



# Background Document: Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP)

Prepared by UAP Coalition Netherlands (UAPCNL)

## 1. Who are we?

[UAP Coalition Netherlands](#) (UAPCNL) is an independent non-profit NGO representing the interests of professionals within aviation, the military, and law enforcement who have experience with Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena. The Coalition was founded following the observation that these professional groups often feel unsafe or unheard when reporting UAP sightings. Due to rapid technological advancements, phenomena are increasingly being detected that require serious scientific analysis and policy development. UAPCNL serves as an advisor, information source, and support hub within the Netherlands and the European Union.

## 2. Definition: From UFO to UAP

Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena ([UAP](#)) is the collective term for objects or phenomena observed in space, the air, on land, or (under)water that cannot be (immediately) identified as known objects or natural phenomena.

The [transition](#) from the term 'UFO' to 'UAP' is significant for several reasons:

- **Stigma Reduction:** 'UAP' is a scientific and military term that shifts the focus from speculation to factual observation.
- **All-Domain:** The 'A' in UAP formerly stood for *Aerial* but has been changed to *Anomalous*. Modern sensors (radar, infrared, sonar) detect these phenomena across multiple domains, including the transition from space, to air to sea (trans-medium travel).

*Editorial Note: This document provides a representative selection of significant incidents and developments. Given the vast scope of the global UAP dossier, spanning over eighty years of data and hundreds of thousands of official reports, it is impossible to capture every credible case in a single overview. UAPCNL has curated this selection to best illustrate the structural nature and technological impact of the phenomenon.*



### 3. Historical Perspective: Decades of Observations

The UAP dossier is not a recent phenomenon but possesses a documented history spanning over 80 years:

- **World War II (1940-1945):** Allied and Axis pilots reported unexplained phenomena, then referred to as "Foo Fighters." [Witnesses](#) often suspected enemy technology; however, postwar records confirmed that neither side possessed such capabilities. Documented testimonies from this period also exist within [Dutch](#) airspace.
- **Modern Aviation (1947):** Pilot Kenneth Arnold [reported](#) nine unknown objects near Mt. Rainier (USA). His [report](#) marked the beginning of modern pilot-led registration of these phenomena. On September 5, 1948, three crew members of the American 307th Bomb Group reported an unidentified aircraft off the west coast of the Netherlands at an altitude of 30,000 feet. The object exhibited "enormous reserve power" and accelerated suddenly after leaving trails of smoke and condensation. American intelligence services evaluated this report as reliable.
- **Nuclear Installations:** Numerous [sightings](#) have been reported worldwide over military bases with nuclear storage and civilian nuclear power plants, indicating a consistent interest in strategic infrastructure.
- **Soesterberg (1979):** A major Dutch [event](#). On February 3, at least 12 military personnel observed a silent black triangle (approx. 45-50 meters in diameter) above Soesterberg Air Base. The object accelerated at extremely high speeds. Despite the Cold War context, this incident remains unexplained according to witnesses, leading to lasting frustration regarding the lack of official follow-up by the Royal Netherlands Air Force.



## 4. Technological Parameters and Multisensor Data

While UAP have been recorded on radar systems for decades, recent technological developments in sensor systems have provided a qualitative leap in the burden of proof. Where researchers previously relied on single-source visual testimonies or grainy radar images, current data is increasingly characterized by multisensor confirmation.

- **The 'Tic Tac' (2004):** U.S. Navy F/A-18F pilots (USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group) observed an [object](#) that was confirmed both visually and via advanced integrated sensors.
- **The 5 Characteristics:** Experts utilize [five parameters](#) to identify objects that defy the current state of science and technology:
  1. **Positive Lift:** The ability to fly without visible wings or traditional propulsion.
  2. **Instantaneous Acceleration:** Subject to extreme G-forces without structural failure.
  3. **Hypersonic Velocity:** Speeds exceeding Mach 5 without a sonic boom or heat signature.
  4. **Trans-Medium Travel:** Seamless transition between space, the atmosphere, and water.
  5. **Low Observability:** Active camouflage against visual and radar detection.

## 5. Flight Safety and the 'Reporting Gap'

With 32.000 flight movements daily in the EU, UAP research is a safety priority.

- **Near Misses:** In 2014, American pilots [reported](#) daily sightings, including dangerous near-miss encounters. Similar incidents have been reported in the Netherlands, such as [KLM flight 1515](#) in 2010.
- **The Culture of Fear:** Research (e.g., by [Zembla](#), 2023) confirms a culture of fear within aviation. Only 5% to 10% of UAP sightings are officially reported due to [concerns](#) regarding professional reputation or job security.
- **Policy Gaps:** The Dutch Aviation Incident Analysis Bureau (ABL) and European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) lack at the moment specific UAP protocols, resulting in the loss of critical data for airspace management.



## 6. International Developments

- **United States:** The establishment in 2022 of the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office ([AARO](#)) within the Pentagon and the [Safe Airspace for Americans Act](#) (2024) demonstrate that the U.S. views UAP as a national [security](#) issue. The office has processed over 1800 reports to date. On May 8, 2026, the Ministry of War began [releasing](#) UAP documents through the PURSUE initiative.
- **Science:** In 2023, NASA [published](#) a historic report calling for increased transparency and the appointment of a *Director of UAP Research*.
- **Europe:** While the European Commission [recognizes](#) UAP as a potential safety issue, it lacks a dedicated budget and coordinated EU-wide research. Currently, France's [GEIPAN](#) (part of the French space agency CNES) is the only official body, but its scope is limited to French territory. Furthermore, the European Commission utilizes the term "Unknown Airborne Objects", a category that officially does not exist. This was confirmed during a meeting between the EC and UAPCNL on July 9, 2024. The use of non-existent terminology contributes to misinformation and policy confusion.

## 7. Conclusion and Necessary Steps

A significant step has been taken in the Netherlands: the Dutch Safety Board (OVV) [accepts](#) reports from aviation professionals. They share UAPCNL's opinion that stigma should never have a negative effect on safety. However, this remains insufficient as long as a government system for scientific data analysis is lacking.

### UAPCNL advocates for:

- An official, secure, and transparent UAP reporting center for all government sectors (Aviation, Defense, Police).
- A structural budget for scientific research.
- Breaking the historical [stigma](#) to ensure the physical and psychological [safety](#) of professionals.

## 8. Press Contact & Information

Do you have questions regarding this background document, or would you like to get in touch with experts or witnesses?

Email: [info@uapcoalitienerland.nl](mailto:info@uapcoalitienerland.nl)

Website: [UAP Coalitie Nederland](#)