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VULCAN
SURVEY SHIP (1957)

TYPE: SURVEY SHIP

IN USE: 20th CENTURY

CREW: FOUR

LENGTH: 24 METERS

VULCAN SURVEY SHIP

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Stand assembly:



VULCAN SURVEY SHIP SPECIFICATION




OPERATED BY:	VULCAN SCIENCE DIRECTORATE
TYPE:	SURVEY SHIP
IN OPERATION:	20th CENTURY
LENGTH:	24 METERS (APPROX.)
CREW:	FOUR
MAX SPEED:	WARP 4.5
DESTROYED:	1957


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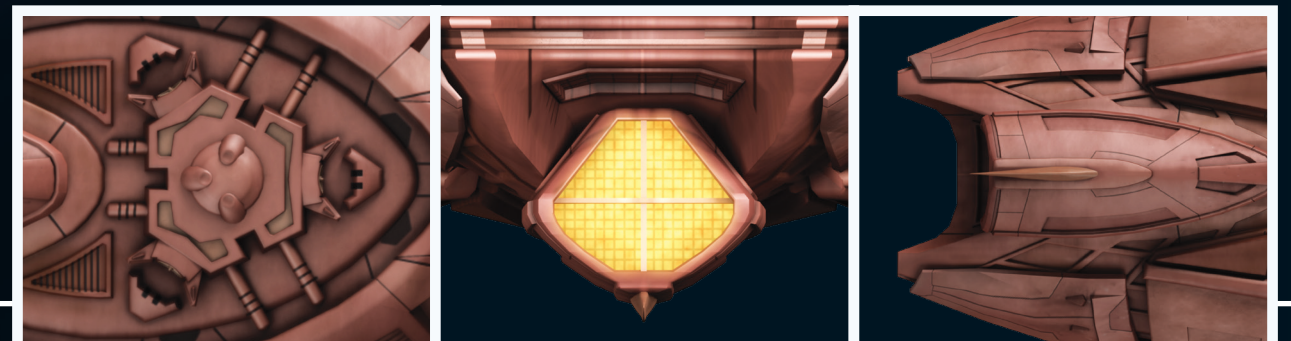
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▼ At a time when humanity was only just beginning to send out unmanned probes into near orbit of Earth, the Vulcans were already using warp-powered survey ships to study the Galaxy. These American football-shaped vessels were fully independent, and allowed a crew of four to perform a thorough analysis of any stellar phenomena that piqued their interest.



VULCAN SURVEY SHIP

In the 20th century, Vulcans used small survey ships to conduct scans and gather information on planets.

A Vulcan survey ship was a type of starship operated by the Vulcan Science Directorate in the 20th century. It was mainly used to scout unexplored areas of space or investigate unusual readings received from planets or spatial phenomena. If what was found was of interest to the Vulcans, a survey ship could then make a more thorough scientific study of what had been discovered.

The main body of the Vulcan survey ship was zeppelin-shaped, while various curved fins were attached to its rear. It was roughly 25 meters in length and was normally operated by a crew of four. Its maximum speed was somewhere between warp 4 and warp 5.



The survey ship also had impulse engines for travel around planetary systems, and its aerodynamic shape and various fins meant it was suitable for atmospheric flight. Landing pads allowed it to touch down on planetary surfaces.

The main bridge of the survey ship was on top of the vessel towards the front, and although small and fairly cramped, there was enough room for all four crew members to work side-by-side. There appeared to be only one chair on the bridge, and most of the consoles and scanning workstations were operated from a standing position.

LONG-TERM MISSIONS

Survey ships were often sent on missions that could take weeks to complete, and this meant that they were equipped with crew quarters where individuals could rest and sleep. There also must have been some type of food replicator technology on board, as although there were emergency ration packs sealed in individual bags, they could only sustain the crew for about a week.

A Vulcan survey ship was sent to Earth in October 1957 after the Vulcans detected the launch of Sputnik 1, Earth's first artificial satellite. The Vulcan crew consisted of a captain, his second-in-command T'Mir, who was T'Pol's great grandmother, Stron, a warp field engineer and Mestral, who was the youngest and most junior member of the ship.

During their third week of making statistical scans of Earth and gathering information about humanity from high orbit, their ship's impulse

DATA FEED

T'Pol claimed that the incident of a Vulcan survey ship crash-landing on Earth in 1957 was well-documented on Vulcan. It appeared that the event was kept from humanity, as Captain Archer and Commander Tucker had never heard of it until T'Pol told them.

◀ In 1957, a Vulcan survey ship was sent to study Earth after scans detected Sputnik 1, Earth's first artificial satellite. The crew of the Vulcan ship, which included T'Mir, T'Pol's great-grandmother, performed statistical scans from high orbit. The vessel crash-landed on Earth after developing a fault with its impulse manifold.



▲ The Vulcan survey ship that was studying Earth in 1957 developed a problem with its impulse manifold, and it crashed in an isolated area of woodland.

