

Rackstraw Linked to All 5 “D. B. Cooper” Notes – and CIA Black Ops *Fed sources tell sleuths their Californian’s covert history explains ongoing FBI cover-up.*

EMBARGOED until 2/1/18, 12 pm EST: A month after finding Robert W. Rackstraw Sr.’s top-secret Army units encrypted in a federal court-released hijacker letter (#5 above-right), a cold case team has done it again: Four more taunting Cooper notes, the first and last mailed within a half-hour of Rackstraw’s remote 1971 mountain hideaway, also have buried messages – including one that could explain why the FBI is “stonewalling.”

Team-organizer Thomas J. Colbert says the new unmaskings allegedly include a Cooper dare to hunting agents, directives to apparent getaway partners, and a startling claim that is followed by Rackstraw’s three initials: if captured, he expected a get-out-of-jail card from a spy agency!

Newly Deciphered Coding:

Letter #1 (Mailed 11/27/71): “CAN FBI CATCH ME... SWS (Special Warfare School – where he learned coding)

Letter #2 (Mailed 11/30/71): “IF CATCH I AM CIA... RWR” (CIA clue & alleged initials of Robert W. Rackstraw)

Letter #3 (Mailed 12/1/71): “I HAVE POB (Post Office Box) AND CODE... WILL GO DOWN PM”
 (Appears “POB” held 4th note to mail; informs cohorts he’s flying south in evening)

Letter #4 (Mailed 12/1/71): “NGJS” (Like in #1 & 5, another of his training units: National Guard Jump School)

Team informed Seattle Division of this letter trail, but the case agent “discounted” it. Just like the 100 pieces of Rackstraw evidence (including DNA) from Colbert’s 40-member team – a team ironically led by retired FBI.

Former commanders and fellow pilots have revealed that Rackstraw’s Black Ops for the CIA began with ground missions in Vietnam (1969-70) and continued in flights over Laos in 1972. His brags of these assignments were also recorded in court/police records, articles and recalled by various witnesses who heard them (pgs. 3-5).

In addition, three former brass from the intelligence community have separately approached the team – with first-person accounts and confidential papers – telling of Rackstraw’s contracted flying missions in the 1980s during the Iran Contra Affair (See their statements to TJC’s esteemed team members on the next page).

NOTE: Former Army codebreaker Rick Sherwood discovered these latest encryptions, and all the results were vetted by neutral experts. The decrypted details are copyrighted, but media can view the unmasking steps for themselves by signing an NDA.

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RACKSTRAW'S ALLEGED CIA AND COOPER HISTORY



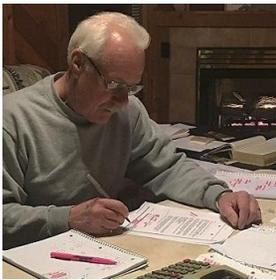
LTC Ken Overturf (Ret.; CO) is the suspect's former Army commander in the secret Vietnam intel-gathering group, Project Left Bank. But after "Rack" was booted from the chopper unit in 1970, he quietly approached the CIA. Quotes from the team's investigative book and Overturf's emails:

"The CIA guy used to come into the [1st Cavalry] company area every now and then," Warrant Officer Wayne Olmstead (Ret.) said, *"and Rack used to hang out with him in our*

Officers Club."

"Rack started going out with the guy for days at a time," added Overturf. He witnessed two of their jungle departures in a stolen Jeep, *"loaded with weapons, ammo and explosives."*

As far as him being D.B. Cooper, Overturf concluded: *"Of the potential suspects identified by the FBI, Rackstraw fits the mold best. He would have the courage and 'go to hell' attitude necessary to actually attempt the jump."*



Army NSA / Project Left Bank Codebreaker Sgt. Rick Sherwood (Retired NCO; IN): His Quote: *"My source read TJC's January 4th, 2018 press release to a high-intel military friend who had a job to know details about all of this. The military friend stated, 'Everything you read to me it true'*

regarding Rackstraw's Cooper identity, along with his CIA freelance work during Vietnam and into the 1980s. But the military friend also warned my source: 'If I told you all I have and know about it, I'd have to kill you.'" FYI: Here's the referenced News Release:

<https://dbcooper.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/DBC-Media-Release-2-Cooper-Letter-5-Code-Cracked-1-4-18.pdf>



Jim Christy (Ret.; WA, D.C.) was the Director of Cyber Crime Investigation & Information Warfare for the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI); prior to that, the Operations Director of the Defense Computer Forensics Lab (DC3).

His quote: *"A close source with long history in the intelligence community told me Rackstraw was a contracted CIA pilot for years during Iran-Contra, and they knew he was D.B. Cooper."*

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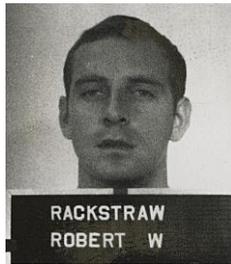
CIA BLACK OPS & COVERT IDENTITY CLAIMS

Thomas J. Colbert; Updated May 24, 2019

ROBERT W. RACKSTRAW SR. (DOB 10/16/43): A few of his 22 known identities -- R.W. Jones-1943; Norman D'Winter-1971; R.L. Roehner & Gary Miller-mid 1970s; and Robert C. Eastman-1979. His three Social Security Numbers: 1957: 546-54-1279; 1966: 546-84-1077; and 1979: 546-57-????

