

Quarterly Report #5: May 2022 "Area 51"

Presented by the Cosmic Citizens Committee of Now Creations

Dear Members of Now Creations,

I am quite pleased to send you this quarterly report from our Cosmic Citizens Committee.

Most of us have heard at least something about "Area 51", if only the term, and vague associations with extraterrestrials and alien craft. But what is really known about this remote government facility located in the Nevada desert, approximately 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas?

The answer is, unfortunately, not much. In fact, the existence of this beyond-top-secret facility was not officially acknowledged by the United States government until 2013, and only because of a Freedom of Information Act request which had been filed in 2005. It's safe to say the government is not in a hurry to let the public know all the official purposes of this facility -- a situation which fuels conspiracy theories and conjecture.

Here's what can be said with some certainty. The area, known more-orless officially as the Nevada Test and Training Range is located on the edge of the desert salt-flat named Groom Lake. It comprises approximately 38,000 acres. In 1954, as the cold war was expanding, President Dwight Eisenhower commissioned a panel to research ways which the United States could defeat the Soviet Union, not through direct warfare, but by cutting edge science. In the course of their research, the panel rediscovered an old remote airfield in the Nevada desert, and determined it would be a perfect location to conduct the highest levels of research and experimentation in near absolute secrecy. In the days before satellite reconnaissance, the extremely remote location of this facility made it nearly invisible to the world.

In 1958, Area 51 was born.

Over the decades, the location, which became part of Nellis Air Force Base, is believed to have served as the development site of the CIA and Air Force's most top secret aircraft, including the U-2 spy plane, capable of flying at an altitude in excess of 70,000 feet; the SR 71 Blackbird, capable of cruising at 2,200 miles per hour, or three times the speed of sound (Mach 3); and the F117 Nighthawk fighter, and the B2 Spirit, both of which are stealth aircraft capable of evading radar. These aircraft represent only a sampling of the developments which are believed to have occurred at Area 51.

Employees working at Area 51 are believed to be assigned "Above Top Secret" clearances, and informed speculation is that they are not allowed to discuss their employment at the facility, even with their families. Each morning, an unmarked 737 aircraft departs from a secluded location at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas to transport employees to their jobs at Area 51. In the evening, employees are returned to Las Vegas on a similar aircraft. These aircraft are believed to be maintained and operated by the U.S. Air Force.

The highly classified nature of the facility, coupled with the government's refusal (prior to 2013) to admit that it even existed led to much public speculation about the true nature of the work being conducted there. In addition, security around the facility makes very clear that there is little patience for trespassers. Armed military guards patrol the facility, and abundant signage explains that there is no trespassing or photography allowed, and "The Use of Deadly Force is Authorized."

All these factors created a situation ripe for speculation and conspiracy theories, which are, indeed, diverse and plentiful.

Probably the most well known story about Area 51, began in May 1989. During that month, George Knapp, a highly respected KLAS (Las Vegas) news reporter, conducted a television interview with a man known as "Dennis". Dennis, whose face and voice were hidden, claimed to work at "S4", a remote area within the already remote Area 51. In summary, Dennis claimed that the U.S. government was in possession of several "alien" crafts, which were housed at Area 51, and which were being reverse-engineered for U.S. military purposes. Dennis claimed he was directly involved with the work on these alien crafts, and that he had been tasked with figuring out their propulsion and navigation systems, which were "anti-gravity" in nature, and which relied on a (then) theoretical "element 115". Dennis also claimed there were bodies of extraterrestrial beings at the facility, which had been recovered from a crash site.

Subsequently, in November 1989, George Knapp conducted another, more expansive interview with Dennis who revealed himself to be Bob Lazar. Lazar stated he believed it was better that he reveal himself publicly, as doing so would keep him safer by making his potential disappearance at the hands of the government more difficult.

These events naturally sparked a tremendous amount of media interest and public controversy. To this day, Bob Lazar stands by his claims, and states that there have been several attempts by the government to discredit and harass him and his family. George Knapp also stands by his interviews with Lazar, and has become one of the most prominent voices in the UFO/UAP disclosure community.

After the initial flurry of interest in Lazar's story died down, he went back to a relatively obscure existence as the owner/operator of a scientific equipment supply company in New Mexico. He had some legal issues not related to his Area 51 claims, but overall settled in to a quiet life. Interestingly, element 115 which Lazar referenced in his first interviews existed only in theory at the time. In 2003, Russian scientists announced the "discovery" of a new element -- Muscovium, aka, element 115.

As the discussion of UFOs and UAPs has grown in recent years, Bob Lazar's story has been revisited, and reexamined. Notably, in 2018 film

maker Jeremy Corbell (also a prominent voice in the UFO/UAP disclosure community) produced a documentary about Bob Lazar, called, appropriately, "Bob Lazar: Area 51 & Flying Saucers". In the documentary, Lazar is interviewed extensively about his experiences, and provides highly detailed descriptions and diagrams related to his experiences at Area 51. Lazar also suggests broadly, without confirming, that he is in possession of a small quantity of element 115 which he obtained from Area 51, and that the government continues to harass him attempting to recover it from him.

While the existence of Area 51 was confirmed by the government in 2013, the exact nature of the work being conducted there remains opaque. Many believe the reason the existence of the facility was finally revealed is because the extremely sensitive work which had been conducted there has been moved to another facility at the Tonopah Test Range, approximately 70 miles northwest of Area 51.

The story of Area 51 is complex and full of speculation, but is also very interesting for those who choose to spend some time "going down the rabbit hole". Jeremy Corbell's documentary is available on Netflix, and is a good starting point for anyone who wants to dive in to this interesting, challenging subject.

Namaste, Vince