



**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

June 28, 2022  
Ref: DODOIG-2022-000313

**SENT VIA EMAIL TO: [john@greenewald.com](mailto:john@greenewald.com)**

Mr. John Greenewald  
The Black Vault, Inc.  
27305 W. Live Oak Road, Suite 1203  
Castaic, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for all emails (including all attachments) sent to/from (bcc'd or cc'd) eight specified DoD OIG officials which contain the keyword "Elizondo", from October 1, 2017, through the date of processing your request. We received your request on January 4, 2022, and assigned it case number DODOIG-2022-000313. By email dated March 22, 2022, you agreed to scope out all publicly available news articles not containing commentary.

The Mission Support Team conducted a search and located records responsive to your request. Upon review, we determined that the attached 32 pages are appropriate for release in part pursuant to FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552) exemptions (b)(5), which pertains to certain inter-and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege; and (b)(6), which pertains to information, the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you consider this an adverse determination, you may submit an appeal. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 90 days of the date of this letter, clearly identify the determination that you would like to appeal, and reference to the FOIA case number above. Send your appeal to the Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: FOIA Appellate Authority, Suite 10B24, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-1500, or via facsimile to 571-372-7498. For more information on appellate matters and administrative appeal procedures, please refer to 32 C.F.R. Sec. 286.9(e) and 286.11(a).

During our review, we determined that the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Joint Staff (OSD/JS) is the release authority for documents that may be responsive to your request. Therefore, we have referred those pages to the OSD/JS FOIA Requester Service Center, Freedom of Information Division, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1155, for processing and direct response to you. If you would like to inquire about the status of this referral, please contact OSD/JS directly by calling 571-372-0498 or by sending an email to [whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.osd-js-foia-requester-service-center@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.osd-js-foia-requester-service-center@mail.mil). For further information, you may also visit their website at <https://www.esd.whs.mil/FOID.aspx>.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at [FOIAPublicLiaison@dodig.mil](mailto:FOIAPublicLiaison@dodig.mil), or by calling 703-604-9785, for any further assistance with your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and

June 28, 2022  
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Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. 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 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. However, OGIS does not have the authority to mediate requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974 (request to access one's own records).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Derrica Stone at 703-604-9775 or via email at [foiarequests@dodig.mil](mailto:foiarequests@dodig.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Searle'.

Searle Slutzkin  
Division Chief  
FOIA, Privacy and Civil Liberties Office

Attachment(s):  
As stated

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

# The Black Vault

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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.

**Discover the Truth** at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**

From "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
To "(b) (6), OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, "(b) (6), OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, "(b) (6), OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@dodig.mil>, "(b) (6), OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, "(b) (6), OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
Cc "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
Subject UAP/AATIP Resignation Memo  
Date Fri, 19 Feb 2021 22:02:06 +0000  
Message-Id <de12eb11101e447e8cb91ebc74c255d0@DODIG.MIL>

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See attached. I found this my Apple News on my iPad so I took a photo. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Randolph R. Stone  
Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations  
Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight  
DoD Office of the Inspector General  
(b) (6)

Attachment Name : Photo 2021-02-19 16.53.23.png





INTELLIGENCE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
5000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-5000

MEMORANDUM FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Letter of Resignation & Differed Retirement

Mr. Secretary;

It has been my sincere honor and pleasure to have served with some of America's finest men and women in both peace time and in war. For over 22 years, I have been blessed to learn from, and work with world-class leadership, you certainly being among the very best.

With that in mind, bureaucratic challenges and inflexible mindsets continue to plague the Department at all levels. This is particularly true regarding the controversial topic of anomalous aerospace threats. Despite overwhelming evidence at both the unclassified and classified levels, certain individuals in the Department remain staunchly opposed to further research on what could be a tactical threat to our pilots, sailors, and soldiers, and perhaps even an existential threat to our national security. In many instances, there seems to be a direct correlation the phenomena exhibits with respect to our nuclear and military capabilities. The Department must take serious the many accounts by the Navy and other Services of unusual aerial systems interfering with military weapon platforms and displaying beyond next generation capabilities. Underestimating or ignoring these potential threats is not in the best interest of the Department no matter the level of political contention. There remains a vital need to ascertain capability and intent of these phenomena for the benefit of the armed forces and the nation.

For this reason, effective 4 October 2017, I humbly submit my resignation in hopes it will encourage you to ask the hard questions: "who else knows?", what are their capabilities?", and "why aren't we spending more time and effort on the issue?". As I transition to a new chapter of my life, please know it has been an honor and privilege of a lifetime to serve with you. Rest assure, no matter where the path of life may lead me, I will always have the best interest of the Department and the American people as my guiding principle.

Luis D. Elizondo  
Director

National Programs Special Management Staff

From: "(b) (6) .., OIG DoD" <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>  
 To: "Stebbins, Steven A., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>, "(b) (6) .., OIG DoD" <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>  
 Cc: "Zola, Michael C., OIG DoD" <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>, "(b) (6) OIG DoD" <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>, "(b) (6) OIG DoD" <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: News of Interest: How the Pentagon Started Taking U.F.O.s Seriously | The New Yorker  
 Date: Mon, 3 May 2021 14:44:22 +0000  
 Message-Id: <de2709bde2e1481992f5f4ee76ecb05c@DODIG.MIL>

Good Morning Gentlemen,  
 Per our conversation at the OLAC Weekly, please see the below article link and excerpts from the New Yorker coverage on UAP's.

Very Respectfully,

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Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications  
 DoD Office of Inspector General

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From: (b) (6) .., OIG DoD

Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 12:12 PM

To: Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD

<(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6) @dodig.mil>

Cc: Zola, Michael C., OIG DoD <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) OIG DoD

<(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>

Subject: News of Interest: How the Pentagon Started Taking U.F.O.s Seriously | The New Yorker

Good Afternoon Gentlemen,

I hope you're enjoying your weekend.

Please see the below article from the New Yorker and highlighted excerpts, ahead of the upcoming UAP announcement.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/05/10/how-the-pentagon-started-taking-ufos-seriously>

How the Pentagon Started Taking U.F.O.s Seriously

On May 9, 2001, Steven M. Greer took the lectern at the National Press Club, in Washington, D.C., in pursuit of the truth about unidentified flying objects. Greer, an emergency-room physician in Virginia and an outspoken ufologist, believed that the government had long withheld from the American people its familiarity with alien visitations. He had founded the Disclosure Project in 1993 in an attempt to penetrate the sanctums of conspiracy. Greer's reckoning that day featured some twenty speakers. He provided, in support of his claims, a four-hundred-and-ninety-two-page dossier called the "Disclosure Project Briefing Document." For public officials too busy to absorb such a vast tract of suppressed knowledge, Greer had prepared a ninety-five-page "Executive Summary of the Disclosure Project Briefing Document." After some throat-clearing, the "Executive Summary" began with "A Brief Summary," which included a series of bullet points outlining what amounted to the greatest secret in human history.

Over several decades, according to Greer, untold numbers of alien craft had been observed in our planet's airspace; they were able to reach extreme velocities with no visible means of lift or propulsion, and to perform stunning maneuvers at g-forces that would turn a human pilot to soup. Some of these extraterrestrial spaceships had been "downed, retrieved and studied since at least the 1940s and possibly as early as the 1930s." Efforts to reverse engineer such extraordinary machines had led to "significant technological breakthroughs in energy generation." These operations had mostly been classified as "cosmic top secret," a tier of clearance "thirty-eight levels" above that typically granted to the Commander-in-Chief. Why, Greer asked, had such transformative

technologies been hidden for so long? This was obvious. The "social, economic and geo-political order of the world" was at stake.

