THE HOLLOMAN FILM

REVISED EDITION

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WHO AM I?

- Former Department of the Air Force employee; historian assigned to HQ Air Force Reserve at Robins AFB and HQ Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB (1995-1998).
- Received classified briefing on UAP incident in 1996.
- Interviewed by Defense Department's All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), 17 May 2023.
- Guest lecturer, "UAP and Homeland Security," Farmingdale State College SUNY.

WHAT IS THE **HOLLOMAN FILM?**

- U.S. Air Force personnel allegedly filmed a UFO landing at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, in either April 1964 or May 1971.
- The film allegedly showed U.S. Air Force and/or CIA personnel greeting three Non-Human Intelligence beings.



HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE

- The base is located six miles southwest of Alamogordo, New Mexico.
- The base was originally established as Holloman Army Air Field in November 1942.
- In 1964, the base was the home (since 15 July 1963) of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, flying F-84F Thunderstreaks and converting to F-4C Phantoms by February 1965.
- In 1971, the base was the home (since 1 July 1968) of the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing flying F-4D Phantoms. The wing periodically rotated squadrons to Europe.
- Hosts the world's longest (nearly 10 miles) and fastest (Mach 9) test track.

SOURCES ON THE HOLLOMAN FILM

- Robert Emenegger and Paul Shartle interview with Mike Farrell on the syndicated TV special *UFO Coverup? Live* aired on 14 October 1988.
- Stanton Friedman and Robert Emenegger 2005 interviews in “UFOs and the White House” (S02E08) for the History Channel series *UFO Files*.
- Robert Emenegger 2008 interview, in “Robert Emenegger (UFOs: Past, Present, and Future) Follow up Interview (2008)” @AlienDisclosureGroup YouTube channel.
- Robert Emenegger interview in the 2013 documentary *Mirage Men*.
- Grant Cameron 2017 interview in “Holloman Air Force Base UFO Landing 1974 Interview/Footage” @Stefob YouTube channel.
- Dr. Eric Davis interview in the 2025 documentary *Age of Disclosure*.
- Jay Stratton, *Out of the Shadows: Revealing the Truth About Non-Human Intelligent Life*, William Morrow, 2026.



WHO IS **ROBERT EMENEGGER?**

- Emenegger (1932–2020) was a senior vice president for Gray Advertising. He was also a documentary producer.
- In the mid-1970s, he was researching the U.S. Defense Department for possible topics related to cutting-edge technology for television specials.
- This project led him to Paul Shartle at Norton AFB in San Bernardino, CA.



WHO IS **ALLAN SANDLER?**

- Sandler was a film producer, director, screenwriter, and partner to Emenegger on his Department of Defense film project.
- Apparently, he never gave any public interviews about his involvement with the Holloman Film.
- He later produced a series of low-budget science fiction films.
- His current status is unknown.



WHO IS **PAUL SHARTLE?**

- Shartle (1922–2001) was the security manager and chief of requirements for the Air Force Audio-Visual Center at Norton AFB, which produced Air Force training and public relations films.
- The Air Force Audio-Visual Center existed from 8 April 1969–1 November 1980.
- It is unclear whether he was a USAF NCO, officer, or DAF civilian.



