## **Revealing Cooper's Coding Methods – and Hidden Highlife**

With public clamoring for more Rackstraw evidence, sleuths deliver the damning goods

<u>Media Release Embargo, 8/8/18</u>: Last month's court-released hijacker "confession" letter has led to a firestorm of new interest in the alleged writer, FBI-"cleared" Cooper suspect Robert W. Rackstraw Sr. So the cold case organizers behind the archived message discoveries, Thomas J. and Dawna Colbert, have decided to reveal all the official Army code-breaking methods that helped finger Rackstraw (Page 2-3).

The couple's acclaimed PI team is also <u>unmasking another of the convicted felon's secrets</u>: The 74-yearold San Diegan that many believe dove away with the \$200,000 airline ransom has stated for decades he's destitute and without any permanent shelter. But that's now known to be an elaborate cover story.

Respectfully Submitted,

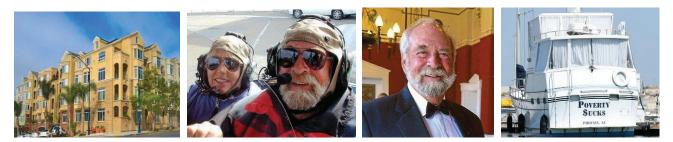
## Robert Rackstraw

Robert Rackstraw, Amici Disabled homeless veteran Rackstraw's "disabled homeless veteran" tag line, posted in a 2017 federal brief (left; about Colberts' FOIA), has also found its way into newspapers as revered as *The Washington Post*, on blogs, and in online pleas for legal help. At first look, the one-time Cooper candidate's poverty claims are backed by an \$18,889 fine in 2010 for failure to pay 3 years of state and federal taxes.

But a document hunter on the Colberts' team dug up 20-year-old Riverside County divorce records that revealed the truth: In a methodical and discreet split with his wife #3 – a split stretching from a 1988 estrangement to a final 1998 decree – Rackstraw told the judge he'd privately agreed at the beginning to turn over <u>his 12-acre hilltop estate</u> in Wildomar (photo available) to this now-single mate. A half-year later, she sold the home and property for \$79K more than the Cooper booty. Today you'll find ex-wife #3 in a tony condo on San Diego's famed Bankers Hill (below) – with a "roommate" named Rackstraw.

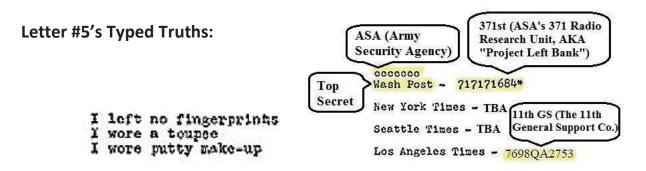
His first former spouse told the team in 2013 "they never really separated." But in 2016, the convicted con man gave a now-estranged Facebook girlfriend an odd excuse as to why they're still a pair: "Got divorced 30 years ago. Then she invited me for one of her great dinners and [I] just stayed. Complain about each other every day. Never remarried. When it gets unbearable I go to my boat (below)."

All this puzzles the team: Why hasn't a white-collar crime unit, let alone the FBI, rocked their boat?



L to R: Ex-wife #3's posh condo; couple's biplane ride; at Broadmoor Hotel party, CO; his yacht club cruiser, "Poverty Sucks"

 NOTE: Ex-wife #3 is 1 of <u>3</u> separate women who have claimed RWR <u>converted 1970s cash into gold Krugerrands</u>.
FYI: Divorce Court docs, Army code book, surveillance pics of couple & Rackstraw's on-camera ambush available.
CONTACTS: Exec Pro Thomas J. Colbert: 805-987-3480; <u>TColbert@CommStatim.com</u>; more at DBCooper.com <u>FOIA/National Security Attorney Mark Zaid (WA, DC)</u>: 202-454-2809; mark@markzaid.com <u>Entertainment Manager/Attorney Michael London</u>: 310-474-0577; lonbiz@aol.com



ASA code-buster Rick Sherwood's first unmasked Cooper message was found in typed Letter #5. He used the Army's Alpha-Numerical code (A=1, B=2, etc.) that Rackstraw in fact learned in 1968. **This proved he was Cooper because: 1)** The 1971 writer's claims about <u>fingerprints, toupee and putty make-up</u> were secret case details that only the FBI, key passengers and Cooper would've known; **2)** according to the suspect's former Army commander, Rackstraw was the <u>only Vietnam solider who served in all 3 of these unique units</u> (ASA, 371<sup>st</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> GS) and, like FBI case details, two of them were secret until the '80s; and **3)** Letters 1 & 4 were mailed within <u>30 minutes of his remote CA hideaway</u> – 500 miles from hijack.

- Letter #5) A: Los Angeles Times "7698QA2753": 47+Q/17+A/1 = 65;  $11^{\text{th}}$  GS = 11+T/20+H/8+G/7+S/19 = 65(Times' code was found in archive; " $11^{\text{th}}$  General Support" was  $1^{\text{st}}$  Cav's chopper repair and VIP "Uber")
  - **B:** <u>Washington Post</u> "**CCCCCCC**": C/3 X 7 = **21**; **ASA** = A/1+S/19+A/1 = **21** (<u>A</u>rmy <u>S</u>ecurity <u>Agency</u>)
  - **C:** "<u>Wash Post</u>" = W/23+A/1+S/19+H/8+P/16+O/15+S/19+T/20 = **121**; Top Secret = T/20+O/15+P/16+S/19+E/5+C/3+R/18+E/5+T/20 = **121**

<u>Sherwood</u>: "I saw this newspaper's title was the only shortened 1 of 4 cc'd, and it was between 2 secret units. Once I uncovered "Wash Post" & "Top Secret" had matching totals, I plugged it in."

