

From: s47F
To: [Roberts, Catherine AVM](#)
Cc: s47F
Subject: Senate Estimates Briefs [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 11 February 2022 10:38:29 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[SB21-001257.docx](#)
[SB21-000769.docx](#)
[image002.png](#)

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Good Morning Ma'am,

As discussed, please find attached Senate Estimates Briefs.

Sir – I confirm that both briefs have now been assigned to you on PDMS.

Kind Regards,

s47F

Air Vice-Marshal Catherine Roberts, AO, CSC

Defence Space Command
Office of the Space Commander
R1-6-A005, Russell Offices, Canberra, ACT, 2610

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Space Domain and Policy

CAF BRIEF

Questions on Notice

Estimates QoNs

Hearing	Date	Senator – Question #	Broad Topic
Supplementary Budget Estimates, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	27 October 2021	Whish-Wilson - QON 90	Unexplained Aerial Phenomena
Supplementary Budget Estimates, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	01 June 2021	Kitching – QON 141	Space Division

Other QoNs

Committee Inquiry	Senator – Question #	Broad Topic
Senate	Patrick – QON 2160	Space Agency Approvals

Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

CAF BRIEF

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Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

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Notes

Key Messages

- Defence does not have a policy governing the reporting or recording of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) by either members of the public or Defence members.
- The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) ceased the handling of reports of UAP in 1996 after determining there was no scientific or other compelling reason to continue to devote resources to the recording and investigation of UAP.
- Defence safety of flight incidents, including those potentially posed by UAP are handled by the Defence Aviation Safety Authority (DASA), with civilian safety of flight incidents the purview of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

Strategic Narrative

- UAP are likely to be one of three things:
 - natural or other benign phenomena
 - anomalies with sensors, or
 - (human-made) technologies.
- UAP could be other nations systems, either contemporary or advanced. Information regarding the collection and investigation of these systems is the remit of the Intelligence Community and is classified.

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Background

- On 25 June 2021, the United States Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) released a Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (the Report) to provide an intelligence assessment of the threat posed by UAP and the progress the US Department of Defense Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force (UAPTF) has made in understanding this threat.
- The Report does not draw conclusions on what UAP are and most remain unexplained, mainly due to lack of data.
- The Report finds no evidence that UAP are extra-terrestrial in origin.
- The Report did reach the following conclusions:
 - In a limited number of incidents, UAP reportedly appeared to exhibit unusual flight characteristics. These observations could be the result of sensor errors, spoofing, or observer misperception and require additional rigorous analysis.
 - There are probably multiple types of UAP requiring different explanations based on the range of appearances and behaviours described in the available reporting.
 - UAP clearly pose a safety of flight issue and may pose a challenge to U.S. national security. UAP would also represent a national security challenge if they are foreign adversary collection platforms or provide evidence a potential adversary has developed either a breakthrough or disruptive technology.
- On 23 November 2021, the US Director of National Intelligence directed the establishment of the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronisation Group to coordinate reporting across US Department of Defense and other US agencies, with the goal to minimise flight safety and national security concerns.
 - Defence has no plans to replicate a similar mechanism. DASA and CASA already serve this function across flight safety issues and apparatus exist for concerns regarding National security.
- Historically the RAAF was responsible for handling UAP reports, however that ceased in 1996. **If civilians wish to report UAP they should** contact their local police authorities, or get in contact with a civil UFO research organisation.
 - The Defence Instruction was cancelled in November 2000 and not replaced.
 - UAP may also be referred to as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) or Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS). UAP is the contemporary term for such phenomena.

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Talking Points

How are UAP reported to Defence?

- Defence does not have a policy for reporting or recording UAP.
- Historically, the RAAF was responsible for handling UAP reports on behalf of Defence, however that ceased in 1996 after determining there was no scientific or other compelling reason to continue to devote resources to the recording and investigation of UAP.
- Defence safety of flight incidents, including those potentially posed by UAP are handled by the Defence Aviation Safety Authority (DASA), with civilian safety of flight incidents the purview of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

As an ally, have the United States offered to or asked to collaborate on UAP investigations?

- No, the United States nor any other nation or ally have requested or offered to collaborate on UAP reporting or investigation.
- Defence has no desire to seek collaboration on this issue.

With the US calling UAP a potential threat to national security, should Australia be concerned too?

