

UFO Disinformation: It's Always Been With Us

An Oregon MUFON Presentation

by

Keith Rowell

Assistant State Director

July 14, 2009

Copyright © 2009 by Keith Rowell

Introduction

- Discussion of U.S. intelligence establishment.
- Disinformation: what it is and how it works.
- Brief list of UFO disinformation/hoax programs/schemes.
- Maury Island UFO “crash.”
- USAF alien films offers.
- USAF 1990s Roswell responses.
- Paul Bennewitz affair.
- Project Serpo.
- Conclusion.

The Intelligence Establishment

- The U.S. intelligence establishment is ENORMOUS.
- Some parts: CIA, NSA, NRO, DIA, AFOSI, ONI, Army, FBI, State Department, Secret Service, etc.
- Total budget is well over \$100 billion a year.
- U.S. intel is intertwined with the U.S. black budget SAPs.
- Estimated black budget SAPs is \$50 billion a year.
- Overt government employees: 1.8 mil. Covert SAP feds/contractors: 4 mil.
- HUGE, BIG, ENORMOUS, GIGANTIC, HUMONGOUS.

Disinformation: What Is It?

- Disinformation: False information spread deliberately to mislead; usually a mixture of true and false information to be more readily believed.
- Misinformation: False information not usually intended to mislead.
- UFO information is a complex mixture of true and accurate information, misinformation, and disinformation.
- Disinformation originates with the U.S. government and its agents.
- Misinformation originates from uninformed UFO enthusiasts; con artists; (unintentionally) mainstream reporters, editors, and other establishment people.

Disinformation: How's It Work?

- *False Media Stories: National Enquirer* stories; false stories of disc recovery; fake Internet UFO stories (like *India Daily*).
- *False Leaflets, Pamphlets, Pubs, etc.:* Today, this is on the Internet. See Project Serpo later.
- *Influence on Top Media Editors:* Time, NY Times, CNN, etc., sometimes get calls from Pentagon on UFO matters. A few editors, reporters, and others are ex-intel people.
- *Book Suppression & Support of Friendly Authors:* Jim Marrs' remote viewing exposé suppressed; debunker Donald Menzel probably paid; fake contactee book by Patrick Moore.
- **U.S. intelligence establishment is the biggest and best forger of documents on the planet.**

Disinformation: Why So Much?

- Disinformation's purpose is to keep secrets.
- A nation's secrets are kept for various reasons: legitimate national security; illegitimate national security (UFOs, JFK assassination, 9/11, ethnic cleansing, etc.); it's fun; bureaucratic inertia; etc.
- Problem: Democracy doesn't function well if there are too many secrets in a nominally democratic country.
- United Nations says democracy for people is good. See the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Democracy secures these rights.
- But disinformation ultimately benefits power and wealth and not the people. Too much secrecy is anti-democratic.

UFO Disinformation/Hoaxes I

Event	Date	Significance
Maury Island	1947	First story of physical evidence of UFOs. CIA and FBI covertly involved.
Aztec, NM, Crash	1948	First well-publicized hoax/disinformation(?) scam in bestselling book (<i>Behind the Flying Saucers</i>).
Allende Letters	1955-1959	First elaborate “insider” knowledge scam on ufologist (astronomer M. K. Jessup).
Ummo Affair	1965-	First elaborate hoax/disinformation in Europe.
USAF Alien Film Capers	1973-1988	First public offerings of “real” alien evidence film footage.
Paul Bennewitz Affair	1980-1987	Elaborate AFOSI hoax targeting a UFO researcher.
MJ-12	1984-	First elaborate government UFO files describing a UFO situation management group.
Lear Stories	1987-	First wild UFO conspiracies on computer BBSs.

