

UFO UpDates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena
'Its All Here In Black & White'

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The Black Triangle

From: Terry W. Colvin <fortean1.nul>
Date: Fri, 1 Feb 2013 00:57:49 -0500 (EST)
Archived: Fri, 01 Feb 2013 06:48:14 -0500
Subject: The Black Triangle

Source: Fortean Times 295

December 2012

Letters, p. 73

The Black Triangle

I currently live in the relatively sedate borough of Sutton-Coldfield in the suburbs of Birmingham. My home lies directly under the flight path for Birmingham International, and having lived in the area all my life, I hardly notice the continual roar of low-flying passenger jets -- although I firmly believe 'our' airspace may also be being used for a far more clandestine form of aviation traffic. Over the last five years, there have been over a dozen sightings of an aircraft apparently bearing little resemblance to conventional aviation design. These sightings appear to be linked -- in so far as the witnesses consistently report a black, triangular craft, with a light at each of the three corners, and which moves at great velocity without making any jet or piston-engine noise. In almost every case the sightings are accidental, as a result of the vehicle travelling at incredibly low altitude -- usually at night, leaving little opportunity to video or photograph the object in flight.

One such incident was reported in our local newspaper (*Sutton Observer*, 2010). I contacted the paper, stating that their initial conclusion concerning little green (or grey) men might be a little too left-field. A few lines of my letter were printed in a follow-up article the following week, where I expanded on my initial theory, stating that far from witnessing extraterrestrial UFOs, what might actually be happening is the test flying of advanced experimental military reconnaissance aircraft. I briefly mention project 'Manta' and the SR91 etc, and how some of these supposed hypersonic aircraft might be using experimental propulsion technology other than pulse-detonation engines, allowing the aircraft to cancel out the detrimental effects of gravity and inertia, thus enabling such radical velocity and rate of turn. I didn't expect to be invited to expand further, as UFO folklore is hardly a staple of my local newspaper. However, that same week they received a similar reply, mirroring my own hypothesis. The writer stated that he was involved in the construction of these 'machines' in California, and that the ones he worked on were far larger versions designed for military use, as opposed to the one in question, which he believed to be an unmanned drone. Considering the man had emailed from California, he seemed remarkably well informed about the happenings in Sutton-Coldfield; although perhaps he was a former resident reading the paper via the Internet. Who knows? I hope I can gain a more in-depth insight into this mysterious aircraft, witnessed not just in my own backyard, but apparently across the globe. I look forward to further enlightenment.

Simon Deeming
By email

Terry W. Colvin
Ladphrao (Bangkok), Thailand
Pran Buri (Hua Hin), Thailand
<http://terrycolvin.freewebsites.com/>
[Terry's Fortean & "Work" itty-bitty site]

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More On Optical Space Surveillance History

From: Terry W. Colvin <fortean1.nul>
Date: Fri, 1 Feb 2013 13:15:21 +0700 (GMT+07:00)
Archived: Fri, 01 Feb 2013 06:55:04 -0500
Subject: More On Optical Space Surveillance History

(USAF Radar Station Veterans)
Update on Optical Space Surveillance History
Thu Jan 31, 2013 9:03 am (PST) .

Posted by: "chickshackewyc" chickshackewyc@

When Aerospace Defense Command was decommission SAC picked up what was then known as Strategic Defense which included Missile Warning and Space Surveillance systems. I was stationed at SACCA Headquarters in 1980 and our office was responsible for the oversight of the maintenance and logistics of the following programs:

Baker Nunn
GEODSS
Cobra Dane
PARCS
PAVE PAWS
FPS-85
DSP
MGS

FYI
Neither Baker Nunn nor GEODSS were ever on Ascension Island

Ascension was always a radar tracking station.

Baker Nunn Camera Network
A special satellite tracking camera, designed by James G. Baker and Joseph Nunn, was installed at twelve camera stations around the world between 36 degrees north and 36 degrees south of the equator.

Stations were located at:

Jupiter, Florida (closed in 1967)

Organ Pass, New Mexico (moved to Mount Hopkins, Arizona, in 1968)
Maui, Hawaii

Curacao, Netherlands West Indies (moved to Natal, Brazil, in 1966)
Arequipa, Peru

Villa Dolores, Argentina (moved to Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina, in 1966)

Shiraz, Iran (moved to Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, in 1966)

Olifantsfontein, South Africa

Naini Tal, India

San Fernando, Spain; Tokyo, Japan (closed in 1968) and Woomera, Australia (moved to the Space Research Site at Island Lagoon, Australia, in 1964).

Cooperative programs enabled Satellite Tracking Program to track satellites at United States Air Force stations at:

Oslo, Norway,

Johnston Island

Kwajalein Island

The Royal Canadian Air Force Station were at Cold Lake, Alberta

Harvard University's station was at Agassiz Station

The geodetic station was at the National Technical University of Athens, Greece.

GEODSS Network

Ground-based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance, or GEODSS, is an optical system that uses telescopes, low-light level TV cameras, and computers. It replaced an older system of six 20 inch (half meter) Baker-Nunn cameras using photographic film. There are three operational GEODSS sites that report to the 21st Operations Group:

Socorro, New Mexico

Maui, Hawaii

Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory

A site at Choe Jong San, South Korea was closed in 1993 due to nearby smog from the town, weather and cost concerns.

Originally, the fifth GEODSS was planned to be operated from a site in Portugal, but this was never built.

A mobile telescope that contributes to the GEODSS system is located at Mor=C3=B3n Air Base, Spain

Chick Shackewyc
USAF, SMSgt Ret.
Missile Warning & Space Surveillance Systems

Terry W. Colvin
Ladphrao (Bangkok), Thailand
Pran Buri (Hua Hin), Thailand
<http://terrycolvin.freewebsites.com/>
[Terry's Fortean & "Work" itty-bitty site]

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UFO Congress Early Registration Ends Feb. 4th

From: Open Minds Production <Open_Minds_Production.nul>
Date: Fri, 01 Feb 2013 23:33:08 +0000
Archived: Sat, 02 Feb 2013 06:31:01 -0500
Subject: UFO Congress Early Registration Ends Feb. 4th

Last chance for discounted rates to the 2013 International UFO Congress! Early registration ends February 4th!

The International UFO Congress is the largest annual conference on UFOs, the search for extraterrestrial life, and related phenomena. The event runs from February 26 =E2=80=93 March 3rd, 2013 in Arizona.

After February 4, 2013, the early bird registration reduced rates will end. Prices will go up for all package rates starting on February 5th. In order to get the reduced rates, payment must be received by February 4th at 11:59 P.M.

The International UFO Congress Convention and Film Festival will be an event to remember as we bring some of the best minds in ufology together for the third year at the Fort McDowell Resort in beautiful Fountain Hills, Arizona.

Take advantage of discount package rates here or by calling 480-302-2118 to register over the phone.

2013 International UFO Congress Brochure

The brochure for the 2013 International UFO Congress is now available which has all the pertinent information including speaker schedules, rates, hotel information and registration information. View at UFOCongress.com

Thanks,

Open Minds

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Crop Circles More Than Just Modern Pranks?

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Sun, 03 Feb 2013 07:02:55 -0500
Archived: Sun, 03 Feb 2013 07:02:55 -0500
Subject: Crop Circles More Than Just Modern Pranks?

Source: Time Magazine

<http://tinyurl.com/a8do3sl>

Feb. 02, 2013

Are Crop Circles More Than Just Modern Pranks?
By Yue Wang

A Tasmanian historian used Google Earth images to argue that crop circles, which are often dismissed as jokes taken too far, are not simply a modern hoax, according to the Huffington Post.

Many were persuaded that the intriguing circles were nothing more than pranks when two British men, David Chorley and Doug Bower, revealed in 1991 that they, under the cover of darkness and armed with wooden planks and barrels, had been creating circles across the wheat fields of southern England since 1978.

The two " jovial con men in their 60s," as described by a local newspaper at the time of the revelation, demonstrated in front of groups of journalists how they trampled out the patterns that were often attributed to aliens, reported the New York Times.

But historian Greg Jefferys, who has a degree in archaeology, says he has new evidence that not all crop circles have a human origin.

[More at site... thanks to Diana Cammack for the lead]

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Troggs' Reg Presley Passes

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2013 08:06:16 -0500
Archived: Tue, 05 Feb 2013 08:06:16 -0500
Subject: Troggs' Reg Presley Passes

Presley was one of thee first to publicly reveal the existance of the 'Alien Autopsy' film in 1995 - See:

<http://www.ufoupdateslist.com/digest/DIGEST15.TXT>

ebk

Source: interaksyon.com

<http://tinyurl.com/b3x3lne>

February 5, 2013

'Wild Thing' Singer Reg Presley Dies At 71
By: Agence France-Presse

InterAksyon.com
The online news portal of TV5

LONDON - Reg Presley, lead singer of British 1960s rock band The Troggs, has died aged 71, a friend said late Monday.

Presley, best known for hits including "Wild Thing" and "Love Is All Around," had announced a year ago that he was battling cancer and would retire from the band.

Veteran music journalist Keith Altham, a close friend of Presley's, wrote on his Facebook page that the singer had died "surrounded by family and friends" on Monday at his home in Andover, southeast England.

"My dear old pal Reg Presley of The Troggs died today," he wrote.

"He was one very real person in a sometimes very unreal world. Our thoughts are with his wife Brenda and the the family and those legion of fans who loved his music and his band. I will miss him hugely."