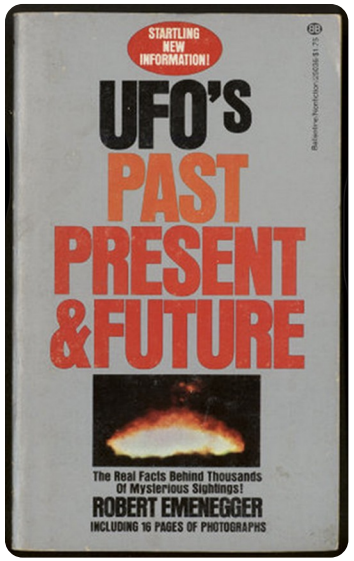
EMENEGGER'S **STORY**

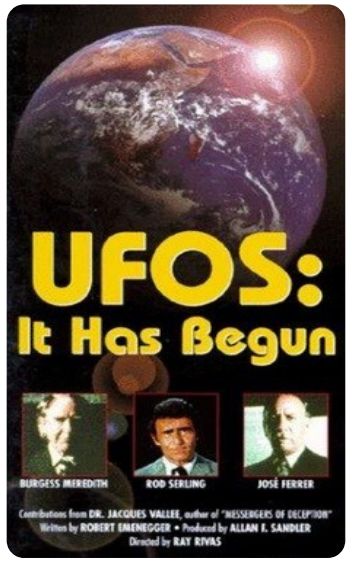
- While at the Air Force Audio-Visual Center at Norton AFB, Shartle asked Emenegger if he wanted to use a film taken by AFAVC personnel on Temporary Duty at Holloman AFB of an alien landing. Shartle suggested that he bury a request for the film under other prospective topics.
- Emenegger then traveled to the Foreign Technology Division at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and met with FTD commander Colonel George Weinbrenner to inquire about the Holloman Film. Weinbrenner offered him a book about UFOs and put him in contact with former Project Blue Book head Lieutenant Colonel Hector Quintanilla.
- In the 2005 interview, he said that he called a former fraternity brother, H.R. Haldeman, who was Chief of Staff for President Nixon to inquire as to whether he was aware of the landing at Holloman. Haldeman replied "I had heard something, but I don't know."
- He obtained a contract with the Defense Department and had been given full cooperation to this point.



EMENEGGER'S **STORY**

- His research led to the documentary *UFOs Past, Present, and Future*.
- He intended the Holloman film to be one of the final segments in the documentary.
- However, at the last minute, someone connected with the Pentagon requested that he pull the Holloman Film from the documentary.
- Emenegger's friend Grant Cameron would later tell an interviewer that the government entity who asked that he pull the film, said it was because of "Watergate and bad timing."
- Emenegger replaced the Holloman film with a mix of recently shot film from Holloman AFB and animation supposedly based on the actual film.
- Emenegger either sent the film back to the Pentagon or never received it—sources differ.





UFOS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

- *UFOs: Past, Present, and Future* was released on 31 July 1974. It is later released under the title *UFOs: It Has Begun* in 1976 and 1979.
- Emenegger was credited as the film's writer and producer; Allan Sandler was credited as the film's producer.
- Narrated by Rod Serling as well as Burgess Meredith and Jose Ferrer.
- Featured former Project Blue Book heads Lt Colonel Robert Friend, Lt Colonel Hector Quintanilla and Blue Book's civilian scientific consultant Dr. J. Allen Hynek.
- The climax is the re-creation of the Holloman Film—Serling states: "Let's look at an incident that might happen in the future or perhaps could have already happened."
- The film received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Documentary Film in 1976.
- Emenegger wrote a book based on the documentary.





THE **RE-CREATION**

- The re-creation is a mixture of live-action film almost certainly taken at Holloman in 1973 or 1974 or thereabouts as well as animated still shots.
- The base control tower detects an unidentified object approaching. The base commander is notified.
- Two F-4 Phantom fighters scramble to escort the object away.
- The base commander and two other officers are hurriedly driven out to the tarmac.





THE **RE-CREATION**

- Three disc-shaped objects appear: one descends to land while the other two fly away.

(The actual film allegedly shows the descending craft oscillating. Shartle speculated that it was in trouble.)

- A door opens on the landed craft and three beings emerge.
- These three beings are humanoid, with blue-gray skin, pronounced noses, eyes set apart, with slits for mouths.
- They wear some kind of headdress made up of rope-like material and tight flight suit-like garments. They hold devices that are theorized to be translation devices.
- The base commander and the other officers greet the beings and escort them away into another building.

THE **RE-CREATION**

- Play YouTube clip.

WHO INSPIRED THE DOCUMENTARY?

- Sources do not agree as to who inspired the documentary.
- Emenegger in his 1988 interview stated that he was looking to make TV specials and Shartle suggested using the Holloman Film.
- Emenegger in his 2008 interview stated that he “took time out” from his advertising job “to go on a project with the Department of Defense to bolster the [sic] image, which was sagging in early 70s.” He was exposed to various subjects before he was offered the Holloman Film.
- Prominent UFO Researcher Stanton Friedman claimed that the “Republican Party” asked Emenegger to do the documentary “using only US Government people.” [The final film featured several civilians.]

