



# National Reconnaissance Office Daily News Briefing

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

**NON-RESPONSIVE RECORD**

### Leading the News

ODNI UAP Report Inconclusive, Calls For Further Investigation.  
(Reuters)..... 1



## **LEADING THE NEWS:**

**ODNI UAP Report Inconclusive, Calls For Further Investigation.** The release of an unclassified report detailing the results of a joint ODNI-US Navy investigation into UAPs received widespread national coverage, much of which focused on the inconclusive findings contained within.

Reuters (6/25, Gorman) reports that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in conjunction with a U.S. Navy-led UAP task force released a major report on UFOs saying "defense and intelligence analysts lack sufficient data to determine the nature of mysterious flying objects observed by military pilots including whether they are advanced earthly technologies, atmospheric or of an extraterrestrial nature." The findings, "submitted to Congress and released to the public... [describe] 144 observations of what the government officially refers to as 'unidentified aerial phenomenon,' or UAP, dating back to 2004." The report stated, "UAP clearly pose a safety of flight issue and may pose a challenge to US

national security," adding that the phenomena "probably lack a single explanation."

ABC World News Tonight (6/26, story 11, 1:25, Johnson) reported on "that government report on unexplained aerial phenomenon – what the rest of us call UFOs – analyzing a slew of mysterious incidents reported by Navy pilots." ABC (Ike Ejiouchi) added that the report has brought up "more questions than answers. The nine-page declassified report just delivered to Congress, reviewing at least 144 incidents of unexplained aerial phenomena, or UAPs, since 2004. ... The report finding only one was identifiable, a large deflating balloon. The other 143, the intelligence community unable to explain."

The CBS Weekend News (6/26, story 10, 1:44, Chen) said the report "echoes reporting from '60 Minutes' that plenty of unidentified flying objects remain just that – unidentified and mysterious." Correspondent David Martin said that it "acknowledges there have been 18 encounters in which so-called unexplained aerial phenomena 'demonstrate advanced technology US experts cannot explain,' which is what David Fravor has been saying since his encounter in 2004." Navy Cmdr. Fravor (Ret) said, "I want to know who's building it,

who's got the technology, who's got the brains. But there's something out there that was better than our airplane." Martin added, "The report by the Office of National Intelligence found no evidence they came from outer space, nor any evidence that these unidentified objects...belong to a country like Russia or China, which has made some stunning technological breakthrough that rewrites the laws of physics. Are they a threat? According to the intelligence report, pilots have reported 11 near-misses."

Bloomberg (6/25, House, Flatley, Capaccio) says the report cites the "limited amount of high-quality reporting on unidentified aerial phenomena," which "hampers our ability to draw firm conclusions." The report calls "for an effort to 'standardize the reporting, consolidate the data and deepen the analysis' of UAP occurrences, saying reported events probably fall into a swath of categories." This would include "airborne clutter, like birds and balloons, natural atmospheric phenomena and even 'foreign adversary systems.'" However, "in a move that will surely be noted by believers in alien life and conspiracy theorists, there's a final 'other' category for events that the report describes as a 'catch-all' for unexplained events." The report adds that "we may require additional scientific knowledge to successfully collect on, analyze and characterize some" of the phenomena.

According to USA Today (6/25, Santucci), the summary found that, "In a limited number of incidents, UAP reportedly appeared to exhibit unusual flight characteristics. These observations could be the result of sensor errors, spoofing, or observer misperception and require additional rigorous analysis."

The Hill (6/26, Castronuovo) writes the task force also highlighted the fact that some UAP sightings "tended to cluster around U.S. training and testing grounds," which it noted "may result from a collection bias as a result of focused attention, greater numbers of latest-generation sensors operating in those areas, unit expectations, and guidance to report anomalies." ODNI said that it will continue to monitor "for evidence of such programs given the counter intelligence challenge they would pose, particularly as some UAP have been detected near military facilities or by aircraft carrying the USG's [U.S. government's] most advanced sensor systems." While ODNI did not "make any specific mention of the possibility of life beyond Earth, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Mark Warner (D-Va.) said Friday" that the report "marks the beginning of efforts to understand and illuminate what is causing these risks to aviation in many areas around the country and the world."

Fox News (6/25, Barrabi) reported House Intelligence Committee Chairman Schiff said in a statement, "We should approach these questions without preconceptions to encourage a thorough, systematized analysis of the potential national security and flight safety risks posed by unidentified aerial phenomena, whether they are the result of a foreign

adversary, atmospheric or other aerial phenomena, space debris, or something else entirely."

The Washington Post (6/25) reported that "in all but one of the sightings investigated, there was too little information for investigators to even broadly characterize the nature of the incident." One person who attended "the classified briefing and spoke on condition of anonymity said that lawmakers were given little information beyond what's publicly available and that the only videos shown had already been made public."

Courthouse News (6/25) reported the "long-awaited assessment does not paint a clear picture of what service members have experienced, nor does it give definitive answers to what the objects may be."