UFO Disinformation/Hoaxes 2

Event	Date	Significance
Bob Lazar	1989-1991	First “engineer whistleblower” to work on Area 51 saucers.
Alien Autopsy Hoax	1992-1997	First elaborate hoax involving alien bodies. Possible connection to British intelligence.
AF Roswell Response	1994-1997	First elaborate response to allegations of UFO crash and alien bodies.
Wood’s MJ-12 Docs	199?-	First extremely elaborate government insider, official UFO documents disinformation/hoax(?).
CARET/Drone	2007-	Elaborate Internet hoax involving CGI photos, multiple “witnesses,” and faked, secret government documents. Possibly corporate ad hoax.
Project Serpo	2004-2006	Possible government disinformation program to coverup a UAV project.
Project Camelot	2007-	Unvetted government “whistleblower” testimony.

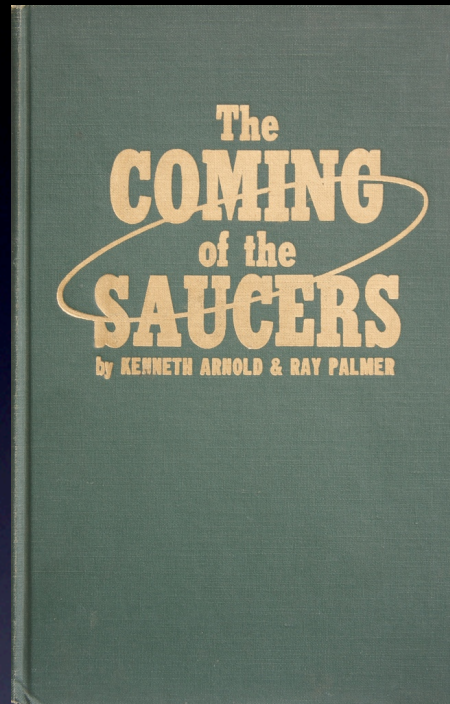
Maury Island: A CIA Operation I

- **When and where:** June 21, 1947, in Puget Sound near Tacoma, WA.
- **Summary:** Harold Dahl and son were patrolling in their fishing boat with two others when they saw six flying “donuts with port holes” at 2000 feet with one in “trouble.” It descended to about 700 feet and ejected some white, “newspaper-like” metal and some blackish “rocks.” A small “rock” hit his son and one killed their dog, and they made the water steam. An AF team recovered some of the debris, but their plane crashed in south central WA. The crash site was found in 2007.
- **Comments:** Soon after the event, Kenneth Arnold was “dispatched” by SciFi/fantasy publisher Ray Palmer to investigate. Arnold wrote up his investigation in *The Coming of the Saucers* (1952) and in magazines.
- Other researchers did cursory investigations over the years. Then in 1999 Kenn Thomas published *Maury Island UFO*. This established beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was a CIA covert operation perhaps intended to discredit Kenneth Arnold.

Maury Island: A CIA Operation 2

- CIA operative Fred Crisman, who is well established by Kennedy assassination researchers for involvement in the killing of Kennedy, shows up as the **boss of Harold Dahl in 1947!!**
- Another Kennedy assassination-involved FBI counter-intelligence agent/operative, Guy Bannister, recovers a bogus small “flying saucer” out of Idaho in July 1947!
- It seems over the years the same cast of characters stays involved in the various covert operations run against UFOs and anything else our government doesn't like.
- A Pentagon intelligence staffer Col. Richard Weaver shows up in various AF responses to UFOs through the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, including the Roswell response.

Maury Island: Documentation



- The *Coming of the Saucers* (1953) is Kenneth Arnold's own account of his activities in the UFO field after his famous sighting. It includes his revelations about his Maury Island investigation.
- Kenn Thomas is a “conspiracy/deep politics” researcher. His *Maury Island UFO* describes in some detail the surprising(?!) connections between CIA covert operators and various UFO-connected events like the Maury Island hoax. The CIA was all over UFOs.