Greer's "Executive Summary" was woolly, but discerning readers could find within it answers to many of the most frequently asked questions about U.F.O.s—assuming, as Greer did, that U.F.O.s are helmed by extraterrestrials. Why are they so elusive? Because the aliens are monitoring us. Why? Because they are discomfited by our aspiration to "weaponize space." Have we shot at them? Yes. Should we shoot at them? No. Really? Yes. Why not? They're friendly. How do we know? "Obviously, any civilization capable of routine interstellar travel could terminate our civilization in a nanosecond, if that was their intent. That we are still breathing the free air of Earth is abundant testimony to the non-hostile nature of these ET civilizations." (One obvious question seems not to have occurred to Greer: Why, if these spacecraft are so advanced, do they allegedly crash all the time?)

At the press conference, Greer appeared in thin-framed glasses, a baggy, funereal suit, and a red tie askew in a starched collar. "I know many in the media would like to talk about 'little green men,' " he said. "But, in reality, the subject is laughed at because it is so serious. I have had grown men weep, who are in the Pentagon, who are members of Congress, and who have said to me, 'What are we going to do?' Here is what we will do. We will see that this matter is properly disclosed."

Kean's book, which was praised by the theoretical physicist Michio Kaku as "the gold standard for U.F.O. research," and to which John Podesta had contributed a foreword, enhanced and expanded her influence. In June of 2011, Podesta invited Kean to make a confidential presentation at a think tank he founded, the Center for American Progress. Standing alongside a physicist from Johns Hopkins University and foreign military figures, Kean advised the audience—officials from NASA, the Pentagon, and the Department of Transportation, along with congressional staff and retired intelligence officials—that the challenge was "to undo fifty years of reinforcement of U.A.P. as folklore and pseudoscience."

Podesta told me, "It wasn't a bunch of people coming in looking like they were going to a 'Star Wars'-memorabilia convention—it was serious people from the national-security arena who wanted answers to these unexplained phenomena." Soon after the event, he said, a Democratic senator invited him for a meeting. "I thought it was going to be on food stamps and tax cuts or whatever, and the door closed and they said, 'I don't want anybody to know this, but I'm really interested in U.F.O.s, and I know you are, too. So what do you know?'" Reid reached out to Senator Ted Stevens, of Alaska, who believed he'd seen a U.F.O. as a pilot in the Second World War, and Senator Daniel Inouye, of Hawaii. In the 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Bill, twenty-two million dollars of so-called black money was set aside for a new program. The Pentagon was not enthusiastic. As one former intelligence official put it, "There were some government officials who said, 'We shouldn't be doing this, this is really ridiculous, this is a waste of money.'" He went on, "And then Reid would call them out of a meeting and say, 'I want you to be doing this. This was appropriated.' It was sort of like a joke that bordered on an annoyance and people worried that if this all came out, that the government was spending money on this, this will be a bad story." The Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program was announced in a public solicitation for bids to examine the future of warfare. U.F.O.s were not mentioned, but according to Reid the subtext was clear. Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, or BAASS, a Bigelow Aerospace subsidiary, was the only bidder. When Bigelow won the government contract, he contacted the same cohort of paranormal investigators he'd worked with at his institute. Other participants were recruited from within the Pentagon's ranks. In 2008, Luis Elizondo, a longtime counterintelligence officer working in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, was visited by two people who asked him what he thought about U.F.O.s. He replied that he didn't think about them, which was apparently the correct answer, and he was asked to join.

Within a month of the Times article's publication, the Pentagon's U.A.P. portfolio was reassigned to a civilian intelligence official with a rank equivalent to that of a two-star general. This successor—who did not want to be named, lest U.F.O. nuts swarm his doorstep—had read Kean's book. He channeled the cascade of media interest to argue that, without a process to handle uncategorizable observations, rigid bureaucracies would overlook anything that didn't follow a standard pattern. At the height of the Cold War, the government had worried that the noise of lurid phantasmagoria might drown out signals relevant to national security, or even provide cover for adversarial incursions; now, it seemed, the concern was that valuable intelligence wasn't being reported. (The Nimitz encounter didn't become subject to official investigation until years after the incident, when an errant file landed on the desk of someone who decided that it merited pursuit.) "What we needed," the former Pentagon official said, "was something like the post-9/11 fusion centers, where a D.O.D. guy can talk to an F.B.I. guy and an N.R.O. guy—everything we learned from the 9/11 Commission."

The mysteries have shown no signs of abatement. In early April, the eminent U.F.O. journalist George Knapp, along with the documentary filmmaker Jeremy Kenyon Lockyer Corbell, best known for his participation in an ill-begotten crusade to "storm" Nevada's Area 51, released a video and a series of photos that had apparently

been leaked from the U.A.P. Task Force's classified intelligence reports. The video, taken with night-vision goggles, shows three airborne triangles, intermittently flashing with eerie incandescence as they rotate against a starry sky. Kean texted me, "Breaking huge story." She was trying to get to the bottom of the video, but doubted that any of her sources would be willing to authenticate something so hot. The next day, the Department of Defense confirmed that the video was real and said that it had been taken by Navy personnel. Mick West argued, persuasively, that the pyramids were an airplane and two stars, distorted by a lens artifact. Kean, for her part, told me that she was "only just starting to look into the situation," but volunteered that West was "being reasonable." The Pentagon refused further comment.

The government may or may not care about the resolution of the U.F.O. enigma. But, in throwing up its hands and granting that there are things it simply cannot figure out, it has relaxed its grip on the taboo. For many, this has been a comfort. In March, I spoke with a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force who said that about a decade ago, during combat, he had an extended encounter with a U.F.O., one that registered on two of his plane's sensors. For all the usual reasons, he had never officially reported the sighting, but every once in a while he'd bring a close friend into his confidence over a beer. He did not want to be named. "Why am I telling you this story?" he asked. "I guess I just want this data out there-hopefully this helps somebody else somehow."

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Very Respectfully,

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Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications

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From: (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>  
 To: "Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: RE: UFOs regularly spotted in restricted U.S. airspace, report on the phenomena due next month  
 Date: Mon, 17 May 2021 11:07:50 +0000  
 Message-Id: <fb59b771d763489aaf4a42c77374b6b3@DODIG.MIL>

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Good morning, Ma'am.

According to the article, the DoD stood up a task force some time ago (not sure who was given the responsibility of reporting)— it seems like their report is well underway and will certainly be done and reported to Congress before our work is completed.

Best,

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>  
 Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 6:42 AM  
 To: (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: RE: UFOs regularly spotted in restricted U.S. airspace, report on the phenomena due next month

Thanks (b) (6) [REDACTED]. I watched it. I wonder who, in the Dept., is doing the report as I'm sure that Mr. Stone's crew is just getting started.

Marguerite C. Garrison  
 Deputy Inspector General  
 for Administrative Investigations  
 Suite (b) (6) [REDACTED]

4800 Mark Center Drive  
 Alexandria, VA 22350

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

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~~POC: Marguerite C. Garrison / (b) (6) [REDACTED]~~

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>  
 Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:53 AM  
 To: List .SESList <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@dodig.mil>  
 Cc: (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>

Subject: UFOs regularly spotted in restricted U.S. airspace, report on the phenomena due next month

Good morning, all.

ICYMI, 60 minutes aired a segment last evening on UAP's that has spurred concern and interest by Congress and the DoD.

The segment is about 14 minutes long and may viewed on Chrome here, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ufo-military-intelligence-60-minutes-2021-05-16/>

[Transcript]

We have tackled many strange stories on 60 Minutes, but perhaps none I ke this. It's the story of the U.S. government's grudging acknowledgment of unidentified aerial phenomena- UAP-more commonly known as UFOs. After decades of public denial the Pentagon now admits there's something out there, and the U.S. Senate wants to know what it is. The intelligence committee has ordered the director of national intelligence and the secretary of defense to deliver a report on the mysterious sightings by next month.

