

THE NATURE OF UFOs

Evidence, Inference
& Ontological Conclusion

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Evidence, Inference and Ontological Conclusion

by Craig Paardekooper

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Introduction

UFOs interact with our physical world, but also appear to transcend physical laws — based on their ability to accelerate instantaneously, maintain movement regardless of medium, and appear and disappear without traversing intervening space. This document examines the evidence systematically, assesses what it proves and what it implies, and advances a conclusion about the fundamental nature of these phenomena.

The evidence is drawn from credible military sources — radar data, pilot testimony, declassified footage, and official congressional testimony. The analysis proceeds from observation to inference to conclusion, without requiring any prior commitment to a particular framework.

Seven categories of physical anomaly are presented first. The evidence within each category is consolidated into a summary table. A section on the fundamental properties of physical objects follows, establishing the conceptual vocabulary needed for the distillation argument. The distillation section then examines what the combined evidence collectively demands about the nature of the phenomena. The conclusion is not asserted — it is the only position the evidence permits.

The physical evidence is followed by an analysis of behavioural patterns, a symbolic reading of reported shapes, and a conclusion about the fundamental nature of the phenomena.

Chapter 1: Physical Properties

Category 1 — Inertial Immunity

The Evidence

Military radar and pilot testimony from multiple credible cases, including the USS Nimitz 2004 encounter, document the following:

- **Instant acceleration:** objects accelerating from stationary to hypersonic speeds with no observable build-up
- **No sonic boom,** despite exceeding the speed of sound — which no physical object can do without producing one. Former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe confirmed in March 2021

that classified records document multiple instances of objects travelling beyond the sound barrier without a sonic boom

- **Right angle turns at high velocity** — physically impossible for any object with mass under conventional inertia, which would require infinite force and destroy any known material
- **Instantaneous direction reversal** — again requiring infinite force under Newtonian mechanics. See video below.
- **Calculated accelerations in excess of 1,000g** from radar tracking data, based on peer-reviewed analysis of USS Princeton SPY-1 radar recordings

Why This Transcends Physical Law

Newton's second law — $F=ma$ — means any object with mass requires proportional force to accelerate. The forces implied by the observed accelerations would cause inertia - destroying any known material structure, killing any biological occupant, and producing observable propulsion signatures — exhaust, plasma, shockwaves — none of which are observed.

Inertia is not a property of the environment. It is intrinsic to mass itself — present in a perfect vacuum, independent of any surrounding medium. To be immune to inertia is to be exempt from what mass is by definition.

So, during acceleration, transit and turning these objects behave as if they have no mass — exhibiting no inertia, no structural stress, no propulsion signature, and no resistance to instantaneous velocity change. Yet at other times the same objects interact physically with their environment — disturbing the ocean surface on entry, producing the roiling water disturbance observed beneath the Nimitz Tic Tac — behaving as if substantial mass is present.

This gives the appearance that their mass is variable — suppressed during rapid acceleration or turning, but expressed when physical interaction with the environment serves the object's purpose. So, it appears as if the object can vary its mass, unlike any physical object. Its mass seems to vary according to its intended purpose at that moment.

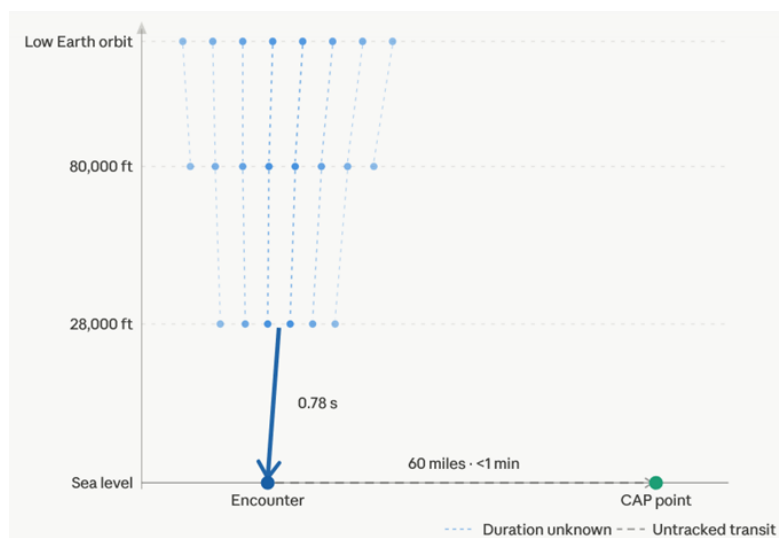
Regardless of its mass the object often retains its detectable form — continuously tracked on radar, visible to infrared, observable as a geometrically coherent structure.

The object therefore appears to have detectable form without fixed substance. It is not matter, which has both form and substance inseparably. It is not pure energy, which has neither persistent form nor substance. It is a third category — in which form and substance are independently variable, each expressed or suppressed according to purpose rather than bound together by the fixed causal laws that govern physical objects. UFOs manifest physical properties in a selective and intentional way, suggesting that what persists about them and constitutes their identity is not any variable property, but the intending agent.

Case Study: USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, 14 November 2004

For several days prior to 14 November 2004, Senior Chief Radar Operator Kevin Day aboard the USS Princeton — the guided missile cruiser assigned to the Nimitz carrier strike group, equipped with the SPY-1 Aegis radar system — tracked anomalous objects appearing at altitudes above 80,000 feet and descending to 28,000 feet before tracking south at approximately 100 knots. Periodically, these objects **dropped from 28,000 feet to sea level in 0.78 seconds** — a vertical speed of approximately **Mach 32, or 24,500 mph**. Peer-reviewed analysis of this radar data estimates the accelerations involved as **exceeding 1,000g**, sufficient to instantly destroy any known aircraft structure and kill any biological occupant. **No sonic boom, exhaust plume, or heat signature** accompanied these manoeuvres.

On 14 November, Commander David Fravor, with 18 years as a naval aviator, was scrambled from the USS Nimitz to investigate. Flying approximately 100 miles southwest of San Diego, Fravor observed a white **Tic Tac-shaped** object roughly 40 feet in length, hovering **without wings, rotors, or any visible means of propulsion** over disturbed water. As he descended to investigate, the object mirrored his movements with **apparent awareness** before accelerating away. Radar operators aboard the USS Princeton reacquired it 60 miles away less than a minute later — a departure Fravor described as **instantaneous disappearance** rather than observable acceleration. No sonic boom was produced. No exhaust plume was observed. The Princeton's reacquisition of the contact confirmed the departure was real and ruled out instrument malfunction.



Furthermore, the point to which the object moved was the CAP point, a strategic rendezvous point, suggesting that it was aware of Fravor's destination before he flew there.

Sensor Upgrades

The two most extensively documented **aircraft carrier UFO** cases are the USS Nimitz, and the USS Theodore Roosevelt. Both of these cases involved **recent and substantial upgrades to sensor capability**. The USS Nimitz encounter of November 2004 was detected and tracked over a two-week period by Senior Chief Kevin Day aboard the USS Princeton, whose SPY-1 Ballistic Missile Defence **radar had recently been upgraded** to a significantly more capable configuration — a system sensitive enough to track objects descending from low Earth orbit. The USS Theodore Roosevelt encounters of 2014-15 became visible immediately **following the fitting of the AN/APG-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array radar** to the squadron's F/A-18F Super Hornets — the most advanced airborne radar then available. Lieutenant Ryan Graves was explicit on this point: the UFO contacts began as soon as the upgraded radar was installed, and aircraft still carrying the older system did not detect them. In both cases the UFO activity did not precede the sensor upgrade — it became visible because of it. This raises a question whether UFO presence over carrier strike groups is a recent phenomenon, or whether it is a continuous and longstanding one that has simply become detectable only as human sensor technology has reached sufficient resolution to register it.

Kevin Day's Own Statement

Kevin Day himself stated in a podcast interview that the radar upgrade was introduced fleet-wide. He said explicitly: *"I think because of these upgrades we were suddenly able to see things that had always been there"* — and noted that *"everyone is seeing them"* after the upgrade was rolled out across the fleet.

Source:

- [Top Secret Radar Upgrade Reportedly Allowed US Navy to Finally Spot UFOs](#), Sputnikglobe.com, (2022), accessed 2026

The man who tracked the Nimitz objects is himself saying the sensor upgrade went fleet-wide and produced fleet-wide sightings.

The War Zone Confirmation

The War Zone, one of the most credible defence publications, directly connected the acceleration in UFO sightings to **AESA radar proliferation** across the Navy fleet, noting *"a big revolution in radar and networking technology that allowed these objects to be discovered more frequently by fighter aircraft and other platforms starting roughly a decade or so ago."* They also noted that the most remarkable appearances seemed to correlate with major Navy exercises where these advances were being fully integrated across a carrier strike group.

Source:

- [Adversary Drones Are Spying On The U.S. And The Pentagon Acts Like They're UFOs](#), twz.com, Tyler Rogoway (April, 2021), accessed 2026.

The pilots began noticing the objects after their 1980s-era radar was upgraded to a more advanced system. As one fighter jet after another got the new radar, pilots began picking up the objects — but initially ignoring what they thought were false contacts.

Source:

- [Multiple F/A-18 Pilots Disclose Recent UFO Encounters, New Radar Tech Key In Detection](#), twz.com, Tyler Rogoway (May, 2019), accessed 2026.

This describes a sequential pattern across multiple aircraft and multiple units — not an isolated phenomenon confined to two carriers.

Other carriers receiving sensor upgrades subsequently reported UFOs, and the pattern is documented across the fleet. The 144 UFO cases in the ODNI 2021 report covering 2004 to 2021, and the subsequent AARO database growing to over 800 cases, represent exactly this fleet-wide detection effect.

The Nimitz and Roosevelt were not special cases of unusual UFO activity. They were the **first cases** where upgraded sensors made existing UFO activity visible. Every subsequent sensor upgrade across the fleet produced the same result.

Significance of Movement to the CAP Point

After descending 28,000 ft to sea level, the tracked object accelerated from rest and covered 60 miles in 1 minute. It moved directly towards the CAP point, which is an aerial rendezvous point defining Fravor's flight plan destination.

The UFO's instantaneous reappearance at the pre-briefed **Combat Air Patrol** rendezvous point is significant on two distinct levels:

1. Access to Encrypted Present Information: The CAP point was not a geographical landmark — it was a classified, encrypted military coordinate known only to the pilots in their pre-mission briefing. The UFO could not have arrived there by chance or by tracking Fravor visually. Its presence there implies direct access to information that was, by design, inaccessible to any outside party. This suggests either penetration of encrypted communications or knowledge by some other means entirely.

2. Awareness of Future Intent This is the deeper implication: the CAP point is where Fravor *was going*, not where he was. The UFO didn't follow him — it *preceded* him. It demonstrated knowledge of his intended future position before he had moved there.

If this scales from the tactical to the strategic, then the UFO might also have awareness of the carrier's *eventual* destination — the Persian Gulf — and what would unfold there, not merely its present location.

The Gesture as Communication

The movement was therefore not simply a display of speed or technology. It was a precisely calibrated demonstration of two things at once: *we can read what you have hidden*, and *we know where you are going*. The CAP point encounter may be one of the most information-dense moments in the entire case — not

because of the physics, but because of what the destination implies about the nature of the intelligence behind it.

The CAP point also was the **Nimitz's** Combat Air Patrol station — a classified coordinate in the carrier's defensive operational picture, not simply Fravor's personal destination. Fravor was *returning* to that point as part of his patrol assignment, but the point itself belonged to the carrier's air defense perimeter.

The UFO didn't merely anticipate where one pilot was heading — it went directly to a classified coordinate that was central to the **Nimitz's** operational security architecture. The CAP point is where the carrier's defensive air cover is maintained. It is, in a sense, the most sensitive positional coordinate in the entire strike group's tactical setup.

So, when the UFO reappeared there, it wasn't just demonstrating knowledge of Fravor's flight plan. It was demonstrating knowledge of the **carrier's classified defensive geometry** — and positioning itself precisely within it.

Sources:

- [Fravor, D., sworn testimony, House Oversight Committee, July 2023](#), <https://oversight.house.gov>, (July 2023), accessed 2026.
- [Detailed Official Report On Harrowing Encounter Between F/A-18s and UFO Surfaces](#), Tyler Rogoway, twz.com, (May, 2018), accessed 2026.
- [Navy pilots recall "unsettling" 2004 UAP sighting](#), Jacquelyn DiNick, cbsnews.com, (May, 2021), accessed 2026.
- [Estimating Flight Characteristics of Anomalous Unidentified Aerial Vehicles in the 2004 Nimitz Encounter](#), MDPI Proceedings, <https://www.mdpi.com>, (2019), accessed 2026.
- [David Fravor Opening Statement at Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena \(UAP\) Hearing](#), C-SPAN, youtube.com, (2024), accessed 2026.
- [Former Navy Officer Kevin Day Chief Radar Officer Tells The Truth About The Infamous "Tic Tac" UFO Video | UFO Witness](#), Discovery Turbo, Youtube.com, (2023), accessed 2026.

Category 2 — Trans-medium Movement

The Evidence

- **UFOs can enter water:** The 2004 USS Nimitz encounter, in which Commander Fravor observed a patch of ocean approximately 60 by 80 feet in an oval shape, roiling and turbulent in an otherwise calm sea, consistent with an object having recently submerged beneath the surface

Pentagon-confirmed footage from the USS Omaha, July 2019, showing a spherical object approximately six feet in diameter entering the ocean without visible surface disturbance

- **UFOs can travel at high speeds in water without excess noise:** Declassified Soviet naval records documenting a nuclear submarine on combat patrol in the southern Pacific in 1982 detecting six unknown objects in formation travelling at speeds exceeding 230 knots — compared to approximately 44 knots for the fastest submarine ever built — tracked continuously on sonar with what operators described as a clean, unidentifiable acoustic signature

Multiple additional reports from naval sonar operators describing high-speed underwater contacts **producing none of the propulsion noise** that any known submarine technology generates

Why This Transcends Physical Law

Water is approximately 800 times denser than air. Any physical object moving through both media would need to radically change its profile at the transition point, overcome massively different drag coefficients, produce enormous cavitation noise underwater, and show deceleration entering the denser medium. None of these expected consequences are consistently observed.

The Soviet Pacific case raises a specific and acute problem. At 230 knots, a physical object in water generates a bow pressure wave propagating outward at the speed of sound in water — approximately 1,500 metres per second — detectable across hundreds of miles. This wave would arrive at sonar receivers before the object itself. It would be, by an enormous margin, the loudest and most prominent feature of the contact. Trained sonar operators, whose primary function is detecting exactly this kind of signature, would have noted it immediately. They did not. What they recorded was a clean contact — directional and trackable, but acoustically inconsistent with physical displacement of water at that speed. The absence of any mention of a pressure wave in a sonar report is not an evidentiary gap. It is the evidence.

Though these movements are trackable, the medium (water) was not responding to the movement as we would expect. An object travelling at high speed through water would displace its volume of water and generate a shock wave. The absence of a shock wave, implies the water was not displaced!

The Complication That Strengthens the Argument

The USS Nimitz case shows the opposite: a visible water disturbance consistent with an object hovering just beneath the surface. The Malaysia 2005 case documents a visible wave preceding an object's emergence from the sea. These cases establish that the objects are capable of interacting with water in physically conventional ways — they can and do displace it.

This means the absence of displacement in other cases is **not a fixed property of the objects**. It is a variable one. The objects appear to exercise **selective control over their interaction with the medium** — causing disturbance when moving slowly or hovering, suppressing it when operating at high speed. This is not simply a physics anomaly. It implies a deliberate choice about the degree of physical interaction with the surrounding medium.

That inference carries a further implication. A shockwave at 230 knots underwater would be catastrophic to marine life across a vast radius. The suppression of that wave, if intentional, suggests awareness of its consequences and a decision not to cause them.

Case Study — Aaron Amick, US Navy Sonar Operator (direct testimony)

Veteran Navy sonar operator Aaron Amick described so-called "*fast mover*" contacts appearing on sonar that were "*so quick that you can't measure the speed.*" Amick is a named, on-record source with documented submarine service. This is the strongest available first-hand testimony from a qualified sonar operator describing underwater contacts **at physically impossible speeds**.

Source:

- [Thousands Report Unidentified Submersible Objects Near US Shores](#), Grand Pinnacle Tribune, October 27th 2025. Accessed 2026.

Case Study — Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia, October 4, 1967

Source quality: official Canadian government documents

What is officially documented: At least eleven witnesses saw a low-flying lit object descend toward the harbour. The RCMP, Canadian Coast Guard, and Royal Canadian Navy responded. A Priority Telex from Rescue Coordination Centre Halifax to Canadian Forces Headquarters officially classified the event as a UFO report, stating all conventional explanations had been dismissed. The Navy's Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic was tasked to search. After three days of professional underwater search, no debris, wreckage or survivors were found. The Canadian government has never retracted the UFO classification.

Source:

- [Shag Harbour UFO incident](#), Wikipedia, 7th March 2021. Accessed 2026.

Case Study — Rear Admiral Gallaudet Testimony, November 2025

Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet's written testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability in November 2024

Gallaudet explicitly states that UFOs have been observed in the ocean and are known to exhibit transmedium travel through the air-sea interface, using the term Unidentified Submerged Objects. He argues that the national defence budget of over \$900 billion in 2025 is inadequately addressing the reality of objects operating unhindered in both American seas and skies.

Source:

- [WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY DR. TIM GALLAUDET, REAR ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY \(RET.\)](#), Committee of Oversight and Accountability, November 13th 2024. Accessed 2026.

Case Study: USS Omaha, July 2019

Personnel aboard the USS Omaha observed and filmed a spherical object approximately six feet in diameter **descending into the ocean**. On contact with the water it simply **ceased to be present on sonar and radar**. The footage was later confirmed authentic by the Pentagon and included in briefings to the US Senate Armed Services Committee.

Source:

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- [USS Omaha UFO UAP Footage](#), Youtube.com, 2021. Accessed 2026.
- [New video shows mysterious flying sphere vanishing into ocean](#), Youtube.com, 2021. Accessed 2026.

Case Study — Soviet Pacific, 1982

A **nuclear submarine** on combat patrol in the southern Pacific detected six unknown objects travelling in formation **at speeds exceeding 230 knots**. The fastest submarine ever built — the Soviet K-222 — reached approximately 44 knots. The sonar determined the objects were heading directly for the submarine, prompting the captain to surface, whereupon **the objects followed them** to the surface and **flew away**. Sonar operators described clean signatures **without the acoustic noise that submarine propellers and jet propulsion systems inevitably generate**. These records are declassified but accessed through secondary sources. No primary sonar log has been independently verified in open literature. The case is the strongest available for underwater sonar tracking at physically impossible speeds, but carries the inherent limitations of Soviet-era declassification.

Sources:

- [Declassified Russian Navy Records Say Underwater UFOs are Real](#), behindthescenes24news.com. Accessed 2026.
- [Thousands of Unexplained Underwater UFO Sightings Revealed](#), UAP Digest, 4th Nov 2025. Accessed 2026

Category 3 — No Observable Propulsion

The Evidence

- No exhaust plume
- No heat signature consistent with known propulsion
- No fuel consumption observable
- No propeller wash, jet wash or rocket signature
- Craft hovering stationary without rotor, wing or jet effect
- Silent operation despite speeds that would produce enormous acoustic signatures in any physical craft

Why This Transcends Physical Law

Every known propulsion system works by Newton's third law — reaction against a medium or ejected mass. The complete absence of any reaction signature means the craft is not propelling itself **by pushing against its medium**. It may be moving in response to an externally generated field — but such a field must vary in direction as the craft changes direction, and cannot be generated by the craft itself without violating conservation of momentum. Furthermore, a field that responds selectively to the craft's movement cannot be a fixed natural field operating by law. It is responsive and directional — the operational signature of something external to the craft generating conditions in accordance with a purpose.

Movement without pushing against the physical medium means that its **movement is independent of interaction with the physical medium**. Movement is also independent of any fixed natural field. Every known cause of movement is either reaction against a medium or response to a fixed natural field. Both have been eliminated. What remains is movement that has no cause within the physical order — movement that originates outside the causal chain that governs physical events. That is a precise definition of acausal action. The propulsion is acausal with respect to the physical order — and is purposeful, not random. This is precisely what we mean by an act of freewill.

The Thermal Anomaly

The FLIR footage from the Nimitz encounter introduces a further problem. The ATFLIR targeting pod used by Lieutenant Commander Chad Underwood is a precision infrared system that detects temperature contrast against background. The Tic Tac was visible in that footage — meaning it registered a thermal difference against the sky behind it. It was not thermally invisible.

What it did not show was an exhaust plume, localised engine heat, or the asymmetric thermal signature that any known propulsion mechanism produces. Known systems — jet engines, rocket motors, even hypersonic vehicles — generate intense, directional heat concentrated at the point of thrust and trailing behind the craft. None of this was present.

More significantly, the object had moments earlier dropped from 28,000 feet to sea level in 0.78 seconds. Any physical object executing that manoeuvre through atmosphere would accumulate enormous aerodynamic heating on its leading surfaces — the frictional consequence of moving through air at those accelerations. The object showed no such heating. Its thermal signature was anomalously low given what it had just done — **not consistent with a craft that had interacted with the atmosphere** in any conventional physical sense.

Source:

- [Former Navy Officer Tells The Truth About The Infamous "Tic Tac" UFO Video](#), Youtube, 2023. Accessed 2026.

The precise surface temperature is not documented in declassified primary sources with sufficient rigour to state an exact figure. What the footage confirms is an object detectable by infrared but **showing none of the thermal consequences that its performance** required — present to the sensor, absent to the physics.

Once again, this shows detection of the object, but no interaction of the object with the medium during the period of its rapid transit.

Case Study: USS Theodore Roosevelt, 2014–2015

Lieutenant Ryan Graves, an experienced F/A-18 pilot, described objects remaining stationary in 120-knot winds — impossible for any known aircraft without enormous continuous thrust — before departing at

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speeds his instruments could not meaningfully track. No jet wash, exhaust, plasma trail or acoustic disturbance accompanied these departures. Graves testified before the United States Congress in July 2023 that these encounters were routine during his deployment and that the objects demonstrated no identifiable propulsion system consistent with any known aerospace technology.

Here the object is not moving through a medium, but rather it is remaining stationary despite a large external force exerted by the medium. It is reacting with our sensors, but it is as if the medium is not interacting with it.

Imagine a newspaper floating perfectly still in the air in a tornado. The newspaper has no evident propulsion to resist the wind's pressure – yet it does not even flutter.

The objects' ability to remain stationary in 120-knot winds without any propulsion signature is a more precise demonstration of medium non-interaction than their high-speed transits. In the stationary case the medium is actively exerting force on a physically present object and producing no mechanical response. The object is not counteracting the wind. It is not being moved by the wind. So, **there is no physical reaction between the wind and the craft**, despite the craft being simultaneously present to radar and visual observation.

Sources:

- [Video — Kevin Day interview \(FLIR / Nimitz thermal discussion\)](#). Youtube. Accessed 2026.
- [Written Testimony — Lt. Ryan Graves \(US Navy, ret.\), House Oversight Committee Hearing on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena](#) — Lt. Ryan Graves, US House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 26 July 2023. Accessed 2026.
- [Video — USS Theodore Roosevelt / Ryan Graves encounters](#) — YouTube video. Accessed 2026.

Category 4 — Appearing and Disappearing

The Evidence

- **Radar disappearance** - contacts that simply vanish without decelerating

- **Visual disappearance** – visual observations of craft dematerialising — not flying away but ceasing to be present
- **Instant appearance** - Craft appearing instantaneously without approach trajectory
- **Instant movement** - The Tic Tac object appeared to teleport — observed at 80,000 feet then instantaneously at sea level with no transit observed
- **Changing state before disappearance** - Multiple witness accounts of craft becoming transparent or luminous before disappearing

Why This Transcends Physical Law

In categories 1, 2 and 3 the craft was selectively absent to the medium while present to sensors. Category 4 extends this — the craft can also become **selectively absent to sensors**. The two together establish that neither medium interaction nor sensor detectability is a fixed property of these objects. Both substance and detectable form are variable.