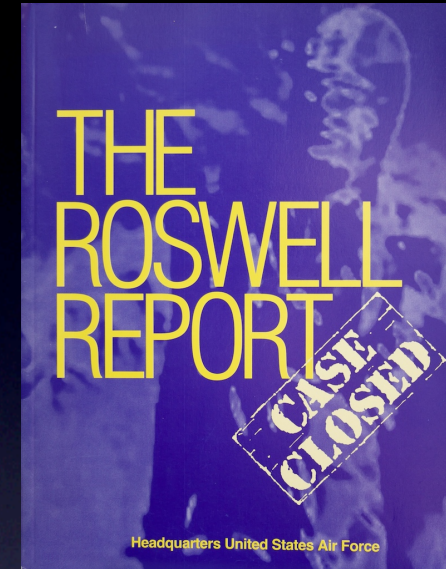
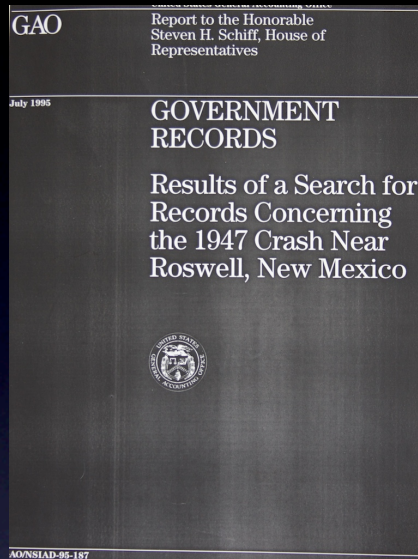
Roswell: Disinfo Now! I

- **When and where:** 1994 to 1997 in Washington, D.C., at the Pentagon and Capitol.
- **Summary:** In the 1990s, the U. S. Air Force responded formally three times to Congressman Steven Schiff's inquiry about the "disposition of US AAF records from the July 1947 crash near Roswell, NM." It was already established that General Roger Ramey disinformed the American people in July 1947 when he said a weather balloon was responsible for the UFO crash "rumors." His own PIO, Walter Haut, had written a press release for the *Roswell Daily Record* about the recovery of a UFO "disc."
- **Comments:** Three UFO investigators' crash books were published in 1991, 1992, and 1994 and NM constituents were talking to Schiff. The AF was now really, really worried because Schiff was asking questions. The whole UFO cover up could unravel if they weren't careful.

Roswell: Disinfo Now! 2

- In July 1994, after giving Schiff the run-around, the AF issued a lame 32 page Roswell “explanation” paper by intelligence operative AF Col. Richard Weaver. But Schiff wasn’t satisfied and put the GAO on the case.
- Fearing the worst in 1995, the AF issued a 1000 page compilation of *irrelevant* Project Mogul technical data. (UFO researchers had long since known about and dismissed this as an explanation for Roswell. But the major media were awed and took the bait.)
- In July 1995, the GAO issued *Results of a Search for Records Concerning the 1947 Crash Near Roswell, New Mexico*. It explained that no records for RAAF in July 1947 could be found. They were “inadvertently” destroyed 40 years earlier.
- In 1997, the AF’s last Roswell response (*The Roswell Report: Case Closed*) appeared. This appeared after the major media were done with Roswell as a possible real UFO crash. The AF nailed the coffin shut. They hoped!

Roswell Government Documents



- *Results of a Search for Records* . . . tells the truth about the GAO's search for Roswell 1947 records. No surprise; they found none. The Roswell reports (*Fact vs. Fiction* and *Case Closed*) are AF lies about Roswell.
- *Fact vs. Fiction* is nearly 1000 pages of **irrelevant Project Mogul information and its use here is disinformation.**
- *Case Closed* introduces the ludicrous notion that test pilot dummies dropped from high altitude **starting in 1954** account for the many consistent stories about recovered alien bodies **during the 1947 Roswell event.** And the major media bought it . . .

