

THE BERKELEY GROUP
"ENCOUNTERS"/AREA 51
INTERVIEW WITH: GLENN CAMPBELL
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Q
We've seen some objects doing amazing maneuvers. What's that about?

GC
Uh, I've s-seen a lot of videotapes of-of moving lights taken from the Black Mailbox. And I've not found any of them that are convincing. Uh, the fact that the people aren't considering is-is the camera movement. If you have no reference points within the frame, we don't know if it's the object that's moving or the camera.

Q
Who exactly is this base secret from?

GC
Obviously, all our potential enemies know about Groom Lake. There are satellite images that are widely available. There's, uh, news reports on Groom Lake. The only people this base is being kept secret from are the American people.

Q
Tell me a little about the open sky treaty. You were talking about the Russian satellites. How can they have satellites at the secret base?

GC
The United States, uh, has signed a treaty called the Treaty of Open Skies, which explicitly allows signatory coun-countries to overfly any part of the other country. Uh, countries like Russia and our other former communist enemies are specifically allowed to overfly places like Groom Lake and take all the pictures they want. These people certainly know about Groom Lake. The only people that aren't allowed these pictures are the American people.

Q
The Russians have photographs. The French have photographs. You can buy photographs from the U.S. Geology Service, but yet the American people aren't allowed to know about this base.

GC
Obviously, the existence of the base is not secret from anyone. Uh, you can buy satellite images from the Russians, the French. You can even now buy a satellite photo of Groom Lake from our own government, through the U.S.G.S. Uh, foreign countries can overfly Groom as part of the Open Skies Treaty. Uh, obviously, they can't overfly at any time. There-there is... The United States has, uh, signed a treaty called the Treaty of Open Skies, which allows signatory countries explicitly to overfly any part of a signatory's territory, to take, uh, satellite...

Q
Why Area 51? Why is Glenn Campbell here?

GC
I came here interested in the UFO stories. I heard through the UFO literature that there was this mysterious location, this Black Mailbox on a remote desert highway where you could come on any Wednesday night and see flying saucers on demand. So I came and I saw, and I saw spectacular lights in the sky, which I eventually learned how to dismiss. These were- the lights that I saw were routine military activity. Uh, people don't understand that this-this is a war zone. There are exercises going on here all the time. And these exercises involve flares, they involve dogfights, they involve bombing. All sorts of aerial lights. That if you're in the mind to see UFO's, you will see them.

Q

Then you left and then you came back. And after you dismissed those stories, what then hooked you to stay there?

GC

After my initial visit, I felt that I had dismissed the UFO stories here. Everything I saw was conventional. But at some point I realized that I wasn't getting the whole story. The story was more subtle than that. I heard of sightings and-and reports that really didn't fit what I had seen. Uh, I-I came back here a second time, and happened to run into some aviation watchers, who were looking for nice, solid airplanes. They were looking for the Aurora, not an- not a- not a, uh, alien craft at all. Yet they still believed the UFO stories. They believed the Lazarre story. And that got me to thinking that I had to come back here and investigate further.

Q

And have you investigated that further? The Lazarre story.

GC

The Lazarre story is fascinating no matter how you slice it. If it's a fraud, it's a very good fraud, that- it is perfectly tailored to this area. Uh, i-if you were to put a secret saucer base anywhere in the world, this would be a good place to do it, whether it be fact or fiction.

Q

Tell me about the story about you have met a lot of people, and you met some ex-workers, or supposed ex-workers. The one story that stuck in my mind was the German scientist, who when they were playing cards.

GC

I've heard a lot of secondhand stories, stories that don't prove anything but that keep me intrigued. One of, uh, one of the people I've talked to is a worker who worked at the nuclear test site back in the sixties. And he says that people who talked to him, told him that they worked with the craft and could explain the propulsion systems. Uh, he says that he saw these craft himself from great- at great distances. This is back in the sixties. Uh, m- sightings can be mistaken, and people who aren't alive today, you can't cross-cross-check their-their testimony. But the fact that these stories don't go away, they keep coming up and coming up, makes me want to look into them.

Q

Tell me a little bit about the Whitesides Defense Committee? What exactly is it that you're trying to accomplish? What's Glenn Campbell here for?

GC

The-the important issue to me at the moment, the mo- the-the issue that has really crystallized the issues here, is, uh, the seizure of this land. Uh, I-I have formed a, uh, a group, a small group, called the Whitesides Defense Committee that is fighting to retain this land, keep it for the public, precisely for the same reason that the government wants to take it. We want to be able to look down on Groom Lake. We want to have that oversight.

Q

What measures will you go to defend Freedom Ridge?

GC

I would not be surprised that if, ultimately, the government did get this land. The important thing is we're using it right now as a tool, a tool to generate publicity, a tool to, uh, involve ourselves in the process of opening up this base. Uh, the air force wanted to take this land to keep its base secret. And the great irony is it's doing the opposite. It's exposing this base.

Q

How could the air force put an end to you being here? What would make you pack your bags tomorrow and leave?

