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THE AIR FORCE ROSWELL REPORT

On September 9, 1994, newspapers across the nation carried a story that was said to be the final word on the famous Roswell crashed-UFO case. In it the Air Force released the results of an eight-month study which concluded that the debris found at the ranch where Mac Brazel made his discovery in June 1947 was the remnant of a top secret balloon designed to monitor foreign territory for evidence of nuclear testing, designated "Project Mogul." The Air Force study was initiated by the General Accounting Office (GAO) in response to a request by New Mexico Congressman Steven Schiff to locate documentation on Roswell.

Colonel Richard Weaver, Air Force Director of Security and Special Program Oversight, and signatory of the report, said that the Air Force found no evidence of a cover-up, alien bodies or extraterrestrial materials in connection with the story.

The report is voluminous. A 25-page summary digests the report and 33 attachments provide the support information, consisting of hundreds of pages. And response to it has been predictable. Much of the national media reported the conclusions, pretty much accepting what the Air Force had said. The New York Times, 9-18-94,

REPORT OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH REGARDING THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT"



July 1994

raked the idea that the Roswell debris was from an ET device. Experts were interviewed on the Mogul operations, the Times adding that, "Conspiracy theories spun from the desert seem at last deflated."

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal, 9-12-94, was more skeptical of the Air Force conclusions, saying, "In the final analysis, all the Air Force really gave up in response to Schiff's request is confirmation that they lied back in 1947 about what really happened." USA Today, 9-9-94, took a more neutral stance, giving equal space to pro and con remarks on the report.

The UFO press was, needless to say, harsh. The Fund for UFO Research said that the Air Force "trivializes UFOs" by "ignoring all the evidence which conflicts with its conclusions." Karl Pflock, author of one of the various scenarios on Roswell, "Roswell in Perspective," said, "Weaver....and the Air Force failed to do their duties in responding to Congressional direction" (International UFO Reporter, Nov. Dec. 1994). The Center for UFO Studies in Chicago has dismissed the report as well, calling it "weak and internally inconsistent" (International UFO Reporter, Sept. Oct. 1994).

Is the report proof of the end of Roswell or a horrific piece of trash? First, it should be remembered that when the GAO initiated the audit to locate the Roswell records, that was all that was required of the Air Force - to locate records. It is immediately obvious from the Weaver report that the Air Force went beyond this requirement, sending personnel to interview individuals connected to Project Mogul. This process certainly cost the Air Force a good deal of money, in the tens of thousands of dollars if not more.

It is not clear why the Air Force would want to go beyond the requirements of the GAO audit when previous policy had been to ignore Roswell, to ignore UFOs publicly altogether. Why suddenly become involved in a substantial public relations circus when the prudent thing for the Air Force to have done under present policy would have been to report a "no documents" finding to the GAO and end their involvement? This does not give one the impression of an agency sweeping the entire issue under a rug as quickly as possible. A genuine and costly effort was put into this, taxpayer money no less at a time when budget vultures are watching spending carefully.

Bruce Ashcroft, a historian with the Air Intelligence Agency, conducted research into Roswell as part of a general research project to produce an in-house pamphlet on the history of Project Blue Book. A copy of only part of his effort is attached on pages 3-6 of this issue. It is a reasonable and believable assessment.

Another reason why the Weaver report is extraordinary is the fact that the Air Force depended upon a civilian UFO researcher for many of their leads. Robert Todd, an independent researcher who has often helped CAUS, is acknowledged in the report in a very favorable way. In fact, he was asked for information and copies of important documents related to Project Mogul, upon which Todd had performed extensive research for several years. Why would the Air Force have to depend upon an outside UFO researcher for documentation and leads on Project Mogul? Their researcher/historians should have had much more comprehensive access to sources than did Todd, including classified sources to which Todd had no access. The Weaver report could have taken full credit by using internal sources and issuing their statement in the context of needing no assistance in the matter. If the purpose of the Air Force's actions was to cover up the extraterrestrial cause for Roswell, they went about this in a very strange way by calling in one who as a civilian for years had questioned the Air Force's UFO conclusions and had doggedly pursued the government's UFO papers for over twenty years.

