

ALL-DOMAIN ANOMALY RESOLUTION OFFICE

# The US Defense Department & the UAP Mission

CLEARED  
For Open Publication

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*Director, AARO*

All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office  
Chief of Staff, AARO  
Authority: FY24 NDAA, now codified at 44 U.S.C. 2107  
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US Department of Defense





- UAP  $\neq$  unattributed balloon activity; key emphases on “**anomalous**” factors
- Existence of UAP is direct consequence of **domain-awareness gaps**
- UAP potentially represent **advanced capabilities** operating in our domain-awareness gaps

## UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA

UAP

are sources of anomalous detections in one or more domain (i.e., airborne, seaborne, spaceborne, and/or transmedium) that are not yet attributable to known actors and that demonstrate behaviors that are not readily understood by sensors or observers.

“Anomalous detections” include but are not limited to phenomena that demonstrate apparent capabilities or material that exceed known performance envelopes.

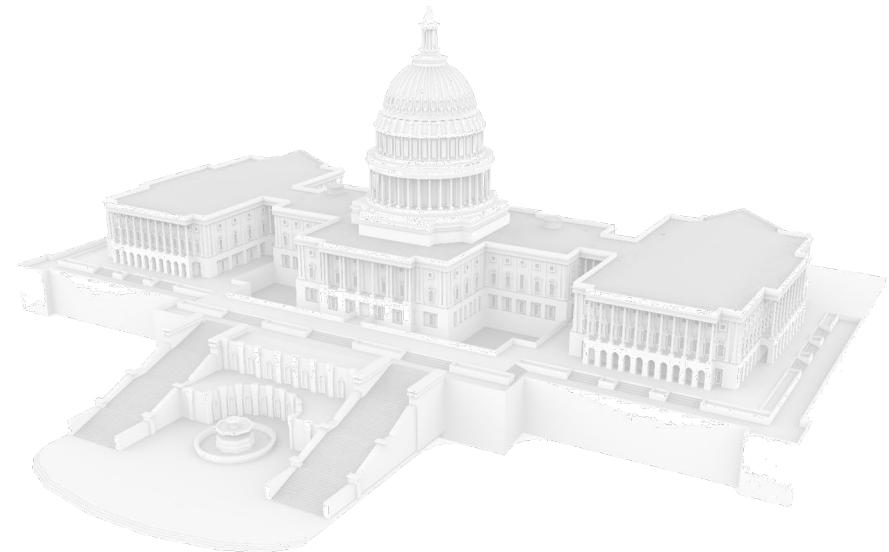
A UAP may consist of one or more unidentified anomalous objects and may persist over an extended period of time.

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Date: 3/20/2025

The FY23 NDAA modified and expanded on the previous year's UAP provisions, affecting authorities, organization, and reporting-requirements.



- Established AARO as **US Government lead** for UAP efforts
- Amends structure, **distribution of responsibilities**
- Requires annual report to be a **joint, DoD & ODNI** submission
- Adds **Historical Record Report**
- Adds **UAP reporting procedures/protectons**
- Increases number of **congressional committees** overseeing AARO activities
- Revises **UAP acronym** to stand for unidentified *anomalous* phenomena



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ALL-DOMAIN ANOMALY RESOLUTION OFFICE

# Mission, Vision, & Functions

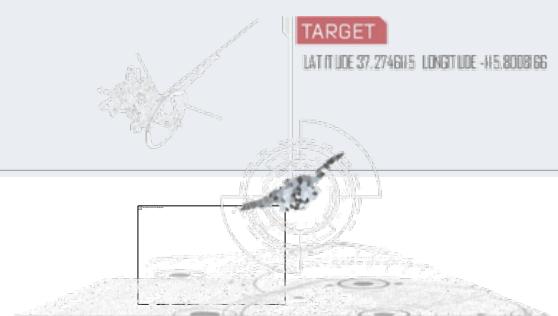
AARO emerged from Congressional and Departmental recognition that UAP present complex hazards and threats across service, regional, and domain boundaries.

