

On the AAWSAP-AATIP Confusion

V.J. Ballester-Olmos* and Luis Cayetano**
(June 30, 2024)

I. INTRODUCTION

The exact difference between the Defense Intelligence Agency's (DIA) AAWSAP UFO/paranormal program and the Pentagon's AATIP UFO program has long eluded ufology. *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* (Lacatski, Kelleher & Knapp, 2021), the book that would supposedly clarify the confusion, seems not to provide all the answers, while nevertheless providing some. (1) The current article is not a standard book review, which already exists. (2) Rather, it is a sort of data mining effort, with the book serving as an initial source and reference pertaining to recent developments in the UAP/Government milieu. We will begin by building a timeline that extends far beyond the contents and time range of the book, looking at the who's who of key personalities, and showing affairs related to UFO/UAP studies in the United States in the 21st century. This chronology pertains both to the various developments that occurred and how they are interconnected. Then, as the paper's title promises, the AAWSAP and AATIP programs are examined in full detail, outlining a number of contradictions in the existing information. Next, we show how the current UAP saga is but a tiny component of a larger historical milieu, and that, despite recent sightings tending not to have many of the folklore-like, "high strangeness" aspects of previous cases (close encounters, or abductions) there remains a consistent dynamic that has pertained for centuries, with modern waves showing similarity to crowd scare episodes reaching back at least to the 17th century. We then review the latest provisions in UAP language in Fiscal Year 2024's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), followed by our general assessment of the book under review. Finally, we reflect on what the future may bring in this arena.

There is no straight, clear-cut narrative of administrative events pertaining to the DIA's "UFO" (nowadays referred to as "UAP", for "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena" and more recently "Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena") project of 2008-2012. Unfortunately, consulted sources show diverse scenarios as to timing, funding, management, etc. Published chronologies differ from one author to another and there remain some outstanding discrepancies. What we are presenting in this paper is our best reconstruction of that UAP program. Accepting a certain degree of uncertainty, we hold it to be quite close to the truth.

In popular culture, there is already an established notion that equates UFOs with alien visitors. This is the result of almost 80 years of accumulation of sensational news and reports gathered from countless sources. Governments from many countries, logically, felt concerned by this massive flow of accounts regarding potential adversary aircraft and decided to gather intelligence and study the data. Finally, finding nothing extraordinary or that posed a threat to national security, their archives were declassified, released, and made public. (3)

* Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos is owner and curator of UFO FOTOCAT, <http://fotocat.blogspot.com/>
1965-2023 bibliography: https://www.academia.edu/113605314/Bibliography_V_J_Ballester_Olmos_1965_2023

** Luis Cayetano, Ph.D., currently affiliated with Gavilan College, Gilroy, California, has a background in evolutionary ecology and has a tangential interest in UFOs, especially in the psychosocial nature of UFO stories and in the far right and extremist links to the saga. He is the owner of the website Ufologyiscorrupt.com
Corresponding author: luis.cayetano.simmari@gmail.com

II. U.S. GOVERNMENT UAP STUDY & RELATED “DISCLOSURE”: A CHRONOLOGY

(Generally starting from the 21st century, though older items are directly related to the core of the present paper)

- 1989 March. George Knapp, Las Vegas KLAS-TV reporter, reached out to Senator Harry Reid¹ on “a story linking Area 51 to UFOs.” (p. xiii)
- 1995 October. National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS)² created, an organization founded and funded by Robert Bigelow.³ It had two focal points: UFOs, and consciousness studies. Bigelow has long held an interest in consciousness, to which he sees a connection with UFOs. He ties this with the question of whether consciousness survives death. (p. 14) NIDS billed itself as a “privately funded research organization with no ties to the government.” Board members included Hal Puthoff,⁴ Jacques Vallée,⁵ John Mack,⁶ and

¹ Harry M. Reid (1939-2021), Democratic senator for Nevada, U.S. Senate Majority Leader (2007-2015), retired from Congress December 2016. A long-time devotee of UFOs, his belief in them “was also consistent with his religious beliefs ... by the eighth decade of his life he was ready to concede that LDS doctrine [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, i.e. Mormonism] helped shape his interest in ... alien life.” (pp. 14-15).

² 1995-2004. NIDS conducted research into black triangles, cattle mutilations, and other paranormal/UFO-adjacent topics. A NIDS-related collection of research materials is archived by Sweden’s AFU thanks to British lawyer/researcher “Isaac Koi” (pen name): <https://tinyurl.com/ywdxvet6>

³ Robert Bigelow, a wealthy Las Vegas businessman, CEO of Bigelow Aerospace (<https://bigelow-aerospace.com/>), has a long record as a strong UFO believer, founding and financing all types of UFO companies, books and projects. He funded a dubious 1991 national survey into UFO experiences and abductions conducted by the Roper Organization and the corresponding analysis conducted by John Mack, Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs and Ron Westrum, *Unusual Personal Experiences* (1992). The poll purportedly showed that some 4 million Americans had been abducted by aliens, but its conclusions and methodology have been severely criticized by skeptics and research experts (K. Frazier, B. Karr, and J. Nickell (eds.), *The UFO Invasion* (1997); <http://tinyurl.com/yc3f8c7k>) He has also collaborated with MUFON (<https://www.wired.com/story/inside-robert-bigelows-decades-long-obsession-with-ufos/>) for the collation and investigation of UFO reports. These associations have drawn questions concerning information hoarding and medical ethics: see Jack Brewer, *The Grays Have Been Framed: Exploitation in the UFO Community* (2016). Bigelow was associated with conman and UFO fabulist Bob Lazar (January 24, 1990, entry at <http://tinyurl.com/mrx2ahzm>; see also this interview of Bigelow by Joe Rogan: <https://youtu.be/WUYhCmfE1a0?feature=shared>)

⁴ Harold E. “Hal” Puthoff, Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, has long had “skin in the game” when it comes to paranormal claims. He was part of the Stanford Research Institute/CIA investigations into using psychics as spies back in the 1970s. More recently, he has been associated with To The Stars Academy of Arts and Science (TTSA) as its vice president of science and technology.

⁵ Jacques F. Vallée, Ph.D. in Computer Science and M.S. in astrophysics, is the author of numerous books on UFOs. The French venture capitalist and computer scientist has been one of the most prominent advocates of the interdimensional hypothesis for UFOs and posits that they may be part of a “control system” to influence human societal evolution. Notably, Vallée has conveyed in his book *Forbidden Science Volume 4: The Journals of Jacques Vallée 1990-1999* (2019) that while at Skinwalker Ranch in the 1990s, no UFOs were seen there.

⁶ John Mack, Ph.D. (1929-2004) was a Harvard psychologist and author who believed that some alien abduction cases represent bona fide examples of human contact with non-Earthly presences. Mack became especially noted for his involvement in the famous Ariel School incident in Zimbabwe in 1994, in which he interviewed numerous children who had witnessed supposed alien beings in the vicinity of the school; a case for which there are alternative, down to Earth interpretations. (4,5) Like other participants in the UFO saga, he was very interested in the link between consciousness and UFOs/aliens.

John Alexander.⁷ Since August 1996 until its dissolution, full-time staffers included Colm Kelleher⁸ (Deputy administrator), Eric Davis,⁹ and George Onet.¹⁰
(<https://web.archive.org/web/20071006225323/http://www.nidsci.org/faq.php>)

- 1996 August. Knapp invited Reid to attend a NIDS meeting and connected him with Bigelow. Later that year Reid attended a NIDS board meeting and met director Colm Kelleher, who has conservatively stated: “we don’t study aliens, we study anomalies.” (p. xiv)
- 2001 June 22. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Control Manual Section 8 (UFO Reports) transfers reporting of “UFO/unexplained phenomena” to National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC), etc.
- 2002 October 21. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs released a “Decision Logic Table Instructions for Recording and Handling Visual Information Material” manual. It covered “UFO and Other Aerial Phenomena Images.” In April 2005, the UFO reference was changed to “phenomena”. In January 2015, the reference to “phenomena” vanished.
(<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/the-dod-manual-that-outlined-ufo-photograph-video-handling-procedures/>)
- ~2004 The National Security Agency (NSA) started uploading hundreds of UFO documents online. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210125221424/https://www.nsa.gov/news-features/decclassified-documents/ufo/>)

⁷ John B. Alexander, Ph.D., former Army intelligence officer. He was part of a loose association of military officials dubbed ATP (Advanced Theoretical Physics Project, which Alexander founded in 1985) which tried to get to the bottom of the U.S. government/military’s purported knowledge about UFOs. He determined that the government’s guess was as good as anyone’s and that there are likely no recovered pieces of alien technology in government hands. This was spelled out in his book *UFOs: Myths, Conspiracies and Realities* (2011). He strongly credits the notion that some UFOs are of non-Earthly origin and sees the scientific community as harboring a dogmatic rejection of this possibility. Alexander, too, has been associated with Bigelow, NIDS and Skinwalker Ranch. He featured in the book *The Men Who Stare at Goats* (2006) by Jon Ronson, which described Army attempts to harness telekinesis as a weapon.

⁸ Colm A. Kelleher, Ph.D. in Biochemistry, has worked as Deputy Administrator for Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) and, prior to that, for NIDS, under which he investigated Skinwalker Ranch. He has served as biotech consultant for Tom DeLonge’s TTSA. Kelleher is currently involved in the new Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS).

⁹ Eric W. Davis, Ph.D. in Astrophysics and aerospace engineer. He worked for NIDS, BAASS and AAWSAP and was a “consultant” for the Navy’s initial iteration of the UAPTF. In March 2020, working for Defense contractor Aerospace Corp., Davis delivered a classified briefing to a Defense department agency about retrievals of “off-world vehicles not made on this earth.” In 2019 he briefed staff members of both the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee. Davis has been the Chief Science Office of Puthoff’s EarthTech International since 2004 and the author/coauthor of several of the BAASS’ DIRDs. He has published extensively on wormholes and proposed breakthrough propulsion systems such as warp drive.
(<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/us/politics/pentagon-ufo-harry-reid-navy.html>; <https://earthtech.org/team/>; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/eric-w-davis/>)

¹⁰ George Onet, Ph.D. in Microbiology and veterinarian. Full-time and salaried with Bigelow’s NIDS, he conducted onsite inspections of cattle mutilations at Skinwalker Ranch (see “Animal Mutilations” section at: http://www.noufors.com/ufo-related_documentation_in_pdf_format.html)

The FBI uploaded all FOIAed UFO documents online, totaling 1,618 pages, plus 355 pages of other material related to UFOs, animal mutilation and extra-sensory perception. (<http://vault.fbi.gov/UFO> (<http://vault.fbi.gov/unexplained-phenomenon>))

The DIA uploaded 292 pages of FOIAed UFO documents online, including “Moon Dust” reports. (<http://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/>: “ufo1” and “ufo2” under “Other Available Records”)

- 2004 October 4. Latest update of the Air Force Instruction 10-206-Operational Reporting. Chapter 5, Communications Instructions Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS), section 5.7.3.3., page 65, required reporting of “Unidentified flying objects.” CIRVIS reports submitted to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). (<https://es.slideshare.net/cliffordstone/afi-10-206-oct-4-2004>)
- 2004 October 20. Robert Bigelow shut down NIDS for “lack of UFO activity.” (<https://rense.com/general58/bigelow.htm>)
- 2007 June. Robert Bigelow called Reid. DIA¹¹ intelligence officer and scientist Dr. James Lacatski¹² requested permission to visit Skinwalker Ranch (Utah), a property owned by Bigelow since 1996 where a series of paranormal events are reported to occur, like “metallic UAPs, otherworldly creatures, poltergeist, electromagnetic anomalies, and orange portals”. (p. xxvi) After onsite investigation by Kelleher, Davis and Onet (1996-2002), a published book codified the ranch’s mythology, (6) prompting Lacatski to make the aforementioned request to Bigelow.
- 2007 June. Reid met Lacatski, who wanted to study both UFOs and the Skinwalker Ranch phenomena. (p. xv)
- 2008 June. U.S. Senate’s Appropriation Committee members Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Dan Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Reid, “who controlled the dark money”, (p. xv) conceived the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program (AAWSAP) with an allocated budget for \$22 million for fiscal years 2008 and 2010.
- 2008 September 22. The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) initiated the AAWSAP project by awarding a two-year contract (HHM402-08-C-0072) to Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS), with James Lacatski as program manager representing DIA. BAASS was the sole bidder to a set-aside solicitation issued on the Federal Business Opportunities website on August 18, 2008, with a looming due date a mere month out, on September 10! (p. xxv) BAASS was “an organization specifically created to execute the

¹¹ United States Defense Intelligence Agency: <https://www.dia.mil/>

¹²James T. Lacatski, Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering. See Keith Basterfield’s bio article: <http://tinyurl.com/mrz3bh3a> According to Luis Elizondo, “[Lacatski’s] career was ruined because of misplaced fear by an elite few. Rather than accept the data as provided by a top-rank rocket scientist, they decided the data was a threat to their belief system and instead, destroyed his career because of it.” Lacatski claims he saw anomalous phenomena while at the Skinwalker Ranch, namely a “topological figure” that “appeared in mid-air” and “went from pretzel-shaped to Möbius-strip-shaped.” Interestingly, Bigelow, a hardened believer in the paranormal and present at the time, did not report seeing it. (<http://tinyurl.com/bddaer6d>)

AAWSAP contract.” (p. xxiii) Given that this organization was legally filed in January 2008, seven months before the DIA solicitation, it looks like a clear case of privileged information abuse. BAASS was closed around 2014. Douglas Kurth served as BAASS program manager,¹³ while Larry Grossmann served as director.

- 2008 October 15. Air Force Instruction 10-206-Operational Reporting, updated. Chapter 5, Communications Instructions Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS), section 5.6.3.3., page 37, required reporting for “Unidentified flying objects.” CIRVIS reports submitted to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). (<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/air-force-instruction-10-206-vanishing-ufo-regulation/>)
- 2009 June 24. Reid requested to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, William Lynn, Restricted Special Access Program (SAP) status for AAWSAP to increase its secrecy level. This was refused. The letter referred to AAWSAP with the “unclassified nickname” of “AATIP”. (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/harry-reid-and-his-aatip-letter-the-mystery-deepens/>)
- 2009 Late. The Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the DIA, after reviewing 26 Defense Intelligence Reference Documents (DIRDs), submitted by BAASS as part of AAWSAP, “determined the reports were of limited value to DIA and there were [sic] a recommendation that upon completion of the contract, the project could be transitioned to an agency or component better suited to oversee it. Funding for the program was ended in 2012.” (James M. Kudla, DIA Public Affairs Office, February 12, 2019. E-mail to Roger Glassel.)
- 2010 February 11. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)’s Order JO7110.65T (Air Traffic Control), Chapter 9 (Special Flights), Section 8, transfers reporting of “UFO/unexplained phenomena” to Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS), National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC), etc. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160401185440/http://tfmlearning.faa.gov/Publications/atpubs/ATC/atc0908.html>)
- 2010 December 21. AAWSAP was officially ended. For years, Lacatski personally sought continued funding, without success. He terminated AAWSAP altogether when funds were depleted by August 2012.
- 2011 July 11. Prospective Special Access Program KONA BLUE established by the Department of Homeland Security (program proposal by J. Lacatski). Terminated December 12, 2011. (See entry for April 16, 2024).

¹³ Douglas Kurth, former Marine Senior Officer, and Naval Aviator. (<http://tinyurl.com/5m3uvpj9>) Kurth (call-sign “Cheeks”) was present during the November 11, 2004, USS Nimitz UAP “Tic Tac” incident. (7,8) He was asked to identify an airborne unknown contact out at sea and was vectored to the area, where he saw a disturbance which he described as “white water.” (<https://ufos-scientificresearch.blogspot.com/2019/02/douglas-s-kurth-and-baassmufon.html>)

- 2012 August? From the ashes of AAWSAP an unofficial, unfunded “AATIP portfolio” was developed at the Pentagon at the personal initiative of Luis Elizondo.¹⁴
(<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/luis-elizondo-and-his-letters-to-the-pentagon-about-his-claims-and-credibility/>)
- 2012 November. Douglas Aircraft - UFO Research Documents posted online, 275 pages.
(<https://checktheevidencecom.ipage.com/checktheevidence.com/DouglasDocs/#PDF>)
- 2014 June 11. Air Force Instruction 10-206-Operational Reporting, updated. Chapter 3, Event/Incident 2017 Report (OPREP-3). It did not list UFOs in the category of events requiring reporting, but it is known that UFO events have been reported through this system. (<https://archive.ph/m63Pk>)
(https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/nellisafb/publication/afi10-206_accsup_nellisafbsup/afi10-206_accsup_nellisafbsup.pdf)
Superseded on June 18, 2018, by the Air Force Manual 10-206-Operational Reporting (OPREP).
(https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a3/publication/afman10-206/afman10-206.pdf)
- 2015 August. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released annual records of unnamed aircraft (UAS) sightings.
(https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/public_records/uas_sightings_report/)
- 2015 December 10. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)’s Order JO7110.65W (Air Traffic Control), Chapter 9 (Special Flights), Section 8, Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Reports, p. 417, recommends that any UFO reporting be addressed to “a UFO data collection center, such as the National UFO Reporting Center, etc.”
(<https://www.faa.gov/documentlibrary/media/order/atc.pdf>)
- 2016 Bigelow sold Skinwalker Ranch to real estate mogul Brandon Fugal. Fugal included future UAPTF participant Travis Taylor¹⁵ as a science advisor in his own investigation of the supposed paranormal goings-on at the Ranch, popularized in the cable TV reality show *Secrets of Skinwalker Ranch*. See January 2018 and August 4, 2020, entries for information about the role of Taylor in the informal and formal iterations of the Navy’s UAPTF.

¹⁴ Luis Daniel Elizondo (now often referring to himself as “Lue Elizondo”). A former Army counter-intelligence officer who has gained considerable standing and notoriety within the UFO circuit for his claims pertaining to his role in AATIP and the existence of a U.S. government cover-up of the truth about UFOs/UAP. Elizondo has alluded to the open-ended provenance of UAP, suggesting that they may even emanate from a hidden civilization on Earth. Elizondo was TTSA’s director of global security and special programs.

¹⁵ Travis S. Taylor, Ph.D. in Optical Science and Engineering, worked as a scientist in the UAPTF from 2019 to 2021. He has authored numerous books, including science textbooks, various science fiction works, a book about how to resist an alien invasion, and others which may speak to his paranormal inclinations. He has been associated with TV shows on alien stories and he also starred in *The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch* reality show.
(<https://www.science.org/content/article/pentagon-ufo-study-led-researcher-who-believes-supernatural>)
(<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/pentagon-releases-details-about-dr-travis-taylors-uap-task-force-involvement/>)

- 2017 February. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service) released 18 FOIAed pages of records pertaining to UFO sightings (1952-2016).
(<http://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/ufos/2017-FS-WO-00542-F-Greenewald.pdf>)
- 2017 March. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission released 43 FOIAed pages of agency records related to UFOs (1998-2010).
(<https://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/nrc/FOIA-2017-0368-NRC-UFO.pdf>)
- 2017 March 8. Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives hearing: “Of recent concern have been the unauthorized flights of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) over Navy and Air Force installations. These intrusions represent a growing threat to the safety and security of nuclear weapons and personnel.”
(https://irp.fas.org/congress/2017_hr/deterrence.pdf, p. 63, General John E. Hyten, Commander, USSTRATCOM). (<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-18-110.pdf>)
- 2017 August 24. The Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review authorized “Unlimited distribution” of three U.S. Navy airborne video-tracking footages (November 14, 2004 “FLIR” [“Tic Tac”], January 21, 2015 “Gimbal” and January 21, 2015 “Go Fast”). Apparently, it was directly instigated by Luis Elizondo. The U.S. Navy officially released the three videos on April 27, 2020.
(<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2165713/statement-by-the-department-of-defense-on-the-release-of-historical-navy-videos/>)
Currently available through <https://www.aaro.mil/UAP-Cases/Official-UAP-Imagery/>
- 2017 September. The Pentagon formalized the “UAP portfolio” and assigned leadership to Director for Defense Intelligence Neill T. Tipton’s office.¹⁶ (<http://tinyurl.com/4szzrw7n>)
- 2017 December 16. *The New York Times* (NYT) article “Glowing Auras and ‘Black Money’: The Pentagon’s Mysterious U.F.O Program” was published. (9) It contained an interview with Reid, who for the first time talked about the DIA’s UFO program (in a way that has been labelled by its director J. Lacatski as “misinformation”). It sparked the latest widespread American social obsession with UAP that persists to this day.
- 2018 January? Coinciding with the NYT article and the further publicity of the Navy UFO videos, and since the majority of UAP observations came from naval aviators, the U.S. Navy’s Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) led an “assessment of UAP incursions into DoD training ranges.” (Susan Gough, Pentagon spokesperson, September 2, 2020. E-mail to Roger Glassel.) Gough called it an “informal UAPTF.” It was an interagency team under the cognizance of the Office of Secretary of Defense. (Joseph Gradisher, Office of Naval Intelligence Public Affairs, May 18, 2020. E-mail to Roger Glassel.
(<https://www.blueblurrylines.com/2020/05/pentagon-answers-on-navy-uap.html>) This

¹⁶ Neill T. Tipton, Director for Defense National Intelligence. Collection and Special Programs, OUSD(I).
(<https://www.congress.gov/116/meeting/house/110298/witnesses/HHRG-116-AS26-Bio-TiptonN-20191211.pdf>)
In 2013, Tipton was Elizondo’s supervisor in the Information Sharing and Partnership Engagement Office (ISPE), OUSD(I).

precursor version of the later, formalized UAPTF (see August 4, 2020 entry) was headed by John “Jay” Stratton,¹⁷ assisted by Travis Taylor.

- 2018 August. Marco Rubio (R-Florida), Senate Armed Services Committee member, inserted language into the classified annex to the 2019 National Authorization Act to oblige the Pentagon to continue UAP investigation.
- 2019 April. The U.S. Navy drafted new guidelines for pilots and other personnel to report encounters with “unidentified aircraft,” in response to a series of sightings of unknown, highly advanced aircraft intruding on Navy strike groups and other sensitive military facilities/assets. (<http://tinyurl.com/5xmzmcdB>)
- 2019 December. U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reported handling a 1,302-page “Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Sighting Database” since 2014. (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/federal-aviation-administration-faa-unmanned-aircraft-system-uas-sighting-database/>)
- 2020 March 11. The U.S. Navy UAPTF delivered a classified briefing on UAP to the House Armed Services Committee. (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/navigating-the-twisted-maze-of-the-aatip-timeline/>)
- 2020 April 16. The Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon (UAP) Security Classification Guide was approved by Scott W. Bray, Director of the Naval Intelligence Activity (NIA). It was co-written by UAPTF UFO activists Jay Stratton and Travis Taylor. (<https://documents2.theblackvault.com/documents/navy/DON-NAVY-2022-000883.pdf>)
- 2020 Mid-year. The CIA compiled a CD-ROM with its complete collection of UFO documentation, comprised of 713 documents containing 2,780 pages in total, covering 1949-2010. Currently, the CIA’s online reading room includes 1,730 UFO items. (<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/search/site/UFOs>)
- 2020 June 8. The U.S. Senate presented the Bill to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. Senators M. Rubio and M. Warner (D-Virginia) added text from a Select Committee on Intelligence Report on Advanced Aerial Threats to “direct the DNI [Director of National Intelligence], in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of such other agencies...to submit a report within 180 days of the date of enactment of the Act, to the congressional intelligence and armed services committees on unidentified aerial phenomena...to include...(a) detailed analysis of unidentified aerial phenomena data and intelligence reporting collected or held by the Office of Naval Intelligence,”

¹⁷ John F. Stratton is a former Office of Naval Intelligence Senior Analyst and Intelligence Officer with the Air Force Reserve. (<https://www.secnavy.navy.mil/donhr/About/Senior-Executives/Biographies/Stratton,%20J.pdf>) Retired, 2021. He has conveyed the belief that he is parasitized by a poltergeist. By 2009, Stratton was a colleague of Luis Elizondo at USDI. Years later, he was “UAP whistleblower” David Grusch’s superior at the UAPTF. A former colleague has referred to him as a “nutjob.” (<http://tinyurl.com/5f52sryk>) According to Steven Greenstreet of the *New York Post*, Stratton is “Jonathan Axelrod” in *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*. (<http://tinyurl.com/yvk78nss>)

- <https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/publications/intelligence-authorization-act-fiscal-year-2021#>) The Bill finally passed Congress on January 1, 2021.
- 2020 June 16. Top Secret, 15-page Information memorandum from the Director of Naval Intelligence Activity to the Secretary of the Navy. Subject: “Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon (UAP).”
(<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/navy-releases-2020-unidentified-aerial-phenomenon-information-memo/>)
- 2020 July. The Federal Aviation Administration released documentation concerning the Colorado-Nebraska “Drone Swarm” events of December 2019 to January 2020.
(<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/34662/faa-documents-offer-unprecedented-look-into-colorado-drone-mystery>)
- 2020 August 4. Under Deputy Secretary of Defense David L. Norquist, the DoD established the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force (UAPTF) to “gain insight into the nature and origins of UAPs ... and detect, analyze and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to the U.S. national security.” This formalized DoD iteration of the UAPTF was, like its informal precursor, placed under the auspices of the Department of the Navy’s ONI. Director: John Stratton¹⁸, assisted by Travis Taylor. Reportedly, Stratton gave future “whistleblower” David Grusch¹⁹ the assignment of seeking UFO legacy programs within the universe of special access programs. (10, p. 14) This was the “formal” UAPTF, as named by Susan Gough.
(<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2314065/establishment-of-unidentified-aerial-phenomena-task-force/>)
- 2021 May 3. The DoD’s Office of the Inspector General (OIG) started an evaluation of the DoD’s “actions regarding UAP” with the issuing by Randolph R. Stone, Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations, Space, Intelligence, Engineering and Oversight, of a memorandum pertaining to this issue.
(<https://www.dodig.mil/reports.html/Article/2594693/project-announcement-evaluation-of-the-dods-actions-regarding-the-unidentified/>)
- 2021 June 17. Federal Aviation Administration’s Order JO7110.65Z (Air Traffic Control), Chapter 9 (Special Flights), Section 8, Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Reports, noted

¹⁸ Tim McMillan (<https://www.ttimcmillan.com/>) reported that DoD officials Neill Tipton and Matthew Cummings (<https://potomacofficersclub.com/speakers/matt-cummings/>) complained to DoD brass about “crazy” Stratton (UAPTF) (<https://twitter.com/MiddleOfMayhem/status/1689277918600478724>)

¹⁹ From 2019 to 2021, David Grusch was a representative to the UAPTF from the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and from late 2021 to July 2022 he was a representative from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) to the UAPTF. (78) Grusch retired from the NGA in April 2023. (<https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/who-is-tonya-p-wilkerson-ufos/>) See Ken Klippenstein at *The Intercept*, August 9, 2023: <https://theintercept.com/2023/08/09/ufo-david-grusch-clearance/> “During an interview with the DoD Inspector General on June 12, 2021, then Major Grusch stated that “he has been studying UAPs for 15 years” (that is, from 2006!): <https://documents2.theblackvault.com/documents/dod/DODOIG-2023-001013.pdf> Grusch is the co-founder of the Sol Foundation: <https://youtu.be/z-kNlzV5qSE?feature=shared>

that “UFO/unexplained activity” is to be reported to “a UFO data collection center, such as the National UFO Reporting Center, etc.”