Bill Whitaker: So what you are telling me is that UFOs, unidentified flying objects, are real?

Lue Elizondo: Bill, I think we're beyond that already. The government has already stated for the record that they're real. I'm not telling you that. The United States government is telling you that.

Lue Elizondo spent 20 years running military intelligence operations worldwide: in Afghanistan, the Middle East and Guantanamo. He hadn't given UFOs a second thought until 2008. That's when he was asked to join something at the Pentagon called the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, or "AATIP."

Lue Elizondo: The mission of AATIP was quite simple. It was to collect and analyze information involving anomalous aerial vehicles, what I guess in the vernacular you call them UFOs. We call them UAPs.

Bill Whitaker: You know how this sounds? It sounds nutty, wacky.

Lue Elizondo: Look, Bill, I'm not, I'm not telling you that, that it doesn't sound wacky. What I'm telling you, it's real. The question is, what is it? What are its intentions? What are its capabilities?

Buried away in the Pentagon, AATIP was part of a \$22 million program sponsored by then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to investigate UFOs. When Elizondo took over in 2010 he focused on the national security implications of unidentified aerial phenomena documented by U.S. service members.

Lue Elizondo: Imagine a technology that can do 6-to-700 g-forces, that can fly at 13,000 miles an hour, that can evade radar and that can fly through air and water and possibly space. And oh, by the way, has no obvious signs of propulsion, no wings, no control surfaces and yet still can defy the natural effects of Earth's gravity. That's precisely what we're seeing.

Elizondo tells us AATIP was a loose-knit mix of scientists, electro-optical engineers, avionics and intelligence experts, often working part time. They combed through data and records, and analyzed videos I ke this.

A Navy aircrew struggles to lock onto a fast-moving object off the U.S. Atlantic Coast in 2015.

Recently released images may not convince ufo skeptics, but the pentagon admits it doesn't know what in the world this is or this or this.

Bill Whitaker: So what do you say to the skeptics? It's refracted light. Weather balloons. A rocket being launched. Venus.

Lue Elizondo: In some cases there are simple explanations for what people are witnessing. But there are some that, that are not. We're not just simply jumping to a conclusion that's saying, "Oh, that's a UAP out there." We're going through our due diligence. Is it some sort of new type of cruise missile technology that China has developed? Is it some sort of high-altitude balloon that's conducting reconnaissance? Ultimately when you have exhausted all those what ifs and you're still left with the fact that this is in our airspace and it's real, that's when it becomes compelling,

and that's when it becomes problematic.

Former Navy pilot Lieutenant Ryan Graves calls whatever is out there a security risk. He told us his F/A-18F squadron began seeing UAPs hovering over restricted airspace southeast of Virginia Beach in 2014 when they updated their jet's radar, making it possible to zero in with infrared targeting cameras.

Bill Whitaker: So you're seeing it both with the radar and with the infrared. And that tells you that there is something out there?

Ryan Graves: Pretty hard to spoof that.

These photographs were taken in 2019 in the same area. The Pentagon confirms these are images of objects it can't identify. Lieutenant Graves told us pilots training off the Atlantic Coast see things like that all the time.

Ryan Graves: Every day. Every day for at least a couple years.

Bill Whitaker: Wait a minute, every day for a couple of years?

Ryan Graves: Uh-huh.

Ryan Graves: I don't see an exhaust plume.

Bill Whitaker: You can sorta hear the surprise in their voices.

Ryan Graves: You certainly can. They seem to have broke character a bit and were just kind of amazed at what they were seeing.

Bill Whitaker: What do you think when you see something like this?

Ryan Graves: This is a difficult one to explain. You have rotation, you have high altitudes. You have propulsion, right? I don't know. I don't know what it is, frankly.

He told us pilots speculate they are one of three things: secret U.S. technology, an adversary's spy vehicle, or something otherworldly.

Ryan Graves: I would say, you know, the highest probability is it's a threat observation program.

Bill Whitaker: Could it be Russian or Chinese technology?

Ryan Graves: I don't see why not.

Bill Whitaker: Are you alarmed?

Ryan Graves: I am worried, frankly. You know, if these were tactical jets from another country that were hangin' out up there, it would be a massive issue. But because it looks slightly different, we're not willing to actually look at the problem in the face. We're happy to just ignore the fact that these are out there, watching us every day.

The government has ignored it - at least publicly - since closing its project "Blue Book" investigation in 1969. But that began to change after an incident off Southern California in 2004, which was documented by radar, by camera, and four naval aviators. We spoke to two of them: David Fravor, a graduate of the Top Gun naval flight school and commander of the F/A-18F squadron on the USS Nimitz; and flying at his wing, Lieutenant Alex Dietrich, who has never spoken publicly about the encounter.

Alex Dietrich: I never wanted to be on national TV, no offense.

Bill Whitaker: So why are you doing this?

Alex Dietrich: Because I was in a government aircraft, because I was on the clock. And so I feel a responsibility to s-- to share what I can. And it is unclassified.

It was November 2004 and the USS Nimitz carrier strike group was training about 100 miles southwest of San Diego. For a week, the advanced new radar on a nearby ship, the USS Princeton, had detected what operators called "multiple anomalous aerial vehicles" over the horizon, descending 80,000 feet in less than a second. On November 14, Fravor and Dietrich, each with a weapons systems officer in the backseat, were diverted to investigate. They found an area of roiling whitewater the size of a 737 in an otherwise calm, blue sea.

Dave Fravor: So as we're looking at this, her back-seater says, "Hey, Skipper, do you..." And about that got out, I said, "Dude, do you, do you see that thing down there?" And we saw this little white Tic Tac-looking

object. And it's just kind of moving above the whitewater area.

As Deitrich circled above - Fravor went in for a closer look.

Bill Whitaker: So you're sort of spiraling down?

Dave Fravor: Yep. The Tic Tac's still pointing north-south, it goes, click, and just turns abruptly. And starts mirroring me. So as I'm coming down, it starts coming up.

Bill Whitaker: So it's mimicking your moves?

Dave Fravor: Yeah, it was aware we were there.

He said it was about the size of his F/A-18F, with no markings, no wings, no exhaust plumes.

Dave Fravor: I want to see how close I can get. So I go like this. And it's climbing still. And when it gets right in front of me, it just disappears.

Bill Whitaker: Disappears?

Dave Fravor: Disappears. Like, gone.

It had sped off.

Bill Whitaker: What are you thinking?

Alex Dietrich: So your mind tries to make sense of it. I'm gonna categorize this as maybe a helicopter or maybe a drone. And when it disappeared. I mean it was just.

Bill Whitaker: Did your back-seaters see this too?

Alex Dietrich: Yeah.

Dave Fravor: Oh yeah. There was four of us in the airplanes literally watching this thing for roughly about five minutes.

Seconds later, the Princeton reacquired the target. 60 miles away. Another crew managed to briefly lock onto it with a targeting camera before it zipped off again.

Alex Dietrich: You know, I think that over beers, we've sort of said, "Hey man, if I saw this solo, I don't know that I would have come back and said anything," because it sounds so crazy when I say it.

Bill Whitaker: You understand that reaction?

Dave Fravor: I do. I've had some people tell me, you know, "When you say that, you can sound crazy." I'll be hon-- I'm not a UFO guy.

Bill Whitaker: But from what I hear you guys saying, there's something?

Alex Dietrich: Yes.

Dave Fravor: Oh there's, there's definitely something that. I don't know who's building it, who's got the technology, who's got the brains. But there's, there's something out there that was better than our airplane.

The aircrew filed reports. Then I see the mysterious flying object, the Nimitz encounter disappeared. Nothing was said or done officially for five years, until Lue Elizondo came across the story and investigated.

