

THE U.S. AIR FORCE'S SELF-INFLICTED WOUND

BY

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On September 8, 1994 the U.S. Air Force released a document entitled, "Report Of Air Force Research Regarding The 'Roswell Incident'". The document, according to the Air Force, is meant to "serve as the final Air Force report related to the Roswell matter, for the GAO, or any other inquiries." Actually the document is more of a white wash than a cover up. To be sure the Air Force fell victim to their own officially sanctioned deception program, concerning the "Roswell Incident," put in place more than 47 years ago. To be sure the Air Force was willing to sacrifice their Top Secret Project Mogul program to conceal the truth behind the events of the so-called Roswell Incident. But, why do such a report at all?

The Air Force gave this justification for doing the report; "During the in-briefing process with GAO, it was learned that this audit was, indeed, generated at the specific request of Congressman Steven Schiff of New Mexico. Earlier, Congressman Schiff had written to the Department of Defense Legislative Liaison Office for information on the "Roswell Incident" and had been advised that it was part of the former UFO "Project Bluebook" that had previously been turned over to NARA by the Air Force. Congressman Schiff subsequently learned from NARA that, although they did, indeed, have the "Bluebook" materials, the "Roswell Incident" was not part of that report. Congressman Schiff, apparently perceiving that he had been "stonewalled" by the DOD, then generated the request for the aforementioned audit."

I have written to many members of Congress requesting their assistance in getting the release of information on this very subject. The Air Force, along with many other agencies, were less than totally responsive to the requests the various Congressional Offices made in my be-half. At times, the governmental agencies would totally ignore the questions I posed.

Some examples of the foolish responses received are: "We have on record of receiving an FOIA request for documents (Why do I need an FOIA request when I am asking for the release through a Congressional office?); "These missions have never existed (In this case the Air Force was forced

to reverse that statement when confronted with the evidence of the existence of those missions.); and "We cannot determine whether we were the 'agency' referred to in the 15 November 1979 USAF letter (based on the information provided they could determine if they were the agency, which, in fact, in this case they were and they knew it.)."

The Air Force, among other governmental agencies have "stonewalled" other members of Congress whenever, those members have asked about the same subject matter. In the case of Congressman Schiff, however, he was able to see through this and demanded answers. Congressman Schiff was "stonewalled" by the DOD.

I see the above statement by the Air Force as, a cheap shot. And an effort to punish Congressman Schiff politically for asking an embarrassing question on a subject matter the Air Force would like see go away. But, I have always believed that far too many political leaders dodged hard questions out of fear of this type of retribution. For this reason, I believe Congressman Schiff should be commended for his efforts in seeking out the truth.

Also, I feel that it should be pointed out that Congressman Schiff did not ask the Air Force for documents "proving" UFO's were something extraterrestrial. All he was asking for was documents relating to the Roswell Incident in order to ascertain what the object recovered was. To be sure, Congressman Schiff's request to the Air Force and DOD should not even be considered to have anything to do with the UFO Phenomenon.

The Air Force report concluded that, once again, the object found was "most likely" a balloon. This time a Project Mogul balloon train. To be exact, flight #4 of the Project Mogul Balloon trains. Let's look closely at what is wrong with this conclusion based on the known facts of the case.

The Roswell legend begins with an official news release on July 8, 1947. That release reads as follows: "The many rumors regarding the flying discs became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the cooperation of one of the local ranchers and the Sheriff's office of Chaves County.

The object landed on a ranch near Roswell sometime last week. Not having phone facilities, the rancher stored the disc until such time as he was able to contact the Sheriff's office, who in turn notified Major Jesse A. Marcel, of the 509th Bomb Group Intelligence office."

The Air Force report admits that they failed to, "locate any documented evidence as to why that statement ("RAAF

Captures Flying Disc") was made." The Air Force report further states that, "it seems that there was over-reaction by Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel, in originally reporting that a 'flying disc' had been recovered when, at that time, nobody for sure knew what that term meant since it had only been in use for a couple of weeks."

Also, the report makes it clear that the descriptions given by most of the witnesses, "actually described materials that sounded suspiciously like wreckage from balloons." Furthermore, the report quoted the July 8, 1947 FBI document stating in the Air Force report, "The disc is hexagonal in shape and was suspended from a balloon was approximately twenty feet in diameter...the object found resembles a high altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector...disc and balloon being transported...".

All the above would seem to be supportive of the the Air Force's report. However, if one looks at the whole picture and not just what the Air Force wishes to reflect in their report, an entirely different picture emerges.