(continued on page 7)

SUMMARY OF HQ NAIC RESEARCH INTO THE ROSWELL INCIDENT, UNIDENTIFIED FLYING SAUCERS, AND PROJECT BLUE BOOK

PURPOSE. To summarize sources of information used in the HQ NAIC study of the 1947 Roswell incident. Allegations are that a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) were found at the crash site and transported to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

BACKGROUND. In 1993, Congressman Steven Schiff from New Mexico began an investigation of the Roswell incident. Pursuant to that, a General Accounting Office auditor visited the HQ NAIC History Office to see what records were available within the center. Also, a local television station picked up the story. In addition to HQ NAIC records, the Historian visited other base archives to search for material.

FINDINGS.

1. A review of the HQ NAIC History office and CIRC holdings, plus other base and USAF Museum archives, encompassing several million pages of documents, did not turn up any reference to the Roswell incident or the presence of flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at the base.
2. An electronic search of the Air Force Historical Research Agency archives, again, several million pages of documents, did not turn up any reference to the Roswell incident or the presence of flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at Wright-Patterson AFB.
3. A review of the Dayton Daily News for July 1947, all of the UFO-related material available in the Dayton, Centerville, and Woodbourne Public Libraries, as well as information in the Wright State University holdings and material in the AFIT, Base Technical Library, and Base Library did not turn up any conclusive evidence that flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) had ever been at Wright-Patterson.
4. Conversations with a dozen people who had worked in the Project Blue Book office or with Blue Book materials did not turn up any evidence that there had ever been a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at Wright Patterson.
5. Over the years, there have been several congressional investigations of this organization's study of UFO reports. None has ever turned up evidence of a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at Wright-Patterson.
6. All of this organization's UFO study files were transferred to the National Archives and made available to the public.

CONCLUSIONS.

1. Concerted research has failed to turn up any evidence relating to the Roswell incident or of a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) at Wright-Patterson. Because this conclusion is based on the absence of documentation, the issue can never be definitively resolved. There will always be those who say "You didn't search hard enough," or "We know you really do have the records/saucer(s)/alien(s), but you are just not revealing them to us." It would almost be a physical impossibility to search every desk drawer in every building on Wright-Patterson looking for the report, if it ever existed, on Roswell-related material. HQ NAIC is convinced that no such record currently exists.

2. Because no documentation has ever been found, however, leads center researchers to the conclusion that the Roswell material, if it came to Wright-Patterson for analysis, was nothing remarkable, certainly nothing extraterrestrial. The standard procedure for any government record is that it is kept for some period of time, then retired or destroyed according to a general schedule established by regulation. One might assume that a document purporting to be the true analysis of extraterrestrial material would always be needed and, thus, would have been preserved.

3. Because the Roswell incident occurred so long ago, now nearly 50 years ago, there may be no record trail to follow to absolutely determine if a study had ever been conducted.

4. Despite the best efforts of UFO researchers over the years, not one scrap of physical evidence or one incontestable photograph of either a flying saucer or an alien has ever been found relating to the Roswell incident. Some researchers have devoted years of their lives to this effort. Again, using an argument based on the absence of evidence, the fact that several hundred man-years of effort have followed all of the research trails imaginable leads HQ NAIC to believe that nothing extraterrestrial was found at Roswell.

5. The earliest UFO literature, books by Ruppelt, Keyhoe, and Menzel do not mention the Roswell incident. Also, the Blue Book records and the Condon report do not mention the Roswell incident, though many sightings from 1947 were investigated by this organization's predecessors.

6. HQ NAIC realizes that the absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, but every reasonable avenue of research had been exhausted without finding evidence that a flying saucer(s) and/or alien(s) have ever been at Wright-Patterson AFB.