(https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/atpubs/atc_html/chap9_section_8.html)

(<https://thedebrief.org/the-faa-finally-admits-it-documents-reports-of-unidentified-aerial-phenomena/>)

From June 2021, reports were submitted to DoD’s UAPTF, then to AARO (see July 15, 2022, entry for information about AARO).

- 2021 June 25. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) delivered the "Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena" report to the Congressional Intelligence and Armed Services Committee on UAPs. It was prepared by the UAPTF (under the auspices of the U.S. Navy’s ONI) and the ODNI National Intelligence Manager for Aviation, Maj. Gen. Daniel L. Simpson. 144 UAP cases were included under its purview. **(11,12,13)**
- 2021 June 25. Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks directed the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, OUSD(I&S) to develop a plan to formalize the mission currently performed by the UAPTF. Director: Brennan McKernan.²⁰ In their follow-up book (10, p. 29), Lacatski, Kelleher and Knapp claim that the UFO topic was "de-prioritized" at OUSD(I&S) by having Stratton rotated out of his position and replaced with an officer who was both his junior in rank and burdened with other priorities (McKernan). We are not aware of any solid evidence affirming that the replacement of Stratton was an attempt by the Pentagon to downgrade its focus on UFOs, but it is certainly conceivable that the DoD saw more important and urgent uses for the resources at OUSDI(I&S).
- 2021 September 10. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022, H.R. 4350 called on the Secretary of Defense to work with the Director of National Intelligence to establish a formal UFO research office within 180 days of the Act’s passage. (<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr4350/BILLS-117hr4350rh.pdf>) (<https://thedebrief.org/congress-calls-for-permanent-office-to-address-unidentified-aerial-phenomena/>)
- 2021 October 19. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) met Neill Tipton (OUSD-I&S) to discuss its work on the “Evaluation of the DoD’s Actions Regarding the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena.” (<https://twitter.com/blackvaultcom/status/1615884263613943808>)
- 2021 November 4. Senator K. Gillibrand (D-New York) introduced amendment SA 4281, that would establish an “Anomaly Surveillance and Resolution Office” to replace the present UAPTF program in the Navy’s ONI. (<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/11/17/this-is-urgent-bipartisan-proposal-for-ufo-office-pushes-new-boundaries-522845>)
- 2021 November 23. DoD announced the establishment of the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronization Group (AOIMSG) replacing the UAPTF. Briefing cards

²⁰ Brennan McKernan, U.S. Naval Intelligence Analyst and former Navy officer.

from Public Affairs, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, are to the point: “It is not the purpose of the AOIMSG to look for evidence of extraterrestrials.” FOIAed records revealed that Matthew Cummings (OUSD-I&S) was acting director of AOIMSG. Formally named director: Dr. Sean M. Kirkpatrick.²¹ An involved officer: Mark R. Elliot.²² (<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2853121/dod-announces-the-establishment-of-the-airborne-object-identification-and-manag/>) (<https://documents2.theblackvault.com/documents/dod/22-F-0249.pdf>) (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/dod-refuses-to-release-key-documents-on-ufo-office-cites-national-security-interest/>)

- 2021 December 27. In Section 1683, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (October 2021-September 2022) mandated the creation of an office “to carry out the duties of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force.” (14,15)

- 2022 February 16. The Department of the Navy released FOIAed details on interaction of a swarm of “unmanned aerial systems” with various USS vessels in July 2019. (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/the-black-vault-granted-important-appeal-relating-to-2019-unidentified-drone-encounters/>) (<https://tinyurl.com/mrykm7j7>) (<https://tinyurl.com/2s46n5x9>) (<https://tinyurl.com/knvej34k>)

- 2022 May 17. UAP Congressional hearing to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence’s Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence and Counterproliferation, followed by a classified session. Ronald S. Moultrie, Under Secretary of Defense for Security and Intelligence (OUSD-I&S), testifying. “...we have been assigned that [UAP] task to actually stand up the office, the AOIMSG, which I believe the name will likely change. ... We have, as of this week, picked the Director for that effort, very established and accomplished individual.” (Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick, unnamed at the time). (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSDweUbGBow>) (<https://www.congress.gov/117/meeting/house/114761/documents/HHRG-117-IG05-Transcript-20220517.pdf>)

- 2022 July 15. The “AOIMSG Package for OUSD (I&S)” was renamed All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), that “better reflects the expanded scope and mission of the office – which includes anomalous, unidentified space, airborne, submerged and transmedium objects.” Director: Dr. Sean M. Kirkpatrick. (<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3100053/dod-announces-the-establishment-of-the-all-domain-anomaly-resolution-office/>)

- 2022 October. The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) launched a UAP Community of Interest (UAPCOI) with the mission “to improve aviation safety by

²¹ Sean M. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D. in Physics, former Defense Intelligence Officer for Scientific & Technical Intelligence, DoD. Currently Chief Technology Officer for Defense and Intelligence Programs at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (<https://www.ornl.gov/staff-profile/sean-m-kirkpatrick>), he owns Nonlinear Solutions LLC for intelligence consulting and assists AARO as an (unpaid) “subject matter expert” (<https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/what-next-for-aaro/>)

²² Mark R. Elliot, Director for Technical Collection, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, OUSD (I&S).

enhancing scientific knowledge of, and mitigating barriers to, the study of Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena”. UAPCOI is chaired by Ryan Graves.²³

- 2022 October 21. NASA launched a 9-month UAP independent study. A 16-people team was tasked to “lay the groundwork for future study of UAP for NASA and other organizations”. Chaired by Dr. David Spergel, cosmologist and president of the Simons Foundation. (<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/nasa-announces-unidentified-aerial-phenomena-study-team-members/>)
- 2022 December 16. Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (USD-I&S) Ronald Moultrie and Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick held a media roundtable on AARO. (<https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/3249303/usdis-ronald-moultrie-and-dr-sean-kirkpatrick-media-roundtable-on-the-all-domai/>)
- 2022 December 17. The DoD adopted the changing of the meaning of “UAP” from Unidentified *Aerial* Phenomena to Unidentified *Anomalous* Phenomena. This term, which had already gained traction in the wider discussion about UFOs/UAP, represents a dubious shift designed to convey a heightened sense of strangeness and mystery.
- 2022 December 23. Additional UAP duties to AARO mandated by NDAA for Fiscal Year 2023 (October 2022-September 2023). **(16,17)**
- 2023 The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) provided access to government records on UFOs and UAPs through the National Archives Catalog and NARA’s website. NARA started digitizing historical records in support of the Department of Defense on a rolling basis. (<https://www.archives.gov/research/topics/uaps>)
- 2023 January 12. AARO’s 2022 Annual Report on UAP unclassified version published. 11 pages, 366 new reports collected between March 2021 and August 2022 (510 cumulative), 53% “characterized”. **(18)** On October 31, a 22-page classified report version was presented to Congress.
- 2023 February 13. “President [Joe Biden], through his National Security Advisor, has today directed an interagency team to study the broader policy implications for detection, analysis, and disposition of unidentified aerial objects that pose either safety or security risks.” (<https://tinyurl.com/57vm2erf>)
- 2023 March 7. Draft version (non-peer-reviewed, unedited) of paper “Physical Constraints on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena,” released by Avi Loeb (Galileo Project) but unauthorized by the second author, Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick (AARO). (<https://web.cfa.harvard.edu/~loeb/LK1.pdf>)

²³ Ryan Graves, former U.S. Navy fighter pilot. He claims he was told by other pilots that UAP were being seen “every day” on training missions off the East Coast of the U.S. He has alluded to footage he was shown after a mission that purportedly showed one, as well as to “sensor and video data.” In July 2023, Graves testified to a U.S. “whistleblower” Congressional hearing on UAP. Graves established the advocacy group Americans for Safe Aerospace, with Avi Loeb, Garry Nolan, Christopher Mellon, and John Stratton as advisers. He also organized the Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Integration & Outreach Committee UAP Community of Interest (UAPIOC) at the AIAA.

- 2023 April 19. U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services UAP hearing. **(19)**
- 2023 May 19. The Joint Chiefs of Staff disseminated to all U.S. military commands worldwide a set of uniform procedures (developed with the assistance of AARO) for gathering data and reporting on contemporary military UAP events: “Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Reporting and Material Disposition.” Those were developed with the assistance of AARO. (<https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/foia-release-joint-chiefs-issue-worldwide-uap-reporting-requirements-may-23-2023/>)
- 2023 May 31. NASA UAP panel’s independent study streamed public meeting. **(20,21)**
- 2023 July. Deputy Defense Secretary Hicks moved to personally oversee AARO and to help speed up AARO’s development. (<https://defensescoop.com/2023/08/30/hicks-takes-direct-oversight-of-pentagons-uap-office-new-reporting-website-to-be-launched/>)
- 2023 July 26. “Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena: Implications on National Security, Public Safety, and Government Transparency,” a hearing by the U.S. Congress’s House Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs. **(22,23)**
- 2023 August 9. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s website released “records pertaining to Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon.” (<https://www.cbp.gov/document/foia-record/unidentified-aerial-phenomenon>)
- 2023 August 30. AARO implemented its website. It included a digital form for “U.S. Government UAP-Related Program/Activity Reporting.” **(24)**
- 2023 September. The RAND Corporation issued a 53-page UFO report: “Not the X Files. Mapping Public Reports of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Across America,” covering 101,151 UFO reports from 1998 to 2022. **(25)**
- 2023 September 14. NASA released a 33-page UAP Independent Study Team Report. **(26,27)** NASA appointed as Director of UAP Research and liaison with AARO to meteorologist Mark A. McInerney.
- 2023 October. Since Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick, the head of AARO, was slated to retire from the Federal Government in December, after nearly 18 months on the job, Timothy A. Phillips²⁴ assumed the duties of the Deputy Director All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office. Currently, he is its acting director. AARO was expected to reach “full operational capability,” including needed hirings, by September 2024 (by November 2023, the team included more than 40 DoD personnel). (<https://defensescoop.com/2024/01/10/pentagons-uap-investigation-hub-works-to-reach-full-operational-capability/>)

²⁴ [https://www.aaro.mil/Portals/136/PDFs/Phillips_Timothy_Bio-DEC%202023-\(Acting_Director_Ver\)_508.pdf?ver=Muo8SX1aZCBFRFTOrzWctiw%3d%3d](https://www.aaro.mil/Portals/136/PDFs/Phillips_Timothy_Bio-DEC%202023-(Acting_Director_Ver)_508.pdf?ver=Muo8SX1aZCBFRFTOrzWctiw%3d%3d)

- 2023 October 17. The ODNI released the “Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Annual Report on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena” on AARO’s website, with 291 new reports between August 2022 and April 2023 (801 cumulative). **(28,29)**
- 2023 October 31. Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick (AARO) held an off-camera media roundtable discussion.
(<https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/3575588/aaro-director-dr-sean-kirkpatrick-holds-an-off-camera-media-roundtable/>)
- 2023 November 12. Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick (AARO) was interviewed by award-winning journalist Lara Seligman for *Politico*. (<http://tinyurl.com/8xhdedyx>)
- 2023 December 14. R. M. Medina, S. C. Brewer & S. M. Kirkpatrick, “An environmental analysis of public UAP sightings and sky view potential,” *Scientific Reports*, 13, 22213 (2023). (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-49527-x>)
- 2023 December 22. New UAP provisions added to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 (October 2023-September 2024). (Section VI of this paper) **(30,31)**
- 2024 January 12. The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Thomas A. Monheim, held a confidential session with members of the House Oversight Committee to present information regarding David Grusch's claims. The briefing left some congresspeople with the impression that such claims, denied by the Pentagon, should be further investigated. As the NYT noted, that was not “exactly a formula for combating the raft of conspiracy theories that has sprung up around U.F.O.s.”
(<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/12/us/politics/ufos-aliens-classified-briefing.html>)
- 2024 January 19. “Here’s What I Learned as the U.S. Government’s UFO Hunter,” *Scientific American*. Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick issues a devastating critical analysis of both policy makers and media about UFOs, negating any value to “UAP whistleblower” David Grusch’s allegations. (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/heres-what-i-learned-as-the-u-s-governments-ufo-hunter/>)
- 2024 January 23. Peter Bergen’s *In the Room* podcast interview of Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick. On the wild claims by “whistleblower” Grusch: “This core group of people [UFO/UAP advocates and media personalities] have influenced him, have told him this information ... He may have misinterpreted things that people have said, or he may have just fallen to the influence of what these folks have been telling him.”
(<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/is-the-pentagon-really-hiding-crashed-alien-spaceships/id1685702585?i=1000642602121>)
- 2024 January 24. The U.S. Department of Defense Inspector General released the Unclassified Summary of Report No. DODIG-2023-109, “Evaluation of the DoD’s Actions Regarding Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena,” August 15, 2023. The stated objective: “The objective of this evaluation was to determine the extent to which the DoD, Military

Services, Defense agencies, and Military Department Counterintelligence Organizations (MDCOs) took intelligence, counterintelligence, and force protection actions to detect, report, collect, analyze, and identify unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP)."

(https://media.defense.gov/2024/Jan/25/2003381266/-1/-1/1/UNCLASSIFIED%20SUMMARY_UNIDENTIFIED%20ANOMALOUS%20PHENOMENA%20SECURE.PDF)

- 2024 January 27. Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick's declaration to Richard Luscombe, *The Guardian*: "It [the popular UFO/UAP cover-up narrative] is basically a religion, a religious belief that transcends critical thinking and rational thought."
(<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/27/sean-kirkpatrick-pentagon-ufo-conspiracy-theory-myths>)
- 2024 February 5. Daniel Vergano & Jeffery Delviscio of *Scientific American*'s "Science, Quickly" podcast interview Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick. He stated: "Congress's concern is that there was a program that they did not have insight into, and that is not the case. What we've found is that everything that's been named or identified has a legitimate oversight committee."
(<https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/the-governments-former-ufo-hunter-has-a-lot-to-say/>)
- 2024 March 6. Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick's article in *Scientific American*: "We Need to Investigate UFOs - But Without the Distraction of Conspiracy Theories."
(<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/we-need-to-investigate-ufos-but-without-the-distraction-of-conspiracy/>)
- 2024 March 6. AARO's acting director, Timothy Phillips, delivered an off camera briefing at the Pentagon. Phillips said that ~1,200 cases had been reported to AARO to date. In February, AARO closed 122 cases, with 68% consisting of balloons or airborne garbage detected by advanced sensors. He reported that, partnered with Georgia Tech, AARO is developing a "deployable configurable sensor suite" (coined "Gremlin") to be placed in Pelican cases in the field for long-term "hyperspectral surveillance" and data collection.
(<https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/3702219/media-engagement-with-acting-aaro-director-tim-phillips-on-the-historical-recor/>)
- 2024 March 8. AARO released the unclassified "Report on the Historical Record of U.S. Government Involvement with Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP). Volume I," prepared under the direction of Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick. Conclusion: "To date, AARO has not discovered any empirical evidence that any sighting of a UAP represented off-world technology or the existence a classified program that had not been properly reported to Congress ... most sightings were the result of misidentification of ordinary objects and phenomena ... AARO assesses that if additional, quality data were available, most of these cases also could be identified and resolved as ordinary objects or phenomena." A classified version was delivered to Congress in February.
(https://www.aaro.mil/Portals/136/PDFs/AARO_Historical_Record_Report_Volume_1_2024.pdf)

- 2024 April 16. Documents pertaining to the failed UAP program proposal from DIA's J. Lacatski to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security were released on AARO's website. (<https://www.aaro.mil/UAP-Records-Research/> See: History and Origin of Kona Blue, and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) KONA BLUE Information Release)
- 2024 May 9. A recent interview with Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick by the *New York Post*'s Steven Greenstreet is posted on YouTube. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4lWb1XBvVo>)

III. ABOUT THE AAWSAP

(Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program. Unclassified nickname: AATIP: Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program)

Nature

How AATIP was born in relationship to AAWSAP has been explained in the following ways in the book under review: "The AATIP moniker arose from an unclassified nickname that was inserted into a letter from Senator Harry Reid to the Deputy Secretary of Defense requesting the creation of a Special Access Program." (p. xxiv and Chapter 10) "A new unclassified nickname ... AATIP, was created for use within the unclassified letter because it was decided for security reasons not to use the AAWSAP acronym" (p. 91) "AATIP was a "made up" substitute name for Reid's letter to describe the AAWSAP." (p. xxiv) On June 24, 2009, Senator Reid submitted a letter to Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn requesting a Special Access Program (SAP) status for AAWSAP. "Oddly enough, the primary legacy of that letter was the new unclassified nickname, the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP), created exclusively for use within the unclassified letter." (p 27). It was the original source of prolonged confusion, a trap in which the December 2017 NYT article also fell.

Even for the Pentagon, it was difficult to separate the AAWSAP and AATIP concepts, when DoD spokespersons had to "update" prior official statements on this subject.

(<https://www.blueblurrylines.com/2021/05/the-pentagons-updated-statement-aatip.html?m=1>)

On January 9, 2020, Susan Gough, Pentagon spokesperson, emailed Roger Glassel as follows:

AATIP was the name of the overall program. AAWSAP was the name of the contract that DIA awarded for the production of all technical reports under AATIP.

This was re-confirmed in another email dated January 14:

DIA managed the AATIP. All the work performed under AATIP was done via a single contract vehicle called AAWSAP. The total work effort for AATIP consisted of the 38 technical reports produced under the contract vehicle.

Another description of how the AATIP denomination was born comes from the latest public declaration by DIA officer and scientist Dr. James Lacatski, who was the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) and government project leader for AAWSAP as named in its solicitation (HHM402-08-R-0211 (see further details below). In a podcast from October 17, 2023, he affirmed:

The thing is ... AATIP, the name itself ... was created for a specific reason ... it was done by Senator Reid's letter asking for Special Access Program ... but where did the need for a different name come from? It came from, which [it] took me by surprise when I saw the ... notification of funding that, yes, DIA was getting this money, it was on a piece of paper that had highly classified programs listed on the rest of the paper and someone in Congress

put SECRET on the program name and its very abbreviated contents that were on that document. I did not want to get us crossways with any security considerations. I wanted a different name. Now, I believe that who we called Axelrod [John Stratton] or perhaps Lue Elizondo or perhaps some other code words, and maybe all of them came up with the name AATIP. (<https://youtu.be/ow7FqiegixQ?t=334>)

On January 9, 2018, the DIA response to the U.S. Senate's Committee on Armed Services, which had asked for all products of AATIP, was to provide a list of the DIRDs contracted by AAWAP. To them, AATIP was simply another name for AAWSAP. (<https://irp.fas.org/dia/aatip-list.pdf>)

AARO's historical review of the U.S. Government's involvement with the UFO/UAP topic mentions AAWSAP and AATIP as one and the same program:

In coordination with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, DIA established AAWSAP in 2009, which was also known [as] AATIP. The contract for this DIA managed program was awarded to a private sector organization. [BAASS] (32, p.22)

Objective

The extent of AAWSAP was to investigate UAPs "as well as the paranormal and psychic correlates to UAPs." (p. xxi) "The scope of the AAWSAP investigations at DIA ... delved deeply into the psychic and paranormal relationship to UAP interactions." (p. xxi and Appendix I) "To research paranormal phenomena that co-locate with UAPs and to examine psychic effects in UAP witnesses in addition to scrutinizing the core UAP technology ... Much of this logic is also written into a seminal paper on UFOs and incommensurability, by Jacques Vallée and Dr. Eric Davis." (p. xxii) (33) "AAWSAP was conceived to evaluate the threat potential of UAPs ... AAWSAP was not conceived to study projected advances in aerospace technology, except in relation to UAPs." (p. xxiii)

However, the statement of objectives for AAWSAP, as per the original solicitation placed by Lacatski (HHM402-08-R-0211) reads (pp. 20-21):

Background: ... potential breakthrough technology applications employed in future aerospace weapon systems must be obtained. Objective: ...The objective of this program is to understand the physics and engineering of these applications as they apply to the foreign threat out to the far term, i.e., from now through the year 2050 ... The proposal shall describe a technical approach which discusses how the breakthrough technologies and applications listed below would be studied ... Requirements: The contractor shall complete advance aerospace weapon system technical studies [in areas like] ... propulsion, power generation, spatial temporal translation, signature reduction, human effects, armament ...

The declared, formal objectives are crystal clear. But the Lacatski-Kelleher-Knapp book asserts that "the language crafted was totally directed towards the study of UAPs." (p. xxv) We are inclined to think that DIA was deceived by ambiguous language. In principle, the development of "breakthrough technologies" bears no necessary relation to the investigation of UFO stories, let alone paranormal phenomena on a ranch owned by Robert Bigelow and probed by his National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS). The Requirements section of the Statement of Objectives

of the DIA Solicitation marks the eleven areas to be covered by the contractor. Nowhere are UFO or parapsychological phenomena even remotely mentioned.

3. REQUIREMENTS:

a) The contractor shall complete advanced aerospace weapon system technical studies in the following areas:

1. lift , 2. propulsion , 3. Control, 4. power generation, 5. spatial/temporal translation, 6. Materials, 7. configuration, structure, 8. signature reduction (optical, infrared, radiofrequency, acoustic), 9. human interface, 10. human effects, 11. armament (RF and DEW), 12. other peripheral areas in support of (1-11)

(Attachment 1, Solicitation HHM402-08-R-0211, August 18, 2008. See Word.doc “v3”.
<https://sam.gov/opp/2e30b8192aaa2fb3f32c1497570cbcad/view#classification>)

In our view, the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) proposal (p. 22) twisted the requested objectives, targeted to its pre-conceived plans, and offered in a First Approach (an “approach” in this context refers to the methodology/resources needed to carry out a project) to initiate “a thorough, detailed high-caliber database about what has been seen, recorded or measured by anyone foreign and domestic, military or civilian with regard to craft exhibiting advanced aerospace characteristics.” A Second Approach was to seek scientists “that may have access to novel technologies [that for] various reasons they have not been able to move their research further.” Our reading: scientists who are devoting considerable time and effort to the pursuit of pseudoscience and wild speculation. In a Third Approach: “to use the property [NIDS] owns in the Uintah Basin of Utah ... as a living laboratory ... [where there] appears to be some consciousness connection and interaction.” In other words: DIA investing in parapsychology and ghost hunting! A Fourth Approach was to “collect oral histories from ... individuals who have important historical information that would otherwise almost certainly be lost as time progresses.” Oral histories already imply absence of evidence. Recollections from elderly individuals echo the dime-a-dozen rumors about UFO crashes and retrievals that are standard fare in UFO lore. Even hardcore ufologists have historically tended not to credit these stories. The Fifth Approach suggested using “Bigelow Aerospace space platforms ... that Bigelow intends to fabricate and deploy in low earth orbit in coming years” – that is, using public money on a private company’s future development plans! (The 5th approach was rejected by the DIA).

On the topic of money, it might be prudent to mention that Senator Reid, who played a pivotal role in getting the AAWSAP ball rolling, had been furnished by Bigelow to the tune of at least \$10,000 in campaign contributions. (<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/to-the-stars-academy-of-arts-science-tom-delonge-and-the-secret-dod-ufo-research-program/>) While Bigelow’s intense decades-long interest in UFOs is undeniable, Reid’s engagement with the topic was apparently much more austere, though he explained that it was something of “interest” to him. Likely of more interest to him were his donors. Thus, as John Greenewald has suggested, the Bigelow-Reid relationship may well have involved an element of political “pork”, making the entire venture even more problematic than an already problematic situation in which taxpayer dollars were being misplaced in the pursuit of pseudoscience.

The Sixth Approach was the “opportunity ... to acquire material or data of any kind in the possession of various aerospace and electronic contractors, and by components of the intelligence community.” Our reading: a way of accessing DIA data, efforts by company competitors and other aerospace players, and secret information under the umbrella of a government-sanctioned program – on the DIA’s (i.e., the taxpayer’s) dime. The Seventh Approach listed in the BAASS proposal would deal with “Biological effects of advanced technologies” and cleverly hid pure parapsychology: “... search for and implementation of special types of advanced technologies upon humans ... effects may involve/revolve around who has command of ... enhanced mental capabilities.” This is equivalent to the DIA funding Uri Geller’s spoon bending! But it doesn’t stop there, for the Eight Approach was devoted to implementing “high-quality remote sensing (remote viewing).” (The 7th and 8th approaches were rejected by the DIA). Finally, the Ninth Approach offered, as it couldn’t be otherwise, “an exceptional cadre of experts with experience in exotic technologies and arcane methodologies,” i.e., the NIDS personnel and consultants. (pp. 22-24)

To recap, the project’s name was itself misleading, a trick to better sell the concept to the DIA, because the subsequent BAASS offer contained unsolicited and veiled allusions to UFOs, paranormal, and psychic phenomena in AAWSAP’s range of subjects to study. We could expect that some of these connections/overlaps might be picked upon by aficionados of the UFO/paranormal scene, but that intelligence professionals preoccupied with military and geopolitical matters would be slower to draw upon the inferences. That DIA was misled was suggested in how a DIA spokesperson described AATIP’s purpose:

To investigate foreign advanced weapons system applications with future technology projections over the next 40 years and to create a center of expertise on advanced aerospace technologies. The goal was to help understand the threat posed by unconventional or leap ahead aerospace vehicles/technologies that could have national security implications for the United States.

