Extent

24 folders, approximately 460 pages

Summary

This collection consists of email and cables concerning “Area 51.” “Area 51” is an unofficial title that often refers to an area in southern Nevada containing United States Air Force (USAF) facilities. The USAF does not recognize owning or operating any facility regarded as “Area 51.” They do recognize operations at the Nellis Range Complex which includes an Operating Location near Groom Lake, Nevada. However, much of the information regarding activities at these sites remains classified.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 20060527F are a selective, not necessarily all inclusive, body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. FOIA request 20060527F contains materials from the White House Automated Records Management System Emails, NSC Records Management, and NSC Cable and NSC Email systems. The WHORM Subject Files contain no relevant records. The WHORM Alpha Files contain no relevant records. The White House Staff and Office Files contain no relevant records. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) Emails contains back and forth correspondence regarding a “Good Morning America” interview related to the Groom Lake lawsuit. The NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems contain Presidential Determinations regarding the Operating Location near Groom Lake, Nevada and memoranda concerning these Determinations. “Area 51” articles and a press briefing that references the Groom Lake lawsuit are included in the NSC Cable and Email systems.

Biographical Note

“Area 51” is an unofficial title that often refers to an area in southern Nevada containing United States Air Force (USAF) facilities. The USAF does not recognize owning or operating any facility regarded as “Area 51.” They do recognize operations at the Nellis Range Complex which includes an Operating Location near Groom Lake, Nevada. However, much of the information regarding activities at these sites remains classified. During the Clinton Administration, the Operating location near Groom Lake was named in a lawsuit. In 1994, suit was filed against the USAF and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) alleging contractors at the Groom Lake site had been exposed to high levels of toxic chemicals. The suit claimed that the EPA had failed to enforce the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act resulting in high level chemical exposures. President Clinton signed a Presidential Determination in 1995 exempting the Air Force from disclosing classified information related to Groom Lake. The suit was eventually dismissed and the following appeal was also rejected.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records responsive to this FOIA request were found in two collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails, and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems. As policy, Staff and Office Files are processed at the folder level. That is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. WHORM Subject and WHORM Alpha files are processed at the document level. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. The WHORM Subject file was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. A complete listing of the categories with detailed descriptions is provided in our research room.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552 as amended) and the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 22) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, USC) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Subject Headings

Nevada--Area 51

United States. Air Force

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2007. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2007-06-12

Container List

View all digitized files in the National Archives Catalog (NAC)

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2006-0527F:

Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System (ARMS) Emails
WHO
[Area 51]
[04/26/1995 – 04/18/2000] [OA/ID 500000]
Default
[Area 51]
[08/26/1999 [OA/ID 1100000]

Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems (RMS)
NSC Cables
January 1993December 1994
[Area 51]
[11/22/1994] [OA/ID 505000]

NSC Emails
September 1994September 1997 (MSMailRecord)
[Area 51]
[02/08/199603/18/1996] [OA/ID 590000]
September 1997January 2001 (ExchangeRecord)
[Area 51]
[09/04/199702/15/2000] [OA/ID 620000]
March 1997January 2001 (ExchangeNonRecord)

[Area 51]
[09/15/199711/03/2000] [OA/ID 630000]

NSC Records Management System
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9507055 [OA/ID 605]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9507055 [OA/ID 2318]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9507092 [OA/ID 605]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9600475 [OA/ID 1082]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9600475 [OA/ID 2327]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9606505 [OA/ID 1123]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9606505 [OA/ID 2345]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9700471 [OA/ID 1599]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9700471 [OA/ID 3220]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]
9700698 [OA/ID 1600]
PRSPresidential Records
[Area 51]

9700698 [OA/ID 3221]
PRSPresidential Records [Area 51]
9706404 [OA/ID 1642]
PRSPresidential Records [Area 51]
9706404 [OA/ID 3240]
PRSPresidential Records [Area 51]
9706476 [OA/ID 1642]
PRSPresidential Records [Area 51]
9800538 [OA/ID 2011]
PRSPresidential Records [Area 51]
9800538 [OA/ID 3250]
PRSPresidential Records [Area 51]
9806405 [OA/ID 2059]
PRSPresidential Records [Area 51]
9806405 [OA/ID 3269]

Content Available Online