He added that the singer had suffered a number of recent strokes as well as being diagnosed with cancer.

Presley's daughter Karen told the music website WENN: "He passed away peacefully at home and myself, my brother and our mother were with him. We're absolutely heartbroken."

The singer had announced his retirement in January 2012 after he was taken ill during a gig in Germany the previous month.

"During my stay in hospital tests showed that in fact I have lung cancer," he wrote in a letter posted on the band's website.

"I am receiving chemotherapy treatment and at the moment not

feeling too bad.

"However I've had to call time on The Troggs and retire. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the cards and calls and for your love, loyalty and support over the years."

The Troggs' manager did not immediately respond when contacted by AFP.

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Researcher Urges Vets To Divulge UFO Sightings

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2013 08:14:04 -0500
Archived: Tue, 05 Feb 2013 08:14:04 -0500
Subject: Researcher Urges Vets To Divulge UFO Sightings

Source: PRNewswire-USNewswire

<http://tinyurl.com/axdkxfh>

Jan. 30, 2013

Researcher Urges U.S. Military Veterans To Divulge Their UFO Sightings At Nuclear Weapons Sites

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Noted UFO researcher Robert Hastings is asking U.S. military veterans to contact him regarding their UFO-related experiences at nuclear missile sites, weapons storage areas, and atomic/thermonuclear bomb test sites during the Cold War era and beyond.

On September 27, 2010, Hastings co-sponsored the UFOs and Nukes press conference at the National Press Club in Washington D.C., which CNN streamed live. The full-length video of the event may be viewed at:

<http://www.ufohastings.com/>.

During the press conference, seven U.S. Air Force veterans discussed UFO incursions at ICBM sites at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, and Walker AFB, New Mexico, as well as the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Bentwaters, England.

The incident at Malmstrom, on March 24, 1967, involved several missiles inexplicably malfunctioning moments after security personnel reported observing a glowing, disc-shaped craft hovering over the Oscar Flight Launch Control Facility. (Other UFO sightings by civilians living near the facility have been reported as recently as September 2012.)

Similar incidents have occurred at various ICBM bases over the years, according to other veterans interviewed by Hastings. UFOs also reportedly hovered over nuclear bomb storage areas and B-52 bomber alert pads. Declassified documents relating to some of these incidents may be read at

<http://www.ufohastings.com/documents>.

Currently, Hastings is chiefly interested in sightings occurring during the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, as well as those that took place over the past decade. However, he is also seeking information relating to any UFO sighting involving nuclear weapons. Hastings hopes to publish as many reports as possible, once they have been vetted, but requests for confidentiality will be honored.

Hastings notes that Soviet Army veterans have revealed cases of UFO activity at nuclear weapons sites in the former U.S.S.R. Those events have been confirmed by KGB and/or Ministry of Defense documents, including one occurring on October 4, 1982, during which nuclear missiles temporarily activated just as a disc-shaped craft hovered above them. Elsewhere, on July 28/29, 1989, another UFO hovered over a Soviet nuclear missile warhead

depot and directed laser-like beams onto it.

Hastings believes that the American people, and citizens of all nations, deserve to know the facts regarding the reality of UFOs and the ongoing situation involving our nuclear weapons. Military veteran testimony will greatly contribute to this objective. He may be contacted at ufohastings.nul

[More at site... thanks to Robert Hastings for the lead]

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Re: 1956 Radar Witness Report Manitoba Canada

From: Chris Rutkowski <canadianuforeport.nul>
Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2013 16:18:35 -0600
Archived: Tue, 05 Feb 2013 17:48:22 -0500
Subject: Re: 1956 Radar Witness Report Manitoba Canada

>From: Terry W. Colvin <fortean1.nul>
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <post.nul>
>Date: Mon, 28 Jan 2013 18:25:15 +0700 (GMT+07:00)
>Subject: 1956 Radar Witness Report Manitoba Canada

>Radar Report - 916th AC&W Site, Beausejour & Milner Ridge,
>Manitoba, Canada - Fall 1956

>This sighting from 1956 was in response to one of my Project Blue Book
>radar reports. It is an example of the unreported radar sightings.

>-----

>Lee,

>Thank you for your reply.

>The Fall of 1956 is a bit earlier than the U-2 program or at
>least before longer flights were accomplished. I picked this up
>from Wikipedia: The first flight occurred at the Groom Lake test
>site (Area 51) on August 1, 1955.

>There is probably no where to unofficially report an older UFO
>report. I could pass this along to the UFO UpDates mailing list.
>This would not have your name or identifying information.

>Maybe the HRI was the AN/FPS-6 in use at that time. See:

><http://tinyurl.com/b4szqmu>

>If I may I will send this along.

>Terry

>-----

>(USAF Radar Station Veterans)
>Re: Project Blue Book - Amplifying Air Intelligence Information Report
>Sun Jan 27, 2013 1:32 pm (PST)

>Posted by: "Lee" stookguy

>This is what I contributed to a researcher some years ago. When
>I saw the project Blue Book heading I decided to send this
>along.

>I was in the United States Air Force. I was stationed at the
>916th AC&W Site located near Beausejour and at Milner Ridge,
>Manitoba. It was in the fall of 1956 when this happened.

>You are probably wondering how an American was stationed there.
>During that era, we were in the middle of the cold war with the
>Warsaw Pact. Missiles were pointed over the pole and threats,
>real or imagined were on everyone=C2=92s mind.

>I was on duty in the radar operations building manning the
>scopes and calling in plots of aircraft in the area. I noticed a
>return in the Northeast quadrant approx 175 miles from the site.
>It was a strong return, therefore I was convinced it was an

>aircraft. The next trace showed it very far from the first plot.
>Since there was no other traffic in that area and seldom any was
>there, I suspected I had a false signal. In order to confirm, I
>checked the HRI (height/range indicator). In plotting the track
>thru dead reckoning, I saw the return at 75,000 feet. When it
>came up on the scope again, I set another dead reckon and
>spotted it again at the same altitude. The speed was in the
>range of 6,000 to 7,500 knots. That was faster than any known
>aircraft at the time.

>If I had not confirmed its location on the two independent
>systems, I would have just passed it off as a malfunction. I did
>track it for about 10 minutes. It flew a fairly straight course
>with some variation but always at the same altitude. The closest
>it came to our location was in the vicinity of MacArthur Falls
>area.

>I reported this to the controller who called it a malfunction. I
>did not think he was convinced until the next day when I was
>called in to his office and instructed not to disclose what I
>claimed to have seen.

>I have thought many times about what happened but rarely
>mentioned it for fear of being labeled some sort of nut.

>I am a rational, reasonably intelligent person who would gain
>nothing by fabricating this story.

Terry:

I wonder if I was the "researcher".

I had been putting notices in newspapers and visiting towns in
person looking for older reports.

As I noted in my blog a few years ago:

"In going through some old directories on a computer hard drive
before junking it, I found the following email that had been
bad-dated and was still "unread" in the Inbox. It was from 1995,
almost 15 years ago!"

The testimony is on my blog, word for word identical to what you
received:

<http://tinyurl.com/bpykg2x>

This report is in my database of about 500 Manitoba-only UFO
reports.

There are seven cases with the location "Beausejour," which is
just a short distance from the Milner Ridge radar station that
has now been converted into a medium-security prison.
Five of these cases are from CUFOS' original UFOCAT.

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Brandon's Roswell Claims New To Gates - Cox

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2013 17:58:40 -0500
Archived: Tue, 05 Feb 2013 17:58:40 -0500
Subject: Brandon's Roswell Claims New To Gates - Cox

Source: Billy Cox's Blog De Void

<http://tinyurl.com/b2nydru>

Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 12:40

Brandon's Roswell Claims New To Gates
by Billy Cox

Retired CIA director/Defense Secretary Robert Gates declined to directly challenge the Roswell UFO story told last summer by former Agency colleague Chase Brandon.

"I have a lot of respect for Chase", Gates said during a brief press conference prior to his scheduled talk at a Town Hall Forum in Sarasota today. "I've known Chase, as a martial arts instructor for the Agency, or was. So I'm not going to question Chase. I'm just telling you what I said."

But what Gates said, moments earlier, appeared to be a sharp repudiation of a story that went viral seven months ago during the 65th anniversary of the alleged UFO crash in New Mexico. Because if Brandon is correct, it would mean one the most powerful men in government has been denied access to what would surely qualify as the most profound national security challenge in American history.

In 2012, Brandon - the CIA's retired Hollywood liaison with 35 years of distinguished service - told Coast-to-Coast AM and The Huffington Post that he'd once discovered, inside the Agency's Historical Intelligence Collection, a box confirming the 1947 crash and recovery of spacecraft near Roswell, complete with official government documents and photos. "It was not a damn weather balloon - it was what it was billed as when people first reported it", Brandon insisted. "It was a craft that clearly did not come from this planet, it crashed, and I don't doubt for a second that the use of the word 'remains' and 'cadavers' was exactly what people were talking about."

Brandon said he stumbled across the file accidentally, during the mid-1990s, when President Clinton was attempting to locate information on Roswell. The CIA responded with a press release: "Our historians have found nothing in the Agency's holdings to corroborate Mr. Brandon's specific claims." But Brandon has not recanted his remarks.

[More at site...]

