

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

*Jack* 24 May 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. JOHN H. GIBBONS

SUBJ: UFO Research

As you and I discussed earlier, we are researching Air Force material on UFOs in general, and Roswell in particular. While we don't have the bottom line yet, I thought you'd be interested in this interim report I got from my staff. I had intended to bring it over this morning, but forgot. My policy is that we are declassifying everything even remotely related, and anything our people think still needs to be classified will have to be justified to me. More to follow!

Warm Regards,



Sheila E. Widnall  
Secretary of the Air Force

*Ship - for your scanning. After you and I have a chance to discuss, I'll be ready to communicate w/ G.R. + his niece. JG*

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*Notetook  
John*

Date Rec'd 5/24/94  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

(703) 693-2013



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAY 20 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

FROM: SAF/AAZ  
1720 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC 20330-1720

SUBJECT: Status Report on Search Efforts Regarding "the Roswell Incident"

This is in response to the verbal request of your Military Assistant, Colonel Tim Kinnan, of 19 May 94. It provides the background, discusses current efforts, and provides projections of future activities. Also included as attachments are representative taskings, responses, results of archival searches and other materials to give you an example of the scope and level of effort of this activity.

In early Feb 94, upon learning of the projected GAO audit, we anticipated that the Air Force would be tasked for significant input to this effort. Consequently, we stood up elements of AAZD, the Declassification Review Team, to begin preliminary research. Hence, when the official GAO effort started, we already had a viable search methodology in place.

Since that time, we have tasked a multitude of locations/organizations to search for records - not just specifically on Roswell or UFOs, but also on how the Air Force did business at the time in history.

To date, AF/SE, AF/IN (including AIA and NAIC), AF/HO, SAF/AAL, AF/XO, SAF/AQL, AFMC and AFOSI have reported no records were located to indicate anything unusual happened at Roswell in July 1947. Research did locate records that indicated that the 1947 - era Air Force was highly concerned about the "flying saucer" phenomenon, and we located many records discussing "sightings" and detailing procedures for reporting incidents thereof.

We have also gone through a massive amount of files at the National Archives, at major Federal Records Centers in St Louis, Suitland, MD, and Ft Worth, and Kansas City, plus a number of Air Force bases. Classification has only been an issue once - when dealing with nuclear weapons information. We ultimately obtained the appropriate clearance and reviewed the records in question.

The review to date has not indicated anything extraordinary happened at Roswell. We can rule out an airplane crash; probably rule out an errant missile test (the Army has

Boesch  
Lt. Col.  
Patterson

most of these records) and probably also a nuclear incident (DOE inherited most of these records).

The "official" story given to the press at the time was that this was a crashed weather balloon. We have since learned that a previous TOP SECRET "Project Mogul" balloon program designed to detect nuclear explosives was undergoing testing in the New Mexico area during this time. Project Mogul balloon assemblies consisted of multiple polyethylene film (then a relatively new material) balloons strung together in "trains" (up to 600 ft long) supporting foil-like radar reflectors (for tracking) and microphone/instrument packages to detect acoustic/shock waves from explosions. Some of the initial test balloons carried no microphones or instruments but were released to determine drift rates, methodologies for maintaining constant altitudes and the effects of the sun on the new polyethylene film material. These test balloons carried no "REWARD" or "RETURN TO ..." placards as those involved in the project did not want any attention drawn to the tests being accomplished. There is at least a reasonable possibility that the material that was supposedly recovered during the "Roswell incident" was a Project Mogul assembly and that the "weather balloon story" was in fact, a cover story to protect the classified Mogul effort. We continue to explore that possibility and have located several living participants of Project Mogul, who still have diaries and records. We will interview them to see if they can shed additional light on this possibility.

Additionally, we have also located the surviving former Counterintelligence Corps agent who is credited in the popular literature as being one of the two individuals involved in the actual recovery of the crash debris. Armed with a letter from you, I will interview him on 24 May 94. It was not our original intent to go beyond records reviews, but in the case of the balloon project operatives and the CIC agent, we have made exceptions.

As of today, we currently still have an individual at the Federal Records Center in St Louis reviewing both unclassified and classified files pertaining to persons and units associated with Roswell, and units related thereto.

We hope to finish our search efforts by early June. Besides the several interviews and the St Louis reviews, we still have some AFOSI records at Suitland to cover. We have met no impediments to our efforts to date from any Air Force office or official. Likewise, we have cooperated fully with the GAO representatives to insure they know what we know and we can answer their questions factually and with authority.

We will advise you of any unusual developments and provide an overall final report of our efforts.

  
RICHARD L. WEAVER, Colonel, USAF  
Director, Security and Special Program  
Oversight

Attachment  
List of Exhibits