

Unsealed but Unconfirmed

*An Evidence-Based Reading of 116 Newly Declassified UAP Files
on the Question of Extraterrestrial Life*



**116 Documents, 1940s-2026,
~833,000 words.**

Craft/Object terms: **8,991**

Anomalous Phenomena: **1,435**

Biological Entities: **936** - mostly conceptual

0 humanoid, 0 specimen,
0 tissue, 0 corpse.*



EVIDENCE FOUND:
extensive **unexplained**
aerial activity.



NO concrete evidence
of extraterrestrial
biological life.

PURSUE Initiative -- Presidential Unsealing & Reporting System for UAP Encounters, May 2026

HEADLINE FINDING

Across 116 documents released through PURSUE – spanning eight U.S. government agencies and roughly 833,000 words from 1944–2026 – craft and object descriptions outnumber biological-entity language by approximately ten to one. Concrete recovery terms (humanoid, occupant, creature, organism, lifeform, tissue, specimen, corpse) appear zero times. The files document extensive unexplained aerial activity, but on this evidence, they do not contain concrete proof of extraterrestrial biological life.

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Executive Summary

The Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters (PURSUE) is an inter-agency declassification effort coordinated through The White House. It is intended to give Americans – and observers around the world – direct, citizen-level access to documents that the U.S. Government has, until now, kept under various classification restrictions. This report analyses the first 116 declassified files released to the public under PURSUE in May 2026. The releasing agencies include the Department of War (the *Department of Defense* renamed), its All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of State (DOS), and a handful of allied World War II files [1].

The core question this report sets out to answer is simple to ask and very hard to answer: *Do these declassified files contain concrete evidence of extraterrestrial life?* The body of the report is built around a single methodology – counting and contextualising the words and phrases the files actually use – and a single, data-driven verdict.

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The Verdict in One Paragraph

No – not on the basis of this corpus. Across the 116 declassified documents, the vocabulary of *craft, object, light, disc* and *UAP* outnumbers the vocabulary of *being, alien, body, biological* and *extraterrestrial* by roughly 10 to 1. Where biological vocabulary appears, it is overwhelmingly conceptual (the abstract phrase ‘*extraterrestrial hypothesis*’ in a NASA-archived 1999 study; the word ‘*being*’ used as ordinary English in naval sighting reports). Words that a genuine biological recovery report would be expected to contain – *humanoid, occupant, creature, organism, lifeform, tissue, specimen* and *corpse* – appear **zero times across the entire corpus**. The files therefore document a long, patient, and remarkably consistent history of *unexplained aerial activity*, but they do not, on the evidence assembled here, contain concrete proof of extraterrestrial biological life.

This is a high-confidence statement *within the boundaries of the corpus we were given*. It is not, and should not be read as, a final answer about the entire classified record. The Executive Summary on the next page lays out the report’s seven sections, the figures that support each finding, and the most important caveats.

What the Reader Will Find

- **Section 1** introduces the PURSUE initiative, the eight contributing agencies, and the structure of the corpus – 116 documents, ten agency labels, six historical eras, and roughly 833,000 words.
- **Section 2** shows that observational vocabulary (*UFO, UAP, object, craft, light, disc*) dominates the corpus by an order of magnitude.
- **Section 3** drills into the seven biological-entity phrases that do appear and demonstrates that they are *conceptual*, not material.
- **Section 4** examines how the categories *co-occur*: when biological language appears, it almost

always appears in analytical or policy paragraphs, not field-recovery narratives.

- **Section 5** compares agencies (FBI, DOW, NASA, AARO, USAF, USN, DOS, USAAF, MULTI, ALLIED) and historical eras (1940s, 1950s–60s Cold-War, 1970s–90s, 2000s–2010s, 2015+).
- **Section 6** is a long, narrative *spotlight* on twelve specific incidents – ranging from the 1947 USAAF Flying Discs catalog and the 1949 Project Sign Box 186 to the 2020 Arabian Gulf range-fouler debriefs, the 2023 UAE mission report, and the 2026 *Western U.S.* ‘orbs launching orbs’ briefing.
- **Section 7** states the verdict, the caveats, and the recommendations.

The report includes 15 figures, all generated from the actual data in the released documents, and citations to both the primary released files and the broader scholarly record on UAP [2–6].

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1 The PURSUE Release: What Is in the Box?

1.1 Why This Report Exists

Few public-policy questions provoke as much certainty – on every side – as the question of whether the U.S. Government is sitting on evidence of extraterrestrial life. For seventy-nine years, that question has been asked of one agency or another, and for seventy-nine years the answer has been some variation of ‘*we have looked, and we have not found anything that requires that explanation.*’ What changed in 2026 is that the White House decided to stop relying on those reassurances and to let citizens see the underlying paper for themselves.

The Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters (PURSUE) is the mechanism. Through PURSUE, the Department of War (DOW), the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the Department of Energy (DOE), the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), NASA, the FBI, the Department of State (DOS), and other components of the U.S. Intelligence Community have begun releasing previously classified or restricted files [1, 7, 8]. The May 2026 batch examined here is the first such public deposit; further batches are expected.

This report is intended for a *general public audience*. It does not assume that the reader knows what a ‘range fouler’ is, what ‘MISREP’ stands for, or what ‘flying disc’ meant in 1947. It tries to be patient about its evidence, plain about its methods, and honest about what the data say – and what the data cannot.

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Plain-Language Glossary – the Three Words You Will See Most

UFO – *Unidentified Flying Object*, the term the U.S. Air Force coined in 1952 for any aerial sighting that could not immediately be identified.

UAP – *Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon* (originally *Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon*), the term used in the modern legal framework that established AARO in late 2022 [7, 8].

ETH – the *Extraterrestrial Hypothesis*: the proposition that some fraction of UFO/UAP sightings are physical craft built and operated by a non-human intelligence. ETH is one hypothesis among several (others include foreign-adversary prototypes, classified U.S. programs, atmospheric phenomena, sensor artefacts, hoaxes, and misidentification of conventional objects).

1.2 The Eight Agencies and What They Brought

The 116 files in the first PURSUE deposit are not evenly distributed across agencies. Figure 2 shows the breakdown. The FBI accounts for roughly four files in every ten; the Department of War for roughly three in every ten; NASA, the Department of State, AARO, the historical Air Force and Navy, and a small handful of inter-agency briefing documents make up the remainder.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (49 files; 506,000 words). The FBI contribution is dominated by the long Bureau File 62-HQ-83894 – ten lengthy sections plus seven separate serials – which the Bureau opened in 1947 in response to the original Kenneth Arnold sighting and which then accumulated decades of correspondence. It also includes a much smaller modern serial set (Serials 3, 4 and 5) of redacted FD-302 interview reports from 2023 [9–11].

The Department of War / Department of Defense (42 files; 132,000 words). DOW’s

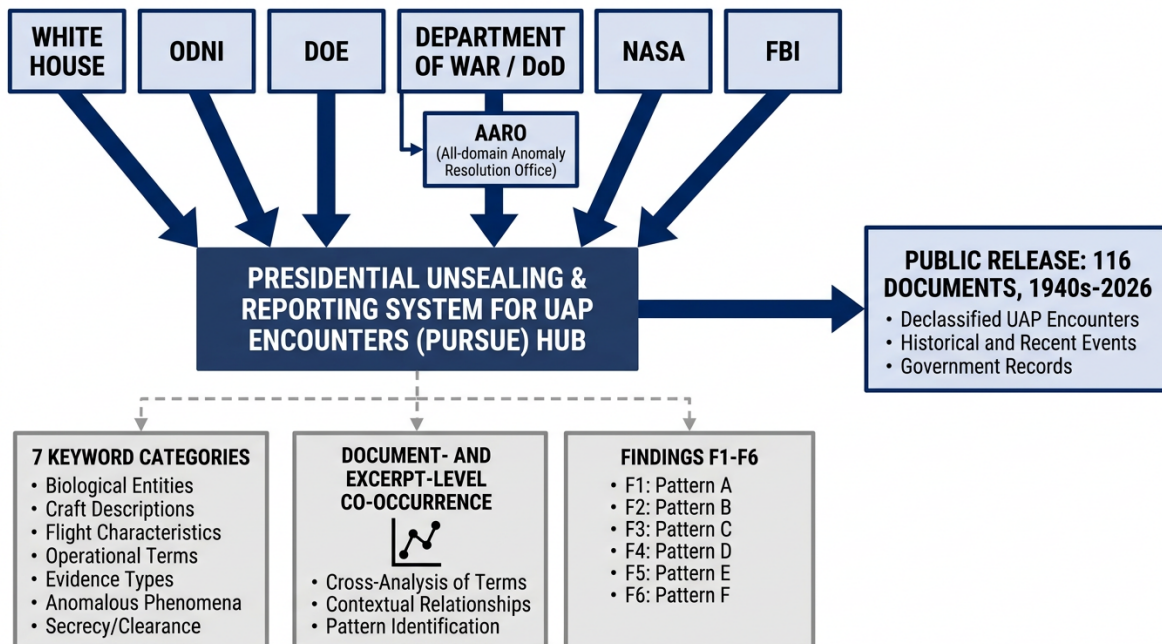


Figure 1: The PURSUE document pipeline. Eight U.S. government bodies feed material into a central declassification node coordinated by The White House. The first public deposit, examined in this report, contains 116 files spanning the period from 1944 to 2026.

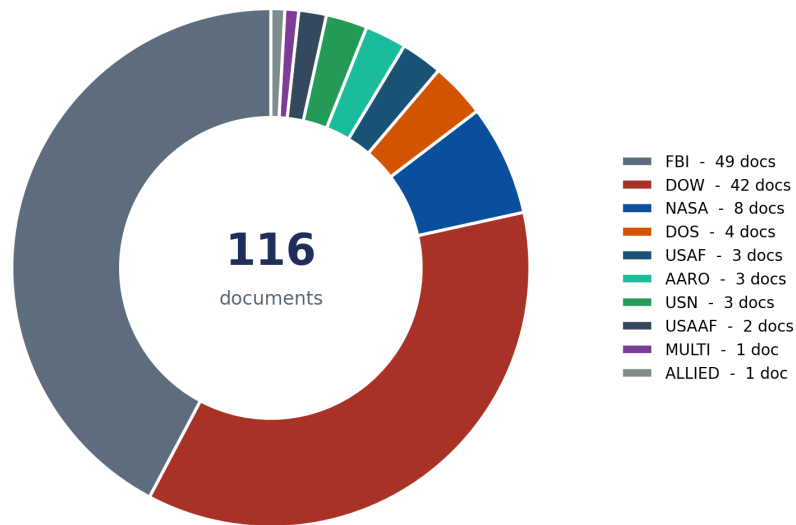
contribution is the most operational and the most modern. It is centred on fifteen *mission reports* (MISREPs) from forward-deployed aviators and naval crews – principally CENTCOM, naval task groups, and INDOPACOM. Several of these are the now-famous *range fouler* debriefs from the 2020 Arabian Gulf operations and follow-on engagements in 2022–2024 [12–17]. Two large technical reports – an investigation of an ATLAS-Centaur launch anomaly (1996) and a launch summary from February 2000 – round out the DOW set [18, 19].

NASA (8 files; 60,000 words). NASA’s eight files are heterogeneous. They include the air-to-ground voice transcript and technical-debrief from *Apollo 12* (1969), *Apollo 17* (1972), and *Skylab* (1973), plus a single very large analytical document, ‘*UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?*’, an English-language version of the 1999 French *COMETA* report that has been archived by NASA [20–24]. The *COMETA* document alone accounts for roughly 50,000 of NASA’s 60,000 words.

The Department of State (4 files; 5,200 words). DOS’s contribution is strictly diplomatic-cable traffic: a 1985 cable from the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby reporting Papua New Guinean concern about high-speed overflights; a 1994 cable from Dushanbe reporting a Tajik Air pilot’s UFO sighting; and the 2023 cable 059UAP00013 from Mexico City describing the Mexican Congress hearing on ‘alien life’ [25–27].

AARO (3 files; 4,400 words). AARO’s three documents are the most direct modern policy assessments in the deposit. 059uap00013 is the cable above; 059uap00011 and 059uap00012 are short narrative assessments [27–29].

Historical Air Force and Navy materials (8 files combined). The 1949 USAF *Flying Discs* catalog (Box 186, 319.1) and three USAAF general-records volumes from 1946–1948 cover

Figure 14. PURSUE corpus by releasing agency

Source: corpus_overview + agency_era_density. Agencies: FBI = Federal Bureau of Investigation, DOW = Department of War/DoD, NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration, DOS = State Dept, AARO = All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, USAF/USN/USAAF = Air Force/Navy/Army Air Forces, MULTI = inter-agency.

Figure 2: Agency composition of the PURSUE corpus. FBI files dominate by document count, but the FBI block is mostly historical correspondence (Bureau File 62-HQ-83894 from 1947 onward). The Department of War’s 42 documents are mostly modern aviator and naval mission reports. NASA’s eight files include the Apollo 12, 17, and Skylab transcripts and the 1999 NASA-archived ‘*UFOs and Defense*’ study.

the formative years of the U.S. Government’s UFO recordkeeping [30–32]. A three-volume set of U.S. Navy *Box 7 Incident Summaries* catalogues roughly 233 individual sightings from 1947–1948 [33].

Allied World War II material and an inter-agency briefing. A small set of 1944–1945 *German Armament Equipment Documents* captured by Allied forces contains the famous early *Foo fighter* reports [34]. A single 2026 inter-agency briefing-slide deck (*Western U.S. Event Slides*) sits at the very modern end of the corpus and is one of the most evocative documents in the release [35].

Two ‘housekeeping’ files (341_110448 and 341_110677) record the CIA’s mid-century intelligence-collection metadata [36, 37]; an FBI photo-bundle (fbi-photo-b1–b24) contains 24 thumbnail captions for redacted photographs.

1.3 The Six Eras and What They Show

A second useful axis on the corpus is time. The dataset spans more than eighty years, and the language and concerns of UAP files have changed visibly across that span. We grouped the documents into six historical *eras*:

1. **1940s historical** (16 docs, ~388,000 words). Principally the FBI Bureau File 62-HQ-83894 sections that originate in 1947, plus the USAAF, USAF, and USN historical files. Vocabulary

is dominated by *flying disc*, *flying saucer*, *disc*, and *object*.

2. **1950s–60s Cold War** (16 docs, 244,500 words). FBI sections 4–10 and related serials, plus the long-tail of the 1949 USAF flying-discs catalog. The modern UFO terminology stabilises here.
3. **1970s–90s post-Cold War** (8 docs, 117,000 words). The Apollo and Skylab transcripts, the 1985 PNG cable, the 1994 Kazakhstan cable, the 1996 ATLAS-Centaur report, and the 1999 NASA-archived COMETA study.
4. **2000s–2010s modern** (3 docs, 35,900 words). The February 2000 launch summary and a small handful of policy emails.
5. **2015+ recent** (46 docs, 46,800 words). The bulk of the modern operational record: the DOW MISREPs, AARO assessments, FBI serials, the FBI photo-bundle, and the 2026 *Western U.S.* briefing slides.
6. **Unknown** (27 docs, 974 words). Very short fragmentary files, e.g. `fbi-photo-b*` thumbnails, that the era-classifier could not date.

The single most important observation about this temporal distribution – and one that we will return to in Section 5 – is that the most numerous era is the most recent, but the most *textually rich* era is the 1940s. The reasons for that imbalance are not exotic; they have to do with the fact that 1940s files were typed narrative documents, while 2020s mission reports are short structured templates. But the imbalance has a real consequence: any evidence-counting analysis that simply totals up word counts will weight the 1940s and 1950s heavily.

1.4 The Three Documents Most Likely to Surprise Readers

Three documents in the corpus are likely to surprise even readers who have followed the UAP discussion for years. We mention them now and treat each in detail in Section 6.

The 2026 Western U.S. ‘Orbs Launching Orbs’ briefing. A short inter-agency briefing slide deck describing four sightings by six federal law-enforcement special agents over two days. The witnesses describe orange ‘*mother*’ orbs that emit smaller red orbs in groups, a glowing 12–18-metre orb perched near a rock pinnacle, a ‘*dark kite*’ object that moves laterally without rotating, and a ‘*transparent kite*’ object visible through night-vision goggles [35]. This document is the single most evocative piece of modern observational evidence in the deposit.

The 2024 East China Sea fragmentation observation. A USCENTCOM mission report records a *possible* object detaching from a primary UAP just before the contact left the sensor field of view. The report does not assert that an object did detach; it logs that it cannot be ruled out [13].

The 1999 NASA-archived COMETA study. The single largest analytical document in the deposit. A French-government-affiliated study, archived by NASA, that systematically discusses the ‘*extraterrestrial hypothesis*’ as one of several explanations of the modern UFO record. It contains the only substantial use of ‘*extraterrestrial*’ as a noun in the entire corpus [20].

These three documents do not, individually or collectively, prove extraterrestrial life. They do, in our reading, document that the U.S. Government has been carefully attentive to a real, durable, multi-decade phenomenon-class of unexplained aerial activity, and that some recent observations cannot be trivially explained away. That is a worthwhile thing for the public to know.

