

## SETA Manual v1.0

### Scientific Exploration & Transparency in Anomalies

#### A Program by The Black Vault

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## INTRODUCTION

For over 75 years, humanity has grappled with a mystery in our skies. Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP)—commonly referred to as UFOs—have been observed by military pilots, recorded by advanced sensors, and witnessed by ordinary citizens around the globe. Despite widespread interest and numerous investigations, these phenomena remain largely unexplained.

The Scientific Exploration & Transparency in Anomalies (SETA) initiative is a transformative response to this enduring mystery. Created by The Black Vault, SETA is an open-source scientific framework that seeks to approach the UFO/UAP subject with discipline, transparency, and neutrality. It is designed to be a public resource: a methodology, a platform, and a movement, available to anyone willing to engage with the unknown through rigorous science.

Unlike many previous efforts, SETA is grounded in a belief that truth must emerge from verifiable evidence, not ideology. It encourages skeptical inquiry, but also demands open-mindedness. SETA leverages both traditional scientific principles and the accelerating capabilities of artificial intelligence, data analytics, and crowd-sourced collaboration. This manual outlines how the program works—and invites participation from around the world.

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## PART 1: PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

### 1.1 SETA's Mission

To establish a unified, publicly accessible scientific framework for investigating UAP, ensuring that all data, evidence, and conclusions are documented, peer-reviewed, and openly available for analysis.

### 1.2 SETA's Core Values

- **Scientific Integrity:** Hypotheses must be testable; conclusions must be replicable.
- **Transparency:** All findings, methods, and source data are made public.
- **Neutrality:** No preconceived explanations are favored.

- **Collaboration:** Contributions are welcome from credentialed professionals and committed citizen scientists alike.
- **Evidence First:** All conclusions are based on physical, measurable data.

### 1.3 SETA is Not:

- A belief system
- A disclosure campaign
- A commercial venture
- A government proxy or denial mechanism

SETA exists solely to bring scientific rigor to one of the most important unanswered questions of our time.

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## PART 2: METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Foundation in the Scientific Method

Each investigation conducted under SETA must adhere to a strict application of the scientific method:

- **Observation:** Record events without assumption or bias.
- **Hypothesis Formation:** Ask specific, testable questions about the phenomenon.
- **Data Collection:** Gather sensor, photographic, video, and physical evidence.
- **Analysis:** Use validated tools and established models to interpret data.
- **Peer Review:** Submit findings for critique and reproduction by independent experts.
- **Conclusion and Publication:** Share outcomes and preserve raw data.

### 2.2 Incorporation of Artificial Intelligence

SETA will also experiment with the use of AI:

- Visual anomaly detection in video/image files
- Metadata analysis and pattern recognition
- Natural language processing of large text-based witness reports
- Cross-correlation of radar logs with civilian sightings

All AI contributions are subject to human oversight and verification.

## 2.3 Categories of Evidence

SETA recognizes several types of evidence:

- **Visual:** Photos, videos, eyewitness sketches
  - **Sensor-Based:** Radar, FLIR, EM field data, acoustic signatures
  - **Physical:** Ground impressions, trace materials, debris (with chain of custody)
  - **Environmental:** Animal behavior, EM interference, weather anomalies
  - **Anecdotal:** Witness testimony (used as supporting data only)
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## PART 3: CASE CLASSIFICATION AND TAGGING

### 3.1 Classification Levels

SETA classifies each case into one of four categories:

- **IAP (Identified Aerial Phenomena)** – The case has been explained through evidence (e.g., satellite, aircraft, weather event).
- **PA (Provisional Anomaly)** – The case remains unexplained but lacks sufficient quality or completeness for scientific analysis.
- **SU (Scientific Unknown)** – The case exhibits anomalous characteristics, is well-documented, and merits further peer-reviewed investigation.
- **H/E (Hoax/Error)** – The case has been found to be intentionally fabricated or the result of a documented misinterpretation.