USAF Alien Film Capers I

- **When and where:** 1973 to 1988 on various Air Force bases in U.S.
- **Summary:** Prominent Hollywood film producers and UFO researchers are offered “real” film of “real saucers and aliens” landing at different US AFBs. Also, some film of “captured alien(s)” is offered. It begins in 1973 with science/technology film producer Robert Emenegger and continues on with J.Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallee and then Linda Howe in 1983.
- **Comments:** In 1973, Emenegger and Allan Sandler met at Norton AFB to discuss documenting a UFO meeting with AF officials. The head of AFOSI at Norton and Paul Shartle, base audio-visual director, told them that aliens had landed at Holloman AFB in 1971. And they could have film of this for their UFO film.
- Emenegger worked on his film, but eventually learned that the promised UFO/aliens film couldn't be released for “political reasons” (Watergate).

USAF Alien Film Capers 2

- Emenegger released his film, *UFOs Past, Present, and Future*, in 1974 without any significant USAF supplied UFO/aliens film footage.
- In 1983, UFO researcher/journalist Linda Howe met with AFOSI agent Richard Doty to discuss some other UFO/aliens film footage for her HBO special on UFOs.
- He strung her along, passed her to other military contacts who continued until her HBO contract ran out. The film was never delivered and her HBO special was never produced.



Source: Paranormal TV

Robert Emenegger

Linda Howe



Source: Linda Howe

Paul Bennewitz Affair I

- **When and where:** 1980 to 1987 in Albuquerque, NM.
- **Summary:** UFO researcher and engineer/businessman Paul Bennewitz was the subject of an elaborate disinformation campaign to discredit him in the eyes of the Russians. He was eventually hospitalized and never recovered from this reprehensible AFOSI campaign.
- **Comments:** In 1980, Bennewitz, an APRO researcher, believe he was detecting electronic signals from aliens near the Manzano Nuclear Weapons Storage Facility outside of Kirtland AFB. He told base head of security Ernest Edwards. Edwards said to contact AFOSI agent Richard Doty.
- Bennewitz had photos of the alleged UFOs and tapes recording electromagnetic signals from the UFOs, which he showed to Doty and Chief Scientific Advisor for the KAFB Test and Evaluation Center Jerry Miller.

Paul Bennewitz Affair 2

- Bennewitz also investigated cattle mutilations occurring in NM at this time. From hypnosis of a UFO subject, lurid details of animal and human body parts onboard UFOs came to haunt Bennewitz.
- Bennewitz behaved in a paranoid way toward researchers including Leo Sprinkle, who did the hypnosis sessions.
- Meanwhile, Roswell UFO researcher Bill Moore met with Doty and found out AFOSI and other agencies had a deep interest in Bennewitz.



Source: Project Beta

Paul Bennewitz



Source: Fortean Picture Library

William Moore

Paul Bennewitz Affair 3

- Moore agreed to spy on Bennewitz as the AFOSI agents fed him elaborate bogus UFO/ alien stories. Moore later said he didn't feed Bennewitz disinformation, however.
- The stories: A UFO crash at Corona, NM, occurred. Then two years later a little gray alien showed up (EBE) and was taken into AF custody where it developed a relationship with AF monitors and eventually communication was established.



Source: Project Beta

Richard Doty

Paul Bennewitz Affair 4

- In response to Roswell, MJ-12 was set up including the umbrella Project Aquarius to coordinate all secret ET-related projects. Project Sigma was an on-going alien communication project run out of NSA. A landing at Holloman AFB occurred in 1965. Nine ET races were visiting Earth. Zeta Reticulans had been here for 25,000 years. They'd shaped religious ideas down through history. At CIA headquarters in Langley, VA, "The Bible" was a compilation of all ET project reports. Etc.
- Bennewitz's AFOSI sources also told him aliens are killing cattle and humans and mutilating them. They might be eating human flesh. Human and ET scientists are working on ghastly experiments. Aliens are implanting humans with devices to control them. They are mind-controlling humans. Etc. Etc.
- Bennewitz became more and more paranoid over time and eventually was taken to a local hospital to get stabilized. He recovered, but pursued UFO research at a much reduced level.

