green ball about 12 inches wide roll slowly down the side of a mountain, bouncing over a rock along the way. A commercial airline pilot landing in New Zealand sees a meteor breaking up into fragments that turn green as the bits descend in the direction of Australia. The timing of the fireballs suggests they might be debris from Comet 73P/Schwassmann–Wachmann 3, according to physicist [Stephen Hughes](#) at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. (Charles Q. Choi, “[Mystery of Green Fireball ‘UFOs’ Solved](#),” Live Science, November 30, 2010; Stephen Hughes, “[Green Fireballs and Ball Lightning](#),” *Proceedings of the Royal Society A* 467 (December 2010))

2006, July 13 — 11:00 p.m. A woman camping on the beach at Wicie, Poland, sees several red and blue lights maneuvering within a glow about 10 feet above the water. Then she realizes that the glow surrounds a huge metallic saucer-shaped object with lights that are turning on alternately from left to right. Her cellphone is acting crazy and she thinks the sea is roaring louder than usual. The object scares her so much that she hides in the forest nearby. (Poland 125)

- 2006, July 28** — The Cheyenne Mountain Realignment consolidates NORAD's day-to-day operations at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with Cheyenne Mountain as an Alternate Command Center. (Wikipedia, "[North American Aerospace Defense Command](#)")
- 2006, August 26** — 4:00 a.m. An 18-year-old is driving east across the Orwell Bridge south of Ipswich, Suffolk, England, when she sees two spinning lights about 12 feet ahead of her. They remain in front of the car as she drives and bother her so much that she misses the A12 turnoff at Seven Hills. They are a dull color and hover just above her windshield. She drives on to Felixstowe and the lights stay with her until she turns around at the Trimley roundabout. (*Norfolk Evening Star*, September 13, 2006; "[Strange Lights Give Driver a Fright](#)," UFO UpDates, September 14, 2006)
- 2006, September** — The UK Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne, approves a proposal from the Directorate of Air Staff (the former Sec(AS)) to transfer all remaining UFO files to the National Archives. Funds are found to scan approximately 160 files and remove sensitive personal information. This is described as "the largest release of documents younger than 30 years in the MoD's entire history." (UFOFiles2, [p. 170](#))
- 2006, September 5** — 3:50 a.m. A witness is driving from Black Mountain to the Rutland neighborhood of Kelowna, B.C. When he passes Garner Lake, he sees a large, grayish-black, triangular object over the Belgo area to the east. It has a pale white light at each point and a steady red light on one side. He watches it steadily as it moves slowly to the northwest part of Rutland. A police officer also sees the object. ("[Triangle UFO Seen near Kelowna](#)," UFO BC)
- 2006, September 5** — Residents of Vladivostok, Primorsky Krai, Russia, see several types of UFOs maneuvering near the city. One looks like a radiant sphere with three parts. Other witnesses report four lights. A police officer sees an object with 10 yellow lights moving around in a circular motion and hovering above the Sea of Japan at an altitude of 1–2 miles. Other smaller objects approach it, one of which explodes in a bright flare-up. The official explanation is that these are candle bombs used as aerial targets for Russian Sukhoi Su-27 fighter aircraft. (Stonehill and Mantle, *Russia's USO Secrets*, Flying Disk, 2020, pp. 117–118)
- 2006, September 22** — The Grumman F-14 Tomcat supersonic fighter is retired by US Navy, having been supplanted by the Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. (Wikipedia, "[Grumman F-14 Tomcat](#)")
- 2006, First week of October** — 11:00 p.m. A police cruiser is on patrol along the extension of Calle 10 near the municipal cemetery of Mercedes, Buenos Aires, Argentina, when the two officers see an intense light at a low altitude to their left. They stop the car and see that the object is heading in their direction at about 600 feet altitude. The light is attached to a dark circular object with a diameter of 12–15 feet and a red light in the center. It moves slowly to the northwest then disappears. ("[Difunden avistamiento de OVNI por parte de la policía en la ciudad de Mercedes](#)," *Noticias Mercedinas*, October 30, 2006)
- 2006, October 6** — Night. Ufologist [Bill Chalker](#) is along the Mekong River in Phon Phisai District, Thailand, for the annual Naga Light (ghost light) festival. He witnesses and videos many of the Naga light balls arising from the river: "This phenomenon has a tremendous social and human dimension and while it is tempting to try to explain the lights, however correctly or incorrectly, as planted 'rockets,' 'submarine' firings, Naga Dragons speaking, they all seem to fall short of entirely convincing explanations." Orb sightings are on the increase, with up to 408 counted at the Phayanak festival on October 24, 2018 (260 in RattanaWapee District and 148 in Phon Phisai). (Wikipedia, "[Naga fireball](#)"; Bill Chalker, "[The Mystery and Allure of the Naga Light Festival: My 2006 Adventure on the Mekong](#)," TheOzFiles, January 28, 2015; "Buddhist Aliens," *Fortean Times* 388 (January 2020): 7)
- 2006, October 13** — 12:45 a.m. Charles A. Stone is in his astronomical observatory in Bridgeton, New Jersey, when he spots a bright light shining behind the treeline in the distance. It begins moving slowly north and rising less than one mile away. Within 30 seconds it moves in his direction. As it approaches his neighbor's house, it goes out, but he can see a shape clearly defined by ambient light. When it is less than 200 feet above him, he can see rivets and bolts. Its windows are now brightly lit up and he can see a humanoid form moving within the large port window. The object is at least two stories high with two large windows and has a rounded nose. He can see other details, including an open hatch and bulky geometric shapes. It suddenly disappears as it is passing over. ("[New Jersey Flying Triangle](#)," Filer's Files, #23-2007, June 6, 2007)
- 2006, November** — Many people in a village in Zhenyuan Yi, Hani and Lahu Autonomous County, southern Yunnan, China, see seven white hemispherical objects hovering directly over the property of a local Chinese Communist Party cadre for nearly two hours. They appear to keep changing shape. Many people from neighboring villages

hear about the phenomenon and arrive to watch it. People try to pursue the lights, but they soon disappear. (Clark III 653)

- 2006**, November 1 — [John Schuessler](#) retires as director of MUFON. He is succeeded by [James Carrion](#) of Bellevue, Colorado. (“[Schuessler Retires As MUFON Head](#),” *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006): 16)
- 2006**, November 7 — 4:15 p.m. Federal authorities at O’Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois, receive a report that a group of 12 airport employees are witnessing a metallic, saucer-shaped craft hovering over Gate C-17. The object is first spotted by a ramp worker who is pushing back United Airlines Flight 446, which is departing Chicago for Charlotte, North Carolina. The employee apprises the crew of the object above their aircraft. It is believed that both the pilot and copilot also witness the object. Several independent witnesses outside of the airport also see the object. One describes a “blatant” disc-shaped craft hovering over the airport, which was “obviously not clouds.” According to this witness, nearby observers gasp as the object shoots through the clouds at high velocity, leaving a clear blue hole in the cloud layer. The hole reportedly seems to close itself shortly afterward. According to the *Chicago Tribune*’s [Jon Hilkevitch](#), “The disc was visible for approximately five minutes and was seen by close to a dozen United Airlines employees, ranging from pilots to supervisors, who heard chatter on the radio and raced out to view it.” So far, no photographic evidence of the UFO has surfaced, although Hilkevitch finds out that one of the pilots is in possession of a digital camera at the time of the sighting and may have photographed the event. NARCAP publishes a 155-page report and has called for a government inquiry and improved energy-sensing technologies: “Anytime an airborne object can hover for several minutes over a busy airport but not be registered on radar or seen visually from the control tower, [it] constitutes a potential threat to flight safety.” The FAA stance concludes that the sighting was caused by a weather phenomenon and that the agency would not be investigating the incident. (Wikipedia, “[2006 O’Hare International Airport UFO Sighting](#)”; Jon Hilkevitch, “[What WAS That Thing in the Sky at O’Hare?](#)” *Chicago Tribune*, January 1, 2007, pp. 1, 19; “[O’Hare Workers Say They Saw a UFO](#),” *Chicago Tribune* [Redeye], January 2, 2007, p. 9; Mark Rodeghier, “[Media Take Notice When Media Take Notice: UFO Seen over O’Hare Airport](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 1 (January 2007): 32; Richard F. Haines, “[Report of an Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon and Its Safety Implications at O’Hare International Airport on November 7, 2006](#),” NARCAP, May 14, 2007; Leslie Kean, “[Incident at O’Hare Airport](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 3–7; Richard F. Haines, et al., “[A UAP and Its Safety Implications: O’Hare International Airport, Nov. 7, 2006](#),” *IUR* 31, no. 3 (October 2007): 3–7; “[Jon Hilkevitch on His Chicago O’Hare UFO Story](#),” TribuneNation YouTube channel, August 24, 2010; Kean, pp. 65–72; Clark III 835–838; Mutual UFO Network, [[case report](#)]; “[FAA Audio of UFO over Chicago O’Hare Airport in 2006 | Special Report | The Basement Office](#),” New York Post YouTube channel, December 22, 2020; “[UFO Hunters: Aliens Spotted at Chicago Airport \(S2, E11\) | Full Episode | History](#),” History YouTube channel, January 11, 2021; David Bates, “[The O’Hare Field UFO Remains a Great Case](#),” Medium: Trail of the Saucers, September 21, 2021; Christopher Plain and Micah Hanks, “[The Chicago O’Hare UAP Incident: Physics Team’s Analysis Offers a Fresh Look at This Famous 2006 Case](#),” The DeBrief, May 2, 2023; Covert 22, 68; Graff 393–394; Powell, *Scientist*, 18)
- 2006**, November 8 — The 42d Attack Squadron is formed at Creech AFB, Nevada, as the first MQ-9 Reaper drone squadron. (Wikipedia, “[Creech Air Force Base](#)”)
- 2006**, December 13 — *Fastwalkers*, a documentary on NORAD’s Defense Satellite Program and its detection of UFOs (fastwalkers and slowwalkers) entering the Earth’s atmosphere, is released. (Internet Movie Database, “[Fastwalkers](#)”)

