

UFO Timeline | The UFO Database

 theufodatabase.com/timeline

October 30, 1938

War of the Worlds Broadcast Stokes Panic

Radio listeners panic and flood police stations and newspapers with calls of a Martian invasion.

Famed American filmmaker Orson Welles, 23 years old at the time, narrated an adaptation of the H.G. Wells 1897 novel *The War of The Worlds* for a Halloween episode of... [Read full entry »](#)



February 24-25, 1942

The Battle of LA: False Alarm or UFO Incident?

1,400 rounds of ammunition were fired over a 2-hour period at suspected Japanese crafts.

US air defenses, at high alert over the prospect of a Japanese invasion, fired over 1400 rounds into the night sky around Los Angeles in February 1942 after observing radar and... [Read full entry »](#)



Summer 1943

First Rocket Reaches Space

Germans design and test the V-2 rocket as a World War II "vengeance weapon".

The German V-2 rocket, then known as the A-4, was the first rocket to cross the Karman line, thus officially reaching outer space. The rocket platform was originally conceived as... [Read full entry »](#)



November 1944

Foo Fighters of World War II

Military pilots reported encounters with strange lights while flying over both European and Pacific theaters during WWII.

The term foo fighter was used by Allied aircraft pilots during World War II to describe various UFOs or mysterious aerial phenomena seen in the skies over both the European and... [Read full entry »](#)

July 16, 1945

Trinity: The First Atomic Test

The Atomic Age began with the detonation of the first atomic weapon.

The Trinity test was the first test detonation of a nuclear weapon in world history. The explosion on July 16, 1945 lit up the night sky over Alamogordo, New Mexico at the site of... [Read full entry »](#)

August 5, 1945

Alleged UFO Crash 20 Days Later

An alleged UFO crashed near the Trinity nuclear test site several weeks after the first bomb was detonated there.

The Trinity crash refers to a purported UFO crash that occurred in San Antonio, New Mexico in August 1945. The crash happened very near to the site of the Trinity nuclear test... [Read full entry »](#)

August 6, 1945

First Atomic Bombs Dropped on Japan

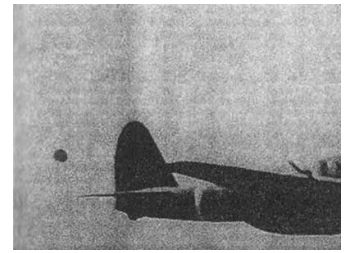
US forces drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

The United States dropped the first atomic bomb, a "Little Boy" enriched uranium fission type bomb, on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. This event was followed three days later... [Read full entry »](#)

February-December, 1946

Scandinavian Ghost Rockets

Mysterious rocket sightings may represent an advanced technology.



Throughout 1946, over 2000 sightings of "rockets" in the skies over the Nordic countries were reported. There was much speculation as to the origin of the rockets, with many... [Read full entry »](#)

June 24, 1947

Nine "Flying Saucers" Seen by Kenneth Arnold

Aviator witnessed 9 disc shaped craft flying at high rates of speed; the term "flying saucer" was coined in a local news report about the event.

Kenneth Arnold, an experienced pilot from Idaho, allegedly witnessed 9 UFOs on June 24, 1947 while flying over Washington state. Arnold believed the disc shaped objects, which... [Read full entry »](#)

June-July, 1947

The Roswell Incident

Possible UFO crash and recovery of craft in New Mexico.

The Roswell incident is one of the most famous UFO events in history. In mid-June/early-July of 1947 (the exact date is in dispute), wreckage of a purported aeronautical crash was... [Read full entry »](#)

July 1947

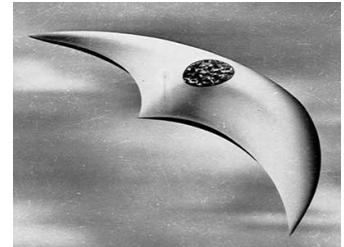
Did Truman Establish Majestic 12?

Alleged secret Truman formed committee to deal with UFOs.

