

Cosmic Citizens Committee Report

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“The Pentagon’s Rolling Disclosure and the Five Observables”

by John Shartle

A Moment We Couldn’t Have Imagined

These are extraordinary times for those of us who have been paying attention to the UAP topic. On May 8th of this year, the Pentagon (now operating as the Department of War) launched a public website and released its first batch of declassified UAP files: 162 records in total, including documents, videos, and images going back decades. Two weeks later, on May 22nd, the second batch arrived: another 64 files, including 51 videos. The releases are part of an initiative called PURSUE, the Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters, which was authorized by President Trump in February 2026. More tranches are expected in the weeks and months ahead.

I want to pause on this for a moment, because it is easy to miss what is actually happening here. Even 5 years ago, the idea that the Pentagon itself would maintain a public website releasing UAP material directly to the American people was not just unlikely. It was unthinkable. Those of us who have followed this topic for many years have lived in a world where the official government position was essentially that UAPs did not warrant serious attention, that anyone interested in them was probably a crank, and that whatever the military knew, it was certainly not going to share with the public. To have arrived at a moment where the Pentagon is hosting a rolling disclosure program with its own acronym and its own web-portal is, by any measure, remarkable.

That said, nothing conclusive has come out of these releases. There is no smoking gun, no admission of contact, no recovered technology being unveiled. Some of the materials are decades old. Some of the videos are grainy. Some of what was released was already in the margins of the public domain. Coverage in the mainstream press has been mixed, with some commentators suggesting that the releases are underwhelming and that “UFO nuts” will be disappointed.

I want to push back on this framing. Most people who have followed this topic seriously for years have always sensed disclosure of this kind was never going to arrive as a single moment of revelation. It was always going to be a

process, and like all things in government, that process is slow (take it from a guy who worked in the government!). What we are watching is not the end of the story. We are watching the institutional posture of the United States government beginning to shift, in real time, on a subject that was treated as nonsense for most of our lives. The releases are imperfect. They are also historic. Both of those things are true at the same time.

What We're Actually Looking For: The Five Observables

If we are going to engage these releases seriously, and if we are going to make sense of the testimony that has accumulated over the past several years, it helps to have a framework. The most useful one in current circulation is something called the Five Observables, brought into the broader conversation by Luis Elizondo, who previously ran the Pentagon's Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP). Elizondo is a Pentagon whistleblower who has been at the center of UAP transparency advocacy since he resigned from the Department of Defense in 2017, and his profile has risen again with the recent releases.

The Five Observables describe behaviors that show up consistently in credible UAP encounters and that distinguish them from known aircraft or natural phenomena. They are not proof of anything in particular. They are a way of recognizing the signature of something genuinely anomalous when we see it. Here they are, briefly:

- 1. Instantaneous acceleration.** Sudden, high-speed movements far beyond what any known propulsion system can produce.
- 2. Hypersonic speed without signature.** Travel above Mach 5 (roughly 3,800 miles per hour) with no sonic boom, no heat trail, and no visible disturbance of the surrounding air.
- 3. Low observability.** A persistent difficulty in being detected by radar, infrared, or the naked eye, even when the object is plainly present.
- 4. Trans-medium travel.** The ability to move from air to water, or from atmosphere to space, without changing performance or showing the resistance any conventional craft would face.
- 5. Positive lift, or anti-gravity.** Sustained hovering and directional movement with no visible wings, engines, exhaust, or any other identifiable means of propulsion.

These five behaviors, taken together, describe something that simply should not be possible within our current understanding of physics. Yet, they are what the witnesses describe. They are what the released military footage keeps showing, and they are at the heart of this inquiry.

A Possible Sixth Observable

I want to suggest something here that is not generally listed alongside the original five, but, I believe, belongs in the conversation. In nearly every credible, documented military encounter, these objects share another consistent characteristic: they are unreachable. They cannot be intercepted or paced. In every known case where a pilot has attempted to close on one of these objects, the object has outpaced the pursuit, often by margins that defy any conventional explanation.

This is not a small detail. It is, arguably, the most consequential feature of the phenomenon from a national security perspective, and it points to something astonishing. Whatever these things are, they are operating at a level of capability that places them beyond our ability to control, capture, or even fully engage them. That is as true today, as it has been for as long as we have been encountering them.

Listening to the Witnesses

The clearest articulation of this came from David Fravor, the retired Navy Commander who led the F-18 squadron that encountered the now-famous Tic Tac object off the coast of California in November 2004. Fravor was a Top Gun-trained pilot, the commanding officer of the legendary Black Aces squadron, and by every account a most credible and grounded witness. When he testified under oath before the House Oversight Subcommittee on July 26, 2023, he put it plainly:

“The Tic Tac object we engaged in November 2004 was far superior to anything that we had at the time, have today, or are looking to develop in the next 10+ years.”

He went further. Asked why UAPs constitute a national security threat, Fravor said simply: “The technology that we faced was far superior than anything we had...and there’s nothing we can do about it. Nothing.”

Ryan Graves, the former Navy F-18 pilot who testified alongside Fravor, described eight years of routine UAP encounters by his squadron off the East Coast, including objects that would remain stationary in hurricane-force winds,

accelerate from a hover to hypersonic speed in an instant, and pace military aircraft for hours at a time. Graves was emphatic that these encounters were not anomalies. They were near-daily occurrences, witnessed by trained military personnel whose lives depended on accurate identification of what was in the sky around them.

Both pilots testified to the same essential picture: the Five Observables, in action, in restricted American military airspace, over a period of years, with no plausible terrestrial explanation. Their testimony during the hearing is one of the most important public records we have on this subject.

What the Inquiry Is Actually About

It would be easy, given the technical language of the observables and the security framing of pilot testimony, to think of this as primarily a scientific or military question. It is both of those things. But for those of us in Now Creations, we know that the deeper questions underneath all of this are not technical.

Rather, the deeper questions are about who we are, what we are, and where we sit in the larger order of things. These are the oldest questions human beings have asked, and they are spiritual questions in the truest sense, regardless of whether they are described in military or metaphysical language.

In short, the Phenomenon does not behave like a problem to be solved. It behaves like a mystery that deepens the more we look at it, prompting us to ask deeper questions of ourselves.

An Invitation

In closing, I want to offer something that is technically a bit of a non sequitur but that feels worth including. If anything in this report has caught your attention, and if you want to engage the information more directly, I'm providing links to the transcript of the sworn testimony ([click here](#)), as well as the YouTube video ([click here](#)) of the July 26, 2023 congressional hearing. It contains the full sworn testimony of David Grusch, David Fravor, and Ryan Graves, along with the questioning from members of Congress. Reading it is a different experience from reading about it. The three witnesses come through as serious, careful, and grounded.

And of course, the Pentagon's own UAP archive is at war.gov/UFO. New material is being added on a rolling basis. Whatever else it is, it is a destination that did not exist in any of our lifetimes until three weeks ago.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.