PROJECT SNOWBIRD

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WHO AM I?

- Former Department of the Air Force employee; historian assigned to HQ Air Force Reserve at Robins AFB and HQ Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB (1995-1998).
- Received classified briefing on UAP incident in 1996.
- Interviewed by Defense Department's All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), 17 May 2023.
- Guest lecturer, "UAP and Homeland Security," Farmingdale State College SUNY.



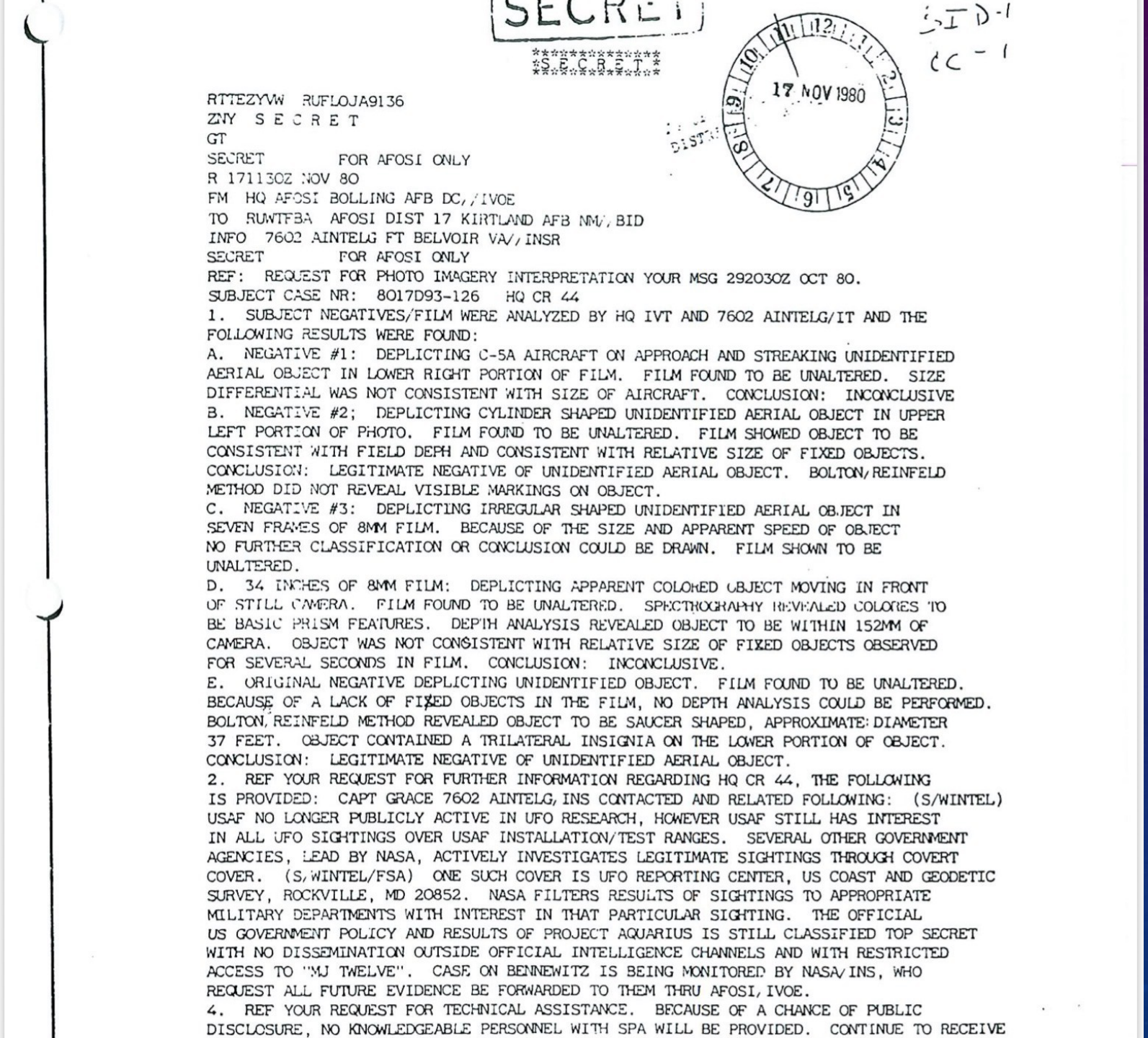
WHAT IS PROJECT SNOWBIRD?

