

STATE-OF-THE-ART IN UFO DISCLOSURE WORLDWIDE

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos

The relationship between society and government as far as the UFO phenomenon is concerned is a very complex issue in many of the most advanced countries. Defense, intelligence agencies, police forces and the governments themselves have tackled the UFO question and the cumulative UFO archives in a variety of manners, procedures and policies, non-uniform and changing over the decades.

Through the attached template, the present paper introduces a concise chronological picture of the history of release of UFO archives at a worldwide level. In the current context, by "UFO disclosure" I mean the revelation, declassification or release of official UFO reports from governmental files to the news media, researchers, and UFO organizations or directly placed into the public domain.

This relates to both classified and non-classified records, military and non-military reports; in sum, officially-originated files pertaining to UFO sightings.

Every summary of reality distorts it in some way. In this case, the tabulation of the varied and sometimes quite complicated administrative processes involved conveys a certain distortion by necessity. In my view, the advantage of producing this compilation outweighs the necessary abridgement of data. I have attempted to consolidate all significant or major releases over time, in some instances selecting from a variety of actions over a span of 60 years, for the purpose of achieving a year-to-date status review of the national formulae followed to comply with the citizens' aspiration to have access to governmental records related to UFO information.

The intricacies of internal bureaucracies, the way UFO reports have been handled by authorities, the various air forces' relationships with the press or with ufologists, national legislation and, above all, a general ignorance about whether or not UFOs represent a threat to homeland security, have marked the different historical behaviors we observe herein.

It seems evident that in most countries the release of UFO documents is linked to lobbying by the media or UFO organizations. In other cases, it simply runs parallel to the routine declassification of government archives.

The United States of America has the most convoluted panorama by far, mainly because of the multiplicity of agencies implied, the immense volume of material generated and the large number of both characters and events involved. In the international scene, the USA took the lead in the handling of UFO reports and, somehow, most countries mirrored their own management of the UFO question according to US standards, for better or for worse.

Massive amounts of documentation have been declassified and released by both the USAF and other agencies. However, there is evidence of present

withholding of supplementary information by some intelligence agencies, like the CIA or the NSA, in addition to the United States Air Force and NORAD. Whether documents were destroyed, lost, or simply refused for release, we do not know. Many UFO researchers in the States suspect untruthful behavior. Agencies contend that disclosure (i.e., revealing intelligence sources and methods) would endanger US intelligence capabilities, as it would jeopardize listening posts abroad, eavesdropping systems, electronic techniques, etc. Regarding NORAD, its reticence to make public its files would avoid uncovering the sheer amount of uncorrelated targets in the system. In any event, as far as documents on actual UFO occurrences, it is difficult for me to think of case information more sensational than what already exists, either declassified or in the ufologists' own files. The effect of the forthcoming law on administrative transparency by US President Barack Obama on these pending-to-declassify records may result in a major change.

As this paper shows, a remarkable amount of UFO-related information from official sources has been disclosed in many countries to date. But in spite of the large wealth of UFO documentation available worldwide, there are release processes still unfinished, and others not yet started.

The following is certain: to hide information would simply feed rumors about conspiracies and evil practices, it is a continuing source of criticism, it overshadows the image of any government, and it is unfair to its taxpayers. All this can be avoided through a crystal-clear disclosure process.

The timing of public UFO disclosures is not random. There is an escalation marked, first, by the closure of the USAF Project "Blue Book" in January 1970, the declassification of its files later this year and their final transfer to the US National Archives in 1976, followed by a similar move in Canada in 1980. Meanwhile, New Zealand started placing UFO files at the National Archives. UFO researchers succeeded in having several European governments release or declassify their UFO records (Sweden 1983, Spain 1992). In other countries, the application of current legislation on public archives produced the availability of UFO files (UK 1987). These examples encouraged UFO organizations and researchers to achieve the opening of UFO files (Portugal 1990, Italy 1996, Brazil 1999) and the international precedents produced "copycat" effects and influenced other countries (Switzerland 1994, Philippines 2000, Australia 2003, France 2007, Ireland 2007, Denmark 2009) as far as en-masse disclosure is concerned.

In addition to the lights and shadows of the declassification in the United States, Europe and Australasia stand out by the completeness and professionalism in the public disclosure processes. On the contrary, Central and South American countries have failed to advance a full-size, systematic development.

In some instances, the initial release of UFO documents to journalists created a great deal of friction with the official sources because of serious mismanagement of the information. It delayed by a number of years the possibility of a full public declassification process (e.g., in Spain and Italy).