► After spending about three months living in Carbon Creek, T'Mir and Stron were rescued by the *D'Vahl*. This was another type of Vulcan survey ship, but it was slightly larger.



▲ T'Mir took command after the captain of the survey ship died in the crash-landing. T'Mir, Stron and Mestral stayed near the crash site for over a week hoping to be rescued. They remained there for five days after they had consumed their emergency rations, but driven by hunger they eventually had to make their way to Carbon Creek to look for food.



▲ Unlike later Vulcan vessels of the 22nd century, the Vulcan survey ship did not have a large annular warp ring that encircled the main body. Instead, the survey ship of the 20th century had warp engine pods attached to its rear section. It also had impulse engines that emitted an amber glow when in use.

manifold developed a fault. This caused the refusion pressure to drop and the ship's orbit began to decay. The crew tried everything to fix it, but in the end they had no choice but to attempt an emergency landing on Earth.

Despite deploying the survey ship's stabilizers, their landing vector was too steep and the Vulcans crash-landed in an isolated area of North America. The impact wrecked the ship, causing fires to break out throughout its systems and making repairs impossible. The captain was killed in the crash, while the other crew members were lucky to escape with their lives.

The one fortunate aspect of the disaster was that they landed in such a remote area that they did not attract the attentions of the indigenous population. Once the survivors had regained their

bearings, they realized that the ship's subspace transceiver had been damaged and they were unsure if their distress call had been transmitted.

REAL FIRST CONTACT

T'Mir decided that they should remain in the woods and await rescue. They consumed their rations within a week, but after another five days without food, they reluctantly decided to venture into the nearest town, which turned out to be Carbon Creek, a small mining town in Pennsylvania.

Over the following weeks, the three Vulcans took menial jobs and integrated themselves with the local community. Stron became a plumber, T'Mir took work in the local tavern, and Mestral became a coal miner. He was by far the most enthusiastic when it came to interacting with humans.

After three months of living in Carbon Creek, the Vulcans thought they were going to have to live there forever, but then they were contacted by Captain Tellus of the Vulcan survey vessel *D'Vahl*. He explained that their distress signal had been picked up by a Tellarite freighter, but it took them some time to report it to the Vulcan High Council.

When it came time to leave Earth, Mestral decided he wanted to stay. He wanted to study humans up close, as they stood on the verge of countless social and technological advancements.

T'Mir and Stron returned to Vulcan, but Mestral remained on Earth presumably for the rest of life. This could have been for 150 years or more, which would have meant that he was still there when official 'first contact' between the Vulcans and Zefram Cochrane happened in 2063.

DATA FEED

At first, T'Mir had little regard for humanity. She believed that they were on the brink of self-annihilation because they seemed to reveal in violence. But as time went by, T'Mir saw more potential in humans, and she became fond of the tavern's owner, Maggie, and her son Jack. Before she left Earth, T'Mir sold some Velcro, which she took from her crashed survey ship, to a local businessman. She gave the proceeds to Maggie, so she could afford to send Jack to college.



