**Chemtrails**

**From The Black Vault Encyclopedia Project**

High flying white jet leaving an expanding trail

The **Chemtrail** [**conspiracy theory**](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Conspiracy_theory) claims that some trails left behind jet aircraft are different in appearance and quality from those of normal [contrails](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Contrail&action=edit&redlink=1), may be composed of harmful chemicals, and that these different contrails are being deliberately produced, and covered up by the government. These unusual trails are referred to as "chemtrails" (a [portmanteau](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Portmanteau&action=edit&redlink=1) of "chemical trails").

The belief is that a chemical and/or biological agent of some sort is being released. The term "chemtrail" does not refer to common forms of aerial dumping (e.g. [crop dusting](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Crop_dusting&action=edit&redlink=1), [cloud seeding](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Cloud_seeding&action=edit&redlink=1) or aerial [firefighting](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Firefighting&action=edit&redlink=1)). It specifically refers to systematic, high-altitude dumping of unknown substances for undisclosed purposes, resulting in the appearance of these unusual contrails.

**Overview**

Chemtrail advocates say these trails are often laid down in patterns, such as grids, Xs and crosshatches.

The chemtrail theory apparently first achieved prominence in mid-to-late [1990s](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=1990s&action=edit&redlink=1). Chemtrails have been discussed on radio programs hosted by [Art Bell](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Art_Bell&action=edit&redlink=1) and [Jeff Rense](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Jeff_Rense&action=edit&redlink=1) with investigative journalist William Thomas who first reported on chemtrails. According to a FAQ posted at Jeff Rense's website, "*chemtrails (CTs) look like contrails initially, but are much thicker, extend across the sky and are often laid down in varying patterns of X's, tic-tac-toe grids, cross-hatched and parallel lines. Instead of quickly dissipating, chemtrails expand and drip feathers and mares' tails. In 30 minutes or less, they open into wispy formations which join together, forming a thin white veil or a 'fake cirrus-type cloud' that persists for hours.*"

[Dr. Leonard Horowitz](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Dr._Leonard_Horowitz&action=edit&redlink=1), a graduate of [Tufts University](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Tufts_University&action=edit&redlink=1) and former faculty member at Tufts and [Harvard University](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Harvard_University&action=edit&redlink=1), discusses chemtrails in his 2001 book *Death in the Air: Globalism, Terrorism & Toxic Warfare*.

"Chemtrails" are mentioned in House Bill HR 2977, the [Space Preservation Act](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Space_Preservation_Act&action=edit&redlink=1) of 2001, introduced by Congressman [Dennis Kucinich](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Dennis_Kucinich&action=edit&redlink=1), where it appears as one of a list of "exotic weapons system[s]" to be banned under the bill. Chemtrail conspiracy theorists point to this as official acknowledgment of the possibility, at least, of such weapons systems. The entire list of exotic weapons was omitted from later versions of the bill.

An article entitled "The Chemtrail Smoking Gun" by Bruce Conway, suggested that chemtrails represent the implementation of technologies suggested in a 1992 National Academy of Science study, Policy Implications of Greenhouse Warming; specifically, that chemtrails are part of a secret project intended to mitigate [global warming](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Global_warming&action=edit&redlink=1).

The [*Las Vegas Tribune*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Las_Vegas_Tribune&action=edit&redlink=1), a free weekly [broadsheet](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Broadsheet&action=edit&redlink=1), ran an article on [September 9](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=September_9&action=edit&redlink=1) [2005](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=2005&action=edit&redlink=1), entitled "Chemtrails - Coming Out Of The Closet?", wherein that publication's managing editor, Marcus K. Dalton, stated that [United States Air Force](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States_Air_Force&action=edit&redlink=1) scientists working at Wright-Patterson Air Force base in Dayton, told [*Columbus Alive*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Columbus_Alive&action=edit&redlink=1) - a weekly entertainment magazine - that they had been conducting two aerial spraying experiments: "one involved aluminum oxide spraying related to global warming and the other involved barium stearate and had to do with high-tech military communications."

