



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

Ref: 21-F-1458
August 27, 2021

John Greenewald, Jr.
The Black Vault
27305 W. Live Oak Rd.
Suite #1203
Castaic, California 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is the final response to your August 26, 2021 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on August 27, 2021, and assigned it FOIA case number 21-F-1458. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Public Affairs Office (PA), a component of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, conducted a search of their records systems and located 26 pages determined to be responsive to your request. Ms. Tanya R. Rose, IM Director, in her capacity as an Initial Denial Authority (IDA) has determined that portions of the # responsive pages are exempt from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5), which pertains to inter- and intra-agency information of a pre-decisional, deliberative nature which, if released, could reasonably be expected to interfere with the government's deliberative process; 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), as disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of individuals.

In this instance, fees for processing your request were below the threshold for requiring payment. Please note that fees may be assessed on future request.

If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Gary Bonds, at 571-372-0461 or gary.c.bonds2.civ@mail.mil. Additionally, if you have concerns about service received by our office, please -contact a member of our Leadership Team at 571-372-0498 or Toll Free at 866-574-4970.

Should you wish to inquire about mediation services, you may contact the OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Tonya R. Fuentes, at 571-372-0462 or by email at OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil, or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to the following address: 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox# 24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. Alternatively, you may email your appeal to osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil. If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference FOIA case number 21-F-1458 in any appeal correspondence.

We appreciate your patience in the processing of your request. As stated previously, please contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Gary Bonds, and reference FOIA case number 21-F-1458 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Fisher
Stephanie L. Carr
For Chief

Enclosures:
As stated

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

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BRIEFING CARD

September 19, 2019

Navy Confirmation of “UFO” videos

With the wide proliferation and availability of inexpensive unmanned aerial systems, sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena have increased in frequency from 2014 until now. In this increasingly complex airspace including both military and civilian aviation environments, DOD is proactive in exercising due diligence in investigating any observations in military air space and training areas that could affect the safety of our aircrews and the security of our operations.

*Media Interest: A History Channel program over the summer on government investigations into “UFOs” highlighted several videos from Navy aircraft of **unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs)**. The program generated significant interest in limited-reach outlets that focus on “UFO” theories and conspiracies. These same videos had been published by NYT in December 2017, via an unauthorized release. Heretofore, neither DOD nor Navy had confirmed whether the videos were actual Navy videos. Navy (coordinated with our office) has now confirmed that those are Navy videos showing UAPs. National and technical news outlets (e.g., Aerospace America Magazine) have now picked up the confirmation.*

Top Messages

- Safety of our aircrews is paramount.
- Any incursions into military air space and training ranges are safety and security concerns.
- We take reports of incursions seriously and investigate each report.

SECDEF Quotes

[No SECDEF or DOD leadership quotes on this subject]

BACKGROUND & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REDLINES (not releasable under FOIA Exemption b(5))

- (b)(5)

Questions & Answers

Q1: Do the videos show UFOs?

- The three videos (one from 2004 and two from 2015) show incursions into our military training ranges by unidentified aerial phenomena. These videos are copies of official Navy footage taken by naval personnel conducting training missions in controlled military airspace.
- The Navy has characterized the observed phenomena as unidentified.
- Of note, neither the Department of the Navy nor the Department of Defense has officially released these videos to the general public.

Q2: What is the definition of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena used by the Navy and the U.S. Defense Department?

- Any aerial phenomena that cannot immediately be identified. (borrowed from U.K.)
- When an unmanned aerial system (UAS) is NOT immediately identifiable, we refer to it as UAP.
- We use the generic term UAP in communications to avoid pre-judging the results of any investigation.

Q3: Why did the Navy issue new guidance on UAPs?

- In order to fully understand incursions, more data is needed, and that takes frequent, consistent reporting with as much information as possible for our experts to analyze. The Navy is confident that through its revised reporting guidelines, as well as its willingness to more openly discuss limited details of the reported sightings, more aviators will be willing to discuss their experiences with Navy investigators.
- The Navy has updated and is formalizing the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions can be made to the cognizant authorities. Navy has provided initial revised reporting guidance to the fleet that details the steps for reporting each incident. More formal guidance is in staffing and will be promulgated fleet-wide when completed.

Q4. What happens with the investigation of the aviator reports? Can we see them?

- The information obtained from each individual report of any suspected training range incursion will be investigated in its own right. The information obtained in these reports will be catalogued and analyzed for the purpose of identifying any hazard to military aviators. Any report generated as a result of these investigations will, by necessity, include classified information on military operations. Therefore, no release of information to the general public is expected.

