

# USAF LT. COL. GIBSON EXTENDS LIE TO REP. FAZIO

Received: 23.Sep.00 07:35 PM From: [REDACTED] To: [REDACTED] Get faxes by email. Free. [Fax.com](http://Fax.com) Page: 2 of 5

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ELRF

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PETER A. DeFAZIO  
4th District, Oregon

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

September 14, 2000

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[REDACTED]

I have enclosed copies of the information I received in response to my inquiry on your behalf about "chemtrails."

Sincerely,

PETER DeFAZIO  
Member of Congress

PAD: PJW  
Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
United States Representative  
151 West 7th Ave. #400  
Eugene OR 97401-2649

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Dear Mr. DeFazio

This responds to your inquiry on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] who is concerned about "chemtrails" over the Portland area.

The term "chemtrail" is a hoax that began circulating approximately three years ago which asserts the government is involved in a joint federal program of covert spraying of the public. The "chemtrails" are most often described as "unusual contrails or contrail patterns" seen coming from military and civilian aircraft. The "chemtrail" hoax has been investigated and refuted by many established and accredited universities, scientific organizations, and major media publications.

There has been an increase in the number of contrails observed due to the significant civil aviation growth in the past decade, and the patterns observed are directly correlated to the grid pattern formed by aircraft flying north/south and east/west routes designated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA manages the National Airspace System (NAS) and controls both civilian and military aircraft using the NAS. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are the agencies charged with conducting atmospheric and climate experiments and are investigating the effects of contrail formation and dissipation on the climate.

Aircraft and their engines can produce a variety of condensation patterns ("contrails"), exhaust plumes, and vapor trails. Furthermore, the Air Force performs missions during which, exhaust is released into the atmosphere. The exhaust emissions produced by aircraft and space launch vehicles can produce contrails that look very similar to clouds which can last for only a few seconds or as long as several hours. Vapor trails are formed only under certain atmospheric conditions and create a visible atmospheric wake similar to a boat propeller in water and usually dissipate very rapidly.

Contrails consist of ice particles that form or nucleate around the small soot or aerosol particles in the exhaust gases. The contrails are formed when the relative humidity increases because of the mixing of warm and moist exhaust gas with colder and less humid ambient air of the atmosphere. Contrails become visible roughly about a wingspan distance behind the aircraft. Contrails can be formed by propeller or jet turbine powered aircraft.

The contrails formed by the exhaust at high altitude are typically white and very similar to cirrus clouds. As the exhaust gases expand and mix with the atmosphere, the contrail diffuses and spreads. At sunsets, these contrails can be visibly eye-catching and striking as they reflect the blue, yellow, and red spectrum of the reflected sunlight. Due to horizontal wind shear and a minimum

vertical wind component, contrails tend to become wider and remain thin. It is very difficult to distinguish aged contrails from cirrus clouds.

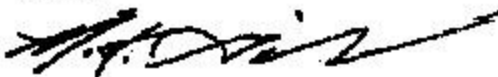
A different type of contrail or condensation trail is caused when a wing surface or winglet causes a cavitation of air in very humid conditions. This results in a unique vapor trail that is not formed due to exhaust gases

Aerial spraying for pest or weed control and fire suppression is the only Air Force activities that involve aircraft intentionally spraying chemical compounds (insecticides, herbicides, fire retardants, oil dispersants). The only unit in the Air Force capable of aerial spray operations to control disease-carrying pests and insects is the Air Force Reserve Command's (AFRC) 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown-Warren Air Reserve Station, Ohio. The aerial spray mission uses four specially configured C-130 Hercules turboprop aircraft. Aerial spraying enables large parcels of land or water to be treated safely, quickly, accurately, and cheaply. This is the only fixed wing aerial-spray capability in the Department of Defense. Although the Department of Defense initiates most of the unit's missions, its services are also requested by local, state, and other federal agencies and coordinated with the Center for Disease Control. The most common missions flown are for mosquito, sand flea and weed control. Several states have also requested support to combat grasshoppers and locusts.

For a number of years commercial companies have been involved in cloud seeding and fire suppression measures. Cloud seeding requires the release of chemicals in the atmosphere in an effort to have water crystals attach themselves and become heavy enough to produce rain. The Air Force does not have a cloud seeding capability. The Air Force's policy is to observe and forecast the weather to support military operations. The Air Force is not conducting any weather modification experiments or programs and has no plans to do so in the future.

In short, there is no such thing as a "chemtrail" – the actual contrails are safe and are a natural phenomenon. They pose no health hazard of any kind. We thank you for this opportunity to address your concerns and trust you find this information helpful.

Sincerely



MICHAEL K. GIBSON, Lt Col, USAF  
Deputy Chief, Congressional Inquiry Division  
Office of Legislative Liaison

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