



Pat Tolan/The Register

Ron Regehr of Huntington Beach, an aerospace engineer, never has seen a UFO, but he has devoted five years to studying the subject.

## UFO hunter is a serious sleuth, not a space case

By Edward Humes  
The Register

HUNTINGTON BEACH — Ron Regehr has spent 20 hours a week for the past five years compiling a 5-foot-high stack of documents that prove nothing at all.

But there are tidbits in that stack, hints of something big, and that's more than enough to keep him going.

Regehr is a UFO hunter.

His tools are not telescopes or cameras, but telephones, typewriters and the Freedom of Information Act. He never has seen an unidentified flying object and really doesn't want to; his search is on paper alone.

Over the years, he and his partners have amassed oblique references to a shadowy government project called Majestic-12, supposedly concerned with UFOs.

He has photos of military bases with no official missions and, in some cases, no official existence. Captured UFOs are test flown there by Air Force pilots, according to a supposedly top-secret government document he can't authenticate.

Regehr's theory is that UFO technology is being exploited for the nation's Stealth fighter and bomber programs. The secret Nevada installations reputed to house the Stealth prototypes also are mentioned prominently in his UFO documents.

"What does all of this prove?" Regehr asked, sitting at his dining-room table heaped high with Chinese takeout and piles of documents. "Nothing. But we haven't disproved anything yet, either.

"We want to confirm it, or we want to refute it. Either way, I want to know."

Regehr is well aware of the stereotype of UFO enthusiasts: wild-eyed crackpots clutching hazy Polaroid snapshots of the sky and sporting aluminum foil on their heads for deflecting alien thought beams.

"Sometimes people might think that, until they sit down and talk to me and see what I've got. It doesn't bother me," Regehr said.

According to the U.S. government, Regehr is no crackpot.

After extensive investigation, he was issued a "secret" clearance as part of his job at Aerojet Electro-Systems in Azusa, where he works

as a specifications engineer on a classified space project.

Regehr, 44, has a wife, three daughters, two cars, a camper, numerous pets and a well-appointed home in Huntington Beach. His passions for decades were fast cars and exotic aircraft — not too unusual for an aerospace engineer — but UFOs have supplanted them with the force of obsession.

His partners are fellow Aerojet worker Lee Graham (also a recipient of a "secret" clearance); John Andrews, who made headlines recently for designing and selling a reportedly accurate model of the F-19 Stealth fighter — a superspeed plane the Air Force won't even discuss; and Bill Moore, author of several UFO books, including "The Roswell Incident."

A tall, soft-spoken man, Regehr feeds his parrot Chinese food from his plate while he talks UFOs. The parrot says, "Thank you," after each nibble.

"For me, it started in 1981, with the Goldwater letter," he began.

The "Goldwater letter" came about after his friend Graham had gotten into an argument with a fellow worker, who had heard through the aerospace workers' grapevine that then-Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona had been denied access to a secret facility called the "Blue Room" at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

The Blue Room, legend held, contained devices and wreckage recovered from the crash of a UFO in 1947 in Roswell, N.M.

Graham claimed the rumor could not be true, and he wrote Goldwater to prove it. To his surprise, the senator wrote back, said he indeed had been denied access to the Blue Room and confided that he believed in the existence of UFOs, according to a letter Graham keeps in a 3-inch-thick loose-leaf binder crammed with UFO documents. He has 20 other binders just like it at home.

Meanwhile, Wright-Patterson officials denied the incident, and denied having any facilities devoted to UFOs or bearing the name "Blue Room."

"Somebody was lying," Regehr said. "Either a U.S. senator or the Air Force."

Correspondence with the National Archives in Washington produced old documents confirming the existence of a "Blue Room," Regehr said. And with that, his pursuit of UFOs began in earnest.

"I'll play along with anybody's game," he said. "But don't lie to

me. I can't stand to be lied to."

Regehr and Graham then began their research. This led them to Andrews and then Moore, who one day called them and said he had received amazing documents from an Air Force source.

Regehr has a photocopy of one document that purports to be a top-secret 1952 briefing for President Eisenhower by Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, the first director of the CIA.

The subject was "Operation Majestic-12," a 12-member committee of prominent military officers and scientists originally appointed by President Harry S. Truman.

The paper describes a secret government inquiry into "disc-shaped aircraft" sighted in the United States. In particular, it focuses on a highly publicized UFO sighting and apparent crash in July 1947 in Roswell, later dismissed as a crash of an experimental weather balloon. The briefing calls the balloon explanation a cover story.

"On July 7, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study," the paper says.

"During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small humanlike be-

ings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. ... All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements."

The bodies and wreckage were removed to several military bases for study, the paper says. The wreckage contained numerous examples of indecipherable symbols. Nothing resembling a propulsion system, electric wiring or recognizable control systems was found.

A second object crashed and was mostly destroyed in December 1950, along the Texas-New Mexico border. Its wreckage was taken to the nuclear-arms facility at Sandia, N.M., the paper says.

UFO debunkers have dismissed the paper as a hoax. All 12 of the named Majestic-12 members are dead, and no verifiable references to such an organization can be found, critics have said.

Spokesmen for the White House and the National Security Council denied the existence of any organization called Majestic-12 or MJ-12 or Majic-12, two abbreviations used in the document.

An Air Force spokesman said the military had several UFO projects in the 1950s and 1960s, the last of which was called "Blue Book."

"It was closed in the late 1960s," said Capt. Martin Hauser, spokesman for the Air Force Systems Command. "As far as I know, they didn't find enough evidence to make it worth continuing."

But Regehr says he has uncovered authenticated records showing that Majestic-12 existed, although the records do not describe Majestic-12's purpose.

From the National Archives, Regehr obtained a memo for Air Force Gen. Nathan Twining from Robert Cutler, special assistant to Eisenhower, dated July 14, 1954:

"Subject: NSC/MJ-12 Special Studies Project.

"The president has decided the MJ-12 SSP briefing should take place during the already scheduled White House meeting of July 16."

Regehr concedes this proves only that there was an MJ-12. It does not prove MJ-12 was a UFO program.

More National Archive inquiries uncovered an Air Force memo appointing Twining to a program created to attempt to validate or disprove UFO sightings. Long days at the library uncovered newspaper clippings from 1968, in which a re-

GRANCE CO. REGISTER - Santa Ana, CA  
Aug. 24, 1987 CRI. A. Laprade

**Ron Regehr**  
compiles data on UFOs