Majestic 12 is an alleged secret committee of US military officials, scientists, and government officials formed to investigate UFO phenomenon and to determine a path forward for... [Read full entry »](#)

July 26, 1947

The National Security Act is Adopted



The National Security Act of 1947 consolidated US military, created the US Air Force and established the CIA.

The National Security Act of 1947 was one of the largest reorganizations of military structure in American history. Under the act, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force were... [Read full entry »](#)

1948

US Air Force Tasked to Investigate Objects

Project Sign was the first official US government study of UFO phenomenon.

Project Sign (Project Saucer) was an official U.S. government study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) undertaken by the United States Air Force (USAF) and active for most of... [Read full entry »](#)

February-December, 1949

Project Grudge Expanded Upon Project Sign

US Air Force's Project Grudge succeeded Project Sign as the second official UFO study.

Project Grudge was an official U.S. government program run by the U.S. Air Force that was successor to Project Sign. The program was tasked with analyzing information on UFO... [Read full entry »](#)

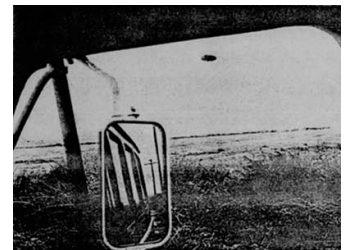
August 29, 1949

Nuclear Testing Starts in Russia

The Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan, also known as "The Polygon", was the primary testing venue for the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons.

The Soviet Union detonated their first atomic weapon--an RDS-1 nicknamed Joe-1 (after Joseph Stalin)--on August 29, 1949 at the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan. Radioactive... [Read full entry »](#)

1950

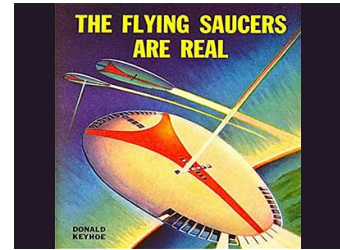


The Flying Saucers are Real Book Released

A former marine naval aviator described UFOs from 1947-1950.

The Flying Saucers Are Real is a book by Donald Keyhoe published in 1950. Keyhoe was a former Marine Corps aviator who alleged that earth had been visited by UFOs for... [Read full entry »](#)

1950



The Flying Saucer Movie

The first movie that included "flying saucers".

1950 independent Cold War drama directed by Mikel Conrad. The plot of the film deals with a flying saucer invented by an American scientist and Soviet spies who are trying to... [Read full entry »](#)

May 11, 1950



McMinnville UFO Photographs

Oregon farmers capture UFO images.

Two of the most iconic UFO photographs in American history were taken by farmer Paul Trent near McMinnville, OR on May 11, 1950. He and his wife Evelyn saw the classic disc shaped... [Read full entry »](#)

March 1952



Project Blue Book Established

Project Blue Book was the largest centralized UFO study program in US history.

Following in the legacy of Project Sign and Project Grudge, Project Blue Book was the 1952 iteration of a centralized UFO intelligence gathering program within the U.S. Air Force.... [Read full entry »](#)

July 12-29, 1952



UFOs Over Washington, D.C.

Multiple UFOs were observed by thousands around the US capital over a 2-week period.

Multiple UFO sightings were reported in Washington D.C. in the summer of 1952. Two different outbreaks of sightings made national news: on July 19-20 and on July 26-27,... [Read full entry »](#)



September 1952

NATO Exercise Mainbrace UFO Sightings

UFO sightings increased European public interest and led to studies by the British government and interest from Churchill.

In the fall of 1952, NATO staged a series of military exercises from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean Sea. Operation Mainbrace (also known as Exercise Mainbrace) was one... [Read full entry »](#)



January 1953

Robertson Panel Commences

Robertson Panel initiated following a CIA inquiry into Project Blue Book findings.

The Robertson Panel was initiated in 1953 following a CIA inquiry into the findings of Project Blue Book. The committee, comprised of a small team of physicists and... [Read full entry »](#)



January 20, 1953

Dwight Eisenhower Sworn In As 34th President

Dwight Eisenhower was President during a prominent early period of American UFO activity.