Considering the many precedents to date, this compiler's recommendation is that active local UFO students formally contact their air force or defense staffs to provide the following arguments:

- (1) UFO phenomena represent no threat to national security; therefore it is not a military concern
- (2) UFO investigation must be left exclusively to science, by methodology, approach and instrumentation
- (3) To withhold information is hardly compatible with a democratic policy
- (4) Many countries in the world, both large and small, have already made public their UFO records

There are specialists in Europe who have instigated and monitored national release or declassification processes, whose know-how and advice on best practices can prove useful to governments willing to proceed in this direction.

There are several targets to accomplish with the publication of this paper. Firstly, I would like to provide a compilation of historical data that illuminates a generally obscure subject. Then, I hope it will generate feedback to expand this table and improve its accuracy. Also, government officials may be inspired to commence similar release processes in their countries.

Overall, given the geographical extent and temporal amplitude of the UFO disclosure operations under various political scenarios, it demonstrates that there is a case to support it as a legitimate matter for academic research where historians, sociologists, defense or intelligence analysts, students of government administration or bureaucracy, information science specialists like librarians, archivists and documentalists, and other experts can develop Ph.D. dissertations and publish papers in professional journals. It will improve the current knowledge and will attract scholars to this field with new visions, interpretations and insights.

Though unprecedented in its global scope, this study cannot claim to be exhaustive; in fact, it is only an approximation in the case of some nations. The US picture has been particularly difficult to define because of conflicting information from multiple sources.

As a best possible summing-up of a fragmentary history pertaining to the subject matter, in doing this research I have found out that the true story of the interaction between DoDs & the intelligence community and UFO reporting (data acquisition and analysis) is yet to be written.

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Contact the autor

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos
Apartado de correos 12140
46080 Valencia
Spain

fotocat@anomalia.org

UFO DISCLOSURE TEMPLATE

COUNTRY	YEAR	PERIOD COVERED	ARCHIVES RELEASED
United States of America - USAF	1948	1947-1948	Some UFO reports below Secret level made available to S. Shallet
	1949	1947-1948	Project "Saucer" ("Sign") report released to media
	1952	1948	January 7, 1948 Captain T. Mantell UFO sighting and aircraft crash report released
	1952	1947-1949	Project "Grudge" final report open to newsmen at the Pentagon
	1952-1953	1951-1953	41 UFO reports cleared and other ATIC documents released to D. Keyhoe
	1953-1969	1947-1969	USAF released annual UFO report summaries
	1955-1965	1947-1965	Scattered UFO reports released to D. Keyhoe, NICAP and media
	1956	1947-1952	Project "Blue Book" Special Report #14 released to L. Davidson
	1963-1967	1947-1967	USAF allowed access to all case summaries and many complete "Blue Book" files to J. Vallee
	1966	1951-1953	Project "Blue Book" Status Reports #1-12 released to NICAP
	1966	1947	USAF allowed access to 1947 "Blue Book" files to T. Bloecher
	1966-1970	various	USAF allowed partial access to "Blue Book" files to J. McDonald

1968	1947-1952	USAF released 35 microfilm rolls to H. Strentz for Ph.D. dissertation
1970	1947-1969	Full "Blue Book" archives declassified and available at Maxwell AFB (Historical Research)
1976	1947-1969	Full "Blue Book" redacted files (~125,000 pages) and AFOSI files (~5,000 pages) available at National Archives: ~15,000 cases
1976	1950-1961	AFOIN (Air Force Intelligence) Special Study Group files released under FOIA request by R. Todd: 50 pages
ca. 1990s	1954-1956	4602 nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron investigative files added to National Archives, ~350 reports, ~3,500 pages
1994	1947, Roswell	USAF report published
1995	1947, Roswell	GAO report published
1996	1948-1949	Air Force Scientific Advisory Board documents released under FOIA request by W. LaParl: ~13 pages
1997	1947, Roswell	USAF second report published
1997	1947-1952	4 th Air Force UFO files found at Maxwell AFB and released
1997	1948-1952	Air Force Public Relations UFO files found at Maxwell AFB and released, ~200 pages

