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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,000

Somewhere in America, there are more than 7,000 nuclear warheads poised at the ready.

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00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:11,000

The possibility that any one of these sleeping giants might be compromised is unthinkable.

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00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:15,000

But think again, there is evidence that someone, or more accurately,

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00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:18,000

something has tampered with our nuclear capability.

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00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:22,000

And that something may not be of this world.

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00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:33,000

In the event of a nuclear attack, this is what's supposed to happen.

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00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:39,000

But on March 16, 1967, America's first line of defense was tampered with.

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00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:45,000

It started at a missile launch site, codenamed November, near Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana.

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00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:51,000

For several hours, missiles loaded with nuclear warheads switched off, and no one could figure out why.

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00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:56,000

Robert Salas was deputy crew commander that day,

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00:00:56,000 --> 00:01:02,000

one of a two-man team inside one of the missile control bunkers, 60 feet underground.

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:06,000

I've got a call from one of my security guards upstairs.

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00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:12,000

He said that he and other guards had seen UFOs flying over the area.

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:17,000

I didn't think he was serious, and basically we hung up.

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:25,000

When the stakes are global thermonuclear war, only men and women of the highest physical and mental standards need apply.

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:31,000

Salas had made the grade, but now he had to begin questioning those around him.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:35,000

About five minutes later, he calls back, and this time he's agitated.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:38,000

He's obviously frightened.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:44,000

He said that there was a UFO hovering just outside the front gate.

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00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:51,000

And it was glowing red. It was saucer-shaped, and he was very frightened.

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:57,000

Within a minute or two of the second call, the missiles started shutting down or going off alert.

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:03,000

We were basically shocked to see our missiles going no-go sequentially.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:07,000

In other words, bing, bing, bing, bing, it just started going down.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,000

The only thing I could think was, oh my god.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:16,000

Just 12 hours later, at another launch site codenamed Echo, 20 miles away,

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:24,000

launch commander Don Crawford learned that the 37-ton Minuteman missiles under his command also went down.

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:29,000

We just looked at each other and said, I don't understand this. How could this happen?

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:34,000

There is no command in the capsule to turn them off.

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:39,000

There was no switch, no off switch. They did not break. They just never broke.

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00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:44,000

And I never saw an off alert missile in the three and a half years I was equipped with.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:49,000

Three weeks earlier, Crawford had also taken a panicked phone call from a security guard

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:53,000

who claimed to have seen a UFO over the silo.

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:58,000

He was a very terrified young man, and he could not identify what he was seeing.

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00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:04,000

In other words, this was not an airplane. It was way too low and too close, and it also didn't go away.

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:12,000

I guess I finally convinced him that if whatever it was came inside the fence, he had my authority to shoot.

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:18,000

Which made him feel really good, but he said, sir, I don't really think that will do much good.

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:24,000

Then, more than three hours after the missiles went offline, with no repair work having been done,

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00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:28,000

the missiles simply came back on as though nothing had ever happened.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:33,000

It just started back up normally like they had installed it from the factory.

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:40,000

And so they found no broken pieces, no broken cables, no, you know, nothing like that.

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00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:43,000

It just started back up.

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00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:49,000

Incredibly, neither Robert Salas nor Don Crawford were ever told what had happened at the other's launch site

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:52,000

and wouldn't compare notes for nearly 30 years.

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00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:55,000

When they did, the mystery only deepened.

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:04:00,000

Two launch sites, a dozen missiles, and unidentified flying objects.

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00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:05,000

They had all the contractors involved in these studies, and they couldn't figure out what had happened.

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:09,000

The system designers couldn't figure out what had happened.

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00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Nobody could figure out what happened.

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:17,000

It lends credibility to the fact that something very, very unusual happened.

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:22,000

From the day he filed his official and top secret report,

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:29,000

Robert Salas has had nagging questions about what exactly happened on that March day in 1967.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:35,000

30 years later, Salas still wants answers, and has enlisted the help of people like Jim Klotz,

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:41,000

who was an expert in the procurement of previously classified military documents.

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:45,000

Just recently, they struck Paytirt with this report.

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00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:52,000

It is the Air Force's official and now declassified investigation of the Echo and November incidents.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:58,000

The strategic missile wing history that we obtained specifically lists what was eliminated,

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00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:01,000

and it concludes that they were mystified.

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:06,000

They looked at faults in the computers or the guidance systems of the missiles themselves.

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:16,000

They looked into electromagnetic pulse, which is really what they believe was the cause.

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:23,000

As far as I know, the documents show the capability of introducing such a pulse in the shielded cable system.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:25,000

It didn't exist at that time.

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:31,000

There's one section in the report that says they interviewed security guards and they denied the UFO incidents.

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:37,000

I know, for example, that I briefed my commander on the UFO incidents.

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:45,000

The Echo flight crew not only briefed their commander, but had to brief SAC headquarters on the entire incident,

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00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:54,000

and they had logs, and so I know for a fact that those statements in that historical document are false.

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:06:00,000

Some researchers believe that the shutdown may have been a training exercise to test the metal of the launch crews.

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00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:04,000

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Rowles says no way.

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00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:11,000

It's just beyond any comprehension that they would do that because of the detriment to the deterrence factor.

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00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:16,000

You don't degrade your ability to fight a war or a war game exercise.

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:25,000

And says Rowles, who is an expert in military procedure, the integrity of the security force on duty that day would have been impeccable.

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00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:36,000

The young Air Force Security Police at all times in association with the security of these silos were given lethal control where they could go ahead and use lethal force if need be.

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:38,000

So they had to be very stable themselves.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:42,000

Robert Salas has also tracked down Ray Fowler.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:49,000

In 1967, he was working for Sylvania, one of the companies that built the Minuteman system.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:59,000

All I know is that our people and the Boeing people went out to the site and tried to simulate what had happened,

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00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:05,000

but they were never able to trace the reason for the flight going down.

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:08,000

Robert Salas wrote an article about the Echo incident.

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00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:13,000

Former Launch Commander Don Crawford read it and realized he was not alone.

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00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:18,000

And then, sightings brought them together for the first time in three decades.

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00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:20,000

He's been doing it for 30 years.

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:21,000

I remember you now.

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:26,000

Finally, Crawford and Salas could talk freely on a subject they had once sworn to keep secret.

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00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:29,000

Then, Salas shared his research.

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00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:37,000

You know, that's interesting that you get to get something from the Air Force that specifically says it happened.

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:42,000

Both men agree that the two silo incidents must continue to be investigated.

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00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:47,000

Thomas, scientist, I think when you know something, you tell it. You write it down.

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00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:50,000

For a number of years, we couldn't have done that.

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00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:51,000

It was classified.

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00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:55,000

Now that it's not classified, there's no reason not to put it public.

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:05,000

It's certainly if the UFO, whatever it is, has the capability of shutting down our missiles as they did.

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00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:11,000

It's in the public interest to make this an open debate as to what it all means.

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00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Bob Salas' testimony is an important first step.

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:22,000

But more people who were in the military, people who were there, need to come forward

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00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:27,000

before the whole truth can be known about what really happened March 16, 1967.

