

December 7, 2021

From: Daniel H. Harris, Ph.D.  
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Phone: 210-673-1000 or 210-674-8000

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that over a period of decades, Mr. Ray Stanford has referred to me, and to my Ph.D. in astronomy, in association with his various UFO-related claims, in such a manner as to leave the listener or reader with the false impression that I [Dr. Harris] have validated or otherwise endorsed the quite varied extreme claims and representations made by Mr. Stanford. For example, in a 2019 interview, Mr. Stanford said: regarding using light signals to these things [UFOs] at White Sands, New Mexico, "we got responses again and again as we witnessed on the night of July 19, 1978. We watched incredible craft doing maneuvers for thirty-five minutes...." Later in the same interview he stated "I [Stanford] raised over two million dollars in equipment and facilities to track these things." Further on Stanford says [at 1:40 in the recording], "Please, insist these people [scientists] come see me and learn [about UFOs]. The basics it's taken me all these decades to learn with instruments, and studying. If they won't come and listen, they're going to waste another 30 to 40 years. They've got to come and benefit from what I've been able to do... [and at 1:42:15] "I mean, a lot of what I understand is that we had a staff Ph.D. physicist from the best astronomy school in the world, working for us for several years, helping us understand this [UFO] data. Otherwise, I couldn't talk about it the way I do." (interview by Erica Lukes, *UFO Classified*, March 8, 2019, from KCOR, Digital Radio, Las Vegas, Nevada)

To correct these misstatements: 1) I [Dr. Harris] was then [July 1978] "Research Director" of "Project Starlight International." At that time and subsequently, Mr. Stanford never reported his alleged extensive observations of maneuvering UFOs [July 1978], responding to ground lights, at White Sands. In this instance it seems that Mr. Stanford is

himself guilty of unsubstantiated anecdotal reporting, a practice he allegedly now decries; 2) the PSI operations I participated in, throughout my sixteen month tenure were small scale operations [estimated total budget less than \$150,000, nowhere near a two million dollar project]; 3) my Ph.D. is in Astronomy-Astrophysics not physics, 4) the Univ. of Arizona was then NOT ranked the best in the world in astronomy, but ranked in the top five in astronomy in the U.S.A., 5) and I was in the employ of Project Starlight International for just sixteen months, not several years.

The impression that Mr. Stanford apparently seeks to convey is misleading, because in all instances that have come to my attention, I would in fact challenge Mr. Stanford's UFO-related claims. Therefore, I write this letter to set the record straight, to the extent possible in this short, hastily prepared communication; and it is hoped to prevent further misrepresentations or misunderstandings regarding my involvement with Mr. Stanford and P.S.I.

I completed my Ph.D. in astronomy by the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, in December, 1976, award ceremony Spring, 1977. At that time, I had a strong interest in UFO phenomena, particularly what I imagined was the physics of their propulsion, which I pursued [from 1972 to 1987] as a volunteer with several nonprofit non-governmental UFO investigation organizations [principally APRO, for which I was an unpaid consultant, photo analyst, and contributor; and MUFON, where I contributed reports on my research]. Earlier I also assisted (as graduate student) Dr. William K. Hartmann, photo analyst to the Univ. of Colorado Condon UFO Committee, 1967-1968, in his analysis of the then best still photos and movie film evidence. Dr. Hartmann concluded and I agreed that as of 1968 there were no conclusive images of anomalous objects - alien spacecraft, which we were able to examine. It was later [1972] that Dr. James McDonald, senior atmospheric physicist at the Univ. of Arizona, persuaded me [Harris] that serious study of UFO phenomena might produce useful scientific results, which triggered my own investigations and interest in UFO phenomena.

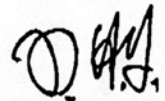
In 1977, after I completed my Ph.D. work, while seeking employment, I became acquainted with Mr. Ray Stanford, who at that time led the nonprofit Association for the Understanding of Man (A.U.M.) based in

Austin, Texas. At that time, I knew nothing of that organization except that one of its projects was Project Starlight International (P.S.I.), which was described to me as dedicated to obtaining instrumented data on UFO phenomena, an approach that seemed at the time to be potentially helpful to the UFO studies I was then pursuing. [It was clear to me at the time that there was nothing at all international about P.S.I.].

