

Nellis AFB 'ROFL'ing over PM article [a.c.a51]

From: **Ken MacGray**
 Date: Tue, 20 May 1997 09:24:30 -0800
 Subject: Nellis AFB 'ROFL'ing over PM article [a.c.a51]

From: groomwatch@aol.com (GroomWatch)
 Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy.area51
 Subject: Nellis AFB 'ROFL'ing over PM article
 Date: 19 May 1997 15:47:12 GMT

The June issue of Poplular Mechanics magazine may have suddenly become an unexpected "bounty" to the Air Force, particularly to those folks at Nellis AFB who are, no doubt, rolling on the floor laughing over the article on AREA 51, which was for the most part filled with factual errors to their absolute delight!! Sheila Widnal (Secretary of the AF) must also be 'ROLF'ing, too.

It is my hope that this type of apparently misinformed article may not serve to curtail the general public's interest and scrunity of AREA 51 (Groom Lake), particularly for those issues concerning alleged infractions of environmental statutes.

The article, written by Jim Wilson, infers that "the Air Force has abandoned top-secret testing at its once most secret test site". Then Wilson comes to the conclusion and states that "we know why and we know where they moved it to (i.e., Utah)". Nothing is farther from the truth than that overly generalized inference. Jim Wilson, despite his probable sincerity and good intentions, obviously missed the entire picture. To begin with, he obviously took a wrong turn on 'Groom Lake Road' and went to the wrong location. It is apparent from the photo that what he did was go south on the 'Mail-Box Road', crossed the 'Groom Lake Road' and went further south all the way till he encountered an old, poorly maintained wind fence, believing that he had arrived at the back gate of AREA 51. There he decided that nothing was happening at AREA 51, and makes a statement, saying "the 'cammo dudes' are no longer patrolling the perimeter of AREA 51" and further declares that "what we found was a securely locked wind fence that appears to have been undisturbed for months". He further comments that even though he had arrived at the back door to AREA 51, there was "no guard post".

Brilliant!

He also states that the "warning signs flanking the gate aren't very threatening either", and comes to the conclusion that "AREA 51 has shut down".

Again, brilliant conclusion!

I suggest next time that he go to the right location...towards the real Guard Shack area...where he may encounter the 'cammo dudes' and perhaps a military chopper to welcome him.

>From what I understand from several reliable sources, Groom Lake has not had a major lessening of activity whatsoever. In fact there may be more going on at Groom Lake than before. New testing of "skins" for the outer coating of stealth technology is going on, just to mention one example. It is reported that major components of a new prototype of (small-scale) VTOL produced by Lockheed have recently been transferred to Groom from Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif. Moreover, most sensitive programs have always been conducted below ground level at Groom.

The Popular Mechanics article is in such a drastic contrast to the more well-researched article that appeared in the May issue of Popular Science in which Groom Lake was mentioned several times, with an inference that there is still plenty of activity at Groom. Another erroneous fact Wilson mentioned was that there is an "officially named AREA 6413" in Utah. There is no AREA 6413. What he meant was Restricted Air Space 6413 in Utah.

Sure, there may be some new programs going on in Utah, but to infer that AREA 51 moved to Utah is totally suspect.

Norio Hayakawa

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