Dwight Eisenhower was sworn in as 34th President of the United States of America on January 20, 1953. Eisenhower was president during the earliest years of Project Bluebook. Urban... [Read full entry »](#)

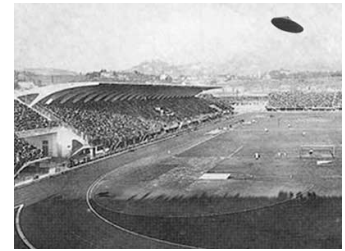


October 27, 1954

UFOs Stop Football Match in Italy

Over 10,000 people witnessed UFOs over a football stadium in Florence.

A football match between Italian sides Fiorentina and Pistoiese in Florence, Italy was interrupted on October 27, 1954 by a most unusual occurrence: the sighting (by over 10,000... [Read full entry](#) »



1955

Area 51 Begins Use

Fabled Area 51 is initiated as a test site for advanced military craft and weapons programs.

Area 51 is a top secret USAF testing facility located in the Nevada desert approximately 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The site was initiated by USAF and CIA in 1955 as a test... [Read full entry](#) »



October 4, 1957

Sputnik 1 Launched

The Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first man-made satellite.

The Soviet Union launched the first Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, on October 4, 1957, nearly three centuries after Newton had proposed his theory. Sputnik circled Earth every 96... [Read full entry](#) »



November 12, 1959

Avro Canada VZ-9 Avrocar

The VZ-9 Avrocar was a flying saucer made on US defense contracts that utilized standard propulsion technologies in an innovative way.

Avro Canada VZ-9 Avrocar was a vertical take-off/landing (VTOL) aircraft created by Canadian company Avro under a US defense contract in the late-1950's/early 1960's. The craft,... [Read full entry](#) »



April 24, 1964

Socorro, New Mexico UFO Landing

Hoax or not? A sheriff encounters a UFO on the ground.

Lonnie Zamora was a Sergeant in the Socorro, NM police department when he had a UFO encounter on April 24, 1964. Sgt Zamora was pursuing a moving violation in his squad car when... [Read full entry »](#)



April 6, 1966

Australia's Westall School Sighting

Mass UFO sighting at a school in Melbourne, Australia.

April 6, 1966, was the largest mass UFO sighting in Australia. Around 300 people reported seeing a UAP in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. The group was comprised of students and... [Read full entry »](#)



1966

Congressional Hearings on UFOs

Congressional hearings led by future U.S. President Gerald Ford.

Congressional hearing. A string of UFO sightings in Massachusetts and New Hampshire provoked a Congressional Hearing by the House Committee on Armed Services. Congressional... [Read full entry »](#)



1966-1968

Condon Committee

The Condon Committee was a group of US scientists tasked with investigating UFOs.

The Condon Committee was a group of university scientists who convened between 1966-1968 to consider the issue of UFO encounters in the US. The committee was funded by the U.S.... [Read full entry »](#)



May 31, 1969

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Founded

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) is an independent organization dedicated to the study of UFOs.

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) is one of the oldest organizations dedicated to the study of UFO phenomenon in the world. Founded in 1969, the... [Read full entry »](#)



July 20, 1969

The First Moon Landing

US astronauts land on the moon in a high water mark of the Cold War-era space race.

July 20, 1969 was a momentous day in human history, as American astronauts of the Apollo 11 mission became the first humans to set foot on the moon. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin... [Read full entry »](#)



October 1969

Jimmy Carter UFO Sighting

Former President Carter filed a UFO report with MUFON in 1973.

Future U.S. President Jimmy Carter filed a report with the International UFO Bureau on September 13, 1973. The report recounts an event where Carter and a group of ten other... [Read full entry »](#)



September 19, 1974

Ronald Reagan UFO Sighting

Reagan was shaken by a UFO flying next to his plane during his time as governor of California.

Future U.S. President Ronald Reagan, governor of California at the time, purportedly saw a UFO while aboard a Cessna airplane with three other individuals in 1974. According to... [Read full entry »](#)

June 1978



French Government UFO Studies

French government conducts thorough investigations into 11 alleged UFO events.