Mr. Stanford's book, *Socorro "Saucer" in a Pentagon Pantry* had just been published [1976]. I read the book. During the Summer of 1977 I had several phone conversations with Mr. Stanford in which I sought details of the Socorro object's landing impressions and the soil properties at the alleged Socorro landing site. I had then hoped to use such data to ultimately measure the weight of the object which purportedly landed at Socorro. I was then seeking similar details and soil properties for a number of other alleged landing cases. [I never did obtain suitable details of the Socorro case to permit a weight measurement].

Mr. Stanford in those Summer of 1977 conversations enquired regarding the character of my UFO research program. Mr. Stanford then invited me [my plane ticket and expenses paid] to visit the P.S.I. office in Austin, in August 1977, for what turned out to be a job interview. Mr. Stanford had to see me face to face to examine my "aura," which aura he deemed acceptable as he told others present at the interview. It was agreed at that meeting that I would become the "Research Director" for Project Starlight International, effective September 1, 1977. My negotiated salary was that of an entry level engineer.

Within a year or so, various disagreements and frictions arose between Mr. Stanford and myself, mainly due to a lack of funding and volunteers to permit the effective operation of the P.S.I. remote observing site, a lack of necessary functioning equipment to fulfill the stated P.S.I. mission, and the clear exaggeration of Mr. Stanford's representations of our operations in public communications. Mr. Stanford also expressed disapproval of my marriage [Nov. 1978] which he suggested might keep me from a greater and exclusive devotion to P.S.I. [It seems that behind the scenes there were other factors at play, particularly a lack of funds which manifested as Mr. Stanford stopped his "psychic readings"]. The result was Mr. Stanford terminated my employment with P.S.I. effective December 31, 1978. Therefore, my entire direct association with Mr. Stanford lasted just sixteen months.



I have recently become aware of various interviews in which Ray Stanford has painted a picture of P.S.I. and my participation therein that is very different from the reality that I knew. In a 1976 paper presented at the annual Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network, Mr. Stanford referred to a "the salaried P.S.I. staff of five persons..." In more recent Stanford tellings, P.S.I. amounted to a \$2 million endeavor that included a 400-acre research facility northwest of Austin, which possessed a remarkable array of technology, including a radar with 12-mile range, a laser capable of communicating with UFOs and measuring UFO-induced light-bends, and other technology. Moreover, Mr. Stanford has written and spoken often about a purported computer-driven system ("Operation ARGUS") for tracking UFOs while phoning volunteer observers in a large geographical area during a UFO observation at the P.S.I. observing site; this purported system was even dramatized in a short British TV "documentary" produced in or about 1979 and now easily accessible on the Internet.

Many of these representations are great exaggerations, ranging into fiction. During my tenure (Sept. 1977 through the end of 1978), I was the *only* full-time employee assigned to Project Starlight International. Yes, I was apparently the first and then only Ph.D. level research scientist devoting full time to UFO studies [other than secret government projects unknown to us]. The only other P.S.I. paid employee, Mr. Stanford was only on occasion focused full time on P.S.I. matters. At other times Mr. Stanford had other pursuits. Several other persons involved in P.S.I. were employed by the A.U. M., but they apparently spent most of their time on A.U.M.'s print publications and audio cassette distributions. In time I learned that the bulk of those publications and cassettes consisted of transcripts and recordings of mediumistic "psychic readings" delivered by Mr. Stanford while in a claimed trance state, some of which "readings" dealt with P.S.I. matters, but mostly other wide ranging topics.

One young man with engineering aptitude was paid part-time to do technical work at the observing site (he had nothing to do with the other aspects of A.U.M.), and there were a couple of others with engineering or computer expertise who from time to time did technical work as volunteers. Most of the sky-watching at the observing site near Lake Travis was at night, done by younger persons essentially on a volunteer

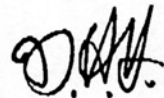


basis. In short, overall, this was a small-scale operation, even during its "peak" period. As to Mr. Stanford's claim that P.S.I. consumed \$2 million, I cannot imagine how anything remotely approaching such a figure could have been spent operating P.S.I.