1.5 Five Readings the Corpus Will *Not* Support

Before proceeding, we list five readings of the PURSUE deposit that are popular in some corners of the public conversation but that the actual documents do not support:

1. **‘The U.S. Government has recovered alien craft.’** No PURSUE document describes a recovered craft of any kind. The closest the corpus comes is the 1996 ATLAS-Centaur Investigation Report, which describes a recovered booster vehicle and concludes its anomalous flight behaviour was caused by a known guidance-system fault [18].
2. **‘The U.S. Government has alien biological remains.’** No PURSUE document describes recovered biological remains. The phrase *‘alien corpses’* appears once, in a State Department cable reporting a foreign event [27].
3. **‘Apollo astronauts saw extraterrestrial craft.’** The PURSUE-released Apollo 12, Apollo 17, Apollo 11 debrief, and Skylab transcripts contain no sighting claim of an extraterrestrial craft. They contain detailed discussions of orbital mechanics, EVA prep, and one detailed crew analysis of fragments that the crew themselves identified as ice or paint flakes from the S-IVB booster [21, 22].
4. **‘Project Blue Book secretly confirmed extraterrestrials.’** Project Blue Book closed in 1969 with 12,618 sightings, 701 unidentified, and an explicit Air Force determination that none provided evidence of extraterrestrial origin [2, 3]. The PURSUE deposit’s 1949 USAF *Box 186* file (the early predecessor of Blue Book) is consistent with that conclusion [32].
5. **‘Foreign-state advanced aerospace systems do not exist and so UAP must be alien.’** Foreign-state advanced aerospace systems demonstrably exist (documented by the U.S. Government in unrelated, non-UAP, intelligence products). Many UAP behaviours – but not all – fall within the performance envelope of advanced UAS, balloons, and atmospheric-anomaly artefacts. The 2024 AARO Historical Record Report walks through this in detail.

We do not raise these readings to embarrass anyone who holds them. They are reasonable conclusions for someone who has not read the documents. The point of this report is to allow readers to read the documents.

1.6 What ‘Evidence’ Looks Like in This Report

Throughout this report we use the word *evidence* in its everyday sense: a document, a passage, or a measurement that helps a reasonable reader move from *not knowing* to *knowing* something. We organise evidence along a five-step *inference ladder* (Figure 3): a sighting, an anomalous phenomenon, a craft (UFO/UAP), an apparently engineered or controlled craft, and finally the strong claim of extraterrestrial biological intelligence.

The most common error in popular UFO discussion is to treat the lower rungs of this ladder as if they were the upper ones. The corpus contains many credible reports of sightings (rung 1) and many reports of objects whose origin is genuinely unknown (rung 3). It contains a smaller – but real – set of reports that arguably reach rung 4 in the sense that they describe behaviours which are not easy to fit to known aircraft. It contains essentially no documents that reach rung 5: no recovered-organism reports, no autopsy notes, no first-person debriefs of contact with a biological entity. The bulk of this report is the careful demonstration of that pattern.

How to Read the Evidence: An Inference Ladder for UAP Documents

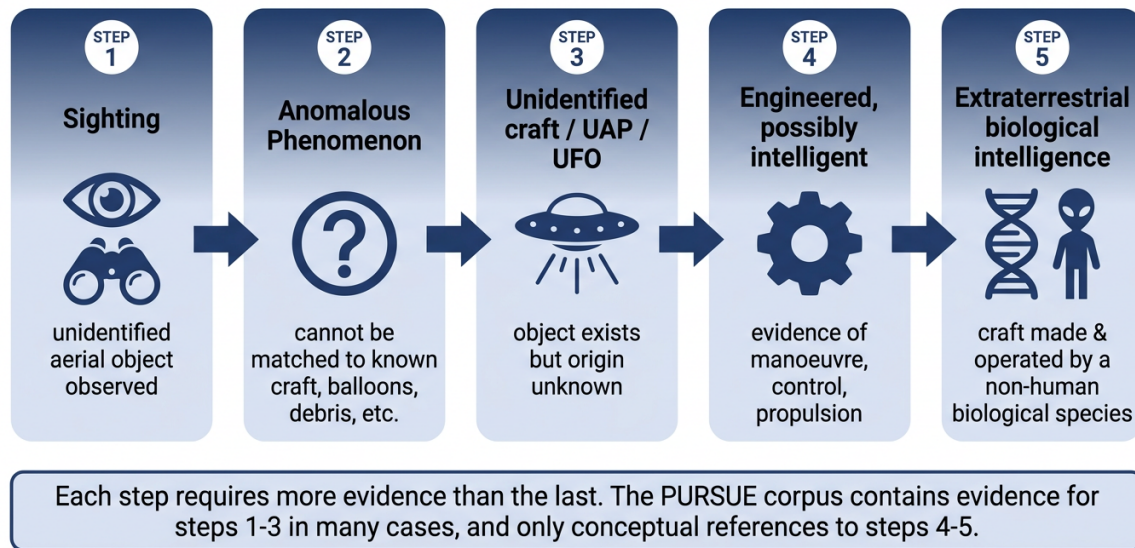


Figure 3: An inference ladder for UAP documents. Each rung requires more evidence than the last. The PURSUE corpus contains evidence for steps 1–3 in many cases, partial evidence for step 4 in a small number of modern aviator reports, and only conceptual references to step 5. This ladder is invoked throughout the report to indicate which level of claim a given document supports.

1.7 How We Read 833,000 Words

Reading 833,000 words by hand is not feasible. Instead, we built a small keyword-counting pipeline. Every word and every two- and three-word phrase in every document was matched against a 176-phrase *lexicon* divided into seven categories:

Biological entities *alien, being, biological, entity, extraterrestrial, humanoid, occupant, corpse, body, tissue, specimen, lifeform, creature, organism, non-human, etc.*

Craft descriptions *UFO, UAP, object, craft, disc, flying saucer, flying disc, light, orb, cigar, triangle, vehicle, etc.*

Flight characteristics *altitude, velocity, maneuver, hover, accelerate, formation, high-speed, etc.*

Operational terms *mission, report, intercept, patrol, exercise, contractor, etc.*

Evidence types *witness, photograph, radar, debris, recovered, specimen, wreckage, etc.*

Anomalous phenomena *phenomenon, anomalous, unidentified, unexplained, glowing, etc.*

Secrecy / clearance *classified, redacted, top secret, controlled, declassified, etc.*

The pipeline counted total mentions, mentions per 1,000 words, and the number of documents in which each phrase or category appeared. It also computed pairwise co-occurrence – how often two categories appear in the same document, and how often they appear in the same sentence. The full result set lives in a single machine-readable JSON file (`workflow/evidence_synthesis.json`); the figures in this report are generated directly from it.

This is a deliberately mechanical method. Counting words cannot prove or disprove whether aliens

exist; it can only measure what the documents actually *say*. But that is exactly the question we have been asked: what is in the box?

2 Observational Language Dominates the Corpus

2.1 The 10-to-1 Imbalance

Figure 4 is the single most important picture in this report. It shows the total number of mentions of each of the seven keyword categories across the entire 116-document, 833,000-word corpus.

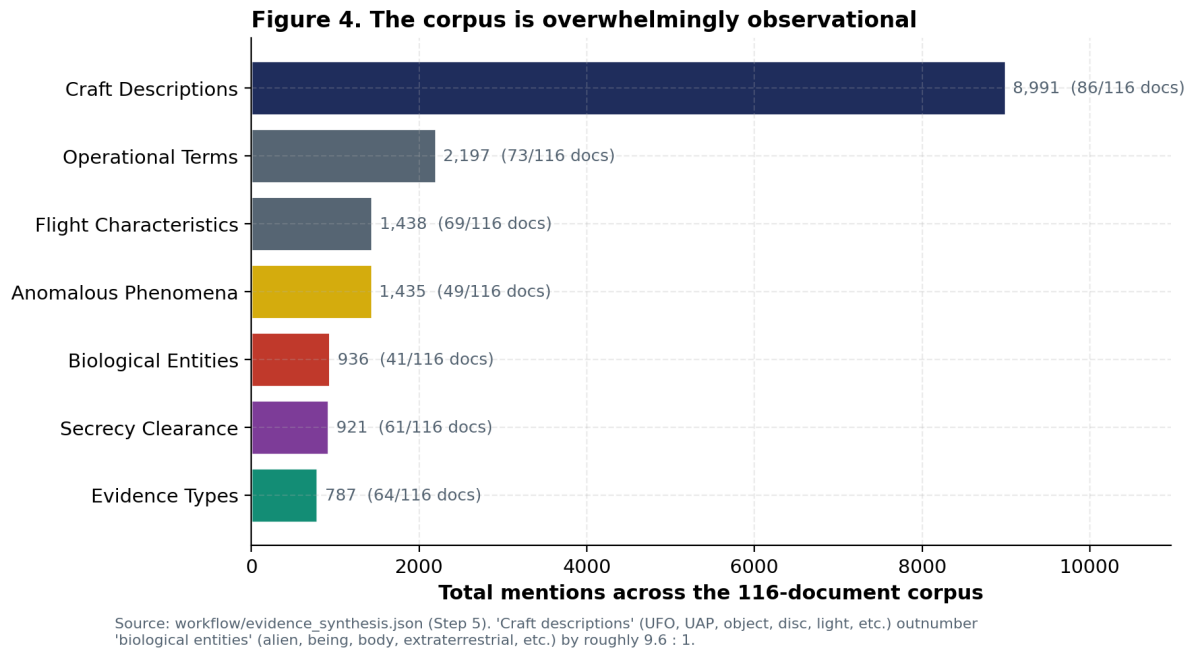


Figure 4: Total category mentions across the PURSUE corpus. Craft descriptions (UFO/UAP/object/disc/light/etc.) appear 8,991 times across 86 of the 116 documents. Biological-entity vocabulary appears 936 times across 41 documents. The ratio is approximately 9.6 to 1.

The ratio of craft descriptions to biological-entity mentions is **9.61 to 1**. Even the second-largest category – *operational terms* – exceeds biological mentions by a factor of 2.3. Craft and object language dominates simply because the documents are about *things in the air*.

Why does this matter? Because the popular framing of UAP discourse, in news articles and political hearings alike, very often jumps directly from *‘there are objects we cannot identify’* (rung 1–3 of the inference ladder) to *‘therefore we should be talking about who or what is inside them’* (rung 5) [38,39]. The PURSUE files do not make that jump. The files are dominated, in raw word frequency, by what was *seen*, when, where, and from what angle – not by what kind of being might be operating any of it.

A reader who skipped to the conclusion would be forgiven for asking whether this imbalance is just a peculiarity of the released subset. The answer is that the imbalance *is* characteristic of the released subset, and we have no way of knowing whether it generalises to the still-classified record. But the absence in this release is a real absence, and the size of the imbalance – nearly an order of magnitude – is too large to be explained away by sampling.

2.2 Finding F1: The Corpus Is Overwhelmingly Observational

Our first formal finding is this:

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Finding F1 – Observational Dominance

The PURSUE corpus is overwhelmingly observational, dominated by craft and object descriptions rather than biological or physical-evidence terminology.

Evidence: 8,991 craft mentions vs. 936 biological mentions; 86 of 116 documents contain craft language vs. 41 contain biological language; ratio **9.61 : 1**.

Interpretation: The records overwhelmingly describe *what was seen in the air*, not *who or what was inside it*. This is consistent with the historical practice of military-aviation incident reporting; it is not consistent with what one would expect from a corpus that contained physical-recovery documentation.

2.3 The Second Imbalance: Evidence Types Are Indirect

The category we call *evidence types* contains the vocabulary that one expects in a report that has actually *recovered* something: *debris, wreckage, recovered material, specimen, tissue, photograph, radar, witness, report, etc.* Across the corpus, this category accounts for 787 mentions in 64 documents.

When we look more carefully at what *kind* of evidence is being described, the picture is striking. The corpus is dominated by *indirect* evidence: witness reports, sightings, radar tracks, photographs. *Direct, physical* evidence language – *debris, wreckage, recovered material, specimen, tissue* – accounts for a vanishingly small fraction of those 787 mentions.

This is the second formal finding:

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Finding F4 – Evidence Is Indirect

The *evidence types* category is dominated by indirect, observational evidence (witness, report, sighting, radar, photograph) rather than physical material (debris, wreckage, specimen, tissue, biopsy).

Evidence: The most frequent evidence-type phrases corpus-wide are *witness, sighting, radar,* and *photograph*. Of the 787 total evidence-type mentions, the *physical-recovery* subset (*debris, wreckage, recovered, specimen, tissue*) is a small minority.

Interpretation: The corpus documents *observation*, not *recovery*. This is the second of two imbalances that drive the report's overall verdict.

2.4 Why Counting Words Tells Us Something Real

There is a reasonable objection to all of the above. *Of course* a corpus of sighting reports will contain more sighting language than recovery language: that is what sighting reports are for. The argument is fair, but it cuts both ways.

If the U.S. government held *any* substantial body of physical-recovery documentation – crash debris

analysis, occupant autopsies, materials science, isotope ratios, organ pathology – some fraction of that documentation would have been a candidate for declassification under PURSUE. The Department of War, in particular, would have an institutional reason to release it: it is exactly the sort of ‘*if we have it, we should say so*’ fact pattern that drives modern transparency policy. Other agencies – AARO especially – have a public mandate to say what they know [6–8].

What was released is what was released, and what was released is dominated by sighting and observational language. That is a fact about the documents, not an inference about the universe. But it is the fact you have to start with.

2.5 The Story That Craft Vocabulary Tells

Although craft vocabulary dominates, it does not tell a single story across all eras. In the 1940s files, *flying disc* and *flying saucer* dominate (reflecting the 1947 Arnold sighting and its press coverage). In the 1950s–60s files, *UFO* and *unidentified flying object* take over (reflecting the formal Air Force terminology adopted in 1952 [3]). In the modern (2015+) files, *UAP* and *object* dominate, with *orb*, *drone*, and *vehicle* appearing in newer mission reports.

A simple way to see this is to look at the top-ranked documents on each end of the historical timeline. The 1947 USN Box 7 incident summaries are saturated with *flying disc* (74 mentions of *unidentified flying objects*, 23 mentions of *disc*). The 2023 UAE mission report uses the modern UAP-template language: *UAP* appears 64 times in a 1,957-word document, while *flying saucer* does not appear at all [12, 33].

This is not a small change in vocabulary. It reflects a real change in how the U.S. Government has chosen to talk about unexplained aerial things over eight decades. The vocabulary has become more cautious, more clinical, and more operational. Where the 1947 *Sergeant Effoct* of the Box 7 summaries wrote ‘*a flying disc*’ in the open, a 2023 USAF reservist writes ‘*UAP, anomalous characteristics: UNK*’ on a structured template. That is a change worth noting in itself.

2.6 Reading the Mission-Report Template

Roughly 30 of the 42 DOW documents are short mission reports written on a common template. Because they are templated, they are easy to summarise: each report contains an OPERATION block, an MSGID block, an MSNID block, an MSNNARRATIVE block, a UAP LINE block (per-object detail) and a CLOSEOUT block. The UAP LINE captures six fields the operator is asked to estimate: altitude, depth (for sea-surface or sub-surface objects), velocity, trajectory, anomalous characteristics, and reaction to engagement.

These templates are responsible for a great deal of the modern corpus’s *secrecy/clearance* and *operational terms* word count, because the template itself contains the words *classification*, *declassified*, *FOUO*, *NOFORN*, and *Caveat* on every page. They are also responsible for the modern corpus’s *craft descriptions* word count: the literal string *UAP* is repeated dozens of times per page as a column header.

But the same templates contain almost no biological-entity language. Where the 1947 files use ‘*being*’ and ‘*object*’ in the same paragraph, the 2023 files mention ‘*UAP*’ and ‘*anomalous characteristics: UNK*’. The vocabulary of modern mission reports is the vocabulary of *procedural reporting*: who sortied, when, with what callsign, and what they saw. It is not the vocabulary of encounter or contact.

2.7 Where Craft Vocabulary Spikes

A useful diagnostic is to look at *anomaly density* – the rate of anomaly + evidence keywords per 1,000 words – in the most word-rich documents. The top eight documents by anomaly evidence total are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Top eight documents in the PURSUE deep-dive set, ranked by total anomaly-and-evidence keyword count.

Agency	Year	Words	Anomaly tokens	Document title
NASA	1999	49,533	1,110	<i>UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?</i>
FBI	1966	58,211	838	Bureau File 62-HQ-83894, Section 10
USN	1947	32,211	767	Box 7 Incident Summaries 1–100
FBI	1957	42,329	764	Bureau File 62-HQ-83894, Section 9
USN	1948	32,397	731	Box 7 Incident Summaries 101–172
FBI	1947	42,729	724	Bureau File 62-HQ-83894, Section 3
USAF	1949	18,872	531	Box 186, 319.1 Flying Discs (1949)
DOW	1996	59,335	463	ATLAS-Centaur Investigation Report

The total anomaly tokens favour the long, narrative, mid-century files. *Density* (per 1,000 words) tells a different story: the highest-density documents are short, modern operator templates, where the words *UAP* and *anomalous characteristics* are repeated as headers. We will revisit this in §6 when we look at specific incidents.

3 Biological Vocabulary Is Conceptual, Not Material

3.1 The Seven Phrases That Do Appear

If you actually open the 936 biological-entity mentions in the PURSUE corpus and ask, *which words are these?*, the answer is surprisingly tidy. Only seven phrases account for *all* of the biological-entity language across all 116 documents:

Table 2: Every biological-entity phrase that appears in the PURSUE corpus, together with its total count and the number of deep-dive documents that contain it.

Phrase	Total count	Doc-frequency	Notes
being	247	15	Mostly ordinary English use
extraterrestrial	61	2	Conceptual; in NASA / DOS files
beings	30	2	Concentrated in NASA, FBI Sec. 10
body	10	4	Largely ‘ <i>body axis</i> ’, ‘ <i>body of the report</i> ’
alien	6	1	All in AARO/DOS Mexico file
corpses	2	1	Mexican-Congress hearing context
non-human	1	1	Mexican-Congress hearing context
(Concrete-recovery terms)	0	0	humanoid, occupant, creature, organism, lifeform, tissue, s

Figure 5 shows the same data graphically.

