|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Jihad Report  Apr 22, 2017 - Apr 28, 2017** | |
| Attacks | 33 |
| Killed | 196 |
| Injured | 139 |
| Suicide Blasts | 9 |
| Countries | 15 |

* **Drill Day in DC**
* **The Globalist Agenda**
* **The Real Syrian Attack**
* **The Armenian Genocide**
* **Trump Will not be Happy if North Korea Sets of a Nuke**
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# Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act

* **Little Kim swears to sink Us Ship**
* **Missing Mercury in Utah Lake**

**Drill Day in DC**

April 26th is shaping up to be a busy day.

As we [reported on Friday](http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-04-21/operation-gotham-shield-us-govt-simulate-nuke-blast-over-manhattan-actual-war-looms), that's when Operation Gotham Shield, an exercise involving FEMA, Homeland Security and a myriad of law enforcement and military agencies and which simulates a nuclear bomb blast over Manhattan, is set to conclude.

Then, as we learned earlier, April 26 is also when the entire Senate will be briefed by Donald Trump and his four top defense and military officials on the situation in North Korea at the White House, an [event which Reuters dubbed](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-nuclear-usa-senate-idUSKBN17Q1LR) as "unusual."

April 26 is also when the USS Carl Vinson is expected to finally arrive off the coast of the Korean Penninsula.

Now, in a [statement from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2017/04/24/full-scale-exercise-focused-on-preparing-for-complex-terror-attacks-to-include-national-capital-region-first-responders-emergency-managers/), the regional association reports that "law enforcement officials and other first responders **will participate in a full-scale exercise on April 26 designed to prepare for the possibility of a complex coordinated terror attack in the National Capital Region**."

The statement adds that emergency managers who work together at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) **planned the exercise to help protect residents by preparing for an attack involving multiple target locations and teams of perpetrators**.

The exercise will be conducted across a widespread geographical area. According to the release, the regional exercise will be staged at six sites in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia, **and will involve hundreds of police, fire, and emergency medical service personnel and volunteer actors**.

The locations include neighborhoods in the northeast and southeast quadrants of the District of Columbia, Prince George’s County, and Arlington and Fairfax Counties.  Residents in those neighborhoods will be notified ahead of time to expect the exercise.

According to Scott Boggs, Managing Director of Homeland Security and Public Safety at COG, “Law enforcement officials practice and exercise their skills on their own regularly because that’s the best way to ensure we are always ready to respond quickly and professionally. **On April 26, we’ll go one step further and stage a very realistic emergency event involving multiple sites and actors posing as the casualties.  However, there is no reason for residents to be alarmed because the exercise will occur in a controlled environment.**”

The is scheduled to take place near or at George Mason University, and last from 8;30am until 4:30pm.

The statement also advises that the only media availability will be in a one hour block before the exercise, from 7:30am - 8:30am on April 26.

Full statement below ([*link*](https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2017/04/24/full-scale-exercise-focused-on-preparing-for-complex-terror-attacks-to-include-national-capital-region-first-responders-emergency-managers/)).

**Full-scale exercise focused on preparing for complex terror attacks to include National Capital Region first responders, emergency managers**

Law enforcement officials and other first responders will participate in a full-scale exercise on April 26 designed to prepare for the possibility of a complex coordinated terror attack in the National Capital Region.

Emergency managers who work together at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) planned the exercise to help protect residents by preparing for an attack involving multiple target locations and teams of perpetrators.

The regional exercise will be staged at six sites in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia, and will involve hundreds of police, fire, and emergency medical service personnel and volunteer actors. The locations include neighborhoods in the northeast and southeast quadrants of the District of Columbia, Prince George’s County, and Arlington and Fairfax Counties.  Residents in those neighborhoods will be notified ahead of time to expect the exercise.

“Law enforcement officials practice and exercise their skills on their own regularly because that’s the best way to ensure we are always ready to respond quickly and professionally,” said Scott Boggs, Managing Director of Homeland Security and Public Safety at COG. “On April 26, we’ll go one step further and stage a very realistic emergency event involving multiple sites and actors posing as the casualties.  However, there is no reason for residents to be alarmed because the exercise will occur in a controlled environment.”

MEDIA AVAILABILITY PRIOR TO EXERCISE ONLY (see details below)

WHEN: Wednesday April 26, 7:30 – 8:30 A.M.

WHERE: Maryland National Capital Park Police Headquarters,

**The Globalist Agenda**

Following the money is always the key and crucial element to determining the “probable cause/modus operandi” regarding to globalist actions.  Although there are many who believe that President Trump is the panacea to all our problems, even they may perhaps admit that there are forces other than the President that drive our country, as well as the world.  The shadowy cabal of globalists, Bilderbergers, bankers, and other secretive organizations bent on a “union” of totalitarian control are almost too numerous to count.

**There are many things the President does not know.  This is intentional on the part of the moneyed interests that control the very fabric of our society.** The interests are corporate, political, and religious: a three-level tier of control over all the facets of human society.  Just as one individual person cannot “dominate” one of these sectors, the sectors themselves cannot dominate.  They are forced into a symbiotic relationship rooted in commensalism, where each of these “parasites” benefits the other two.

The problem lies in the fact that these interests are elitists who believe in the forced imposition of their philosophies upon the masses.  They also believe in “culling the herd,” and maintaining a servile population at minimum levels to carry out all menial labor and industrial production (the Deltas and Epsilons of Huxley’s [Brave New World](http://amzn.to/2oobL8A)) as they direct.  **Patiently these elitists have been awaiting the day when their “1984” society is a reality, crafting and shaping it all along throughout the decades.**

The numbers of humanity pose a problem, because they cannot effectively eradicate all necessary without a large-scale plague or a war, and after such an event, the planet itself might be unsustainable.

**The key question for them: how to kill off about 6 to 6 ½ billion people without destroying the world?**

The most efficient way would be with a limited nuclear war that destroyed enough key targets to minimize postwar effectiveness of the major powers, in a manner that does not irradiate most of the warring nations.  The key to the entire equation is to take down the United States.  The EMP (Electromagnetic Pulse) is the weapon of choice.  This would paralyze all the infrastructure, leading to (as so eloquently outlined in the book “One Second After”) mass die-offs and the reduction of populations to pre-industrial societies.

The shielded and stocked communities of the elite could just sit back and allow the populations to destroy themselves and whittle down the numbers.  After a time (most likely already estimated and predetermined), mercenary forces of the elitists could emerge to mop up the remnant, enslaving and subjugating them completely.

The question isn’t whether this is in the works: it **is**.  The elite have been following such plans as revealed in the [Iron Mountain Report](http://amzn.to/2pYqG9k), and the moneyed interests have been crafting their plans long before House wrote [Philip Dru, Administrator](http://amzn.to/2ptazAN), as he and Wilson created the Federal Reserve and laid the roots for the cancer that is pervasive and underlying the thin veneer of our phony, Hallmark-Card society.

The numerous articles about the millionaires and billionaires forming “intentional communities” and [compounds/complexes for the purpose of surviving](http://www.shtfplan.com/emergency-preparedness/elite-are-prepping-for-a-collapse-a-world-thats-becoming-increasingly-unstable_01312017) an apocalyptic event/societal collapse are not inaccurate.  The widespread reports of tunnel complexes, nonstop truck deliveries, and the diversion of taxpayer-funded [government resources to secret locations](http://www.shtfplan.com/emergency-preparedness/get-ready-governments-preparing-for-world-war-people-have-become-less-prepared-for-an-emergency_08252016) throughout the United States are not inaccurate.  Jesse Ventura was [investigating many of these matters](http://www.shtfplan.com/emergency-preparedness/fusion-centers-fema-camps-and-martial-law-conspiracy-fact-or-theory_12042010) before the moneyed interests put a stop to his actions and he retired from the field without fanfare.  Everyone who has exposed or threatened to expose them has either been marginalized or destroyed.  Just as people search for the “one” hero, they are also easily manipulated to focus upon “one” villain, such as a Kim Jong-Un, or a Bashar al-Assad.  Substitute the name “Emmanuel Goldstein” for either of them before the [Two-Minutes Hate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_Minutes_Hate) is conducted.

Fast forward to now.  The bottom line is that when different factors come together “coincidentally” the probability for action by the elites and the point of no return is increased exponentially.

**They haven’t ushered in their era yet; they will not until they’re certain they can pull it off, but they will eventually make a play for it.**

These power-brokers will not commit themselves in the gamble unless they’re sure of a win.  For this reason, **it is important to monitor the hot spots for those convergent points to know when something is likely to occur: when the possibility exists, and the probability increases.**  One of those points of convergence is this week.

The North Koreans are supposed to test another nuclear device on or about the 25th of this month.  “Coincidentally,” that EMP “drill” named [Operation Gotham Shield](http://www.thedailysheeple.com/are-todays-massive-power-outages-really-secretly-part-of-the-operation-gotham-shield-nuclear-emp-drill_042017) is supposed to run through April 25th, and possibly a little longer.  Coincidentally, there was a [power outage in three different U.S. cities](http://www.shtfplan.com/headline-news/total-chaos-cyber-attack-fears-as-multiple-cities-hit-with-simultaneous-power-grid-failures-shockwave-of-delays-in-san-francisco-los-angeles-new-york_04212017): San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City on Thursday.  Coincidentally, Russian bomber and intelligence-gathering aircraft have been [flying test runs along the coast of Alaska](http://www.thedailysheeple.com/breaking-nuclear-capable-russian-bomber-jets-fly-near-alaska-again_042017), for four days straight with the U.S. and even Canada scrambling fighters to intercept.  Coincidentally, the Russians claim to have electronic devices with an EMP-type effect, already used against the USS Donald Cook, a guided missile destroyer with Tomahawk missiles back in November of 2014.  Coincidentally, the U.S. naval armada is set to arrive in the waters off the Korean coast on April 26th… right in line with the EMP drill “Operation Gotham Shield.”

All these factors point toward a false flag.  If the opportunity to pull such a false flag off arises, they will seize upon it.  Trolls without number try to disparage this concept… the “nothing has happened yet, therefore nothing will happen” crowd.  The ones who are so certain that all of this is just “fear porn” or a “sham” of some kind…don’t pay their nonproductive and perhaps remunerated redundancies any mind.  **The whole point is to be aware of what is going on and** [**try to survive it**](http://amzn.to/TwaloQ).

Be that “10th man” as outlined in the film [World War Z](http://amzn.to/2pXjLu9), and consider what the herd has been conditioned not to consider, and it might improve your chances to survive what is coming: what the elites have planned and will trigger with a False Flag.

