



# Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here



**Our Bookstore is OPEN**

*Over 5000 new & used titles, competitively priced!*

Topics: [UFOs](#) - [Paranormal](#) - [Area 51](#) - [Ghosts](#) - [Fortean](#) - [Conspiracy](#) - [History](#) - [Biography](#) - [Psychology](#) - [Religion](#) - [Crime](#) - [Health](#) - [Geography](#) - [Maps](#) - [Science](#) - [Money](#) - [Language](#) - [Recreation](#) - [Technology](#) - [Fiction](#) - [Other](#) - [New](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1997](#) -> [Jul](#) -> **Re: Project 1947 - Robert Dean**

## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Project 1947 - Robert Dean

From: Greg Sandow <gsandow@prodigy.net>  
Date: Thu, 17 Jul 1997 03:32:07 -0400  
Fwd Date: Thu, 17 Jul 1997 20:00:37 -0400  
Subject: Re: Project 1947 - Robert Dean

Jan, it seems to be, is being rather stiff on the question of Robert Dean's oath.

> >>From: Jan Aldrich <jan@CYBERZONE.NET>  
> >>Subject: Robert Dean  
> >>To: PROJECT-1947@LISTSERV.AOL.COM

> >>Greeting List Members,

> >>To deal with Dean as a creditable person one most consider  
> >>that he is telling us about a Top Secret document that  
> >> he took an oath to safeguard.

> >>It was a "draftee's oath." He was a professional. It wasn't a  
> >>little oath. And Dean himself talks about how the government is  
> >>flushing the Constitution of the United States down the toilet.  
> >>He has done the same to his oath to protect and defend the  
> >>Constitution if what he says is true.

> >>So we are left with two possibilities: Dean is an  
> >>oath-breaker or a liar. In either case not a very creditable  
> >>person.

Jan's position is simple -- an oath is an oath is an oath, and someone who breaks one is bad.

He should recognize, though, that many of us -- without being evil or untrustworthy -- hold more nuanced positions. For instance, what do we call someone who works for a tobacco company, signs a non-disclosure agreement, finds himself doing what he believes is immoral work (research, maybe, on how to addict smokers even more fatally), and goes public with the information he'd pledged not to reveal?

I can think of two words for this person. "Whistleblower" is a general term in common use; "hero" might be more fitting.

What about Daniel Ellsberg, who revealed secret government documents (the "Pentagon Papers") during during the Vietnam War? He, too, was considered to be a hero by a good proportion of Americans.

We've also got a tradition of lawbreaking for higher moral purposes. Draft resisters disobeyed the draft laws during the Vietnam War; Martin Luther King disobeyed many laws in his quest for civil rights. Most of us, I suspect, are law-abiding citizens but make an exception in times of crisis when laws or oaths seem to seriously conflict with morality. To give Jan an admittedly exaggerated example, suppose he'd been a Nazi officer during World War II, and knew that Jews were

being exterminated. Would he feel bound to obey whatever oaths he'd sworn, or would he feel justified -- assuming there was some way to do this -- to refuse orders to participate, or to reveal what he knew to the world.

How about Soviet and North Korean military officers who defected to the West, presumably in violation of their oaths? Should they simply have stayed home, and continued their service to their tyrannical governments? I don't mean to suggest that defying the American government has quite the same force (even if UFO secrets might be involved!) but I appeal to Jan's good heart and common sense. The situation is not black and white. Surely there are times when breaking a law or an oath is justified; the question is where to draw the line. On that reasonable, law-abiding people are free to disagree. But the absolutist position -- nobody who breaks an oath can be considered a decent human being -- is plainly absurd.

One more example. What about John Dean, who testified against Nixon, his boss (whom he'd sworn implicitly or explicitly to serve) in the Watergate hearings? Was he an immoral guy?

What makes all this funny, in a grimly bittersweet sort of way, is the behavior of high-ranking military and political figures in Washington. They're revealing confidential information to the press every day. The technical term for these revelations is "leaks," and their purpose is often mildly sordid. Let's say I'm a general in the Pentagon, and I feel I'm being outmaneuvered by my military rivals about some question of military policy. I wouldn't think twice about calling a reporter from the Washington Post, and spilling all kinds of secret information off the record over drinks, in order to provoke a front page story describing the policy dispute from my point of view.

Against a background like that, Robert Dean's action (assuming, of course, that he's telling the truth) seems remarkably lofty, even noble.

Greg Sandow

---

Search for other documents to/from: [gsandow](#) | [jan](#) | [project-1947](#)

---

[ [Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [This Day's Messages](#) ]  
[ [This Month's Index](#) | [UFO UpDates Main Index](#) | [MUFON Ontario](#) ]

**UFO UpDates - Toronto - [updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)**  
Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

A Hand-Operated E-Mail Subscription Service for the Study of UFO Related Phenomena.  
To subscribe please send your first and last name to [updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)  
Message submissions should be sent to the same address.

---

[ [UFO Topics](#) | [People](#) | [Ufomind What's New](#) | [Ufomind Top Level](#) ]

**To find this message again in the future...**  
Link it to the appropriate [Ufologist](#) or [UFO Topic](#) page.

Archived as a public service by [Area 51 Research Center](#) which is not responsible for content.  
Software by Glenn Campbell. Technical contact: [webmaster@ufomind.com](mailto:webmaster@ufomind.com)

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).