The Washington Post (6/25, Harris, Ryan) reported the "largely inconclusive results...are sure to fuel Americans' long-running interest in unexplained sightings, which have received unprecedented levels of attention in recent years from government officials and lawmakers," and the "mere existence of the report is a remarkable acknowledgment that human beings have encountered objects that perform feats we cannot explain." At only nine pages "in length, the unclassified report is also likely to prompt public speculation about what information the government chose not to reveal." Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Warner "said in a statement that he was first briefed on UAPs nearly three years ago," and that, "Since then, the frequency of these incidents only appears to be increasing." Vice Chairman Rubio called the report "an important first step in cataloguing these incidents, but it is just a first step. The Defense Department and Intelligence Community have a lot of work to do before we can actually understand whether these aerial threats present a serious national security concern."

The New York Times (6/25, Barnes) reported the US government "still has no explanation for nearly all" of the objects, "a result that is likely to fuel theories of otherworldly visitations." There is no evidence "that any of the episodes involve secret American weapons programs, unknown technology from Russia or China or extraterrestrial visitations," but the report did not rule these possibilities out. Government officials on Friday "were reluctant to acknowledge the potential that the phenomena could be extraterrestrial craft, a signal of how unlikely they view that explanation." However, officials "outlined a plan to develop, if additional funding is available, a better program to observe and collect data on future unexplained phenomena."

Among outlets also reporting are The Wall Street Journal (6/25), Washington Post (6/25, Harris, Ryan), New York Times (6/25, Barnes), New York Times (6/25), The AP (6/25, Merchant), USA Today (6/25, Lee), CBS News (6/25), NBC News (6/25, Larson), Fox News (6/25, Creitz), ABC News (6/26), CNN (6/25, Williams, Cohen, Herb), BuzzFeed News (6/26, Vergano), The Guardian (UK) (6/25, Canon), The Guardian (UK) (6/25, Borger), The Guardian (UK) (6/25,

Gabbatt), AFP (6/26), The New York Post (6/25, Chamberlain, Greenstreet), Insider (6/25, Pickrell), The Daily Beast (6/25), and National Review (6/25). NBC Nightly News (6/25, story 11, 1:40, Holt) and the CBS Evening News (6/25, story 10, 0:24, Garrett) also provided additional broadcast coverage.

Additional opinion coverage was provided by outlets including The New York Times (6/25), CNN (6/27), National Review (6/26), The Washington Examiner (6/25, Rogan), and The Verge (6/25).

**Pentagon Developing New UAP Data Collection Plan.** The Washington Times (6/25, Wolfgang) reported the “highly anticipated” UAP study’s “major takeaway...is that the government has many more questions than answers.” The Pentagon has “quickly announced plans to streamline the collection and organization of data related to UFOs in the hopes of offering a clearer picture in the future.” Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the plan will be “developed in coordination with various DoD components, including the military departments and the combatant commands, and with ODNI and other interagency partners.” He added, “The plan will establish procedures for synchronizing collection, reporting and analysis of UAP; provide recommendations for securing military test and training ranges; and identify requirements for the establishment and operation of a new follow-on DoD activity to lead the effort, including its alignment, resources, staffing, authorities, and a timeline for implementation.” Pentagon officials “echoed ODNI leaders in saying that some of the UAP may represent serious national security threats.” The report stated, “Additional rigorous analyses are necessary by multiple teams or groups of technical experts to determine the nature and validity of these data. We are conducting further analysis to determine if breakthrough technologies were demonstrated.”

The AP (6/25, Merchant, Altman) also reported.

**US Official: “We Will Go Wherever The Data Takes Us.”** NBC News (6/25) reported a senior US government official said Friday that, “We have no clear indications that there is any nonterrestrial explanation for them – but we will go wherever the data takes us.” The official added, “We do not have any data that indicates that any of these unidentified air phenomena are part of a foreign collection program nor do we have any data that is indicative of a major technological advancement by a potential adversary.” ABC News (6/25) reported a senior US official said, “We are open to the possibility that some things may be unexplainable with our current level of understanding.” Another senior US government official “acknowledged that some of the UAP incidents described” in the report were “an array of aerial behaviors” that indicate that “that not all UAP are the same thing, there is a wide, wide range of phenomena that we observe.”

**Ratcliffe: Report Indicates Technologies “We Are Not Capable Of Defending Against.”** The Washington

Examiner (6/27, Dunleavy) reported former DNI John Ratcliffe told Fox News host Dan Bongino, “there are technologies that we don’t have and frankly that we are not capable of defending against – based on those things that we’ve seen, multiple sensors, in other words, where not just people visually see it but where it’s picked up on radar, where it’s seen on satellites.”

**Elizondo: ODNI Report “The First Of Many.”** According to The New York Post (6/25, Chamberlain, Greenstreet, Fonrouge, Brufke), the ODNI report says the lack of “high-quality reporting...hampers our ability to draw firm conclusions about the nature or intent” of the unidentified objects. Luis Elizondo, the former head of the Pentagon’s Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, told The Post Friday that the ODNI report “is the first of many.”

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