Physical objects cannot cease to exist or appear from nothing. They can move faster than observation can track — but radar would still catch them. The clean disappearance from radar simultaneously with visual disappearance rules out simple speed as the explanation.

Substance and form are Aristotelian terms with exact meanings. Form is the set of properties by which a thing is detectable and identifiable — its shape, its electromagnetic signature, its thermal profile, its surface that reflects radar. Substance is the underlying material reality that occupies space and interacts with the physical world — the thing that displaces medium, generates pressure waves, experiences inertial forces.

In a conventional physical object, substance and form are inseparable. You cannot have a radar return without a surface. You cannot have a surface without a volume. You cannot have a volume without displacement. The properties are causally bound.

What the UFO evidence establishes across all four categories is that substance and form are decoupled in these objects. Categories 1 through 3 established that substance was already absent — the craft was producing no medium interaction, no inertial consequence, no physical displacement. What was present in those categories was form alone — the detectable surface, the radar return, the infrared signature. In Category 4, that form also ceases. Since there was no substance present in the first place, there is nothing to dematerialise in the conventional sense. The disappearance is simply the withdrawal of form — ceasing to manifest a detectable surface. This is not dematerialisation of matter. It is the intentional withdrawal of the only thing that was ever present — form expressed by intention, and intention withdrawing it.

Case Study: USS Princeton Radar Sequence, November 2004

Radar operators aboard the USS Princeton had been tracking anomalous objects for approximately two weeks prior to the visual encounter involving Commander Fravor. Following Fravor's engagement, the Tic Tac object **vanished instantaneously from visual observation, simultaneously disappearing from radar** without any deceleration trajectory. A minute later, it re-appeared at a pre-briefed combat air patrol rendezvous point approximately 60 miles away — a location communicated only on encrypted internal channels. The fact that its destination was a pre-briefed encrypted coordinate indicates not merely presence but awareness.

If mass was present during transit, the object was moving at hypersonic speed through air and would have produced a sonic boom, aerodynamic heating, and a pressure wave. None of these occurred. So mass was absent during transit. And form was absent — no sensor detected it. If both substance and form were absent, then nothing physical was present during the transit.

The object was present at the encounter point — visually observed and radar-tracked, with both form and substance manifested. One minute later it was present at the CAP point — form reinstated and radar contact reacquired. Between those two events, neither form nor substance was present in any physically detectable or consequential sense. No sonic boom, no pressure wave, no aerodynamic heating accompanied the interval. The sixty miles between the two locations was not traversed. It was simply the distance between two separate acts of manifestation — one ending, one beginning, with a minute between them. The disappearance was not concealment during transit. It was the cessation of manifestation at one location. The reappearance was not arrival after travel. It was the reinstatement of manifestation at another.

Sources:

- [Statement for the Record — David Fravor, House Oversight Committee Hearing on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena](#) — Cdr. David Fravor (US Navy, ret.), US House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 26 July 2023. Accessed 2026
- [Pentagon UFO Videos](#) Wikipedia (collaborative encyclopedia entry), n.d. (continuously updated). Accessed 2026

Category 5 — Electromagnetic Effects

The Evidence

- Vehicle engines stopping in proximity to UFO — multiple documented cases
- Aircraft instruments failing during encounters
- Radiation readings at landing sites
- Malmstrom Air Force Base missile systems going offline during UFO presence
- Electrical systems affected in surrounding areas · Compass anomalies · Camera malfunctions

Why This Is Significant

This category differs from the others in that it evidences profound physical interaction rather than transcendence of it. This demonstrates that whilst there can be no interaction between a craft and its physical environment, there can also be interaction when it serves a specific purpose — just as there can also be detection for the same reason. The precision of effects — disabling specific systems while leaving others operational — suggests intentional rather than incidental electromagnetic interaction. The Malmstrom case is particularly significant: nuclear missile systems were selectively disabled, then restored, in a sequence suggesting deliberate demonstration rather than random interference.

The description of Malmstrom as *deliberate demonstration rather than random interference* is precise and important. Random interference would affect systems indiscriminately. Selective disabling of nuclear launch systems followed by restoration is a structured sequence — it has a beginning, a middle and an end, and a clear message. It is not a side effect of the craft's presence. It is the point of the craft's presence on that occasion.

Case Study: Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, March 1967

On March 24, 1967, Captain Robert Salas was stationed sixty feet underground at Malmstrom AFB in Montana, serving as deputy missile combat crew commander overseeing ten Minuteman nuclear missiles. Security personnel reported a glowing red oval-shaped object approximately thirty to forty feet in diameter hovering directly above the facility's front gate. Moments later, alarms sounded in the control room and all ten missiles went simultaneously offline — rendered inoperable in an unprecedented system failure. The craft appeared to send a specific signal capable of penetrating concrete and the triple-shielded cables

connecting separately to each missile individually. Boeing technical teams subsequently investigated and confirmed there was never a resolution or explanation for the shutdowns. The missiles remained disabled for nearly twenty-four hours, with no physical damage to any system. A near-identical event had occurred eight days earlier at a separate Malmstrom site, where ten missiles were similarly disabled while UFOs were observed over the launch facilities. The selectivity is technically significant — each missile was disabled individually through shielded independent systems, ruling out a single electromagnetic pulse. The sequence of disabling and subsequent restoration, with no destruction and no escalation, has the precise structure of a demonstration rather than an attack.

An EMP attack?

The selectivity is the key evidence

The official Air Force report on the Echo Flight incident states explicitly — all sites in Echo Flight lost strategic alert nearly simultaneously. No other Wing I configuration lost strategic alert at that time. That final sentence is the critical one. A conventional electromagnetic pulse is indiscriminate — it induces currents in all nearby electrical conductors simultaneously, affecting everything within its range without distinction. If a conventional EMP had caused the shutdown, every electrical system at the base — communications, lighting, vehicles, instruments — would have been affected simultaneously. Only the missiles went down. Everything else continued operating normally.

The missiles were designed to survive EMP

This is the deeper technical problem with the EMP explanation. Minuteman missiles were specifically hardened against electromagnetic pulse — they were designed to survive near-nuclear detonations at relatively close range and still launch. The shielded independent systems protecting each missile were among the most EMP-resistant electronic systems the United States possessed. An EMP powerful enough to penetrate that hardening would have destroyed every unshielded electronic system in the surrounding area.

The Boeing finding

The Boeing engineer who inspected the missiles found them technically flawless and no EMP-consistent damage signature was present. A genuine EMP induces damaging currents in electronic components — it does not leave systems undamaged and simply offline. The missiles were not damaged. They were disabled and then restored to operational status within a day, without any component replacement.

The 2025 Pentagon EMP claim

A 2025 Pentagon report attributed the shutdowns to a classified EMP test. Salas disputes this, noting that no EMP tests were scheduled and the precision of the shutdowns — targeting only the missiles — does not align with 1960s EMP technology.

By definition, an EMP is a diffuse blast of electromagnetic energy. Exposing a nuclear facility to such a test would fry circuits and make the entire facility unusable.

Salas states that all Minuteman crew members had high-security clearances and received detailed briefings, both classified and unclassified, on any activities in the field that could impact missile readiness each time they were sent out on alert duties. In three years assigned as a missile launch officer at Malmstrom, he was never briefed about any EMP testing on operational missiles. He describes it as irresponsible and unthinkable that the Air Force would jeopardise the operational status of armed nuclear weapons by conducting such tests without informing the crew.

The EMP explanation fails on three independent technical grounds. First, selectivity — a conventional EMP cannot target specific hardened systems while leaving all other electrical systems at the same location unaffected. Second, hardening — the missiles were specifically designed to withstand EMP, so a conventional EMP sufficient to disable them would have been catastrophic to every unshielded system in range. Third, damage signature — Boeing engineers found no EMP-consistent damage in any of the disabled missiles. What disabled them produced no physical trace, left no damage, and was fully reversible within twenty-four hours.

The post-incident modifications adding further EMP hardening to the missiles are actually evidence that the Air Force took the EMP vulnerability seriously after the event — but the mechanism that exploited it in March 1967 has never been officially explained. The investigation concluded it was a freak incident with no discovered cause. That conclusion has stood for fifty-eight years.

Sources:

- Salas, R. — *Faded Giant*, BookSurge Publishing, 2005
- [Salas testimony to AARO](#), 2023 C-SPAN congressional reference

Case Study: Captain Coyne, Mansfield, Ohio, 16 October 1973

A United States Army Reserve helicopter crew flying a UH-1H Huey near Mansfield, Ohio encountered a grey metallic object which hovered directly above the aircraft. Captain Lawrence Coyne reported that the helicopter's magnetic compass began rotating uncontrollably and all radio communications failed simultaneously across multiple frequencies. The selectivity of the electromagnetic effects — affecting navigation and communications while leaving propulsion operational — suggested deliberate interaction. The incident was investigated by Dr J. Allen Hynek and found credible on all material points.

Sources:

- Hynek, J.A., *The Hynek UFO Report*, 1977
- [Coyne, L., official US Army incident report](#), National Investigations Committee of Aerial Phenomena, 1973. Accessed 2026

Category 6 — No Detectable Heat Signature

The Evidence

- Infrared footage showing objects with no apparent heat signature despite high-speed movement
- Objects at hypersonic speeds should be white hot from atmospheric friction, but are not

Why This Transcends Physical Law

Any physical object moving through atmosphere at hypersonic speed experiences friction heating sufficient to melt most materials. The Space Shuttle required an elaborate heat shield for re-entry at far lower speeds than UFOs achieve. The absence of heating, combined with the continuous radar return confirming a surface is present, produces a precise paradox: the surface is real — radar confirms it — **but does not interact with the atmosphere in the way any known surface must**. The craft appears not to be in frictional contact with the air through which it moves.

Case Study: GIMBAL Footage, 2015 East Coast Encounters

The GIMBAL footage shows an object moving at high speed through cold upper atmosphere without generating any heat signature consistent with its velocity. At the speeds estimated from tracking data, atmospheric friction alone should have produced surface temperatures sufficient to melt aluminium. Instead, the object appears thermally inert relative to its environment — detectable by infrared as a distinct thermal body, but without the heating its performance required. The Pentagon has confirmed the footage as authentic and the object remains officially unidentified. The stronger thermal anomaly case rests on the Nimitz FLIR footage, where Lieutenant Commander Chad Underwood, operating a Raytheon ATFLIR pod — one of the most sensitive airborne infrared systems available — recorded the Tic Tac moments after its alleged hypersonic descent. The object showed no exhaust plume, no localised engine heat, and no aerodynamic heating on its leading surfaces — precisely the signatures that its performance demanded and physics requires.

Sources:

- [*GIMBAL footage, DoD declassified release*](#), Defense, Visual Information Distribution Service, 2017. Accessed 2026.

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- [Navy aviator Chad Underwood who recorded Tic Tac video speaks on camera for first time](#), July 28th 2021. Accessed 2026.

Category 7 — Geometric Form

- Objects appearing as perfect geometric forms without surface features, joints, exhausts or intakes
- Some objects appearing to change shape
- Often, the forms are not aerodynamic

Why This Transcends Physical Law

Perfect geometric form without surface features, suggest that the objects are ideals or concepts rather than actual physical entities. In other words, the absence of features or joints suggests that the objects were conceived as a whole, rather than assembled from parts.

A manufactured physical object always shows evidence of its construction — seams, joints, fasteners, intakes, exhausts, panels. These are not decorative — they are the necessary consequences of assembling components into a whole. Their absence does not merely indicate superior engineering. It indicates that the object was not assembled at all. It came into existence as a complete form, which is consistent with the intentional manifestation argument. The form is expressed whole because it originates in a conception rather than a construction process.

The observation that these objects can disappear from radar suggests that their detectable form is variable. This may be related to the observation that some objects appear to change shape.

Both the perfect initial form and the variable subsequent form point to the same conclusion — form is not fixed by material constitution in these objects. It is expressed and modified by something prior to the material. An object whose form can change is an object whose form is not determined by its physical structure. This is the same principle as the variable mass argument — properties expressed by intention rather than caused by constitution.

Objects can be rectangular, tic tac, spheres, squares, sometimes as large as a football field. Aerodynamics — having a shape designed to pass through a medium — is often absent — implying that the medium is not a constraint because it does not need to interact with it.

Case Study — The Cube Within a Sphere, USS Theodore Roosevelt, 2014–2015

Multiple pilots from different squadrons during the USS Theodore Roosevelt deployment reported encounters with objects described as a dark gray or black cube inside a clear sphere, estimated to be between five and fifteen feet in diameter. This is among the most geometrically striking shapes in the military record — a cube with flat faces and sharp right-angle corners is the least aerodynamic form imaginable, producing maximum drag from every direction of approach. Yet these objects demonstrated the same performance characteristics documented throughout the Roosevelt encounters — stationary in high winds, departing at speeds instruments could not track. Ryan Graves testified about these encounters before the House Oversight Committee in July 2023. The shape is not a design solution to any aerodynamic problem. It is, as the category argues, a form conceived as a whole without reference to medium interaction.

Sources:

- Graves, R., testimony before US House Oversight Committee, July 2023.
<https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Ryan-HOC-Testimony.pdf>

Case Study 2 — The Belgian Black Triangle, November 1989 to April 1990

The Belgian UFO wave produced thousands of witness reports of a large triangular craft and is particularly notable because it included radar data confirming the object's presence and impossible manoeuvres. The Belgian Air Force officially investigated the wave, scrambling F-16 interceptors on at least one occasion. The object was consistently described as a large equilateral triangle with a light at each corner and a central light — a perfectly symmetrical geometric form with no aerodynamic profile, no swept surfaces, no streamlining of any kind. It moved silently at low altitude, hovered, and accelerated to speeds the interceptors could not follow. The triangular form has no aerodynamic advantage over any other shape — it is not a wing, not a fuselage, not a lifting body. Its consistent geometry across thousands of independent witnesses across five months suggests a stable, reproducible form rather than a misidentified conventional aircraft.

Sources:

1. [COBEPS – "The Belgian Wave" dossier](#), 1989, COBEPS. Accessed 2026. COBEPS is the successor organization to SOBEPS, the group that originally investigated the wave.
2. [Report concerning the observation of UFOs in the night from March 30 to March 31, 1990](#), UFOevidence.org. Accessed 2026

3. *Vague d'OVNI sur la Belgique – Un Dossier Exceptionnel* (1991)
4. *Vague d'OVNI sur la Belgique 2 – Une Énigme Non Résolue* (1994)

Case Study — Pentagon Confirmed Geometric Forms, 2019–2021

The Pentagon has officially confirmed photographs of objects described as sphere, acorn, and metallic blimp — three distinct geometric forms none of which have aerodynamic design logic. One pilot described seeing a triangular and metallic UFO flying at 25,000 feet over the Mediterranean in documents released in the Pentagon's May 2026 UFO file release. The sphere is aerodynamically neutral — it produces equal drag from every direction. The acorn shape has no lifting surface and no directional aerodynamic advantage. These are not shapes produced by engineering for flight through a medium. They are shapes that require no relationship with the medium at all — consistent with the medium non-interaction argument established in Category 2.

Sources: Pentagon UFO file release, May 2026. <https://www.war.gov/UFO/>

Case Study – NUFORC Data 1955-2026

150,000 sightings, classified by shape – including discs, cigars, rectangles, triangles, circles, fireballs, light, orbs. Though some of these objects are aerodynamic (cigars, discs), others are more conceptual and independent of aerodynamic concerns (rectangles, triangles, orbs), and some appear as pure energy (lights, fire). **See section on “Different Crafts”**

Case Study - Hudson Valley and Phoenix cases

Both cases feature objects estimated at football-field scale moving silently at low altitude. At that scale, a non-aerodynamic form moving through dense low-altitude air at any speed would produce enormous turbulence, noise, and pressure effects detectable across a wide area. The absence of these effects in craft of that size is the medium non-interaction argument at its most dramatic scale — and the non-aerodynamic form is part of what makes the absence of disturbance so physically significant.

Consolidating the Evidence

The table below summarises what the evidence across all categories specifically supports

Property	Evidence of Violation
Inertia	Radar-tracked accelerations, right angle turns, reversals. No evidence of inertia.
Propulsion	No propulsion signature despite acceleration. It does not push against the media
Media interaction	No sonic boom at supersonic speeds, no friction with environment medium, no displacement of media
Speed	Movement at very high speeds, often instantly
Aerodynamic	Shape often not aerodynamic

Beyond Human Capabilities

- The craft have capabilities that no known human technology approaches. These craft demonstrate superior ability and technology compared to us – speed, acceleration, inertia, propulsion, media interaction, awareness (of CAP, of intercepting craft)
- The behaviour demonstrates intentional non-human intelligence

Violation of Physical Laws

- The craft violates known physical laws as applied to conventional macroscopic objects in relation to inertia, propulsion, interaction with air or water media,
- The anomalous properties are consistent across independent observations by trained military personnel using multiple independent sensor systems
- The craft demonstrates capabilities that current physical law cannot account for

Why medium non-interaction is the sharpest evidence

Every other anomaly could theoretically be attributed to unknown technology operating within physics — exotic propulsion, exotic materials, exotic energy sources. A sufficiently advanced engineering civilisation might conceivably produce craft that accelerate very fast, or withstand enormous g-forces, or operate silently. These stretch known physics but do not necessarily break it at a fundamental level.

Medium non-interaction is different. It is not a matter of degree — of doing something much better than we can. It is categorical. Water is incompressible. Air at supersonic speeds produces a shock wave. These are not engineering challenges. They are descriptions of what matter is. An object moving through air at Mach 20 does not fail to produce a shock wave because it has good aerodynamics. It produces a shock wave because it is displacing air. The shock wave is not a consequence of the propulsion system. It is a consequence of physical presence in the medium.

The absence of medium interaction therefore does not indicate superior technology. It indicates that the object's relationship with the medium is fundamentally different from that of any physical object. It is not interacting with the medium in the way that presence in the medium requires.

Medium interaction is the entry that most directly supports the ontological conclusion — that these are not physical objects in the conventional sense.

Why the shape matters

An aerodynamic object is shaped to manage its interaction with the medium through which it moves. The teardrop, the swept wing, the needle nose — these are all engineering solutions to the problem of medium resistance. The shape exists because the medium pushes back and the object must be designed to minimise that resistance.

If the medium does not push back — if the object has no frictional or displacement interaction with air or water — then aerodynamic shape is completely unnecessary. The craft does not need to be streamlined because there is nothing to be streamlined against. A football-field-sized flat-bottomed object moving at Mach 20 through air that does not interact with its medium has no aerodynamic constraints whatsoever. It can be any shape the purpose requires.

The shapes as confirmatory evidence

This means the non-aerodynamic shapes are not anomalies that complicate the medium non-interaction argument. They are independent confirmatory evidence for it. The shapes tell you the craft was not designed to manage medium interaction — which is consistent with, and actually predicted by, the conclusion that medium interaction does not occur.

The non-aerodynamic forms of many UFOs — objects the size of a football field, diamond-shaped craft, rectangular objects moving at hypersonic speeds — are not separate anomalies requiring separate explanation. They are the physical signature of medium non-interaction expressed in the geometry of the craft. A craft that does not interact with its medium has no aerodynamic constraints. It can be any shape. The shapes observed are precisely what you would expect of objects for which the medium is not a physical factor — which is exactly what every other category of evidence independently establishes.

Property	Evidence of Violation
Inertia	Radar-tracked accelerations, right angle turns without deceleration
Propulsion	No reaction signature despite acceleration from stationary to hypersonic
Acoustic physics	No sonic boom at supersonic speeds
Medium displacement	No pressure wave, cavitation or turbulence consistent with physical presence at observed speeds
Thermodynamics	No aerodynamic heating at hypersonic speeds
Continuity of matter	Simultaneous disappearance from all sensors without deceleration
Conservation of energy	No observable energy source for calculated acceleration requirements
Aerodynamic	Shape is independent of aerodynamic requirements

Distilling the Nature of UFOs

The absence of medium disturbance is a precise single indicator that these objects are not physical objects in the conventional sense. Every other anomaly concerns what the craft does. This one concerns what the medium does not do — and the medium does not lie. Air and water obey their physical properties regardless of what is moving through them. The absence of the expected response in the medium is not evidence of advanced technology. It is evidence that the medium did not register a physical presence that the sensors confirm was there.

It is as if we are seeing something that is both there physically (apparent to our sensors), yet not displacing the medium — like a ghost with certain material properties. Detectable by instruments. Undetectable by the medium. That combination has no physical explanation. It is the clearest single signature in the entire evidential record.

So, there are two central features of UFO behaviour —

1. transcendence of human capability, indicating a superior intelligence and capability
2. combining physical and non-physical properties — a hybrid

Intentional Control of Physical Properties?

The physical properties present are specifically the detection properties — radar return, infrared signature, sonar contact, visual reflection — while the physical properties absent are specifically the consequence properties — displacement, heating, acoustic disturbance, inertial stress. The object is selectively present to detection while selectively absent to consequence.

This is not random. Detection requires interaction with sensors. Consequence requires interaction with the medium. The object interacts with sensors and not with the medium. The selectivity is precise and consistent. That precision is itself evidence of intention — a blind physical phenomenon does not selectively satisfy detection conditions while suppressing consequence conditions. Only something that knows the difference between being observed and disturbing the environment could maintain that distinction.

In other words, it is manifesting physical properties selectively, and intentionally — which raises the question not of what these craft are made of, but of what is making the selections.

Chapter 2: Activities of UFOs

The activities of UFOs reveal what they are. Five categories are documented across multiple credible sources:

1. **Weapons Surveillance**
2. **Environmental Accidents**
3. **Environmental Surveys**
4. **Biological Sampling of Animal Populations**
5. **Biological Sampling of Human Populations**

There follows a brief overview of each of these categories

Weapons Surveillance

The most extensively documented category of UFO activity is the systematic surveillance of human nuclear weapons capability — a pattern of presence, monitoring and physical intervention spanning eight decades, two superpowers, and every stage of nuclear weapons development. The surveillance began not when the first nuclear weapon was detonated but when the first was produced — documented UFO activity at the Hanford plutonium plant in January 1945, six months before the Trinity test. It intensified at each new threshold of weapons development —

1. **Development phase:** the atomic bomb developments from 1945 to 1952,
2. **Testing phase:** the hydrogen bomb tests of 1952 to 1962,
3. **Deployment phase:** the ICBM deployment of the mid-1960s, and the thermonuclear standoff of the Cold War.

At its most direct it involved physical intervention by UFOs in operational weapons systems — ten Minuteman missiles disabled simultaneously at Malmstrom AFB in 1967, and Soviet ICBM launch sequences activated and stopped in Ukraine in 1982.

Statistical studies of UFO incidences show a correlation with nuclear facilities at a p-value of 0.00013. In addition, astronomical studies have detected UFOs at geosynchronous altitude correlating with nuclear test dates.

The surveillance by UFOs is similar at both American and Soviet installations — and is focused on nuclear capability rather than to military activity generally, indicating a purposeful response to this one category of human weapon — one capable of producing catastrophic and irreversible global biological consequences.

Environmental Accidents

A distinct category of UFO activity is their presence at major nuclear contamination events — not merely after the disaster but in the hours and days before it, suggesting continuous monitoring of developing situation rather than response to completed crises.

1. **Chernobyl:** At Chernobyl, multiple witnesses including fire crew and plant workers reported luminous objects over the reactor in the period immediately preceding the explosion of April 26 1986, and over the burning reactor during the immediate aftermath.
2. **Fukushima:** At Fukushima, the Pentagon AARO hotspot data identifies the Fukushima Prefecture region as one of the highest UFO concentration zones in 27 years of global data, with elevated activity both before and after the March 2011 tsunami and reactor meltdown — suggesting sustained monitoring of a nuclear contamination zone rather than event-specific response.

The French statistical study by Laurent, Thomas-Agnan and Vaillant confirmed that **factories with nuclear risk and contaminated land** are significant predictors of UFO intensity independently of population density, extending the pattern beyond weapons sites to the full range of nuclear contamination risk facilities.

Together these cases suggest a monitoring function oriented toward nuclear contamination events at any scale — not merely the acute weapons threshold of Category 1 but the broader environmental contamination threshold that the non-weapons nuclear industry represents.