2007

- 2007** — The US National Archives allows the entire collection of sanitized Blue Book documents to be placed on the web through a private company called Footnote.com (now called Fold3), totaling nearly 130,000 pages, each one an individual JPG image. ([Sparks](#), p. 7)
- 2007** — John Carpenter launches the *Journal of Abduction–Encounter Research* in Springfield, Missouri, which continues until July 2010. ([Journal of Abduction–Encounter Research](#), no. 1 (January 2007))
- 2007**, January 11 — China conducts an anti-satellite missile test in which a Chinese weather satellite, the FY-1C polar orbit satellite of the Fengyun series orbiting at an altitude of 537 miles, is destroyed by a kinetic kill vehicle traveling with a speed of 8 km/s in the opposite direction. It is launched with a multistage solid-fuel missile from Zichang Satellite Launch Center or nearby. It is the first known successful satellite intercept test since 1985. The

kill produces an estimated 35,000 pieces of one-centimeter-wide debris and another 1,500 pieces that are 10 centimeters or more. (Wikipedia, "[2007 Chinese anti-satellite missile test](#)")

2007, January 12 — Afternoon. Amateur radio enthusiasts record the conversation of pilots in two USAF F-15C fighters on a training mission just north of RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, England. One fighter gets a radar lock on an unidentified target 17 miles in front of him. He breaks the lock and reacquires it to validate the target, which is moving slowly at 17,700 feet. Closing to 500 feet, the pilot sees a small, irregular object like a "black rock." His wingman joins him and they make three additional passes as they track it on airborne radar. (Skinwalkers 126–127; Covert 93–102)

2007, January 30 — Brian Tietje is driving west between Bastrop and Austin, Texas, when he sees a small object in the sky just above the treetops about 30° to his left. Within a second, the object moves to within 300 feet of his vehicle, remaining stationary for about one second at 100 feet in the air. It is shaped like a bullet and about the size of a car. A hinge or flap on its rear end drops down and it heads north at a high rate of speed, disappearing within a second. (Powell, *Scientist*, 68)

2007, March 5 — 7:15 p.m. Several witnesses around Bremerton, Washington, see a steady red light above the smokestack at Naval Base Kitsap on the Kitsap Peninsula. It moves slowly north for 10 minutes, stops for 3 minutes, then suddenly dims, brightens, and disappears. ("[Sighting Report](#)," National UFO Reporting Center, March 8, 2007; Nukes 503)

2007, March 8 — 10:30 p.m. Two hunters are driving south of National Park village near a burned area on the North Island of New Zealand when they notice a trapezoid-shaped object with four evenly spaced red-orange lights and a yellowish light below it. One of them jumps out of their pickup truck and shines a spotlight on it, but the object takes off quickly and silently to the south. (Ufocus NZ, "[New Zealand UFO/UAP Sightings 2007](#)")

2007, March 16 — 11:00 p.m. Two witnesses in a subdivision on the outskirts of Tauranga, New Zealand, see a bus-sized, glowing, amber object moving slowly above the treetops from west to east. It appears to be rectangular or trapezoid in shape. It tilts briefly and they can see an oval shape on the top before it is lost to view in the clouds. (Ufocus NZ, "[New Zealand UFO/UAP Sightings 2007](#)")

2007, March 18 — Former Arizona Gov. [Fife Symington](#) admits that he witnessed one of the "craft of unknown origin" during the 1997 [Phoenix Lights](#) event, but notes that he didn't go public with the information. In an interview with [Leslie Kean](#) in the *Prescott Daily Courier*, Fife says: "It was enormous and inexplicable. Who knows where it came from? A lot of people saw it, and I saw it too. It was dramatic. And it couldn't have been flares because it was too symmetrical. It had a geometric outline, a constant shape." ("[Former Arizona Governor Says He Saw 'Phoenix lights' UFO](#)," *American Chronicle*, March 18, 2007; "[Former Arizona Governor Says He Saw a UFO during the 1997 Phoenix Lights](#)," Wikinews, March 19, 2007; Kean, pp. 253–257, 262–264)

2007, March 22 — GEIPAN, the French office in charge of UFO investigations, begins to put all its UFO files on its website. These reports have been gathered in more than 30 years of investigations since its creation in 1977. Some 400 files, covering the period 1988–2005, are put online first. (Groupe d'Études et d'Informations sur les Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés [website](#); Gildas Bourdais, "[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 12, 14–15; Swords 452–453; "[French Space Agency Puts UFO Files Online](#)," Fox News, January 13, 2015)

2007, March 26 — In response to a question from MP [Norman Baker](#), Minister of State for the Armed Forces [Adam Ingram](#) tells the House of Commons that the "Condign" report released in May 2006 cost roughly £50,000 and was originally circulated to the Ministry of Defence and the RAF. (Isaac Koi, "[UFOs in Parliament \(UK\)](#)," Isaac Koi—UFOs and Parliament, 2024)

2007, March 30 — GEIPAN's Jacques Patenet appears, with *Ciel et espace* editor [Alain Cirou](#), on a well-known French TV program called *C dans l'air*. Questioned bluntly by host and journalist [Yves Calvi](#) about UFOs, Patenet says unequivocally that yes, there are UFOs. (Gildas Bourdais, "[The Death and Rebirth of Official French UFO Studies](#)," *IUR* 31, no. 2 (June 2007): 14)

2007, April — French space scientist [Yves Sillard](#) consolidates his ideas on UFOs in the landmark book *Phénomènes aérospatiaux non identifiés: Un défi à la science*, written in collaboration with other scientists. (Yves Sillard, et al., *Phénomènes aérospatiaux non identifiés: Un défi à la science*, Le Cherche midi, 2007)

2007, April 6 — Night. Brian Vike is driving near North Park Lake, McCandless, Pennsylvania, with friends when he sees a strange light shining directly on the lake from high above it. They get out and walk towards the lake. Vike is able to see fish swimming beneath the surface of the lake under the beam. The object projecting the light moves away to above the trees and is only the size of a streetlight. (Brian Vike, "[Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania \(North Park\)](#)")

[Strange Light in the Water Then Rose Up](#),” [waterufo.net](#); Carl W. Feindt, “[Beam of Light into a Body of Water](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 24)

- 2007**, April 23 — 2:09 p.m. The passengers of Flight A-Line 544 depart Southampton, England, in a BN2a Mk3 Trislander aircraft in fine weather with good visibility for miles around, though a haze layer is present at 2,000 feet, and a continuous cloud layer at 10,000 feet. They rise to an altitude of 4,000 feet and are cruising on autopilot about 10 miles south of the Isle of Wight. Capt. Ray Bowyer notices, exactly in the direction of Guernsey in the Channel Islands (southwest and 12 o’clock ahead) what appears to be a brilliant yellow lamp or light. He thinks that it might be an airplane or reflections from the ground, as Guernsey is immediately behind it. The reflection of the sun off a greenhouse is a possibility but the UFO persists for a couple of minutes. It is brilliant yellow, with a dark grey band enveloping it one third from the right, like a band around a cigar. Bowyer makes contact with Jersey ATC to check on traffic heading his way. Paul Kelly at Jersey ATC cannot see any traffic in that position, but he picks up a faint primary return radar signal. A passenger behind the captain confirms what Bowyer is seeing and points out a second UFO immediately behind the first: Bowyer estimates both lights to be “up to possibly a mile across.” Radar traces also seem to register the presence of two objects, which Bowyer believes to be correlated with the position and time of the sighting. The first object is presumed to have been near the Casquets, west of Alderney, and the second some miles north of Guernsey. A study by [David Clarke](#), however, cannot establish a definite link, as the radar reflections of cargo or passenger ferries may have affected at least some of the readings. Bowyer disagrees with Clarke’s team on the supposed link between the radar traces and ferries and proposes that two solid airborne UFOs are working in unison that day. Captain Patterson, the second pilot witness, posits some type of “atmospheric phenomenon” as an explanation. (Wikipedia, “[2007 Alderney UFO Sighting](#)”; Kean, pp. 73–81; UFOFiles2, pp. 166–168; Jean-François Baure, David Clarke, Paul Fuller, and Martin Shough, “[Report on Aerial Phenomena Observed near the Channel Islands, UK, April 23, 2007](#),” February 2008; Jean-François Baure, David Clarke, Paul Fuller, and Martin Shough, “[Unusual Atmospheric Phenomena Observed near Channel Islands, UK, 23 April 2007](#),” *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 22, no. 3 (2008): 291–308; Sigma 2 Technical Committee on UAP, “[2024 UAP News Summary, April–June](#),” Sentinel News, August 31, 2024)
- 2007**, June 8 — The US Air Intelligence Agency is redesignated the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency. (Wikipedia, “[Air Force intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency](#)”)
- 2007**, June 11 — The Société Belge d’Étude des Phénomènes Spatiaux in Brussels, Belgium, is officially dissolved. Its place is taken by a less formal group, Comité Belge d’Étude des Phénomènes Spatiaux, headed by Patrick Ferryn. (“[Bienvenue sur le site de COBEPS](#),” Comité Belge d’Étude des Phénomènes Spatiaux)
- 2007**, June 19 — Defense Intelligence Agency intelligence officer and scientist James T. Lacatski contacts [Robert Bigelow](#) for permission to visit the Skinwalker Ranch in Utah, a project under study by the National Institute for Discovery Science. He wants to see how the DIA might develop a strategy to characterize the “potential threat aspects of the phenomena.” (Skinwalkers 17–18, 38–39; Graff 390)
- 2007**, July 16 — 12:52 a.m. A witness is walking a dog in Port Orchard, Washington, when an orange fireball travels from southeast to northwest for 30 seconds. It disappears in thick clouds over Green Mountain. (“[Sighting Report](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, August 7, 2007; Nukes 503–504)
- 2007**, July 26 — [Robert Bigelow](#) accompanies DIA official James T. Lacatski on a visit to Skinwalker Ranch in Utah. During his 2-hour visit, Lacatski witnesses a bizarre tubular object hovering in the kitchen of the Homestead 1 building. After 30 seconds, it vanishes. He describes it is as similar to the object depicted on [Mike Oldfield](#)’s 1973 album *Tubular Bells*. Over the next 12 months, Bigelow Aerospace security personnel stationed at the ranch report numerous instances of a perceived presence, perceptions of being watched, paranormal events, emotional distress, and observations of UFOs. (Skinwalkers 39–41; Graff 390; Covert 183–190)
- 2007**, September — Project Oxcart, the A-12 reconnaissance aircraft program, is declassified. (Wikipedia, “[Lockheed A-12](#)”)
- 2007**, September 18 — 4:30 p.m. [Curt Collins](#) is driving west from Carthage, Mississippi, on State Highway 16 when he sees about 8 faraway objects in the sky to the west. They are in a loose elliptical grouping, and some are slowly orbiting along the curve of the ellipse. The others are hovering or moving slightly in a different direction. The objects are in view until he turns left onto State Highway 25 about 60 seconds later. He suspects they might have been birds or Chinese lanterns. (Curt Collins, “[Analyzing a 2007 UFO Sighting in Mississippi](#),” Blue Blurry Lines, November 2, 2023)