Among the suggested rationales of the chemtrails are: atmospheric and [weather modification](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Weather_control&action=edit&redlink=1), [biological warfare](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Biological_warfare&action=edit&redlink=1), [mind control](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Mind_control&action=edit&redlink=1) or [occult](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Occult) purposes. They are also theorized to be part of a system to counter the effects of [global warming](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Global_warming&action=edit&redlink=1), to create a cheap [wireless communications](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Wireless_communication&action=edit&redlink=1) [network](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Telecommunications_network&action=edit&redlink=1) for the military (by making the air more electrically conductive to microwave and radar signals), or to create a more sophisticated [radar](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Radar&action=edit&redlink=1) system with applications to both national defense and scientific study, such as those described within the [HAARP project](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=High_Frequency_Active_Auroral_Research_Program&action=edit&redlink=1) and the [VTRPE project](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=VTRPE_project&action=edit&redlink=1).

**Official response**

The [United States Air Force](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States_Air_Force&action=edit&redlink=1) describes the chemtrail theory as a "hoax", claiming "*The "Chemtrail" hoax has been investigated and refuted by many established and accredited universities, scientific organizations, and major media publications.*". They answer each claim in the theory:

* Contrails can remain visible for very long periods of time with the lifetime a function of the temperature, humidity, winds, and aircraft exhaust characteristics.
* Contrails can form many shapes as they are dispersed by horizontal and vertical wind shear.
* Sunlight refracted or reflected from contrails can produce vibrant and eye-catching colors and patterns.
* Observation and scientific analysis of contrails and their duration date back to at least 1953.
* The National Airspace System of the United States is oriented in an east-west and north-south grid with aircraft flying at designated 2000 foot increments of elevation (1000 feet after the introduction of [Reduced Vertical Separation Minima](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Reduced_Vertical_Separation_Minima&action=edit&redlink=1) in 2002-2004).
* Contrails formed by aircraft may appear to form a grid as the winds disperse the contrails.
* More contrails are seen in recent years due to the growth in the civil aviation market.

**Skeptical response**

Dense cloudy trails over a field

[Skeptical](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Skeptic&action=edit&redlink=1) groups, including the [Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Committee_for_the_Scientific_Investigation_of_Claims_of_the_Paranormal&action=edit&redlink=1), assert that contrails normally exhibit a wide variation in appearance and that the descriptions and photographs of "chemtrails" are perfectly consistent with those of ordinary contrails. They also voice various objections to the idea of chemtrails:

* Depending on what the alleged purpose of the chemtrail spraying would be, spray released above 30,000 feet is likely to be dispersed in a highly unpredictable manner, due to high-altitude winds.

Dramatic, wide cloudy trails illuminated by London sunset

* How do aircraft accused of depositing "chemtrails" manage to pass inspection without the deception being discovered (unless these aircraft are in fact owned, regulated, and operated by the government/military complex itself)?
* Assuming drugging the population is the purpose, the people behind the conspiracy would breathe the same air the population breathes, so any harm inflicted on the population would also be inflicted on those in charge of the conspiracy, unless they were made immune through vaccination.
* Official and governmental bodies have consistently denied the existence of such spraying.

**Similar phenomena**

Atmospheric [trimethylaluminium](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Trimethylaluminium&action=edit&redlink=1) chemtrail left by NASA ionosphere study, 1978

Airplanes occasionally [jettison fuel](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Fuel_dumping&action=edit&redlink=1) during emergency situations in flight.

[NASA](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=NASA&action=edit&redlink=1) has discharged trimethylaluminium (TMA) into the air above the Atlantic Ocean, as part of a 2003 project to study the [ionosphere](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Ionosphere&action=edit&redlink=1), creating linear man-made clouds which glowed in the night sky before drifting and dispersing.

[Skywriting](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Skywriting&action=edit&redlink=1) is the process of creating patterns or messages in the sky by leaving a smoke trail behind a small aircraft.

Often during air shows, [colored smoke](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Colored_smoke&action=edit&redlink=1) trails can be seen. These trails are generated by dyed paraffin color discharge cartridges at the exhaust of the engine.

Fertilizers and pesticides are sometimes sprayed over large fields from low flying [agricultural aircraft](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Agricultural_aircraft&action=edit&redlink=1), a process known as [aerial application](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Aerial_application&action=edit&redlink=1) or crop dusting.