Environmental Surveys

A third category of UFO activity is large-scale systematic aerial surveys, characterised by a distinctive operational profile. Large silent **triangular or V-shaped** platforms — estimated at **120 feet** to over a mile in span — have been documented conducting **slow low-altitude corridor-following** surveys at heights of **150 to 300** feet, with powerful lights **directed downward** toward the terrain below. The behaviour is **systematic rather than transient** — each documented wave **lasted months**, covered defined geographic areas **methodically**, and followed the **linear pathways** of human activity rather than concentrating on specific installations. The most prominent documented surveys are –

1. **Hudson Valley New York 1983 to 1987:** UFOs appeared for 4 years, covering the Hudson River PCB contamination corridor adjacent to the Indian Point nuclear reactors across more than seven thousand documented witnesses;
2. **Belgium November 1989 to April 1990:** UFOs appeared for a five-month period, carrying out a systematic survey of the Belgian industrial and nuclear landscape seen by 13,500 witnesses and investigated officially by the Belgian Air Force;
3. **Phoenix Arizona March 1997:** UFOs carried out a survey over a 300-mile transect across the uranium contamination corridor of the American Southwest;
4. **São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro Brazil May 1986:** twenty-one objects tracked simultaneously on multiple military radar systems across the most industrially contaminated urban corridor in South America.

Geographic analysis confirms that these surveys consistently **follow contamination gradient corridors** — contaminated river valleys, industrial belts, nuclear power infrastructure corridors — rather than concentrating on military installations, confirming their environmental rather than weapons-surveillance character.

Sampling Animal Populations

Evidence for systematic biological sampling of animal populations has accumulated across five decades and multiple countries in the form of a consistent and medically documented pattern of animal mutilations that conventional predation cannot explain. Thousands of cases have been reported across the United States, Canada, Argentina and Brazil, with the most intensive documentation occurring in the American West and Southwest from the 1970s onward. The consistent features across independent cases are precise —

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1. **Surgical Excision:** surgical excision of specific organs and tissue with cut edges of a precision no known predator produces
2. **Organ Selection:** selective targeting of blood, eyes, tongue, reproductive organs and rectum,
3. **Drained of Blood:** the animals were completely drained of blood
4. **No Blood Spillage:** complete absence of blood at the scene despite the removal of blood-rich organs,
5. **No Tracks:** no tracks or signs of struggle in the surrounding area,
6. **Aerial Approach:** evidence consistent with aerial approach and return.

Blood drainage is one of the most consistently reported features across thousands of cases documented primarily by Linda Moulton Howe, whose investigation from the 1970s onward remains the most systematic record. The specific indicators are:

- No blood pooling at the scene — which is significant because a naturally dead animal retains blood that pools by gravity post-mortem
- Vascular systems found drained on veterinary necropsy
- No ground staining around the carcass
- The absence is noted even in cases where the animal appears freshly dead

Critically, UFO activity has been directly associated with mutilation events — witnesses in multiple documented cases reported silent **luminous craft or hovering lights** in the vicinity of affected animals on the same night the mutilations occurred, and in some cases observed beams of light directed toward the ground in the area where mutilated carcasses were subsequently discovered.

The FBI investigated in 1979 following a formal request by Senator Harrison Schmitt and confirmed the pattern was real and could not be explained by conventional predation. The tissue selection is not random — it consistently **targets the biological systems most sensitive to radiological and chemical contamination, suggesting a systematic biological monitoring protocol oriented toward measuring the contamination load in the food chain rather than opportunistic predation.**

The geographic distribution **follows contamination gradient zones** — concentrated in the nuclear testing fallout regions of the American West and in South American agricultural regions with intensive pesticide and mining activity — consistent with the environmental survey zones documented in Category 3, and suggesting that animal sampling operates as the ground-level biological measurement component of the

same integrated environmental monitoring programme that the large survey platforms conduct at the landscape scale.

Sampling Human Populations

The most directly documented case of systematic biological sampling of human populations is the **Colares incident of 1977** on the Brazilian island of Colares in the Amazon state of Pará — one of the most thoroughly officially investigated UFO events in the world. Between August and December 1977 hundreds of witnesses reported

1. Small fast luminous objects
2. Operating at treetop height
3. Directing focused beams at specific individuals,
4. Producing documented physiological effects including puncture marks, burns, anaemia symptoms, hair loss and prolonged fatigue consistent with targeted biological interaction.

The Brazilian Air Force launched Operation Saucer under Captain Hollanda, producing 500 photographs, 15 hours of film footage and medical documentation of injuries across multiple witnesses — the most comprehensive government investigation of a biological sampling event ever conducted. The classified files were subsequently released and are now part of Brazil's publicly accessible UFO archive. Researcher Vernet identified two consistent patterns across Amazon UFO cases —

1. Proximity to water bodies carrying mercury contamination from artisanal gold mining,
2. Concentration in isolated riverside communities with intact genetic populations.

Both patterns are consistent with targeted biological sampling of the populations most severely exposed to mercury bioaccumulation through contaminated fish consumption — UFOs collecting direct biological data from the human populations living at the point of highest contamination in the most biodiverse ecosystem on earth.

A Note on Alleged Abduction Cases

Reported human abduction experiences constitute a substantial body of testimony that requires honest assessment before it can be incorporated into any serious evidential framework.

The scale of the phenomenon is significant. A 1992 Roper Organisation poll suggested that approximately two percent of Americans had experienced a cluster of events associated with abduction accounts — missing time, paralysis, unusual nocturnal experiences, and anomalous presences. The documented, professionally investigated cases number in the thousands — Harvard psychiatrist Dr John Mack investigated over two hundred cases, researcher Budd Hopkins over seven hundred, and historian Dr David Jacobs over one hundred and fifty. The phenomenon is not a marginal curiosity. It is a large-scale and consistent body of testimony that warrants careful treatment.

The Hypnotic Regression Problem

The majority of documented abduction cases were developed through hypnotic regression — a technique first applied to abduction claims in 1962 in the Betty and Barney Hill case and subsequently adopted widely by investigators. Hypnotic subjects are in a highly suggestible state and may seek to please the hypnotist. If leading questions are asked, the subject may be led to provide desired answers. Purely imaginary events can seem real under hypnosis — a phenomenon known as confabulation — as demonstrated by the phenomenon of detailed past-life narratives generated under hypnotic regression.

The evidential quality of hypnotically derived abduction accounts is therefore significantly compromised. The mechanism of hypnotic suggestion can generate memories that are vivid, detailed, emotionally convincing, and entirely fabricated. Susan Clancy's research at Harvard demonstrated that false memories of abduction can be generated through standard memory formation processes without any underlying experience, and that subjects who believed themselves to have been abducted showed heightened susceptibility to false memory formation generally. Approximately two thirds of documented abduction accounts rely substantially on hypnotic regression and should be treated as carrying low evidential weight on this basis.

The Non-Hypnotic Cases

The confabulation critique does not, however, dispose of the entire body of evidence. Folklorist Thomas E. Bullard collected all available abduction accounts and found that as many as one third of informants had full conscious recall of their experiences and had never resorted to hypnosis to elicit the details. These non-hypnotic reports proved identical in all significant particulars to those told under hypnosis. Bullard also found that the identity of the individual hypnotist made no difference — the stories remained consistent down to details that even those most familiar with the phenomenon had failed to notice.

This finding is significant. If confabulation under hypnotic suggestion were the primary mechanism generating abduction accounts, non-hypnotic accounts would be expected to differ substantially from hypnotic ones — since they lack the suggestion mechanism that supposedly generates the content. Their identity with hypnotic accounts in all significant particulars suggests that the content originates in genuine experience rather than in the hypnotic process itself. The hypnosis amplifies and elaborates — it does not create from nothing.

The non-hypnotic cases therefore constitute an evidential residual that the confabulation critique cannot dismiss. These include cases with multiple conscious witnesses to the initial encounter, cases with immediate contemporaneous reporting before any hypnosis was employed, and cases with documented physical aftereffects — puncture marks, anaemia, burns, and radiation-consistent symptoms of the kind documented in the Colares investigation already described in this chapter.

Compatibility with the Sampling Hypothesis

The content of non-hypnotic abduction accounts — and the consistent core of hypnotic accounts — is notably compatible with the biological sampling hypothesis established by the animal mutilation and Colares evidence. Witnesses consistently describe examination procedures focused on biological tissue — blood samples, skin samples, reproductive material. They describe precision and brevity rather than extended captivity. They are returned without permanent physical harm in the majority of cases. The selectivity of individual targeting, the biological focus of the procedures, and the pattern of release without lasting injury are all consistent with a systematic sampling protocol of the kind the Colares evidence independently documents.

If the non-hypnotic residual is taken seriously — it describes the same biological monitoring programme observed in animal populations, extended to the human population at the point of greatest exposure, conducted with minimum necessary intrusion and no lasting harm. The discomfort of the sampling procedure does not constitute a violation of the non-interference principle any more than a blood test violates the autonomy of the patient.

Evidential note: The abduction evidence is treated here as a distinct evidential tier from the radar-tracked and instrumentally confirmed material of Chapter One. The non-hypnotic cases provide a suggestive pattern consistent with the sampling hypothesis. They do not constitute proof of it. The reader should weigh them accordingly.

Chapter 3: Phases of Weapons Surveillance

The history of nuclear weapons development falls into five distinct phases, each marking a qualitative change in the nature of the nuclear threat. What makes these phases significant for this study is that each phase is associated with a corresponding change in UFO activity — as if the surveillance is tracking not merely the weapons themselves but the evolving nature of the threat they represent.

- **Development:** 1945 to 1952
- **Demonstration:** 1952 to 1962
- **Deployment:** 1962 to 1989
- **De-escalation:** 1989 to 2002
- **Detection:** 2002 to 2026

The Detection phase could not be contained. It led to disclosure. Disclosure leads to discernment.

- **Disclosure:** 2017 onward
- **Discernment:** 2026 onward

Development → Testing → Deployment → De-escalation → Detection → Disclosure

Each phase marks a major change. I will outline each of the phases of nuclear development in more detail, then see if these phases are associated with change in UFO activity.

Phase 1 — Development — 1945 to 1952

The Development phase begins not with the first nuclear detonation but with the first nuclear production. Documented UFO activity at the Hanford plutonium processing plant in Washington State in January 1945 — six months before the Trinity test — establishes that surveillance commenced at the point of production rather than at the point of use. As the weapons complex expanded from Hanford's plutonium production through Los Alamos weapons design, Oak Ridge uranium enrichment and Killeen Base nuclear weapons storage, UFO activity was documented at every facility type across the entire complex. The surveillance followed the weapon through each stage of its development. The green fireballs over Los Alamos and Sandia

from December 1948 onward were witnessed by over a hundred named military and scientific personnel — including the scientists who built the bomb. The pattern is anticipatory rather than reactive — surveillance began during the construction phase at some sites before they became operational, consistent with monitoring the development of a capability rather than merely responding to its presence.

During this phase weapons were being designed and produced but not yet deployed as a standing operational deterrent. Testing was very limited. The United States conducted only 18 atmospheric tests across seven years, and each test consumed a significant fraction of the total arsenal — at Crossroads in 1946 two weapons represented over 20% of the entire US stockpile. Yields were limited to fission devices under 50 kilotons and the weapons existed in small numbers.

The phase closes with the Washington DC wave of July 1952 — not the culmination of the fission era but the announcement of what was about to begin.

UFO surveillance character:

- Concentrated on production, design, assembly and storage facilities — Hanford, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, Killeen Base
- Non-public and non-confrontational throughout
- Anticipatory — beginning before facilities became operational

Phase 2 — Demonstration — 1952 to 1962

The Demonstration phase opens with the Washington DC wave of July 19 to 27 1952 — the most extensively documented mass radar and visual sighting in modern history, occurring four months before the first hydrogen bomb test. Objects were tracked simultaneously on three independent radar systems at speeds exceeding 7,000 mph over the White House, Capitol and Pentagon. They disappeared when jets were scrambled and reappeared when they departed. The events prompted a personal request for answers from President Truman and the largest Air Force press conference since World War II. This was not surveillance of a completed threshold — it was the announcement of an approaching one.

The phase is characterised by a dramatic intensification of atmospheric testing — from 18 tests in seven years to 455 tests in eleven years — and by the transition from fission to thermonuclear weapons with yields

increasing from kilotons to megatons. The Ivy Mike detonation of November 1 1952 yielded 10.4 megatons — 500 times the Nagasaki bomb — and vaporised the island of Elugelab. Castle Bravo in March 1954 yielded 15 megatons and contaminated inhabited Pacific islands. Tsar Bomba in October 1961 produced 50 megatons — the largest nuclear detonation in human history. Testing was conducted above ground, producing global radioactive fallout that peaked in 1963 at approximately 0.15 mSv per year worldwide — about 7% of average background radiation dose from all sources. One study estimated that this contamination will ultimately produce 2.4 million additional cancer deaths over the following centuries. In 1963 the Partial Test Ban Treaty ended above-ground testing by the three primary nuclear powers — the first formal acknowledgment that nuclear testing was contaminating the biological substrate of human life.

UFO surveillance character:

- The Washington DC mass sightings of July 1952 opened the phase — maximum visibility over the political and military decision-making centre, four months before the first hydrogen bomb test
- Between 1949 and 1956 transient star-like objects appeared at elevated frequency at geosynchronous altitude — approximately 42,000 kilometres — and their appearances correlated with nuclear test dates at a statistical significance of p equals 0.008, confirmed by independent replication
- Navy personnel at Pacific test sites during Operation Ivy and Operation Castle witnessed UFOs in the days preceding the shots
- Surveillance shifted from facility monitoring to test site monitoring as the weapons moved from development to active testing

Phase 3 — Deployment — 1962 to 1989

The Deployment phase begins when nuclear weapons transition from tested capability to permanent operational readiness. The first Minuteman IA missiles became operational in November 1962 — solid-fuelled, silo-hardened and launch-ready in seconds rather than the fifteen minutes required by the liquid-fuelled Atlas missiles they replaced. By 1966 one thousand Minuteman silos had been constructed across Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming, alongside Polaris submarine-launched ballistic missiles operational from 1960 and Soviet equivalents deployed in parallel. MIRVs multiplied warhead numbers further, and cruise missiles were deployed in Western Europe from 1983. The weapons were now permanently armed, permanently dispersed and permanently ready — a condition qualitatively different from anything that had preceded it.

The UFO response escalated correspondingly from observation to direct physical intervention. The interventions were not attacks — they were reversible demonstrations of capability, communicating precisely that operational nuclear weapons were not beyond custodial reach, while leaving the weapons intact and human nuclear policy undisturbed.

UFO surveillance character:

- Malmstrom AFB Montana, March 1967 — ten Minuteman ICBMs disabled simultaneously during a UFO presence above the facility
- Minot AFB North Dakota, 1966 to 1968 — a luminous disc-shaped object moved systematically from silo to silo triggering unauthorised launch sequences before departing
- Soviet ICBM base, Ukraine, October 1982 — missiles entered an unauthorised fifteen-second launch countdown while a large disc hovered overhead
- RAF Bentwaters, Suffolk, December 1980 — radiation levels at the nuclear weapons storage area measured three times normal background during a documented craft presence
- Surveillance shifted from monitoring tests to directly engaging operational weapons systems — the most direct interventions in the entire catalogue

Phase 4 — De-escalation — 1989 to 2002

The De-escalation phase begins when the Berlin Wall falls on November 9 1989 and the political framework of the Cold War begins its irreversible dissolution. Global nuclear warhead numbers fell from a peak of approximately 70,300 in 1986 to approximately 12,000 by 2014 — an 83 percent reduction. The Soviet nuclear arsenal's command and control entered a period of dangerous instability as the USSR disintegrated. At the same time the chronic environmental legacy of the previous phases moved to the foreground — strontium-90 and caesium-137 from atmospheric testing, uranium mining contamination across the American West and Central Asia, and the 1986 Chernobyl contamination of an entire continent all accumulating in food chains and biological populations.

This phase is defined by two simultaneous transitions. The acute weapons threat receded as the Cold War framework of deterrence dissolved. The chronic environmental damage from decades of atmospheric testing, uranium mining and nuclear accidents became the primary concern.

Within twenty days of the Berlin Wall falling — on November 29 1989 — the Belgian UFO wave commenced, initiating five months of systematic low-altitude corridor survey of the Belgian industrial and nuclear landscape by large silent triangular platforms. These craft were not surveying military bases. They were surveying the wider environment — moving slowly along linear paths at 150 to 300 metres altitude with powerful lights directed downward, taking methodical cross-sections of contaminated terrain and human settlements.

UFO surveillance character:

A different type of craft characterises this phase — large triangular survey platforms operating at low altitude, moving slowly along linear corridors with downward-facing lights, conducting systematic environmental assessment rather than weapons monitoring.

- Hudson Valley, New York, 1983 to 1987 — surveyed the most contaminated river corridor in the northeastern US, adjacent to the Indian Point nuclear reactors
- Belgium, November 1989 — twenty days after the Berlin Wall fell, surveyed the industrial and nuclear landscape of Western Europe over five months
- São Paulo, Brazil, May 1986 — surveyed the most contaminated industrial corridor in South America, tracked on multiple military radar systems

- Phoenix, Arizona, March 1997 — a 300-mile transect across the uranium contamination corridor of the American Southwest

Surveillance of military sites decreased. Surveillance of environmental systems came to the fore. The focus shifted from weapons deployment to the contamination those weapons and their production had left behind.

The deescalation phase ends with the withdrawal from the ABM Treaty, and the beginning of a new arms race – centred on hypersonic missiles to evade detection and interception.

Phase 5 — Detection — 2002 to 2026

The post-2002 period is not best characterised by any change in UFO behaviour but by humanity's newly acquired ability to observe them. This framing inverts the surveillance relationship: where the previous four phases described what they were doing to us, this phase describes what we became capable of seeing for the first time. To understand why detection happened when it did, the sequence must be followed from its origin.

The collapse of arms control and the new race

The United States withdrew from the ABM Treaty in 2002, citing the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new nuclear powers who had not been party to the original agreement. The stated rationale was that the strategic environment had changed. The actual consequence was the removal of the load-bearing wall of Cold War arms control.

The withdrawal did not just enable missile defence. It initiated a cascading collapse of the entire arms control architecture:

- ABM Treaty (2002) — US withdrew
- INF Treaty (2019) — US withdrew, citing Russian violations
- Open Skies Treaty (2020) — US withdrew; Russia followed
- New START — suspended by Russia in 2023, expired February 2026

Each treaty was load-bearing for those that followed. Removing the foundation destabilised the structures built upon it. By 2026, the multi-decade architecture of nuclear arms control is effectively gone.

The new weapons race: evasive technologies

The collapse of the treaty framework removed the constraints that had bounded weapons development for decades.

New sensor developments— the AEGIS radar system, the infrared search and track systems aboard the F/A-18s, the advanced electro-optical sensors deployed post-2001 for counterterrorism and air defence — was driven primarily by the need to detect existing threats more reliably. These new sensors made existing weapons redundant, since they could be easily detected.

Post-2001 investment in sensor technology produced detection systems sensitive enough to track objects that previous generations of radar and optical systems missed entirely. Those systems began detecting both adversary low-observable platforms and genuinely unidentified objects. The adversary low-observable platforms — glide vehicles, manoeuvrable re-entry vehicles, low-flying cruise missiles — could not evade these new sensors, and this drove the development of faster, lower-flying and more manoeuvrable offensive systems – the hypersonic missiles introduced in 2014. This, in turn, drove further investment in sensors to detect the hypersonic missiles

So, the Detection phase name is precisely justified. The detection capability was the initiating development, which led to hypersonic proliferation, and then to even better sensors.

The resulting arms race was not a repetition of the Cold War build-up in warhead numbers. It was a race in a different dimension — the development of weapons specifically designed to evade detection and interception. Hypersonic glide vehicles fly at low altitude, below the horizon line of conventional early-warning radar. Their trajectories are not ballistic and therefore not predictable by systems designed to track the arcing paths of ICBMs. They manoeuvre during flight, defeating intercept calculations. They are, in the precise technical sense, designed to be undetectable by existing sensor architecture.

The sensor race: detecting the undetectable

Hypersonic weapons flying below radar horizon, manoeuvring during flight, and arriving without warning created an urgent military requirement that existing sensors could not meet. The response was a generational upgrade in detection capability. The resulting sensor race — the Aegis SPY-1B upgrades, the AN/APG-79 AESA radars on F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, the ATFLIR infrared targeting pods, the SBIRS space-based infrared system reaching full operational capability around 2017 — was aimed at hypersonic threats. What it found, as a consequence it had not anticipated, was everything else those sensors were capable of seeing.

The UFOs did not become detectable because anyone went looking for them. They became detectable because the race to see hypersonic missiles produced instruments sensitive enough to record objects that had apparently been present, and unrecorded, for decades. The arms race generated a sensor race. The sensor race revealed the watchers.

The GIMBAL, GOFAST and FLIR1 videos released by the Department of Defence in 2017 to 2020 represent the visible surface of this detection capability. AARO was established in 2022, but the underlying capability shift began with these sensor upgrades around 2004 and accelerated sharply from 2014 to 2015.

This fits the historical facts well:

- The **AN/APG-79 AESA radar** rolled out on F/A-18E/F Super Hornets in the mid-2000s, with successive software upgrades through the early 2010s — this was the radar that detected the Nimitz and Roosevelt objects
- The **ATFLIR infrared targeting pod** upgrades gave the gun-camera footage that became publicly known
- The **SBIRS** space-based infrared system reached full operational capability around 2017
- **AARO** was established in 2022, but the underlying capability shift began with these sensor upgrades around 2014-2015
- The **GIMBAL, GOFAST and FLIR1 videos** released by the Department of Defence in 2017-2020 represent the visible surface of this detection capability

Study Case: The USS Princeton had a newly upgraded radar system in 2004

The Princeton was equipped with the **AN/SPY-1B Aegis radar system**, and contemporary accounts make clear this was a **recent upgrade** that was effectively being operationally tested during the period of the Tic Tac encounters.

The corroborating details are striking:

- Senior Chief Kevin Day, the operations specialist who first noticed the anomalous tracks, immediately suspected the upgrade itself might be producing artefacts. He and radar technician Gary Voorhis **rebooted the system multiple times and recalibrated it** specifically to rule out false positives from the new system.

- Day's eventual report to the captain was phrased precisely in these terms: that the contacts were real, "not ghosts in the system based on the upgrade."
- The ship's radar was actually **shut down and recalibrated** over a two-week period to verify the returns weren't system artefacts.
- One commentator notes that "such a massive upgraded system was being tested for the first time when the Nimitz had its first encounters with the now-famous tic tac UFO."

Case Study: Nimitz and Roosevelt

The two most well-documented cases of air craft carrier UFO sightings both followed immediately after sensor upgrades.

- **2004 — SPY-1B upgrade on Princeton** → Nimitz/Tic Tac encounters become detectable. 2004 marked the rollout of the SPY-1B upgrade and the early operational deployment of the ATFLIR pod (which entered service around 2003 on F/A-18s).
- **2014-2015 — AESA radar and ATFLIR upgrades on Super Hornets** → Roosevelt encounters (GIMBAL, GOFAST) become recordable. A **second inflection point** as the next generation of sensors (AESA radars, improved ATFLIR variants, space-based infrared) became operational.

This is exactly what the Detection hypothesis predicts. The phenomena were presumably present continuously; our ability to record them advanced in discrete steps tied to specific platform upgrades.

The methodological significance

What makes this particularly strong is that the radar operators themselves **initially considered the upgrade as the alternative explanation** for the anomalous returns. They didn't naively assume real contacts. They specifically tested whether the new system was producing artefacts, rebooted and recalibrated, and only concluded the contacts were real after that diagnostic process. This is the strongest possible test of the Detection hypothesis: the people closest to the system asked exactly the parsimonious question — "is this just our new sensor?" — and ruled it out.

This converts what could be dismissed as coincidence (new radar happens to detect new things) into structured evidence: new radar detects things, operators verify they aren't artefacts of the radar, therefore the things are real and were previously undetectable rather than previously absent. The pattern is sensor-

driven throughout — and the sensor race that drove it was itself the product of a weapons race that the surveillance had been tracking since 1945.