GC

I think the best thing that the air force could do right now is simply admit that they have a base out there. They can say, "yes, we have a base. It's a- it's a secret facility that's used to

develop secret aircraft. We can't tell you everything that's going out there. But yes, we have it." That would go a long way to diffusing the attention and the publicity that's been attracted to this area.

Q

When we had spoken about, again, the air force taking this minuscule four thousand acres, why do they want these four thousand acres? Why is it these when they have, whatever this is, we talked about four thousand square miles. Why four thousand acres?

GC

The-the amount of land involved in this withdrawal is relatively small. We're talking four thousand acres, when the whole Nellis Range complex is four thousand square miles. It's a very small amount of land if looked at by itself. But the real reason that they're taking this land is-is very significant. And although the land itself is not much, it-it's an important- it's an important pi-political parcel of land. Uh, it's the land that proves to the world that-that the base exists, because anyone can go down there and look at it.

Q

What is the government saying? Because they're not telling the truth about why they're actually acquiring the land, are they?

GC

The air force says that it wants this land, quote, for the public safety and for the safe operations of the Nellis Bombing Range. This is- this is plainly a lie. It's not the truth. The public safety is not risked by climbing up to the top of these hills. And the Area 51 has nothing to do with the Nellis Bombing Range. What we want the air force to do before they get this land is simply give us the real reason. They're taking this land because it overlooks the secret base.

Q

Other than taking the land, how will that affect the American public?

GC

If the air force gets this land, then the American taxpayer will not be able to climb these hills and look down on the base. The irony is there will still be other viewpoints, further away, but still within direct line of sight where you can still see the base. If they take these near-in viewpoints, then people are gonna move to the far-out viewpoints and still see the base and still compromise national security if-if that's what the-the air force feels. If the air force is gonna take any of this land, then logically it should take all the viewpoints. In 1984, the air force seized eighty-nine thousand acres, the entire Groom Mountain Range, to keep people from looking down on the secret base. But they-they forgot four thousand acres. There's-there's these little hills that people forgot. The government screwed up. Now, the government is trying to take these four thousand acres, but it's overlooking even further viewpoints. We say if the government is gonna-gonna do a job, it should do it right and take all the viewpoints. Only then would the job be done.

Q

How far will the government go?

GC

The go- the government is limited in this land action. They can only take up to five thousand acres without Congressional approval. Of course, the last thing the air force wants to do is to go to Congress. That's-that's a place where the whole secret base could be debated. Uh, so they're-they're tailoring their- their land withdrawal to-to under five thousand acres to pre-supposedly, to prevent, uh, a lot of, um, Congressional review...

Q

Can you tell us who Agent X is?

GC

Agent X is a shadowy figure who turns up on my doorstep every once in a while, after having spent several days out in- out in the desert. I'm not sure what he sees out there in the

desert, but I can tell you, he's got all the gear. He's got the night vision goggles. He's got the camo suit. He's one, uh, well equipped dude.

Q
Could you tell me about the scanner? I think there's a little story about the scanners. Maybe set up the scanners and ...recorded something.

GC
There are all sorts of different people, uh, who are interested in Groom Lake. You have the, uh, the air craft buffs who are out there looking for secret air craft. You have the UFO, uh, buffs looking for UFO's. You have the scanner buffs who, uh, have their scanners running all the time trying to listen to whatever radio traffic there may be. There-there must be a lot of radio traffic for-for a facility of this size. Uh, there must be, uh, shuttle-shuttle jets talking to other-other jets. There-there must be controllers talking to planes, and-and ground traffic of-of routine maintenance and security. Uh, so part of hanging out here is-is to listen to the radio a-and see whatever- what you can pick up. And sometimes you pick up some interesting stuff.

Q
Such as?

GC
Well, for many months, the-the security patrols, uh, broadcast in the clear. In other words, we could listen to them talk about us. And if they said they were going to one part of the range, we would go to another part of the range. A few months ago, they caught on and they started scrambling their broadcasts. But every once in a while, they-they mess up and-and you can still listen to them talk about you.

Q
Didn't you have an encounter with a helicopter?

GC
Yes.

Q
Can you describe that?

GC
I've had a number of encounters with-with the big Blackhawk helicopter. Uh, typically, we're-we're wandering around in the-near the border, and the security dudes are following us on-o-in-in their patrols. And if they happen to lose us, if we happen to, quote, vanish, then- and they can't find us, then they may call out the helicopter. Uh, we've had a number of-of cases where the helicopter has-has searched far and wide to try to find us. And then when they do find us, they come down real low and blast us real good, just to- just as their way of saying, "Ha! We found you."

Q
Describe that when they come down and blast you. What happens?

GC
On several occasions, these helicopters have come down real, real low, I mean within about twenty or thirty feet. And when you have a-a huge machine like this right over you, it kicks up dust and dirt, and it really can be quite dangerous. It is, in fact, against the air force's own regulation to operate a helicopter below five hundred feet within a, uh, within the range of a-a pedestrian or a building. They're violating their own regulations by doing this.

