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| --- |
| Jihad Report Nov 18, 2017 -Nov 24, 2017 |
| Attacks | **28** |
| Killed | **549** |
| Injured | **386** |
| Suicide Blasts | **6** |
| Countries | **12** |

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**Sufis take their shoes off to enter church**

**The Langley Assault**

**UPDATED 2:23 PM EST (SEE BOTTOM) --** Reports are beginning to surface that a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) landed at Langley last Saturday.

A **Marine expeditionary unit** (**MEU**, pronounced "Mew"),  is the smallest Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) in the United States Fleet Marine Force. Each MEU is an expeditionary quick reaction force, deployed and ready for immediate response to any crisis, whether it be natural disaster or combat missions.

A Marine expeditionary unit is normally composed of: a reinforced Marine infantry battalion (designated as a Battalion Landing Team) as the ground combat element, a composite medium tiltrotor squadron forms the aviation combat element, a combat logistics battalion provides the logistics combat element, and a company-size command element serves as the MEU headquarters group.

Troop strength is about 2,200 and usually commanded by a colonel, and is deployed from amphibious assault ships. Currently, a Marine expeditionary unit embarks Marines and equipment onto the amphibious warfare ships of an Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) which also includes escort ships and submarines to protect them from air, surface, and submarine threats. For further protection and strong air support, such an ESG is often deployed along with one or more carrier battle groups.

WITNESSES

According to persons who reside near Langley, a large contingent of Marines arrived at CIA Headquarters in tilt-rotor aircraft and when the Marines deplaned, they were armed and moved quickly into CIA Headquarters! (I did not personally witness this and am relying solely on what witnesses are telling me)

Those witnesses also say that a significant number of tilt-rotor aircraft could be clearly seen circling the grounds of CIA Headquarters, parked on the grass around the building.

This is not normal.

Never before has anything like this ever been seen taking place at CIA Headquarters and speculation is now running rampant as to what is actually taking place.

Conspiracy Theorists are claiming the President of the United States is moving to take out rogue elements in the Intelligence Community, at the request of his new CIA Director.  It is rumored that these rogue elements have been undermining the Administration since before it took office last January, and may be connected to some well publicized "incidents" which suddenly resumed taking place this year, (mass shootings / violent protests) after a brief respite once the Obama Administration left office.

Moreover, there is not one word of Marines landing at Langley, appearing in \_*any*\_ US mass-media outlet.

UPDATE  5:51 AM EST --

The number of SEALED INDICTMENTS presently on US District Court Dockets across the United States has reached an astonishing 1800 as of Friday, November 17.  These Sealed  Indictments began appearing on US District Court Dockets on October 31.

There have never been this many Sealed Indictments showing on federal court Dockets at the same time . . .  ever.

The existence of so many sealed Indictments has lead others to suggest that large groups of federal officials - perhaps including elected officials - are facing mass arrest over a number of corruption-related activities such as "pay-to-play" the UraniumOne conspiracy, Pedophile Rings and other criminal activities, and these troops may be needed to keep order once the high officials start being taken under arrest!

This is especially interesting given revelations late last week, that an FBI Informant allegedly has VIDEO of Clinton Foundation people being given suitcases full of cash from Russians, prior to the approval of the UraniumOne deal which sold twenty percent of US Uranium manufacturing to Russia's state-owned ROSATOM corporation.

The existence of video showing cash payoffs has sent a slew of people from the former Administration into fits of anxiety that their schemes are now uncovered and many of them are going to prison for what they did.  Desperate people can sometimes do desperate things and if those people are high-ranking federal officials, God only knows what they might have in the works to try to save themselves.

This is a developing story.  Updates will be made as information becomes available.

UPDATE 9:17 PM EST --

Despite actually having a personal life, and despite today being Sunday, which is family time, I have done a LOT of digging on this story.  I have reached out to contacts in both the Pentagon and in several Intel Agencies and here is what I can confirm:

This story has gone viral and sadly, a number of people who copied the story, **added some of their own speculation or assumptions**.  Some of the copies offer absolutely wild variations on the basic report above.