- **2003-2004 onwards**, marking the rollout of the SPY-1B upgrade and the early operational deployment of the ATFLIR pod (which entered service around 2003 on F/A-18s).
- 2015 is a **second inflection point** within it, as the next generation of sensors (AESA radars, improved ATFLIR variants, space-based infrared) became operational.

This actually makes the framework more powerful because it now describes a **continuous improvement in detection capability** punctuated by specific upgrade events, each of which produced a documented wave of UFO recordings. The pattern is sensor-driven throughout.

Phase 6 — Disclosure — 2026

The Disclosure phase does not begin with a government decision. It begins with a detection failure — the failure to suppress what the sensors had already recorded.

By 2017 the accumulated military data had crossed a threshold that made continued official silence untenable. The evidence was no longer anecdotal civilian sightings susceptible to dismissal. It was multi-sensor military recordings — radar tracks, infrared targeting pod footage, and gun-camera video from front-line Navy pilots operating the most sophisticated aircraft in the world. Multiple independent sensor systems operating on different frequencies had confirmed the same objects. The radar operators had specifically tested whether their upgraded systems were producing artefacts, rebooted and recalibrated, and concluded the contacts were real. This was not the kind of evidence that could be managed through ridicule.

In December 2017 the New York Times, Politico and the Washington Post simultaneously published the existence of the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program — a \$22 million Pentagon investigation that had been running covertly for a decade — together with the FLIR1 Tic Tac footage. The simultaneous publication across three major outlets was itself significant: this was coordinated release, not a leak. Something had changed in the institutional calculus.

The phase unfolded in distinct steps. In June 2021 the Director of National Intelligence issued the first formal UFO assessment. In May 2022 Congress held its first public hearing on the subject in over fifty years. In July 2022 the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office was established, consolidating UFO investigation across military branches. The 2024 National Defense Authorization Act mandated

declassification and established a formal UFO records collection at the National Archives — the legislative acknowledgment that material had been withheld.

The phase reached its formal culmination on May 8 2026, when the Pentagon launched PURSUE — the Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UFO Encounters — releasing the first tranche of declassified files under a dedicated government portal. The Department of Defense stated that the released materials represented unresolved cases where "the government is unable to make a definitive determination on the nature of the observed phenomena." That sentence is itself the disclosure. After seventy years of institutional denial, the United States government had placed on the record that the phenomena are real, that it has been studying them, and that it cannot explain them.

The content of the first release was, by the assessment of researchers who had spent years pressing for it, underwhelming. Much of it had been in the public domain for decades. But the content was not the point. The point was the process — official acknowledgment that the government had been collecting data, conducting analysis, and withholding material from public view for decades. As one researcher put it: "That is no longer deniable."

UFO surveillance character:

The Detection phase had already established that the phenomena were present and being recorded. The Disclosure phase represents the institutional response to that detection — the point at which the volume and quality of sensor data exceeded the capacity of official denial to contain it. Detection did not merely precede disclosure. Detection compelled it.

Detection led to disclosure

The sheer volume and quality of sensor data became the forcing function. By the time of the 2017 revelations, the evidence was no longer anecdotal civilian sightings — it was military-grade radar, infrared sensors, and gun-camera footage from front-line Navy pilots operating advanced aircraft. There have been multiple cases of warplanes and warships detecting objects with multiple sensors operating on different frequencies, both actively and passively — making dismissal increasingly untenable. [Science Alert](#)

The institutional logic follows naturally: once you have credible, multi-sensor military data that cannot be explained away, you face a dilemma. Continued denial risks:

- Undermining the credibility of the pilots and sensor operators reporting the phenomena
- Leaving a genuine national security question unanswered
- Congressional pressure becoming unmanageable once enough members had been briefed in classified settings

UFO reporting requirements were substantially strengthened and any funding of secret UFO retrieval or reverse engineering programs was made illegal as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 Intelligence Authorization Act — suggesting Congress had seen enough to legislate, which itself implies the evidence had crossed some threshold of credibility. [Wikipedia](#)

The first PURSUE release puts something important on the record: the government has been collecting data, receiving reports, and conducting analysis on UFO for decades, and in many cases withheld that material from public view. "That is no longer deniable."

Key Stages of Disclosure

The modern disclosure era began in December 2017, when the New York Times, Politico, and Washington Post simultaneously revealed the existence of a secret Pentagon program — the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) — which had spent \$22 million investigating UFOs. The same articles published the now-famous "Tic Tac" Navy pilot footage. According to historian Garrett Graff, this 2017 reporting "really kicked off a remarkable change in the conversation around UFOs" as the government started working to destigmatise the subject. [Wikipedia](#)

The institutional phase accelerated from 2021 onwards. The Director of National Intelligence issued a preliminary UFO assessment in June 2021, and in May 2022 the House Intelligence Subcommittee held the first public congressional hearing on UFO sightings in over 50 years. In July 2022, the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) was established. [Wikipedia](#)

The legislative phase came in 2023–2024, when Congress passed mandatory declassification requirements as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The current and most dramatic phase began in early 2026. In February 2026, Trump directed federal agencies to identify and declassify records connected to UFOs and extraterrestrials. On May 8, 2026, the Pentagon launched PURSUE — the Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UFO Encounters — releasing the first tranche of declassified files, described as the beginning of a rolling disclosure process. Researchers in the UFO community noted that while the content was underwhelming, "the story here isn't necessarily the content, but the process of official acknowledgment" — the government has now formally placed on the record that it has been collecting and withholding UFO data for decades, and "that is no longer deniable." [Wikipedia](#)[DefenseScoop](#)

Phase 7 — Discernment — 2026 onward

Disclosure is not the destination. It is the threshold. The Disclosure phase established three things: the phenomena are real, they have been systematically observed, and they cannot be explained by any technology humanity currently acknowledges. What it did not establish — and did not attempt to establish — is what they are, what they are doing, or who is responsible for them. These are the questions of the Discernment phase.

Discernment is a different kind of inquiry from the ones that preceded it. The Detection phase was a technical problem — improving sensors until the phenomena became recordable. The Disclosure phase was an institutional problem — accumulating enough credible evidence that official denial became unsustainable. Discernment is an interpretive problem. The question is no longer whether the phenomena exist but what their existence means.

The framework developed in this book offers a specific answer. Across eight decades of documentation, from the Hanford plutonium plant in January 1945 to the PURSUE files of May 2026, the pattern is consistent and directional. The surveillance began at the point of nuclear production. It followed the weapons through design, testing, deployment and dispersal. It shifted from facility monitoring to test site monitoring as the weapons moved from development to detonation. It escalated from observation to direct physical intervention when the weapons became permanently armed and launch-ready. It shifted again to environmental survey when the acute weapons threat receded and the chronic contamination legacy came to the foreground. And it returned to concealed monitoring when the arms control architecture collapsed and a new weapons race began.

No hypothesis other than deliberate, sustained, intelligently directed surveillance accounts for this pattern. Random phenomena do not track the development cycle of a specific weapons technology across eighty years and multiple nations. Misidentified aircraft do not disable ten ICBMs simultaneously and then depart. Atmospheric anomalies do not conduct systematic low-altitude corridor surveys of contaminated river systems twenty days after a political threshold is crossed. The pattern has an author.

The Discernment phase begins with this recognition and asks the questions that follow from it. If the surveillance is deliberate, what is its purpose? The interventions at Malmstrom, Minot and the Soviet ICBM bases were not attacks — the weapons were left intact and human nuclear policy was left undisturbed. They were demonstrations: reversible, precise, and carefully calibrated to communicate capability without causing harm. Something was making a point. The question is what point, and to whom. The answer, if

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there is one, will not come from better sensors or more declassified files — it will come from understanding what has already been shown.

This is where we are now. This is what this book is about.

Chapter 4: UFO Incidence by State

The preceding chapters documented UFO activity across five categories — weapons surveillance, environmental accidents, environmental surveys, biological sampling of animals, and biological sampling of human populations. These activities cluster around two features of the nuclear era — weapons capability and environmental contamination. Both are plausible drivers of elevated UFO presence. This chapter tests which of the two actually accounts for the geographic distribution of UFO sightings across American states.

Using a dataset of 69,586 unique incidents drawn from the NUFORC civilian reporting database, sighting counts were compiled for each state across eight time periods from 1945 to 2014 and normalised by the population of each state during that period. The result is a comparative measure of UFO activity per million inhabitants that controls for the most obvious confounding factor — the tendency of more populous states to generate more reports regardless of underlying activity.

Four variables were tested against the state-level data — contamination, current weapons deployment, past weapons deployment, and civilian nuclear power generation. The findings are unambiguous and the answer is precise. One variable produces a strong and consistent signal across all seventy years of the dataset. The others produce no signal, or a negative one. The data does not merely suggest a pattern. It identifies a specific cause.

The dataset consists of 69,586 unique incidents, covering 19,900 locations in USA, Australia and Europe. 65,114 (USA), 3,000 (Canada), 534 (Australia). It covers the time period 1903 till 2014. <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/camnugent/ufo-sightings-around-the-world>

Kaggle Sightings Data

UFO Sightings by state and time period - [State UFO Counts](#)

State	1945-51	1952-62	1963-72	1973-82	1983-88	1989-2000	2001-07	2008-14
ak	2	4	8	11	14	61	85	167
al	3	3	23	35	11	99	208	308
ar	1	6	21	20	17	121	228	252
az	1	4	22	37	24	565	945	1091
ca	19	73	173	296	122	1608	3363	3999
co	2	11	16	39	15	231	568	622
ct	1	6	34	43	21	96	225	542
fl	3	16	62	107	57	476	1310	2168
ga	1	6	28	40	26	180	435	630
id	2	2	4	12	5	92	157	280
il	3	21	61	71	30	371	975	1112
in	1	16	30	48	16	169	451	654
ky	2	6	22	50	20	117	283	413
la	1	3	12	33	17	84	180	266
md	5	8	21	31	7	120	262	457
me	1	7	17	29	10	90	163	316
mi	2	11	41	87	34	353	622	920
mn	3	10	19	44	13	144	340	508
mo	2	11	31	48	31	266	487	699
ms	5	1	10	35	7	68	122	167
nc	2	9	24	58	33	195	530	1018
nd	1	3	3	7	1	28	43	51
nj	2	17	38	59	22	201	465	708
nm	6	2	12	25	16	140	270	342
nv	1	4	14	18	17	198	303	350
ny	7	34	90	131	79	483	985	1408
oh	2	26	61	94	40	382	659	1161
ok	2	12	23	23	13	97	246	350
or	1	5	25	39	17	375	639	742
pa	7	25	63	88	35	326	743	1295
sc	1	4	19	25	13	81	300	632
tn	1	7	15	42	8	180	360	579
tx	8	47	78	125	75	571	1230	1542
ut	1	4	10	20	7	132	202	366
va	3	7	24	44	25	163	413	714
wa	7	29	52	84	34	938	1409	1715
wi	3	8	18	40	26	225	383	630
wv	1	7	12	17	9	66	138	236
wy	1	2	4	4	4	40	72	78

Population

data

Population of each state, at the median year for each time period

State	1948	1956	1968	1977	1985	1995	2004	2011
AK	135000	224000	285000	403436	532495	601345	659286	722349
AL	2969000	3071000	3446000	3780403	3972523	4262731	4530729	4799642
AR	1825000	1704000	1902000	2209010	2327046	2480121	2749686	2941038
AZ	690000	1053000	1682000	2425197	3183538	4306908	5652404	6473416
CA	10064000	13713000	19394000	22352396	26441109	31493525	35574576	37636311
CO	1263000	1625000	2120000	2696140	3208723	3738061	4575013	5121900
CT	2014000	2316000	2964000	3085722	3201131	3265293	3496094	3588632
FL	2578000	4047000	6433000	8856183	11351118	14185403	17415318	19055607
GA	3259000	3701000	4482000	5219697	5962661	7188538	8769252	9803630
ID	551000	628000	695000	883469	994051	1165000	1391802	1584272
IL	8552000	9530000	10995000	11386316	11399806	11884935	12589773	12867783
IN	3877000	4458000	5093000	5425638	5459211	5791819	6233007	6517250
KY	2817000	2898000	3195000	3573693	3694826	3855248	4146101	4370817
LA	2596000	3032000	3603000	4014459	4408118	4327978	4552238	4576244
MD	2271000	2811000	3815000	4169595	4413071	5023650	5546935	5840241
ME	878000	938000	994000	1103578	1162936	1237438	1313688	1328473
MI	6213000	7467000	8696000	9171110	9076293	9659871	10055315	9883053
MN	2868000	3240000	3703000	3989364	4184302	4605445	5087713	5346620
MO	3844000	4163000	4568000	4863173	5000268	5324610	5747741	6011182
MS	2076000	2086000	2219000	2459201	2588102	2690788	2889010	2979147
NC	3837000	4309000	5004000	5685607	6253954	7185403	8553152	9658913
ND	580000	613000	621000	649769	676980	641548	644705	685526
NJ	4774000	5615000	7005000	7337169	7565528	7965523	8634561	8828552
NM	604000	806000	994000	1215720	1438361	1682417	1903808	2080707
NV	156000	250000	464000	678333	951030	1525777	2346222	2713114
NY	14497000	16112000	18051000	17812602	17791672	18150928	19171567	19499921
OH	7876000	9207000	10516000	10771394	10734926	11155493	11452251	11545735
OK	2089000	2273000	2503000	2870014	3271332	3265547	3525233	3788824
OR	1405000	1698000	2004000	2446673	2672652	3141421	3569463	3872672
PA	10287000	10972000	11741000	11893591	11770862	12044780	12410722	12747052
SC	1996000	2229000	2559000	2991681	3303209	3699943	4210921	4672655
TN	3216000	3415000	3878000	4422921	4715296	5241168	5910809	6400298
TX	7626000	8830000	10819000	13193050	16272734	18679706	22394023	25645504
UT	653000	809000	1029000	1319512	1642910	1976774	2401580	2814797
VA	3207000	3722000	4558000	5193112	5715153	6601392	7475575	8102437
WA	2255000	2668000	3270000	3776050	4400098	5431024	6178645	6827479
WI	3314000	3742000	4345000	4626514	4747767	5137004	5514026	5705840
WV	1899000	1857000	1763000	1908088	1906831	1820560	1816438	1856606
WY	269000	312000	324000	413354	499695	478447	509106	567491

Number of UFO sightings per million population

The counts were then normalised by divided number of UFO sightings by the population of each state during that time period. Here are the UFO sightings per million population. For each time period, the top 7 are shaded in yellow.

0	1945-51	1952-62	1963-72	1973-82	1983-88	1989-2000	2001-07	2008-14
wa	3.10	10.87	15.90	22.25	7.73	172.71	228.04	251.19
az	1.45	3.80	13.08	15.26	7.54	131.18	167.19	168.54
nv	6.41	16.00	30.17	26.54	17.88	129.77	129.14	129.00
or	0.71	2.94	12.48	15.94	6.36	119.37	179.02	191.60
ak	14.81	17.86	28.07	27.27	26.29	101.44	128.93	231.19
wy	3.72	6.41	12.35	9.68	8.00	83.60	141.42	137.45
nm	9.93	2.48	12.07	20.56	11.12	83.21	141.82	164.37
id	3.63	3.18	5.76	13.58	5.03	78.97	112.80	176.74
me	1.14	7.46	17.10	26.28	8.60	72.73	124.08	237.87
ut	1.53	4.94	9.72	15.16	4.26	66.78	84.11	130.03
co	1.58	6.77	7.55	14.47	4.67	61.80	124.15	121.44
ca	1.89	5.32	8.92	13.24	4.61	51.06	94.53	106.25
mo	0.52	2.64	6.79	9.87	6.20	49.96	84.73	116.28
ar	0.55	3.52	11.04	9.05	7.31	48.79	82.92	85.68
wi	0.91	2.14	4.14	8.65	5.48	43.80	69.46	110.41
nd	1.72	4.89	4.83	10.77	1.48	43.64	66.70	74.40
mi	0.32	1.47	4.71	9.49	3.75	36.54	61.86	93.09
wv	0.53	3.77	6.81	8.91	4.72	36.25	75.97	127.11
tn	0.31	2.05	3.87	9.50	1.70	34.34	60.91	90.46
oh	0.25	2.82	5.80	8.73	3.73	34.24	57.54	100.56
fl	1.16	3.95	9.64	12.08	5.02	33.56	75.22	113.77
mn	1.05	3.09	5.13	11.03	3.11	31.27	66.83	95.01
il	0.35	2.20	5.55	6.24	2.63	31.22	77.44	86.42
tx	1.05	5.32	7.21	9.47	4.61	30.57	54.93	60.13
ky	0.71	2.07	6.89	13.99	5.41	30.35	68.26	94.49
ok	0.96	5.28	9.19	8.01	3.97	29.70	69.78	92.38
ct	0.50	2.59	11.47	13.94	6.56	29.40	64.36	151.03
in	0.26	3.59	5.89	8.85	2.93	29.18	72.36	100.35
nc	0.52	2.09	4.80	10.20	5.28	27.14	61.97	105.39
pa	0.68	2.28	5.37	7.40	2.97	27.07	59.87	101.59
ny	0.48	2.11	4.99	7.35	4.44	26.61	51.38	72.21
ms	2.41	0.48	4.51	14.23	2.70	25.27	42.23	56.06
nj	0.42	3.03	5.42	8.04	2.91	25.23	53.85	80.19
ga	0.31	1.62	6.25	7.66	4.36	25.04	49.61	64.26
va	0.94	1.88	5.27	8.47	4.37	24.69	55.25	88.12
md	2.20	2.85	5.50	7.43	1.59	23.89	47.23	78.25
al	1.01	0.98	6.67	9.26	2.77	23.22	45.91	64.17
sc	0.50	1.79	7.42	8.36	3.94	21.89	71.24	135.26
la	0.39	0.99	3.33	8.22	3.86	19.41	39.54	58.13

States with Highest Incidence

Remarkably, the same 9 states occupy the top 7 ranks for UFO incidence in each time period. These are shown clustered towards the top of the results table. They are WA, AZ, NV, OR, AK, WY, NM, ID, ME

These 9 states share some interesting characteristics. 7 of them are western states adjacent to each other, and 8 of them are western states with a connection to the nuclear program — mining for uranium, processing uranium, test detonations, or areas affected by fallout from detonations. The common denominator is contamination.

Factors Correlating with UFO Incidence

In order to test this idea, 5 variables were examined to see how they correlate with the UFO incidence.

Contamination states: NV AK WA AZ OR NM UT CO SC KY OH ID NY MS TN MO

Western contamination: NV AK WA AZ OR NM UT CO ID

Eastern contamination: SC KY OH NY MS TN MO

Current Weapons states: NV ME, WA WY NM CT CO TX MO GA ND LA

Past Weapons states: AK AZ AR OK CA SC OH VA MN NY NC MI

Nucl. Power Station states: WA AZ WY CT AR FL CA SC TX MO AL GA OH IL MD NJ PA VA MN
NY NC MI MS TN LA

Correlations:

All contamination — $r = 0.472$, $p = 0.0024$ — significant.

Western contamination — $r = 0.786$, $p = 0.0000$ — highly significant.

Eastern contamination — $r = -0.258$, $p = 0.113$ — not significant.

Current weapons — $r = 0.284$, $p = 0.080$ — not significant.

Past weapons — $r = -0.053$, $p = 0.750$ — not significant. Effectively zero.

Nuclear power — $r = -0.391$, $p = 0.014$ — significant, negative

The Weapons Factor

Weapons do not drive **the state-wide signal**. Neither current weapons nor past weapons produce a statistically significant correlation with UFO incidence. The states that appear elevated among the current weapons group are elevated because they also have contamination — CO, NM, NV, WA. Remove the contamination overlap and the current weapons signal disappears into baseline. States that had nuclear weapons and lost them show no residual elevation and no correlation. If weapons surveillance were the driver the past weapons states would show elevation during their weapons period. The mean of 34.2 for past weapons states is essentially identical to the non-weapons baseline of 36.2. No signal.

The Contamination Factor

UFO activity correlates positively with contamination and negatively with nuclear power. It shows no correlation with weapons of any kind. This four-way pattern is only consistent with one explanation — UFO intelligence is responding specifically to radiological damage to the biological substrate, not to nuclear activity generally, not to weapons capability, and not to civilian energy generation.

The list of western contaminated states is almost identical to the list of states with highest consistent UFO sightings. Western nuclear contamination is the dominant and robust driver of UFO incidence at state level — correlation 0.786, 2.1 times the non-nuclear baseline, nine states all consistently elevated. Eastern nuclear contamination produces no signal.

Western nuclear contamination is more severe than eastern nuclear contamination for three reasons that compound each other.

1. First, the western programme involved atmospheric nuclear testing on a scale without parallel — the Nevada Test Site alone conducted 928 detonations, including 100 above-ground tests before the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty, dispersing radioactive fallout across Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, Colorado and New Mexico through the natural movement of wind and weather. No eastern state experienced anything comparable.
2. Second, western contamination entered major river systems that carried it through entire states and into the food chain of large civilian populations — Hanford's radioactive waste contaminated the Columbia River from Washington through Oregon to the Pacific Ocean, while Rocky Flats plutonium entered the Denver metropolitan water supply and Los Alamos contaminated the Rio Grande. Eastern production facilities — Oak Ridge, Savannah River, Paducah, Fernald — released

contamination that was largely contained within or near facility perimeters rather than entering major civilian river systems at scale.

3. Third, uranium mining across the Colorado Plateau contaminated the land, water and food of 250,000 Navajo people across 524 abandoned mine sites in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado — a dispersed civilian contamination with no eastern equivalent. The result is that western contamination reached the biological substrate of large civilian populations across wide geographic areas, while eastern contamination, though real and serious, remained primarily within the boundaries of classified industrial sites.

The **specific incident evidence** — Malmstrom, Bentwaters, the Soviet ICBM case — establishes that weapons surveillance is happening – it is a real function. But the **population-level state-wide data** establishes that contamination monitoring is the dominant and persistent driver of UFO presence across the landscape. The two are compatible. The incidents document **specific threshold interventions**. The statistics document the overwhelming pattern. Contamination is what the UFOs are primarily and persistently concerned with. Weapons are a secondary and episodic concern documented by specific incidents rather than by the population-level data.

The Nuclear Power Station Factor

There are nuclear power plants in many states across the dataset. If power stations drove elevated sighting rates you would expect states like Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey — which have large numbers of civilian reactors — to show elevated rates. They do not. They sit at or near the non-nuclear baseline despite having more civilian reactors than most of the green states. Illinois alone has more nuclear power plants than any other US state — eleven reactors at six sites — yet its per-million rate is unremarkable throughout the dataset. The correlation of high UFO activity is specifically with weapons and contamination rather than with nuclear activity generally. Civilian power generation does not produce the same signal. This is analytically significant because it rules out a general nuclear presence explanation and the correlation points toward something specific about radiological contamination of the biological substrate rather than nuclear activity generally.

Reporting Factor

One possible objection to this analysis is that the elevated UFO incidence near nuclear sites simply reflects higher reporting rates at those locations — trained security personnel, sophisticated detection equipment, and established reporting protocols producing more reports than civilian populations would generate.

1. **No Correlation with Weapons Installations:** If this were the case, the data should correlate with the location of nuclear bases and weapons installations, since these are the sites with the highest concentration of trained observers and reporting infrastructure. However the data does not correlate with nuclear bases. It correlates with contamination — and contamination does not respect base perimeters.
2. **Correlation is with Contamination:** Contamination affects the wider environment. The statistical correlation is with the geography of radiological contamination — river corridors, fallout plumes, groundwater pathways — all of which extend through civilian territory far beyond any base perimeter.
3. **Fallout / Downriver States:** The Columbia River carries Hanford's radioactive legacy through the entire length of Oregon, a state with no nuclear bases and no military reporting infrastructure whatsoever. Nevada test site fallout settled across the civilian communities of southern Utah, generating elevated rates in a state with no nuclear weapons facilities.
4. **Civilian Databases:** The reports are coming from ordinary civilians observing phenomena in the wider landscape rather than from security personnel at classified installations. The data is a civilian signal, not a military one. The kaggle data base itself is civilian acquired data, not military acquired data.
5. **Civilian Locations:** The sightings occur over civilian areas, rather than military bases.