Lue Elizondo: We spend millions of dollars in training these pilots. And they are seeing something that they can't explain. Furthermore, that information being backed up on electro optical data, like gun camera footage. And by radar data. Now, to me, that's compelling.

Inside the Pentagon his findings were met with skepticism. AATIP's funding was eliminated in 2012, but Elizondo says he and a handful of others kept the mission alive until finally, frustrated, he quit the Pentagon in 2017, but not before getting these three videos declassified and then things took a stranger turn.

Chris Mellon: I tried to help my colleague, Lue Elizondo, elevate the issue in the department and actually get it to the Secretary of Defense.

Christopher Mellon served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for intelligence for Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush and had access to top secret government programs.

Chris Mellon: So it's not us, that's one thing we know.

Bill Whitaker: We know that?

Chris Mellon: I can say that with a very high degree of confidence in part because of the positions I held in the department, and I know the process.

Mellon says he grew concerned nothing was being done about UAPs, so he decided to do something. In 2017, as a private citizen, he surreptitiously acquired the three Navy videos Elizondo had declassified and leaked them to the New York Times.

Chris Mellon: It's bizarre and unfortunate that someone like myself has to do something like that to get a national security issue like this on the agenda.

He joined forces with now civilian Lue Elizondo and they started to tell their story to anybody who would listen: to newspapers, the History Channel, to members of Congress.

Chris Mellon: We knew and understood that you had to go to the public, get the public interested to get Congress interested, to then circle back to the Defense Department and get them to start taking a look at it.

And now it is. This past August the Pentagon resurrected AATIP, it's now called the UAP task force; service members now are encouraged to report strange encounters; and the Senate wants answers.

Marco Rubio: Anything that enters an airspace that's not supposed to be there is a threat.

After receiving classified briefings on UAPs, Senator Marco Rubio called for a detailed analysis. This past December, while he was still head of the intelligence committee, he asked the director of national intelligence and the Pentagon to present Congress an unclassified report by next month.

Bill Whitaker: This is a bizarre issue. The Pentagon and other branches of the military have a long history of sort of dismissing this. What makes you think that this time's gonna be different?

Marco Rubio: We're gonna find out when we get that report. You know, there's a stigma on Capitol Hill. I mean, some of my colleagues are very interested in this topic and some kinda, you know, giggle when you bring it up. But I don't think we can allow the stigma to keep us from having an answer to a very fundamental question.

Bill Whitaker: What do you want us to do about this?

Marco Rubio: I want us to take it seriously and have a process to take it seriously. I want us to have a process to analyze the data every time it comes in. That there be a place where this is cataloged and constantly analyzed, until we get some answers. Maybe it has a very simple answer. Maybe it doesn't.

V,

(b) (6)

Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications

(b) (6), DoD Office of Inspector General

O: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @dodig.mil

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<http://www.dodig.mil/Mailing-Lists/>

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Attachment Name : smime.p7s



From "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>  
 To "Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD" (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject RE: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign  
 Date Thu, 27 May 2021 15:06:25 +0000  
 Message-Id <460e0eb6ee2442d5b7130f1b583491a7@DODIG.MIL>

---

Enjoy!  
 Randolph R. Stone  
 Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations  
 Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight  
 DoD Office of the Inspector General  
 (b) (6)

From: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>  
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 11:06 AM  
 To: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

Good weather today but then rain and cooler temps tomorrow. It the change of scenery will be good!

Sent with BlackBerry Work

(www.blackberry.com)

From: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>>

Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021, 11:04 AM

To: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL<mai

lto (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

Sounds awesome I'm jealous!!

Randolph R. Stone

Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations

Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight

DoD Office of the Inspector General

(b) (6)

From: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 11:04 AM

To: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

Roger (b) (6). This week was a busy three days!

Margie

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(www.blackberry.com)

From: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>>

Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021, 10:57 AM

To: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL<mai

lto (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign



(b) (5) . Keep me in the loop and I will do the same. When you get back from vacation lets catch up!

Randolph R. Stone  
Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations  
Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight  
DoD Office of the Inspector General

(b) (6)

From: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:54 AM

To: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

(b) (5)

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From: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>>

Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021, 10:24 AM

To: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL<mai

lto (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

(b) (5)

Randolph R. Stone  
Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations  
Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight  
DoD Office of the Inspector General

(b) (6)

From: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:23 AM

To: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

(b) (5)

Randy

Randolph R. Stone  
Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations  
Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight  
DoD Office of the Inspector General

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 9:19 PM

To: O'Donnell, Sean W., HON, OIG DoD (b) (6) @dodig.mil>; Stebbins, Steven A., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) , OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>;

(b) (6) OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) OIG DoD

(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; Zola,

Michael C., OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) OIG DoD (b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

All,  
FYSA.

V,

(b) (6)

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(www.blackberry.com)

From: POLITICO Pro Defense <alert@email.politicopro.com<mailto:alert@email.politicopro.com>>

Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 8:10 PM

To: (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6) @DODIG.MIL>>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

[Image removed by sender. POLITICO Pro]

Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

By Bryan Bender | 05/26/2021 08:09 PM EDT

[Image removed by sender.] A day after Lue Elizondo filed his complaint, the agency's inspector general announced a probe into Pentagon "actions" on UFOs. | Charles Dharapak, File/AP

The former Pentagon official who went public about reports of UFOs has filed a complaint with the agency's inspector general claiming a coordinated campaign to discredit him for speaking out - including accusing a top official of threatening to tell people he was "crazy," according to documents reviewed by POLITICO.

Lue Elizondo, a career counterintelligence specialist who was assigned in 2008 to work for a Pentagon program that investigated reports of "unmanned aerial phenomenon," filed the 64-page complaint to the independent watchdog on May 3 and has met several times with investigators, according to his legal team.

The claim that the government is trying to discredit him comes weeks before the director of national intelligence and the Pentagon are expected to deliver an unclassified report to Congress about UFOs and the government's strategy for investigating such encounters. The report is expected to include a detailed accounting of the agencies, personnel and surveillance systems that gather and analyze the data.

"What he is saying is there are certain individuals in the Defense Department who in fact were attacking him and lying about him publicly, using the color of authority of their offices to disparage him and discredit him and were interfering in his ability to seek and obtain gainful employment out in the world," said Daniel Sheehan, Elizondo's attorney. "And also threatening his security clearance."

Sheehan, a public interest lawyer and activist, has a long history <[https://chresticinstitute.org/docs/DanielSheehan\\_CV.pdf?source=email](https://chresticinstitute.org/docs/DanielSheehan_CV.pdf?source=email)> of taking on the federal government on behalf of high-profile clients, including defending the New York Times in the Pentagon Papers case as well as one of the Watergate burglars. He is also widely viewed as a provocateur who has an abiding interest in UFOs and has spoken publicly <<https://www.amazon.com/Close-Encounters-Fifth-Kind-Contact/dp/B086D4D3V6?source=email>> about alien visitations. He also served as counsel for the Disclosure Project, led by ufologist Steven Greer, that has sought to force more government transparency on UFOs.

When asked for comment, Elizondo referred questions to Sheehan.

Sheehan maintains the goal of Elizondo's IG complaint is much bigger than clearing his name: He wants to compel the Pentagon to clear up all the ambiguity about what it knows about UFOs.

"Nobody seemed to be taking this thing seriously," Sheehan said of Elizondo's concerns when he left the Pentagon in 2017. "The different units and different groups that are responsible for responding to this particular phenomenon ... they're not briefing each other on this."

"The old dodge," Sheehan says, "is 'oh well, the real problem was that one shop wasn't communicating with the other shop.' That's the classic bureaucratic dodge. I'm trying to get the Defense Department to clarify for the public and media what exactly is the cartography inside the Defense Department for dealing with this particular phenomenon."

