

DOD gave notice to the Army that they were not to use any of their JUPITER or REDSTONE programs as the basis for an orbital launch vehicle.

On 20 September 1956 the Army flight tested a JUPITER C, which flew 3,355 miles and attained an altitude of 682 miles. Had permission been granted from the DOD this very test flight could have easily put its fourth stage into orbit, but the Army was under strict orders not to use a fully powered fourth stage. Remember that this was more than a year before Russia successfully launched SPUTNIK I in October 1957. The ABMA again asked permission to attempt orbital insertion, and were again told to refrain from any efforts in this area.

There were rumors in the scientific community at the time that the Army was pursuing an unauthorized satellite project. Because of these rumors, the Secretary of Defense gave the Army a direct order to refrain from any space activity.

[It appears to me that the Department of Defense was purposefully holding back, and wanted Russia to be the first to place an artificial satellite into orbit. This could have been done to better evaluate Russia's current state of rocket development, or even as a means of frightening the American public into funding a major space program.]

After Russia's successful launch of Sputnik I on 4 October 1957, the Army was finally given approval, and only 84 days later successfully launched Explorer I from the AOMC/ABMA facilities at Cape Canaveral.

[The Vanguard Project was experiencing repeated failures, and their attempt to launch a satellite ended on 6 December when the rocket exploded into flames on the launch pad.]

ABMA was also able to place three more explorer satellites into orbit by July 1958, but ABMA's hopes of becoming a major participant in the space race was soon to come to an end. The Government had decided that the Nation's space program could best be handled by a single agency, and that it should be a civilian organization, not a military one. Within the next few years, all space related programs would be turned over to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, although ABMA would be assigned to develop eight REDSTONE-type launch vehicles for the manned Mercury Program.

Redstone Arsenal's history is very extensive, and I've only covered a very small part of the events that had happened to this point. Redstone's history from 1960 to the present is even more extensive, and I won't attempt to go into any more detail other than to say that this installation has continued to assist with NASA's space program, and also with all types of exotic weapons systems, including Starwars-type particle beam devices.

At this point I would like to give my friend's story, and attempt to link it to a Redstone project to project virtual holographic images.

Sometime during the summer of 1983, my friend was dispatched to Redstone Arsenal to install some special communications equipment for a communications contractor. He had a map of the arsenal, but the address on the work order was not on the map, so he asked for directions from a Military Police guard post. He was immediately asked why he needed to know, and the nature of his business in that area. The MPs drew him a map to find this location. He had worked on the arsenal for about eight years and had never heard of this particular site.

In order to reach this location, he had to go through two check points. (Redstone is not presently a secure installation, although certain sensitive sections are secure.) Each check point thoroughly checked his truck and work order. The MPs also used mirrors to look under his truck, and his name was entered into a database to verify that he was authorized to enter this area. As he proceeded through the last check point, he noticed a sign that read "WARNING - MINED AREA." There was only the one road in, and signs warned him that both sides of the road were mined. There was also a ten-foot tall fence along both sides of this road. He followed the road up the side of a mountain, and at the top was once again thoroughly checked by the MPs. These MPs directed him to the location on the work order.

Once he entered the correct building he found that he was able to move around freely and unescorted. After installing the new communications equipment, he noticed that some technicians in the next room appeared to be conducting some sort of laser testing. This greatly interested my friend, as he is an amateur inventor who is constantly coming up with all types of new inventions. He pretended to need access to this room in order to make some wiring rearrangements. Once inside, the scientists were very friendly. Being an inventor, he picks up new ideas very easily, and soon had the scientists engaged in conversation. He told them that he had done a project on lasers in school, but had never actually seen one being tested. They told him that "this is your lucky day", and handed him a pair of goggles to put on. They then fired one of their lasers straight ahead to a mirror which reflected the beam at a 90 degree angle to a target on the other side of the room.

The scientists informed him that they were working on a project that would have the capability of bouncing lasers off satellites for military purposes. My friend pretended that he didn't understand, so they told him that their lasers were powerful enough to disable a target anywhere within the range of the satellite's mirrors, and were precise enough to locate and vaporize a single selected person.

He told me that as he left the building and returned to his truck, "my hands were shaking." As he sat in his truck and carefully looked around, he noticed several test sites that were setup outside. He also saw a huge mirror that was mounted on a motorized stand, and was aimed up towards the sky.

He admitted to me that he has talked to several people that have retired from Redstone Arsenal, and who worked on numerous projects, but has been unable to find someone that will admit to knowing anything about this site.

