

[October 16, 2006]

US is using secret alien technology, says hacker

(The Express On Sunday Via Thomson Dialog NewsEdge) A SCOTS computer hacker accused of crippling America's defence systems claims to have uncovered evidence of top secret military UFO experiments. Gary McKinnon, 40, who fears being sent to Guantanamo Bay if extradited to the United States, says he is only being prosecuted because he found the existence of a shadowy US forces' outerspace team. He faces up to 80 years in jail or could be subjected to Military Order Number One, which would allow President George Bush to send him to a special prison facility without limit of time. The US Government has already made it clear it wishes to extract "administrative revenge" on the Glasgow-born hacker for exposing the embarrassing weakness in its security. In what was described as "the biggest military hack of all time", McKinnon allegedly broke into 97 computers. His actions spread chaos through NASA, the Pentagon and several Army, Navy and Air Force bases. But McKinnon, who has always insisted he was looking for information about UFOs, claims he discovered files detailing the work of military researchers already harnessing alien technology. McKinnon, who has lived in London for the past 10 years, yesterday told how he came across the real-life X-Files after accessing military computers left unprotected without passwords. He said: "I was looking for anything to do with UFOs and ARVs - the term for Alien Reproduction Vehicles - which is the description of for back-engineered alien hardware, and what's been made with that engineering. "I could grab 255 machines a second. I looked in file systems, networks, digging deeper and deeper. "The more time goes by, the more I think the Roswell incident was true." McKinnon, who lived in Maryhill, Glasgow, until he was six, became interested in computer security after reading The Hacker's Handbook in 1985. He got his first computer when he was 14, loved playing games and learned to use programming languages. Sitting in his north London bedroom, using a cheap computer and dial-up modem, he allegedly caused GBP370,000 worth of damage between February 2001 and March 2002. It is said he deleted system files and logs from the US naval station Earle at a critical time after the September 11 attacks. He has vowed to appeal against the extradition order signed by Home Secretary John Reid after a ruling by District Judge Nicholas Evans at London's Bow Street Magistrates Court, earlier this year. Legal experts have warned the recent extradition of the 'NatWest Three' bankers - now facing charges in the US over the Enron collapse in 2001 - does not bode well for the hacker. But McKinnon, who is currently on bail, added: "They say I endangered US national security, but there was no security - no firewalls, no nothing. In fact I used to set a password when I was on there, so I actually improved security."

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