- 2007, Fall?** — The Defense Intelligence Agency, at the initiation of Sen. [Harry Reid](#) (D-Nev.) and the urging of government contractor and Las Vegas billionaire [Robert Bigelow](#), quietly establishes the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP)—purposely misidentified as the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP), a Pentagon program to study UFOs—as a DIA project on the fifth floor of the Pentagon’s C Ring to evaluate the threat potential of UFOs. With the support of Sen. [Ted Stevens](#) (R-Alaska) and [Daniel Inouye](#) (D-Hawaii), Reid secures \$22 million in black-project funding in the 2008 Supplemental Funding Act directed to the DIA Directorate of Analysis, specifically the Defense Warning Office. Its goal is “to understand the physics and engineering of these [advanced aerospace weapon system] applications as they apply to the foreign threat out to the far-term, i.e., from now through the year 2050.” The Pentagon will spend this money between September 2008 and December 2010. (Wikipedia, “[Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program](#)”; Helene Cooper, Ralph Blumenthal, and Leslie Kean, “[Glowing Auras and ‘Black Money’: The Pentagon’s Mysterious UFO Program](#),” *New York Times*, December 16, 2017; Clark III 48; Skinwalkers 41–42; John Greenewald, “[The Black Vault’s AAWSAP/AATIP and Post 2017 UAP/UFO Timeline Project](#),” *The Black Vault*, January 21, 2023’ Graff 391–392)
- 2007, October 10** — 10:40 p.m. A man sees a silver-gray disc about 70 feet wide hovering above Lake Easton, Washington, for 3–5 minutes. A beam of bright greenish light is extended from it, illuminating the lake. He sees small objects floating up to it, apparently fish. (Carl W. Feindt, “[Beam of Light into a Body of Water](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 24)
- 2007, October 11** — The Allen Telescope Array becomes operational at the Hat Creek Radio Observatory in Shasta County, California, with 42 antennas. The array is dedicated to astronomical observations and a simultaneous search for extraterrestrial intelligence. The project is originally developed as a joint effort between the SETI Institute and the Radio Astronomy Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, with funds obtained from an initial \$12.5 million donation by the [Paul G. Allen](#) Family Foundation and [Nathan Myhrvold](#). Today, the array listens for just 90 seconds as it passes targets in the sky, going through 56 million channels. (Wikipedia, “[Allen Telescope Array](#)”; Graff 399–401)
- 2007, October 17** — 7:00 p.m. A man is driving on Interstate 90 near Cle Elem, Washington, when he sees a bluish-gray disc hovering about 600–700 feet in the air. It bobbles slightly for about 5 minutes then disappears. (Carl W. Feindt, “[Beam of Light into a Body of Water](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 3 (December 2010): 24)
- 2007, October 17** — 7:30 p.m. Three men are fishing at the Mactaquac Dam in Mactaquac, New Brunswick, when they see a rectangular object with three rectangular white lights some 200 feet away from them. It flies by and quickly disappears. Some 15 minutes later, a smaller object with only two rectangular lights appears, flying low. Around 8:15 p.m., they observe 10 spheres in a V formation flying erratically at high speed. Some of them leave the formation, move in circles, then go back to the V shape. At 8:30 p.m., three spheres appear, moving erratically and in an occasional triangular formation, disappearing in about one minute. (UFO History Group, [2007 file](#))
- 2007, October 30** — Afternoon. Pilot Marin Mitrică is flying a MiG-21 LanceR fighter on a training flight from Romanian Air Force 71st Base at Câmpia Turzii, Romania, when he is suddenly hit by an unknown object. The collision breaks the plastic window covering the cockpit, punches a hole in his helmet, and wounds his face. He reduces speed and descends from his altitude of 4 miles to avoid hypoxia and hypothermia. After landing, an examination of the flight recorder shows two small triangles approaching from the right. No traces of organic matter are found on the plane, ruling out birds, and there are no other civilian or military aircraft or balloons in the area. (“[A Mid Air Collision between a MiG 21 and a UFO over Romania in October 2007?](#)” *Flying Saucer Review* 53, no. 1 (Spring 2008): 1; Romania 114–115)
- 2007, November 12** — A press conference, sponsored by documentary producer [James Fox](#) and journalist [Leslie Kean](#), moderated by former Arizona Gov. [Fife Symington](#), is held at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. Nineteen former pilots and military and civilian officials speak about their experiences with UFOs and demand that the US government engage in a new investigation. (Bonnie Malkin, “[Pilots Call for New UFO Investigation](#),” *The Telegraph* (UK), November 14, 2007; “[I Touched a UFO: Ex-Air Force Pilot](#),” *Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Herald*, November 14, 2007; Sally Petersen, “[International Press Conference on UFOs Held at National Press Club in Washington, D.C.](#),” *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 47 (December 2007): cover, 3–4; Marler [23–24](#); Graff 395)
- 2007, December 14** — 6:45 p.m. Witnesses in Kingsland, Georgia, see a triangular object with a light in each corner that changes from red to blue to white, with a bright burst happening occasionally. The object moves slowly at about 500 feet altitude. (“[Sighting Report](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, March 4, 2008; Nukes 507–508)

- 2007**, December 21 — 6:05 p.m. A helicopter pilot flying at 4,500 feet southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, reports a bright, white, steady light moving some 60 miles away at 30,000–40,000 feet and heading east. Halifax Robert L. Stanfield International Airport confirms a radar target. (Chris Rutkowski, [“More Christmas UFOs and UAPs,”](#) Ufology Research, December 13, 2022)
- 2007**, December 29 — 9:00 p.m. Two witnesses driving near the Kitsap Mall in Silverdale, Washington, see an object with three white lights apparently hovering above Trigger Avenue near Naval Base Kitsap to the north. As they approach its location, they see that it is large, triangular and made out of reflective metal. It is silently hovering 500 feet in the air over a farm a few yards from the highway. ([“Sighting Report,”](#) National UFO Reporting Center, January 21, 2008; Nukes 504–505)

2008

- 2008** — The Swedish Defence Research Agency begins sharing a database with UFO-Sverige to make all reports coming into the institute available to the organization’s field investigators. (Swords 371)
- 2008**, January 8 — 6:10 p.m. Truck driver Harlan Cowan is traveling east toward Stephenville, Texas, when he sees two stationary lights directly ahead. They are as bright as welding arcs. They split apart and move rapidly away from each other to the north and south at a high rate of speed. At 6:15 p.m., private pilot Steve Allen and three other witnesses 5 miles southeast of Stephenville see four lights similar in intensity to burning magnesium. They come out of the northeast at a speed faster than a military jet. Allen thinks the lights are spread out over a one-mile area. They slow down and remain stationary northwest of his position, then they shift from 4 lights in a horizontal position to 7 lights in a vertical position, emit a white flame, and blink out. Over 30 more witnesses come forward to report odd lights until about 9:30 p.m. Some also see fighter jets chasing the light. [Angela Joiner](#), a reporter with the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune*, calls Maj. [Karl Lewis](#), spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, who first tells her he thinks the lights are reflections of the sun on high-altitude aircraft. When she asks about military aircraft reported by witnesses, Lewis volunteers the information that there were no F-16s from his unit operating that night, and no other pilots had reported a UFO. On January 16, a FOIA request is sent to the Federal Aviation Administration for any radar data from sites around Stephenville. On January 23, the Air Force admits in a press release that there indeed were 10 F-16s performing training operations that night between 6:00 and 8:00. Joiner contacts Lewis again, who now merely reads the press statement and is not helpful. In February, responses to FOIAs by [Robert Powell](#) and Glen Schulze begin to arrive. Military bases unanimously respond with “we have found no records responsive to your request.” However, the FAA releases its raw radar information in mid-February. It is clear that the unknown lights are not related to F-16 activity, but there is intense Air Force activity that night. Ten F-16s and one AWACS jet make figure-8s over the area. Two F-16s from Oklahoma fly south to the Stephenville area. FAA radar returns also show a target four miles north of Allen’s sighting that moves at an apparent speed of 2,100 mph. At 7:20 p.m., two radar sites pick up a target that corresponds to Constable [Lee Roy Gaitan](#)’s observation of an unknown light. Another radar track begins at 6:51 p.m. An unknown object without a transponder signal is tracked with FAA radar for more than one hour. Two different radars (one at Fort Worth and another at Temple) make contact with the object 187 times as it covers a distance of 50 miles on a constant trajectory to the southeast. Its speed varies from stationary, to accelerating to 532 mph in 30 seconds, to decelerating to 49 mph in 10 seconds. It is traveling on a direct course to President [George W. Bush](#)’s Western White House in Crawford, Texas. At 8:00 p.m. it is 10 miles from Prairie Chapel Ranch. Two witnesses riding bicycles 2 miles away from the ranch see a light that slowly descends, makes a 90° turn, then speeds out of sight in 1–2 seconds. But no F-16s pursue this potential interloper. Skeptical researcher James McGaha concludes that the sightings were a military training operation involving the deployment of exceptionally bright LUU/2B/B flares. (NICAP, [“Large Object Seen / Tracked by Radar / Near Bush Ranch”](#); [“Stephenville 2008,”](#) Texas UFO Museum and Research Library; Angela K. Brown, [“Military Reverses Itself, Says F-16s Were in Texas Area Where Residents Reported UFO,”](#) *Brattleboro (Vt.) Reformer*, January 23, 2008; [“Over 50 Witnesses Report UFO Sighting at Stephenville, TX,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 478 (February 2008): 3; Sally Petersen, [“Update on Investigation of Stephenville, Texas Sightings,”](#) *MUFON UFO Journal*, no. 479 (March 2008): 3–5; Don Ledger, “Stephenville, Texas, UFOs,” *Fate* 61, no. 3 (March 2008): 10–15; Glen Schulze and Robert Powell, [“Stephenville Lights: A Comprehensive Radar and Witness Report Study Regarding the Events of January 8, 2008, 4pm to 8pm,”](#) MUFON, July 3, 2008; [“MUFON Releases Report on UFO Sighting in Stephenville, Texas,”](#) Wikinews, July 18, 2008; [“The Stephenville Lights: What Actually Happened,”](#) *Skeptical Inquirer* 33, no. 1 (January/February 2009): 56–57; Swords 344–