D: "<u>717171684\*</u>": 42 + \* (If \* is 8) = 50; <u>371<sup>st</sup></u> = 11+S/19+T/20 = 50

<u>Sherwood</u>: "*I saw* the *three 71s*" as a hint to the unit I and Rackstraw shared, ASA's 371<sup>st</sup> Radio Research Unit / "Project Left Bank" (Bunkered Sherwood was Rackstraw's air-traffic controller)

Letter #1) A: "Thanks For Hospitality" = 20+6+8+9+20+25 = 88; "Can FBI Catch Me" = 18+17+35+18 = 88

<u>Sherwood</u>: "The cut-and-pasted '**ity**' (in Hospital) was bolded and looked different, so I decided to count all three. I then spotted sideway words (below) and I knew that was a separate message."

- **B:** "<u>A</u>ttention! <u>W</u>as <u>In A R</u>ut. <u>D.B.</u> <u>C</u>ooper" = 1+23+9+1+18+4+2+3 = **61**; <u>SWS</u> = 19+23+19 = **61** (SWS is Ft. Bragg's <u>S</u>pecial <u>W</u>arfare <u>S</u>chool where Green Berets taught Rackstraw his coding)
- Letter #2) A: "<u>I</u> <u>E</u>njoyed <u>The</u> <u>Grey</u> <u>C</u>up <u>G</u>ame. <u>A</u>m <u>L</u>eaving <u>V</u>ancouver" = 9+5+20+7+3+7+1+12+22 = 86; "If Catch I Am CIA" = 15+35+9+14+13 = 86

B: <u>Thanks For Your Hospitality</u>" = 20+6+25+8 = 59; RWR = 18+23+18 = 59 (<u>Robert W. Rackstraw</u>)

Letter #3) "Am alive and doing well in home town P.O.... D.B. Cooper" (Each letter cut from June/70 Playboy)

<u>Sherwood</u>: "In a language of few words, there were too many in this. But because he carefully cut and pasted every letter in the words individually, I assumed it was a code within a code. I tried subtracting made-up words to bring down the letter count and reveal the cypher. On my second try, I took out the letters from the first/last name of Playboy Playmate **Elaine Morton**. That left 27. Bingo! There it was:

<u>Name Removed</u>: "Am Alive And Doing Well In Home Town P.O.... D.B. Cooper"; it left 27 letters: AMVADDOINGWLLINHEWPODBCOOPE= 27 = "I HAVE POB AND CODE WILL GO DOWN PM"

Letter #4) "Plan Ahead For Retirement Income" = 16+1+6+18+9 = 50; NGJS = 14+7+10+19 = 50 (NGJS is at Ft. Benning, GA, where "National Guardsman Rackstraw went to Jump School in 1967)

March 28, 1972

## Letter #6

The Portland Oregonian Newspaper Portland, Oregon

Contlemen:

This letter is too lot you know I am not dead but really alive and just back from the Eahansa, so your silly troopers up there can step looking for me. That is just how dumb this government is. I like your articles about me but you can stop them now. B. B. Cooper is not real.

I had to do something with the experience Uncle taught me, so here I am, a very rich man. Uncle gave too much of it to world idiots and no work for me. I had to do it to relieve myself of frustration. I want out of the system and saw a way through mode do buth. Kow you know. I am going around the world and they will never find me because I am smarter than the system's lackey cops and lams duck leaders. Now it is Uncle's turn to meep and pay one of it's own some cash for a change. (And please tell the lackey cops D. E. Cooper is not my real name).

Sincerely, A Rich Man

Code-Breaker Rick Sherwood spotted <u>4 phrases or words</u> <u>that repeat</u>: 1) "D.B. Cooper is not real"; 2) "Uncle" or "Unk" (AKA Uncle Sam); 3) "the system"; and 4) "lackey cops."

## #1 & #4 are in this highlighted sentence:

"And please tell the lackey cops D.B. Cooper is not my real name."

"<u>I'm LT Robert W. Rackstraw</u>, D.B. Cooper is not my real name." (Concealed message decoded)

"And(19+) please(58+) tell(49+) the(33+) lackey(57+) cops(53)" = 269 "I'm(22+) LT(32+) Robert(78+) W.(23+) Rackstraw(114)" = 269

#2 & #3 are in this highlighted sentence:

"I want out of the system and saw a way <u>by hijacking one jet plane</u>." (Hidden message decoded)

"...through(97+) good(41+) ole(32+) Unk(46)." = 216

"...by(27+) hijacking(72+) one(34+) jet(35+) plane(48)." = 216

**Rackstraw's Vietnam commander, LTC Ken Overturf (ret.)**, stated: "With the 'Basic Cryptography' Army manual now in my possession, we have doctrinal <u>validation of the</u> <u>process Rick Sherwood used</u> to decipher all the messages."

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