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(U) Unidentified Flying Object

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From Intellipedia

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Unidentified Flying Object



(U) In a scene from a mid-1950s Hollywood movie, three flying saucers hover in formation over Washington, D.C. The camera vantage point is from the top of the Washington Monument, looking west towards the Lincoln Memorial. Notice the "temporary" government buildings erected on either side of the Reflecting Pool to house the army of federal workers during World War II.

(U) USAF's "Blue Book" UFO Investigation, 1947-1969

(U) U.F.O.s have been repeatedly investigated over the decades in the United States, including by the American military. In 1947, the (then, newly created) U.S. Air Force began a series of studies that investigated **more than 12,000 claimed**

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U.F.O. sightings before it was officially ended in 1969. The project, which included a study code-named **Project Blue Book**, started in 1952, concluded that most sightings involved stars, clouds, conventional aircraft or spy planes, although 701 remained unexplained. The secretary of the Air Force at the time said in a memorandum announcing the end of Project Blue Book that it "no longer can be justified either on the ground of national security or in the interest of science."^[1]

(U) DoD's Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program, 2007-2012

(U) *The New York Times* and respected political news website *Politico* simultaneously published extensive reports in mid-December 2017 detailing the **Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program**, a secret Pentagon project with the stated purpose of looking into the national security implications of reports of **unidentified flying objects**, known popularly as UFOs.^[2] The program — which was begun by former Nevada Senator Harry Reid (Dem.) and given bi-partisan blessing by former Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye (Dem.) and former Alaska Senator Ted Stevens (Rep.) — was confirmed by the Pentagon to have existed between 2007 and "in the 2012 time frame." *Politico* and *New York Times* reports cited analysis of one of the most attention-grabbing finds, a 2004 video — released by the Department of Defense and taken from the cockpit of a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet — that shows an unidentified flying object. The program yielded documents describing sightings of unidentified flying aircraft that apparently moved very fast with no visible sign of propulsion or hovered with no apparent means of lift, the *Times* said.^[3]

(U) The Defense Department has never before acknowledged the existence of the program, which it (now) says ran from 2007 to 2012, as part of the Defense Intelligence Agency, according to the *New York Times* on Saturday 16 December 2017. It was initially funded at the request of Nevada Senator Reid, who was the majority leader of the US Senate at the time. Contracts obtained by *The Times* show a congressional appropriation of just under \$22 million beginning in late 2008 through 2011. The money was used for management of the program, research and assessments of the threat posed by the objects. Most of the money went to Bigelow Aerospace, a Nevada-based research company owned by Reid's close friend and billionaire, Robert Bigelow, the *Times* said. The paper's report said researchers with the program reviewed sightings of UFOs and assessed threats posed by the objects. Under Mr. Bigelow's direction, the company modified buildings in Las Vegas for the storage of metal alloys and other materials that were said to have been recovered from unidentified aerial phenomena. Researchers also studied people who said they had experienced physical effects from encounters with the objects and examined them for any physiological changes. In addition, researchers spoke to military service members who had reported sightings of strange aircraft. They also studied videos of encounters between unknown objects and US military aircraft, including one 2004 incident (released in August 2017) with two US navy F/A-18F pilots, from the aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz* chasing a mysterious, fast-moving whitish oval object off the coast of San Diego, California. One of the pilots told *The New York Times*, "It accelerated like nothing I've ever seen." The Department of Defense said it ended funding the project in 2012 when it "determined that there were other, higher priority issues that merited funding". But *The Times*, citing a military intelligence official who ran the program, said that defense officials continued to investigate UFO episodes alongside their daily duties even after the money dried up.^[4]

(U) After the Pentagon discontinued funding for the program, some researchers formed their own group to continue UFO research, starting a new commercial venture called **To the Stars Academy of Arts and Science**. They are speaking publicly about their efforts (late 2017) as their venture aims to raise money for research into U.F.O.s.

(U) Search

Use links below to search for *Unidentified Flying Object* on

- Intelink

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- eChirp

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- Find Intelink Experts

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- Safari Books Online

(U) References

1. (U) News Report, *The New York Times*, 16 DEC 2017; "Glowing Auras and 'Black Money' - The Pentagon's Mysterious U.F.O. Program"; UNCLASS; retrieved 21 DEC 2017.
2. (U) News Report, *The New York Times*, 16 DEC 2017; "Glowing Auras and 'Black Money' - The Pentagon's Mysterious U.F.O. Program"; UNCLASS; retrieved 21 DEC 2017.
3. (U) [REDACTED] 172005Z DEC 17; (U) Singapore: Revealed: The Pentagon's secret UFO-hunting Program; UNCLASS; Source is Singapore *Channel NewsAsia Online*, in English, 17 December 2017; retrieved 21 DEC 2017.
4. (U) [REDACTED] 172100Z DEC 17; "(U) US Government Admits Funding Secret UFO Programme"; UNCLASS; Source is Doha *Al Jazeera Online*, in English, 17 December 2017; retrieved 21 DEC 2017.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
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FOIA Case: 103173A
14 September 2018

JOHN GREENEWALD
27305 W LIVE OAK ROAD
SUITE 1203
CASTAIC CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 19 December 2017 for Intellipedia records on Bigelow Aerospace. As stated in our initial response to you dated 19 December 2017, your request has been assigned Case Number 103173. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided, you are considered an "all other" requester. As such, you are allowed 2 hours of search and the duplication of 100 pages at no cost. There are no assessable fees for this request. Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA.

For your information, NSA provides a service of common concern for the Intelligence Community (IC) by serving as the executive agent for Intelink. As such, NSA provides technical services that enable users to access and share information with peers and stakeholders across the IC and DoD. Intellipedia pages are living documents that may be originated by any user organization, and any user organization may contribute to or edit pages after their origination. Intellipedia pages should not be considered the final, coordinated position of the IC on any particular subject. The views and opinions of authors do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Government.

We conducted a search across all three levels of Intellipedia and located documents that are responsive to your request. The documents are enclosed. Certain information, however, has been deleted from the documents.

Some of the withheld information has been found to be currently and properly classified in accordance with Executive Order 13526. The information meets the criteria for classification as set forth in Subparagraph (c) of Section 1.4 and remains classified CONFIDENTIAL as provided in Section 1.2 of Executive Order 13526. The information is classified because its disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the national security.

Because the information is currently and properly classified, it is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(1)).

Also, this agency is authorized by statute to protect certain information concerning its activities (in this case, internal URLs), as well as the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA, which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605). We have determined that such information exists in this record, and we have excised it accordingly.

In addition, personal information regarding individuals has been deleted from the enclosure in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6). This exemption protects from disclosure information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In balancing the public interest for the information you request against the privacy interests involved, we have determined that the privacy interests sufficiently satisfy the requirements for the application of the (b)(6) exemption.

Since these deletions may be construed as a partial denial of your request, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below.

- The appeal must be in sent via U.S. postal mail, fax, or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132)
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road STE 6932
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

The facsimile number is (443)479-3612.

The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is FOIARSC@nsa.gov.

- It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial was unwarranted.
- NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving your appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at foialo@nsa.gov. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. OGIS contact information is: Office of Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail: ogis@nara.gov; main: 202-741-5770; toll free: 1-877-684-6448; or fax: 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul H. Chapman".

JOHN R. CHAPMAN
Chief, FOIA/PA Office
NSA Initial Denial Authority

Encls:
a/s