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| --- | --- |
| Jihad Report Mar 03, 2018 -Mar 09, 2018 | |
| Attacks | **38** |
| Killed | **114** |
| Injured | **134** |
| Suicide Blasts | **6** |
| Countries | **11** |

**“**Men have authority over women because Allah has made the one superior to the other, and because they spend their wealth to maintain them. Good women are obedient. They guard their unseen parts because Allah has guarded them. As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them and send them to beds apart and beat them.” Qu’ran 4:34

**2001 A Space Odyssey: View to a Future**

**Fifty years ago next month,** invitation-only audiences gathered in specially equipped Cinerama theaters in Washington, New York and Los Angeles to preview a widescreen epic that director Stanley Kubrick had been working on for four years. Conceived in collaboration with the science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke, “2001: A Space Odyssey” was way over budget, and Hollywood rumor held that MGM had essentially bet the studio on the project. I was 14 years old.

The film’s previews were an unmitigated disaster. Its story line encompassed an exceptional temporal sweep, starting with the initial contact between pre-human ape-men and an omnipotent alien civilization and then vaulting forward to later encounters between *Homo sapiens* and the elusive aliens, represented throughout by the film’s iconic metallic-black monolith. Although featuring visual effects of unprecedented realism and power, Kubrick’s panoramic journey into space and time made few concessions to viewer understanding. The film was essentially a nonverbal experience. Its first words came only a good half-hour in.

Audience walkouts numbered well over 200 at the New York premiere on April 3, 1968, and the next day’s reviews were almost uniformly negative. Writing in the Village Voice, Andrew Sarris called the movie “a thoroughly uninteresting failure and the most damning demonstration yet of Stanley Kubrick’s inability to tell a story coherently and with a consistent point of view.” And yet that afternoon, a long line—comprised predominantly of younger people—extended down Broadway, awaiting the first matinee.

It would not be the first time the film community was at odds with everyone else in the world. Stung by the initial reactions and under great pressure from MGM, Kubrick soon cut almost 20 minutes from the film. Although “2001” remained willfully opaque and open to interpretation, the trims removed redundancies, and the film spoke more clearly.

Critics began to come around. In her review for the Boston Globe, Marjorie Adams, who had seen the shortened version, called it “the world’s most extraordinary film. Nothing like it has ever been shown in Boston before, or for that matter, anywhere. The film is as exciting as the discovery of a new dimension in life.”

‘Stanley and I are laughing all the way to the bank.’

Although incomprehensible by prevailing Hollywood standards, Kubrick’s cryptic, mostly dialogue-free structure fit well with the radical avant-garde artistic innovations of the period, and the movie was an immediate countercultural hit. John Lennon quipped, “‘2001’? I see it every week,” and David Bowie was inspired to record his hit single “Space Oddity” just under a year later—a clear allusion to the film. “2001” became a genuine late-’60s cultural happening and a bellwether of the decade’s generational divide. With ticket sales brisk from day one, the production ended up the highest-grossing film of 1968. “As for the dwindling minority who still don’t like it, that’s their problem, not ours,” Clarke wrote. “Stanley and I are laughing all the way to the bank.”

Fifty years later, “2001: A Space Odyssey” is widely recognized as ranking among the most influential movies ever made. The most respected poll of such things, conducted every decade by the British Film Institute’s Sight & Sound magazine, asks the world’s leading directors and critics to name the 100 greatest films of all time. The last BFI decadal survey, conducted in 2012, placed it at [No. 2 among directors](http://www.bfi.org.uk/films-tv-people/sightandsoundpoll2012/directors) and [No. 6 among critics](http://www.bfi.org.uk/news/50-greatest-films-all-time). Not bad for a film that critic Pauline Kael had waited a contemptuous 10 months before dismissing as “trash masquerading as art” in the pages of Harper’s.

Although the film’s vision of humanity expanding throughout the solar system proved overoptimistic, its portrait of a screen-based, technology-mediated future now seems almost uncannily accurate, and it devastatingly evokes the dehumanization that can result from such communication. As for the cyclopean HAL-9000 supercomputer, often considered the most human character in “2001,” it foreshadowed our anxious contemporary discussion about the potentially dystopian impact of artificial-intelligence technologies.

The film’s extraordinary predictive realism was entirely premeditated, the result of Kubrick and Clarke’s questing, cerebral commitment to scientific and technical accuracy. By all accounts the production was run less like a big-budget Hollywood production than an extended futurological R&D exercise. A broad slate of top aerospace and computer companies were brought on board as consultants and advisers, with such leading innovators as [IBM](http://quotes.wsj.com/IBM) , Bell Labs and Hewlett-Packard all playing important roles.

In the summer of 1965, Kubrick received two detailed Bell Labs reports written by A. Michael Noll (a trailblazer in the development of digital arts and 3-D animation) and information theorist John R. Pierce (who coined the term “transistor” and headed the team that built the first communications satellite). They recommended that the spacecraft systems in “2001” all feature multiple “fairly large, flat and rectangular” screens, with “no indication of the massive depth of equipment behind them.” Flat screens were, of course, unknown in the ’60s—at least outside of movie theaters—and they helped to ensure 2001’s futuristic sheen.



The film featured forward-looking flat-screen tablet computers. Photo: Mary Evans/Everett Collection

The role of the film’s sentient supercomputer, originally named Athena, grew throughout the film’s development, under the influence of discussions that Kubrick and Clarke held with MIT cognitive scientist and artificial intelligence pioneer Marvin Minsky and British cryptologist and mathematician I. J. Good. The computer’s physical look resulted from advice provided by IBM’s influential design bureau-think-tank—the Apple Industrial Design Group of its day—then led by industrial designer Eliot Noyes.

In July 1965, Noyes and his team provided drawings of astronauts floating within a kind of “brain room”—a concept that Kubrick initially rejected but later recognized as having intriguing dramatic possibilities. The astronaut Dave Bowman’s methodical lobotomization of the computer after it—or rather, “he”—had killed off the rest of the crew, conducted within the dappled red confines of the film’s remarkable brain-room set, remains one of the most powerfully disturbing scenes ever committed to celluloid.

HAL stood for “Heuristic Algorithmic,” a Minsky suggestion. The computer’s homicidal tendencies emerged only gradually, forcing the production to remove its original IBM nameplate and to substitute another acronym—a kind of subliminal cognate, with “HAL” being displaced from “IBM” by only one letter in each case, something that both Kubrick and Clarke strenuously denied was intentional.

Another fascinating result of the production’s consultation with Big Blue was the film’s forward-looking flat-screen tablet computers, which retained their IBM logos and were called “Newspads.” Constructed long before such technologies were feasible, the movie’s seemingly portable Newspads were actually welded to the tables on which they appeared casually placed, with hidden 16mm film projectors recessed underneath to provide content for their frosted-glass displays.

In the film’s final cut, the Newspads were only used by the astronauts to watch a TV program ostensibly from the BBC and were thus largely indistinguishable from the various other displays embedded in the sets. But the production had received permission from the New York Times to use its logo, and Kubrick’s designers had mocked up a digital front page for the Newspads, complete with multiple story choices to be accessed by touch-screen command. If the page had been used, the movie would almost certainly now be seen as having predicted the internet.

More than four decades later, however, the predictive futurism of “2001” was decisively ratified when Apple released its first iPad in 2010. Samsung issued a similar device a year later, and Apple immediately sued for patent infringement. That August the Korean company [filed a response](https://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2011/08/23/samsung-cites-sci-fi-classic-in-attacking-apple-patent/) in federal court in San Jose, Calif., asserting that Apple couldn’t possibly have invented the iPad because the device had already been envisioned in “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

Samsung’s unusual defense, which featured both stills and YouTube links from the film, was ultimately ruled inadmissible as evidence, but it confirmed what many fans have long appreciated: the continuing relevance and still-startling prescience of Kubrick’s masterpiece.

**Thor: X37B Launches Another Secret Payload**

The 107-country Outer Space Treaty signed in 1967 prohibits nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons from being placed or used from Earth’s orbit. What they didn’t count on was the U.S. Air Force’s most simple weapon ever: a tungsten rod that could hit a city with the explosive power of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

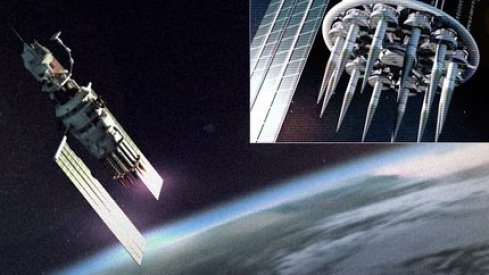
During the Vietnam War, the U.S. used what they called “Lazy Dog” bombs. These were simply solid steel pieces, less than two inches long, fitted with fins. There was no explosive – they were simply dropped by the hundreds from planes flying above Vietnam.

[Lazy Dog projectiles](https://books.google.com/books?id=SQrcBQAAQBAJ&q=tungsten#v=onepage&q=lazy%20dog&f=false) (aka “kinetic bombardment”) could reach speeds of up to 500 mph as they fell to the ground and could penetrate nine inches of concrete after being dropped from as little as 3,000 feet

The idea is like shooting bullets at a target, except instead of losing velocity as it travels, the projectile is gaining velocity and energy that will be expended on impact. They were shotgunning a large swath of jungle, raining bullet-sized death at high speeds.

That’s how Project Thor came to be.

Instead of hundreds of small projectiles from a few thousand feet, Thor used a large projectile from a few thousand miles above the Earth. The “[rods from god](http://www.sfgate.com/opinion/article/RODS-FROM-GOD-Imagine-a-bundle-of-telephone-2539690.php)” idea was a bundle of telephone-pole sized (20 feet long, one foot in diameter) tungsten rods, dropped from orbit, reaching a speed of up to ten times the speed of sound.



**A concept design of Project Thor.**

The rod itself would penetrate hundreds of feet into the Earth, destroying any potential hardened bunkers or secret underground sites. More than that, when the rod hits, the explosion would be on par with the magnitude of a [ground-penetrating nuclear weapon](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Front_Page/GH18Aa01.html) – but with no fallout.

It would take [15 minutes](http://www.popsci.com/scitech/article/2004-06/rods-god) to destroy a target with such a weapon.

One [Quora user who works in the defense aerospace industry](https://www.quora.com/How-realistic-was-USAFs-Project-Thor-in-terms-of-implementation) quoted a cost of no less than $10,000 per pound to fire anything into space. With 20 cubic feet of dense tungsten weighing in at just over 24,000 pounds, the math is easy. Just one of the rods would be prohibitively expensive. The cost of $230 million dollars per rod was unimaginable during the Cold War.



