

Sky Pilots of the Apocalypse

Weather As a Weapon

by Scott Corrales

Photo by Lois Le Gros

Military men have been known to abide by the traditional belief that “all possible weapons have already been invented”—a view held by the Roman Emperor Vespasian as far back as A.D. 69, when one of his engineers tried to present him with a new military device. Napoleon’s refusal to enlist the aid of Robert Fulton—inventor of the steamship—when planning an invasion of Britain probably affected posterity more than any other 19th-century decision.

In an age of constant innovation and change, strategists have learned to become more flexible and embrace all the possibilities, ranging from nuclear weapons to beam weapons, psychic warfare, and every general’s dream: control of the weather over enemy territory. As the early days and weeks of the 21st century creep by, the nightmare of meteorological warfare looms on the horizon.

No Rain on the Plains of Spain

It happened in the least likely setting: the region surrounding the Spanish province of Soria. On September 4, 1995, Felix

Lopez, a resident of the town of Almazul, looked up to the sky—filled with dark gray rain clouds—and was surprised to see a small passenger plane taking a daring dive into one of the dark cloud banks. According to the witness, the small aircraft buzzed around the clouds for a couple of hours, causing them to break up and vanish. Later that same afternoon, when rain-bearing clouds gathered again, Lopez heard the sound of the plane’s engines. The return of the “rain pirates” prompted Lopez to phone the local government, but no action was taken.

For over a decade, farmers and growers in this semi-arid area have expressed belief that small private aircraft have been engaged in concerted “cloudbusting” activities over Soria in an effort to turn Spain into a desert. The provincial government expressed its concern to author Javier Sierra that vigilante groups of angry farmers may try to shoot down innocent air traffic (reminiscent of the rancher frenzy during the “black helicopter” panic in the U.S. during the 1970s). “A third of the province is under alarm,” commented one spokesman.

More disturbing is the fact that civilian air authorities have been unable to find

the flight routes or the identity of these “rain pirates.” Military radar facilities were enlisted to track the flyers as they engaged in their activities without much success, either.

Conspiracy theorists were quick to point out that the troubles began the year of Spain’s accession to the European Community in 1985. The “ghost planes” or rain pirates made their appearance shortly after, and the country announced that it would have to curtail its grain production so as not to compete with other European grain growers. The crisis grew to such proportions that an organization known as the Moncayo Small Aircraft Association (AVI-MON, in Spanish) was formed to publicly denounce the rain pirates.

“Whenever a storm was on the way,” stated organization leader Ernesto Garcia during an interview with Javier Sierra, “we’d always see low-flying aircraft and the storm would dissipate immediately afterward. We began to feel that something was going on, but of course, to say that an airplane was stealing rain from you by means of some chemical agent was a sure invitation to laughter.”

The problem was not circumscribed to



Project Stormfury seeded hurricanes with silver iodide and lead to minimize their potency

northern Spain. Drought-stricken Andalusia was reportedly visited by the rain pirates and their untraceable aircraft. The authorities, however, firmly refused to believe in the existence of any “cloudbusting” substances, and careful checks of local airports and military bases did not reveal the existence of any unusual aircraft or flight plans. However, one Candido Navarro allegedly photographed the small aircraft and the strange contrails left in their wake which supposedly contained the cloudbusting reagent. Meteorologist Carlos González-Cutre went as far as inquiring if military authorities had drawn up contingency plans against possible farmer aggression in the event that one of their own planes was forced to land in the region, given the high level of tension involved.

The Real Wonder Weapons

Turning the planet’s natural processes against an adversary in an armed conflict has always been seriously considered by strategists from different countries and has been explored in works of fiction. Back

in the mid-18th century, the mad astronomer in Samuel Johnson’s *Rasselas* (1759) stated: “The sun has listened to my dictates, and passed, from tropick to tropick, by my direction; the clouds, at my call have poured their waters...”

By 1965, the mantle of artificial rainmaker had fallen on the shoulders of Dr. Richard Blasband, who conducted a series of 38 rainmaking operations with a success ratio of 18 induced downpours when the chances of rain were only 10 percent, according to the local weather bureau.