The French government assembled a research group called Group d'Etudes Des Phenomenes Aerospatiaux Non-Identifies (GEPAN) in 1978 to study 11 prominent UFO sightings in that... [Read full entry »](#)



November 27, 1978

United Nation UFO Panel

Prime Minister of Grenada Sir Eric Gairy urged the United Nations to investigate the UFO phenomenon.

In 1977, Gairy approached the United Nations General Assembly with a proposal for the establishment of a UN agency dedicated to researching and investigating UFO sightings and... [Read full entry »](#)



December 26-28, 1980

Rendlesham Forest UFO

US military personnel witness UFO near a base in Suffolk, England.

The Rendlesham Forest UFO incident was an alleged UFO sighting by US and British military personnel in the woods of Suffolk, England in December 1980. The incident occurred near... [Read full entry »](#)



1987

Ronald Reagan Delivers Speech to UN

Reagan famously asked the world how global differences would be put aside in the presence of an alien invasion.

On September 21, 1987, American President Ronald Reagan delivered a speech to the UN General Assembly. The speech has long been notable to UFO enthusiasts for the following line:...

[Read full entry »](#)



November 1989 - April 1990

Belgian UFO Wave

Thousands witnessed UFOs over the course of several months in Belgium and parts of France.

Over 2000 UFO sightings were reported over Belgium between November 1989- April 1990. The phenomenon became so pervasive that authorities planned to scramble F-16's to investigate... [Read full entry »](#)



September 16, 1994

Zimbabwe UFO Witnessed by Dozens

62 school children witnessed a UFO sighting, with many that claimed to see humanoid aliens.

An alleged mass UFO sighting took place on September 16, 1994 in Ruwa, Zimbabwe. A group of 62 children were outside of Ariel School during a morning break when a silver UFO came... [Read full entry »](#)



January 1996

Brazil UFO Crash

Alleged craft, and their ET pilots, recovered by the Brazilian government.

A reported UFO/ET incident occurred in Varginha, Brazil in January of 1996. According to various accounts, a UFO was shot down by USAF pilots operating in the area. The "submarine..."

[Read full entry »](#)



March 13, 1997

UFOs Over Phoenix

Strange lights and craft seen by thousands over Arizona desert.

Thousands of witnesses reported seeing strange lights in the skies above southern Arizona and Nevada on March 13, 1997. Witnesses described seeing bright lights hovering over the... [Read full entry »](#)

June, 25, 1997

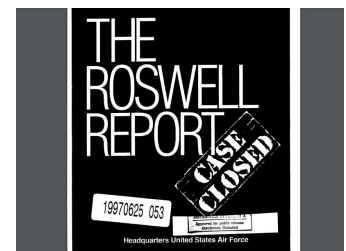


Roswell Case Officially Closed

The US Air Force produces a 262 page document as part of the final step to list the Roswell incidents as Case Closed.

The USAF produced a report in 1994 that "closed the case" on the Roswell incident. The report made definitive claims that the debris found was from a research balloon that was... [Read full entry »](#)

2004



Tic-Tac Video Recorded

Naval aviator corroborates radar anomalies with visual observation as he chases UFO off the coast of San Diego.

Lt. Cmdr David Fravor was a US Navy aviator flying involved in training exercises with the USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group in 2004 off the coast of southern California. Fravor had... [Read full entry »](#)

November 7, 2006



UFO Over Chicago O'Hare

UFO hovered over O'Hare International Airport in Chicago for 10 minutes.

The Chicago O'Hare UFO sighting occurred on November 7, 2006, around 4:15 p.m. when 12 United Airlines employees and a few witnesses outside the airport at Chicago O'Hare... [Read full entry »](#)

2007



AATIP Established in Secret

AATIP was a US government program tasked with investigating UFO phenomena.

The Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was an American program established in 2007 with a goal of studying UFOs and evaluating potential threats related to... [Read full entry »](#)



2015

"GOFAST" UFO Video

De-classified video shows a radar from an F-18 locked in on a UFO.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt--among the US Navy's largest nuclear-powered aircraft carriers--has been involved in numerous purported UFO sightings while operating in waters off the... [Read full entry »](#)



October 19, 2017

Is Oumuamua an Extraterrestrial Object?

Oumuamua is the first observed object to originate outside of our solar system; some speculate it was built by intelligent life.