**Like lawn darts, but with global repercussions.**

These days, not so much. The [Bush Administration even considered revisiting the idea](http://www.sfgate.com/opinion/article/RODS-FROM-GOD-Imagine-a-bundle-of-telephone-2539690.php) to hit underground nuclear sites in rogue nations in the years following 9/11. Interestingly enough, the cost of a single Minuteman III ICBM was $7 million in 1962, when it was first introduced ($57 million adjusted for inflation).

The trouble with a nuclear payload is that it isn’t designed to penetrate deep into the surface. And the fallout from a nuclear device can be devastating to surrounding, potentially friendly areas.



**“Someone dropped a penny from the Empire State Building again.”**

A core takeaway from the concept of weapons like Project Thor’s is that hypersonic weapons pack a significant punch and might be the future of global warfare.

**Kim Jong-un to meet Trump by May after North Korea invitation**

It will be one of the most eagerly watched diplomatic encounters since Richard Nixon was [hosted by Mao Zedong in China,](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1821104.stm) or Ronald Reagan held talks with Mikhail Gorbachev in neutral Switzerland. But [the stunning announcement](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/08/donald-trump-north-korea-kim-jong-un-meeting-may-letter-invite-talks-nuclear-weapons) on Thursday that Donald Trump will come face to face with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, whom he has previously branded “little rocket man”, prompts an immediate question: where?

“Does this mean Chairman Kim is coming to Washington or does it mean the president of the United States is going to travel to North Korea?” pondered [Jim Walsh,](https://ssp.mit.edu/people/jim-walsh) a senior research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s security studies programme.

Now, there is something to consider here, that the MSM may be missing. Allow me to speculate. [**Rumors have been swirling**](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/white-house-preparing-mcmaster-exit-early-next-month-n852371) that national security advisor H.R. McMaster may leave his post, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is rumored to be on tenuous ground. He appears to be happy, but he was a quasi anti-Trumper in the beginning, and now, it appears, he has become a believer. Add to this the fact that Trump met conspicuously with Colonel Ambassdor John Bolton on Tuesday.

We know he is considered a true hawk on foreign policy; he has served as Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs at the State Department from 1989-1993, where he coordinated the effort to rescind the United Nations resolution from the 1970s that equated Zionism with racism, and also was key in the efforts of the U.S. Mission to obtain U.N. resolutions endorsing the use of force to fight Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait. Between 1985-1989 he served as Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

We also know he is one of the world’s top authorities on North Korea. Trump has done far more behind the scenes with the reclusive leader Little Kim than anyone outside our tight little circle of researchers realize. Although the proposed meeting is the talk of the news actors now, it may not be the first time the two have met.

Here’s what we do know. China is an outside bet to host the upcoming meeting. [Frank Aum](https://www.usip.org/people/frank-aum), a senior expert on North Korea at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, said: “Kim has never left the country, as far as I know, since he assumed power, so I couldn’t see it happening in a foreign country such as South Korea, China or the US. At the same time, it’s hard to see the US providing the prestige of having Donald Trump go to Pyongyang for a visit.”

But, what if that is exactly what happened, already? You will recall in November that Air Force One was in China on November 8th for US President Donald Trump arrived in Beijing on Wednesday afternoon for a state visit meant to maximize personal interaction between two of the world’s most powerful leaders.

Beijing is billing the trip as a “state visit-plus”, a term it has not used for any foreign leader since the Communist Party took power in 1949. Trump is accompanied by his wife Melania and a delegation of dozens of business leaders.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the “state visit-plus” red-carpet welcome was in return for the “warm, considerate reception and the high standard and thoughtful arrangement” the Trumps made for Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan in Florida in April.

“The personal communication between top leaders is very important,” the source said.

“Since Trump took office, the interaction between Trump and Xi has gone very well, and the working relationship has been established … which also offered a good basis on which to arrange a ‘state visit-plus’ for Trump.”

Now, it appears that the Chinese have an evil cabal as well, but Xi is not part of it. He has been working very hard to track these guys down and get rid of them. That is why the meeting took place in Forbidden City, away from the prying eyes of the Syndicate. My sources tell me that Trump was tempted to cross the line, but he refused by saying he worked for the America people. This greatly impressed Xi, and that’s why the two of them were invited to Forbidden City. It has not happened since 1949. The meeting went so well, that Trump decided to attempt the impossible…again. Two days later history took another turn toward the light.

On the 11th of November—yes we are talking 11/11—Air Force One allegedly touched down in Pyongyang for a meeting with Little Kim. Yes, you heard me right. The meeting that the Fake Stream news is all touching themselves over has already happened. You know the old saying. Never ask a question for which you do not already know the answer. It is believed that the entire agreement was made during that visit. The deal of the century was done. The actions since then have been for show only to keep the globalist Syndicate, that is currently seeking the disarmament and destruction of America, off balance and deceived as to what is really happening.

In other words, this upcoming meeting in May, when the flowers are in bloom and the national beauty is abundant, is for show. The South Korean national security director, Chung Eui-yong, [told reporters](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/09/south-korea-white-house-talks-north-full-transcript) of the planned meeting outside the White House on Thursday, having briefed Trump and other senior officials about talks with Kim. Remember, they took zero questions from the press.

The deal was designed by Trump and has already been done. The denuclearization of Korea is done. The reunification of Korea, the way Reagan reunified Germany by tearing down the wall, has already been decided. This is a world media breakthrough, right here on X-Squared Radio.

The experts, like [Christopher Hill](https://www.albrightstonebridge.com/team/christopher-hill), a former US ambassador to North Korea, told America’s MSNBC network: “My advice would be the president should not journey to Pyongyang. Nor should he invite Kim Jong-un to Washington.” Too late, Chris. You’re too late, again.

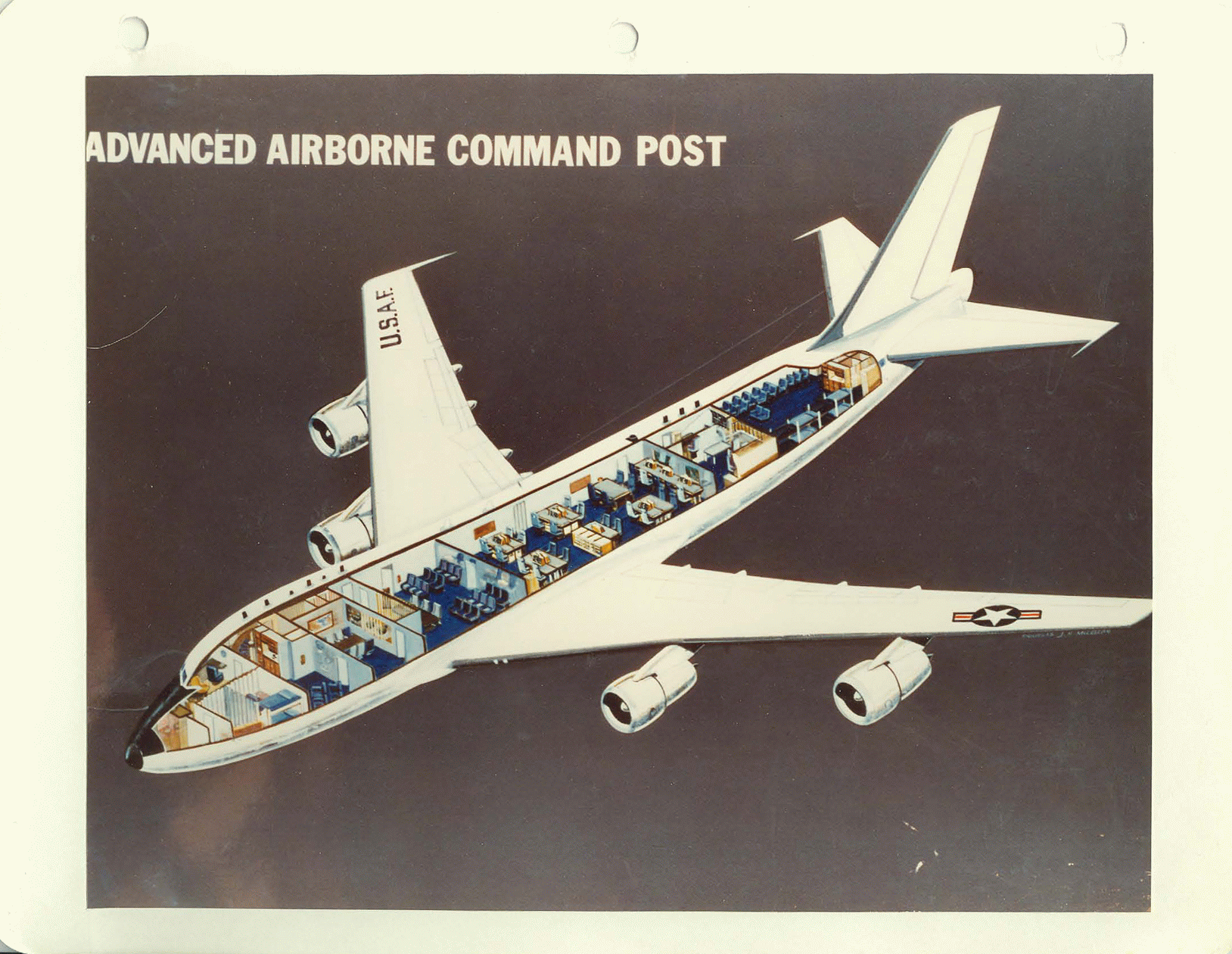
I find the meeting between John Bolton and Trump extremely curious. It was sprinkled with enough Iranian sand to hide the full details of their discussion. I can tell you that Bolton most assuredly is cautioning Trump not to trust Little Kim too much. Trump, I think correctly believes that the best way to end the globalist’s use of North Korea as a potential rogue nuclear threat is reunification. The big unknown is how the peaceful, free enterprise of South Korea is going to replace the North’s dreams of finishing the war that never was.

Here is one thing to consider. Once the highways open up from Seoul to Pyongyang, it will never divide again. The cousins and family lines will celebrate for a year, and the prisons will be emptied and destroyed. The dark and hateful hold of the Kim regime will end.

While the globalists are busy trying to break America down into another continent of slaves to their Central government in Belgium, their Asian bully is going to be cleaned up and brought back into the world of Democracy and free enterprise. I doubt the great work being done by Donald Trump will ever be undone, because the rights that come from God are loved by all people. Why else would the entire planet be struggling so hard to get here?