VULCANS ON EARTH

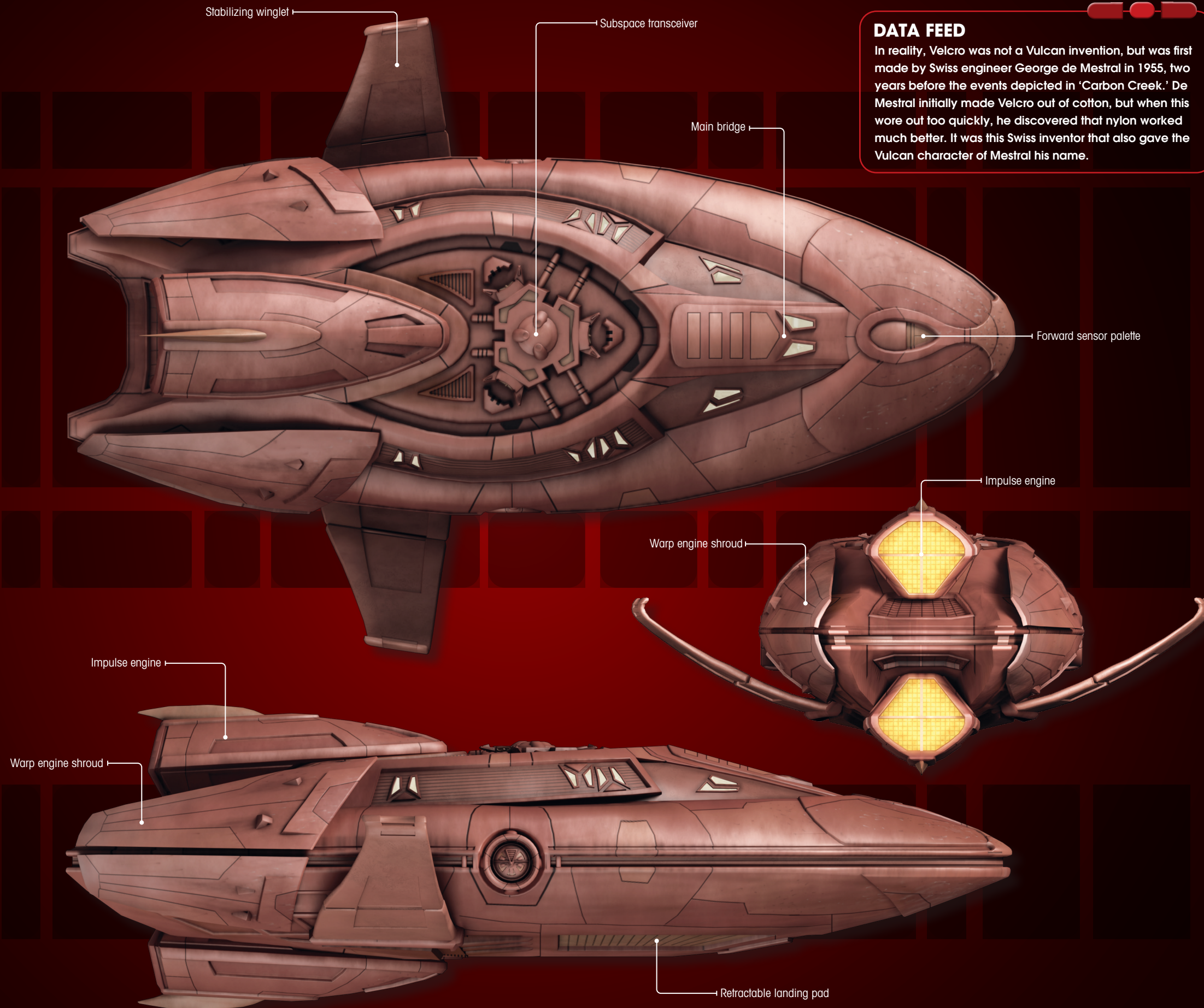
Of the three surviving crew members of the Vulcan survey ship, Stron had the most trouble adapting to Earth and did not enjoy spending time around humans. He especially did not appreciate humans likening him to Moe out of 'The Three Stooges' because of his hairstyle. T'Mir too had a low opinion of humanity, certainly at first, although she was partially won around by the time she left.

Mestral, the youngest of the Vulcan crew, had a strong fascination for humanity, however. He integrated into the local culture, liked to watch TV and even went with tavern owner Maggie to a baseball game. When some of his fellow miners became trapped underground, he was determined to help his "friends," even though T'Mir and Stron were much more reluctant to get involved. Mestral used a Vulcan particle weapon, which he retrieved from an armory case aboard the crashed survey ship, to blast a hole through the rock in order to rescue all 12 miners.

Mestral became so engrossed in humanity that he did not want to leave. T'Mir knew that the Vulcan High Command would never allow him to stay, so she told their rescuers that Mestral died in the crash along with their captain, and that they had burnt the bodies. T'Pol presumed that Mestral remained on Earth for the rest of his life, without his true identity ever coming to light.



▲ Mestral became fascinated with human culture and even joined tavern owner Maggie on a trip to a baseball game. He later chose to remain on Earth rather than return to Vulcan with his colleagues.

**DATA FEED**

In reality, Velcro was not a Vulcan invention, but was first made by Swiss engineer George de Mestral in 1955, two years before the events depicted in 'Carbon Creek.' De Mestral initially made Velcro out of cotton, but when this wore out too quickly, he discovered that nylon worked much better. It was this Swiss inventor that also gave the Vulcan character of Mestral his name.

NUCLEAR TESTING

The White Sands test was mentioned in 'Carbon Creek.' This is an area of New Mexico where the first atomic bomb was tested in 1945. The project was code named 'Trinity,' and the early bomb was nicknamed 'Gadget.'