***“No matter how improbable it may seem, the tenth man has to start thinking with the assumption that the other nine are wrong.”***

**The Real Syrian Attack**

Those who blame the Syrian government for the allegedly chemical incident in Khan Sheikhun are now pushing the analysis of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the front. But the results of the OPCW tests are inconsistent with the observed technical and medical facts of the incident.

The OPCW Director General Ambassador Üzümcü, a Turk, yesterday [released](https://www.opcw.org/news/article/opcw-director-general-shares-incontrovertible-laboratory-results-concluding-exposure-to-sarin/) its first results of his organization:

The bio-medical samples collected from three victims during their autopsy were analysed at two OPCW designated laboratories. The results of the analysis indicate that the victims **were exposed to Sarin or a Sarin-like substance**. Bio-medical samples from seven individuals undergoing treatment at hospitals were also analysed in two other OPCW designated laboratories. Similarly, the results of these analyses **indicate exposure to Sarin or a Sarin-like substance**.

Director-General Üzümcü stated clearly: “The results of these analyses from four OPCW designated laboratories **indicate exposure to Sarin or a Sarin-like substance**.

That’s “Sarin or Sarin- like substance” three times a row. Sarin is also mentioned in the headline. Someone is pushing that meme hard.

But the OPCW did not conclude that a chemical attack occurred in Khan Sheikhun. It suggested nothing about the incident itself. Instead it talked about bio-medical samples – nothing more, nothing less.

A “Sarin like substances” could be a different chemical weapon than sarin – soman is possible. But many general insecticides belong to the same chemical class as sarin and soman. They are organophosphorus compounds. (Sarin was originally developed as insecticide). All of such compounds could be a source of the exposure found by by the OPCW. These chemicals tend to degrade within hours or days. A forensic analysis will not find the original substance but only decomposition products of some organophosporus compound. That is the reason why the OPCW result is not fixed on sarin but also mentions “sarin like substances”.

The question is now where those samples come from? And what is the chain of evidence that connects the samples to the incident in question. The OPCW has not send an investigation team to Khan Sheikhun. No samples were taken by its own inspectors. While Russia and Syria have asked for OPCW inspections on the ground, Tahrir al-Sham, the renamed al-Qaeda in Syria which controls the area, has not asked for inspectors. Without its agreement any investigation mission is simply too dangerous. None of the OPCW inspectors are interested in literally losing their heads to those terrorists.

Immediately after the incident bodies of dead and wounded were brought to Turkey where they were taken into hospital. Al-Qaeda or al-Qaeda aligned personal must have transported these. It is a three hour trip from Khan Sheikhun to the Turkish border. Unless we trust the words of al-Qaeda operatives we can not be sure that the corpses delivered were indeed from Khan Sheikhun.

The incident happened on April 4. An immediate OPCW statement on April 4 [referred](https://www.opcw.org/news/article/media-brief-reported-use-of-chemical-weapons-southern-idlib-syria-4-april-2017/) to chlorine, not sarin or similar:

The OPCW is investigating the incident in southern Idlib under the on-going mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), which is “to establish facts surrounding allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, **reportedly chlorine**, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic”.

The UN Security Council convened on April 6 to discuss the incident. The Turkish newspaper Hurriyet [reported](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-sends-report-to-un-over-possible-chlorine-gas-attack-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=111675&NewsCatID=359):

Turkey sent a report to the United Nations just before a U.N. Security Council meeting to address accusations that the Syrian government staged a chemical weapons attack on April 4, **stating that the gas used in the attack was chlorine gas**.Turkey’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear teams (KBRN) prepared an initial report over the possible material of the alleged chemical attack, relying on the symptoms of and tests conducted on the victims and their testimonies.

The report stated that the initial findings of the tests conducted on around 30 victims brought to Turkey for treatment **pointed to a chlorine gas attack**.

Thirty victims were immediately brought to Turkey after the incident. But the Turkish doctors and CBRN specialist did not consider sarin, but chlorine gas -a much less potent chemical- to be involved. (Chlorine is not designated a chemical weapon under the various chemical warfare regulations. This fact is often obfuscated for pure propaganda reasons. ) The symptoms of chlorine ingestion and the effects of sarin exposure are quite different. It is extremely unlikely that the emergency doctors and chemical weapon specialists have misdiagnosed the issue when the patients arrived and were taken care of. **The 30 casualties arriving in Turkey were not the casualties of a sarin incident.**

But the Turkish Health Ministry [told](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/06/world/middleeast/chemical-attack-syria.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&_r=3) a different story:

The poison used in the deadly chemical bomb attack in a rebel-held part of northern Syria this week was the banned nerve agent sarin, the Turkish Health Ministry said in a statement on Thursday. … “According to the results of preliminary tests,” the statement said, “patients were exposed to chemical material (Sarin).” …The Turkish statement **did not elaborate on how the sarin had been identified** in the assault on Tuesday, but it said some of the **telling symptoms** seen in the victims included “**lung edema**, increase in lung weight and bleeding in lungs.”

From the CDC Emergency Response Database:

At high exposure levels, irritation of the upper respiratory tract and accumulation of **fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema)** contribute to a sensation of choking.

But that is from the [CDC entry **for Chlorine**.](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ershdb/emergencyresponsecard_29750024.html)

The CDC entry [for Sarin](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ershdb/emergencyresponsecard_29750001.html) mentions “fluid accumulation in the airways” as one symptom among many more conspicuous ones. It does not mention an edema of the lungs.

**Contradicting the first Turkish reports the Turkish Health Ministry claimed “sarin” (in parenthesis?!). But the symptom it described as  proof was not of sarin but of chlorine exposure.**

The Turkish Justice Minister also [made](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/autopsy-results-show-chemical-weapons-used-syrian-attack-turkish-minister-242896067) a statement but that did not mention sarin at all

Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag told reporters that “Autopsies were carried out on three of the bodies after they were brought from Idlib. The results of the autopsy confirms that chemical weapons were used,” quoted by state-run Anadolu news agency.”This scientific investigation also confirms that Assad used chemical weapons,” Bozdag added, without giving further details….

Bozdag said autopsies were conducted with the “participation” of officials from the World Health Organization (WHO) in the southern province of Adana together with officials from Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

**But WHO immediately countered Bozdag’s claims** that it was involved in the postmortem, saying the organisation did not conduct autopsies, adding: “It is not our mandate.”…

[It] also stressed that no samples or swabs had been taken by WHO despite claims by the Adana prosecutor that “examples” had been sent to the organisation and the OPCW.

The Justice Minister claimed that samples had been given to the WHO and OPCW from the very first autopsies. But the WHO clearly denies that. I find no OPCW statement on this.

In 2013 a Turkish court, under Justice Minister Bozdag, set one suspected Ahrar al Sham member [free](http://eaworldview.com/2015/12/syria-feature-1-convicted-5-acquitted-in-sarin-case-in-turkey/) after he was caught with sarin precursors. The person was later sentenced in absentia as he had fled back to Syria. Ahrar al Sham, while not in charge, has a presence in Khan Sheikhun.

The neuroscientist and neuro-pharmacologist Denis O’Brien, a Ph.D. with a research and teaching career in that field, analyzed the systems of the casualties that were depicted in the various videos coming out of Khan Sheikhun. His diagnostics and chemical-biological explanations are humorously title [Top Ten Ways to Tell When You’re Being Spoofed by a False-Flag Sarin Attack](http://logophere.com/Topics2017/17-04/17_017-BLA-Sarin.htm). He notes the total absence of feces, urine, vomit and cyanosis (turning blue) in the videos. Sarin exposure causes, according to [the CDC database](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ershdb/emergencyresponsecard_29750001.html) “Nausea, vomiting (emesis), diarrhea, abdominal pain, and cramping.” Sarin effected  patients would spontaneously shit, pee and vomit all over. But the casualties in the videos, even the “dead” ones, have clean undies. The “clinic” in the video has clean floors. The patients show red skin color, not oxygen deprived blue. The patients in the videos were not effected by sarin.

Medical personal and rescue workers in the videos and pictures also show none of the typical sarin symptoms. Sarin degrades relatively fast. Half of the potency will be gone within five hours after release (depending on environmental factors). But these rescue workers and medical personal were immediately involved with the casualties. They do not wear any reasonable protection. They would have been dead or at least effected if sarin would have been involved in any relevant concentration.

The Turkish doctors and chemical weapon specialists who received the first patients diagnosed chlorine exposure, not sarin. The first Turkish reports to the UN speak of chlorine, not sarin. It is only the Turkish Health Minister who mentions sarin – in parentheses, but then lists a symptom of severe chlorine exposure as one of sarin. Neither the casualties nor the unprotected medical personal involved in the incident show any effect of sarin exposure.

Fifteen days after the incident the OPCW say that samples it was given(!) “indicate exposure to Sarin or a Sarin-like substance”.

Turkey has been the supply and support lifeline for Ahrar al Sham as well as for al-Qaeda in Syria. The samples given to the OPCW were taken by Turkish personal in Turkey. The current head of the OPCW is a Turkish citizen. It is in the interest of Turkey and its terrorist clients in Syria to blame the Syrian government for chemical weapon use.

The medical and [technical evidence](http://www.moonofalabama.org/2017/04/the-nerve-agent-attack-that-did-not-occur-khan-sheikhun-summary-report-by-prof-postol.html) is not consistent with a sarin attack by the Syrian government. All of the videos and pictures of the incident were taken in al-Qaeda controlled territory. All witnesses were under al-Qaeda control. How much of the incident was staged for videos  or how many of the witnesses were told lie is not testable. The Syrian government insist that it has given up all its chemical weapons. The Russian government also asserts that no chemical weapon attack took place.

**The Armenian Genocide**

*“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* – Ephesians 6:12

Decades ago when I was very young, my grandmother, Mary Kupelian, told me a haunting story I’ve wondered about ever since.

As I sat in the kitchen of her cozy little home in Bethesda, Maryland, eating her delicious homemade bread and talking about a frequent topic – the Armenian Genocide, which she and my dad (as a little boy) had barely survived – she shared with me the following enigma.

“The Turkish people are very hospitable people,” she said with surprising warmth, seeing as they had murdered her husband and dozens of other members of her extended family, just a few of the 1.5 million Christian Armenians killed by the Turks during the first genocide of the 20th century. Grandmom knew the Turkish people well, not just from having grown up in southern Turkey, but from having returned several times to the “old country” later in life, during more quiescent times.