Oh, one more thing. The parade. The biggest military celebration since World War Two is going to take place. In May. What better thing to celebrate than the end of the Korean division? The Democrats will find themselves far out of the game.

**E-4 Doomsday Planes and Skyking EAS**



For those who monitor military radio traffic, today has been an extraordinary deviation from the norm.  "SKYKING" has been broadcasting Emergency Action Messages all day and, for some reason have been repeating particular messages at :10 and :40 after each hour!

In addition, two Boeing E4-B "Doomsday" planes have been in the air all day on Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B).  Something is happening.

The Boeing E-4 Advanced Airborne Command Post, with the project name "Nightwatch" is a strategic command and control military aircraft operated by the United States Air Force (USAF).

The E-4 series was specially modified from the Boeing 747-200B for the National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP) program.

The E-4 serves as a survivable mobile command post for the National Command Authority, namely the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, and successors.

There are only four E-4Bs and they are operated by the 1st Airborne Command and Control Squadron of the 595th Command and Control Group located at Offutt Air Force Base, near Omaha, Nebraska. An E-4B when in action is denoted a "National Airborne Operations Center."

 SKYKING

The High Frequency Global Communications System (HFGCS) is a network of single sideband shortwave transmitters of the United States Air Force which is used to communicate with aircraft in flight, ground stations and some United States Navy surface assets.

All worldwide receiving and transmitting sites in the HFGCS system are remotely controlled from Andrews Air Force Base and Grand Forks Air Force Base. Before 1 October 2002 it was known as the Global High Frequency System(GHFS).

HFGCS stations tend to operate in the aviation bands clustered around 5, 8 and 11/12 MHz, although other frequencies are in use.

The primary HFGCS voice frequencies are 4724.0 kHz, 6739.0 kHz, 8992.0 kHz, 11175.0 kHz, 13200.0 kHz and 15016.0 kHz. In addition to the HFGCS, U.S. aircraft frequently use Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) HF stations (13927.0 kHz) and Canadian Forces HF stations (11232.0 kHz) to relay messages.

One common use for the HFGCS is to place telephone calls from the aircraft in flight by means of the Defense Switched Network (DSN) to an Air Force base to obtain local weather conditions, to arrange for refueling, and to inform the base of the number of passengers and crew. The HFGCS also carries Emergency Action Messages.

In addition to EAM's the HFGCS also carries a few different types of messages. A higher priority code for orders is a Skyking Message, which is a time sensitive message for orders that need immediate attention. Force Direction Messages (FDM's) are also sent through the HFGCS, although it is impossible to tell whether the message is an FDM or just another EAM being read. The sign off 'Color Bar' is currently being used (2016) at the end of the transmission.

During the course of Monday (March 5) numerous "Skyking" messages were being broadcast. The shear quantity of EAM's was very unusual.

All such messages are encrypted insofar as the message contains a series of letters and numbers whose meaning cannot be discerned without a Code Book, which is a Top Secret military manual unavailable to the public.

Since EAM's and Skyking Messages are High Priority requiring immediate attention, this sudden surge in such messages seems a bit ominous.

While there is no way for us to decipher the content of the messages, their existence indicates "something's up."

**The Obama-Iran Problem**

**Iran claimed Monday that it could produce higher enriched uranium within a 48-hour period if the United States exits the 2015 nuclear deal, otherwise known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).**

Herein lies the truth behind the 8-year tech transfer and funding of Iran’s nuclear program by the Obama administration. Valerie Jarrett, often called the co-president, is Iranian. She was born there and has strong families ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. It is not the first time a foreign spy has had direct access to the codes of power and the American checkbook. One need only read Diana West’s superbly written research work on American Betrayal:

*American Betrayal* is America's lost history, a chronicle that pits Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight David Eisenhower, and other American icons who shielded overlapping Communist conspiracies against the investigators, politicians, defectors, and others (including Senator Joseph McCarthy) who tried to tell the American people the truth.

Jarrett not only repeatedly travelled to Iran to affect nuclear and missile technology, she made sure every penny being withheld from Iran was paid in cash in full in full violation of Federal sanctions. She also made sure that $450 billion in sanctions were lifted from Iran, facilitating them to exponentially expand their nuclear program.

Today, we are hearing the next in a series of threats against America, as the leadership becomes more and more bold in their role as a globalist military support. Iran sponsors every single major jihadi effort globally. Islamic leaders, such as Saudi Arabia—although a public enemy of Iran—has funded thousands of mosques throughout Europe and America as a global training and communications network through which Islam is coordinating their global religious conquests.

Iran has again made these threats vocal and public, because they know that America will not attack them. The Iranian people, specifically the women of Persia, have openly been protesting in a thousand cities across the country for the replacement of the Mullahs as the government leadership. These leaders are using the free and educated Persian people as human shields as they openly and regularly threaten America with a nuclear holocaust.

“If America pulls out of the deal … Iran could resume its 20 percent uranium enrichment in less than 48 hours,” Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, told al-Alam TV, according to Reuters.

Iran has [fired](http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2018/01/26/report-iran-fired-multiple-nuclear-capable-ballistic-missiles-since-2015-deal/) nearly two dozen ballistic missiles, at least 16 of them nuclear-capable missiles, since signing the controversial 2015 nuclear deal. Their missile technology advanced by thirty years during the Obama technology exchange program. The gift of the RQ170 stealth drone by Obama, coupled with hundreds of millions of dollars in financial investment by the Administration in Iranian military growth was successful in the advancement.

While President Donald Trump and his administration have indicated the United States’s intention to see the deal discarded, Germany, Britain, France, Russia, and China appear to be committed to keeping the deal intact. No one wants to see a nuclear exchange of nuclear weapons. They also don’t want to see Iran follow through with their threat to proliferate those weapons to groups like Hamas or Hezbollah, who have zero reservations in using them against Israel or the West by any means possible.

Iran has continuously insisted that its ballistic missile program is purely for defensive purposes. The regime has also denied that it is supplying arms and missile technology to Houthi rebels in Yemen and, despite evidence showing otherwise, that the ballistic missiles that were fired into Saudi Arabia from Yemen were not theirs.

In December, Iran [claimed](http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/12/16/iran-claims-missile-u-s-ambassador-nikki-haley-displayed-fabricated/) that United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley “fabricated” her announcement that the charred remains of a short-range ballistic missile discovered in Yemen, which was prominently displayed behind her during her speech, originated in Iran.

That same month, an independent panel to the U.N. Security Council [declared](http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/12/02/u-n-panel-missiles-yemen-rebels-fired-saudi-arabia-iran-built/), “Design characteristics and dimensions of the components inspected by the panel are consistent with those reported for the Iranian designed and manufactured Qiam-1 missile.”

Last week, ahead of his trip to Iran this week, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian’s [said](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/french-foreign-minister-in-iran-amid-missile-criticism/2018/03/05/c0a5be28-208a-11e8-946c-9420060cb7bd_story.html?utm_term=.ea06e6769531) at a news conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that Iran’s ballistic missiles program “worries us enormously.” He reportedly added, “Having such tools is not uniquely defensive, given the distance they can reach.”

In October, Iran [said](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-usa-missiles/iran-says-no-need-to-increase-missile-range-as-can-already-hit-u-s-forces-idUSKBN1D028K) it has no need to increase the range of its ballistic missiles because they were already capable of reaching U.S. forces stationed in the region.

**Real Gun Control**

A small town in Georgia that has required “every head of household” to “maintain a firearm” since 1982 has historically been free of violent crime.

The law isn’t enforced, but the town’s mayor says it’s still a crime deterrent, [CNN.com reports](https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/06/us/kennesaw-georgia-gun-ownership/index.html):

“In Kennesaw, Georgia, local law says that ‘every head of household residing in the city limits is required to maintain a firearm.’

"‘If you're going to commit a crime in Kennesaw and you're the criminal -- are you going to take a chance that that homeowner is a law-abiding citizen?’ asked Kennesaw Mayor Derek Easterling."

There were only a few thousand people living in Kennesaw when the law was passed in 1982, but even with a population ten times that size, violent crime is rare:

“Today, Kennesaw, a town of about 33,000 people, has had one murder in the last six years and a violent crime rate of below 2%.”

**Quinnipiac Poll on Gun Control**

In a [new nationwide survey](https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2525), Quinnipiac asked self-identified registered voters about topics ranging from President Trump’s new tariff proposals to securing America’s schools by arming teachers. The answers from respondents concerning Quinnipiac’s questions on gun policy are worth noting.

Quinnipiac surveyed [1,125 individuals](https://poll.qu.edu/images/polling/us/us03062018_demos_ugbt36.pdf/) over the course of three days using a random digit dialer. The results showed that 24 percent of respondents identified as Republicans, 30 percent identified as Democrats, 41 percent identified as Independents, and 6 percent identified as something else.

When the survey asked respondents whether they supported stricter gun laws or not, 63 percent said they were supportive, which was down three percent from a Quinnipiac survey last month. Unsurprisingly, 61 percent of respondents, down six percent from last month, support a “nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons.” This isn’t surprising, as the news media often cite polls showing a majority of Americans favor an assault weapons ban.

What was revealing, however, was the followup question. Quinnipiac asked, “Do you support or oppose a nationwide ban on the sale of all semi-automatic rifles?”

Shockingly, the respondents were split, as 48 percent would support such a measure, while 48 percent would oppose it. But for either side, due to the survey’s margin of error, support or opposition could be over 50 percent. Five percent of those surveyed did not know what they thought of the proposal or did not answer the question.

While banning firearms is a more controversial issue – and one where politicians are not going to budge, regardless of public opinion – other policy proposals before Congress appear to have bipartisan support from the American people. Here are some other notable findings from the survey:

* 78 percent of respondents support raising the legal age to purchase any firearm to 21.
  + 63 percent of Republicans and 93 percent of Democrats support the measure.
* 89 percent of respondents support allowing a police officer or family member to petition a judge to have firearms removed from someone that may be at risk for violent behavior.
  + 89 percent of Republicans and 94 percent of Democrats would favor this legislation.
* 91 percent of people surveyed supported banning people with restraining orders against them for “stalking or domestic, sexual, repeat violence” from possessing or purchasing a firearm.
* 58 percent of those surveyed do not support arming school teachers, but 82 percent support armed security officers in schools.

Based on the results above, if Congress were to pass a bill raising the legal age to purchase firearms or allow for a petition to be filed in court to confiscate a potentially violent person’s guns, backlash from the American people would, surprisingly, be minimal. Furthermore, it appears that an overwhelming majority support armed security at schools. The disagreement lies on who should act as that security; trained officers and retired military veterans, or teachers themselves? Or both?