Q5. Does the Navy know how the videos were put into "circulation"? Were they leaked by Navy personnel?

- [Navy Answer] With respect to the 2004 sighting by aircraft from the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68); that video was widely shared throughout the ship at that time. In 2007, one of those crewmembers posted the video onto the public web. In 2009, the online post of the video came to the attention of Navy officials who, in consultation with Navy law

enforcement personnel, decided not to pursue the matter. Given the time since recording (approximately 5 years), the widespread distribution of the recording within the ship at the time of recording, and the size of the crew at the time (approximately 5,000), it was determined that there was no way to accurately determine who might have released the video.

- With respect to the other two videos, Navy has no information on how they were released into general circulation.
- **[OSD Answer]** With regards to the two 2015 videos that appeared in the New York Times in December 2017: at that time, AFOSI conducted an investigation, focusing on the classification of the information in the video. The investigation determined that the videos were not classified. That in itself (being unclassified) does not automatically approve material for public release.
- An OSD internal review, not a formal investigation, determined that while a request had been submitted in August 2017 to the Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review (DOPSR) for release of the videos to government and industry partners for research purposes, DOPSR did not grant final approval for the videos to be released to the general public.
- Neither the Department of the Navy nor the Department of Defense has officially released these videos to the general public.

Coordinated with: N2N6, DOPSR

Prepared by: (b)(6)

BRIEFING CARD

April 30, 2020

UAP Videos

Media Interest: *National, international and special interest media have been particularly interested in three Navy videos of encounters with unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) which have been circulating in the public since December 2017 after an unauthorized release. DoD officially released the videos on April 27, 2020.*

Top Line Messages

- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety and security is our primary concern.
- We released these videos to clear up misconceptions about them.
- We released now because a lengthy review process finally completed.
- We wanted to be fully transparent about the release of the videos.
- What we posted were the complete video files for all three.
- The videos were not released earlier because they had not been cleared for general public release.
- The aerial phenomena in the videos remain characterized as “unidentified.”
- As the investigation into UAP reports involves intelligence methods, we will not be providing any further information on these videos.

Supporting Facts (releasable)

- There has been an increase in incursions by UAPs and unauthorized aircraft into training ranges and other designated military air space in recent years.
- The November 2004 video (aka “FLIR”) was taken from aircraft from USS Nimitz when off the west coast. The two Jan 2015 videos (aka “GOFAST” and “GIMBAL”) were taken from aircraft from USS Theodore Roosevelt when off the east coast.
- There have been numerous FOIA requests for these videos; only now have they been deemed releasable.
- The review included a determination that releasing the videos would not impinge on any subsequent investigations of military air space incursions by UAPs.

REDLINES

(b)(5)



Background / Additional Information

Full Statement on Release of Videos on April 27

The Department of Defense has authorized the release of three unclassified Navy videos, one taken in November 2004 and the other two in January 2015, which have been circulating in the public domain after unauthorized releases in 2007 and 2017. The U.S. Navy previously acknowledged that these videos circulating in the public domain were indeed Navy videos. After a thorough review, the department has determined that the authorized release of these unclassified videos does not reveal any sensitive capabilities or systems, and does not impinge on any subsequent investigations of military air space incursions by unidentified aerial phenomena. DOD is releasing the videos in order to clear up any misconceptions by the public on whether or not the footage that has been circulating was real, or whether or not there is more to the videos. The aerial phenomena observed in the videos remain characterized as "unidentified." The released videos can be found at the Naval Air Systems Command FOIA Reading Room:
<https://www.navair.navy.mil/foia/documents>.

Brief History Summary

The 2004 Nimitz video has been circulating in the public since @ 2007, when someone aboard ship shared the video without authorization. The two 2015 videos, and the 2004 video again, came to widespread attention when NYT and Politico published them in December 2017. At the time, the videos had been cleared for release solely to industry partners for the development of research databases, and had NOT been cleared for general public release. The NYT and Politico stories also included interviews with former Pentagon employees (Luis Elizondo and Chris Mellon) who revealed the existence of a little-known, sensitive intelligence program run by DIA called the Advance Aerospace Threat Identification Program, or AATIP. The press billed that program the Pentagon's "UFO Program." It was not. National and international media interest in AATIP and the videos was keen for a period after the NYT/Politico stories broke, and the special interest media interest in AATIP and the videos has been unceasing.

Themes and Messages

THEME: Safety and Security

- Safety of our aircrews is paramount.
- Unauthorized and unidentified aircraft pose a risk to flight safety.
- Security of our operations is vital.
- Our aviators train as they fight. Any intrusions that may compromise the security of our operations, tactics, or procedures is of great concern.

