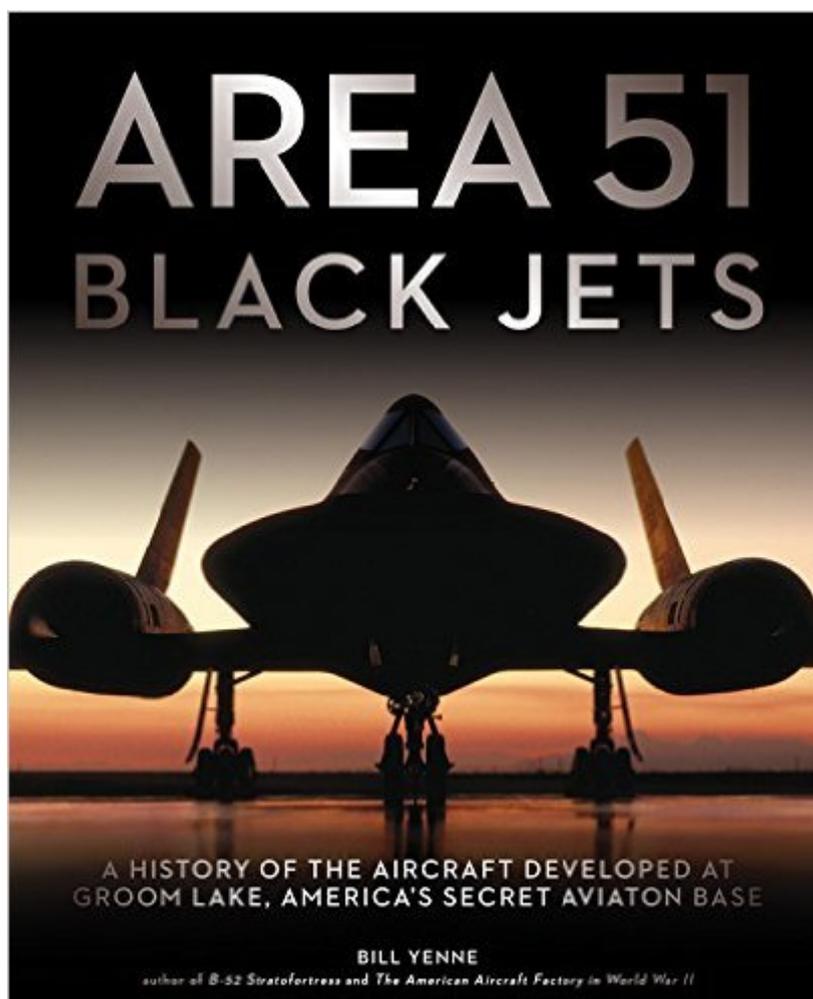


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Area 51 - Black Jets: A History Of The Aircraft Developed At Groom Lake, America's Secret Aviation Base



Synopsis

Area 51's most important military aviation developments are profiled in an illustrated format. When most of us think of Area 51, we think of aliens, UFOs, and controversial government cover-ups. It's easy to forget that, since the mid-1950s, the United States' famed extension of Edwards Air Force Base has served as a top-secret CIA testing ground for many of the most groundbreaking advancements in American military aviation technology. In *Area 51 - Black Jets*, author and military historian Bill Yenne offers the first fully illustrated chronology of Area 51's most famous aircraft projects, including Lockheed's U-2 "Dragon Lady" and SR-71 "Blackbird" reconnaissance planes, drones ranging from the early Lockheed D-21 to the modern-day General Atomics MQ-1 Predator, and the famous F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter produced by the Have Blue program during the 1970s. Each project is given its own fascinating chapter illuminating the aircraft's development at this famed location. But beyond the aircraft themselves, *Area 51 - Black Jets* also covers a handful of the many classified experimental programs carried out at Area 51 over the years, such as Have Doughnut, Have Ferry, and Have Drill - secret undertakings that successfully reverse-engineered such enemy aircraft as the Russian MiG during the Cold War. Presented in beautiful hardcover format and illustrated with historic color and black-and-white photographs, diagrams, and maps, this book reveals Area 51 for what it truly is: a clandestine area for the United States' most cutting-edge technological innovators in military aviation.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Zenith Press (March 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0760344264

ISBN-13: 978-0760344262

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.8 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #400,735 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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Customer Reviews

Whether you know it as Dreamland, Paradise Ranch, Groom Lake or Area 51 it is a facility shrouded mystery. Shedding light of many of the dark projects there, as well as many others less in the dark, author Bill Yenne also takes the reader through their history and importance. This book only just published - Area 51 Black Jets - begins in 1940 with the designation of an inhospitable 3,000,000 acres of land in southern Nevada as an Army bombing and gunnery range before describing a complicated evolution where areas were pieced out for a variety of government programs. The advent of the Cold War and nuclear weapon experiments brought increasing secrecy to the vast areas as well as the specified area for aeronautical experimentation as well as testing, Area 51. Yenne blends detail and historical overview pleasingly with passion and excitement. He has a lot to tell from which must have been an immense research effort. Once through with the book it is amazing to realize there were only 192 pages as it seems like so much more must have been read given the context and revelations regarding the aircraft and programs described within. Yenne also includes 140 color photos, 90 b/w images as well as 18 diagrams in this richly made book with so many of the pages possessing background images or textures. Many sources were used for the photos but particularly those from the author's collection as well as those of Tony Landis and Terry Panopalis underscore the finer points and are not commonly seen elsewhere. No less than 21 aircraft are discussed (see the table below) with many more mentioned to lesser extent. Program names (sometimes shifting program names) as well as designers and pilots are there to see.

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