Cooper suspect Rackstraw (RWR), a former career Army pilot with 3 private aircraft in the 1970s (none registered with FAA), worked with the *CIA before and after the hijacking in a variety of freelance capacities. The cold case team confirmed this through 1) Three senior command leaders (from military and intelligence communities), 2) documents (court papers, corporate security memos, articles and an officer's letter), and 3) various eyewitnesses. Here are the sources in a time-line:

***7/22/68:** FOIA records reveal that Green Berets at Special Warfare School (Ft. Bragg, NC) gave



Rackstraw, they said, also had high altitude-low opening parachute training, something that D. B. Cooper could have used in bailing out of the airliner.

Stockton Record Paper, 2-3-79

RWR 400 hours of Special Forces Operations, PSYOPS (Psychological Ops) and ID&D training – programs involving counter-subversion, deception, propaganda, survival, interrogation methods and cryptic Army coding-making skills (found in the DBC letters). Officials also told a paper (above) they learned through the FBI that RWR had advanced training in HALO (“High Altitude-Low Opening”) parachuting, used specifically for commando insertions by the CIA.

RWR's wife #1 claimed he called her during that year to announce he had officially joined the Green Berets (untrue). Later during his visit home on leave, she said she took a photo of him in the beret.

***1969-70:** One of RWR's 1st Air Cavalry commanders in Vietnam claimed RWR would “hang” with a CIA man in their Phuoc Vinh fire base's Officers Club. LTC Ken Overturf (ret.) also said he twice saw their departures together in a stolen officer's Jeep, “loaded with weapons, ammo and explosives.” RWR went out with this CIA man “for days at a time.”



CHIEF EDITOR
THE PROVINCE
THE COMPOSITE DRAWING
ON PAGE 3 AS SUSPECTED
BY IS-11 DOES NOT REPRESENT
THE TRUTH.
I ENJOYED THE GREY CUP
GAME. AM LEAVING VANCOUVER
THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.
D. B. COOPER \$195

A fellow helicopter pilot, Clarence Manley (left), told TJC he spotted “crazy” RWR in that Jeep on an unauthorized jungle mission. He was stopped “at the Special Forces mountain refueling spot near Tay Ninh,” – 25 miles from 1st Cav firebase.

***11/30/71:** In the second of now six taunting “D.B. Cooper” letters (left) – embedded with encrypted Army coding that RWR had learned – the decrypted words state: “IF CATCH I

AM CIA... RWR” (Rackstraw's apparent initials).

Letter #2) A: “I Enjoyed The Grey Cup Game. Am Leaving Vancouver” = 9+5+20+7+3+7+1+12+22 = 86;
“If Catch I Am CIA” = 15+35+9+14+13 = 86

B: “Thanks For Your Hospitality” = 20+6+25+8 = 59; RWR = 18+23+18 = 59 (Robert W. Rackstraw)

No. 072-159

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF SAN ANDREAS JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF CALAVERAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

H. W. BLEWETT, JUDGE
CRIMINAL

The People of the State of California,
Plaintiff
vs.
ROBERT W. RACKSTRAW
Defendant

Charge: (1) 4902 P&G, W.S.
(Call to retain possession of)
(2) 4906 P&G, W.S.
(Call to attach Deer License)

Attorney for Plaintiff
Attorney for Defendant

WESTCO BUREAU - SACRAMENTO - 5374

DATE	PROCEEDINGS
11-11-72	Complaint upon oath made by <u>Walter J. Fisher</u> Filed occurring <u>ROBERT W. RACKSTRAW</u> commission of the offense of VIOLATIONS: (1) 4902 Fish & Game Code, a misdemeanor Valley Springs, on or about November 4, 1972. (2) 4906 Fish & Game Code, a misdemeanor Defendant notified by letter of complaint and to appear 11-20-72 at 10:00
11-16-72	Case called, defendant not in court. Warrant of arrest to be issued. 1 of letter to father of defendant stating that is signed. This amount may be posted and warrant for the defendant must appear in court otherwise warrant of arrest will be issued and served when he is in the state.
11-23-72	Defendant's father called in, requested a 30 day continuance to post and bail. Defendant is in Laos. Has not had time to respond to father's letter.
1-2-73	<u>paid \$125.00 first receipt # 2544</u>

*12/4/72: A year after the hijacking, booted vet RWR was officially living at his parents' "hideaway" in the California foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

But when the 29-year-old vet missed a court date involving a deer-poaching charge, court records (left) show his contrite "father called in" and said the "Defendant [RWR] is in Laos" – where the CIA, under the cover airline name of "Air America," was discreetly operating.