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Location: UFOUpDatesList.Com > [2013](#) > [Feb](#) > [Feb 7](#)

FBI Files - Searchable PDF Archive

From: Isaac Koi <isaackoi.nul>
Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2013 21:12:24 +0000
Archived: Thu, 07 Feb 2013 05:22:33 -0500
Subject: FBI Files - Searchable PDF Archive

I've uploaded searchable versions of FBI documents relevant to ufology to a directory at the link below.

By clicking on an option at the top right of that webpage, you can download all of these FBI files with a single click (which is considerably less time consuming than going to the individual links for each file on the FBI websites):

<https://www.box.com/s/cykarbqs0libthmw83me>

Due to the bandwidth problems that a couple of people encountered last time I previously posted (with the permission of the Canadian government) a popular collection of UFO documents on the Box.com file storage website, this time I've also uploaded the same FBI material to the "Skydrive" file storage website at the link below (which can, hopefully, also be downloaded easily by going to "Folder actions" on the top left of the screen and selecting "download folder"):

<http://sdrv.ms/TpBPYS>

The downloadable collection of PDF files at the links above is limited to documents from the FBI websites themselves (both the FBI's current "Vault" website and the FBI's previous FOIA website), but goes beyond the 16 files labelled "UFO" on the FBI website. This collection also includes the FBI files on NICAP (a UFO group), cattle mutilations, the MJ-12 documents, extrasensory perception, Carl Sagan, Nikola Tesla, Wilhelm Reich, Jack Parsons and Silas Newton.

Some highlights from that collection are given in my lengthy post at the link below. Various issues requiring follow-up action and research are also indicated (particularly in Part G and Part H.

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread924183/pg1>

That lengthy post is split into the following sections:

Part A: A brief introduction

Part B: Files labelled "UFO" from current FBI website

Part B1: Roswell and Hoover on access to "discs recovered" (1947)

Part B2: The toilet seat upset (1947)

Part B3: The Guy Hottel memo (1950)

Part B4: Were UFOs a secret military project?

Part B5: The Air Force and Men In Black

Part B6: Air Force "greatly concerned" memo (1952)

Part B7: Air Force at a "complete loss" memo (1952)

Part B8: FBI forensic examination in scoutmaster case (1952)

Part B9: Lonnie Zamora sighting at Socorro (1964)

Part B10: "Alien" photo in FBI files (1967)

Part B11: Other documents that caught my eye

Part B12: FBI responses to queries about its involvement in UFO investigations

Part C: Relevant files not labelled "UFO" from FBI current website

Part C1: Majestic 12
Part C2: Bluebook
Part C3: NICAP
Part C4: Roswell
Part C5: Guy Hottel
Part C6: Silas Newton
Part C7: Carl Sagan
Part C8: Cattle mutilations
Part C9: Extrasensory perception

Part D: Recovered additional files that used to be on the FBI website

Part D1: Jack Parsons
Part D2: Wilhelm Reich
Part D3: Nikola Tesla

Part E: Unrecovered additional files that used to be on the FBI website

Part E1: Philip Corso

Part F: Files on other websites purporting to be FBI releases

Part F1: Philip Corso
Part F2: J Allen Hynek
Part F3: Phil Klass
Part F4: L Ron Hubbard / Church of Scientology

Part G: Files not online purportedly released to some researchers

Part G1: Files listed by Nick Redfern
Part G2: Jan Aldrich's list
Part G3: Barry Greenwood's list

Part H: Conclusion

Part I: References

Part J: Postscript

All the files that I cover in Part B, Part C and Part D are available in the collection of FBI files at the link at the start of this page.

Those members familiar with the FBI documents relating to UFOs which are already available online are urged to head straight to Part F, (particularly) Part G and Part H (the Conclusion) of that lengthy post in the hope that the issues arising from those Parts can be taken forward.

The material in Part F and Part G (particularly the latter) should, at the very least, give some ideas for focused Freedom Of Information Act requests to the FBI, so that complete copies of the files mentioned in those categories can be added to the above collection of files.

Frankly, I think that ufology could benefit considerably from making more underlying documentation easily available in a searchable format.

Once downloaded, the entire directory of FBI files at the links above can be read or searched quickly and easily (together with, if you wish, archives of UFO discussion lists, various UFO magazines/journals, other official documents, UFO books, academic dissertations relating to UFOs etc) using a method I've previously outlined at:

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread762746/pg1>

Kind Regards,

Isaac

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Area 51 Viewer's Guide & Desert Rat

From: Isaac Koi <isaackoi.nul>
Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2013 21:24:13 +0000
Archived: Thu, 07 Feb 2013 05:27:17 -0500
Subject: Area 51 Viewer's Guide & Desert Rat

Area 51 Viewer's Guide & Desert Rat Newsletters - PDF Archive

Glenn Campbell made his Area 51 "Viewer's Guide" available as a free download a while ago. The PDF version he made available was not searchable, so I - as those of you paying attention may have guessed by now :) - created a searchable version. Glenn Campbell has now uploaded the searchable version to his Area 51 blog:

<http://tinyurl.com/a5kytes>

On a related topic, the Desert Rat newsletter was an online newsletter relating to Area 51 written by Glenn Campbell in 1994-1997. HTML copies of that publication are on Glenn Campbell's old website at the link below:

<http://aliensonearth.com/area51/desertrat/>

I've created a searchable PDF document containing these issues.

Glenn Campbell has kindly indicated he has no objection to my sharing this PDF archive. The searchable PDF archive is at:

<http://minus.com/mbagSpncFT>

All the best,

Isaac

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Re: Isaac Koi's UFO UpDates Archive PDF

From: Isaac Koi <isaackoi.nul>
Date: Thu, 7 Feb 2013 11:44:14 +0000
Archived: Thu, 07 Feb 2013 07:57:46 -0500
Subject: Re: Isaac Koi's UFO UpDates Archive PDF

On Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 12:08 PM, UFO UpDates - Toronto
<post.nul>wrote:

<snip>

>More storage locations will guarantee that many years of UFO
>History will likely outlast myself and anything that happens to
>the on-line List Archive. A comforting thought.

I've updated the PDF archive of posts to the UFO Updates email
List to include material posted up to 31 December 2012 (i.e. a
year more than the previous archive).

I've uploaded the updated Archive to the Skydrive file storage
website at the link below. The entire updated archive can,
hopefully, be downloaded quickly and easily by going to "Folder
actions" on the top left of the screen and selecting "download
folder":

<http://tinyurl.com/aljkb5l>

Kind Regards,

Isaac

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Re: FBI Files - Searchable PDF Archive

From: Robert Powell <rpowell.nul>
Date: Thu, 07 Feb 2013 10:51:04 -0600
Archived: Thu, 07 Feb 2013 16:41:26 -0500
Subject: Re: FBI Files - Searchable PDF Archive

>From: Isaac Koi <isaackoi.nul>
>To: post.nul
>Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2013 21:12:24 +0000
>Subject: FBI Files - Searchable PDF Archive

>Those members fairly familiar with the FBI documents relating to
>UFOs which are already available online are urged to head
>straight to Part F, (particularly) Part G and Part H (the
>Conclusion) of that lengthy post in the hope that the issues
>arising from those Parts can be taken forward.

>The material in Part F and Part G (particularly the latter)
>should, at the very least, give some ideas for focused Freedom
>Of Information Act requests to the FBI, so that complete copies
>of the files mentioned in those categories can be added to the
>above collection of files.

>Frankly, I think that ufology could benefit considerably from
>making more underlying documentation easily available in a
>searchable format.

Isaac, you should be commended for your work here. Thank you.

I have not had much luck with FOIAs sent to the FBI. For example, there is a 7-8-1947 FBI memo about the Air Force's uncovering of material at Roswell. I sent a FOIA asking for other followup documents related to that original document. They responded that those docs "have already been properly reviewed and withheld to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act."

Robert

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UFO Sightings During Atomic Testing In French

From: **Robert Hastings** <ufohastings.nul>
Date: Thu, 7 Feb 2013 14:31:26 -0500 (EST)
Archived: Fri, 08 Feb 2013 06:57:19 -0500
Subject: UFO Sightings During Atomic Testing In French

All,

I interviewed a new ex-USAF source last week.

February 7, 2013

UFOs Observed by U.S. Air Force Security Guards During French Atomic Testing in Algeria

On January 30, 2013, I issued my latest press release, titled "Researcher Urges U.S. Military Veterans to Divulge Their UFO Sightings at Nuclear Weapons Sites". My hope was/is that persons who had not yet gone on-the-record about their UFO experiences would contact me at ufohastings.nul

The first to do so, Larry Rogers, has provided an unexpected glimpse into UFO activity during the period of French atomic testing in the Sahara desert in the early 1960s. I have twice interviewed Mr. Rogers on the telephone and he has provided his DD214 military service record, which verifies his presence at a U.S. Air Force base in North Africa during that era.

Read more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/bfbnpk2>

Robert
ufohastings.nul

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At:

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Billions Of Earth-Like Planets Near Earth

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 07:39:48 -0500
Archived: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 07:39:48 -0500
Subject: Billions Of Earth-Like Planets Near Earth

Source: HuffingtonPost.Com

<http://tinyurl.com/a3wahhz>

02/06/2013

Kepler Space Telescope Data Reveals Billions Of Earth-Like Planets Near Earth
Lee Spiegel

If ET phones home today, his long distance charge might not be as much as people believed when Steven Spielberg's classic film came out three decades ago.