(James M. Kudla, DIA Public Affairs Office, February 12, 2019. E-mail to Roger Glassel.)

However, the UFO angle would be officially acknowledged later, when on May 22, 2019, DoD spokesman Christopher Sherwood said to the *New York Post* that AATIP “did pursue research and investigation into unidentified aerial phenomena.” As this statement came seven years after AAWSAP/AATIP shut down, it is possible that Sherwood was alluding not to the official program, but to Luis Elizondo’s subsequent unofficial UAP portfolio, also referred to as “AATIP” (and which we refer to as “AATIP II” later in this paper).

(<https://nypost.com/2019/05/22/the-pentagon-finally-admits-it-investigates-ufos/>)

This dance of contradictions continued into December 2019, when Pentagon spokesperson Susan Gough stated, “Neither AATIP nor AAWSAP were UAP related,” in an e-mail to UFO researcher John Greenwald of *The Black Vault*, with otherwise virtually identical wording to Kudla’s statement:

The purpose of AATIP was to investigate foreign advanced aerospace weapons system applications with future technology projections over the next 40 years, and to create a center of expertise on advanced aerospace technologies.

(<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/the-pentagon-corrects-record-on-secret-ufo-program/>)

Roger Glassel wrote: “Going back to February 2020 spokesperson Susan Gough announced that she was working on an update to previous statements about AATIP ... but that updated statement never came.” Finally, in an email dated May 21, 2021, Gough seemingly settled the issue by stating in conclusion that the AAWSAP/AATIP included investigations of UAP, but that it was not the purpose of the program.

In developing the reports and exploring how to create a ‘center of expertise,’ the contract allowed for research drawn from a wide variety of sources, including reports of UAPs. However, the examination of UAP observations was not the purpose of AATIP.

<https://www.blueblurrylines.com/p/p-test.html>)

The frustration felt by researchers and the press in relation to the Pentagon’s contradictions is warranted, but, in our view, the confusion ultimately stems from the ambiguous wording and dubious message transmitted in the AAWSAP/AATIP solicitation, as well as from Elizondo’s usage of the AATIP acronym.

With UAP in the equation, the above-mentioned official summation of the program’s grand objectives can be compared with the actual output of AAWSAP/AATIP. We can understand why finally, very generously, DIA qualified BAASS’ Defense Intelligence Reference Documents (DIRDs) as being of “limited value.”

Yes, AAWSAP and AATIP were one and the same program, with “AATIP” a mere nickname to throw the Pentagon off the program’s tail because of DoD suspicions about its true nature (UFOs and Skinwalker Ranch phenomena), and a name retained by Luis Elizondo from which to draw succor and pursue his own follow-up, unfunded endeavor. To partially set the stage for our exploration of how the “AATIP” acronym was used by Elizondo (see section IV, “ABOUT THE AATIP II” in the current paper), we also note that Reid’s 2009 letter contains an "FY 10 Preliminary Bigoted List of Government Personnel" that includes William Lynn III (Deputy Secretary of Defense), Senator Reid himself, Senator Inouye, and Elizondo. (The rest of the names are redacted) (Some interesting chain of custody issues surrounding the letter have been highlighted by John Greenewald. (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/harry-reid-and-his-aatip-letter-the-mystery-deepens/>) Elizondo’s name in the list does not affirm a leadership role for him in AASWAP despite his claims of having been its “head”. At most, it only demonstrates that, pending a SAP designation for the program (as desired by Reid), Elizondo was among the people to be "read into" it.

Despite how AAWSAP was sold to DIA, the program’s responsible parties confess that during 2011 DIA leadership tried to transfer the program within the DoD, without success, “since AAWSAP was not strictly defense-oriented in nature.” (p. 28) We surmise that at least by then, DIA had become much more fully, if not completely, aware of the true scope of AASWAP and may have been seeking ways to divest itself of it.

That the AATIP nickname served as a device to throw the Pentagon off the trail regarding its purview might be further corroborated by the results of John Greenewald’s FOIA requests to the National Security Agency (NSA) regarding mentions of AATIP/AAWSAP on the Intellipedia service (essentially the U.S. Intelligence Community’s version of Wikipedia). (<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/to-the-stars-academy-of-arts-science-tom-delonge-and->

[the-secret-dod-ufo-research-program/#topsecret](#)) These requests came back empty – except after the NYT published their landmark 2017 piece, yielding a return from a request of mentions of Robert Bigelow, though even then it only cited unclassified, public sources. (<https://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/intellipedia/intellipedia-ufos-Sept2018.pdf>)

Some have taken this dearth of AATIP/AAWSAP-themed entries to be “proof” that the NSA lied to Greenwald or that the program was “too classified” to even appear on Intellipedia at all. However, he notes that highly classified and controversial programs, such as the ECHELON communications intelligence/surveillance operation, *are* mentioned in FOIAed Intellipedia releases. To suppose that a strategic decision was taken to bar any mention of AAWSAP on Intellipedia and that the program was more sensitive than ECHELON certainly stretches credulity to breaking point. That AATIP did not appear in the initial cache may suggest a number of possibilities: that the program was effectively obscured to such an extent by the use of “AATIP” as an internal moniker that the Intellipedia publishers missed it altogether, that the DIA kept it close to its chest to pre-empt mention of it in broader IC channels out of concern for the reaction it might provoke after it discovered its true purpose, or it may simply reflect indifference or contempt on the part of the IC to the program’s relevance.

A disgraceful declaration of intention and objectives comes out in an interview of Eric Davis on May 2020 by the *New York Post* journalist Steven Greenstreet:

They [DIA] turned it down because they were not given enough complete information to understand what the full scope of the program was, and the reason for that is that we were not sure that they would be accepted or receptive of this type of program. So they were only briefed on superficial aspects of the program that they misconstrued to be a waste of money... [Emphasis ours] (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3CcaP3yAkc>)

Basically, Davis is admitting that DIA—the one who paid the bills—was lied to. Obviously, in our view, this was because of the true purpose of the program. In what looks like a Freudian slip: Davis replied he worked five years for AAWSAP, from 2007 to 2012 and used the subject in first person “we”, when speaking of who cheated the DIA. On the issue of dates, AAWSAP really started in September 2008, though August 2012 was the de facto closing date.

As Lacatski recently confirmed, “Right from the beginning, it included all aspects of both UFOs and the paranormal in relationship with UFOs.” But we can reasonably ask: was DIA truly aware that it was funding paranormal investigations? We harbor serious doubts.

Internal, official documents provide additional clues about DIA’s knowledge regarding AAWSAP’s true scope. The memorandum from DIA to USD(I) Lieutenant General James Clapper on October 30, 2009 (Subject: Review of Advanced Aerospace Contract Deliverables), was quite specific in describing the AAWSAP aims as understood by DIA, with not a single mention of UFOs:

The goal of contract is to identify key technologies and physics concepts that would support revolutionary aerospace vehicle research and development.
(<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170015/>)

We are not the only ones to regard the contracting process with skepticism. Steven Aftergood, director of the Federation of American Scientists' Project on Government Secrecy was critical of aspects of the program, telling *Popular Mechanics*:

The whole contracting process for this program was irregular from start to finish. [The AAWSAP contract] sounds like it was a good deal for the contractor. But it would be hard to argue that either the military or the public got their money's worth.

(Anna Merlan, *Motherboard*, April 9, 2022,

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/k7wj9e/newly-released-documents-shed-light-on-government-funded-research-into-worm-holes-anti-gravity-and-invisibility-cloaks>)

Another controversial aspect was of course the suspiciously short period between the solicitation date to bidders (August 18, 2008) and the stipulated offer due date (September 10, 2008).

In their 2023, follow-up book, Lacatski and Kelleher tried to justify why the program studied “poltergeist effects, humanoid-shaped black shadows, loud footsteps, discarnate voices, small flying orbs” in the houses of witnesses who also regularly reported “precognitive, clairvoyant, telepathic” and other psychic phenomena falling under the rubric of “parapsychology”: “At the inception of the program, the AAWSAP principals in Las Vegas and Washington, D.C., were aware that in previous in-depth investigations, the witnesses of core UAP technology also frequently reported paranormal fallout and psychic effects.” (10, pp. 40-42)

We deny it is that frequent and maintain that the impression the authors are trying to instill is a biased representation of UFO phenomenology. They obviously believe that there is an ontologically valid causal connection between “paranormal phenomena” and UFOs/UAP. The program Lacatski sold to DIA had the paranormal in its DNA since the very start. Its design was clearly not improvised overnight.

In February 2024, the very serious issue of what DIA was persuaded to fund and what AAWSAP/AATIP did was well summarized in Volume I of the AARO review of the U.S. Government's historical intervention in the UFO/UAP topic:

The primary purpose of AAWSAP/AATIP was to investigate potential next generation aerospace technologies in 12 specific areas ... Although investigating UFO/UAP was not specifically outlined in the contract's statement of work, the selected private sector organization [Bigelow Aerospace] conducted UFO research with the support of the DIA program manager [James Lacatski] ... AAWSAP/AATIP also investigated an alleged hotspot of UAP and paranormal activity at a property in Utah ... including examining reports of “shadow figures” and “creatures,” and exploring “remote viewing” and “human consciousness anomalies” ... DIA did not seek, nor specifically authorize, this work though a DIA employee [Lacatski] set up and managed the contract with the private sector organization. (32, p 23)

Government UFO-records expert John Greenewald also shares this view. In his words:

So what was official – it was that [AAWSAP was a forward-looking aerospace research exploration program]. What was unofficial was this UFO/UAP-invested [program that looked into] paranormal/human consciousness/anomalies/remote viewing and creatures that veered completely off the map. (34)

Secrecy

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid presented himself as an advocate for “transparency”: “Elected officials and bureaucrats shouldn’t be hiding things from the public.” (p. xix) However, he did his best to hide the project from U.S. taxpaying citizens. As a documented example of this flagrant contradiction, he studiously attempted to create a Special Access Program (SAP)—that is, a fully secret project even for insiders—for the AAWSAP. (p. xxiv and Chapter 10) Reid’s advocacy was, in our opinion, evidently derisive of his supposed opposition to government secrecy. By May 2009 he was concerned that BAASS “would get too high a profile at DoD in the near future and that the AAWSAP contract would be exposed and essentially unprotected from potential opponents at DoD.” (p. 90) Reid had “caught various straws in the wind” that both Russia and China were heavily involved in UAP-inspired advanced technology. On June 24, 2009, he sent a letter to the Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn urgently calling for conferring SAP status to some of the more “sensitive” BAASS projects. (<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170015/>) Finally, although AAWSAP was not classified at the level Reid demanded, it was nonetheless hidden, or as the authors of the book under review duly described, AAWSAP was a “covert two-year program.” (p. xxi) The “notable piece of Reid’s political legacy” (p. 10) is, for our current purposes, a piece of obscurantism. (Reid retired from Congress at the end of his term in January 2017).

It was that letter which placed the AATIP name in the equation for the first time. As Reid’s letter was unclassified, it was decided for security reasons not to use the AAWSAP acronym, and “a new unclassified nickname, the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was created.” (p. 91) The unintended dissemination of that “secret” (p. 92) letter within DoD meant that by September 2009 the DIA’s “flying saucer” project was the word on the street, so to speak, at the Pentagon. Why the DIA as such was apparently unaware of the program’s true nature can only be guessed at. Perhaps the DIA simply “dropped the ball” on this one, which, as we allude to later in this paper, might have motivated an attempt at damage control (if indeed this was the case) on their part.

Others close to the inner circle also affirmed loud and clear that “The Program [AAWSAP] was nicknamed Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) ... Advanced Aerospace Weapons Systems Application Program is the actual name of the program. But AATIP was the nickname it went by.” (Hal Puthoff addressing the Society for Scientific Exploration, cited by John Greenewald on September 17, 2018).

Lacatski worked directly with the Defense Security Service (DSS) to obtain a “Secret clearance for the contractor-owned building.” (p. 25) Secret clearances were assigned to all hired employees as well. In line with contractual conditions from DIA, “The installation of secure communication systems was arranged for both the landline and wireless.” Ufologists have devoted considerable time and energy accusing national governments (especially the U.S. Government) of secrecy, with the argument that the authorities have hidden extraordinary information and evidence of a UFO/alien reality. But when many of these very ufologists are in a position to deal with sensible data, as in the present case’s launching of a UFO project, they do their best to keep it under seven keys. And when journalists are leaked confidential or reserved information (documents or videos) and they disseminate it, it becomes imperative to follow the money and self-promotion tracks. We consider this to be shameful. But this is ufology, ladies and gentlemen.

The solicitation/contract/order (SOO) document dated August 18, 2008 (HHM402-08-R-0211) established the conditions of the work. In an “Attachment 1” of July 18, 2008 (Statement of Objectives), epigraph “5. Security Requirement” it stipulates: “All requirements specified in this SOO may be based on materials classified at or below Top Secret with access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI).”

(<https://sam.gov/opp/2e30b8192aaa2fb3f32c1497570cbcad/view#classification> Word.doc “v3”)

Elizondo claims that in August 2008, he developed a comprehensive plan to protect the program from possible Foreign Intelligence Service penetrations. (35, PDF pp. 8-9)

As mentioned in our chronology, on June 24, 2009, Senator Reid requested to DoD that AAWSAP be transitioned into a protected Special Access Program (SAP). This was rejected:

November 13, 2009: [REDACTED] sent a memorandum to USD(I) SAPCO outlining the results of their official review of Senator Reid's Special Access Program request (Tab C). DIA can see no justification for Special Access Protections based on the content of the FY09 deliverables or the anticipated FY10 work.

The actual level of AAWSAP’s confidentiality is one of many outstanding ambiguities about the program. A memorandum from the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence—USD(I)—James R. Clapper Jr. addressed to the Deputy Secretary of Defense (DepSecDef), November 17, 2009, includes a “Talking Points” attachment for a scheduled meeting of the DepSecDef with Senator Harry Reid (held on November 19th) with the following statement:

October 30, 2009: DIA completed quality reviews of all papers and provided an assessment to Lt. Gen. Burgess [Director of DIA] (Tab B). The papers are currently Unclassified//For Official Use Only. [FOUO]

(<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170015/>)

(https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodm/520507_vol01.pdf)

(<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170056/>)

The FOUO designation is a Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) status, that is not classified per se, but nor does the government endeavor to make documents with this status public. In any event, a formal letter from DIA to the Director of Special Programs at the OUSD(I) clearly states:

All program documents delivered to [REDACTED] during FY 2009 [the first year of the program] were unclassified because the contractor had not established a secure facility, and program employees were being vetted for clearances. In FY 2010, most research products will remain at the unclassified level. ... Based on classification levels of current and projected program deliverables, there are insufficient grounds to classify this open program... [Emphases ours]

(<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170015/>)

Having said that, Senator Reid, DIA and the U.S. DoD strived to make the mere existence of the program unknown to the American public for 10 years. If this is not keeping a secret, what is?

Location

AAWSAP was under the wing of the DIA's Directorate of Analysis, specifically the Defense Warning Office (DWO). (p. xxv) Director Lacatski's office resided at an "undisclosed DIA facility in the Rosslyn [Virginia] area." (35, p. 8) As far as the technical studies are concerned, the Solicitation marks in the Place of Performance requirement that "The work under this contract shall be performed at the Contractor's facility," with personnel "eligible for a Top Secret clearance level with further eligibility for SCI access."

Timing

DIA awarded a two-year contract, from September 21, 2008, to September 30, 2010 (extended by DIA at no cost through December 21, 2010, to allow for final receipt of deliverables "due to contract completion.") (pp. 25-26)

Apparently, Bigelow's BAASS continued the work with AAWSAP (now unfunded by DIA) during the full year of 2011. (<https://www.skinwalkerranch.com/timeline/>)

According to the Statement of Objectives for the AAWSAP dated July 18, 2008, and the Solicitation/Contract/Order HHM402-08-R-0211 of August 18, 2008, the base year started on September 30, 2008, with four optional years, from September 30 to September 29 of each subsequent contract year. AAWSAP started on the last day of FY2008, which will make the AAWSAP contracted year one day off from the Fiscal Year. The problem is that there exist two other versions of this Solicitation package, dated September 1 and September 2, 2009, in addition to yet another AAWSAP solicitation, numbered HHM402-07-R-0019, and up to five different Amendments to the original solicitation (official contract number HHM402-08-C-0072) dated September 2, 2009, February 2, 2010, May 18, 2010 (two), and September 26, 2010. Unless past AAWSAP staff or DIA historians try to provide the full, detailed solicitations, amendments and contract paperwork, this issue will remain ambiguous. What we are presenting in this essay is our best approximation of the issue.

In the "Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Contract – Update" (circa mid-late 2009), we read:

If project continues past FY10, [REDACTED] recommends that the contract be moved out of DIA.

(<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170018/>)

Luis Elizondo claims that from July 2009, new leadership at DIA began attempts to shut down the effort because of "religious aversion to the subject matter," that by September DIA wanted to kill the effort, and that by October 2009 they had succeeded in discontinuing it, as "it had supernatural origins not consistent with certain religious views of senior DIA leadership." (35, p. 9) The more likely reality was that it simply ended because its output wasn't very useful.

However, the following statement in *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* (1) seems to set the timing in a non-ambiguous manner:

AAWSAP ran for just over two years, including a three month no-cost extension that concluded on December 21, 2010. (p. 142)

Another piece of evidence that the program *officially* finished in December 2010 is that the “final report summarizing the findings of the AAWSAP BAASS program was delivered to DIA in September of 2010.” (p. 170) And, of course, the dates of all the AAWSAP productions, the Monthly Reports, DIRDs, data spreadsheets, onsite investigations, and technical studies, do not exceed December 2010 or (in the case of the two last DIRDs) January 3 and 11, 2011. (Would a 26-page report on events at the Skinwalker Ranch, dated April 3, 2012 (p. 195) confirm the program’s *unofficial* continuation up to 2012? This is possible, but we withhold definitive judgement pending more evidence. We can also note this clear-cut sentence in the Appendix II of the book under review: “Imagine what AAWSAP BAASS could have achieved if the program had been allowed to continue for five years instead of the abrupt termination that occurred after only two years.” (p. 197) [Emphasis ours]

A recent, seemingly conclusive statement by Lacatski on this question is found in his October 17, 2023, podcast interview cited above, where he declared:

The Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program was basically created between myself and Senator Reid at the Defense Intelligence Agency. It was a \$22 million program. It had the capability of going five years, we completed our objectives in two years. [Emphasis ours] ... The first year was \$10 million and the second year was \$12 million. (<https://youtu.be/ow7FqiegixQ?t=112>)

In the same source, Kelleher stated:

AAWSAP was officially sort of stopped in terms of funding being received in September of 2010. By December of 2010 we had a 90-day, no cost extension and at that stage the program was over. (<https://youtu.be/ow7FqiegixQ?t=3133>)

Strangely, Pentagon officials recollect the end of the AAWSAP program differently than the program’s own protagonists. For example, Major Audricia Harris (Public Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense) wrote:

AATIP was funded in the July 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Bill. Its mandate, as outlined in a 2009 letter from Reid to DSD, was to assess "far-term foreign advanced aerospace threats to the United States," including anomalous events (such as sightings of aerodynamic vehicles engaged in extreme maneuvers, with unique phenomenology, reported by U.S. Navy pilots or other credible sources). AATIP was terminated in 2012 due to lack of real progress and concerns about the viability of the program. (E-mail to Roger Glassel, May 3, 2018, <https://www.blueblurrylines.com/2018/05/pentagon-confirmation-aatip-advanced.html>)

Harris also responded to John Greenewald in April 2018 on the matter of AAWSAP/AATIP’s termination:

The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program ended in 2012. It was determined that there were other, higher priority issues that merited funding and it was in the best interest of the DoD to make a change. (<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/to-the-stars-academy-of-arts-science-tom-delonge-and-the-secret-dod-ufo-research-program/#concerns>)

Note how “Aviation” was used in this response instead of “Aerospace”. This was another point of contention in the media’s coverage of the program and the confusion surrounding its name.

Although the program’s official, administrative closing year was 2010 (the second year of DIA appropriation), AAWSAP insiders extended its functioning up to 2012 until the funds were fully depleted. As Susan Gough has recently indicated: “...work continued under the AAWSAP contract until 2012 until all contract deliverables had been completed and the full \$22 million ... had been expended.” (Email to Roger Glassel, March 21, 2024). Between the official AAWSAP’s shutdown and Lacatski’s retirement from service in May 2016, he and his associates unsuccessfully attempted to obtain new government financing for AAWSAP on as many as three subsequent occasions. Lacatski aspired to set up a Center of Expertise in the Pentagon (see discussion further below the projected “Kona Blue” program).

The AARO historical report summarizes the timing issue as follows:

AAWSAP/AATIP was terminated in 2012 upon the completion of its deliverables due to DIA and DoD concerns about the project. (32, p. 23)

Breakdown of DIA’s AAWSAP Program: Actual vs Projected

(September 2008-September 2013)

Fiscal Year*	Contract Term	Base/Option Year	Appropriation	DIRDs Produced***
2009**	Sep 30, 2008-Sep 29, 2009 ^Δ Sep 22, 2008-Sep 29, 2009 [◇] -Sep 30, 2009 ^{◇◇}	Base year	\$10 million	nil
2010	Sep 30, 2009-Sep 29, 2010 ^Δ Sep 22, 2009-Sep 29, 2010 [◇] Oct 1, 2009-Sep 30, 2010 ^{◇◇}	Option year I	\$12 million	27 DIRDs (December 2009-April 2010)
2011	Sep 30, 2010-Sep 29, 2011 ^Δ Oct 1, 2010-Sep 30, 2011 ^{◇◇} (program <i>officially</i> ended December 21, 2010 - <i>actually</i> 2012) ^Ψ	Option year II	Extension Sep-Dec 2010 at no cost ^{◇◇◇} No extra funding	11 DIRDs (November 2010-January 2011)
2012	Sep 30, 2011-Sep 29, 2012 ^Δ Oct 1, 2011-Sep 30, 2012 ^{◇◇}	Option year III	Not executed No extra funding	nil
2013	Sep 30, 2012-Sep 29, 2013 ^Δ Oct 1, 2012-Sep 30, 2013 ^{◇◇}	Option year IV	Not executed No extra funding	nil

(*) Fiscal Year starts on October 1 of preceding year and ends on September 30 of present year

(**) The first ten days of the contract was in FY2008, and the initial funding for AAWSAP was included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2008

(***) As per submission’s date in Appendix I of *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* (1)

(Δ) Original DIA Solicitation HHM402-08-R-0211, August 18, 2008:

<https://sam.gov/opp/2e30b8192aaa2fb3f32c1497570cbcad/view#classification> (See Word.doc “v3”)

(◇) Original DIA Solicitation HHM402-08-R-0211, September 1, 2008:

<https://documents2.theblackvault.com/documents/dia/AAWSAP/FOIA-00349-2018.pdf> (pages 23-24)

<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170017/> (pages 4-6)

(◇◇) Amendment of DIA Solicitation HHM402-08-R-0211, September 2, 2009:

<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170017/> (pages 1-3)

(◇◇◇) (10, p. 26; Colm Kelleher to Robert Fleischer, December 20, 2023, <https://www.exomagazin.tv/initial-revelations-neue-einblicke-in-das-geheime-ufo-projekt-aawsap-dr-cola-kelleher/>)

(Ψ) AARO history records report, February 2024. (32, p. 23)

Management

The AAWSAP program managers were Lacatski (as Director) and Kelleher. (p. xxiii) Lacatski served under the auspices of DIA and Kelleher did so for BAASS (where he served as its Deputy Administrator). Other known personnel included John Stratton.

Confusion and contradictions abound. Elizondo, in his complaint addressed to the DoD's Inspector General, May 2021²⁵, claims to have been named "Chief of Counterintelligence and Security." (33, p. 8) He also claims to have been *appointed director* of AAWSAP/AATIP, that he served in that capacity from May 2010 to August 2012 (35, p. 9), and that Lacatski suggested to him that AATIP efforts should be focused outside the DIA, "due to perceived sense of stigma." (33, p. 10) In a subsequent *60 Minutes* interview, Elizondo stated that:

In 2010 when the last program manager [Lacatski] was going into a new assignment, I was asked to take over the program ... And from 2010 [to September 2017] ... I ran the AATIP program.

(<https://parabunk.blogspot.com/2018/06/aatipaawsap-tale-of-two-programs.html>)

In his complaint to the DoD IG, Elizondo wrote very specifically:

April 2010 – Dr. Lacatski approached me and asked if I would consider assuming the role of AAWSAP Director.

May 2020 – In my new role as Director for AATIP and AAWSAP ... (35, p. 9)

[Emphasis ours]

In 2017, Pentagon spokesperson Dana White reportedly affirmed to Bryan Bender of *Politico* that "the program existed and was run by Elizondo."

(<https://archive.ph/o/mgfwv/https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/12/16/pentagon-ufo-search-harry-reid-216111>) White's assertion, however, may be suspect given that she was under investigation for misconduct. (She resigned in January 2019 amidst the scandal) Spokesperson Christopher Sherwood told Keith Kloor of *The Intercept* in June 2019 that he could not confirm White's assertion. (<https://theintercept.com/2019/06/01/ufo-unidentified-history-channel-luis-elizondo-pentagon/>) John Greenewald has also noted that none of the many journalists covering the Pentagon UFO program story had received, as far as he was able to discern, the same statement as that given to Bender. (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/the-pentagon-denies-luis-elizondos-role-in-aatip-heres-my-take/>) Kloor remarked in his *Intercept* piece that after reaching out for further clarification regarding where AATIP was billeted, Elizondo declined to respond. This may speak to a reluctance on Elizondo's part to clear up something that has served his public image well - the obfuscation regarding the difference between Elizondo's private UFO initiative that co-opted the AATIP title and that proceeded the termination of AAWSAP (see below). In any case, it is possible that White and Sherwood were speaking at cross purposes: if she was alluding to Elizondo's unofficial version of AATIP while Sherwood was alluding to AAWSAP (i.e., AATIP-proper), then this would be another instance of the "AATIP" acronym contributing to confusion, even among Pentagon officials.

