

U.A.P. DISCLOSURE FILES

Opinion: After decades of denial, the Pentagon finally admits it's baffled by UFOs



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After nearly eight decades of official denial and obfuscation of the UFO phenomenon, the [new head](#) of the Pentagon's UFO analysis office made a remarkable admission last month.

During a [briefing](#) with reporters, Jon Kosloski, director of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, admitted that the U.S. government is stumped by several "true anomalies." According to Kosloski, "There are interesting [UFO] cases that I, with my physics and engineering background and time in the [intelligence community], I do not understand. And I don't know anybody else who understands them either."

Critically, the Department of Defense and intelligence agencies are so perplexed by some UFO incidents that, per Kosloski, “We’re going to need the help of academia and the public to address some of these.”

These admissions are a welcome — and long-overdue — shift in the official tone on the UFO phenomenon. After decades of dismissive “nothing to see here” statements from the Pentagon, the sudden pivot to officials being so stumped by some incidents that they need the public’s help is striking.

At the same time, given the [long history](#) of [highly credible, consistent, multi-witness reports](#) of [objects exhibiting extreme performance characteristics](#), this shift is not surprising.

Asked about UFOs a few days after Kosloski’s comments, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin [stated](#), “there are things that happen, that have happened and probably will continue to happen that are difficult to explain.”

Such unprecedented commentary from sitting Defense Department officials follows several [eyebrow-raising statements](#) on UFOs from [former presidents](#) and [ex-national security officials](#) in [recent years](#).

A former CIA director [stating](#), for example, that a “different form of life” may be behind recent military UFO incidents, or an ex-director of national intelligence [admitting](#) that UFOs exhibit technologies “that we don’t have and, frankly, that we are not capable of defending against” was unfathomable just 10 years ago.

Perhaps most remarkably, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) proposed legislation alleging that decades-long government “[legacy programs](#)” have secretly retrieved and are attempting to reverse-engineer UFOs of “unknown” and “non-human” origin.

Not only is “non-human intelligence” [formally defined](#) in the bipartisan Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Disclosure Act, the attention-grabbing term appears two dozen times throughout the 64-page legislation. Astoundingly, the Disclosure Act would also [require](#) the government to take possession of “any and all” recovered objects and “biological evidence of non-human intelligence” that had been [transferred](#) to private defense contractors.

At a Nov. 13 joint hearing by two House Oversight and Accountability subcommittees, former Department of Defense official Luis Elizondo [testified](#) to the existence of the unreported programs outlined in the Schumer-Rounds legislation. Air Force veteran and former intelligence official David Grusch [testified](#) to the [existence](#) of a “multi-decade [UFO] crash retrieval and reverse engineering program” during a July 2023 congressional hearing.

Notably, the internal watchdog overseeing America’s spy agencies [deemed](#) Grusch’s allegations “credible and urgent,” [triggering](#) mandatory notifications to Congress. Moreover, the intelligence community’s first inspector general [serves](#) as Grusch’s attorney, adding significant weight to the underlying assertions.

Elizondo and Grusch’s under-oath allegations are also backed by [multiple](#), ostensibly [credible sources](#).

For example, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), the vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee (and Trump’s nominee to lead the State Department), has [stated](#) that highly credible, senior government officials approached Congress with “firsthand” knowledge of UFO retrieval and reverse-engineering programs. Former Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wisc.), who sat on the House Intelligence Committee, [echoed](#) Rubio’s comments.

More recently, Kirk McConnell, a former congressional staffer with 37 years of experience on the armed services and intelligence committees, [confirmed](#) that individuals with firsthand knowledge have spoken to Congress about such programs. Kosloski [stated](#) during a Nov. 19 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing that individuals with “firsthand” knowledge of unreported UFO programs have spoken to his office.

But the hearing also demonstrated the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office’s clear and lingering deficiencies. Kosloski, for example, [presented](#) a botched analysis of the well-known “GoFast” UFO [video](#).

By [failing to interview](#) the aircrew that recorded the footage — a major analytic oversight — the office appears unaware that the “GoFast” UFO was one of several unknown objects flying in formation, which is what drew pilots’ attention to it in the first place. Since the “GoFast” UFO lacks wings or discernible means of propulsion, this places the institution’s “high confidence” assessment that the

object “did not demonstrate any anomalous ... flight characteristics” into significant doubt.

Nor did the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office account for the fact that the video was recorded 300 miles off the coast of Florida just minutes before the [well-known](#) and [scientifically intriguing](#) “Gimbal” [encounter](#). Notably, these incidents caused [major flight safety concerns](#) among top Navy leadership and occurred amid [daily incursions](#) by enigmatic [spherical](#) objects — like the “GoFast” UFO — that [exhibited](#) highly anomalous [flight characteristics](#).

After nearly a century of denial and ridicule, the first public comments by the new director of the Pentagon’s UFO analysis office reflect a striking and encouraging shift. But the office’s analytic failures on the “GoFast” incident — along with [several](#) other [shockingly](#) flawed [reports](#) and [assessments](#) — indicate that the office has much work to do to regain the public’s trust.

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NASA delays moon missions again, citing safety concerns



NASA delays moon missions again, citing safety concerns © Amid Farahi/AFP/Getty Images

NASA on Thursday announced another delay to its first crewed lunar mission since Apollo, with astronauts now set to fly around the moon in 2026 and land in 2027.

The delay means the Artemis II — the next flight in NASA’s Artemis moon program that looks to return humans to the lunar surface for the first time in more than 50 years — will launch roughly 17 months after it was initially scheduled.

NASA now expects to launch the Artemis II mission in April 2026, when it will send four astronauts on a 10-day trip around the moon. The Artemis III lunar landing flight will follow in mid-2027. NASA attributed the delay to modifications in the Orion spacecraft’s reentry process to mitigate pressure on its heat shield.

“We and our industry and international partners need this time to make sure that our own capsule is ready to safely deliver our astronauts to deep space and back to Earth,” NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said. “We do not fly until we are confident that we have made the flight as safe as possible for the humans on board. We need to do this next test flight, and we need to do it right.”

Earlier this year, NASA delayed the Artemis II mission until no earlier than September 2025, citing safety concerns with the Orion aircraft's heat shield. That decision came after a watchdog group [reported](#) in May that the heat shield of the Orion spacecraft intended to carry the mission's astronauts suffered unexpected damage in more than 100 places during an uncrewed test flight in 2022.

NASA has since investigated the pattern of erosion on the heat shield and worked to determine why it performed differently than its engineers had expected.

Based on the investigation, Nelson said the Artemis II mission will use Orion's original heat shield but change the spacecraft's reentry procedure to lessen the heat it will face when it returns to Earth's atmosphere.

During Orion's return to Earth in the Artemis I mission, it dipped in and out of the atmosphere to reduce its velocity, but heat built up and became trapped in the heat shield's outer layer, leading the shield to crack and shed unevenly, said Pam Melroy, NASA's deputy administrator.

NASA astronaut Reid Wiseman, who will serve as the commander for the Artemis II mission, acknowledged that the delays are frustrating but said he valued the time spent determining how to improve Orion's safety for the crew. NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Victor Glover, as well as Canadian Jeremy Hansen, will [join](#) Wiseman on the Artemis II mission in 2026.

"Slowing down is agonizing, and that's not what we like to do," said Wiseman, who will serve as the commander for the Artemis II. "We really appreciate the willingness to take the risk to actually slow down and understand root cause and determine the path forward."