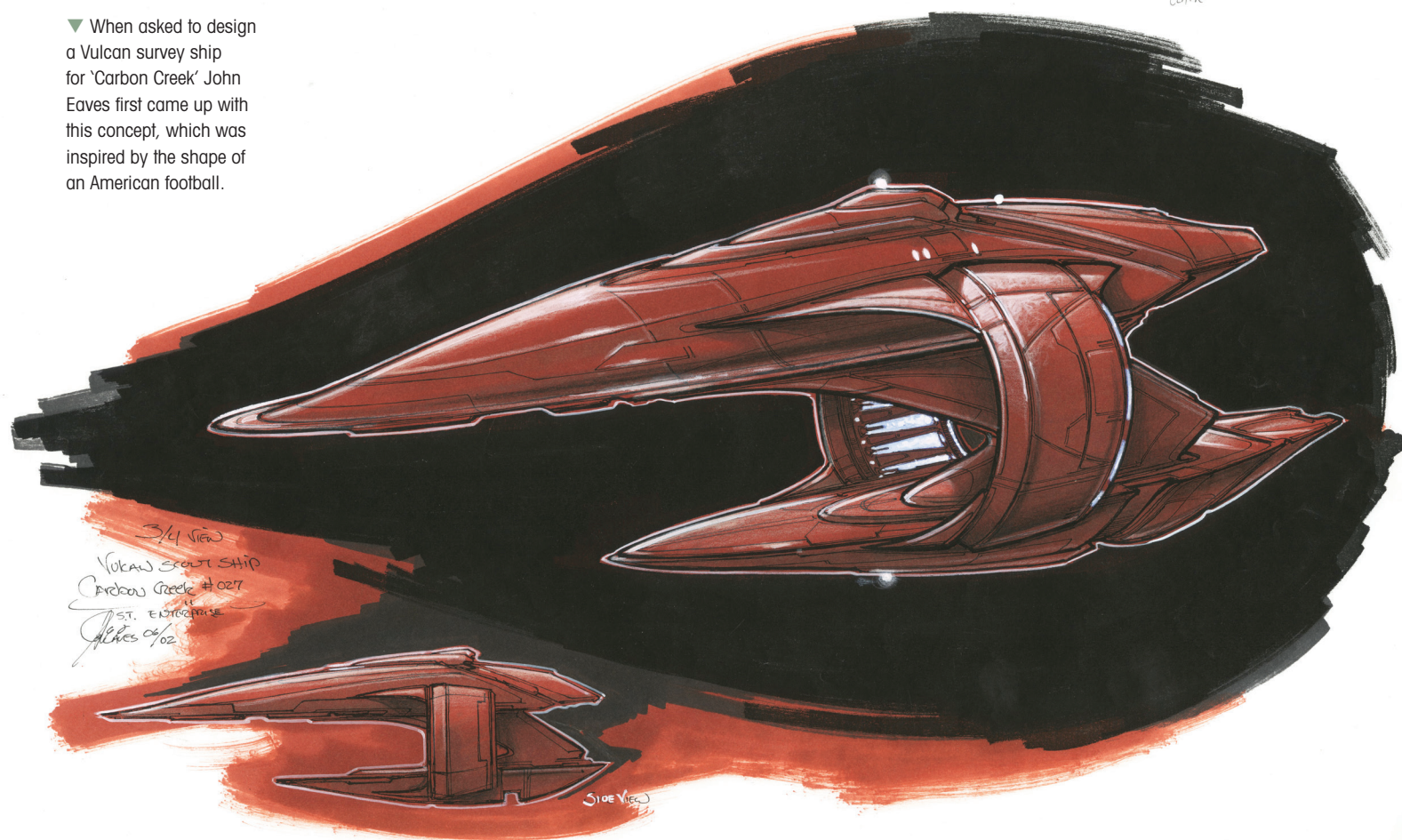
TELLARITE MENTION

Chronologically, the Tellarites were mentioned for the first time in 'Carbon Creek' when one of their ships received the distress call from the Vulcan survey ship. Tellarites were not actually seen until the episode 'Bounty.'

VULCAN RECORD

On the first anniversary of her assignment on *Enterprise NX-01*, T'Pol told the story of her great-grandmother's experiences on Earth in 1957. It was also revealed that before T'Pol served on *Enterprise*, the previous record for a Vulcan remaining with an Earth starship was just 10 days.

▼ When asked to design a Vulcan survey ship for 'Carbon Creek' John Eaves first came up with this concept, which was inspired by the shape of an American football.



DESIGNING THE VULCAN SURVEY SHIP

John Eaves designed such great Vulcan ships for 'Carbon Creek' that it was decided it would be a waste to use them just for one episode.

Leading into Season Two of *ENTERPRISE*, illustrator John Eaves was asked to come up with a design for a Vulcan ship for the episode 'Carbon Creek.' At this point, the Vulcans really did not have that many ships in the *STAR TREK* library, but there had been the *Surak*-class vessel designed by Doug Drexler that featured in the Season One episode 'Breaking the Ice.'

"Doug Drexler designed the first Vulcan ship on *ENTERPRISE*," said Eaves. "He set the architectural tone for the Vulcans, so I played off what he had done. I just followed his opened-ring starship, so it would all tie together. The first idea I had came from a football shape cut open like a sandal. The producers liked that idea immediately, so I drew up a couple of color sketches."

In order to gauge a sense of scale of the ship, Eaves was encouraged to design another larger Vulcan vessel, and this led to a further breakthrough. "I also had this piggyback idea of two ships locked together, which came from the US Navy," Eaves. "There was this nuclear submarine called the USS Dallas that featured in the film 'The Hunt for Red October.' On occasion, this submarine had a small Deep Sea

Rescue Vehicle docked onto it for rescue missions. I thought it would be pretty cool to do something similar on a starship, and the warp ring of a Vulcan ship lent itself to having a little shuttle parked in there – the football-shaped shuttle I had designed earlier.