The Air Force report states, "there was no physical difference in the radar targets and the neoprene balloons (other than the numbers and configuration) between Mogul balloons and normal weather balloons." If this is the case, why would Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel be fooled by material that made up an everyday weather balloon? Sure, in a Mogul balloon there might be much more of this material than what goes into a normal weather balloon. However, both Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel were quite familiar with weather balloon devices and surely would not have been fooled by the material found, even if it appeared that there was much more of the material than what would normally go into a normal weather balloon device. Also, there were personnel stationed at Rowsell Army Air Field, that could have readily identified the recovered object as some type of balloon device even if they were not aware of the existence of Project Mogul.

They found something that, to them, was highly unusual and could not be identified as any balloon device. They believed the material recovered did, if fact, have something to do with the flying disc phenomenon being reported at that time. For this reason, they decided not to release any details concerning the recovered material until after Air Force Intelligence had a look at the material.

I would also, suggest that the Air Force had already come up with a definition of what a Unidentified Flying Object or Flying Disc was and that the definition went something like this; Any airborne object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features does not conform to any presently known aircraft or missile type, or which cannot be positively identified as a familiar object.

While it is true that the witnesses have given descriptions that seems to fit a weather or Mogul balloon device. These descriptions is not what made the witnesses believe the material was mysterious. It was the strange properties of the material; such as, not being able to bent it, you could not put dents in it, it would not tear, it could not be cut, and it would not burn. All of these characteristics are not characteristic of any balloon device, Project Mogul or other wise.

The Air Force report makes the point that even the FBI teletype of July 8, 1947 reported, "The object found resembles a high altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector." However, the report omitted another key part of that teletype which states, "But that telephonic conversation between their office (Eighth Air Force Headquarters) and Wright Field HAD NOT BORNE OUT THIS BELIEF." After the object was identified as a balloon, why wasn't the FBI officially notified, so they could close out the case in their records? Remember, they too were left with the impression that the object was something more than a balloon, according the July 8th, 1947 FBI Teletype.

Also, the Photographs that appeared in newspapers were not of materials consistent with that of a Project Mogul balloon train. To be sure, the material appearing in the newspaper photographs are nothing more that a weather balloon and a RAWIN target. In the Air Force report, none other than Major Irving Newton (USAF, Ret.) states this being the case. Major Newton states in the Air Force report, "What I know to be true, that is, the material I saw in General Ramey's office was the remains of a balloon and a RAWIN target." In short, the object in the photographs is a complete, torn-up weather balloon with a RAWIN target device and not what one would expect to see if the material was from a downed Project Mogul balloon train or any other balloon device, being exposed to the elements of weather, that had been in a New Mexico field for several weeks, little lone several days.

Assuming that the object found was a Project Mogul Balloon train, why, wasn't Professor Moore's group notified of this find at the time so his group could have properly identified the object as Mogul Balloon flight #4? Remember, to this very day, the official records show Flight #4 as unrecovered. With Project Mogul being, at the time, an important and Top Secret project, why wasn't this action carried out? It was important to recover as many of the Mogul balloons as possible in order to gather the data from them to justify both the program's existence and high classification.

The Air Force report takes into account several news stories that appeared during the time of the alleged "Roswell Incident" to support their conclusion that the

object was actually a Mogul balloon. These news stories are: the July 8, 1947 ROSWELL DAILY RECORD's report, "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch In Roswell Region"; July 9, 1947 ROSWELL DAILY RECORD's stories entitled, "Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer" and "Harassed Rancher Who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It"; and an article published in the Alamogordo News, July 10, 1947 concerning multiple balloons and targets.

In the July 8, 1947 article it is made clear that the object, "landed on a ranch near Roswell sometime last week." This would seem to indicate that the object was found by the rancher sometime during the first week of July 1947. However, in the July 9th article the rancher states that he found the material on June 14, 1947 and picked some of it up on July 4, 1947 to take to town. In the same July 9th edition of the ROSWELL DAILY RECORD was the story dismissing the object as a weather balloon and radar target device.

What the Air Force report doesn't say is that the rancher was escorted by military personnel to give the story that appeared in the July 9th article. Also, the rancher stated in that article, "I am sure what I found was not any weather observation balloon." The rancher was quite familiar with weather balloons, having found two on the ranch prior to this event. Also, the description of the object changed in this article to conform with a balloon that had been exposed to the weather for some time. The description given in this article is not indicative of the balloon photographs that appeared with the General Ramey article. Furthermore, changing the date of the find from the first week of July to June 14, 1947 would be important to support any belief that the object was a balloon. In particular, flight #4 of the Project Mogul Balloon trains.

The Air Force report has this to say about the Alamogordo News article of July 10th, 1947: "However, on July 10, 1947, following the Ramey press conference, the Alamogordo News published an article with photographs demonstrating multiple balloons and targets at the same location as the NYU group operated from at Alamogordo AAF. Professor Moore expressed surprise at seeing this since his, was the only balloon test group in the area. He stated, 'It appears that there was some type of umbrella cover story to protect our work with Mogul.'"