The actual P.S.I. research site was well short of 400 acres – I doubt that it was more than about 50 acres, including the light circle. There was undeveloped land for a substantial distance for much of the compass, but that land was mainly owned by a governmental authority [Lower Colorado River Authority]. The site itself contained a very modest wooden structure that housed a small early generation computer, and some instruments, and controls for the radar. The radar had a broken mechanism for rotation and never functioned during my tenure at P.S.I. My request for the repair of the radar, to bring it on line was an ongoing point of tension between myself and Mr. Stanford. There was also a very small brick roll off roof structure, perhaps 10 feet by 8 feet, that could be opened to the sky. This enclosure was intended as the secure location for P.S.I.'s most prized equipment, the gravimeter and magnetometer, etc. Contrary to Mr. Stanford's representations none of this equipment had automatic recording capability. All this equipment was manually operated.

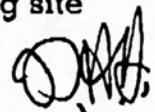
In his 1976 paper presented to and published by MUFON, Mr. Stanford described the radar as having "a twelve-mile range, 360 degrees radar, capable of detecting objects of very small cross section." It is my understanding that the radar was useless in practice, unable to paint even airliners if it had been able to rotate, but it made a great prop for invited TV crews. (In January 1978 P.S.I. sent out a long "wish list" to supporters and donors, and a "complete [radar] system with greater capacities" was on the list, but this never happened.)

Prominently placed at the P.S.I. office in Austin sat a 35mm movie camera, which was never functional, which no one knew how to operate, which never went to the observing site during my tenure. This camera was a highly visible display showing that P.S.I. was also non-functional. The outfitting-fixing of this camera and training of an operator was also something I repeatedly urged Mr. Stanford to expedite.



In June 1975 (two years before my arrival at P.S.I.), the media was invited to a demonstration of the He-Ne laser's purported capacity to transmit a signal to an airborne receiver, which failed, producing a number of embarrassing news articles. To my knowledge the P.S.I. laser was never demonstrated to have communications capacity. At some point before my arrival the laser was co-mounted on a motorized head with an 8-inch-telescope and a video camera, and this apparatus was dubbed UFO/VECTOR - another great looking prop which to me seemed not very practical for tracking an actual moving aerial object. The notion that the laser could be used to measure light bending in the vicinity of a UFO, now seems quite fantastic. It was also supposed by Mr. Stanford that UFOs might have a region or atmosphere surrounding them in which ionization would cause the bending of light. That is non-sense physics. If light bending near UFOs were real [which seems highly illusory] very exotic physics and fields would surely be present.

The "Operation ARGUS" computer system was never operational during my time at P.S.I. The primitive little computer and its very limited software never actually had the capacities claimed in Stanford's fanciful 1976 MUFON paper. It seems that Mr. Stanford had great desires and hopes which he painted as reality to those in the outside world. ARGUS was supposed to track multiple UFOs, projecting a map of each object's course, dialing up a list of volunteer observers along the calculated path. Nor did any such extensive network of volunteers in the surrounding area actually exist, even though Stanford had reported that the system "should be completely functional before August, 1976." The regular sky watching sessions at the P.S.I. remote site became very rare late in 1977, as some key volunteers became disillusioned and departed. It seems that in the times before my participation [before Sept, 1977] at the Lake Travis remote observing sight that there were a number of alleged "sightings." None of these to my knowledge produced useful film images or other hard data. When I began my visits to the observing site a few of the volunteers reported seeing what they took as anomalous objects alerting each other and myself. Several of these I quickly recognized as slow moving distant aircraft. None of these observations were of truly anomalous objects. I saw nothing [I was then a very experienced observer, with hundreds of hours of night observing] and again no solid data emerged. Soon the volunteers were saying that whenever Dr. Harris is at the observing site



nothing happens. And in response Mr. Stanford instructed me to not go to the observing site. It seems that at about that time "Project Starlight" transitioned into being Ray Stanford, his then-wife, and a businessman backer making expeditions to purported UFO hot spots in a four-wheel drive van, with an array of equipment, including a recording magnetometer. This is not merely my recollection, but was accurately reported in a chapter on P.S.I. that appeared in the 1985 book *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space*, by Douglas Curran (foreword by Tom Wolfe). Mr. Curran wrote (p. 73):

Progress reports from the PSI lab stopped abruptly in the fall of 1977. The UFO community at large, however, believed that the work was still being carried out, that the magnetometer waited on standby, that a steady stream of volunteers watched the night skies north of Lake Travis. In fact, very few night watches were maintained after September 1977, and only one in 1978....Most of the AUM office staff left in 1978, and most of the PSI volunteers left shortly afterward...