THEME: Term “UAP”

- We borrowed the term from the United Kingdom.
- Definition: any aerial phenomena that cannot *immediately* be identified.
- We use the generic UAP term in communications so as not to pre-judge the results of any investigation (and so aviators aren't hesitant to report unidentified intrusions).

THEME: UAP Investigations

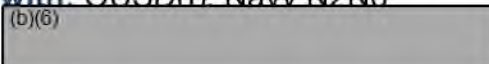
- As the investigation of UAP sightings is ongoing, we will not discuss individual sighting reports / observations.
- The information obtained from each individual report of any suspected training range incursion is investigated in its own right.
- The information obtained in these reports is catalogued and analyzed to identify any hazard to our aviators.
- Investigations could involve multiple DoD and Intelligence Community organizations.
- Any report generated as a result of these investigations will, by necessity, include classified information on military operations. Therefore, no release of information to the general public is expected.

THEME: Classification of Any One of the Three Videos

- Imagery from military aircraft are routinely treated as classified until they are reviewed and a determination has been made.
- Investigation into unidentified incursions into military airspace involves various intelligence methods and agencies; these videos were part of classified investigations.
- The videos themselves were eventually deemed unclassified.
- We do not publicly release information that is part of ongoing investigations.
- One copy of the FLIR video had been erroneously marked classified during the intelligence investigation process.
- One of the reasons we released these videos is to clear up the misconception that there are classified versions of the videos.

Coordinated with: OUSD(I), Navy N2N6

Prepared by:



BRIEFING CARD

August 6, 2020

UAP Task Force & Report

Media Interest: *National and special interest media have been interested in a Senate committee report to the draft Intelligence Authorization Act for FY21 that directs DNI, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to the congressional Intelligence and Armed Services Committees on unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP); the committee report mentions a UAP Task Force under the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI). NYT ran an article in late July on a forthcoming "Pentagon report on UFOs" that many other outlets subsequently reported (all without ever asking for DoD comment); the article included an alleged briefing slide that mentioned alleged "off-world" vehicles or material that the Pentagon allegedly had found.*

Top Line Messages

- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety and security is our primary concern.
- DoD is in the process of creating a formal task force to gain knowledge and insight into the nature and origins of UAPs.
- The mission of the task force will be to “detect, analyze, catalog, consolidate, and exploit non-traditional aerospace vehicles/UAPs posing an operational threat to U.S. national security and avoid strategic surprise.”
- As the Navy has seen the most UAP incursions, they have been leading the effort to investigate and coordinate across the Services and intelligence agencies while the task force is being established.
- [ONLY IF PRESSED]: Navy will lead the task force, under OUSD(I&S) cognizance.
- To protect our people, maintain OPSEC, and protect intelligence methods, we do not publicly discuss the details of either UAP observations or the investigations.
- We don't comment on pending legislation.

[On the slide NYT published:]

- That slide was not used by DoD in any briefing on this subject and does not represent the department's position.
- “Off-world” is not an official term or designation in DoD.

Background Note: The memo officially establishing the UAP TF has not yet gone up to DEPSECDEF for approval.

Coordinated with:

Prepared by: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

BRIEFING CARD

August 18, 2020

UAP Task Force

Media Interest: *On Aug. 14, we announced that DSD had approved the establishment of an Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) Task Force (UAPTF) on Aug. 4, 2020. Previously, national and special interest media had been interested in a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report to the draft Intelligence Authorization Act for FY21 that directs DNI, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to the congressional Intelligence and Armed Services Committees on UAPs. Additionally, NYT ran an article in late July on a forthcoming "Pentagon report on UFOs" that many other outlets subsequently reported (all without ever asking for DoD comment); the article included an alleged briefing slide that mentioned alleged "off-world" vehicles or material that the Pentagon allegedly had found.*

Top Line Messages

- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety (of our personnel) and security (of our operations) are of paramount concern.
- DOD has established a UAP task force to gain knowledge and insight into the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace.
- The mission of the task force will be to detect, analyze, and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to U.S national security.
- Navy will lead the task force, under OUSD(I&S) cognizance.
- To protect our people, maintain OPSEC, and protect intelligence methods, we do not publicly discuss the details of either UAP observations or the investigations.
- DNI is the lead on the UAP report mentioned in the SSCI report to the draft authorization act.

[On the slide NYT published:]

- That slide was not used by DOD in any briefing on this subject and does not represent the department's position.
- "Off-world" is not an official term or designation in DOD.

