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(U) Mother ship


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From Intellipedia

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

You have new messages (last change).

A **mother ship** is a vessel or aircraft that carries a smaller vessel or aircraft that operates independently from it. Examples include bombers converted to carry experimental aircraft to altitudes where they can conduct their research (such as the B-52 carrying the X-15), or ships that carry small submarines to an area of ocean to be explored (such as the Atlantis II carrying the Alvin). The mothership may also recover the smaller craft, or may go its own way after releasing it.

See the Wikipedia article *Mother ship* 

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Usage

The term *mother ship* dates back to the nineteenth century whaling trade when small, fast ships were used to chase and kill whales. The dead meat from several boats was then brought back to the larger, slower ship for processing and storage until the return to land. This model enabled a far more efficient method of whaling. Though whaling is much lower-scale than in earlier days, the single large storage ship model is still used extensively by fishermen. Such ships are known today as factory ships.

In many languages, such as Chinese, Finnish and Japanese, the word *mother ship* refers to an aircraft carrier; see 母艦 (literally "mother" + "warship").

The mother ship concept was used in moon landings performed in the 1960s. Both the unsuccessful American 1962 Ranger landers and the successful Soviet 1966 Luna landers were unmanned spherical capsules ejected at the last moment from mother ships that had carried them to the Moon and crashed onto its surface. In the manned Apollo program, astronauts in the lunar module separated from the command module in lunar orbit, descended to the lunar surface, and returned to dock in a lunar orbit rendezvous with the command module once more for a ride home to Earth.

In science fiction and UFOs

The term has achieved prominence in science fiction and in UFO lore, which extend the idea to apply to spaceships serving as the heart of a fleet. The concept of *mothership* (almost always spelled as a single word)

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clearly implies that the other ships in the fleet are dependent on the mothership for at least some services. Motherships are essentially the sci-fi equivalent to modern flagships. Typically, a mothership will take up station in an area and remain there for long periods, while smaller ships sortie to interesting destinations. Sometimes a mothership is large enough to operate alone, or is so huge that it contains a fleet in its body.

A variant of the term *mother ship* can be traced to the hundreds of claimed UFO sightings in the U.S. during the summer of 1947, when a woman in Palmdale, California was quoted^[1] by contemporary press as describing a "mother saucer [with a] bunch of little saucers playing around it." The term was further popularized in UFO lore through the UFO sightings of George Adamski in the 1950s, who claimed to sometimes see large cigar shaped Venusian motherships out of which flew smaller sized flying saucers.

In video games, motherships are often a source of bonus points or encountered as boss level characters. Roles played in a fleet by a mothership may include that of troop or smaller vessel carrier or repair/supply services. *[citation needed]*

See also

- Aircraft carrier
- Space battleship
- Dropship
- Flight Deck
- Starfighter
- Parasite aircraft
- Factory ship

References

1. ↑ Hall, Mark A. and Wendy Connors. "http://www.nicap.org/loedding/LoeddingBook.pdf Alfred Loedding & The Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947", p. 55, quoting from the Palmdale *South Antelope Valley Press*, 10 July 1947, p. 1

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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 101326A
24 September 2018

JOHN GREENEWALD
27305 W LIVE OAK ROAD
SUITE 1203
CASTAIC CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 11 April 2017, which was received by this office on 12 April 2017 for Intellipedia records on Unidentified Flying Object, Unidentified Flying Objects, UFO, UFOs, Flying Saucer, Flying Saucers, Project Sign, Project Grudge, and Project Saucer. As stated in our initial response to you, dated 12 April 2017, your request was assigned Case Number 101326. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an "all other" requester. As such, you are allowed 2 hours of search time and the duplication of 100 pages at no cost. There are no assessable fees for this request. Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA.

For your information, NSA provides a service of common concern for the Intelligence Community (IC) by serving as the executive agent for Intelink. As such, NSA provides technical services that enable users to access and share information with peers and stakeholders across the IC and DoD. Intellipedia pages are living documents that may be originated by any user organization, and any user organization may contribute to or edit pages after their origination. Intellipedia pages should not be considered the final, coordinated position of the IC on any particular subject. The views and opinions of authors do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Government.

We conducted a search across all three levels of Intellipedia and located documents responsive to your request. The documents are enclosed. Certain information, however, has been deleted from the documents. One responsive document has already been provided to you in case 103173, closed on 14 September 2018.

This Agency is authorized by statute to protect certain information concerning its activities (in this case, internal URLs), as well as the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA, which provides for the withholding of information

specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605). We have determined that such information exists in this record, and we have excised it accordingly.

In addition, personal information regarding individuals has been deleted from the enclosure in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6). This exemption protects from disclosure information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In balancing the public interest for the information you requested against the privacy interests involved, we have determined that the privacy interests sufficiently satisfy the requirements for the application of the (b)(6) exemption.

Since these deletions may be construed as a partial denial of your request, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below.

- The appeal must be sent via U.S. postal mail, fax, or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132)
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road STE 6932
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

The facsimile number is (443)479-3612.

The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is FOIARSC@nsa.gov.

- It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial was unwarranted.
- NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving your appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

For further assistance or to discuss your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at foialo@nsa.gov. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer: Office of Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail: ogis@nara.gov; main: 202-741-5770; toll free: 1-877-684-6448; or fax: 202-741-5769.

Some responsive material contains the equities of another government agency. Because we are unable to make determinations as to the releasability of another agency's information, the subject material has been referred to the appropriate agency for review and direct response to you.

Sincerely,

Paul H
for

John R. Chapman
Chief, FOIA/PA Office
NSA Initial Denial Authority

Encls:
a/s