However, continuing her story, she intimated to me that the Muslim Turks lived under the spell of strange forces.

“They were very hospitable and would invite you in,” she said. “But, if a distant signal was given – it sounded something like a trumpet – then they would instantly change, and would attempt to harm you. Yet if the signal sounded again, they would immediately switch back to normal.”

“Even,” she added by way of illustration, “if they had injured you after the first signal, as soon as the second signal sounded, they would bind up the very wounds they had inflicted on you.”

As I said – a very, very strange tale, with overtones of “The Manchurian Candidate” and its post-hypnotic suggestions (remember the Queen of Diamonds?) triggering murderous, pre-programmed behavior.

image: http://www.wnd.com/files/2015/04/armenian\_genocide2.jpg



An Armenian woman forced to march in the desert carrying her child

That story, so pregnant with hidden significance, has remained gestating in my mind for all these decades since my grandmother matter-of-factly shared it with me over her kitchen table. It has piqued my interest especially in recent years, as I have endeavored in my writing to sort out and make some sense of a world so powerfully controlled by dark forces.

Since today, April 24, is Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, let’s delve into my grandmother’s mystery story and see where it leads.

[*Get David Kupelian’s culture-war blockbusters, “The Marketing of Evil,” “How Evil Works” and his latest, “The Snapping of the American Mind” – signed and personalized – at the WND Superstore.*](http://superstore.wnd.com/products_by_author/David-Kupelian)

First, it’s necessary that I briefly summarize my family’s personal experience during this terrible period.

**‘If you embrace the Islamic religion, you will be saved’**

It was 100 years ago, and my dad, just a toddler then, along with his mother and baby sister were among thousands of Armenian Christians being herded into the Syrian Der Zor desert east of Aleppo to die. That’s right, to die. Forced into such a miserable and dangerous trek, the plan was that exposure, hunger, thirst, bandits or marauding soldiers would get the job done, one way or the other. As for my father’s father, a physician, he had already been forced into the Turkish army against his will to head a medical regiment to tend to the Turkish soldiers’ injuries.

“One of my earliest recollections, I was not quite three years old at the time,” my dad told me shortly before he died in 1988, was that “the wagon we were in had tipped over, my hand was broken and bloody, and mother was looking for my infant sister who had rolled away. The next thing I remember after that, mother was on a horse, holding my baby sister, and had me sitting behind her, saying, *‘Hold on tight, or the Turks will get you!’”*

The three of them rode off on horseback, ending up in Aleppo, one of the gateways to the desert deportation and certain death. Once there, my always-resourceful grandmother Mary bluffed her way into getting an audience with Aleppo’s governor-general. Seeing as her Armenian doctor husband was in the service of the Turkish army – albeit by force – she played her one and only card, brazenly telling the governor general, “I demand my rights as the wife of a Turkish army officer!”

“What are those rights?”

“I want commissary privileges and two orderlies,” she answered.

“Granted.”

By thus boldly deceiving the not-too-bright Turkish politician, Mary avoided the unthinkable, saving not only her own life and those of her son and daughter, but also the lives of her husband’s two brothers, whom she immediately deputized as orderlies. The group then succeeded in sneaking several other family members out of harm’s way, and my grandmother kept them all from starving by obtaining food from the commissary. Thus was my family spared, although my father’s infant sister was unable to survive the harshness of those times and died shortly thereafter. And my grandfather, Simeon Kupelian, was executed along with other Armenian doctors by a squadron of Turkish gunmen.

On finally returning to their beautiful home in Marash in southern Turkey a couple of years later, Mary and son Vahey, who was then about six, found it had been ransacked. Their fine tapestries had been pulled off the walls, ripped, and urinated on. Everything that could be carried out had been stolen, and everything else had been deliberately broken – even every last pane of glass in the French doors was broken, and the drawer handles all destroyed.

Eventually, they escaped – and made their way to America.

image: http://www.wnd.com/files/2015/04/armenian\_genocide4.jpg



Ottoman Armenians are marched to a prison in Kharpert, Armenia, by armed Turkish soldiers in April 1915. Up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed in what is now recognized as the 20th century’s first genocide.

That was my father’s side of the family. But on my mother’s side, things were just as bad.

In 1909, my great-grandfather, a Protestant minister named Steelianos Leondiades, was traveling to the major Turkish city of Adana to attend a pastors’ conference. Today, Incirlik Air Base, used by the U.S. Air Force, is five miles east of Adana. But then, under the Ottoman caliph, Abdul-Hamid II, ethnic cleansing was the order of the day. Here’s how my maternal grandmother, Anna Paulson, daughter of Steelianos, told the story:

“Some of the Turkish officers came to the conference room and told all these ministers – there were 70 of them, ministers and laymen and a few wives: ‘If you embrace the Islamic religion you will all be saved. If you don’t, you will all be killed.’”

My great-grandfather, acting as a spokesman for the ministers’ group, asked the Turks for 15 minutes so they could make their decision, according to my grandmother’s account. During that time the ministers and their companions talked, read the Bible to each other, and prayed. In the end, none of them would renounce their Christian faith and convert to Islam.

“And then,” Anna recalled, “they were all killed.

“They were not even buried. They were all thrown down the ravine.”

The only reason we know any details of this particular massacre, she said, is that one victim survived the ordeal.

“One man woke up; he wasn’t dead,” my grandmother said. “He woke up and got up and said, ‘Brethren, brethren, is there anybody alive here? I’m alive, come on, let’s go out together.’ ”

Ultimately, by the grace of God, both sides of my family made it to the Promised Land – America – and eventually my father met and married my mother, and that’s how my brother, sister and I were blessed to come on the scene.

Now, back to my grandmother Mary’s strange story …

image: http://www.wnd.com/files/2015/04/armenian\_genocide5.jpg

**Marauding hordes of ‘Manchurian candidates’**

Any thoughtful person, even without any particular knowledge of mind control, hypnosis or brainwashing, could offer a reasonable hypothesis as to what is being described by my grandmother: The actors are clearly people who have somehow been deeply programmed, and the “trumpet-like” signal is a trigger, a post-hypnotic suggestion initiating the pre-programmed behavior.

Interestingly, I mentioned this story to a colleague of mine who lived in a country that once was part of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. His response to my grandmother’s scenario – where on signal, Turks turned on innocent people to kill them, but stopped midstream at the second signal and even resumed their hospitality to the point of patching up any injuries they had caused – was to recall his own time living among a culturally Muslim population whose ancestors had lived for five centuries under Turkish rule.

“The people were extremely hospitable,” he recalled, “but after living in the country for some time, I learned there was another dimension to how they generally perceived foreigners. I had the feeling that some of the most outwardly welcoming people could stab me in the back.”

Encouraged that I might be on to something, I reached out to noted Islam scholar Andrew Bostom for help.

After doing a little research, Andrew called me back and said, enthusiastically, “Your grandmother is right!” The mysterious “trumpet-like signal” was a bugle, he informed me, leading me to a series of books and other contemporaneous genocide reports with additional details. A quick sampling:

There was this New York Times story from Sept. 25, 1915, quoting Dr. M. Simbad Gabriel, head of a U.S.-based Armenian organization:

The doctor said that greed, religion, and politics all combined to induce the Turks to massacre the Armenians. The Government was always behind every massacre, and the people were acting under orders.  
“When the bugle blows in the morning,” he said, “Turks rush fiercely to the work of killing the Christians and plundering them of their wealth. When it stops in the evening, or in two or three days, the shooting and stabbing stop just as suddenly then as it began. The people obey their orders like soldiers.”

And there was Simon Payaslian, chair of Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University:

At Friday prayers in the mosque, Muslims were encouraged to attack Armenians. After prayers let out, a bugle would sound from the minarets for the attack to begin, and then a bugle would sound for the attack to end.

And then there was, contained in Bostom’s own book, “The Legacy of Jihad,” this chilling account by Scottish historian Lord Kinross:

Each operation, between the bugle calls, followed a similar pattern. First the Turkish troops came into a town for the purpose of massacre; then came the Kurdish irregulars and tribesmen for the purpose of plunder. Finally came the holocaust, by fire and destruction, which spread, with the pursuit of the fugitives and mopping-up operations, throughout the lands and villages of the surrounding province. …

Cruelest and most ruinous of all were the massacres of Urfa, where the Armenian Christians numbered a third of the total population … When the bugle blast ended the day’s operations, some three thousand refugees poured into the cathedral, hoping for sanctuary. But the next morning – a Sunday – a fanatic mob swarmed into the church in an orgy of slaughter, rifling its shrines with cries of “Call upon Christ to prove Himself a greater prophet than Mohammed.” Then they amassed a large pile of straw matting, which they spread over the litter of corpses and set alight with thirty cans of petroleum. The woodwork of the gallery where a crowd of women and children crouched, wailing with terror, caught fire, and all perished in the flames.

Punctiliously at three-thirty in the afternoon the bugle blew once more, and the Moslem officials proceeded around the Armenian quarter to proclaim that the massacres were over … the total casualties in the town, including those slaughtered in the cathedral, amounted to eight thousand dead.

Superficially, one might conclude such narratives are depicting normal, albeit horribly brutal, military operations where soldiers are coordinated in their advances and retreats by bugle calls. But there’s much more going on here.

“I’ve read accounts,” Andrew Bostom assured me, “of a call to arms where Muslims would show up at residences – people who lived with neighbors for a decade or more – and engaged in indiscriminate slaughter.”

Really? Living and sharing with your neighbors for years, borrowing humus and olive oil when you ran short – and then suddenly turning on them in a frenzy of “indiscriminate slaughter”? Doesn’t sound exactly normal to me.

image: http://www.wnd.com/files/2015/04/armenian\_genocide6.jpg

Let’s freeze-frame this whole bugle-massacre business for a minute, and shift our focus to another bizarre but disturbingly common phenomenon in today’s Arab-Muslim world: so-called “honor killings.”

A teenage girl – whose father, mother and brothers one would assume share a natural love, affection and protectiveness toward her – is observed walking down the street with a male non-relative, perhaps even holding hands with him.

In response, the girl is stabbed to death by her brother(s), or her mother or father, or all of them together – stabbed not just once, but often dozens of times in an orgy of slaughter, like the most deranged psychopath might commit. This fate is meted out to girls and young women for anything vaguely considered to have brought “shame” or “dishonor” upon a family. The poor girl’s offense could be that she refused to enter into an arranged marriage, or was in a relationship that wasn’t approved of by the family, or had dressed in a way deemed inappropriate. Even flirting, even failing to serve a meal on time, even being a rape *victim,* all have been the occasions of “honor killings.”