That's because recent data from NASA's Kepler space telescope suggests that billions of Earth-like planets are much closer than ever before imagined.

"The information we presented today will excite the general public because we now know that the nearest potentially Earth-like world is likely within 13 light years of the sun," astronomer Courtney Dressing said in an email to The Huffington Post.

"Astronomically speaking, 13 light years is practically next door."

While we don't know if intelligent life exists on any of these planets, it raises the chances of that possibility.

[More at site... thanks to Stig Agermose for the lead]

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No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 07:44:16 -0500
Archived: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 07:44:16 -0500
Subject: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

Source: Discovery.Com

<http://tinyurl.com/bb8hekq>

Feb 7, 2013 03:10

No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search
By Ian O'Neill

In an effort to search for intelligent extraterrestrials, SETI astronomers have completed their first "directed" search. Unfortunately, it turned up no evidence of transmitting aliens. But that's hardly surprising.

By focusing the Green Bank radio telescope, located in West Virginia, on stars hosting (candidate) exoplanets, it is hoped that one of those star systems may also play host to a sufficiently evolved alien capable of transmitting radio signals into space. But in a study headed by ex-SETI chief Jill Tarter, the conclusion of this first attempt is blunt: "No signals of extraterrestrial origin were found."

(PICTURES: Which Exoplanets Could Host Life?)

With the help of the Kepler space telescope, Tarter and her team were able to identify which stars in Kepler's field of view host exoplanets with certain characteristics. By selecting star systems hosting worlds in their habitable zones, systems containing 5 or more exoplanets and super-Earths with an orbital period of over 50 days, the astronomers hope that the evolution of intelligent life may have been possible, and thus may contain a transmitting alien race.

But it's a bit like trying to find a needle in a haystack, when you have no clue where the haystack is.

[More at site... thanks to Stig Agermose for the lead]

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References Regarding Iron Mountain?

From: Gregory Boone <evolbaby.nul>
Date: Fri, 8 Feb 2013 11:11:55 -0500 (EST)
Archived: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 07:46:28 -0500
Subject: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

For the third time I've run into people who've worked there
and their stories are astounding.

Any references as I know there's a book or two out there
would be helpful.

Best,

Greg
ufomafia.com

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Rover Curiosity Discovers Mysterious 'Metal' Object

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 07:53:52 -0500
Archived: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 07:53:52 -0500
Subject: Rover Curiosity Discovers Mysterious 'Metal' Object

Source: DailyMail.co.uk

<http://tinyurl.com/b99u565>

8 February 2013

Robotic Finger Or Door Handle To Hidden Chamber? The Wild
Theories After Mars Rover Curiosity Discovers Mysterious Metal
Object Sticking Out Of Rock

- Images show bizarre shiny object protruding from the surface
- Metallic object likely to measure just 0.5cm or less
- Pictures beamed back from Mars show small hole surrounded by dust
- Mission scientists to assess dust to see whether it can be analysed
- Analysis should show whether life has ever existed on the planet

By Damien Gayle

[Images]

[More at site...]

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Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 08:28:29 -0500
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 08:28:29 -0500
Subject: Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

>From: Gregory Boone <evolbaby.nul>
>To: post.nul
>Date: Fri, 8 Feb 2013 11:11:55 -0500 (EST)
>Subject: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

>For the third time I've run into people who've worked there
>and their stories are astounding.

>Any references as I know there's a book or two out there
>would be helpful.

Greg, there only two references in the List Archive, dating
back to May & October 1995 and included in the weekly update
that I compiled & posted on the List's BBS predecessor:

<http://tinyurl.com/c5rob39>

ebk

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Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

From: **Eleanor White** <ewraven1.nul>
Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 18:04:59 -0500
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 09:45:59 -0500
Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>Source: Discovery.Com

><http://tinyurl.com/bb8hekq>

>Feb 7, 2013 03:10

>No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search
>By Ian O'Neill

>In an effort to search for intelligent extraterrestrials, SETI
>astronomers have completed their first "directed" search.
>Unfortunately, it turned up no evidence of transmitting aliens.
>But that's hardly surprising.

Does anyone seriously think SETI would tell the public if they
found clearly extraterrestrial signals from an intelligent
civilization?

Anyone?

Eleanor White

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'Lost' Disney UFO Documentary On-Line

From: Terry W. Colvin <fortean1.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 16:17:28 +0700 (GMT+07:00)
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 09:48:58 -0500
Subject: 'Lost' Disney UFO Documentary On-Line

Alien Encounters from New Tomorrowland

Hosted by Robert Urich

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0235174/?ref=fn_al_tt_8

Terry

IUFO: Lost Walt Disney UFO Documentary: Full Uncut Version 2013 HD
Date: Feb 10, 2013 5:04 PM

Lost Walt Disney UFO Documentary: Full Uncut Version 2013 HD
Published on Feb 6, 2013

This documentary was only broadcast once in five US states in 1995, then it was shelved and never broadcast again. This version is the complete uncut feature, recorded to VHS video when it was first broadcast on celestial tv. I converted this to HD as the quality was very poor, and VHS tape degrades very quickly.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=DHunekX1xPw

Terry W. Colvin
Ladphrao (Bangkok), Thailand
Pran Buri (Hua Hin), Thailand
<http://terrycolvin.freewebsites.com/>
[Terry's Fortean & "Work" itty-bitty site]

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Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

From: **Steven Kaeser** <steve.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 09:02:13 -0500
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 09:56:04 -0500
Subject: Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

The reference I recall to Iron Mountain was a book published in 1967 that later turned out to be a spoof.

Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Report_from_Iron_Mountain

The Report from Iron Mountain is a book published in 1967 (during the Johnson Administration) by Dial Press which puts itself forth as the report of a government panel. The book includes the claim it was authored by a Special Study Group of fifteen men whose identities were to remain secret and that it was not intended to be made public. It details the analyses of a government panel which concludes that war, or a credible substitute for war, is necessary if governments are to maintain power. The book was a New York Times bestseller and has been translated into fifteen languages. Controversy still swirls over whether the book was a satiric hoax about think-tank logic and writing style or the product of a secret government panel. The document is a favorite among conspiracy theorists, who seem unaware that in 1972 the satirist Leonard Lewin admitted the book was a spoof and that he was its author.

A PDF of this publication can be found at:

http://www.teachpeace.com/Report_from_Iron_Mountain.pdf

There may be references to Iron Mountain that don't relate to this 50 year old publication, but I wanted to mention it.

Steve Kaeser

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Location: UFOUpDatesList.Com > [2013](#) > [Feb](#) > [Feb 11](#)

Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

From: Jerome Clark <jkclark.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 09:06:50 -0600
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 15:57:26 -0500
Subject: Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

>From: Steven Kaeser <steve.nul>
>To: post.nul
>Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 09:02:13 -0500
>Subject: Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

>The reference I recall to Iron Mountain was a book published
>in 1967 that later turned out to be a spoof.

>-----

>Source:

>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Report_from_Iron_Mountain

>The Report from Iron Mountain is a book published in 1967
>(during the Johnson Administration) by Dial Press which puts
>itself forth as the report of a government panel. The book
>includes the claim it was authored by a Special Study Group of
>fifteen men whose identities were to remain secret and that it
>was not intended to be made public. It details the analyses of a
>government panel which concludes that war, or a credible
>substitute for war, is necessary if governments are to maintain
>power. The book was a New York Times bestseller and has been
>translated into fifteen languages. Controversy still swirls over
>whether the book was a satiric hoax about think-tank logic and
>writing style or the product of a secret government panel. The
>document is a favorite among conspiracy theorists, who seem
>unaware that in 1972 the satirist Leonard Lewin admitted the
>book was a spoof and that he was its author.

>-----

>A PDF of this publication can be found at:

>http://www.teachpeace.com/Report_from_Iron_Mountain.pdf

>There may be references to Iron Mountain that don't relate to
>this 50 year old publication, but I wanted to mention it.

Hi, Steve,

Report from Iron Mountain is among the most notorious American
political hoaxes of the latter 20th Century.

Since conspiracy theorists believe only in conspiracy theories
and are deeply skeptical of the existence of hoaxes, naturally
the Report lives on in fervid imaginations.

Jerry Clark

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Re: 'Lost' Disney UFO Documentary On-Line

From: **Steven Kaeser** <steve.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 10:06:54 -0500
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 15:59:58 -0500
Subject: Re: 'Lost' Disney UFO Documentary On-Line

This was one of the strangest 'documentary' programs that I've ever seen, and I managed to get all but the first few minutes recorded on VHS as well.

As noted, it never aired again and was shown at an odd late hour when it was broadcast.

It should be noted that this was a vehicle to promote a new ride at Disney World, which isn't all that great but was a fun diversion when I visited the Park in 2001.

But the presentation at the beginning was supportive of UFOs as real, reminding one of Walt Disney's involvement with the Government in the 50's.

Ahhhh... memories...

Steve

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Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

From: **Stanton T. Friedman** <fsphys.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 11:23:52 -0400
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 16:03:30 -0500
Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>From: Eleanor White <ewraven1.nul>
>To: post.nul
>Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 18:04:59 -0500
>Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>>Source: Discovery.Com

>><http://tinyurl.com/bb8hekg>

>>Feb 7, 2013 03:10

>>No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search
>>By Ian O'Neill

>>In an effort to search for intelligent extraterrestrials, SETI
>>astronomers have completed their first "directed" search.
>>Unfortunately, it turned up no evidence of transmitting aliens.
>>But that's hardly surprising.

