

2024 UAP Flap | Timeline

Last updated: January 3, 2025

Timeline at a Glance

[\(Details below.\)](#)

2019-2023:

December 2019 - January 2021

- Swarms of large (6-ft) flying objects observed in the skies of CO and NE.

December 2023

- Groups of large (up to 20-ft) flying objects violate US military airspace for 17 days.

November 2024:

November 13, 2024

- Unidentified flying objects first sighted over Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey by military authorities.
- The House Oversight Committee holds a public hearing on UAP.

November 18, 2024

- Morris County law enforcement issues statement on “drone” activity.

November 22, 2024

- FAA issues flight restrictions banning drones over Trump National Golf Club.

November 22-23 and 27, 2024

- Unidentified flying objects violate airspace over three US bases in the UK.

November 25, 2024

- Unidentified flying objects prevent a medevac helicopter from retrieving a critically injured patient.

November 27, 2024

- FBI announces investigation of unusual “drone” activity over Morris County.

December 2024:

December 1, 2024

- New Jersey residents report unidentified flying objects.
- Morris County Prosecutor’s Office assures public there is “no threat.”
- FBI investigates.

December 3-4, 2024

- US airbase in Germany flags numerous unidentified flying objects.

December 8, 2024

- Reports of unidentified flying objects spread to Pennsylvania.
- Local police and Coast Guard report 50 car-sized drones approaching the NJ coastline.

December 10, 2024

- Senator Cory Booker and NJ state Senator Jon Bramnick urge federal action.

December 12, 2024

- White House claims to have no evidence that sightings of unidentified flying objects pose a threat or belong to a foreign power.

December 13, 2024

- Naval weapons station reports multiple incursions by unidentified flying objects.
- Unidentified flying objects force shutdown of Stewart International Airport in New York.
- Unidentified flying objects bring operations at Wright Patterson Air Force Base to a halt.
- In a congressional hearing, the FBI admits that they do not know whether sightings constitute “nefarious” activity.

December 16, 2024

- Multiple federal agencies (FBI, FAA, DoD, DHS) release a statement claiming that all sightings are of conventional objects.
- More unidentified flying objects are sighted over Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
- Air force base in Utah confirms recent sightings.
- House Intelligence Committee holds classified briefing with FBI, DoD, and DHS.

December 18, 2024

- Local police and FBI investigate sightings of unidentified flying objects in North Texas.
- US Marine Corps base confirms multiple incursions by unidentified flying objects.

December 19-20, 2024

- FAA imposes drone ban over areas of New Jersey and New York for “special security reasons.”

December 20, 2024

- Virginia State Police announce investigation into sightings of unidentified flying objects.

December 21, 2024

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reports a surge in sightings of unidentified

flying objects over US nuclear facilities.

December 22, 2024

- Flying objects over US base in Japan force airport closure.

December 31, 2024

- FAA expands temporary drone flight restrictions from parts of 9 more New Jersey towns.

January 3, 2025

- Officials in Suffolk County unveil new efforts to counter “ever-increasing” drone sightings over restricted airspace.

—

Timeline

Statements by military officials in green.
Statements by federal officials in blue.
Statements by police and elected leaders in yellow.

2019-2023

December 2019 - January 2021

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Colorado Nebraska	Swarms of large (6-ft) flying objects observed in the skies of CO and NE.	<p>Reports of mysterious flying objects with six-foot wingspans and blinking lights flying in formations surface in northeastern Colorado and western Nebraska. Witnesses observe them flying in groups of 6 to 10, often between 7 and 10 pm, at altitudes of 200–500 feet, with some describing their movement as resembling a "grid search."</p> <p>Local sheriffs note the objects are not violating laws but cause public concern due to their unusual behavior. An interagency meeting involving federal, state, and local authorities is convened, and efforts such as aerial searches are conducted, but no definitive answers emerge.</p>	<p>"Locals Are Creeped Out. Authorities Are Concerned. The Colorado Drone Mystery Buzzes On." (Colorado Public Radio)</p> <p>"Mysterious drones flying nighttime patterns over northeast Colorado leave local law enforcement stumped." (Denver Post)</p> <p>"It's Creepy: Unexplained Drones Are Swarming by Night Over Colorado." (New York Times)</p> <p>"Drone sightings in New Jersey show a lot of similarities to mystery drones seen in eastern Colorado in 2020." (9 News)</p>