A report by the Central Intelligence Agency, cited in a 1977 *Saturday Review* editorial, hinted that world governments were already able to manipulate the weather for military purposes. The report probably had in mind the highly successful efforts at tampering with the weather over North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in order to make the Ho Chi Minh trail impassable.

The USSR also turned an eye toward using the environment as a weapon, but looked down rather than up. In 1993, a high-ranking KGB officer named Oleg

Kalugin told a London newspaper that the former Soviet Union had been actively engaged in geophysical weapon research even as the superpowers held talks to reduce the size of their nuclear deterrents. According to Kalugin, the research focused on the creation of artificial earthquakes and tidal waves designed to devastate the U.S. Pacific Coast. This ultimate “war crime” would be accomplished by placing nuclear explosives at choice subterranean locations in the hope that the localized explosion would have a ripple effect capable of causing natural devastation thousands of miles away. These controlled explosions would give the aggressor complete and perfect deniability, since the carnage would be ascribed to tectonic processes.

To many, Kalugin’s story was mere post-Cold War boasting. But the fact remains that nuclear tests have often resulted in abnormal seismic activity elsewhere in the world. Indeed, Soviet nuclear tests at their Semipalatinsk facility (in the former Kazakh S.S.R.) would often result in earthquakes as far away as Iran. Seismologists



Chemtrails over Millvale, Pennsylvania

dismiss all of this as fanciful talk, declaring that even the largest detonation could not have any measurable impact on colossal continental plates.

The United States and the former Soviet Union specifically entered into a treaty forbidding research into geophysical warfare in the late 1970s, perhaps because success in this field was not very likely for either power. However, serious consideration was given to the deployment of atmospheric weapons, perhaps spurred by successful efforts at derailing hurricanes from their paths.

On August 21, 1969, people throughout the Caribbean island of Hispaniola (divided between Haiti and the Dominican Republic) observed an enormous white cloud, which expanded to a prodigious size and formed concentric rings before finally dissipating. Panicked witnesses believed that the end of the world was at hand, or that the cloud was a portent of hidden significance. It turned out to be an operation known as Project Stormfury, whose aim was that of pelting hurricanes with silver iodide, lead, and dry ice in order to minimize their potency. Such chemical seeding of hurricanes caused their "eyes" to become amorphous and sent them on trajectories toward countries that had never experienced hurricanes before (Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras), with devastating effects. This accidental discovery showed that,

while hurricanes could not be created, it was possible to manipulate them or even tamper with the conditions behind their creation by affecting global marine currents such as El Niño.

The White Paper From Hell

Could Project Stormfury's accidental discoveries have evolved into a workable atmospheric weapon? This possibility is borne out by a number of highly unusual situations taking place over the continental United States today.

The Environmental News Service is investigating numerous reports of "massive grid-work patterns in the sky" seemingly created by an armada of aircraft engaged in the spraying of a substance that causes illness in the populations below. One of the Service's reports features an interview with a missile engineer formerly employed by the Raytheon company who has been following these events. According to the engineer, the aircraft employed in these events are USAF jets spraying a substance similar to the silver iodide used in cloud seeding operations (echoes of Spain's rain pirates and Project Stormfury's hurricane busters). ENS's informant is adamant that the contrail phenomenon forms part of a military application aimed at developing a meteorological war-fighting capability that would bring unfriendly nations to their knees.

This provocative statement is substantiated by a Pentagon-sponsored web page, www.au.af.mil/au/2025/. A white paper entitled "Weather as a Force Multiplier: Owning the Weather in 2025," suggests that cloud-seeding technology enables the production and enhancement of storm conditions. This speculative document, authored by a group of military think-tankers dubbed the "Air Force 2025 Support Staff," offers a variety of military possibilities that would terrify anyone but Darth Vader: weather modification tools to create "small-to-medium scale weather phenomena" aimed at improving one's own troops' tactical position and "degrad[ing] those of the adversary"; storm triggering and enhancement using airborne cloud seeding; fog generation and dissipation using directed energy techniques; and of course, a variety of beam weapons. The paper's abstract succinctly states:

"In 2025, US aerospace forces can 'own the weather' by capitalizing on emerging technologies and focusing development of those technologies toward fighting applications. Such a capability offers the war fighter tools to shape the battle space in ways never before possible.... In the US, weather modification will likely become a part of national security policy with both domestic and international applications. Our government will pursue such a policy, depending on its interests, at various levels. These levels could include: unilateral actions, participation in a security framework such as NATO, membership in an international organization such as the UN, or participation in a coalition. Assuming that in 2025 our national security strategy includes weather modification, its use in our national military strategy will naturally follow."