>Does anyone seriously think SETI would tell the public if they
>found clearly extraterrestrial signals from an intelligent
>civilization?

>_Anyone_?

Why would any rational person believe that aliens would send
radio signals to us using technology that was only 112 years-old?

Marconi's first radio transmission across the Atlantic was in
1901. Stars just down the street are a billion years older than
the sun. Not many scientists use slide rules any more. Lasers
are not just better light bulbs...

Technological progress comes from doing things differently in an
unpredictable way. SETI is truly a Silly Effort To Investigate...
Keeps the funding coming...

There is a detailed discussion in my book Flying Saucers And
Science.

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At:

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Unusual Flying Objects Per LIFE Magazine

From: Diana Cammack <cammack.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 18:55:00 +0200
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 16:12:10 -0500
Subject: Unusual Flying Objects Per LIFE Magazine

Unusual Flying Objects per LIFE Magazine.

In Praise of Unusual Flying Objects

<http://tinyurl.com/d2fue4d>

Diana

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Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

From: **Gerald O'Connell** <goc.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 18:14:24 -0000
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 16:14:15 -0500
Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>From: Eleanor White <ewraven1.nul>
>To: post.nul
>Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 18:04:59 -0500
>Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>>Source: Discovery.Com

>><http://tinyurl.com/bb8hekg>

>>Feb 7, 2013 03:10

>>No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>>By Ian O'Neill

>

>>In an effort to search for intelligent extraterrestrials, SETI
>>astronomers have completed their first "directed" search.
>>Unfortunately, it turned up no evidence of transmitting aliens.
>>But that's hardly surprising.

>Does anyone seriously think SETI would tell the public if they
>found clearly extraterrestrial signals from an intelligent
>civilization?

I am sure that they would want to go public in order to get a
radical increase in their funding. Positive findings would make
SETI the biggest scientific gravy train of all time.

The question is rather whether they would be allowed to go
public: the military, economic and strategic implications might
be immense. Is anybody aware of standing orders and protocols in
the event of positive findings? These might be so draconian that
there would be a strong incentive to keep a success under wraps
and within SETI. The excuse for this would be along the lines of
"Oh well, we weren't at all sure about these signals, and we've
been analysing them for the past seven years to make sure they
aren't an RF artefact occasioned by the variable filtering
effect of a rotating cloud of gas between us and a cataclysmic
variable system lurking 'behind' the star in question..."

Gerald O'Connell
<http://www.saatchionline.com/gacoc>

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Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

From: SMiles Lewis <elfis.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 10:18:27 -0800 (PST)
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 16:17:29 -0500
Subject: Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

>From: Steven Kaeser <steve.nul>
>To: post.nul
>Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 09:02:13 -0500
>Subject: Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

>The reference I recall to Iron Mountain was a book published
>in 1967 that later turned out to be a spoof.

<snip>

Iron Mountain is a document management company.

They exist: www.IronMountain.com

'Information Management and Document Shredding services' I see
their trucks all the time.

This is not to be confused with the mythic Iron Mountain Report,
which may or may not have been satire. Probably both/and, rather
than either/or.

See also these memes/myths:

"war is the health of the state"
"blue beam" or "grand ufo deception"
"staged alien invasion"

- SMiles

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Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

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Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

From: John Harney <magonia.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 19:28:02 -0000
Archived: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 16:19:04 -0500
Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>From: Eleanor White <ewraven1.nul>
>To: post.nul
>Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2013 18:04:59 -0500
>Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>>Source: Discovery.Com

>><http://tinyurl.com/bb8hekq>

>>Feb 7, 2013 03:10

>>No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search
>>By Ian O'Neill

>>In an effort to search for intelligent extraterrestrials, SETI
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>>Unfortunately, it turned up no evidence of transmitting aliens.
>>But that's hardly surprising.

>Does anyone seriously think SETI would tell the public if they
>found clearly extraterrestrial signals from an intelligent
>civilization?

>_Anyone_?

Yes, of course they would not try to keep it secret as they
would need independent confirmation from other organisations and
they would also need help in their efforts to interpret the
signals. If they were not intending to publish positive results
there would be no point in looking for ET signals.

John Harney

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Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

From: **Albert Baier** <albertgbaier.nul>
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 20:21:11 -0600
Archived: Tue, 12 Feb 2013 07:26:26 -0500
Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>From: John Harney <magonia.nul>
>To: <post.nul>
>Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 19:28:02 -0000
>Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

<snip>

>>Source: Discovery.Com

>><http://tinyurl.com/bb8hekg>

>>Feb 7, 2013 03:10

>>No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search
>>By Ian O'Neill

<snip>

John, Eleanor, Stan, etc.

As I pointed out in this List several times. SETI is a self-perpetuating bureaucracy. SETI is tasked with searching for alien radio signals. That's a mission statement with zero accountability. It provides cushy jobs, easy work, and great pay (Any of you pull in >\$140,000/year + 401K? Thought so.) Most of SETI's funding is government contracts. You can bet the Gov't has (long ago) provided rules for what can and can't be publicized.

I know folks who would do almost anything for a gig like that. It's like printing money. I can't speak to the government contracts, and neither can anyone else, but one can speculate that they involve receiving and analyzing radio frequencies.

So please, let's not take SETI so seriously. It's embarrassing.

Albert

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Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

From: Isaac Koi <isaackoi.nul>
Date: Tue, 12 Feb 2013 10:03:42 +0000
Archived: Tue, 12 Feb 2013 07:30:31 -0500
Subject: Re: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

>>From: Gregory Boone <evolbaby.nul>
>>To: post.nul
>>Date: Fri, 8 Feb 2013 11:11:55 -0500 (EST)
>>Subject: References Regarding Iron Mountain?

>>Any references as I know there's a book or two out there
>>would be helpful.

>Greg, there only two references in the List Archive, dating
>back to May & October 1995

The words "Iron Mountain" have appeared a few other times on UFO Updates, including: (1) In the context of posts in 1997 about a fire at government archives at Iron Mountain:

<http://www.ufoupdateslist.com/1997/oct/m03-018.shtml>

<http://www.ufoupdateslist.com/1997/oct/m05-030.shtml>

(2) A mention in 2002 of the Report From Iron Mountain in an article by Steven Greer, which appears to have taken that Report as being a genuine document:

"Like the movie Independence Day, an attempt to unite the world through militarism would unfold using ET as the new cosmic scapegoat (think Jews during the Third Reich). None of this is new to me or other insiders: The report from Iron Mountain, NY, written in the 1960s, described the need to demonize life in outer space so we could have a new enemy".

<http://www.ufoupdateslist.com/2002/jun/m13-010.shtml>

(3) A discussion in 2007 of the Report From Iron Mountain, which included a link to the Wikipedia article on this hoax:

<http://www.ufoupdateslist.com/2007/jun/m14-012.shtml>

<http://www.ufoupdateslist.com/2007/jun/m19-007.shtml>

In terms of discussion of the Report from Iron Mountain in various UFO/conspiracy books, the most detailed discussion I've seen that takes the Report as being genuine are by David Icke and in "Val Valdamar=92s" Matrix books. This may in itself cause some alarm bells to ring...

David Icke discusses the Report in his book "And the truth will set you free" (at pages 170-172 and 176). David Icke's discussion in that book begins: "This was the secret report of the Special Study Group of fifteen people brought together during the Kennedy years. The proposal for the study group came around 1961 and it was established in August 1963". (David Icke also discussed the Report in his book "The Biggest Secret" at pages 483-484).

"Val Valdamar" discusses (or at least summarises) the report in Matrix III -- Volume 2 at pages 76-81.

Vallee has a quote from the Report from Iron Mountain as an introduction to Part 2 of his book "Revelations". Apparently

coincidentally, a Magonia article by Martin Kottmeyer at the link below notes that "Brooks Alexander has characterised Vallee=92s concepts as =9lequal parts of Carl Jung and "Report from Iron Mountain=92. (56) This is inadvertently scurrilous since the latter was a confessed hoax by political satirist Leonard Lewin": <http://magonia.haaan.com/1994/alienating-fancies-part-2/> More informative than most of the above discussion is a two page long entry about this hoax in Peter Knight=92s book "Conspiracy Theories in American History -- An Encyclopedia" (at pages . That entry begins as follows:

"Report from Iron Mountain (1967) was originally published as if it were a secret government document, supposedly spirited out from inside the military-industrial complex. In fact, the book was an elaborate and brilliant publishing hoax orchestrated by left-liberal critics of U.S. cold war policies, who saw the U.S. government as favoring the arms race at the expense of a healthy domestic social welfare economy. It was written by Leonard C. Lewin as a parody of the rhetoric and analysis of cold-war era think tanks such as the Hudson Institute that supported a strong military establishment".

The history of the hoax given in that informative entry includes: "...It was not until 1972 that Lewin officially admitted he was the author in an article in the New York Times Book Review. =85"

"...In 1996 the Free Press issued a new edition of the book with a new preface and several appendices that discussed how the hoax was perpetrated and included some of the early responses to its publication. Nevertheless, some admirers of the book across the political spectrum continue to insist it is an actual government document".

All the best,

Isaac

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Report From Iron Mountain On-Line

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Wed, 13 Feb 2013 06:28:48 -0500
Archived: Wed, 13 Feb 2013 06:28:48 -0500
Subject: Report From Iron Mountain On-Line

Max Burns sent me the following via Facebook:

Errol, I saw the discussion on the List about Iron Mountain. I uploaded the full document to my Scribd page, ages ago.