**References**

**External links**

**Pro-chemtrail theory sites**

* ["Weather Modification Exposed; media journals and notes for the independent film documentary"](http://web.mac.com/kairologic/iWeb/h%26e/prophesies/C1203471-D06D-4848-848B-3751FDDD826F.html) Brendan Bombaci, "Heaven & Earth," ongoing internet-based production as of 2007.
* [William Thomas](http://www.willthomas.net) - Investigative journalist who first reported on Chemtrails
* [Aerosol Crimes and Cover-ups](http://www.carnicom.com/contrails.htm) — allegations about government cover-ups
* [Chemtrail Central](http://www.chemtrailcentral.com) — Information on chemtrails
* [Anomalies Unlimited](http://www.anomalies-unlimited.com/Chemtrails.html) — Against "secret human experimentation"
* [Lightwatcher.com](http://www.lightwatcher.com/chemtrails/smoking_gun.html) — site with "proof of global geoengineering projects"
* [Weather Wars](http://www.weatherwars.info) — Weatherman Scott Stevens examines the chemtrail phenomena and man-made weather
* [Chemtrails911](http://www.chemtrails911.com/) — Evidence of chemtrails: US legislation & patents, military reports, videos, photos, news articles
* [Holmestead chemtrails index](http://www.holmestead.ca/index-ct.html) — Large archive of articles relating to local chemical spraying in Canada
* [Nexus magazine Article: Chemtrails - Covert Climate Control?](http://www.nexusmagazine.com/articles/chemtrails.html)

**Image links**

* [Chemtrail central image search](http://www.chemtrailcentral.com/imgdb/) — searchable database of purported chemtrail images
* [Rense.com chemtrails data page](http://www.rense.com/politics6/chemdatapage.html) — Links to purported chemtrail images and other resources
* [Over 200 images and extensive information on Chemtrails and How To Stop Them](http://www.willthomas.net)

**Chemtrails in the media**

* [NBC News 4, Los Angeles: Toxic Sky? Part 1](http://www.nbc4.tv/video/9265818/detail.html) — Part one- short televised report into chemtrails in the Los Angeles area, and the wider implications
* [NBC News 4, Los Angeles: Toxic Sky? Part 2](http://mfile.akamai.com/12924/wmv/vod.ibsys.com/2006/1117/10343454.200k.asx) — Part two- short televised report into chemtrails in the Los Angeles area, and the wider implications
* [Chemical & Engineering News](http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/84/i38/8438notw9.html) Rutgers University climate scientist Alan Robock worries that an aerosol operation could mean "we wouldn't have blue skies anymore,"
* [Chemtrails being taught in schools](http://www.willthomas.net/Chemtrails/Articles/Chemtrails_In_US_Schools.htm)

**Skeptical links**

* [hans-egebo.dk](http://www.hans-egebo.dk/skeptic/contrails.htm) — anti-chemtrail opinion
* [New Mexicans for Science and Reason](http://www.nmsr.org/chemtrls.htm) — a chemtrail debunking page
* [Iangoddard.net](http://iangoddard.net/contrail.htm) — contrail analysis
* [lacarte.org](http://www.lacarte.org/health/chemtrails/debunkery/) — collection of chemtrail debunking sources
* [Chemtrails](http://www.skepdic.com/chemtrails.html) — Critical article on Skeptics' Dictionary.
* [Contrails- or 'Trails-con?'](http://goodsky.homestead.com/files/) — A comprehensive look at what the author considers "A hoax;" Includes a timeline
* [Contrail Science](http://contrailscience.com/) — A site that looks at the historical record of contrails and chemtrails.

**Further reading**

* Thomas, William, "Stolen Skies: The Chemtrail Mystery", Earth Island Journal, July 01, 2002
* Smith, Jerry E, "Weather Warfare: The Military's Plan To Draft Mother Nature", Adventures Unlimited Press, December 30, 2006

**Credits**

Special credit given to the original Wikipedia authors [here.](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Chemtrail_conspiracy_theory&action=history)

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* [JFK Assassination](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3AJFK)
* [Military Aircraft](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3AMilitary_Aircraft)
* [The MUFON Archive](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3AThe_MUFON_Archive)
* [Paranormal Phenomena](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3AParanormal_Phenomena)
* [Science Fiction](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3ASci-Fi)
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* [UFO Case Files](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3ACases_in_UFOlogy)
* [UFO Articles](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3AUFO_Articles)
* [UFO Newspaper Clippings](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3AUFO_Newspaper_Clippings)
* [People of UFOlogy](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3APeople_of_UFOlogy)
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