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Date: Fri, 20 Jun 1997 17:13:51 -0400 (EDT)  
Fwd Date: Fri, 20 Jun 1997 20:34:08 -0400  
Subject: Skeptics Debunk UFO Stories

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Forwarded message:  
Subj: Skeptics Debunk UFO Stories  
Date: 97-06-20 14:40:08 EDT  
From: AOL News

By MARTHA MENDOZA

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - A group skeptical of UFOs says an Air Force report debunks stories of a crashed space ship in Roswell 50 years ago, concluding the aliens purportedly found were test dummies.

`The theory is that some of these reports of alien bodies might have been mistaken memories of some experiments that the Air Force conducted in New Mexico in the late 1950s, 10 years later, using dummies to test high altitude parachutes,' Philip Klass, publisher of the Skeptics UFO Newsletter, said today.

Air Force spokeswoman Gloria Cales at the Pentagon refused to comment on details of the report, but said it would be released Tuesday.

A 1994 Air Force report explained alleged flying saucer debris as the remains of top-secret high-altitude balloons, but did not address reported sightings of hairless alien bodies.

Klass said the military's dummies were hairless but human-like, ranging from about 5-foot-3 inches tall to 6-6. He said he has seen the draft of the follow-up report by Air Force historian Capt. James McAndrew.

News of the report comes two weeks before the 50th anniversary celebration in Roswell, which is expected to attract thousands of visitors. The theory that an alien space ship crashed there has drawn widespread attention and figured, among other things, in the hit movie `Independence Day.'

Charles Moore, a retired professor of physics at New Mexico Tech University in Socorro, said he read the draft report recently at an aeronautics conference in San Francisco, where he met McAndrew.

Moore, who worked on a top secret 1947 project involving high-altitude balloons designed to detect Soviet nuclear tests, said he is inclined to believe the test dummy theory.

Klass, who said he spoke to McAndrew about the report, said:

``He is inclined to believe that some stories told by some witnesses may be fundamentally honest attempts to recall what they saw, but they mistook dummies for extraterrestrials.''

McAndrew, reached in Virginia, would not comment on the report.

Frank Kaufmann, 80, a civilian assigned to an intelligence unit at the then-Roswell Air Field in July 1947, says he knows what he saw - and they weren't dummies. He also said he has no doubt the event occurred in 1947.

``The military can say whatever they want,' he said Thursday. ``I have no jurisdiction over them. There's not a doubt in my mind. I haven't gone senile yet.''

AP-NY-06-20-97 1435EDT

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