Its available to download. I hope this is of interest to those concerned.

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/105736652/Report-From-Iron-Mountain>

I have other interesting documents on my main page.

REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN: ON THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PEACE

With introductory material by Leonard C. LewinThe Dial Press, Inc. 1967, New YorkLibrary of Congress Catalog card Number 67-27553 Printed in the U.S.

ebk

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Anomaly Register - Radio & Radar Anomalies

From: Terry W. Colvin <fortean1.nul>
Date: Mon, 18 Feb 2013 00:50:41 -0500 (EST)
Archived: Tue, 19 Feb 2013 06:52:15 -0500
Subject: Anomaly Register - Radio & Radar Anomalies

Anomaly Register - Radio and Radar Anomalies
Fri Feb 15, 2013 6:10 am (PST)
Posted by: Terry W. Colvin

I have two pages from the now-defunct Anomaly Register newsletter. It was published by William R. Corliss, retired U.S. Navy scientist, who passed away in the summer of 2011.

There are 21 items on these two pages. I have these in either .jpg or .png format. The .jpg files are 1,321 and 1,020 kilobytes The .png files are 154 and 158 kilobytes.

The USAF RSV does not allow attachments.

If anyone wants these please e-mail me privately at:

fortean1.nul

Terry

Terry W. Colvin
Ladphrao (Bangkok), Thailand
Pran Buri (Hua Hin), Thailand
<http://terrycolvin.freewebsites.com/>
[Terry's Fortean & "Work" itty-bitty site]

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On Breaching Etiquette - Cox

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Tue, 19 Feb 2013 06:59:45 -0500
Archived: Tue, 19 Feb 2013 06:59:45 -0500
Subject: On Breaching Etiquette - Cox

Source: Billy Cox's Blog De Void

<http://tinyurl.com/andm9dy>

Thursday, February 14, 2013

On Breaching Etiquette
by Billy Cox

Years ago, back when the SDI missile defense program was shiny and new, nuclear physicist Edward Teller told an audience of old soldiers at an American Legion convention in Louisville how he marveled at President Reagan's optimism over the viability of "Star Wars." =94 Teller made it sound like Reagan himself was the original SDI cheerleader when, actually, the reverse was true.

As the "father of the hydrogen bomb", Teller had unfettered access to the White House in the '80s and eagerly lobbied Reagan to build a space-based missile shield. Under the Teller senario, SDI would employ, among other things, satellite-ready X-ray laser weapons to blast incoming Soviet ICBMs. But as early as 1983, Teller was telling Reagan's science advisors the X-ray laser project was ready to enter the engineering phase. Which came as a major shock to Roy Woodruff. Woodruff headed up the X-ray program at Lawrence-Livermore and he knew the project hadn't passed =97 and might never pass =97 the theoretical hurdle. Unable to stop Teller's locomotive via back channels, Woodruff blew the whistle in a formal grievance and was promptly demoted.

[More at site...]

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America's Secret Flying Saucer Declassified

From: **Stig Agermose** <stig.agermose.nul>
Date: Mon, 18 Feb 2013 18:43:52 -0800 (PST)
Archived: Tue, 19 Feb 2013 07:06:05 -0500
Subject: America's Secret Flying Saucer Declassified

Very interesting piece that just appeared on Popular Mechanics' website.

<http://tinyurl.com/aq9j3db>

The subject matter is the AVRO project a. o. "the document that originally convinced the government to invest in a military flying disc [but since then] has languished in the NDC under the SECRET designation. This recently discovered report describes in previously unknown detail how aviation engineers tried to harness what were then cutting-edge aerodynamic concepts to make their improbable creation fly. Although Avro's saucer never completed a successful flight, some of the most sophisticated aircraft flying today adopted many of the same technologies."

The follow-up piece - "The Real Tech Behind Flying Saucers" - gives various examples, concerning airplanes, missiles, and spacecraft.

Enjoy!

Stig Agermose

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Re: Anomaly Register - Radio & Radar Anomalies

From: **Stanton T. Friedman** <fsphys.nul>
Date: Tue, 19 Feb 2013 08:29:43 -0400
Archived: Tue, 19 Feb 2013 08:12:28 -0500
Subject: Re: Anomaly Register - Radio & Radar Anomalies

>From: Terry W. Colvin <fortean1.nul>
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <post.nul>
>Date: Mon, 18 Feb 2013 00:50:41 -0500 (EST)
>Subject: Anomaly Register - Radio & Radar Anomalies

>Anomaly Register - Radio and Radar Anomalies
>Fri Feb 15, 2013 6:10 am (PST)
>Posted by: Terry W. Colvin

>I have two pages from the now-defunct Anomaly Register
>newsletter. It was published by William R. Corliss, retired U.S.
>Navy scientist, who passed away in the summer of 2011.

>There are 21 items on these two pages. I have these in either
>.jpg or .png format. The .jpg files are 1,321 and 1,020
>kilobytes The .png files are 154 and 158 kilobytes.

>The USAF RSV does not allow attachments.

>If anyone wants these please e-mail me privately at:

>fortean1.nul

Terry:

Bill was a good man. I would like the items.

Stan Friedman
fsphys.nul

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Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

From: Dave Haith <visionsl.nul>
Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 10:21:49 -0000
Archived: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 17:16:32 -0500
Subject: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01qm3yr>

There's a programme on BBC Radio called The Life Scientific with presenter Jim Al Khalili in which the latest episode featured his interview with Professor Alan Watson who has spent 40 years trying to unravel the mysteries of cosmic rays.

Somewhere half way through the Professor revealed a little snippet which says something about the taboo that exists in reporting extraordinary experiences for fear of being thought unstable.

Professor Watson said that during the disastrous Apollo 13 flight, because they were thrown into complete darkness, the crew witnessed flashes of light which are now known to be the result of cosmic ray bombardment.

But the Professor revealed that he had had a conversation with an astronaut who revealed that previously all the astronauts had experienced the weird lights but had not reported them because they feared being taken off the space program.

If individuals were scared to speak up about a few flashes of light then one can maybe understand their reluctance to report UFOs.

The link above may not work outside the UK. I have a two minute clip with the above quotes as an mp3 which I can send to anyone interested.

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Wiki Needs A 'Starchild' Update - Cox

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <post.nul>
Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 17:43:09 -0500
Archived: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 17:43:09 -0500
Subject: Wiki Needs A 'Starchild' Update - Cox

Source: Billy Cox's Blog DeVoid

<http://tinyurl.com/b6bozmv>

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Wiki Needs A 'Starchild' Update
by Billy Cox

In 1999, I went to Louisiana to work up a freelance piece on a presumed dead freak called "Starchild", which its curator, Lloyd Pye, claimed to be the 900-year-old remains of a space alien recovered from a defunct mining tunnel in Mexico. Pye's enthusiasm wasn't terribly surprising, given how, just two years earlier, he'd published a non-fiction book called Everything You Know Is Wrong. It was inspired by Zecharia Sitchin's controversial interpretation of ancient Sumerian texts in which ETs genetically tampered with Earthlings thousands of years ago.

My own concerns weren't so wide angle. I kept a wary eye on Pye's speedometer, trying to figure out how he might explain, in 30 seconds or less, the deformed skull in back should we get pulled over by traffic cops. The thing was believed to have been a 5-to-6-year-old child, missing its jaws, save for a small set of upper teeth, and its head was suspiciously bulbous.

This was a long story, naturally, and I bailed shortly thereafter, when a Vancouver dental forensics lab announced it had recovered enough DNA to prove its parents were human.

[More at site...]

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Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

From: Sarah Spellman <se.spellman.nul>
Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 15:13:51 -0800 (PST)
Archived: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 07:46:44 -0500
Subject: Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

>From: Dave Haith <visions1.nul>
>To: UFO Updates <post.nul>
>Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 10:21:49 -0000
>Subject: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

><http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01qgm3yr>

>There's a programme on BBC Radio called The Life Scientific with
>presenter Jim Al Khalili in which the latest episode featured
>his interview with Professor Alan Watson who has spent 40 years
>trying to unravel the mysteries of cosmic rays.

>Somewhere half way through the Professor revealed a little
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>flight, because they were thrown into complete darkness, the
>crew witnessed flashes of light which are now known to be the
>result of cosmic ray bombardment.

>But the Professor revealed that he had had a conversation with
>an astronaut who revealed that previously all the astronauts had
>experienced the weird lights but had not reported them because
>they feared being taken off the space program.

>If individuals were scared to speak up about a few flashes of
>light then one can maybe understand their reluctance to report
>UFOs.

I heard this the other day. I may be wrong, but I don't think it
had anything to do with perceptions of UFO sightings. I think he
meant that the astronauts feared being found physically unfit
for missions due to visual disturbances.

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Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

From: Ray Dickenson <r.dickenson.nul>
Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2013 11:33:30 -0000
Archived: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 07:48:41 -0500
Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>From: Albert Baier <albertgbaier.nul>
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <post.nul>
>Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 20:21:11 -0600
>Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

>>From: John Harney <magonia.nul>
>>To: <post.nul>
>>Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 19:28:02 -0000
>>Subject: Re: No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

><snip>

>>>Source: Discovery.Com

>>><http://tinyurl.com/bb8hekg>

>>>Feb 7, 2013 03:10

>>>No Alien Signals Detected In Kepler SETI Search

><snip>

>John, Eleanor, Stan, etc.