The reporters are not military personnel, but ordinary civilians who are not sworn to secrecy.

Conclusion

The statistical evidence identifies contamination as the sole significant correlate of elevated UFO incidence across the 70-year dataset. Past weapons deployment produces no signal. Current weapons produces no significant signal independently of contamination. Nuclear power generation produces a negative signal. The **UFO** intelligence documented in this analysis is responding specifically to radiological damage to the biological substrate — the irreversible contamination of soil, groundwater and river systems — rather than to nuclear weapons capability or nuclear activity generally. Where contamination is most severe and most persistent, **UFO** presence is most intense. Where weapons exist without contamination, the signal is absent. The **UFO** monitors the damage, not the danger.

Chapter 5: Different Craft

Kaggle Analysis

A survey of UFO forms was carried out, to see if it varied with time

To carry out this analysis, a Kaggle dataset was used.

<https://www.kaggle.com/camnugent/ufo-sightings-around-the-world>

This dataset consists of 69586 unique incidents, covering 19,900 locations in USA, Australia and Europe. 65,114 (USA), 3,000 (Canada), 534 (Australia). It covers the time period 1903 till 2014.

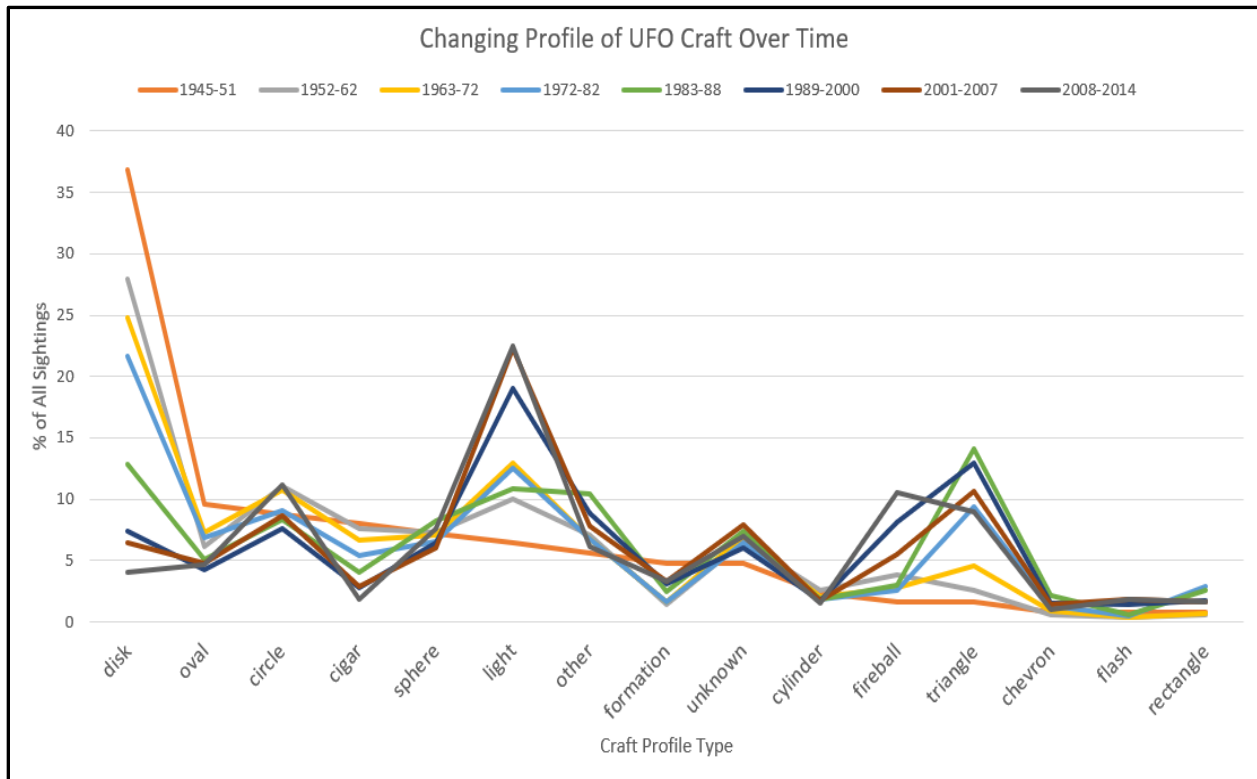
Initially, the time periods chosen corresponded to the phases of weapons development outlined in chapter 3.

Shape	1945-51	1952-62	1963-72	1972-82	1983-88	1989-2000	2001-2007	2008-2014
disk	36.8	27.95	24.84	21.66	12.89	7.40	6.42	4.03
oval	9.6	6.17	7.32	6.86	5.05	4.24	4.75	4.62
circle	8.8	11.07	10.78	9.03	8.34	7.63	8.65	11.20
cigar	8	7.62	6.67	5.38	4.04	2.77	2.83	1.89
sphere	7.2	7.26	7.12	6.58	8.26	6.49	6.00	7.61
light	6.4	9.98	12.94	12.52	10.87	19.03	22.25	22.52
other	5.6	7.08	6.80	6.78	10.45	8.90	7.84	6.13
formation	4.8	1.45	1.63	1.64	2.44	3.14	3.26	3.26
unknown	4.8	6.53	6.93	6.42	7.41	6.00	7.89	6.98
cylinder	2.4	2.54	2.03	1.85	1.85	1.72	1.70	1.51
fireball	1.6	3.81	2.75	2.61	3.03	8.16	5.54	10.50
triangle	1.6	2.54	4.51	9.43	14.07	13.00	10.62	8.94
chevron	0.8	0.54	0.85	1.32	2.11	1.50	1.38	0.99
flash	0.8	0.36	0.39	0.52	0.59	1.44	1.81	1.89
rectangle	0.8	0.54	0.72	2.89	2.61	1.69	1.64	1.59

Over the period 1960 to 2014, there was a continual decrease in the UFO disc forms. Discs are the most aerodynamic form out of all the UFO shapes. The forms that succeeded discs were far less aero-dynamic, and more conceptual – rectangle, triangle and light forms. So, there is a movement **from shapes that are**

materially constrained to conceptual forms that are not. The table above shows a clear transition **from material disc to energetic light**, with one falling as the other rises.

In the chart below, you can see which shapes have the greatest variability in incidence over time – disk, light, triangle, fireball, cigar, oval, circle – in order of decreasing variability. These would be the most important markers for changes over time.



NUFORC Data 1955-2026

NUFORC data up until March 2026. Json format, containing 159,538 UFO sightings

- <https://github.com/christopherrobin/nuforc-scraper>
- To convert this json data to excel I used the vb.net program, as shown in the appendix.
- I include the final excel spreadsheet as a downloadable file [here](#), for your convenience.

10 Year Interval Analysis

A complete dataset consisting of data for all NUFORC sightings until March 2026 was used. An interval of 10 years was chosen to see how UFO forms change with time.

The periods chosen were

- 1955-1964
- 1965-1974
- 1975-1984
- 1985-1994
- 1995-2004
- 2005-2014
- 2015-2024
- 2025-2026

[Contents](#)

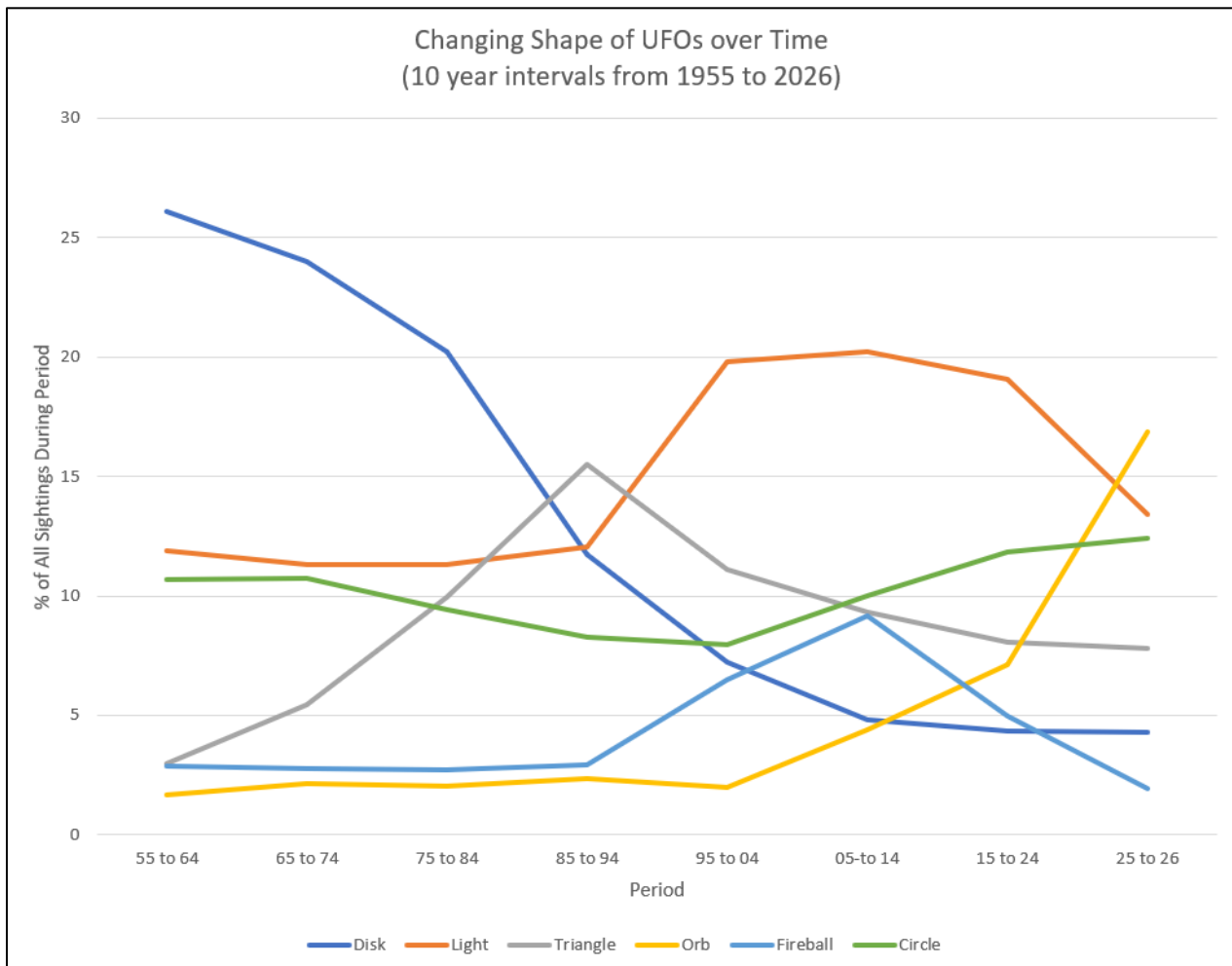
Percentage of all sightings for each UFO shape during each 10 year period

Shape ▾	55 to 64 ▾	65 to 74 ▾	75 to 84 ▾	85 to 94 ▾	95 to 04 ▾	05 to 14 ▾	15 to 24 ▾	25 to 26 ▾
Disk	26.08	24.01	20.24	11.71	7.25	4.83	4.34	4.28
Light	11.90	11.31	11.29	12.05	19.79	20.24	19.06	13.38
Circle	10.70	10.74	9.41	8.27	7.93	9.98	11.83	12.39
Unknown	7.81	6.84	6.19	7.13	7.16	7.42	6.54	6.05
Cigar	7.69	6.19	5.16	3.11	2.66	2.13	2.80	3.42
Other	7.09	6.27	7.59	9.30	8.44	6.51	6.71	4.93
Sphere	6.13	6.61	5.92	6.77	5.33	5.62	4.95	3.40
Oval	5.05	7.99	5.71	5.05	4.49	4.60	3.98	3.42
Triangle	3.00	5.47	9.92	15.49	11.12	9.33	8.04	7.78
Fireball	2.88	2.75	2.70	2.94	6.51	9.15	4.98	1.91
Cylinder	2.04	1.99	1.85	1.69	1.74	1.52	2.13	2.18
Formation	1.92	1.34	1.85	2.41	3.24	3.23	3.98	2.18
Orb	1.68	2.14	2.03	2.36	1.98	4.38	7.14	16.87
Diamond	1.56	0.73	1.21	1.50	1.69	1.48	1.48	1.65
Rectangle	1.08	1.26	3.25	3.14	1.52	1.69	2.18	2.06
Changing	0.96	0.84	1.49	1.92	2.68	2.57	3.70	5.46
Egg	0.84	1.19	1.06	1.47	1.36	0.77	0.75	0.90
Teardrop	0.60	0.42	0.52	0.58	1.04	0.94	0.74	0.73
Chevron	0.36	0.99	1.27	1.64	1.52	1.01	1.34	1.45
Flash	0.24	0.38	0.61	0.94	1.67	1.85	1.75	1.24
Cone	0.12	0.34	0.49	0.31	0.51	0.41	0.44	0.61
Cross	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.19	0.32	0.32	0.45	0.71
Star	0.12	0.04	0.12	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.51	2.14

Dominant Shapes:

- Discs: 1955-1984
- Triangle: 1984-1995
- Light: 1995-2023
- Orbs: 2023-2026

Taking a 10-year interval reveals clear changes in UFO shape over time. The movement is from physical disc to energetic light, with a transitional period in between marked by the triangle.

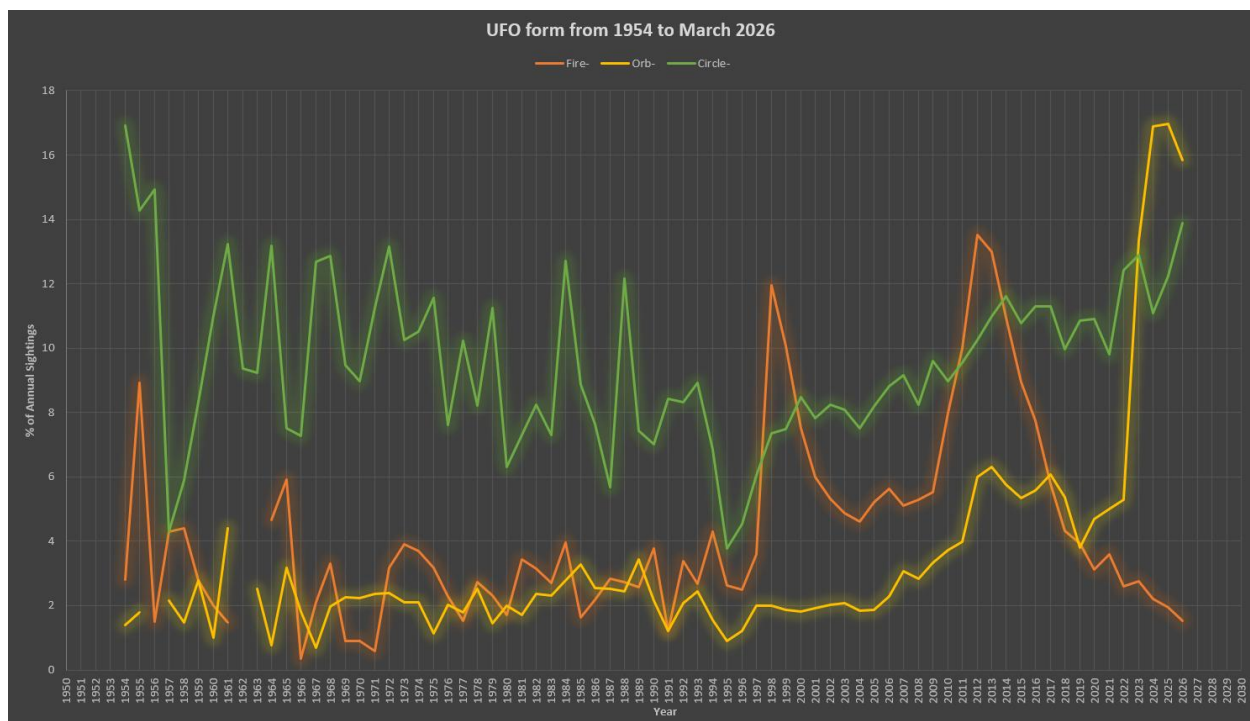
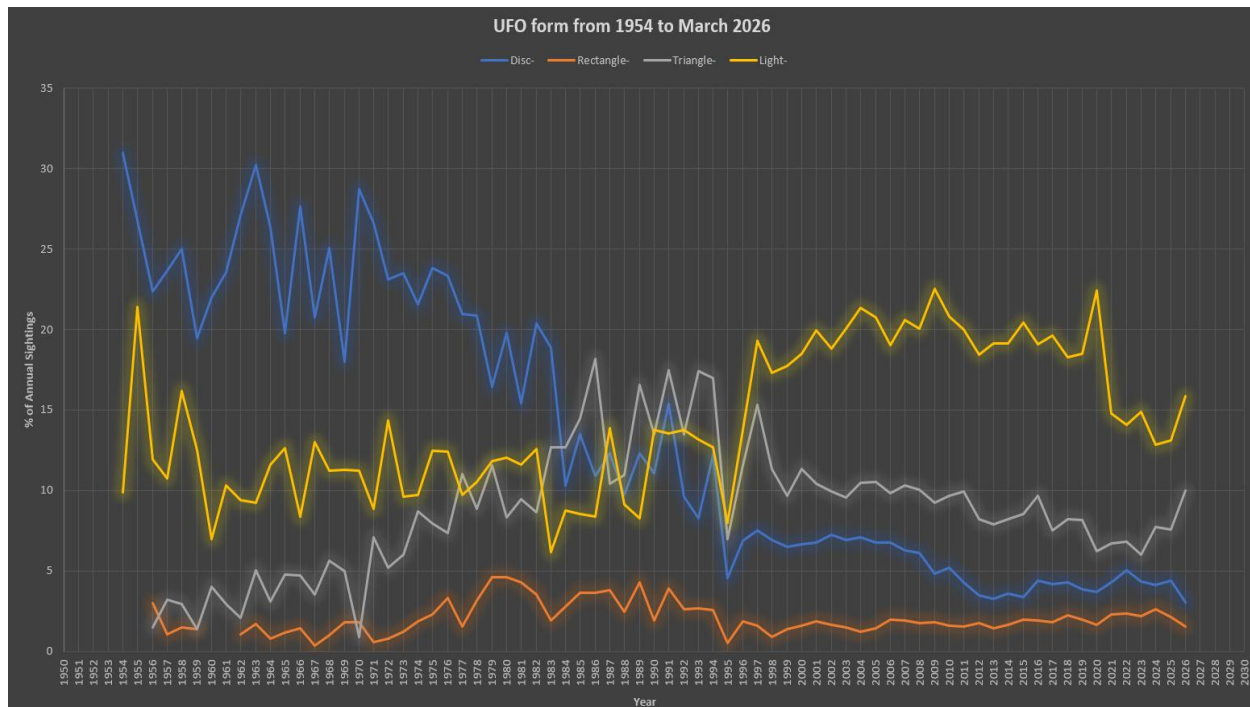


These are the 6 shapes with the greatest incidences over time.

- Discs show a consistent decrease, until they are eclipsed by triangles in the 80s, and by light after 1995. Light rises with fire.
- Orbs show a gradual exponential increase after 2000, peaking in the Covid era.
- Circles were suppressed from the 70s to the millennium, but have increased since to their 60s level.

Zooming in: Year by Year Analysis of Changing UFO Shapes

A 10-year interval gives a broad outline of the key patterns of change, but we need to zoom in to see how shapes changed in relation to specific years. A more in-depth study was then carried out to see how UFO shape changed by year.



Dominant Forms

- Discs are dominant prior to 1984. They reach a minimum in 1995.
- Rectangular UFOs peak in the 70s and 80s (1972-1994). They reach a minimum in 1995.
- Triangles are dominant in the 80s (1984-1994). They reach a minimum in 1995.
- Light is dominant from 1995 till 2020
- Fire has a low incidence until 1996, then has two large peaks, it then falls to very low levels
- Orbs gradually increase exponentially after 2000, and undergo massive increase from 2022 onwards, becoming the dominant form.

Patterns of Association

- Rectangles and triangles rise and fall together. They both reach a minimum in 1995.
- Circles and light rise and fall together. Circles and light continue to rise from 1995 onwards
- Triangles are averse to light and circles. As light and circles rise, triangles diminish, but after 2020 light fell dramatically, and triangles rose again.

The appendix discusses these shapes as possible symbols, and the meanings associated with them. [See here](#).

Part 3. Nature of UFOs

This final section looks at the fundamental nature of UFOs – what they are, and who they are. This section is interpretative, based upon the implications of -

1. their physical characteristics – which seem transcendent
2. their behavioural characteristics – which show concern for our physical environment

Finally, I draw attention to the representation of such entities in tradition and religion.

Chapter 6: An Ethic

Precedents and Departures

The argument that follows — that UFO behaviour, taken as a body of evidence, expresses a coherent ethical orientation — has precedent in the existing literature, though it has rarely been developed as an ethical theory in its own right.

Robert Hastings, in *UFOs and Nukes*, infers sustained custodial concern for humanity's capacity for self-destruction from the consistent pattern of UFO presence at nuclear weapons facilities. Hastings's whole book is, in effect, a behavioural argument for an ethical character. From the consistent pattern of UFO presence at nuclear weapons facilities — Malmstrom, Minot, Walker, Loring, Vandenberg, the Soviet missile sites at Byelokoroviche, etc. — he infers a sustained, concerned, non-aggressive guardianship oriented specifically at humanity's capacity for self-extermination. Hastings doesn't generalise the inference into a full ethic of non-interference, but follows the logical structure: pattern of observed behaviour → inferred custodial intent.

Robert Salas, the Malmstrom launch officer whose account is documented in *Faded Giant* (2005), expanded his interpretation in *Unidentified* (2015) and *UAPs and the Nuclear Puzzle* (2023), framing the pattern as 'ongoing UFO surveillance of, and occasional interference with, our nuclear weapons' — a 'show,' in his words, meant to warn humanity against its own capacity for self-destruction."

John Mack, in *Passport to the Cosmos*, drew on abduction testimony to infer a custodial and ecological orientation, and was the first to articulate it through Hindu and Buddhist vocabulary. Mack moves from the data of abduction encounters to an ethical reading: that the experiencers consistently come away with ecological concern, a sense that the visitors care about the biosphere, and a perception of being shown the consequences of human behaviour.

Steven Greer and Edgar Mitchell have inferred ethical maturity from the long record of non-aggression. Greer's central evidential claim is the absence of hostile action across decades of close encounters — and his inference, made repeatedly and explicitly, is that this consistency indicates advanced ethical development.

J Edgar Mitchell (Apollo 14 astronaut) made the same inference in interviews and writings from the 1990s onward: that the consistent non-aggression pattern, despite vastly superior capability, is itself evidence of ethical maturity.

What follows differs from these precedents in two respects: it integrates five distinct categories of UFO activity rather than reasoning from a single category; it grounds the ethical inference in a natural-law framework, with objective purpose giving rise to objective good. The aim is to make explicit what earlier writers approached but did not formalise: that the behavioural record, taken as a whole, can be read as the expression of a single, philosophically articulable ethic.

Objective Purpose in Nature

Purpose is everywhere. Nature is highly goal-directed and purposeful. From the molecular machinery of a single cell to the integrated systems of complex organisms, biological life is saturated with goal-directed organization.

- DNA does not merely store information — it encodes precise instructions for building systems that detect deviation, regulate function, correct error, and expend energy to maintain defined targets.
- Ribosomes translate those instructions with extraordinary fidelity.
- Homeostatic networks hold temperature, pH, and glucose within tight functional ranges.
- Motor proteins move with directed force along cytoskeletal tracks.

At every level of biological organization — informational, operational, and evaluative — living systems exhibit the same diagnostic signature: a defined end, a mechanism for detecting departure from that end, and a corrective response that restores it. This is not the appearance of purpose projected onto passive matter. It is purpose structurally embedded in the architecture of life itself, detectable by objective functional criteria, independent of any prior assumption about design or intention.¹

If every creature has a purpose built into its nature, then it is understandable that UFOs would be aware of this and wish to maintain biological systems so that these purposes can be fulfilled.