“Amnesty International has reported on one case in which a husband murdered his wife based on a dream that she had betrayed him,” reports National Geographic. “In Turkey, a young woman’s throat was slit in the town square because a love ballad had been dedicated to her over the radio.”

Such monstrous, bizarre and outrageously unjustified and unprovoked murders of innocent girls by their own family members occur at least 5,000 times annually according to the U.N., but that number is considered low due to underreporting. BBC reports that some victim-advocate organizations “suspect that more than 20,000 women are killed worldwide each year” via “honor killings.”

Now, what do the bugle-signaled mass slaughters of the Armenian Genocide and today’s Islamic “honor killings” – and, for that matter, the crucifixions and beheadings and burying-alive of Christian believers by ISIS zombies – have in common?

All demonstrate an extreme level of pre-programmed, murderous conditioning, to be called forth by a post-hypnotic suggestion – a bugle sound, a sister crossing some pre-set behavioral line, an encounter with a Christian holding fast to his or her faith.

How could such “Manchurian Candidate”-like conditioning possibly be accomplished, you might ask? Did somebody send teams of Russian scientists schooled in Pavlovian conditioning over to the Middle East to hypnotize millions of people in giant laboratories?

Of course not. But Pavlov did not invent “Pavlovian conditioning.” He just recognized the pre-existing principle and codified it into a psychological-physiological theory. Cruel, predatory, psychopathic (conscienceless) people have always seemed to understand how to program and control others in this way.

For example, African warlords have been notorious for recruiting and *creating* (*i.e.,* programming) child soldiers, often turning kidnapped children into the most brutal and unhesitating killers of all. One common conversion technique: Force a child to kill a family member or friend. (“Shoot your friend in the head, or I’ll cut off your hand right now.”) If the child shoots his friend, he’s converted – usually for life, since the searing guilt of what he has done prevents him from ever going back to any other life.

We are now observing ISIS using virtually the same techniques to recruit and condition young children to become murderous jihadists.

A similar technique is common in gang initiations all over America. To join, you must commit a crime (slash a stranger in the face with a knife, even commit murder) before you can become a member – which assures, both legally and psychologically, that there’s almost no way out for you.

It’s doubtful many gang leaders, African warlords or ISIS recruiters have taken a course about hypnosis, brainwashing or “Pavlovian conditioning,” yet the dark knowledge of controlling and programming others is something human predators always figure out and exploit.

What about the recent ISIS conversions from the West – all those young men and women from the U.S. and Europe, persuaded by cool ISIS recruitment websites to leave the freest nations on earth and head to war-torn Syria to become cannon fodder or sex slaves? Such recruiting is not difficult to accomplish.

ISIS is the biggest, “baddest” gang in the world, and gangs appeal strongly to extremely angry, rebellious, and often fatherless, children. Enraged young people who have been abandoned, betrayed or exploited (or who *believe* they have been), full of fury and desire for vengeance, who have lost everything and feel they have nothing more to lose – such as these are easy prey for recruitment pitches promising fulfillment, identity, “family,” adventure, glory and revenge.

In the case of ISIS, in addition to all the standard benefits of gang membership, recruits are also assured they are the chosen of God, superior to all other people in the world (except fellow Muslim brothers and sisters) and are going to help establish a glorious Islamic paradise here on earth – plus they get to slaughter all the vile infidels who get in their way. (And the males are promised lots of hot women, both now and in the next life.)

You see, whether it’s ISIS, al-Qaida, Boko Haram, the Al Nusra Front or other modern-day jihadists, or their Turkish predecessors in the Ottoman Caliphate a century ago; whether, for that matter, it’s the Christian-hating automatons of North Korea or in other communist nations throughout the world – when it comes to those who persecute Christians, we are looking at people firmly in the grip of exceedingly dark forces. And since darkness cannot stand the light – it burns – they feel compelled to attempt to put it out. Yet they cannot. For although the persecutors enslave, they are the true slaves; though they imprison, they are the real prisoners; though they kill, they are the ones spiritually dying.

image: http://www.wnd.com/files/2015/04/armenian\_genocide7.jpg

**Remembering**

So today the whole world commemorates the Turkish genocide of the Armenians.

Well, except for Turkey. After a century of denial, Turkey has never even acknowledged that this monstrous genocide of a million-and-a-half Christians ever occurred.

Unfortunately, there’s a grave danger in failing to come clean – and that is, the great crime is likely to be repeated.

image: http://www.wnd.com/files/2015/04/hitler1.jpg



Adolf HItler

Consider what Adolf Hitler wrote in this Aug. 22, 1939, document, which was entered into evidence in the Nuremberg Trials. After you read his absolutely horrendous plans, pay special attention to the last sentence, in which Hitler reveals why he’s so sure he can get away with committing genocide while pulling off what he calls the “redistribution of the world”:

My decision to attack Poland was arrived at last spring. Originally, I feared that the political constellation would compel me to strike simultaneously at England, Russia, France, and Poland. Even this risk would have had to be taken.

Ever since the autumn of 1938, and because I realized that Japan would not join us unconditionally and that Mussolini is threatened by that nit-wit of a king and the treasonable scoundrel of a crown prince, I decided to go with Stalin.

In the last analysis, there are only three great statesmen in the world, Stalin, I, and Mussolini. Mussolini is the weakest, for he has been unable to break the power of either the crown or the church. Stalin and I are the only ones who envisage the future and nothing but the future. Accordingly, I shall in a few weeks stretch out my hand to Stalin at the common German-Russian frontier and undertake the redistribution of the world with him.

Our strength consists in our speed and in our brutality. Genghis Khan led millions of women and children to slaughter – with premeditation and a happy heart. History sees in him solely the founder of a state. It’s a matter of indifference to me what a weak western European civilization will say about me.

I have issued the command – and I’ll have anybody who utters but one word of criticism executed by a firing squad – that our war aim does not consist in reaching certain lines, but in the physical destruction of the enemy. Accordingly, I have placed my death-head formations in readiness – for the present only in the East – with orders to them to send to death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women, and children of Polish derivation and language. Only thus shall we gain the living space (Lebensraum) which we need. Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?

That was 1939. Just a few years earlier, in the early ’30s, much of the world regarded Hitler and his gathering movement as a joke. Some journalists “burst out laughing at his shrill voice and jerky hand movements and refused to take him seriously,” writes Andrew Nagorski in his 2012 book, “Hitlerland: American Eyewitnesses to the Nazi Rise to Power.”

Today we have ISIS, which Barack Obama infamously sized up as the “jayvee team” a few months before it blitzkrieged its way across large parts of the Middle East. ISIS is, in fact, now frequently compared to the Hitler machine of the early 1930s, maniacal and growing, but not yet a massive world power with fearsome weapons.

And just to bring things full circle, consider the primary role model for ISIS. No, it’s not Hitler, even though ISIS and Hitler share an infinite hatred for Jews. Rather, ISIS is emulating the world’s previous Sunni Islamic caliphate – namely, the Turkish Ottoman Empire, whose martyrdom of 1.5 million Armenian Christians is being remembered today.

image: http://www.wnd.com/files/2015/04/armenian\_genocide8.jpg

**‘We had forgotten theology and the Bible’**

Just as there are little-understood mysteries of evil, such as that crystallized in my grandmother’s story, so are there other mysteries – from God – secretly at work in people who are in His grip.

Richard Wurmbrand, the heroic Romanian evangelical pastor, spent 14-and-a-half years in a Romanian prison suffering starvation and torture for the crime of boldly preaching the Gospel of Christ in what was then a brutally repressive communist nation. When, two years after his final release from captivity, Wurmbrand testified in May 1966 before the U.S. Senate’s Internal Security Subcommittee, he stripped to the waist to reveal 18 deep wounds covering his torso, the result of years of unspeakable abuse.

And yet, as Wurmbrand proclaims in his classic book, [“Tortured for Christ,”](http://superstore.wnd.com/books/faith/Tortured-For-Christ-Paperback?promocode=story) he and his fellow Christian prisoners well understood that the communists, especially those who imprisoned and tortured them, “knew not what they did.” He recognized deeply that his persecutors were all programmed “Manchurian candidates” – brainwashed slaves of “principalities and powers,” of “rulers of the darkness of this world” and “spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Until he died at age 91 in 2001, Wurmbrand’s message, one faithfully carried forward by the international ministry he founded, [Voice of the Martyrs,](http://www.persecution.com/) has always been: “Hate the evil systems, but love your persecutors. Love their souls, and try to win them for Christ.”

With striking compassion for his jailers, in “Tortured for Christ” Wurmbrand writes:

The enormous amount of drunkenness in Communist countries exposes the longing for a more meaningful life, which communism cannot give. The average Russian is a deep, big-hearted, generous person. Communism is shallow and superficial. He seeks the deep life and, finding it nowhere else, he seeks it in alcohol. He expresses in alcoholism his horror about the brutal and deceitful life he must live. For a few moments alcohol sets him free, as truth would set him free forever if he could know it.

So genuine was Wurmbrand’s concern for the souls of his tormentors that, over the years, quite a few of them were converted to the Christian faith, ending up in prison with him – and glad for it!

Contemplate, if you can, Wurmbrand’s last act before leaving Romania after years of living 30 feet underground in a communist prison – no sunshine, no fresh air, always hungry, treated brutally and sadistically day after day, year after year.

“In December 1965,” writes Wurmbrand, “my family and I were allowed to leave Romania”:

My last deed before leaving was to go to the grave of the colonel who had given the order for my arrest and who had ordered my years of torture. I placed a flower on his grave. By doing this I dedicated myself to bringing the joys of Christ that I have to the communists who are so empty spiritually.

I hate the communist system but I love the men. I hate the sin but I love the sinner. I love the communists with all of my heart. Communists can kill Christians but they cannot kill their love toward even those who killed them. I have not the slightest bitterness or resentment against the communists or my torturers.

How is such an attitude possible? Says Wurmbrand:

I have seen Christians in communist prisons with fifty pounds of chains on their feet, tortured with red-hot iron pokers, in whose throats spoonfuls of salt had been forced, being kept afterward without water, starving, whipped, suffering from cold – and praying with fervor for the communists. This is humanly inexplicable! It is the love of Christ, which was poured out in our hearts.

**White House Correspondents Dinner without the President**

**Comedian and *Daily Show* correspondent Hasan Minhaj performed at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner tonight, where he called White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon a Nazi and Attorney General Jeff Sessions a racist.**

The liberal comedian initially stated that he had been instructed not to insult the current administration at tonight’s White House Correspondents’ Dinner but then proceeded to do exactly that.