Happy Chemtrails to You

In early 1998, callers to the Ted Gunderson Intelligence Report on WWCI, a shortwave station out of the southern U.S., complained about the presence of unusual contrails left behind by passing aircraft. One of the callers, a former airline pilot, believed that toxic experimental chemicals were being mixed in with commercial jet

fuel and unknowingly spread by passenger flights. Other callers indicated that their fruit trees would be covered in a slightly viscous substance after these strange aircraft had fumigated the area, usually at night when their activity could not be so readily perceived.

According to Charles Napier, a concerned citizen who keeps tabs on this highly unusual aerial phenomenon on his website azwest.net/user/slim, people would be better off staying indoors to avoid the manifold health ailments that follow the sightings of jet contrails. One of Napier's neighbors in Phoenix, Arizona, took ill following the appearance of the contrails in the southwestern sky and was hospitalized, he claims.

On January 27, 1999, Peter Gersten of Citizens for UFO Secrecy (CAUS) posted information to his mailing list that goes to show that the United States is no stranger to the aerial acrobatics of these unknown aircraft. The CAUS report cited a report made by a person identifying himself only as "PJ." According to his/her testimony (no date or time given), people have noticed the appearance of "jet contrails" whose appearance seems to result in the illness of those in areas immediately below. "In the east," notes PJ, "I saw what looked like a silver speck just hovering, and not moving. I then saw a jet contrail coming toward it, and it wasn't on a usual flight pattern for the passenger jets, it was coming in a southeasterly direction straight for the silver spot. Then the silver thing went straight up in the air, leaving a contrail of sorts but it evaporated quickly and spread like a white cloud..." CAUS's informant goes on to add that: "The contrail evaporated very fast into a larger white cloud like smoke, not like the usual ones, but this was much larger. Then several from the area have been sick with ear infections, vertigo, and breathing problems. My granddaughter was sick a day, also, running a fever. I don't know if this is one of those things so many are reporting but this is what I saw."

Chemtrails—as these vapor trails are now known—have become another landmark of the unexplained along with crop circles and the face on Mars. However, it



Are civilian aircraft being modified to spray chemicals over unsuspecting populations?



Puerto Rican schoolchildren protesting NASA's Project Conqui; one placard reads, "NASA: children didn't ask to be born, but since we exist, at least let us grow."

isn't necessary to travel across the ocean or to another planet to see them. Reports concerning the phenomenon have come in from throughout the continental U.S. and show no sign of stopping. Mike Blair, writing in the ever-controversial, far-right publication *The Spotlight* (October 9, 2000) openly suggests that the chemtrails are part of a worldwide covert military operation. Citing a "former NSA official," the article posits that a number of commercial carriers have been subjected to modifications in order to distribute the chemtrail materials (a mixture of barium salts and polymer fibers) over civilian populations—mirroring the suspicions of the anonymous

caller to the Ted Gunderson show in 1998.

These chemtrail-spreading airliners belong to a project known as Operation Cloverleaf, according to the NSA official, and the materials dispersed could cause a number of harmful respiratory effects upon the unsuspecting populations below. More farfetched is *The Spotlight's* claim that the barium salt mixture can provide a crude invisibility device for the aircraft involved, cloaking them against both human and radar "eyes."

But chemtrails appear to be only the first manifestation of a larger weather-control-related scheme. *The Spotlight* again cites an unnamed spokesman for a research



Puerto Rico's Tortuguero Lagoon (upper left) as seen from the air

group who blames the unusual weather experienced throughout the lower 48 this year as being related to the dumping of large amounts of barium salts and polymer fibers into the atmosphere.