²⁵ Part of this complaint was directed against Neill Tipton, who Elizondo accused of wrongdoing. There, Elizondo set forth that circa July-October 2017 he briefed Tipton on the "nuances of AATIP" ahead of Tipton's heading up of the "AATIP portfolio", with the agreement that Elizondo was to continue in an "advisory" role within the "AATIP construct". (35, p. 13)

Furthermore, statements given to *Bloomberg* and the *New York Post* by the Pentagon in October and December 2019 contradicted such claims by Elizondo and denied that he had any “official responsibilities” as part of AATIP (i.e., AAWSAP).

(<https://theintercept.com/2019/06/01/ufo-unidentified-history-channel-luis-elizondo-pentagon/>)

(<https://about.bgov.com/news/ufo-group-sharing-exotic-materials-with-army-for-combat-vehicles/>)

(<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/how-did-you-get-this-so-wrong-emails-reveal-journalists-struggle-with-contradictory-pentagon-ufo-statements/>)

To make things even more incomprehensible, in 2021 Senator Reid, aged 84, confusingly wrote that the same “AATIP” [AAWSAP] which received \$22 million was led by Elizondo. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:\(Attachment_19\)_20210426_Senator.Reid_Lue.Elizondo.AATIP.pdf](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:(Attachment_19)_20210426_Senator.Reid_Lue.Elizondo.AATIP.pdf)) Yet, in a thread on “X” (formerly known as Twitter), investigative journalist Steven Greenstreet showed a post by Elizondo himself dated May 10, 2021, which stated:

Its [sic] been brought to my attention that despite constant assertion in the media about my NON-INVOLVEMENT in AAWSAP, some are under the false impression that I was part of it. For the record, AGAIN, and AGAIN, I was not part of AAWSAP!

(<https://twitter.com/MiddleOfMayhem/status/1713666049642754430>)

Yes, Luis Daniel Elizondo, NOW it is crystal clear.

Funding

DIA accepted Approaches 1-4, 6 and 9, awarding \$10 million for the first year [Fiscal Year 2008] and \$12 million for the second year [Fiscal Year 2010]. (pp. 25-26) “Funding for the first year was approximately \$10 million with the opportunity to renew the contract on an annual basis thereafter.” (p. 43)

Lacatski *et al* write that “For FY11, congressional funding was not available, otherwise could have continued in the DIA for the 3rd year ... The money was simply unavailable.” (p. 27) By the end of FY10 (September 2010), the flow of funds had ceased and DIA was happy to cut the program. The book under review’s text then becomes cryptic: “Money was available for FY12, but money was not the only issue.” (It refers to Reid’s failed request for a Special Access Program for AAWSAP). What money? Although AAWSAP had already closed by the end of FY2012 (October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012), Lacatski still pursued some UAP-related activity, probably on a private personal basis with remnants of the last \$12 million.

On this issue, Elizondo stated that \$12 million were allocated for FY 2013 and FY 2014, and that this funding was taken by another office within OUSD(I) “to support academic studies involving intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR).” (35, pp. 10-11) “The initial tranche of funding ended in 2012 and in 2013 there was additional funding ... the wording in the language for the funds was nebulous, so another office within the department wound up taking the money.” (<https://parabunk.blogspot.com/2018/06/aatipaawsap-tale-of-two-programs.html>)

Despite certain ambiguous language that precludes knowing exact details of how and when the second installment of monies awarded to the AASWAP/ATTIP DIA program (US \$12 million) was disbursed to this end or not, we can note some mentions in the book under review that seem clear and definite. For instance, in the Introduction: “The name of this covert two-year \$22 million

DIA program was AAWSAP ... Between September 2008 and December 2010, the Pentagon spent those millions investigating UFOs.” (p xxi) Elsewhere, we read: “this AAWSAP name was created in order to make sure the \$22 million Program Element reached DWO [Defense Warning Office], and only DWO, at DIA ... The result was a unique, successful program.” (p. 42) It indicates all the postulated appropriation was consumed in line with plans. As a way of confirmation, that book reiterates: “The DIA AAWSAP contract thus became a shining example of the original program money actually used for its stated purpose.” (p. 47) Finally, in the Acknowledgements, the book writers thank businessman Bigelow and Senators Reid, Stevens and Inouye “who played large roles in securing the \$22 million in funding for AAWSAP.” (p. 182)

Over time, there were other attempts to collect Government funds. On February 2011, Lacatski negotiated for AAWSAP to be acquired by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate and an “opportunity arose for DHS to receive \$10 million in FY13” for a joint effort but DHS leadership ultimately did not accept the new funding. For FY14 and FY15 two further attempts to fund AAWSAP failed. (pp. 28-29) In fact, Chapter 17 of *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* (1) is devoted in full to documenting the unsuccessful attempt to sell the AAWSAP concept to the Department of Homeland Security: “...the consensus decision emerged not to proceed with the BAASS-like program at DHS. BAASS was seen as too fringe.” (p. 154) [Emphasis ours]

“Repeated efforts to find continued funding for AAWSAP from 2011 through 2016 ... ultimately failed.” (p. 155)

The illuminating AARO review of historical USG UFO-related involvement says: “Many of these individuals were involved in or supportive of a cancelled DIA program [AAWSAP/AATIP] and the subsequent but failed attempt to reestablish this program under DHS, called KONA BLUE.” Specifically, it refers to Lacatski’s intention, without naming him, as follows:

One named program was a UAP-related Prospective Special Access Program (PSAP) called KONA BLUE that was proposed to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and supported by individuals who believed the USG was hiding off-world technology. The program was never approved by DHS and its supporters never provided empirical evidence to support their claims. (32, p. 9)

More detailed information on this program can be found in Volume I of AARO’s historical review. (32, pp. 34-35) Finally, all original documents pitched towards creating a program within the DHS have been declassified and made available in April 2024 on AARO’s website, with the following introduction:

The All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) first learned of the KONA BLUE program from interviews conducted as part of its historical review. Multiple interviewees identified KONA BLUE as a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sensitive compartment established to protect the retrieval and exploitation of "non-human biologics." AARO researched the information provided by the interviewees and learned KONA BLUE was a Prospective Special Access Program (PSAP) that had been proposed to DHS leadership but was never approved or formally established. KONA BLUE never received any materials or funding, and there is no information beyond the proposal presentation marked with the KONA BLUE name. [Emphasis ours]

(<https://www.aaro.mil/UAP-Records-Research/>: “History and Origin of Kona Blue”, and “Department of Homeland Security (DHS) KONA BLUE Information Release”).

Deliverables

When the U.S. Committee on Armed Services asked the DIA for all of AATIP’s products, the DIA response on January 9, 2018, was to provide a list of the 38 DIRDs contracted by AAWSAP. (<https://irp.fas.org/dia/aatip-list.pdf>) However, this does not appear to accurately convey the extent of AAWSAP’s work, though it is possible that the DIRDs were the only items received by the DIA. According to *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon* (1), the actual output also consisted of “A multi-million-dollar database to store contract record data,” and “more than one hundred separate reports ... in addition to 11 data bases within the AAWSAP BAASS Data Warehouse delivered to DIA.” (pp. 26-27 and the book’s Appendix I, pp. 184-196). Certainly, someone should determine just how the reports and DIRDs actually match the DIA’s strict requirements! Note: “massive holdings of the original analysts’ journals, data, and photographs, remained in storage.” In other words, these paid-for assets were apparently never submitted to the DIA. Is this ethical?

In their 2023 follow-up book, the authors write about “the massive body of scientific papers and documents the program produced (most of which have yet to be made public) ... the bulk of what the study produced has not been unveiled even now. Not even Congress has been able to access the vast data warehouse of the more than 100 papers produced by BAASS.” (10, pp. 21-22) Taxpayers: what are you waiting for to protest and demand all output from AAWSAP/BAASS? Even if much of the material produced as part of the effort is proprietary to BAASS and is exempt from the FOIA process, it seems prudent and fair for Bigelow to release it. And if the DIA/DoD are withholding the output to avoid embarrassment about a concealed UFO program on taxpayer dime, it would likewise behoove them to finally release any documents in their possession both as an act of public goodwill and to resolve this issue once and for all.

A particularly intriguing output from the effort was a “10-Month Report” (with a black triangular UFO on its cover, no less) produced by BAASS and that was reportedly submitted to the DIA in July 2009 (see Appendix I of *Skinwalker at the Pentagon* (1), p. 187). This report was, according to Tim McMillan of *Popular Mechanics*:

...chock full of strategic plans, project summaries, data tables, charts, descriptions of biological field effects, physical characteristics, methods of detection, theoretical capabilities, witness interviews, photographs, and case synopses—each one entirely, explicitly about unexplained aerial phenomena.

(<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/research/a30916275/government-secret-ufo-program-investigation/>)

McMillan also noted: “Throughout the report, “the sponsor” is mentioned, however, the DIA is never explicitly named.” The report itself has not been released to the broader public by the DIA or by BAASS, though McMillan was apparently allowed to read it and take notes for his *Popular Mechanics* article (incidentally, this dynamic, in which a reporter or investigator is permitted to read UFO-related documents that are never otherwise released, is a staple of the UFO genre). Until this document is released in full, its value to science cannot be properly ascertained beyond McMillan’s impressions and the few screenshots he was able to share, though for our current purposes, the report, assuming that it is indeed genuine, does further corroborate the notion that

AAWSAP was a UFO-focused program (albeit with substantial paranormal leanings and overlaps). Whether the DIA in fact received this document is another matter. Additionally, the contents of the as-yet unreleased monthly reports produced by BAASS would also be pertinent to resolving the issue of exactly what the DIA or its responsible officials knew about the UFO and high strangeness focus of AAWSAP. Robert Bigelow went on the *Coast to Coast AM* radio show on September 8, 2008, to break the news about BAASS. The blurb for this episode states:

Bigelow also broke the news of the creation of Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS). He explained that his research into the UFOs has convinced him that the phenomenon is real and that the goal of BAASS is to find technologies akin to UFO propulsion methods. As an example of what the company would be searching for, he said, "we would love to find something that levitates."

<https://www.coasttocoastam.com/show/2008-09-28-show/>)

It seems that someone at the DIA *should* at least have known what Bigelow was up to. As we've noted earlier, might it be the case that, in the event, the DIA was slow to pick up on this, and that some of the obfuscation and confusion emanating from the Pentagon has been part of an attempt at damage control?

BAASS had some work that was subcontracted. A "substantial funding" was for MUFON's services.²⁶ An initial contract of \$10,000 for October-November 2008 requested MUFON to provide 12 overview papers focusing on 12 technical areas consistent with the DIA's contract proposal for AAWSAP. Work was produced by an *ad hoc* team, the MUFON Advanced Technology Establishment (MATE).²⁷ Between February 2009 and January 2010, a one-year BAASS-MUFON contract reflected the amount of \$672,000²⁸ and it entitled BAASS to receive immediate case notifications, timely reports from MUFON investigators, and all physical evidence collected. (p. 111) To that purpose, MUFON's Strike Team for Area Research (STAR) expanded to the STAR Impact Project (SIP), a new venture to include paid investigators and support personnel.

A major subcontractor for BAASS was EarthTech International, a company founded in 1991 by Hal Puthoff (since 2004, Eric Davis has served as Chief Science Officer). Seven of 38 DIRDs were signed by EarthTech, according to Appendix I of the book under review, although book two in this "series" says that "38 Defense Intelligence Reference Documents (DIRDs), to be exact, were written by Earthtech International." (10, pp. 40-42)

Concerning BAASS's own workforce, it is reported that within five months of the AAWSAP start date in 2008, "a fifty-strong team of PhD and Master-level scientists, technicians, engineers, analysts, military intelligence professionals, program manager, and security officers had been recruited, hired, and assigned security clearances." (10, p. 26) "Ultimately, more than 75 contractor personnel performed exotic aerospace research, and several part-time personnel conducted fieldwork." (10, pp. 40-42)

²⁶ Contract with BAASS under MUFON Director James Carrion, *The MUFON UFO Journal*, April 2009, pp 3-5.

²⁷ MATE team consisted of Dr. Bob Wood, Charles W. Modlin, Robert Powell, and Chuck Reeve. The MUFON-BAASS contract ended quite abruptly, with MUFON only receiving about \$324,000. (36)

²⁸ Purchase Agreement for the Acquisition of Information (BAASS, circa January 2009).

The list and actual copies of 38 DIRDs (only one was classified),²⁹ in addition to a number of other AAWSAP-related documents can be accessed at the DIA’s FOIA Electronic Reading Room, under the “Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program” section:

<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/>

They can also be accessed from John Greenewald’s *The Black Vault*:

<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/the-advanced-aerospace-weapon-system-applications-program-aawsap-documentation/>

Analysis of the 38 DIRDs has elicited strong criticism. Nicknamed “Parabunk”, an American scientist and the blogger of “Close Encounters of the Rational Kind” has written: “These documents continue to look like a smokescreen for a program that had a pretty shady arrangement of funding that was mostly spent on something very different than the public solicitation documents contained.” (<https://parabunk.blogspot.com/2018/07/aawsap-dirds.html>)

With little explicit mention of UFOs/UAP in the DIRDs, AAWSAP/BAASS was outwardly able to remain in full compliance with the terms of the program solicitation, even if in being a de facto UFO program under cover of an advanced aerospace program, it was sold fraudulently to the government and the bulk of the dispersed monies were misappropriated on items other than the DIRDs (i.e. the program principals were running a UFO program instead, with the DIRDs as only a small portion of the larger program/output). The DIRDs seem to constitute the core work outputs of AAWSAP as *legally* spelled out in the solicitation (as opposed to the monthly status reports, which might better be considered as administrative outputs). Other program outputs, which are not known to have been delivered to the DIA—databases, investigative reports etc., pertaining to UFOs and the paranormal—would constitute a misappropriation of funding (it is hard to argue, for example, that ghosts at Skinwalker Ranch have much to do with the stated objectives of AAWSAP: to investigate trends in aerospace technology that could threaten U.S. systems into the future).

While many of the topics covered in the DIRDs have been speculatively linked to the nature of UFOs in the annals of ufology, many of the scientists contracted to work on the DIRDs need not have known about the UFO-centric focus intended by the team principals (this, at least, would be entirely consistent with how intelligence agencies and military bureaucracies have long consulted outside experts for their knowledge even if they do not inform these experts about the true scope of a project). We also note that one of the DIRDs authored by Kit Green³⁰ (“Anomalous Acute and Subacute Field Effects on Human Biological Tissues,” <https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170026/>), explicitly mentions “UFOs” numerous times (though he qualifies this in the aforementioned *Popular Mechanics* article: “all of the injuries he assessed

²⁹ A non-released version of “State of the Art and Evolution of High Energy Laser Weapons” by J. Albertine of Directed Technologies. (<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170045/>)

³⁰ Dr. Christopher C. Green. Fellow in Clinical Imaging and Professor/Assistant Dean in the Departments of Diagnostic Radiology and Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, Wayne State School of Medicine. Former investigative officer and consultant with the CIA and the US Army on issues related to chemical and biological terrorism. In the 1970s, he was involved in the CIA’s remote viewing research. His name has been mentioned in a supposed memorandum from Colm Kelleher to Robert Biglow, where Green believed in the authenticity of the bogus Ray Santilli Roswell Alien footage. “Kit” Green appears multiple times in Jacques Vallée’s biographical tomes *Forbidden Science*.

(<https://www.fetzer-franklin-fund.org/media/christopher-green/>; <https://www.irva.org/speaker/green-christopher>; <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/9382232/leaked-memo-suggests-fake-roswell-alien-autopsy-video-real-cia-scientist-pentagon-briefing/>)

could be accounted for by known terrestrial means, and did not provide any evidence for extraterrestrial or non-human technologies.” [Emphasis ours] Another DIRD, authored by Eric Davis (“Quantum Tomography of Negative Energy States in the Vacuum,” <https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170043/>), alludes to “surveillance and detection of any anomalous aerospace platforms that might use engineered spacetime effects for propulsion.” [Emphasis ours] These are the most explicit references to UFOs that can be gleaned from the DIRDs. For their part, the team principals affirm that the DIRDs fundamentally pertain to UFOs (of course, this only further highlights the discrepancy between the purported mission of AAWSAP as presented to the DIA and the actual purview of the program) with topics such as breakthrough propulsion systems, space-time displacement, and effects on human physiology, which have all been staples of UFO lore in one form or another spanning several decades. The principals also defend the inclusion of paranormal phenomena in AAWSAP’s investigations (especially at Skinwalker Ranch) as something entirely justified within a UFO-centric focus given the need, in their estimation, to take a broad view that did not preclude the possibility of non-conventional/paranormal correlates of UFOs. They claim to have been addressing a shortcoming they perceived in Project Blue Book (37,38) and the way that the scientific community and civilian UFO groups have hitherto dealt with the UFO topic, namely: dogmatic rejection of non-conventional/paranormal phenomena and explanations. (10, p. 23)

It will probably take years to evaluate the real value of those DIRDs (basically, they will be worthy if they have any practical application to the aeronautical industry and space research). As the world of ufology is highly speculative and sometimes paranormally inclined, we predict that those reports are chiefly scientific gobbledygook, that is, a gibberish of technical expressions and formulae. As seen hundreds of times in past ufology, they are most likely bad science done by scientists.

Science advances by accumulation or revision of knowledge or discovery of new phenomena and formulations, either progressively or in quantum leaps. If the DIRDs purport to advance aerospace science by digressing or developing concepts drawn from alleged anomalous UFO sightings, we are fully confident that they will become wastepaper. The DIA itself may well have concluded something along these lines when it terminated the flow of funding to AAWSAP/AATIP. For example, a DIRD authored by Hal Puthoff alluded to the possibility that “spatial alterations” generated by (ostensibly theoretical, but probably in his mind UFO-adjacent) “exotic craft”, wherein the “witness” testimony of the object’s size does not cohere with its purported volume derived from its described interior dimensions. (39) Interestingly, this and similar conceptions have a long pedigree in science fiction tales, comics, movies, and television (as do most other instances of flying saucer imagery). The notion of distorted dimensions can be found in the British Sci Fi series “Dr. Who”:

It’s bigger inside than out!
Yes. That’s because it’s dimensionally transcendental.
What does that mean?
It means that it’s bigger inside than out.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=is-Gnyk4AWE>)

We wonder if UFO witnesses have assimilated this pop-culture theme into their own experiences, which have in turn been “examined” by Bigelow’s contracted scientists eager to look for the most exotic “explanations” for such accounts.

Other purported anomalous effects associated with UFOs come from the discredited literature about alien abductions, like when an abductee's recollection of the duration of a close encounter episode mismatches the actual time elapsed. For the authors of the book under review, these items are taken at face value and are used as evidence of time distortion rather than the logical deduction of testimonial failure. (10, pp. 132-133)

While the goal of “pushing the boundaries”, as it were, may seem legitimate and even laudable, the apparent ease with which the team principals have deferred to paranormal beliefs, if not showing an outright commitment to them, and the careless lumping in of “high strangeness” UFO and other reports as instances of “bona fide” paranormal events is a dangerous path to take because it can lead one to ignore or downplay the (still perfectly interesting and at times poorly understood, yet still down to Earth) psychosocial aspects of the UFO topic. (40,41) Contrary to the belief of the authors of the book under review and especially Eric Davis, we feel that there is little if any significant relationship between UFOs to purported poltergeist/paranormal events. Even if there was one, this is a matter to be most profitably resolved using the tools of anthropology, social science, and psychology/cognitive science. For example, there could be a predisposition among some people towards fantasy proneness, (42,43,44) leading them to have experiences in which they perceive supposed other-worldly spacecraft in addition to poltergeist-type occurrences. Or there may exist certain visual stimuli that are resolved in some people's minds as UFOs and in other people's minds as ghosts and the like. We take such approaches to be more fruitful and sensible than supposing that there is an entirely separate, supernatural realm connecting UFOs and other seemingly odd phenomena.

Given the myriad ways in which human perception and memory are prone to error, exaggeration and distortion, (45,46,47) and given the countless examples of UFO cases for which witnesses were adamant about an extraordinary provenance yet were later definitively resolved as due to mundane occurrences, (48) it does not seem like a scientific path to exclude human error-proneness/psychological distortion as the default baseline and to not first rule out these psychosocial/perceptual explanations before jumping onto a paranormal bandwagon (the issue of baselines is ironic, given how George Knapp conveys that Jay Stratton described the DIRDs as serving as a “baseline” for investigators and the “defense industry”).

(https://youtu.be/hsyj481bq_U?t=2867)

Indeed, many of the cases cited by the authors of the book under review in their follow-up work (10), and which they claim were part of the data that made its way into AAWSAP/BAASS's catalogs, give us reason to doubt that an appropriate level of skepticism and quality testing was adopted before including and promoting such cases. These catalogs (and hence the AAWSAP BAASS Data Warehouse, claimed to be the “world's largest coherent UFO/UAP database” (10, p. 48) must by necessity have become highly contaminated and skewed in favor of a paranormal narrative if lax quality controls were in place. This naturally elicits doubt that the AAWSAP/BAASS investigations amounted in a true sense to a scientific effort, despite the accolades and titles of the investigators and their vehement (though possibly entirely sincere) protestations that they were acting in the best interests of science. We counter that, far from acting in the interests of science, they were in fact—whether they knew it or not—acting in the interests

of a credulous, non-conventional narrative that seeks (to adopt the skeptical journalist and author Jason Colavito's words) to supplant material science with pseudoscientific mysticism. (49)

The true extent of AASWAP's paranormal overlaps will not be known until all relevant documents are released for public inspection. Whether or not the program was conducted under false pretenses, or the DIA knew what was transpiring, or whether the effort had a strong paranormal bias, it nevertheless appears that it was undoubtedly centrally focused on UFOs, and in this sense at least, we can speak of a "DIA UFO program".

The DIA's position is that the AAWSAP deliverables never surpassed the level of raw scientific reports:

Although most of the unclassified reports discussed unconventional aerospace technologies, DIA is unaware of any report containing information sufficiently sensitive and vulnerable to require extra protection associated with either ACCM [Alternative Compensatory Control Measures] or a restricted SAP [Special Access Program]. DIA memo to Director, Special Programs, OUSD(I), November 13, 2009.

(<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170015/>)

In 2024, the assessment of AARO was quite explicit:

DIA cancelled the program in 2012 due to lack of merit and the utility of the deliverables. (32, p. 34)

However, over 10 years after AAWSAP was terminated, there are, as noted, many reports from the program's output that remain unavailable. Fortunately, it appears that the "massive holdings of the original analyst's journals, data and photographs remain in storage," this is, both at Bigelow's company at Las Vegas and at the DIA in the Pentagon. (50) We hope that the DIA will soon decide to release the materials in its own possession. That will allow the real quality of both the reported phenomena and the onsite field investigations to be evaluated.

Other open issues persist, such as the actual nature of Luis Elizondo's intervention in the AAWSAP/AATIP program, if any; the exact timing of the flow and expenditure of money; and whether the funds were partly deviated from AAWSAP to another effort (it would seem quite unthinkable that the contractor, Robert Bigelow, would willingly forego the opportunity for such funding).³¹

IV. ABOUT THE AATIP II

(The unofficial Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program "portfolio")

"The AATIP acronym was adopted much later to describe a small unofficial effort within DoD to investigate UAPs encountered by the military," the book under review says in an attempt to solve the enigma surrounding the program's names. (p. 27) In line with this, we will henceforth call this later unofficial iteration "AATIP II" in order to establish a difference with the prime AATIP that was synonymous with AAWSAP (that is, between the unofficial effort started circa 2012 and the official 2008-2012 effort).

³¹ Australian UFO researcher Keith Basterfield has also conducted extensive investigation on these topics. (51)

Nature

Officially non-existent. After the unofficially extended AAWSAP definitively ended in 2012, Luis Elizondo followed an unofficial UAP effort of his own at the OSD, appropriating the title “AATIP”, the defunct AAWSAP’s nickname.

If we are to believe Elizondo’s claims, after being briefed in August 2008 by Lacatski and others, there was “a specific effort within the AAWSAP portfolio known as AATIP” focused on collecting data from military personnel who had encountered UFOs (UAP). (35, pp. 8-9) If this is accurate, it would imply that AATIP was concurrent and contained within—but not synonymous—with AAWSAP. This, in turn, is distinct from whether he continued something with the AATIP acronym after AAWSAP—the larger program in this scenario—was definitively shut down. Again, we’re left with more confusion and ambiguity.

Elizondo has attempted to convince people that his AATIP II was a continuation of the official DIA UAP program. (Or, rather, the ostensible aerospace threat program that the DIA was tricked into funding and that was a de facto UFO program). In a July 29, 2018, MUFON presentation he stated that “AAWSAP became AATIP to focus more exclusively on the 5 observables and research of advanced physics applications.” (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/navigating-the-twisted-maze-of-the-aatip-timeline/>; <https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Elizondo-slide-1.jpg>) We are unaware of any scientific output produced by his AATIP II on this, or indeed any, score.

In the same MUFON presentation, Elizondo also stated:

2007 — Program [AATIP, as implied by the title of the slide] originally created as a bipartisan effort (Stevens (R-Alaska), Inouye (D-Hawaii), and Reid (D-Nevada) to better understand UAPs encountered by U.S. military and determine if they represent a national security threat.

2007 — Congressional language establishes the ‘Advanced Aerospace Weapon Systems Application Program’, aka AAWSAP.

[Various typos and sentence structure errors have been corrected]

This contradicts the *New York Times* reporting in 2017, which used Elizondo himself as a source, and that placed the start of the program in 2008. It also contradicts Elizondo’s own statements about AATIP being an outgrowth of AAWSAP. The very same slide continues:

2008 — AAWSAP is formerly changed to AATIP by former Program Manager to focus more narrowly on the 5 observables and research of advanced physics applications.
[Emphasis ours]

So, it would seem, according to Elizondo, that “AATIP” was “created” in 2007, AAWSAP was “established” in the same year...and then AAWSAP “changed” into AATIP in 2008?

