



PROJECT AQUARIUS

COMBINED RESEARCH DOSSIER

MJ-12 // MAJESTIC 12 // EDGAR RETRIEVAL PROGRAM

CLASSIFICATION:	RESEARCH COPY — Compiled from publicly available declassified and leaked sources
DATE COMPILED:	March 2026
SUBJECT:	Project Aquarius — U.S. Government UFO/UAP Intelligence Program
PRIMARY SOURCES:	Internet Archive, CUFON, Reagan Presidential Library, FBI Records, NSA FOIA Logs
DOC STATUS:	Authenticity DISPUTED — FBI declared MJ-12 documents 'completely bogus'
RELATED PROGRAMS:	Project Gleem (predecessor), MJ-12, Project Sigma, Project Snowbird, Project Pounce

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■ ALL CLAIMS HEREIN ARE OF DISPUTED AUTHENTICITY — NOT A U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT ■

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW & HISTORY

Project Aquarius is the name given to a purported top-secret U.S. government program allegedly established to collect, analyze, and catalog all intelligence related to Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs), and reported contacts with Extraterrestrial Biological Entities (EBEs). The program is documented primarily through a corpus of leaked intelligence briefing documents of disputed authenticity, collectively known as the MJ-12 or Majestic 12 documents.

1.1 — Program Timeline

DATE	EVENT
June 1947	Civilian pilot Kenneth Arnold reports 9 flying discs over the Cascade Mountains, WA. Army Air Forces begin inquiry.
July 1947	Aircraft of alleged extraterrestrial origin crashes in New Mexico desert. Four alien bodies recovered; one survivor designated 'EBE' by military.
Sept 1947	Truman-Forrestal Memo (MJ-12 doc): Truman allegedly authorizes Operation Majestic-12. Secretary Forrestal and Dr. Vannevar Bush tasked with oversight.
1949	EBE reportedly becomes ill. U.S. scientists unable to treat plant-based alien biology. NASA allegedly broadcasts distress signals into space.
1952	EBE dies in custody. Intelligence gathered from EBE via pictograph communication archived in project volumes.
1953	PROJECT GLEEM established by Eisenhower executive order, under NSC and MJ-12 control. Mission: collect UFO/alien intelligence across 16 classified volumes.
1966	Project Gleem renamed PROJECT AQUARIUS. Program expands with absorbed intelligence from ongoing sightings and incidents.
1969	Project Blue Book (public Air Force UFO program) terminated. Per briefing document, all Blue Book intelligence and duties absorbed into Aquarius.
1984	MJ-12 documents arrive anonymously at home of TV producer Jamie Shandera on undeveloped 35mm film. Aquarius briefing enters public circulation.
1987	British researcher Timothy Good claims possession of 1950s UFO documents. MJ-12 story reaches international press.
1990s–2000s	FBI declares MJ-12 documents 'completely bogus.' NSA FOIA logs confirm a 'Project Aquarius UFOs 1969-1979' record was processed and released.

1.2 — The 16 Volumes

According to the leaked briefing, Project Aquarius comprised 16 classified volumes (classification: TS/ORCON — releasable only by the originator). Only MJ-12 members had access; only two copies of the complete project allegedly existed.

- Volumes covered: UFO sightings, alien contact, propulsion analysis, medical examination of EBEs, biological data, and historical visitation records
- Funding mechanism: Confidential, non-appropriated CIA black budget funds
- Volume IX specifically: Traces alleged alien visits to Earth back approximately 5,000 years
- EBE reportedly stated that 2,000 years ago, alien ancestors 'planted a human creature on Earth' — briefing implies a connection to world religious history
- All attempts to remove alien implants from abductees resulted in patient death (documented 1972)

SECTION 2: THE PRIMARY DOCUMENTS

2.1 — The 11-Page Aquarius Briefing Document

This is the central document in the Project Aquarius corpus — an 11-page purported intelligence briefing that has circulated among UFO researchers since the mid-1980s. Typography and printing are consistent with 1970s-era government documents. A full scan is preserved at the Internet Archive.

Document Title:	PROJECT AQUARIUS — Executive Briefing
Classification (claimed):	TOP SECRET / ORCON — Only originator may release
Access (claimed):	MJ-12 only — no other government or military agency
Copies (claimed):	Two copies — location known only to MJ-12
Internet Archive:	https://archive.org/details/project-aquarius-11-pages
Direct PDF Download:	https://archive.org/download/project-aquarius-11-pages/Project%20Aquarius%20-%2011%20pages.pdf

Key claims within the briefing:

- A craft crashed in New Mexico in 1947; four non-human bodies recovered, one survivor (EBE)
- A second craft recovered in excellent flying condition — no alien crew aboard — studied by U.S. aerospace scientists
- EBE communicated via pictographs; underwent extensive military intelligence interrogation; survived until 1952
- Alien implants removed from abductees resulted in patient deaths (documented 1972)
- Aliens performing ongoing biological sampling on humans; abductee list provided to MJ-12 periodically
- Alien species claims to have influenced Earth's religious history — supporting evidence provided to MJ-12
- Related sub-projects identified: Sigma (communications), Snowbird (test-fly craft), Pounce (crash retrieval)

2.2 — The Aquarius Telex (NSA/NASA Telex)

An earlier, shorter document that first introduced the 'Project Aquarius' name publicly. Directly tied to the Paul Bennewitz case — an Albuquerque physicist who claimed to intercept alien communications near Kirtland Air Force Base. Now widely believed to be a deliberate disinformation document fed to Bennewitz by AFOSI (Air Force Office of Special Investigations).