Nowhere on this web site did I even make mention of any "coup" against the President.  Those rumors came from others acting on their own.

Nowhere on this web site did I claim there were 2200 Marines sent to the CIA.  I reported the typical size of an MEU as being typically 2200 and some readers  assumed that all 2200 went to CIA.

Now, about the troops.  I have been told that " a very significant number" of troops WERE sent to CIA and arrived via aircraft on Saturday, November 18.  I was not told a precise number.  I was not told WHY they were sent.  I was not told what time they were sent.

My article above reports that a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is comprised of about 2200 Marines.  That's factually accurate.

But the **Ground Combat Element** of an MEU is 1100 troops.

The **Aviation Element** consists of 12 MV-22s (Osprey) and 4 Sikorsky CH-53 "Super Stallion" helicopters.

Each MV-22 carries 24 troops standard, and 32 if they cram them in.

Each CH-53 carries 37 troops standard, and if the extra seats are installed 55 troops.

So going with the absolute max per aircraft, the Osprey element can carry 384 troops, and the CH-53 element 220.

That means 604 troops in a single lift. So if they were using all 1100 troops of the ground combat element that would be two trips for each aircraft.

The CIA Headquarters building is located at 1000 Colonial Farm Road in McLean, Virginia, and can be reached via George Washington Memorial Parkway.

However, due to a need for secrecy, the complex may only be accessed by those with authorization (e.g., appropriate credentials) or by appointment; only authorized vehicles may access the private road leading to the complex from George Washington Memorial Parkway.

You **cannot** "clearly see" the grounds of the installation from anywhere because the front gate is down a long, two-lane road and there's trees and man-made hills all around the perimeter of it to protect from Sniper fire coming from nearby roads.

This means that the public couldn't just wander by and start snapping pictures by the side of the road. In fact, people aren't even allowed on the private roads nearby the installation.

Both the MV-22 Osprey and Sikorsky CH-53 Super Stallion are loud when they're flying; there would be no sneaking them in.

And it is this component that I followed-up on:  Did nearby residents in McLean suddenly notice a large number of loud helicopters overhead, moving toward or from the area of the CIA.   **The repeated answer to that question has been "Yes."**

Many (very many) residents of McLean, VA have confirmed they found themselves hearing large numbers of loud aircraft overhead on Saturday, and that the sounds lasted more then 30 minutes!

As far as a definitive statement from any of my former colleagues . . . . NONE of them would reveal any details about whatever is going on down there.  But they did confirm to me today  **"something is going on."**

I expect to have several additional contacts overnight and will again update this story if I am able to offer something more concise and verifiable.

UPDATE 2:23 PM EST -- MONDAY, NOV. 20

I have now spoken to almost ALL of my former colleagues in the Intelligence Community and here's what took place:

Yes, a group of military aircraft approached and circled the CIA Headquarters in Virginia for upwards of 30 minutes on Saturday.  They did NOT land and did NOT enter CIA HQ forcibly - or otherwise.

There is apparently an ongoing and gigantic problem between the Military and the CIA insofar as the Military is engaged in implementing President Trump's policies, while elements within the CIA are still**INTENTIONALLY** carrying out the failed policies of the Obama regime.

Specifically, these failed Obama-era policies include supplying weapons and logistical support to so-called "freedom fighters" inside Syria , many of whom are actually Al-Nusra, Al-Qaida and ISIS terrorists.

The support being provided by elements in the CIA is being used against certain units of the US Military who are also inside Syria.

The Military has repeatedly and strenuously told the CIA the old Obama policies must stop.  **The CIA failed to stop.**

So someone in the Pentagon/Military . . . . **no one will say who** . . . made a direct show of force to the CIA on Saturday.  It was, for lack of a better description, the sending of a message from the military to the CIA: knock it off.