Hal Puthoff, in a June 8, 2018, SSE/IRVA Conference speech, stated that AATIP “began in June 2007” but that the name was a nickname for AAWSAP.

(<https://paradigmresearchgroup.org/wordpress/2018/06/12/dr-hal-puthoffs-presentation-at-the-sse-irva-conference-las-vegas-nv-15-june-2018/>) Hence, while he affirms Elizondo’s claim that the program started in 2007, he contradicts Elizondo on the nature of the name. Puthoff is clearly

referring to the original AASWAP/AATIP, not Elizondo's post-2012 effort. Even Elizondo is apparently not referring to his own post-2012 effort in the above passages! It is also interesting to note that both Elizondo and Puthoff would go on to become board members of TTSA.³²

We should mention that the 2007 timeframe alluded to here may not be entirely incorrect, in the narrow sense that it is conceivable that some people and resources were being assembled ahead of an anticipated program solicitation in August 2008. This is, however, not the same as the program actually starting in 2007. Furthermore, insisting on a 2007 "start" date—whether in the loose sense of the gathering of resources and staff, or in the more correct sense of commencement of operations—only reaffirms an insider-trading arrangement between Reid and Bigelow.

The book under review notes: "The Pentagon's Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP), a program that also investigated UAPs but in the context of the U.S. military." Reid admitted: "regardless of when AAWSAP ended or when AATIP began ... [he recognizes] The confusion over these two programs..." (p. xvii)

"After AAWSAP had shut down, the AATIP designation was used to describe a completely separate, small initiative that was underway at the Pentagon to study UAPs encountered by military personnel." (p. xxiv) [Emphasis ours] "Small informal initiative." (p. xxiv) "AAWSAP was the larger mother program to AATIP. AATIP was a much smaller, more focused effort, a network of intelligence colleagues who evaluated UFO encounters involving military personnel.... That request [for SAP status] was denied, and once the plug was pulled on AAWSAP, Elizondo cobbled together a network of Pentagon and intelligence agency personnel to quietly continue the analysis of military UFO encounters." (10, p. 20) In other words, it looks like it was a one-man operation utilizing an informal network of colleagues, mainly focused on U.S. Navy UAP sightings.

We read that during 2015 and 2016 (a few years after AAWSAP was closed), when naval aviators encountered small UAP in their operational areas, "those reports were centralized by AATIP." (p. 155) This AATIP, then, existed, and it was Elizondo's AATIP, that is, AATIP II - not as a formal continuation of DIA's AAWSAP, but as a personal effort involving some previous actors.

What AATIP II was and what it ultimately evolved into is unambiguously described in the book under review:

The creation of AAWSAP and its pioneering investigation of the Tic Tac case with Axelrod [John Stratton] and team was directly responsible for the later establishment of a smaller, corollary effort, called AATIP [what we call AATIP II] inside the Pentagon that focused exclusively on UAP encounter incidents involving US military personnel. The small cadre of UFO-curious military personnel occasionally consulted some of the same scientists who had worked with NIDS and BAASS. The core of that group [led by Elizondo, we add] formed the basis for what became the UAP Task Force, formally created by Congress in the summer of 2020 (but which has already been operating for a few years, despite not having a budget, an office, or a formal name). (pp. 157-158)

In June 2019, Elizondo emailed the DoD to address the situation, explaining that:

³² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_the_Stars_\(company\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_the_Stars_(company))

AATIP was an official program that was never shut down, when the funding dried up I continued to lead and interact with officials in DoD and other agencies to the best of my ability in the interest of national security. ... I put my shoulder to the wheel all those years and worked diligently to maintain a focus on the AATIP issue and continued to coordinate and promote collection and analysis. Call it an “activity” vs a “program” if you will.
[Emphases ours]

(<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/luis-elizondo-and-his-letters-to-the-pentagon-about-his-claims-and-credibility/>)

Some of this is problematic. Elizondo’s claim to have “led” AATIP in an official capacity is disputed by multiple sources reviewed in the current paper, and his concession that the post-funding stretch of his UAP involvement was an “activity” rather than a “program” per se seems to be an admission that it was not a Pentagon-sponsored UFO effort.

Objective

A “Pentagon program” with much less scope than DIA’s AAWSAP. (p. xxv) Apparently, it was only focused on investigating or keeping tabs on military-sourced UFO sightings.

During 2014-2016, Elizondo had formed a “formal working group ... with other members of the Intelligence Community” to discuss and assess “UAP activity”. (35, p. 10) Whether this working group was itself, properly speaking, part of AATIP II, or whether it was a network of former AAWSAP insiders and others that was now being utilized by Elizondo to support an individual effort that can be termed AATIP II, may seem a tedious point of distinction, but it is nevertheless another example of ambiguity in this saga, hopefully to be resolved in the future.

Concerning Elizondo's involvement in the Navy's effort to study UAP, we have the answer to an inquiry given to Roger Glassel, on September 16, 2019, by Navy spokesperson Joseph Gradisher. He stated:

While he was a U.S. government employee, Mr. Elizondo occasionally provided coordination and professional connections/liaison within DoD and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.

(<https://ufos-scientificresearch.blogspot.com/2019/09/more-from-us-navy.html?m=1>)

Secrecy

Lacatski defined it as a “classified endeavor,” in the cited 2023 podcast.

(<https://youtu.be/ow7FqiegixQ?t=631>)

This loose, unfunded endeavor (variously referred to as a “program”, such as in the famous 2017 NYT article, or as an “activity”) was kept from the American public, until Elizondo gloomily quit the Pentagon in 2017 and started talking to the press non-stop to the present day.

Location

Luis Elizondo’s job was Chief, Information Sharing and Foreign Intelligence Relationships (ISFIR) Office, at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, OUSD(I), Office of the Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon. From 2013, he was Chief, Intelligence Sharing and Partner Engagement Office (ISPE), under the OUSD(I). Circa 2016, he was Director of National

Programs Special Management Staff (NPSMS), National Security Council. Specifically, he claimed that his activity was run out of the "fifth floor of the Pentagon's C Ring." (9)

Timing

AATIP II was created “years later” than AAWSAP (which was established in 2008). (p. xxvi) “The AATIP acronym was adopted much later” than AAWSAP. (p. 27) “AATIP”, of course, was already in use as a nickname for AAWSAP, and as we’ve belabored, additionally served as a designation for Elizondo’s project.

All indications point to this latter project/group having existed in some form from 2012-2017 (corroborated by the termination of Lacatski’s AAWSAP by August 2012 and the consolidation of a UAP portfolio in the Pentagon by September 2017). A *conceptual* start for AATIP II, however, can be speculated to have been germinated circa 2009, when in Washington, D.C., a dinner organized by Lacatski and USDI’s John Stratton (aka “Jonathan Axelrod”) served as a venue in which AAWSAP and BAASS personnel were present and met Brazilian General Paulo de Miranda Uchôa.³³ “Further down the dinner table sat Luis Elizondo ... After that dinner meeting and the briefing the following day, he kept in close touch with “Jonathan Axelrod” [John Stratton] as the project [AASWAP] progressed.” (p. 49) Thus, while AATIP II would only get under way after AAWSAP’s termination, the seeds for something like it may well have been planted at about the time that AAWSAP itself was getting warmed up.

This unfunded, loose working group at the Pentagon started as an unofficial extension of AAWSAP when the latter was finally terminated in 2012 and was active until the resignation of Luis Elizondo in October of 2017. (<https://theintercept.com/2019/06/01/ufo-unidentified-history-channel-luis-elizondo-pentagon/>) Elizondo possibly wanted to take advantage of the output and connections established with the previous, funded program, later promulgating the myth that his own study was an official effort. Or it may have simply opportunistically followed—but not continued, strictly speaking—AAWSAP, while still drawing succor from its proximity to AAWSAP to promote the notion that Elizondo was the head of a formal Pentagon UFO program. The exact relationship between the two “AATIPs” was so murky that even the Pentagon had difficulty in clarifying what Elizondo did and didn’t do. For example (as we wrote in the section on AAWSAP’s “Management” above), in 2019 Pentagon spokesperson Christopher Sherwood told *The Intercept*’s Keith Kloor: “Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI [the Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence], up until the time he resigned effective 10/4/2017.” (<https://theintercept.com/2019/06/01/ufo-unidentified-history-channel-luis-elizondo-pentagon/>) It seems quite obvious that he was referring here only to the formal program in the Pentagon, i.e., the AAWSAP de facto UFO program. Later, the Pentagon narrowed that quote to “no *assigned* responsibilities.” (<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/pentagon-destroyed-e-mails-of-former-intelligence-official-tied-to-ufo-investigation-claims/>)

³³ Founder of the Brasília Institute of Parapsychology, as an Army Captain in 1967 he investigated UFO sightings in Alexânia (in the state of Goiás) where he saw something “impressive.” He was a member of the Rosicrucian Order, and contrary to what was reported in the currently reviewed book, he was not Minister of Homeland Security (instead, he has been in the reserve since 2001 and was the chief of the National Anti-Drug Secretary, 2001-2012). His father, Army General Alfredo Moacyr de Mendonça Uchôa was a recognized believer in UFOs and parapsychology and author of several books on those subjects. (<https://www.yoguchoa.com/>)

Luis Elizondo is the key character who contributed much to—or directly provoked—the confusion regarding the two programs. For example, in an article for TTSA he called Lacatski (of AAWSAP) “my AATIP predecessor.” (<https://medium.com/the-ascent/what-we-know-and-what-we-believe-are-not-always-the-same-thing-d77d3c8019a7>) While Lacatski indeed appears to have been the head of the prior, official program whose nickname was AATIP, he almost certainly did not act as the director of what we are calling AATIP II.

That Elizondo’s AATIP II personal operation derived (and certainly proceeded) from the real AAWSAP program is acknowledged by himself:

...the program actually began from another program ... I wasn’t part of that [AAWSAP] and that’s really not my place to discuss a mission and an organization that I was really walking into the tail end. (52)

In reality, Elizondo seems to have basically “borrowed” AAWSAP, albeit the specifically military UFO-related focus of it, and followed it up from its tail on the reasoning that a program is not finished until specifically ordered to. “The program never really went away,” was his philosophy for loosely developing or continuing it. But his claims were always ambiguous, to say the least. Following his declarations to the NYT in 2020, he was described as the “Pentagon [UAP] program’s previous director ... having resigned ... after 10 years with the program”! This source also reports Elizondo as “confirming” that the 2018 Navy’s ONI UAP Task Force “evolved from the advanced aerospace program.”

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/us/politics/pentagon-ufo-harry-reid-navy.html>)

The book under review, written by the AAWSAP’s major insiders, barely mentions Elizondo in its 225 pages, other than calling him a “media star” (p. 49) and naming him as the main source for the infamous December 2017 NYT article that “mistakenly reported that the budget went to AATIP.” (p. 156) As a matter of fact, it was in that first article on the contemporary UAP/U.S. Government saga, where Elizondo claimed that after government funding dried up (for AAWSAP, actually), “he worked with officials from the Navy and the C.I.A.” to continue to work out of his Pentagon office until he resigned “to protest what he characterized as excessive secrecy and internal opposition.” (9)

Such is the fog of confusion that even Pentagon spokesperson Sue Gough used “AATIP” to refer to AAWSAP when in an email to Swedish ufologist Roger Glasser on May 18, 2020, she wrote: “The contractors who prepared the 38 technical reports under AATIP...”

Unambiguously clarified by Pentagon spokesperson Major A. Harris (PA, OSD) to Roger Glasser back in 2018, it is an established fact that AAWSAP and AATIP were the same program. AATIP was just an alternative name to AAWSAP, and acted as an unclassified, official (for public use) nickname. The Elizondo “AATIP”—called here AATIP II—was just an informal, private effort by him and colleagues.

(<https://www.blueblurrylines.com/2018/05/pentagon-confirmation-aatip-advanced.html>)

In the second book by Lacatski *et al*, they are particularly clear on AAWSAP as the precursor to Elizondo’s initiative:

Without AAWSAP, there would have been no AATIP ... AAWSAP was the larger mother program to AATIP, AATIP was a much smaller, more focused effort, a network of intelligence colleagues who evaluated UFO encounters involving military personnel. Just as AAWSAP preceded the creation of AATIP, AATIP eventually began the UAP Task Force, which then morphed into the short-lived AOIMSG, then into the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO). (10, p. 19-20)

Here they seem to be alluding to what we are calling “AATIP II”, though we still cannot understand why they insist on calling Elizondo’s separate endeavor “AATIP” given that they themselves pointed out that this acronym was simply another way of naming AAWSAP; that is, when Senator Reid attempted to initiate a double cover-up of AAWSAP with a special access program (SAP). It seems that once Elizondo recognized he was never going to be a central part of AAWSAP, their staffers felt the need to recognize Elizondo’s role (or at least proposed role), and it has been explained in this form:

The existence of TTSA, proved pivotal in that it provided a landing spot for Luis Elizondo, the career counterintelligence officer who had been invited to work with Dr. James Lacatski on AAWSAP if or when AAWSAP was granted the status of a Department of Defense Special Access Program (SAP). Senator Harry Reid attempted to transition AAWSAP into a SAP in 2009. That request was denied, and once the plug was pulled on AAWSAP, Elizondo cobbled together a network and Pentagon and intelligence agency personnel to quietly continue the analysis of military UFO encounters. (10, pp. 19-20)
[Emphasis ours]

Management

“AATIP [AATIP II] involved a small group of people working on the UAP problem, with direct knowledge of their superiors, when their day jobs allowed them to.” (p. xxiv) It was headed by Luis Elizondo.

During 2015-2017, John Stratton and Brennan McKernan (future heads of the Navy and DoD versions of the UAPTF, respectively), discussed new UAP reports with the AATIP II group “on a regular basis”, according to Elizondo.

After termination of AAWSAP/AATIP, Elizondo continued the UFO-focused component of its work as AATIP II, while ensuring that it did not interfere with his job duties at OUSD(I). If we are to believe the Wikipedia entry on “AATIP”, “while the effort’s government funding ended in 2012, the program continued with support from Navy and CIA officials.” Whatever the true nature and extent of involvement by other personnel and officials in supporting Elizondo’s effort, His private effort/group/network must have accumulated UAP materials such as correspondences, reports, documentation, videos, studies, etc. Elizondo alluded to certain UAP information being stored on an:

AATIP share drive known as Y-Project on the JWICS [Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communication System, this is, the U.S. DoD’s secure intranet system]. (35, p. 12)

Although AATIP II was performed in a private capacity, it is quite logical that when the Pentagon in September 2017 decided to launch a fresh evaluation of the UAP problem, this new “UAP portfolio” was created with the existing UAP materials collated by Elizondo and his collaborators,

that is, the AATIP II materials. The new portfolio was placed, according to Elizondo, under the direction of the seasoned Senior Executive Service employee Neill T. Tipton. (35, p. 13) Elizondo resigned from DoD on October 3, 2017.

That Elizondo's work with UFOs at the Pentagon was something done in his spare time and not linked to his daily job's activities is corroborated by the fact that his 2016 professional performance evaluation, dated November 14, 2017, lists his four major mission goals, none of which mentions UFOs or AATIP. (See this timestamp in Steven Greenstreet's omnibus video about Skinwalker Ranch and AAWSAP for segments of Elizondo's performance evaluation: <https://youtu.be/a6Wud0LzFQY?t=2211>. We have so far been unsuccessful in obtaining a copy of it ourselves)

Interestingly, there are rumblings in the ufology sphere about the possibility that Stratton, not Elizondo, oversaw AATIP II.

(<https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOs/s/gfWXusArHA> and <https://youtu.be/OvzFc9c13Vs?t=3658>)

In a post on Twitter/X on April 10, 2024, Steven Greenstreet noted:

This is what I've gathered via multiple sources: Jay Stratton was actually the "director" of the informal, unofficial, and unfunded UFO club they called "AATIP". For the most part, after 2012, Elizondo only helped Stratton network and make connections. Stratton and Elizondo concocted a plan for Elizondo to "resign" in order to hype the "UFO" problem in public/media while Stratton worked behind the scenes with policy.

(<https://twitter.com/MiddleOfMayhem/status/1778068052535644642>)

While interesting, these intimations have so far not been fully vetted and corroborated, and we await further comment by Stratton and other UAP-adjacent/DoD insiders. The purported reasons for Stratton to have ceded Elizondo the limelight as the AATIP point-man in the public's mind seem to us, however, to be rather convoluted and to strain credulity, but we nevertheless remain, strictly speaking, agnostic on this score. If a substantial role for Stratton in AATIP II can be verified, it will add yet another maddening layer of tedium and confusion to this entire saga.

Funding

The NYT article mistakenly linked the \$22 million funding with the "AATIP" that Elizondo claimed that he "led". However, "Not a dollar of that sum went to AATIP despite widespread statements over the last several years." (p. xxiv)

"Very slim resources," as per Elizondo. (35, p. 11) In his presentation at the July 29, 2018, MUFON Conference, Elizondo showed a slide that cryptically affirmed this: "2013 through 2014 – New funding vehicle under Joint ISR [DoD's Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance systems] is created, intended to bolster AATIP efforts." This is included in a set of slides on the "AATIP [that is, AAWSAP] History," therefore it would appear that this funding was for AAWSAP, but, since it was already cancelled, Elizondo led us to believe that this financing was for AATIP II. In the absence of documented evidence, however, we doubt the reality of this.

"AATIP [AATIP II] was not a funded program." (p. 27) Did AAWSAP and AATIP II coincide in time as well? In an October 2023 online declaration, Lacatski stated:

AATIP [AATIP II] was a specialized, small program. It had access, I'm sure, to funds that I also had access, but not used on this program ... money was, I'm sure, available for AATIP but nowhere near 22 million dollars.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ow7FqiegixQ>)

Everything points to there being no specific funding for a DoD-assigned UAP effort along the lines of Elizondo's "AATIP". Basically, it was a personal, hobby-like effort, taking advantage of what AAWSAP did. However, Elizondo noted ambiguously: "the funding was actually to 2013. After 2013, there were some other funding vehicles that were done to get it through 2013 and 2014." (52) No details were provided.³⁴

Deliverables

No publicly disclosed deliverables as such. Over the years, indirect leaks to the press of U.S. Navy video footage of alleged anomalies.

As final comments on program ownership, we refer to AARO's historical report, Volume I:

The names AAWSAP and AATIP have been used interchangeably for the name of this program, including on official documentation. Unlike AAWSAP, AATIP was never an official DoD program. However, after AAWSAP was cancelled, the AATIP moniker was used by some individuals associated with an informal, unofficial UAP community of interest within DoD that researched UAP sightings from military observers as part of their ancillary job duties. This effort was not a recognized, official program, and had no dedicated personnel or budget. (32, p. 22)

Summary of U.S. UAP Programs 2008-Present

(Due to limited and conflicting information, our collated synopsis of these U.S. UAP programs represents the best possible reconstructions from currently available data)

Name	Period	Status	Organization (Leadership)
AAWSAP/AATIP	Sep 2008-Dec 2010	Official/Funded	DIA (Lacatski)
AAWSAP/AATIP	Dec 2010-Aug 2012	Official/Funded	DIA (Lacatski)
AATIP II	Aug 2012-Aug 2017	Unofficial/Unfunded	Pentagon (Elizondo, possibly Stratton)
KONA BLUE	Jul 2011-Dec 2011	Prospective SAP/Non-activated proposal/Unfunded	DHS (Lacatski)
UAP portfolio*	Sep 2017-Dec 2017	Official/Funded**	Pentagon (Tipton)
UAPTF	Jan 2018-Aug 2020	Official/Funded**	U.S. Navy's ONI (Stratton)
UAPTF	Aug 2020-Nov 2021	Official/Funded**	U.S. Navy's ONI/USD (I&S) (Stratton)
AOIMSG	Nov 2021-Jul 2022	Official/Funded**	USD (I&S) (Cummings; Kirkpatrick)
AARO	Jul 2022 to Oct 2023	Official/Funded***	USD (I&S) (Kirkpatrick)
AARO	Oct 2023 to present	Official/Funded***	USD (I&S) (Phillips)

(*) Defined as a hand-off of the AATIP II plus (probably) the non-paranormal AAWSAP information and materials

(**) Beyond the allocation to personnel to the program, no information exists on possible allocation of funds

(***) The budget for AARO has not been disclosed. See Section VI of this paper

³⁴ Australian UFO researcher Keith Basterfield has conducted extensive investigation on this very topic as well. (53)

V. THE UAP PHENOMENON IS JUST A MINOR PART OF “UFO PHENOMENA”

One of the authors of the current paper has conducted decades of continuous research in this subject. **(54)** Our combined research experience has left us convinced that UFOs do not exist as unexplainable (i.e., anomalous) phenomena, and that popular hypotheses like an extraterrestrial origin, other dimensions, etc. cannot realistically apply. In cases involving perception of events that supposedly transcend natural phenomena or manmade causes, psychological and cognitive explanations pertain. **(47)** It is the aggregation of reports pushed by the media, the popular literature, the film industry, and the advertising industry that has created a contemporary myth that is far from being new, as “waves” of unknown signs in the sky have occurred and have similarly been recognized by skeptical investigators as a mass psychology problem since at least two centuries ago. **(55)**

Newcomers to the UAP arena (either scientists, military personnel, or politicians) have a miserably poor perspective on this matter. Today’s UAP are yesterday’s UFOs and yesteryear’s flying saucers. Not only that, but the shortsighted outlook of gullible UFO proponents also ignores that similar social scares and panics have taken place in the past with identical features to modern UFO waves. We have tabulated surges of mysterious aerial observations that took place up to 150 years prior to the 1947 flying saucer craze in the United States.

Period	Denomination	Geography
1946	Ghost rockets	Scandinavia (56,57)
1942-1945	Foo-Fighters, Chandelier lights, Balls of fire	Europe, Worldwide (58,59)
1933-1939	Mystery airplanes, Phantom fliers	Scandinavia, UK (60)
1908-1918	Mystery airship, Scareship, Zeppelin hysteria, War scare, Monoplane mystery, German air raids, Shooting stars, Angel of Mons	Britain, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, South Africa, Romania, Russia (61,62,63)
1899-1902	Phantom balloon scare	South Africa (64)
1896-1897	Phantom airships	USA, Canada (65,66,67,68)
1892	Phantom balloon scare	Russia (69)
1883	Mystery visitors	Sweden, UK, Puerto Rico, USA (70)
1789	Balloon fear, Great fear	France (71)

Those antecedents to the flying saucer/UFO/UAP mania that occurred after 1947, among others, have been accurately characterized by academic experts:

What people claim to observe and experience are reflections of popular social and cultural expectations of a particular era. (72)

Certain ufologists conceive a more esoteric interpretation and see this phenomenology in the context not of a social process but of an alien intervention that can be traced back many centuries, if not millennia, with celestial events and ancient stories being interpreted in the light of modern sightings. The most comprehensive timeline of UFO-like accounts has been produced by the scholar George Eberhart, who begins his chronology with an event in 812 that may lay claim to being the first “formal” UFO report. **(73)**

Nowadays, it seems that there exists a UAP phenomenon composed almost entirely of sightings by military personnel, occurring over strategic areas of the nation and its maritime concerns. **(74)**

But the seeming reality of such a “phenomenon” behaving in this manner is an artifact and a bias constructed by the mass media, based on input from the case-receiving entities at work. The production of the current UAP fantasy does not simply emanate from drones, unmanned vehicles, or balloons that the press misreports nowadays. Not at all. The truth is much deeper, and the problem is much broader. Likewise, the folklore-like elements of UFOs that were much more prevalent in the ufology of the 20th century have largely dissipated, again thanks to a media-influenced and psychosocial effect.

The reality applies to a sequence of waves that has inserted into the collective consciousness the image of a danger emanating from the cosmos. Misinterpretations of aerial or astronomical phenomena or manmade flying objects, in addition to outright hoaxes, and the population’s fears, all augmented by the impact of the media, have been a constant at least in the 150 years prior to the dramatic U.S. flying saucer craze starting in 1947. From the 1950s to the 1990s, the myth was propagated by books, magazines, movies, comics, advertisements, and TV. We saw millions of reports of lights in the sky or of daytime discs, close encounters, humanoids near landed craft, and abductions involving the probing of humans. This milieu constituted the “UFO phenomenon.” By the year 2000, the idea that unidentified flying objects were sharing the airspace was accepted by many, including pilots. When aviators with a propensity to believe in UFOs—or who were sincerely bedazzled by their own sightings—encountered anything that they could not explain at first sight, they reported UFO/UAP observations. Some of them, after a lifetime of unnoticed Air Force, Navy, or commercial aviation service, suddenly became celebrities because of their UAP revelations. The problem with sightings becoming media-hyped stories is that embellishment, misinformation, distortion, and confusion invariably ensue, making them much more difficult to resolve through independent evaluation.

What historians and the most recent generation of UAP researchers must be aware of is that the present military UAP sightings are but a minor part of the true “UFO phenomenon” (in reality, *UFO phenomena*, as it is a large grab-bag of various classes of events with their own explanations). Because the military and defense agencies have taken possession of the UAP “aviation safety” business in the 2000s, they focus the problem under the umbrella of military optics, encouraging their fellow personnel to report their sightings (implying there is something anomalous to be reported, which will create lots of false cases). What they do not realize is that this is an unrepresentative share of a “UFO phenomenon” that has originated and evolved as an historical myth over the last 75+ years. Because advanced aircraft are deployed and sophisticated electronic systems are involved in the airborne observations or recordings, the wrong idea emerges that there are *unidentifiable* flying objects at work with genuinely anomalous characteristics, instead of the expected intelligence, eavesdropping platforms deployed by China, Russia, and other enemy powers, in addition to lots of home amateur-operated, unmanned vehicles.