RTQ Q&As

Q1: What can you tell us about any of the recent sightings? How many have there been?

A1: Thorough examinations of any incursion into our training ranges or designated airspace often involves assessments from across the department, and, as appropriate, consultation with other U.S. government departments and agencies. To maintain operations security and to avoid disclosing information that may be useful to our adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP.

Q2: Is there someone we can speak to/interview/will there be a press briefing on the UAPTF?

A2: No. To maintain operations security, which includes not disseminating information publicly that may be useful to our adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP.

Q3: There's been recent reporting that the UAPTF has existed for some time, but you're saying the Deputy Secretary just approved it last week. Can you comment on that?

A3: Since the majority of recent reporting about UAP observations have come from naval aviators, since approximately 2018, the Department of the Navy has been leading assessments of UAP incursion into DOD training ranges and designated airspace. Over the last year, DOD undertook efforts to formalize the good work done by the Navy for DOD. Deputy Secretary Norquist approved the establishment of the UAPTF on Aug. 4, 2020.

Q4: Has the Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force (UAPTF) confirmed the existence of non-terrestrial craft?

A4: The examination of UAP observations at DOD training ranges and designated airspace is ongoing.

Q5: Has the UAPTF identified advanced terrestrial craft under foreign control operating over US airspace?

A5: The examination of UAP observations at DOD training ranges and designated airspace is ongoing. DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP.

Q6: With what other organizations, divisions, units, or commands have the UAPTF cooperated in regards to research, information collection, and analysis?

A6: Since the majority of recent reporting of UAP observations have come from naval aviators, since approximately 2018, the Department of the Navy has been leading assessments of UAP incursions into DOD training ranges and designated airspace while this task force was being formally established.

Q7: Did Luis Elizondo work with or for any part of the UAPTF? If so under what capacity?

A7: No. Deputy Secretary of Defense Norquist approved the establishment of the UAPTF on Aug. 4, 2020.

Q8: How long has the UAPTF existed?

A8: Deputy Secretary of Defense Norquist approved the establishment of the UAPTF on Aug. 4, 2020.

Q9: Are we aware of similar programs being run by other foreign powers?

A9: We routinely discuss a variety of military matters with our allies and foreign partners. DOD does not comment on activities that other nations may or may not have.

Q10: What is the purpose/mission of the UAPTF?

A10: The department established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAPs. The mission of the task force is to detect, analyze and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to U.S. national security.

Q11: Is the UAPTF a continuation of the old AATIP program/what is the relationship between AATIP and the UAPTF?

A11: No. The Advanced Aerial Threat Identification Program (AATIP), which was in the Defense Intelligence Agency, ended in 2012. Since the majority of recent reporting of UAP observations have come from naval aviators, since approximately 2018, the Department of the Navy has been leading assessments of UAP incursion into DOD training ranges and designated airspace. Over the last year, DOD undertook efforts to formalize the good work done by the Navy for DOD.

Q12: Why now? Why did the department establish the task force/why did you announce it now?

A12: The task force was established to meet congressional guidance, including the report directed by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Over the last year, DOD undertook efforts to formalize the good work done by the Navy for DOD in leading assessments of UAP incursion into DOD training ranges and designated airspace. Deputy Secretary Norquist approved the establishment of the UAPTF on Aug. 4, 2020.

Q13: When will the report [directed by the SSCI] be out? Can you give us any idea of what will be in it?

A13: I refer you to the Director of National Intelligence; the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence directed DNI to prepare the report, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

Coordinated with: Navy, OUSD(I&S), OGC

Prepared by: (b)(6)

BRIEFING CARD

August 19, 2020

UAP Task Force

Media Interest: *On Aug. 14, we announced that DSD had approved the establishment of an Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) Task Force (UAPTF) on Aug. 4, 2020. Previously, national and special interest media had been interested in a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report to the draft Intelligence Authorization Act for FY21 that directs DNI, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to the congressional Intelligence and Armed Services Committees on UAPs. Additionally, NYT ran an article in late July on a forthcoming "Pentagon report on UFOs" that many other outlets subsequently reported (all without ever asking for DoD comment); the article included an alleged briefing slide that mentioned alleged "off-world" vehicles or material that the Pentagon allegedly had found.*

Top Line Messages

- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety (of our personnel) and security (of our operations) are of paramount concern.
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- The mission of the task force will be to detect, analyze, and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to U.S national security.
- Navy will lead the task force, under OUSD(I&S) cognizance.
- To protect our people, maintain OPSEC, and protect intelligence methods, we do not publicly discuss the details of either UAP observations or the investigations.
- DNI is the lead on the UAP report mentioned in the SSCI report to the draft authorization act.

