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For more recent information about Area 51, see the new [Area 51 Research Center](#) maintained by Don Emory.

Where is TTR? Was F117A tested at Groom?

From: campbell@ufomind.com (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)
Date: Mon, 4 Aug 1997 20:01:30 -0800

In private email, mposey@startext.net wrote:

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>Hello, I've been trying to understand just where in Nevada
>Area51 is. I've been to the Tonapah Test Range which is north of Las
>Vegas. Is area51 south of the Tonapah Test Range?
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>
>Also I was there while they were testing the F117A. As far as I
>know the F117A has never been to Area51 for testing (unless some sort of
>limited special testing was done there). Why do I keep hearing that the
>SR71 and F117A were tested at Area51?
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The Tonopah Test Range is in the northern part of the Nellis Range roughly 35 miles southeast of the town of Tonopah. This secret base has a sign on the highway (US-6) and can be seen from public land.

I am no aviation historian, but I play one on TV. As I understand it, "early stealth prototypes" were tested at Groom, but I can't say for certain that the F117A itself was tested there. A questions is where is "there" and what do you mean by "tested." It is a safe bet it was run past the radar ranges near Groom Lake, and it is hard to imagine any secret plane being based at TTR without touching down at A51 occasionally.

Another qualifier is whether you mean before or after the F117A was made public, because it has certainly has been there since (as reported by observers on Freedom Ridge.)

I have had complaints from hardcore aviation types when I say the B-2 was tested at Groom. I know so, because I've seen it there many times, making repeated passes over the base. This was after it was made public, however -- which doesn't count in some people's minds.

It is a similar fine point whether the SR71 was "tested" at Groom. It was certainly operational there, since I know people who worked on it there. Everyone agrees that the A12 was tested there.

Plane never concerned me much. They're just trucks with wings... Mostly what goes on at Groom and TTR is America's multi-billion-dollar effort to fill tomorrow's aviation museums.

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|
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|  Area 51 Research Center      campbell@ufomind.com
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PO Box 30303, Las Vegas, NV 89173 Glenn Campbell, Webmaster & Moderator

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This page: <http://www.aliensonearth.com/area51/list/1997/aug/a05-002.shtml> (12/10/00 0:17)

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