MECHANICAL MOVEMENT

"I also thought it would be a nifty idea if the warp ring folded up and down mechanically. Since we were now creating CG ships, I thought it wouldn't be difficult for them to animate this, whereas before when they had to make physical models it would be hard to rig. I also thought having a mechanical moving ring made it look more retro and this tied in with the fact that it was supposed to be from the 20th century.

"The only problem I had with this design was that when it was shown to one producer, the same one who had flipped the direction of Ru'afu's flagship from *STAR TREK: INSURRECTION*, he started looking at it with a confused look on his face. I quickly ran over and drew a big forward arrow on it to indicate its direction of travel so there wouldn't be any similar misunderstandings."

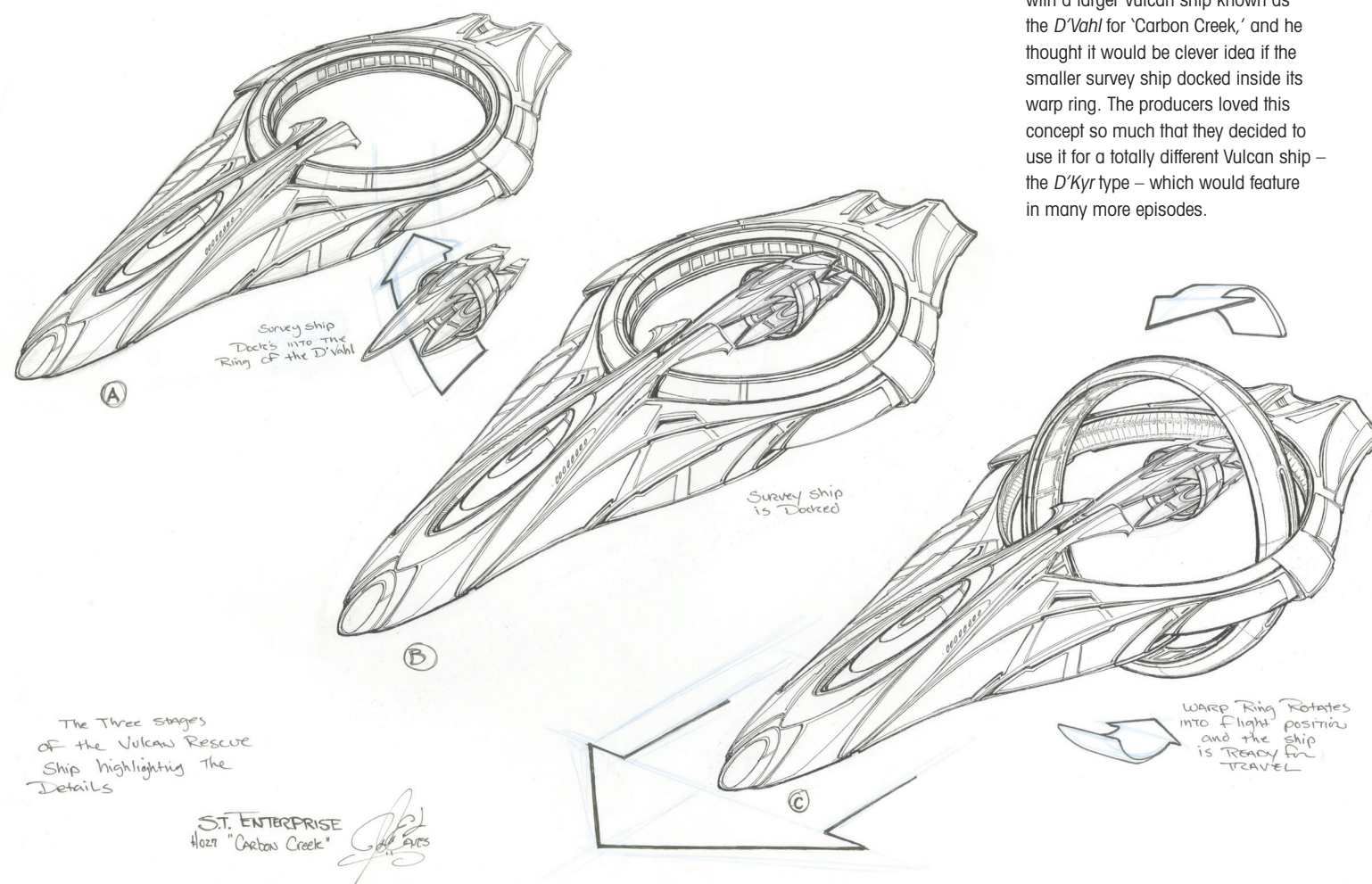
At this stage, the larger Vulcan ship was known as a *D'Vahl* transport and Eaves drew up an illustration of it with the smaller survey ship docked inside its warp ring. The producers loved this design, but they decided not to use them for the survey ship and the *D'Vahl*-type vessel in 'Carbon Creek.' Instead, they thought the design was so good that they decided to use it for

the 22nd-century *D'Kyr*-type vessel that was first seen in the Season Two opener 'Shockwave, Part II' and would go on to appear in several more episodes.