[On the slide NYT published:]

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Q2: Is there someone we can speak to/interview/will there be a press briefing on the UAPTF?

A2: No. To maintain operations security, which includes not disseminating information publicly that may be useful to our adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP.

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A3: Since the majority of recent reporting about UAP observations have come from naval aviators, since approximately 2018, the Department of the Navy has been leading assessments of UAP incursion into DOD training ranges and designated airspace. Over the last year, DOD undertook efforts to formalize the good work done by the Navy for DOD. Deputy Secretary Norquist approved the establishment of the UAPTF on Aug. 4, 2020.

Q4: Has the Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force (UAPTF) confirmed the existence of non-terrestrial craft?

A4: The examination of UAP observations at DOD training ranges and designated airspace is ongoing. DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP.

Q5: Has the UAPTF identified advanced terrestrial craft under foreign control operating over US airspace?

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Q8: How long has the UAPTF existed?

A8: Deputy Secretary of Defense Norquist approved the establishment of the UAPTF on Aug. 4, 2020.

Q9: Are we aware of similar programs being run by other foreign powers?

A9: We routinely discuss a variety of military matters with our allies and foreign partners. DOD does not comment on activities that other nations may or may not have.

Q10: What is the purpose/mission of the UAPTF?

A10: The department established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace. The mission of the task force is to detect, analyze and catalog UAP incursions that could potentially pose a threat to U.S. national security.

Q11: Is the UAPTF a continuation of the old AATIP program/what is the relationship between AATIP and the UAPTF?

A11: No. The Advanced Aerial Threat Identification Program (AATIP), which was in the Defense Intelligence Agency, ended in 2012. Since the majority of recent reporting of UAP observations have come from naval aviators, since approximately 2018, the Department of the Navy has been leading assessments of UAP incursion into DOD training ranges and designated airspace. Over the last year, DOD undertook efforts to formalize the good work done by the Navy for DOD.

Q12: Why now? Why did the department establish the task force/why did you announce it now?

A12: The task force was established to meet congressional guidance, including the report directed by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Over the last year, DOD undertook efforts to formalize the good work done by the Navy for DOD in leading assessments of UAP incursion into DOD training ranges and designated airspace. Deputy Secretary Norquist approved the establishment of the UAPTF on Aug. 4, 2020.

Q13: When will the report [directed by the SSCI] be out? Can you give us any idea of what will be in it?

A13: I refer you to the Director of National Intelligence; the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence directed DNI to prepare the report, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

Q14: Will the UAPTF provide new reporting rules that would be adopted by the USAF, Army and Navy, in particular for their pilots?

A14: As previously reported, the Navy revised their reporting guidelines and procedures in 2019. Navy has shared those procedures with the other military services to encourage standardization of input/responses.

Q15: How many staff do you expect to be directly working for the UAPTF when it is fully operational and what will its annual budget be?

A15: The UAPTF, under the leadership of the Navy, is a coordinating body working across DOD to better understand these incursions into our training areas or designated airspace. [*If pressed about budget: Coordinating bodies don't have their own budget lines.*]

Q16: Which part of the Navy will be responsible for the UAPTF?

A16: The UAPTF falls under the cognizance of the office of the Director of Naval Intelligence.

Q17: Which part of the other Armed Services will lead their participation in the UAPTF?

A17: To maintain operations security, which includes not disseminating information publicly that may be useful to our adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examinations of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace – that includes any details of the UAPTF.

Q18: Is the UAPTF a continuation of AATIP? Were there any programs/task forces/committees that were involved with investigating UAP, UFO, or other aerial phenomena after AATIP ended?

A18: Prior to the establishment of the UAPTF, and the Navy efforts that immediately preceded it, examinations of incursions by UAPs were handled individually by the military departments. While the military departments consulted with one another, there was not an official department-wide program that looked at UAP incursions until now.

Q19: What was the Advance Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP)?

A19: The purpose of the 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. 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. AATIP ended in 2012.

Coordinated with: Navv, OUSD(I&S), OGC

Prepared by:

(b)(6)

UAP Report to Congress Jan. 25, 2021

Executive Summary

Public and news media interest in unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) remains high. DoD formally established a UAP Task Force (UAPTF), per the FY19 NDAA, on Aug. 4, 2020. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report attached to the FY21 Intelligence Authorization Act (signed into statute as part of the omnibus spending bill signed on Dec. 27, 2020) directed the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to Congress on UAPs within 180 days of enactment. The SSCI report specifically mentions the UAPTF.