MISSION: minimize technical and intelligence surprise, by synchronizing scientific, intelligence, and operational detection, identification, attribution, and mitigation of unidentified, anomalous objects in the vicinity of national security areas

VISION: unidentified, anomalous objects are effectively and efficiently detected, tracked, analyzed, and managed by way of normalized DoD, IC, and civil business practices; by adherence to the highest scientific and intelligence-tradecraft standards; and with greater transparency and shared awareness

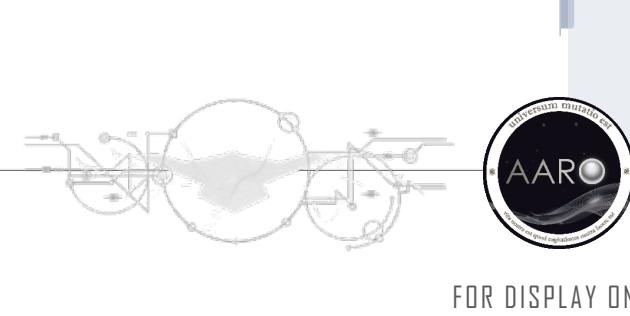
## OPERATIONS

synchronizing and sequencing Theater, IC, and other capabilities for optimized, cross-functional UAP detection, tracking, mitigation, and recovery



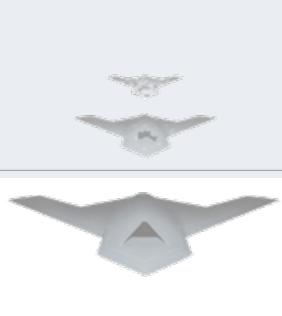
## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

revealing and exploiting elusive and enigmatic signatures through advanced technologies and focused, cross-sector partnerships



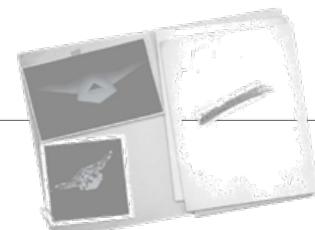
## ANALYSES

delivering peer-reviewed conclusions through deliberate syntheses of scientific and intelligence method, tradecraft, tools, and expertise



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

driving shared awareness across mission partners, oversight authorities, and stakeholders—normalizing cross-sector partnerships and building trust with transparency



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The potentially **ubiquitous presence** of UAP defines the national-security implications and drives the **broad range of stakeholders** and demand for rigorous **scientific understanding** of and intelligence on phenomena



#### US Territory & Operating Areas

- DoD observations and reporting of UAP most often in the vicinity of US military facilities and operating areas
- Threats to the immediate safety of US citizens and Government facilities, across domains, is priority
- Safety and security risks of UAP heighten US Government awareness and drives research and mitigation efforts

#### US Strategic Capabilities

- Reporting on UAP proximity to strategic capabilities and critical infrastructure primarily historical; analysis limited by information currency and source reliability
- Consequence of UAP in the vicinity of strategic capabilities is high, potentially threatening strategic deterrence and safety of civil society
- DoD strengthening observations and reporting capabilities near US strategic capabilities and critical infrastructure

#### Foreign Territory & Operating Areas

- Reporting on UAP activity in foreign territory or operating areas limited by source reliability
- Consequence of such moderate-to-high, potentially leading to adversarial misattribution of UAP to the United States
- Allies and strategic competitors apply resources to observe, identify, and attribute UAP [\(open source\)](#)

 Key partners and stakeholders include DoD, IC, DoJ, NASA, FAA

 Key partners and stakeholders include DoD, IC, DoE and NNSA, DoJ, DHS

 Key partners and stakeholders include DoD, IC, STATE, international partners

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# AARO INTEGRATED OPERATIONS

multi-function operations detecting, tracking, mitigating, &amp; recovering UAP across domains

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## INTEGRATED OPERATIONS STRATEGY

Leads Integrated-Operations Strategy development-tailoring platform and sensor tasking and optimizing cross-functional tipping & cueing between Theater and IC assets.

Guides development of integrated-operations plans; standardized reporting requirements; interoperable tactics, techniques, and procedures; and operational prioritization of platforms and sensors.

