

[Skip to main content](#)[Skip to navigation](#)[Skip to navigation](#)

[The Observer](#)[World news](#)

🕒 This article is more than 17 years old

Nasa told to solve 'UFO crash' X-File

This article is more than 17 years old

Richard Luscombe in Miami

Sun 11 Nov 2007 23.43 GMT

Share

For four decades, residents of the tiny [Pennsylvania](#) town of Kecksburg have told their story of strange blue lights in the sky one winter's evening and a fireball crashing into woods.

On 9 December, 1965, they say, they saw armed soldiers cordoning off the area and a large metallic acorn-shaped object bearing strange hieroglyphics driven off at speed on the back of a lorry. They talk of menacing plain-clothes officials visiting homes and warning local people not to tell anyone of what they saw.

Register: it's quick and easy

It's still free to read – this is not a paywall

We're committed to keeping our quality reporting open. By registering and providing us with insight into your preferences, you're helping us to engage with you more deeply, and that allows us to keep our journalism free for all. You'll always be able to control your own [privacy settings](#).

[Register for free](#) [I'll do it later](#)

Have a subscription? Made a contribution? Already registered?

[Sign In](#)

[Why register & how does it help?](#)[How will my information & data be used?](#)[Get help with registering or signing in](#)

Until now the US government has denied that anything sinister took place. It has maintained that a thorough search of the woods by the air force, the only federal agency to have acknowledged it was there, found nothing. But now [Nasa](#) has been ordered to examine its X-Files to solve the mystery.

Steve McConnell, Nasa's public liaison officer, has admitted two boxes of papers from the time of the Kecksburg incident are missing. The episode has parallels to the 1947 Roswell incident, when a UFO was said to have landed in New Mexico.

'For so many years, a lot of good people in Pennsylvania were told by their government that what they had to say was a lie or that they were hallucinating,' said Leslie Kean, a journalist who launched a lawsuit four years ago to force Nasa to open its archives.

Washington judge Emmett Sullivan refused to accept Nasa's claim that the papers had been lost. He gave it until the end of the year to examine its records. 'Something came down that night,' said Kean.

'Nasa has been stonewalling and now it's required to do the search it didn't do in the first place. It's a victory for those patriotic people who didn't like being told that they were making things up.'

Stan Gordon, a UFO investigator living close to the site, interviewed several witnesses. He said: 'It's interesting that [witnesses say] it was made of one solid piece of metal with no panels or rivets, and that it was moving relatively slowly and made almost a controlled landing.

'I have no doubt the government knows a lot more about this than it has revealed to the public.'

Explore more on these topics

- [World news](#)
- [The Observer](#)
- [Space](#)

- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [UFOs](#)
- [Nasa](#)

[Share](#)

[Reuse this content](#)

Most viewed

Most viewed

- [World](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [US](#)
- [Americas](#)
- [Asia](#)
- [Australia](#)
- [Middle East](#)
- [Africa](#)
- [Inequality](#)
- [Global development](#)

- [News](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Culture](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)

Original reporting and incisive analysis, direct from the Guardian every morning

[Sign up for our email](#)

- [About us](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Complaints & corrections](#)
- [SecureDrop](#)
- [Work for us](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Cookie policy](#)
- [Terms & conditions](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [All topics](#)
- [All writers](#)
- [Modern Slavery Act](#)
- [Tax strategy](#)
- [Digital newspaper archive](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Advertise with us](#)
- [Guardian Labs](#)
- [Search jobs](#)
- [Patrons](#)

[Back to top](#)

© 2025 Guardian News & Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved. (dcr)