Top Line Messages / Talking Points

- We are aware of the report requirement, and are working with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. I refer you to ODNI for anything else regarding the report.
- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety (of our personnel) and security (of our operations) are of paramount concern.
- DOD has established a UAP task force to gain knowledge and insight into the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace.
- The mission of the task force is to detect, analyze, and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to U.S national security.
- The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security has oversight of the UAPTF.
- To maintain operations security and to avoid disclosing information that may be useful to potential adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP – that also includes any details of the UAPTF and its activities.

UAP Report to Congress Feb. 8, 2021

Executive Summary

Public and news media interest in unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) remains high. DoD formally established a UAP Task Force (UAPTF), per the FY19 NDAA, on Aug. 4, 2020. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report attached to the FY21 Intelligence Authorization Act (signed into statute as part of the omnibus spending bill signed on Dec. 27, 2020) directed the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to Congress on UAPs within 180 days of enactment. The SSCI report specifically mentions the UAPTF.

Top Line Messages / Talking Points

- We are aware of the report requirement, and the UAPTF team is actively working with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on the report. I refer you to ODNI for anything else regarding the report.
- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety (of our personnel) and security (of our operations) are of paramount concern.
- DOD has established a UAP task force to gain knowledge and insight into the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace.
- The mission of the task force is to detect, analyze, and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to U.S national security.
- Navy leads the UAPTF. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security has oversight of the UAPTF.
- To maintain operations security and to avoid disclosing information that may be useful to potential adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP – that also includes any details of the UAPTF and its activities.

Questions and Answers

Q. Has the Department found any evidence of extraterrestrial technology?

A. The examinations into incursions by UAPs are still ongoing; the Department does not comment on intelligence matters.

Coordinated with: OUSD(I&S), Navy

Prepared by: (b)(6)

Q. Why did you establish the UAPTF?

A. The Department of Defense established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace.

As we collect additional data, we expect to close the gap between identified and unidentified and avoid strategic surprise regarding adversary technology.

Q. Why did the Navy change its reporting guidelines on UAPs?

A. Sometimes, there are phenomenon for which we don't have sufficient data. We wanted to set an environment where our force feels comfortable reporting all observations so we can collect data, make informed determinations, and address our findings.

Q. Can you tell us anything about what the UAPTF has found so far?

A. We do not comment on intelligence matters.

Q. Why can't you tell us anything about UAPs or what the UAPTF is doing?

A. DoD does not provide information about operational or intelligence activities that would identify possible U.S. vulnerabilities.

Q. What budget does the UAPTF have?

A: As the lead agency, the U.S Navy identifies and uses appropriated defense funding to meet UAPTF requirements.

UAP Report to Congress March 23, 2021

Executive Summary

Public and news media interest in unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) remains high. DoD formally established a UAP Task Force (UAPTF), per the FY19 NDAA, on Aug. 4, 2020. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report attached to the FY21 Intelligence Authorization Act (signed into statute as part of the omnibus spending bill signed on Dec. 27, 2020) directed the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to Congress on UAPs within 180 days of enactment. The SSCI report specifically mentions the UAPTF. Recently (@March 20-21), John Ratcliffe, former DNI, spoke with Fox News about the report, generating multiple queries asking for DoD comment on his claims in the interview.

Top Line Messages / Talking Points

- We are aware of the report requirement, and the UAPTF team is actively working with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on the report. I refer you to ODNI for anything else regarding the report.
- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety (of our personnel) and security (of our operations) are of paramount concern.
- To protect our people, maintain operational security and safeguard intelligence methods, we do not publicly discuss the details of the UAP observations, the task force or investigations.

Questions and Answers

Q. Has the Department found any evidence of extraterrestrial technology?

A. The examinations into incursions by UAPs are still ongoing; the Department does not comment on intelligence matters.

Q: Do you have any comment on the remarks made by John Ratcliffe to Fox News about the forthcoming UAP report?

A. As he was the former DNI, and ODNI has the lead on the UAP report, I refer you to ODNI.

Q. Why did you establish the UAPTF?

A. The Department of Defense established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace. The Task Force is focused on a data-driven approach to identify the source of the incursions. We need data (from increased reporting by aviators, technical means, etc.) to analyze

in order to understand and draw the appropriate conclusions and to make the appropriate recommendations to leadership. As we collect additional data, we expect to close the gap between identified and unidentified and avoid strategic surprise regarding adversary technology.