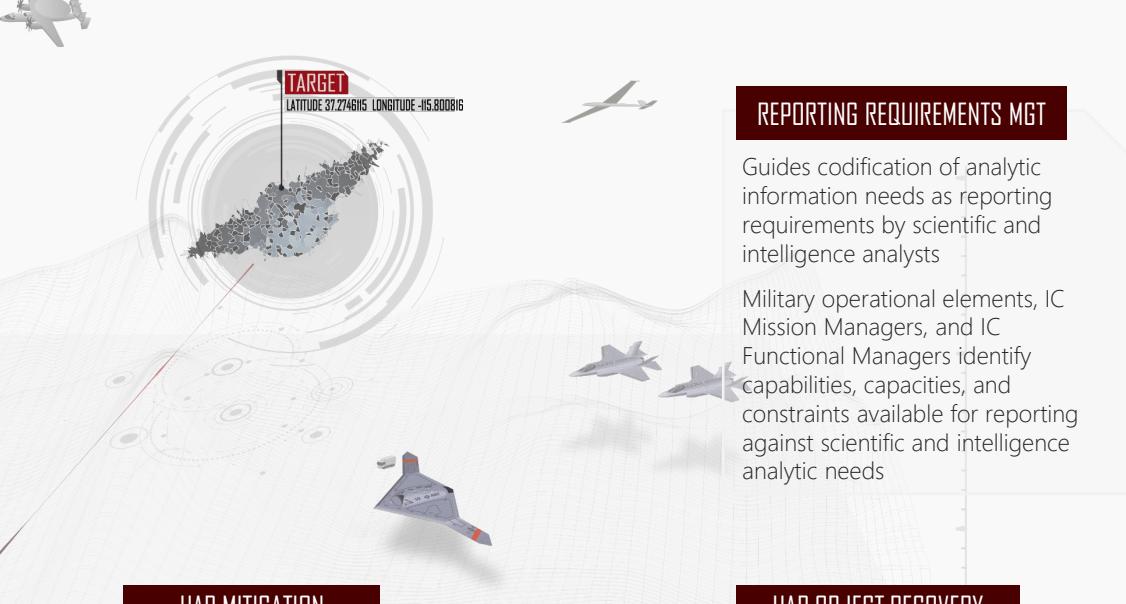
## HISTORICAL UAP-DATA ACQUISITION

Organically garners primary research data for scientific and intelligence analyst consumption-through voluntary interviews with those who claim placement and access to UAP and UAP-related information; through collection of historical government and open-source data; and through other activities.

## UAP DETECTION & TRACKING

Advises Theater, Defense, National-level, and foreign UAP operations—optimizing platform and sensor tasking across functions and in real-time, during Area of Responsibility (AoR) baselining and as anomalies are detected, observed.

Manages the secure retention of UAP Data from operational platforms and its transfer to AARO.



## UAP MITIGATION

Partners with Joint Staff and counterintelligence elements in the development of UAP mitigation strategies- including but not limited to UAP incursions and engagement.

Advises Commands on AoR-specific UAP mitigation planning; on tactics, techniques, and procedures; and on relevant legal, policy, oversight, and compliance requirements.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS MGT

Guides codification of analytic information needs as reporting requirements by scientific and intelligence analysts

Military operational elements, IC Mission Managers, and IC Functional Managers identify capabilities, capacities, and constraints available for reporting against scientific and intelligence analytic needs

## UAP OBJECT RECOVERY

Leads UAP recovery planning and execution, in close collaboration with AARO S & T Group.

Advises Commands on the secure and safe handling, storage, transport, and transfer of UAP Objects and Material, for AARO S&T exploitation.

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## INTEGRATED ANALYTIC STRATEGY

Leads an integrated DoD, IC, and S&T community process that employs rigorous tradecraft, sophisticated scientific methods, and an expert peer review to resolve cases with the highest confidence levels possible

## AARO INTEGRATED ANALYSES

## PRELIMINARY ANALYSES

Compare location, characteristics, performance and signature data to open source and classified catalogues of known foreign capabilities and R&D programs; deconflict with sensitive US programs and activities; triage, categorize, and store for further analysis



## SCIENTIFIC ANALYSES

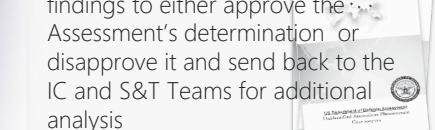
Public, private, and industry laboratory partners leverage scientific and engineering methods and cutting-edge computing technologies to publish peer-reviewed, forensic, repeatable research on anomalous UAP signatures and material

## INTELLIGENCE ANALYSES

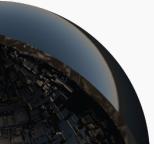
Mission partners' defense, intelligence, and counterintelligence analysts employ intelligence tradecraft against all-source data, to produce rigorous analyses of UAP implications to US National Security

## Director's Review

The Director will review all elements of the Analytic Assessment Case Package and the peer review findings to either approve the Assessment's determination or disapprove it and send back to the IC and S&T Teams for additional analysis



4

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3

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Date: 3/20/2025

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## CAPABILITIES DEVELOPMENT

Leads defense, intelligence, academic, and industry identification of existing and emergent technology capable of detecting, identifying, attributing, mitigating, and exploiting UAP. Identifies, approves, and guides Research & Development investments from across sectors; recommends capability integration into Integrated UAP Mission Strategies