A spokesperson for the Defense Department IG's office declined to comment on the status of Elizondo's complaint. "I cannot speculate or deliberate about complaints that our office may have received," said Dwrena Allen. "I certainly cannot confirm or deny the existence of an investigation to the same."

But a day after Elizondo filed his complaint, the IG announced a probe <<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/04/pentagon-inspector-general-military-ufo-485356?source=email>> into Pentagon "actions" on

UFOs, which is being undertaken by the assistant inspector general for evaluations on space, intelligence, engineering and oversight.

"We may revise the objective as the evaluation proceeds, and we will consider suggestions from management for additional or revised objectives," stated the IG's memo announcing that probe.

It remains unclear whether Elizondo's claims will be found to merit an official investigation, but his legal team says he is scheduled to meet again with investigators from the IG next month.

Elizondo has become a minor celebrity since he retired from the Pentagon in October 2017 and went public about the Advanced Aerial Threat Identification Program, or AATIP, a secret Pentagon effort that was initiated in 2008 by then-Sen. Harry Reid. POLITICO and the New York Times revealed the existence of the office <<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/12/16/pentagon-ufo-search-harry-reid-216111?source=email>> and Elizondo's role in it in December 2017.

Elizondo complained at the time that his Pentagon bosses were failing to take seriously numerous intrusions into military airspace by high-performance aircraft of unknown origin.

"It was during this time I grew increasingly frustrated by the lack of resources and interest by senior leadership," he states in the IG complaint. "UAP reporting to our office was increasing, yet our resources were minimal, and leadership involvement was almost non-existent.

"After increased frustration, " he added, "I became alarmed by the frequency and duration of UAP activity in and around controlled U.S. airspace. The instances seemed more provocative, and during one instance, they came within feet of a U.S. fighter aircraft."

After he retired from government service, Elizondo also shared with the media a trio of Navy videos<[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO\\_M0hLIJ-Q&source=email](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO_M0hLIJ-Q&source=email)> he got declassified before he left government service.

He claims he has since endured a coordinated effort to malign his reputation, including Pentagon press statements asserting he had no official role in UFO research, even after his role was officially confirmed. He also alleges a personal vendetta from a Pentagon rival he claims has sought repeatedly to damage his career, including trying to have him investigated for releasing the video after he had been cleared of any wrongdoing. Elizondo charges "malicious activities, coordinated disinformation, professional misconduct, whistleblower reprisal and explicit threats perpetrated by certain senior-level Pentagon officials," according to the complaint, which includes dozens of supporting documents.

POLITICO is declining to publish the names of the Pentagon officials who are cited in the IG complaint because it is unclear whether they are being investigated.

But Elizondo told the IG he has evidence, in the form of emails, documents and the public record, "which suggests a coordinated effort to obfuscate the truth from the American people while impugning my reputation as a former intelligence officer at the Pentagon."

"These negative actions against me have resulted in great personal and professional challenges to me and my family," he adds in the complaint.

In recounting one episode in the days after he left government service, Elizondo claims a senior official warned him that he would "tell people you are crazy, and it might impact your security clearance."

"I responded ... by telling him that he can take any action he thinks is prudently necessary, but that I was not mentally impaired, nor have I ever violated my security oath," Elizondo wrote in the complaint, saying he did not meet with the official again "after our discussion as I feared he would take retribution against me."

The IG complaint also charges that the Pentagon's press operation has engaged in a disinformation campaign to discredit him by suggesting he was lying about his UFO work.

He cites several public statements asserting the department had no record of his involvement in UFOs even after saying that he did<<https://theintercept.com/2019/06/01/ufo-unidentified-history-channel-luis-elizondo-pentagon/?source=email>> work for AATIP.

"Several internet bloggers were notified ... that I had no duties regarding AATIP and that AATIP did not involve the study of UAPs," Elizondo told the IG. "As a result, the bloggers began to disseminate reporting, accusing me of being a fabricator."

He said when he inquired why the Pentagon had changed its official story about AATIP, he claims one individual directly involved told him he "was not happy with the way this was being handled internally with the Department." The official also said he "was aware I ran AATIP, but forces within the building were telling him not to admit it," according to Elizondo.

The Pentagon public affairs office declined to comment for this story.

The Defense Department this month publicly acknowledged <<http://nickpope.net/wpte19/blog/?source=email>> in a statement that the AATIP program was involved in UFO research, but it has not corrected the record on Elizondo's involvement, he says.



"It goes beyond simple ambiguity," Sheehan said. "There [are] actual discordant narratives that are going on. They're professing a substantial amount of confusion."

Elizondo maintains that the efforts to punish him for coming forward continue. The IG complaint outlines that his release of the three unclassified UFO videos was investigated by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and "there were no findings of me conducting any kind of Unauthorized Disclosure."

But he says he was contacted this April by the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency advising him to submit to a new interview to maintain his clearance even though it was renewed in January 2021. And he maintains he was told it was about concerns over whether he violated the rules when he made the UFO videos public.

"Despite a previous favorable AFOSI investigation, I am under accusation of releasing the videos in an unauthorized manner," he wrote in the IG complaint.

Elizondo has continued to publicly maintain <<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/25/ufo-sightings-report-478104?source=email>> that he believes the government is covering up what it knows about UFO sightings. And Sheehan also claims Elizondo's experience within the Pentagon's bureaucracy signifies a much deeper resistance to coming clean.

He said there is "this extraordinarily bizarre process going on in the heart of the national security state bureaucracy where general officers, secretaries of defense are not being briefed in on something that is transparently within their jurisdiction."

"That is a profound and fundamental problem that they view as being above their pay grade," Sheehan added.

"They know something is going on, and they don't dare go there."

View this article online. <<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2021/05/ex-official-who-revealed-ufo-project-accuses-pentagon-of-disinformation-campaign-2057185?source=email>>

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From: (b) (6), OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 To: "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Cc: (b) (6) OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, (b) (6) OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: UAP Interview & OIG contact information  
 Date: Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:24:46 +0000  
 Message-Id: <8435cc294dd44c339afc1bc6e52d6e0d@DODIG.MIL>

(b) (5)  
 V/r,  
 (b) (6)  
 From: Luis Elizondo (b) (6) >  
 Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 9:22 PM  
 To: (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: UAP Interview & OIG contact information  
 Greetings Sir,  
 Looks like I have the logistics arranged. Which day works better for you? What time is best? My attorney and I will accommodate your schedule!  
 Best Regards,  
 Lue  
 Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android<[https://go.onelink.me/107872968?pid=InProduct&c=Global\\_Internal\\_YGrowth\\_AndroidEmailSig\\_\\_AndroidUsers&af\\_wl=ym&af\\_sub1=Internal&af\\_sub2=Global\\_YGrowth&af\\_sub3=EmailSignature](https://go.onelink.me/107872968?pid=InProduct&c=Global_Internal_YGrowth_AndroidEmailSig__AndroidUsers&af_wl=ym&af_sub1=Internal&af_sub2=Global_YGrowth&af_sub3=EmailSignature)>  
 On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 4:49 PM, (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL> wrote:  
 Sir,  
 Not a problem. We can't be flexible! Don't rush out on our account, this project will take some time.  
 V/r,  
 (b) (6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
 (www.blackberry.com)

From: Luis Elizondo (b) (6) <mailto:(b) (6)>  
 <mailto:(b) (6)> <mailto:(b) (6)> >>>  
 Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 6:47 PM  
 To: (b) (6) OIG DoD (b) (6)@DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL><mailto:(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL><mailto:(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>>>  
 Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: UAP Interview & OIG contact information  
 Sir, I am currently looking at my calendar. (b) (6)  
 (b) (6). Doing my best to accommodate. Please stand by.  
 Best,  
 Lue  
 Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android<[https://go.onelink.me/107872968?pid=InProduct&c=Global\\_Internal\\_YGrowth\\_AndroidEmailSig\\_\\_AndroidUsers#\\_wl=ym#\\_sub1=Internal#\\_sub2=Global\\_YGrowth#\\_sub3=EmailSignature](https://go.onelink.me/107872968?pid=InProduct&c=Global_Internal_YGrowth_AndroidEmailSig__AndroidUsers#_wl=ym#_sub1=Internal#_sub2=Global_YGrowth#_sub3=EmailSignature)><<https://go.onelink.me/107872>>

968?pid=InProduct&c=Global\_Internal\_YGrowth\_AndroidEmailSig\_AndroidUsers&af\_wl=ym&af\_sub1=Internal&af\_sub2=Global\_YGrowth&af\_sub3=EmailSignature>>

On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 8:00 AM, (b) (6) OIG DoD

<(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>> wrote:

Lue – just checking to see if you have solidified your plans to visit DC? Does the 15th or 17th work for you?

