

Written Testimony of Luis Elizondo

For the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
Subcommittees on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government
Innovation; and
National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena: Exposing the Truth

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Greetings, Chairwoman Mace, Chairman Grothman, Ranking Members Connolly and Garcia, and Members of the Committee. It is my honor and privilege to testify before you on the issue of unidentified anomalous phenomena, formerly known as UFOs. On behalf of our brave men and women in uniform and across the intelligence community, as well as my fellow Americans who have awaited this day, thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Let me be clear: UAP are real. Advanced technologies not made by our Government – or any other government – are monitoring sensitive military installations around the globe. Furthermore, the U.S. is in possession of UAP technologies, as are some of our adversaries. I believe we are in the midst of a multi-decade, secretive arms race—one funded by misallocated taxpayer dollars and hidden from our elected representatives and oversight bodies.

For many years, I was entrusted with protecting some of our nation's most sensitive programs. In my last position, I managed a Special Access Program on behalf of the White House and the National Security Council. As such, I appreciate the need to protect certain sensitive intelligence and military information. I consider my oath to protect secrets as sacred and will always put the safety of the American people first. With that said, I also understand the consequences of excessive secrecy and stove-piping. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the aftermath of 9/11, which many of us remember all too well.

I believe that America's greatness depends on three elements:

- **a watchful Congress;**
- **a responsive Executive Branch; and**
- **an informed public.**

Over the last decade and a half, I learned that certain UAP programs were, and are, operating without any of these elements.

Although much of my Government work on the UAP subject still remains classified, excessive secrecy has led to grave misdeeds against loyal civil servants, military personnel, and the public – all to hide the fact that we are not alone in the cosmos.

A small cadre within our own Government involved in the UAP topic has created a culture of suppression and intimidation that I have personally been victim to, along with many of my former colleagues. This includes unwarranted criminal investigations, harassment, and efforts to destroy one's credibility.

Most Americans would be shocked to learn that the Pentagon's very own Public Affairs Office openly employs a professional psychological operations officer as the singular point of contact for any UAP-related inquiries from citizens and the media. This is unacceptable.

Many of my former colleagues and I have provided classified testimony to both the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community Inspector General. Many of us have subsequently been targeted by this cabal with threats to our careers, our security clearances, and even our lives. This is not hyperbole, but a genuine fact, and this is wrong.

To fix these problems, I propose three principal actions:

- **First, Congress and the President should create a single point-of-contact responsible for a whole-of-government approach to the UAP issue. Currently, the White House, CIA, NASA, the Pentagon, Department of Energy, and others play a role, but no**

one seems to be in charge, leading to unchecked power and corruption.

- **Second, we need a national UAP strategy that will promote transparency and help restore the American public's trust at a time when the public's trust is at an all-time low. This strategy should include a whole-of-government approach, including the academic and scientific communities, the private sector, and our international partners and allies.**
- **Third, Congress should create a protected environment so whistleblowers, desperate to do the right thing, can come forward without fear. As it currently stands, these whistleblowers suffer because of stigma, a code of silence, and concerns about retaliation. These whistleblowers should be encouraged to come forward in ways that protect them against any forms of retaliation. Policies and procedures should ensure that protection. And for those who refuse to cooperate, it is up to the Members of this Committee and other lawmakers to wield their subpoena power against hostile witnesses and prevent additional Government funding to those UAP efforts that remain hidden from Congressional oversight.**

In closing, we as Americans, have never been afraid of a challenge. In fact, we thrive on them. Whether it's eradicating polio or going to the moon. We don't run from a challenge; we take it head on. To the incoming Administration and Congress, I say to you, we need immediate public transparency, and this hearing is an important step on that journey. If we approach the UAP topic in the same way we as Americans have met other challenges, we can restore our faith in our government institutions. Together, we can usher in a new era of accountable government and scientific discovery. I believe that we as Americans can handle the truth. And I also believe the world deserves the truth. Thank you, esteemed members of Congress, for your time today. It is profoundly appreciated by many.

Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

In accordance with Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)* of the *Rules of the House of Representatives*, witnesses are asked to disclose the following information. Please complete this form electronically by filling in the provided blanks.

Committee: Oversight and Accountability

Subcommittee: Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation

Hearing Date: 11/13/2024

Hearing Subject :

Government Transparency and Accountability of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Programs

Witness Name: Luis Daniel Elizondo

Position/Title: Former Department of Defense Official

Witness Type: Governmental Non-governmental

Are you representing yourself or an organization? Self Organization

If you are representing an organization, please list what entity or entities you are representing:

FOR WITNESSES APPEARING IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

Are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.

Board Member of the Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon Disclosure Fund (UAPDF)

Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the hearing's subject matter that you or the organization(s) you represent have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

None

Please list any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government and related to the hearing's subject that you or the organization(s) you represent have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

None

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

- I have attached a written statement of proposed testimony.
- I have attached my curriculum vitae or biography.

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5), of the U.S. House of Representatives provides:

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include— (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (iii) a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

(C) The disclosure referred to in subdivision (B)(ii) shall include— (i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (ii) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(D) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

False Statements Certification

Knowingly providing material false information to this committee/subcommittee, or knowingly concealing material information from this committee/subcommittee, is a crime (18 U.S.C. § 1001). This form will be made part of the hearing record.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. E. ...', written over a horizontal line.

Witness signature

11/10/24

Date

Louis ‘Lue’ Elizondo, Bio & Background

The son of a Cuban immigrant father fleeing Castro’s regime and a mother who was a model and artist, Luis “Lue” Elizondo was raised in South Florida. After graduating with a B.S. from the University of Miami, where he studied microbiology and immunology, Lue enlisted in the United States Army in 1995 and was assigned to Military Intelligence. In 1998, he was recruited as a civilian intelligence officer into a sensitive U.S. intelligence program within the Department of Defense ("DOD"), where he rose to Senior Intelligence Officer and Special Agent In-Charge. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Lue saw service as an intelligence officer supporting Special Operations and General James Mattis during Operation Enduring Freedom. During tours in Afghanistan and the Middle East, he served as an intelligence Case Officer, Operations Officer, and Battle Captain. Upon returning to the United States in the mid-2000s, Lue oversaw counterespionage and counterterrorism investigations worldwide as a Special Agent in Charge for DOD. From 2005 to 2006, Lue served in the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive and, from 2006 to 2007, in the Nation’s most senior intelligence department, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. In 2008, Lue was hand-selected to return to the Pentagon to establish a law enforcement and intelligence information-sharing office. It was then that Lue was assigned the position of Director, National Programs Special Management Staff, in the DOD’s Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security. In this capacity, Lue managed a highly sensitive Special Access Program on behalf of the White House and the National Security Council.

By 2012, Lue was the senior ranking person of the DOD's Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, a secretive Pentagon unit that studied unidentified anomalous phenomena (“UAP”), formerly known as unidentified flying objects. In 2017, however, Lue resigned from the Pentagon in protest of its excessive bureaucracy and compartmentalization regarding the UAP issue. Since then, Lue has tirelessly led efforts to raise public awareness of the UAP topic, engaging with Congress, the executive branch, the media, academic institutions, the private sector, and global audiences to help to shape UAP policy. Recognized as a leading expert on the UAP topic, Lue’s media engagements include those with 60 Minutes, Fox News, CNN, NBC, ABC, CBS, the History Channel’s Unidentified: Inside America’s UFO Program, the Washington Post, MSNBC, the Daily Show, and the New York Times. Lue is a New York Times No. 1 bestselling author and London Times bestselling author. Lue also serves on the board of directors of the UAP Disclosure Fund, a nonpartisan, nonprofit foundation committed to uncovering the truth about UAP through transparency, declassification, and political advocacy. The proud father of two daughters, Lue resides in Wyoming with his wife, Jennifer, and their six German Shephard Dogs.