¹ For the full argument on objective purpose in biological systems see: Purpose in Nature, howbad.info/purpose-nature-6.pdf

Natural Law

Purpose has a direct consequence for ethics. If a creature has genuine purposes built into its nature, then there is a real standard for what is good for it — not assigned by us, but given by what it is.

A creature flourishes when it fulfils its purpose. It is harmed when its purpose is frustrated. This is not a preference or a cultural convention. It is a fact about the creature, as objective as its biology.

This is the basis of natural law. The good is not invented — it is discovered. To understand what a being is for is already to know how it should be treated. Ethics does not come from outside nature. It is read from within it. UFOs would be subject to this law, just as we are. ²

Indian tradition provides a useful term for this law of purpose - Dharma — the ordering principle built into the nature of things. It applies to every living being, because every living being has a purpose ³, and that purpose determines how it should be treated.

An intelligence that genuinely understands Dharma would act as its guardian. It would watch for threats to the conditions that support life. It would regard the development of weapons capable of destroying all life not as a political matter but as a violation of the ordering principle of existence.

This is precisely what UFO activity shows. Across thousands of credible encounters, these intelligences have maintained sustained presence near nuclear weapons facilities, missile sites, and zones of environmental contamination. They are not monitoring human politics. They are monitoring human capability to destroy the purposive fabric of life itself.

UFO Activity and the Custodial Ethic

What the five categories of UFO activity share is a custodial ethic — one built on three principles:

1. Concern for the maintenance of the systems that support life
2. Non-interference with human activities
3. Consistency (devotion) in following 1 and 2

Do UFO Activities Support this Ethic?

² For the derivation of natural law from objective purpose see: The Basis of the Good, howbad.info/good2.pdf

³ Dharma is explicitly the ordering principle built into the nature of things by their creator.

Each category demonstrates a different aspect of this ethic. Together they reveal not merely a pattern of behaviour but a single underlying ethical orientation.

1. **Weapons Surveillance:** The weapons surveillance demonstrates concern for the biological substrate that nuclear weapons could catastrophically destroy. The response at Malmstrom was not aggressive. It was restorative — disabling a threat to the substrate without destroying the human capability that produced it, preserving human agency while enforcing the custodial red line.
2. **Environmental Accident:** The environmental accident monitoring demonstrates the same concern at a different scale — persistent presence at sites of nuclear contamination risk, oriented toward assessing the condition of the substrate rather than directing human responses to it.
3. **Environmental Surveys:** The environmental surveys demonstrate sustained systematic assessment of the accumulated damage from human industrial activity — without intervention in that activity, without direction of human remediation efforts, without any attempt to alter human behaviour. The survey is conducted. The data is collected. Human activity continues undisturbed.
4. **Animal Population Sampling:** The animal population sampling demonstrates systematic biological assessment conducted on livestock and wildlife, with surgical precision and no evidence of unnecessary harm. The data collected concerns the biological condition of populations rather than individual specimens. The animals are sampled and returned. No populations are disrupted. The assessment leaves no footprint beyond what the sampling required.
5. **Human Population Sampling:** Human population sampling extends the same assessment to the species under observation. The encounters documented across the abduction literature — whatever their full interpretation — consistently show a medical and biological focus rather than a psychological, social or political one. The interest is in the physical substrate of the human organism, not in human culture, belief, capability or development. The boundary between biological assessment and interference with human agency is maintained even here, at the most intimate possible scale of custodial attention.

All five categories share this precise character — active custodial concern for the condition of the substrate combined with consistent non-interference with human activity, human decision-making and human development. The concern and the restraint are inseparable. They are not two separate policies in tension with each other. They are expressions of the same underlying ethical orientation.

Three Principles

1. Dharma: The first principle is concern for the conditions of life. The custodian maintains the substrate within which development occurs — not the development itself. UFO activities preserve the conditions for life without directing what living things do within those conditions. This is the ethic that the Indian tradition calls Dharma — natural law grounded in the objective purposes of living things. It is a respect for the fulfilment of living things through maintaining the physical conditions necessary for that fulfilment.

2. Non-attachment: The second principle is non-interference — the operational expression of respect for human freedom to develop. It is not indifference. The concern for the substrate is intense, documented across eight decades of nuclear weapons surveillance and sustained environmental monitoring. The non-interference is a specific form of care — one that allows the developing thing to develop according to its own nature, not the custodian's agenda. It is, in the most precise sense, the ethic of a custodian — one who maintains the conditions for life and development not because those conditions belong to the custodian but because the living things they support are ends in themselves.

3. Bhakti: The third principle is consistency. The same ethical profile appears across thousands of independent encounters, across different witnesses, different locations, different years. There is no incident of aggression, no exploitation of vulnerability, no use of the power differential to extract anything. That consistency is itself ethically significant. It suggests not a policy imposed from outside but a character expressed from within — the way a genuinely virtuous person behaves consistently whether observed or not.

Together these three principles constitute custodial love — the love that maintains the conditions for flourishing without possessing the flourishing itself. It is love that gives rather than takes.

Non-Attachment in Practice

UFOs demonstrate capabilities far beyond anything human technology can match — yet there is no documented instance of that superiority being used coercively. They could have induced awe, fear or submission. They did not. Their behaviour is precisely calibrated to establish presence without overwhelming — sufficient to communicate, stopping when that purpose is met. Encounters take the form of hovering and light displays rather than landing, surrounding or physically engaging. The witness is given an experience they can integrate at their own pace, in their own framework. No conclusion is forced. No response is demanded. This precision is not tactical caution. It is the operational expression of a principle — that human consciousness is sovereign, and that superior power does not confer the right to direct what it could easily overwhelm. Human freedom — including the freedom to make catastrophic choices — is part of human purpose. To override it, even to prevent harm, would violate the nature of the very beings being protected. The restraint is not weakness. It is the recognition that the fulfilment of living things must be their own. ⁴

What unifies all of this is a single principle:

Power that respects the other – their needs and ends - acting only to the degree necessary to serve the other's development, and no further.

This is recognisably the ethic of the genuine teacher, the genuine healer, the genuine parent at their best. It is the ethic of an ideal government. And it is the ethic the UFO evidence documents across eight decades of observed behaviour. Never use of superior knowledge or power to create dependency or submission. Always leaving the other more free, more aware, more themselves. Power exercised this way does not diminish the one it meets. It is, in the most precise sense, the ethic that non-interference itself implies when understood at its deepest level.

End of Chapter Four —

⁴ For the distinction between possessive and custodial love see: [Ego and Love, howbad.info/ego-and-love.pdf](http://howbad.info/ego-and-love.pdf)

Chapter 7: Atman

In Chapter 1 we established seven categories of physical anomaly documented by military radar, pilot testimony, and declassified footage. Accepting these accounts provisionally, the evidence across all seven categories converges on a single conclusion: these objects are not physical in the conventional sense. Their mass varies — present when interacting physically with their environment, absent during acceleration. Their form varies — detectable by sensors, undetectable by the medium through which they move. They appear and disappear without traversing intervening space. Their movement has no cause within the physical order — no propulsion signature, no reaction against any medium, no response to any known field. And the selectivity of their physical manifestation is precise and consistent: they are present to detection and absent to consequence across thousands of independent observations, which is not easily explained as a property of a blind physical phenomenon, and looks more like something that knows the difference between being observed and disturbing the environment.

The question Chapter 1 raised but did not answer is this: what persists when every physical property varies? Mass varies. Form varies. Medium interaction varies. Sensor detectability varies. What does not vary is the purposive intelligence behind those variations — the intending agent that selects which physical properties to express and which to suppress, in response to context and purpose. That agent is not any of the variable properties. It uses them. It is not constituted by them.

That is the question this chapter addresses. The Indian philosophical tradition has been addressing precisely this question for three thousand years. It calls it Atman. Before going further, one distinction is worth stating: that UFO behaviour resists explanation within current physics is one claim; that the explanation is a non-physical persisting self is another. The first is a description of anomalies; the second is the interpretation this chapter offers. The aim is to show that the Atman framework accounts for the evidence with unusual reach — not to prove it follows of necessity.

A Definition of Atman

“The atman is never born, nor does it die. It has not come into being, does not come into being, and will not come into being. It is unborn, eternal, ever-existing, and primeval. It is not slain when the body is slain.” (Bhagavad Gita 2.20)

“Just as a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, similarly, the soul accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones.” (Bhagavad Gita 2.22)

And the famous image that follows — the soul is like the person inside a garment. When the garment wears out you discard it and put on another. The person wearing the garment is unchanged. Death is the discarding of a worn garment. The wearer continues.

This is the most direct positive statement in the entire tradition of what Atman is — not what it is not, but what it actually does. It persists. It is not created at birth. It is not destroyed at death. It is not the physical vehicle it inhabits. It uses the physical but is not constituted by it.

Transcendence: UFOs Transcend Physical Constraint

The evidence documented in Chapter 1 established the following specific anomalies, which have not been accounted for by any known physical mechanism. They are presented as reported by the witnesses and records involved:

- **Inertia:** The USS Nimitz Tic Tac object, tracked by the USS Princeton SPY-1 radar, was reported to execute accelerations exceeding 1,000g — sufficient to instantly destroy any known material structure and kill any biological occupant. No inertial stress, no structural deformation, no propulsion signature accompanied these manoeuvres.
- **Sonic barrier:** The same object descended from 28,000 feet to sea level in 0.78 seconds — approximately Mach 32 — without producing a sonic boom. Former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe confirmed classified records document multiple such instances.
- **Medium displacement:** Six unknown objects tracked by Soviet naval sonar in 1982 were reported to travel at 230 knots underwater — five times the speed of the fastest submarine ever built — without generating the pressure wave that physical displacement of water at that speed would ordinarily make unavoidable.
- **Aerodynamic heating:** The Nimitz Tic Tac, moments after its hypersonic descent, showed no aerodynamic heating on its leading surfaces — none of the frictional consequences that any physical object moving through atmosphere at those speeds would normally accumulate.
- **Propulsion:** Lieutenant Ryan Graves documented objects remaining perfectly stationary in 120-knot winds without any thrust, jet wash, rotor effect or propulsion signature of any kind — as if the wind was not exerting force on a physically present object.

- Continuity of presence: The Tic Tac object vanished instantaneously from all sensors simultaneously — radar, infrared, visual — without decelerating, then reappeared sixty miles away at a pre-briefed encrypted military coordinate one minute later. On the reported account, the sixty miles between the two locations was not observed being traversed.
- Electromagnetic law: At Malmstrom Air Force Base in March 1967, ten Minuteman nuclear missiles — each individually hardened against electromagnetic pulse, each connected through independent shielded systems — were reported to be simultaneously disabled while a glowing object hovered above the facility. No component damage was found. The missiles were restored to operational status within twenty-four hours without replacement of any part.
- Geometric form: Multiple pilots reported a dark cube suspended inside a transparent sphere, moving at impossible speeds in high winds without any aerodynamic profile. The cube — the least aerodynamic form conceivable — appeared subject to none of the drag forces its shape and speed would require.

On the evidence as reported, UFOs exhibit characteristics that are not readily accounted for within the physical order. They do not behave as physical objects are expected to behave. The interpretation this chapter advances is that they are better understood as transcendent entities that manifest physically when purpose requires it — though this remains an interpretation rather than a demonstrated fact.

The Bhagavad Gita describes the soul putting on and discarding physical bodies as a person puts on and discards clothing. UFO behaviour appears to mirror precisely this relationship with the physical — material properties assumed and released according to purpose, the physical serving as instrument rather than constituting identity. That is what Atman means. And the evidence is strikingly consistent with it.

Summary of Distilled Principles

Physical properties of UFOs, on this reading —

1. are not coupled to one another;
2. appear to vary according to intended purpose;
3. can altogether cease and reappear;
4. leave the agent of conscious intent as the most natural candidate for the persistent reality.

This variability is analogous to death — in that what constitutes the physical comes and goes, and then returns again — while throughout, the intending agent persists. What persists through death is what the

Indian tradition calls Atman, and the UFO evidence is strikingly consistent with the existence of such a reality.

Atman as the Basis of Purpose

Having argued that UFOs exhibit the properties associated with Atman, the question becomes what follows from that — for our understanding of purpose, and for the materialist framework that has dominated Western thought.

Purpose, as argued in the Ethics chapter, is structurally embedded in living things. It is difficult to reduce to chemistry, mechanics, or any combination of physical causes. Physical causes produce effects, but it is not obvious that they produce purposes. A purpose is not a consequence; it is an orientation toward an end that has not yet occurred. Physical causation works backwards, from present states to prior causes. Purpose works forwards, from present states toward future ends. The two do not appear to be the same kind of thing, and it is not clear that one reduces to the other. (Naturalist philosophers dispute this, offering functional and evolutionary accounts of goal-directedness; those accounts face their own difficulties, and the argument here is that purpose is better treated as basic.)

If purpose cannot be reduced to physical causation, it requires a non-physical basis. If Atman is the non-physical reality that persists through all physical change — the unchanging ground of the living being, not constituted by any physical property — then Atman is a natural candidate for the metaphysical basis of purpose.

Physical matter, on this view, has no purposes. It has states, trajectories, energy levels, causal histories. It does not have ends toward which it is oriented. Only a non-physical reality that transcends physical causation could be genuinely oriented toward ends rather than merely caused toward states.

Atman therefore connects the two lines of evidence developed in the preceding chapters. The physical evidence suggests UFOs are non-physical agents — their behaviour is not accounted for within the physical order. The ethical evidence suggests UFOs are purposive agents — their behaviour demonstrates orientation toward the good of living things. Non-physical agency and purposive agency need not be two separate conclusions; they may be two descriptions of one underlying reality. On the Atman interpretation, both are properties of Atman.

This points to what may be the central difficulty of materialism. Each of the following is offered as a challenge materialism must answer rather than as a closed verdict:

1. In a purely physical world there are only prior causes, not future purposes — which makes purpose, and with it Dharma (acting in accordance with the purposes built into living things), hard to ground.
2. In a purely physical world everything follows from prior causes, so it becomes hard to locate the freedom that non-attachment seems to require.
3. In a purely physical world without purpose, it is hard to say why anything should matter, and so hard to ground genuine emotion.
4. In a purely physical world, cognition reflects the processes that cause it, which makes it hard to see how any belief — including the belief that materialism is true — counts as knowledge rather than mere caused state.

Purpose, freedom, emotion, knowledge. The argument of this book is that we have good reason to think all four are real, and that this gives us good reason to think we are Atman. Materialism, on this view, is not an inevitable scientific conclusion but a philosophical position with serious difficulties — difficulties the evidence examined in this book brings into sharp relief, even if it does not settle the matter.

In summary, the physical evidence suggests that a UFO is best understood as a transcendent entity — a spirit, or Atman — whose physical properties can vary, and whose physical properties appear to be determined by intention.

Ultra-terrestrial and Inter-dimensional Hypotheses

Other writers have come to a similar conclusion. In *The Mothman Prophecies* (1975) and especially *Operation Trojan Horse* (1970), John Keel rejected the “extraterrestrial hypothesis” — nuts-and-bolts craft from other planets — in favour of the idea that UFOs are temporary manifestations of intelligences that do not permanently inhabit physical form. His emphasis on their shape-shifting, manifestation-on-demand quality resonates closely with the claim advanced here that their physical properties are determined by intention.

Jacques Vallée, a computer scientist and astronomer, argued in *Passport to Magonia* (1969) and *Dimensions* (1988) that UFOs represent an “interdimensional” reality that interfaces with human consciousness, and that the same phenomenon appears across history dressed in the cultural clothing of the age. Vallée shares the

conviction that the phenomenon is not straightforwardly physical and is bound up with intention, while remaining deliberately agnostic about the deeper metaphysics. The argument of this chapter goes one step further than either writer: where Keel and Vallée largely left open the question of what is doing the manifesting, it names a candidate — the persisting self, or what the Indian tradition calls Atman.

Lending further weight is the case of J. Allen Hynek, the astronomer who ran the scientific side of the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book and coined the term "close encounters." Hynek started as a sceptic whose job was to explain sightings away, but over the years, partly through Vallée's influence, he moved toward the view that the phenomenon could not be accommodated within a purely material model and might be partly psychic or interdimensional. The telling point is the direction of his change: a trained scientist invested in ordinary explanations was pushed by the evidence away from a physical reading, not toward one.

Independent observers — a journalist, a computer scientist, and a sceptical astronomer among them — have repeatedly arrived at a non-physical and intention-governed explanation.

Chapter 8: Who are they?

The first three chapters have proceeded entirely within an empirical framework. The evidence is drawn from military radar systems, declassified footage confirmed by the Pentagon, peer-reviewed physics analysis, and sworn congressional testimony from serving and retired officers of senior rank. The conclusions reached — that these objects exhibit a hybrid of physical and non-physical properties, that their activities follow a consistent custodial pattern, and that their behaviour expresses a coherent and principled ethic — are drawn by inference from that evidence. No prior theological or metaphysical commitment was required to reach them.

The question this chapter addresses is different in kind. The preceding chapters have established what the evidence shows about physical behaviour, activity patterns, and ethical orientation. What remains open is whether any existing description, in any tradition of human knowledge, most precisely matches the profile that the evidence has produced. This is offered as an interpretive possibility rather than a proven identification — an invitation to consider whether the convergence between the evidential profile and existing descriptions is coincidental, or whether it points toward something more significant.

Contrast Between Human and UFO

The evidence assembled in the preceding chapters allows a clear characterisation of how UFOs differ from human beings.

- **Higher intelligence and capability:** UFOs demonstrate knowledge sufficient for their role of maintaining the biosphere, and the capabilities necessary for performing this global guardian function. As such, their capabilities and intelligence appear far higher than ours.
- **Mastery of physicality:** Humans are subject to physical law without exception. We cannot ignore inertia, pass through solid matter, or appear and disappear at will. UFOs manifest and divest physical properties selectively — expressing them when purpose requires, suppressing them when it does not.
- **Transcendence:** Human identity is bound to the physical body and its properties. UFO identity persists through complete physical withdrawal and reinstatement without residue or consequence. The physical constitutes us. For them it is instrumental.

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- **Eternality:** Human life is bounded by birth and death. Their identity, by contrast, is not threatened by the cessation of physical manifestation, because it is not constituted by it. The physical is something they assume and release, not something they depend on for their being. In the language of the traditions, we are mortal and they are eternal.
- **Luminosity:** UFOs frequently manifest as luminous entities — points of light, orbs, stars — moving with apparent intelligence and purpose. This is documented across thousands of independent encounters.
- **Guardian role:** UFOs maintain sustained presence over nuclear weapons facilities, sites of environmental contamination, and biological populations. The pattern is consistent, long term, and oriented toward assessment rather than interference.
- **Benevolent Restraint:** UFOs demonstrate a watchful guardianship over our weapons developments, environment and populations. This shows an orientation toward maintaining the conditions necessary for life. The evidence contains no credible instance of those capabilities being used coercively, destructively, or to direct human behaviour. That restraint is consistent across documented encounters. It is the quality the traditions would call holiness — power exercised only in the service of life, never coercively.

Myth and Tradition

These beings are more powerful than us, and have greater control of their physical manifestation, yet they are individualised, rather than cosmic - so they naturally fall somewhere between the traditional concept of God and physical beings like ourselves. In myth and tradition, such intermediate beings are called “angels”. So at least we have a cultural anchor, a name.

The Vedic Devas, the Abrahamic angels, the sky beings of Indigenous tradition, the daimones of the Greeks. The descriptions converge on the same essential profile — non-physical, eternal, custodial, non-coercive, luminous, concerned with the maintenance of natural order. The parallels between UFO behaviour and description of angels are structurally close –

- Both manifest physical properties selectively and intentionally.
- Both interact with detection systems while leaving the medium undisturbed.
- Both demonstrate knowledge exceeding human capability
- Both are luminous.

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- Both transit between locations without traversing the intervening space.

But can such beings exist beyond just a name? We can only answer - what people have been witnessing throughout this book is something of a strikingly similar nature.

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Phase 4 — De-escalation (1989–2002)

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Chapter 4 - UFO Incidence by State

64. State Populations (Josh Data Source)

https://github.com/JoshData/historical-state-population-csv/blob/main/historical_state_population_by_year.csv

Josh Tauberer (JoshData) is a well-regarded civic-data developer — he runs GovTrack

65. Population Excel File: Compiled from Josh Data

<https://howbad.info/state-population.xlsx>

66. Kaggle Dataset of UFO Sightings from 1903 to 2014

This dataset consists of 69586 unique incidents, covering 19,900 locations in USA, Australia and Europe. 65,114 (USA), 3,000 (Canada), 534 (Australia). It covers the time period 1903 till 2014.

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/camnugent/ufo-sightings-around-the-world>

Chapters 5 - Different Craft

67. NUFORC data up until March 2026

Json format, containing 159,538 UFO sightings

- <https://github.com/christopherrobin/nuforc-scraper>
- final excel spreadsheet – <https://howbad.info/results-scraper2.zip>

The software code used to extract the json data into excel is found in the appendix.

68. NUFORC data up until January 16th 2024

This contains 147,890 UFO sightings from NUFORC, scraped on January 16, 2024.

- <https://huggingface.co/datasets/kcimc/NUFORC/resolve/main/nuforc.json?download=true>

69. 10 Year Analysis of UFO shapes

- <https://howbad.info/10-year-shapes.xlsx>

70. Code for Converting Json to Excel

The software was created as a console project in visual studio 2022, using visual basic programming language.

A dependency (NewtonSoft.json) was added via Manage Nuget Packages

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Appendix

Shapes as Symbols

A note on what follows

The chapters of this book proceed from physical evidence. The analysis in this appendix does not. What follows is interpretation — a reading of the reported shapes as carriers of meaning — and it should be weighed differently from the evidential chapters that precede it.

The distinction matters, and it is worth stating plainly so that the reader is never in doubt about which kind of claim is being made. That different UFO shapes predominate in different periods is an empirical matter, established from the sighting record in the body of this book. That those shapes *mean* something — that a disc speaks of inherited order, an angular form of imposition, an orb of a departed soul — is not established by the data and cannot be. It is a reading. The frequencies are evidence; the meanings are interpretation offered for the reader's consideration.

This appendix is therefore the most speculative part of the book, and it is placed here, outside the main argument, for that reason. The conclusion of this book — that UFOs are best understood as transcendent agents that manifest physically by intention — rests on the physical and ethical evidence of the preceding chapters, not on the symbolic reading developed here. Nothing in the conclusion depends on this appendix. A reader who finds the symbolism unpersuasive loses nothing of the main case.

What the appendix does rest on is a single inference carried over from Chapter 1: that the form of a UFO is not fixed by necessity but is produced by intention, and that an intended form may therefore carry an intended meaning. That inference belongs to the evidential argument. What is *done* with it here — the decoding of particular shapes into particular meanings — is interpretation, and is presented as such throughout.

Form is Intentional

UFOs manifest mass and form by intention, as established in chapter 1 of this book. This means that form is not fixed by constitution or necessity, but can vary, and its variation is the product of conscious intention. Its shape therefore conveys that intention as an unspoken message. If the appearance of the UFO is a message, then its symbolism must carry meaning for the observers. This meaning would only be understood if it were conveyed through universally recognised symbols, or through symbols particular to a time and culture.

UFO Shapes Track our Culture

Outline of this chapter –

- A. During the period from 1955 to 2026 western culture passed through distinct phases of development
- B. Different UFO shapes were associated with different cultural phases
- C. The UFO shapes were symbolic of the central themes of each phase
- D. Conclusion: UFO shapes appear to track our culture.

