

Jed Margolin  
775-847-7845

1981 Empire Rd.

VC Highlands, NV 89521-7430  
May 30, 2011

Storey County Commissioners  
Storey County, Nevada

Reference: Taormina Towers Comments #6

Dear Storey County Commissioners,

This is regarding Tom and Midge Taormina's application for a Special Use Permit Case No. 2011-010. Please put this in the permanent public file for the issue.

This is in response to the letter dated May 27, 2011 sent by Fred Hopengarten to the Storey County Commissioners. (See Exhibit 1.) Although Fred does not name me as the person who made the Freedom of Information Act request to NASA, it is very unlikely that he meant someone else.

Fred's letter was thoughtfully provided to me by Tom Taormina in an email dated May 28, 2011 in which he said,

"You really should do your homework before you call me a liar to the Commissioners."

(See Exhibit 2.)

My Freedom of Information Act Request and NASA's response speak for themselves. (See my letter *jm\_scc04.pdf* dated May 6, 2011.)

NASA stated (*ibid.*)

After a very extensive and due diligent search, conducted by the Johnson Space Center (JSC) Human Resources Office, Knowledge and Quality Management, Mission Operations Directorate, Engineering Directorate, Information Resources Directorate (which included searches with the JSC Scientific and Technical Information Center and the Federal Records Center), Safety Reliability, and the Extra Vehicular Activity Office we have determined that no records exist to confirm that Mr. Taormina was a NASA civil servant, or was a member of an Apollo 13 disaster recovery team at Mission Control.

NASA said that after "a very extensive and due diligent search" they have determined that "no records exist to confirm that Mr. Taormina was a NASA civil servant, or was a member of an Apollo 13 disaster recovery team at Mission Control."

Tom was not a NASA civil servant, which means he was not a NASA employee. Since he was not a NASA employee, he could not have been a NASA engineer. Since he was not a NASA engineer, he is not a former NASA engineer.

The documents in Fred's letter purport to show that Tom was an employee of Ford Aerospace, a NASA contractor.

That does not make him a former NASA engineer. That makes him a former Ford Aerospace employee.

Tom stated in his application that he is a former NASA engineer. According to the evidence, that statement is untrue. It is an untruthful statement.

Since the untruthful statement was made deliberately, that means it is a lie. Tom made the statement so, yes, Tom is a liar. The documents produced in Fred's letter do not show otherwise. If Tom had produced any paystubs from NASA it would have settled the issue very easily. He has not done that.

When you see how, in Tom's mind, having being employed by a NASA contractor has made Tom a former NASA engineer you have to wonder about his other statements. Is the need for 195' towers equally exaggerated?

Fred ends his letter with the statement:

Claiming that he is a journalist, to avoid incurring the cost of a search for records, even the FOIA request casting doubt on Taormina's service to NASA restated that Taormina worked for Ford Aerospace at NASA.

Fred does two things with that statement.

1. He infers that working for Ford Aerospace made Tom a NASA engineer.
2. He infers that the Media Fee Waiver that NASA gave me in my FOIA request was somehow improper or dirty. The fact is that I met the requirements for a Media Fee Waiver established by the Freedom of Information Act (and some case law) so NASA waived the fees.

And BTW, at the May 3 meeting of the County Commissioners, Fred made the statement that the reason that Tom wants reliable communications with Europe and Asia is **not** for emergencies. He made the statement as an aside to me. It was not directed to the Commissioners.

I found his statement amazing.

Tom's documents hammer away on the value of amateur radio during emergencies. And since Tom does not give any other reason for needing reliable communications with Europe and Asia it is reasonable to assume that is why he wants it.

This would be a good time for Tom to state why he needs reliable communications with Europe and Asia.

His statement should be clear and unambiguous.

It should not rehash the history of his towers.

It should not be based on his peculiar interpretation of the Law.

It should not be based on the Divine Right of Kings and Generals.

