

What are the myths around area 51 vs the facts

Anonymous

Anoka Ramsey-Community College

Fa23 ENGL 1121 64-65: College Writing and Critical Reading

Chris Mearthy

11/30/2023

What are the myths around area 51 vs the facts

What do you think of when you hear aliens and the US government? Area 51 is one of the first things that I think of when I hear the word aliens. Area 51 and Aliens are so intertwined it can be difficult to separate the two. Area 51 has been associated with aliens in many different TV shows and movies. People around the area have claimed to see strange lights and UFOs flying around the sky doing maneuvers and flying at speeds they didn't believe were possible (CNN Library, 2019). People assumed that these strange flying lights were the work of alien spaceships. Furthering this belief, a man claimed to work at Area 51 and went on the news saying that there were aliens there (Glen Meek, 2021). Sadly, there were no aliens in area 51 but advanced military aircraft being tested there made many people think there were UFOs. The truth is there are no aliens or alien spaceships in area 51 and it is only a military base with a very interesting history.

In the Nevada desert, a hundred or so miles from Las Vegas lies Area 51. In the article “Area 51: What is it and what goes on there?” from Space.com Robert Lea (2023) states that area 51 is known as “The Groom Lake and Homey Airport” to the CIA. According to Jasmine Aguilera of Time (2023) the official name of area 51 is the “Nevada Test and Training Range at Groom Lake”. This is a “38,400-acre land area” According to CNN Library (2023). In the 1950s this land was set aside to be used for the US Atomic Energy Commission (CNN Library, 2023). It was chosen to be used to test the U-2 spy plane, and in the following years, it was used to test and develop many other high-tech aircraft (Brittanica, 10/19/2023). Area 51 was largely kept secret by the US military but in 2013 declassified documents about the U-2 spy plane forced them to publicly acknowledge the base's existence (Robert Lea, 4/11/2022).

Many people think that there is some relation between Area 51 and aliens when in reality the relation is only in fiction. According to CNN Library (2023), “In June 2019, a poll conducted by YouGov found that 54% of US adults think it is likely that the government knows more than it's telling us about UFOs”. One of the reasons for this is how area 51 and the US government is portrayed in many Books and Movies revolving around aliens. In many TV shows and movies Area 51 is associated with aliens.

According to Robert Lea (2023) it makes an appearance in “Independence Day” a movie where aliens try to invade the Earth and It also appears in the “X-Files” when two of the characters see an unidentified flying object at the base. According to CNN Library (2023), “One popular UFO conspiracy is that in 1947 in Roswell, New Mexico remains from a flying saucer that supposedly crashed were brought to Area 51 for reverse engineering experiments in order to replicate the extraterrestrial spacecraft.” There are so many conspiracies, TV shows, Movies, and even books involving Area 51 and aliens it can make you think that there really are little green men running around it but unfortunately there is not.

People claiming to work at Area 51 have said that they have worked on alien spacecraft there, these claims are false. According to Glen Meek (2021) of Nevada Current, in 1989 a man going by the name Dennis was interviewed on a Las Vegas news station. This mysterious man who you could only see the silhouette of claimed that the US government had alien spacecraft, not just one, but 9 whole alien spacecraft in Area 51. He also claimed to have viewed autopsy photographs of aliens (Robert Lea, 4/11/2022) He claimed that he was fired from working at Area 51, where he had worked on these alien spacecrafts. This man later let his identity become public, this man was Bob Lazar. This led to many people associating Area 51 with alien spaceships. Lazar is still talking about his supposed time working in Area 51 in the present, in 2018 he went on the Joe Rogan podcast and has appeared in Netflix documentaries. Sadly, for everyone wanting to believe his tales, they are false. He had claimed to have gone to school at CalTech and MIT, but when the schools were asked, they said he had never gone there. Lazar had proof of him working at Area 51, a W-2 form paid to him by the Department of Naval Intelligence. Unfortunately for Lazar, it was pointed out that there is not a Department of Naval Intelligence, but an Office of Naval Intelligence. Bob Lazar was never able to show any concrete evidence that he had worked on the alien spacecraft located in Area 51, he was never even able to prove that he had worked there in the first place. Still, his claims helped lead to the association between the mysterious Area 51 and aliens. There are no alien spacecraft in area 51 and the people claiming to have worked on them are lying.

The strange things flying around Area 51 are manmade, not made by aliens like many myths claim they are. There have been many claims from people living in the area around Area 51 about unidentified

flying objects being spotted. According to Jasmine Aguilera (2019) “On June 17, 1959, the Reno *Evening Gazette* published a story with the headline “More Flying Objects Seen In Clark Sky,” and described how Sgt. Wayne Anderson of the local sheriff’s office was among several locals to spot what the paper described as an object “bright green in color and descending toward the earth at a speed too great to be an airplane.” There are many of more of these reports, there is even an X-Files episode about unidentified flying objects above Area 51. As much fun as it is to believe that there were alien spaceships flying over the Nevada desert, it is sadly not the case. Britannica (2023) says that area 51 was used to test the U-2 plane. According to Britannica (n.d), The U-2 is used for “intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance. " And is “the most famous spy plane ever built”. Also, according to Britannica (2023) In 2013 declassified CIA documents about the Development of the U-2 plane, say that the airfield within Area 51 was selected to be used for testing the U-2. These very advanced planes account for a lot of unidentified flying object sightings in the area around Area 51. These planes can move very fast and fly very high up. To someone who has never seen or heard of planes that advanced they could very well be mistaken for alien spacecraft. According to Jasmine Aguilera of Time (2019), “secretive flight testing has been happening in the area since the military began testing U-2 CIA spy planes in 1955, around the time reports of U.F.O. sightings started to come out”. The Reports of UFOs around Area 51 are people seeing experimental spy planes not alien spacecraft.

There are no Aliens or alien spacecraft in area 51. There are many myths surrounding Area 51 making it so that it will always be associated with aliens in the minds of many. These myths include people that supposedly worked there claiming that there are alien spaceships there and strange planes being mistaken for UFOs. Many movies and TV shows further these myths, making it so area 51 and aliens stay linked in people's minds. It is very easy for myths to be mistaken as facts about a location or even a person. All it can take is one person to forever change how something is viewed. Next time you see or read something make sure it is true and dig a bit deeper into it. Even though there are no aliens in Area 51, it still played an important part in the country's history and should be remembered for that instead of little green men.

References

- Aguilera, J. (2019, July 17). *Area 51 Is the Internet's Latest Fascination. Here's Everything to Know About the Mysterious Site*. Time; Time. <https://time.com/5627694/area-51-history/>
- CNN Library. (2019, September 11). *Area 51 Fast Facts*. CNN.
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/31/us/area-51-fast-facts/index.html>
- combs, sydney. (2023, February 13). *Area 51—facts and information*. Culture.
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/area-51-aliens-ufos-real-history>
- Meek, G. (2021, June 1). *UFOs, the Pentagon, and the enigma of Bob Lazar*. Nevada Current.
<https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2021/06/01/ufos-the-pentagon-and-the-enigma-of-bob-lazar/>
- Lea, R. (2022, April 11). *Area 51: What is it and what goes on there?* Space.com; Robert Lea.
<https://www.space.com/area-51-what-is-it>
- Britannica. (2018a). Area 51 | Description & Facts. In *Encyclopædia Britannica*.
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Area-51>
- Britannica. (2018b). U-2 | United States aircraft. In *Encyclopædia Britannica*.
<https://www.britannica.com/technology/U-2>