These policy surveys can give the American people a glimpse into what the general public is feeling, as well as inform Congress about the mood of the nation on specific issues. It is clear that there are issues the American people can come together on, and Congress should be able to follow suit. Other policy decisions face an uphill battle.

**NORK Nukes**

## A day after dictator Kim Jong-un allegedly claimed that his father’s “dying wish” was to see the end of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula, North Korean state newspaper Rodong Sinmun published a commentary insisting that Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons “reliably guaranteed” world peace.

Rodong Sinmun regularly publishes incendiary opinion pieces reflective of the government’s attitudes, mostly targeting South Korea, Japan, and the United States. Arguably the world’s most repressive nation, North Korea does not permit the existence of media outside of what the government controls.

In its Wednesday tirade, Rodong Sinmun [insisted](https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1520422250-559435249/dprks-access-to-nukes-is-just-option-rodong-sinmun/) that the real nuclear threat facing the planet is the United States. “Historically, the U.S. has posed nuclear threat and blackmail to the DPRK for several decades after adopting it as a policy to mount nuclear attack on the DPRK,” the article read, using the official name for North Korea, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

“There was no other option for the DPRK in the phase of acute confrontation in which it had to protect its system and destiny of the nation in one-on-one showdown with the world’s biggest nuclear possessor U.S.,” it continues. “We openly and squarely possessed nuclear weapons to defend the supreme interests of the country from the U.S. nuclear threats.”

“Peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, Northeast Asia and the rest of the world have been reliably guaranteed by the DPRK’s bolstering of nuclear deterrent,” it continues, giving the Kim regime credit for having “scuttled all the nuclear attack operation scenarios of the U.S.” and “drastically weakened its unchallenged position in the world.”

“The DPRK has defended the world peace and security by single-handedly frustrating the U.S. reckless nuclear moves to stifle it by force and dominate the world. Its feats deserve the praise of the world,” Rodong Sinmun‘s writers conclude.

The article does not mention the possibility of denuclearization, though it does appear to serve more towards explaining how North Korea decided to pursue its illegal nuclear weapons program rather than insisting that Pyongyang will keep the weapons. It neither argues for enhancing the nuclear weapons program nor for getting rid of it.

South Korean envoys sent to Pyongyang on Monday [returned](http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2018/03/05/kim-jong-un-personally-welcomes-south-korean-envoys-pyongyang/) with the news that Kim Jong-un, who met with them personally, was open to discussing denuclearization with the United States. An official privy to the conversations in Pyongyang told the South Korean outlet [Yonhap](http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2018/03/06/kim-jong-un-ready-to-discuss-denuclearization-with-u-s/) that “Chairman Kim said that even denuclearization could be among the agenda items for talks between North Korea and the U.S.”

“What drew our attention, in particular, is that he made clear that achieving denuclearization is his father’s dying wish and that it has not been changed at all,” the officials said, according to Yonhap.

Responding to this news, President Donald Trump [said](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/03/06/trump-hopes-very-peaceful-beautiful-path-negotiations-north-korea/) the conversations between the two Koreas appeared “very positive.” He added that he hoped the United States and North Korea could pursue a “very, very peaceful, beautiful path” together and praised North Korea’s presence at the Winter Olympics as “terrific.”

Just as North Korean state media and Kim Jong-un appeared to be sending distinct messages, the State Department announced yesterday the imposition of new sanctions on North Korea, despite Trump’s kind words for the regime.

The sanctions in question are a response to the confirmation that North Korea used a chemical weapon to assassinate Kim Jong-nam, Kim Jong-un’s half-brother.

“The United States strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons to conduct an assassination. This public display of contempt for universal norms against chemical weapons use further demonstrates the reckless nature of North Korea and underscores that we cannot afford to tolerate a North Korean WMD program of any kind,” State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a [statement](https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/03/279079.htm).

“The U.S. is still obsessed with the absurd fantasy that sanctions and pressure can work on the DPRK,” Minju Joson, another North Korean state publication, [protested](https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1520422247-609842122/minju-joson-condemns-u-s-for-slapping-sanctions-against-dprk/) on Wednesday. “Additional sanctions by the Trump group are nothing but last-ditch efforts to try to retrieve its continued defeats in the showdown with the DPRK.”

**Talks Publicly Announced**

Talks between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will take some weeks to arrange, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Friday. Trump said Thursday he was prepared to meet Kim in what would be the first face-to-face encounter between any leaders of the two countries. It potentially marks a major breakthrough in easing tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

"President Trump has said for some time that he was open to talks and he would willingly meet with Kim when conditions were right," Tillerson said. "And I think in the president's judgment that time has arrived now."

The decision was made by the president himself, Tillerson said during a visit to Djibouti.

"Now it's a question of agreeing on the timing of the first meeting between the two of them, and that will take some weeks before we get all that worked out."

Tillerson also drew a distinction between "talks" with North Korea and "negotiations," arguing that Trump's willingness to chat with Kim shouldn't be construed as anything more than that. Trump has derided Kim as a "maniac," referred to him as "little rocket man," and threatened in a speech to the United Nations last year to "totally destroy" North Korea if it attacked the United States or one of its allies.

Kim responded by calling the U.S. president a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard."

Trump's aides have been wary of North Korea's diplomatic overtures because of its history of reneging on international commitments and the failure of efforts on disarmament by previous U.S. administrations.

Some U.S. officials and experts worry North Korea could buy time to build up and refine its nuclear arsenal if it drags out talks with Washington.

Tillerson said the United States was surprised at how "forward-leaning" Kim was in his conversations with a visiting South Korean delegation. He said it was the strongest indication to date of Kim's "not just willingness but really his desire for talks."

Kim has committed to denuclearization and to suspending nuclear and missile tests, South Korea's National Security Office head Chung Eui-yong said on Thursday after briefing Trump on a meeting with South Korean officials held with Kim earlier this week.

China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, called on the United States and North Korea to hold talks as soon as possible, saying that at a news briefing in Beijing on Thursday that things "will not be smooth sailing."

Russia believes that a possible meeting between Trump and Kim "is a step in the right direction," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters while on a visit to Ethiopia.

**The No-Borders Crowd**

To paraphrase Rousseau, man is born free, yet everywhere he is caged. Barbed-wire, concrete walls, and gun-toting guards confine people to the nation-state of their birth. But why? The argument for open borders is both economic and moral. All people should be free to move about the earth, uncaged by the arbitrary lines known as borders.

Not every place in the world is equally well-suited to mass economic activity. Nature’s bounty is divided unevenly. Variations in wealth and income created by these differences are magnified by governments that suppress entrepreneurship and promote religious intolerance, gender discrimination, or other bigotry. Closed borders compound these injustices, cementing inequality into place and sentencing their victims to a life of penury.

The overwhelming majority of would-be immigrants want little more than to make a better life for themselves and their families by moving to economic opportunity and participating in peaceful, voluntary trade. But lawmakers and heads of state quash these dreams with state-sanctioned violence—forced repatriation, involuntary detention, or worse—often while paying lip service to “huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Wage differences are a revealing metric of border discrimination. When a worker from a poorer country moves to a richer one, her wages might double, triple, or rise even tenfold. These extreme wage differences reflect restrictions as stifling as the laws that separated white and black South Africans at the height of Apartheid. Geographical differences in wages also signal opportunity—for financially empowering the migrants, of course, but also for increasing total world output. On the other side of discrimination lies untapped potential. Economists [have estimated](https://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/jep.25.3.83) that a world of open borders would double world GDP.

Immigration is the greatest anti-poverty program ever devised.

Even relatively small increases in immigration flows can have enormous benefits. If the developed world were to take in enough immigrants to[enlarge its labor force by a mere one percent](http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/9781933286105-Pritchett-let-their-people-come.pdf), it is estimated that the additional economic value created would be worth more to the migrants than all of the world’s official foreign aid combined. Immigration is the greatest anti-poverty program ever devised.

And while the benefits of cross-border movements are tremendous for the immigrants, they are also significant for those born in destination countries. Immigration unleashes economic forces that raise real wages throughout an economy. New immigrants possess skills different from those of their hosts, and these differences enable workers in both groups to better exploit their special talents and leverage their comparative advantages. The effect is to improve the welfare of newcomers and natives alike. The immigrant who mows the lawn of the nuclear physicist indirectly helps to unlock the secrets of the universe.

What moral theory justifies using wire, wall, and weapon to prevent people from moving to opportunity? What moral theory justifies using tools of exclusion to prevent people from exercising their right to vote with their feet?

No standard moral framework, be it utilitarian, libertarian, egalitarian, Rawlsian, Christian, or any other well-developed perspective, regards people from foreign lands as less entitled to exercise their rights—or as inherently possessing less moral worth—than people lucky to have been born in the right place at the right time. Nationalism, of course, discounts the rights, interests, and moral value of “the Other, but this disposition is inconsistent with our fundamental moral teachings and beliefs.

The immigrant who mows the lawn of the nuclear physicist indirectly helps to unlock the secrets of the universe.

Freedom of movement is a basic human right. Thus the Universal Declaration of Human Rights belies its name when it proclaims this right only “within the borders of each state.” Human rights do not stop at the border.Today, we treat as pariahs those governments that refuse to let their people exit. I look forward to the day when we treat as pariahs those governments that refuse to let people enter.

Is there hope for the future? Closed borders are one of the world’s greatest moral failings but the opening of borders is the world’s greatest economic opportunity. The grandest moral revolutions in history—the abolition of slavery, the securing of religious freedom, the recognition of the rights of women—yielded a world in which virtually everyone was better off. They also demonstrated that the fears that had perpetuated these injustices were unfounded. Similarly, a planet unscarred by iron curtains is not only a world of greater equality and justice. It is a world unafraid of itself.

**Tariffs**

After a day of uncertainty,[The Wall Street Journal confirms](https://www.wsj.com/articles/mnuchin-says-tariffs-will-move-forward-after-cohn-departs-1520432598) that President Trump is**expected to sign a new proclamation Thursday afternoon (at 330ET) outlining his plan to impose new tariffs on steel and aluminum**, according to a White House official familiar with the planning.

Critically, the US equity market ramped exuberantly this afternoon after White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Wednesday there may be “potential carveouts” for Mexico, Canada and possibly other countries.

However, [WSJ reports](https://www.wsj.com/articles/mnuchin-says-tariffs-will-move-forward-after-cohn-departs-1520432598) that**officials said it was unclear whether that would be addressed on Thursday; Mr. Trump may take additional action later to give national-security exemptions on a country-by-country basis.**

Invitations were issued Wednesday afternoon for the Thursday event, which will include industry executives and workers. There is no sunset provision for the tariffs or review period stipulated in the proposal, the White House official said.

