

tired Hillenkoetter is reported to have testified before Congress about a government cover-up of UFO evidence.

"If we were paid for all the hours it took to find this stuff, I could retire by now," Regehr said.

Another document — describing "Project Aquarius" — purportedly was leaked to Moore and given to Regehr. It describes actual contact with aliens by the U.S. military.

"This project met with positive success when in 1959, the United States established primitive communications with the aliens. On April 25, 1964, (an Air Force) intelligence officer met two aliens at a prearranged location in the desert of New Mexico. The contact lasted for approximately three hours. ... This project is continuing at an Air Force base in New Mexico."

The paper also describes a "Project Snowbird," established in 1972. "Its mission was to test fly a recovered alien aircraft. This project is continuing in Nevada."

Regehr and his associates believe Snowbird is located at the Tonopah Test Range or a secret facility at Groom Lake, both of which are in deserted areas of Nevada. Although aerial photos in Lockheed Co. publications show Groom Lake to have one of the longest airstrips in the world, the base does not appear on maps or aviation charts of the area, Regehr said. The Air Force has not acknowledged the existence of a Tonopah airfield.

He has collected eyewitness accounts from military pilots describing a strange, disc-shaped aircraft flying out of the area.

He believes that the Stealth program, reportedly operating out of those two Nevada bases, is using information gleaned from UFO technology. He said UFOs consistently are sighted but often do not appear on radar, a Stealth characteristic.

The description of the crashed alien vehicle in the MJ-12 briefing — including the absence of vacuum tubes and electrical wiring — fits recent developments in fiber electro-optics and computer-chip technology, Regehr said. Such technology would be largely unrecognizable in the early 1950s, he said.

"It's really just a gut feeling, of course. We can't prove any of this," he said.

Meanwhile, Regehr and Graham keep pounding out the Freedom of Information requests. They ask for records on MJ-12, they ask for autopsy results on the alien bodies, they ask what's going on at Groom Lake. They get back a lot of letters referring questions to other agencies.

They took the MJ-12 briefing paper into the Defense Investigative Services office at Aerojet last year, asking officials what they should do with it and if it could be authenticated. Instead, an investigation of their backgrounds was

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Ron Regehr
compiles data on UFOs

launched to see if they were a security risk, according to their personnel records, Regehr said.

Neighbors, relatives and co-workers were questioned. Regehr said he was questioned for three days, eight hours a day. The agent investigating him was named James Kirk.

"No kidding," Regehr said, noting that James Kirk is the name of the fictional captain of the starship Enterprise from the television series "Star Trek."

Nothing happened to the men as a result of the investigation, although they never received any word on the authenticity of the documents, he said.

Regehr's wife, Sydney, said she admires her husband's persistence — even if it does spill over into evenings, weekends and vacations. They'll be camping later this month, and they'll "just happen" to swing by Sandia, N.M., to see what they can see, she said.

"It's human nature to want to know these things, to ask why," she said. "It's a challenge to the mind, to think about the unknown. These guys have worked hard. They're going to see the fruits of their labor some day."

As much as he wants to know the truth, Regehr isn't so sure anymore what would happen if his pile of documents one day contained proof positive of UFOs. He worries that the public may not be prepared for full disclosure. Perhaps that is why information is "leaking" slowly through people like Moore, he suggested — a kind of testing of the waters.

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