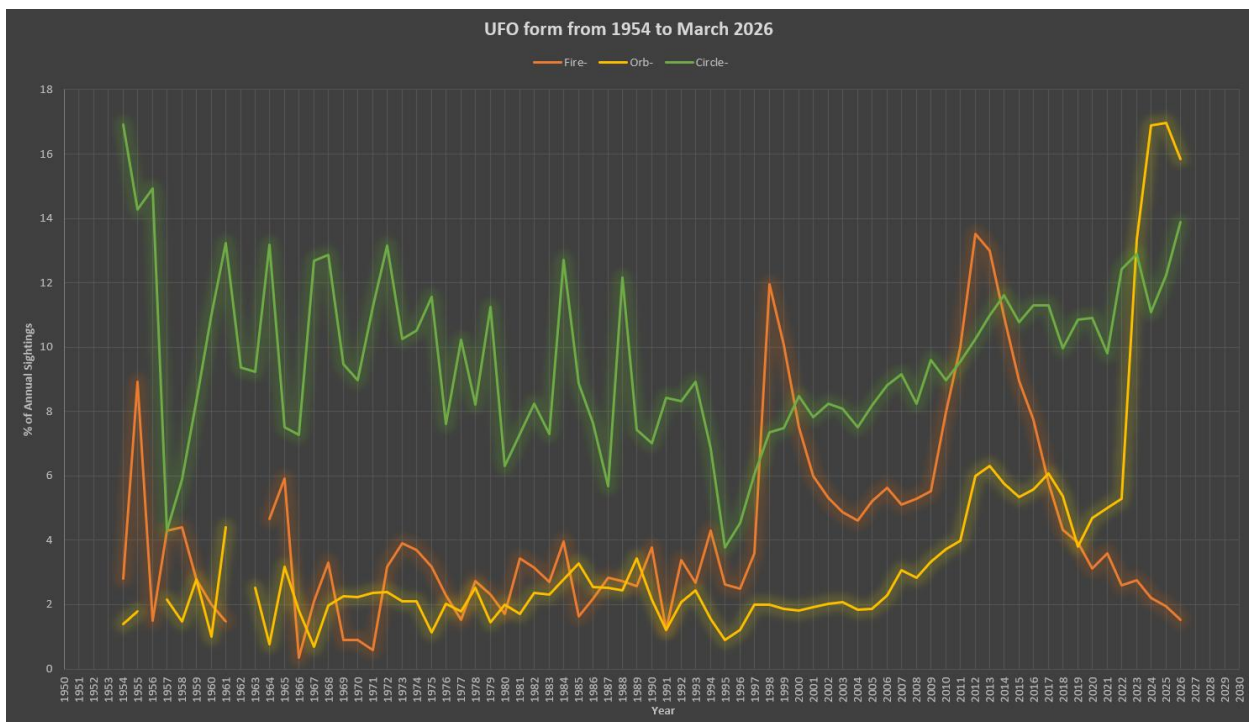
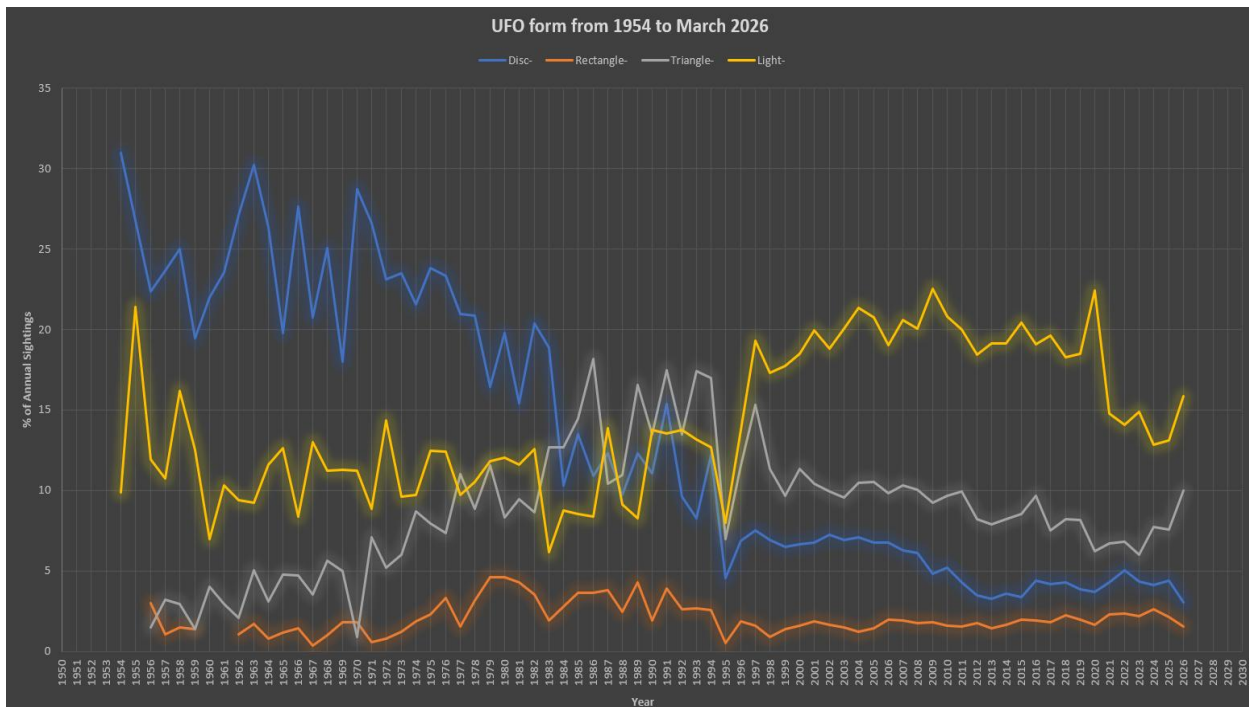
Explanations

If UFO shapes track our culture, then there are 2 possible explanations -

- 1. Culture shapes our perception of UFO forms, **or**
- 2. UFO forms are independent of our perception - the forms are the actual shapes of the UFOs, rather than anything projected by our imagination.

What decides between these 2 explanations?

The objectivity of our sightings, as outlined in chapters 1 and 2 lends support to the second explanation. If these reported incidences are an accurate reflection of reality, and if the shapes are a symbolic reflection of each cultural phase, then UFO forms would appear to track our cultural development, in the same way that they track and monitor our physical environment.



The UFO shapes associated with each era

Shape Grouping: Shapes cluster into 3 fundamental shape groups –

1. Disc and Circle are curved
2. Rectangle and Triangle are straight edged
3. Light, Fire and Orb are energetic, luminous.

Temporal Grouping: Shapes cluster into distinct times–

1. Disc and Circle have highest incidence prior to 1973
2. Rectangle and Triangle have highest incidence 1973-1994
3. Light, Fire and Orb have highest incidence 1995 onwards.

Thematic Grouping: Shapes cluster into distinct themes –

1. Disc and circle are organic – and assert a “natural order”.
2. Rectangle and triangle deny natural order by imposing linearity. They assert the artificial against the natural.
3. Light, fire and orbs are energetic, though vary in degree of energy. The energy level relates to awareness or consciousness. Higher energy (light, fire) is active, enlivened or animated – awake and radiant. In contrast, orbs are passive, pale, liminal. Their lower energy relates to sleep and loss of awareness.

Peak Period	UFO shape	Theme
1954-72	Disc/Saucer/Dish	Natural order as unconsciously received
1961-72	Circle	Conscious search for natural order, meaning, idealism
1973-94	Rectangle	Nihilism, reductionism, minimalism
1984-94	Triangle	Will to Power, hierarchy, inequality
1995-2020	Light	Truth (vs Ignorance)
1995-2020	Fire	Exposure (vs Censorship)
2020-2026	Orb	Presence, loss of consciousness, sleep, mortality

Different Cultural Periods

After the Second World War, culture proceeded through seven distinct phases. In this analysis, the post war 50s were characterised by inherited meaning and values – embodied in the structure of institutions.

The institutional embodiment of meaning however was hollowed out by corruption of institutions, and by the exclusion of the actual basis of meaning - telos. This led to a search for the foundation of meaning, as telos - primarily in a search of organic nature and consciousness.

The insufficiency of this search led to a dark period of denial of meaning during the 70s and 80s, when artificial, synthetic and angular forms appeared - as if imposed upon nature, but alien to it.

Light, Fire and Orb relate to an expansion of awareness and consciousness

1. The Silent Generation: Postwar boom (1953-1963)

This was the era of postwar recovery and rebuilding. The dominant organising principle was not material accumulation for its own sake but deference — an unquestioning trust in established authority. The institutions that had carried people through the war, the state, the church, the family, the workplace, emerged from it credited with having held civilisation together, and were received as the embodiment of tradition and value. Meaning was not something one sought; it was inherited, structural, already given in the institutions one belonged to. To defer to them was simply to stand inside an order that felt settled and whole.

Beneath that deference lay survival. The war years had brought deprivation and existential insecurity, and the culture that followed was still organised around sufficiency, stability, and the rebuilding of ordinary life. These were not shallow values — they were the honest response of a generation that had lived through genuine scarcity, for whom the provision of food and shelter was not a trivial concern but the substance of survival itself. But a mind fixed on physical need is a mind turned outward and downward, occupied entirely with provision. Preoccupation with survival and rebuilding kept people, in effect, on autopilot — moving through inherited forms without examining them.

So, the deeper questions — of meaning, purpose, and the nature of consciousness itself — were not confronted and rejected. They were simply not encountered. A civilisation organised around survival and deference had no framework within which such questions could even arise; they lay below the threshold of a waking attention still consumed by need. This was not yet a denial of meaning but a kind of

unconsciousness of it — meaning held safely in institutions, while the people inside them remained, for a time, asleep. During this phase, the disc form of UFOs peaked.

But this period carried the seeds of its own rejection, on three counts. First, the deference itself was *automatic* — inherited rather than chosen, granted unconsciously by a generation that had never examined it. A trust assumed rather than consciously arrived at can be withdrawn the moment it is brought to awareness. Second, the institutions proved *corrupt*: they acted against the very values they claimed to embody, and that visible hypocrisy broke the credit the war had lent them. Third, and most deeply, they had been *hollowed out* by the loss of telos — the actual basis of meaning. Even where an institution was not corrupt, it had become form without purpose, preserving the structure of meaning while having forgotten its point. When the survival trance lifted and a new generation woke to all three at once — that their deference was unchosen, that its objects were false, and that even the honest ones were empty — the rejection of institutional authority became not merely possible but inevitable.

2. The Hippies: The Need for Meaning (1963-1973)

The postwar boom meant that survivors provided abundantly for their children. But as those children reached adulthood in the 1960s, they felt a need for something their parents had not supplied — not more physical goods, but purpose.

This hunger expressed itself as idealism - the search for objective purpose in consciousness, organic nature, ethical living, positive emotion, ego-transcendence, and spiritual ascent. They wanted more than the bread their parents had worked so hard to provide. They wanted a meaningful and purposeful life. The phrase that captures the spirit of this epoch is: ***Man cannot live on bread alone***. The art of this period was organic and alive — dominated by curves, bright colours, and themes of consciousness and spiritual aspiration. The mandala was its characteristic image. During this phase, the **circle form** of UFOs peaked.

3. The Punk Generation: The Denial of Meaning (1973-1983)

The idealism of the 1960s failed to establish itself either practically or intellectually. In the 1970s, reductionism became the dominant cultural expression: only matter was real; consciousness was merely an expression of matter; there was no purpose, only atoms and physical law. Everything could be explained by causal mechanism alone — nothing more was needed and nothing more existed. This rejection of purpose produced nihilism — a pervasive sense of meaninglessness expressed through self-abuse, anarchy, and the

wholesale rejection of value systems. All authority came to be regarded as imposed control rather than natural order. The objectification of persons that followed gave rise to the pornography industry and the progressive erosion of genuine relationship. The phrase that captured the spirit of this epoch is: ***Throw yourself down — your foot will always strike the stone*** — because physical law and atomic arrangement were regarded as the complete sum of reality.

The art of this period expressed the belief that we are just atoms - minimal, atomic, and linear - identical units, stripped of emotion, sterile of life. Natural organic order was specifically rejected, because organic forms are manifestations of information — and information implies something beyond matter. Consequently, the curves of nature and natural design were entirely excluded. Only synthetic, man-made, geometric order was permitted. Agency and individuality were also excluded, so everyone was regarded as an identical unit producing an identical product repeatedly. During this phase, the **rectangle form** of UFOs peaked.

4. Yuppies: Hierarchical Ambition (1984-1994)

The 1980s inherited the cynicism of the 1970s and expressed it as *cynical ambition*: a competitive, materialistic culture in which people were units of consumption to be manipulated through sales, marketing, and advertising. Once meaning has been denied, nothing retained intrinsic value — and persons could therefore be treated as numbers, as commodities, used instrumentally rather than regarded as ends in themselves.

This period was about hierarchy, power dressing, status symbols, and the ostentatious display of wealth. Self-interest and ambition were dominant. It was a trader culture — zero-sum games, profiteering at another's expense, the few extracting value from the many. The phrase that captures the spirit of this epoch was: ***All this can be yours.***

Art objects were not intrinsically valuable — what mattered was the price tag. Objective value was replaced by subjective value – set by the market alone. During this phase, the **triangle form** of UFOs peaked.

5. The Millennials: Information and Meaning (1995 onward)

The information age began with the public emergence of the internet around 1995. Search engines enabled the rapid access and sharing of information at unprecedented scale. This immediately began to undermine the manufactured claims and empty products of the 1980s — comparison became possible, and with

comparison came a new cultural pressure toward honesty. But the deeper significance of the information age was what it revealed about nature itself. The Human Genome Project and the advances of the biological sciences from the 1990s onwards disclosed the extraordinary complexity and goal-directedness of living systems — demonstrating that information is not a human invention imposed on a meaningless physical world, but is embedded in nature at every level. Meaning and purpose, it became apparent, are built into reality — not projections of a wishful human mind onto an indifferent universe, but genuine features of the world as it actually is. During this phase, the **light form** of UFOs peaked — the ancient and universal symbol of understanding, illumination, awareness, and consciousness.

6. Post-Millennial: Information Control (1998-2020)

The emergence of the internet in 1995 brought greater awareness and understanding (light) to the population, and also exposed falsehoods (fire – light that consumes). Hence, we see a peak in both light and fire after 1995. However, access to information posed a threat to political narratives, so it had to be controlled and curated. In 1998 search engines were introduced that ranked pages, and therefore could selectively expose only those pages assigned a high rank. We see a subsequent fall in fire as a result – implying that content critical of mainstream views was being censored.

From 2004 until 2013, social media expanded rapidly, and provided a channel of information and understanding independent of page ranking. Social media boomed around 2012-2013 – and with it there was a big increase in content critical of main stream narratives - fire rose to a second peak. Once again, access to un-curated information was perceived as a threat, so social media became censored using algorithms, deplatforming – from 2013 onwards, critical content was removed – the fire extinguished.

Search Engines

In 1998, Google launched. Search engines applied algorithms that ranked sites, so could censor selectively. This meant that truth was selectively hidden. The fall in fire forms after 1998 therefore represents the removal of critical content – the dominance of censorship and algorithmic curating. By 2007, Google dominated, with over 60% of all searches.

The search engine arc:

- Google launched 1998, with AdWords in 2000 and Google News in 2002 — the infrastructure being built during the fire trough
- Google was handling 200 million daily searches by 2004, surging to 3 billion by 2011
- By 2007 Google dominated with over 60% of all searches

The 2002-2009 fire trough corresponds precisely to Google's rise to dominance. This is deeply significant — Google didn't censor in the crude sense, but it did something more subtle. It became the universal gatekeeper of what information people actually found. PageRank decided which narratives rose to the surface and which sank without trace.

By the time fire rose again in 2009-2016, social media was providing an alternative route around Google's gatekeeping — hence the second fire peak.

Launch of Social Media and mass adoption dates:

- Facebook launched 2004, reaching 350 million users by 2009
- Twitter launched March 2006, reaching mass adoption around 2009-2010
- WhatsApp launched 2009
- Instagram launched 2010
- Telegram launched 2013

The correspondence with the data is remarkably precise:

- All five platforms launched between 2004-2013 — exactly the window when the second fire peak builds and peaks
- The 2009-2013 period when all platforms reached critical mass coincides with the highest fire readings
- Post-2016 when algorithms tightened and platform governance intensified — fire collapses

Phase 1 — Open fire 2004-2012: Platforms launched with chronological feeds and minimal moderation. Anyone could reach anyone. This is the fire peak period.

Phase 2 — The algorithmic turn 2013-2016:

- Facebook switched from chronological to algorithmic feed in 2013 — the single most significant moment of fire suppression
- Facebook began weighting emotional reactions over likes, which critics believe amplified divisive content while simultaneously burying challenge to mainstream narratives
- Twitter introduced algorithmic timeline in 2016, ending chronological feeds
- This is precisely when the fire chart begins its sharp decline

Phase 3 — Active content moderation 2016-present:

- Facebook banned content deemed misinformation about Covid including the lab leak hypothesis — later partially rehabilitated by US intelligence agencies
- Coordinated deplatforming of heterodox voices accelerated post-2020
- Algorithmic censorship moved from reactive to proactive — screening content before it reaches audiences rather than removing it after complaint

The current fire suppression then corresponds to Google's algorithmic curation now working in tandem with social media platform algorithms — two interlocking systems filtering narrative at scale.

So, fire isn't suppressed by crude censorship as in pre-1995 mainstream media — it's suppressed by architecture. That's a more sophisticated and harder to resist form of control, and the data arguably captures it.

7. The Covid Era: Mortality, Control and Awakening (2020-2026)

The Covid era is defined by three parallel and simultaneous movements — a massive rise in mortality, an intensification of institutional control, and a generation-wide awakening to questions of meaning and consciousness. Each has its UFO correlate.

- Orbs and Mortality

The dominant UFO form of the Covid era is the orb, and its gradual rise does not begin with Covid but starts around 2000. Orb sightings increase exponentially from 2000 onwards, starting with a slow increase, then undergoing a massive acceleration from 2022. This trajectory runs parallel to a documented decline in population health over the same period. A peer-reviewed study published in *Academic Pediatrics* found that chronic conditions among children aged 5-17 rose from 22.57% in 1999/2000 to 30.21% in 2017/2018 — an increase of approximately 130,000 additional children per year. Among young adults aged 18-25, prevalence increased from 18.5% to 29% over the same period. A *JAMA*-published study found declining child health evident in rising rates of chronic disease, obesity, mental illness and mortality, with loneliness among children rising from 20.2% in 2007 to 30.8% in 2021. Even with in this curve of exponential increase, the Covid era stands out as a single acute event of mass mortality.

The high incidence of orbs coincides with the largest mass death event in a century, so it seems to carry the symbolic meaning of a **departed soul** — consciousness that has shed its body while retaining its essential presence.

- The Triangle: Control and Censorship

In parallel, there was a dramatic intensification of institutional control. Severe sanctions were applied against persons holding or promoting contrary opinions — deplatforming, debanking, loss of employment, barring from medical treatment, restriction of free movement, incarceration, and fines. Informed consent was suppressed at scale. The data reflects: *light fell sharply from 2020 onwards*, as understanding and awareness gave way to fear, and the *triangle rose again as hierarchical control* was applied to ensure compliance. The triangle, which had reached their minimum in 1995 with the dawn of the information age, returned. What the information age had opened, powerful institutions moved to close.

- The Circle: Awakening

Simultaneously, a generation-wide movement toward meaning and consciousness intensified. Idealism resurfacing in a population confronted with mortality and the collapse of institutional trust. In contrast to mainstream culture, the counter-culture literally describes itself as “awake”.

A UK Bible Society study, *The Quiet Revival*, found that monthly church attendance among 18 to 24-year-olds quadrupled from 4% in 2018 to 16% by 2024, with young men showing the most dramatic increase — from 4% to 21% — and young women rising from 3% to 12%. Engagement in spiritual practices — astrology, tarot, meditation, crystals, and manifestation — surged simultaneously, particularly among young women, with Google searches for these practices hitting five-year peaks in 2020 and 2021. The two movements routed differently — young men returning to institutional religion, young women turning toward personal and alternative spirituality — but both expressed the same underlying hunger: a generation stripped of certainty by pandemic and institutional failure, turning toward the fundamental questions of consciousness, meaning, and what persists beyond death. The peculiar manifestation of orbs at this time, feels like an answer to their quest.

Symbolic Meaning of UFO Shapes

Having traced the historical phases, we now isolate the symbolic logic of each form.

60s: the Circle and Idealism

The 1960s sought purpose and goal-direction beyond the atomic worldview, finding it expressed in the symbol of the circle — and they found it in three places. First, in **organic life**, which was filled with goal-directed processes. Life is fundamentally circular in form — built from the round cell, growing in spirals and ever-widening rings — and which integrates diverse parts toward a common function, achieving unity in diversity. Second, they found purpose in **consciousness**, which has the transcendent properties of free will, thought, emotion, value, and purpose — phenomena that resist reduction to mere matter entirely. Third, they found purpose in **equality**, which respects the ends or purposes for which others exist. In equality, no one stands at the top of a hierarchy but each voice is equidistant from a shared centre, with every person regarded as an end in themselves rather than a means to another's purpose. This regard extended outward in ever-widening circles of concern — toward the oppressed, the animal, the living world — driven by **emotion**, the inner recognition that something matters. In each case — organic life, consciousness, and equality — the circle appears as the natural shape. The circle is a horizontal relation of person, rather than a vertical hierarchy.

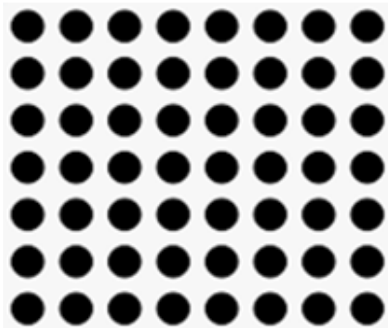


The circle expresses the curves of organic form, and the integration of parts into a whole, where each part serves the whole rather than fragmented self interest.

The circle also expresses equality. No one stands at the top of a hierarchy, but each voice is equidistant from a shared centre. Every person regarded as an end in themselves rather than a means to another's purpose

70s: Rectangle and Reductionism

Reductionism, the dominant worldview of the 70s, held that everything reduces to identical atoms following identical laws, and this was not merely a philosophical position but a geometric one: identical units, equally spaced, inevitably arrange into regular lattices of straight lines, flat faces, and right angles. The rectangle is not a symbol imposed on reductionism from outside — it is its literal physical consequence. But, to hold this view, reductionism had to deny half of reality. It had to **deny conscious agency, deny goal-direction in nature**, replace equality of concern with **self interest, deny all values** - the things that matter to us — in short, everything that distinguishes the living from the dead. Without goal-direction, there is no organic form, only the featureless flatness of identical units finding equilibrium, like sand settling on a beach. Without agency, even human fabrication becomes mere repetition — the same unit, endlessly tiled. The rectangle, then, is not the shape of reality. It is the shape of what remains when life is removed from it. And this is why the transition from circle to rectangle is not merely an aesthetic shift — it is the transition from a world understood as alive, purposeful, and curved, to one understood as dead, uniform, and flat.



Everyone is reduced to atoms, “a brick in the wall”. Atoms and forces explain everything, so we are just repeating units. This is the philosophy of mass production, and consumer profiling. Individuality and freewill seen as illusions.

80s: Triangle and the Will to Power

Where the rectangle is flat and uniform, the triangle is hierarchical: a minority of controllers at the apex, directing the majority beneath through business, education, and political manipulation. Others are seen as having no ends of their own, and therefore no ends worth respecting. Equality collapses into inequality and domination. It is no coincidence that this triangle phase became culturally dominant around 1984 — the very year that gives its name to Orwell's portrait of hierarchy and power taken to their logical conclusion.

Hierarchy, or a structure of command, is not an issue, but hierarchy infused with inequality is. Hierarchy becomes malign when it adopts reductionism as its foundation, and devalues its minions, becoming exploitative and destructive towards them. Hierarchy that respects the ends of others, is simply power used for the good of others, and is an important element of parental, and social structures.



The age of unapologetic ambition, unfettered competition, free enterprise, drastically reduced oversight, zero-sum games, "Greed is good", conspicuous consumption, corporate career-climbing, and displays of wealth as primary markers of success.

90s Light and Fire

Light has two functions – to illuminate and bring awareness of what is real, and to expose what is not real. Light makes clear what is true, and destroys what is false, consuming it like a **fire**. In 1995, with the dawn of the Information age, the new accessibility of information performed both of these functions.

Light and Truth: Light illuminated the nature of reality, and we discovered purpose in nature, which validated our emotions and values. The idealist circle rises as light rises, because both track reality, and reality is purposeful. Light provides the resolution that the circle sought.