**Divisions also remain within Mr. Trump’s cabinet.**

Critics have said the tariffs, issued under the guise of national-security considerations, will damage relationships with Canadian and European allies, slow economic growth and harm American metal-consuming industries.

But President Trump seems undeterred.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX), Trade Subcommittee Chairman Dave Reichert (R-WA), and 105 additional House Republicans today reinforced the need to take action against China and other unfair trading partners while expressing concerns that broad tariffs could harm America’s jobs, manufacturers, and consumers.

Upon sending a letter to President Trump, Chairman Brady said:

**“We applaud President Trump for standing up against bad actors who trade unfairly and hurt America.**We’re writing today to say: we stand with you in taking tough action to keep America safe and our economy strong. At the same time, we’re urging the President to tailor these tariffs so American businesses can continue to trade fairly with our partners, sell American-made products to customers all over the world, and hire more workers here at home.”

In the letter, the lawmakers wrote:

***“*We support your resolve to address distortions caused by China’s unfair practices,** and we are committed to acting with you and our trading partners on meaningful and effective action.  But we urge you to reconsider the idea of broad tariffs to avoid unintended negative consequences to the U.S. economy and its workers.  We are eager to work with you in pursuing a workable, targeted approach that achieves our shared goal.”

Further, the lawmakers wrote:

**“We are writing to express deep concern about the prospect of broad, global tariffs on aluminum and steel imports.  We are convinced that the benefits of these tax cuts are only beginning, and we look forward to building on this great success as the benefits continue to spread to U.S. workers and job creators.  But adding new taxes in the form of broad tariffs would undermine this remarkable progress.”**

**War on California**

Attorney General Jeff Sessions flew to California to announce the federal government was suing that state over laws it enacted with the specific intent to thwart federal immigration enforcement.

Speaking before a gathering of media, Sessions outlined three laws enacted by the California legislature which he called "unconstitutional" and slammed the Mayor of Oakland, CA for alerting illegal aliens that an Immigration raid was coming within 24 hours.

Sessions reminded California that the first Civil War began because states thought they did not have to obey federal law. California Governor Jerry Brown, at his own press conference, claimed the federal lawsuit was "war against California."

The right to regulate immigration has been and always will be within the exclusive power of the federal government.

The 10th amendment allows states powers which have not been assigned to the federal government. California cannot flout the US Constitution - which is exactly what it is doing.

This is a fight that California will not win. But the Democrats want to go out looking like they are fighting hard.

They know they are playing a losing game but it is all about appearances and votes.

Attorney General Sessions (at about 13:00 in the video below) told the audience "There is no nullification. There is no secession. And I would invite anyone who disagrees to go visit Gettysburg or the tombs of John C. Calhoun and Abraham Lincoln. This matter has been settled." A not-so-subtle reference to the Civil War and to California's current attitude on immigration enforcement and secession.

Both Mr. Sessions and Mr. Trump have threatened to pull federal grant money from cities and states that have sanctuary laws to protect undocumented immigrants. They argue that the policies flout federal laws and help criminals evade deportation.

And the Justice Department asked 23 jurisdictions across the country this year to provide documentation that they had not kept information from federal immigration authorities, or receive a subpoena for the information. It is also exploring possible criminal charges for local politicians who enact sanctuary policies.

The lawsuit expected to be filed on Tuesday evening in Federal District Court in Sacramento is the first against a local or state government over its immigration policies filed by the Justice Department under Mr. Sessions.

Department officials said that they would not rule out the possibility of other lawsuits against local governments whose policies interfere with the federal government’s authority on immigration. Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon and Vermont have state sanctuary laws, as do cities and counties in more than a dozen states, according to the Center for Immigration Studies.

**Fascism Brewing**

Craft breweries are an important and often overlooked area of the American economy. They accounted for total sales of $23.5 billion in 2016, representing nearly [22 percent](https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/national-beer-sales-production-data/) of national beer sales. Nationwide, the industry provided the equivalent of [450,000](https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/economic-impact-data/) full-time jobs. The state of Maryland, however, lags behind the rest of the nation due to burdensome and anticompetitive regulations, with the industry’s per-capita economic impact in the state ranking just [47th](https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/by-state/?state=MD) in the nation. Fortunately, there’s an opportunity to set the state on the right path in the form of the Reform on Tap Act.

Maryland is home to popular craft breweries such as Flying Dog and Union, but even these successful breweries have been hampered by overregulation. Flying Dog planned to build a [$54 million](http://www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/music/midnight-sun-blog/bs-fe-flying-dog-halts-expansion-20171020-story.html) expansion in Frederick which would been five times larger than its current facility and potentially quadrupled its production capacity, but plans were put on “permanent hold” due to the inhospitable regulatory climate in Maryland. Union Craft Brewing’s founder likewise told the Washington Post that his brewery settled on a [smaller space](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/untapped-potential-craft-brewers-say-maryland-laws-constrict-their-industry/2017/11/28/91f1ac8c-cd5f-11e7-9d3a-bcbe2af58c3a_story.html?utm_term=.df2025a89b75) than originally planned due to regulatory uncertainty.

Maryland craft breweries face an array of regulations that are often thinly veiled attempts to restrict competition. For example, Maryland law requires that craft breweries sell no more than 3,000 barrels’ worth of beer in tap rooms per year. Yet even “3,000 barrels” is a somewhat disingenuous figure — taprooms can sell 2,000 barrels worth of beer with no extra hassle, but the next thousand barrels must be sold through a buy-back system.

The [buy-back provision](https://www.fredericknewspost.com/terms/printview/72_hours/the-brewddhist-the-fight-for-maryland-beer-is-just-beginning/article_e1756d31-4b1f-547e-8d48-1d12506dedad.html) of current Maryland law would astonish Rube Goldberg with its pointlessness and inefficiency. After selling their first 2,000 barrels of beer in taprooms, Maryland craft breweries must then sell their beer to a distributor. The beer must then be transported to a warehouse, taken off the truck, checked into the warehouse’s inventory, purchased back by the brewery at a marked up price, re-loaded onto the truck, and transported back to the brewery. This exercise in futility exists as a favor to the distributor industry, and presumably to provide a real-world example of the [broken windows fallacy](https://fee.org/articles/beware-the-broken-window-fallacy/) for economists to point to.

Not everyone in Maryland is willing to go along with this pointless regulatory scheme. The [Reform on Tap Act](https://www.ntu.org/governmentbytes/detail/ntu-to-maryland-general-assembly-reform-the-states-alcohol-system) is legislation that would eliminate the artificial caps on taproom barrels, as well as the absurd buy-back requirement. Doing so would not just be logical, it would be good for economic growth. The Reform on Tap Act would provide craft breweries in Maryland with a stable regulatory system that encourages expansion and economic growth rather than discouraging it.

Alas, the Reform on Tap Act is not the only piece of legislation aiming to reform the craft beer industry in Maryland. House Bill 1052 is also currently under consideration — and it wants to inject even more cronyism into how the state regulates the craft beer industry. I could write a dozen stories like this in a dozen different industries. This is the global corporatism smashing competitors by using Federal agencies as the enforcers. It is the same thing in:

* Boidiesel – the residual methanol in the fuel reduced from 2% to 0.2% adds 90% more cost to the process of making clean burning biodiesel, which makes it unable to compete with rack petroleum based diesel fuel. The original fuel, invented by Rudolph Diesel in 1893. He obtained a patent for his design for a compression-ignition engine using vegetable oil. In his engine, fuel was injected at the end of compression and the fuel was ignited by the high temperature resulting from compression. From 1893 to 1897, Heinrich von Buz, director of MAN AG in Augsburg, gave Rudolf Diesel the opportunity to test and develop his ideas. Rudolf Diesel obtained patents for his design in Germany and other countries, including the U.S. Every single piston driven warplane for the next 50 years utilized his engine. Then, on the evening of 29 September 1913, Diesel boarded the German steamer Dresden in Antwerp on his way to a meeting of the Consolidated Diesel Manufacturing company in London, England. He took dinner on board the ship and then retired to his cabin at about 10 p.m., leaving word to be called the next morning at 6:15 a.m.; but he was never seen alive again. In the morning his cabin was empty and his bed had not been slept in, although his nightshirt was neatly laid out and his watch had been left where it could be seen from the bed. His hat and overcoat were discovered neatly folded beneath the afterdeck railing. Ten days later, the crew of the Dutch boat Coertzen came upon the corpse of a man floating in the North Sea near Norway. The body was in such an advanced state of decomposition that it was unrecognizable, and they did not bring it aboard. Instead, the crew retrieved personal items (pill case, wallet, I.D. card, pocketknife, eyeglass case) from the clothing of the dead man, and returned the body to the sea. On 13 October, these items were identified by Rudolf's son, Eugen Diesel, as belonging to his father. On 14 October 1913 it was reported that Diesel's body was found at the mouth of the Scheldt by a boatman but he was forced to throw it overboard because of heavy weather. It was widely circulated that he committed suicide.

Now, all microbrewers cannot be tossed into the Arctic sea. So, Congress has been hired to do it instead by the global multi-billion dollar brewing industry. When you say Bud, you’ve said it all, right? House Bill 1052 would [lower the cap](https://www.mdpolicy.org/policyblog/detail/marylands-home-grown-breweries-deserve-the-same-opportunity-as-guinness) on the number of barrels of beer a brewery can sell in craft taprooms from 3,000 (or really 2,000) to 500 per year. That is an instant 75% reduction in craft beer business, unless more taprooms open. More bars, mean higher prices. After all, if you can only sell 500 barrels a year of any one brewery, you still have to make a profit. Raising the price, means the taprooms will buy the cheaper, industrial beers.

Only one company, Guinness, would be exempted from this reduction. This exemption exists in order to accommodate Guinness’s $50 million headquarters that is [under construction](http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-md-co-guinness-preview-20170908-story.html) in Maryland.  Added into that cost of construction is the cost of a few Ferraris here and there.

**The Invasion Continues**

One thing has become crystal clear in recent years, but more so now than ever. The Democrat corporation that runs Washington needs votes. It cannot get American votes, so for the last 9 years, it has recognized that in order to remain in power, they must have foreign votes. The only issue is that this is illegal in the United States. Has that ever stopped the Syndicate? No.

