

The Apollo 20 Conspiracy: Evidence, Hoax, or Classified Mission?

The **Apollo 20 "mission"** is one of the most controversial UFO/space conspiracy theories, alleging a **secret U.S.-Soviet lunar expedition in 1976** to investigate an **ancient alien spacecraft** on the Moon. Here's what we know—and what's debunked.

1. The Core Claim (William Rutledge's Story)

In **2007**, a man named **William Rutledge** (claiming to be a retired astronaut) posted videos on YouTube alleging:

- **Apollo 20 (1976)** was a **joint U.S.-Soviet mission** (despite the Cold War).
- Target: A **1.5-mile-long "cigar-shaped" spacecraft** photographed by Apollo 15 near **Delporte Crater**.
- **Discovery:**
- A **female humanoid "pilot"** (dubbed *"Mona Lisa"*) in suspended animation.
- **Alien technology** recovered and brought to Earth.

2. Evidence Presented (And Its Validity)

A. The "Alien Mothership" Photo (Apollo 15 Frame AS15-P-9625)

- **What's Real:**
- NASA's public archive shows a **strange elongated object** on the Moon.
- Mainstream explanation: **Play of light/shadow on a crater ridge**.
- **Conspiracy Take:**
- Rutledge claims it's a **dormant alien ship** covered in lunar dust.

B. The "Mona Lisa" Alien Video

- **What's Shown:**
- A **humanoid figure with three eyes**, seemingly in a cockpit.
- Grainy, VHS-style footage (claimed to be from Apollo 20).
- **Debunking:**
- **Proven to be a hoax**—the "alien" matches a **1976 sci-fi prop** (from *The Man Who Fell to Earth*).
- No NASA/Soviet records confirm such a mission.

C. Rutledge's Identity

- **Claims:** Ex-NASA, worked with **Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov**.
- **Reality:**
- **No record** of a "William Rutledge" in NASA's astronaut corps.
- **Leonov denied** involvement before his death.

3. Why Do People Believe It?

1. **NASA's Classified Apollo Files**

- Some Apollo missions (*18–20*) were **canceled publicly**—but were they repurposed?

2. **Soviet Cooperation**

- The U.S. and USSR **did collaborate** on space projects later (e.g., Apollo-Soyuz).

3. **Other Lunar Anomalies**

- The "Shard," "Tower," and other oddities in NASA photos fuel speculation.

4. The Most Likely Truth

- **Apollo 20 Was Never Real** – No U.S. or Soviet documentation supports it.

- **The "Spaceship" is a Geological Formation** – Pareidolia (seeing faces in rocks).

- **Rutledge Was a Hoaxer** – Possibly a **film student or CGI artist**.

5. The Bigger Picture

Even if Apollo 20 is fake, **why did NASA abandon the Moon?**

- **Budget cuts** (most likely).

- **Fear of what they found?** (Unlikely, but fun to speculate.)

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**"The real secret isn't Apollo 20—it's why we never went back."*



Want to Dig Deeper?

- Watch: *"Apollo 20: The Disclosure"* (hoax documentary).

- Search: ***"NASA Delporte Crater anomaly"***.

- Read: *Dark Mission* (Richard Hoagland's take on lunar secrets).