V/r,

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) OIG DoD

Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:05 PM

To: 'Luis Elizondo' <(b) (6)> <mailto:(b) (6)>>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: UAP Interview & OIG contact information

Lue,

That week is still pretty open. Would 1300 on Tuesday the 15th or Thursday the 17th work? We will have a set of questions by then, but would want to be sure we give you time for anything we didn't think to ask about that you think is important for us to know.

V/r,

(b) (6)

From: Luis Elizondo <(b) (6)> <mailto:(b) (6)>>

Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 5:50 PM

To: (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6)> @DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6)> @DODIG.MIL>>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: UAP Interview & OIG contact information

Greetings Sir, and good evening. Is there a day that works particularly good for you and/or your colleagues the week of 14 June?

Best,

Lue

From: (b) (6) OIG DoD" <(b) (6)> @DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6)> @DODIG.MIL>>

To: (b) (6) <mailto:(b) (6)> >" <(b) (6)>

<mailto:(b) (6)>>

Cc:

Sent: Fri, May 14, 2021 at 2:04 PM

Subject: UAP Interview & OIG contact information

Mr. Elizondo,

Thanks for taking my call. As we discussed, the UAP evaluation team would like to interview you early in the course of the evaluation. It sounds like the week of June 14th may work the best for you if we are to do the interview in person. Let me know your preference for a date when you can.

We look forward to hearing your insight on the topic.

V/r,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



(b) (6)

Space, Missile and Nuclear Evaluations  
 Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

(b) (6)

Cell (b) (6)

S-VOIP (b) (6)

(b) (6) @DoDIG.mil&lt;mailto:(b) (6)@DoDIG.mil&gt;&lt;mailto:(b) (6)

@DoDIG.mil&lt;mailto:(b) (6)@DoDIG.mil&gt;&gt;

(b) (6) @DoDIG.smil.mil&lt;mailto:(b) (6)@DoDIG.smil.mil&gt;&lt;mailto:(b) (6)

@DoDIG.smil.mil&lt;mailto:(b) (6)@DoDIG.smil.mil&gt;&gt;

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 To: "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" (b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, "Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD" (b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Cc: (b) (6), OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Greetings/Update (ELIZONDO)  
 Date: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 16:29:28 +0000  
 Message-Id: <8bab781454cf4d3f8d388bbb56039e9d@DODIG.MIL>

(b) (5)  
 (b) (6)  
 From: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 12:27 PM  
 To: Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Cc: (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Greetings/Update (ELIZONDO)  
 (b) (5)

Randolph R. Stone  
 Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations  
 Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight  
 DoD Office of the Inspector General  
 (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>  
 Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:47 AM  
 To: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)>  
 Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Greetings/Update (ELIZONDO)

Sir,  
 Apologies for not seeing you this month but (b) (6)

I will try for sometime in late September to meet again with your investigators/auditors at a time of their convenience.

In the mean time, i thought you might find the below link interesting. As a result of a recent FOIA request, it appears that Pentagon PAO is still publically stating "I had no assigned responsibilities for AATIP during my time at OUSDI". Clearly they still do not acknowledge my role and addressing the public in this manner is disingenuous because it appears that i had no responsibilities at all. Hopefully during your efforts, you have a much more clear picture by now. (b) (6)

I was given a job to do by the Pentagon, and now they pretend i didnt do the job i was asked to do. It is a feeling of betrayal by certain individuals i cant begin to explain.

Thank you for your efforts.

Best Regards/Very Respectfully,

Luis "Lue" Elizondo

<https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/departments-of-defense-briefing-card-on-unidentified-aerial-phenomena/>

(As of May 17, 2021:) "[If asked about the role of former DoD employee Luis Elizondo in the Advanced Aerospace

Threat Identification Program (AATIP):] Luis Elizondo had no assigned responsibilities for AATIP while assigned to OUSD(I)."

From "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 To "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, (b) (6)  
 OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject FW: [Non-DoD Source] Greetings/Update (ELIZONDO)  
 Date Mon, 30 Aug 2021 01:05:36 +0000  
 Message-Id <57b3ce41dcb94cc98d1e8b80255de129@DODIG.MIL>

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
 (www.blackberry.com)

From: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>>

Date: Sunday, Aug 29, 2021, 21:00

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)<mailto:(b) (6)>>, (b) (6)  
 <(b) (6)<mailto:(b) (6)>>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Greetings/Update (ELIZONDO)

Hi Lue,

Good to hear from you. (b) (6) As I mentioned earlier my  
 folks cant help with the administrative complaint but the evaluation into the UAP is progressing!

Best to you and your family

Randy

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
 (www.blackberry.com)

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)<mailto:(b) (6)>>

Date: Friday, Aug 27, 2021, 11:47

To: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL<mailto:(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)<mailto:(b) (6)>>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Greetings/Update (ELIZONDO)

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 Aerospace

Threat Identification Program (AATIP):] Luis Elizondo had no assigned responsibilities for  
 AATIP while assigned to OUSD(I)."

From "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 To (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Cc "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject RE: Heads up: Contact with UAP interviewees  
 Date Mon, 1 Nov 2021 15:55:56 +0000  
 Message-Id <f49e4fe6ec344b393ad265e76e58da5@DODIG.MIL>

(b) (5)  
 Randolph R. Stone  
 Assistant Inspector General for  
 Space, Intelligence, Engineering & Oversight  
 Evaluations Component  
 Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General  
 Office - (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 11:54 AM  
 To: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Cc: Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: Heads up: Contact with UAP interviewees

Mr. Stone,

(b) (5), (b) (6)

V/r,

(b) (6)

Space, Missile and Nuclear Evaluations  
 Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (b) (6) /DSN

(b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

S-VOIP (b) (6)

(b) (6) @DoDIG.mil

(b) (6) @DoDIG.smil.mil



From "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 To (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>, "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject RE: [Non-DoD Source] GAUS XXII International UFO Congress -Sunday November 14th 2021-  
 Date Thu, 18 Nov 2021 15:21:27 +0000  
 Message-Id <ff34aee7187d41e690808e5bdc3eb7bd@DODIG.MIL>

---

(b) (5)  
 Randolph R. Stone  
 Assistant Inspector General for  
 Space, Intelligence, Engineering & Oversight  
 Evaluations Component  
 Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General  
 Office - (b) (6)  
 From: (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 10:19 AM  
 To: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] GAUS XXII International UFO Congress -Sunday November 14th 2021-  
 (b) (5), (b) (6)

r/

(b) (6)  
 Office of the DoD Deputy Inspector General  
 for Evaluations  
 (b) (6)

From: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 10:16 AM  
 To: (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] GAUS XXII International UFO Congress -Sunday November 14th 2021-  
 (b) (5)