Tens of millions of Mexican, Salvadoran, and other foreign citizens have been carefully distributed throughout the nation. More than 300 of these cities have elected Mayors who have nullified Federal law to protect their residency. Besides the hundreds of billions in taxpayer funds it takes to support these foreign citizens, violent crime has exploded off the charts. 10 of these cities are currently the most violent on Earth.

That is no matter, because they can do something of great value. They can vote. 10 of these cities and that many States have photo ID that allows them to vote in Federal elections. So the next thing to accomplish is to preserve and protect the foreign citizens so that they can vote in 2018.

Once an idea limited to the far-left fringes, abolishing the nation’s immigration enforcement agency now looks likely to become a campaign issue in the Democrats’ 2020 presidential primary.

Former Hillary Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon came out for abolishing the agency in January. “ICE operates as an unaccountable deportation force,” Fallon argued. “Dems running in 2020 should campaign on ending the agency in its current form.”

Should ICE exist?” MSNBC host Chris Hayes asked Democratic California Sen. Kamala Harris on Thursday. Harris’s answer — “certainly” ICE should exist — sparked a backlash among some Progressives.

Progressive writer Jack Mirkinson on Friday slammed Harris for her answer in an article titled, “Not Good Enough, Kamala Harris.”

“Any serious defender of undocumented people in this country would look at ICE and know that it is a cancer that needs to be excised from the U.S. Pretending that the most diseased levers of state power can be molded into something better is a useless fantasy. ICE must be abolished. Anything less is not good enough,” Mirkinson wrote on Splinter, a left-wing website.

“Kamala Harris is very likely running for president in 2020. It should be a political problem for her that she is not willing to take her criticisms of ICE to their logical conclusion and call for its abolition. She should be asked, over and over again, why exactly she is willing to uphold the legitimacy of such a racist, corrupt, and thuggish organization,” Markinson concluded.

“Anyone else who decides to run—Bernie Sanders, Kirsten Gillibrand, Elizabeth Warren, Eric Garcetti, you name it—should be asked the same question.”

Left-wing publication The Nation on Friday pushed out a similar piece, entitled “It’s Time to Abolish ICE.”

“The idea of defunding ICE has gained traction among immigrant-rights groups horrified by the speed at which, under President Donald Trump, the agency has ramped up an already brutal deportation process,” The Nation’s Sean McElwee claimed.

Major donor-funded groups on the Left, including Indivisible Project, the Center for Popular Democracy and Brand New Congress, now support abolishing the ICE, McElwee noted.

“ICE​ is terrorizing American communities right now,” Angel Padilla, policy director of the Indivisible Project, told The Nation. This is a growing position on the left, and I imagine 2020 Democratic presidential aspirants will have to grapple with it,” Hayes, the MSNBC host, wrote on Twitter. He linked to McElwee’s article. Acting ICE Director Tom Homan said Thursday that Democrats are being misleading about the illegal immigrants that his agency is deporting.

“They’re going into schools, entering hospitals, conducting massive raids, and separating children from parents every day. We are funding those activities, and we need to use all the leverage we have to stop it.”

“Nine out of every 10 aliens we arrested [in the last fiscal year] did have a criminal history,” Homan told Fox News.

“They don’t want to know the facts. They want to keep playing this political game and put smoke and mirrors up about what ICE is actually doing.”

**Mexico: More Americans Killed than all Foreign Countries Combined**

With beautiful beaches, stunning landscapes, historic ruins and a myriad of business opportunities, Mexico has so much to offer American vacationers and business travelers. Millions of Americans visit the country annually without incident, but, if you heed the most recent government warnings and data, you may want to think twice about heading south of the border.



*A police officer stands guard after a shooting victim was brought to a hospital in Cancun, Mexico, last July. Drug traffickers brought violence to spring-break meccas, shooting up nightclubs and leaving bodies in suitcases outside exclusive condos. {Photographer: Brett Gundlock/Bloomberg)*

Advisories released last month by the U.S. State Department tell Americans not to set foot in five Mexican states — Sinaloa, Colima, Michoacan, Guerrero and Tamaulipas — because of violent crime. Traveling to those states is as dangerous, according to the State Department's safety ratings, as traveling to Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. And Americans with plans to go to 11 other Mexican states should “reconsider,” the agency says.

Most recent State Department data may also cause travelers to pause before booking a trip to Mexico. In 2016, according to my analysis of the data, more Americans were reported killed by homicide in Mexico than the combined total of Americans killed by homicide in every other country abroad.

More than 31 million Americans visited Mexico in 2016, the National Travel & Tourism Office says, and State Department data shows there were reports of 75 American homicide victims there. In comparison, 49 million Americans traveled to all other foreign countries, and 69 were reported killed by homicide.

Of the five Mexican states that the State Department tells Americans not to visit, one, Tamaulipas, borders the USA. It shares a 230-mile border with Texas, and murder, armed robbery, carjacking, kidnapping, extortion and sexual assault commonly occur, the State Department says.

“Gang activity, including gun battles, is widespread," the agency says. "Armed criminal groups target public and private passenger buses traveling through Tamaulipas, often taking passengers hostage and demanding ransom payments.”

Four of the 11 Mexican states that the State Department says Americans should "reconsider" traveling to — Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Sonora — border the USA. The other seven are Estado de Mexico, Jalisco, Morelos, Nayarit,  Nuevo Leon,  San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas.

U.S. government employees are not permitted to drive from the U.S.-Mexico border to "the interior parts of Mexico with the exception of daytime travel on Highway 15 between Nogales and Hermosillo," the State Department says.

The agency's advisories add up to a no-go warning for more than half of Mexico’s 31 states. The country’s remaining 15 states and its capital city, Mexico City, also have a lesser warning: “Exercise increased caution.”

Such increased caution is advised in Quintana Roo state which includes popular tourist areas Cancun, Cozumel, Playa del Carmen, Tulum and the Riviera Maya. Mexican government statistics show an increase in homicide rates in the state last year, the State Department says.

"While most of these homicides appeared to be targeted, criminal organization assassinations, turf battles between criminal groups have resulted in violent crime in areas frequented by U.S. citizens," the agency says. "Shooting incidents injuring or killing bystanders have occurred."

The Australian government also expresses concern about the safety of areas frequented by vacationers.

"Violent crime, including murder, armed robbery, sexual assault and kidnapping, occurs in Mexico, including in popular tourist destinations and beach resorts, and the risks increase after dark," the Australian government says. "Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and bag snatching, is prevalent in tourist destinations, airports, hotels, bus stations and on public transport."

The Australian government says there have been reports of sexual assault, extortion and robbery "being committed by individuals presenting themselves as police officers, sometimes driving automobiles resembling police vehicles."

Kidnappings are common, and there have been allegations of complicity by police officers," the Australian government says. "Be cautious and discreet about discussing your financial or business affairs."

The Canadian government sayshotel employees, taxi drivers and security personnel "at popular tourist destinations" have physically or sexually assaulted foreigners. Be wary of beverages and snacks offered by taxi drivers, strangers or new acquaintances, because they "may contain drugs that could put you at risk of sexual assault and robbery," the government advises.

**Joy Reid: NRA and Brown People**

During the Saturday broadcast of MSNBC’s “AM Joy,” host Joy Reid suggested that the National Rifle Association (NRA) has made guns a “cultural issue,” adding that it has sent signals that its doctrine is to arm yourself to stay safe from the “scary brown people.”

“The NRA has sort of aligned itself with the so-called alt-right,” Reid stated. “They’ve made it a cultural issue and sent signals that it is the scary brown people you need to arm yourself against. It’s crazy messaging. That next generation, very multi-racial, very multi-cultural. They’re not interested in that message.”

First of all, let’s get something straight. There is no such thing as the Alt-Right. There is only Americans and Progressives. The latter sees the success of self-reliance and the free market. They see that 0.00% of violent crime comes from NRA members and even less than that from conceal carry citizens. They obey traffic laws, pay their debts, and vote for smaller government.

Progressives manage the most violent cities in the world. Forget about national statistics. Bagdad is safer than Chicago or St. Louis or New Orleans. Have I mentioned color of people’s skin? No. I am sick and tired of hearing about the color of people’s skin. This is the 21st century, and this is not South Africa.

By the way, that is the saddest story in global politics. South Africa has had hundreds of billions of dollars invested into it. High tech schools, farming, water management, refineries, factories and health care has come up to the standards of developed nations. Then, the President and the Parliament voted overwhelmingly to nationalize all assets held by white people. For more than 150 years, investors and business development pioneers came to South Africa and tried to feed and clothe the nation. Against all odds, they were able to find effective solutions, build roads and rail, rivers and reservoirs, and to become profitable. 73% of profitable farms in South Africa are owned by whites.

Like Joy Reid, President Cyril Ramaphosa and Julius Malema, head of the Economic Freedom Fighters, have declared that guns must be taken from white people, because they are targeting brown people. Black leaders are calling every day for a massive, national seizure of assets from white people to be given to black people.

A UN-affiliated group based out of Geneva says that after a history of slavery, the US owes reparations to African-Americans. This recommendation was part of a study by the United Nations’ Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. This group reports to the international organization’s High Commissioner on Human Rights. They provided their findings to the United Nations Human Rights Council on Monday. They found that present injustices found around the country are linked to the darkest chapters in US history.

“In particular, the legacy of colonial history, enslavement, racial subordination and segregation, racial terrorism and racial inequality in the United States remains a serious challenge, as there has been no real commitment to reparations and to truth and reconciliation for people of African descent,” the report read. “Contemporary police killings and the trauma that they create are reminiscent of the past racial terror of lynching.”

I am a student of history, you know that. There has been zero colonial activity, enslavement, or racial subordination in America for more than 100 years. Many generations have passed, and we had moved past the era of post-Islamic human trafficking.

When discussing the many killings of unarmed black men at the hands of police the report warned against “impunity for state violence,” which has created, what they call a “human rights crisis” that “must be addressed as a matter of urgency.” The facts do not support the racial aspect of this claim. Police departments hire veterans who have experienced killing people.

They put on the black uniform, the body armor, and the black sunglasses to form an imposing and fearful presence. They seek out resistance and meet it with maximum force, which has resulted in a 50% increase in police involved shootings and a stunning 50 thousand no-knock raids by SWAT teams nationwide, resulting in injury and death of hundreds of innocent people every year. Many more white people are killed that black people, and it is actually the black officers who are shooting black people. It matters not to the Progressive narrative. All police are seen as soldiers of white people.

“Despite substantial changes since the end of the enforcement of Jim Crow and the fight for civil rights, ideology ensuring the domination of one group over another, continues to negatively impact the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of African Americans today,” it said. “The dangerous ideology of white supremacy inhibits social cohesion amongst the US population.”