- 348; Glen Schulze and Robert Powell, "[Stephenville Lights: A Comprehensive Radar and Witness Report Study Regarding the Events of January 8, 2008, 4pm to 8pm](#)," Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies, December 18, 2010; Chet Dembeck, "[Triangular UFO over Stephenville, Texas, Still Evokes Claims of Government Cover-Up and Harassment](#)," Unknown Boundaries, November 12, 2023; Covert 42, 44; Powell, *Scientist*, 18, 37–39; Brian Dunning, "[The Stephenville Lights](#)," Skeptoid podcast, June 11, 2024)
- 2008**, January 29 — Real estate developer [Robert Bigelow](#) files notice with the Nevada Secretary of State to create Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, LLC, housed within his aerospace plant in North Las Vegas. (John Greenewald, "[The Black Vault's AAWSAP/AATIP and Post 2017 UAP/UFO Timeline Project](#)," The Black Vault, January 21, 2023)
- 2008**, February 21 — The US Navy destroys the malfunctioning US spy satellite USA-193 orbiting at 153 miles altitude using a RIM-161 Standard Missile 3 launched from the [USS Lake Erie](#). The US claims it created no space debris because the satellite was so close to earth that the particles burned up in reentry. (Wikipedia, "[Operation Burnt Frost](#)")
- 2008**, March 5 — The 556th Test and Evaluation Squadron becomes operational at Creech AFB, Nevada, as "the Air Force's [first] test squadron for unmanned aerial systems." The base is home to drone operators for both the US Air Force and the CIA in missions across Afghanistan and the Middle East. (Wikipedia, "[Creech Air Force Base](#)")
- 2008**, April — After publication of the 99th issue of *Magonia*, John Rimmer decides to cease print publication. ("[History of Magonia](#)," *Magonia* Archive; Clark III 706)
- 2008**, April 22 — The last F-117 stealth fighter-bomber is retired and returned to Tonopah Test Range in Nevada. Although officially retired, the F-117 fleet remains intact and photos show the aircraft carefully mothballed. Some of the aircraft are flown periodically and have been spotted flying as recently as July 2019. (Wikipedia, "[Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk](#)")
- 2008**, April 30 — Disclosure advocate Stephen Bassett, founder of the Paradigm Research Group, writes an open letter to Sen. [Hillary Clinton](#), urging her to release all classified information about UFOs, should she become president. He writes similar letters to her in 2015 and 2016. (Paradigm Research Group, "[Open Letter to Hillary Clinton Redux, Redux, Redux](#)," March 15, 2016)
- 2008**, May — Scripps-Howard News Service and Ohio University conduct a telephone poll on UFOs and extraterrestrial life. 55.8% of respondents believe that the existence of intelligent life in space is either likely or somewhat likely, while 33.1% believe it is likely or somewhat likely that intelligent life has visited earth. Only 7.6% answer that they have had a UFO sighting. (Mark Rodeghier, "[Influences on Opinion about ETI and UFOs](#)," *IUR* 32, no. 2 (December 2008): 19–24)
- 2008**, May 5 — At the request of the Brazilian Commission of Ufologists, the office of the Deputy Chief of Legal Affairs contacts the Ministry of Defense and requests access to documents related to UFO material that is no longer classified and can be turned over to the National Archives. (Clark III 1072)
- 2008**, May 6 — Political scientists [Alexander Wendt](#) and [Raymond Duvall](#) publish an article, "Sovereignty and the UFO" in *Political Theory*, in which they point to the fundamental weakness of anti-UFO arguments, which claim falsely that no evidence exists. When skeptics are not arguing along those lines, they use *a priori* logic, which insists that if extraterrestrials exist, they would not behave or look as UFO witnesses describe. Another assertion is that spacecraft could never get to Earth, given the constraints of distance and speed. The authors argue that the problem is that the idea of real UFOs challenges anthropocentric norms, making it a taboo even to acknowledge a phenomenon that has been declared non-existent. (Alexander Wendt and Raymond Duvall, "[Sovereignty and the UFO](#)," *Political Theory* 36, no. 4 (August 2008): 607–633; Clark III 537–538; Kean, pp. 269–281; Michael P. A. Murphy, "[The 'UFO Taboo' Is What IR Theorists Make of It: 'Sovereignty and the UFO' in Citational Perspective](#)," *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* 49 (2024): 24–44)
- 2008**, May 12 — The first tranche of UFO files is released by the UK National Archives, whose UFO webpage, set up to provide direct public access, receives more than 1.7 million visitors in the first few days. Internet searches on UFOs triple overnight across the globe. ("[UK Releases Classified UFO Files](#)," *New Scientist*, May 13, 2008; UFOFiles2, [p. x](#))
- 2008**, May 16 — [Marios Matsakis](#), Member of the European Parliament for Cyprus, cites the declassification of UFO files by the UK Ministry of Defence and asks whether the issue merits an investigation by an EU service. The European Commission provides a one-sentence reply on July 25 stating that it has "no intention of pursuing this matter." (Jochen Ickinger, "[UAP in the European Parliament, Part 2](#)," UAP Check, February 28, 2024)

- 2008**, May 26 — *New York Times* staff reporter Sarah Lyall, based in the UK, selectively focuses on some of the silliest UFO documents released by the Ministry of Defence (letters written to the agency by citizens) and provides readers with standard ridicule and the biased approach traditionally associated with *New York Times* coverage. (Sarah Lyall, [“British UFO Shocker! Government Officials Were Telling the Truth.”](#) *New York Times*, May 26, 2008)
- 2008**, June 1 — [Luis Elizondo](#), an employee of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, begins working as a counterintelligence and security consultant with the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP), a small group of UFO-curious personnel at the Pentagon who are studying UFOs encountered by military personnel. Confusingly, it has the same name as the nickname of the Defense Intelligence Agency’s secret Aerospace Advanced Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP) used in 2008–2010 as a way to mask its real name. The group has the direct knowledge of their superiors. The core people in this group will form the basis of what will become the UAP Task Force, created by Congress in the summer of 2020, but it now operates without a budget, office, or formal name until Elizondo resigns from his job in 2017. The Department of Defense has claimed that AATIP ended in 2012. (Clark III 49; Helene Cooper, Ralph Blumenthal, and Leslie Kean, [“Glowing Auras and ‘Black Money’: The Pentagon’s Mysterious UFO Program.”](#) *New York Times*, December 16, 2017; Skinwalkers xxiii–xxiv, 157–158; John Greenewald, [“The Black Vault’s AAWSAP/AATIP and Post 2017 UAP/UFO Timeline Project.”](#) The Black Vault, January 21, 2023)
- 2008**, June 26 — 9:20 a.m. At the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Scientific Exploration in Boulder, Colorado, [Jerome Clark](#) gives a lecture on the distinction between “event anomalies” (which cannot be easily explained) and “experience anomalies” (which are effectively inexplicable). Event anomalies require a scientific investigation to be understood, documented, and incorporated into current or future knowledge. Experience anomalies are indifferent to truth narratives, supporting false ones just as readily; they embrace the notion of liminality, in which it is possible to enter a “realm between the daylight of science and reason and the dark night of dreams and superstition.” Clark expands on the concept in later books and articles. (Clark III 444–446; Jerome Clark, “Experience Anomalies,” *Fortean Times* 243 (December 2008): 42–47)
- 2008**, July 29 — Former UK Ministry of Defence official [Nick Pope](#) offers a rational response to the biased reportage in the May 26 issue of the *New York Times*, citing the O’Hare Airport and Alderney UFO cases. He concludes: “The United States Air Force or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should reopen investigations of UFO phenomena. It would not imply that the country has suddenly started believing in little green men. It would simply recognize the possibility that radar alone cannot always tell us what’s out there.” (Nick Pope, [“Unidentified Flying Threats.”](#) *New York Times*, July 29, 2008)
- 2008**, August 18 — The Defense Intelligence Agency issues a small-business set-aside solicitation (HHM402-08-R-0211) for a company to handle its new Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP), with a due date of September 10. The solicitation states that the primary focus is on “breakthrough technologies and applications that create discontinuities in currently evolving technology trends.” (“[B — Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program, Solicitation HHM402-08-R-0211.](#)” August 18, 2008; Skinwalkers 20–21, 42–43; John Greenewald, [“The Black Vault’s AAWSAP/AATIP and Post 2017 UAP/UFO Timeline Project.”](#) The Black Vault, January 21, 2023)
- 2008**, August 20 — 4:45 p.m. A military witness one mile outside Hrubieszów, Poland, watches a silvery isosceles triangle hovering and rotating around its axis in the west. He estimates it is 50 feet long on one side and less than 2 miles away. It flies over the area at an altitude of 330 feet. At one point it dims and literally vanishes in mid-air in a matter of seconds. (Poland 94–95)
- 2008**, September 16 — 10:30 p.m. A witness and his fiancée are driving north near Radomsko, Poland, when they see a black triangle with lights (apparently gas jets) at its corners slowly floating 500 feet above the road. Two of the lights are blinking and one is steady. The 30-foot-wide object has cubical protrusions on its side and a smooth bottom. It seems to be rotating at first and takes another pass over the highway at a higher altitude after doubling back. (Poland 93–94)
- 2008**, September 22 — A \$10 million initial contract for the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP) is awarded to Bigelow Aerospace, the only bidder on the August solicitation, by the Defense Intelligence Agency. The program contract directs that the “contractor shall complete advanced aerospace weapon system technical studies” on 12 topics, such as propulsion, power generation, materials, configuration, structure, and directed-energy weapons. The intent is to research technology that could shed

light on the UFO/UAP phenomenon. [Robert Bigelow](#) has already set up the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) project, which now has 40–50 full-time support staff, to carry out the contract through September 30, 2010. DIA intelligence officer James T. Lacatski becomes the program manager in Washington, D.C., and biochemist [Colm Kelleher](#) is deputy administrator in Las Vegas. Engineer [Harold E. Puthoff](#) claims he is responsible determining what topics related to aerospace futures the program will address. (Clark III 48; Keith Basterfield, “[Dr. Colm Kelleher and the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program](#),” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, May 14, 2018; Keith Basterfield, “[Did the AAWSA Program/AATIP Really Start in 2007?](#)” Unidentified Aerial Phenomena—Scientific Research, May 16, 2018; Skinwalkers 20, 22–25, 42–44; John Greenewald, “[The Black Vault’s AAWSAP/AATIP and Post 2017 UAP/UFO Timeline Project](#),” The Black Vault, January 21, 2023; Covert, xxvi–xxvii, 1–7)