December 2023

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
----------	-------	---------	---------

Langley Air Force Base, VA	Groups of large (up to 20-ft) flying objects violate US military airspace for 17 days.	<p>Swarms of unidentified flying objects are reported over military airspace near Langley Air Force Base for 17 days. While the origin of the Langley objects remains unknown, one object reportedly measures 20 feet long, flies at over 100 mph, and reaches altitudes of 3,000–4,000 feet. Despite fears of foreign involvement, Air Force General Gregory M. Guillot reports no evidence of organized foreign activity. These are part of over 600 previously reported incursions on U.S. military installations since 2022.</p> <p>In 2024, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of the Select Committee on Intelligence confirms that these objects possessed advanced technology that prevented them from being detected on radar.</p>	<p>"Mystery Drones Swarmed a U.S. Military Base for 17 Days. The Pentagon Is Stumped." (WSJ)</p> <p>"Here's What NORAD's Commander Just Told Us About the Langley AFB Drone Incursions." (The War Zone)</p> <p>Interview with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (CNN)</p>
----------------------------	--	---	--

November 2024

November 13, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Morris County, NJ	<p>Unidentified flying objects first sighted over Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey by military authorities.</p> <p>The House Oversight Committee holds a public hearing on UAP.</p>	<p>Picatinny Arsenal in Morris County begins to experience a surge in unauthorized "drone" activity. The objects, which officials confirm are unrelated to Arsenal operations, prompt tighter FAA restrictions over the facility and nearby Trump National Golf Club.</p> <p>The House Oversight Committee holds a hearing on UAP in which multiple current and former officials allege that the US government is in possession of classified information regarding anomalous nonhuman craft. Rep. William Timmons (R-SC): "[These craft] are next level. This isn't like 10 years ahead of where we are. This is like 50 or 100 years ahead of where we are.</p>	<p>"N.J. military base had 11 'confirmed' mystery drone sightings, army says" (NJ.com)</p> <p>"RELEASE: Gottheimer Calls on FBI & DHS to Deploy Assets to Safely Take Down Drones That Shouldn't Be in Our Skies" (Office of Rep. John Gottheimer)</p> <p>"Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Exposing the Truth" (House Oversight Committee)</p> <p>"Rep. Timmons on UAPs: 'This is like 50 or 100 years ahead of where we are'" (Ask A Pol)</p>

November 18, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Morris County, NJ	Morris County law enforcement issues statement on "drone" activity.	<p>Morris County Prosecutor Robert J. Carroll, Chief of Detectives Robert McNally, Morris County Sheriff James M. Gannon, Morris Plains Police Chief / Morris County Police Chief's Association President Michael Koroski, and the Morris County Office of Emergency Management issue a joint public statement on "drone" activity observed in Morris County:</p> <p>"Last night, November 18, 2024, drone activity was observed by law enforcement members on patrol in Morris County... There is no known threat to public safety."</p>	"Morris Law Enforcement Issues Statement on Recent Drone Activity" (Morris County)

November 22, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Bedminster, NJ	FAA issues flight restrictions banning drones over Trump National Golf Club.	Following sightings at Picatinny Arsenal, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) bans drone flights over Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, NJ. Effective until December 6, 2024.	FDC 4/7952 (FAA)

November 22-23 and 27, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
RAF Lakenheath, UK RAF Mildenhall, UK RAF Feltwell, UK	Unidentified flying objects violate airspace over three US bases in the UK.	<p>Flying objects of varying "sizes and configurations" are reported over bases in Feltwell, Mildenhall, and Lakenheath, the latter housing the U.S.'s only F-35/F-15 fighter wing in Europe. Approximately 60 British troops, including counter-drone specialists, are deployed to assist in safeguarding these locations.</p> <p>Pentagon press secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder confirms the objects have not yet posed a significant threat to missions or assets but emphasizes the seriousness of the situation.</p>	<p>"Unidentified drones spotted over US military sites in UK for second week." (The Hill)</p> <p>"Are mystery drones above US bases in England something sinister?" (BBC)</p>