Project Serpo: Bogus Sci Fi I

- **When and where:** 2004 to 2006 on the Internet via emails and a website.
- **Summary:** In 1965, the U.S. military entered into an agreement to send 12 people to planet Serpo orbiting around Zeta 1 or 2 Reticuli. In exchange, the Reticulans sent one alien here. It was a “cultural exchange.” Thirteen years later the military people returned. Etc.
- **Comments:** This disinformation scheme may have been a “cover story”(!) for a real UAV program in the black world.
- At first, a Victor Martinez fed Project Serpo disinformation to UFO researchers and enthusiasts to see who would bite. He gradually widened his efforts, building interest via email.
- But he was dropped as a contact because he edited the bogus info trying to make things clearer. This, apparently, was against the disinformation scheme’s protocol.

Project Serpo: Bogus Sci Fi 2

- Then Bill Ryan picked up the ball and became the webmaster of the Project Serpo website (serpo.org). He passed along the (dis)information verbatim.
- UFO researcher Greg Bishop believes Project Serpo was a disinformation scheme to determine how information flows between leakers of real, secret government info and people “on the outside” to protect a black project.
- Bill Ryan was probably innocently taken in by the Project Serpo disinformation scheme.



Source: projectcamelot.org

Bill Ryan

Conclusion

- U.S. intelligence agencies have always been interested in UFOs for national security reasons.
- U.S. intelligence establishment is enormous. They have time, money, and expertise. They can do just about anything.
- UFO disinformation is a fact of life, unfortunately.
- But, some bad UFO information is just plain (mean spirited) hoaxing or misinformed UFO enthusiasts doing their thing—sloppy thinking.
- Be careful about what you believe.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it just might be. But, remember, UFOs are truly weird so keep an open mind.

References

Bennett, Richard M. *Conspiracy: Plots, Lies and Cover-Ups*. London: Virgin Books, 2003.

Bishop, Greg. *Project Beta: The Story of Paul Bennewitz, National Security, and the Creation of a Modern Myth*. New York: Paraview Pocket Books, 2005.

Bishop, Greg. <http://www.ufomystic.com/wake-up-down-there/serpo-was-disinformation/>

Cary, Thomas and Donald Schmitt. *Witness to Roswell: Unmasking the Government's Biggest Coverup*. Franklin, NJ: New Page Books, 2009. Revised and Expanded Edition.

Clark, Jerome. *The UFO Encyclopedia, 2nd Edition: The Phenomenon from the Beginning. Vols I and II*. Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics, 1998.

Dolan, Richard. *UFOs and the National Security State: Chronology of a Cover-up 1941-1973*. Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads, 2002. Revised Edition.

Glick, Brian. *War at Home: Covert Action Against U.S. Activists and What We Can Do About It*. Boston, MA: South End Press, 1989.

Goliszek, Andrew. *In the Name of Science: A History of Secret Programs, Medical Research, and Human Experimentation*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003.

References

Good, Timothy. *Need to Know: UFOs, the Military, and Intelligence*. New York: Pegasus Books, 2007.

Hansen, Terry. *The Missing Times: News Media Complicity in the UFO Cover-up*. Bloomington, IN: Xlibris Corporation, 2000.

Hastings, Robert. *UFOs and Nukes: Extraordinary Encounters at Nuclear Weapons Sites*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2008.

Hidell, Al and Joan D'Arc. *The Conspiracy Reader: From the Deaths of JFK to John Lennon to Government-Sponsored Alien Coverups*. Secaucus, NJ: Carol Publishing Group, 1999.

Paglen, Trevor. *Blank Spots: The Dark Geography of the Pentagon's Secret World*. New York: Dutton, 2009.

Patton, Phil. *Deamland: Travels Inside the Secret World of Roswell and Area 51*. New York: Villard Books, 1998.

Richelson, Jeffery. *The U.S. Intelligence Community*. Cambridge, MA: Ballinger Publishing Company, 1989. Second Edition.

Thomas, Kenn. *Maury Island UFO: The Crisman Conspiracy*. Lilburn, GA: IllumiNet Press, 1999.