## CAPABILITIES DEPLOYMENT

In close collaboration with AARO Operations and with research partners (e.g., DoE laboratories), integrates emergent technical capabilities into "real-world" operations and guides their application against UAP. Comparatively analyzes newly-exposed signatures, characteristics, and behaviors with known phenomena, in support of AARO Analysts' preliminary assessment

## UAP EXPLOITATION

Directs exploitation of recovered enigmatic technologies, leveraging cross-sector partnerships and the latest developments in theoretical and applied physics, engineering

Leads structured recording, synthesis, and sharing of signature and material analyses for data consistency across operational, analytic, and research partnerships

## UAP SIGNATURE ID

In partnership with the scientific community and the AARO Strategic Technical Advisory Group, analyzes US and foreign sensor data phenomenology and assesses applied and theoretical signatures. Leads development of theorems for defining characteristics of known and anomalous phenomena, and guides operational and analytic tradecraft development

## CAPABILITY GAP ID

DoD operational, analytic, and investigative elements, IC Mission Managers, and IC Functional Managers identify capability and capacity shortfalls, as they pertain to UAP detection, identification, attribution, and mitigation

Sensor and exploitation instrumentation needs and gaps codified as capability requirements by AARO Operations and Analyses

## INTEGRATED SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

Leads Integrated S&T Strategy development revealing elusive signatures, advanced technological-exploitation tools and methods, and non-traditional partnership opportunities to arm the UAP Mission against emerging threats

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### AMERICAN-PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Implements the Department's commitment to transparency and openness on UAP matters. Identifies and recommends opportunities for countering misconceptions and raising awareness of the Department's UAP mission via targeted media, partner, and public engagement.

### OVERSIGHT ENGAGEMENT

Tracks Executive, Legislative, and Defense Department requirements for the UAP Mission and the Office; monitors AARO progress toward meeting those requirements; and drives development of routine and ad hoc reporting to Congress and other stakeholders within the U.S. Government.

### UAP-MISSION COMMS REQ

Identifies new and ongoing opportunities for strategic communications engagement across AARO's mission functions; to include key stakeholder needs, expectations, and areas for collaboration.



### INTEGRATED STRATEGIC-ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Leads the development of an integrated engagement strategy on UAP that promotes shared awareness across mission partners, oversight authorities, and other stakeholders; builds trust and transparency; and normalizes cross-sector partnerships.

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### UAP-MISSION PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Guides AARO partner engagement, ensuring unity of message, consistency, and coherence among defense, civil, private, and international partners.

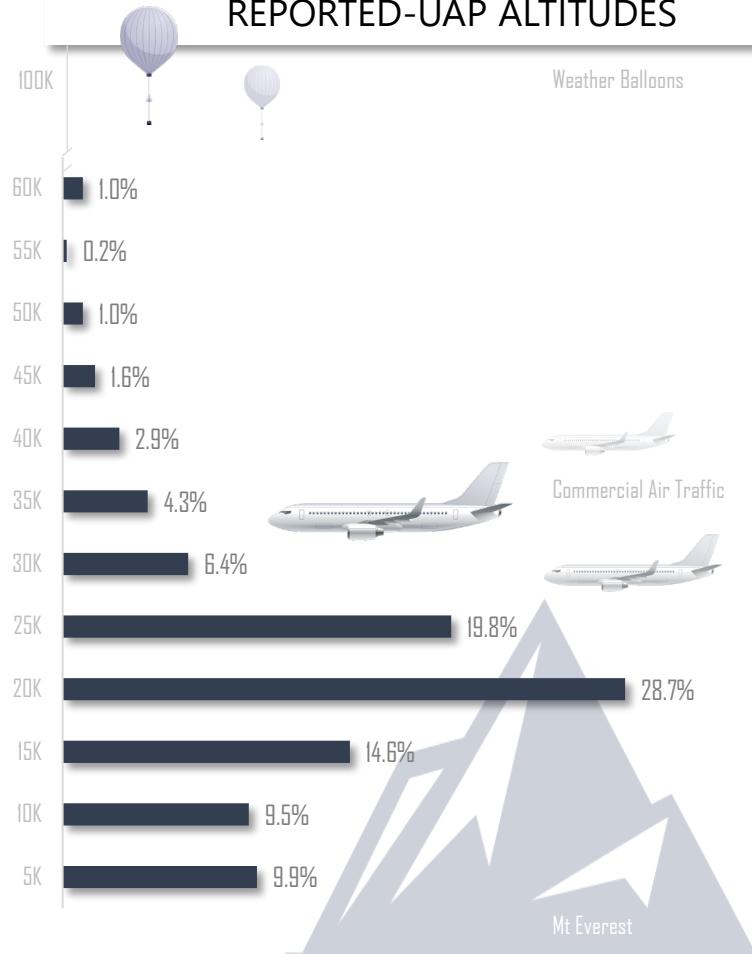
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AARO STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATIONS

