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**Obama to Keep Secrets about Area 51, but Clinton Promises to Release Info**

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However, Democratic presidential favorite Hillary Clinton has said that, if she wins the election in November and takes office the following January, she will declassify the information on the Nevada Air Force base, The New York Times reported Wednesday.

At his daily press conference, White House spokesman Josh Earnest addressed a question on whether Obama would preempt his possible successor and declassify that information before he leaves office in January.

Earnest said that he was not "aware of any plans that the president has to make public any information about this," adding that "I have to admit that I don't have a tab on my briefing book for Area 51 today."

Earnest noted that Obama has joked in the past that one of the advantages of being president is having access to information about Area 51.

The CIA in 2013 declassified certain documents confirming the existence of the Area 51 military base, created as per executive order by President Dwight Eisenhower in the mid-1950s as a zone in which to test the high-flying U-2 spy plane.

The secrecy surrounding the base for decades sparked an endless number of conspiracy theories, including those that claimed extraterrestrial technology gained from UFOs was being studied there.

In an interview on a New York radio program last month, Clinton said that, if it presents no problems for national security, she would like to declassify the Area 51 information, saying "I want to open the files as much as we can."

That remark and other recent statements by Clinton that ETs "could have visited" Earth have won her the support of certain UFO enthusiasts, according to the NYT article.