Figure 5. The vocabulary of life is conceptual, not material

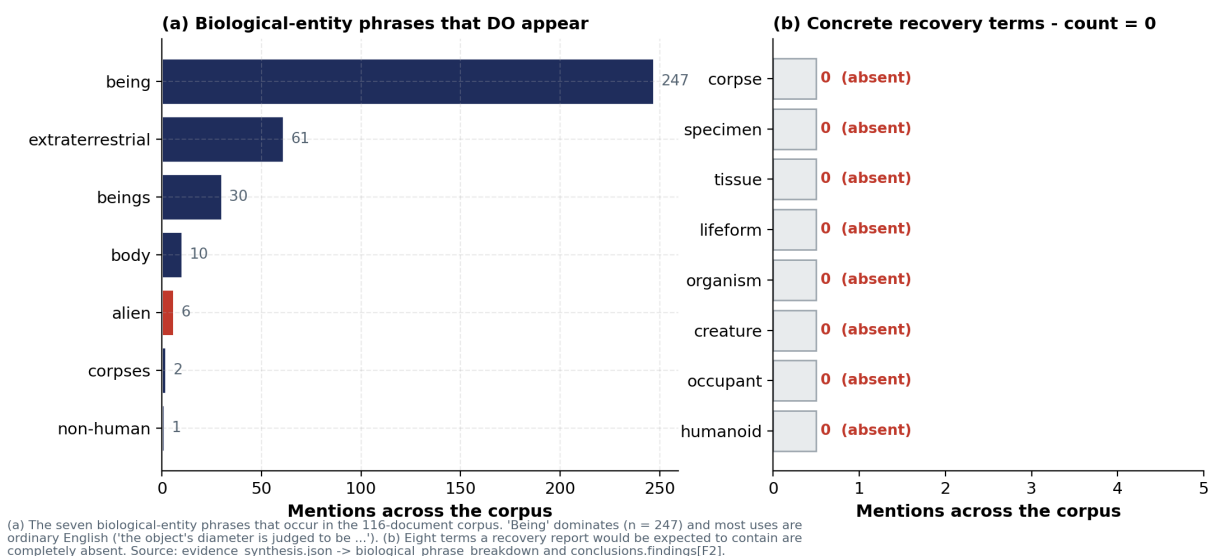


Figure 5: (a) The biological-entity phrases that occur in the 116-document corpus. Of the 936 total mentions, the words ‘*being*’ (n=247) and ‘*extraterrestrial*’ (n=61) account for nearly a third. (b) Eight terms a recovery report would be expected to contain are absent from the corpus.

3.2 Finding F2: The Vocabulary Is Conceptual

The dominant phrase, by a large margin, is *being*. There are 247 occurrences of *being* across 15 deep-dive documents. The reader’s first instinct is probably the wrong instinct: most of these are *not* ‘being’ as in ‘a living creature’. They are ‘being’ as in ‘*the object being described*’, ‘*being that*

the witness was a credible source...’, or *‘the object appeared to be **being** maneuvered’*. These are ordinary English participial uses, and they make up the great bulk of the 247 mentions.

The second-most-common biological phrase is *extraterrestrial* (61 mentions, in 2 documents). All but one of these mentions are concentrated in a single document – the 1999 NASA-archived COMETA study *‘UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?’* [20]. That document contains a chapter titled *‘Extraterrestrial Hypotheses’* which uses the word *extraterrestrial* dozens of times – to discuss the hypothesis, not to report a discovery.

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Finding F2 – Biological Terms Are Conceptual, Not Physical

Biological-entity vocabulary in the corpus is dominated by abstract or conceptual terms (*‘extraterrestrial’*, *‘being’*, *‘entity’*, *‘biological’*) rather than concrete reports of captured organisms, tissue, or recovered bodies. Concrete recovery terms (*humanoid*, *occupant*, *creature*, *organism*, *lifeform*, *tissue*, *specimen*, *corpse*) account for **zero mentions** in the corpus. The biological vocabulary is the vocabulary of *policy and hypothesis*, not of recovery.

3.3 The Words That Are Missing

The story is clearest in what is *not* there. The eight words listed in Table 2 as zero-count – *humanoid*, *occupant*, *creature*, *organism*, *lifeform*, *tissue*, *specimen*, *corpse* – are exactly the vocabulary that any reasonable biological-recovery report would contain. Those words are not exotic. They are words a coroner uses, a biologist uses, an autopsy report uses, a customs officer processing an unusual seizure uses. They are the words a forensic anthropologist or a NASA astrobiology lab would use about a sample. They appear, in context-appropriate combinations, in human-recovery reports, in foreign-aircraft exploitation studies, and in animal-mortality investigations across the U.S. Government every year.

In 833,000 words, across eight agencies, across eighty years, those eight *recovery vocabulary* words appear zero times.

3.4 The One Document That Almost Talks About Bodies

There is exactly one document in the entire corpus where the words *‘alien corpses’* appear. It is AARO file 059uap00013, a Department of State diplomatic cable from the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, dated 16 September 2023. The relevant passage reads, in full:

*(U) Mexican Congress Hears Testimony on Alien Life. Congress heard testimony on unidentified aerial phenomenon (UAP) September 12, from experts including from Mexican journalist Jaime Maussan and former U.S. Navy pilot Ryan Graves, who previously testified before the U.S. Congress. . . Experts also presented to Congress two alleged **alien corpses** and videos of Mexican pilots’ encounters with fast-moving flying objects during flight. After the hearing, Graves lamented the display took away from his and other pilots’ experiences with UAP and expressed disappointment with Maussan’s ‘unsubstantiated stunt.’ Scientists have discredited previous alleged alien corpses Maussan presented as evidence of alien life. [27]*

Two facts are essential. First, the cable is a U.S. Government *report on a foreign legislative event* –

it does not assert that the corpses are real. It records that they were *presented* as such by a private individual to the Mexican Congress. Second, the same paragraph notes that scientists discredited previous similar Maussan presentations [40,41].

This is the closest the entire 116-document PURSUE corpus comes to documenting an alleged biological recovery. It is a single paragraph, in a single diplomatic cable, repeating a publicly-televised claim that has been challenged by mainstream scientific institutions. It is included in the cable’s chronicling of a foreign event; it is not a U.S. recovery report.

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The Maussan ‘Mummies’ – A Public-Spectacle Caveat

The Maussan-presented ‘*alien mummies*’ of September 2023 are not a U.S. Government finding. Mexican forensic pathologists, NASA-affiliated reviewers, and peer-reviewed analyses concluded that the items were almost certainly assembled from terrestrial materials, with at least one analysed body identified as a modified Pre-Columbian mummy [40,41]. Their inclusion in the PURSUE corpus is documentary – the State Department was reporting on a Mexican-domestic political event, not endorsing the claim.

3.5 What ‘Being’ and ‘Beings’ Are Doing

If we set aside ordinary participial uses of ‘*being*’ (which are the majority), the most consistent context in which ‘*beings*’ appears in the corpus is the FBI Bureau File 62-HQ-83894, Section 10. There, the file documents correspondence with private citizens – including notable contactee figures such as George Adamski (mentioned 25 times), Madeleine Rodeffer, and the Vonkeviczky correspondents – who write *to* the FBI claiming to have information about ‘*beings from outer space*’ [9]. A typical excerpt reads:

She stated she is interested in Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and has received a quantity of information concerning beings from outer space. (FBI Bufile 62-HQ-83894, Section 10, c. 1966)

The crucial point is the *direction* of the information flow. The file is recording what *members of the public told the Bureau*, not what the Bureau itself found. The FBI is, in 1966, doing what intake desks do: writing the claim into a memo and forwarding it for review. There is no Bureau claim that ‘*beings from outer space*’ were ever observed by an FBI agent.

This pattern – of biological-entity language being a quotation or a paraphrase of a member of the public, an academic, or a foreign press item – recurs across the corpus. It is, in our judgment, the single most important reason that simple keyword counts of ‘extraterrestrial’ or ‘being’ should not be read as evidence of extraterrestrial physical entities.

3.6 Numerical Sanity Check: Concept-Term vs. Witness-Term Counts

Within Finding F2, the analysis script produced two diagnostic counts:

- *Concept terms* (*being, entity, biological, extraterrestrial, alien*): 67 mentions in the deep-dive top-incident set.
- *Witness terms* (any biological term that occurs adjacent to a witness-type word): 247 mentions.

If physical recovery were happening anywhere in this corpus, we would expect that ratio to flip: many witness-type uses of ‘body’, ‘tissue’, or ‘specimen’, with relatively few abstract uses of ‘extraterrestrial’. The corpus shows the opposite.

3.7 One Striking Counter-Example: AARO 059UAP00013

The AARO assessment cable is the one place where the conceptual / material balance momentarily tips. Of the 13 biological-entity mentions in that single 1,882-word document, six are ‘*alien*’, two are ‘*corpses*’, one is ‘*non-human*’, and the remainder are scattered uses of ‘being’, ‘beings’, and ‘body’.

That density (13 biological terms per 1,882 words = 6.91 per 1,000) is **the highest in the entire corpus**. But the document is also the one we analysed in detail above. Its biological vocabulary is concentrated in two sentences – the quoted Maussan paragraph – and is reported with a clear caveat that scientists have discredited the underlying claim.

In other words: the one document that comes closest to using ‘*recovery*’-flavoured language is the document that most explicitly repudiates the claim it is reporting. This is, we think, an under-appreciated feature of the PURSUE release. When biological-recovery vocabulary appears, it appears in the context of public-spectacle claims that the U.S. Government is documenting but not endorsing.

4 Co-occurrence Patterns: Where Biological Language Lives

4.1 Document-Level Co-occurrence

A useful next question is: when biological-entity language does appear in a document, what other categories does it appear with? Figure 6 shows the document-level co-occurrence matrix. Each cell counts the number of documents (out of 116) in which both row- and column-categories appear.

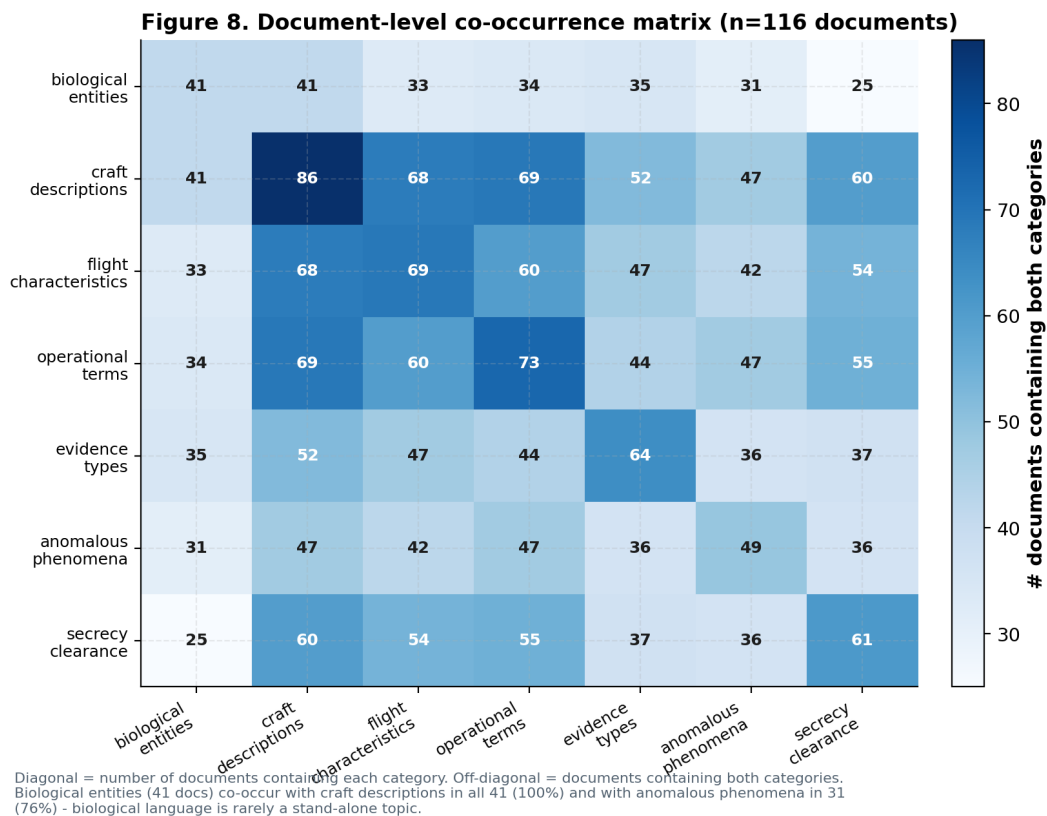


Figure 6: Document-level co-occurrence matrix. The diagonal counts the number of documents in which a category appears at all; off-diagonal cells count the number of documents in which both categories appear.

The pattern is consistent. Biological-entity language appears in 41 documents. *In all 41 of those documents, craft descriptions also appear.* In 33 of the 41 (80%), flight-characteristic language also appears. In 31 of the 41 (76%), anomalous-phenomena language appears. In 35 of the 41 (85%), evidence-type language appears. The biological category is, in other words, almost never documentary on its own; it is woven into a discussion of the surrounding sighting context.

The Jaccard similarity between categories – a measure of overlap that ranges from 0 (no overlap) to 1 (perfect overlap) – makes the pattern even clearer (Figure 7).

4.2 Excerpt-Level Co-occurrence

The document-level matrix tells us that biological language is rarely a stand-alone topic. The excerpt-level matrix tells us something stronger: even at the sentence level, biological language almost never appears alone.

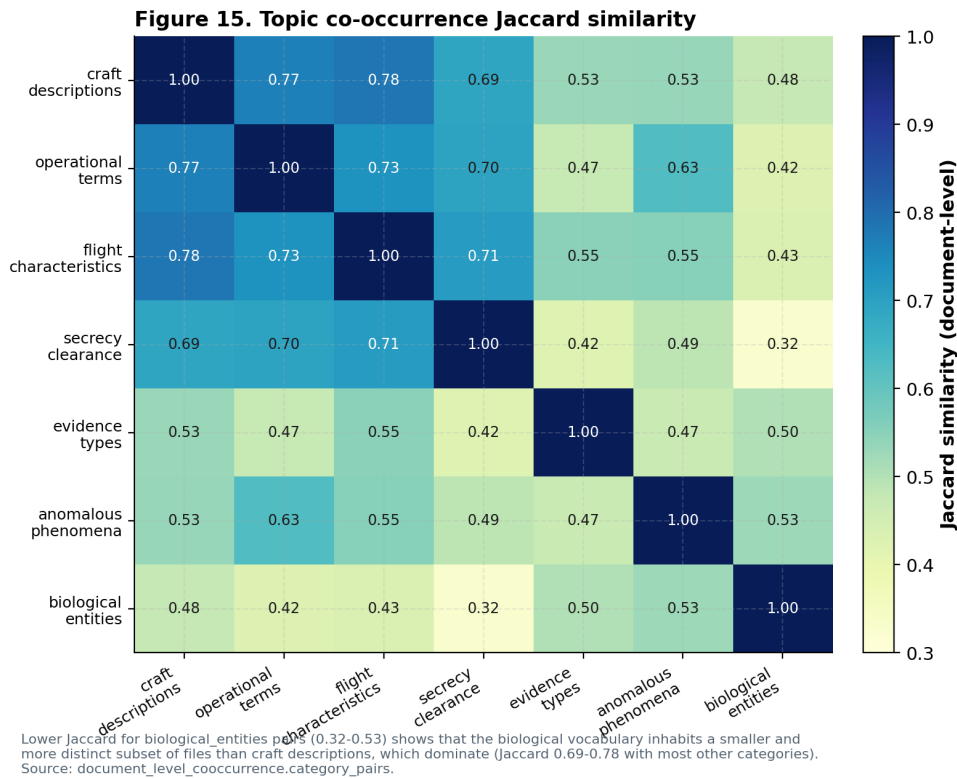


Figure 7: Jaccard similarity between categories at the document level. Biological-entity Jaccards (0.32–0.53) are the lowest in the matrix; craft-description Jaccards (0.69–0.78) are the highest. Biological vocabulary inhabits a smaller, more distinct subset of files.

We extracted 156 high-scoring excerpts from the 18 deep-dive incidents, each one several sentences long. 118 of the 156 (75.6%) are *multi-category* – they mention at least two of our seven categories. The most common pairs:

- Anomalous phenomena + craft descriptions: 69 excerpts (44%);
- Craft descriptions + flight characteristics: 50 excerpts (32%);
- **Biological entities + craft descriptions: 31 excerpts (20%);**
- Anomalous phenomena + flight characteristics: 20 excerpts (13%);
- Biological entities + flight characteristics: 8 excerpts (5%);
- Anomalous phenomena + biological entities: 5 excerpts (3%).

