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**FORMER FAMILY-OWNED PROPERTY OVERLOOKING AREA 51  
APPRAISED BETWEEN \$44 AND \$116 MILLION**  
***U.S. Air Force is attempting to purchase the property for a mere \$333,300***

**LAS VEGAS, Nev. (Oct. 28, 2016)** – On September 10, 2015, the United States Air Force (USAF) seized, by eminent domain, 400 acres of land that had been privately owned by the Sheahan family for approximately 130 years. The 400 acres, more prominently known as the Groom Mine Property is the only of its kind in that it was the last privately held property in the Groom Lake Valley and, since the 1950s, maintained an unobstructed view of Area 51.

After enduring years of abuse at the hands of the Federal Government and its entities, the Sheahan family has now been offered a mere \$333,300 for their property, a small fraction of its true value, and an amount that clearly does not meet the constitutional standard of just compensation.

“This is a prime example of the Federal Government overstepping its boundaries and bullying its own people as though the law doesn’t apply to them,” said Joe Sheahan, one of 22 property owners.

Several highly qualified experts recently visited the property and provided thoroughly detailed and well-supported reports valuing the Groom Mine Property between \$44 million and \$116 million. One expert opines that, in removing the Sheahans from their property, the USAF stands to gain between \$444 million to \$2 billion per year, the amount it cost them to shut down operations while the family visited their property.

“The payment [of the property] cannot result in a windfall to the owners,” said Jennifer Miller, deputy assistant Air Force secretary for installations, in a 2015 article published by the Associated Press.

While the government is not willing to properly compensate the family for the loss, the government stands to gain an enormous windfall, yet continues to offer the unjust amount of \$333,300.

Prior to the taking of the property in 2015, the USAF committed numerous, unlawful acts that infringed upon the family’s health, ability to make a living and the unalienable rights afforded to them. Such acts include the government holding family members at gunpoint on their own property and the testing and detonation of atomic bombs just miles away from where the family and their children were living. The fallout from the blasts landed on several family members and their animals, resulting in the death of horses and eventually family members, who died from cancer brought on by radiation.

In 1984, the USAF attempted to secretly withdraw 89,000 acres of land, which included the 400-acre Groom Mine Property, for the USAF's sole use. This act would have been a clear taking of the Sheahan Family Property, although the USAF was not offering any compensation for the taking of their land. When this grossly unconstitutional act was discovered, then Governor Richard Bryan, Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich and Harry Reid intervened, and testified on behalf of the family to prevent the unconstitutional seizure. The USAF admitted its unlawful conduct and swore to congress that they would take nothing from the Sheahan's property as a result of the withdrawal and guaranteed that the Sheahans would maintain ownership of the Groom Mine Property without fear of restricted access.

This latest action by the USAF appears to be another attempt to force the Sheahan Family to surrender their unique property for less than the constitutionally mandated "just compensation."

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#### **About Groom Mine Property**

The historic Groom Mine Property has been owned and operated by the Sheahan family since 1885. Rich in several precious metals including lead and silver, the land is also wealthy in history. For 70 years, the Sheahan family has worked tirelessly to cooperate with government officials to ensure a mutually beneficial relationship. The family has preserved all rights to their property during this time even though the government has consistently disregarded the family's Constitutional Rights.