“Now a lot of people think that Steve Bannon is the reason Donald Trump is a racist,” said the comedian. “That is not true. Is he here?” he asked, looking out into the crowd. “I do not see Steve Bannon. I do not see Steve Bannon. Not see. Nazi Steve Bannon. Nazi Steve Bannon.”

The comedian’s comment about Attorney General Jeff Sessions actually received an audible groan from the crowd.

“Jeff Sessions could not be here tonight; he is doing a pre-civil war enactment,” Minhaj said. “On his RSVP he wrote, ‘No.’ Just no! Which happens to be his second favorite n-word.”

Someone needs to remind this ingrate anchor baby immigrant whose country he's in. I'd love to have a talk with him about His Hate speech.  
If you have the unfortunate opportunity to stay in his family's busted down motel, make sure you treat it with the same respect he treats our Great President. Leave some floating Gifts !! remind him what he is !!  
What an hateful and ungrateful 3rd world turd.

**Trump Will not be Happy if North Korea Sets of a Nuke**

President Donald Trump said Saturday that the United States was "not going to be very happy" if North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un tested a nuclear missile, but he declined to say whether he would respond with military action.

"He's going to have to do what he has to do," Trump told [**"Face the Nation"**](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-i-will-not-be-happy-if-north-korea-conducts-another-nuclear-test/) in an interview to be aired Sunday on CBS News. "But he understands we're not going to be very happy."

[**Trump slammed Pyongyang's latest test**](http://www.newsmax.com/Politics/AS-Koreas-Tension-The-Latest/2017/04/28/id/787136/) early Saturday as "bad" on Twitter, saying that it "disrespected the wishes of China."

The failed test was North Korea's ninth missile launch since Trump took office in January.

"This was a small missile," the president said Saturday. "This was not a big missile.

"This was not a nuclear test, which he was expected to do three days ago. We'll see what happens."

Trump noted that Chinese President Xi Jinping "has been putting pressure on him also.

"But so far, perhaps nothing's happened and perhaps it has."

When "Face the Nation" host John Dickerson pressed President Trump on what "not happy" meant, he responded: "I would not be happy.

"If he does a nuclear test, I will not be happy.

"And I can tell you also, I don't believe that the president of China, who is a very respected man, will be happy either."

"'Not happy' means military action?" Dickerson asked.

"I don't know," Trump said. "I mean, we'll see."

On Saturday, a North Korean mid-range ballistic missile apparently failed shortly after launch, the third test-fire flop just this month, but a clear message of defiance as a U.S. supercarrier conducts drills in nearby waters.

North Korean ballistic missile tests are banned by the United Nations because they're seen as part of the North's push for a nuclear-tipped missile that can hit the U.S. mainland. The latest test came as U.S. officials pivoted from a hard line to diplomacy at the U.N. in an effort to address what may be Washington's most pressing foreign policy challenge.

North Korea didn't immediately comment on the launch, though its state media on Saturday reiterated the country's goal of being able to strike the continental U.S.

The timing of the North's test was striking: Only hours earlier the U.N. Security Council held a ministerial meeting on Pyongyang's escalating weapons program. North Korean officials boycotted the meeting, which was chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missile flew for several minutes and reached a maximum height of 71 kilometers (44 miles) before it apparently failed.

It didn't immediately provide an estimate on how far the missile flew, but a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said it was likely a medium-range KN-17 ballistic missile. It broke up a few minutes after the launch.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, speaking after a meeting of Japan's National Security Council, said the missile is believed to have traveled about 50 kilometers (30 miles) and fallen on an inland part of North Korea.

Analysts say the KN-17 is a new Scud-type missile developed by North Korea. The North fired the same type of missile April 16, just a day after a massive military parade where it showed off its expanding missile arsenal, but U.S. officials called that launch a failure.

Some analysts say a missile the North test fired April 5, which U.S. officials identified as a Scud variant, also might have been a KN-17. U.S. officials said that missile spun out of control and crashed into the sea.

Moon Seong Mook, a South Korean analyst and former military official, says that the North would gain valuable knowledge even from failed launches as it continues to improve its technologies for missiles. The South Korean and Japanese assessments about Saturday's launch indicate that the North fired the missile from a higher-than-normal angle to prevent it from flying too far, he said.

"They could be testing a variety of things, such as the thrust of the rocket engine or the separation of stages," Moon said. "A failure is a failure, but that doesn't mean the launch was meaningless."

The two earlier launches were conducted from an eastern coastal area, but Saturday's missile was fired in the west, from an area near Pukchang, just north of the capital, Pyongyang.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry denounced the launch as an "obvious" violation of United Nations resolutions and the latest display of North Korea's "belligerence and recklessness."

"We sternly warn that the North Korean government will continue to face a variety of strong punitive measures issued by the U.N. Security Council and others if it continues to reject denuclearization and play with fire in front of the world," the ministry said.

Pope Francis warned that "a good part of humanity" will be destroyed if tensions with North Korea escalate, and he called for diplomacy and a revived United Nations to take the lead in negotiating a resolution.

Francis was asked as he traveled back to Rome from Egypt on Saturday local time (early Sunday morning Seoul time) about North Korean ballistic missile tests and U.S. warnings of "catastrophic" consequences if the world fails to stop them.

"Today, a wider war will destroy not a small part of humanity, but a good part of humanity and culture. Everything. Everything, no? It would be terrible. I don't think humanity today could bear it," he told reporters

The North routinely test-fires a variety of ballistic missiles, despite U.N. prohibitions, as part of its weapons development. While shorter-range missiles are somewhat routine, there is strong outside worry about each longer-range North Korean ballistic test.

Saturday's launch comes at a point of particularly high tension. Trump has sent a nuclear-powered submarine and the USS Carl Vinson aircraft supercarrier to Korean waters, and North Korea this week conducted large-scale, live-fire exercises on its eastern coast. The U.S. and South Korea also started installing a missile defense system that is supposed to be partially operational within days, while their two navies began joint military drills later Saturday.

The South Korean navy said the drills are aimed at "deterring North Korea's provocations and displaying the firm alliance between the United States and South Korea."

On Friday, the United States and China offered starkly different strategies for addressing North Korea's escalating nuclear threat as Tillerson demanded full enforcement of economic sanctions on Pyongyang and urged new penalties. Stepping back from suggestions of U.S. military action, he even offered aid to North Korea if it ends its nuclear weapons program.

The range of Tillerson's suggestions, which over a span of 24 hours also included restarting negotiations, reflected America's failure to halt North Korea's nuclear advances despite decades of U.S.-led sanctions, military threats and stop-and-go rounds of diplomatic engagement. As the North approaches the capability to hit the U.S. mainland with a nuclear-tipped missile, the Trump administration feels it is running out of time.

Chairing a ministerial meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Friday, Tillerson declared that "failing to act now on the most pressing security issue in the world may bring catastrophic consequences."

His ideas included a ban on North Korean coal imports and preventing its overseas guest laborers, a critical source of government revenue, from sending money home. And he warned of unilateral U.S. moves against international firms conducting banned business with Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs, which could ensnare banks in China, the North's primary trade partner.

Yet illustrating the international gulf over how best to tackle North Korea, several foreign ministers on the 15-member council expressed fears of a conflict on the Korean Peninsula, which was divided between the American-backed South and communist North even before the 1950-53 Korean War. The conflict ended with no formal peace treaty. And while danger always has lurked, tensions have escalated dramatically as the North's young leader, Kim Jong Un, has expanded a nuclear arsenal his government says is needed to avert a U.S. invasion.

No voice at Friday's session was more important than that of China, a conduit for 90 percent of North Korea's commerce and a country Trump is pinning hopes on for a peaceful resolution to the nuclear crisis. Trump, who recently hosted President Xi Jinping for a Florida summit, has sometimes praised the Chinese leader for a newfound cooperation to crack down on North Korea and sometimes threatened a go-it-alone U.S. approach if Xi fails to deliver.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China would adhere to past U.N. resolutions and wants a denuclearized peninsula. But he spelled out no further punitive steps his government might consider, despite Tillerson's assertions in an interview hours ahead of the council meeting that Beijing would impose sanctions of its own if North Korea conducts another nuclear test.

Wang put forward a familiar Chinese idea to ease tensions: North Korea suspending its nuclear and missile activities if the U.S. and South Korea stop military exercises in the region. Washington and Seoul reject the idea.

Tillerson said the U.S. does not seek regime change in North Korea, and he signaled American openness to holding direct negotiations with Pyongyang. The U.S. also could resume aid to North Korea once it "begins to dismantle its nuclear weapons and missile technology programs," he said. Since 1995, he added, Washington has provided more than $1.3 billion to the impoverished country.

But the prospects for any more U.S. money going there appeared bleak. Even negotiations don't seem likely.

Tillerson said the North must take "concrete steps" to reduce its weapons threat before talks could occur. Six-nation nuclear negotiations with North Korea stalled in 2009. The Obama administration sought to resurrect them in 2012, but a deal to provide food aid in exchange for a nuclear freeze soon collapsed.

"In a nutshell, (North Korea) has already declared not to attend any type of talks which would discuss its nuclear abandonment, nuclear disbandment," Kim In Ryong, North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador, told The Associated Press. His government declined to attend Friday's council meeting.

US President Donald Trump offered some backhanded praise for North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, calling him "a pretty smart cookie" in a television interview that aired Sunday.

Trump's almost admiring remarks came amid soaring tensions with North Korea over its missile and nuclear programs, with an alarmed Washington looking to China for help in reining in Kim.

Trump said he had "no idea" whether Kim was sane or not, but said the North Korean leader had faced a formidable challenge in taking over the country at a reported age of 27 after his father's death in 2011.

"He's dealing with obviously very tough people, in particular the generals and others. And at a very young age, he was able to assume power," Trump said in the interview with CBS's "Face the Nation."

"A lot of people, I'm sure, tried to take that power away, whether it was his uncle or anybody else. And he was able to do it.

"So obviously, he's a pretty smart cookie," he said.

"But we have a situation that we just cannot let -- we cannot let what's been going on for a long period of years continue," Trump added.

North Korea test-fired another missile on Saturday, the latest in a drumbeat that has aroused US fears that the regime may be close to developing an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of hitting the US mainland with a nuclear warhead.

South Korea said the latest test was a failure. Trump refused comment on whether the United States had anything to do with the test failure.