Oumuamua is the name given to an object observed in our solar system for the first time in 2017. It is the first known sighting of an object that came from outside of our solar... [Read full entry »](#)



December 16, 2017

Pentagon Videos Released

Three declassified videos showing US military encounters with UFOs are released.

The U.S. government declassified three videos showing alleged encounters with UFOs in 2017. The Tic-Tac video was from the 2004 encounter off the California coast; the Gimbal... [Read full entry »](#)

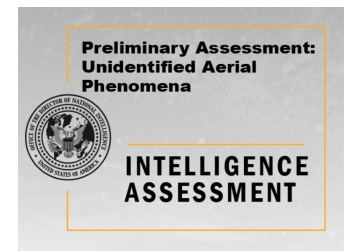


June 25, 2021

Unclassified Preliminary Assessment of UAP

Office of the Director of National Intelligence issues a preliminary assessment of UAP cases.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a preliminary assessment paper on June 25, 2021 related to findings by the DoD's UAP Task Force. The task force... [Read full entry »](#)



November 23, 2021

US DoD Formed New UAP Group

DoD Announces the Establishment of the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronization Group

The United States Department of Defense established a new task force to coordinate efforts to study unidentified aerial phenomena. The Airborne Object Identification and... [Read full entry »](#)



May 17, 2022

First Modern Congressional UFO Hearings

U.S. congressional hearings on UFOs/UAPs are the first in over 50 years.

The U.S. House of Representatives held the first public hearing related to UFOs in over 50 years on May 17, 2022. The House Intelligence sub-committee meeting reached no public... [Read full entry »](#)



October 2022

Pacific Ocean UFO Sightings

Dozens of aviators reported spotting UFOs over the Pacific Ocean in 2022.

Starting in August of 2022, dozens of pilots began reporting both visual and radar-based anomalies over the Pacific. The reports, filed by both commercial and military pilots,... [Read full entry »](#)

October 24, 2022

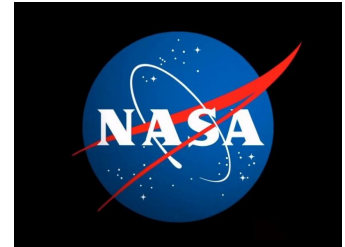


NASA Announced UAP Study

First ever unidentified aerial

The first ever NASA study of UAPs began October 24, 2022, with [Read full entry »](#)

November 2022



Sky Canada UAP Study

Canada announces public scientific UAP study.

Canada's top scientists were assigned to the Sky Canada Project, with the goal of collecting information on how Canada is addressing the UAP problem. It was mandated that their... [Read full entry »](#)



December 17, 2022

2023 US Defense Budget UAP Provisions

All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) continues UFO studies

President Joe Biden signed the National Defense Authorization Act into law in December of 2022. Among other items in the \$816.7B bill, a major change was made to how the DoD... [Read full entry »](#)



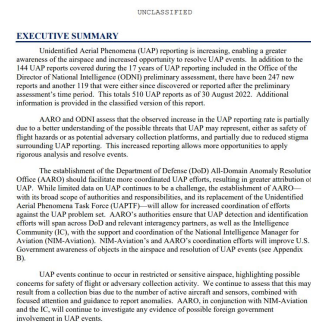
January 12, 2023

2022 Annual Report on UAP

Mandated by Congress to be produced by October 31, the report release was until January 12, 2023.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a preliminary assessment paper on June 25, 2021 related to findings by the DoD's UAP Task Force. The task force... [Read full entry »](#)

January 19, 2023



Proposal for UN UFO Office

Parliament of San Marino approved proposal to the UN for the creation of a permanent office tasked with the scientific study of UFOs or Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP).

The Parliament of San Marino has voted in favor of participating in Project Titan, a proposal to be submitted to the UN for creating a permanent office dedicated to organizing... [Read full entry »](#)

May 31, 2023



NASA Public Meeting on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena

NASA commissioned a study team to examine from a scientific perspective unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAPs).

The focus of this public meeting is to hold final deliberations before the independent study team publishes a report in summer 2023. The report will inform us on what possible... [Read full entry »](#)