- Project Snowbird was allegedly a classified U.S. government program to flight-test recovered extraterrestrial spacecraft.
- The story emerged through UFO researchers and purported intelligence documents in the early 1980s.
- Richard Doty, William Moore, and their associates played important roles in spreading the allegations.
- Subsequent accounts described extraordinary aircraft allegedly operated by American personnel.
- This investigation examines the origins, dissemination, and possible purpose of the Snowbird story.



PROJECT REDLIGHT: A PRECURSOR TO SNOWBIRD?

- Project REDLIGHT was an alleged classified U.S. program involving flight testing of a recovered UFO at Area 51, Nevada.
- An electronics technician, identified by the pseudonym “Matt Archer,” claimed knowledge of the program while working at the Nevada nuclear proving grounds during 1961–1963.
- According to the account, the craft arrived from Edwards AFB, operated silently, and reportedly interfered with radio equipment.
- The allegations appeared in a July 1980 UFO newsletter and the September 1980 MUFON UFO Journal.
- No authenticated U.S. Government documentation has established the existence of Project REDLIGHT.



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INFO 7602 AINTELG FT BELVOIR VA//INSR
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REF: REQUEST FOR PHOTO IMAGERY INTERPRETATION YOUR MSG 292030Z OCT 80.
SUBJECT CASE NR: 8017D93-126 HQ CR 44
1. SUBJECT NEGATIVES/FILM WERE ANALYZED BY HQ IVT AND 7602 AINTELG/IT AND THE FOLLOWING RESULTS WERE FOUND:
A. NEGATIVE #1: DEPLICTING C-5A AIRCRAFT ON APPROACH AND STREAKING UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN LOWER RIGHT PORTION OF FILM. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. SIZE DIFFERENTIAL WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH SIZE OF AIRCRAFT. CONCLUSION: INCONCLUSIVE
B. NEGATIVE #2; DEPLICTING CYLINDER SHAPED UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN UPPER LEFT PORTION OF PHOTO. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. FILM SHOWED OBJECT TO BE CONSISTENT WITH FIELD DEPH AND CONSISTENT WITH RELATIVE SIZE OF FIXED OBJECTS. CONCLUSION: LEGITIMATE NEGATIVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT. BOLTON/REINFELD METHOD DID NOT REVEAL VISIBLE MARKINGS ON OBJECT.
C. NEGATIVE #3: DEPLICTING IRREGULAR SHAPED UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN SEVEN FRAMES OF 8MM FILM. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE AND APPARENT SPEED OF OBJECT NO FURTHER CLASSIFICATION OR CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN. FILM SHOWN TO BE UNALTERED.
D. 34 INCHES OF 8MM FILM: DEPLICTING APPARENT COLORED OBJECT MOVING IN FRONT OF STILL CAMERA. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. SPECTROGRAPHY REVEALED COLORES TO BE BASIC PRISM FEATURES. DEPTH ANALYSIS REVEALED OBJECT TO BE WITHIN 152MM OF CAMERA. OBJECT WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH RELATIVE SIZE OF FIXED OBJECTS OBSERVED FOR SEVERAL SECONDS IN FILM. CONCLUSION: INCONCLUSIVE.
E. ORIGINAL NEGATIVE DEPLICTING UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. BECAUSE OF A LACK OF FIXED OBJECTS IN THE FILM, NO DEPTH ANALYSIS COULD BE PERFORMED. BOLTON/REINFELD METHOD REVEALED OBJECT TO BE SAUCER SHAPED, APPROXIMATE DIAMETER 37 FEET. OBJECT CONTAINED A TRILATERAL INSIGNIA ON THE LOWER PORTION OF OBJECT. CONCLUSION: LEGITIMATE NEGATIVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT.
2. REF YOUR REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING HQ CR 44, THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED: CAPT GRACE 7602 AINTELG/INS CONTACTED AND RELATED FOLLOWING: (S/WINTEL) USAF NO LONGER PUBLICLY ACTIVE IN UFO RESEARCH, HOWEVER USAF STILL HAS INTEREST IN ALL UFO SIGHTINGS OVER USAF INSTALLATION/TEST RANGES. SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LEAD BY NASA, ACTIVELY INVESTIGATES LEGITIMATE SIGHTINGS THROUGH COVERT COVER. (S/WINTEL/FSA) ONE SUCH COVER IS UFO REPORTING CENTER, US COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, ROCKVILLE, MD 20852. NASA FILTERS RESULTS OF SIGHTINGS TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS WITH INTEREST IN THAT PARTICULAR SIGHTING. THE OFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT POLICY AND RESULTS OF PROJECT AQUARIUS IS STILL CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET WITH NO DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS AND WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS TO "MJ TWELVE". CASE ON BENNEWITZ IS BEING MONITORED BY NASA/INS, WHO REQUEST ALL FUTURE EVIDENCE BE FORWARDED TO THEM THRU AFOSI/IVOE.
4. REF YOUR REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. BECAUSE OF A CHANCE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, NO KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONNEL WITH SPA WILL BE PROVIDED. CONTINUE TO RECEIVE

