



Tech > Science

HOUSTON, WE HAVE AN ADMISSION

Meet the Nasa astronauts who believe aliens are visiting Earth and communicating with humanity

Find out about the UFO sightings and extraterrestrial experiences of the world's most famous space explorers

[jasper hamill](#)

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YOU might think that the only people who believe in aliens are forum-dwelling internet conspiracy theorists.

But it turns out a lot of Nasa astronauts also think [extraterrestrials are real](#) and that they have [been in touch with humanity](#) for a long time.



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Edgar Mitchell pictured during a moon landing in 1971

Credit: Getty Images

At least four celebrated spacemen have become famous for their outspoken beliefs about the [existence of extraterrestrials](#).

Some have seen UFOs soaring through the sky, while others claim to have been tipped off about alien contact by military top brass.

Here are four Nasa astronauts who believe aliens are real.

Edgar Mitchell



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Credit: Reuters

In 1971, Mitchell became the sixth person to walk on the moon.

But he spent the rest of his life convinced that “aliens have been observing us and have been here for some time”.

He once claimed that peace-loving aliens had visited Earth on a mission to save humanity from nuclear war and [suggested the Vatican knows the truth about the existence of extraterrestrials](#).

Mitchell also alleged that UFOs had been seen above nuke bases and often disabled the missiles held within Cold War-era weapons silos.

The spaceman firmly believed the American government covered up the famous Roswell incident in 1947, when a flying disc allegedly crashed near a small town in New Mexico.

“The reason for the denial is they didn’t know if they [the aliens] were hostile and they didn’t want the Soviets to know so they devised to lie about it and

Soviets to know so they devised to lie about it and cover it up," [he reportedly said](#).

Gordon Cooper



Credit: Getty Images



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Credit: Getty Images North America

Cooper was one of the seven astronauts who took part in Project Mercury, the first American manned mission which ran from 1958 until 1963.

The craft he piloted was dubbed "spam in a can" because it was automatically controlled, rather than piloted by the astronauts on board.

But even before he underwent the life changing experience of becoming the first man to sleep in space, he claimed to have seen UFOs flying over Germany in 1951.

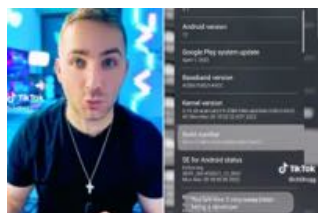
The spaceman also said he saw flying saucers spying on a secret airbase where experimental American aircraft were being tested.

"I believe that these extraterrestrial vehicles and their crews are visiting this planet from other planets, which are a little more technically advanced than we are on Earth," [he told the UN in 1984.](#)

"We may first have to show them that we have learned how to resolve our problems by peaceful means rather than warfare, before we are accepted as fully qualified universal team members.

"Their acceptance will have tremendous possibilities of advancing our world in all areas."

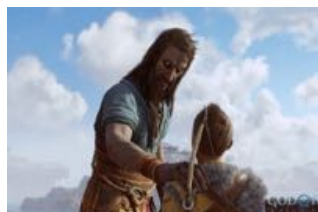
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Deke Slayton

Slayton was also part of Project Mercury, before enjoying an illustrious career which saw him serve as NASA's Director of Flight Crew Operations.

But he also reportedly saw a UFO in 1951.

“It looked like a saucer sitting at a 45-degree angle,”
[he said, according to the Daily Star.](#)

“I didn’t have any cameras otherwise I would have shot some pictures.

“At that time – for whatever reason – it just took off climbing and just accelerated and disappeared.”

Brian O'Leary

He never made it into space, but he was one of 11 astronauts named for a possible Nasa Mars mission in the 1960s.

Later in his life, O'Leary had a near-death experience which changed his perspective on life and reality.

Dr. O'Leary, who became respected physics professor at Princeton University after leaving Nasa, said: "There is abundant evidence that we are being contacted.

Civilizations have been monitoring us for a very long time and that their appearance is bizarre from any type of traditional materialistic western point of

type of traditional materialistic western point of view."

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