The report talks about the extrajudicial murders that came from an era of white supremacy:

“Lynching was a form of racial terrorism that has contributed to a legacy of racial inequality that the United States must address. Thousands of people of African descent were killed in violent public acts of racial control and domination and the perpetrators were never held accountable.” Of course this activity has not occurred in more than 50 years in America.

The reparations that the report suggested could manifest in a number of different ways. They could include “a formal apology, health initiatives, educational opportunities … psychological rehabilitation, technology transfer and financial support, and debt cancellation.”

The narrative sounds innocuous at first, until you try to consider to whom the payments should be made. 90% of people of color in America have no ancestors who were slaves. In point of fact, 93.29% of people of color in the USA are multi-racial in 2010. That means that only half or less than their racial heritage is black. So, how will you divide up the money?

The truth is that there are factions within the United Nations Human Rights Council that want the money seized from white people in America to be distributed to people based on the darkness of the skin. They may even ask for genetic testing to determine the award. Believe it, because it is true. Can you imagine the civil war when the checks start going out?

In fact, that is exactly the point. It is not the payment. It is not the asset seizure. It is the chaos that they know it will cause in America. That is the goal. It begins with the NRA, because that is the hottest button in the media right now. Relax, America. There is a growing number of people who are recommending that the reparations checks are written fat, and written and mailed immediately. Why? Are they afraid of the asset seizure? No. They know that within 4 years 98% of that money will be right back in the hands it came from. That money will not benefit a single black household for more than a year, so get it over with.

**The Weaponization of Space**

Skills to fight off enemies in space will be essential in wars against the likes of China and Russia, military strategists warn.

That presumption has put Air Force Space Command in the spotlight.

"We are at the war fighter table. We are not in the cheap seats anymore," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Guastella Jr., director of integrated air, space, cyberspace and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations at Air Force Space Command.

Guastella is a career fighter pilot who is now a "space operator." At Space Command, leaders are trying to bridge the cultural divide between the air and space professions to create a more cohesive force of space combatants. "We are in a cultural shift to a war fighting mentality," he said Friday at a Mitchell Institute breakfast meeting on Capitol Hill. [The Most Dangerous Space Weapons Concepts]

The Air Force is now staging "Space Flag" war rehearsals in virtual-reality simulations. Satellite technicians who operate communications, missile warning and navigation constellations are challenged to respond to enemy attempts to take down U.S systems. The next Space Flag is scheduled in April.

Satellite operators typically are viewed as technical support to war commanders, but increasingly they will take center stage, Guastella said. At Air Force training exercises like Red Flag, space has been a sideshow. Officials are trying to change that.

The idea is to give them "realistic training," Guastella said. "Operators have to decide: Can I maneuver my satellite and stay on mission? Or do I need to do something more drastic, come off mission and survive? What other assets out there can help me?"

Bomber and fighter pilots today can train in simulators that feel like real combat, there is no such thing for space. Current space simulators were designed for a "benign environment," he said. The Air Force has requested funds in the Pentagon's 2018 and 2019 budgets for systems that simulate contested space environments.

Separately, the Air Force conducts high-level strategic drills focused on space known as the Shriever War Games. These have taken place in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for many years but are now taking on additional importance as they have become a venue to experiment with new technologies and concepts.

The Shriever games give Space Command an opportunity to "fast forward five to 10 years, look at future capabilities that we're looking at buying," Guastella said. Officials want to "determine the relative value" of next-generation systems and "what really helps operators."

Space and intelligence operators are the primary target audience for Space Flag and the Shriever games, but increasingly the events are aimed at "big decision makers" who are in charge of budgets and policy but don't necessarily grasp the space world.

Another shift at Space Command has been the addition of intelligence officers and analysts. Foreign powers threatening satellites are a relatively new concern for the United States. As space forces take on war fighting and deterrence roles, they need better intelligence, Guastella said. "We have increased the intelligence manning across the command, from the squadron level, the group level, the wing level," he noted. "We are baking in the importance of intelligence into the space force."

A cadre of intelligence experts dedicated to space is "here to stay," Guastella said. "We'll build intelligence professionals that are steeped in space."

One of Space Command's missions, "space situational awareness," also will change, Guastella said. "We'll be paying less attention to benign objects and more attention to objects that may be adversarial," he said. "I'm really confident that with what we're doing in intelligence and space situational awareness, we are making a huge difference."

Intelligence reports about the capabilities of China and Russia to take out satellites or interfere with signals have alarmed U.S. defense leaders, and have sparked a heated debate in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill on what to do next.

Some officials have argued that current military satellites are attractive targets to enemies because of the their huge size and price tags. There is a push to transition to more resilient systems such as large constellations of small satellites. Guastella did not want to take sides on the matter. "Everything is on the table," he said.

The space force for now assumes that existing systems will be around for the foreseeable future. "We have the cards that we're dealt with right now," he said. "A lot of those cards we're going to have for a significant amount of time. But we're going to work to protect what we have."

Guastella suggested that there is nothing particularly unusual about enemies threatening the United State with some new technology. "Bad guys come up with new widgets. We figure out a way to change our tactics, techniques and procedures."

There is a growing focus, however, on "what we build into the future," Guastella said.

Unlike other generals who complain about the military's plodding procurement system, Guastella would not offer an opinion on the issue. "I've never seen a military commander that doesn't want stuff sooner. It's in our nature. Space is no different," he said. "The demand signal is off the charts."

He cautioned against rushing off to buy new systems, though. "These are important decisions. It's important we take our time. We need to move out, but we need to move out smartly." Meanwhile, "we are finding our way to fight with what we have right now."

Guastella also declined to weigh in on the escalating feud between the Air Force and leaders of the House Armed Services Committee over the congressional push to create a separate space corps. "The fact that we're thinking and talking about this is interesting.

**The Progressive Army of Hate Takes Aim at Dana Loesch**

She didn’t get to where she is because of a publicity stunt, because her whole gig is to offend people or because she mindlessly shills for the Republican Party. Instead, she’s someone with talent who was out there working her butt off for years.

Is Dana Loesch a mainstream grassroots conservative? Absolutely. Is she someone who should be considered a feminist role model? You bet. Having met her and her husband on numerous occasions, I can tell you that they seem to be a great couple with a great marriage; they’ve got kids; she’s topped the 20 hottest conservative women in the new media AND she’s respected for her mind. On top of that, Dana has had a successful career. That’s probably as close to the “You can have it all” feminist ideal as you can get.

That is why the Progressive reaction to Dana Loesch since she became one of the most prominent women on the Right by becoming an NRA spokeswoman has been so fascinating. Granted, Dana does occasionally say something controversial, but that’s not a regular thing for her. She’s not a fascist, a white supremacist or even mean-spirited. She doesn’t advocate gun violence or school shootings. In fact, as a general rule, Dana spends the vast majority of her time expressing mainstream conservative beliefs.

That’s what makes the insane level of abuse she receives from the Left stand out so much. Just to give you an example of what I mean, these are just some of the comments she shared on her Twitter timeline in the last 24 hours and they are very typical:

Islandtime: @POTUSbonespur "Wouldn't it be sad is @DLoesch's children were the victims of gun violence. Thoughts and prayers..."

Larry: @seffrtnow "Not only are you a terrorist you are a Despicable loathsome vial scumbag who advocates for Mass school shootings for money shame on you you piece of crap @DLoesch"

irreverentmama: @irreverentmama "You're a whore for the NRA."

Jim Cornette @TheJimCornette "OK, Doll, you're quoting that terrorist @NRA c\*nt on my Twitter now? Sorry, bye."

Dar Dixon @dardixon1 "@DLoesch it’s unproductive, disingenuous & non resourceful to claim that you’re anything but a WHORE for the @NRA $$$"

Tim Kassen @tkassen "Also, you are a liar. Your children will hate having to defend you once they are outside of your bubble"

Of course the habitual, vile, sexist abuse from Progressives on Twitter is just the tip of the iceberg where Dana is concerned.

National Rifle Association spokeswoman Dana Loesch announced Sunday on Twitter that her family had been forced to move suddenly after she received multiple death threats from gun control advocates.

(From Dana) One guy hunted down my private cell phone number, called when police were here, threatened to shoot me in my front yard. #MeToo…. Another guy created a string of social media accounts, posted photos of my house, threatened to rape me to death. #MeToo…. Another gun control advocate, after threatening to hunt me down and assault me, dragged my kids into it. #MeToo…. I’ve only ever discussed these issues kinda vaguely. More I can’t discuss. I and other 2A women are sexually threatened regularly #MeToo

Maybe it’s just me, but don’t Progressives INCESSANTLY complain about the sexual mistreatment of women and shame the men responsible (along with every other man they can find?) Yet, while that’s happening, presumably Progressive men have been threatening to rape Dana and murder her children. What do you think the reaction of Progressives would be if they found out Rachel Maddow or Michelle Obama had to move for their safety after getting those kind of messages? It would be on the front page of every paper in America and there would be Twitter hashtags for days. So why are the vast majority of Progressives indifferent to rape and death threats as long as they’re aimed at someone like Dana?

It reminds me of something Michelle Malkin (who was also harassed until she had to move) told me back in 2008 when she was talking about the similar river of abuse she received from Progressives, "There are a lot of double standards, and in particular, that conservative women just aren’t seen in some ways as human beings."

There is the ugly truth about what Progressives believe.

If you don’t want Progressive men threatening to rape you and hurt your children, then be a Progressive. If not, don’t complain because you deserve it. Not every Progressive thinks that way, but most of them do. In fact, I would suggest to you that the very reason Dana Loesch receives so much abuse is not because she’s different from other conservative women somehow, but because she is like other conservative women and they like the idea of making an example of her.

What Progressives hope is that other conservative women will look at the rape threats, the attacks on her family and the abuse Dana endures daily and go, “I better keep my mouth shut because I don’t want that to happen to me.” You see, if they can make conservative women AFRAID to speak up, they win by default.

Progressiveism is no longer about winning arguments. It’s about intimidating people into silence. Shutting people up. De-platforming them. Doing whatever it takes to make sure that only the Progressive opinion is considered because Progressiveism can’t win in a fair fight of ideas. So, Progressive colleges allow students to storm the stage or riot to shut up conservative speakers. Social media platforms are finding ways to shut up conservatives.

Organizations like the Southern Poverty Law Center get paid to falsely brand conservative groups as hate groups. Newspaper and networks other than Fox primarily run squishes and Progressives masquerading as people on the Right as their “conservative” voices. Conservatives are treated as pariahs in Hollywood and in schools. Political correctness, cries of “racism” and setting up “safe spaces” are today PRIMARILY about shutting down debates that Progressives would rather not have. Along those same lines, going after the children of conservative women, abusing those women and threatening them with rape fits right in with everything else Progressives are doing.