"It is a chess game. I just don't want people to know what my thinking is. So eventually, he will have a better delivery system. And if that happens, we can't allow it to happen."

Hours before the North Korean test, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned of "catastrophic consequences" if the international community does not act more forcefully to sanction Pyongyang.

The United States has deployed a naval strike group to the area led by the carrier USS Carl Vinson, which on Saturday began drilling with the South Korean navy.

**Death Star Laser**

Though it's not big enough or strong enough to destroy a planet, scientists have developed an amplified laser reminiscent of the Death Star from "Star Wars," according to a new study.

The futuristic superweapon combines multiple laser beams into one destructive blast, the researchers said. The [idea of merging laser beams is not new](http://www.livescience.com/26308-death-star-idea-not-new.html), nor has it been limited to science fiction before now. A decades-old Russian missile defense project looked to use liquid as a beam combiner, but that project was abandoned after it was deemed not practical. A similar project in the U.S. investigated laser fusion, but using different materials. Now, a team of Australian scientists has combined the principles of these two research projects and applied them to a new material: diamond.

An ultrapure diamond crystal is the key to [a new proof-of-concept amplified laser](http://www.mq.edu.au/newsroom/2017/04/03/the-star-wars-superlaser-may-no-longer-be-sci-fi-new-australian-research/). By placing a diamond at the point of convergence of the different laser beams, the power of each individual beam is transferred into one potent laser beam, the researchers said. This power transfer occurs due to Raman scattering — when particles are dispersed and excited to higher energy levels — which is especially strong in diamond, according to the scientists. [[Science Fact or Fiction? The Plausibility of 10 Sci-Fi Concepts](http://www.livescience.com/39825-reality-of-sci-fi-concepts.html)]

Diamonds also have high thermal properties that allow them to harness the [laser beams' energies](http://www.livescience.com/51889-record-breaking-laser-hits-2000-trillion-watts.html) without overheating — a concern with other materials that could be used to combine the laser beams.

"The fundamental problem is that the laser materials struggle to dissipate the very large waste heat load," study co-author Rich Mildren, an associate professor of physics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, told Live Science. "There are technologies on the verge of having enough power, but heat build-up causes the beam to flare and power to drop leading to a lack of power on target."

Researching amplified-laser concepts has become increasingly important as new security threats have arisen, Mildren said. From low-cost drones to [missile technology](http://www.livescience.com/57889-north-korea-intercontinental-ballistic-missiles-threat.html), militaries around the world are looking to high-power lasers as a possible defense solution.

Initial tests of the diamond laser have shown success in short bursts, and the researchers said they are continuing to test the laser for longer periods and at higher powers. When fully operational, the amplified laser could [disable drones](http://www.livescience.com/56109-dutch-police-eagles-take-down-drones.html), missiles and other small objects, according to Mildren.

"Such high-power lasers are also potentially useful in management of space junk, propulsion of small space vehicles and beaming power to remote locations," Mildren said.

The proof-of-concept laser was described in a study published online March 30 in the [journal Laser and Photonics Reviews](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/lpor.201600130/full).

A**NTIFA: The useful Thug Army of the New Civil War**

Violent gangs of left-wing radicals known as “antifa” have been attacking Christians or conservatives whom they consider “racist” or “fascist.”

But, now, some conservatives are [organizing in self-defense](http://www.wnd.com/2017/02/trump-supporters-warned-its-time-for-self-defense/), and the war is erupting in the streets.

The focal point is Berkeley, California, home of the free speech movement and now the site of repeated battles between antifa and conservatives. A lawsuit was filed [against the University of Berkeley](http://www.wnd.com/2017/04/ann-coulter-sics-lawyers-on-uc-berkeley/) to force the school to allow author and conservative columnist Ann Coulter to speak.

It came only weeks after the “Battle of Berkeley” in which a “free speech rally” featuring Lauren Southern, Brittany Pettibone and other conservative and libertarian speakers was disrupted by antifa. However, conservatives wearing helmets and protective gear routed the left-wingers in a street battle, prompting organizers to declare victory.

But it seems likely antifa will not accept defeat, as [anarchists are now discussing in online forums the need for combat training and the acquisition of firearms.](http://www.theblaze.com/news/2017/04/21/antifa-wants-combat-training-and-firearms-after-losing-the-battle-for-berkely/)

One of the more prominent organizations inspiring them is the John Brown Gun Club, a left-wing group that staged [an armed counter-protest](http://www.vocativ.com/415302/phoenix-john-brown-gun-club-pro-trump-rally/) of a pro-Trump rally in Arizona in March.

Meanwhile, conservatives are also organizing. One of the most prominent right-wing street fighters is [Kyle Chapman](http://www.wnd.com/2017/03/the-epic-saga-of-based-stick-man/), known on the Internet as “Based Stick Man,” after [video of him hitting an antifa over the head with a stick at a March 4 pro-Trump rally](http://www.wnd.com/wnd_video/stick-man-fights-anti-trump-rioters-attacking-trump-supporter-in-berkley/) went viral.

In the aftermath of the latest “Battle of Berkeley,” Chapman announced he was joining forces with conservative commentator Gavin McGinnes’s “Western chauvinist” fraternal organization, the “Proud Boys.” The group was heavily involved in protecting speakers at the “free speech rally” and has sworn to guard Coulter during her upcoming appearance at Berkeley.

[***What do YOU think? How should conservatives deal with leftist violence? Sound off in today’s WND poll.***](http://www.wnd.com/?p=4362041)

The battles between left and right first heated up after libertarian activist Milo Yiannopoulos had his February speech at the University of Berkeley shut down because of violent protests by antifa. Though Yiannopoulos [was later disgraced by the airing of a video in which the openly homosexual activist discussed pederasty,](http://www.wnd.com/2017/02/not-just-milo-child-sex-abuse-often-precedes-gay-lifestyle/) the episode infuriated conservatives and libertarians and its importance for free speech surpassed any connection with Yiannopoulos himself.

Scott Greer, author of [“No Campus For White Men,”](http://superstore.wnd.com/No-Campus-for-White-Men-Pb?promocode=MSTORY) says there has been a real shift in the mentality of many on the American right since then.

“I think the [Berkeley riots in February](http://www.wnd.com/2017/02/uc-berkeley-cancels-milo-event-after-violent-protests/) spurred the right to commit to self-defense against black-masked thugs,” he told WND. “Fighting against antifa is not an act of aggression, but one of self-defense in the eyes of most conservatives.”

[***Political correctness is just the beginning. The situation on college campuses is worse than you could ever imagine – and America’s future is at stake. Don’t miss the political blockbuster of 2017 – “No Campus For White Men” by Scott Greer.***](http://superstore.wnd.com/No-Campus-for-White-Men-Pb?promocode=MSTORY)

Matthew Vadum, senior vice president of the Capital Research Center and the author of [“Subversion, Inc.,”](http://superstore.wnd.com/Subversion-Inc-Hardcover_2?promocode=MSTORY) argues conservatives are simply reacting to years of violence.

“I think conservatives are becoming painfully aware that these ‘antifa’ people want to hit them with baseball bats and knock out their teeth,” he said. “They don’t want to debate. They want to rumble in the streets. This is about a show of force. More conservatives are going to pro-Trump rallies prepared to defend themselves. They are doing this because they can see that the antifa present a clear and present danger.”

Greer claims college campuses are at the center of many of these struggles because the radically anti-conservative and anti-white environment is a welcoming climate for even the most extreme left-wing organizer.

“It provides a safe space for these agitators,” he said. “Most students won’t join in the violence. However, they will give it a moral justification and see it as righteous. These antifa are primarily non-students, yet they know the students support them.”

A further skirmish also developed on the East Coast over the weekend between antifa and their opponents. Rebel Media’s Jack Posobiec was assaulted while reporting on an “Anti-fascist bloc party.”

Among those spotted at the event was Luke Kuhn, one of the left-wing activists who was [sentenced to community service for plotting a butyric acid attack against the pro-Trump “Deploraball”](http://www.wnd.com/2017/03/anti-trump-agitators-who-plotted-acid-attack-get-light-sentences/) at the president’s inauguration.

In an interview with WND, Posobiec said such tactics are typical of how the left has always operated.

“The left always uses violence, from Josef Stalin to Mao Zedong to Pol Pot, the left has always committed violence to achieve its ends,” he said. “Antifa has conducted their reign of terror throughout the 2016 election, at the Deploraball, Trump’s inauguration, and now at Berkeley. Law-abiding patriots who support the First Amendment are fed up.”

Posobiec also blasted the media for constantly describing antifa as simply “Trump protesters” rather than as extreme leftists.

Yet Greer suggested the media know exactly what antifa activists believe and eagerly try to promote their far-left message.

“The media sees them as fighting against hate and oppression,” he said. “They want to promote them as scrappy rebels punching and shutting down their enemies. The media has no problem excusing violence if it’s done on behalf of the right cause. But now, both antifa and the leftist media are actually seeing resistance.”

Earlier in the year, after Antifa successfully shut down a Milo Yiannopoulos speech by rioting at Berkeley, it was revealed that the Democrat terror group was funded by George Soros.

[The Daily Caller](http://dailycaller.com/2017/02/03/look-who-funds-the-group-behind-the-call-to-arms-at-milos-berkeley-event/) reported:

The left-wing group that helped organize the violent shut down of the Milo Yiannopoulos event at the University of California, Berkeley on Wednesday is backed by a progressive charity that is in turn funded by George Soros, a major labor union and several large companies.

The Alliance for Global Justice, based in Tucson, is listed as an organizer and fiscal sponsor for Refuse Fascism, a communist group that encouraged left-wingers to shut down the Yiannopoulos event.

The call to arms succeeded. Yiannopoulos’ talk was cancelled after demonstrators lit fires, vandalized businesses, and assaulted Donald Trump and Yiannopoulos supporters.

[[…](http://dailycaller.com/2017/02/03/look-who-funds-the-group-behind-the-call-to-arms-at-milos-berkeley-event/)]

Refuse Fascism’s involvement has spurred questions about who is behind the group. In a series of tweets on Thursday, Trump asserted that the protesters were paid to agitate.

While it is unclear whether those who carried out the violence were paid to do so, the benefactors of the Alliance for Global Justice — and Refuse Fascism — are listed online.

According to its most recent 990 tax form, Alliance for Global Justice (AfGJ) received $2.2 million in funding for the fiscal year ending in March 2016.

One of the group’s biggest donors is the Tides Foundation, a non-profit funded by billionaire progressive philanthropist George Soros. Tides gave AfGJ $50,000.