By the Rockets' Red Glare

Pursuing the barium salt scenario leads us away from the mainland to the island of Puerto Rico, where unusual activities have been taking place for years under the cover of "harmless atmospheric experiments."

In the spring and summer of 1992, NASA launched the first Coquí sounding rocket, ostensibly to study the ionosphere. The eight-rocket series, launched at half-hourly intervals, was made up of Nike-Tomahawk, Black Brant, IX, and VC rockets and aimed at studying the ionosphere in conjunction with the Arecibo Observatory. A makeshift launch pad operated by the Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Island Flight Facility was erected at Laguna Tortuguero, the island's only freshwater lagoon, some 20 miles to the west of San Juan. The eight launches were declared successful by NASA officials, although the chemical payloads of the rockets were never recovered. The altitudes reached by the projectiles ranged from 80 to 268 miles, making the launches visible in locations as varied as the Turks and Caicos Islands, Antigua, Saint Croix, and Guadeloupe.

The purpose behind the rocket launches was the creation of a number of manmade

disturbances in the ionosphere in order to discover its reactions to natural perturbations. The ionosphere, as defined by NASA press releases, is the level of ionized oxygen and nitrogen which reflects almost the entirety of solar radiation that impacts our planet. This absorption of radiation causes a significant degree of thermal excitement, which makes the ionosphere a mirror-like reflector of radio waves, causing them to bounce within the area contained between the planet's surface and the ionosphere itself. Experiments with barium rockets started as far back as 1960, when scientists first contemplated the creation of ion-cloud experiments, thus giving rise to the discharging of barium in the upper atmosphere by means of rockets or satellites.

The Coquí experiments generated an even more curious "fallout." On May 25, 1992, Miguel A. González of Aguadilla saw a huge, egg-shaped ball of orange light descend upon thousands of prayerful spectators who were worshipping the alleged Marian apparitions in the community of Sabana Grande. The ball hovered over the worshippers before gradually dimming into a puff of smoke. UFO watchers reported a number of sightings on that day in the vicinity of the religious gathering. State officials dismissed it all by saying that it was connected to the launching of the Coquí atmospheric test rocket that same night.

Seven years later, and without the benefit of any hearings on the matter, NASA announced that the Coquí experiments

(now known as Coquí II) would resume at the old Laguna Tortuguero launch center, which had in the intervening years become a popular site for model aviators and amateur rocketeers. It was announced that the series of launches would begin in January 1998. No public or environmental impact declarations were released, nor had the authorization of the local government been requested. It was not long before voices challenging the Coquí project made themselves heard. Resentment had been festering since 1992, when the Coquí I launches had led to the indiscriminate clear-cutting of trees in the Tortuguero area.

The contrarian opinions held that the gases and substances employed during the 1992 launches—barium, bromotrifluoride methane, gaseous nitrogen and argon, and a host of related chemicals—and the rocket propellants (hydrogen chloride and aluminum oxide) had caused considerable harm to the environment as well as to people using the beaches from one end of northern Puerto Rico to the other. When physicians reported a rise in unexplained cutaneous eruptions among the population, it was argued that their patients had probably been exposed to jellyfish in the water or to other dermatological ailments.

Responding to these charges, the Project Coquí personnel argued that the gases employed during the tests were colorless, nontoxic, and nonflammable, and therefore posed no risk whatsoever to either humans or the environment. Apparently no mention was made of the fact that bromotrifluoride is an ozone-depleting substance, and that the outbreaks of gas were taking place particularly at levels which affected the ozone layer.

In mid-December 1997, Vega Baja Mayor Luis Melendez Cano demanded that Dr. Maximo Cerame Vivas, the noted Puerto Rican scientist in charge of the new series of launches, furnish the required impact statements before proceeding with the launches from the Tortuguero site, which is located within his municipality. The authorities apparently circumvented this request by providing Mayor Melendez with copies of the old Coquí I environmental statements with handwritten comments



Some believe chemtrails are the result of sinister seeding operations being carried out by military aircraft

on the margins, arguing that the project was essentially the same. The old environmental statement further stated that Vega Baja was not a densely populated area. The intervening years have seen the growth of a number of new housing subdivisions as the area turned into a major bedroom community of the San Juan metropolitan area.