VI. UFO-RELATED LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is the name for each of a series of United States federal laws specifying the annual budget and expenditures of the U.S. Department of Defense. (75) Since Fiscal Year 2022, the NDAA has inserted text impacting directly on the U.S. Government’s involvement with the UAP topic. Our purpose now is to list an array of legislative changes introduced by Congress for FY 2024 that deal directly with Unidentified Anomalous

Phenomena. Additionally, we will append our own comments, assessment, and criticism. The full text of the law comprises 973 pages, (76) with a handful (13 pages, not including references in tables of contents) referring to unidentified anomalous phenomena or its records. We will briefly review the included modifications to the NDAA concerning UAP and follow in the footsteps of the eminent researcher Douglas Dean Johnson, who has authored a comprehensive review of legislative changes. (77)

The FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA, House of Representatives 2670) was signed into law by President Joe Biden on December 22, 2023, and contains several UAP-related provisions. Both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives approved the final version by overwhelming majorities on December 13 and 14, 2023, respectively. (Earlier UAP-language in the NDAA version passed by the Senate on July 27, 2023, was much broader. A House-Senate conference committee saw much of it dropped or toned down). These are the UAP-related provisions of the Act that finally became law.

In the chapter on DoD authorizations for space activities, strategic programs, and intelligence matters, Section 1687 (LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN UNREPORTED PROGRAMS) denies the obligation or expenditure of funds during fiscal year 2024 for any classified program involving unidentified anomalous phenomena that has not been briefed to the appropriate committees of Congress, congressional leadership, and the director of AARO. In a formal statement issued when he signed the NDAA into law, President Biden listed Section 1687 as among several provisions of the act that would require submission of "highly sensitive [classified] information" to Congress and that the Administration will retain the right to comply with these provisions in an unspecified manner that it believes protects national security. (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/12/22/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-h-r-2670-national-defense-authorization-act-for-fiscal-year-2024/>)

For some observers, such interventions by the Administration would act as a welcome corrective to a potentially dangerous tendency inherent in the legislation, namely that of granting too many Congresspeople access to SAPs and the counterintelligence problems that this would entail. (78)

In principle, it seems reasonable to scrutinize unsupervised or rogue programs related to UFOs. Yet, in reality, this caveat proceeds from the assumption flowing from the UFO lobby (rallying behind and encouraging certain UFO-addicted politicians) that the U.S. Government has systematically lied to its citizens that no dedicated, officially sanctioned UFO program was active after Blue Book's closure in 1970. S. 1687, as approved and presented for sign-off by POTUS, has eliminated previous language that attempted to incorporate extreme concepts, such as "capturing, recovering, and securing UAP craft or pieces and components of such craft ... reverse engineering or replicating UAP technology or performance based on analysis of materials or sensor and observational information associated with UAP." Common sense prevailed at the last minute.

In the chapter devoted to other defense matters, the subtitle "Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena" covers three sections. Section 1841 (UAP RECORDS COLLECTION AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION) contains the remnants of the far broader and overdramatic UAP Disclosure Act (Schumer-Rounds Amendment) that was included in the earlier Senate-passed version of NDAA. (79) The final bill requires the Archivist of the United States to form a document collection (classified and unclassified) from throughout the U.S. government (classified and

unclassified) pertaining "to unidentified anomalous phenomena, technologies of unknown origin, and non-human intelligence" - terms undefined in the bill, presumably leaving the Archivist with the task of formulating working definitions. Linking the UAP problem to "technologies of unknown origin, and non-human intelligence" is an absolutely unsupported presumption. Future historians of American policy and law will certainly describe this text as fictionally inspired, because it is purely based on UFO extremist beliefs such as that the United States Government is in possession of paradigm-shifting information or physical objects (even the flying saucers themselves) validating past UFO and alien visitation incidents. American legislators who promulgate such narratives have succumbed to decades of rumors, false claims, unsubstantiated accounts, and media propaganda.

Having said that, the mandate to create a centralized warehouse for all existing official information on UFOs/UAP is a legitimate and even laudable pursuit if there is an obligation to disclose such records to the public. Indeed, as the Act sets down, copies of UAP records will be available to the public with a fee charge. An important clause: under "security of records" it also notes that the National Security Program Office at the National Archives "shall establish a program to ensure the security of the postponed UAP records in the protected, and yet-to-be disclosed or classified portion of the Collection."

Section 1842 (REVIEW, IDENTIFICATION, TRANSMISSION TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF UAP RECORDS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICES) explicitly prohibits the destruction or alteration of any records made available to the Archivist for inclusion in the Collection. This section establishes a rigid control, custody, and regular review of postponed records for future downgrading or declassification. A 25-year deadline for full disclosure is established from the date of the first creation of the record, unless the President certifies that:

- (i) continued postponement is made necessary by an identifiable harm to the military defense, intelligence operations, law enforcement, or conduct of foreign relations; and*
- (ii) the identifiable harm is of such gravity that it outweighs the public interest in disclosure.*

The conspiratorial ufologist will hit the ceiling with this measure, but the provision is expected, rational and fair. Governments must protect themselves and the national interest. In practical terms, we do not think that very much other than NORAD data may be subjected to non-disclosure, and probably not by the nature of the objects detected but for the sake of protecting operational and technical details pertaining to the state-of-the-art systems involved in their detection. We believe that if this record postponement circumstance arises, the U.S. authorities (atop AARO) could dispel doubts and other malign interpretations by making it clear that the undisclosed information in no way relates to the UAP subject, that is, is not in the realm of "flying saucers" and is not being hidden to conceal the reality of otherworldly craft/non-human intelligence.

Section 1843 (GROUNDS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF UAP RECORDS) designates the standards for which certain information will be exempted from disclosure, such as protecting an intelligence agent's identity, protecting intelligence sources or methods which have not been officially disclosed, other matters for which disclosure would impair national security, invasion of privacy issues, or the avoidance of compromising international confidentiality.

Section 7341 (MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AARO) states that in the future, the annual-summary UAP reports (unclassified/classified), already required by previously enacted laws, will be released/submitted to Congress by AARO and its director, rather than by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) and the Secretary of Defense.

Finally, Section 7343 (FUNDING LIMITATIONS RELATING TO UAP) denies funding for restricted access programs funded through authorizations bestowed under the Intelligence Authorization Act “involving” UAP unless the DNI “has provided the details of the activity to the appropriate congressional committees and congressional leadership...”, and bars funding of such research as “independent research and development...indirect expenses...unless such material and information is made available to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.” Section 7343 largely echoes Section 1687 but pertains to programs created under different authorities and through different funding avenues, “unless such material and information is made available [to] the appropriate congressional committees and congressional leadership.”

The following table summarizes the provisions of the NDAA bill on UAP:

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024

<https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/hr2670/BILLS-118hr2670enr.pdf>

Division A: Department of Defense Authorizations

Title XVI: Space Activities, Strategic Programs, and Intelligence Matters

Title XVIII: Other Defense Matters

Division G: Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024

Title III: Intelligence Community Matters

Division	Title (Subtitle)	Section number	Description	Pages
A	XVI (Other Matters)	1687	Limitation on use of funds for certain unreported programs	486-487
A	XVIII (Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena)	1841	UAP records collection at the national archives and records administration	564-566
A	XVIII (Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena)	1842	Review, identification, transmission to the national archives and public disclosure of UAP records by government offices	566-570
A	XVIII (Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena)	1843	Grounds for postponement of public disclosure of UAP records	570-571
G	III (Matters Relating to Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture)	7341	Modifications of reporting requirement for All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office	927-928
G	III (Matters Relating to Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture)	7343	Funding limitations relating to Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena	928-929

Since its inception, we have been keen to know the approved budget for the functioning of AARO. A clue is found in the NDAA Conference Report **(80)**, a document accompanying H.R. 2670: Division D (Funding Tables), Title XLII, Section 4201 (RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION), page 1492 (p. 1540PDF), Defense Wide (DW) Basic Research, line 9999, item Classified Programs, epigraph Management Support. (See table excerpt below). There we can note that the Senate increased the original budget request for FY 2024 that was authorized by the House of Representatives (\$36.3 million) by earmarking an additional \$27.0 million for AARO, totaling

\$63.3 million. As the final amount authorized by the Conference was the initial figure of \$36.3 million, we infer that AARO did not get those additional \$27 million!

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION (In Thousands of Dollars)							
Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2024 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
201	0901598C	MANAGEMENT HQ—MDA	28,363	28,363	28,363		28,363
202	0903235K	JOINT SERVICE PROVIDER (JSP)	5,177	5,177	5,177		5,177
9999	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	36,315	36,315	63,315		36,315
		All Domain Anomaly Resolution Office			[27,000]		
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	1,998,717	2,003,717	2,020,717	-3,800	1,994,917
OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT							
203	0604130V	ENTERPRISE SECURITY SYSTEM (ESS)	42,482	42,482	42,482		42,482
205	0607210D8Z	INDUSTRIAL BASE ANALYSIS AND SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT	1,017,141	1,065,141	1,045,141	8,000	1,025,141
		Additive Manufacturing for shipbuilding		[10,000]			
		Domestic advanced microelectronics packaging			[5,000]	[5,000]	
		Integrated Substrates		[3,000]			
		Large Surface Combatant workforce		[35,000]			

1492

Therefore, we still do not know the full annual appropriation vested in AARO (it must be hidden *within* the generic figure of \$36.3 million for various classified programs). What do we know for certain? Firstly, that the basic operational funding for AARO is classified: “On March 14 [2023], Pentagon spokesperson Susan Gough told *Military Times* that the fiscal year 2024 AARO budget figures were classified.” Secondly, that Lloyd Austin (U.S. Secretary of Defense since January 2021) requested \$11 million for AARO within Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Defense-Wide (RDDW) funding under Classified Programs for FY2024. “In response, Austin pledged to fully fund the office in the future, and said the Pentagon requested \$11 million for its research in the fiscal year 2024 budget.”

(<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2023/03/31/congress-requests-more-funds-for-pentagon-ufo-office-in-budget-request/>)

Thirdly, at the instigation of Senator Gillibrand, on June 29, 2023, the Senate Armed Services Committee recommended a \$27 million increase for AARO (\$27 million over and above the Administration budget request, which was classified). See page 84 (p. 586PDF):

https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy2024_ndaa_bill_report.pdf

(<https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/senate-intelligence-bill-gives-holders-of-non-earth-origin-six-months/>)

Finally, this proposed increase was indeed alluded to in the final enacted NDAA (see table above), while apparently not being approved by the bicameral conference (i.e., the \$27 million supplement did not go through). Whether this may change soon based on further negotiations is something we cannot anticipate.

These are expert Douglas Johnson’s views: “The total amount of funding authorized for AARO for FY 2024 remains classified. However, the NDAA does not appropriate any money. It is, if you will, a detailed and authoritative recommendation, setting certain parameters, but the actual funding bills are written by the Appropriations Committees and then considered separately by the respective houses. The appropriations bill for the Department of Defense (and the Intelligence Community) has not yet been enacted, although FY 2024 began on October 1, 2023. These agencies, like most of the government, are currently operating under “continuing resolutions,” a

sort of auto-pilot extension of previous authorizations. Negotiations are ongoing as to what overall FY 2024 federal spending should be and how to divide it up among government components, with the outcome very much up in the air. In the end the office will probably be getting about what it previously told senators it could productively use during FY 2024, but with some delay.” **(81)**

Along with the finalized NDAA, a Joint Explanatory Statement (JES) of the House-Senate conference committee was also issued, December 6, 2023. **(80)** While not a legal document, it does hold some clout, as Executive Branch agencies generally defer to such "report language" as expressing Congress's will/intent and typically comply with it. Basically, they represent a consensus between the House and the Senate about the meaning of the legislation. On the other hand, the JES does note some changes that were made to the final NDAA versus earlier proposals. The JES itself does not add anything to the finalized legislation, but it is useful in tracking the evolution of that legislation over time and the deliberations that took place between the House and Senate. Because this document may be useful for those interested in the history of UAP legislation and the government's interaction with the topic, the following are summaries of other UAP-relevant passages found in the JES:

JES p. 1205 (p. 1253PDF): On July 14, 2023, the House of Representatives adopted a UAP-related amendment sponsored by Tim Burchett (R-Tennessee) which would have required DoD to release classified records dealing with "publicly known [UAP] sightings," provided they do not compromise national security. The committee dropped the House-passed provision.

JES pp. 1311-1312 (pp. 1359-1360PDF): Explanatory material on bill Section 1687 noting that the committee dropped the Senate-passed requirement for UAP-related SAPs to provide certain UAP-related information/materials to AARO. Also noted is that the finalized Section 1687 "could cover" a list of specific types of activities, including "analyzing such craft, or pieces of components thereof..." and "actions relating to reverse engineering or replicating unidentified anomalous phenomena technology or performance..."

JES p. 1330 (p. 1378PDF): Pertains to bill Sections 1841-1843, summarizing the changes made by the committee in the Senate-passed UAP Disclosure Act (Schumer-Rounds Amendment). UAP advocate Senate majority leader and UAP advocate Chuck Schumer (D-New York) presented one provision—which was later removed from the bill—by which a presidential commission would review government UFO records for further declassification. **(82)**

On December 14, 2023, the chairmen of the House and Senate Intelligence committees submitted a separate Explanatory Statement (not to be confused with the aforementioned Joint Explanatory Statement) into the Congressional Record, **(83)** containing mention of the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) portion of H.R. 2670 (Division G). Among other allusions to Section 7343, the two chairmen explained that it "provides for funding limitations relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena because of perceptions of insufficient transparency in this area." [Emphasis ours] We maintain that these "perceptions" are mostly unfounded and have as their basis conspiracy theories and anti-government sentiment stoked by UFO fanatics and propagandists.

The Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2024 also specifically mentions AARO. On pages 82-83, the original reporting requirement passes from the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, directly to the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office. (84)

On UAP Whistleblowers

The concept of a UFO whistleblower with officially recognized clout is as new as it is misleading. The shame date was July 26, 2023, when the U.S. Congress's House Oversight Committee scheduled a UAP hearing by its Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs. This subcommittee decided to convene this hearing by suggesting that national security, public safety, and government transparency were at stake. (22) (We agree that national security may be at stake, but only in the sense that adversary aerial platforms are involved) Three individuals testified, with two of them, D. Fravor and R. Graves, having already extensively discussed their UFO experiences on TV shows and in interviews over the years. The third, D. Grusch, has recently risen to media prominence with a slew of sensational—and certainly unfounded—claims. These were the alleged UAP whistleblowers. In another publication, one of us has described and criticized the hearing. (23)

That military personnel involved in UFO sightings may believe that there are many more mystery events like theirs, and that they are being hidden by dark forces within the Government, is unsurprising in the current conspiratorial-minded society. A related thread is the supposed concealment in the strictest secrecy of crashed flying saucers and their dead humanoid pilots by 13 successive Presidents of the United States since 1945 (or, in some accounts, without the knowledge or consent of POTUS). That eludes any logic. Rumors of crashed flying saucers recovered by U.S. authorities are as old as ufology and are part of the core mythology surrounding the subject, but rarely had it ever been accepted as a real possibility by American lawmakers. (Famously, Senator Barry Goldwater was among the exceptions.³⁵)

Generally, there are various types of UFO accounts that could fall into a potential “whistleblowing” category. One is confidential, funded UFO projects initiated by aerospace companies, toying with concepts related to apparent extraordinary features conveyed in sighting reports, usually promoted by UFO enthusiasts working for those companies, such as with the UFO study by McDonnell-Douglas in the late nineteen sixties. (85) Others, executed by the CIA, DIA, NSA, the U.S. Army, the Department of Energy, etc. may yet come to light. The bottom line is that nothing of extraordinary value was ever demonstrably found. Another example of the types of projects that may become entangled in the UFO saga are pet projects by people in the environment of Defense or intelligence agencies, that is, private, secretive groups of military personnel and scientists employed by these agencies, who in their free time meet to discuss UFOs,

³⁵ Barry Morris Goldwater (1909-1998). USAF Major General and senator for Arizona. Goldwater had a long-time interest in UFOs and came to believe that the USAF was likely hiding evidence of alien spacecraft at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In a 1994 *Larry King Live* interview, Goldwater said: “Reportedly, a spaceship landed, and it was all hushed-up, quieted, and nobody heard about... I never heard much of it. 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!’” (<https://ghostarchive.org/varchive/youtube/20211030/UYN5CxytwsU>) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_Goldwater#UFOs)

such as the group dealing with “frontier subjects” headed by U.S. Army Col. J. B. Alexander in the late eighties. **(86)** There are surely others. We might also suspect that, in years past, some U.S. Government agencies or departmental offices have exploited the UFO genre as a counterintelligence or surveillance tool for dealing with unauthorized individuals who were too close to secret R/D programs. For example, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) is reputed to have used such tradecraft in its dealings with the ufologist Paul Bennewitz **(87,88)**, though we hasten to add that the involvement of the UFO fabulist and self-professed disinformation expert Richard Doty should give one pause regarding the veracity of some of the supposed events in this episode. There may also exist undisclosed information of isolated UFO incidents cataloged in accordance with routine internal inquiries or performed for safety reasons at sensitive military facilities like Air Force bases, missile launching centers, or nuclear weapons installations.

Further examples of the sorts of projects that could become adjacent to and provide succor to suggestions of alien-themed government cover-ups are a 1965 U.S. Army study by Robert C. Suggs into “extraterrestrial warfare” (that is, space/non-Earth-based warfare between America and its human adversaries—the Soviet Union at the time of the study—within the solar system) and a document from 1966 authored by cryptologist Lambros D. Callimahos, titled “Communications with Extraterrestrial Intelligence”, that was included in an internal National Security Agency (NSA) journal as part of a code-breaking training exercise. (Incidentally, Luis Elizondo himself extracted some UFO mileage from this item when he helped fan the hype surrounding it. Many people have come to believe that this document was proof of “first contact”, when of course it was nothing of the sort). **(89,90,91)**

The crux of the artificially nurtured myth that has gained currency in many quarters in recent years and for which many people are demanding disclosure is of course the legend of recovered and reverse-engineered extraterrestrial spacecraft and their crew. In our view, stories like these predominantly result from the interaction of the pure nonsense—people’s elucubrations and inventions, or false recall-type testimonies from some senile individuals³⁶—and n-hand narratives that get distorted with time, splintered off from misinterpreted and adulterated standard intelligence or technical activities. For example, some Defense contractors (like the Battelle Memorial Institute) have for decades practiced reverse engineering on Russian satellites or other space materiel, with the potential for an alien-themed tie-in being quite obvious in the following scenario: people who may have witnessed strange-looking debris, documents or code names related to spacecraft hailing from orbit, unknowingly produced by decays of reconnaissance satellites in a time when these devices were an absolute secret. **(92,93)** Projects that focused on foreign technology recovery like the USAF’s “Moon Dust” may have also been inadvertent sources for “UFO crashes”. **(94)**

A related scenario might play out like this: some people within the intelligence community and defense establishments may catch wind of a project that they are not directly privy to—given their lack of security clearance—which then fosters suspicion and wonderment about what may “really be going on” behind the curtain. Intimations about secret technology could converge with popular narratives about alien spacecraft and artefacts, leading to a type of positive feedback loop in which

³⁶ For example, the totally dismissible crashed flying saucer/recovered alien beings claims by Sgt. Clifford Stone, or Lt. Col. Philip J. Corso, which are already part of the established UFO mythology.

these intel and defense workers become convinced of an alien presence. This “classified gossip” (or “periphery hypothesis”, as one of the authors of the current paper has termed what roughly amounts to the same process), may explain the origin and reinforcement of such stories in organizational contexts where secrecy and compartmentalization of information are the norm. (95) Indeed, AARO’s recently released “Report on the Historical Record of U.S. Government Involvement with Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) – Volume I” (32) states:

In many cases, the interviewees [persons interviewed by AARO] named authentic USG classified programs well-known and understood to those appropriately accessed to them in the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch; however, the interviewees mistakenly associated these authentic USG programs with alien and extraterrestrial activity.

In a similar vein, and echoing former Director Sean Kirkpatrick, Acting Director of AARO Tim Phillips had this to say:

We assess that claims of such hidden programs [of exploiting captured ET technology] are largely the result of circular reporting in which a small group of individuals have repeated inaccurate claims they have heard from others over a period of several decades.

[\(https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/3702219/media-engagement-with-acting-aaro-director-tim-phillips-on-the-historical-recor/\)](https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/3702219/media-engagement-with-acting-aaro-director-tim-phillips-on-the-historical-recor/)

Additionally, some people who have led perfectly respectable and even quite extraordinary careers may nevertheless lack a sense of fulfilment and may find ways to assuage their regret or resentment at not having achieved even more by indulging in conspiratorial fantasies that again play on popular themes about crashed alien technology and recovered bodies. (96)

Regrettably, some congresspersons are unaccountably gullible on this matter. For instance, former Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-Wisconsin), who during his tenure became one of the most outspoken legislators regarding supposed UFO secrecy, told reporters that “all sorts of [UFO whistleblowers] are coming out of the woodwork,” adding that the alleged witnesses had identified multiple different programs. Of course, there will be as many so-called programs and sites and dates in this saga as raconteurs. In the same outlet, Senator Marco Rubio commented: “either what [the whistleblower] is saying is partially true or entirely true, or we have some really smart people with high clearances and very important positions in our government [we would rather say, in the Department of Defense] who are crazy and are leading us on a goose chase.” Mr. Rubio, do you wanna bet?

[\(https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/4083904-true-or-crazy-ufo-whistleblowers-come-out-of-the-woodwork-congress-cant-ignore-them/\)](https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/4083904-true-or-crazy-ufo-whistleblowers-come-out-of-the-woodwork-congress-cant-ignore-them/)

In November 2023 it was reported that the first head of AARO, Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick, would retire from the Federal Government in December. (97) In our opinion, this may have been linked to the unrealistic aspects of the aforementioned legislation, coupled with unrelenting and vindictive criticism from UFO/alien believers and the sensationalist media, the pressure from the “whistleblowing” stand, and threatening emails and letters to him and his family from UFO fanatics. (98) For any down-to-earth thinker, the new legislative obligations are rooted in childish, untenable beliefs in flying saucers, UFOs, extraterrestrial visitation, the 1947 Roswell crash, and so forth. (Thankfully, at least, some of the more extreme provisions, which were even more in alignment with these beliefs, were blocked) The politicians who are pushing those legal

modifications want to control the non-existent. They have shown themselves to be gullible and tied to irresponsible charlatans, military or civilian, with or without a Ph.D.

In a January 2024 piece for *Scientific American*, Dr. Kirkpatrick linked the DIA UFO program (incidentally, calling it “AATIP”) to the current whistleblower craze:

...this narrative has been simmering for years and is largely an outgrowth of a former program at the DOD’s Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) called the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP), which was heavily influenced by a group of individuals associated with businessman and longtime ufologist Robert Bigelow. In 2009 then senator Harry Reid asked the secretary of defense (SECDEF) to set up a SAP (special access program) to protect the alleged UAP/UFO material that AATIP proponents believed the USG was hiding. The SECDEF declined to do so after a review by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (OUSDI), and DIA concluded that not only did no such material exist, but taxpayer money was being inappropriately spent on paranormal research at Skinwalker Ranch in Utah ... After the negative response by SECDEF, Senator Reid then enlisted the help of then senator Joseph Lieberman to request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) set up an SAP for the same purpose. The administrative SAP proposal package was informed by the same individuals who had been associated with AATIP. AARO’s archival research has located the administrative proposal for the DHS SAP, complete with the participants, which has been declassified and is being reviewed for public release. (99)

In a February 5, 2024, interview with the magazine’s “Science, Quickly” podcast, Dr. Kirkpatrick clearly summarized his views on this issue, derived from his unique and privileged position in AARO:

So most of my time [was] spent trying to figure out how to investigate conspiracy, and you can’t prove a negative, right? ... you find that the policy makers have this belief that is completely unfounded and irrational....

[\(https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/the-governments-former-ufo-hunter-has-a-lot-to-say/\)](https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/the-governments-former-ufo-hunter-has-a-lot-to-say/)

In an interview with Steven Greenstreet posted to YouTube on May 8, 2024, (98) Kirkpatrick also lamented the conspiratorial mindset of hardcore UFO-cover-up-believing military and intelligence personnel who he claims have hampered AARO’s investigation into purported government knowledge of recovered otherworldly artefacts and the like. He noted:

One of the most frustrating and concerning things that that I discovered in this assignment—and I’ve had assignments all over this world doing a lot of really cool stuff—none of it has given me this level of frustration because the thing that we uncovered was that the number of, for lack of a better description, True Believers that have the faith of conviction that the government is covering this up and hiding it, the number of those people that actually exist within the government, within the national security space, people that I’ve known for decades and worked with on some very sensitive things. To have them sit in my office and tell me face to face, “I’m not going to help you and support you because I know you’re part of the cover up,” even though I’m looking at them going, “I only had this job for like the last week. I don’t know anything about what you’re talking about,” and then lay out evidence to the contrary for them, for them to ignore all of that and continue to press

forward with allegations is not just frustrating because some of them are in positions of authority that then make it difficult to get a job done, and actively obstructing how we're doing business or negating the way we're trying to lay out the evidence. (<https://youtu.be/q4lWb1XBvVo?t=695>)

Kirkpatrick points to a notable irony here: that the “True Believers” accuse the government of a cover-up, while they themselves are obstructing an investigation into something that UFO activists have long called for the government to investigate!