**The Current State of the Border Fence**

he Current State of the Border Fence

ISSUE PAPER | JANUARY 2017

Download the PDF of this Issue Paper.

Introduction

Recognizing the effectiveness of physical barriers as a means of border control, Congress first mandated the construction of a border fence in 1996 as part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA). IIRIRA called for the construction of a 14-mile, triple-layered fence along the boundary between San Diego and Tijuana.[1]

By 2004, only nine miles of fencing were completed. Congress subsequently passed the Secure Fence Act of 2006. That legislation called for double-layered fencing along the border, augmented by manpower and technology, and directed the Secretary of Homeland security to construct “reinforced fencing along not fewer than 700 miles of the southwest border, in locations where fencing is deemed most practical and effective.”[2]

How much of the required fencing has been completed?

Currently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection maintains several types of “tactical infrastructure” (fencing, other physical barriers, and support structures such as observation towers) along the border. Chief among these are:

Primary Pedestrian Fencing – that runs directly along the border and is intended to prevent crossings on foot.

Secondary Fencing – that runs behind Primary Fencing, usually separated by a Patrol Road that allows the Border Patrol to monitor the area between fences.

Tertiary Pedestrian Fencing – that runs behind the Secondary Fencing, intended to prevent attempts to cross the border on foot.

Vehicle Fencing – that prohibits motorized vehicles from crossing.

As of May 2015, DHS had installed:

353 miles of Primary Pedestrian Fencing.

36 miles of Secondary Fencing.

14 miles of Tertiary Pedestrian Fencing.

300 miles of Vehicle Fencing.

These numbers are virtually the same as the numbers available in 2012, indicating no measurable progress. But, given the growth in worldwide migration and the emergence of new threats along the southern border, it is essential that the fence be completed and supplemented by other security structures – including walls where appropriate.

To date, sixty-five other countries have built security fences and other barriers to protect themselves from large scale migration and the infiltration of terrorists.[3] Fences do not guarantee security, but they are an integral tool for securing borders and send the message that would-be migrants are expected to enter the country through the proper channels.

Building a New and Improved Border Fence

Much of the existing barrier along the southern border hardly qualifies as a fence or wall. In fact, many stretches consist of nothing more than a “vehicle barrier” that fails to slow down foot traffic.[4] The remainder of the fence is a mixture of easily climbed, poorly installed corrugated panels and other ad hoc materials. Only short stretches is a heavy-duty barrier installed in a concrete footing or double-layered fencing separated by a patrol road.

The Trump administration has promised to build a better security barrier on the southern border. Since making this a priority, there have been numerous estimates on what such an endeavor would cost. The primary plan includes a constructing a single-layer wall in the most problematic areas where a sufficient barrier does not exist.

The cost estimates for constructing this border fence have ranged from as low as low as $8 billion (President Trump’s initial estimate from the campaign trail), to as high as $40 billion.[5] The estimate most often quoted by political and construction experts, is between $15 and $25 billion. This figure was derived by Bernstein, a leading development research firm that specializes in large-scale building projects.[6]

There are a few possible scenarios based on the upper and lower echelons of current Bernstein cost estimates:

• A 1000 mile long, 40 foot high wall that goes 7 feet underground and is 10 inches thick, would cost approximately $25 million/mile to construct based on current concrete costs, land buyouts, labor and other related costs.

• Shorten the wall to 750 miles at $25 million/mile and the estimate drops to somewhere around $18.75 billion.

• If President Trump can fulfill his campaign promise of negotiating costs to their lowest and achieve a total cost of $15 billion for a 1,000 mile wall, the bill would become approximately $15 million/mile.

• Under the preceding scenario of $15 million/mile, a 750 mile wall could be built for approximately $11.25 billion.

Bernstein bases their model on the effective design that Israel used for its concrete wall on the West Bank. This is a reasonable comparison because the objective is largely the same, and much of the U.S. border fence will be in sandy, desert terrain as well – land that requires a strong and deep foundation due to shifting dunes. Based on the inefficient system the federal government uses to contract for building services, a $25 billion price tag is likely the most realistic. However, President Trump has stated that he believes his administration can keep the costs to the lower end of the prevailing estimates, between $15 and $25 billion.

After initial construction, especially if high-tech monitoring devices are installed, there will be annual maintenance costs. These next-generation devices are already being tested and used along the southern border. Annual total maintenance costs have varied greatly since the Secure Fence Act was passed. They range from a low of $115 million in FY 2006, to a high of $1.2 billion in FY 2008 before eventually stabilizing at around $400 million in FY 2012.[7] Nailing down a specific, static cost for maintaining a well-secured border is hard to estimate. It can reasonably be assumed that annual maintenance will cost considerably more than it has in the past. Maintenance of an effective border barrier is likely to cost as much, or more, than the FY 2006 high of $1.2 billion. However, a well maintained border barrier is likely to reduce some of the high costs associated with interior immigration enforcement.

Another possibility, should cost, environmental concerns and technical difficulties become a major concern, would be to construct more double-layered wired fence in low-traffic areas instead of a concrete wall. Combined with hi-tech monitoring equipment such as ground sensors and aerial monitoring, this approach could yield success comparable to that experienced by other nations, such as Israel, that have built similar barriers in lightly-populated deserts.[8] Assuming that the construction costs for double-layered fencing are considerably less than those for a concrete wall, and taking into account that much of the border with Mexico is in remote areas where wire fencing might be effective, the savings could be substantial. President-elect Trump, the Department of Homeland Security and Congress will have to conduct a careful cost-benefit analysis to determine which construction method is appropriate for each sector of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Regardless of which approach is taken, securing the southern border is a sound fiscal investment. The overall construction and annual maintenance costs pale when compared to the $113 billion FAIR estimates illegal immigration costs American taxpayers. In fact, if the project only results in a 5 percent reduction in the annual cost of illegal immigration to American taxpayers, and construction and maintenance costs reach the most expensive estimates, it would pay for itself after only six years.[10]

Conclusion

In 2006, Congress required that a barrier be constructed. But the project was never completed as mandated, and much of the border wall/fence lies in disrepair or is built to subpar standards. With illegal immigration, drug trafficking and human smuggling an ongoing problem, and the threat of terrorism ever increasing, it is critical that a proper security barrier be constructed.

A physical barrier on the southern border is a necessity if our government wishes to meet its obligation to protect the sovereignty and security of the United States of America. Besides helping stem the tide of illegal immigration, it also limits the ability of drug cartels, human traffickers, terrorists and other national security threats to access the United States from Mexico and the rest of Central and South America. Furthermore, a secure border sends the message that prospective immigrants are expected to follow the rule of law.

**Radio Listening Trends**

Over the past fifteen years, there has been nothing short of a sea change in how different generations listen to radio, While most radio listeners used to find a radio station by just a twist of the tuning knob, new data is shining light on the fact that more and more young listeners are finding radio stations through a click of the mouse or the automatic download of a podcast. According to the State of the News Media 2015 report by the Pew Research Center, more than half of Americans 12 and older tuned in to online radio in the previous month. In the past five years, the percentage of people who listened online has almost doubled, rising from 27% in 2010 to 53% in 2015. Simply put, the face of radio is changing dramatically with the rise of online stations and streaming services, but what does this say about the new generation of listeners?

Online Listening is Evolving, Too

First off, not only are more listeners enjoying radio online, but they’re using a bevy of different devices to listen to it. Smartphones are the leading way to listen— 73% of the online radio audience surveyed said they listened on their phones in 2015, a 13% increase from 2014. Desktops and laptops are still significant in the field, with 61% of respondents saying they listen to online radio via one of those devices. However, listening on traditional computers is still down 6% from 2014, when it was at 67% and it’s likely that mobile listenership will continue to grow.

In terms of what people are listening to online, it is generally a mixture of streaming audio services like Spotify and Tidal, user-controlled radio stations like Pandora, and the vast network of podcasts that cover seemingly every topic imaginable.

Even ‘Drive Time” Listening in Cars is Affected

For years, the “drive time” periods in the morning (usually between 7 and 8 AM) and evening (generally 5-7 PM) when people are driving to and from work have been coveted by advertisers on local and national radio. Trapped in their cars, unable to take their eyes off the road for other activities like reading emails, texting, or watching video, drivers are a captive audience for radio commercials.

But with more cars coming outfitted with online radio capability, more and more drivers are choosing online stations over traditional ones. As of January 2015, 35% of people surveyed said they tuned in to online radio in their cars, a growth of 14% over 2013, when only 21% listened while driving. In 2010, only 6% reported listening to online radio in their vehicles. At this rate, the meaning of “drive time” will likely change as more listeners choose internet radio over local and national radio, or simply load up a podcast they downloaded before getting into their car. And traditional radio stations are definitely getting the memo as prestigious institutions like WNYC starting to rebrand themselves as audio entertainment venues.

How to Reach Online Listeners

In March, a twice.com article noted that online listening skews younger, and is most common among 12- to 54-year-olds. More than three-quarters (77%) of listeners between the ages of 12 and 24 listened online in the past month, vs. 61% of 25- to 54-year-olds, revealing a distinct generational gap in listening habits. Barely more than a quarter (26%) of those older than 55 listened online. And while listeners in the younger age range often lack the financial resources to purchase a car with internet radio, that’s not stopping many listeners from streaming their favorite stations and artists through their car speakers via a cell phone connected to a car audio system, with 55% of those in the 12- to 24-years-old group saying they had done so.

So what are younger listeners listening to on internet radio? News geared to younger viewers, like entertainment and sports, is generally a good bet for online radio, although this can vary somewhat depending on your online station’s format. That doesn’t mean you should ignore hard news, but most Millennials aren’t going to mind if you spend sixty seconds on the latest Hollywood divorce or sports scandal.

Online Radio Advertising

In terms of how advertisers can use this data to maximize their reach with younger listeners, it’s likely that more companies will focus their online radio advertising sales efforts on products that will appeal to a younger demographic, particularly 18- to 34-year-olds during drive time and teenagers after 7 PM. The good news is that Millennials are more opposed to paying for subscriptions than listening to ads: According to data from Strategy Analytics, 89% of internet radio listeners prefer ad-supported online radio to subscription models.

A CRN Research Report about Millennials shows that 75% of the group prefers ads about things that interest them. That’s another benefit of online radio—you don’t have to rely on an Arbitron report to get a vague idea of who listens to what and what products/news items they might enjoy. Take advantage of one of the best benefits of online radio—require your viewers to sign in before listening to music. Most listeners don’t mind signing in for free, ad-supported radio; you can use their listening history and/or answers to questions asked during account sign-up to allow advertisers to better target them. This doesn’t just keep your audience interested—it’s also a huge benefit to your advertisers.