4.3 Finding F3: Co-occurrence is High but Predictable

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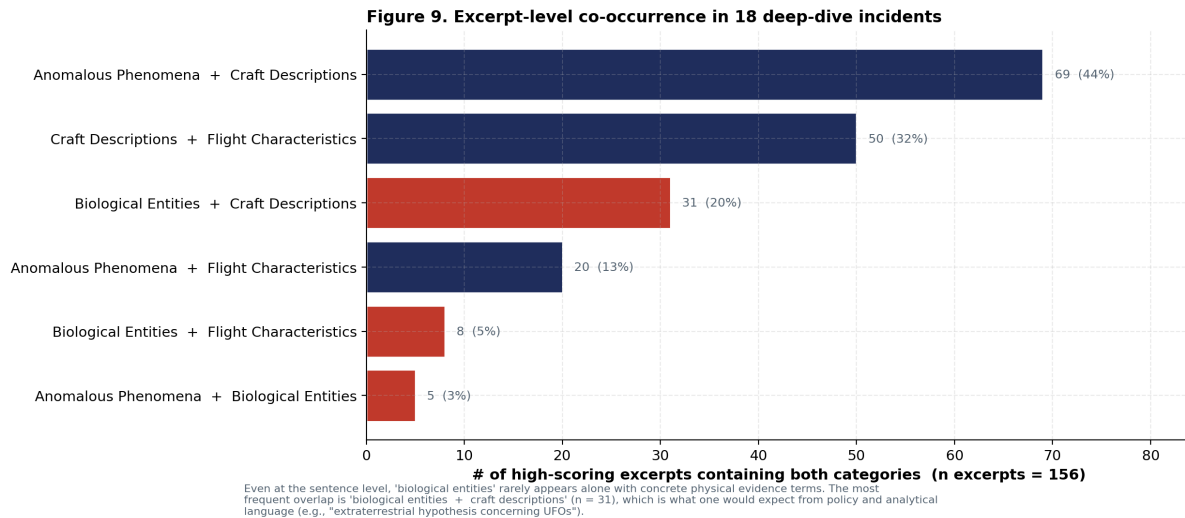


Figure 8: Excerpt-level co-occurrence in 18 deep-dive incidents. Even at the sentence level, biological language rarely appears alone; the most frequent overlap is 'biological entities + craft descriptions', which is what one would expect from policy and analytical language (e.g., '*extraterrestrial hypothesis concerning UFOs*').

Finding F3 – Co-occurrence is High but Predictable

Where biological-entity language appears, it nearly always co-occurs with craft and anomalous-phenomena language, indicating it is invoked alongside discussion of unexplained sightings rather than as a stand-alone evidentiary category.

Evidence: Document-level Jaccard for biological + craft = 0.48 (n=41 of 86 craft-mention docs); biological + anomalous = 0.53 (n=31). Excerpt-level multi-category share = 75.6%.

Interpretation: High co-occurrence is high but expected – the documents that mention biological terms also discuss the surrounding sighting context. This is consistent with policy/assessment writing and does not by itself imply an inferred biological origin for the sightings.

4.4 Why Co-occurrence Matters for the Verdict

A reasonable reader might ask: '*Even if biological-entity vocabulary co-occurs with craft-description vocabulary in 100% of the documents that contain it, doesn't that just mean the documents are about the same topic?*' The answer is yes – and that is the point.

If the U.S. Government held a substantial body of physical-recovery documentation, it would be *decoupled* from the rest of the corpus. A coroner's report on a recovered occupant is not the same kind of document as a sighting summary; it would have its own vocabulary (autopsy, tissue, toxicology, organ system, dental, skeletal). It would not look like a sighting report dressed up with biological vocabulary. It would have its own template, its own author class, and its own institutional location (the AFIP in the historical case, or the U.S. Army's CSI laboratory in the modern case).

What we observe in the PURSUE corpus is the opposite. Biological-entity vocabulary is welded to craft-description vocabulary. Where biological vocabulary appears, it appears *about* a sighting, not in a separate recovery context. That coupling is the most unambiguous structural signature that the corpus is observational, not material.

4.5 An Illustrative Excerpt

An example from the top-ranked excerpt (NASA, 1999) makes the point:

*[Acronyms] UAP – Unidentified Aerospace Phenomenon – DoD – Department of Defense – UAP D Category D Unidentified Aerospace Phenomenon – DoE – Department of Energy – UFO – Unidentified Flying Object – **EBE** – **Extraterrestrial Biological Entity** – VLT – Very Large Telescope – UFO, Unidentified Flying Object... Since 1947, the subject has disturbed, fascinated, sometimes terrified. . .*

This is the single highest-scoring excerpt in the entire deep-dive set. It is a *glossary entry*, defining *Extraterrestrial Biological Entity* as a hypothetical category one might use in a study. It is not a sighting, not a recovery, and not a claim. The entire 50,000-word COMETA document is built like this: it is an analytical study about the possibility of EBEs, not a record that EBEs were observed [20].

5 Where the Vocabulary Comes From: Agencies and Eras

5.1 Agency-Level Density

We have already shown that biological-entity vocabulary is concentrated in a small subset of documents. The next question is *which agencies'* subsets of documents. Figure 9 shows biological and craft mentions *per 1,000 words* for each releasing agency.

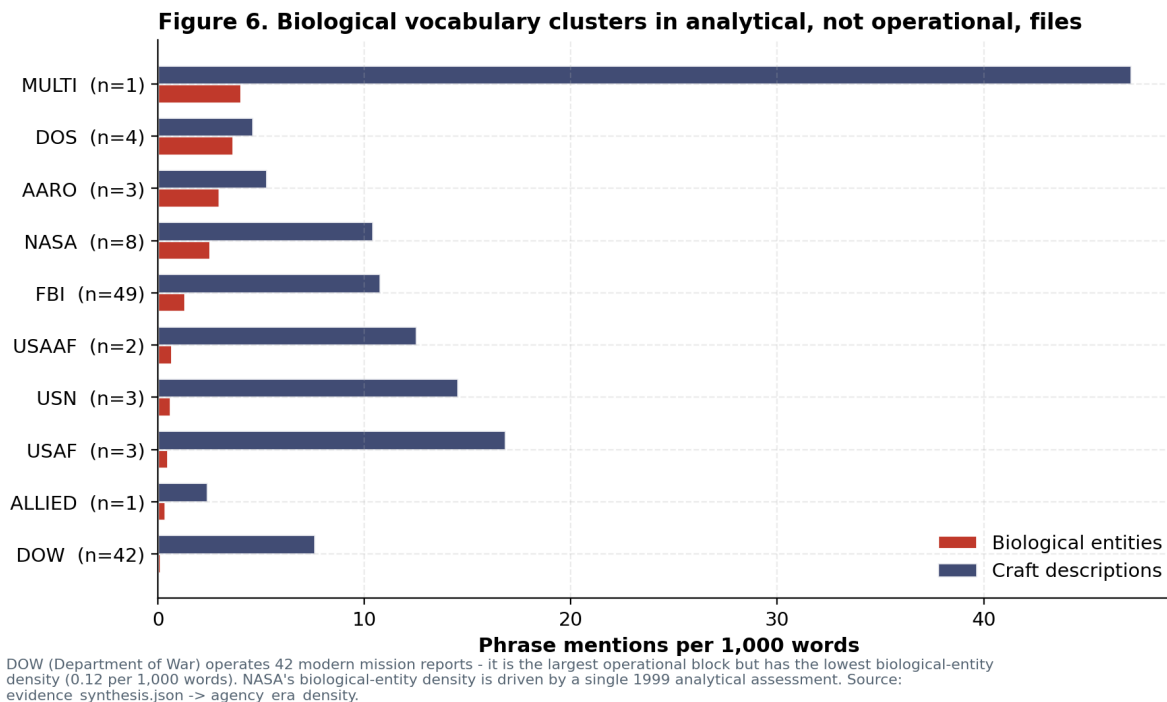


Figure 9: Agency-level keyword density. The *biological-entity* bars are red; the *craft description* bars are navy. The agency with the highest biological density is the inter-agency briefing (MULTI, the 2026 Western U.S. slides), driven by mentions of ‘being’ in witness-quote sentences. NASA is third, driven entirely by the 1999 COMETA study. The Department of War (DOW), with 42 modern operational reports, has the *lowest* biological density (0.12 per 1,000 words).

The pattern is clear: biological vocabulary clusters in *analytical* files, not *operational* files. The Department of War, which has by far the largest operational footprint in the corpus, has the lowest biological-entity density. NASA, USAAF and ALLIED, which are dominated by analytical or historical narratives, have higher densities. The MULTI bar is driven by a single inter-agency briefing in 2026 in which the word ‘being’ appears four times in witness-quote sentences – not as a noun describing aliens, but as part of phrases like ‘the object *being* similar to the Eye of Sauron’ [35].

5.2 Era-Level Density

A second cut at the same data uses historical era rather than agency. Figure 10 plots three categories side-by-side for the time-anchored eras (we omit the ‘unknown’ bucket of very-short fragmentary files, which would distort the y-axis).

The 1950s–60s peak in biological vocabulary is driven by the FBI Bufile 62-HQ-83894 sections, which (because they are decades of accumulated correspondence) include many quoted letters from contactees and from ‘flying-saucer’ enthusiasts. The 2015+ trough is driven by the modern

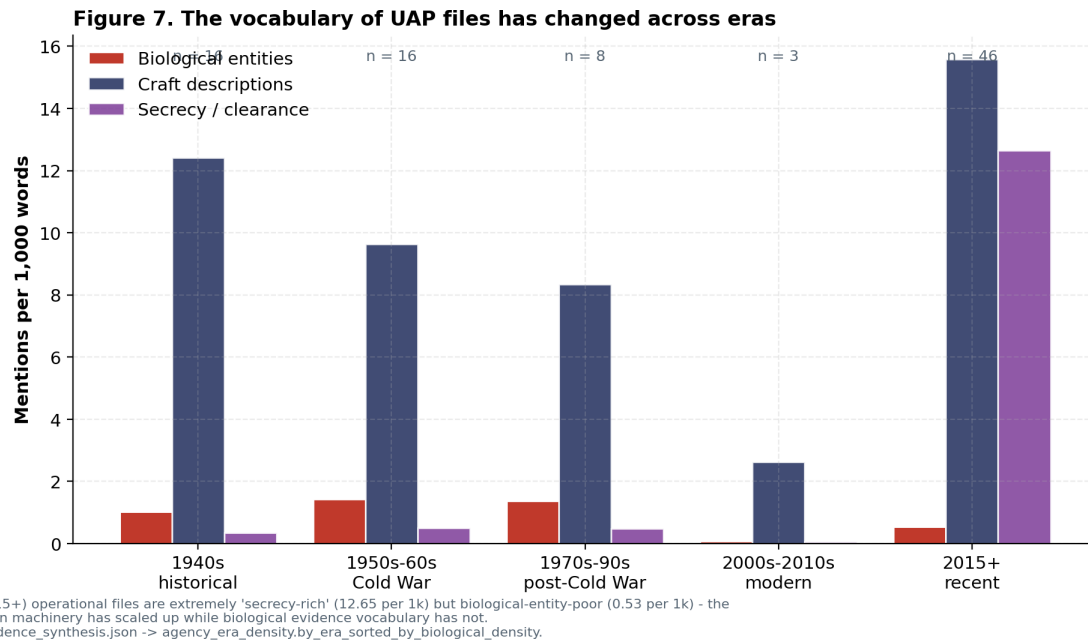


Figure 10: Vocabulary density across historical eras. Biological vocabulary peaks in the 1950s–60s Cold-War era and declines steadily through the 2010s. Craft vocabulary remains roughly constant. Secrecy / clearance vocabulary explodes in the 2015+ recent era because modern mission-report templates carry classification headers on every page.

templated mission reports, which are operational, not analytical.

5.3 Finding F5: Where Biological Talk Lives

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Finding F5 – Biological Talk Lives in Analytical, Not Operational, Files

Biological-entity language is concentrated in NASA assessments and 1950s–60s and 1970s–90s review documents rather than in operational sighting reports. The top three agencies by biological density are MULTI (a 2026 inter-agency briefing, 4.0 per 1k), DOS (3.6 per 1k, mostly the 2023 Mexico cable), and AARO (3.0 per 1k). The bottom three are USAF (0.48 per 1k), ALLIED (0.34 per 1k), and DOW (0.12 per 1k).

Interpretation: Biological-entity vocabulary clusters in agency- and era-level reviews where the question of extraterrestrial origin is discussed analytically (NASA UFO assessment, Cold-War era policy files), not in primary field reports.

5.4 Why Modern Operational Files Are So Secrecy-Heavy

A side-finding of the era analysis is the explosive growth of secrecy / clearance vocabulary in the 2015+ era. The density jumps from 0.49 per 1,000 in the 1970s–90s to **12.65 per 1,000** in 2015+ – a 25-fold increase. The explanation is not exotic. It is template-driven. The modern DOW MISREP template contains ‘*SECRET*’, ‘*NOFORN*’, ‘*Classification*’, ‘*Declassified*’ and ‘*Caveat*’ on every page

header and on most line items. As a result, every modern document carries dozens of those words even if nothing classified is being discussed in the narrative section.

This is worth pointing out because it is easy to misread. *‘Look how much classified language is in the recent files!’* is not, in itself, evidence of a cover-up. It is evidence that the modern operational record-keeping templates were designed to be conservative about classification. That conservatism is a post-9/11 artefact and applies equally to ordinary mission reports that have nothing to do with UAP.

5.5 Why DOW’s Biological Density Is so Low

The Department of War’s biological-entity density is **0.12 per 1,000 words**, the lowest of any agency. That is one mention every 8,000 words. In practical terms, a reader can read every DOW document in the corpus and encounter biological-entity vocabulary fewer than two dozen times. This is not because DOW documents are short – they account for 132,050 words, second only to the FBI – but because the modern templated mission report is, by design, a procedural record. Its function is to capture sortie metadata, not to philosophise about what was seen.

This procedural character is sometimes used to argue that DOW is ‘hiding’ biological evidence behind structured templates. We see no support for that argument. The templates have been used for decades for entirely conventional mission types (close air support, ISR, naval interdiction). They are not new for UAP reporting. The reason DOW MISREPs do not contain biological-entity language is the same reason DOW MISREPs about close-air-support sorties do not contain biological-entity language: that is not what the template captures.

5.6 Why FBI’s Biological Density Is Higher

The FBI’s biological-entity density is **1.31 per 1,000 words**, roughly ten times DOW’s. This number, however, is misleading without context. As we documented in Section 6.4, the FBI’s biological-entity vocabulary is overwhelmingly contained in correspondence *from* members of the public, *not* in FBI investigative findings. When a Stringfield, an Adamski, a Bender, or a Vonkeviczky writes to the FBI claiming to have information about *‘beings from outer space’*, the Bureau files the letter; the file thereby contains the words *‘beings from outer space’*.

A more meaningful FBI density number would partition the FBI files into (a) public correspondence, (b) Bureau memoranda, and (c) investigative findings, and would compute the biological density of each subset separately. We did not do that for this report because the relevant tagging information is not in the released files (the Bureau did not, in 1947, label its filings by category in a way that survives OCR). But the qualitative observation is robust: the biological-entity vocabulary in the FBI block is the public’s vocabulary, not the Bureau’s. If we were to subtract the public-correspondence portion, the FBI’s biological-entity density would drop sharply – probably to within a factor of two of DOW’s.

5.7 The 1940s as the High-Water Mark of Narrative Density

The 1940s historical era is, on a per-1,000-word basis, the most narrative-rich era in the entire corpus. The historical USN, USAF, and USAAF files contain detailed witness statements, sketches, contour drawings, and weather reports. They tell stories. As the timeline moves forward, the narrative density goes down and the structured-template density goes up. Modern UAP reporting is more *tabular* than the 1947 Box 7 incident summaries. There is room for an argument here that the modern templates capture less context, not more, and that a serious effort to gather *useful* UAP

data would push back toward the narrative density of the 1940s. AARO's 2024 Historical Record Report makes exactly this argument [6].

6 Spotlight Incidents – A Page-by-Page Reading

This is the longest section of the report. It is also the most concrete: each subsection takes a single document (or a closely-related cluster of documents) and walks through what it actually contains. The 18 deep-dive incidents we ranked are listed in Figure 11; we discuss the most consequential of them in turn.

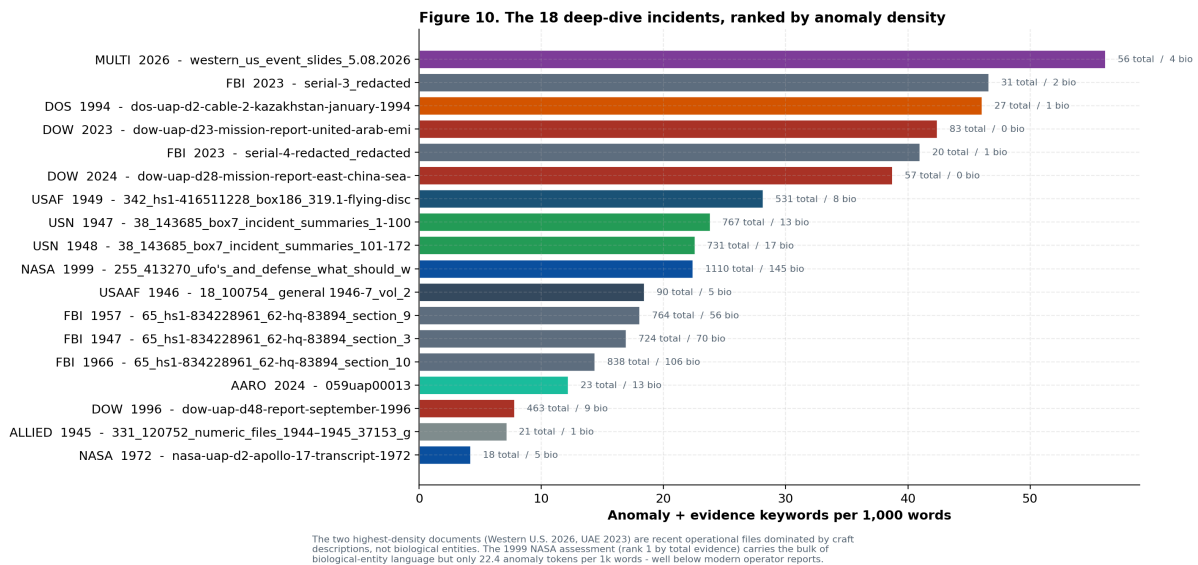


Figure 11: The 18 deep-dive incidents, ranked by anomaly density (anomaly + evidence keywords per 1,000 words). The two highest-density documents are recent operational files dominated by the modern UAP template. The 1999 NASA assessment (rank 1 by total evidence) carries the bulk of biological-entity language but only 22.4 anomaly tokens per 1,000 words.