Among such True Believers might be Tim Gallaudet, a retired Navy admiral and oceanographer who somehow manages, despite his evident high level of intelligence, to wholeheartedly believe in unhinged conspiracy theories involving underwater alien bases and who accuses AARO of being a mere arm of the Executive branch of the U.S. Government in covering up the alien presence. (<https://youtu.be/2NVDCtSxIac?feature=shared>) (While the first volume of AARO’s historical review is not perfect and has been criticized for a number of factual errors and purported shortcomings (100,101), this is not synonymous with it being a tool of a “conspiracy”, nor do we consider the report’s imperfections to nullify its overall value. Indeed, we hope that Volume II will rectify some of these deficiencies.) Another True Believer appears to be former Army Colonel Karl Nell, who was apparently part of the UAPTF, and who gave a SALT iConnections Conference talk in May 2024 (<https://youtu.be/w9cIcWWsH0c?feature=shared>) where he expressed his belief that there is “zero doubt” that non-human intelligences linked to UAP are operating on Earth (embarrassingly, he cited former Canadian Defence Minister Paul Hellyer as an authority, ignoring that Hellyer came to radically embrace the UFO cover-up narrative—decades after he served in his ministerial position—by unthinkingly consuming UFO documentaries and UFO claims on the Internet. (<https://www.jasoncolavito.com/blog/ufo-news-roundup-lue-elizondos-new-book-and-karl-nells-salt-talk>))

In the coming months and years, it is expected that AARO will find, collect, and disclose many documents concerning UFOs (pre-2000) and UAP (post-2000) which may be new even to the topic’s historians and scholars. Of course, the reality will never match what the more radical ufologists on the gullible side of the spectrum hope to find, which is lacking not so much due to concealment by a shadowy government conspiracy as to nonexistence. We will also find situations in which legitimate national defense concerns make it necessary to keep certain data secret. Some people will interpret this as further proof for the concealment of ET - a stance grounded in dogma rather than scientific evidence. One example of legitimate non-disclosure of information that has aroused suspicion and indignation by the UFO crowd is the United States Space Force (USSF) response to *The Black Vault*’s UFO Document Archive request of information on “fastwalkers” and “slowwalkers”. (102) The USSF argument is that such documents fall under the first exemption applied to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which exempts from disclosure information that has been deemed classified "under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy" and is "in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order." (103)

The publication in March 2024 of the first (of two) historical reports by AARO marked a turning point regarding the lack of substance to the claims that a bunch of flying saucers crashed in the United States after multi-light year trips to Earth. (32) Ultimately, it is irrelevant who originates

such tales. The problem is that someone like the officer in charge of the AAWSAP/AATIP program for the Defense Intelligence Agency, Dr. James Lacatski, affirms and regurgitates such stories, as when he claims in his second joint book with Kelleher and Knapp that “the United States was in possession of a craft of unknown origin and had successfully gained access to its interior.” (10, p. 131) That is simply preposterous. But it is a good indication of the mindset of the people responsible for that project, and of the mindset of many people in the UFO circuit more generally.

Of course, for dogmatic true believers, this report represents yet another “proof” that the DoD/IC are concealing the “truth” about aliens or inter-dimensional visitors. This has become akin to an article of religious faith, and its adherents will never accept anything that contradicts this core tenet. Yet the truth is that the AARO report is apparently already starting to have a positive effect in the circles surrounding the UAP issue, partly because some of the more extravagant claims by some ufologists and Congresspeople have been toned down. (104)

This whistleblower issue has congealed into another legend inside the global UFO-alien mythology. Yet the complainants have been unable to trace any hidden UFO program and even less to demonstrate that the United States Government or its contracted Defense partners have ever worked with UFO crash remnants. The UAP whistleblower par excellence, David Grusch, appears on record as having repeatedly declined AARO’s various invitations to provide corroborative testimony of his claims to them. (105) This is hardly a surprising development. Other alleged whistleblowers will arise, and their stories will inevitably be refuted as bogus. (106)

VII. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE BOOK UNDER REVIEW

This work has reviewed the contents of *Skinwalker at the Pentagon* (1), a book that has documented in detail the DIA-situated UAP program, the AAWSAP (funded 2008-2010, unfunded until 2012). This project, invisible to the world until 2017, was born by the conjunction of a few reporters, politicians, a tycoon businessman and scientists sharing grandiose fantasies, piloted by misguided and UFO-enthused managers from the military intelligence world with deep-seated beliefs in aliens and the paranormal. History will pronounce their disservice to what might have been a serious research endeavor. Their predecessors in the civil organization NIDS, the government-sanctioned and highly problematic AASWAP, the subsequent unofficial and threadbare AATIP II, and both the U.S. Navy and DoD’s UAPTF— all represent striking examples of the most hardcore believers in UFOs and ghost-like stories. If the study of UFOs was once handled with a semblance of seriousness and adjusted to a straight scientific approach, (107,108,109) the more recent aforementioned programs financed with taxpayer’s money stand, by contrast, as opportunities lost and, what is worse, an added discredit to the investigation of UFOs.

This book is subtitled “An Insider’s Account of the Secret Government UFO Program.” With that, the authors defend and promote their deep-rooted intention that the program was about studying UFOs. But, as they admit, it was also about “investigating ... the paranormal and psychic correlates.” (p. xxi) Yet they disguised it as a quest for breakthroughs in aerospace weapons technology in the future. What should this be regarded as? A pious lie? A deception? Given that public money was involved, might this not better be seen as embezzlement?

This book provides much information, and it certainly reveals interesting contemporary facts that were previously unknown, such as the background lobbying effort by Senator Reid after Robert Bigelow's brief on "the extraordinary history of UAPs at the Utah ranch." Yes, but it also exhibits ambiguity, especially with regard to the flow of money. When did it come? When was it spent? What items was it spent on? Who did what? A precise timeline is missing.

The book's style is not uniform either, and it is redundant on occasion, probably because it combines input from three different authors and has not been very well edited. The primary personality in the first large-scale U.S. Government-situated UFO program in the United States after Blue Book was the "legendary aerospace mogul Robert T. Bigelow." It was inevitably an ode to Bigelow, who paid their salaries, as well as those of others, over a period of decades. (See this paper's appendix "CAST OF CHARACTERS.") Another major element in this book is the Utah ranch where all mysterious things come to pass, including the *Tubular Bells*-like "unearthly technological device" sighting by Lacatski. (p. 39) One wonders if someone who has those visions should be eligible to manage a \$22 million governmental study. Nevertheless, learning the who's who in the U.S. UAP programs in the 2000s gives us a transparent view of the beliefs, preconceptions and hangs up of the involved individuals.

The book is full of hair-raising stories: a half-beaver, half-dinosaur creature sighted for seconds in the Utah ranch; intense, repeated poltergeist phenomena exported to visitors' houses in other States—they call it the "Infectious Agent Model" (p. 80)—and large, strange owl-like creatures attacking the cars of female DIA analysts. Their relationship to the type of UAP "phenomenon" observed and recorded in the sky by military pilots—which should have been the major impetus for this U.S. Government-funded study—is far from apparent.

Some chapters of the book cover examples of the most incredible cases investigated by AAWSAP personnel. Extended occurrences have produced a few final reports as long as 250 to 400 written pages, portraying experiences that can even be described as unusual when compared to more sundry UFO events. It includes bizarre incidents with weird blue orbs causing cancer and other diseases in observers. Although the book's authors affirm that these stand out "as examples of how BAASS broke new ground in terms of thoroughness, deployment, and use of investigators and equipment" (p. 70), with the field investigators being in agreement with the "facts" that they investigated, it is unavoidable that doubts arise as to the reliability of the work done.

The book combines chapters on the AASWAP's inner life with a plethora of narratives and depositions from witnesses of tremendously complex and incredible incidents, including "hostile triangles", video and digital camera batteries suddenly dying, beams emitted by an object pointed with a spotlight, low flying helicopters over a witness's house, men dressed in black with handguns under their suit coats interrogating a witness, a vehicle found to be in the Department of Homeland Security's carpool following a witness, and injuries due to "ionizing radiation." It reads like a terror novel. Was the United States DHS actually involved in 2009 in activities of this type?

This book purveys some interesting hints unrelated to AAWSAP, for example when in January 2010 Larry Grossmann of BAASS held a "clandestine" [*sic*] meeting with retired Colonel Barry Hennessey (ex-USAF Director of Security), who years before was the Director of Special Projects at AFOSI (Air Force Office of Special Investigations). Hennessey said that AFOSI "maintained a

very active surveillance of UAP reports” during the decades of research and development of both the F-117 and B-2 stealth aircraft, to “deconflict” with the USAF R&D programs. Hennessey confided that “a substantial number of ‘UAP sightings’ during the 1970s-2000 were identified by AFOSI as known Air Force SAPs and R&D efforts,” while acknowledging they could not identify others, including “a few of the mysterious intrusions into the Northern Tier Air Force bases in the 1970s.” (pp. 97-98) Hennessey said that “some of the advanced Air Force programs on micro-UAVs could easily be mistaken for non-human technology.”

The 24 months between September 2008 and September 2010 in the program were graded as “enormously productive,” and Chapter 13 (pp. 109-127) proudly lists a number of those achievements: the production of monthly reports sent every 30 days to DIA (“sometimes hundreds of pages in length”), the BAASS-MUFON collaboration, the investigation of the “Tic Tac” incident, the construction of the BAASS UAP data warehouse consisting of 11 databases³⁷ containing “tens of thousands of cases,” the AAWSAP “investigation” of a Thread-III UFO program in Russia in the late 1980s,³⁸ the team’s visits to Brazil, advances in “remote viewing” (i.e. Hal Puthoff’s exertions in this arena), reports on the so-called “historical UAO incursions” into Northern Tier Air Force nuclear bases, etc.

Chapters 14-16 are devoted to the favored subject of paranormal events at Skinwalker Ranch and other locations. Chapter 17, as already reported, mentioned their attempts to find funding—and above all, understanding—in other agencies. Chapter 18 clarified what AATIP really was and where it originated (also explained in a previous section). Finally, in Chapter 19, the three authors confess that one of their purposes has been to correct the record because, since the publication in December 2017 of *The New York Times* article revealing the DIA UFO program, many errors have appeared in print and on digital media. We criticized the dishonesty of the presentation of the program to DIA and what they really wanted to do (that is, to study paranormal phenomena). They are aware of that discrepancy and in “The Logic of the Broad Scope of AAWSAP Research” they try to justify it. The reality is that DIA cut the program and no other agency bought it afterwards because it was too fringe. We are afraid that’s it. Surprisingly (or perhaps unsurprisingly), they use the thoroughly discredited Vallée-Harris tale of an alleged 1945 UFO crash at Trinity (**119,111**) to support their reassurances of “psychic effects” from UFOs. In this closing chapter, they praise the excellence of the 11 databases comprising the AAWSAP BAASS Data Warehouse, but we see no concrete results or statistical findings from the interrogation of such databases, like patterns, constants or recurrent models, others than claiming that UAP present a threat to human health. We would expect, in the spirit of scientific openness, for such databanks to be made generally available for inspection.

We concur with the authors—but for strictly opposite reasons—that if the Navy/DoD’s UAPTF (now AARO) only focused on military pilot cases and on sensor derived data, it will have “ignore[d] the voluminous data on UAP interactions that have been collected globally since 1945.” (p. 169) We maintain that by concentrating on a very limited sampling of UFO phenomena, the

³⁷ In our experience, UFO catalogs are textbook examples of entropy, and it is illusory to believe that patterns on the “real” nature of the phenomena will arise, other than sociological trends, as the UFO casebook is but a portion of a large set of occurrences rooted in mass sociology.

³⁸ The plain truth is that in 1993, journalists G. Knapp and B. Gresh BOUGHT some 400 UFO reports from Colonel B. Sokolov from Ministry of Defense UFO projects “Setka” (1977-1980), “Galaktika” (1981-1985), and “Horizont” (1986-1990) and then some additional reports sold by Major-General A. Savin from Project “Nit’-3” (1991).

rhyme and reason of the whole problem will not surface. The exclusion of what we'd call "classical UFO occurrences" dismisses a larger spectrum that involves reporting of UFO landings, extravehicular beings, and kidnapping and abuse of humans, none of which represents alien evidence but, on the contrary, is both a result of and an input into psychosocial dynamics, the intense role of media, and various human cognitive limitations/biases in shaping beliefs.

Officially, in September 2010, the party was over. A final report containing the conclusions of the contracted AAWSAP-BAASS work was delivered to DIA: "The report stated bluntly that the UAP phenomenon is a threat to human health and well-being." They claimed that their main database comprised "many hundreds of ... close encounters involving injury or death to the witness." (p. 170) This did not necessarily constitute a deliberate intent to inflict harm, the authors hastened to point out.

Eric Davis has been quoted by Tim McMillan as saying: "Indeed, science is applied [in the context of AAWSAP], but right now there's not enough data on UAP to make examining it a scientific endeavor. It's an intelligence issue, not a scientific endeavor."

(<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/research/a30916275/government-secret-ufo-program-investigation/>) This seems like a departure from the exuberant claims made by the team principals and allied media proponents like Knapp that UAP/UFOs have been definitively shown to exist and that the investigations at Skinwalker Ranch and other locations demonstrate the presence of anomalous/otherworldly intelligences operating on Earth.

The book's Epilogue starts, unfortunately, with a quote from avowed hoaxer Carlos Castañeda.³⁹ The authors then proceed with their very particular reading of the history, from the 1947 flying saucers to the 21st century UAPs. In their view, the UFO phenomenon has proceeded in six phases, from the initial apparition of "armadas of UFOs" with Kenneth Arnold as the canonical witness, to the Contactee movement of the fifties ("largely dismissed as charlatans"), the "targeted assault" in the 1970s on dozens of U.S. bases housing ICBMs, the massive number of close encounters of the third kind from the 1960s through the 1980s, and the emergence and further widespread reporting of kidnappings of frightened citizens who suffered "invasive, painful, and brutal medical procedures." The authors even dare to affirm that there is a "consensus among UFO researchers ... [that these stories] had some basis in a real experience." [Emphasis ours] That is, they uphold the "reality" of alien abductions. They conclude their run-down of UFO history with the apparition of black triangles reminiscent of Belgian reports in the nineteen nineties and, finally beyond 2010, falsely treat like a new phenomenon of UAPs "routinely interacting with high performance combat aircraft" in both the East and West coasts of the United States. The book authors believe there is "an obscure agenda by a single phenomenon," and they cleverly ask: "Is someone trying to tell us something?"

We feel that any entity that needs almost 80 years to pose a question or convey a meaning to be understood does not seem very intelligent. In our research experience, the aforementioned phases, if thought of as deriving from a common, unearthly source, do not exist other than in the imaginations of the book's authors. The "morphing" they observe is the natural evolution of an unreal "phenomenon" modulated by press, cinema, and literature.

³⁹ R. De Mille (1976). *Castaneda's journey: the power and the allegory*. Santa Barbara: Capra Press.

We'd say this book is an acceptable rapport of the activity of AAWSAP and its counterpart BAASS, yet we find it too vague in certain areas. One such is the program's funding, where we are denied more specificity or a timeline regarding the structure of financing. We also lament that there are not clearer details in the book covering the duration and management of the program on a year-by-year basis. To close, Appendix I of the book lists all the AAWSAP/BAASS productions, in Appendix II it is proposed that a new program to study UAPs be formed after the "lessons learned" from the AAWSAP, while Appendix III shows all the sophisticated equipment deployed at Skinwalker Ranch to monitor a range of bizarre phenomena. Finally, Appendix IV provides background on the infamous Utah ranch. In total, the book comprises 225 pages that will make greater skeptics among skeptics and greater believers among believers.

We have also inspected the sequel to this book (10) to pick up any possible complementary data to this paper. Unfortunately, we have hardly found anything to add to the body of the present paper. The follow-up book glaringly evinces the credulity of AAWSAP/BAASS and the fragility of their allegedly monumental data warehouse. We observe an inverse relationship between the irrational belief in flying saucers and the ability for resolving seemingly weird UFO events. The irrational faith bypasses common sense and nullifies the ordinary ability to resolve seemingly weird UFO events. The irrational faith in UFO high strangeness bypasses common sense and nullifies the ordinary ability to reflect in logical terms, thus producing irrational conclusions. We find one major example here:

Evidence of Weight and Massiveness: The problem of defining the lift mechanism becomes more complex when considering the large size and heavy weight of these crafts. For example, a saucer-shaped craft, estimated to be 30-40 feet in diameter, landed on February 6, 1966, at Aluche, Spain, a suburb of Madrid. The craft landed in an open space larger than a city block. The flight of the disc was typical—it approached, hovered momentarily, extended tripod legs, and landed. [Emphasis ours] After a few minutes, it rose, retracted the landing gear, and flew away. An examination of the landing site revealed three neat footprints pressed into the hard Spanish soil. They were arranged in a triangle shape and were nearly 20 feet apart. Each print was rectangular, about 6 by 12 inches, and nearly 5 inches deep. A raised tread shaped like an "X" was at the bottom of each imprint. (10, p. 63)

We wonder how much "weight" this report has contributed to AASWAP's effort, but this case was a hoax feigned by none other than by the creator of the infamous Ummo fabrication, José Luis Jordán Peña, the writer of the fake alien letters from planet)(+. This was a fraudulent case that even the most vehement UFO believers in Spain do not credit. (112,113) It was Jordán Peña who created the Aluche case—as well as the UFO photographs taken at San José de Valderas, Madrid, on June 1, 1967 (114)—to provide material support to the bogus arrival of ummites to the Earth communicating with ufologists through the postal service! He finally confessed to being the author of the Ummo affair and the two named UFO sightings. (115,116)



Picture from the series of photographs forged on June 1, 1967, at San José de Valderas, Madrid, with the purpose of backing up the “reality” of the letters from planet Ummo. (Credit: J.J. Montejo.)

VIII. A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

Someday, historians of America’s policymaking will inquire about why the United States Government spent years and millions of dollars in the first quarter of the 21st century on a program that, largely unbeknownst to the responsible authorities within that government, was actually intended to investigate flying saucers and UFOs, then called UAP, along with their supposed paranormal correlates. The reasons for why we arrived at this point have been established and precisely summated by some smart thinkers who follow the situation (117), and their take will certainly be reflected in academic terms by future scholarship.

From the second decade of the 21st century, we see members of both houses of the U.S. Congress increasingly losing touch with reality thanks to the exertions of UFO activists who feed the media and the legislative apparatus of the United States with unreal, out-fashioned allegations of hidden flying saucers, captured bodies, and reverse-engineering. They are doing a great disservice to the UFO cause. Their intense campaign of sensation-seeking media, along with the credulousness of congresspersons will end with the acknowledgment of the UFO crash/cover-up narrative as a fantasy that had shamefully been pushed and encouraged by the individuals who pressed for a misguided Defense law that was in turn promoted by non-verifying newspapers and online venues. The net result—wait and see—will ultimately be a thorough debunking of such silly stories, leading to the discrediting of persons and communication outlets who participated in the farce. The first AARO director, Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick, has this less than effusive commentary on the alleged “whistleblowers”:

One of my last acts before retiring was to sign AARO’s Historical Record Report Volume I, which is currently being prepared for delivery to Congress and the public. The report demonstrates that many of the circulating allegations described above derive from inadvertent or unauthorized disclosures of legitimate U.S. programs or related R&D that have nothing to do with extraterrestrial issues or technology. Some are misrepresentations, and some derive from pure, unsupported beliefs. In many respects, the narrative is a textbook example of circular reporting, with each person relaying what they heard, but the

information often ultimately being sourced to the same small group of individuals. (...) As of the time of my departure, none, let me repeat, none of the conspiracy-minded “whistleblowers” in the public eye had elected to come to AARO to provide their “evidence” and statement for the record despite numerous invitations. (98)

The *corpus* of the so-called “UFO phenomenon” is composed of events or stories about events that have probably been happening since time immemorial. The modern period of flying saucers and UFOs is everywhere recognized as starting in 1947. Since then, many national governments have received and collected reports and have studied them to various degrees, mostly concluding that nothing extraordinary or threatening exists. As far as the USA is concerned, the USAF’s Blue Book (1952-1969) archives contain many intriguing reports, but investigation methodology was improvable, as the Air Force’s priority was seeking foreign aircraft and other down-to-earth causes, during its contest with the Soviet Union, introducing an attendant bias. In its final estimation in 1969, Blue Book determined that, out of 13,134 recorded cases, 5% were of “unknown” provenance (**118**), a relative frequency that nevertheless represents the ballpark arrived at by most subsequent studies.

In our judgement, the research and know-how accumulated in the first fifty years of contemporary UFO phenomenon, from 1947 to 2000, does not prove the reality of an anomalous phenomenon, but rather to a mass of observation, reporting and investigation errors. To avoid ahistorical and context-lacking pitfalls, we recommend that current analysts develop and embrace an all-encompassing historical, sociological, and documentative outlook when looking at UAP reports. Of course, in practical terms, one cannot require newcoming AARO or NASA UAP analysts to embark on a long and hard doctoral thesis-like survey before probing UAP footage from spy drones in Syria! How to settle this contradiction? By finding an appropriate balance between the two philosophies (the need for extensive knowledge of historical ufology – fulfilled by looking at notable case studies with similar features to current cases, for example – as well as the imperative need to solve current-day reports).

Having dissolved a UFO reporting “stigma” (which, despite supposedly existing, existed concurrently with thousands of reports by professional aviators over decades) that was largely exaggerated for propagandistic effect and that has more recently served as an excuse (with the supposed risk to air flight) to again boost the governmental interest in UFOs/UAP, what is expected to happen hereafter is easy to foretell. It will take shape along three axes. Firstly, private and university-based organizations and associations will initiate studies, peer-reviewed journals, projects, etc. to investigate UAP. With more trained and sophisticated members than past UFO associations could muster (committees and clubs like APRO, NICAP, BUFORA or CEI, just to name a few of the most outstanding UFO centers in USA and Europe from the 20th century), the scientific rigor of UAP work could be considerable (though not necessarily more rational or objective as compared to the previous efforts, as preconception and belief are universal motivations in this field).

Secondly, a towering number of reports, especially by military personnel and by commercial and military aviators, has been showcased in support of a mysterious UAP “phenomenon”. When AARO publishes new statistics and correlational studies, it will likely be noticed that the apparent existence of a “wave” turns out to be an apparition produced by reporting bias.

The third and most important fact will be the multiplying effect of an influx of new papers on this topic published in scientific journals. Galvanized or at least given a tacit “green light” by the increased governmental acceptance of UFOs/UAP, many editors can be expected to lessen their reluctance to approve the publication of papers focused on this theme. As for the authors of these pieces, most of them are likely to be newcomers to this subject, and we anticipate many “reinventions of the wheel”, with work and concepts from eight decades of UFO research (perhaps especially from England, Germany, France, or Spain, which is less likely to be known to American investigators) being overlooked and thereby retreaded as though they were novel. We also expect conclusions derived from partial data or from unscreened databases, with a frequent and unfortunate lack of historical perspective on the development of the “phenomenon” throughout the 20th century and indeed of the previous public scares/waves as enumerated in Section V of the current paper.

Obviously, uap-ufology will experience a considerable renaissance thanks to all these factors, fed by the media, credulous TV channels, and the publishing industry – that is, until:

(1) the subsequent exhaustion and saturation of the theme, coupled with

(2) the expected findings of future AARO reports (and probably those of other scientific institutions like NASA, as well as the analyses of skeptics like Mick West) showing that UAP (understood as mysterious aerial “phenomena”) are no problem for aviation safety, that the United States never acquired flying saucers or their crews, that documented UAP events are best explained as mundane objects or phenomena, and—above all—that extraterrestrial life is not a valid term in this equation.

In our considered opinion, flying saucers are unreal. UFOs are not extraordinary anomalies. The most well documented UAP reports will be solved when the best tools that technology can provide are employed in the analysis, if tested by down-to-earth professionals who are truly unwedded to cosmic or paranormal beliefs. It has been suggested that investigators of events that involve UAP and/or paranormal experiences should preferably be skeptical-minded individuals, for a number of practical reasons. **(119)** This will not dissipate the social myth, as too many media outlets regularly profit from the collective imagination surrounding UAP, and too many people have sunken their costs and identities into the proliferation of paranormal/anomalous/ET themed narratives. But, at least, Academia, the educated lay person, the aerospace industry, the political class, governments, and military and intelligence personnel will know the true situation and will be able to differentiate fact from fiction, without further wild goose chases that waste money on air phantasms.

Now, the U.S. Department of Defense is seriously committed to evaluating this mystery. To us, AARO stands as a properly equipped and budgeted resource for a job that will probably be the last time in history that the U.S. government champions the study of UAPs as these are currently defined. As of today, AARO is ostensibly free from constraint by ideology, in one sense or another. Let us see what the future brings. The present UAP program carried out by the DoD is in the best position to clarify this issue once and for all. UFO/UAP sightings have nothing to do with extraterrestrial visits. That is a chimera. Unexplained aerial events are due to multiple causes, some plain and ordinary, others rare, but all unexceptional and naturalistic (i.e., not aliens or the

supernatural), like failed observations, misrepresented testimony, man-made airborne objects (including foreign intelligence-collecting vehicles - drones and balloons), optical effects, other ill-understood atmospheric and geophysics effects, erroneous sensor data, and so forth. Today, there are two fields strangely mingled into one, fields that must be separated forever: one is the legitimate quest for life on other worlds, the other is the military domain of national security.

This reflection by Steven Greenstreet, in conversation with Douglas Johnson (120), is to the point: *Sean Kirkpatrick seems to have had the unenviable task of balancing a Congressional mandate to investigate 80 years of historical "UFO nonsense while also keeping up with current "operational" UAP incursions. My reporting has revealed the former has been a giant distraction from the latter. As such, if AARO can put the unfounded (and distracting) UFO stories to bed, and focus on fact-based (and potentially dangerous) UFO incursions [of what are almost certainly all balloons, drones and other enemy sensor/weapons systems] instead, that seems a worthy goal.*

Interlacing the DoD's defense perspective with the fantasy of searching for aliens in UAP just diverts attention from the supreme vigilance and seriousness needed to safeguard the skies and assets of the democratic world. We are convinced that AARO, if free from the influence of the small but extremely active and long-standing group of fanatics that have duped the U.S. Congress and the media in recent years (121), will affirm this position. Despite being sub-optimally designed due to misguided legislation, AARO, even as conceived today, may go down in history for the right reasons.

Regarding AARO's direct subordination echelon within Defense, a most recent essay by Douglas Johnson (120) has presented an insightful view:

Key lawmakers apparently felt that the USD(I&S) [Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security] had too much sway over AARO, so under a law enacted in December 2022 (Public Law 117-263) (122) made changes intended to lessen the degree of the USD(I&S) control over AARO. For one thing, it specified that the actual appointment of an AARO director must be made "by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence." Probably more importantly, it also provided that the AARO director "shall report ... to the Deputy Director of Defense and the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence"—referring to the second-ranking officials in those two agencies—"on all operational and security matters of [AARO]." ... However, "on administrative matters," the post-2022 law (123) requires that AARO director continues to report to the USD(I&S). Because of the continued linkage of AARO to the USD(I&S), and even more so because of the general nature of the matters that Congress has assigned to AARO, generally I would expect any USD(I&S) to continue to exercise some substantial influence on the selection of an AARO director.