November 25, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Branchburg Township, NJ	Unidentified flying objects prevent a medevac helicopter from retrieving a critically injured patient.	In Branchburg Township, New Jersey, a medevac helicopter is unable to retrieve a critically injured patient due to objects hovering near the landing zone, according to local security officials. The helicopter was en route to an accident scene when fire department officials canceled its landing out of safety concerns.	<p>"Mystery drones block medevac from landing at N.J. MVC" (EMS1)</p> <p>"Mystery drones kept helicopter from taking patient to N.J. hospital, college says" (NJ.com)</p>

November 27, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Newark, NJ	FBI announces investigation of unusual "drone" activity over Morris County.	FBI spokesperson Amy Thoreson: "Witnesses have spotted the cluster of what look to be drones and a possible fixed-wing aircraft. We have reports from the public and law enforcement dating back several weeks... We are working with our state and local partners on the reported drone activity."	"FBI steps in to investigate after more mystery drone sightings in North Jersey" (Daily Record)

December 2024

December 1, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
----------	-------	---------	---------

Parsippany, NJ East Hanover, NJ Rockaway, NJ	<p>New Jersey residents report unidentified flying objects.</p> <p>Morris County Prosecutor's Office assures public there is "no threat."</p> <p>FBI investigates.</p>	<p>Eyewitnesses in North Jersey report "mysterious" flying objects darting over Parsippany near the Boonton Reservoir and nearby highways. Objects range between the size of a car and the size of a dining-room table. Similar reports in East Hanover, Rockaway, and near Morristown Municipal Airport prompt local police warnings not to approach the drones. The Morris County Prosecutor's Office states that there is no community threat.</p> <p>The FBI, collaborating with local and state authorities, investigates the ongoing activity.</p>	<p>"Spycams? Alien invasion? Hoax? Speculation about North Jersey drone mystery runs wild" (Daily Record)</p> <p>"Mysterious 'Car-Sized' Drone Swarm Provokes Panic Across New Jersey" (Jalopnik)</p>
--	--	--	---

December 3-4, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Ramstein Air Base, Germany	US airbase in Germany flags numerous unidentified flying objects.	<p>For two evenings, Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany records multiple incursions by unknown flying objects. Objects are also observed flying over locations belonging to German arms manufacturer Rheinmetall and chemicals group BASF.</p> <p>News of these incursions is not released until December 13.</p>	"U.S. military confirms drone sightings at air base in Germany" (Reuters)

December 8, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Bucks County, PA	<p>Reports of unidentified flying objects spread to Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Local police and Coast Guard report 50 car-sized drones approaching the NJ coastline.</p>	<p>Reports of unusually large flying objects, some described as car-sized, surface in Pennsylvania communities like Chalfont, New Hope, Lower Makefield, and Yardley. Five large objects are seen flying approximately 1,000 feet above the Solebury Township Police Department, with additional sightings near Covered Bridge Road.</p> <p>An Ocean County police officer reports 50 objects "the size of cars" flying in abnormal patterns over the ocean and approaching the New Jersey coastline. Coast Guard personnel report "12 to 30" objects trailing their ship in the waters off Ocean County. The White House later dismisses these claims as misidentifications of aircraft heading into JFK Airport.</p>	<p>"Increased drone activity reported in Bucks County. What officials are saying" (Yahoo News)</p> <p>"NJ Congressman disputes White House claim that drones were not following Coast Guard ship" (Asbury Park Press)</p>

December 10, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
New Jersey	Senator Cory Booker and NJ state Senator Jon Bramnick urge federal action.	<p>U.S. Senator Cory Booker releases a statement urging the federal government to investigate sightings and "share any relevant information about these drone sightings with the public."</p> <p>Meanwhile, New Jersey state Senator Jon Bramnick releases a statement calling for a "limited state of emergency banning all drones until the public receives an explanation regarding these</p>	<p>"Booker Pens Letter Requesting Greater Transparency, Comprehensive Briefing on Drone Activity Over New Jersey" (Office of Cory Booker)</p> <p>"New Jersey state senator calls for 'limited state of emergency' over mysterious drone sightings" (ABC News)</p>