UNCLEAR ORIGINS

Sixteen years after 'Carbon Creek' was first broadcast no one can quite remember where the design for the Vulcan survey ship that did appear in the episode first came from. The popular opinion seems to be that lead CG artist Pierre Drolet from Eden FX adapted Eaves' design for the football-shaped survey shuttle. Drolet certainly seems to have used it for inspiration, but the final design did not feature an opened-ring look, but was more of a conventional shuttle shape, which perhaps better reflected a 20th-century design.

▼ Eaves was also asked to come up with a larger Vulcan ship known as the *D'Vahl* for 'Carbon Creek,' and he thought it would be clever idea if the smaller survey ship docked inside its warp ring. The producers loved this concept so much that they decided to use it for a totally different Vulcan ship – the *D'Kyr* type – which would feature in many more episodes.





◀ Writer and co-executive producer Chris Black had been led to believe that Captain Archer would be an all-action, get-the-girl type of hero from the beginning. It wasn't until the fourth season, however, that we saw Archer have a dalliance with a green-skinned Orion woman.

▶ 'Carbon Creek,' in which the Vulcans were first seen visiting Earth in the 1950s, introduced a fresh way of telling a story, which Braga was delighted with, and the episode was nominated for a Hugo Award.



▼ Chris Black decided to join *ENTERPRISE* after he was told that it would be like 'The Right Stuff' in space. He finally got to explore this notion in Season Two when he worked on the teleplay for 'First Flight,' which saw Archer as a hotshot test pilot trying to break the warp 2 barrier.

Some writers were kept on, like Chris Black, André Bormanis, Mike Sussman and Phyllis Strong and they were eager to help, but felt that the reality was somewhat different to the vision of the show that they had been sold on.

MISSING THE POINT

Chris Black believed that *ENTERPRISE* was going to be like 'The Right Stuff' in space. For him, the whole point of setting it a hundreds years prior to *THE ORIGINAL SERIES* was that it was going to be a throwback to old-fashioned *STAR TREK* where

the captain would get in fistfights and romance green-skinned women.

Some of the writers felt that there was reticence to mess with the formula and break the mold. One of the things that really frustrated Black was that they weren't allowed to kill anybody. He had been told that the crew would really be pushing the boundaries and putting their lives on the line as they did things no human had ever done before. And yet no one ever got seriously hurt, let alone killed even though the premise of the show was that most things on the ship were new and untested. To him, this didn't sell how dangerous the stakes were for the crew, and this was precisely what had intrigued him when he joined the show.

CREW CONFLICT

Similarly, he wanted more conflict within the crew. He knew that in Gene Roddenberry's universe everybody got along and that there was harmony among humans, but he felt that this had grown out of all proportion. Even in *THE ORIGINAL SERIES*, Dr. McCoy and Spock were often at loggerheads and McCoy sometimes called him all manner of racist names.

Looking back, Berman and Braga admitted that they were probably a little too conservative in their approach, and a little too worried about what

Gene Roddenberry would have thought. They wanted to keep his *STAR TREK* ideals and vision intact, but it was at odds with the freshness that they wanted to bring to *ENTERPRISE*.

RENEWED DETERMINATION

They knew that Season Two had to be better and they approached it with vigor. The season started with 'Shockwave, Part II,' which Braga was really happy with and felt provided a strong opening. This was followed by 'Carbon Creek,' and Braga thought it was a great concept. The idea had been pitched to him during the first season by Dan O'Shannon, who was the executive producer and head writer on 'Frasier.'

Braga felt that it was too off concept to do in the first season, so they held it back. "If we'd done it too early, it wouldn't have been appreciated quite as much," said Braga. "It was like on *NEXT GENERATION* when they did 'The Naked Now' as episode two. How can you show the characters with their inhibitions down if you didn't know what their inhibitions were? So we waited. It wasn't easy, believe me. When you have a good story, your inclination is to use it right away."

The show had several echoes of 'The City on the Edge of Forever' from *THE ORIGINAL SERIES*, which were entirely deliberate as they figured out how

to get these Vulcans into different clothes. Most notably, Mestral wore a woollen hat to cover his Vulcan ears just as Spock had done.

Black, who wrote the teleplay for 'Carbon Creek,' said it was one of his all-time favorite episodes and it was nominated for a Hugo Award. "I loved that episode on a lot of levels," said Black. "I thought it was different and it wasn't something that I felt we had seen before. I like the idea of digging a little bit into the canon of what we thought was the first time Vulcans had come to Earth, only to find that in fact it was not the first time they had visited Earth."