Coordinated with: OUSD(I&S), Navy

Prepared by: (b)(6)

UAP Report to Congress May 17, 2021

Executive Summary

Public and news media interest in unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) remains high. DoD formally established a UAP Task Force (UAPTF), per the FY19 NDAA, on Aug. 4, 2020. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report attached to the FY21 Intelligence Authorization Act (signed into statute as part of the omnibus spending bill signed on Dec. 27, 2020) directed the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to Congress on UAPs within 180 days of enactment. The SSCI report specifically mentions the UAPTF. Recently (@March 20-21), John Ratcliffe, former DNI, spoke with Fox News about the report, generating multiple queries asking for DoD comment on his claims in the interview. CBS "60 Minutes" aired a segment on May 16 on DoD's efforts to examine UAPs.

Top Line Messages / Talking Points

- We are aware of the report requirement, and the UAPTF team is actively working with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on the report. I refer you to ODNI for anything else regarding the report.
- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety (of our personnel) and security (of our operations) are of paramount concern.
- To protect our people, maintain operational security and safeguard intelligence methods, we do not publicly discuss the details of the UAP observations, the task force or examinations.

Questions and Answers

Q. Has the Department found any evidence of extraterrestrial technology?

A. The examinations into incursions by UAPs are still ongoing; the Department does not comment on intelligence matters.

Q: Do you have any comment on the remarks made by John Ratcliffe to Fox News about the forthcoming UAP report?

A. As he was the former DNI, and ODNI has the lead on the UAP report, I refer you to ODNI.

Q. Why did you establish the UAPTF?

A. The Department of Defense established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace. The Task Force is focused on a data-driven approach to identify the source of the incursions. We need data (from increased reporting by aviators, technical means, etc.) to analyze

Coordinated with: OUSD(I&S), Navy

Prepared by: (b)(6)

in order to understand and draw the appropriate conclusions and to make the appropriate recommendations to leadership. As we collect additional data, we expect to close the gap between identified and unidentified and avoid strategic surprise regarding adversary technology.

Q. Why did the Navy change its reporting guidelines on UAPs?

A. We are using a data-driven approach. Sometimes, there are phenomenon for which we don't have sufficient data. We wanted to establish an environment where our force feels comfortable reporting all observations so we can collect data, make informed determinations, and address our findings.

Q. Can you tell us anything about what the UAPTF has found so far?

A. We do not comment on intelligence matters.

Q. Why can't you tell us anything about UAPs or what the UAPTF is doing?

A. DoD does not provide information about operational or intelligence activities that would identify possible U.S. vulnerabilities.

Q. What budget does the UAPTF have?

A: As the lead agency, the U.S Navy identifies and uses appropriated defense funding to meet UAPTF requirements.

UAP Report to Congress June 4, 2021

Executive Summary

Public and news media interest in unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) remains high. DoD formally established a UAP Task Force (UAPTF), per the FY19 NDAA, on Aug. 4, 2020. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report attached to the FY21 Intelligence Authorization Act (signed into statute as part of the omnibus spending bill signed on Dec. 27, 2020) directed the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to Congress on UAPs within 180 days of enactment. The SSCI report specifically mentions the UAPTF. Recently (@March 20-21), John Ratcliffe, former DNI, spoke with Fox News about the report, generating multiple queries asking for DoD comment on his claims in the interview. CBS "60 Minutes" aired a segment on May 16 on DoD's efforts to examine UAPs. NYT ran a story on June 3 citing unnamed sources as saying the upcoming UAP report to Congress would say there's no evidence that any of the sightings are alien spacecraft.

Top Line Messages / Talking Points

- We are aware of the report requirement, and the UAPTF team is actively working with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on the report. I refer you to ODNI for anything else regarding the report.
- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety (of our personnel) and security (of our operations) are of paramount concern.
- To protect our people, maintain operational security and safeguard intelligence methods, we do not publicly discuss the details of the UAP observations, the task force or examinations.

Questions and Answers

Q. Has the Department found any evidence of extraterrestrial technology?

A. The examinations into incursions by UAPs are still ongoing; the Department does not comment on intelligence matters.

Q. Do you have any comment on the New York Times article that says the upcoming UAP report to Congress will say that there is no evidence that any of the sightings were alien spacecraft?

A. We've seen the reporting. We don't have any comment. The UAPTF team is actively working with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on the report, and DNI will provide the findings to Congress.

Q: Do you have any comment on the remarks made by John Ratcliffe to Fox News about the forthcoming UAP report?