Now I turn to a couple of specific UFO evidence claims that Ray Stanford has advanced recently, but that date back to the Austin era. Recently I had the opportunity to view some slides prepared by Ray Stanford for an intended presentation to a group in June, 2021, in which he represented that on December 10, 1975, a "UFO" was seen and photographed at the P.S.I. site. Mr. Stanford wrote:

Wanting to be sure it was not an aircraft, Stanford phoned Bergstrom AFB Command Post. They were aware of the object, but could not identify it. They felt it was OK to put the laser beam on it....At 21:12 hours, the laser beam caught the object and was scattered from it.

I am confident no such event occurred as described by Stanford on those June, 2021 slides. If an incident actually had occurred at the P.S.I. site in December 1975, during which the Air Force told Stanford (as the UFO hovered in the distance) that the Air Force had the UFO on radar; gave permission to Stanford to shoot a laser at it; and then Stanford had obtained a photo of the laser hitting the UFO during a time exposure. I would certainly have become familiar with such an incredible story. The contemporary records of the December 10, 1975, incident, as recorded by P.S.I. staff and disseminated to other researchers at the

time [Feb. 18, 1976], make no claim to any discussion with the Air Force during the event, no claim to the Air Force seeing a UFO on radar, and no claim that the Air Force authorized Stanford to shoot a laser at an airborne object. Such claims of Air Force tracking, communication and permission given are clearly absurd. Indeed, it appears contemporary records sent to other researchers by P.S.I. cautioned against interpreting a "burst-like effect" seen on a single time-exposure as a laser strike - which, as the mailing explained in detail, could not have occurred. Thus, all of the more "interesting" aspects of the story appear to be much later overlays by Mr. Stanford's fertile imagination.

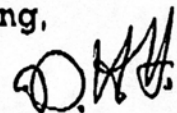
At my arrival at P.S.I. there were a number of alleged sightings from the P.S.I. site none rising to a level of credibility as I could see. I strongly suggested to Mr. Stanford that he not make any extraordinary claims based on the assembled data I had examined. Apparently his readiness to make extreme claims was tempered by my then presence.

Ray Stanford has invoked my name explicitly in connection with another "UFO event," a Super 8 movie that he took through an airliner window, near Memphis, Tennessee, on December 12, 1977. In a lengthy paper Mr. Stanford presented at a Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in 1980, he wrote (on page 154):

A tape-recorded account of the sighting was made the morning after, at the P.S.I. offices, and this was witnessed by several persons, including physicist Daniel Harris, Ph.D., who signed the author's [Ray Stanford's] drawings made during the account as a witness to the drawings and to certify that the account was given before the film was ever processed.

That much is true, I did witness the recording and drawings - but I do not agree with Mr. Stanford's very complex interpretations of what the processed and greatly magnified film allegedly showed, which include [p153, of MUFON 1980] "a relatively gigantic, apparently glowing, iridescent, tubular thing," which emitted flowing luminous substances, and so forth. Further on Mr. Stanford wrote in the 1980 MUFON paper, on page 156:

"Daniel H. Harris, Ph.D., a physicist who has studied a P.S.I. film record (12/12/77) of these phenomena repeatedly occurring,





states that the filmed effect "is likely a shock phenomenon and, then, an expanding shock wave," made 'visible' to the film..."

And on page 161:

"The aforementioned physicist, Daniel Harris, has studied the film and suggests that - since the film was taken with polarization bias (via the aircraft window which formed a Brewster angle to the objects being filmed and via the beam-splitter), the rings could be due to "Faraday rotation", which occurs when the plane of polarization of light (in this case light from behind the object) rotates while passing through an atmosphere permeated by a magnetic field..."