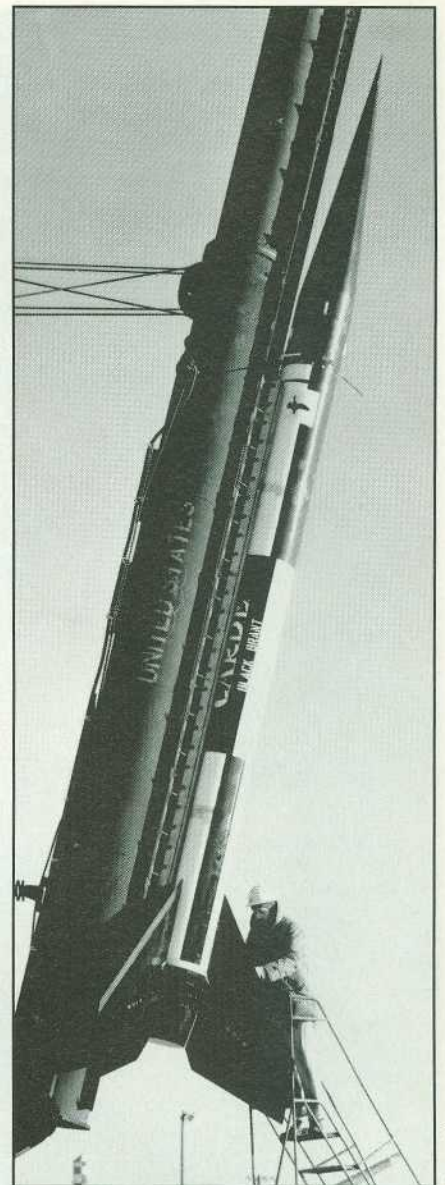
Deeply troubled by the fact that Coquí II was significantly different from its predecessor, mainly due to the fact that the 1992 launches were conducted during the summer while the 1998 launches would be conducted during the winter, when the wind patterns are completely different, a new letter from Melendez insisted: "We acknowledge receipt of the EIS for the Coquí I project, which has apparently been re-submitted as part of this new effort. Nevertheless, we are troubled by the refusal to submit a new EIS for an event which must have considerable differences in spite of the apparent similarity. We hope that you will advise us on your reasons for negotiating and securing approval for this project without providing a new environmental impact statement." The town's municipal assembly unanimously resolved to support the mayor in this initiative. A spokesman observed that it was impossible to blindly agree with something that is not understood. Why was there so much secrecy concerning an

allegedly harmless project?

Speculation is rife concerning the real purpose of Project Coquí. Many have tried to link it with futuristic "cyberwar" operations currently under development by the Department of Defense. This vast array of unfriendly uses of the upper atmosphere includes the creation of "upper atmospheric turbulence," induced by chemicals transported via launchers as well as by radiation emitted from land-based installations such as the Arecibo radiotelescope and shadier facilities such as the oft-mentioned HAARP facility in Alaska. Arecibo has conducted ionospheric heating tests since the early '70s. Its atmospheric ionization package was upgraded in 1994 at a cost of several million dollars. The offensive use of such capacities would be centered on the complete and utter disruption of enemy command, control, and communications by means of distorted radio waves or blinding pulses of light that would affect delicate systems. These electronic assaults could be explained away as meteorological phenomena, thus guaranteeing the attacker complete deniability during a peacetime application.

Conclusion

Governments throughout history—probably going as far back as Egypt under the pharaohs—have kept secrets. The



Black Brant rocket

Peter Alway

Roman intelligence operatives were known as *agentes in rebus* and were the precursors to the secret police corps of the European countries over the past few centuries. Can governments around the world—the U.S., the CIS, and the European Union—keep secrets? Absolutely. But weather modification is a secret whose consequences are there for all to see and suffer.

From now on, we should perhaps pay more attention to overly warm winters, cool summers, destructive hurricanes, and killer earthquakes. ☪

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True Reports of the Strange & Unknown

July 2001

USA \$4.95 CAN \$6.50

Chemtrails

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