We certainly hope so, although we will remain vigilant. For example, let us consider the following definition of UAP by AARO:

The DoD considers Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) as sources of anomalous detections in one or more domain (i.e., airborne, seaborne, spaceborne, and/or transmedium) that are not yet attributable to known actors and that demonstrate behaviors that are not readily understood by sensors or observers. (<https://www.aaro.mil/>)

Following the above definition, the conjunction “and” reinforces the requirement that detected phenomena must manifest a dual aspect: they must be both unexplained and show abnormal capabilities. Compatible with that, future AARO statistics should tally reports into three categories:

- (a) characterized events, i.e., those reports that have been conventionally solved,
- (b) uncharacterized events not showing abnormal behavior, i.e., those reports on phenomena that have not been confidently solved but whose dynamics or general behavior may be compatible with known objects or phenomena, and
- (c) uncharacterized events showing abnormal behavior, i.e., those reports that, in addition to not having been explained away, present features and behaviors incompatible with known objects or phenomena.

It would be approximately equivalent to classical ufology’s IFOs, possible/probable IFOs, and UFOs, with an extremely low percentage for the latter (2.4% for GEIPAN, 2005-2014). **(124)**

Only reports in category (c) should really be regarded as true UAP. If reports in category (b) are also qualified as UAP, this would falsely attribute abnormal capabilities to those phenomena and increase the UAP ratio. The risk for this is ever-present but could be ameliorated with careful consideration of each case and through the strict employment of pre-selected criteria for judging whether a case truly involves anomalous features. Whatever the inherent dangers in the mis-categorization of UAP, the eyes of all UFO/UAP researchers are upon AARO. We cannot but wish it a successful journey, dismantling the aura of myth surrounding UAP.

As for the topic that precipitated this paper—the ambiguity regarding the difference between AATIP and AASWAP—we conclude by noting that this morass has provided space and encouragement for other confusions and obfuscations, and related outright falsehoods, to be incubated, whether intentionally or otherwise. Accuracy and honesty are the only true guides to anyone trying to get to the bottom of this saga, and we hope that we have contributed something of value to researchers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Roger Glassel, for important advice and input.

To Chris Aubeck, Dr. Thomas E. Bullard, Dr. David Clarke, Dr. Carl Grove, Clas Svahn, Wim van Utrecht, and Nigel Watson for data and suggestions on pre-1947 waves.

To Joan Plana, Jaime Servera, Igor Kalytyuk, Jean-Michel Abrassart, Danny Ammon, Jochen Ickinger, Mikhail Gershtein, Jensine Andresen, Dr. Luiz Augusto da Silva, Steven Greenstreet (*New York Post*), Jeff Knox, Daniel Miller, Douglas Dean Johnson, Dan Vergano (*Scientific American*), José Juan Montejo, and Keith Basterfield for contemporary links, resources, assistance, or opinions.

To Curt Collins, for valuable comments on the manuscript.

The authors wish to recognize the painstaking job done by John Greenewald. As far as unearthing U.S. official UFO documentation and its free public dissemination, his *Black Vault* site is a role model.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(All web sources cited throughout the paper accessed on May 31, 2024)

- (1) James T. Lacatski, Colm A. Kelleher and George Knapp (2021). *Skinwalkers at the Pentagon*. Henderson: RTMA, LLC.
- (2) Robert Sheaffer, <https://badufos.blogspot.com/2022/06/skinwalkers-at-pentagon-book-review.html>
- (3) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “State-of-the-Art in UFO Disclosure Worldwide,” https://www.academia.edu/32053531/STATE-OF-THE-ART_IN_UFO_DISCLOSURE_WORLDWIDE
- (4) Charlie Wiser, “Ariel School” (7 parts), <https://threedollarkit.weebly.com/ariel-school.html>
- (5) Gideon Reid, “The Puppetry Hypothesis,” <https://gideonreid.co.uk/the-mysterious-events-at-ariel-school-zimbabwe-16-sept-1994/> and <https://gideonreid.co.uk/the-mysterious-events-at-ariel-school-zimbabwe-part-2/>
- (6) Colm A. Kelleher and George Knapp (2005). *Hunt for the Skinwalker: Science Confronts the Unexplained at a Remote Ranch in Utah*. New York: Paraview Pocket Books.
- (7) Julio Plaza del Olmo, “The FLIR1 Video,” https://www.academia.edu/45588364/The_FLIR1_video
- (8) Mick West, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1di0XIa9RQ>
- (9) Helene Cooper, Ralph Blumenthal and Leslie Kean, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html>
- (10) James Lacatski, Colm Kelleher and George Knapp (2023). *Inside the U.S. Government Covert UFO Program: Initial Revelations*. Henderson: RTMA LLC (Kindle edition).
- (11) “Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena,” <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Preliminary-Assessment-UAP-20210625.pdf>
- (12) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “The UAP Pentagon Report-Commented Abstract,” in “The U.S. Government 2021 UAP Report,” http://fotocat.blogspot.com/2021_09_14_archive.html
- (13) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “On the 2021 UAPTF Classified Report,” https://www.academia.edu/75129891/On_the_2021_UAPTF_Classified_Report
- (14) <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ81/PLAW-117publ81.pdf>, pp. 578-583.
- (15) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “A Commentary to the 2022 UAP Act,” https://www.academia.edu/69401447/A_Commentary_to_the_2022_UAP_Act
- (16) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “What’s New in the US Legislative UAP Front, July 2022,” https://www.academia.edu/87126434/Whats_New_in_the_US_Legislative_UAP_Front_July_2022
- (17) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “The Pentagon UAP Study 2023,” https://www.academia.edu/99475636/THE_PENTAGON_UAP_STUDY_2023
- (18) V.J. Ballester Olmos and Julio Plaza del Olmo, “The 2022 Annual Report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, A Review,” https://www.academia.edu/95362778/The_2022_Annual_Report_on_Unidentified_Aerial_Phenomena_A_Review
- (19) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “The 2023 U.S. Senate UAP Hearing,”

- https://www.academia.edu/101720680/The_2023_U_S_Senate_UAP_Hearing
- (20) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQo08JRY0iM>
- (21) V.J. Ballester Olmos and Chris Aubeck, “The Needle in the Haystack: Reflections on the NASA UAP Meeting, May 2023,”
https://www.academia.edu/103389571/The_Needle_in_the_Haystack_Reflections_on_the_NASA_UAP_Meeting_May_2023
- (22) <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/unidentified-anomalous-phenomena-implications-on-national-security-public-safety-and-government-transparency/> and
<https://www.congress.gov/event/118th-congress/house-event/116282/text>
- (23) V.J. Ballester Olmos, Chris Aubeck and Julio Plaza del Olmo, “The UFO Whistleblower Hearing,” https://www.academia.edu/101720680/The_2023_U_S_Senate_UAP_Hearing
- (24) <https://www.aaro.mil/>
- (25) https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RRA2400/RRA2475-1/RAND_RRA2475-1.pdf
- (26) <https://smd-cms.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/uap-independent-study-team-final-report.pdf>
- (27) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “UFOs and NASA: There is No Reliable Data, But We Still Want to Investigate Them,”
https://www.academia.edu/107167561/UFOs_and_NASA_There_is_No_Reliable_Data_But_We_Still_Want_to_Investigate_Them
- (28) <http://tinyurl.com/4mm5znzr>
- (29) Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, “The AARO UAP Report for FY 2023,”
https://www.academia.edu/108573577/The_AARO_UAP_Report_for_FY_2023
- (30) Douglas Dean Johnson, “Senate Intelligence bill gives holders of “non-earth origin or exotic UAP material” six months to make it available to AARO,”
<https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/senate-intelligence-bill-gives-holders-of-non-earth-origin-six-months/>
- (31) Douglas Dean Johnson, “UAP-related provisions currently under consideration in Congress,”
<https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/email/9680ee1e-7782-4c7b-afd4-bc1751db6b14/>
- (32) AARO, “Report on the Historical Record of U.S. Government Involvement with Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP). Volume I,” February 2024,
https://www.aaro.mil/Portals/136/PDFs/AARO_Historical_Record_Report_Volume_1_2024.pdf
- (33) Jacques F. Vallée and Eric W. Davis (2003). “Incommensurability, Orthodoxy and the Physics of High-Strangeness: a 6-layer Model for Anomalous Phenomena,”
https://www.academia.edu/36788970/Incommensurability_Orthodoxy_and_the_Physics_of_High_Strangeness_A_six_layer_model_for_Anomalous_Phenomena
- (34) John Greenewald, “Breaking Down The Recent UAP “Historical Record” Volume I Report,”
<https://youtu.be/Tg4FKt2Pe7I?t=3827>
- (35) Luis Daniel Elizondo, Inspector General Complaint (redacted), May 3, 2021,
<https://www.docdroid.net/ueYrure/luis-elizondo-ig-complaint-redacted-pdf>
- (36) Roger Glassel and Curt Collins, “The Pentagon UFO Program’s Secret Partner,”
<https://www.blueblurrylines.com/2020/03/the-pentagon-ufo-programs-secret-partner.html?m=1>
- (37) Brad Steiger (ed.) (1976). *Project Blue Book*. New York: Ballantine.
- (38) “Project Blue Book, 1952-1969” (1992). In: Jerome Clark. *The Emergence of a Phenomenon: UFOs from the Beginning through 1959*. (The UFO Encyclopedia. Vol. 2). Detroit: Omnigraphics, pp. 271-276.

- (39) Hal Puthoff, "Advanced Space Propulsion Based on Vacuum (Spacetime Metric) Engineering", <https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/170021/>
- (40) Jacques Scornaux, "The Raising and the Limits of a Doubt," *Magonia*, 15, April 1984, PP. 3-13, <http://tinyurl.com/4tv3zpzp>
- (41) Gilles Fernandez, "Cracking the 1896/97 Airships Mystery? Toward a Psycho-SocioCultural Explanation," January 2014, https://skepticsversustheflyingsaucers.blogspot.com/2014/01/cracking-189697-airships-mystery-toward_11.html
- (42) Kevin M. Harkins (1994). *Belief in UFOs and Alien Abduction Phenomena as a Function of Paranormal Beliefs, Fantasy Proneness, Dissociative Experience, and Psychological Adjustment*. Bridgewater: Bridgewater State University. Master Thesis.
- (43) Steven J. Lynn, and Irving I. Kirsch, "Alleged Alien Abductions: False Memories, Hypnosis, and Fantasy Proneness." *Psychological Inquiry*, 7(2), 1996, pp. 151-155.
- (44) Sheryl C. Wilson, and Theodore X. Barber (1983). "The Fantasy-Prone Personality: Implications for Understanding Imagery, Hypnosis, and Parapsychological Phenomena." In: Anees A. Sheikh (ed.). *Imagery: Current Theory, Research and Application*. New York: Wiley.
- (45) William K. Hartmann (1969). "Process of Perception, Conception, and Reporting." Daniel S. Gillmor (ed.). *Final Report of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*. New York: E.P. Dutton, pp. 567-590, <http://www.project1947.com/shg/condon/s6chap02.html>
- (46) Mark W. Rhine (1969). "Psychological Aspects of UFO Reports." In: Daniel S. Gillmor (ed.). *Final Report of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*. New York: E.P. Dutton, pp. 590-598, <http://www.project1947.com/shg/condon/s6chap03.html>
- (47) V.J. Ballester Olmos and Richard W. Heiden (eds.) (2023). *The Reliability of UFO Witness Testimony*. Turin, Italy: UPIAR, <http://www.upiar.com/index.cfm?artID=201>
- (48) Allan Hendry (1979). *The UFO Handbook. A Guide to Investigating, Evaluating and Reporting UFO Sightings*. Garden City: Doubleday & Company.
- (49) Jason Colavito, "How Washington Got Hooked on Flying Saucers," *The New Republic*, May 21, 2021, <https://newrepublic.com/article/162457/government-embrace-ufos-bad-science>
- (50) Keith Basterfield, <https://ufos-scientificresearch.blogspot.com/2023/10/lacatskis-new-book-and-podcast-interview.html>
- (51) Keith Basterfield, <https://ufos-scientificresearch.blogspot.com/search/label/AAWSAP>
- (52) Luis Daniel Elizondo, "An Official Presentation on the History of AATIP and Current State of Affairs," October 2018, <https://stellarcontact.net/luis-elizondo-presents-the-history-of-aatip/>
- (53) Keith Basterfield, <https://ufos-scientificresearch.blogspot.com/search/label/AATIP>
- (54) V.J. Ballester Olmos, "A Chronological Research Bibliography, 1965-2023," https://www.academia.edu/113605314/Bibliography_V_J_Ballester_Olmos_1965_2023
- (55) V.J. Ballester Olmos, "UFO Waves: An International Bibliography," https://www.cnes-geipan.fr/sites/default/files/UFO_Waves._An_International_Bibliography_November_1_2_015.pdf
- (56) R.V. Jones, "Ghost Rockets from Erehwon," in David Clarke and Andy Roberts (2002). *Out of the Shadows*. London: Judy Piatkus, pp. 22-37.
- (57) Clas Svahn, "Ghost Rockets," in Michael Swords and Robert Powell (eds.) (2012). *UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry*. San Antonio: Anomalist Books, pp. 12-29.
- (58) Jeffery A. Lindell, "A Historical and Physiological Perspective of the Foo Fighters of World War Two,"

<http://web.archive.org/web/20090726103921/http://jeff.lindell.home.comcast.net/~jeff.lindell/The%20Sparticani.htm>

(59) Graeme Rendall (2021). *UFOs Before Roswell: European Foo-Fighters 1940-1945*. River Country Books.

(60) David Clarke and Andy Roberts (1990), “On the Trail of the Phantom Flier.” *Phantoms of the Sky*. London: Robert Hale, pp. 53-64.

(61) Nigel Watson, Granville Oldroyd and David Clarke (1988). *The 1912-1913 British Phantom Airship Catalogue*. Washington, D.C.: Fund for UFO Research.

(62) Nigel Watson (ed.) (2000). *The Scareship Mystery: A Survey of Phantom Airship Scares 1909-1918*. Corby: DOMRA.

(63) Mikhail Gershtein. “La vague de 1913 vue de Russie,” *La Gazette Fortéenne*, Vol. 4, 2005, pp. 39-46.

(64) Brett Holman, “The Boer War in airpower history,” <https://airminded.org/2010/04/19/the-boer-war-in-airpower-history/>

(65) Thomas E. Bullard (1982). *The Airship File*. Bloomington.

(66) Robert G. Neely, Jr. (1988). *UFO's of 1896-1897. The Airship Wave*. Washington, D.C.: Fund for UFO Research.

(67) Robert Bartholomew, “The Airship Hysteria of 1896-97,” in Kendrick Frazier, Barry Karr and Joe Nickell (eds.) (1997). *The UFO Invasion*. Amherst: Prometheus Books, pp. 15-28.

(68) David Clarke, “Once Upon A Time in the West,” in Jenny Randles, Andy Roberts and David Clarke (2000). *The UFOs That Never Were*. London: London House, pp. 15-32.

(69) Stefan Roslund, “UFO flap in Tsarist Russia 1892,” *UFO-Aktuellt*, January 1997, <https://rr0.org/time/1/9/9/7/01/UfoFlapInTsaristRussia1892/index.html>

(70) Michel Bougard, “1883: una vague de faits insolites”, *Infospace*, No. 45, May 1979, pp. 28-32.

(71) Georges Lefebvre (1973). *The Great Fear of 1789*. New York: Pantheon Books.

(72) Robert E. Bartholomew and George S. Howard (1998). *UFOs & Alien Contact. Two Centuries of Mysteries*. Amherst: Prometheus Books.

(73) George M. Eberhart, “UFOs and Intelligence: A Timeline,”

https://www.academia.edu/43868466/UFOs_and_Intelligence_A_Timeline_By_George_M_Eberhart

(74) Joseph Trevithick and Tyler Rogoway, “Pilots Are Seeing Some Very Strange Things In Arizona’s Military Training Ranges,” <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/pilots-are-seeing-some-very-strange-things-in-arizonas-military-training-ranges>

(75) Brendan W. McGarry and Valerie Heitshusen, “Defense Primer: Navigating the NDAA” (November 23, 2022): <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10516>

(76) National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024. House of Representatives, H.R. 2670, signed by President Joe Biden on December 22, 2023:

<https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/hr2670/BILLS-118hr2670enr.pdf>

(77) Douglas Dean Johnson, “Quick guide to UAP-related provisions in the final FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act” (December 13, 2023): <https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/quick-guide-to-uap-related-provisions-in-the-final-fy-2024-national-defense-authorization-act/>

(78) Jensine Andresen (2023). *Hyperconvergence: Religion, Politics, and UFOs*. Independently published. (Chapter 7: “The Agenda”).

(79) https://www.democrats.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/uap_amendment.pdf and <https://tinyurl.com/m3xnxx7e>

- (80) <https://www.congress.gov/118/crpt/hrpt301/CRPT-118hrpt301.pdf>
- (81) Douglas Dean Johnson, personal communication to Luis Cayetano, January 14, 2024.
- (82) <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer-rounds-introduce-new-legislation-to-declassify-government-records-related-to-unidentified-anomalous-phenomena-and-ufos-modeled-after-jfk-assassination-records-collection-act--as-an-amendment-to-ndaa>
- (83) <https://www.congress.gov/118/crec/2023/12/14/169/206/CREC-2023-12-14-pt1-PgH6981-5.pdf>
- (84) <https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/hr3932/BILLS-118hr3932rh.pdf>
- (85) Isaac Koi, “McDonnell-Douglas aircraft company UFO research project,” <https://isaackoiup.blogspot.com/2022/09/mcdonnell-douglas-aircraft-company-ufo.html>
- (86) John B. Alexander (2012). *UFOs. Myths, Conspiracies, and Realities*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books.
- (87) Greg Bishop (2005). *Project Beta*. New York: Gallery Books.
- (88) Adam Gorightly (2021). *Saucers, Spooks & Kooks*. Brisbane: Daily Grail Publishing.
- (89) <https://documents2.theblackvault.com/documents/army/CORG-SP-213.pdf>
- (90) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lambros_D._Callimahos
- (91) <https://youtu.be/mHUGTLfiEpI?t=1004>
- (92) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “Desclasificación OVNI: El último expediente,” https://www.academia.edu/12561888/DESCLASIFICACION_OVNI_EL_ULTIMO_EXPEDIENTE
- (93) V.J. Ballester Olmos, “¿Qué ocurrió en Kandi? (Reentrada espacial sobre África),” https://www.academia.edu/41096531/Que_ocurrio_en_Kandi
- (94) <https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/161543/>
<https://www.dia.mil/FOIA/FOIA-Electronic-Reading-Room/FileId/161544/>
- (95) Luis Cayetano, “On David Grusch's "whistleblowing" and other apparent (but not quite) nothing burgers,” July 20, 2023, <https://www.ufologyiscorrupt.com/post/on-david-grusch-s-whistleblowing-and-other-apparent-but-not-quite-nothing-burgers>
- (96) Eric Wojciechowski, “Becoming Fantastic: Why Some People Embellish Their Already Accomplished Lives with Incredible Tales,” *Skeptical Inquirer*, Vol. 41, No. 6, November-December 2017, <https://skepticalinquirer.org/2017/11/becoming-fantastic/>
- (97) Lara Seligman, “Pentagon UFO boss to step down next month,” *Politico*, November 7, 2023, <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/11/07/pentagon-ufo-boss-00125883>
- (98) Steven Greenstreet, “Pentagon UFO Hunter Reveals What He Knows About Aliens,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4lWb1XBvVo>
- (99) Sean Kirkpatrick, “Here’s What I Learned as the U.S. Government’s UFO Hunter,” *Scientific American*, January 19, 2024, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/heres-what-i-learned-as-the-u-s-governments-ufo-hunter/>
- (100) Christopher Mellon, “The Pentagon New UAP Report is Seriously Flawed,” <https://thedebrief.org/the-pentagons-new-uap-report-is-seriously-flawed/>
- (101) John Greenwald, “What is NOT in the Historical UAP Report?,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfoFn07UvYk>
- (102) John Greenwald, “Space Force Says Documents on “Fastwalkers” and “Slowwalkers” All Exempt from Disclosure,” https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/space-force-says-documents-on-fastwalkers-and-slowwalkers-all-exempt-from-disclosure/#google_vignette
- (103) Exemption 1 to FOIA, https://www.justice.gov/archive/oip/foia_guide09/exemption1.pdf

- (104) Art Levine, "Pentagon Strikes Back Against Claims of Alien Invaders," *The Washington Spectator*, May 29, 2024, <https://washingtonspectator.org/pentagon-strikes-back-against-claims-of-alien-invaders/>
- (105) John Greenewald, "FOIA Documents Reveal AARO's Authorized and Repeated Attempts to Engage with David Grusch," April 18, 2024, https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/foia-documents-reveal-aaros-authorized-and-repeated-attempts-to-engage-with-david-grusch/#google_vignette
- (106) Brian Dunning, May 13, 2024, "New UFO whistleblower Jason Sands, explained," <https://briandunning.substack.com/p/new-ufo-whistleblower-jason-sands>
- (107) Jacques Vallée and Janine Vallée (1966). *Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma*. Chicago: Henry Regnery Co.
- (108) J. Allen Hynek (1972). *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*. Chicago: Henry Regnery Co.
- (109) Carl Sagan and Thornton Page (eds.) (1972). *UFO's-A Scientific Debate*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- (110) Jacques Vallée and Paola Harris (2021). *Trinity: The Best Kept Secret*. San Francisco: Documatica LLC.
- (111) Douglas Dean Johnson, <https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/crash-story-file-my-dad-is-a-pathological-liar/>
- (112) José Juan Montejó and Carles Berché, "Terremoto en Ummo: Los hilos del montaje, *Cuadernos de Ufología*, 16-17 (2nd epoch), 1994, pp. 30-78, <http://tinyurl.com/5n8td3tu>
- (113) José Juan Montejó, "Nuevos descubrimientos sobre el origen de UMMO. Caso Aluche: Documentos inéditos," *El Ojo Crítico*, 91-92, September 2020, pp. 86.
- (114) Claude Poher, "Remarks on Aluche, San José de Valderas and the 'Ummo' Affair – A Monstruous Hoax!," *Center for UFO Studies Bulletin*, Spring 1977, pp. 1-13, https://cufos.org/PDFs/CUFOS_Bulletin/Bulletin015.pdf
- (115) Luis R. González, "Ummo: El derrumbe de un mito," *Cuadernos de Ufología*, 16-17 (2nd epoch), 1994, pp. 79-92, <http://tinyurl.com/5n8td3tu>
- (116) Luis R. González, "The Planet of the Anonymous Correspondents (27 Years of Close Encounters of the Postal Kind)," *Magonia*, 47, October 1993, pp. 9-14, <http://tinyurl.com/3xd85db7>
- (117) Steven Greenstreet, "Spooky Hustlers: How wacky UFO activists and "crazy" ghost hunters duped Congress into hunting UFOs," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6Wud0LzFQY&t=2177s>
- (118) J. Allen Hynek (1977). *The Hynek UFO Report*. New York: Dell Publishing Co., p 18.
- (119) V.J. Ballester Olmos, "The Soucoupe Volante Problem: A Radical-Pragmatical Approach," CAIPAN 2 Workshop, GEIPAN (Toulouse), <https://www.cnes-geipan.fr/fr/node/59754>
- (120) Douglas Dean Johnson, "What's next for AARO?," June 7, 2024, <https://douglasjohnson.ghost.io/what-next-for-aaro/>
- (121) Steven Greenstreet, February 7, 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RUoYqBewC8>
- (122) Public Law 117–263—December 23, 2022 (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023): Section 1673, "Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Reporting Procedures," PDF pp. 565-568, <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ263/PLAW-117publ263.pdf>
- (123) Ibid.: Section 6802, "Modification of Requirement for Office to Address Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena," PDF pp. 1192-1199,

<https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ263/PLAW-117publ263.pdf>

(124) GEIPAN, “Forte baisse des CAS D sur les 10 dernières années,” <https://www.cnes-geipan.fr/fr/actualites/baisse-cas-d>

APPENDIX - CAST OF CHARACTERS⁴⁰
(Approximate dates)

Name	SRI (1972-1991)	ATP (1985-1990)	NIDS (Bigelow) (1996-2004)	BAASS (Bigelow) (2008-2014)	AAWSAP/AATIP (DIA) (2008-2012)	AATIP II (Pentagon) (2012-2017)	TTSA (DeLonge) (2017-)	UAP portfolio (Pentagon) (2017)	UAPTF (U.S. Navy) (2018-2020)	UAPTF (U.S. DoD) (2020-2021)	AOIMSG (U.S. DoD) (2021-2022)	AARO (U.S. DoD) (2022-)	UAPIOC (AIAA) (2023-)
J. Alexander		X	X										
H. Puthoff	X	X	X	X			X						
J. Vallée*	X	X	X	X									
C. Kelleher			X	X			X						
E.W. Davis*			X	X	X				X				
G. Onet			X										
D. Kurth*				X									
J. Lacatski*					X								
T. Taylor									X	X			
L.D. Elizondo					X	X	X						
J. Stratton (aka J. Axelrod)*					X	X			X	X			X
D. Grusch◊									X	X	X		
B. McKernan										X			
M. Cummings											X		
S.M. Kirkpatrick											X	X	
R. Graves*◊													X
N.T. Tipton								X					
T.A. Phillips												X	
C. “Kit” Green	X	X	X	X	X								

(*) Involved in UFO sighting/paranormal experience

(◊) “Whistleblower” in Congressional hearing, July 26, 2023

⁴⁰ For a most revealing article on several of the names appearing in this Cast of Characters, read investigative reporter Art Levine’s articles in *The Washington Spectator*, “Spaceship of Fools” and “UFO Tales and Witness Credibility Falling Apart After Congressional Hearings” published on July 20, 2023 and September 8, 2023, respectively: <https://washingtonspectator.org/spaceship-of-fools/> and <https://washingtonspectator.org/ufo-foals-falling-apart-after-hearings/>