Q
What do you think they're saying? Do you think they're just saying "don't forget we're here?"

GC
It's a cat and mouse game. They realize it-it's a game. We realize it's a game. Uh, if we vanish on them, and they have to hunt for us, they come down real low with the helicopter to tell us "Ha! We found you. Game's over."

Q
This is a pretty serious game, though, isn't it?

GC
I-I really feel- personally, ha, to be chased by the big helicopter and to know at the end I'm not going to be shot, it's kind of exciting, you know. They-they're-they're violating their rules by blasting us. At the same time, you know, we get the- an adrenaline rush from that sort of thing.

Q
About the controls being put on the government about it being a Constitutional issue. We had spoken about that. If you don't put controls on the government, what happens? (Misc.) Are you concerned with controls being put on the government?

Q
What happens if the government is not under control?

GC
I think this is a very important philosophical issue. Uh, I-I think the-the authors of our Constitution recognize the dangers of big government, and-and the dangers when government is allowed to do whatever it wants. So they've build certain safeguards into the Constitution requiring checks and balances on the government. Right here, we have a base that doesn't exist so the government can do anything it wants out there. That's a very frightening thing in-in a Constitutional sense. The go- the people have to have some control, some say, over what the government is doing in all its spheres.

Q
How much do they know about you? Do they have a file on you?

GC
I'm-I'm sure my name is well known. I-I've heard that they even know of me in the Pentagon. I'm sure that I have a-a file at least that thick. But that doesn't really solve the problem, knowing much about me. I-I'm talk...

Q
Are you more or less of a threat to them than, say, a UFO geek or something?

GC
I-I think some parts- some parts of the military may regard me as a threat. Certainly, the security dudes don't like me very much. I think that other parts of the military recognize what I'm trying to do and recognize that-that it is honorable. Uh, I'm fighting to-to free the military from many of its own restrictions. The military i-is bound up in its own bureaucracy, in its own security restrictions. I think people in the military recognize that the military has to change to meet the-the new state of the world. But the military is slow to change. I'm trying to give the military a push.

Q
Where is Freedom Ridge? How do you get there? And what's on the way?

GC
These yellow areas are the areas that the-the government's trying to seize. Uh, one of these, uh, the southern one, is Freedom Ridge. Uh, that point marks Freedom Ridge there. Uh, there's a four-wheel-drive road running up toward Freedom Ridge, through what we call Sensor Alley, because there's seven road sensors along this path. Uh, we'll go up through a, uh, narrow canyon, uh, over, uh, an illegal road block, which we have managed to breach, and then we'll go up a ridge to-to Freedom Ridge here. This is about, uh, a few hundred yards from the actual military border.

Q
So generally when you go to Freedom Ridge, do you go in four-wheel drive and then hike up? Or do you drive all the way up?

GC
I sort of see myself as the-the maintainer of trail, so I will- uh, very often I'll-I'll drive up, and other times I'll hike up, just to make sure the trail markers are there.

GC
Do you want to point out the relation to the base?

Q
Yeah.

GC
Freedom Ridge is approximately, uh, twelve to thirteen miles from the-the actual base itself, which is down here. Uh, we're-we're along the shore of-of the Groom Dry Lake, up against the Papoose Mountains right here. Uh, the air strip here, uh, is about seven miles long. It's reputed to be the longest air strip in the world.
The government is seizing these, uh, these blocks shown in yellow here, but they're ignoring another viewpoint out to the east. Uh, that's Tikabu(sp?) Peak and the adjoining mountains of Badger Mountains. Uh, when the governments takes the-the near-in viewpoints, we'll simply go out to the further viewpoints and see the base from there.
This is the actual land boundary of Area 51. We're within a- Area 51 itself is a small section that was once part of a Nevada test site. It's surrounded by a buffer zone, uh, which is technically part of the Nellis Bombing Range. So at the point where we walk up to the military border, we'll be walking up to the bombing range, not actually up to Area 51. That's another five miles beyond. This is the- this is a chart of the air space in the area. Uh, Area 51 is a relatively small block of land. It's surrounded by a-a large off-limits, uh, air space known as Dreamland. And-and pilots actually use that term. Uh, that-that, uh, extends well outside the boundary. So at the point where we're at Freedom Ridge, we'll actually be within the Dreamland air space. Military pilots are not allowed to fly in this area. Only if you have a specific reason to go to Area 51 will you ever intrude into this air space.

Q
Is that the kind of testing that goes on?

GC
Essentially, all these- all this area, uh, of the Nellis Bombing Range, it's-it's an active bombing range. They'll be dogfights, they'll be bombing, they'll be ground maneuvers. However, this box in the middle, uh, with Groom Lake at its center, that's off-limits even to most military pilots. You cannot fly there unless you have specific authorization to go to Area 51. And very few planes have that.

I have an air chart here, which the only government air chart that actually shows a-an air strip at Groom Lake. It's not much- it's not much to look at. Here we are.

END OF TAPE