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Scripps Howard on Area 51 And Cheyenne Mountain

From: Stig Agermose <Stig_Agermose@online.pol.dk>
Date: Thu, 6 Aug 1998 05:37:29 +0200
Fwd Date: Thu, 06 Aug 1998 09:17:29 -0400
Subject: Scripps Howard on Area 51 And Cheyenne Mountain

URL: <http://www.drudgereport.com/1.htm>

Stig

DRUDGE REPORT
By Matt Drudge
Tue Aug 04 1998 21:00:33 ET

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SECRET MILITARY BASES

1,850 Now Employed at "Area 51"

Underground installations, ultra-secure manufacturing plants and secret laboratories America needed to wage the Cold War are still intact despite federal downsizing policies that have gutted many other military and civilian programs.

The SCRIPPS HOWARD news service is set to move a pair of features on its circuits this weekend.

More than 1,850 federal civilian workers are currently employed at "Area 51" in the southern Nevada desert -- most in well-compensated jobs at several ultra-high-security facilities in and near the range.

"This really is one of the last big secret military bases in the United States. It used to be that the Air Force tried to pretend that Area 51 didn't exist at all," Jeff Moag, a researcher for the National Security News Service, tells SCRIPPS.

Who works at Area 51?

Non-government military observers believe that hundreds, or thousands, of military and civilian workers who are employed in the desert facilities take daily flights from Las Vegas airfields into the base. "Computer records appear to confirm this," says the fascinating report.

Whatever they do At Area 51 -- officially designated the "Nellis Air Force Bombing and Gunnery Range" on Nevada maps -- it is still done is secret.

But SCRIPPS suggests that the base is the testing grounds for

America's most secret military machines, everything from the F-117 stealth fighter to electro-magnetic pulse weapons.

The wire also explores the super-secret Cheyenne Mountain Air Force and Army complex in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. There are 6,658 employees there.

What exactly do they do?

Cheyenne Mountain operates military communication and navigation satellites; it watches for the launch of any high-altitude missile system anywhere in the world. The center also tracks more than 8,500 objects in earth orbit to warn manned space flights of collision threats, and assists the Justice Department and U.S. Customs in illegal drug interdiction programs by trying to track aircraft suspected of carrying dope...

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