

# bb4sp.com

A conservative opinion and commentary website that has promoted conspiracy theories and published distorted information, including about the COVID-19 virus.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 37.5/100

## Ownership and Financing

Barracuda Brigade (as the site calls itself) is owned and operated by its editor-in-chief, Alicia Luke. Luke, who is based in Midwest City, Oklahoma, also owns Deplorables United!, a website that posts content critical of leaders of the Democratic Party.

The website earns revenue from advertising, sponsored content, and reader donations.

## Content

Barracuda Brigade's mission, as stated on the site's About Me page, is "to promote and protect individual rights and freedoms as set forth in the United States Constitution and to limit the scope of government to the authority set forth therein." The site also states that it is "100% committed to spreading common sense conservative principles!"

Site sections include Palin, Trump, Obama, and Clinton, which consist of stories drawn from other sites and social media, with BB4sp.com's added commentary. The site often provides positive coverage of U.S. President Donald Trump, with such stories as "President Trump Takes On Google: 'Very serious situation-will be addressed'" and "President Trump Delivers World-Class Smackdown to CNN's Jim Acosta."

The site also often publishes stories that are critical of former President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, with articles such as "Hillary Endorses 11-Year-Old Girl for Kneeling During Pledge of Allegiance" and "Obama Tries To Take Credit For Trump's Economy, But It Backfires!"

## Credibility

Articles on BB4sp.com have often included conspiracy theories and false information, including about the 2020

-  Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
-  Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
-  Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
-  Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
-  Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
-  Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
-  Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
-  Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
-  The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, an undated article excerpted from the Daily Wire, titled “E.R. Doctors Urge A Reopening: Lockdown Creating Public Health Crisis, Doctors ‘Pressured’ To Add COVID To Death Reports, Quarantining Healthy ‘Never Seen’ Before,” promoted the idea that social distancing policies were weakening people’s immune systems, making them more vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. The article quoted emergency room doctor Dan Erikson who, in a viral video posted in April 2020, stated that “I don’t want to stay in my home and develop a weak immune system, and then come out and get a disease.” The story went on to say that “you don’t develop immunity by staying indoors.” The Barracuda Brigade article did not include any evidence that challenged Erikson’s and Massihi’s views, stating that “this video needs to be shared by all of us as often as possible, every day until it becomes viral.”

Erikson and his colleague, Artin Massihi, have been widely discredited by experts, who argue that most adults’ immune systems are developed enough to withstand a few months of isolation. “Your immune system develops over decades in response to exposure to all kinds of pathogens and antigens,” Dr. Eleanor Fish, an immunology professor at the University of Toronto, told CTV News in a May 2020 interview. “This doesn’t occur over a period of two months so you’re not going to suddenly be vulnerable to all kinds of pathogens.” The American College of Emergency Physicians and American Academy of Emergency Medicine issued a joint statement in April 2020 in response to the doctors’ claims about social distancing, stating, “these reckless and untested musings do not speak for medical societies and are inconsistent with current science and epidemiology regarding COVID-19.”

Another undated story, headlined “US Dramatically Overcounting Coronavirus Deaths,” included excerpts from a May 2020 article published on Townhall.com. “Our metrics include deaths that have nothing to do with the virus,” the article said. “In Macomb and Oakland

Counties (Michigan), where most of the deaths occurred, medical examiners classify any deaths as Coronavirus deaths when the postmortem test is positive. Even people who died in suicides and automobile accidents meet that definition.”

The theory that U.S. officials were inflating COVID-19 death counts was debunked by a number of outlets, including USA Today, PolitiFact, The Washington Post, and Forbes. Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, said in an April 2020 briefing that many who die from COVID-19 complications do have underlying conditions, but that it makes sense to count them in the COVID-19 death toll because “that underlying condition did not cause their acute death when it’s related to a COVID infection.” Dr. Sally Aiken, president of the National Association of Medical Examiners, told USA Today in April 2020 that if a COVID-19-positive individual were to die by suicide, “COVID would not be on the death certificate.”

In a May 2020 virtual hearing of the Senate Health Committee, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that deaths from the pandemic were likely being undercounted, not overcounted, because “there may have been people who died at home who were not counted as COVID because they never really got to the hospital.”