Randolph R. Stone  
 Assistant Inspector General for  
 Space, Intelligence, Engineering & Oversight  
 Evaluations Component  
 Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General  
 Office - (b) (6)  
 From: (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 7:48 AM  
 To: Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] GAUS XXII International UFO Congress -Sunday November 14th 2021-  
 (b) (5), (b) (6)

r/

(b) (6)  
 Office of the DoD Deputy Inspector General  
 for Evaluations  
 (b) (6)  
 From: (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>



Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 3:40 PM

To: (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] GAUS XXII International UFO Congress -Sunday November 14th 2021-  
Good Afternoon,

(b) (5)

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6)

Audit Oversight

Office: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6), OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 2:54 PM

To: (b) (6) OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] GAUS XXII International UFO Congress -Sunday November 14th 2021-  
Good afternoon,

(b) (5)

r/

(b) (6)

Office of the DoD Deputy Inspector General  
for Evaluations

(b) (6)

From: Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 2:29 PM

To: Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>; (b) (6), OIG DoD  
<(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] GAUS XXII International UFO Congress -Sunday November 14th 2021-  
(b) (5)

Randolph R. Stone

Assistant Inspector General for  
Space, Intelligence, Engineering & Oversight  
Evaluations Component

Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General

Office - (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 12:01 PM

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] GAUS XXII International UFO Congress -Sunday November 14th 2021-

Dear friends,

It's with great honour and pleasure that we invite you to connect at our XXII International UFO Congress  
"ARRIVAL: DISCLOSURE AND ENCOUNTERS".

It will be held on Sunday November 14th 2021 at Santa Apollonia Congress Center (please refer to the attached  
leaflet) in Florence (Italy).

You need just subscribe for free to our GausTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/GausTube>)

Our confirmed guests are:

- Luis Elizondo (USA)
- Barry Downing (USA)
- Kathleen Marden (USA)
- Dott. Filipov (Bulgaria)
- Sabrina Pieragostini (Italy)
- Roberto Pinotti (Italy)

- Paolo Guizzardi (Italy)
- Pietro Marchetti (Italy)
- There will be a surprise guest from USA.

You could find updated info at our website <https://www.gaus.it/eventi/convegno-2021-arrival-disclosure-and-encounters/?lang=en> or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gaus1994>

"ARRIVAL: DISCLOSURE AND ENCOUNTERS" will become the most attended online UFO congress ever held in Europe and more!

Please help us share the leaflet on Facebook and with your friends and contacts!

Best regards

(b) (6)



**22<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL MEETING "FIGLI DELLE STELLE"**  
**ARRIVAL: DISCLOSURE AND ENCOUNTERS**

**FLORENCE - Italy (web streaming)**

**Santa Apollonia Auditorium (Florence)**



[conference.gaus.it](http://conference.gaus.it)



[Youtube.com/gaustube](https://www.youtube.com/gaustube)

**Sunday 14th November 2021 - 9.30am - 7.00pm**

[gaus.pr@gmail.com](mailto:gaus.pr@gmail.com) - [www.gaus.it](http://www.gaus.it)

[info@extremamente.it](mailto:info@extremamente.it) - [www.extremamente.it](http://www.extremamente.it)

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**misteri**  
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REGIONE  
TOSCANA



con il patrocinio di



From "Garrison, Marguerite C., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)>@DODIG.MIL>  
 To "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)>@DODIG.MIL>, "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)>@DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject Pentagon Forms a Group to Examine Unexplained Aerial Sightings  
 Date Wed, 24 Nov 2021 12:26:57 +0000  
 Message-Id <1d6762b0ef2944398a527941cf09c856@DODIG.MIL>

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Below probably no surprise to you.

Pentagon Forms a Group to Examine Unexplained Aerial Sightings

The announcement follows a report that failed to clarify strange phenomena observed by military pilots and others over the past two decades

New York Times Online, Nov. 24 (0008) | Julian E. Barnes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Tuesday night announced a new group to investigate reports of unidentified aerial phenomena in sensitive areas, work that will be overseen by both the military and the intelligence agencies.

The group will lead an effort to "detect, identify and attribute objects" in restricted airspace, as well as mitigate any threats to military flights.

The announcement follows the release of a report in June that failed to provide explanations of 143 sightings of strange phenomena by military pilots and others over the past two decades.

The report frustrated some inside the intelligence community who believed more analysis and research should have been done to try to categorize and explain the phenomena. Releasing a report that said the sightings were unexplained further drove theories that the videos or pictures could be visitors from space, a theory that few in the U.S. government take seriously.

Kathleen H. Hicks, the deputy defense secretary, said the new group would be called the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronization Group. It will be overseen by an executive council made up of the undersecretary of defense for intelligence, the director of the Joint Staff and senior officials from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

The group will focus on special-use airspace, which includes military operations areas, firing ranges and places restricted for national security and other uses. In a memo, Dr. Hicks said unidentified aerial phenomena in special-use areas represented a potential safety issue for military pilots and raised "potential national security concerns."

In June, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a report that reviewed unidentified aerial phenomena seen since 2004, noting that 143 remained unexplained. Of those, 21 reports, involving 18 episodes, possibly demonstrated technological know-how unknown to the United States, such as objects moving without observable propulsion or with rapid acceleration that is believed to be beyond the capabilities of Russia, China or other terrestrial nations.

Government officials said privately that there was no evidence of Russian or Chinese advance technology in use, much less space-traveling aliens, in the information collected. But the officials acknowledged that the government's failure to provide much explanation would fuel a wide range of theories, some more conspiratorial than others.

While the unexplained sightings were mostly around military installations or operations, the report said that could be the result of collection bias or the presence of cutting-edge sensors.

Some people believe any phenomenon exhibiting technology beyond the

abilities of the United States needs deep study. Skeptics believe most or all of the sightings, including videos recorded by cameras on military fighter jets, can be explained by tricks of optics or naturally occurring phenomena.

But the military research that underpinned the intelligence report did little to address those theories or provide specific explanations for various sightings that have captured the public's imagination.

For years a military intelligence official, Luis Elizondo, ran a little-noticed group within the Pentagon called the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program. The Pentagon has said the program was shut down in 2012, but backers of the program said its work continued. In 2020, the Pentagon announced it had a new group, the Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force.

The memo released by Dr. Hicks said the task force would immediately transition to the new synchronization group. The oversight council will choose an acting director for the new group and issue guidance, subject to Dr. Hicks's approval, she said.

The new director will have the power to standardize incident reporting of unidentified aerial phenomena, ask to oversee the analysis of data on the unexplained sightings and identify shortfalls in detection capabilities.

Marguerite C. Garrison

Deputy Inspector General  
for Administrative Investigations

Suite (b) (6)  
4800 Mark Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22350

(b) (6)

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~~CUI Category: Law Enforcement~~

~~Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON~~

~~POC: Marguerite C. Garrison / (b) (6)~~

Attachment Name : smime.p7s

From "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
To "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" <(b) (6)@DODIG.MIL>  
Subject Memos  
Date Fri, 22 Oct 2021 18:12:23 +0000  
Message-Id <7cb1d1da77e4438daa6b2e8e3aa94276@DODIG.MIL>

---

Randolph R. Stone  
Assistant Inspector General for  
Space, Intelligence, Engineering & Oversight  
Evaluations Component  
Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General  
Office - (b) (6)

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Attachment Name : MFR on Elizondo 21 Dec 17 - Clean.pdf

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Attachment Name : 1Dec2010 Memo.pdf



From (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD" (b) (6) [REDACTED] @DODIG.MIL>  
 To "Roark, Michael J., SES, OIG DoD" (b) (6) [REDACTED] @DODIG.MIL>, "Stone, Randolph R., SES, OIG DoD" (b) (6) [REDACTED] @DODIG.MIL>, (b) (6) [REDACTED], OIG DoD" (b) (6) [REDACTED] @DODIG.MIL>  
 Cc "Zola, Michael C., OIG DoD" (b) (6) [REDACTED] @DODIG.MIL>, (b) (6) [REDACTED], OIG DoD" (b) (6) [REDACTED] @DODIG.MIL>, (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD" (b) (6) [REDACTED] @DODIG.MIL>, (b) (6) [REDACTED] OIG DoD" (b) (6) [REDACTED] @DODIG.MIL>  
 Subject The Hill: Ex-officials voice deep concerns over new Pentagon UFO unit  
 Date Thu, 2 Dec 2021 12:53:50 +0000  
 Message-Id <81cfe827ad8e47c0aaadc616d1d9d0e5@DODIG.MIL>

Good morning.  
 FYSA, OLAC wanted to share with you the below article from the Hill.