	1998	1947-1969	Microfilm copy of “Blue Book” unredacted files found at National Archives and released
	1998	1948-1950	Projects “Sign” and “Grudge” investigative files released by Wright-Patterson AFB under FOIA request by R. Todd and W. LaParl, ~1,100 pages
	1998	1957	Briefing to Air Force Scientific Advisor H.P. Robertson documents released under FOIA request by W. Jones, ~20 pages
	Current status	1946-1969	13,000+ pages of UFO documents pending to declassify from AAF, USAF, ADC, Far East AF, SAC, GOC, AISS and others (conservative estimate by J. Aldrich)
	Current status	ca. 1960-2009	NORAD withholds ~50,000 unidentified track reports (B. Sparks estimate)
	Current status	1947-1969	Personal files of military (e.g., E. Ruppelt, C. LeMay, H.H. Arnold, H. Vandenberg, D. Fournet, J. Chamberlin, B. Baruch) and scientists (e.g., D. Menzel, E.U. Condon, R. Craig, J. McDonald, W. Fenn) contain official UFO documents not yet available
United States of America – Other Agencies	1974-1977	1949-1953	CIA released 100+ pages of UFO policy and analysis memos to B. Sparks through Mandatory Declassification Review
	1977	1976	DIA released the Tehran jet case of September 18, 1976 under FOIA request by Ch. Huffer
	1977-1978	1947-1976	FBI released ~2,000 pages under FOIA request by B. Maccabee

1978	various	CIA released ~900 pages under FOIA lawsuit by P. Gersten (GSW)
1978-1990	1952-1989	US Coast Guard UFO reports released under FOIA request to B. Greenwood, 110 pages
1980	1947-1952	Army Intelligence UFO files released under FOIA request by P. Gersten, ~1,000 pages
1992	1955-1980	NSA released 204 pages of heavily redacted UFO documents under FOIA lawsuit by F. Olsen
ca. 1990-96	various	CIA released ~300 pages of UFO docs (mostly foreign reports)
late 1990s	various	CIA released ~1,500 further pages of UFO documents [In 2008, CIA reported having released 2,779 pages in total]
Up to 1998	1942-1998	Non-“Blue Book” official UFO records released (including Air Force) amount to ~8,000 pages, according to B. Greenwood
1998	1947-1952	Army Intelligence and Security Command UFO files released under FOIA request by R. Todd and W. LaParl, ~900 pages
since ~2000	1949-1996	CIA placed ~300 UFO docs online (B. Sparks catalog), 991 pages
since ~2004	1947-1976	FBI placed all FOIA UFO documents online
since ~2004	1955-1980	NSA placed hundreds of UFO documents online
since ~2004	1956-1996	DIA placed 288 pages of FOIA UFO documents online

	Current status	1946 to date	~3,200 pages of UFO documents pending to declassify from US Navy, NASA, AEC and US Army (J. Aldrich estimate)
	Current status	various	~15,000 pages of CIA/OSI UFO reports were withheld by 1979 (CIA to B. Sparks and B. Maccabee)
	Current status	1947 to date	A large unquantifiable number of UFO documents still pending to declassify from NARA
	Current status	1955 to date	NSA withholds ~100 UFO documents (J. Aldrich estimate)
	Current status	1947-1965	Military Air Transport Service (previously ATC) probably keeps ~1,000 pages of UFO documents awaiting discovery/release
Brazil	1954	1954	Brazilian Air Force (FAB) released 4 UFO reports to media
	1958	1958	Government and Navy disclosed January 16, 1958 Trindade Island photographic case
	1967	1967	FAB report of March 18, 1967 Canoas case released to media
	1969-1972	1968-1972	Official SIOANI works in close liaison with civilian ufologists
	1985	1968-1972	SIOANI bulletins #1-2 leaked to E. Boaventura: 58 reports
	1985	1977	Some FAB's Operation "Prato" UFO photographs leaked to UFO groups: ~200 pages
	1998	1955	FAB report of early 1955 Lorena case leaked to E. Boaventura

	1999-2004	1977-1978	COMDABRA released reports and showed films of FAB's Operation "Prato" to UFO groups: ~100 pages
	2000-2001	1968-1972	66% of SIOANI archives leaked to E. Boaventura: ~1,100 pages
	2008	1952-1969	9 FAB UFO files released to National Archives at the instigation of A.J. Gevaerd: 383 pages, on-going process
	2009	1977-1978	FAB's Operation "Prato" files released to National Archives: 391 pages
	2009	1970-1979	12 FAB files of UFO reports, including photographs and films, released to National Archives: 631 pages
	Current status	1954-2009	Pending historical UFO documentation to release
Australia	1965-1980	1960-1977	RAAF UFO sighting summaries #1-9 released: 1,048 reports
	1982-1984	1950-1984	63 RAAF files (1,610+ reports) and UFO sighting summaries #10-12 (210 reports) accessed by W. Chalker
	1991	1950-1961	Defense UFO files released by 30-year Archive Act activated by K. Basterfield
	1999	1952-1960	Some UFO files from various agencies accessed by W. Chalker and J. Cowland
	2001	1968-1973	Government Intelligence UFO files accessed by W. Chalker

