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## Comments on the PM Area 51 article

From: **Dan Zinngrabe**  
Date: Mon, 19 May 1997 18:05:29 -0700  
Subject: Comments on the PM Area 51 article

Glenn- I agree with you recent post on the list regarding the Popmech article. The White Sands they mention is an annex or detachment of the \*real\* white Sands Missile Range in NM. The facility they're talking about is the Green River launch complex, where they lob reentry vehicles into White Sands. Do an opennet search for "ATHENA" and you'll find some interesting stuff- apparently a hypersonic glide vehicle was launched from Green River to land at White Sands, and ended up dropping radioactive materials into Mexico. The number of fairly obvious errors in the PM article is staggering, and somewhat predictably, I've already seen it being quoted as gospel by some people. I sincerely doubt that the areas they mention are involved in "black" aircraft testing, wether it be a Tier-3 or a UFO. The mention of sightings of "lights in the sky" in the Four Corners area is particularly funny- that's a heavily trafficked route between White Sands, Cannon, Holloman, etc. and the Utah bombing and gunnery ranges.

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I first saw the name ATHENA on official diagrams accompanying a Sandia paper on hypersonic vehicle flight testing. The paper interested me because it had no footnotes, references, etc., though it alluded to a number of real-world hypersonic flight tests. The diagrams included showed tests launched from the Green River complex, as well as Wake Island in the pacific, and carried detailed descriptions of the vehicle's flight, all the way down to what support aircraft an vessels were used. Photos of the launch complexes at Green River and Kauai were also included. An OpenNet search for "ATHENA" resulted in several hits, all diary entries by Glenn Seaborg, with abstracts detailing how one of the tests launched from Green River Utah went awry and landed in Mexico, spreading radioactive debris on a small town.

Dan Z  
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