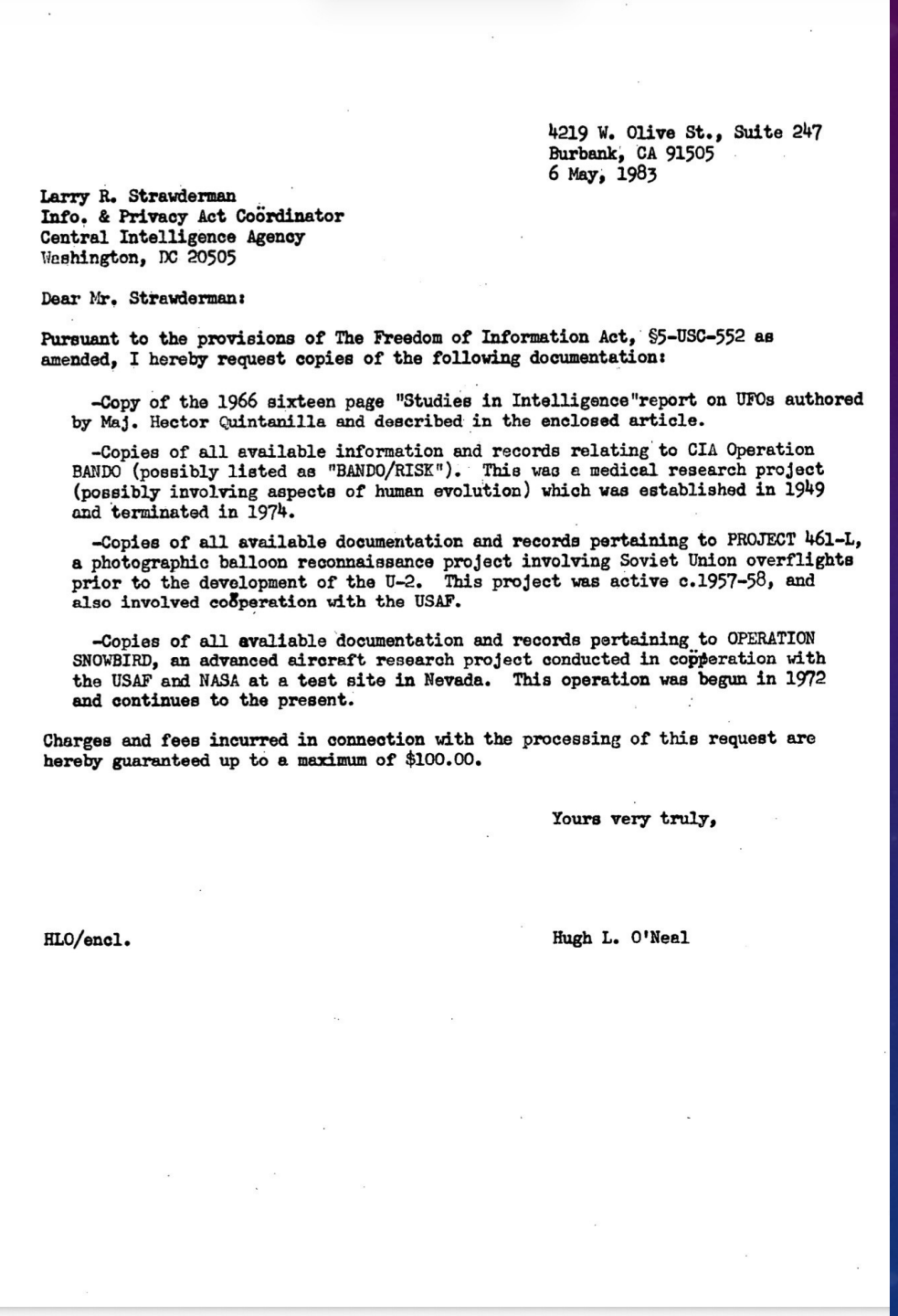
PROJECT AQUARIUS CONNECTION

- On 17 November 1980, a purported U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) communication introduced Project Aquarius into the emerging UFO intelligence narrative.
- The document was associated with AFOSI Special Agent Richard Doty and subsequently circulated through William Moore's research network.
- Aquarius was described as a classified U.S. Government effort involving information about extraterrestrial technology.
- Later accounts connected Aquarius with Project REDLIGHT and Project Snowbird.
- The authenticity of the purported AFOSI communication remains disputed.