At the time this article was released, Project Mogul was a TOP SECRET Project. Who released the story and for what reason? Why release such a story at the very location of the TOP SECRET Project involved and run the risk of drawing attention to that project? Could it be that the story was released and the Army Air Force was willing to compromise the TOP SECRET Mogul project to create some type of umbrella cover story to protect another event considered much more sensitive than Project Mogul?

After the Ramey press conference, many of the daily newspapers were not "buying" the balloon story. For this reason, I believe the Army Air Force made a conscious decision to release a story on the Project Mogul so that the events in Roswell could be supported as just a balloon. I also, believe that for this reason the Army Air Force convinced the rancher to change the date of the discovery of the object from the first week of July to June 14th, thereby supporting the story, even more, that the object was nothing more than Project Mogul flight #4. By taking these actions the Army Air Force had put in place an officially sanctioned deception program to confuse and defuse any reporter that would have gone after the story, being convinced that the object was not a balloon. Sadly, I believe the Air Force fell victim to their own deception program with the release of their report, that I believe was put in place 47 years ago.

The Air Force report could not overlook that many people have come forth, permitting their names to be used and telling their stories which do not support the contention that the object was a balloon of any type. The Air Force report had this to say about these witnesses: "Persons who have come forward and provided their names and made claims, may have, in good faith but in the 'fog of time' misinterpreted past events." However, the Air Force does not even consider this a possibility when it comes to their own witnesses (those witnesses supportive of the Air Force conclusion that the object was a balloon).

To be sure, if one's testimony supports the Air Force position, that the object was a balloon, your thinking is intact. However, if the witness' testimony does not support the Air Force conclusion, that the Roswell Object was a balloon, then the person's thinking is clouded by the, "fog of time" according to the Air Force report.

The Air Force knowing that the testimony of several key witnesses would more than likely not support the balloon conclusion, chose not to question those individuals. Individuals such as, General Arthur Exon and Colonel Thomas DuBose just to name a few.

While I firmly believe that the Air Force set out to prove the "Roswell Incident" was just a balloon, I cannot forget the words of an Army Colonel. In this case also, it was important that a conclusion be drawn that supported the U.S. Government's position and not necessarily the right conclusion. Those words were, "Witnesses sometimes make conflicting statements to different investigators. Honest men can and may reach different conclusions based on identical evidence."

In regards to possible classified records, the Air Force, "reviewed appropriate classified records for any tie-in to

this matter (the Roswell Incident)." This is what the Air Force report had to say about these records: With regards to highly classified records, it should be noted that any programs that employ enhanced security measures or controls are known as a Special Access Programs (SAPs). The authority for such programs comes from Executive Order 12356 and flows from the Department of Defense to the Services via DOD Directive 5205.7. These programs are implemented in the Air Force by Policy Directive 16-7, and Air Force Instruction 16-701. These directives contain detailed requirements for controlling and reporting, in very strict manner, all SAPs. This includes a report from the Secretary of the Air Force to the Secretary of Defense (and ultimately to Congress) on all SAPs submitted for approval, and a certification that there are no 'SAP-like' programs being operated."

This statement is true, in that this is the way SAP-like programs are suppose to work. However, I have yet to find that member of Congress that will admit full knowledge of the Iran-Contra Affair. Also, The National Security Agency (NSA), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and most of the other agencies that make up the Intelligence network have used SAP-like programs to cover-up activities they wished to conceal from Congress.

The Air Force report makes no mention of the Air Force so-called "Blue Room," Project Moon Dust, or Operation Blue Fly. All of these missions, in my opinion, would play an important role in any search for the truth as to what the Roswell object really was. Yet, when I asked the Air Force about these missions the response I received was, "I never heard of those (Blue Room, Project Moon Dust, and Operation Blue Fly) operations."

Senator Barry Goldwater once asked General Curtis LeMay if he could have a look at what was in the Blue Room located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. General LeMay's response was, "Not only can't you get into it but don't you ever mention it to me again." I have letters from Senator Barry Goldwater admitting that he was, in fact, denied access to this facility.

The peace-time missions of both Project Moon Dust and Operation Blue Fly deal with the recovery of, among other things, "objects of unknown origin." The Air Force's response to me, in response to Freedom of Information requests, for information on these two missions was to neither confirm nor deny their existence. This type of response is indicative of a SAPs-like program. Yet, according to the Air Force, the records pertaining to these missions were never checked for any possible tie-in with the recovery of "objects of unknown origin". Furthermore, documents released by agencies, such as, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the State Department clearly indicate that UFO reports were collected from foreign

countries under the codename, "Moon Dust."