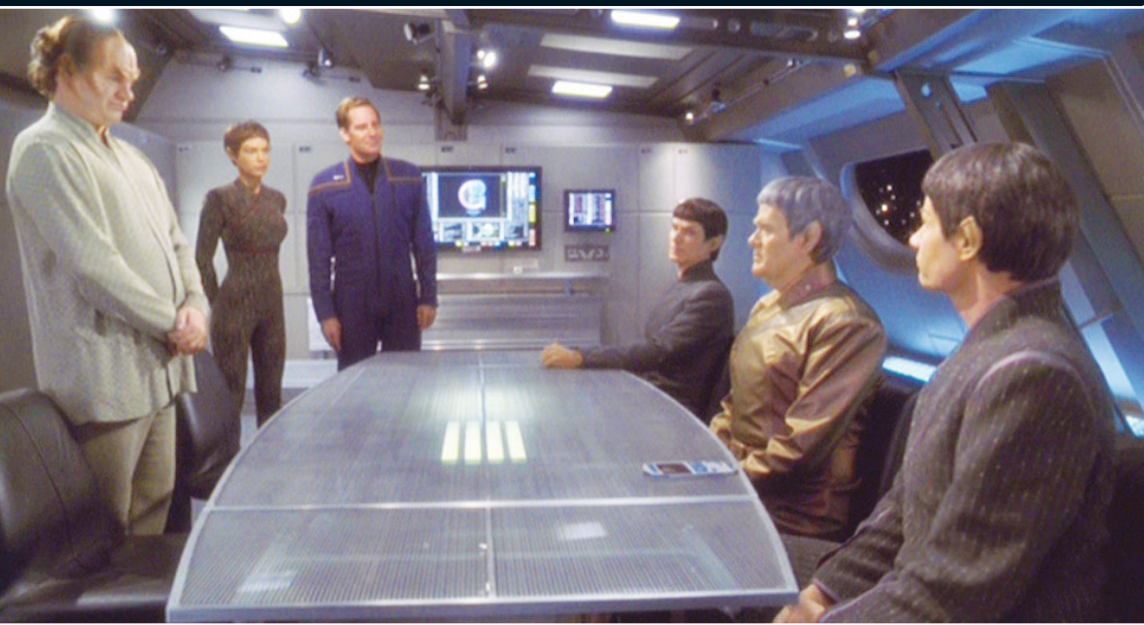
PERFECT ALLEGORY

Braga also felt that 'Stigma' was a great episode from Season Two. It was an allegory for AIDS, in which the Vulcans discovered that T'Pol had Pa'nar Syndrome, a neurological disease caused by a mind-meld, which at the time her people considered a disgusting practice. The idea had come to Braga after he attended a seminar that the network had for their showrunners about AIDS, and he felt it was an issue that would be perfect to tell through the lens of *STAR TREK*.

Even though Braga had sworn to himself that he would not do any Borg episodes on *ENTERPRISE*, he felt that when Mike Sussman pitched him the idea

▲ Braga felt that Season Two got off to a strong start with 'Shockwave, Part II.' In the episode, Archer found himself stranded in the 31st century with Daniels at his ruined base of operations. They had no technology to send him back to *Enterprise* in the 22nd century, leaving them wondering how to repair the timeline.





▲ T'Pol found herself ostracized by Vulcan society after they learned she had a neurological disease caused by a botched mind-meld, which they considered a disgusting practice. The episode was an allegory for AIDS, and Braga considered it to be the type of story that *STAR TREK* told so well and one of the best installments of Season Two.

for 'Regeneration' it was just too good to pass up.

But just as in the previous season, there were episodes that didn't hit the mark and none more so than 'Precious Cargo.' The story featured Trip rescuing an exotic alien princess, played by Padma Lakshmi, from kidnappers and then going on the run. At first, he found her demanding and spoiled, but then he fell for her charms.

Braga performed a rewrite of the script, in which he treated it like a screwball comedy, but admitted that he didn't do a very good job. So dissatisfied with the end product, he even asked Berman if they had to aired it, but it was too late to do anything else.

NEW PROBLEM

While for Braga this was the nadir of the season, there were still too many episodes that were rereading old ground. However, the biggest problem was that UPN had gone through a change of management. Before this, the network had just let *STAR TREK* get on with making shows without any interference. However, after this big change at UPN, they suddenly started giving Berman and Braga copious notes on how to improve *ENTERPRISE*.

It was clear that some of these executives really didn't understand *STAR TREK* at all. One suggestion came in that left Braga unable to tell if it was serious or not. They wanted *ENTERPRISE* to feature a different boy band each week where they would sing their latest single on the ship. They felt it

would encourage more young people to tune in and up the viewing figures.

This was just beyond ridiculous on so many levels. When Braga asked how they were going to get a different band on the ship each week when it was in deep space, the executive entirely missed the point and said, "Don't you have a restaurant on the ship where they can play?"

It was clear that *ENTERPRISE* was not being met with the same passion from the network as the earlier incarnations of the franchise, and something radical had to be done. Braga was desperate to bring in an additional high-level person to help him with the planning and writing of the show. To that end, Ira Steven Behr, who had worked on *THE NEXT GENERATION* and run *DEEP SPACE NINE*, was brought in for a chat.