PROJECT AQUARIUS EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

- In March 1983, William Moore reportedly examined and photographed an eleven-page classified briefing concerning extraterrestrial technology.
- On 9 April 1983, Richard Doty allegedly showed Linda Moulton Howe a similar briefing at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.
- The briefing reportedly described Project Snowbird as an effort to flight-test recovered extraterrestrial spacecraft.
- Howe was not permitted to retain the document or take notes.
- No complete, authenticated copy of the alleged briefing has been made publicly available.



4219 W. Olive St., Suite 247
Burbank, CA 91505
6 May, 1983

Larry R. Strawderman
Info. & Privacy Act Coördinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Strawderman:

Pursuant to the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act, §5-USC-552 as amended, I hereby request copies of the following documentation:

-Copy of the 1966 sixteen page "Studies in Intelligence"report on UFOs authored by Maj. Hector Quintanilla and described in the enclosed article.

-Copies of all available information and records relating to CIA Operation BANDO (possibly listed as "BANDO/RISK"). This was a medical research project (possibly involving aspects of human evolution) which was established in 1949 and terminated in 1974.

-Copies of all available documentation and records pertaining to PROJECT 461-L, a photographic balloon reconnaissance project involving Soviet Union overflights prior to the development of the U-2. This project was active c.1957-58, and also involved coöperation with the USAF.

-Copies of all avaliable documentation and records pertaining to OPERATION SNOWBIRD, an advanced aircraft research project conducted in coöperation with the USAF and NASA at a test site in Nevada. This operation was begun in 1972 and continues to the present.

Charges and fees incurred in connection with the processing of this request are hereby guaranteed up to a maximum of $100.00.

Yours very truly,

HLO/encl.

Hugh L. O'Neal

PROJECT SNOWBIRD ENTERS THE UFO COMMUNITY

- By May 1983, the Snowbird allegation was circulating beyond its reported intelligence sources.
- On 6 May 1983, Hugh L. O'Neal submitted a FOIA request to the CIA concerning Operation Snowbird.
- The request described a joint USAF–NASA advanced aircraft research program operating in Nevada.
- O'Neal identified 1972 as the alleged beginning of the program.
- The request documents the circulation of the Snowbird story, but does not establish its original source.