- 2008**, October 15 — Air Force Instruction 10-206, the document that governs the handling of UFO reports by Air Force personnel, is updated again. (John Greenewald, “[Air Force Instruction 10-206: The Vanishing UFO Regulation](#),” The Black Vault, April 13, 2016)
- 2008**, October 23 — 3:45 a.m. Truck driver Tim Comstock is driving on State Highway 7 north of Empire, Ohio, when he sees other drivers stopped along the side of the road. He stops his truck and sees, near the top of a hill ahead, a white light with a bit of orange inside it. He thinks it looks biological, not technological. It is the size of a large pickup truck and begins rising toward a triangle of blue lights above it, which seem to belong to one object. He takes some cellphone photos that capture both the large light and the triangle. (Linda Moulton Howe, “[More Ohio Eyewitnesses See Glowing ‘Pod’ Rise Up to Triangle](#),” Earthfiles, December 12, 2008; Steve Hammons, “[UFO in UK Resembles Texas, Ohio Sightings](#),” Earthpages.org, February 1, 2009; Covert 69)
- 2008**, October 31 — The National Archive in Brasília, Brazil, receives from the Center for Aeronautical Documentation and History a set of publications dated 1952–1969 on UFOs. Among them are documents identifying the government’s System of Investigation of Unidentified Aircraft and UFO cases investigated from October 1968 to August 1969. Another batch is received on April 23, 2009, covering the years 1970–1972. (Clark III 1072–1073; Kean, p. 199)
- 2008**, October 31 — 6:00 p.m. An architect in Sandomierz, Poland, sees a boomerang- or half-moon-shaped object surrounded by a mist filled with red points of light. It is silently moving northeast at tremendous speed. (Poland 92–93)
- 2008**, November — [Robert Bigelow](#) hires biochemist [Colm Kelleher](#) as deputy administrator of the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies project in Las Vegas, its first full-time employee. (Skinwalkers 44)
- 2008**, November — The Defense Intelligence Agency’s Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP) completes a management plan that lists six major projects: Project Database (creation of the CAPELLA data warehouse), Project Physics (the 38 Defense Intelligence Reference Documents), Project Engagement (UFO case analysis), Project Northern Tier (examination of cases near USAF bases with nuclear weapons), Project Colares (gathering material from cases in the Colares, Brazil, wave of 1972–2003), and Project Ranch (studies at the Skinwalker ranch in Utah). Another effort, Project Consciousness (UFOs and paranormal phenomena) is also mentioned. (Keith Basterfield, “[An Analysis of That List of AAWSAP/AATIP Defense Intelligence Reference Documents](#),” Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, August 1, 2018; Keith Basterfield, “[Lacatski’s New Book and Podcast Interview](#),” Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, October 23, 2023; Covert 12–92, 195–206)
- 2008**, November — 9:00 p.m. A Polish woman living in Aarhus, Denmark, looks up and sees a gigantic luminous object silently heading west. It looks like it’s made of glass or jelly and is surrounded by a misty illumination. (Poland 93)
- 2008**, November 5 — Researcher [Robert Powell](#) writes to NORAD’s Gen. [Victor E. Renuart Jr.](#) and Secretary of Homeland Security [Michael Chertoff](#), with copies to the FAA and chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Homeland Security, asking for an investigation of the Stephenville Lights case of January 8 as a violation of restricted airspace by “unknown aircraft” near the [Bush](#) ranch. (Glen Schulze and Robert Powell, “[Stephenville Lights: A Comprehensive Radar and Witness Report Study Regarding the Events of January 8, 2008, 4pm to 8pm](#),” December 18, 2010; Swords 348, 510–511)
- 2008**, November 10 — [Robert Bigelow](#) awards a contract to [Jacques Vallée](#) to prepare an outline for a UFO data warehouse for the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) project. French, Portuguese, and Danish translators are used to provide English translations. The data warehouse is made up of 11 databases at a cost of several million dollars. (Keith Basterfield, “[Lacatski’s New Book and Podcast Interview](#),” Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena—Scientific Research, October 23, 2023; Covert 163–169)

2008, November 17 — A teacher is taking his dog for a stroll in Sulejówek, Poland, when he comes across a triangular object with lights along its rounded edges and in the center. It flies directly over him. (Poland 93)

2008, December 22 —Maj. Gen. [John H. Bordelon](#), NORAD chief of staff, responds to [Powell](#)'s request. He claims an "exhaustive search" in data files was conducted, and the Air Force "could find no tactical or technical information that would corroborate this event." He refers Powell to the National UFO Reporting Center hotline. (Swords 348, 512)

2009

2009 — The Center for UFO Studies creates an updated version of its UFOCAT database containing more than 209,551 UFO reports and related information. (Center for UFO Studies, "[UFOCAT](#)")

2009 — Denmark and Sweden publicly release more than 15,000 UFO files each. Finland releases 300 UFO files from the years 1933 to 1979. ("[Dänische Luftwaffe öffnet geheimes UFO-Archiv](#)," grenzWissenschaft-aktuell.de, January 30, 2009; "[Hundreds of Official UFO Reports Released in Finland](#)," Finnish UFO Network, November 12, 2009; Kean, [p. 117](#))

2009 — Visión Ovni and many other UFO researchers in Argentina form Cefora, an organization to study the UFO phenomenon in detail. Silvia Simondini and others start collecting signatures on a petition to declassify Argentine military documents on UFOs. However, since most agencies are not required to keep documents more than 5 years, their efforts are frustrated by bureaucratic deaccession rules, especially for interesting Argentine reports. (Wikipedia, "[Cefora](#)"; Milton Hourcade, "[Argentina: UFO Declassification](#)," U.A.P.S.G.–G.E.F.A.I., July 29, 2020)

2009 — The operations and maintenance contract for the day-to-day management and operation of the US Air Force Space Surveillance System is awarded to Five Rivers Services, based in Colorado Springs, Colorado. (Wikipedia, "[Air Force Space Surveillance System](#)")

2009, January 1 — Yvan White takes over as director of GEIPAN from Jacques Patenet, who continues as an advisor. (Swords 453)

2009, January 5 — 8:15–9:00 p.m. Mysterious floating red lights in the sky are reported near Morristown, New Jersey. The red lights are also observed on January 26, January 29, February 7, and February 17. The events are later revealed as a hoax perpetrated by Joe Rudy and Chris Russo, who are conducting a social experiment to expose ufology as a pseudoscience and raise consciousness around the unreliability of eyewitness claims. They release five flare lights attached to helium balloons. Reports are concentrated in the towns of Hanover Township, Morristown, Morris Plains, Madison, and Florham Park. On April 7, Russo and Rudy plead guilty to charges of disorderly conduct and are sentenced to fines of \$250 and 50 hours of community service. (Wikipedia, "[Morristown UFO hoax](#)")

2009, January 23 — [Steven M. Greer](#) issues a "Special Presidential Briefing for President Barack Obama," in which he claims that the inaction of [Obama](#)'s predecessors has "led to an unacknowledged crisis that will be the greatest of your Presidency." Obama's response remains unknown. (Steven M. Greer, "[Special Presidential Briefing for President Barack Obama](#)," January 23, 2009)

2009, February — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies contracts with MUFON to receive notification of significant UFO sightings, get timely reports on UFO investigations, receive physical evidence for scientific analysis, and full access to MUFON's Case Management System. (Covert 121)

2009, March — The UK National Archives releases another batch of UFO files. (UK National Archives, "[Briefing Document: Unidentified Flying Objects \(UFOs\)](#)," 2013)

2009, March 9 — [Richard Lang](#) is hired by MUFON as the STAR Team Impact Project Coordinator in Las Vegas, Nevada, to rapidly deploy other team members to the most compelling UFO cases, in coordination with Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies. He remains in the job until January 2010. (Covert 121–122)

2009, April 4 — 1:23 a.m. Iris Waters and her teenage son, Michael, are driving down the street near their home in Crestline, Kansas, when they see a bright orange light some 200 feet above the trees. It is about as big as a small house. They turn the car north to follow the light, but it starts moving east. She takes a quick photo with her cellphone. (Covert 128–131)