EXTRAORDINARY DIATRIBE

It was certainly a memorable meeting. Behr absolutely let rip at the show, saying he hated the characters, hated the concept and thought the whole thing was terrible. Braga was both aghast and entertained by the tirade. While he agreed with some of Behr's critiques, he didn't really understand why Behr had taken the meeting unless it was his way of really shaking things up.

Instead, salvation came from another source. Jonathan Dolgen, who was chairman of the Viacom Entertainment Group and "head of everything" according to Braga, told them to do what they had to in order to secure *ENTERPRISE*'s



future. Dolgen loved *STAR TREK* and gave the producers permission to do anything they wanted.

BOLD DIRECTION

This was music to Braga's ears, as he always felt from the get-go that *ENTERPRISE* should feature an on-going serialized arc rather than standalone episodes. This way they could push the stakes very high and put Earth at stake, with only Captain Archer and his crew able to save the planet.

Braga already had an idea, which was the Xindi concept and now he had carte blanche to put it

into action. He had a concept for a world where humanoids were not the only one to develop intelligence. What if there was a world where sea-dwelling creatures had done it, other primates had done it and insects and reptiles. And what if they had a grudge against Earth? This was the seed of the idea that became the season-long arc to feature the Xindi threat.

EXCITING TIMES

Braga and Berman put their heads together to figure out how it would work and set the ball rolling in the Season Two finale 'The Expanse.' In it, an alien probe visited Earth and cut a huge swath of destruction from Florida to Venezuela, killing seven million people. There was nothing timid about this approach. Trip even looked Archer in the eye and asked if they were really going after the perpetrators with "none of that non-interference crap T'Pol is always going on about."

After realizing that they had to shake things up, Berman and Braga had decided to really go big. Braga was delighted. "We wrote, I think, a killer finale," said Braga. "I was excited to go into Season Three. For the first time in a while, the first time since my last tenure on *VOYAGER*, I felt truly and genuinely exciting to be working on *STAR TREK*. I couldn't wait to get into Season Three."



◀ Initially, 'Regeneration' came in for flak when fans heard it was going to feature the Borg, which they believed were a 24th-century species and should not be seen in *ENTERPRISE*. After it aired, many changed their minds as it not only offered some thrilling scenes, but also did not contradict established continuity.

◀ The Season Two cliffhanger 'The Expanse' marked a major turning point in the storytelling of *ENTERPRISE*. The producers were given permission to do a story arc over an entire season, and they set this up when the Xindi attacked Earth and cut a huge swath of destruction across the planet's surface.

ON SCREEN



TRIVIA

Actor J. Paul Boehmer, who starred as Mestral in 'Carbon Creek,' also featured in several other *STAR TREK* roles. He appeared as an SS Kapitan in the *VOYAGER* episodes 'The Killing Game, Parts I & II' and the technically advanced Borg drone known as 'One' in 'Drone.' He then featured as the Cardassian Vornar in the *DEEP SPACE NINE* episode 'Tacking Into the Wind.' His final *STAR TREK* appearance was as another Nazi SS officer in the *ENTERPRISE* episodes 'Zero Hour' and 'Storm Front.'



Before the episode was officially called 'Carbon Creek,' the script had the working title of 'Population: 612' in reference to the sign seen on the edge of town [see picture below]. The episode was not filmed in Pennsylvania as the footage suggested, but in the Californian town of Crestline.



The *ENTERPRISE* episodes 'Home' and 'Daedalus' revealed that Vulcan was approximately 16 light years from Earth. According to several sources, including the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Vulcan would most likely be in the real-life trinary star system 40 Eridani.

FIRST APPEARANCE:	'CARBON CREEK' (ENT)
TV APPEARANCE:	STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE
DESIGNED BY:	John Eaves

KEY APPEARANCES

STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE 'Carbon Creek'

Captain Archer and Commander 'Trip' Tucker invite T'Pol to have a celebratory drink with them to mark her first year of serving on *Enterprise* NX-01. Archer has been reviewing T'Pol's record and notes that while on Earth she visited Carbon Creek, a small town in Pennsylvania.

T'Pol tells the story of a Vulcan survey ship that visits Earth in 1957 after it is attracted by the launch of Sputnik 1. After weeks of running scans from orbit, the survey ship develops a fault with its impulse manifold and crashes.

The captain dies instantly, leaving T'Pol's great-grandmother, T'Mir, in

command of the other two Vulcans - Stron and Mestral.

After several days with no response to their distress call, the Vulcans disguise themselves as humans and head into the local town - Carbon Creek. There, they take menial jobs and blend in as best they can, while awaiting rescue.

After about three months of living among humans, the Vulcans are rescued, although Mestral, who develops a strong fascination with humans, decides to stay.

Archer and Trip are unsure what to make of T'Pol's story, but later in her quarters she is seen with the same handbag used by T'Mir while on Earth.

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- How illustrator Tim Earls designed a dilapidated vessel to feature as Dala's fake 'Delta Flyer' in the episode 'Live Fast and Prosper'
- A look at how some of the special effects were put together in Season Six of *STAR TREK: VOYAGER*

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