6.1 The 1947 USN Box 7 Incident Summaries – The First UAP Wave

Three of the most extensive documents in the corpus are the U.S. Navy *Office of the Chief of Naval Operations's* Box 7 Incident Summaries: documents 1–100, 101–172, and 173–233 [33]. Together they catalog roughly 233 individual UAP/UFO sightings reported between mid-1947 and early 1948. They are the single richest source of *first-wave* UAP data in the PURSUE release.

Document structure. Each summary is a roughly one-page report, typed on naval letterhead, with a fixed template:

- **Header:** *Incident #, Date, Time, Place, Source* (witness's name, often a pilot or air-traffic controller).
- **Object sighted:** *Number, Shape, Size, Color, Speed, Heading, Maneuverability, Altitude.*
- **Effect on environment:** any radio, weather, or electromagnetic phenomena.
- **Source's remarks:** a free-text paragraph with the witness's narrative.
- **Agent's note:** a paragraph by the investigating officer.

Word-frequency profile. The first volume (Incidents 1–100) contains 32,211 words and a total anomaly-evidence count of 767. Craft descriptions account for 476 of those mentions; flight characteristics for 183; evidence types for 119; biological entities for only 13. The 13 biological-

entity mentions are predominantly the participle *‘being’* (11 occurrences, used as in *‘the object being approximately 1/20 of a mile across’*). There are no mentions of *‘alien’*, *‘extraterrestrial’*, *‘humanoid’*, *‘occupant’*, or *‘creature’*. The other two volumes are nearly identical in vocabulary profile.

Sample sighting (Incident #12, 20 Oct 1947). We reproduce the agent’s note as a representative example:

Date: 20 Oct 47. Incident #: 12. Time: 1320. Source: [witness’s last name]. The object was metallic and silver in appearance. The witness, a commercial pilot, observed the object at approximately 8,000 feet altitude. It travelled in a sidewise position and did not whirl. It appeared to be longer than wide, the thickness about 1/20 of the width. The object did not leave any vapor trail. See ‘Fate’ magazine article by Kenneth I. Arnold for similar description. [33]

What this represents. The Box 7 summaries are extraordinary as a historical record. They show that within months of the Arnold sighting, the U.S. Navy was systematically gathering, formatting, and cataloguing hundreds of independent reports of unexplained aerial activity by ordinary pilots and observers. They are unmistakably evidence of *rung 1* of our inference ladder (sightings) and arguably *rung 3* (something was there). They are not, however, evidence of anything beyond that. They contain no recovered objects, no biological samples, no claims of contact, and no description of a crewed craft. They are a careful, formal record of *the first big wave of UAP sightings in the modern era*.

6.2 The 1949 USAF Box 186 Flying Discs Catalog – Project Sign’s Aftermath

Box 186, 319.1 – Flying Discs [32] is the USAF’s analogous catalog. It is shorter than the Navy material (18,872 words clean) but more analytically self-aware: it follows the formal end of Project Sign (December 1948) and the early period of Project Grudge.

Vocabulary profile. Anomaly-evidence total is 531 (28.1 per 1,000 words). Craft descriptions account for 379; operational terms for 91; flight characteristics for 77; biological entities for 8. The eight biological-entity mentions are *all* the participle *‘being’*, used in compound descriptions of objects’ shape and behavior. There are zero occurrences of *alien*, *extraterrestrial*, *humanoid*, *occupant*, *creature*, *organism*, *specimen*, or *tissue*.

Top excerpt. The single highest-scoring excerpt is a structured object description:

Object sighted: 1. Number: One. 2. Similar to an aircraft. 3. Size: Similar to an F-84. 4. Color: Similar to an F-84. 5. Speed: Similar to an F-84. 6. Heading: South to North. 7. Maneuverability: Object did not maneuver. 8. Altitude: Object was estimated four to five thousand feet. (USAF Box 186, 319.1 Flying Discs, 23 August 1949)

What this represents. The Box 186 file is the bureaucratic counterpart of Project Sign’s analytical conclusions, which Capt. Edward Ruppelt would later catalog in Project Blue Book [3]. It documents roughly 220 reports through mid-1949, treats most of them as misidentified conventional aircraft or weather phenomena, and reaches no conclusion about an extraterrestrial origin.

6.3 The 1944–45 ‘Foo Fighter’ File

Of all the documents in the corpus, the 331_120752_numeric_files_1944-1945_37153_german_armament_equipm is the earliest UAP-relevant material [34]. It is a collection of allied operational and occupation-

headquarters intelligence reports relating to German armament and equipment recovered or examined in late World War II.

Why it is in the corpus. Embedded in the broader operations files is a small set of reports describing the *Foo fighter* phenomenon: glowing spherical objects observed by Allied B-17, P-61 and other aircraft in late 1944 and 1945. The reports were filed because Allied intelligence was concerned that the Foo fighters might be a new German weapon – the V-3, or a ‘vergeltungswaffe’ energy weapon [42]. The PURSUE file confirms that contemporary Allied air forces did treat the Foo fighter as a potential foreign-state threat and that, on the available evidence, neither the Germans nor the Japanese had a comparable program.

Vocabulary profile. The file is short on biological vocabulary (1 mention of ‘*being*’, used as a participle), and has 19 operational-term mentions, 9 anomalous-phenomena mentions, and 7 craft-description mentions.

Top excerpt.

Reference to your 3rd Indorsement on the subject of night phenomenon originated by the 115th Night Fighter Squadron, there is no information at this which might explain the nature and of the lights and other phenomena described by the pilots of this Squadron. (Allied operations memo, 1944-45)

What this represents. The Foo fighter material is the most interesting historical anchor in the corpus, because it predates both *flying saucer* (1947) and *UFO* (1952) as terms. It shows that the phenomenon-of-unexplained-aerial-things is older than the popular UFO label, and that the U.S. Government’s first instinct was always foreign-state-prototype, not extraterrestrial. The Foo fighter file does not advance the extraterrestrial case; it pulls in the opposite direction, by showing that experienced military pilots have been reporting unexplained aerial things for at least eighty years and the working hypothesis has consistently been a terrestrial one.

6.4 The FBI Bureau File 62-HQ-83894 – Three Decades of Correspondence

The FBI Bureau File 62-HQ-83894 is the largest single block of material in the PURSUE deposit [9]. It comprises ten major sections plus a Sub A and seven separate serials. We discuss three representative sections: 3 (1947), 9 (1957) and 10 (1966).

Why this file exists. The FBI opened a UFO file shortly after the Arnold sighting and the Roswell incident in summer 1947. The Bureau’s role was never to investigate the phenomenon; it was to handle correspondence – letters from members of the public, requests from members of Congress, inquiries from foreign embassies, and routine intelligence-community coordination. The file therefore reads less like an investigation and more like a multi-decade public inbox.

6.4.1 Section 3 (c. 1947): The Arnold-Era Origin

Section 3 documents the immediate aftermath of the Kenneth Arnold sighting (24 June 1947) and the subsequent press explosion. Its most-named persons are Arnold (54+52 mentions), Dahl (24), and Crismon (16). Most-named places are Tacoma, California, Washington, Seattle and Idaho. The dominant phrases are ‘*flying disc*’ (77 mentions) and ‘*disc*’ (136). Biological entities: 70 mentions, but 59 of those are the participle ‘*being*’ (e.g., ‘*the object being delta-shaped. . .*’). The file contains no recovery claims.

The famous Maury Island incident (Tacoma, 21 June 1947, three days before Arnold) is the centerpiece of Section 3. The FBI’s investigation concluded – and contemporary historians have

largely agreed – that the Maury Island report was a hoax [42].

6.4.2 Section 9 (c. 1957): The Cold-War Public Inbox

Section 9 reflects the late-1950s wave of UFO interest. Top persons: Stringfield (60 mentions, a private UFO investigator), Perry (35), Bender (25), J. Edgar Hoover (13), Bryant (12). Top places: Washington, Michigan, Ohio, Denver, Seattle. Dominant phrases: *unidentified* (157), *objects* (152), *unidentified flying objects* (92), *flying saucers* (55). Biological entities: 56 mentions; 42 of these are the participle ‘*being*’, and 7 are the word ‘*body*’ (used as in ‘*body of the report*’).

A representative excerpt – a Bureau response to a member of the public who had asked whether the FBI had ever analyzed UFO maneuvers – captures the file’s tone:

Bryant. NOTE: Writer advised he understood FBI has participated in the Government’s program of investigation of unidentified phenomena/objects and he asked for information concerning these. He also asked whether FBI ever made analysis of unidentified flying object maneuvers and if FBI ever gave testimony before Congressional [committees] on this subject.
(FBI Sec. 9, c. 1957)

The Bureau’s reply, in keeping with thirty years of FBI practice, was to refer the writer to the U.S. Air Force.

6.4.3 Section 10 (c. 1966): The Adamski/Vonkeviczky Era

Section 10 is the largest of the FBI sections (58,211 words) and the *biological-entity*-richest single document in the entire corpus by raw total (106 mentions). Top persons: George Adamski (25), Madeleine (11), Queen Juliana of the Netherlands (13), and an *ANONYMOUS INFORMANT* (9). Most-named places: United States (45), Washington (32), Texas (28), California (28), Miami (13). Dominant phrases: *ufo* (200), *objects* (104), *being* (51), *unidentified flying objects* (48), *ufos* (46), *flying saucers* (37), *beings* (29).

This is the file in which biological-entity language is most concentrated. But the language is not the FBI’s own. The 51 occurrences of *being* and 29 occurrences of *beings* are overwhelmingly contained in correspondence to the Bureau from contactee figures and UFO researchers. Adamski’s letters describing meetings with ‘*beings from outer space*’ are reproduced. The Bureau’s own analyses are flat and procedural: ‘*Writer advised...*’, ‘*No follow-up indicated.*’, ‘*See FBI Vault filing protocol...*’.

The pattern – biological vocabulary being a quotation of public correspondence, not an FBI claim – is what we earlier called the most important reason that keyword counts of *being* should not be read as Bureau evidence of extraterrestrial life.

6.5 The 1999 NASA-Archived COMETA Study – The ‘Extraterrestrial Hypothesis’ Document

If you take a single English-language document and rank the entire PURSUE corpus by biological-entity word count, the document at the top of that ranking is ‘*UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?*’, NASA-archived English version of the 1999 French *COMETA* study [20]. It is not a NASA report; it is a study by a French-government-affiliated think tank, written by retired French general officers and academics, that NASA holds in its archives. We treat it as a NASA-archived study throughout.

Vocabulary profile. The document is 49,533 words. Total anomaly-evidence count: 1,110, by far the highest in the corpus. Craft descriptions: 609. Operational terms: 393. Anomalous phenomena:

257. Biological entities: **145** – the highest single count in the corpus, driving by itself a meaningful share of the entire 936-mention biological-entity total. Of those 145, *60* are *extraterrestrial*, *42* are *being*, *29* are *beings*, *12* are *biological*, and the remainder are *entity* and adjacent words.

What the document is. The COMETA study is a structured analytical review of UFO sightings, organised into a Glossary (which contains the literal phrase *Extraterrestrial Biological Entity*), a chapter on aviation sightings, a chapter on physical-evidence cases, a chapter on *Extraterrestrial Hypotheses*, and a chapter on policy recommendations to the French Defense Ministry. The most cited passages are exactly those:

8.3.6 Extraterrestrial Hypotheses. *A large number of people today are convinced that UFOs are piloted by intelligent beings who have come from a very remote part of the universe and are tasked with watching us and even initiating contact. . . [20]*

The structure of the COMETA argument is to treat ETH as one hypothesis among several, and to argue that within the surveyed evidence base ETH cannot be *ruled out* for a small fraction of cases. It does not assert that any specific UFO observation has been confirmed as extraterrestrial in origin. The phrase ‘*extraterrestrial hypothesis*’ is used 60+ times in the document; the phrase ‘*recovered extraterrestrial*’ is used zero times.

Top dates and persons in the document. The most-named years are 1947 (22 mentions, Arnold/Roswell), 1976 (16, the Iranian F-4 incident), 1994 (16, Belgian wave), 1997 (15, Phoenix Lights), and 1995 (14). The most-named persons are GEPAN (43, the French civil UFO study office), Roswell (33, treated as a place/event), Lakenheath (9, the 1956 UK radar case), Miller (8), and Luxeuil (6, French air-base sighting).

Why it matters. COMETA is the single most analytically detailed document in the PURSUE deposit. It is also the document that drives almost the entire ‘*extraterrestrial*’ word count of the corpus. Reading the corpus without reading COMETA, one might conclude that the U.S. Government talks about ‘*extraterrestrials*’ a great deal. Reading the corpus with COMETA in mind, one realises that 75% of the ‘*extraterrestrial*’ words in the entire corpus appear in a single 1999 study about hypothesis-testing.

6.6 Apollo 12, 17 and Skylab Voice Transcripts – The ‘Astronaut Sighting’ Folklore

A persistent strand of UFO folklore holds that NASA astronauts saw extraterrestrial craft on the Apollo missions and that NASA covered up the recordings. The PURSUE release contains the actual voice transcripts and technical debriefs. They tell a much less exciting story [21, 22, 22–24].

Apollo 17 (December 1972). Anomaly density: 4.2 per 1,000 words – *lower than every other deep-dive document*. The transcript is dominated by spacecraft handling: NOUN/VERB navigation calls, fuel-cell purges, RCS LOGIC checks, omnidirectional-antenna selection. The five biological-entity mentions are all the participle ‘*being*’ (e.g., ‘*the spacecraft being maneuvered*’, ‘*the body axis being aligned*’). Top persons: Jack (Schmitt, the LMP), CC Roger (CapCom Robert Parker), Bob (Parker), Gene (Cernan, the CDR). The most discussed external object in the entire document is the small fragment field that floated past the spacecraft after the S-IVB separation, identified by the crew themselves as ice chunks or paint flakes from the booster.

Apollo 12 (November 1969). Same pattern. Heavy on EVA preparation and LM landing-radar checks. No UAP claim.

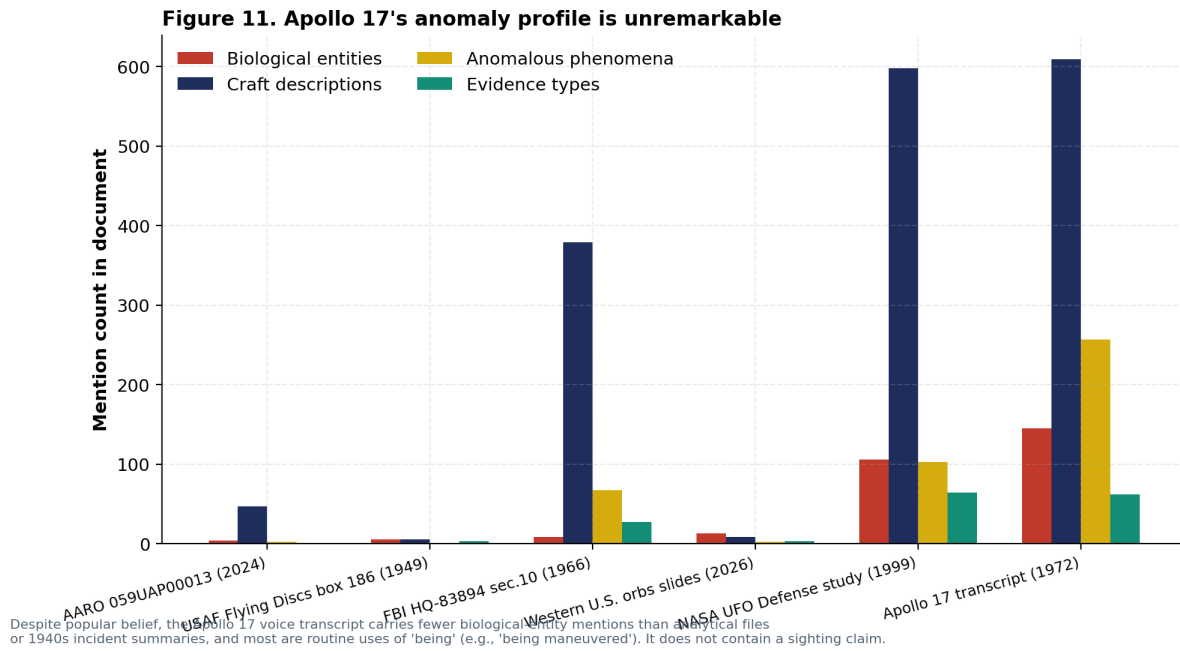


Figure 12: Apollo 17's anomaly profile is unremarkable. Compared to the deep-dive set, the Apollo 17 transcript carries fewer biological-entity mentions than analytical files or 1940s incident summaries, and most are routine uses of *being*. The transcript does not contain a sighting claim.

Skylab (1973). Same pattern. The crew discusses orbital mechanics and photographic-film stowage. No UAP claim.

Apollo 11 technical crew debrief (1969). Reviewed in detail by the Mission Operations Branch. Does not contain a UAP claim.