I asked for and received the assistance of Senator Jeff Bingaman's office in an effort to get the Air Force's records on Project Moon Dust and Operation Blue Fly released. The Air Force's first response to the Senator's office was, "these missions have never existed." However, I provided the Senator's office with some 23 documents clearly showing these "missions" did, in fact, exist. This time the Senator's office was provided with a watered-down response in an effort to convince the Senator's office that these mission were never used, although they did, at one time, exist. Once again, the documents released by other agencies clearly indicate these missions were used and the watered-down statement provided to the Senator's office was nothing more than an effort on the part of the Air Force to conceal this fact.

Of course, the Air Force realizing that people like myself would know the Air Force did not check all their records had this to say: "It is anticipated that detractors from this effort will complain that 'they did not search record group x, box y, or reel z, etc.; that's where the real records are!' Such complaints are unavoidable and there is no possible way that the millions of records under Air Force control could be searched page by page. The team endeavored to make logical searches in those places where records would most likely be found."

To this charge, all I can say is this; had the Air Force been more concerned about being as fully open as possible when "detractors" such as myself asked them questions about such things as the Blue Room, Project Moon Dust, Operation Blue Fly, etc., they would not be caught in this dilemma. Remember, the Air Force has always stated there was nothing classifiable about UFO's. However, when questioned about UFO's, in connection with the above mentioned missions, the Air Force response was, "these missions have never existed," "the information necessary to respond to your request is properly classified," or "we may neither deny nor confirm the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to your request." Such "complaints" are avoidable in our form of government. It's called being open and honest with the people. Something the Air Force, among other government agencies, have yet to learn.

The Air Force report had this to say about early consideration of extraterrestrial spacecraft: "All the records, however, indicated that the focus of concern was not on aliens, hostile or otherwise, but on the Soviet Union. Many documents from that period speak to the possibility of developmental secret Soviet aircraft overflying US airspace. This, of course, was of major concern to the fledgling USAF, whose job it was to protect these same skies."

First, where did the Air Force get the idea that Congressman Schiff was looking for "proof" of extraterrestrial spacecraft? Congressman Schiff and his staff have made it quite clear that they were looking for records (documents) as to what the Roswell object really was. Nothing more or nothing less. The one thing that Congressman Schiff and his staff was not looking for, was evidence of "extraterrestrial spacecraft." Secondly, this statement can only be made out of the Air Force's ignorance of their early history in dealing with the flying disc phenomenon.

In July or August, 1948, the Air Technical Intelligence Center did a Top Secret study of the flying disc phenomenon. The study was in the form of an "Estimate of the Situation." The situation being flying discs and the estimate being they, the flying discs, were interplanetary. However, the late, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg would not buy interplanetary spacecraft and directed some strange actions to be done with this report.

General Vandenberg directed that the report be declassified and then destroyed. If a report is classified you may order its destruction without declassifying it. However, you must complete a documented record of its destruction. If a document is declassified, then there exist no reason for its ordered destruction because it would be considered not to have any national security value. So, why would General Vandenberg order this document to first be declassified and then destroyed?

Could it be that he took this action in order to insure the American Public would never see or even know of the existence of this document? Remember, if you order a classified document destroyed there is a documented record of its existence and destruction. However, if you order a document to be declassified and then destroyed, no such record exist.

In conclusion, I believe the Air Force set out to "prove" the Roswell object was nothing more than a balloon device. During their research, they came across the "evidence" that was planted 47 years ago as part of an officially sanctioned deception program to conceal the events that occurred here at Roswell, New Mexico in July, 1947 and even then, the best they could come up with was that the object was "most likely" flight #4 of Project Mogul. Furthermore, I believe the Air Force at that time was willing to sacrifice Project Mogul to further conceal the events that had occurred here in Roswell. Remember, after the release of the story, appearing in the Alamogordo News, on July 10th, 1947, the security of Project Mogul had effectively been both breached and compromised.

I believe history will record this about the so-called "Roswell Incident," and that is; what ever was found that

day in July 1947, will never be completely resolved. The object will be whatever you wish it to be and no government on the face of this world will ever be in a position to tell its people the whole truth about UFO's. Not even the United States Government.

We now know that most world governments have highly classified records on UFOs and many of these sightings/incidents cannot be readily explained away even after careful analysis. We also know that much of this information is shared among the many countries. So, one might ask, if this is truly the case, who is the information being kept from and why?

The Air Force will never be in a position of explaining away many of the reported UFO sightings/incidents even with the many advances of modern-day science. Many reports of Unidentified Flying Objects still continue to be reported from around the world and science has yet to evolve to that point of perfection to solve and answer the many questions this phenomenon invokes. The greatest mystery of the Twentieth Century will, in my opinion, continue to be the greatest mystery of the Twenty-First Century.

Clifford E. Stone