Also Known As:	The Aquarius Document / The NASA Telex / The NSA Telex
Significance:	First public appearance of the 'Project Aquarius' designation
Origin Context:	Paul Bennewitz — Albuquerque physicist misled by AFOSI disinformation
Source URL:	https://www.cufon.org/cufon/Aquarius/aquarius.htm

2.3 — Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Files

Declassified Reagan-era files referencing Project Aquarius, released under FOIA. These represent the closest thing to a genuine government-sourced document touching on the subject — the closest confirmed government record with this name in public archives.

Archive Reference:	40-654-209237722-045-010-2021
Source:	Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections
Release Mechanism:	Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) declassification
Direct URL:	https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/public/2021-06/40-654-209237722-045-010-2021.pdf

2.4 — NSA FOIA Processing Logs (1998)

The NSA's own 1998 FOIA processing logs include a line item for 'Project Aquarius UFOs from 1969-1979' with a disposition of Granted in Full. This is significant — it confirms that at minimum, a government record bearing the Project Aquarius name existed and was formally processed through FOIA channels.

Source:	NSA FOIA Processing Logs — Government Attic Archive
Date Range Covered:	1969–1979
FOIA Disposition:	Granted in Full
Significance:	Confirms a government record with this exact name existed and was released
Source URL:	https://www.governmentattic.org/43docs/NSAfoiaLogs_1998.pdf

SECTION 3: KEY ENTITIES & PERSONNEL

3.1 — Majestic 12 (MJ-12)

Project Aquarius is inseparable from the Majestic 12 narrative. MJ-12 is described as a twelve-member committee of scientists, military leaders, and government officials formed by executive order of President Truman in 1947 to oversee the recovery and investigation of alien spacecraft. All MJ-12 material is considered fabricated by the FBI.

NAME	POSITION	ROLE IN MJ-12 (alleged)
James Forrestal	Secretary of Defense	Original member — died 1949 under disputed circumstances
Dr. Vannevar Bush	Dir., Office of Scientific R&D;	Scientific oversight of recovered technology analysis
Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg	Air Force Chief of Staff	Military operations and security oversight
Dr. Detlev Bronk	Chairman, Natl Research Council	Biological analysis of EBEs
Dr. Jerome Hunsaker	MIT Aeronautical Engineering	Analysis of recovered alien propulsion systems
Dr. Donald Menzel	Harvard Astronomer	Cover operations — publicly a UFO debunker
Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter	1st CIA Director	Intelligence coordination and classification

3.2 — EBE (Extraterrestrial Biological Entity)

The lone survivor of the alleged 1947 New Mexico crash. The most detailed account of EBE comes from the 11-page briefing document and the testimony of Milton William 'Bill' Cooper, who claimed access to classified Navy intelligence files.

- Male entity — referred to itself as 'EBE'
- Communicated via pictographs, translated by military intelligence personnel
- Biological functions analogous to plants rather than animals
- Held at a classified base in New Mexico; underwent extensive interrogation
- Became ill circa 1949; U.S. medical researchers unable to treat plant-based biology
- Died 1952 — NASA allegedly broadcast distress signals into space in an attempt to save EBE
- Provided intelligence on 5,000-year history of alien Earth visitation before death

3.3 — Key Researchers & Investigators

PERSON	ROLE / SIGNIFICANCE
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Stanton Friedman	Nuclear physicist; primary advocate for MJ-12 document authenticity; spent decades researching Roswell
Bill Moore	UFO researcher; received MJ-12 documents with Shandera; later admitted participating in AFOSI disinformation ops
Jamie Shandera	LA TV producer; received MJ-12 film canister anonymously in December 1984
Paul Bennewitz	Albuquerque physicist; claimed to intercept alien signals near Kirtland AFB; targeted by AFOSI disinformation — the Aquarius Telex is tied to this operation
Timothy Good	British researcher; claimed possession of 1950s UFO documents in May 1987; brought MJ-12 to international attention
Linda Moulton Howe	Journalist; believed MJ-12 documents authentic; investigated abductions and cattle mutilation linked to Aquarius sub-programs
Richard Doty (AFOSI)	Air Force Office of Special Investigations agent; admitted to running disinformation against Bennewitz; source of the Aquarius Telex

SECTION 4: RELATED SUB-PROJECTS

The Aquarius briefing document identifies several related covert programs. Their existence is alleged only through the disputed MJ-12 document corpus. No independent verification of any sub-project exists.

