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

Glenn Campbell

Glenn Campbell, 37, is the principal local activist seeking greater government accountability at "Area 51," a secret military base 90 miles north of Las Vegas. Formerly a successful computer programmer in the Boston area, Campbell moved to the remote desert town of Rachel, Nevada, in Jan. 1993 to investigate the many strange stories emanating from the base. His carefully researched book, **The Area 51 Viewer's Guide**, helped bring mainstream attention to a story that had previously been dominated by UFO "true believers" and conspiracy buffs with little concern for facts.

Although the base was long a center of UFO and airplane lore, Campbell helped turn Area 51 into a mainstream phenomenon. In 1993, when the Air Force announced its intention to expand the military buffer zone and seize two hills offering views of the secret Groom Lake base, Campbell led the unsuccessful fight to oppose the annexation. This land withdrawal and Campbell's active publicizing of it gave major media outlets the excuse to report on this mysterious facility. Campbell has appeared on [ABC World News Tonight](#) and [Larry King Live](#) to discuss Area 51 and has been featured in dozens of other TV shows and news articles, including in [The New York Times Magazine](#), [Popular Science](#), [Der Spiegel](#) and [Esquire](#). "People can't seem to get enough of Area 51," says Campbell, "even though most of the stories about the place are highly speculative."

Campbell declares himself "seriously interested" in some of the UFO tales emanating from Nevada's military restricted zone, but he dismisses most of the lights-in-the-sky stories reported in Rachel, the town nearest the base. "This place is a circus," says Campbell. "Anyone can make any claim they want here." Campbell points out that the area around this "UFO Capital" is an intense military war games area where exotic looking lights are produced by conventional aircraft on exercise. Campbell says he has seen many spectacular lights in his 2 years living in Rachel, but never any he can't explain.

Campbell distributes information on Area 51 primarily through his massive web site at www.ufomind.com, and he supports his operation with an internet-based business selling related books. He described his role as that of a "clearinghouse" for all available information relating to the secret military base at Groom Lake. He now lives in an apartment in Las Vegas overlooking a remote terminal of the city's airport; here, workers commute to the base daily in unmarked jets under Campbell's vigilant gaze. "I've become a sort of professional irritant to the government," he says, "but democracy needs this kind of vigilance."

Campbell is widely respected for his Area 51 research because he sticks to the facts and rarely engages in the emotional speculation that dominates the UFO field. "I am fighting for less secrecy and greater government

accountability, which are goals everyone can agree with regardless of their view on UFOs," Campbell says.

[[Parent](#)]

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