WHO HAS ACTUALLY **SEEN** THE HOLLOMAN FILM?

- Paul Shartle
- For many years, it was assumed that Robert Emenegger had seen it. In his 1988 interview, he said “What I saw and heard was enough to convince me that the phenomenon of UFOs was very real, very real.” However, in his 2013 interview, he seemingly reluctantly admitted that he had **not** seen it.
- UFO filmmaker James Fox, in a 2017 interview, said that Sandler said that he was shown the film. Sandler thought that it showed [a United States] “tech vehicle or a mock-up of an alien invasion.” Fox said that Sandler only told Emenegger that he had seen the film four years later. This begs the question about how Emenegger was able to determine what to re-create in the documentary.
- Fox said in that same interview that he has a “source” who has seen it.
- UFO researcher Grant Cameron, in a 2005 interview, stated that a “friend” talked to two former U.S. Presidents who had been shown it.

JUST A **TRAINING FILM**?

- It was Allan Sandler‘s initial opinion that the film was some sort of re-creation. This opinion is bolstered by the strange appearance of the NHI, which has not been reported in any other UFO encounter.
- Paul Shartle in his 1988 interview stated that when he asked his superiors about the Holloman Film, he was told that “it was theatrical footage the Air Force had purchased to make a training film.”
- Shartle in the same 1988 interview dismissed the idea of it being a training film “If it were a theatrical film, why didn’t I have a record of this? It was my job to keep accurate records of all audiovisual purchases.”
- Shartle believed the film “too real” to be a theatrical film.
- Shartle said that the film was shot by Air Force personnel on Temporary Duty from Norton AFB who had set up two cameras on the ground and one in a helicopter to record an “acceleration test.”
- Shartle’s comments beg a lot of questions—exactly what kind of Air Force training film would incorporate footage of a UFO landing? After the closure of Project Blue Book in December 1969, the Air Force (at least publicly) wanted nothing to do with the subject.
- If this film was purely theatrical, why has neither the film nor related documentation been released to the public?

WHEN DID THE ALLEGED UFO LANDING OCCUR?

- Sources differ **wildly** on the date of the alleged landing at Holloman AFB.
- Emenegger in his 1988 interview, stated that in 1973, he was told that the landing had taken place “about three years earlier.”
- Grant Cameron stated in his 2008 interview that it took place at 6 a.m. in May (day unspecified) 1971.
- James Fox, who had talked to Sandler, stated that it occurred in April 1964.
- Dr. Eric Davis, in the 2025 documentary *Age of Disclosure*, stated that it was in April 1964.
- Jay Stratton, in his 2026 memoir *Out of the Shadows: Revealing The Truth About Non-Human Intelligent Life*, wrote that his sources told him that it was in 1964.

MYTH BUSTER #1

- Presuming that the Holloman Film recorded a real event, many accounts suggest that the U.S. Air Force and possibly CIA were prepared for a UFO landing.
- Paul Shartle stated in his 1988 interview that the cameras set up at Holloman were there to record an acceleration test—not to capture an alien landing. However, this could have been a cover story provided to the airmen.

MYTH BUSTER #2

- For some years after Emenegger's documentary was released, he inferred that not all of the Holloman Film had been excised from the final product. It was alleged that eight seconds of the actual Holloman Film was in the documentary.
- The sources differ as to whether Emenegger or Sandler *ever* had a copy of the original film. The narrator for Emenegger's 2005 interview stated that he never got hold of the film. James Fox related a story that Sandler offered him the film for at least $20,000. Sandler then "got cold feet."
- In the completed documentary, there is a scene of background hills with a bright object descending. However, this has been debunked as an out-of-focus U.S. Air Force fighter on approach for landing.