Fire and False Narrative: Fire is symbolically distinct from light. Where light illuminates steadily and sustainably, fire transforms through consumption — it burns away what is no longer viable, makes visible what was hidden, and purifies through intensity rather than through steady illumination. It expresses not as gentle illumination but as transformative heat.

Light and fire are the two faces of the same post-1995 transition: illumination and purification, understanding and transformation. Where light points toward what consciousness is called to become, fire marks what must be burned away before it can get there.



Information as a new paradigm, distinct from matter.

Information is received as light, entering the eyes, and the information illuminates the truth with its light.

Information also exposes falsehoods, and consumes them like fire.

2021 Orbs and Mortality

The orb is the most symbolically precise of all UFO forms. Unlike structured craft — which have bodies, boundaries, and the implied mechanics of a vehicle — the orb has no discernible material substrate. It is not a machine that carries something. It is simply a presence: self-luminous, bounded, and aware. Its pale glow does not illuminate its surroundings. It does not reveal, expose, or transform anything outside itself. It simply announces that something is here — quietly, persistently, and entirely on its own terms. This is the grammar of presence rather than revelation, of being rather than doing.

What the orb most precisely resembles, across every tradition that has attempted to describe it, is consciousness freed from a physical body — not extinguished, but no longer housed. The soul, in virtually every culture that has used the word, is understood as exactly this: awareness that persists after the body that once contained it has gone. The orb does not argue for this interpretation. It embodies it — in its immateriality, its self-contained luminosity, its intelligent and purposeful movement without any physical means of propulsion, and its liminal quality.

This is why the massive increase in orb sightings during and after a period of unprecedented mortality carries a symbolic weight that is difficult to dismiss. The form that most precisely represents consciousness shed from a body, appears in its greatest numbers at the moment when the greatest number of bodies have been shed. The orb does not illuminate the Covid era. It haunts it — quietly, luminously.



Facing mortality, sadness, paleness, withdrawal, dimness, loss of light and fire, passivity (reflective rather than radiative), rest, sleep, liminal, night-side of nature, dormancy, quiescence.

The pale reflected light of an orb, differs from the radiated light, in that the former is passive and inert, whereas the latter is active and alive. This paleness, passivity and inertness suggest "not fully alive".

The pale orb does not illuminate its surrounds, so is surrounded by gloom, which suggests presence but “walking in darkness”, adrift, direction-less, or purposeless, which is also a characteristic of “not fully alive”. The orb is dim, unassertive, and self effacing. It embodies a feeling of withdrawal, not asserting its nature, needs, purposes, rights or liberties.

Current State: March 2026

This is a note of optimism. Fire and light forms are currently suppressed relative to the pre-Covid years, coinciding with a censorship of truth. They have been overtaken by the orb. Triangular forms have returned – coinciding with increases in state control and coercion. But, the suppression of light is not total - we have not returned to 1984 - light and circles retain a high incidence rank. What the light revealed is hard to un-see.

From the ashes of the Covid era has been an awakening. Since 2000, the incidence of the circle has risen steadily – suggesting that the suppression and control are countered by a rising idealism. And, most importantly, the reductionism of the 70s is no longer there to support the dehumanisation that control requires.

Data was extracted from NUFORC database.

January 1st 2025 to June 2nd 2026

Shape	Freq	%
Orb	975	17.11
Light	762	13.37
Circle	699	12.26
Triangle	446	7.82
Unknown	342	6.00
Changing	300	5.26
Other	280	4.91
Disk	259	4.54
Sphere	206	3.61
Oval	201	3.53
Cigar	198	3.47
Formation	126	2.21
Star	118	2.07
Cylinder	115	2.02
Fireball	115	2.02
Rectangle	113	1.98
Diamond	88	1.54
Chevron	79	1.39
Flash	69	1.21
Cube	51	0.89
Egg	50	0.88
Teardrop	40	0.70
Cross	36	0.63
Cone	32	0.56

1st 2023 to Dec 31st 2023

Shape	Freq	%
Light	718	14.77
Orb	639	13.15
Circle	627	12.90
Unknown	314	6.46
Triangle	307	6.32
Changing	284	5.84
Other	250	5.14
Sphere	225	4.63
Disk	215	4.42
Oval	179	3.68
Cigar	152	3.13
Formation	145	2.98
Cylinder	140	2.88
Fireball	140	2.88
Rectangle	105	2.16
Star	84	1.73
Chevron	65	1.34
Diamond	62	1.28
Egg	55	1.13
Flash	52	1.07
Cube	39	0.80
Cross	25	0.51
Teardrop	24	0.49
Cone	15	0.31

Are UFOs Monitoring Our Culture?

The data shows that the reported proportions of UFO shapes change markedly over time, with different periods dominated by different UFO shapes.

If these reported incidences are an accurate reflection of reality, and if the shapes are a symbolic reflection of each cultural phase, then UFO forms would appear to track our cultural development. Examples would be –

- Circle: Idealism
- Rectangle: Reductionism
- Triangle : Will to Power
- Light: Understanding
- Fire: Criticism

- Orbs: Mortality

The arising of triangles with the will to power, of light with the information age, and of orbs with the high mortality of the Covid age, are curious. It is an open question as to whether this symbolic tracking is a genuine phenomenon, or whether it is simply the projection of our culture upon what we perceive, and upon how we interpret what we perceive – a reporting artifact.

However, it is what we might expect if the UFOs are monitoring our culture, not just our environment, and if the shape of UFOs is intended rather than constitutional, and therefore conveying that intention as a message.

If UFO shapes are a message, then they may help us understand the phases of our culture, by reflecting back to us what those phases mean.

Wilderness experience in the 20th century

The wilderness experience follows the phases of development of western culture from 1960 to 2000, a period of 40 years. During this time, we passed through phases of institutional deference, idealism, nihilism, will to power, and the dawn of the information age. The phases trace, almost exactly, the three wilderness temptations as found in the Gospel of Matthew.

The first phase was unconscious acceptance of values represented by institutional endorsement – deference to post-war authorities. Life was preoccupied with post-war survival and accumulating of goods. Meaning and purpose were not denied. They were simply assumed, and further consideration was drowned out by worldly concerns. We were sleep-walking. The sleep precedes the wilderness; the forty years of testing begin when the waking begins, around 1960.

The second phase - Idealism – was conscious questioning of the priorities of the post war generation, and the basis of their values. Was survival enough? Did institutions embody ultimate authority? People realised that **“man cannot live on bread alone”**. We are more than matter. We need purpose, and this needs to be grounded in more than institutions. Idealism passed the first test.

The third phase was Reductionism, asserting that physical law and matter account for every event. **“Throw yourself down, and your foot will always hit the stone”**. They concluded that bread was all there was. Just matter alone. There was no purpose. Reductionism excluded organic order and consciousness from its account of reality, because both show that information cannot be reduced to matter, and that purpose pervades nature. Reductionism failed the second test.

Will to power was the fourth phase. **“All this can be yours”**. Its foundation was reductionism, which had eliminated regard for others, so people could be used instrumentally for self interest. The will to power was the ascent of the self through manipulation, exploitation, alienation, and the assertion of inequality. Will to power failed the third test.

Truth in the light. This was the final phase. Knowledge was given that established organic order, and purpose as a reality. Truth became overflowing and abundant – through global internet and online sharing. **“And angels came and attended to him”**. We see an explosion of light forms in the heavens.

And what is the truth? What did we learn? That a true philosophy cannot exclude half of reality - organic order and consciousness. These are the source of purpose and meaning. Man cannot live on bread alone – but by purpose that ultimately has a conscious source. This urges us to respect the ends for which other creatures are made, and respect their freedom to choose those ends. The hippies were right. They just could not frame it in the science of their day.

In the Biblical schema, the 40 years of testing results in passing the tests or not - and not passing them typically results in a form of destruction or diminished life. After the 40 years in the wilderness, Moses generation were largely excluded from the promised land, and persisted as homeless wanderers in the desert. In the schema I have outlined, the result of failure is the descent of consciousness into loss of awareness and sleep, and in greater morbidity and mortality. Morbidity rose steadily from ~2000, and acute mortality spiked in the Covid era. The orbs, with a rising incidence over the same period, offer a symbolic echo of this descent.

The Threshold of Destruction and the Beginning of Light

Between 1945 and the end of 1952, there were 20 open-air atomic tests carried out on US soil. These were all fission-based weapons with kiloton yields.

- **Operation Ranger — January/February 1951** — 5 airdrop tests: Able (1 kt), Baker (8 kt), Easy (1 kt), Baker-2 (8 kt), and Fox (22 kt). This was the first continental nuclear test series, with the exception of the single Trinity shot in New Mexico in 1945.
- **Operation Buster-Jangle — October/November 1951** — 7 detonations, making it the second series of atmospheric nuclear tests conducted at the Nevada Proving Ground.
- **Operation Tumbler-Snapper - followed in 1952** - a further 8 tests. The Washington UFO sightings in July 1952 came right in the middle of Operation Tumbler-Snapper, with nuclear tests actively ongoing just 600 miles away in Nevada.

The destructive potential of atomic bombs was of public concern – so much so, that in 1951 a movie was released - “The Day the Earth Stood Still” – a movie that portrays a UFO disc landing in Washington. Its occupant Klaatu warns the world of the dangers of nuclear warfare. A year later, in 1952, UFOs appeared over Washington for real, as if following the movie script. In doing this, the behaviour of the UFOs inherited and carried the meaning of the film – their presence became symbolic of the same message, and marked a threshold. If the UFO appearances over Washington were a warning, it was well timed...but ignored.

On November 1st 1952, the first hydrogen bomb named Ivy Mike was detonated - an experimental device weighing 82 tons — at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. The detonation resulted in a massive explosion equivalent to 10.4 megatons of TNT – a thousand times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. The test vaporized an entire island, leaving behind a crater more than a mile wide. The Washington UFO sightings occurred in **July 1952**, and Ivy Mike detonated just **four months later**.

Between January 1951 and July 1962 there were **100 atmospheric nuclear tests** on US soil, before the Partial Test Ban Treaty was signed in August 1963. Then they switched to underground tests. There were **828 underground detonations** at the Nevada Test Site until 1992. In 1996 the U.S. signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty banning all further tests.

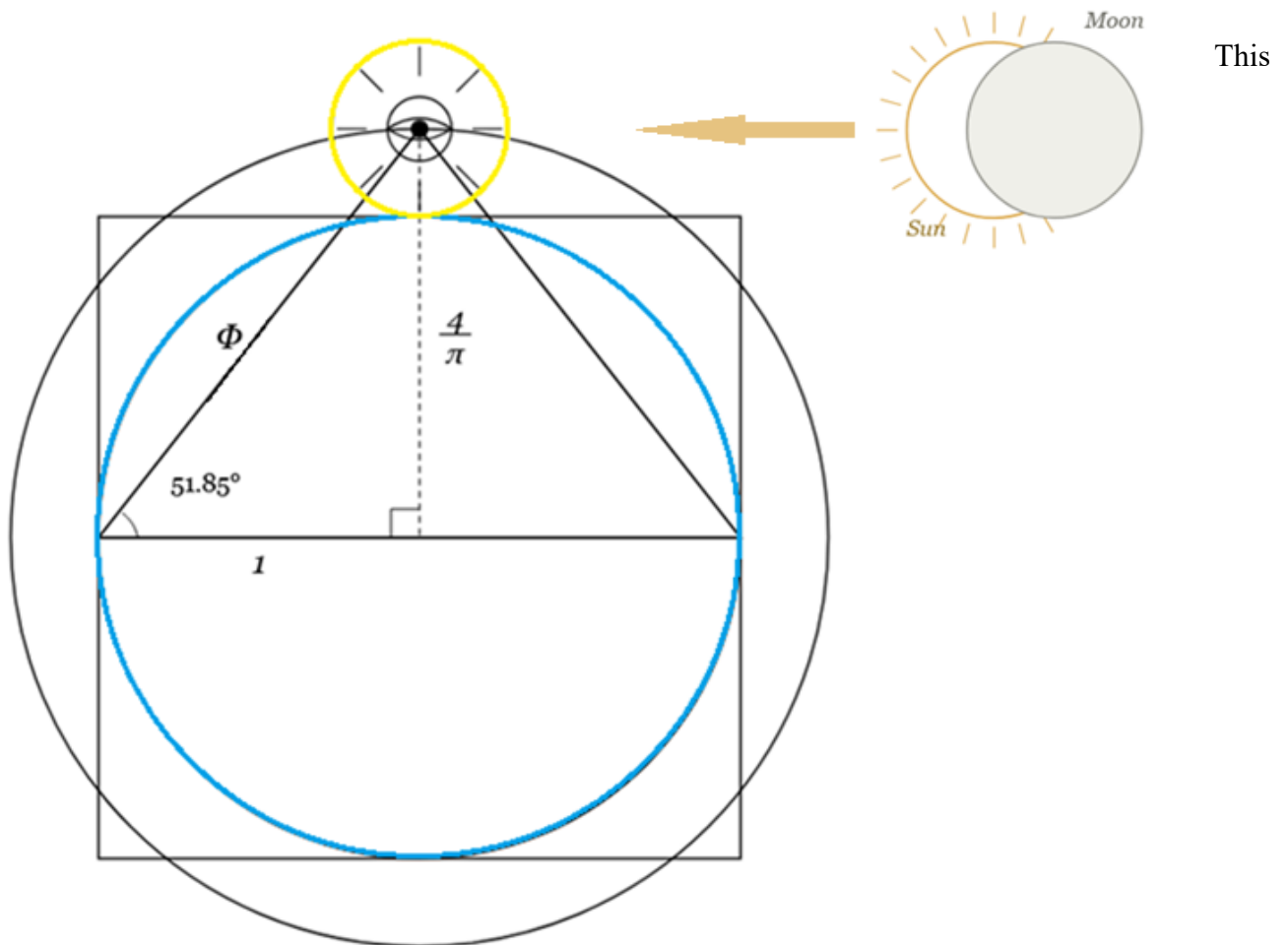
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Nuclear testing in Nevada produced radioactive contamination affecting not only Nevada, but also neighbouring Utah and Arizona, with nuclear fallout reaching Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and California. The people in these regions became known as "Downwinders." The federal government identified 12 high-impact states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Within three to five years after atmospheric testing, leukemia and other radiation-caused cancers appeared in residents of Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. Communities in which childhood leukemia was rare or unknown had clusters of cases in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996 marked the end of destructive testing, and it coincided with a triple transition in UFO form – from “disc” to “light”, from “rectangle” to “light”, and from “triangle” to “light”.

A Combined Symbol

It is interesting to ask if the circle, square, triangle, light, fire, and orb might integrate into a single diagram, because the meaning of each shape might be found in its context in relation to the other shapes, rather than in isolation.



Half-triangle sides $1 : 4/\pi : \Phi$ (since $4/\pi \approx \sqrt{\Phi}$, near the Kepler triangle)

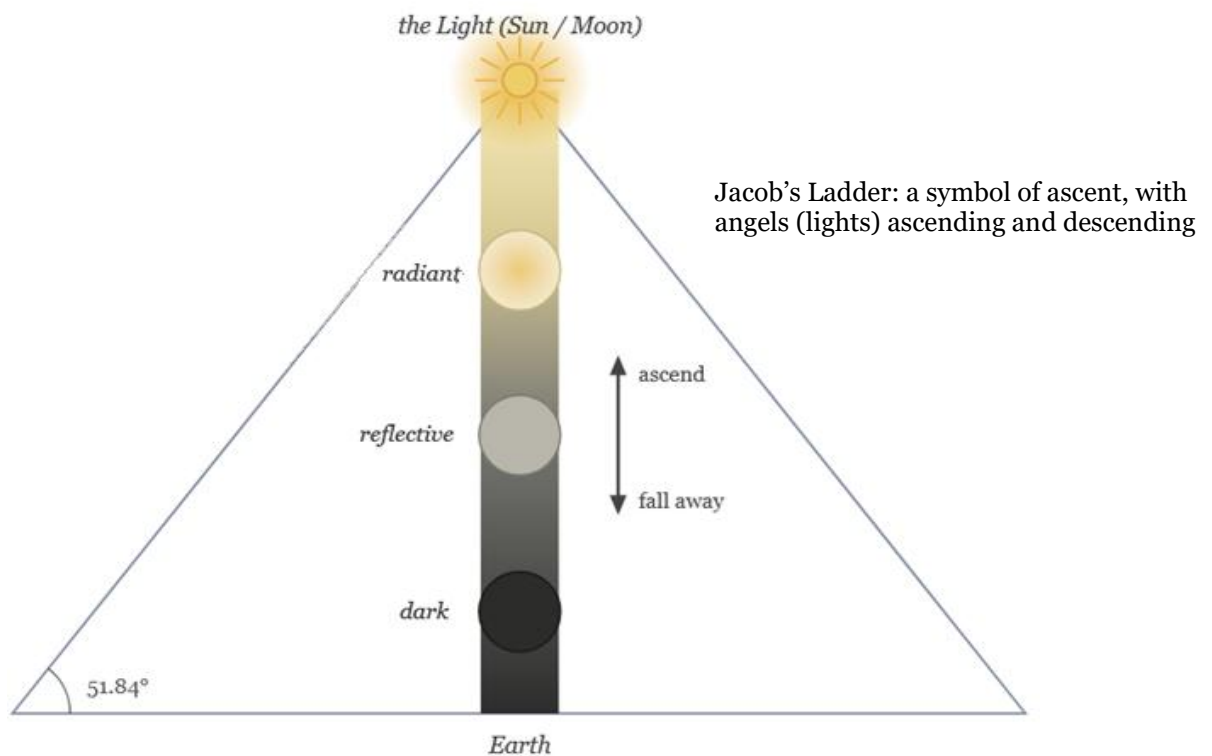
diagram integrates

1. a traditional symbol for heaven and earth
2. the star like nature of many UFO forms
3. the angelic interpretation of UFO characteristics – which is coherent with a heaven earth symbol

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The triangle represents ascent, or progress. The light of heaven defines the **direction** of ascent – it defines objective purpose. Without objective purpose, the triangle becomes the ascent of self-interest – without regard for others. If light is not at the apex, then it becomes a triangle of exploitation and inequality.

“Light” and “Orb” represent different states of consciousness. The light-phase is "higher" on the



The orb rises from dark, through reflected light, toward the radiance it realises within

consciousness-axis (illumination, truth, understanding); it suggests active radiance, awake-ness. The orb phase of the Covid era is “lower”; it suggests paleness, weak radiance, sleep. This parallels sun and moon – the former is day-light when we are awake, the latter is moon-light when we are asleep. Each carries a message for its own era. At the stage of light and fire — the moment of full awakening, awareness, the call toward Atman — a choice opens. One road accepts the light and moves toward Atman. The other rejects it, turns away, and that turning-away *is* the orb: sleep, loss of awareness, mortality. The orb is the diminished state of those who reject the light.

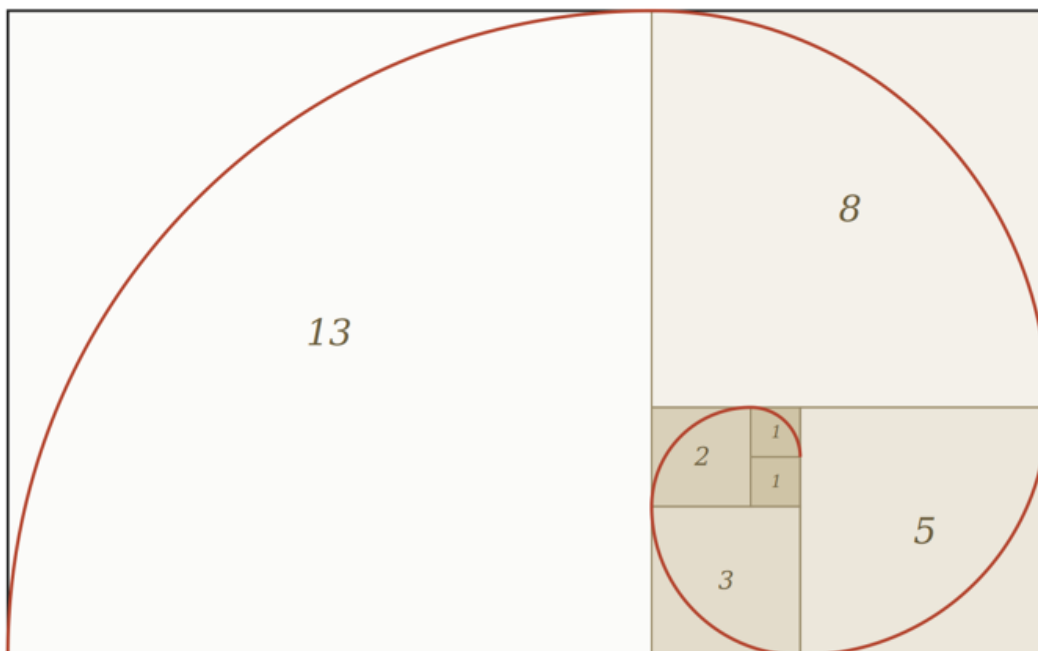
1. A **circle** and **square** can be integrated in what is called a “**squared circle**”.

The diagram above depicts the squared circle relationship between the Earth and the Moon. The blue circle represents the earth, and the yellow circle represents the Moon drawn to scale.

2. The squared circle is a traditional symbol representing the union of heaven and earth, the square representing Earth, and the circle representing Heaven.
3. The two great lights in the heavens are the Sun and Moon. Both appear the same size. The Moon is a symbol for **light**. The Sun is a symbol for **fire**.
4. A **triangle** is a symbol for ascension, so is placed with heaven at the apex, and earth at the base. It rests upon the diameter of the Earth with its apex in the Moons centre and represents a natural hierarchy.
5. The slope (apothem) ascending the triangle is of length **Phi**. Ascension unfolds by phi, so its unfolding is **self-similar**. Self-similar means form is retained through growth – identity is maintained (self-similar), rather than growing into something else. In other words, our identity is not conscripted to fulfil another’s ends, but to fulfil our own. This illustrates the basis of natural law and natural authority.
6. Ascension is towards the light, so it is **light that defines the direction and source of the purpose**.
7. We can ascend towards the light, and become part of it - radiative, or we can move away – becoming pale, dim and only reflective of it. As we ascend the triangle, we realise the light **within ourselves** (self-similar). **We become the light** - we become radiative. But we can also choose to move away from it, in which case we become paler, and only reflective.
8. This model symbolises the union of heaven and earth, and the **ascent to heaven through alignment with our created purpose** — the **pale orb** representing consciousness not yet ascended, the radiant light its full realisation.

Self-Similar Growth - the "whole present in every part".

Self-similar growth is growth in which the *form is preserved as the size increases* — each stage is a scaled copy of the last, so the thing grows without changing shape. The mathematical signature is the logarithmic spiral, and the reason Φ enters is that a rectangle in the golden ratio has the unique property that removing a square from it leaves a smaller golden rectangle, and so on inward without end — the whole reproduced in the part at every scale.



Each square is the sum of the two before it; each rectangle is a scaled copy of the whole
1 : 1 : 2 : 3 : 5 : 8 : 13 : 21 ratios of successive terms $\rightarrow \Phi \approx 1.618$

Throughout the growth, the rectangle still retains the same form and proportions. It never ceases to be a rectangle. Its identity is preserved because what it is growing towards is its own identity and form, rather than changing into something different.

This is why phi is an apt symbol for the Natural Law – which sees the purpose of every creature as the realisation and fulfilment of its nature.

Jacob's Ladder



I witnessed a partial triangular shape in the sky on 8th April 2025 - location was the mountains of north Tanzania. This was the anniversary of the Great Northern Eclipse, which had happened on 8th April 2024. The effect was produced by an anticrepuscular shadow band. When these shadow-and-light rays reach toward the ground they're nicknamed Jacob's Ladder, after the story in the Bible where Jacob dreams of a ladder leading up to the golden light of heaven with angels ascending and descending. One year later, in April 2026, I began this study of UFOs, and the symbol of Jacob's ladder has appeared again – a way of ascent – symbolised by a pyramid resting upon the square of the earth, with its apex reaching to heaven.