Barracuda Brigade has also provided a platform for the “Spygate” conspiracy, an unsubstantiated theory contending that the Obama administration planted a spy within Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign. Although there is no evidence for the theory, Barracuda Brigade has repeatedly published stories that promote it, distorting or misrepresenting facts. For example, an August 2018 story stated that Donald Trump’s attorney, Rudy Giuliani, “outed former Obama CIA Director John Brennan as the man in charge of ‘Spygate.’” In fact, Giuliani admitted in May 2018 that “Spygate” — and his repeated reference of it — has been a publicity tactic to influence public opinion.

Another story distorted a tweet by Eric Holder, the former U.S Attorney General, to include mention of “Spygate.” The headline stated that “Holder Warns Lines Have Been Drawn: Demands GOP Lawmakers Halt Investigations Into FISA Abuse & Spygate.” Holder’s tweet, included in the story, made no mention or allusion to the conspiracy.

Barracuda Brigade has published stories promoting the “deep state” theory, which maintains that a select group of elites controls the government, regardless of administration. An undated story stated that “fired FBI Director James Comey lashed out at President Trump after the White House announced the President was considering revoking security clearances of Obama’s Deep State operatives.” In the video referenced in the story, former White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump was considering revoking security clearances for some ex-intelligence chiefs, but she did not call them “deep state operatives.”

Barracuda Brigade rarely references stories from established publishers of conservative news. The site regularly aggregates from sources that often do not publish firsthand information or have published misinformation, including The Gateway Pundit, The Geller Report, and Allen West Republic. Barracuda Brigade also cherry-picks and exaggerates statistics, publishing stories based on polls from a conservative polling company, Rasmussen Reports. One undated story stated that Trump had a 50 percent approval rating, “which probably means it’s closer to 60%.” The site provided no backup for this claim.

Because the site frequently provides a platform for conspiracy theories and other false claims, and often publishes claims with no sourcing, NewsGuard has determined that the site has repeatedly published false information and deceptive headlines and that it does not gather and present information responsibly.

The site is up front about its orientation and does not purport to publish straight news. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

The site states on the About Me page that it “seeks to publish corrections and clarifications promptly.”

However, NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

Barracuda Brigade did not reply to NewsGuard’s two emails and one phone call seeking comment about the articles cited above, the site’s editorial standards, and its approach to corrections.

---

#### Transparency

The site’s About Me page identifies its owner, who is also described as the main writer and editor-in-chief of BB4sp.com.

Advertising is distinguished from editorial content.

---

#### History

Barracuda Brigade started in December 2009 as a Facebook fan page for former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. The website was created in March 2015.

*Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on June 8, 2020, to include information about the website’s coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Written by:** [Evan Haddad](#), [Anicka Slachta](#)

**Edited by:** [Steven Brill](#), [Jim Warren](#)

**Send feedback to NewsGuard:** [Click Here](#)

## Sources

---

#### Ownership and Financing

<https://bb4sp.com/about-us/>  
<https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=XuR3acYd-le00Lt9HcnCXGlja-olcV4yztNxA3t4E3yItLZDEaxog90z6Jqb1j2-r6vcdm>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alicia-luke-87227b65>  
<https://domainbigdata.com/yemail.com/mj/Q8Hd6flbCkQGb7tuxLdKQA>  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/BarracudaBrigade/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BarracudaBrigade/about/?ref=page_internal)

---

#### Content

<https://bb4sp.com/sarah-palin-responds-john-mccain/>

<https://bb4sp.com/guess-donald-trump-dinner-white-house-last-night/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/palin-praises-trump/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/ny-times-palin-shooting-honest-mistake/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/president-trump-google/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/palin-head-veterans-affairs/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/south-africa-withdraws-land-seizure/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/democrat-needing-barack-obama/>  
<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/even-conservatives-are-realizing-trumps-spygate-conspiracy-is-a-hoax-630566/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/clinton-girl-kneeling-pledge/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/obama-tries-to-take-credit-for-trumps-economy-but-it-backfires/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/about-me/>