PROJECT	CODEWORD	ALLEGED MISSION
SIGMA	DANCE	Establish and maintain communication with alien life forms. Allegedly achieved first two-way communication in 1959.
SNOWBIRD	(undisclosed)	Test fly recovered alien aircraft using U.S. military pilots. Established at classified Nevada test site.
POUNCE	(undisclosed)	Recovery and exploitation of crashed alien craft. Ongoing crash retrieval operations.
GARNET	RISK	Control and study of all aspects of alien presence on Earth and in space.
PLUTO	LACE	Evaluate UFO/IAC information pertaining to space technology; terminated 1974.
BLUE BOOK	SIGN	Air Force public-facing UFO collection and (per briefing) disinformation project; terminated 1969; absorbed into Aquarius.
GLEEM	(predecessor)	Original name for Project Aquarius, established 1953 under Eisenhower. Renamed Aquarius in 1966.

4.1 — Alleged Corporate Contractors

The briefing document and associated research allege that significant scientific and technical operations were centered in civilian industrial and research firms, with private security providing operational security for the programs.

- SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation) — primary technical contractor
- Northrop — 'Anthill' facility at Tejon Ranch; alleged underground complex
- TRW, Raytheon, EG&G; — advanced technology development
- Lockheed Martin Skunkworks — propulsion and airframe reverse engineering
- Boeing Phantom Works — classified advanced concepts
- Bechtel Corporation — alleged underground base construction
- Wackenhut Corporation — private security services

SECTION 5: AUTHENTICITY ASSESSMENT

5.1 — Evidence Against Authenticity

- The FBI officially declared the MJ-12 documents 'completely bogus' following formal investigation
- No document forensics have confirmed government origin of the 11-page briefing
- Bill Moore admitted participating in disinformation operations, compromising the provenance chain
- AFOSI agent Richard Doty admitted creating and distributing disinformation UFO documents
- Skeptic Brian Dunning (Skeptoid, 2016) concluded the papers were likely government disinformation to deflect attention from legitimate classified Air Force programs
- MuckRock's Emma Best noted FBI files show no investigation to find or prosecute any forger — suggesting government tolerance or direct authorship
- The MJ-12 Special Operations Manual (1996) is almost universally considered a continuation of the hoax
- The Aquarius Telex text shows signs of being created specifically to mislead Paul Bennewitz

5.2 — Evidence Supporting Partial Authenticity

- Typography and printing of the 11-page briefing are consistent with 1970s government document production
- NSA FOIA logs confirm a 'Project Aquarius UFOs 1969-1979' record was processed and released — confirming a document with this name existed
- The Cutler/Twining memo was found by researchers in the National Archives — an unexpected location for a purely fabricated document
- Multiple independent witnesses described classified programs consistent with Aquarius sub-project descriptions
- The Reagan Presidential Library contains files referencing Project Aquarius — suggesting some operational continuity for the name
- Stanton Friedman's decades of analysis identified internal inconsistencies difficult to explain as simple forgery

5.3 — The Disinformation Theory (Most Credible Assessment)

The most academically defensible assessment is that Project Aquarius documents represent a mixture of genuine classification theater and deliberate disinformation — created or encouraged by government agencies (primarily AFOSI and CIA) to serve the following purposes:

- Deflect public and researcher attention from legitimate classified aerospace programs (SR-71, U-2, stealth aircraft programs operating from Area 51 and Groom Lake)
- Discredit UFO researchers by feeding them unprovable and later deniable material — the Bennewitz operation being the clearest example
- Test the security awareness and reporting behavior of civilians who came into contact with classified base activity
- Create plausible deniability — if documents were confirmed, they could be attributed to the disinformation campaign rather than revealing real programs
- The strategy was effective: serious researchers spent decades chasing fabricated trails while legitimate classified programs remained hidden

SECTION 6: COMPLETE SOURCE DIRECTORY

All sources compiled for this dossier. Where possible, direct download links to the original documents are provided.

SOURCE	URL / LOCATION
Internet Archive — 11-page Briefing	https://archive.org/details/project-aquarius-11-pages
Direct PDF Download	https://archive.org/download/project-aquarius-11-pages/Project%20Aquarius%20-%202011%20pages.pdf
CUFON — The Aquarius Telex	https://www.cufon.org/cufon/Aquarius/aquarius.htm
Reagan Library Files (FOIA)	https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/public/2021-06/40-654-209237722-045-010-2021.pdf
NSA FOIA Logs 1998	https://www.governmentattic.org/43docs/NSAfoiaLogs_1998.pdf
Wikipedia — Majestic 12	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majestic_12
Conspiracy Data — Project Aquarius	https://conspiracydata.com/documents/project-aquarius/
Mystery of Iniquity — Full Briefing Text	https://mysteryoftheiniquity.wordpress.com/alien-conspiracy/project-aquarius/

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