On a closing note, with services like Sirius XM, Pandora, Spotify, and the newly minted Tidal and Apple Music increasingly crowding the online radio market, it remains to be seen how much room for growth the industry can support. In the case of podcasts, it can sometimes seem like there’s no ceiling in sight, with a handful of new podcasts popping up everyday. And podcasts enjoy a particular advantage over both traditional and online radio in that you do not need radio or wireless reception to listen, which you can do anywhere you please. On the flip side, recent NYTimes article about Millennials’ predilection for streaming media argued that when Millennials start a family, they are more likely to return to a traditional cable service. Whether this trend will carry over to internet radio is something we’ll be closely watching.

**Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in recognition of the importance of the Nation's wealth of natural resources to American workers and the American economy, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. Designations of national monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906, recently recodified at sections 320301 to 320303 of title 54, United States Code (the "Antiquities Act" or "Act"), have a substantial impact on the management of Federal lands and the use and enjoyment of neighboring lands. Such designations are a means of stewarding America's natural resources, protecting America's natural beauty, and preserving America's historic places. Monument designations that result from a lack of public outreach and proper coordination with State, tribal, and local officials and other relevant stakeholders may also create barriers to achieving energy independence, restrict public access to and use of Federal lands, burden State, tribal, and local governments, and otherwise curtail economic growth. Designations should be made in accordance with the requirements and original objectives of the Act and appropriately balance the protection of landmarks, structures, and objects against the appropriate use of Federal lands and the effects on surrounding lands and communities.

Sec. 2. Review of National Monument Designations. (a) The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall conduct a review of all Presidential designations or expansions of designations under the Antiquities Act made since January 1, 1996, where the designation covers more than 100,000 acres, where the designation after expansion covers more than 100,000 acres, or where the Secretary determines that the designation or expansion was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders, to determine whether each designation or expansion conforms to the policy set forth in section 1 of this order. In making those determinations, the Secretary shall consider:

(i) the requirements and original objectives of the Act, including the Act's requirement that reservations of land not exceed "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected";

(ii) whether designated lands are appropriately classified under the Act as "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [or] other objects of historic or scientific interest";

(iii) the effects of a designation on the available uses of designated Federal lands, including consideration of the multiple-use policy of section 102(a)(7) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(7)), as well as the effects on the available uses of Federal lands beyond the monument boundaries;

(iv) the effects of a designation on the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands within or beyond monument boundaries;

(v) concerns of State, tribal, and local governments affected by a designation, including the economic development and fiscal condition of affected States, tribes, and localities;

(vi) the availability of Federal resources to properly manage designated areas; and

(vii) such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(b) In conducting the review described in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall consult and coordinate with, as appropriate, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of any other executive departments or agencies concerned with areas designated under the Act.

(c) In conducting the review described in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, consult and coordinate with the Governors of States affected by monument designations or other relevant officials of affected State, tribal, and local governments.

(d) Within 45 days of the date of this order, the Secretary shall provide an interim report to the President, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, summarizing the findings of the review described in subsection (a) of this section with respect to Proclamation 9558 of December 28, 2016 (Establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument), and such other designations as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for inclusion in the interim report. For those designations, the interim report shall include recommendations for such Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.

(e) Within 120 days of the date of this order, the Secretary shall provide a final report to the President, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, summarizing the findings of the review described in subsection (a) of this section. The final report shall include recommendations for such Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

**Little Kim Promises to Sink US Ship**

**he moment the USS Michigan tries to budge even a little, it will be doomed to face the miserable fate of becoming a underwater ghost without being able to come to the surface," - NK STATEMENT**

 While the world has come to see North Korean threats as belicose rhetoric, such threats are \_usually\_ phrased "if attacked, we will  (insert threat here)".   Today's threat is quite different.  The North Koreans know they cannot detect the US Submarine once it is submerged, so they've threatened to attack it "if it tries to budge even a little . . ."

SuperStation95 asked our sources in the Pentagon what they thought of this latest outburst and the reply was blunt:

The United States is not impressed with -- or afraid of -- North Korea.  Let them take whatever attack action they want; it will only result in their complete destruction.

This morning's statement by North Korea continued with “The urgent fielding of the nuclear submarine in the waters off the Korean Peninsula, timed to coincide with the deployment of the super aircraft carrier strike group, is intended to further intensify military threats toward our republic.”

The guided missile submarine USS Michigan has joined the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier group in waters near the Korean peninsula.

The website added that “whether it’s a nuclear aircraft carrier or a nuclear submarine, they will be turned into a mass of scrap metal in front of our invincible military power centred on the self-defence nuclear deterrence.”

The aircraft carrier group began exercises with the South Korean navy on Sunday after it completed drills with the Japanese navy.

The dispatch of the Carl Vinson was a “reckless action of the war maniacs aimed at an extremely dangerous nuclear war,” the Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, said in a commentary.

It comes after the hermit kingdom [test-fired another ballistic missile](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/north-korea-missile-test-ballistic-kim-jong-un-trump-us-south-latest-a7708891.html) in a clear message of defiance aimed at Washington and its allies.

However, US officials said the medium-range ballistic missile disintegrated mid-flight, minutes after launch, and fell into the Sea of Japan.

President Donald Trump, asked about his message to North Korea after the latest missile test, told reporters: “You’ll soon find out”, but did not elaborate on what the US response would be.

# Mystery of the missing mercury at the Great Salt Lake

## Loss of deep mercury challenges assumptions about sources of mercury in waterfowl

Around 2010, the deep waters of Utah's Great Salt Lake contained high levels of toxic methylmercury. Mercury measurements in waterfowl surrounding the lake led to a rare human consumption advisory for ducks.

But by 2015, 90 percent of the deep mercury was gone.

The disappearance of the mercury was not due to aggressive environmental policies or a wide-ranging cleanup effort. Instead, it's part of a story involving a large-scale unplanned chemistry experiment, a sometimes-stinky lake, and ducks -- in which the mercury did not disappear. The story is told in a paper published in Environmental Science & Technology.

A Union Pacific railway line crosses the lake, dividing it into a smaller north arm and a larger south arm, with the line drawn right at the base of the bunny-ear-like northern extensions of the lake. Because the north arm has no major river inflow, it's much saltier than the south arm. Two culverts in the railroad line allowed briny north arm water to flow into the south arm and, because of its higher density, sink to the bottom of the south arm.

The difference in density between the deep and shallow waters prevented mixing, says geology and geophysics professor William Johnson, and kept fresh oxygen from infiltrating into the deeper water layers. Decaying organic matter on the lake floor sucked all the oxygen out of the briny layer, forcing microorganisms to find something else to "breathe." Without oxygen, some bacteria turn to nitrate to fuel the chemical processes of life. When the nitrate is gone, they turn to iron, manganese, and finally sulfate. Residents of the Salt Lake Valley may have noticed a byproduct of the sulfate-breathing bacteria -- sulfide, a stinky rotten egg smell emanating from the lake. In another side effect, the bacteria turn elemental mercury into toxic methylmercury.

"Mercury's really tricky," Johnson says. "It changes form." Elemental mercury, like the kind found in old thermometers, evaporates readily and circulates through the atmosphere. It can attach to dust particles and rain out of the sky, in a process called atmospheric deposition. With the Great Salt Lake's large surface area, it receives a lot of mercury. The toxic form of the element is methylmercury, which is toxic to the nervous system and can move up the food chain as higher organisms accumulate the methylmercury present in their prey.

When wildlife officials began noticing elevated mercury levels in waterfowl in the lake's wetlands, at around the same time geoscientists found highly elevated mercury in the depths of the lake, they all thought a connection between the ducks and the deep brine layer was likely.

"That created this expectation that there's a link between these high concentrations of methylmercury down in the deep brine layer and the elevated concentrations in waterfowl in the wetlands adjacent to the lake," Johnson says.

Then, in 2013, Union Pacific closed off the railway culverts for repair, sealing off the flow of salty water from the north arm to the south arm. When Johnson and his colleagues, Frank Black at Westminster College and Blair Stringham at the Utah Department of Natural Resources, took samples of the deep brine layer and lake-bottom sediments in 2015, they found that methylmercury, in both the water and the sediment, had decreased by 88 percent.

"It seems clear that the deep brine layer was a cap," Johnson says. Without the constant inflow of north arm water, the deep brine layer finally mixed with the overlying water, bringing oxygen and driving the methylmercury into other forms, possibly elemental mercury, which would evaporate away into the atmosphere.

And the ducks? Waterfowl carcasses collected both before and after the culvert closure showed no significant change in mercury levels. "If there's a direct connection between the environment at the bottom of the lake and the Hg in the ducks, you'd think you'd see a corresponding reduction of Hg in biota," Johnson says. "We didn't see that."

The source of methylmercury in wetlands is still unknown, as is the exact mechanism by which the deep lake mercury disappeared. But Johnson, Black and now the US Geological Survey aren't done with the lake yet. In December 2016, Union Pacific opened a new breach in the causeway, linking once again the north and south arms of the Great Salt Lake. The breach is wider than the old culverts, and researchers are now waiting to see whether the anoxic deep brine layer re-establishes itself, and whether another "methylmercury factory will lurk at the bottom of the lake" Johnson says.

Amalgamation has been used for thousands of years to recover small sized or fine gold. Historically, it was used in many operations to increase gold recovery. In spite of this I recommend against using it in almost all applications. Especially for the small prospector, there are many better options available for separating your fine gold from black sand. Here is a link to my page on Processing Black Sands. Many prospecting shops no longer even sell mercury. In spite of its potential danger, I would like to present some information about using Mercury recover fine gold because of its historical significance and general interest to the individual prospector and miner. If you decide to use Mercury with your prospecting operations, it is mandatory that you take care to learn all the necessary safety precautions and use them in every step of your work.

Basically, amalgamation is the practice of bringing free gold particles into contact with mercury. When clean gold comes into contact with mercury, the two substances mix to form a compound called amalgam – an amalgam is simply an alloy of gold and mercury. The gold literally is dissolved into the mercury. This allows the collection of very small sized particles of gold. At the end of the operation the mercury and gold amalgam are collected after which the two are separated, and the mercury recycled. Now larger gold and nuggets will not be completely converted (except over a very long time) and only a thin coating of amalgam forms. However, large nuggets should not be captured with mercury, it should be saved to use in recovering fine sized gold.