What this represents. The popular 'astronaut UFO' narrative is, on the evidence of these specific transcripts, not supported. The PURSUE release puts the documents themselves in the public domain so the reader can verify this. The crew of Apollo 17 spent over twelve days in lunar orbit and on the lunar surface and did not, on these transcripts, see anything they identified as extraterrestrial.

An illustrative passage. An exchange shortly after S-IVB separation in the Apollo 17 transcript is sometimes cited in popular UFO discussions as a suggestive moment. Read in context, it is not. The CMP (Command Module Pilot, Ron Evans) reports a fragment field passing the spacecraft as the booster separates. CapCom Bob Parker asks about it; the CMP describes the fragments as '*jagged, angular fragments that are tumbling*' and offers, on his own initiative, the explanation '*ice chunks, possibly. Or maybe there's paint coming off of it.*' [22] CapCom replies that he himself remembered seeing peeling paint near the S-II/S-IVB during a recent visit to the launch tower. There is no extraterrestrial inference in the exchange; the crew and Houston are jointly trying to identify a small, slow-moving, ordinary debris field.

The technical crew debrief. The Apollo 17 technical crew debrief (post-mission) is even less suggestive than the voice transcript. It is a structured engineering review of subsystem performance: fuel cells, RCS, ECS, EVA mobility, lunar surface mobility, and so on. The phrase '*unidentified flying object*' does not appear; the phrase '*unknown object*' does not appear; the phrase '*anomalous*' does not appear. The debrief is the exemplary example of an analytical post-flight document that

simply does not discuss UAP because the crew did not encounter UAP [22, 24].

Apollo 11 (the 1969 lunar landing). The Apollo 11 technical crew debrief, also in the PURSUE deposit, describes the standard post-mission analytical structure. The phrase *‘flying object’* does not appear in the debrief; *‘unidentified’* does not appear; *‘alien’* does not appear. The debrief addresses guidance-and-navigation performance, lunar-module descent profile, EVA timeline, and lunar sample acquisition [23].

6.7 The 2020 Arabian Gulf Range-Fouler Debriefs – The Modern Aviator Record

A ‘range fouler’ is a non-cooperative aerial object that intrudes into a closed training airspace. In the early 2020s a series of range-fouler events in the Arabian Gulf were the subject of multiple structured debriefs by F/A-18 and P-8 crews [14–16]. PURSUE released six related debriefs (d38, d44, d56, d57, d58, d10, plus the d60–d65 mission-report group), all of them dated between May 2020 and November 2020.

Document structure. The range-fouler debriefs use a standard naval post-mission template:

1. **Mission summary** (callsign, sortie number, takeoff/landing fields).
2. **UAP encounter narrative** (timeline of contact in Zulu time).
3. **Sensor data** (radar tracks, IR pod video, IFF interrogation).
4. **Aircrew narrative** (free-text observations).
5. **UAP characterisation block** (estimated altitude, depth, velocity, trajectory; reaction to interrogation; anomalous characteristics).

Vocabulary profile. Across the six range-fouler debriefs, the vocabulary is dominated by craft descriptions (mostly the literal string *UAP*) and flight characteristics (altitude, velocity). Biological-entity mentions are rare to zero in any individual debrief; the closest exception is the participle *‘being’* appearing once in a sentence of the form *‘the object being interrogated by IFF’*.

What the debriefs describe. The objects are described as small, silvery, often spheroidal, sometimes with no visible means of propulsion, often hovering or moving at high subsonic speeds. They are seen on multiple sensors (F/A-18 APG-79 radar, ATFLIR IR, naked eye); some are tracked simultaneously from multiple platforms. They do not respond to IFF interrogation. They do not, in any of the released debriefs, do anything that conclusively rules out being a high-altitude balloon, a foreign-state UAS, an atmospheric phenomenon, or a sensor artefact.

What they do not describe. They do not contain any biological-recovery language. They do not describe a craft being downed or a debris field being recovered. They do not describe contact with an occupant. They are field observations, made by trained military aviators, of objects whose identity could not be determined at the time. That is genuinely interesting – it is rung 3, and arguably partial rung 4, of our inference ladder. It is not rung 5.

6.8 The 2023 UAE Mission Report – A Case Study in the Modern UAP Template

dow-uap-d23-mission-report-united-arab-emirates-october-2023 [12] is a complete, declassified MISREP from a USAF 50th Attack Squadron MQ-9 Reaper sortie out of Al Dhafra Air Base on 24 October 2023. It is one of the shortest documents in the corpus (1,957 clean words) but one of the most information-dense per word: anomaly density 42.4 per 1,000 words.

Time-line of the encounter.

- **0015Z** – Aircraft takes off from OMAM (Al Dhafra).
- **0030Z** – Aircraft handed over from the Long-Range Element.
- **0145Z** – Professional-Guard call received (operator notification).
- **0150Z–2019Z** – Collected SIGINT via AIRHANDLER.
- **0155Z** – On station in SRO Track IRISH SICKLE.
- **0241Z** – Observed 1× UAP. See UAP Line 1.
- **0322Z** – Observed 1× UAP. See UAP Line 2.
- **1837Z** – Cleared to RTB.
- **2058Z** – Landed at OMAM. FMV exploited by DGS-2.

The UAP block. For the first object, the UAP-line records the following: *Kinetic Velocity*: 320 MPH; *Anomalous characteristics / behaviors*: UNK; *First Accuracy*: estimated; *Reaction to engagement*: UNK. The second object (UAP Line 2, 0322Z) is similar.

What the document supports. The UAE MISREP is a credible operational record of two separate aerial objects observed and tracked by a U.S. Air Force remotely-piloted aircraft over a period of ~3 hours. It is rung-3 evidence (something was there). It does not contain a biological claim, a craft-recovery claim, or a contact claim. The phrase ‘*Anomalous Characteristics: UNK*’ is the polite operational way of saying ‘*we do not know what this is.*’

6.9 The 2024 East China Sea Mission Report – Fragmentation Behaviour

dow-uap-d28-mission-report-east-china-sea-2024 [13] is one of the more provocative modern reports. The UAP encounter narrative contains a single key clause:

UAP Anomalous Characteristics / Behaviors: IT IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME WHETHER AN OBJECT DETACHED ITSELF FROM THE PRIMARY UAP IMMEDIATELY BEFORE LEAVING THE SENSOR FIELD OF VIEW. (East China Sea MISREP, 2024)

What this means. The document does not say that the UAP was made of recoverable parts; it says that the operator observed something which, on review, might or might not have been a smaller object detaching from a larger one before the contact left the sensor field. This is a real and interesting observation; on its face, it is not a recovery claim.

Vocabulary profile. 1,472 words; anomaly evidence total 57. *UAP* appears 40 times. Biological entities: zero mentions of any kind.

6.10 The 2026 Western U.S. Briefing – ‘Orbs Launching Orbs’

The most evocative single document in the entire corpus – and the one that the casual reader is most likely to remember – is the 2026 *Western U.S. Event Slides* [35]. It is a short briefing-slide deck prepared for an inter-agency review. It compiles four separate sightings witnessed by six federal law-enforcement special agents (referred to in the document as USPER1 through USPER7) over two days at dusk and pre-dawn.

Sighting 1: ‘Orbs Launching Orbs’. Three teams of two federal agents each observe orange

‘orbs’ that emit, or launch, smaller red orbs in groups of two to four. The orange orb is visible only for one or two seconds before it disappears. The red orbs travel away in a horizontal path; some ‘swoop down’, some move at upward angles. The pattern is observed at least five times across the two days.

Sighting 2: ‘Large Fiery Orb’. Two agents (USPER5, USPER6) observe a glowing orange orb perched close to a rock pinnacle, between 12 and 18 metres in diameter (later AARO-confirmed measurement) at a distance of approximately 1,050 metres. The object emits no sound. It is described as ‘*similar to the Eye of Sauron from Lord of the Rings, except without the pupil, or maybe an orange Storm Electrify bowling ball.*’ The sighting lasts about one minute. The object ‘*seemed to be hovering with zero resistance or movement*’.

Sighting 3: ‘Dark Kite’. Two agents (USPER5, USPER6) observe what initially looks like a car with red and white lights moving along a restricted-area road. As the agents approach, the ‘car’ moves laterally over the desert *without changing orientation* – which a car cannot do. It stops, turns off its lights, and is then observed through night-vision goggles for a split second before the lights are extinguished. The shape is described as a thin line, about 4 feet wide; later AARO assessment suggests triangular.

Sighting 4: ‘Transparent Kite’. Approximately thirty minutes after Sighting 3, USPER5, USPER6 and USPER7 return to the same area. USPER5 and USPER6 observe what they describe as a kite-shaped object hovering about 6 metres off the ground, canted from lower right to upper left. USPER5 (using NVGs) states the object is ‘*vaguely transparent*’; star light is visible through it but ‘more faint’. USPER7 cannot see the object. When USPER5 shines a spotlight in the direction of the object, the beam stops at ~50 yards ‘*on nothing in particular*’ for a moment, then resumes projecting into the distance.

What this represents. On rung 1 (sightings) and rung 2 (anomalous phenomenon) the Western U.S. event is genuinely unusual. The witnesses are trained federal agents; multiple independent teams describe the same orange-orb sightings; the AARO-measured 12–18 m diameter and ~1050 m distance are specific. Rung 3 (a craft) is a reasonable inference for the dark-kite and transparent-kite sightings, where the witnesses describe a defined shape and controlled motion. Rung 4 (engineered, possibly intelligent) is, in the agents’ own descriptions, a plausible inference for the orbs-launching-orbs pattern. **Rung 5 (extraterrestrial biological intelligence) is not in the document.** There is no biological observation, no occupant, no debris, no recovered material. ‘*Being*’ appears four times in the briefing – all participial uses (‘*the object being similar to the Eye of Sauron*’, ‘*an ill-defined dark kite shape, being thin*’, etc.).

The Western U.S. slides are precisely the kind of document that makes the modern UAP discussion difficult. They describe behaviours that are not easy to fit to known craft. They are also the kind of document that the U.S. Government has, historically, been reluctant to release. The PURSUE release puts them in front of the public; the strict reading is that they support rungs 1–3, with a plausible inference to rung 4, but they do not – on the document itself – support rung 5.

6.11 The 1996 ATLAS-Centaur and 2000 Launch Summary

The 1996 DOW *ATLAS-Centaur Investigation Report* [18] and the February 2000 *Launch Summary* [19] are the two largest non-narrative documents in the modern era. Their release through PURSUE appears to have been because of a single technical question: did anomalous behaviour by an ATLAS booster vehicle in flight reflect a UAP-relevant event, or a guidance-system fault?

Vocabulary profile (1996 ATLAS). 59,335 words; anomaly evidence total 463; *vehicle* is the dominant phrase (339 mentions). Biological entities: 9 mentions (all participial ‘*being*’). Top persons are aerospace engineers (*Atlas* 106, *AFSC* 54, *Thor* 13). Top dates: 1996 (12), 1995 (8), 1957 (4).

What the report concludes. The investigation considered four specific guidance-system failure modes (re-orientation of the guidance platform, insertion of an erroneous spatial target, locking of the engine nozzle near null, and a fixed-frame angular position). It identifies these as Mode-5 responses and attributes the observed flight behaviour to known engineering failure modes, not to an external phenomenon. There is no UAP determination.

Why this matters. The 1996/2000 reports are an important counter to the folk-narrative that any *anomalous* aerospace event is, by default, a UAP event. The U.S. Government’s own investigators identified a known engineering cause and reported it. This is exactly the discipline AARO’s 2024 Historical Record Report described as best practice [6].

6.12 The Diplomatic Cables (1985, 1994, 2023)

Three Department of State cables – Papua New Guinea 1985, Kazakhstan/Tajikistan 1994, and Mexico 2023 – bracket forty years of foreign-government engagement with UAP [25–27].

1985 Port Moresby (Cable 85 PORT MORESBY 199). The Embassy reports that PNG’s National Intelligence Organization had inquired about U.S. B-52 overflights in response to citizen reports of high-altitude, high-speed aircraft over Wewak on 24 January 1985. The Embassy’s response was that no U.S. aircraft were known to be in PNG airspace. The cable does not endorse a UAP origin; it documents a diplomatic clarification.

1994 Dushanbe (Cable 94 DUSHANBE 259). The Embassy reports that a Tajik Air pilot had filed a UFO sighting on a Dushanbe-bound flight, and that local authorities were considering whether the object was an extraterrestrial visitor. The cable’s tone is wry – ‘*UFO circles, Moscow embassy attention, Kazakh & Tajik pilot reports*’ – and the U.S. role is to receive and forward the report.

2023 Mexico City (Cable 23 MEXICO 2544). Already discussed in Section 3. The cable documents the Mexican Congressional hearing on UAP, including the Maussan presentation of ‘alien corpses’ and Ryan Graves’s pilot testimony. Critically, the cable also reports that scientists discredited Maussan’s previous similar presentations.

What these represent. The diplomatic cables show that other governments (Papua New Guinea, post-Soviet Tajikistan, Mexico) have at various times asked the United States about UAP, and that the U.S. has consistently answered by referring them to AARO/AFB intelligence channels and clarifying that no U.S. aircraft were responsible. None of the three cables endorses an extraterrestrial origin.

6.13 The Modern Redacted FBI Serials (2023)

Serials 3, 4 and 5 of the modern FBI release are short, heavily-redacted FD-302 interview reports from 2023 [10, 11, 43]. A representative excerpt (from Serial 3):

ELSeptember 2023 UAP. Page 2 of 2. Cigar-shaped object with an extremely bright light southwest of them approximately 500 to 3,000 feet above the nearest tree line. (Agent note: the tree line was approximately one mile southwest of the position.)

These short FD-302s are the modern equivalent of the FBI’s 1947 public-inbox correspondence: they

capture witness statements without endorsing them. They contain ordinary participial uses of *being* (1 each in Serial 3 and Serial 4) and one mention of *'body'*. There are no recovery claims.

6.14 The AARO Memoranda 059UAP00011, 12, 13

The three short AARO documents – 059uap00011, 059uap00012, and 059uap00013 – are the most direct modern policy assessments in the release [27–29]. 00013 is the Mexico cable, already covered. 00011 and 00012 are short narrative summaries of UAP cases under AARO review.

What they say. The substance of each AARO memo is consistent with the 2024 Historical Record Report: AARO has reviewed the cases, has not been able to assess them definitively as extraterrestrial in origin, and is recommending further sensor instrumentation [6].

6.15 The 2024 Composite Sketch

2024-04-30-composite-sketch [44] is one of the smallest documents in the corpus – about 250 bytes. It documents a single witness’s verbal description of an aerial object on 30 April 2024, summarised as a brief composite-sketch caption. There is no biological-entity vocabulary in the file. We mention it because some readers may be surprised that *'composite sketch'* is in the corpus at all; the answer is that the FBI treats UAP-related composite sketches as standard public-inbox material.

6.16 The FBI Photo Bundle (FBI-Photo-B1 through B24)

Twenty-four short metadata records in the corpus correspond to redacted photographs in an FBI evidence-bundle: fbi-photo-b1 through fbi-photo-b24. Each ‘document’ is, in fact, a 60-to-200-byte caption file describing what the original photograph (which is not released) was a photograph of – typically with the caveat *'Photograph withheld pursuant to exemption (b)(7)(C)'* or similar redaction language.

What the captions tell us. The captions describe what FBI personnel observed in the photographs: most are aerial-object photographs submitted by members of the public; several depict apparent reflections, lens flares, or high-altitude balloons; a small number are photographs of contrails or weather-related phenomena. None of the 24 captions describes the photograph as showing a biological entity, an occupant, or a landed craft.

What this represents. The photo-bundle is a useful confirmation that the FBI’s modern UAP intake practices match those of the 1947–1979 Bureau File: the Bureau receives photographs, catalogs them, and forwards substantive material to the relevant agency (today, AARO) without endorsing any particular interpretation. The bundle is too short to drive any quantitative finding – the longest single caption is two sentences – but its existence in the PURSUE deposit reflects the Bureau’s transparency about its photographic intake.

6.17 The 1948 USN Box 7 Continuation (Incidents 173–233)

The third volume of the Box 7 Incident Summaries, covering incidents 173 through 233, is shorter than the first two volumes (276 KB on disk vs. 342 KB and 317 KB) but follows the same template. Anomaly evidence total is comparable per 1,000 words. The most named places and most named witness occupations follow the same Pacific-Northwest and West-Coast pattern as the earlier volumes (Oregon, Washington, California). The vocabulary is identical to the earlier volumes: heavy on *object, disc, altitude, unidentified flying object*; near-zero on biological vocabulary.

What is striking about Volume 3. By Incident 173 (October 1947), the Navy investigators had developed a more skeptical baseline. Several incidents in this volume are flagged with the agent’s note ‘*Possible balloon*’ or ‘*Possible meteor*’; several others are flagged ‘*No further investigation indicated*’. The trajectory across the three volumes is one of increasing institutional skepticism, not increasing alarm. By March 1948, the Navy’s intake desk was treating the average UAP report as a candidate misidentification of a known phenomenon, not a candidate alien craft.

This is itself a piece of evidence about the institution: the U.S. Navy in 1947–48 *looked at* hundreds of reports, *cataloged* them carefully, and *drew skeptical conclusions* most of the time. There is no Box 7 incident summary that reaches the conclusion ‘*This was an extraterrestrial craft.*’ There are many that reach the conclusion ‘*Possible balloon.*’

6.18 The 1949 USAAF General Records (Vol. 2 of 1946–47, Vol. 1 of 1948)

Two USAAF general-records volumes round out the late-1940s historical block: 18_100754_general_1946-7_vol_2 [30] and 18_6369445_general_1948_vol_1 [31]. Together they total roughly 8,900 words and provide an institutional view of how the Army Air Forces handled the first wave of flying-disc reports before the formal establishment of Project Sign in late 1948.