---

Credibility

<https://bb4sp.com/sean-hannity-hillary-clinton-jail/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/report-massive-voter-fraud-uncovered/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/intelligence-indisputable-evidence/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/nellie-ohrs-link-brennan-obama/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/trump-hammers-democrats/>  
<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/even-conservatives-are-realizing-trumps-spygate-conspiracy-is-a-hoax-630566/>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/28/us/politics/trump-conspiracy-theories-spygate.html>  
<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/2148109/rudy-giuliani-admits-spygate-trump-pr-tactic-against>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/may/27/rudy-giuliani-spygate-robert-mueller-donald-trump>  
<https://bb4sp.com/holder-halt-investigations/>  
<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2018/07/boom-pres-trump-looking-at-revoking-security-clearances-of-deep-state-operatives/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/bombshell-obama-deep-state-spying/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/comey-trump-revoking-security-clearances/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/fbi-lawyers-documents-buzzfeed/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/trump-approval-50/>

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/which-pollsters-to-trust-in-2018/>

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2018/08/boom-trump-approval-at-50-5-points-higher-than-obama-at-same-point-in-his-presidency/>

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/203198/presidential-approval-ratings-donald-trump.aspx>

<https://bb4sp.com/obama-opened-books-financial-system-iran/>

<https://bb4sp.com/e-r-doctors-urge-a-reopening-lockdown-creating-public-health-crisis-doctors-pressured-to-add-covid-to-death-reports-quarantining-healthy-never-seen-before/>

<https://www.acep.org/corona/covid-19-alert/covid-19-articles/acep-aaem-joint-statement-on-physician-misinformation/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

<https://bb4sp.com/us-dramatically-overcounting-coronavirus-deaths/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/04/17/fact-check-covid-19-death-toll-likely-undercounted-not-overcounted/2973481001/>

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/apr/14/candace-owens/covid-19-skeptics-say-theres-overcount-doctors-fie/>

<https://bb4sp.com/maybelline-first-male-mascara-model/>

<https://bb4sp.com/revealed-facebook-coronavirus-fact-checker-worked-with-wuhan-virus-lab/>

<https://bb4sp.com/ca-man-arrested-3-times-in-12-hours-released-each-time-because-of-coronavirus-zero-bail-policy/>

<https://bb4sp.com/breaking-doj-drops-criminal-case-against-michael-flynn/>

[https://bb4sp.com/nancy-pelosi-i-myself-cannot-understand-why-illegal-immigrants-cant-receive-covid-cash/?utm\\_source=spotim&utm\\_medium=spotim\\_recirculation&utm\\_referrer=recirculation](https://bb4sp.com/nancy-pelosi-i-myself-cannot-understand-why-illegal-immigrants-cant-receive-covid-cash/?utm_source=spotim&utm_medium=spotim_recirculation&utm_referrer=recirculation)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackbrewster/2020/04/09/a-fox-news-conspiracy-are-coronavirus-death-numbers-inflated-attacked-by-fauci-birx/#33d02a9316af>  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/04/08/tucker-carlsons-brit-humes-faulty-theories-about-coronavirus-deaths-being-exaggerated/>  
<https://thehill.com/homenews/coronavirus-report/497324-fauci-real-coronavirus-death-toll-almost-certainly-higher-than>  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-vice-president-pence-members-coronavirus-task-force-press-briefing-22/>  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-staying-home-immune-system/partly-false-claim-staying-at-home-and-wearing-a-face-mask-weakens-the-immune-system-idUSKBN22O2LA>  
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/physical-distancing-not-weakening-immune-system-s-ability-to-fight-off-germs-experts-say-1.4939745>  
<https://www.waff.com/2020/05/14/could-social-distancing-weaken-immune-system/>

---

Transparency

[https://www.facebook.com/BarracudaBrigade/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/BarracudaBrigade/about/?ref=page_internal)  
<https://bb4sp.com/about-us/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/contact/>  
<https://bb4sp.com/author/barracuda-brigade/>

---

History

<https://www.adweek.com/digital/barracuda-brigade/>  
<https://whois.icann.org/en/lookup?name=bb4sp.com>  
<https://deplorables.us/neil-degrasse-tyson-supports-trumps-space-force/>