>As I pointed out in this List several times. SETI is a
>self-perpetuating bureaucracy. SETI is tasked with searching for
>alien radio signals. That's a mission statement with zero
>accountability. It provides cushy jobs, easy work, and great pay
>(Any of you pull in >\$140,000/year + 401K? Thought so.) Most of
>SETI's funding is government contracts. You can bet the Gov't has
>(long ago) provided rules for what can and can't be publicized.

>I know folks who would do almost anything for a gig like that.
>It's like printing money. I can't speak to the government
>contracts, and neither can anyone else, but one can speculate
>that they involve receiving and analyzing radio frequencies.

>So please, let's not take SETI so seriously. It's embarrassing.

Right Albert, fully agree. Some time ago expressed a hard-line
opinion: a) that SETI is really looking for nearby 'primitives'
- pretty much like us; b) that SETI is really a covert,
deniable, government agency. Maybe see:

<http://www.ufoupdateslist.com/2008/may/m01-002.shtml>

And, when pressed by Stuart, gave some technical reasons for
part of that opinion. Maybe see:

<http://www.ufoupdateslist.com/2008/may/m05-002.shtml>

Cheers

Ray D

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The Universe Speaks

From: Ray Dickenson <r.dickenson.nul>
Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2013 16:40:42 -0000
Archived: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 07:52:04 -0500
Subject: The Universe Speaks

Hello List, here's the gist of a longish article in 'The Register' science section:

<http://tinyurl.com/clf34zz>

The universe speaks: 'It's time to get off your rock!'

Long-term civilization on a single planet is impossible
By Iain Thomson in San Francisco

Posted in Science, 16th February 2013 02:29 GMT

The twin visitations from our solar system on Friday - one expected and one not - are yet another signal that mankind really needs to get out and about a bit more if we are to survive as a long-term species.

Those with an interest in space had already blocked out Friday on our calendars for the flyby of the asteroid 2012 DA14 a scant 17,150 miles (27,600 kilometers) away. But over a thousand Russians are unexpectedly nursing their wounds from an unexpected airbursting meteor, parts of which now appears to have just missed a major nuclear facility.

<snip>

More than one basket

Given the short warning we got from 2012 DA14, the chances of doing anything to stop an impact are vanishingly small. Sooner or later we're going to get hit by something, and if it's big enough the planet could be uninhabitable by humans for years or even decades.

Worse still is the chance of impossible-to-stop impacts like those thought to have caused the creation of the Moon or possibly the asteroid belt. They're highly unlikely to come, but if we're looking to hang around for a few million years or so the odds of living those eons on one planet look short and we'll need a life raft or two, either self-sustaining space colonies or making a go of it on Mars or some of the Solar System's moons.

Science fiction writer Robert Heinlein summed it up best: "Once the human race is established on more than one planet and especially, in more than one solar system, there is no way now imaginable to kill off the human race."

Ever since we've had a space agency, people have been complaining that it's all a waste of money. But getting into orbit and beyond has paid huge dividends in technological advancement, as well as intellectual inspiration, and it will ultimately be the only thing that offers our species a long-term lifespan."

Cheers

Ray D

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Caveman Of Cuba

From: **Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo** <virgilio.sanchezocejo.nul>
Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2013 16:13:10 +0000 (UTC)
Archived: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 09:18:33 -0500
Subject: Caveman Of Cuba

Dear List,

Just finished an essay on the history of the island of Cuba, as seen in their caverns or caves. Starting from the present to an uncertain past namely lost in time. Its title: Caveman Of Cuba. You can see it here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/cavemanofcuba/>

Of interest to ufologists:

In the Pre-Columbian part, you will find interesting work done by Cuban ufologists on the island, where they interpret some pictographs or rock drawings of geometric character that had previously been classified as unexplained, but today, with a computer program, they have new hypotheses of what the rock artist once visualised among others of spaceships or UFOs

If you find it interesting, pass it among friends.

Enjoy it,

Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo
Miami UFO Center

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Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

From: Dave Haith <visions1.nul>
Date: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 13:05:37 -0000
Archived: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 09:23:10 -0500
Subject: Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

>From: Dave Haith <visions1.nul>
>To: UFO Updates <post.nul>
>Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 10:21:49 -0000
>Subject: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

><http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01gm3yr>

<snip>

>But the Professor revealed that he had had a conversation with
>an astronaut who revealed that previously all the astronauts had
>experienced the weird lights but had not reported them because
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>If individuals were scared to speak up about a few flashes of
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>The link above may not work outside the UK. I have a two minute
>clip with the above quotes as an mp3 which I can send to anyone
>interested.

Further to this email I have now had a response from UFO sceptic
Jim Oberg in which he appears to pour cold water on the whole
issue.

In the interests of fairness and balance I will paste his email
below:

Dear Mr. Haith:

Alas, the lurking pitfalls of depending on decades-old memories
to validate mysterious phenomena, and to be made to appear to
validate existing biases.

As the slightest attempt at verification could have provided,
the light flashes phenomena was noticed beginning with missions
beyond the Van Allen belts - the first was Apollo-8 in December
1968 - although as mentioned, ambient cabin lighting made them
difficult to spot. Example:

<http://lsda.jsc.nasa.gov/books/apollo/s4ch2.htm>

Nevertheless, they were made an issue when Buzz Aldrin observed
them on Apollo-11 and his curiosity was piqued. By the later
flights, the crews were provided with head shielding devices in
an attempt to determine the origin directions of the flashes.

Any crew reluctance to talk about them had nothing to do
whatsoever with the 'unusual' nature, which you jump to conclude
would also prevent them from reporting 'UFOs'. The crew concerns
were with medical screening that might lose them their flight
status, a constant battle with the crew flight surgeons.
Similarly, EVA crewmen rarely reported 'bends' symptoms because
of the potential of being removed from future spacewalk
assignments.

The exact opposite is true regarding 'UFOs'. From the very first manned space missions, all visual phenomena outside a spacecraft were of intense interest requiring immediate descriptions over open loops, to allow consideration of hazards from spacecraft malfunctions. Detailed reports of such phenomena were conducted and distributed by NASA teams. Here's an example from 1970:

<http://www.jamesoberg.com/moonpigeons.html>

Since the evidence you cite is first, misremembered and erroneous, and second, proof of the exact opposite that you are trying to claim, please have the intellectual integrity to email this note to your mailing list for them to consider the alternatives. I have posted details and evidence for my views on www.jamesoberg.com/ufo.html.

Thanks for the opportunity of straightening this out....

Jim Oberg
www.jamesoberg.com

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Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

From: Jerome Clark <jkclark.nul>
Date: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 10:47:38 -0600
Archived: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 12:01:24 -0500
Subject: Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

>From: Dave Haith <visions1.nul>
>To: UFO Updates <post.nul>
>Date: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 13:05:37 -0000
>Subject: Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

>>From: Dave Haith <visions1.nul>
>>To: UFO Updates <post.nul>
>>Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 10:21:49 -0000
>>Subject: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

>><http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01qm3yr>

><snip>

>>But the Professor revealed that he had had a conversation with
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>Further to this email I have now had a response from UFO sceptic
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>In the interests of fairness and balance I will paste his email
>below:

>-----

>Dear Mr. Haith:

>Alas, the lurking pitfalls of depending on decades-old memories
>to validate mysterious phenomena, and to be made to appear to
>validate existing biases.

Of course, only others - never Oberg himself - have "existing
biases." What you "know" you only believe. What Oberg knows, on
the other hand, he knows.

Well, maybe not. Maybe the man is, after all, an ideologue whose
arguments always serve whatever point, however inconsistent and
even hypocritical, he is trying to make at the expense of
anomalists. His criticism of the notion of "lurking pitfalls
depending on decades-old memories to validate mysterious
phenomena" is an example.

In 1976 my late friend Bob Schadewald - a skeptic but, unlike
Oberg, not a party-liner - sent me a clipping from a 1943 Kansas
newspaper. It quoted a retired newspaper editor who seemed to be
referring to the well-known allegation of rancher Alex Hamilton
to have witnessed creatures in an airship as they stole one of
his calves. The editor joked about how the story was a fiction

in whose creation he played a role.

Intrigued, I wrote the newspaper to solicit information from readers. Soon after, I received a letter from a woman who told me that a relative, living in a nursing home (though my correspondent insisted she was clear-headed), could shed light on the matter. Subsequently, she sent me a statement from this elderly woman, who asserted that she had been in the Hamilton home when Alex informed his family of the yarn he and "the boys" in town had cooked up for publication in the local weekly. Imagine what Oberg would have made of her testimony if she had confirmed rather than discredited Hamilton's famous report. ("What? Are you nuts? An old lady in a nursing home? How typical of irrational ufologists.")

When I published the results of my inquiry (Fate, February 1977) and pronounced the Hamilton story a hoax, I got a few letters from thoughtful readers who cautioned me that this testimony was, after all, long after the fact. They warned me, in other words, about the lurking pitfalls of depending on decades-old memories.

One of these correspondents, of course, was not Jim Oberg. I am going to quote what I wrote in a review (Fate, August 1982) of a UFO-bashing book he later published:

"'We've learned,' Oberg says, 'that old cases are not particularly useful as sources of investigation. After 20 or 30 years people's memories are not what they were. Even a few days passing can hopelessly scramble crucial data in human memory banks. The things people remember are no longer accurate.'