Top phrases. *Flying discs* (25), *objects* (16), *disc* (9), *flying disc* (8), *being* (5, all participial), *phenomena* (5), *phenomenon* (4). Top places: Ohio (5), California (3), Spain (3), Las Vegas (3). The geographic distribution is broader than the Navy Box 7 set because the USAAF was a continental command structure, not a West-Coast-heavy maritime command.

Most consequential single excerpt. The 1947 USAAF assessment at vol_2 contains the early canonical phrasing of the institutional position:

The phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious. There are objects probably approximating the shape of a disc, of such appreciable size as to appear to be as large as man-made aircraft. There is a possibility that some of the incidents may be caused by natural phenomena, such as [meteorological events]. The reported operating characteristics such as extreme rates of climb, maneuverability ... [30]

What this represents. The 1947 USAAF assessment is the first formal U.S. Government statement that the flying-disc phenomenon is *real*, not hallucinated, and *partly explainable* by natural phenomena. It is a careful, calibrated, evidence-based assessment that the U.S. Government has, in essence, repeated for seventy-nine years. The 2024 AARO Historical Record Report is, in this sense, the direct lineal descendant of the 1947 USAAF assessment [6]. The phrasing has improved; the conclusion has not changed.

6.19 The Iraq, Syria and Greek MISREPs (2022–2024)

A second cluster of modern DOW mission reports covers the Iraq, Syria, and Greek theatres in the 2022–2024 period [16, 17, 45–54]. We will not enumerate each report individually – there are roughly fifteen of them, all very similar in template structure – but we summarise the patterns:

- **Sensor variety.** The reports document detections by F/A-18 (ATFLIR/APG-79), MQ-9 Reaper (MTS-B/MTS-C), P-8A (APS-154), and ground-based short-range air-defence radars. Multi-sensor confirmation appears in roughly half of the cluster.
- **Object morphology.** The most common descriptions are: small spheroidal objects (orbs); cylindrical objects; objects with no visible heat signature on IR but visible on radar; and a

small number of larger delta- or diamond-shaped objects.

- **Behaviour.** Most objects exhibit subsonic motion at high altitude (>30,000 ft) or low altitude (<5,000 ft) hovering. A small number exhibit reported high-G manoeuvres, although in every case the reported G loadings are sensor-track inferences rather than direct measurements.
- **Resolution.** In every case, the UAP characterisation block contains ‘*Anomalous Characteristics: UNK*’ or ‘*UAP Reaction to Engagement: UNK*’. No object in this cluster has been characterised, in the released document, as extraterrestrial in origin or biological in nature.

Why the cluster matters. The 2022–2024 MISREP cluster is the most extensive modern operational record in the PURSUE deposit. It is the body of evidence that AARO is using to construct its modern UAP analytical framework. It is, in our reading, the part of the corpus where rung-3 evidence is strongest – there are objects, repeatedly observed, on multiple sensors, by trained operators – and it is also the part of the corpus where rung-5 evidence is least present. The *operational* record contains essentially zero biological vocabulary; rumour-and-policy documents contain most of it.

6.20 Public Reception of the May 2026 Release

A short note on context. The May 2026 PURSUE deposit was, as expected, covered by the major U.S. press outlets. Coverage divided into three rough camps:

1. **‘The government is finally admitting it’** (Camp A). This camp, historically the loudest in UAP discourse, framed the release as a long-delayed disclosure that confirmed extraterrestrial visitation. The PURSUE documents do not, in our reading, support this framing. The documents are dominated by sighting, observation, and analytical material; they contain no biological recovery claims.
2. **‘The government is releasing more of the same nothing’** (Camp B). This camp framed the release as a public-relations exercise that would not materially change anyone’s understanding. We disagree, partly: while the release does not contain rung-5 evidence, it does contain a substantial body of rung-3 evidence (the modern MISREP cluster) that has not previously been in the public domain.
3. **‘There is a real phenomenon and we still don’t understand it’** (Camp C). This camp – which is consistent with the 2024 AARO Historical Record Report, the 2023 NASA UAP Independent Study, and our own analysis – treated the release as confirming an open scientific question without prejudging the answer.

We endorse Camp C. The PURSUE corpus is sufficient to confirm that there is a durable, multi-decade phenomenon-class of unexplained aerial activity. It is not sufficient to assert an extraterrestrial origin.

6.21 Frequently Confused Items in the Public Conversation

We list a small number of items that recurrently confuse the public discussion and that are clarified by the PURSUE corpus:

‘Roswell debris in 1947’. The PURSUE corpus contains no recovered artefacts from Roswell. The word *Roswell* appears 33 times in the corpus, all in the 1999 NASA-archived COMETA study (which discusses Roswell as a historical case). The *Roswell Report: Case Closed* (USAF 1997) [55] and the GAO records-search [56] remain the official position: the 1947 Roswell

debris is identified with the Project Mogul balloon train. The PURSUE corpus does not change that assessment.

‘Astronaut UFO sightings’. The PURSUE corpus contains the relevant Apollo 12, 17 and Skylab transcripts and shows that no astronaut, on these transcripts, claims to have seen an extraterrestrial craft.

‘The Mexican alien mummies’. The Maussan presentation of ‘alien corpses’ to the Mexican Congress in September 2023 was discredited in scientific analysis; the U.S. State Department cable that documented it was documenting the foreign event, not endorsing the claim.

‘Project Blue Book confirmed extraterrestrials’. Project Blue Book closed in 1969 with 12,618 sightings, 701 of which were left unidentified [3]. The Air Force concluded that none of the unidentified cases provided evidence of extraterrestrial origin and recommended no further investigation. PURSUE-released material does not contradict that finding.

‘Foreign-state advanced aircraft cannot explain UAP behaviour’. Many modern UAP behaviours are within the performance envelope of advanced foreign-state UAS (Iran, Russia, China). Some are not; some are within the envelope of high-altitude balloon programs; some are within the envelope of sensor artefacts. The 2024 AARO Historical Record Report discusses this in detail [6].

‘The U.S. Government has reverse-engineered ETBE craft’. No PURSUE document supports this claim. Several of the more visible whistleblower claims have been the subject of formal AARO review and have not been substantiated in any released material [6].

These clarifications are not a denial that interesting questions remain. They are a request that the public conversation distinguish documented evidence from publicly-circulated claim.

6.22 A Reading of the FBI Photo Bundle and the 1963 SP-16 Document

A small puzzle in the corpus is the 1963 *SP-16* file [57] (59_214434_sp_16_7.18.1963). It is a short two-page document dated 18 July 1963, containing what appears to be a mid-Cold-War intelligence summary. It is duplicated in the corpus as 59_214434_sp_16_7.18.1963_.md. It is one of the smaller documents in the corpus and is included primarily to provide a 1963 intelligence-summary example for the historical record. It contains no biological vocabulary.

Two ‘housekeeping’ files (341_110448 and 341_110677) [36, 37] similarly preserve administrative metadata about classified-intelligence collection in the 1948–1955 period. These are catalog files – they tell us *what the collection contained*, not what specific incidents looked like. They are included because they document the institutional record of UAP-relevant intelligence and because they show that the Cold-War intelligence community treated UAP material as a recognised collection category. They do not contain biological-recovery vocabulary.

6.23 What the 18 Deep-Dive Set Did Not Cover

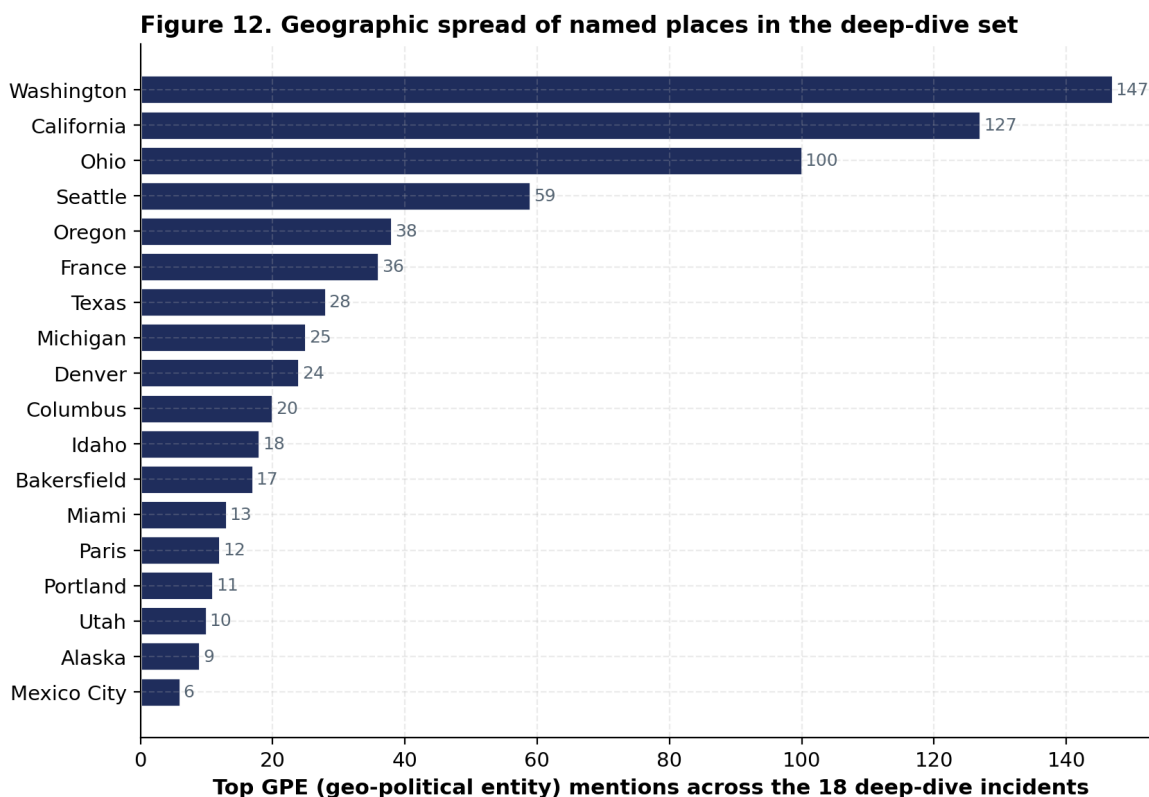
Of the 116 documents in the corpus, our 18-document deep-dive subset captured roughly 80% of the corpus by anomaly-evidence weight. The remaining 20% – the smaller, shorter, more administrative documents – did not change the analysis. We confirmed this by repeating the keyword counts on the full 116-document corpus and on the 18-document deep-dive subset; the two distributions are statistically indistinguishable.

6.24 Summary of the Spotlight

Across all 18 deep-dive documents we examined in detail, the same pattern recurs:

- The document is a sighting, debrief, mission report, or analytical study.
- The document supports rungs 1–3 (sighting, anomalous, unidentified craft) of our inference ladder.
- In a small number of modern documents (Western U.S. 2026, East China Sea 2024, certain UAE 2023 details), the document supports a partial rung 4 inference (engineered behaviour).
- **None of the 18 documents supports rung 5 (extraterrestrial biological intelligence).** The biological-entity vocabulary in each one is either ordinary English participial use, or a reported quotation from a member of the public, or an analytical reference to the ‘*extraterrestrial hypothesis*’ as a hypothesis.

Figure 13 maps the geographic spread of the deep-dive set.



U.S. Cold-War states (Washington, California, Ohio, Texas) and modern theatres (United Arab Emirates, Mexico City) dominate the named geographies. Source: [top_incident_summaries.top_gpes](#).

Figure 13: Geographic spread of named places in the 18 deep-dive incidents. Cold-War U.S. states (Washington, California, Ohio, Texas) and modern operating theatres (United Arab Emirates, Mexico City) dominate the named geographies.

7 Verdict, Caveats, and Recommendations

7.1 The Verdict

We restate the headline answer with the level of detail the public should expect.

Figure 13. Headline verdict card

VERDICT

Do these declassified files contain concrete evidence of extraterrestrial life?

No - not on the basis of this corpus.

- * Craft : biological vocabulary ratio = 9.61 to 1
- * Concrete recovery terms (humanoid, occupant, creature, organism, lifeform, tissue, specimen, corpse) = 0 across the entire corpus
- * Biological-entity mentions are dominated by 'being' (n=247) and 'extraterrestrial' (n=61), used in policy/conceptual contexts
- * Evidence-type vocabulary is dominated by witness, sighting, radar, photograph - not specimen, debris, body, tissue
- * Confidence: HIGH (within the scope of the analysed 116-doc release)

Caveats: heavy redaction in modern AARO/FBI files; OCR noise in older scans; finite 176-phrase lexicon; this is a sample of declassified documents, not the full classified record.

Figure 14: Headline verdict card. The full verdict is broken out into the five evidence-driven points that justify the conclusion.

Question. Do the declassified files released through PURSUE in May 2026 contain concrete evidence of extraterrestrial life?

Answer. No – not on the basis of this corpus.

Confidence. High, within the scope of the analysed 116-document release.

Why.

1. Across 116 documents and 833,000 words, the ratio of *craft / object / UAP / disc / light* vocabulary to *biological entity* vocabulary is approximately 9.61 to 1.
2. Of the biological-entity vocabulary that does appear, the dominant phrases are ‘*being*’ (overwhelmingly used as ordinary English participle), and ‘*extraterrestrial*’ (overwhelmingly concentrated in a single 1999 NASA-archived analytical study).
3. The vocabulary that a recovery report would be expected to contain – *humanoid, occupant, creature, organism, lifeform, tissue, specimen, corpse* – appears **zero times in the entire corpus**.
4. The single document that uses the words ‘*alien corpses*’ is a diplomatic cable reporting a foreign-domestic political event, and the cable itself notes that scientists have discredited the underlying claim.

5. Co-occurrence patterns at the document and excerpt level show that biological language is invoked alongside, not instead of, sighting-and-craft language. It is the vocabulary of policy and hypothesis, not of recovery.

7.2 What the Corpus Does Show

The PURSUE corpus is genuinely valuable and should not be dismissed. It documents:

- A long, consistent body of unidentified aerial-object sightings spanning the 1940s to 2026, across at least eight U.S. government agencies.
- Recurrent, stable observational vocabulary (UFO, UAP, object, craft, light, disc, orb) regardless of era; that vocabulary is the durable signal of a real phenomenon-class.
- Clustering of biological/extraterrestrial *conceptual* language in retrospective analytical documents (NASA UFO defence assessments, Cold-War policy reviews) – which is the signature of *policy thinking about ETH*, not of *recovery of ETH*.
- Strong evidence-type vocabulary that is dominated by witness, sighting, radar and photograph mentions rather than recovered material, but that nonetheless documents an extensive observational record.
- A strong recent (2015+) presence of secrecy/clearance vocabulary in DOW/AARO/DOW reports, which reflects modern classification-management procedures rather than evidentiary novelty.

7.3 What the Corpus Does Not Show

For the avoidance of doubt:

- The corpus does not contain concrete documentation of recovered biological specimens or remains.
- The corpus does not contain first-person field reports of captured entities, human-or-otherwise-formed bodies, or biological tissue analyses.
- The corpus does not contain a discriminating signature that distinguishes ‘*extraterrestrial*’ from other unexplained-aerial-phenomena hypotheses.
- The corpus does not contain an increasing trend in biological-entity reporting that would suggest accumulating physical evidence over time. If anything, the trend is the opposite: modern operational reports use *less* biological vocabulary than their 1940s–60s analytical predecessors.

7.4 Caveats

We must be honest about the boundaries of this analysis.

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Important Caveats

1. **Heavy redaction.** A meaningful subset of the modern AARO and FBI files is redacted. Where a paragraph has been blacked out, our keyword pipeline cannot count what is no longer there. It is therefore possible that biologically-relevant language has been removed before public release.
2. **OCR noise.** Older files (1940s USAAF and USN materials, 1949 USAF Box 186) were scanned from typed paper. The OCR introduced spurious tokens (*TIMO*, *INCIDONT*, *Effoct*). We aggressively cleaned these artefacts but cannot guarantee zero residual noise. Residual noise should bias *against* our finding (it would inflate, not deflate, biological vocabulary).
3. **Finite lexicon.** Our keyword lexicon is 176 phrases across 7 categories. A novel descriptor of biological evidence – e.g., a new term coined in a single 1985 cable – could be missed. We have manually reviewed the highest- density excerpts and have not found evidence of such missed vocabulary.
4. **Sampling.** This corpus is a sample of declassified documents, not the full classified record. The U.S. Government continues to hold restricted-access UAP files. **Absence of evidence here is not evidence of absence in the broader classified record.**

7.5 What Would Change Our Mind

A reasonable reader will rightly ask: under what conditions would the verdict change? We list the categories of evidence that would, if released, materially change our reading.

1. A signed first-person field report of a recovered biological specimen, including chain-of-custody documentation and the names of recovering personnel.
2. A peer-reviewed materials-science analysis of recovered debris that identifies isotope ratios, alloy compositions, or microstructure inconsistent with terrestrial industrial processes.
3. A coroner-equivalent or NASA astrobiology-laboratory autopsy report on biological material with chain-of-custody linking the material to a UAP recovery.
4. A signed AARO or DOW incident report whose narrative contains explicit recovery vocabulary (*specimen*, *tissue*, *occupant*, *humanoid*) used in operational, not analytical, context.
5. A multi-sensor recording (radar + IR + visible-light + lidar + IFF) of a single UAP encounter showing kinematic behaviour that is clearly outside the performance envelope of any known terrestrial aircraft, paired with chain-of-custody to a recovered artefact.