- 2009, April 16** — 3:00 a.m. Jay Fuller wakes up in his home in Jacobsville, Maryland, after hearing a noise like a street sweeper, but it seems to be above the house. Outside, he can see a black, boomerang shape drifting over the tree line to the southeast. It takes about 17 minutes to pass over the house and fade away. (Covert 126–128)
- 2009, April 20** — 5:20 a.m. A witness is driving between Ranger and Chickalah, Arkansas, when she notices a light to the north, apparently above Mount Nebo. It moves closer to her car to about 100 feet, and she sees it is triangular with a light on each point. Her car starts making a rumbling noise and her cellphone is not working. She sees three metallic blue rotating lights on two sides of the object. Suddenly there is a flash and her car is illuminated. She looks back, and the object is gone. (Covert 123–126)
- 2009, April 22** — 12:39 p.m. Austin Cruz and Matt Harrison are driving 50 miles south of Marathon, Texas, on US Highway 385 when they see a bright teardrop-shaped object approaching with a shiny band of silver wrapped around the center. From about 900 feet away, it approaches swiftly, seems to condense itself, and passes through the car at the right front fender, rocking it. The interior becomes bright and Harrison says he cannot hear or see anything. He thinks there might be missing time, because when they pull into a gas station it is 3:14 p.m. (Covert 141–146)
- 2009, April 28** — Evening. A witness in Maricopa, Arizona, sees a stationary, amber-colored light in the southwest sky. He gets in his truck to drive toward the Ak-Chin Indian Community and sees multiple lights with flashing orange strobes on the ground behind the casino. Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) thinks the lights are associated with a military exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. (Covert 131–134, 137–138)
- 2009, April 28** — 9:05 p.m. Jon Brooks notices three bright white strobe lights in the shape of a triangle from his backyard in Rillito, Arizona. They flash in sync with each other. Through binoculars he can see a dark-colored object behind the lights. The lights change formation and move away to the northwest. (Covert 138–141)
- 2009, April 28** — 9:45 p.m. A witness in El Mirage, Arizona, is looking south toward Estrella Mountain and sees three amber lights that are stationary. After watching them for 3–4 minutes they begin to twinkle brighter, then go out one by one. (Covert 134–136)
- 2009, May 8** — 9:18 p.m. Tyler Wood and Kinsley Brown are driving near Depp Road and US Highway 95 near Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada, when they see some three strange aircraft flying erratically in a triangle formation to the east. One of the objects falls in slow motion to the ground, while the other two separate and fly southwest. The couple follows them until one is parallel to their truck. It matches the truck's speed from 35 to 50 mph. When Wood reaches a dead end, the object passes overhead twice, then hovers 600–900 feet away. They shine a spotlight on it, and the object approaches, shining five bright, white-orange lights on them. It remains that way at a distance of 300 feet for about 10 minutes. Another object circles behind them. The first object follows them on the way back into town before returning in the direction of the original encounter. (Covert 146–153)
- 2009, May 8** — 11:45 p.m. “Derek Jones” is alerted by his two dogs barking in his backyard in northern Georgia, where his 10-year-old son is camping out in a tent with a friend. He sees a large triangular object about 300 feet long with yellowish lights at each apex moving silently above him. There is a bluish-white light in the center. Behind the triangle are four small objects, two egg-shaped and two round, with bluish-white lights that change to greenish to white and back to bluish. The smaller objects dart up and down soundlessly and erratically. He attempts taking pictures of it with a camera and a videocamera, but the batteries fail in both devices. When he points a bright spotlight beam at the triangle, it responds immediately with a beam of intense bluish-white light about 2–3 feet in diameter that strikes him for about 3 seconds, causing a burning sensation. He runs back into the house, where he watches two of the smaller objects move away to the south-southwest while the other two shoot straight up. He goes to bed, but is awakened by low-flying helicopters at 2:00 a.m. Around 7:30 a.m., he is visited by two men who want to talk about his “sighting report.” They are driving a black sedan, produce no identification, one of them is armed, and they behave oddly as they interview him for 30–40 minutes. After he sees the same men in the black sedan a week later, he reports the license plate to Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS), which tracks it to a Department of Homeland Security carpool. Jones experiences hair loss and general unwellness within 18 days of the incident. In October he develops lumps on his legs, groin, and back; they enlarge, multiply to 24, and become painful in February 2010. One of the lumps is diagnosed as non-malignant lymphoma, but a BAASS-contracted physician suspects Jones has undergone about 300 Grays of ionizing radiation. (Skinwalkers 99–105)
- 2009, May 18** — 12:30 a.m. Susan Allen is feeding her horses on her ranch near Woodward, Oklahoma, when she sees a low-flying with blue, red, and white strobing lights. It turns and comes directly toward her for about 15 seconds, slowly coming to a complete stop about 150 feet away. She jumps in her pickup truck and drives to the corral gate. When she looks back, the lights are in the same place, hovering. She drives another quarter-mile, after which

the lights have disappeared. Two of her horses develop odd spots on their coats. Allen later senses she might have missing time and reports some odd occurrences around the ranch. (Covert 153–158)

2009, May 26 — 9:52 p.m. A man in Rzeszów, Poland, notices from his balcony five strange, whirling red-orange lights twinkling above the suburban villages of Chmielnik and Tyczyn. He captures them on a video. (Poland 153–154)

2009, May 31 — 3:00 a.m. A witness in Browning, Kentucky, sees a distant light with colored bars on all four sides. (Covert 158–159)

2009, June — The Uruguayan Air Force declassifies its UFO files and makes them public, including records of 40 cases that remain unexplained, some involving military pilots. Col. Ariel Sánchez, in charge of the UFO office, says that the “Air Force does not dismiss an extraterrestrial hypothesis based on our scientific analysis.” (“[Uruguay Joins the Party](#),” *Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune*, June 12, 2009; Kean, [p. 190](#))

2009, June 16 — 2:00 a.m. A woman in Kansas City, Kansas, is looking toward a public forest area behind her home when she notices a large white light moving toward her. It stops, and she uses her binoculars to get a closer look. The object consists of three large spheres connected together with a large arm or protrusion extending from beneath it. The arm is moving around in a circle. It stays in that position until it just disappears. Shortly afterward, military planes and helicopters move into the area and seem to be searching for something for about one hour. (Roger Marsh, “[Reports from Louisville and Kansas City](#),” *IUR* 32, no. 3 (July 2009): 20)

2009, June 24 — Sen. [Harry Reid](#) (D-Nev.) decides that the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Application Program (misidentified intentionally as the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program) has made such extraordinary discoveries that he asks for additional security (individuals “specialized in the areas of advanced sciences, sensors, intelligence, counterintelligence, and advanced aerospace engineering”) to protect it. He writes Deputy Defense Secretary [William J. Lynn III](#) that AATIP has made “much progress” with the “identification of several highly sensitive, unconventional aerospace-related findings” that will “likely lead to technology advancements.” He requests that it be designated a “restricted Special Access Program.” Some of the ongoing projects include power and propulsion systems (nuclear propulsion, anuclear fusion, positron propulsion, magnetohydrodynamics, traversable wormholes, warp drives, antigravity, zero-point energy), materials science (metallic glass, programmable matter), recalculating the Drake Equation, invisibility, and weaponry (pulsed microwaves, high-powered lasers). (Harry Reid, [Letter to Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn III](#), June 24, 2009; Skinwalkers 27, 90–93; John Greenewald, “[Harry Reid and His AATIP Letter: The Mystery Deepens](#),” *The Black Vault*, April 28, 2021)

2009, June 24 — 1:55 p.m. A package handler at Louisville International Airport in Kentucky sees a reflection in the sky from the south end of a runway. As it approaches, he sees it is a rotating object, first a cylinder, then a diamond shape. It moves over the runway in a straight line and at a steady speed about 1,500 feet high. The object stops at the end of the ramp and hovers for 30–40 seconds, then moves up into the clouds and disappears. (Roger Marsh, “[Reports from Louisville and Kansas City](#),” *IUR* 32, no. 3 (July 2009): 20)

2009, July — At the invitation of [Robert Bigelow](#), naval aerospace engineer Jonathan Axelrod [[John F. “Jay” Stratton Jr.](#)], Jim Costigan, and David Wilson arrive at the Skinwalker Ranch in Utah to deploy a wide variety of sensory equipment to detect and record anomalies. They experience an odd temperature drop, intense anxiety, and a menacing dark oval shape. After Axelrod returns home to suburban Virginia, paranormal phenomena plague his family, including a humanoid shape, phantom footsteps, blue orbs, and a wolf-like creature standing on two legs. (Skinwalkers 1–8)

2009, July 5 — 9:20 p.m. Retired police officer Buck Scarsdale is sitting with his son Bo and girlfriend Joanna Fife on the porch of his ranch home in Lagol, Ventura County, California. They notice seven bright blue lights silently hovering several feet off the ground in the orchard about 500 feet away. They jump in a truck and drive slowly with the lights off toward the display. When they get there, the lights are gone. After returning to the house, they decide to drive back, this time with flashlights. After 10 minutes of searching on foot, they hear two loud clicks coming from some dense bushes, and three others clicks coming from different directions. They return to the house. Buck’s brother Roger arrives at 10:30 p.m., and both of them return to the orchard. Just before 11:00 p.m., Roger sees a silver, gray, and blue flash as an oblong object disappears into an opening in the sky that closes quickly. On July 10, Buck, Bo, and Joanna see an intensely blue light at the northern end of the pasture. Buck and Roger approach it and watch a floating light 5 feet in diameter maneuvering for 5 minutes 900 feet away before it vanishes. Two teams of investigators sent by BAASS also see lights and orbs the rest of the month, and their camera and video equipment behaves oddly. (Skinwalkers 59–69)

- 2009, August** — [Robert Bigelow](#) brings Pentagon technical analyst Juliett Witt to the Skinwalker Ranch in Utah. Along with [Colm Kelleher](#), she experiences a cone of silence and a weird pig-like creature the one night she is there. Like Jonathan Axelrod, the phenomena follow her back home to Virginia, where she experiences poltergeist phenomena and sees a huge owl that attacks her car. (Skinwalkers, 50–58, 81–82)
- 2009, August 6** — The UK National Archives releases another batch of UFO files. (UK National Archives, “[Briefing Document: Unidentified Flying Objects \(UFOs\)](#),” 2013)
- 2009, August 21** — 9:40 p.m. Tomasz Skorupski sees a deep-black object in the shape of the letter M flying west to east 200 feet above the ground at 50 mph at Kowale Oleckie, Poland. He estimates it is 10 feet in length and 30 feet at the widest point. Seven dimly yellow lights are positioned on the craft, while the rest seems dark and obscures the stars on its flight path. (Poland 100)
- 2009, September** — 10:00 p.m. Jim Costigan, who had visited Skinwalker Ranch in Utah two months earlier, is walking his dog with his wife Laila in suburban Maryland when they see a blue, softball-sized light moving in their direction about 6 feet off the ground to the left. It accelerates and shoots between them, grazing Laila’s shoulder as it passes. Within seconds it is lost behind a house. The dog does not notice it. Laila becomes lethargic the next day and shows severe flu-like symptoms for the next few weeks. She is ultimately diagnosed with Hashimoto’s thyroiditis, an autoimmune disease of the thyroid. (Skinwalkers 77–79)
- 2009, November** — The RAF Air Command prepares a briefing for UK Defence Minister [Bob Ainsworth](#) recommending that the Ministry of Defence “should seek to reduce very significantly the UFO task which is consuming increasing resources, but produces no valuable defence output.” (“[Britain’s Defense Ministry Releases Its Final UFO Files](#),” *USA Today*, June 21, 2013)
- 2009, November** — Sen. [Harry Reid](#)’s request for Special Access Program status for the US Defense Intelligence Agency’s Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program is denied by a group at the Pentagon consisting of Deputy Defense Secretary [William J. Lynn III](#), Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Gen. [James R. Clapper](#), special programs officer at USDI Susan Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs [Marcel Lettre](#), and Defense Intelligence Agency defense warning officer Bob Carlsberg. (Skinwalkers 92-93; Gideon Lewis-Kraus, “[How the Pentagon Started Taking UFOs Seriously](#),” *The New Yorker*, April 30, 2021)
- 2009, November 25** — 12:15 a.m. A mental health professional is driving north on the Minisink Turnpike from Unionville to Port Jervis, New York, listening to Christmas CDs on the car’s player. Coming around a bend, he sees lights in the sky about one mile away. As he comes to the next turn, he slows down to 25 mph to get a better look, but by then he is surprised to see that the five lights, blue-white-red-white-blue, are attached to a cigar-shaped object that is now almost on top of him. He stops the car on the side of the road, putting it in park with the engine running. The object is 200 feet long and rotating clockwise as it approaches slowly like a hot-air balloon. He hears a sound like a cat purring at a low frequency. Oddly, the lights do not illuminate the ground. The UFO passes overhead and his vehicle suffers a complete power failure. His cellphone is also dead. He opens the driver’s door and looks up, seeing lights on the bottom of the object, which immediately blink out. The car starts again spontaneously and his cellphone boots up. (Herbert S. Taylor, “[An Update on Vehicle Interference Reports, Part 1](#),” *IUR* 33, no. 4 (May 2011): 20–21; Powell, *Scientific*, 89–90, 95)
- 2009, December 1** — The UK Ministry of Defence shuts down its UFO hotline and closes its UFO desk, ostensibly because it has produced “no defence benefit” and no evidence of extraterrestrial aliens in more than 50 years. But the staff is overwhelmed by public inquiries, which are at a 10-year high. (“[UFO Investigations Unit Closed by Ministry of Defence](#),” BBC News, December 4, 2009; “[Britain’s Defense Ministry Releases Its Final UFO Files](#),” *USA Today*, June 21, 2013; UFOFiles2, pp. 175–176, 178)
- 2009, December 1** — The Defense Intelligence Agency’s AAWSAP program issues the first of 38 Project Physics position papers (Defense Intelligence Reference Documents) that define the current and projected state of the art in aerospace technology, all pertaining to the 12 areas chosen by the DIA. Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) has subcontracted with [Harold E. Puthoff](#), CEO of EarthTech International in Austin, Texas, to choose the precise nature and scope of the papers. The first paper is on “Advanced Nuclear Propulsion for Manned Deep Space Missions” by physicist [Friedwardt Winterberg](#). (US Defense Intelligence Agency, [[list of products produced under the AATIP contract](#)], January 9, 2018; Skinwalkers 47, 122)
- 2009, December 9** — Night. A large beam of light is seen and photographed for 10 minutes over all of northern Norway from Trøndelag in the south through all the counties further north, as well as parts of northern Sweden. The phenomenon consists of a blue beam of light with a grayish spiral emanating from one end of it. It moves from