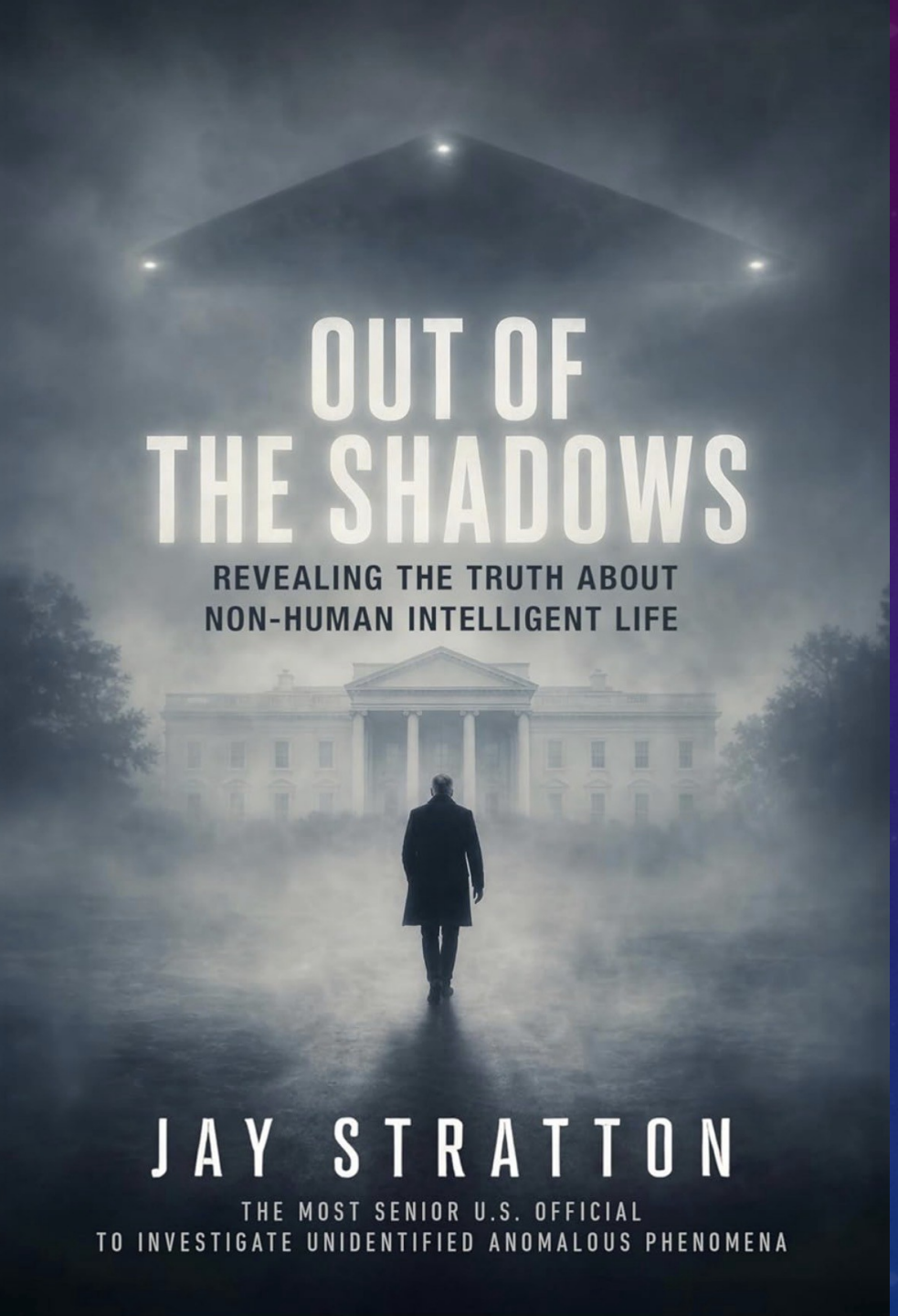
CAN YOU **SHUT DOWN** AN AIR FORCE BASE?

- A U.S. Air Force Security Forces veteran says yes.
- However, if the U.S. Air Force or CIA did not have advanced warning of an alien landing, it is hard to conceive how a massive Air Force base could be locked down so quickly.
- To date, no witnesses of such a lockdown or alien landing at Holloman AFB have emerged.



THE HOLLOMAN FILM **RESURRECTED?**

- In the 2025 documentary *Age of Disclosure*, Dr. Eric Davis, who had worked with Robert Bigelow's National Institute for Discovery Science and the DIA's Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Application Program stated that he had a private discussion with the former President George H.W. Bush, who told him that there had been three contacts between the U.S. Government and NHI, one of which occurred in 1964 at Holloman Air Force Base. Davis did not say if this event was recorded on film or whether President Bush had seen such a film.