The only thing I can tell conservative women (and men for that matter) is for the sake of your children and the sake of your country, don’t ever let them silence you or shut up the people who are saying what you believe. The moment you stop talking about what you believe is the moment the bad guys win and America loses.

**Ready Player One**

Steven Spielberg’s “Ready Player One” will have its world premiere at South by Southwest on Sunday night.

The Warner Bros. release was widely speculated to be this year’s “secret secret” at the Austin film festival, which made an official announcement about it in an email over the weekend.

“We are thrilled to be premiering Ready Player One at SXSW,” said Janet Pierson, director of film at SXSW in an email statement. “The film brings to the screen a story that has captivated millions of readers around the globe, written by Austin’s very own Ernest Cline. And in the hands of Steven Spielberg—inarguably one of our greatest directors—we know the film is going to be a special cinematic event for our attendees.”

“Ready Player One” is based on a 2011 novel by Cline that is set in a dystopian future, where the characters spend most of their lives on a virtual-reality system named OASIS.

The cast includes Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn, T. J. Miller, Simon Pegg, and Mark Rylance.

In recent years, SXSW has continued to lure big studio projects, as a way to build buzz before opening in theaters. In 2015, the festival’s secret screening was “Furious 7.” Last year, SXSW launched “Baby Driver” and “Atomic Blonde.”

“Ready Player One” opens in theaters on March 29.

**Why is the Democrat Party Being Infiltrated, Again?**

Remember I told you that 100% of Democrats must be voted out of office in November? Well, here is more proof that this is exactly what needs to be done. The Globalost army has selected soldiers, groomed them quickly, selected the most telegenic, and put them on the ballot for a reason.

The truth is that an extraordinary number of former intelligence and military **operatives** from the CIA, Pentagon, National Security Council and State Department are seeking nomination as Democratic candidates for Congress in the 2018 midterm elections. Are you afraid yet? Listen more closely.

The potential influx of military-intelligence personnel into the legislature has no precedent in US political history. **Leftists and Neo-Cons within the Intel Community, to field INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES as Democrat Candidates for Congress, to takeover the legislature and directly control the country and its massive military. Make no mistake. This is a focused Coup against the Trump Administration.**

If the Democrats capture a majority in the House of Representatives on November 6, which is their public mantra right now through every mass media outlet, candidates drawn from the military-intelligence community will comprise half of the new Democratic members of Congress. If they are successful, they will hold the balance of power in the lower chamber of Congress.

Democrat Party resistance leaders are actively recruiting candidates with a military or intelligence background, frequently clearing the field for a favored “star” recruit. We are watching this right now in Philadelpia where, just Friday night, Trump held an electric rally for the Republican running for Congress against a handsome, tall, former Marine with a perfectly telegenic presence. The unions are backing this young candidate who says he support Trump and will vote against Nancy Pelosi. Really? If that is true, he will quickly be cut off from Democrat funding, banned from committees, and will most likely be a one-term wonder. The truth is that he will not do anything close to his campaign promise. He will tow the Progressive banner all the way to the bank.

Another case in point is Elissa Slotkin, a former CIA operative with three tours in Iraq, who worked as Iraq director for the National Security Council in the Obama White House and as a top aide to John Negroponte, the first director of national intelligence. After her deep involvement in US war crimes in Iraq, Slotkin moved to the Pentagon, where, as a principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, her areas of responsibility included drone warfare, “homeland defense” and cyber warfare.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) has designated Slotkin as one of its top candidates, part of the so-called “Red to Blue” program targeting the most vulnerable Republican-held seats—in this case, the Eighth Congressional District of Michigan, which includes Lansing and Brighton. The House seat for the district is now held by two-term Republican Representative Mike Bishop.

The Democratic leaders are promoting CIA agents and Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. At the same time, such people are choosing the Democratic Party as their preferred political vehicle. There are far more former spies and soldiers seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party than of the Republican Party. There are so many that there is a subset of Democratic primary campaigns that, with a nod to Mad magazine, one might call “spy vs. spy.”

Another example in the 23rd Congressional District in Texas, which includes a vast swathe of the US-Mexico border along the Rio Grande, features a contest for the Democrat nomination between Gina Ortiz Jones, an Air Force intelligence officer in Iraq, who subsequently served as an adviser for US interventions in South Sudan and Libya, and Jay Hulings.

The latter’s website describes him as a former national security aide on Capitol Hill and federal prosecutor, whose father and mother were both career undercover CIA agents. The incumbent Republican congressman, Will Hurd, is himself a former CIA agent, so any voter in that district will have his or her choice of intelligence agency loyalists in both the Democratic primary and the general election.

CNN’s “State of the Union” program on March 4 included a profile of Gina Ortiz Jones as one of many female candidates seeking nomination as a Democrat in Tuesday’s primary in Texas. The network described her discreetly as a “*career civil servant*.” They purposefully avoid her spook background. However, the Jones for Congress website positively shouts about her role as a spy, noting that after graduating from college, “Gina entered the US Air Force as an intelligence officer, where she deployed to Iraq and served under the US military’s ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ policy” (the last phrase signaling to those interested in such matters that Jones is also gay).

According to her campaign biography, Ortiz Jones was subsequently detailed to a position as “senior advisor for trade enforcement,” a post President Obama created by executive order in 2012. She would later be invited to serve as a director for investment at the Office of the US Trade Representative, where she led the portfolio that reviewed foreign investments to ensure they did not pose national security risks. With that background, if she fails to win election, she can surely enlist in the trade war efforts of the Trump administration.

The House of Representatives is currently controlled by the Republicans, with a majority of 238 compared to 193 Democrats. There are four vacancies, one previously held by the Democrats. To reach a majority of 218 seats in the next Congress, the Democrats must have a net gain of 24 seats.

The DCCC has designated 102 seats as priority or competitive, including 22 seats where the incumbents are not running again (five Democrats and 17 Republicans), and 80 seats where Republican incumbents could be defeated for reelection in the event that polls predicting a sizeable swing to the Democrats in November prove accurate.

The World Socialist Web Site has reviewed Federal Election Commission reports filed by all the Democratic candidates in these 102 competitive districts, focusing on those candidates who reported by the latest filing date, December 31, 2017, that they had raised at least $100,000 for their campaigns, giving them a financial war chest sufficient to run in a competitive primary contest. In addition, there a few cases where a candidate had less than the $100,000 cutoff, but was unchallenged for the nomination, or where last-minute retirement or resignation has led to late entry of high-profile candidates without an FEC report on file. These have also been included.

The total of such candidates for the Democratic nomination in the 102 districts is 221. Each has a website that gives biographical details, which we have collected and reviewed for this report. It is notable that those candidates with a record in the military-intelligence apparatus, as well as civilian work for the State Department, Pentagon or National Security Council, do not hide their involvement, particularly in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They clearly regard working as a CIA agent in Baghdad, an Army special ops assassin in Afghanistan, or a planner for drone missile warfare in the White House or Pentagon as a star on their résumé, rather than something to conceal.

**One quarter of all the Democrat challengers in competitive House districts have military-intelligence, State Department or NSC backgrounds.** This is by far the largest subcategory of Democratic candidates. National security operatives (57) outnumber state and local government officials (45), lawyers (35), corporate executives, businessmen and wealthy individuals (30) and other professionals (19) among the candidates for Democratic congressional nominations.

**Of the 102 primary elections to choose the Democrat nominees in these competitive districts, 44 involve candidates with a military-intelligence or State Department background, with 11 districts having two such candidates, and one district having three.** In the majority of contests, the military-intelligence candidates seem likely to win the Democratic nomination, and, if the Democrats win in the general election, would enter Congress as new members of the House of Representatives.

There are some regional differences. In the Northeast, 21 of the 31 seats targeted by the Democrats have military-intelligence candidates. This area, not the South or Midwest, has the highest proportion of military-intelligence candidates seeking Democratic nominations.

In the West, only 7 of the 23 targeted seats have military-intelligence candidates, while in a half dozen seats the leading candidates are self-funded millionaires, mainly from the IT industry. There has been a wave of Republican retirements in California and wealthy people are bidding for these seats.

The military-intelligence candidates are disproportionately favored by the party apparatus, encouraged to run in districts that are the most likely takeover targets. Military-intelligence candidates account for 10 of the 22 districts selected for the most high-profile attention as part of the “red-to-blue” program, or nearly half. In some cases, military-intelligence candidates have amassed huge campaign war chests that effectively shut out any potential rivals, an indication that the financial backers of the Democratic Party have lined up behind them.

**The UFO Question**

Newly-released video of a mysterious object streaking over the Atlantic Ocean shows the Pentagon needs to take UFOs seriously, a researcher says.

The sensational two-minute clip captured by a camera aboard a US Navy F/A 18 jet flying at 25,000 feet wowed military personnel.

“What the f— is that thing?” shouted the pilot in the video posted online by the To the Stars Academy of Arts and Science, a private research company.

“Oh my gosh dude!” exclaimed the jet’s weapons systems officer.

The video was shot off the East Coast in 2015. To the Stars Academy did not say how it obtained the declassified footage, but said others could obtain it through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Three videos showing similar incidents became public last year in [reports of $22 million in Pentagon spending on UFO research](https://nypost.com/2017/12/16/pentagons-search-for-ufos-revealed/).

The videos, along with observations by pilots and radar operators, “appear to provide evidence of the existence of aircraft far superior to anything possessed by the United States or its allies,” writes Christopher Mellon, a former defense official in the George W. Bush and Clinton administrations and an adviser to To the Stars Academy.

In a [Washington Post op-ed](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/the-military-keeps-encountering-ufos-why-doesnt-the-pentagon-care/2018/03/09/242c125c-22ee-11e8-94da-ebf9d112159c_story.html?utm_term=.8fc31da3a849), Mellon reasoned that if the origin of these aircraft is a mystery, “so is the paralysis of the US government in the face of such evidence.”

Mellon, who served as an intelligence official for the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, charged that military and department agencies “treat such incidents as isolated events rather than as part of a pattern requiring serious attention and investigation.”

Mellon compared the government’s current approach to UFOs to the counterterrorism efforts of the CIA and the FBI prior to 9/11.

He wondered if the US has been “technologically leap-frogged by Russia or China” or might these videos “be evidence of some alien civilization. Unfortunately, we have no idea, because we aren’t even seeking answers.”