

"UFO Crash Recovery Unit" spotted on highway

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Subject: "UFO Crash Recovery Unit" spotted on highway

So I'm cruising north on US-93 on Sunday (3/16/97) at 75 mph, when three black four-wheel-drive vehicles pass me like I'm standing still. Each of them seems new and each has a radar dish and a forest of antennas on top, along with a yellow hazard light. They look very official.

On the back of each is a sign that reads "UFO CRASH RESPONSE UNIT."

It's pretty spooky, because someone has obviously laid out a lot of money for those rigs, probably \$75k+ for the vehicles, not including the equipment. Who has that kind of dough apart from the government and Robert Bigelow?

I try to keep up with them, but it's no use, they're doing 90 mph straight into the evil heart of Lincoln County, where the cops don't exactly welcome diversity, and I am not eager to follow them to Hell.

What exactly are those radar dishes and antennas supposed to pick up? This is obviously some rich man's hobby, but whose? It seems a little hokey even for New Age philanthropist Bigelow, who has purchased a ranch up north because cattle mutilations supposedly took place there. He has the funds but no obvious desire for publicity. His "UFO Crash Response Unit" wouldn't be labelled as such.

The last black vehicle gave me a clue. In addition to the sign on the back, there was a small circular decal for the NOAA -- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

It clicked. These were tornado busters with a sense of humor.

I recalled an article I had read in the Las Vegas Sun....

"Damn the tornadoes, full speed ahead! Weather or not, local couple driven to chase storms"

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/archives/1997/mar/13/505689033.html>

It seems that amateur tornado chasers were holding a convention in Las Vegas, showing off their neat gear. They would probably chase UFOs if they could, but tornados are more predictable.

Damn! Another illusion shattered.

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