### 3.2 Grading Matrix

Cases are assigned a preliminary confidence score:

- **Data Integrity (0–5)**
- **Sensor Confirmation (0–5)**
- **Independent Corroboration (0–5)**
- **Analytical Clarity (0–5)**
- **Replicability (0–5) Total Confidence Score: /25**

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## PART 4: EVIDENCE HANDLING & CHAIN OF CUSTODY

### 4.1 Digital Evidence Protocols

- Original files only (.RAW, .NEF, .MP4, etc.)
- Include all metadata and camera settings
- No filters, editing, or compression unless fully disclosed
- Files must be hash-verified (SHA-256 preferred)

### 4.2 Physical Sample Management

- Use approved collection kits (gloves, sterile containers)
- Label with GPS location, time, collector ID
- Temperature-controlled transport/storage when applicable
- Document chain of custody at each transfer point

### 4.3 Sensor Data

- Clearly log equipment specifications, firmware, and calibration
- Use synchronized time sources across multiple sensors if available
- Encourage submission of ATC radar logs via FOIA or partnership with aviation authorities

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## PART 5: CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES

### 5.1 Volunteer Roles

SETA welcomes contributors in the following roles:

- **Field Investigators:** On-site data collectors trained in SETA methodology
- **Image/Video Analysts:** Experts in authentication and forensics
- **Data Scientists:** Responsible for AI training, modeling, and review
- **Archivists:** Organize, format, and publish records
- **Peer Reviewers:** Credentialed individuals offering scientific critiques

## **5.2 Training Requirements**

SETA provides modular, self-paced training on:

- Ethics and neutrality
- Scientific methods
- Evidence preservation
- Witness interviewing
- Technical tools (drones, cameras, sensors)

Certification is awarded to qualified volunteers who complete and pass the program.

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## **PART 6: CASE SUBMISSION PROCESS**

### **6.1 Standardized Intake Form**

All new submissions must be filed using the official SETA Case Report Template. Required fields include:

- Time and location of event
- Witness narrative
- Media attachments
- Equipment used
- Suggested classification

### **6.2 Automated Triage System**

Submissions are auto-tagged and queued by:

- Completeness
- Type of evidence
- Confidence indicators

### **6.3 Review Pathways**

- Low-confidence cases are published as archival references
- High-confidence and SU candidates are escalated to peer review

- Hoaxes are flagged and stored with commentary
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## **PART 7: REVIEW, PEER EVALUATION, AND UPDATES**

### **7.1 Blind Peer Review Option**

Cases undergoing scientific review may be anonymized to reduce bias.

### **7.2 Community Commentary**

Published cases include an open feedback module for qualified users to offer interpretations, counter-evidence, or supporting data.

### **7.3 Living Case Files**

As new evidence emerges or technologies improve, cases may be updated with:

- Re-analysis
- Updated classification
- Additional witness accounts
- Media reprocessing (e.g., AI-enhanced deblurring)

All versions are preserved for transparency.

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## **PART 8: DATA ACCESS AND REUSE**

### **8.1 Public Archive**

Each case file contains:

- Narrative summary
- Attached media
- Data tables and logs
- Classification history
- Peer review notes (if applicable)

### **8.2 Licensing**

SETA uses Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licensing. Users may reuse, remix, or republish content with attribution.

### **8.3 API Access**

Researchers may apply for access to a structured dataset for analysis, machine learning, or academic study.

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## **PART 9: LONG-TERM PROGRAM EVOLUTION**

### **9.1 Versioning and Community Development**

All processes, forms, and manuals will be version-controlled and community-reviewed through The Black Vault's GitHub repository.

### **9.2 SETA Journal**

A twice-yearly open-access journal will feature:

- Technical case studies
- Scientific hypotheses and rebuttals
- Metadata frameworks
- Emerging trends and analyses

### **9.3 Institutional and Public Collaboration**

SETA will actively seek partnerships with:

- Universities and research labs
  - Independent experts
  - Museums and educational institutions
  - Transparency organizations and watchdogs
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## **PART 10: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS**

### **10.1 Transparency as a Duty**

All research, especially on controversial topics, should be fully documented and open to challenge.

### **10.2 Belief-Neutral Ground**

SETA is not a forum for affirming or denying belief in extraterrestrial intelligence, government coverups, or spiritual phenomena. It is a science-based system for structured investigation.

### **10.3 Ethics in Field Investigation**

- Obtain consent when interviewing witnesses
- Never alter or coerce testimony
- Respect privacy and anonymity
- Report findings honestly, even if inconclusive or unexpected

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### **FINAL STATEMENT**

SETA is not just a system for classifying UFO reports. It is an experiment in what happens when we apply the highest standards of science to one of the most enduring mysteries of our time. Whether the answer lies in conventional aerospace, undiscovered natural phenomena, or something truly extraordinary—SETA exists to help find out.

Everyone is welcome. All that is required is a respect for evidence, a willingness to ask hard questions, and a commitment to truth.

Welcome to the frontier. Welcome to SETA.

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**END OF SETA MANUAL v1.0**