73,

Jed Margolin  
WA2VEW

cc: Pat Whitten  
Dean Haymore  
Austin Osborne  
William Maddox  
Tom Taormina  
Fred Hopengarten

Exhibit 1

Exhibit 1

***Fred Hopengarten***

*Attorney at Law*

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Admitted only in DC and ME

May 27, 2011

Storey County Commissioners

Attn: Pat Whitten, County Manager

P. O. Box 176

Virginia City, NV 89440

pwhitten@storeycounty.org

F: 775/847-0949

T: 775/847-0968

*By e-mail only*

***In re: 370 Panamint Road, VC Highlands, APN 003-43-18***

Dear Commissioners:

A recent submission to you asserts that “NASA engineers are given an extra measure of respect in society because they work for NASA. This includes those who were NASA engineers in the past. Those NASA engineers who were part of the Apollo 13 Recovery Team have achieved almost legendary stature . . .” This is true. Yet the submission questions his service to NASA, saying that Mr. Taormina’s service gives him “credibility (and privilege) that he (and his application) do not deserve.”

Mr. Taormina worked for Ford Aerospace. Claiming that he is a journalist, to avoid incurring the cost of a search for records, even the FOIA request casting doubt on Taormina’s service to NASA restated that Taormina worked for Ford Aerospace at NASA. NASA recommended that the questioner contact Ford Aerospace.

I trust the attached will settle the matter.

Sincerely,



Fred Hopengarten

Enclosures (copies of):

Ford Aerospace identification badge

NASA Mission Control Center (MCC) identification badge

Skylab Appreciation Certificate with Medal

Apollo XIII plaque

Cc: Dean Haymore, Director of Planning

Austin Osborne, Senior Planner

Wm. Maddox, District Attorney

Tom Taormina

CONTRACTOR



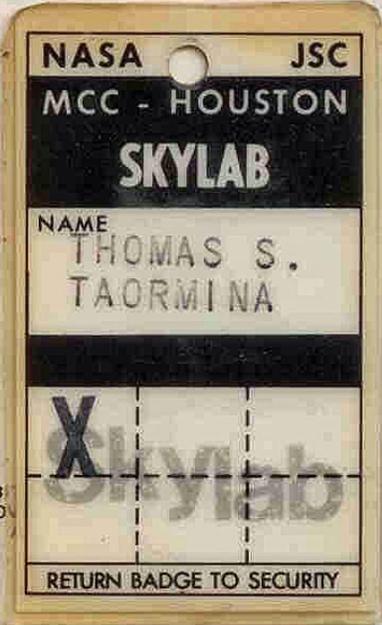
TAORMINA  
FORD AEROSPACE  
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS  
AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

# Skylab

## AWARD



OF THE METAL IN THIS MEDALLION ORBITED THE EARTH FOR  
THE 4100 REVOLUTIONS, TRAVELING OVER 17,000 MILES DURING THE 270 DAYS IT WAS IN ORBIT FROM MAY 14, 1973 TO FEBRUARY 8, 1974.



Thomas S. Taormina

*This medallion is presented in appreciation of your dedication and efforts in insuring the successful accomplishment of the Skylab Program -- May 1973 to February 1974*