- UAP are likely to be one of three things, natural or other benign phenomena, anomalies with sensors or (human-made) technologies. Information on the human-made technologies is classified and the remit of the Intelligence Community.
- Countering capabilities spanning the maritime, land, air, cyber and space domains that could threaten our national security is a core business of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), any threat to National security is a concern but also a priority for Defence.

Are UAP a risk to flight safety?

- Flight safety is a high priority for ADF aviation. Any risks to flight safety are considered serious, but Defence is not aware of UAP being the cause of an aviation safety incident or featured prominently in a safety investigation.

Are these likely to be extra-terrestrial in origin?

- There is no evidence to suggest that UAP would be extra-terrestrial in origin.

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Timeline of Significant Events/Decisions

Date	Event
25 June 2021	Release of <i>Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena</i> by the US Office of the Director of National Intelligence
13 November 2000	DI(G) ADMIN 55-1 outlining ADF policy on Unusual Aerial Policy is cancelled, and not replaced.
27 August 1996	DI(G) ADMIN 55-1 is amended to cease the reporting of unusual aerial sightings to the RAAF.

Relevant Media Coverage

Date	Source	Item
10 November 2021	The Sun	TIC TAC WOE Fighter pilots who intercept UFOs may suffer radiation burns & experience warped time, Pentagon insider fears
9 November 2021	GQ UK	This man ran the Pentagon's secretive UFO programme for a decade. We had some questions.
29 October 2021	The Australian	For Defence, UFOs exist only in a distant galaxy
28 October 2021	ABC News	Defence won't follow Pentagon to launch an investigation into UFO sightings or Unexplained Aerial Phenomena

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25 October 2021	Remo News	The NASA leader suggests that UFOs may be aliens
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Relevant Media Enquires

Date	Event
Nil	Nil

Relevant Ministerial Comments

Date	Minister	Details
Nil	Nil	Nil

Questions on Notice

Estimates QoNs

Hearing	Date	Senator – Question #	Broad Topic
Supplementary Budget Estimates, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	27 October 2021	Peter Whish-Wilson - QON 90	Unexplained Aerial Phenomena

Other QoNs

Committee Inquiry	Senator – Question #	Broad Topic
Nil	Nil	Nil

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Freedom of Information

Request Date	Who	Relating to	Documents released
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

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Contact and Clearance Offices

Clearing Officer	AVM Catherine Roberts Commander Defence Space Command	Air Force	s22 [REDACTED]
Consultation	Mr Colin McKenna, Assistant Secretary Strategic Capabilities Policy Development	Strategy, Policy and Industry Group	s22 [REDACTED]
	BRIG, Warren Gould Director General Systems and Integration	Army	s22 [REDACTED]
	Mr Rod Smith, STaR Shot Leader – Resilient Multi- mission Space	Defence Science Technology Group	s22 [REDACTED]
Contact Officer	AIRCDRE Nick Hogan Director General Space Strategic Plans	Air Force	s22 [REDACTED]

From: s47F
To: [Roberts, Catherine AVM](#)
Cc: [Office of Defence Space Commander; Hogan, Nicholas AIRCDRE](#); s47F
Subject: Space Senate Estimates Brief [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 31 March 2022 2:15:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[SB21-000769.docx](#)
[image002.png](#)

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Good Evening Ma'am,

As discussed, please see updates to page 20 of 33 highlighted in blue. The key changes were a correction of the kinetic and non-kinetic effects examples.

Let me know if you require any further assistance.

Kind Regards,

s47F

Air Vice-Marshal Catherine Roberts, AO, CSC

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Other QoNs

Committee Inquiry	Senator – Question #	Broad Topic
Senate	Patrick – QON 2160	Space Agency Approvals

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From: Hogan, Nicholas AIRCDRE
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2022 6:58 PM
To: s47F
Cc: s47F; Roberts, Catherine AVM; s47F; Denney, Robert AVM; Gordon, Philip AIRCDRE; s47F
Subject: Estimates additions [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: SB21-000769_s47F.docx

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Good evening s47F

As requested changes highlighted (and track changed).

Regards,
s47F

Nick Hogan
Air Commodore
Director General Space Capability (Sp8)
Defence Space Command

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Questions on Notice

Estimates QONs

Hearing	Date	Senator - Question #	Broad topic
SBE	27 October 2021	Peter Whish-Wilson - QON 90	Unexplained Aerial Phenomena

Other QONs

Nil.

FOI

Nil.