

# SECURE PLACES

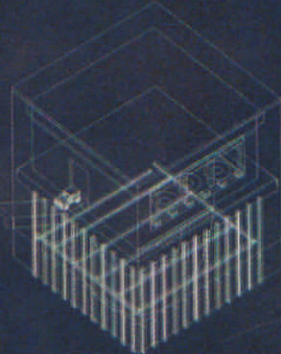
Even before 'paranoid' became the default mood of the world a few years ago, humanity had got pretty good at building safe places.

But it's not all bunkers, banks and bases. Meet the UK's ultrasecure car park, the web server in the middle of the North Sea, and the pub that can survive a nuke



## 1 MILITARY BASE: CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN, USA

Housed 600m beneath rock, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center watches the skies and is one place US top brass hide when the enemy starts batting missiles about. A key military site (so sneaking in is a no-go) the base can handle a multi-megaton blast nearby, as well as bio and chemical attack. That means two 22-tonne blast doors leading to 18,210m<sup>2</sup> of freestanding steel buildings on 1,300 springs so they can move should a nuke hit. Solid.



## 4 MOST SECURE HOME: SADDAM'S BUNKER, IRAQ

Feeling vulnerable? If you've got \$60m, get a specialist to knock up something like Saddam's Baghdad bolthole. It would have taken a nuclear bomb or ground troops with bazookas to bust it open. Checklist: 2.5-tonne doors, 1.5m-thick walls, 1.8m-thick steel ceiling, generators, air filters, protection against electromagnetic pulses, water recycling, freeze-dried food to feed 50 for a year and luxuries like spa baths and gold fittings. Beats a hole in the ground, no?

## 7 DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT: BURLINGTON, WILTSHIRE

Talk about the ultimate lock-in - this watering-hole is 30m underground. It's part of the now-decommissioned Cold War Burlington bunker - a 186,000m<sup>2</sup> radiation-proof base under Corsham that was effectively a backup Whitehall, so the PM could carry on when upstairs was toast. This meant facilities to sustain 5,000 for a year, so as well as a bakery, dentist and laundry, there was even a natty 60s bar, with chrome and mirrors.



## 5 RECORDS: GRANITE MOUNTAIN, UTAH, USA

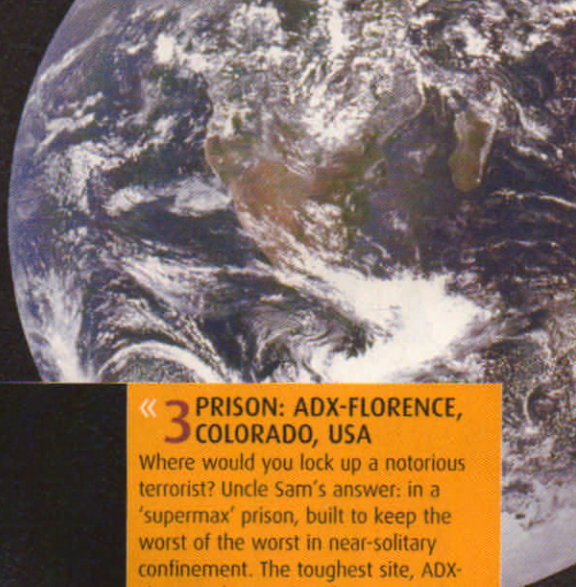
The place where the Mormon Church stores its extensive genealogical records, which help them with their mission to 'save' departed souls by baptising living family members. Over 2 billion names are in there so far, safe behind 210m of rock and six 12-tonne doors. Only church staff and associated IT bods are allowed near the originals, but copies are available to all.



## 8 MODE OF TRANSPORT: AIR FORCE ONE

The safest place for the US president to be during a land attack - usually one of two virtually identical Boeing 747-200Bs. Terrorists missiles? AF1's flares and electronic countermeasures will fox 'em. Nuclear war? Shielding stops AF1's electrics being fried. Assassination attempt? Negatory: the Secret Service is there all the way, and the crew buy food incognito to reduce poisoning risks.

# ON EARTH



## DATA HOST/HAVEN: HAVENCO, SEALAND

How do you protect data to really protect? A handful of companies now offer physically as well as electronically secure hosting. HavenCo (www.havenco.com) operates from the municipality of Sealand – a World War II aircraft fortress in the North Sea. Visitors must be authorised, satellite phones and generators keep it independent. Digital security is high and, crucially, Sealand acts responsibly, Sealand doesn't agree to accept other lands' subpoenas.



## 3 PRISON: ADX-FLORENCE, COLORADO, USA

Where would you lock up a notorious terrorist? Uncle Sam's answer: in a 'supermax' prison, built to keep the worst of the worst in near-solitary confinement. The toughest site, ADX-Florence, has motion detectors, 1,400 remote-controlled steel doors, pressure pads and chase dogs. Its 400 inmates spend 23 hours a day locked up. Around 35 states have supermaxes, despite claims that some violate human rights.



## 6 BANK VAULT: FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY, USA

The famous gold bullion depository is part of the US Mint and houses a two-level steel and concrete vault with an 18-tonne door. No one person knows the whole combination to this giant portal – several staff members must dial personal codes. Granite and concrete perimeter walls have a guard box on each corner and the fort has its own power plant and water system, plus an army post around the corner. Oh, and no visitors are allowed.



## SECRET SITE: AREA 51, >> GROOM LAKE, NEVADA, USA

North of Las Vegas is a military installation whose existence authorities deny exists. Still, unmarked boundaries are clearly marked and sensors spot intruders, reportedly trigger security jeeps and choppers. Staff fly in and out of a guarded hangar at a Vegas airport. The site has made Area 51 a conspiracy-nut's playground. But it has a real need to be secure: spyplanes and various stealth aircraft are created there, and we bet its 8.2km perimeter isn't being wasted today, either...



## 10 PUBLIC CAR PARK: BOLD LANE PARKSAFE, DERBY

Six years old, and *not one* incident of theft or vandalism yet. The Bold Lane multi-storey uses a sophisticated web including CCTV cameras, panic buttons, entry doors and barcoded tickets to guarantee security, but the keystone is super-sharp patented sensors that spot if a parked car moves even a little when the central computer thinks it should be stock-still, resulting in a lock-down of the site. Smart stuff.