TheHill.com  
 Ex-officials voice deep concerns over new Pentagon UFO unit  
 BY MARIK VON RENNENKAMPFF, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 12/01/21 12:30 PM EST  
<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/583575-a-pentagon-ufo-cover-up-ex-officials-speak-out>

According to two former Department of Defense officials, the Pentagon office recently tasked with assessing U.S. military encounters with unidentified flying objects (UFOs) is woefully ill-equipped and improperly staffed to tackle its new mission. Moreover, the initiative threatens to derail a congressional proposal that would mandate unprecedented government transparency on UFOs.

In an interview, Luis Elizondo, the former head of an informal Defense Department unit that assessed military UFO reports, told me he had deep reservations about the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security (OUSD(I&S)) leading a government effort to investigate the UFO phenomenon.

According to Elizondo, UFOs are "not solely an intelligence issue. If we want 70 more years of secrecy on this topic, then OUSD(I&S) is the perfect place to put it. They've had four years so far, and we have little in the way of efforts serving the public interest."

Referring to pending legislation drafted by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) that would mandate unclassified reporting on UFOs and revolutionize the government's study of the phenomena, Elizondo believes that "if we want meaningful change and transparency, then we should keep the spirit of the Gillibrand amendment."

Christopher Mellon, who ran OUSD(I&S)'s predecessor organization during the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, echoed Elizondo's concerns. Mellon expressed "shock" that OUSD(I&S) is taking on a permanent mission to analyze UFO encounters.

As Mellon notes, his former office is an oversight - versus an operational - organization, with no relevant "funding, line authority, contracting, command or technical capabilities" to execute the kind of robust UFO investigations Gillibrand's bipartisan legislation demands.

Like Elizondo, Mellon believes that "the inability of [OUSD(I&S)] to engage effectively on the [UFO] issue is why so little has changed or been accomplished since 2004."

Mellon's reference to 2004 is not accidental. That November, four naval aviators observed a mysterious flying object at close range that appeared to demonstrate extraordinary technologies. According to the aircrew, the

unknown craft accelerated instantaneously to hypersonic speeds without discernible engines, wings or other control surfaces. The aviators' account of the 2004 incident is corroborated by radar operators aboard a nearby ship and an airborne command and control aircraft.

Intelligence analyses of the encounter ruled out highly advanced Chinese or Russian aircraft as plausible explanations. For their part, the aviators who observed the object believe that it was "not from this world."

The 2004 incident was not an isolated event. In recent years, military personnel briefed members of Congress and spoke publicly about encounters involving unidentified objects operating with apparent impunity in sensitive airspace.

Moreover, reports from multiple highly credible observers of mysterious, "intelligently controlled" craft exhibiting extraordinary technologies date back to the 1940s. With noteworthy parallels to recent intelligence assessments, declassified government analyses from 1947 to 1952 suggested extraordinary explanations for the most compelling UFO encounters.

But after Cold War national security fears sparked seven decades of government obfuscation, derision and belittling of UFO reporting, Elizondo is "not convinced [that] burying this [issue] in the deep, dark bowels of the Pentagon under an intelligence organization is the best way to shed light on a topic that needs a whole-of-government approach."

Linking the UFO problem to climate change, where the government "brought people in from the outside to serve in an advisory role [and] capacity," Elizondo believes that involvement of "[the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration], [the Federal Aviation Administration], academia [and] the scientific community" - as mandated by Gillibrand's proposed legislation - is of critical importance.

According to Elizondo, "we've had 70 years to try to figure [the UFO problem] out as a government [while] keeping it in the halls of secrecy, and we haven't come any closer to figuring it out. Why are we going to repeat the same mistake all over again? Are we crazy? That's the very definition of insanity. Have we not learned?"

While praising Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks's attention to the UFO issue, Elizondo expressed concern that Hicks "is being hoodwinked by certain elements and members of her own staff." According to Elizondo, "if [Hicks] had the complete picture, she would not have made the decision" to place the UFO mission under the purview of OUSD(I&S).

Pressed on his reservations over OUSD(I&S) tackling the UFO problem, Elizondo pointed to "a combination of ineptitude, moral objection to the topic [and] classic stigma and taboo." Expanding on this point, Elizondo stated, "Documentation exists that, if made public, would illustrate the sense of urgency and the need for a neutral, unbiased [and] objective office" to investigate the UFO phenomenon.

Elizondo also mentioned his resignation in protest over the lack of high-level attention toward the issue, saying, "In some cases there are individuals who have taken it personally that I left in the manner that I did, and they want this entire topic to go away."

From a strategic perspective, Elizondo believes that senior OUSD(I&S) staff "want to focus on the threats that they can define, not the threats that are undefined."

According to Elizondo, "We in the [Department of Defense] are very good at addressing defined threats, whether it's [weapons of mass destruction], or terrorism or stabilization operations. But when you get to something that is ill-defined - [where] we don't know what it is, we don't know where it's from, we don't know what its capabilities are, we don't know what its intent is [and] we don't know who's behind the wheel - that is a really tough topic to tackle from a national security perspective."

"[But] just because we don't know the origin [of UFOs], doesn't mean we should keep burying our heads in the sand."

Elizondo also expressed concerns over government transparency, stating that "there is plenty of documentation substantiating that certain elements of [OUSD(I&S)] have not been forthcoming. That's one of the reasons why there's [a Department of Defense Inspector General] evaluation, to determine how they are handling or, in this case, mishandling [the UFO] topic over the last four years."

"This is the same office that has bungled up [the UFO issue] so badly and has been telling people, 'Nothing to see here,' to include not just senior [Department of Defense] leadership but also the [Department of Defense Inspector General] and even Congress. When I talk to certain elements within Congress, they all say the same thing: That the [OUSD(I&S)] support has been underwhelming."

While noting that there are "competent," "patriotic" civil servants in OUSD(I&S), Elizondo believes that certain senior leaders in the office are operating in a manner that "is not consistent with the agenda that Congress has for the American people."

Moreover, Elizondo believes that these career OUSD(I&S) officials "do not want [the UFO issue] going public. Because then they're going to have to unwind the tape and admit to a lot of people that they have not been telling the truth on this topic."

Referring, in part, to sudden Pentagon denials that he managed the Pentagon's informal UFO analysis unit, Elizondo anticipates further reprisals for speaking out.

But Elizondo expressed cautious optimism that Sen. Gillibrand's historic, bipartisan UFO legislation would become law, saying, "I think we're in a good spot. I think we've come a long way. There seem to be a lot of people really trying to get behind this in a productive - not in a sensational - way."

According to Elizondo, "members of Congress are taking a huge risk by even considering this particular topic. These are people who tend to be risk-averse to begin with, and yet they're willing to put their credibility on the line."

"What does that tell you?" he asked. "That tells you that they've seen information that is compelling enough that they're willing to do what's necessary."

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6)

Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications  
DoD Office of Inspector General

(b) (6)