7. Because the GAO will have searched the records of many federal agencies, HQ NAIC suggests that they be contacted, or Congressman Schiff be contacted, for a comprehensive report of their findings relating to the Roswell incident.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE NAIC/HO
AT MAXWELL AFB, 7-10 MAR 94

When I went to Maxwell, I tried two research strategies:

Assumption I. It might be possible to find a physical explanation for the material. To that end, I looked through the Roswell, Biggs, Holloman, and Kirtland base records. I hoped to find an airplane crash, a lost nuclear sensor, a misplaced bomb, or a V-2/RPV gone astray. Work already done at the AFHRA had found a reference to a 3 July balloon launch at Holloman, a good match to the official story offered. I did not find anything directly explaining what was discovered near Roswell, but a Roswell history mentioned that 60" radar discs should be installed on all of their B-29s. (Presumably, one or more of the B-29s were so equipped.) One of the histories mentioned the 1947 crash of a P-80 aircraft near Carrizozo, New Mexico. It might be possible that the wreckage found was plane crash debris. Also, by July 1944, the Army Air Force had flying training bases in Roswell, Ft Sumner, Carlsbad, Hobbs, Albuquerque, and Deming. There was also a 1945 study of Japanese bomb balloons that had been found in the U.S. While most of the balloons found when the study was prepared had been found along the Pacific Coast, some had been found as far east as Iowa. Unfortunately, Roswell base records such as the morning reports, maintenance records, base hospital records, and watch officer logs were not found at Maxwell.

Assumption II. If an extraterrestrial vehicle had been picked up at Roswell, there would be "evidence" of it in associated programs such as electronics research, air defense systems, propulsion studies, and aircraft design programs. Looking through Scientific Advisory Board and Research and Design records did not yield any direct evidence, neither did a search of Continental Air Command nor Air Defense Command material. The work done on nuclear propulsion aircraft in the late 1940s, apparently, was a natural spin-off from the atomic weapon research. I also expected something might appear in the Air Force Commanders' Conference minutes. The Intelligence and Research and Design portions of these records did not contain any reference that could be tied to the Roswell material, even though these records were originally classified Top Secret. Because there were no references to extraterrestrial vehicles, and all developments could be explained by ongoing research and/or a reaction to the growing Soviet threat, the work at Maxwell reinforced my belief that the Roswell material had a prosaic origin and was not of great interest. Also, ACS/Intelligence records made reference to the flying saucer "myth," again reinforcing my belief that no unexplainable object had been found.

The Historical Research Agency is preparing an official record of its own records search. The discussion above is not meant to supersede any statement by the AFHRA.

Areas for further research.

--National Archives. There is much work that could be done in Record Group 341. SAF/AAZ had someone doing research in RG 341 during the week I was at Maxwell. With 3.4 million pages of documents, however, more time could be spent here.

--Roswell. The Roswell base records mentioned at the end of "Assumption I" above are not at Maxwell and probably will not be in the National Archives. If these records survived when the base closed, they may be somewhere in Roswell.

"Daily Mail"
London
Sept. 10
1994

Chicago Tribune
Sept. 9, 1994

Air Force: Roswell 'UFO' probably a military device

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—A supposed alien spacecraft discovered near Roswell, N.M., 47 years ago likely was a secret Army Air Force balloon designed to monitor Soviet nuclear testing, the Air Force said Thursday.

The Air Force in a report on the "Roswell Incident" said contrary claims in a wave of sensational books and television specials are "undocumented, taken out of context, self-serving or otherwise dubious."

The July 1947 discovery of wreckage on a ranch near Roswell has been at the center of longstanding disputes between UFO advocates and the government over whether the Air Force hides evidence of alien spacecraft discoveries.

The Air Force began its in-

vestigation earlier this year amid cover-up charges.

The material found near Roswell consisted of foil-wrapped fabric, wooden sticks, rubber pieces, and small I-beams with strange markings on them. A local newspaper reported: Air Force Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch.