To set the record straight: It is my considered judgment now as it was in 1977 that regarding Stanford's Super 8 film from the December 12, 1977 event, that the very tiny and indistinct images were on two or three frames at the very end of the film reel, not from the bulk of the film exposed in the camera, which showed NO anomalous objects. Those two or three frames, partly sticking out of the film enclosure after removal from the camera, were partly exposed to ambient light during handling and transport. These partly exposed frames are NOT images formed by the camera at all. And the interpretation by Mr. Stanford of those highly magnified end frames are NOT in agreement with Mr. Stanford's taped description and drawing(s) on the day after the event, before the film was processed.

I certainly do not believe that the dramatically enlarged frames from the end of this film provide any evidence of a gigantic anomalous aerial device, or of "shock phenomenon" or any other effects of exotic technology. Mr. Stanford has quoted me falsely on this topic with dramatic flair. I definitely did not suggest polarization or a Brewster angle might be involved in viewing through an airplane window or involving a camera beam splitter.

Mr. Stanford has interpreted "arcs" on these frames as shock waves and as Faraday magnetic effects. They can't be both. And I [Dr. Harris] see Stanford's arcs as film artifacts.

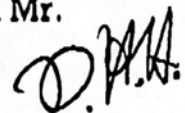
I did comment to Mr. Stanford that the arcs Stanford saw on the film reminded me of a long ago UFO report from Yuma, Arizona [Wells Alan Webb case May 5, 1953, NICAP report] where some analysts had suggested Faraday Rotation was allegedly indicated, a case I had tried to interpret in 1972 to measure the magnetic field near the object. I now

severely regret having brought up the topic of Faraday rotation and magnetic fields for Mr. Stanford to run with. [I have since reconsidered that Yuma sighting and found that observation to be incompatible with a reasonable dipole model of a magnetic field with Faraday Rotation in an ionized region.]

During the several days that Mr. Stanford laboriously scrutinized the dramatically enlarged images from the December 1977 film, I for some hours witnessed his musings and tried to humor him, while insisting that the "objects" he saw on the film were surely random film grain clumpings or other image artifacts, NOT real objects. My employment at P.S.I. was always tentative and subject to the whims of Mr. Stanford, and so I dared not contradict him as he wildly speculated, this he may have interpreted as agreement with his musings.

During my time at P.S.I., I was often consulted regarding grainy enlargements of photographic images. Mr. Stanford often thought he "saw" things in these images that simply were not there. I believe that Mr. Stanford in some instances lets his fertile imagination run away with him.

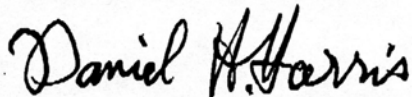
Of interest regarding Mr. Stanford's strong imagination I must report that on two occasions in my presence Mr. Stanford reported seeing anomalous aerial objects which I did not see. At that time my eyes tested at 20-10 vision with my glasses and I was a very experienced observer. First, in daylight on a trip to California, in the Los Angeles area, while I was driving a car, with Mr. Stanford on my right side, he excitedly pointed at an object he saw next to a high voltage power tower not very far ahead of us. This has since reminded me of a famous UFO photo on the cover of "Flying Saucer Occupants," a book by Coral and Jim Lorenzen [1967]. I believe that it is likely that Mr. Stanford imagined the object and power tower just as on the cover of that book. At that time, I saw no UFO. I believe during the same trip to California we were on a jet aircraft at night at takeoff [I believe it was the Hollywood-Burbank Airport]. As we gained altitude, a few thousand feet, Mr. Stanford excitedly reported an object out the window. I was in the window seat on the right side of the plane facing the front of the plane. Mr. Stanford was in the seat to my left. I had a loaded camera in my lap with a thin prism in front of the lens. Since I saw nothing I asked Mr.



Stanford how bright it was and what exposure time I should use. He said 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a second, suggesting to me he thought it was very bright. I took several exposures at 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a second. When the film was developed there were no visible images, confirming my understanding of that event.

Some years after my experience with Ray Stanford and P.S.I., I came to my own conclusions regarding the nature of that portion of UFO events that are not readily explained as misinterpretations of prosaic events. I have presented my reasoning and those conclusions in other places [on the web you may find me at [www.drtruth.org](http://www.drtruth.org)]. Whether one accepts or rejects my assessments regarding these phenomena is not at all relevant to the content of this letter, in which I have limited my presentation to facts regarding the matters discussed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel H. Harris". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Daniel H. Harris, Ph.D.