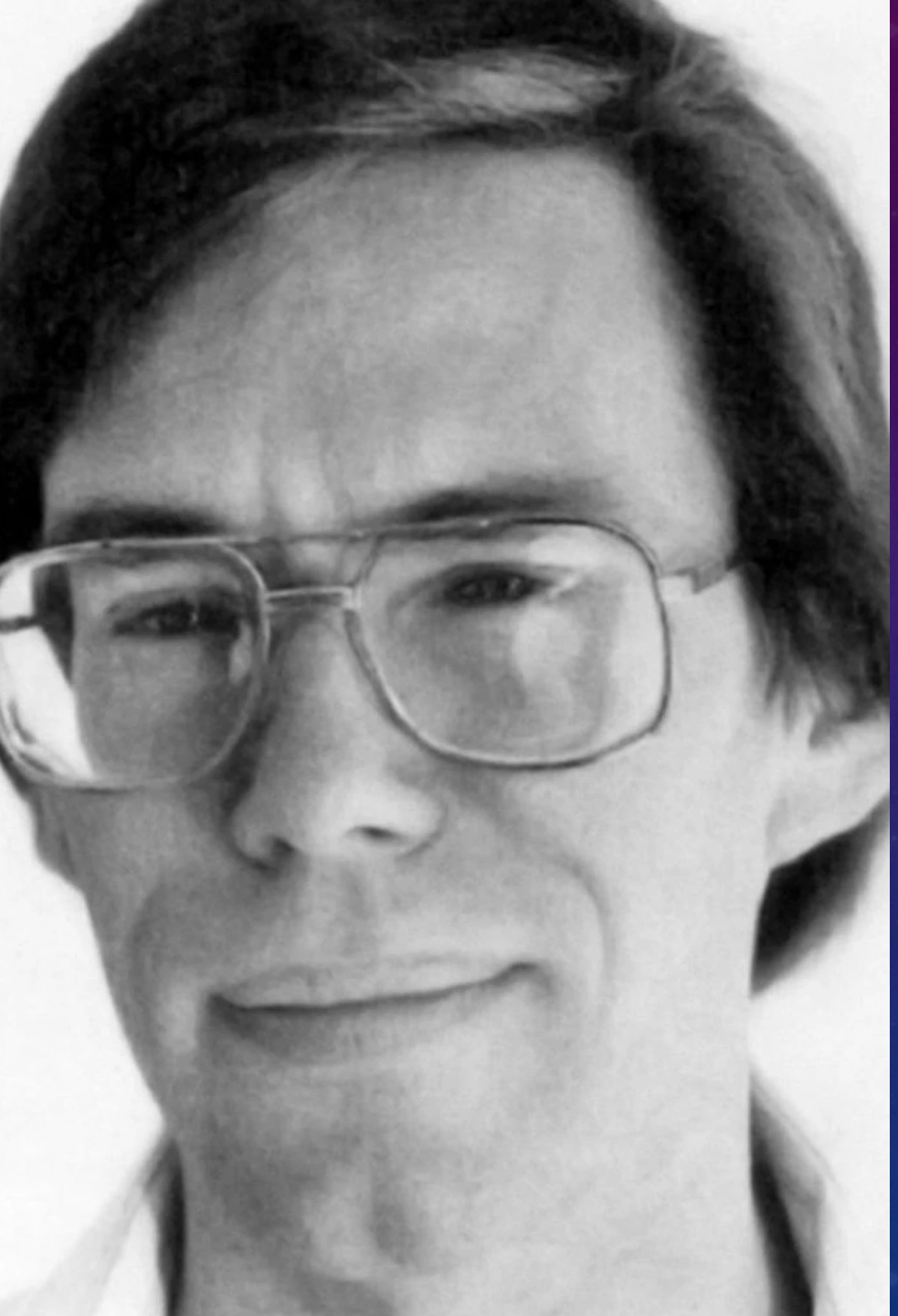
SNOWBIRD REACHES THE AEROSPACE COMMUNITY

- During 1985–1986, William Moore reportedly provided aerospace researcher Lee Graham with a purported Project Snowbird document.
- Graham subsequently shared the material with John Andrews, a Lockheed engineer interested in unconventional aircraft.
- In March 1986, researcher Robert Hastings received copies of the Snowbird and Aquarius documents from Graham.
- Andrews later questioned Lockheed Skunk Works director Ben Rich about Project Snowbird.
- The correspondence demonstrates how the allegation spread from UFO researchers into aerospace industry circles.



JOHN LEAR AND THE SNOWBIRD STORY

- By 1987, former civilian pilot John Lear was publicly promoting allegations of secret U.S. Government involvement with extraterrestrial spacecraft.
- In a statement dated 29 December 1987, Lear identified Project Snowbird as an alleged effort to flight-test recovered alien spacecraft at Groom Lake, Nevada.
- Lear associated Snowbird with Project Aquarius and other purported classified UFO programs.
- Lear's contacts included former USAF intelligence officer Robert M. Collins and Linda Moulton Howe, connecting him to researchers associated with the earlier Aquarius narrative.
- No independently documented source has established that Lear obtained the Snowbird allegation outside the existing research network.



BOB LAZAR

- In 1989, Bob Lazar claimed to have worked on recovered extraterrestrial spacecraft at a secret installation near Groom Lake called S4.
- Lazar alleged that American personnel were attempting to understand and operate the recovered vehicles.
- Lazar and associates reportedly observed unusual aerial activity near Groom Lake on Wednesday evenings in March and April 1989.
- John Lear was among Lazar's early associates and helped publicize his allegations.
- Lazar's account resembled the earlier Snowbird narrative, but did not independently establish the existence of the alleged program.
- Lazar claimed that one of the recovered spacecraft displayed a small American flag insignia, initially leading him to believe it was an advanced U.S. military aircraft.



BILL UHOUSE: TRAINING AMERICAN PILOTS?

- Bill Uhouse claimed to have worked on classified aerospace projects involving recovered extraterrestrial spacecraft.
- He alleged that American pilots were trained to operate these vehicles using specialized flight simulators.
- Uhouse described a recovered disc-shaped craft reportedly brought to a Nevada installation during the 1950s.
- His account included alleged cooperation between American engineers and extraterrestrial personnel.
- Uhouse's claims emerged publicly after the Lazar controversy, raising questions about their independence from earlier Snowbird narratives.