"The Air Force research did not locate or develop any information that the 'Roswell Incident' was a UFO event," wrote Col. Richard Weaver, author of the report. "The most likely source of the wreckage ... was from Project Mogul balloon trains."

Project Mogul was a top-secret venture to develop balloons that would carry sensing devices aloft and alert the U.S. military of any Soviet nuclear tests.

UFO legend that won't fly away

From GEORGE GORDON
in New York

THE U.S. Air Force tried yesterday to deflate the world's most enduring UFO mystery after 47 years.

Dismissing theories of space craft and little green men, it revealed that what had been discovered near the small town of Roswell, New Mexico was — a burst balloon.

Claims of an alien visit were 'undocumented, taken out of context and self-serving', it said in a report.

The 'Roswell Incident' began in July, 1947, at the height of UFO hysteria, when wreckage of foil-wrapped fabric, wooden sticks and pieces of rubber was found on a local ranch.

Talk of flying saucers took off, although shortly afterwards officials of the then Army Air Force said the object was just a weather balloon.

That failed to stop the bizarre claims multiplying. They included reports that a local undertaker had received an order for four child-sized coffins to hold the remains of the men from outer space. A nurse was said to have attended a secret post mortem in an airforce hangar.

Those who found bits of material in a field said it was thinner than aluminium foil, stronger than steel and could not be torn or burned.

Shine

The story became part of U.S. folklore. Former CIA director Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter accused the Air Force of suppressing evidence and hiding the facts.

The Citizens Against UFO Secrecy filed a lawsuit in Washington describing Roswell as 'the cosmic Watergate' and demanding the release of the material.

The case was thrown out. Then, earlier this year Congressman Steve Schiff, who represents the area, pressed the Pentagon to clear up the matter once and for all.

The result is the disclosure that it was all part of Project Mogul — a top secret venture to develop balloons to carry sensing devices to alert the U.S. military of any Soviet nuclear tests.

Among the equipment on board were items made of balsa wood and tinfoil held together by glue, rubber and fabric.

That is still not enough for spacecraft believers. Don Berliner of Fund for UFO Research described yesterday's report as 'pathetic'. He added: 'We just don't believe them. It is considered the best UFO case, and the most authenticated.'

Walter Haut, a volunteer at the UFO Museum at Roswell, added: 'Those who made the original UFO claim were not flaky people.' Shopkeepers are not likely to let it take the shine off the town's main tourist attraction. 'Nobody believes the Air Force,' said one.

These excesses for the Air Force make no sense if they have the answer to Roswell in the forms of debris and bodies. They do make a lot of sense if the Air Force does not have an answer but is grasping at whatever they can to provide one, even asking civilian UFO researchers for help. Would not an agency trying to cover the "truth" about crashed discs internalize their activities as much as possible, and keep public involvement to a minimum? At least this has been the belief of much of the UFO community through the years.

The Weaver report admits that the original explanation for the Roswell debris, a weather balloon, was incorrect. Why does the Air Force make such an admission now, drawing critical fire for having offered an inadequate explanation 47 years earlier? They could have rested upon the conclusions extracted from the task assigned to them by the GAO, to locate paperwork. Nothing was found to support ETs. It should have ended there.

Several possibilities exist for the Air Force's current actions. Their researchers knew the truth about Roswell ETs and have lied about their research effort and knowledge. Or that Weaver's staff did not know about such a truth, not having been properly briefed, or briefed at all, about such a top-secret matter on the existence of ETs, meaning that an internal cover-up exists within the Air Force. Or that they know nothing of crashed saucers because none exist. If one accepts either one of the first two possibilities, then either must be demonstrated by evidence. Evidence for the third is the report itself.

Without paperwork or artifacts, the story depends exclusively upon verbal testimony. What does the Weaver report say about that?