		multiple sightings."	
December 12, 2024			
LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Washington, D.C.	White House claims to have no evidence that sightings of unidentified flying objects pose a threat or belong to a foreign power.	White House national security spokesman John Kirby tells reporters that the federal government has been unable to "corroborate some of the reported sightings" but continues to investigate. Kirby: "We have no evidence at this time that the reported drone sightings pose a national security or a public safety threat, or have a foreign nexus."	"White House unable to verify some drone sightings amid 'urgent concern' over mystery activity" (ABC News) "Key US Air Force base closes airspace amid drone sightings" (CNN)
December 13, 2024			
LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Naval Weapons Station Earle, NJ	Naval weapons station reports multiple incursions by unidentified flying objects.	Officials at Naval Weapons Station Earle report multiple instances of drones entering their airspace. Bill Addison, public affairs officer for the naval station, says that the base is "aware" of the sightings in the region and "continues to closely coordinate with federal and state agencies to ensure the safety of our personnel and operations."	"'Multiple' drones entered airspace at New Jersey naval station" (ABC News)
Stewart International Airport, NY	Sightings of unidentified flying objects shut down Stewart International Airport in New York.	New York Gov. Kathy Hochul calls for federal assistance after a drone sighting at Stewart International Airport, located 60 miles north of New York City, temporarily shuts down an airport. Hochul: "This has gone too far." The federal government agrees to send a "drone detection system" to New York.	"Drone detection system deployed to New York after mystery sightings" (BBC)
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio	Unidentified flying objects force operations at Wright Patterson Air Force Base to a halt.	Wright Patterson Air Force Base, one of the U.S.'s most critical military installations, is forced to shut down for several hours late into the night of December and early into the morning of the following day due to "heavy unknown UAS [unmanned aircraft system] activity." Spokesman Robert Purtiman says that objects appeared in a "variety of sizes and configurations."	"DOJ, FBI, CBP Witnesses Testify on Ongoing Threats Posed by Drones, Discuss Current Counter-Drone Authorities" (U.S. House of Representatives)
Washington D.C.	In a congressional hearing, the FBI admits that they do not know whether sightings constitute "nefarious" activity.	In response to the question of whether or not sighted craft might have "nefarious" intentions, Robert W. Wheeler Jr., assistant director of the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group, tells the House Committee on Homeland Security that "there is nothing that is known that would lead me to say that, but we just don't know, and that's the concerning part."	"Key US Air Force base closes airspace amid drone sightings" (CNN)
December 16, 2024			
LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Washington, D.C.	Multiple federal agencies (FBI, FAA, DoD, DHS) release a statement claiming that all sightings are of conventional objects.	The Department of Homeland Security, FBI, FAA and Department of Defense say in a multiagency statement that the thousands of drone sightings that have been reported over the last month"	"DHS, FBI, FAA & DoD Joint Statement on Ongoing Response to Reported Drone Sightings" (Department of Homeland Security)
Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio			

Hill AFB, Utah	<p>More unidentified flying objects are sighted over Wright Patterson Air Force Base.</p> <p>Air force base in Utah confirms recent sightings.</p> <p>House Intelligence Committee holds classified briefing with FBI, DoD, and DHS.</p>	<p>include a combination of lawful commercial drones, hobbyist drones and law enforcement drones, as well as manned fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and stars mistakenly reported as drones."</p> <p>"Small unmanned aerial systems" are again spotted "in the vicinity of and over" Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio through the evening and into the morning of the 17th.</p> <p>In Utah, officials at Hill Air Force Base confirm that "unmanned aerial systems" were "recently" spotted in the vicinity of the base.</p> <p>During a classified briefing, members of the House Intelligence committee are assured by representatives from various federal agencies that recent sightings of unidentified flying objects are not cause for concern. While some lawmakers express relief, others leave frustrated.</p> <p>Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill): "Show us the data; show us how it's manned aircraft. That's kind of my request of the government, and hopefully they do that. I think that the public needs to understand and see for themselves what these government officials have concluded."</p>	<p>"Mystery Drones Shut Down Ohio Air Force Base: 'Extreme Caution'" (Newsweek)</p> <p>"Unmanned drones confirmed near Hill Air Force Base" (ABC 4)</p> <p>"House Intel members downplay drone risks, call for legislation" (The Hill)</p>
----------------	--	--	--