THE HOLLOMAN FILM **IS REAL?**

- In his 2026 memoir, *Out of the Shadows: Revealing the Truth About Non-Human Intelligent Life*, Jay Stratton, co-founder of the DIA's Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Application Program and head of the DOD's UAP Task Force wrote that a "contact event" was confirmed to him by "multiple senior sources."
- This event allegedly took place at Holloman Air Force Base in 1964. Stratton described that the event involved three UAP, one that landed, with one NHI who met Air Force and CIA officials.
- "Only the CIA gatekeeper for the Legacy Program and the gatekeeper within the Air Force knew the full details."



THE HOLLOMAN FILM **IS REAL?**

- Stratton wrote that during his investigation, his sources revealed that the event had been filmed.
- “They believed the film footage had long been held in a classified vault at the Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and had previously been stored at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, California.”
- Stratton stated that he attempted to view the film, but it could not be found.
- Stratton also wrote that Dr. Hal Puthoff (a former AAWSAP colleague) and Dr. Eric Davis had been told of the Holloman event by President George H.W. Bush in 2003.
- To date, Stratton is the most senior former U.S. Government official to attest to the reality of an NHI landing and film at Holloman AFB.

AN ABORTED ATTEMPT AT **DISCLOSURE**?

- Some researchers like Stanton Friedman have argued that the Holloman Film's inclusion into Emenegger and Sandler's documentary was an abortive attempt by the U.S. Government (or elements within) at public disclosure of the UFO reality.
- The Holloman Film story is very similar to one related by the British UFO author Timothy Good, in which the U.S. Vice President's office allegedly offered the 1992 World's Fair organizers the display of a dead alien body— only to withdraw the offer at the last moment.
- Some UFO researchers allege that Steven Spielberg's classic *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was loosely based on the Holloman Film in another method for disclosure.



ANOTHER **RELATED LANDING**?

- Mercury 7 astronaut Colonel Gordon Cooper claimed that while assigned to Edwards Air Force Base in 1957, a film crew that was assigned to record a flight test saw a saucer-shaped object over their heads, which extended three landing gear and then landed on a dry lake bed. When the crew, who were now filming the object, approached it, it retracted its landing gear, then took off, and disappeared at great speed.
- The film crew came to Cooper's office. He told them to develop the film. He also reported the sighting through the channels that existed at that time. Cooper was ordered to have the film sent to Washington. Cooper did not know what happened to the film after that.
- Is it possible that the Holloman Film is a hazy, embellished misremembered account of this incident? Or was there a *previous* landing some years before the Holloman incident?

CONCLUSIONS

- When you strip the story of the Holloman Film down to its bare elements, it is primarily the testimony of one man who claims to have seen it and who offered it to Emenegger and Sandler: Paul Shartle. The claims of others who allegedly saw it are all secondhand or thirdhand.
- It is unclear how Emenegger reconstructed the Holloman Film for his documentary when he did not see it and Sandler did not tell him about seeing it for four years. Did he just make up the re-creation?
- It is unlikely that the inclusion of the Holloman Film into the documentary was an attempt at disclosure. Emenegger might initially have had carte blanche from the Pentagon to inquire about the subject of UFOs. But in all the accounts of this film, the only person that offered it to him was Paul Shartle. Shartle was clearly not in a position to be crafting U.S. Government policy.

CONCLUSIONS

- Seen in this context, it would not be surprising if Shartle's superior officers decided that there was no way that they were going to allow this film in the documentary—whether the film was meant for a training film or was indeed an authentic UFO encounter. This case for such a refusal can be made for both possibilities.
- Norton AFB was closed in 1995; the Air Force Audio-Visual Center was disestablished and its mission split into two Audiovisual Squadrons.
- Stratton's attestation of such a film does provide a second testimonial trail. However, more research is needed.
- The discovery and release of the original authenticated film could settle these issues. However, if it was just theatrical footage for a USAF training film, it is probably buried in some archive that nobody alive would be able to find. But if it is a real film of a real UFO encounter—and Jay Stratton is a compelling, albeit secondhand, witness—it is extremely doubtful that the Intelligence Community would ever publicly release it.

James Fox

David Marler

Jeff Nuccetelli

THANK YOU!

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