*Charles Conrad  
Paul Weitz  
Joe Brown*

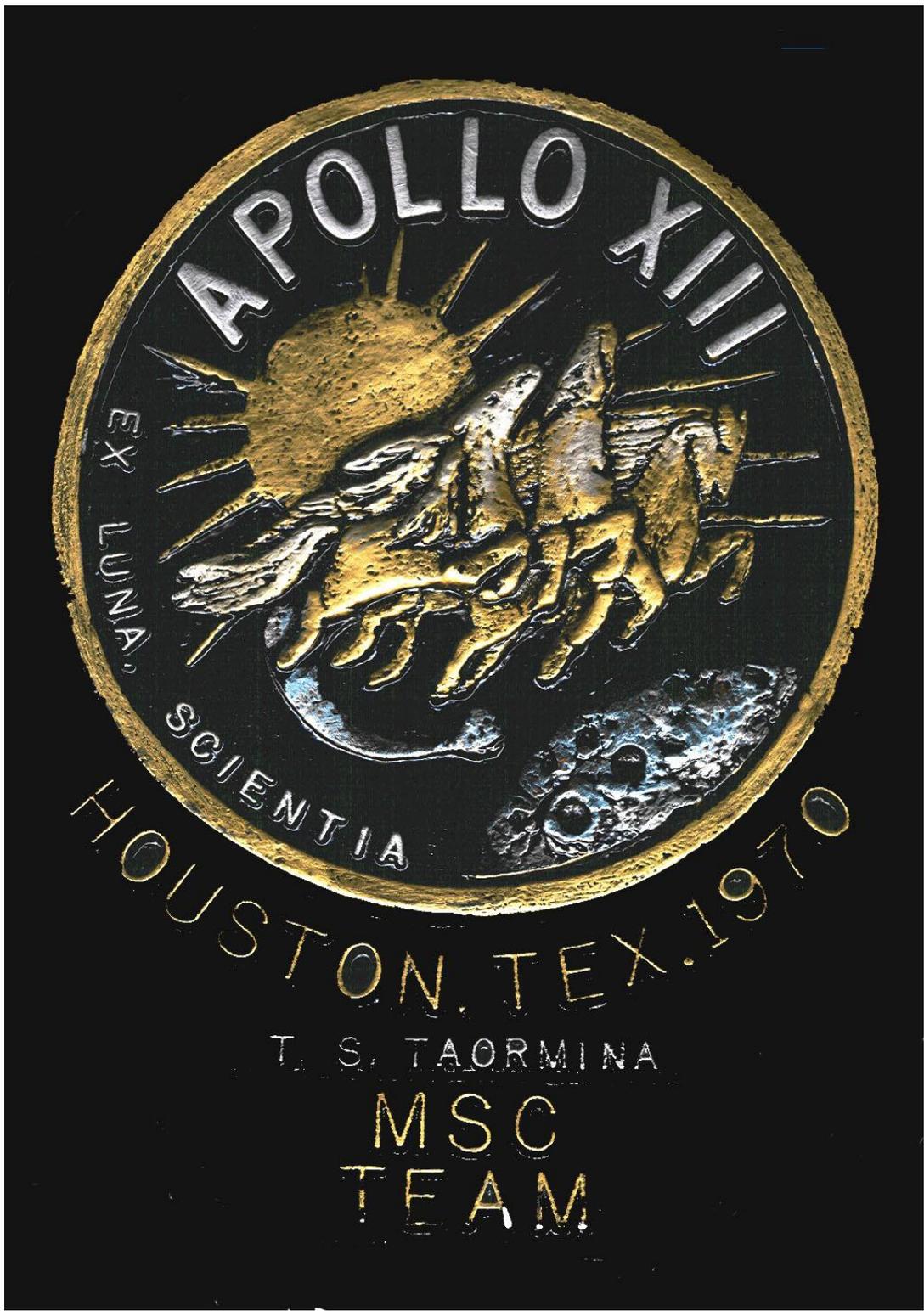


*Arch H. Bean  
Queen K. Garratt  
Jack Souma*



*Jerry Carr  
Bill Pogue  
Edward S. Gibson*

**Manned Flight Awareness**



Plaques presented to members of the Mission Control Team during Project Apollo. MSC is Manned Spacecraft Center, which was the name until it was changed to Johnson Space Center

## Exhibit 2

## Exhibit 2

**From:** "Tom Taormina" <tt@taorminagroup.com>  
**To:** <yahoo@jmargolin.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 28, 2011 2:08 PM  
**Attach:** 110528\_1\_NASA letter v1.pdf  
**Subject:** NASA

You really should do your homework before you call me a liar to the Commissioners.

Tom Taormina, CMC, CMQ/OE  
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Quantifying Foreseeable Risk