THE MCCANDLISH–SORENSEN ACCOUNT



- Aerospace illustrator Mark McCandlish described an alleged 1988 demonstration of unconventional aircraft that his associate Brad Sorensen attended.
- Sorensen reportedly observed three disc-shaped vehicles displayed inside a restricted aerospace facility.
- The largest vehicle was described as approximately 120 feet in diameter and identified as an Alien Reproduction Vehicle (ARV).
- The account included a demonstration video allegedly showing one of the vehicles in flight.
- Conflicting accounts place the demonstration at Norton AFB, California, or an aerospace facility near Palmdale, California.
- McCandlish's account was secondhand, and no direct testimony from Sorensen has been publicly verified.

THE EGLIN AFB TRIANGLE ENCOUNTER



- Around 2006, former U.S. Army Ranger trainee Daniel Gockerell reported witnessing an unusual triangular aircraft during training near Camp Rudder, Florida.
- The dark aircraft was reportedly approximately 300 feet across and positioned close to the ground.
- Gockerell described American military personnel, vehicles, and portable lighting equipment surrounding the aircraft.
- He claimed the object subsequently departed without conventional aircraft noise or visible propulsion.
- Unlike earlier Snowbird accounts, the incident was described as a direct observation of an extraordinary aircraft apparently under American military control.
- No documented connection between the alleged encounter and Project Snowbird has been established.

THE HURLBURT FIELD TRIANGLE ENCOUNTER



- In late 2017, former USAF aircraft mechanic Kyle Knopp reportedly observed a silent, dark triangular aircraft near Hurlburt Field, Florida.
- Knopp described three dimly illuminated corners and an object hovering near the flight line.
- Hurlburt Field is headquarters of Air Force Special Operations Command and is located near Eglin AFB.
- Knopp subsequently submitted his account to the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO).
- He reported a 45-minute interview with AARO director Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick and a subsequent request for the sighting coordinates.
- No independent confirmation of the aircraft's identity or connection to Project Snowbird has emerged.



