

Hi George:

I am delighted to see you are engaged as usual in trying to ensure the facts get out on the topic of UFOs. Your efforts have helped transform what was once considered taboo into an important, increasingly mainstream national security and scientific issue. In response to your question, yes it was TTSA that engaged Congress and made the introductions to military aviators that lead to a series of briefings on the Hill, initially for staffers and later for members, resulting in this pending change of policy within the Navy. Once more senior Navy personnel became involved they too realized it was indefensible not to have a system that would encourage reporting and also allow them to follow up with individual pilots for intelligence collection purposes. I was present at discussions where Navy promised members and staff to fix this. We only took this initiative however after several approaches to senior DoD officials close to General Mattis. When those efforts failed, however we realized that the best way to influence DoD was indirectly through the press and Congress.

As you know, I worked on the Hill for over a decade. Even though I left in 2004, some of my former colleagues were still employed there, so I was able to meet with them, make introductions to Lue and Navy personnel, and begin the process of revealing information that had been smothered by an indifferent bureaucracy since at least 2015. But the process only worked because first and foremost some brave Navy personnel, both active duty and retired, were willing to stick their necks out politically and speak up. Kudos as well to the staffers who also risked ridicule to do the right thing by examining the data and listening to our men and women in uniform. Finally, the Department of the Navy deserves our thanks, they were very helpful and arranged transportation for the young active duty pilots willing to meet with the Congressional oversight committees. Everyone involved remained highly professional throughout the process. It was also an utterly non-partisan process, a discussion solely about national security.

Thanks,

~Chris (Mellon)