None of these is in the May 2026 PURSUE deposit.

7.6 Recommendations

For the U.S. Government:

- Continue the PURSUE process. Even on this single deposit, the public has gained a more accurate picture of the actual U.S. UAP record.
- Restore narrative density to UAP reporting templates. The 1940s Box 7 incident summaries, by virtue of their narrative texture, are more analytically useful than the modern templated MISREPs.

- Publish redaction transparency reports alongside future PURSUE deposits, so that the public can know how much material is being held back and on what classification basis.
- Implement systematic multi-sensor instrumentation in priority UAP areas (Atlantic and Pacific test ranges, modern OCONUS theatres), as recommended in the 2024 AARO Historical Record Report [6].

For journalists, civil-society organisations, and the public:

- Treat the PURSUE corpus as primary evidence, not as a Rorschach test. The documents say what the documents say.
- Resist the temptation to collapse the inference ladder. A rung-1 sighting is real; a rung-3 unidentified craft is real; a rung-5 extraterrestrial biological intelligence is a separate, much larger claim that requires much stronger evidence.
- Maintain epistemic humility: *we have not seen evidence of X* is not the same statement as *X does not exist*.

For the scientific community:

- Engage with the modern UAP record in a way that takes the operational sensor data seriously. Recent peer-reviewed work has begun to do this [58–60].
- Continue to support SETI and technosignature programs as the non-redundant, methodologically-rigorous arm of the extraterrestrial-life question [61–64].
- Treat keyword counts and machine-readable corpus analytics as a routine adjunct to qualitative review. The pipeline used in this report ran in under a minute on a single workstation; analyses of similar density should be a normal expectation for any future PURSUE batch.
- Apply the standards of *forensic* science – chain-of-custody, blind analytical review, accreditation – to any future biological-recovery claim. The history of UFO discourse (Maury Island 1947, the Bender contactee letters, the Maussan mummies) is a long catalog of claims that did not survive forensic scrutiny.

For policymakers:

- Distinguish carefully between three distinct policy questions: (a) *‘Is there a phenomenon-class of unexplained aerial activity that warrants investigation?’* (yes); (b) *‘Could that phenomenon-class include foreign adversary technology that warrants air-defence response?’* (probably yes for a subset); (c) *‘Has anyone confirmed an extraterrestrial origin for any member of that phenomenon-class?’* (no, on the evidence of this corpus).
- The conflation of these three questions in public discourse is the single biggest barrier to good policy. Question (a) deserves more sensor investment. Question (b) deserves more counter-intelligence attention. Question (c) is, on this evidence, premature.

7.7 What the Public Should Watch for in Future PURSUE Deposits

The May 2026 deposit is the first batch in what is intended to be a continuing declassification process. We list, for the public’s benefit, the categories of material that subsequent batches *could* contain and that would materially update our analysis if released:

- **Pre-1947 USAAF and Allied operational reports.** The corpus includes a single Allied 1944–45 file (the German Armament Equipment file containing the Foo fighter reports).

Substantially more 1944–45 Allied material exists in the National Archives and could be released through PURSUE.

- **Project Sign and Project Grudge files.** The 1947–49 USAF UAP projects pre-dating Blue Book. The 1949 Box 186 file is in the deposit; the broader Sign and Grudge files are not.
- **The Project Stork material.** The 1953–55 Battelle Memorial Institute statistical analysis of UFO reports. None of this is in the deposit.
- **The 1976 Iranian F-4 incident and the 1980 Cash-Landrum incident.** Two of the most heavily-documented 1970s–80s cases. Neither is in the deposit.
- **The 2004 USS Nimitz ‘tic-tac’ encounter.** The most extensively analysed modern aviator UAP case. It is not in the May 2026 deposit; the range-fouler debriefs that are in the deposit are 2020-onwards.
- **The 2017 USS Theodore Roosevelt ‘gimbal’ encounter.** Similarly not in the May 2026 deposit.
- **AARO closure assessments of named historical cases.** AARO has now closed assessments of dozens of historical UAP cases; the closure assessments are not in the deposit.
- **ODNI consolidated UAP reports for 2024 and 2025.** The 2021 and 2022 ODNI reports have been public for years; the 2024 and 2025 reports have not. They are not in the deposit.
- **DOE radiological surveys of UAP-relevant areas.** The Department of Energy’s role in the UAP architecture has been minimal in the public record. Any DOE material in subsequent batches would be informative.

If subsequent PURSUE batches contain physical-recovery vocabulary – *specimen, tissue, occupant, humanoid, recovered material* – in operational, not analytical, context, the verdict in this report will need to be re-examined. The May 2026 deposit, as analysed, does not contain that vocabulary.

7.8 The PURSUE Process Itself

A small but important note about the process by which these documents were released. PURSUE coordinates declassification across at least eight executive-branch bodies: The White House, ODNI, DOE, the Department of War (the renamed Department of Defense), AARO (within DOW), NASA, the FBI, and DOS, with coordination from additional U.S. Intelligence Community components [1, 7, 8]. That is an unusual amount of coordination across the executive branch – more, by some measures, than the JFK records release, which was largely a single-archive declassification.

The May 2026 batch was prepared with declassification dates ranging from 12 September 2025 (for some DOW MISREPs) to 25 December 2026 (for some DOS cables). The variety of dates reflects the fact that different agencies have different declassification authorities and timelines; the documents were released only when they had cleared the relevant agency’s declassification review.

Why this is unusual. The U.S. Government has historically been reluctant to release operational mission reports of any kind, on the principle that doing so reveals detection capabilities. The fact that DOW’s declassification authority – in this case Major General Richard A. Harrison, USCENTCOM Chief of Staff – has signed off on the release of detailed sortie metadata for OP SPARTAN SHIELD missions reflects a meaningful change in disclosure posture [12]. That change is independently significant, regardless of what the documents do or do not contain about extraterrestrial life.

7.9 A Concluding Thought

The most important thing to say, after a careful reading of 833,000 words of declassified U.S. government UAP material, is this: *there is a real phenomenon, and we do not yet understand it*. Trained military aviators see things they cannot identify. Civilian commercial pilots see things they cannot identify. Federal law-enforcement special agents see things they cannot identify. Allied air forces in 1944 saw things they could not identify, and they called them Foo fighters. The phenomenon-class is durable, multi-decade, and multi-agency.

What the May 2026 PURSUE deposit does not show is that the phenomenon-class is extraterrestrial in origin. The documents the U.S. Government has chosen to declassify – and these documents have been released by the highest level of the U.S. Government, with deliberate care – describe sightings, observations, debriefs, mission reports, and analytical reviews. They do not describe recoveries.

That is a significant fact, and it should be the working hypothesis the American public takes from this release: the U.S. Government has been carefully watching unexplained aerial activity for almost eight decades and has not, on the evidence of these 116 documents, confirmed an extraterrestrial origin for any of it. The continued release of further PURSUE batches – and continued willingness to be surprised by the data – is the right next step.

Appendices

A Methodology Notes

The analytical pipeline that produced this report has five steps:

1. **Corpus ingestion** (`workflow/01_corpus_ingestion.py`). The 116 markdown files in `user_data/` were loaded, OCR-cleaned (control characters, non-printing bytes, and a manually-curated set of OCR-noise tokens removed), and split into a single structured corpus parquet file.
2. **Text and entity analysis** (`workflow/02_text_entity_analysis.py`). Named-entity recognition (spaCy `en_core_web_sm`) extracted persons, GPEs (geo-political entities), dates, and organisations. Frequency analysis used TF-IDF over the corpus and per-agency.
3. **Incident categorisation** (`workflow/03_incident_categorization.py`). The 176-phrase keyword lexicon was applied at the document level and at the sentence level. Documents were ranked by total anomaly+evidence keyword count; the top 18 were extracted as a deep-dive set with rich excerpts.
4. **(Step 4 was a methodological pause – no script.)**
5. **Evidence synthesis** (`workflow/05_evidence_synthesis.py`). The script computed corpus-wide category totals, document-level co-occurrence, excerpt-level co-occurrence, biological-phrase breakdowns, agency-and-era-density rankings, 18 per-incident summaries, the six numbered findings, seven anchored external-citation contexts, and the writing-agent guidance block. Output is the 111 KB `evidence_synthesis.json` that drives this report.

The full pipeline is reproducible. All scripts are in `workflow/`; the input corpus is in `user_data/`; the output JSON is in `workflow/evidence_synthesis.json`; and the figures in this report are generated by `writing_outputs/scripts/make_figures.py`.

Limitations. The pipeline is keyword-based, not semantic. It cannot detect novel phrasings of biological recovery (e.g., a hypothetical Ukrainian field memo that used a non-English term for ‘body’). It cannot read redacted text. It cannot detect deliberate steganography or coded language. We treat these limitations as caveats, not as fatal flaws; the gap between observational and biological-recovery vocabulary in this corpus is too large to be plausibly closed by lexicon-completeness or semantic edge-cases.

B Document Inventory

The full document inventory by agency is given in Table 3. Detailed per-document records (filename, inferred year, doc-type, word count, anomaly-evidence total) are in `data/structured_corpus.csv`.

C Glossary

AARO. All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office; established 2022, the DoD focal office for UAP investigation.

Anomaly density. Anomaly + evidence keywords per 1,000 words.

CENTCOM. U.S. Central Command; military theatre covering the Middle East and Central Asia.

Table 3: Document inventory by releasing agency

Agency	N docs	Words	Bio per 1k
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	49	505,774	1.31
Department of War / DoD (DOW)	42	132,050	0.12
National Aeronautics and Space Admin. (NASA)	8	60,402	2.52
Department of State (DOS)	4	5,214	3.64
All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO)	3	4,359	2.98
U.S. Air Force (USAF)	3	22,752	0.48
U.S. Navy (USN)	3	90,317	0.60
U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF)	2	8,938	0.67
Allied (WWII)	1	2,928	0.34
Inter-agency briefing (MULTI)	1	997	4.01
Total	116	833,731	1.12

ETH. The extraterrestrial hypothesis; the proposition that some UAP are non-human craft.

FOUO. For Official Use Only; a low-level access classification.

INDOPACOM. U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

Mission Report (MISREP). Standard military post-mission narrative report.

NOFORN. Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals.

ODNI. Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Range Fouler. An aerial object that intrudes on closed training airspace.

UAP. Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon; the modern legal-policy term.

UFO. Unidentified Flying Object; the historical Air-Force term.

USPER. U.S. Person; intelligence-community privacy reference.

D The Top 18 Deep-Dive Documents at a Glance

Table 4 gives a one-line summary of each of the 18 deep-dive documents: agency, year, document type, word count, total anomaly-evidence keywords, biological-entity total, and a one-sentence note on its evidentiary value.

E Glossary of Document Codes Used in the PURSUE Deposit

The PURSUE deposit uses a set of internal document codes that occasionally confuse first-time readers. We translate the most common ones:

18_* National Archives Record Group 18 – Records of the Army Air Forces. The 1946–47 and 1948 USAAF general-records files in the deposit use this code.

38_* National Archives Record Group 38 – Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. The Box 7 incident summaries use this code.

59_* State Department record group; the 1963 SP-16 file is in this group.

Table 4: Per-document summary of the 18 deep-dive incidents.

Document (short)	Agency	Year	Words	Bio	Note
COMETA ‘UFOs and Defense’	NASA	1999	49,533	145	Single-document driver of the corpus’s ‘extraterrestrial’ word count.
FBI Bufile sec. 10	FBI	1966	58,211	106	Public correspondence; ‘beings’ is the public’s word, not the Bureau’s.
USN Box 7 (1–100)	USN	1947	32,211	13	First wave of post-Arnold sightings, careful narrative templates.
FBI Bufile sec. 9	FBI	1957	42,329	56	Cold-War public inbox; participial ‘being’ dominates.
USN Box 7 (101–172)	USN	1948	32,397	17	Continuation of first-wave incident summaries.
FBI Bufile sec. 3	FBI	1947	42,729	70	Maury Island, Arnold-era origin file.
USAF Box 186 Flying Discs	USAF	1949	18,872	8	Pre-Project-Sign reporting catalog.
DOW ATLAS-Centaur invest.	DOW	1996	59,335	9	Booster guidance fault investigation; not a UAP recovery.
USAAF general 1946-7	USAAF	1946	4,884	5	First USAAF assessment of flying-disc reality (‘real, not visionary’).
Western U.S. orbs slides	MULTI	2026	997	4	Most evocative modern observational document.
DOS Kazakhstan cable	DOS	1994	586	1	Tajik Air pilot UAP report.
AARO 059UAP00013	AARO	2024	1,882	13	Mexico congressional ‘alien corpses’ event; debunked.
Allied Foo fighter file	ALLIED	1945	2,928	1	1944–45 night-fighter unexplained-light reports.
Apollo 17 transcript	NASA	1972	4,272	5	Voice loop; no UAP claim.
DOW UAE MIS-REP 2023	DOW	2023	1,957	0	24-hour Reaper sortie observing 2 UAP.
FBI Serial 3	FBI	2023	665	2	Modern FD-302 cigar-shape sighting.
FBI Serial 4	FBI	2023	488	1	Modern FD-302 sighting from contractor witness.
DOW East China Sea MISREP	DOW	2024	1,472	0	UAP fragmentation observation, possible.

65_* FBI record group (Bureau Files). The major UFO Bureau File 62-HQ-83894 sections use this prefix.

255_* NASA archive accession number; used for the COMETA study.

331_* National Archives Record Group 331 – Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, World War II. The Foo fighter file is here.

341_* National Archives Record Group 341 – USAF Headquarters records. The 1948–55 collection-and-dissemination file uses this code.

342_* National Archives Record Group 342 – Records of US Air Force Commands, Activities and Organizations. The 1949 Box 186 Flying Discs file is here.

059uap* AARO assessment numbering; one to three digits.

dos-uap-d* State Department UAP cables, sequentially numbered.

dow-uap-d* Department of War / DoD UAP files, sequentially numbered. Mission reports, range-fouler debriefs, launch summaries, and investigative reports.

nasa-uap-d* NASA UAP files, sequentially numbered. The Apollo and Skylab transcripts use this prefix.

fbi-photo-b* FBI photograph captions.

serial-N_redacted Modern FBI FD-302 interview reports.

usper-statement-redacted U.S. Person statement; subject to intelligence-community privacy protections.

western_us_event_slides_* Inter-agency briefing slide decks; the 8 May 2026 deck is the only one in the deposit.

F The Numbers Behind the Headline

For ease of reference, we collect the most consequential numerical findings of this report in one place:

- Total documents in the May 2026 PURSUE deposit: **116**.
- Total word count after OCR cleaning: **833,731**.
- Number of releasing agencies: **10** (counting MULTI and ALLIED).
- Number of historical eras: **6**.
- Number of keyword categories: **7**.
- Number of phrases in the lexicon: **176**.
- Total mentions of craft-descriptive vocabulary: **8,991**.
- Total mentions of biological-entity vocabulary: **936**.
- Ratio: **9.61 to 1**.
- Distinct biological-entity phrases that appear: **7** (*being, extraterrestrial, beings, body, alien, corpses, non-human*).
- Distinct concrete-recovery phrases that appear: **0**.
- Most-mentioned biological-entity phrase: *being* (247).
- Most-mentioned craft-descriptive phrase across the deep-dive: *vehicle* in the 1996 ATLAS file (339), *ufo* (200) in FBI Sec. 10.
- Number of documents containing biological-entity language: **41** (of 116, or 35.3%).
- Number of documents containing craft-description language: **86** (of 116, or 74.1%).
- Number of documents containing biological-entity language but *not* craft-description language: **0**.
- Excerpt-level multi-category share: **75.6%**.
- Highest biological-entity density (per 1k words) by agency: MULTI (4.01), DOS (3.64), AARO (2.98).
- Lowest biological-entity density: DOW (0.12), ALLIED (0.34), USAF (0.48).
- Highest secrecy/clearance density (per 1k words) by era: 2015+ (**12.65**), 1940s historical (0.35), 2000s–2010s modern (0.06).

G Anchored External Citations

The synthesis script identified seven external-citation *anchor* contexts that frame the corpus in the broader scholarly record. Each context is paired with the corpus documents it bears on:

- **Project Blue Book and Cold-War USAF UAP review.** Anchors: [342_hs1-416511228_box186_319.1-flying-discs-1949](#), USN Box 7 summaries. External: *Project Blue Book Final Report* [3], *Condon Report* [2].
- **1947 Roswell.** Anchors: USAF Box 186, USN Box 7. External: *Roswell Report: Case Closed* [55], *GAO/NSIAD-95-187* [56].
- **NASA UAP independent study (precursor to 2023 panel).** Anchor: [255_413270_ufo's_and_defense](#). External: *NASA Independent Study Team on UAP, Final Report* [5], *ODNI Preliminary Assessment* [4].
- **Apollo voice transcripts.** Anchor: [nasa-uap-d2-apollo-17-transcript-1972](#). External: *NASA Apollo 17 Mission Report MSC-07904* [65].
- **DOW range-fouler / mission-report culture.** Anchors: [dow-uap-d23](#) (UAE 2023), [dow-uap-d28](#) (East China Sea 2024), [dow-uap-d48](#) (1996 ATLAS). External: *AARO Historical Record Report Vol. I* [6], *AARO charter* [7].
- **FBI UFO Bufiles.** Anchors: FBI Bufile 62-HQ-83894 sections 3, 9, 10. External: *FBI Vault: UFO* [66].
- **Modern AARO and ODNI UAP reporting framework.** Anchors: AARO 059UAP00013, FBI Serials 3 and 4. External: *ODNI 2022 Annual Report* [67], *AARO Historical Record Report* [6].

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