behind a mountain, stops in mid-air, and starts to spiral outwards. A similar, though less spectacular, event also occurred in Norway the month before. Both events have visual features of failed flights of Russian RSM-56 Bulava SLBM. The Russian Defense Ministry admits shortly afterward that such an event had taken place at the time on December 9. (Wikipedia, "[2009 Norwegian spiral anomaly](#)"; Tony Spell, "[Estimation of the Trajectory, Location, Size, and Altitude of the 'Norway Spiral' Phenomenon](#)," December 29, 2009)

2009, December 11 — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) directors James T. Lacatski, [Colm Kelleher](#), and Larry Grossman meet at Bolling AFB [now Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling] in Washington, D.C., with Jack Angelo, director of operations for the Office of Special Projects of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. They brief him on their operations and security, and ask AFOSI for data on the Northern Tier UFO incursions of October–November 1975. Angelo promised to see what he could do, but BAASS needs to be accepted into some Special Access Programs to progress much further. (Skinwalkers 94–97)

2010

2010, January — The RAF asks the Home Office to cancel standing instructions to police forces who have, in the past, routinely forwarded UFO sightings by officers to the MoD. (UFOFiles2, [p. 179](#))

2010, January — US Navy Petty Officer John Baughman sees a "Tic-Tac" shaped object from the flight deck of the supercarrier [USS Carl Vinson](#) off the coast of Haiti. It is a solid, white object, some 20 feet long, that darts into the water and appears to collapse on itself and disappear. (Ryan Sprague, "[New Navy Witness Says He Saw a 'Tic Tac' Operating Underwater](#)," Medium: Trail of the Saucers, July 11, 2021)

2010, Late January — Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) Director of Investigation Larry Grossman meets in Washington, D.C., with former AFOSI Col. Barry Hennessey (Ret.). He acknowledges that AFOSI cannot identify many of the UFOs associated with the Northern Tier air force bases in 1975. Hennessey suspects that many of the AFOSI investigative records for those cases have been purged, and hints to Grossman that some odd unmanned aerial vehicles could be military projects. (Skinwalkers 97–98)

2010, February 11 — The Federal Aviation Administration issues an order telling air traffic control centers to report UFO sightings to either the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies or the National UFO Reporting Center. (Federal Aviation Administration, "[Section 8. Unidentified Flying Object \(UFO\) Reports](#)," Order JO 7110.65T, February 11, 2010)

2010, February 14 — 5:17 p.m. A couple and their daughter are having a Sunday picnic near the El Yeso Reservoir in the Andes Mountains about 45 miles southeast of Santiago, Chile. The woman takes several photographs of the sky because it is "unusually pretty." Viewing the photos later on a computer monitor, they notice a reddish object on one of the frames. An analysis by [Richard F. Haines](#) shows that the object is apparently solid with several interesting surface details, including a red-and-white woven pattern with a large area of straight lines along the bottom. A portion of the object is obscured by clouds, but Haines estimates it could be as much as 200 feet in length. (Richard F. Haines, "[Photoanalyses of Digital Images Taken on February 14, 2010 at 1717 Hours above the Andes Mountains in Central Chile](#)," NARCAP IR-2, July 2, 2010)

2010, February 17 — The UK National Archives releases another batch of UFO files, more than 6,000 pages of documentation and reports from 1994 to 2000. ("[UFO Sightings from the National Archives](#)," *The Guardian* (UK), February 17, 2010; UK National Archives, "[Briefing Document: Unidentified Flying Objects \(UFOs\)](#)," 2013)

2010, March — The Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) asks remote viewer Joseph McMoneagle to observe a target designated as 22610 using traditional blind targeting protocols. 22610 is actually Skinwalker Ranch in Utah. McMoneagle's sketch of the ranch, its environment, animals, two ranch managers, and two security guards are accurate, but he indicates a fifth individual is present. He describes a male, 60–70 pounds, 4 feet 3 inches high, with no hair. McMoneagle says this person is invisible to ranch personnel, although he attempts to communicate with them to see their response. (Skinwalkers 120–121)

2010, March 3 — Evening. S/Sgt. Omar Gonzalez and the crew of Dakota Air Traffic Control at Ellsworth AFB near Rapid City, South Dakota, pick up unidentified traffic crossing a passing aircraft, which reports visual contact with an object 2,000 feet above him. The target appears to be 18 miles south of the Ellsworth AFB runway. Suddenly the object vanishes from view and the radar track disappears. A few minutes later, the target reappears on radar behind the aircraft. (Skinwalkers 125)

- 2010, March 3** — [Luis Elizondo](#) claims he takes over as director of the informal Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) on the departure of its former manager, although this is disputed by official Pentagon statements. The group is moved to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. (Keith Kloor, “[The Media Loves This UFO Expert Who Says He Worked for an Obscure Pentagon Program: Did He?](#)” *The Intercept*, June 1, 2019; John Greenewald, “[The Black Vault’s AAWSAP/AATIP and Post 2017 UAP/UFO Timeline Project.](#)” *The Black Vault*, January 21, 2023)
- 2010, March 8–12** — Dozens of independent witnesses in Kraków and Rzeszów, Poland, report a strange disc-shaped object of considerable size with white or red lights on its perimeter and red-green lights on its base. (Poland 104–107)
- 2010, April 22** — An unmanned HTV-2 Falcon hypersonic glider, the fastest unmanned aerial vehicle, reaches a record speed of 13,201 mph. (Wikipedia, “[Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2](#)”)
- 2010, April 22** — The first X-37B, an uncrewed, reusable, robotic spaceplane, launches on its first mission, Orbital Test Vehicle 1 / USA-212, on an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. The spacecraft is placed into low Earth orbit for testing. While the Air Force reveals few orbital details of the mission, a worldwide network of amateur astronomers claims to have identified the spacecraft in orbit. It lands on December 3 after more than 224 days in orbit. (Wikipedia, “[USA-212](#)”)
- 2010, May 28** — The Federal Aviation Administration publishes 14 CFR 91.225 and 14 CFR 91.227, requiring any aircraft operating in Class A, B, and C airspace to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast capability in order to avoid mid-air collisions, referencing the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS II) aviators rely on for instructions on the avoidance of traffic conflicts. The recommended maneuvers provided by TCAS II, known as Resolution Advisories, or RAs, allow pilots the ability to increase or maintain their vertical separation from other aircraft operating nearby and may instruct aviators to climb or descend in altitude, as well as adjust their vertical speed to avoid possible collisions. (Micah Hanks, “[Pilot UFO Sightings Collected by NASA Reveal Serious Safety Concerns over Objects in US Airspace.](#)” *The Debrief*, August 29, 2023)
- 2010, June 14** — European Parliament Member [Mario Borghezio](#) calls for the European Union to have its own centralized information center where anyone can access information on UFOs, even records held by the military. Borghezio argues that governments should go public with the information they hold and stop what he believes is a systematic cover-up. Not satisfied with a central archive, Borghezio also wants a scientific center to study UFOs that could encourage research and development. “I think that, under the principle of transparency,” he says, “the EU member states have a duty to make public and available to all scientific data on UFOs which today are partially or wholly withheld.” (“[MEP Calls for Declassification of UFO Files.](#)” *Euractiv*, July 7, 2010)
- 2010, July 7** — 8:40 p.m. A UFO is seen hovering above Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport near Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China. An airliner preparing for descent first notices the object and notifies the tower. Within minutes, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) closes the airport down, grounding outbound flights and diverting inbound ones to other airports. Normal operations resume an hour later. Nearby residents take photos of the UFO. One daylight photo taken earlier in the afternoon shows an object with a clear, comet-like tail; another, taken after dusk shows a glowing object emitting golden light. Another photo clearly shows an airplane with a contrail. CAAC conducts an investigation but refuses to release it publicly because there is a “military connection.” MIT weapons analyst [Geoffrey Forden](#) says the most credible photo shows an arc streaking across the sky around sunset and that the most likely cause is the launch of a DF-21 missile somewhere near Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center and aimed at a point somewhere in the eastern Gobi Desert. (“[Flights Diverted, Delayed As UFO Detected Hovering.](#)” *People’s Daily Online*, July 9, 2010; “[UFO Forces Hangzhou Airport to Shut Down.](#)” *China Central Television*, July 10, 2010; “[Hangzhou Light Show.](#)” *Arms Control Wonk*, July 12, 2010; “[UFO in China’s Skies Prompts Investigation.](#)” *ABC News*, July 14, 2010; Alexis C. Madrigal, “[A UFO over China? Well, No.](#)” *The Atlantic*, July 19, 2010; “[UFOs over China? Not Quite, Analyst Says.](#)” *CNN*, July 20, 2010)
- 2010, August** — The Nevada Test Site is renamed the Nevada National Security Site. (Wikipedia, “[Nevada Test Site](#)”)
- 2010, August 5** — The UK National Archives releases another 5,000 pages of UFO files to the public. This release alone generates 196 separate news items and reaches a readership of 25 million people. (“[Churchill Ordered UFO](#)