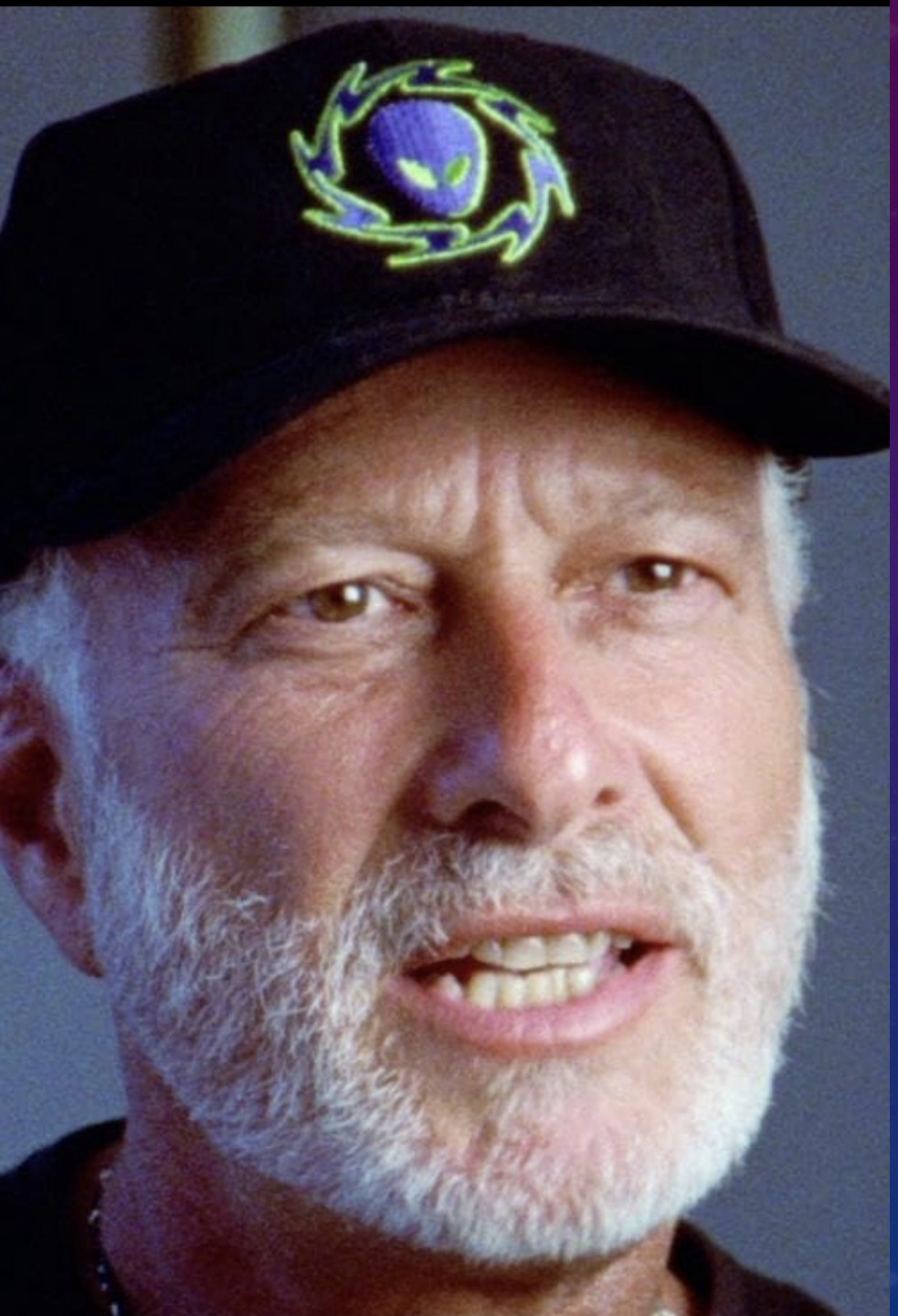
CASH–LANDRUM: THE INCIDENT

- On 29 December 1980, Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum encountered a brilliant, diamond-shaped aerial object near Huffman, Texas.
- The witnesses described intense heat, bright light, and flames or exhaust emerging from the object.
- They reported approximately 23 military-style helicopters surrounding or following the object.
- Cash and the Landrums subsequently reported illnesses they attributed to exposure during the encounter.
- The reported helicopters raised questions about possible American military involvement.
- The incident later became the subject of legal action against the U.S. Government.