	2001	1952, 1969	RAAF UFO files accessed by W. Chalker
	2002-2008	1950-1991	151 Government UFO files released: 1,610+ reports, instigated by D. Frola & K. Basterfield (Australia Disclosure)
	2003	>1953	First Government UFO files released online by National Archives
Canada	1968	1947-1968	90 "Non-meteoritic" files available
	1978	1947-1961	Remainder of Department of Defense UFO archives available
	1980-1995	1947-1981	7,700 UFO reports available at National Archives
	1997 to date	1997-2009	Yearly declassification activated
	2008	1947-1981	UFO archives online: 9,500 files
	Current status	1982-1996	Pending period UFO reports to release (available at National Archives?)
Sweden	1968	1947-1967	Some Air Force UFO reports released to K. Gosta Rehn
	1975	1947-1974	Some Air Force UFO reports released to AFU
	1983 to date	1933-2009	Full Air Force UFO archives available: ~3,600 reports, on-going process instigated by C. Svahn and A. Liljegren

New Zealand	1975 to date	1952-1989 1952-1955 1956-1979 1979-1980 1979-1989	Air Force and Defense UFO archives available at National Archives: ~1,500 pages, on-going process Current split: 1 file, 275 pages, open access 1 file, 250 pages, open access 1 file, open access 3 files, restricted access
France	1976	1953-1975	27 Gendarmerie UFO reports released to J.C. Bourret
	1977	1957-1977	82 Gendarmerie UFO reports released to R. Roussel
	1977	1953-1967	16 Air Force UFO reports released to R. Roussel
	1977	1954-1976	3 Army UFO reports released to R. Roussel
	1978	various	28 Gendarmerie UFO reports released to J.C. Bourret
	1978	1976	GEPAN met ~40 UFO groups, to show methodology and release February 9, 1976 Luçon report
	1980-1983	various	18 Technical & Informative Notes published by GEPAN
	2007 to date	various	Full GEPAN/SEPRA archives online: 1,600 reports, on-going process by GEIPAN until end
	2008 to date	n/a	GEIPAN gave associate status to private UFO investigators

Spain	1976	1967-1976	12 Air Force UFO report summaries released to J.J. Benítez
	1983, 1984	1953-1983	Guardia Civil released 25 UFO sighting summaries to A. Faber-Kaiser and J. Plana
	1984	n/a	Guardia Civil instructed local units to assist V.J. Ballester Olmos UFO investigations
	1984-1988	1974-1988	Guardia Civil released 5 UFO sightings to J. Plana
	1984-1993	1976-1981	Guardia Civil released various reports and UFO photographs to V.J. Ballester Olmos
	1992-1999	1962-1995	Declassification of full Air Force UFO files, available at AF Headquarters Library: 84 files, 122 reports, 1,953 pages, a process instigated and monitored by V.J. Ballester Olmos
	1994	1965	Information on December 6, 1965 re-entry incident released to V.J. Ballester Olmos: 427 pages
	2009	1965	December 6, 1965 file declassified, at the request of V.J. Ballester Olmos
	Current status	1978-1986	Air Defense logbook information on 13 UFO cases found by General A. Bastida prompted by V.J. Ballester Olmos to be informed to MACOM for release
	Current status	1997-2001	Information on 3 UFO-type events arrived to MACOM, ~20 pages, pending to action a release request

Italy	1978	1977-1978	6 Air Force UFO reports released to CUN, CNIFAA and CIRSUFO
	1986	1979-1985	Summaries for 70 Air Force UFO reports released to CUN and CISU
	1988-2001	1987-2000	Yearly Air Force UFO sighting summaries released to CUN and CISU
	1993	1979-1990	Air Force statistical study of 111 UFO reports published
	1996-2001	1979-1990	Full Air Force UFO files released to CISU: 372 reports, ~3,000 pages
	2001 to date	2001-2008	UFO sighting summaries online
Uruguay	1979	1955-2007	Official CRIDOVNI cooperates with civilian groups: it handles ~1,100 (unclassified) reports
	2000	1960-1999	Colonel E. Aguirre, ex-CRIDOVNI founder and chairman, published book with 19 cases from the files
	Current status	1955-2009	Pending historical UFO documentation to release
Soviet Union/ Russia	1979	1926-1974	Institute of Space Research UFO report issued (L.M. Gindilis <i>et al</i>)
	1991	1982-1990	KGB UFO archives released to P. Popovich: 17 reports, 124 pages
	1993	1978-1988	400 UFO reports from Ministry of Defense sold to US ufologists by Colonel B. Sokolov