[Cover-Up, National Archives Show](#),” BBC News, August 5, 2010; UK National Archives, “[Briefing Document: Unidentified Flying Objects \(UFOs\)](#),” 2013; UFOFiles2, [p. xi](#))

2010, August 10 — Journalist [Leslie Kean](#) publishes *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go on the Record*, a compilation of nearly 30 years of firsthand sighting accounts by about one dozen officials and pilots. (Leslie Kean, *UFOs*, Harmony Books, 2010; Graff 395–396)

2010, August 13 — 8:00 p.m. A circle of six yellow lights appears in the sky above the Jardim Bela Vista district of Bauru, São Paulo, Brazil. Dentist Daniela Tamarossi and others spend more than 2 hours watching it maneuver. (Brazil 403–405)

2010, August 16 — 11:00 p.m. Two people camping on Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia are walking on the beach when they notice above them a low-flying triangular object with lights at each of its points. It is moving silently to the south toward Jacksonville, Florida. About 45 minutes later they see it through some trees from their campsite, again silent and heading south. (“[Sighting Report](#),” National UFO Reporting Center, November 21, 2010; Nukes 508)

2010, September 27 — Researcher [Robert Hastings](#) organizes a briefing at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., that brings together former US Air Force personnel who testify to the existence of UFOs and their ability to neutralize American and Russian nuclear missiles. Those appearing include former Capt. [Robert Salas](#), retired nuclear missile targeting officer Robert C. Jamison, and retired Col. [Charles I. Halt](#). Several of the ex-servicemembers say that when they brought their concerns to superiors, they were told it is “top secret” or that it “didn’t happen.” Hastings suggests the presence of such phenomena means that aliens could be monitoring our weapons and perhaps warning us about their use. (“[Ex-Air Force Personnel: UFOs Deactivated Nukes](#),” CBS News, September 28, 2010; Robert L. Hastings, “[The UFOs–Nukes Connection Press Conference](#),” October 11, 2010; “[Military Witnesses of UFOs at Nuclear Sites: National Press Club](#),” QUFOSR YouTube channel, December 15, 2016; Nukes 511–512)

2010, September 30 — The contract for the Defense Intelligence Agency’s Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program is extended until December 21, 2010, at no cost to the government. However, there is no congressional funding available for 2011. One of its most significant achievements is the development of a Data Warehouse that links 11 separate UFO databases and supporting documentation. The databases are the NIDS database airline and military pilot sightings, the USAF Blue Book database, UFOCAT, the MUFON Case Management System database, Project Colares, the Canadian government’s UFO releases, the UK government’s UFO releases, BAASS cases investigated, Skinwalker Ranch database, and a database of Skinwalker Ranch contagious health effects. Each UFO case is assigned a credibility rating designed by [Jacques Vallée](#), and the database configuration is based on a six-layer model developed by Vallée and [Eric W. Davis](#) in 2003, using layers designated as physical, anti-physical, psychological, physiological, psychic, and cultural. The Data Warehouse is not retired at the end of the AAWSAP, but is used by the UAP Task Force and its successor organization. (Skinwalkers 26–27, 167–170)

2010, October 11 — 8:40 p.m. A man named Qiao sees two luminous objects, one small one and the other larger, over the Xincheng district of Taiyuan, Shaanxi, China. They keep circling in a regular pattern. Other luminous objects are reported above the Sanqianglu district. Soon the media hotlines are flooded with phone calls. Two luminous objects circling in the air are seen at 8:55 p.m. in the Xinhuaie district, at 9:01 p.m. near the Apparel Town area, and at 9:05 p.m. near the racetrack. When reporters arrive at the plaza of the Taiyuan Railway Station, they see a large, milky-white, luminous spot circling above the clouds with a diameter of at least 32 feet. The object first looks like a luminous spot produced by a searchlight against the clouds, but it has no obvious light beams. The object circles and moves up and down and from side to side until it disappears around 9:10 p.m. (“[Chinese UFO Report Affirms Reality of Manipulative Extraterrestrial Abduction](#),” Canadian Business Daily, September 24, 2011)

2010, October 13 — 4:00 a.m. A village in the Qinling mountains of southern Shaanxi province, China, supposedly disappears overnight after witnesses contact news agencies to report UFOs in the area. Chinese troops allegedly cordon off the area with no explanation. A video circulates online, reportedly showing bright blue lights in the sky over the village. Subsequent reports deny a military presence in the area and attribute the story to rumor and misinformation. Other reports indicate the “disappearance” took place in 1987 and was part of a rural relocation program to alleviate poverty in the area. (“[Inexplicable Disappearance of a Village in the Qinling Mountains: UFO Village Vanishing?](#)” Before It’s News, October 14, 2010; “[China Qinling Mountains Village Vanishing after UFO \(13/10/2010\)](#),” Marco Maia YouTube channel, October 14, 2010; “[UFO Abduction of Whole Village Exposed As Rumor](#),” People’s Daily Online, October 18, 2010; Chris Saunders, “UFOs over China,” *Fortean*

Times 331 (October 2015): 31; Robert Foyle Hunwick, "[China Unsolved: The Village That Vanished](#)," SupChina, July 11, 2018; Brent Swancer, "[A Mysterious Vanishing Village in China](#)," Mysterious Universe, June 26, 2019; "[Across China: Revisiting a Disappearing Village in Northwest China](#)," Xinhua, June 17, 2020)

2010, October 23–24 — Air Force personnel at Francis E. Warren AFB near Cheyenne, Wyoming, report seeing an enormous cigar-shaped craft maneuvering high above its missile field. The UFO appears similar to an advertising blimp but has no passenger gondola or advertising on its hull. On the same day, the missile site temporarily loses its ability to communicate with 50 of its Minuteman III nuclear missiles. The five Missile Alert Facilities affected, Alpha through Echo, are responsible for launching those ICBMs in time of war and comprise the 319th Strategic Missile Squadron. The Air Force then quickly acknowledges the problem, saying that a backup system could have launched the missiles if necessary and that the breakdown lasted only 59 minutes. But according to two missile technicians stationed at the base, the communications problem, while intermittent, lasts several hours. These confidential sources further report that the commander of the squadron sternly warns its members not to talk to journalists or researchers about "the things they may or may not have seen" in the sky near the missiles in recent months and threatens severe penalties for violating security. (NICAP, "[Base 'Loses' 50 Missiles](#)"; Marc Ambinder, "[Failure Shuts Down Squadron of Nuclear Missiles](#)," *The Atlantic*, October 26, 2010; Robert L. Hastings, "[Huge UFO Sighted near Nuclear Missiles during October 2010 Launch System Disruption](#)," *UFOs & Nukes*, June 21, 2011; *Nukes* 515–517)

2010, November 5 — Morning. Crowds attending an air show at El Bosque Airport in Santiago, Chile, see a swiftly moving UFO making passes around the participating aircraft. Seven videotapes of the object taken by different vantage points are collected by the Chilean government's Comité de Estudios de Fenómenos Aéreos Anómalos, which commissions scientists, aeronautical experts, and photographic technicians to subject them to a rigorous analysis. Each video includes three different, mainly horizontal loops flown by the UFO within seconds of each other. The object makes elliptical passes either near or around each of three sets of performing jets. It flies past the Halcones, F5s, and F16s at speeds so fast it is not noticed by the pilots or anyone on the ground below. Images show it as a dome-shaped, flat-bottomed object with no visible means of propulsion. The rounded top reflects the sun and appears metallic; the bottom is darker and flat, emitting some form of energy that is visible in photoanalysis. Infrared studies show the entire object is radiating heat, just like the jets. Scientists estimate the speed, depending on the size of the object, to be at least 4,000–6,000 mph, yet it produces no sonic boom. It zooms toward each set of jets at about their height, circles around, and zooms back out again. Pilots who are shown the trajectory of the object in the three flybys indicate that this maneuver is characteristic of reconnaissance aircraft coming in for a quick look at others in the sky. (Leslie Kean and Ralph Blumenthal, "[UFO Caught on Tape over Santiago Air Base](#)," *HuffPost*, March 3, 2012)

2010, November 5 — In a letter to Spanish UFO researcher [Ignacio Darnaude](#), admitted Ummo hoaxer [José Luis Jordán Peña](#) elaborates on the reason why he began writing the fake letters. He acknowledges that he used collaborators (Vicente Ortuno, Norman West, John Child, Mercedes Carrasco, Alberto Borrás, Trinidad Pastrana, Sean O'Connelly, Iker J.) who sent letters from distant places and that he created the fictional character of John Axee to better disseminate his knowledge. He claims he was contacted at the outset by two American doctors, Jonathan F. McGuire and Arnold J. Lebotski (he previously said that they were CIA agents), working for a foreign organization who offered him, for a fee, to carry out a sociological experiment in the interest of western culture. (Wikipedia, "[Ummo](#)"; Alain Moreau, "[Ummo: Une imposture?](#)" *Les Cles de l'Inexpliqué*; Scott Corrales, "[The Ummo Experience: Are You Experienced?](#)" *Strange Magazine*; UmmoWiki, "[Jóse Luis Jordán Peña](#)")

2010, November 14 — 6:30 p.m. A swiftly moving light is seen maneuvering in the sky above Logradouro, Ceará, Brazil, apparently following witnesses, for more than 6 hours. (Brazil 407–408)

2010, December 21 — The DIA's Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program is officially terminated. For years, James Lacatski personally seeks continued funding, without success. He terminates the program altogether when funds are depleted by August 2012. (Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Luis Cayetano, "[On the AAWSAP-AAATIP Confusion](#)," June 30, 2024)

2010, December 22 — The New Zealand Ministry of Defence releases 12 volumes of documents related to UFOs dating from 1952 to 2009. (Suzy Hansen, "[Relinquishing Responsibility? Circumstances Surrounding the Release of the New Zealand MOD UFO Files 2010/2011](#)," *Ufocus.nz*, 2018)