A. As he was the former DNI, and ODNI has the lead on the UAP report, I refer you to ODNI.

Q. Why did you establish the UAPTF?

A. The Department of Defense established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace. The Task Force is focused on a data-driven approach to identify the source of the incursions. We need data (from increased reporting by aviators, technical means, etc.) to analyze in order to understand and draw the appropriate conclusions and to make the appropriate recommendations to leadership. As we collect additional data, we expect to close the gap between identified and unidentified and avoid strategic surprise regarding adversary technology.

Q. Why did the Navy change its reporting guidelines on UAPs?

A. We are using a data-driven approach. Sometimes, there are phenomenon for which we don't have sufficient data. We wanted to establish an environment where our force feels comfortable reporting all observations so we can collect data, make informed determinations, and address our findings.

Q. Can you tell us anything about what the UAPTF has found so far?

A. We do not comment on intelligence matters.

Q. Why can't you tell us anything about UAPs or what the UAPTF is doing?

A. DoD does not provide information about operational or intelligence activities that would identify possible U.S. vulnerabilities.

Q. What budget does the UAPTF have?

A: As the lead agency, the U.S Navy identifies and uses appropriated defense funding to meet UAPTF requirements.

UAP Report to Congress June 25, 2021

Executive Summary

Public and news media interest in unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) remains high. DoD formally established a UAP Task Force (UAPTF), per the FY19 NDAA, on Aug. 4, 2020. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report attached to the FY21 Intelligence Authorization Act (signed into statute as part of the omnibus spending bill signed on Dec. 27, 2020) directed the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report to Congress on UAP within 180 days of enactment. The SSCI report specifically mentions the UAPTF. ODNI submitted the report on June 25, 2021, and posted a copy of it to dni.gov.

Top Line Messages / Talking Points

- We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one.
- Safety (of our personnel) and security (of our operations) are of paramount concern.
- Our approach has been – and will continue to be – driven by science and data.
- This has been, and will continue to be, a collaborative effort, involving many departments and agencies.
- We currently lack the data to indicate whether UAP are part of a foreign collection program or indicative of a major technology advancement by a potential adversary.
- There is not one single explanation for UAP.
- We need to improve our capacity and capability to further analyze UAP. We need more data, more sensors, more reporting, and more consistency and standardization in reporting.
- The report confirmed that the scope of UAP activity expands beyond Navy, as the head of the UAPTF, and identified the need for improvement in many areas to better understand UAP.
- Per DSD direction, OUSD(I&S) is developing a plan to formalize the mission currently performed by the UAPTF.
- DoD will work with ODNI to develop an overarching UAP collection strategy and R&D technical roadmap to address the issues in the report.

Coordinated with: OUSD(I&S), Navy

Prepared by: (b)(6)

Questions and Answers

Q. Has the Department found any evidence of extraterrestrial technology?

A. The examinations into incursions by UAPs are still ongoing; we lack sufficient information in our dataset to attribute incidents to specific explanations.

It is not the purpose of the UAPTF (or the report) to look for evidence of extraterrestrials. Other parts of the government do that; for example, NASA looks for evidence of life on other planets.

Q: Are the classified and unclassified versions of the report substantively different?

A. While some material was excised from the unclassified version of the report in order to protect sources and methods, the two versions are substantively consistent and the key conclusions are the same in both.

Q. Why is the Deputy Secretary replacing the UAPTF?

A. The report highlighted the challenges associated with assessing UAP occurring on or near DOD training ranges and installations. It also confirmed that the scope of the UAP activity expands significantly beyond Navy's purview. The report also identified the need to make improvements in processes, policies, technologies, and training to improve our ability to understand UAP.

Q. What are the five bins or categories?

A. Our analysis supports an organizational frame for evaluating UAP that would have them fall into one of five explanatory categories: (1) airborne clutter; (2) natural atmospheric phenomena; (3) USG or industry developmental programs; (4) foreign adversary systems; and (5) a catchall "other" bin. These are not all possible categories. We remain open to other hypotheses that emerge from the data.

Q. How many of the 144 UAP reports have been put into which bin?

A. With one exception, the report does not yet bin the different incidents identified into these categories, though it does describe some of the work done to begin to effectively characterize UAP. We have insufficient data to categorize 143 of the 144 UAP incidents that were analyzed for this report.

Q. Why is the data you have insufficient? What else do you need?

A. Encounters with UAP are often brief and fleeting, and frequently involve a single source, such as a verbal report or a single photograph. We need more data and a better reporting structure – standardized reporting, timely reporting, and further reducing the stigma about reporting on UAP so that we have more reports for pattern and trend analysis.