December 18, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
White Settlement, Texas Camp Pendleton, California	<p>Local police and FBI investigate sightings of unidentified flying objects in North Texas.</p> <p>US Marine Corps base confirms multiple incursions by unidentified flying objects.</p>	<p>In response to "multiple reports of drones flying near city neighborhoods, federal and military properties" the previous night, White Settlement Police Chief Christopher Cook announces that his department is working with "FBI, NCIS, and Air Force OSI" to identify the craft.</p> <p>In California, Marine Corps Camp Pendleton confirms "six instances of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) observed entering Camp Pendleton's airspace" between December 9 and December 15.</p>	<p>"Suspicious drone activity reported in North Texas near military sites, authorities say" (CBS News)</p> <p>Statement by Police Chief Christopher Cook (Twitter)</p> <p>"Camp Pendleton confirms drone activity near military base" (CBS 8)</p>

December 19-20, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
New Jersey	FAA imposes drone ban over areas of New Jersey and New York for "special security reasons."	On December 19, the Federal Aviation Administration imposes a temporary ban on drones flying over 22 areas in New Jersey, citing "special security reasons." The following day, the FAA extends the ban to include 29 New York sites.	"FAA banning drone flights over New Jersey, New York sites" (Reuters)

December 20, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Virginia	Virginia police announce investigation into sightings of unidentified flying objects.	The Virginia Fusion Center (VFC), part of the Homeland Security Division of the Virginia State Police, begins investigating over 150 tips regarding suspicious drone activity across Virginia.	"Offer Guide to Rules for Flying Drones in the Commonwealth" (Shore Daily News)

December 21, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
United States	Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reports a surge in sightings of unidentified flying objects over US nuclear facilities.	The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, an independent federal agency, releases data confirming that the number of reported drone flyovers of US nuclear facilities increased from 15 to 26 between December 10-17.	"Nuclear Power Plants Report Massive Uptick In Drone Sightings" (The War Zone)

December 22, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan	Flying objects over US base in Japan force airport closure.	<p>Reports of drone sightings at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni south of Hiroshima caused the airfield to temporarily halt military and civilian flights, according to U.S. military and Japanese officials.</p> <p>The MCAS Iwakuni control tower notified an All Nippon Airways flight scheduled to land at 6:50 p.m. Sunday at the Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport that drones were flying at the airport, per an official at the Iwakuni office of the West Japan Civil Aviation Bureau. The company contacted the Civil Aviation Bureau, which in turn checked with the U.S. military, the official said, before closing the airport for three hours.</p>	<p>"Drone reports close airport at US air base in Japan, divert passenger flight" (Stars and Stripes)</p> <p>"Multiple drones affect airport takeoffs and landings at Iwatuni Kintaikyo Airport in Yamaguchi" (NHK)</p>

December 31, 2024

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
	FAA expands temporary drone flight restrictions from parts of 9 more towns.	The FAA announces new restrictions that apply to parts of Atlantic Highlands, Belford, Fort Hancock in Middletown, Highlands, Linden, Paulsboro, Port Reading in Woodbridge, South Kearny, and Westville. These areas join dozens of other municipalities already subject to FAA drone restrictions, which were introduced in December. The restrictions are scheduled to last for three weeks, but may be extended if deemed necessary.	<p>FAA expands drone flight restrictions in New Jersey (CBS)</p> <p>Drones banned in more New Jersey towns by FAA: See the updated list (NorthJersey.com)</p>

January 2025

January 3, 2025

LOCATION	EVENT	DETAILS	SOURCES
----------	-------	---------	---------

Suffolk County, NY	Officials in Suffolk County unveil new efforts to counter “ever-increasing” drone sightings over restricted airspace.	<p>Suffolk County Sheriff Dr. Eric Toulon Jr: “On December 13th, 1 drone was spotted outside the Gabreski Airport space. On December 17th, 4 drones were sighted in and around the airspace. On December 24th, 6 drones were reported. And on Christmas Day, December 25th, 17 drones were reported, 13 hovering around the airspace and 3 immediately outside the airspace.”</p> <p>Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine: “The ones we’re talking about could be 20 times larger than this [consumer drone], sometimes as large as a car... This is an ever-increasing problem.. I know my colleague in Nassau County jokingly suggested we should shoot them down. That’s not an option. These things, when they fall from the sky, pose grave danger. “</p>	FULL BRIEFING: New York Officials Detail New Efforts To Deal With Drone Security Risks (Forbes)
--------------------	---	---	---