Army Airman From SC Wins Distinguished Flying Cross

Army Warrant Officer Robert W. Rackstraw of Santa Cruz has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the nation's highest aviation award. Rackstraw served as a helicopter pilot in "Project Left Bank," a top security organization in Vietnam. It was his job to make low-level flights over known enemy positions, pinpointing and destroying those locations. His citation notes that Rackstraw's "courage and devotion to duty under the most arduous conditions" have provided the Army with a valuable in-

telligence source for finding and destroying the enemy.

Rackstraw now has been selected as the personal pilot of Gen Robert M. Shoemaker, assistant division commander for the First Cavalry Division.

Rackstraw has previously been awarded the National Defense Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Overseas Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal with 26th Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and the Meritorious Unit Citation.

He is one of only a few Army fliers authorized to wear three sets of wings – those of the American Special Forces, Vietnamese paratrooper and Army aviator.



Robert Rackstraw

7/15/73: During a business meeting in San Jose, California, a credible witness says vet RWR showed off an old news clipping (left) with his photo, touting him as "being a Green Beret and some kind of medal winner."

FYI: Cold case team tracked down the old article in his Santa Cruz hometown paper, which revealed RWR had dictated its details from Vietnam in 1970. Claiming to be Special Forces wasn't his only fib; he bragged of fake medals, then leaked facts about his former top-secret helicopter surveillance unit (ASA's 371st Radio Research Unit, also known as "Project Left Bank"). One of his retired Vietnam NCOs, Sgt. Rick Sherwood, was shown this article. He called the mention of their classified choppers' mission to be "flat-out treasonous. Back then, we would've hung him by his thumbs."

1975: RWR revealed to a construction co-worker that he would sometimes get recruited on "special assignments" by owners of aircraft that had been "stolen" for drug-runs, only later to be confiscated by the government of Mexico. The vet touted he would slip south of the border to conduct surveillance at airports, then "steal back" the planes – no questions asked.

*1/16/75: When a Seattle jet couldn't land in fog-bound Portland, OR, a flight attendant named Betty Daggett carpooled south in a rental car with two passengers – one of them being a "Bob Rackstraw." She told team that he claimed he "worked for the CIA."

***2/15/78:** Wanted for California crimes (and quietly suspected of being D.B. Cooper), the FBI finds fugitive RWR in Iran, teaching the Shaw's chopper pilots for Bell Helicopter International (BHI). When the suspect was ordered to sell his belongings and return to the USA, RWR tells BHI security (below) he will appoint a fellow chopper instructor, Herbert M. Baker – his "old Agency [CIA] friend from Air America" – to sell his new car and furniture. FYI: Obituary referencing Baker's time with Air America: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tampabaytimes/obituary.aspx?n=herbert-m-baker&pid=2872624>

Rackstraw reiterated that while he would now, albeit reluctantly, leave Iran, he would not return to California. His tentative plans are now to accept transportation furnished at BHI expense to the United States but to stop off somewhere in Europe, preferably Paris, where he would have time to "get his thoughts together" and plan future action. He said he would look up an old friend now living in Esfahan named Herb Baker and prevail upon Baker to accept Rackstraw's Power of Attorney with regards to the disposal of Rackstraw's furniture and automobile. He described Baker as an old "Agency" friend from Air America. (Baker was subsequently identified as Herbert M. Baker, Employee # 5250, assigned as an Instructor Pilot at the IIAATC).

Lawrence also said that Rackstraw, who also used his given name of Bob Jones, claimed to be CIA, but we don't know it for a fact.

***3/14/78:** During a detective's interrogation of RWR in Calaveras County, CA, he "claimed to be CIA, but we don't know it for a fact." FYI: Sorry – 2/4/79 S.F. Examiner quote photographed at library.



***7/6/78:** A Stockton Record reporter (left) that interviewed the jailed RWR wrote: "He said in addition to being a Green Beret... he was a member of a 'top secret special intelligence organization (CIA) while in Vietnam in 1969.'" RWR also said "FBI considers him 'a James Bond who had gone wrong.'"

the 4,200-mile route.

***8/1/78:** While out on bail between California trials, RWR talked to two cocaine traffickers – both of them Hollywood producers – about flying them down to Peru for a combined movie shoot and drug run. He promised that "friends in the CIA" could set up an island "refueling spot" for their plane on

2/2/79: One of Rackstraw's former construction bosses, Mike Narro, gets an FBI visit at his Novato, CA, warehouse. He later tells his wife "they think Rackstraw is D.B. Cooper, and they have evidence he was selling weapons to terrorists." FYI: FBI publicly linked RWR to two unsolved burglaries in his hometown of Santa Cruz: 1) 100s of stolen armory weapons (1971); 2) 22 cases of dynamite (1975).

***7/25/79:** At RWR's 1979 sentencing for unrelated CA felonies, his probation officer's court report stated his "military records show he wasn't a Green Beret." He was also "prone to misrepresent and falsify claims. One ploy used was to imply he's 'above the law,' insinuating his actions were 'ordered by higher authorities in the federal government or the military intelligence of the CIA.'" FYI: SR paper

5/11/16: In recent blog article for a law-firm website, RWR's former attorney, Dennis Roberts, wrote that his 1978 client "was a special secret type in the military, tougher than the Seals."

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