

Responding to Claims about “Alien” UFOs: A Brief List of Resources

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For decades, the media have given attention to sensational claims that vague lights in the sky are actually extra-terrestrial spacecraft. Recently, there's been a flurry of misleading publicity about UFOs (or, as they are now called, UAPs) on military photographs. A sober examination of these claims, and other reports, reveals there is a lot LESS to them than first meets the eye: when there's enough evidence, UFO claims can be explained by terrestrial or celestial phenomena.

Colavito, J. “How Washington Got Hooked on Flying Saucers” (good 2021 social history in *The New Republic*): <https://newrepublic.com/article/162457/government-embrace-ufos-bad-science>

Mick West key article: <https://news.yahoo.com/aliens-havent-landed-why-skeptical-090251254.html>

Also see his: “UFO Whistleblowers go to Washington”: <https://skepticalinquirer.org/2023/10/ufo-whistleblowers-go-to-washington/> (For more, see his website: <https://mickwest.com/>)

Investigator Mick West also does excellent debunking of some famous recent cases on his YouTube

Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF3UCTZiVg9wrIEzO7Om6jw> See his Cool

Worlds interview about recent claims: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le7Fqbsrrm8>

Special issue of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine on UFO claims: Sep/Oct 2021, vol. 45, #5: see some articles on the web at: <https://skepticalinquirer.org/volume/no-5-vol-45/>

McGaha, J. & Nickell, J. “The UFO Identification Process” from *Skeptical Inquirer* 2018:

<https://skepticalinquirer.org/2018/11/ufo-identification-process/>

Fraknoi, A. UFO's: A Lot Less than Meets the Eye (short overview):

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258377682_UFO's_A_Lot_Less_than_Meets_the_Eye

Robert Sheaffer's UFO Skeptic's Page: <https://www.debunker.com/ufo.html> A big collection of investigations and skeptical examinations. Updated at: <https://badufos.blogspot.com/>

Ian Ridpath UFO Skeptic Page: <http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/ufoindex.html> British science writer investigates UFO reports, and discusses astronomical causes of UFO sightings.

James Oberg's Space Age Myths:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210505152047/http://www.jamesoberg.com/ufo.html> Investigation of cases by veteran space journalist. Useful video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdkbJ-4r2ZY>

Amat. Astron. Tim Printy on UFO claims: <https://www.astronomyufo.com/UFO/UFO.htm>

Shostak, S: Aliens There but not Here (a thoughtful 2020 article from *Skeptical Inquirer*):

<https://skepticalinquirer.org/2020/05/aliens-there-but-not-here/>

Alien Autopsy Hoax: <https://skepticalinquirer.org/1995/11/alien-autopsy-hoax/> A debunking video.

Gleick, J. The Doctor's Plot. (A *New York Times* reporter examines critically the gullible work of John Mack on UFO abductions): <https://around.com/abduct.html/>

McGaha, J. & Nickell, J. “Alien Lights? At Phoenix, Stephenville & Elsewhere” from *Skeptical Inquirer* 2015 (explains some famous cases): <https://skepticalinquirer.org/2015/03/alien-lights-at-phoenix-stephenville-and-elsewhere-a-postmortem/>

Merlin, Peter *Dreamland: The Secret History of Area 51*. 2023, Schiffer Military History. The definitive discussion of what happens at Area 51; and it has nothing to do with UFOs.

New:

Defense Department Report Feb. 2024 (concludes there are no UAPs that indicate involvement by extra-terrestrials; read executive summary, pp. 7-10): <https://media.defense.gov/2024/Mar/08/2003409233/-1/-1/0/DOPSR-CLEARED-508-COMPLIANT-HRRV1-08-MAR-2024-FINAL.PDF>