"But that's only if people are remembering things that have pro- UFO implications; [otherwise] their memories are clear and accurate literally decades after the event in question. So Oberg has no trouble endorsing my expose... of the famous UFO 'calfnapping' of 1897 - based solely on testimony recorded 46 and 79 years after the fact."

In due course folklorist/ufologist Eddie Bullard uncovered an article in a May 1897 issue of an obscure Missouri small-town paper wherein Hamilton admitted that the story was made up. The moral: memories can sometimes indeed be accurate long after the fact. To an observer more objective and less attracted to double standards than Oberg, it follows that those memories can sometimes be accurate about pro-UFO/anomaly matters, too.

Most of my recreational reading is of history, a subject that's engaged me since I learned to read a long time ago. If a historical writer is chronicling events that have occurred in the living memories of the participants, he or she will seek out those who were there and who might contribute to our understanding. I'm currently reading the late David Halberstam's *The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War* (2007). Halberstam prominently quotes informants' more than half-century old memories of their combat experiences. I think we may assume that Oberg did not write Halberstam a chastening letter. After all, it's not as if Halberstam were writing about memories of anomalous experiences.

In the current matter, I'll take Oberg's word for it, though it would be interesting to have a second opinion from a more disinterested source. In any event, the problem here is not memory, but the essentially vague, third-hand, anecdotal nature of the claim.

Jerry Clark

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Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

From: Dave Haith <visions1.nul>
Date: Sun, 24 Feb 2013 17:04:35 -0000
Archived: Mon, 25 Feb 2013 06:11:23 -0500
Subject: Re: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

>From: Dave Haith <visions1.nul>
>To: UFO Updates <post.nul>
>Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2013
>Subject: Astronauts Kept Secret For Fear Of Dismissal

>>From: Dave Haith <visions1.nul>
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<snip>

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>>an astronaut who revealed that previously all the astronauts had
>>experienced the weird lights but had not reported them because
>>they feared being taken off the space program.

<snip>

>Further to this email I have now had a response from UFO sceptic
>Jim Oberg in which he appears to pour cold water on the whole issue.

>In the interests of fairness and balance I will paste his email below:

<snip>

I asked former astronaut Ed Mitchell for his view on this issue.

For what it's worth he said: "I don't recall any cosmic ray
experiences though we talked about them.

"Re pilots and UFOs: Military pilots became very frustrated over
the years, after reporting such incidents and being told to keep
quiet about it. Eventually we just stopped reporting. It was too
frustrating. I did not personally have such experiences."

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Location: UFOUpDatesList.Com > [2013](#) > [Feb](#) > [Feb 26](#)

Mars May Be Habitable Today

From: Ray Dickenson <r.dickenson.nul>
Date: Mon, 25 Feb 2013 17:07:35 -0000
Archived: Tue, 26 Feb 2013 06:08:26 -0500
Subject: Mars May Be Habitable Today

Source: Space.Com

www.space.com/19928-mars-habitable-life-possible.html

Date: 25 February 2013

Mars May Be Habitable Today, Scientists Say
Rod Pyle

LOS ANGELES - While Mars was likely a more hospitable place in its wetter, warmer past, the Red Planet may still be capable of supporting microbial life today, some scientists say.

Ongoing research in Mars-like places such as Antarctica and Chile's Atacama Desert shows that microbes can eke out a living in extremely cold and dry environments, several researchers stressed this at "The Present-Day Habitability of Mars" conference held here at the University of California Los Angeles this month.

And not all parts of the Red Planet's surface may be arid currently - at least not all the time. Evidence is building that liquid water might flow seasonally at some Martian sites, potentially providing a haven for life as we know it.

"We certainly can't rule out the possibility that it's habitable today," said Alfred McEwen of the University of Arizona, principal investigator for the HiRise camera aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft. [The Search for Life on Mars: A Photo Timeline]

Surface water on Mars?

McEwen discussed some intriguing observations by HiRise, which suggest that briny water may flow down steep Martian slopes during the local spring and summer.

Sixteen such sites have been identified to date, mostly on the slopes of the huge Valles Marineris canyon complex, McEwen said. The tracks seem to repeat seasonally as the syrupy fluids descend along weather-worn pathways.

While the brines may originate underground, Caltech's Edwin Kite noted, there is an increasing suspicion that a process known as deliquescence - in which moisture present in the atmosphere is gathered by compounds on the ground, allowing it to become a liquid - may be responsible.

Astrobiologists are keen to learn more about these brines, for not much is known about them at the moment.

"Briny water on Mars may or may not be habitable to microbes, either from Earth or from Mars," McEwen said.

This image combining orbital imagery with 3-D modeling shows flows that appear in spring and summer on a slope inside Mars' Newton crater.

Hardy microbes

Martian life may be able to survive even in places where water doesn't seep and flow, some scientists stressed.

For example, microbes here on Earth make a living in the Atacama and the dry valleys of Antarctica, both of which are extremely cold and arid, said Chris McKay of NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif.

Antarctic sites also receive seasonally high ultraviolet radiation doses thanks to a hole in the ozone layer that tends to develop every August through November. This provides yet another parallel to Mars, whose thin atmosphere and lack of a protective magnetic field make the planet more radiation-bombarded than Earth.

In the Antarctic dry valleys, McKay said, organisms dwell within rocks, just deep enough to be shielded from the worst of the UV but close enough to the surface to receive the benefits of photosynthesis. Something similar might be happening on Mars today, if life ever evolved there.

McKay also discussed deliquescence, which in the Atacama allows salts to gather enough water to support the existence of life.

McKay offered some advice to NASA's Mars rover Curiosity, which landed in August to determine whether Mars could ever have supported microbial life: "Watch for salt along the road!"

A possible energy source

NASA's Curiosity rover found evidence for an ancient, flowing stream on Mars at a few sites, including the rock outcrop pictured here, which the science team has named "Hottah" after Hottah Lake in Canada's Northwest Territories. This image mosaic was taken by Curiosity's 100-millimeter Mastcam telephoto lens on its 39th Martian day, or sol, of the mission (Sept. 14, 2012 PDT/Sept. 15 GMT).

CREDIT: NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS
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A number of presenters spent some time talking about perchlorate, a chlorine-containing chemical that NASA's Phoenix lander spotted near the Martian north pole in 2008.

McKay and other researchers think perchlorate may be the reason that NASA's twin Viking landers didn't detect any organic compounds - the carbon-containing building blocks of life as we know it - on the Red Planet back in the 1970s.

The Vikings vaporized Martian soil and looked for any organics boiling off. They found nothing but a few chlorine compounds that were attributed to contamination. But after Phoenix's perchlorate find, McKay and some other researchers performed an experiment.

They added perchlorate to some desert dirt from Chile known to contain organics. They heated the soil up and found the same chlorine compounds the Vikings did, suggesting that organics may have been present in the Vikings' samples but were broken down by the combination of heat and perchlorate.

While this backstory is interesting in its own right, perchlorate is also relevant to the possible habitability of present-day Mars.

"Perchlorate, it turns out, is a potent chemoautotrophic energy source," said Carol Stoker, also of NASA Ames, noting that the chemical could potentially sustain microbes in the dark Martian subsurface, where photosynthesis is not an option.

And some Earth microbes use perchlorate for food, so that could be happening on Mars as well, scientists have pointed out.

"The Present-Day Habitability of Mars" took place Feb. 4-5 and was co-hosted by the NASA Astrobiology institute and the UK

Centre for Astrobiology. Archived videos of conference presentations are available here.

Cheers

Ray D

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Re: Mars May Be Habitable Today

From: Albert Baier <albertgbaier.nul>
Date: Tue, 26 Feb 2013 14:37:39 -0600
Archived: Wed, 27 Feb 2013 07:36:44 -0500
Subject: Re: Mars May Be Habitable Today

>From: Ray Dickenson <r.dickenson.nul>
>To: <post.nul>
>Date: Mon, 25 Feb 2013 17:07:35 -0000
>Subject: Mars May Be Habitable Today

<snip>

>LOS ANGELES - While Mars was likely a more hospitable place in
>its wetter, warmer past, the Red Planet may still be capable of
>supporting microbial life today, some scientists say.

<snip>

Ray, List,

Mars is not only habitable, but is inhabited right now, and by lifeforms of higher orders than microbes. I 'predicted' this in these pages years ago. I also 'predicted' that such lifeforms would have DNA similar to ours. It is disappointing that it's taking so long for this information to be released. I believe that some in NASA already 'know' about this, and have been withholding this data for quite some time. The 'liquid water' strawman is bandied about as a requirement for life, but is based on an assumption. Real science isn't based on assumptions. It's not democratic. Facts aren't determined by voting, opinion, or probability. That 99% of scientists believe something is true means nothing to me.

I had dismissed most 'scientific' research a long time ago, because I got sick of dealing with arrogance and hubris. The research establishment is entrenched and immobilized by career-protecting bureaucrats. Original thinking is only allowed when existing paradigms are not threatened. Physics is the prime example of this. In any case, it's easy to 'control' 'objective' scientists; witness the example of UFO research.

Why did the search for life experiments end after Viking in 1975? Did NASA find anything 'interesting' on the moon? Does the military carefully vet NASAs 'discoveries'?

I only hope I'm around when they finally 'discover' life on Mars, so I can say, "I told you so!" I know few of us will live to see the day when researchers find out how long this stuff has been hidden from us.

Albert

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