	2005	1978-1987	Some military UFO reports leaked to ufologist N. Subbotin
	Current status	1926-2009	Pending historical UFO documentation to release
United Kingdom	1983, 1985	1983, 1985	MoD released some UFO reports to J. Randles
	1987	1950s	Few surviving UFO records of early 1950s available at PRO
	1993-2006	1962-1984	Air Staff and Defense Intelligence DI55 UFO files available at PRO/TNA after 30-year-rule under Public Records Act
	1998	various	Some ATC UFO sighting reports released to C. Ridyard under Code of Practice for Access to Government Information request
	1999-2005	1950-1996	Various MoD and Air Ministry UFO files released to D. Clarke (including Flying Saucer Working Party, 1951 and Rendlesham, 1980-1996), G. Anthony and A. Roberts under Code of Practice request
	2005 to date	various	Several hundred pages of MoD UFO reports released under FOIA requests by many researchers: D. Clarke, G. Anthony, J. McGonagle, A. Roberts and others
	2005	various	MoD annual UFO sighting summaries online
	2006	various	Project “Condign” report released by FOIA request by G. Anthony
2007 to date	1978-2009	Remainder of full UFO archives online: 260 files up to 2007, both briefing papers and actual reports, an on-going process to finish	

			by 2010, with D. Clarke serving as consultant (officially, 12,061 UFO cases reported to the Ministry of Defense, 1953-2008)
Chile	1984-1985	1972-1985	Some UFO reports released through the Aeronautical Journal
	1997	various	Official CEFAA works in close liaison with civilian ufologists
	2007	2000	Air Force Captain R. Bravo reported about UFO sightings at Viña del Mar UFO Conference
	Current status	various	Pending historical UFO documentation to release
Norway	1987	1934-1946	Ministry of Foreign Affairs full files on “ghost fliers” & “ghost rockets” available: 210 pages
	1987	1933-1937	National Archives “ghost fliers” files available: ~1,400 pages
	1987	1946-1965	“Ghost rocket” files and other UFO files (if not destroyed) may be located within the volume of National Archives files pending to release or declassify
	1993	1970-1990	Police Security Service UFO file of ~140 pages shown to O.J. Brænne, pending to declassify
	1993	1983	Defense Department released 2 documents on unknown submarines to O.J. Brænne
	1993	1947-1994	Defense Department owns other files on unknown submarines, pending to declassify

	Current status	1966 to date	Pending historical UFO documentation to declassify from Air Force
Belgium	1989-1991	various	Some Gendarmerie UFO reports released to SOBEPS
	1990	1990	Air Force aircraft, personnel & equipment assisting SOBEPS
	1991	1991	Press conference by Colonel W. De Brouwer on UFO observation of March 30-31, 1991
Portugal	1990	1957-1982	Full Air Force UFO archives released to CNIFO: 3 reports (September 4, 1957, June 17, 1977 and November 2, 1982), 190 pages
Argentina	1991-1999	various	Semi-official group within CITEFA works in close liaison with civilian ufologists: 300-page report to Ministry of Defense in 1997
	Current status	various	Pending historical UFO documentation of Air Force and Navy to release, if not lost
Switzerland	1994	1971-1987	Full Air Force UFO archives released: 18 reports, 28 pages
Philippines	2000	1984-2000	Full PAGASA UFO archives made available to the public: 3 UFO and 17 IFO reports officially collected
Peru	2001	1980	1 Air Force UFO report (April 11, 1980) released to media
	2002	various	Official OIFAA works in close liaison with civilian ufologists

	Current status	various	Pending historical UFO documentation to release
Mexico	2004	2004	Air Force disclosed UFO sighting of March 5, 2004
	Current status	various	Pending historical UFO documentation to release
Ecuador	2005	various	Official CEIFO created at the instigation of J. Rodríguez, with participation of 3 civilian ufologists. Non-existent budget
	2007	various	Presidential order to declassify full archives (instigated by J. Rodríguez) : 44 reports (22 Air Force, 11 Army, 11 Navy) and 412 videos, pending to execute
Ireland	2007	1947-1985	Full UFO archives released by media FOIA request: 11 reports, 40 pages
	> 2007	1993	1993 UFO sighting released by FOIA
Rumania	2008	2007	Defense disclosed aircraft crash with UFO on October 31, 2007
Denmark	2009	1978-2002	Air Force released full civilian UFO cases online: 329 pages
	Current status	various	Pending military UFO cases to release
Greece	2009	2007	Air Force disclosed UFO sighting of October 11, 2007