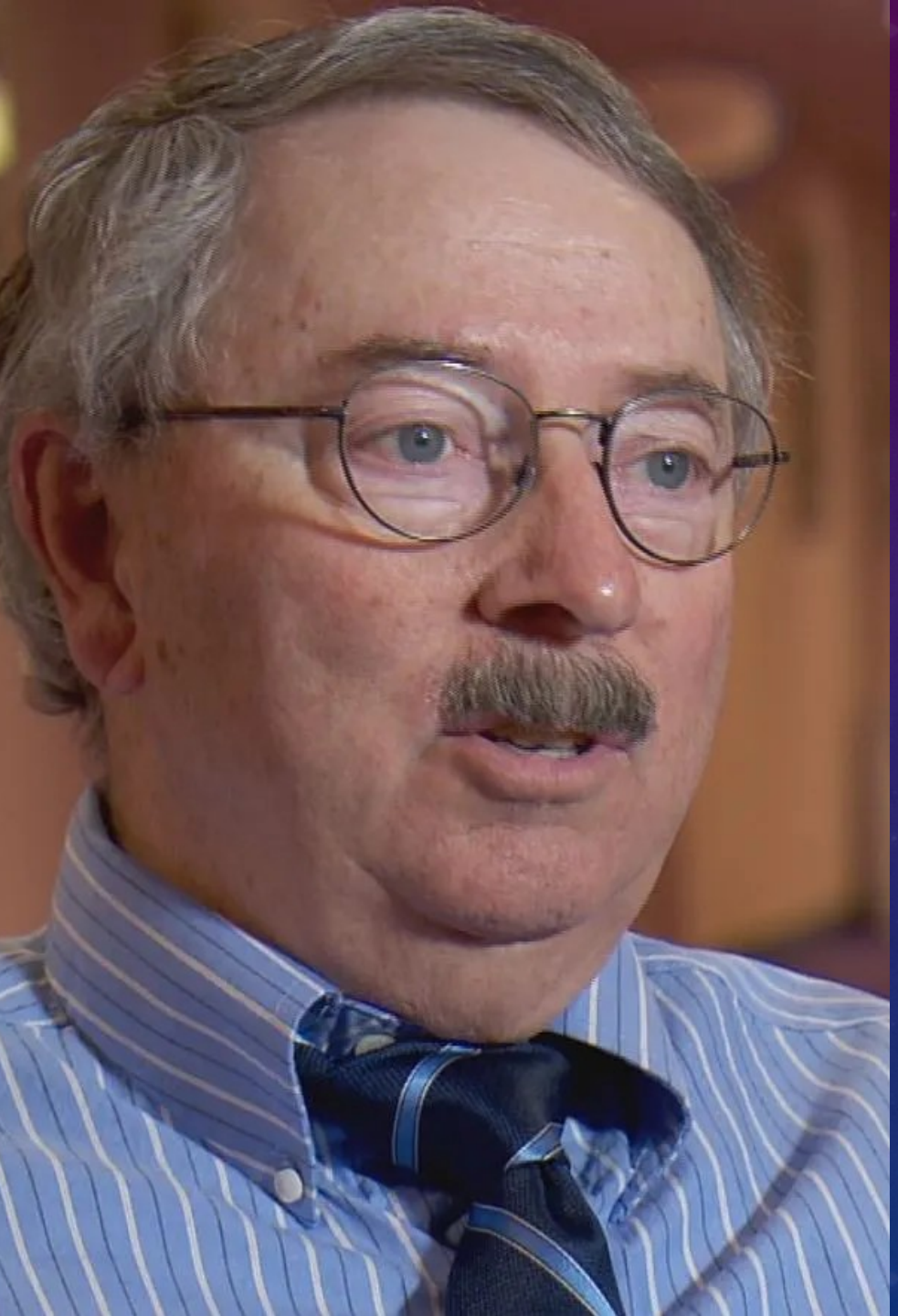
CASH–LANDRUM: THE GOVERNMENT CONNECTION

- On 17 August 1981, USAF officers interviewed Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum concerning the encounter.
- The witnesses maintained that military helicopters accompanied the unidentified object.
- On 29 December 1982, the witnesses filed a damages claim against the U.S. Government.
- Their attorneys sought to determine whether the object was an experimental American aircraft.
- Attorney Peter Gersten subsequently investigated allegations involving Project Snowbird and other purported classified programs.
- The government's denial of responsibility eventually led to a federal lawsuit filed in January 1984.
- The lawsuit was ultimately dismissed in August 1986.



DOTY AND THE CASH–LANDRUM INVESTIGATION

- In January 1983, attorney Peter Gersten reportedly met with AFOSI Special Agent Richard Doty concerning the Cash–Landrum incident.
- Doty allegedly suggested that the witnesses had encountered an experimental American aircraft rather than an extraterrestrial vehicle.
- The reported explanation involved advanced propulsion technology and American military personnel.
- Gersten subsequently pursued information concerning Project Snowbird and related classified-program allegations.
- The reported statements are significant because they potentially implicated the U.S. Government while the witnesses were seeking compensation.
- Doty's motives for providing this information remain uncertain.



DOTY AND DISINFORMATION

- Richard Doty served as a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) during the early 1980s.
- Doty became involved with UFO researcher Paul Bennewitz, who was investigating unusual activity near Kirtland AFB.
- Doty subsequently acknowledged providing Bennewitz with misleading information concerning alleged extraterrestrial activity.
- William Moore publicly admitted in 1989 that he had cooperated with intelligence personnel and participated in efforts to mislead Bennewitz.
- These activities established a documented precedent for deception involving UFO researchers and sensitive military activities.
- Doty's involvement raises questions about the purpose of his reported statements concerning American-operated spacecraft.



DOTY AND CONTRADICTIONS

- Doty reportedly encouraged UFO researchers to believe that American personnel were operating recovered extraterrestrial spacecraft.
- Such claims potentially implicated classified U.S. military activities, particularly in connection with the Cash–Landrum litigation.
- Doty's documented involvement in misleading UFO researchers raises questions about the purpose of these disclosures.
- If protecting classified technology was the objective, why promote allegations of American involvement?
- The apparent contradiction raises the possibility that discrediting the recipients, rather than concealing the information itself, was the intended result.



INFORMATION-RECIPIENT CONTAMINATION HYPOTHESIS

- The Snowbird allegations might have contained genuine information about classified American aerospace activities.
- Rather than suppressing the information, intelligence personnel might have *deliberately* introduced it into the UFO research community.
- Researchers associated with sensational or demonstrably false claims would become unreliable messengers to mainstream investigators and media.
- Genuine information could consequently be dismissed because of the credibility of those repeating it, regardless of its factual accuracy.
- The intended target of the operation would therefore have been the information recipients, not necessarily the information itself.
- This hypothesis offers a possible explanation for Doty's otherwise puzzling promotion of American-operated spacecraft allegations.



SNOWBIRD: WHAT IS REALLY KNOWN?

- The Project Snowbird narrative can be traced to the early 1980s and the Doty–Moore intelligence and UFO research network.
- The allegations spread through researchers, attorneys, aerospace professionals, and eventually the wider public.
- Subsequent accounts of extraordinary aircraft under apparent American control offer possible parallels, but no established connection to Snowbird.
- The existence of an actual Project Snowbird remains unverified.
- Doty's reported promotion of American-operated spacecraft allegations presents an unresolved question about his motives.
- The Information-Recipient Contamination Hypothesis offers one possible explanation for this unusual pattern of information dissemination.

THANK YOU!

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PROJECTSNOWBIRD.US.COM