

# 6 Bizarre Conspiracy Theories That Turned Out To Be True

By Alexa Erickson | [Collective Evolution](#)

✘ Mainstream media has done their due diligence to slap a label on any news story that doesn't fit their agenda, which we've come to discover is dictated by the world's elite. Many stories are derided as mere conspiracy theories, ensuring they don't receive serious consideration and are instead viewed as some sort of backward joke.

Conspiracy theories are stigmatized because people don't want false news filling up their heads, and how can anyone blame them? Yet, because mainstream media has garnered the reputation of being the go-to for factual information, they have the ability to take possible truths and immediately have them ridiculed and dismissed.

But alternative outlets and powerful people such as WikiLeaks, Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning, and many unbiased journalists are paving the path to break such stigmas. They are opening people up to the notion that they should decide for themselves whether many of the "conspiracy theories" the mainstream so readily trashes are worth further consideration; to the notion that, in fact, the mainstream may be actively suppressing the truth rather than promoting it.

Here are five examples of conspiracy theories that proved to be true:

## 1. U.S. Military Fired 300 Shells at North Vietnamese Torpedo Boats That Weren't Even There

Sometimes called the USS Maddox Incident, [the Gulf of Tonkin incident](#) surrounded U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War when

the destroyer USS Maddox apparently fired at North Vietnamese Navy torpedo boats as part of an intelligence patrol. Almost 300 shells were shot off. President Lyndon B. Johnson quickly drafted the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution as a tool for providing legal justification for U.S. military intrusion in Vietnam. But that isn't what actually happened.

In 2005, a [declassified internal National Security Agency study](#) exposed the reality that no North Vietnamese naval vessels were even present during the incident. In 1965, President Johnson commented: "For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there."

Navy pilot James Stockdale [disputed](#) the event, as did others present, saying, "I had the best seat in the house to watch that event, and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets – there were no PT boats there ... There was nothing there but black water and American fire power."

## **2. The FBI Harassed Political Groups to Discredit and Smear Them**

A secret program called COINTELPRO (counter-intelligence program) involved FBI agents illegally taking on projects to infiltrate domestic political organizations in order to disgrace them. The act incorporated psychological warfare, slander by way of forged documents and false reports in the media, harassment, wrongful imprisonment, and allegedly intimidation, violence, and assassination. Affected people included critics of the Vietnam War, civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, and many activists and journalists.

The book [The United States of Paranoia](#) by Jesse Walker states:

*Under COINTELPRO, FBI agents infiltrated political groups and spread rumors that loyal members were the real infiltrators. They tried to get targets fired from their jobs, and they*

*tried to break up the targets' marriages. They published deliberately inflammatory literature in the names of the organizations they wanted to discredit, and they drove wedges between groups that might otherwise be allied. In Baltimore, the FBI's operatives in the Black Panther Party were instructed to denounce Students for a Democratic Society as "a cowardly, honky group" who wanted to exploit the Panthers by giving them all the violent, dangerous "dirty work." The operation was apparently successful: In August 1969, just five months after the initial instructions went out, the Baltimore FBI reported that the local Panther branch had ordered its members not to associate with SDS members or attend any SDS events.*

As for Dr. Martin Luther King, agents tried to instill paranoia by way of following him, bugging his hotel rooms, attempting to break up his marriage, and even sending him an anonymous letter in hopes of getting [him to commit suicide](#).

The truth behind the conspiracy theory came to light when a group of eight anti-war activists [broke into an FBI field office](#) in 1971 and discovered documents that exposed the program.

### **3. U.S. Military Leaders Devise Plan to Kill Innocent People and Put the Blame on Cuba**

The Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. military created and approved a plan called Operation Northwoods that would allow for acts of terrorism on U.S. soil in order to brainwash Americans into supporting a war against Cuba. With the [documents out there](#) to prove the immoral and disgusting plan, it's impossible to label it a conspiracy theory.

President Kennedy ultimately rejected the plan that involved the killing of innocent Americans by shooting them on the

streets, sinking boats carrying refugees fleeing Cuba, violent terrorism to be executed in Washington, D.C., Miami, and more, framing people for bombings they did not commit, and planes being hijacked.

The documents noted:

*We could develop a Communist Cuba terror campaign in the Miami area, in other Florida cities and even in Washington . . . We could sink a boatload of Cubans enroute to Florida (real or simulated) . . . Exploding a few plastic bombs in carefully chosen spots, the arrest of Cuban agents and the release of prepared documents substantiating Cuban involvement also would be helpful in projecting the idea of an irresponsible government.*

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