I myself happened to be in Huntsville a few years ago, and struck up a conversation with a gentleman while shopping in a local bookstore. During the conversation, he told me that he was a scientist, and worked at the Redstone complex. Remembering my friend's story, I managed to matter-of-factly mention the laser project that my friend had described. He looked surprised, and then said "so you know about that eh." He then said, with a gleam in his eye of someone that might have been involved on such a project, "we can put an image of an oak tree in a field, and you wouldn't be able to tell that it wasn't real until you walked over and tried to touch it." He said that the process involved special lasers, satellites and mirrors. He wouldn't comment any more after that and changed the subject to something else.

I had filed this information away in my records, to be checked into later, and was reminded about it after reading the discussions concerning the Mexico video. Was my friend told the truth about the laser test site (or all of the truth), or were the scientists just putting him on. He is one of the most intelligent persons that I know, and he didn't feel that they were having fun with him. Besides, there is also the information that I received from the gentleman in the bookstore. I had no way of verifying this information, but my friend was suggesting to me that the object that he saw could also have been a projected image, so I decided to check further.

Redstone Arsenal is currently known as the U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Command - AMCOM. The name Redstone Arsenal hasn't been an official designated name for a good many years, but has stuck as a geographical name, and everyone still refers to this installation as the Redstone Arsenal. Its even known by that name on official civilian and military maps of the area.

I started my investigation by looking for any AMCOM projects that might lead to what I was looking for. After looking through all of the many many projects currently being developed at AMCOM, I just about ready to give up when I found the Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center, under the Weapons Sciences Directorate. To my great amazement, I soon found what I was looking for on their web site at:

[Http://www.mrdec.redstone.army.mil/](http://www.mrdec.redstone.army.mil/)

MRDEC's missions include; "...provide broadbased expertise as

related to missile, laser, and beam weaponry"; "Coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the developing technologies for high energy lasers."; "Evaluate the effect of lasers, microwaves, and other beams on AMCOM weapons"; and "Conduct unconventional beam weapons design and analysis." This research division also interacts with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency - DARPA, who appears to be providing the funding.

I found the most useful information in MRDEC's Photonics & Laser Sciences division. There are references to; atom mirrors; atom lasers; quantum optics; resonator wave optics theory; polarized laser fields; "stabilization of atoms and molecules in intense laser fields"; "3-D stopband for wave propagation in all directions... providing an omni-directional, lossless, reflective material"; "...development of concepts for ultra-light, ultra-compact optical devices ... novel concept for a laser linear accelerator particle beam device"; "cooperative phenomena, and others not yet named"???; ...applied research on linear and nonlinear optical materials and characterize laser field interactions with such materials"; "laser field-induced quantum coherence phenomena and control for novel laser devices"; and last, but not least - holography.

Ok, so they do research and development with lasers and holography, and they have a site with mirrors that direct these special beams up into the sky. They would also need a special satellite to redirect the beams to the imaging location.

This is where things really begin to get interesting! Let's go back to our Redstone Arsenal history and see how NASA could also be involved in a holographic projection project.

After the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1958, the military had to turn over control of Cape Canaveral, along with Redstone and ABMA's control of White Sands and JPL. In 1960 AOMC/ABMA lost all of its space-related missions along with 4,000 civilian employees, and \$100 million worth of buildings and equipment at Redstone and Cape Canaveral.

[NASA was in actuality an offshoot of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which was founded in 1915.]

The interesting part of this is that the Redstone employees didn't have very far to go to perform their new jobs for NASA, in fact, they didn't go anywhere at all. The government transferred 1,800 acres in the center of Redstone Arsenal to NASA, named it the Marshall Space Flight Center, and installed Dr. Wernher von Braun as the first director. Marshall is surrounded on all sides by the Redstone Arsenal complex. This installation is still today one of the largest and most important research and development centers that belong to NASA.

Marshall's projects include; the Lunar Roving Vehicle; the United States' first crewed orbiting space station; and the Hubble Space Telescope, just name a few. (There are many many more)

With the marriage of these two installations, civilian and military, since 1960, you can imagine all kinds of secret projects that might be involved. After my luck with Redstone, I decided to take a look at Marshall, and see if I could find a project that might complement what I had found at the AMCOM/Redstone site. What I found was NASA's Laser Geodynamic Satellite - LAGEOS. It seems that NASA teamed up with the Smithsonian Institution in 1974 with a project designed to "detect small movements in the Earth's crust, polar motion, and precise locations of various spots on earth."

The LAGEOS satellite was nicknamed the "cosmic golf ball", since it was covered with prismatic-like mirrors, and was launched from Vandenberg Air Force on 4 May 1976, not from Cape Canaveral. LAGEOS would act as a reflecting device for lasers fired from a ground source. This project was developed at the Marshall Space Flight Center. I'm still trying to determine from what locations the laser, or lasers, was fired. This would have been the perfect test for future satellites designed to focus special laser beam-holographic images to a precise location.

As you can see, the Redstone Arsenal complex, to me, would be the perfect site from which to develop a holographic projection system. I would appreciate any additional information that anyone

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