"There are also now several major variations of the 'Roswell story.' For example, it was originally reported that there was only recovery of debris from one site. This has since grown from a minimal amount of debris recovered from a small area to airplane loads of debris from multiple huge 'debris fields.' Likewise, the relatively simple description of sticks, paper tape and tinfoil has since grown to exotic metals with hieroglyphics and fiber optic-like materials. Most versions now claim that there were two crash sites where debris was recovered; and at the second site, alleged bodies of extraterrestrial aliens were supposedly retrieved. The number of these 'alien bodies' recovered also varied. These claims are further complicated by the fact that UFO researchers are not in agreement among themselves as to exactly where these recovery sites were located or even the dates of the alleged crash(es)."

Weaver report, page 5

The fact is that these contradictions do exist and as such it has made it much more difficult for Roswell ET proponents to successfully argue their case.

From the strict point of view of Air Force UFO involvement and documents research, the Weaver report is quite a curiosity. It is the first major official statement on UFOs in 26 years. Unlike many previous reports on UFO sightings, this describes in considerable detail the effort put into behind-the-scenes research, going as far as naming various document collections searched. In the past, simple conclusions without details of investigation had been the Air Force standard in dealing with the media. And most extraordinarily, the Air Force admitted that they were wrong in issuing a previous conclusion on a sighting. So at least in this one instance we know officially that the Air Force was not forthcoming in their earlier UFO statements. Since there

will probably be no more official statements with regard to the rest of the Project Blue Book cases, we can only suppose what other mis-statements might have been officially acknowledged. But we know that justification existed for UFO researchers to doubt what the government had told the public.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

A RADICAL NOTION

During the early years in the history of the United States, one of the founding fathers of the nation, Thomas Jefferson, who eventually became the second president, proposed a radical notion. He suggested that, based upon the abuses of governments on adherents to religious beliefs, among other reasons, there should be a separation of church and state within the structure of a nation - that neither should have any influence on the activities of the other. Jefferson fought for a decade to incorporate this notion as a fundamental principle of government, the principle often being the focus of abuse on both ends of the political and religious spectrum even today.

Within the relatively miniscule UFO community, the overriding motivating philosophy has been the belief that UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles, here for a variety of purposes, depending on to whom one speaks. The perception from outside this community is that of a small group of people pursuing a belief for which they have inadequate proof. Both the belief and the perception have been with us for decades and has been the source of great conflict and animosity.

It is with this in mind that CAUS proposes a policy that is Jeffersonian in nature, will likely not be received well by the UFO community, but if put into practice would help relieve the clashing, conflicting level of argument over UFO reality. It is proposed to separate belief in extraterrestrials, or whatever other exotic ideas exist (church) from general research into the nature of sightings and detections of unknown aerial objects (state).

It is always interesting to see people discussing alien visitations to our planet by calling the vehicles "UFOs." Unidentified flying objects imply no answer as to their origin.

In proposing this radical notion, which will be perceived as radical within the UFO community but in reality is extremely conservative, it is hoped that in the event that the phenomena never becomes openly apparent, such separation of belief from information will reduce the noise level of debate and foster patience in assessing that with which we are dealing, whatever it is.

CAUS recognizes too that deemphasis of belief in UFOs, as opposed to deductive reasoning being applied, is bad for business. The idea of aliens visiting our planet is attractive and makes one want to know more, and buy more of this "product." Groups require funds to operate and ET promotion will bring in funds. Yet, are those funds provided in the sense of investment into the resolution of a scientific problem or are they "church donations" provided to keep a belief alive?

There is a huge difference between maybe all this is happening and it is happening. A bridge needs to be built to the scientific establishment, away from the glaring lights and screaming headlines of which many are so fond. It is a challenging but perhaps insurmountable task to want to perform a face-lift on UFOlogy. Is it too much to ask for a replacement of a picketing, chanting, drum-beating desire to promote UFOs, with a heroic withdrawal from a currently untenable position to one that deals with information entirely detached from preconceived notions. Such a position will surely gain with an outside world uncommitted about all that has previously happened.