# UAP Reporting Trends

1996-2023

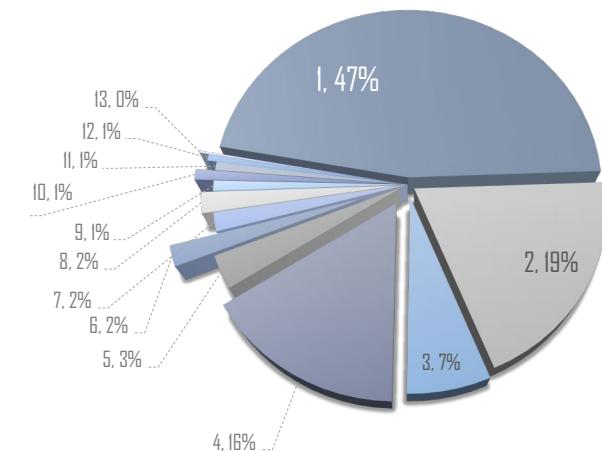
## REPORTED-UAP ALTITUDES



## TYPICALLY-REPORTED UAP CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance	Morphology	Round
Performance	Size	1-4 meters
Signatures	Color	White, Silver, Translucent
Appearance	Altitude	10K – 30K feet
Performance	Velocity	Stationary to Mach 2
Signatures	Propulsion	No thermal exhaust detected
Appearance	Radar	Intermittent, X-Band (8-12 GHz)
Performance	Radio	1-3 GHz, 8-12 GHz
Signatures	Thermal	Intermittent, Shortwave Infrared, Medium-Wave Infrared

## REPORTED UAP-MORPHOLOGY



## REPORTED-UAP HOTSPOTS



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# Office Goals & Priorities: 2023

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT	OPERATIONS	ANALYSES	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Formalize organizational design, responsibilities</li> <li>● Codify and staff unit Manning document to full-operating capability</li> <li>● Develop foundational, DoD and IC UAP policies, guidance</li> <li>● Receive full complement of support contractors</li> <li>● Arrange for FY25 transition to ARRO-specific IDIQ vehicle</li> <li>● Build AARO budget requirements into FY25 PBR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish the Department's UAP-reporting standards</li> <li>● Drive implementation of operational framework</li> <li>● Guide development and deployment of persistent-surveillance capabilities</li> <li>● Normalize ingestion, curation, and integration of multi-source UAP data</li> <li>● Guide Joint Staff development of UAP mitigation and response standards and plans</li> <li>● Streamline deconfliction of detected UAP and blue programs</li> <li>● Review US Government's UAP and UAP-related historical record</li> <li>● Guide development of policies and practices for UAP-data and analyses downgrade/declassification</li> <li>● UAP addition to intelligence prioritization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop thresholds, criteria for anomalous determinants of each domain</li> <li>● Guide UAP collection and reporting, through cogent operational and intelligence reporting requirements</li> <li>● Drive implementation of analytic framework—including compliance with intelligence tradecraft standards, peer-review, and reporter-feedback</li> <li>● Institutionalize UAP case-management—including transitioning cases to cognizant expertise and authorities</li> <li>● Enable mission oversight by providing Congress with timely, relevant, and comprehensive UAP updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop comprehensive, searchable UAP database</li> <li>● Guide architecture and network engineering</li> <li>● Drive scientific analyses—including compliance with the scientific method, use of advanced approaches and tools, and rigorous peer-review</li> <li>● Identify UAP signatures and indicators</li> <li>● Guide calibration of military, intelligence, and other sensors, for improved detection of UAP signatures</li> <li>● Draw upon special expertise outside of the Federal Government for development of theoretical models</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish interagency coordination on UAP public messaging</li> <li>● Engage partners and allies about AARO's work and mission</li> <li>● Establish secure mechanism for reporting of any event related to UAP and any event of the U.S. government related to UAP retrieval, analysis, engineering</li> <li>● Educate and inform the public AARO's mission and findings, in line with DoD public statements (e.g., <i>NASA study public meeting (May '23); open congressional hearing (April '23); Transportation Research Board (Dec '23); and DoD UAP press event (Dec '22)</i>)</li> <li>● Issue clear, public guidance for accessing mechanism for UAP reporting</li> </ul>



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