

## Responding to Claims about “Alien” UFOs: A Brief List of Resources

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For decades, the media have given attention to sensational claims that vague lights in the sky are actually extra-terrestrial spacecraft. Recently, there's been a flurry of misleading publicity about UFOs (or, as they are now called, UAPs) on military photographs. A sober examination of all these claims reveals there is a lot LESS to them than first meets the eye: when there's enough evidence, UFO claims are explained by ordinary terrestrial or celestial phenomena. We especially recommend the work of Mick West, a shrewd investigator exposing and explaining such claims.

By Mick West:

“Credible People, Incredible Things” (on how the same UFO claims keep getting repeated and recycled) from *The Skeptical Inquirer* 2026: <https://skepticalinquirer.org/2026/04/credible-people-incredible-things/>

“The Aliens Haven't Landed: Why You Should be Skeptical of Recent Reports on UFO Sightings” (from USA Today 2021): <https://news.yahoo.com/aliens-havent-landed-why-skeptical-090251254.html>

“UFO Whistleblowers go to Washington” (real context for some of the recent Congressional testimony) from *The Skeptical Inquirer* 2023: <https://skepticalinquirer.org/2023/10/ufo-whistleblowers-go-to-washington/>

His YouTube channel has excellent short videos explaining specific cases:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF3UCTZiVg9wrIEzO7Om6jw>

Also see his Cool Worlds interview about recent claims:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le7Fqbsrrm8> And see his website: <https://mickwest.com/>

Other Useful Articles:

Special issues of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine on UFO claims: Sep/Oct 2021:

<https://skepticalinquirer.org/volume/no-5-vol-45/> and Jan/Feb 2009:

<https://skepticalinquirer.org/volume/no-1-vol-33/>

Fraknoi, A. UFO's: A Lot Less than Meets the Eye (short overview article from 2009 issue):

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269402762\\_An\\_Astronomer\\_Looks\\_at\\_UFOs\\_A\\_Lot\\_Less\\_than\\_Meets\\_the\\_Eye](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269402762_An_Astronomer_Looks_at_UFOs_A_Lot_Less_than_Meets_the_Eye)

Colavito, J. “How Washington Got Hooked on Flying Saucers” (good 2021 social history in *The New Republic*): <https://newrepublic.com/article/162457/government-embrace-ufos-bad-science>

Gleick, J. The Doctor's Plot. (A *New York Times* reporter examines critically the gullible work of John Mack on UFO abductions): <https://around.com/abduct.html/>

Goldsmith, D. “Why You Can't Trust Your Eyes” (2025 article on how you get fooled when seeing something in the sky): <https://www.astronomy.com/science/why-you-cant-trust-your-eyes/>

McGaha, J. & Nickell, J. “The UFO Identification Process” (how cases are investigated, from *Skeptical Inquirer* 2018: <https://skepticalinquirer.org/2018/11/ufo-identification-process/>

McGaha, J. & Nickell, J. “Alien Lights? At Phoenix, Stephenville & Elsewhere” from *Skeptical Inquirer* 2015 (explains some famous cases): <https://skepticalinquirer.org/2015/03/alien-lights->

[at-phoenix-stephenville-and-elsewhere-a-postmortem/](#)

Nickell, J. “Alien Autopsy Hoax” (from *Skeptical Inquirer* 1995, debunking a notorious video):

<https://skepticalinquirer.org/1995/11/alien-autopsy-hoax/>

Shostak, S: Aliens There but not Here (a thoughtful 2020 article from *Skeptical Inquirer* about why alien visitors are unlikely): <https://skepticalinquirer.org/2020/05/aliens-there-but-not-here/>

Thomas, D. “The Roswell Incident and Project Mogul” (the full declassified explanation of what happened at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947; from *Skeptical Inquirer*, 1995):

<https://skepticalinquirer.org/1995/07/the-roswell-incident-and-project-mogul/> (Also see:

Frazier, K. “The Roswell Incident at 70: Facts Not Myths” (from *Skeptical Inquirer* 2017):

<https://skepticalinquirer.org/2017/12/the-roswell-incident-at-70-facts-not-myths/> )

### Web Pages:

Robert Sheaffer’s UFO Skeptic’s Page: <https://www.debunker.com/ufo.html> A big collection of skeptical investigations. Updated at: <https://badufos.blogspot.com/>

Ian Ridpath UFO Skeptic Page: <http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/ufoindex.html> British science writer investigates UFO reports, and discusses astronomical causes of UFO sightings.

James Oberg’s Space Age Myths (investigation of cases by veteran space journalist):

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210505152047/http://www.jamesoberg.com/ufo.html> See an

especially useful video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdkbJ-4r2ZY>

Amateur Astronomer Tim Printy on UFO claims: <https://www.astronomyufo.com/UFO/UFO.htm>

### Books:

Frazier, Ken, et al. *The UFO Invasion*. 1997, Prometheus Books. A collections of clear, skeptical articles from *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine.

Klass, Phillip *UFOs: The Public Deceived*. 1983, Prometheus Books. The Dean of UFO investigators examines and explains a host of famous “UFO” cases.

Merlin, Peter *Dreamland: The Secret History of Area 51*. 2023, Schiffer Military History. The definitive discussion of what happens at Area 51; and it has nothing to do with UFOs.

Defense Department Report Feb. 2024 (concludes there are no UAPs that indicate involvement by extra-terrestrials; read executive summary, pp. 7-10):

<https://media.defense.gov/2024/Mar/08/2003409233/-1/-1/0/DOPSR-CLEARED-508-COMPLIANT-HRRV1-08-MAR-2024-FINAL.PDF>