It was done over a weekend apparently because most of the bigshots in the Pentagon are at home, and by the time they heard something was going on, it was pretty much over . . . . the aircraft returned to wherever they came from.

**This is utterly unprecedented.  To have one agency of the US Government make a show of force to another entity of that same government is unheard of. It smacks of a sort of internal civil war heating up inside our own government!**

Apparently, things are quickly "coming to a head" between competing policies and the military is tired of its people being injured or killed by the unintended consequences of the old policies and the CIA' stubborn refusal to stop backing the so-called "Freedom Fighters" in Syria.

No one will tell me who gave the order to "buzz" CIA HQ.  No one will tell me who inside CIA is causing the trouble.  But there ***is***trouble . . . and given the activities over the weekend, one can only hope this thing goes away very quickly and quietly.

In the meantime, as far as the public is concerned: **"Nothing took place. Everything is fine.  Nothing to worry about."**

**Uranium One Update**

### It is already well known that former President Bill Clinton was right in the middle of the now widely reported criminal Uranium One deal.   What isn’t well known is that this was the second of two criminal uranium deals involving the former President and the Clinton Foundation.

It has been widely reported that Bill Clinton flew to Russia in 2010 and was paid $500,000 for a single speech.  It is also well know that during his trip to Russia, the former President petitioned the State Department to allow him to meet with a key member of the Russia state owned uranium company Rosatom.

[The Hill reported](http://thehill.com/policy/national-security/356323-bill-clinton-sought-states-permission-to-meet-with-russian-nuclear) in October:

As he prepared to collect a $500,000 payday in Moscow in 2010, [Bill Clinton](http://thehill.com/people/bill-clinton) sought clearance from the State Department to meet with a key board director of the Russian nuclear energy firm Rosatom — which at the time needed the Obama administration’s approval for a controversial uranium deal, government records show.

Arkady Dvorkovich, a top aide to then-Russian President Dmitri Medvedev and one of the highest-ranking government officials to serve on Rosatom’s board of supervisors, was listed on a May 14, 2010, email as one of 15 Russians the former president wanted to meet during a late June 2010 trip, the documents show.

The Hill continued in noting that:

Bill Clinton instead got together with Vladimir Putin at the Russian leader’s private homestead.

**Bada-bing Bada-boom**

**A short time later the Obama Administration approved the sale of 20 percent of US uranium to Russia.  The Clinton foundation walked away with millions and the US lost one-fifth of its uranium to rival Russia.**

We also now know that former Head of the FBI [Mueller hand delivered uranium to the Russians](http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2017/10/crooked-former-fbi-head-mueller-hand-delivered-uranium-to-russians-on-an-airport-tarmac-hand-picked-by-hillary/) on a special trip where Hillary Clinton specifically asked that Mueller be the one to deliver the uranium.  We also now know that the FBI uncovered Russian bribery of the Clintons in 2009 and the Department of Justice and the FBI sat on this for four more years.

**Worse yet, from**[a recent report](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2017/10/deep-state-fbi-knew-russia-funneled-millions-clinton-foundation-uranium-deal-nothing/)**we discovered the investigation was supervised by then-U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein, who is now President Trump’s Deputy Attorney General, and then-Assistant FBI Director Andrew McCabe, who is now the deputy FBI director under Trump.**

Mueller is now heading a corrupt investigation into Trump on Russia collusion after being appointed by Rosenstein.  This madness was orchestrated under Attorney General Jeff Sessions who recused himself from Russia related investigations.  Gregg Jarrett from FOX News and many others are calling for Mueller to step down.

### What isn’t widely reported is that the Uranium One deal was the  second crooked deal involving many of the same actors, uranium and the Clinton Foundation.

The [New York Times reported in 2008](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/31/us/politics/31donor.html) that **Bill Clinton was involved in another uranium deal that led to millions for the Clintons.**

Late on Sept. 6, 2005, a private plane carrying the Canadian mining financier Frank Giustra touched down in Almaty, a ruggedly picturesque city in southeast [Kazakhstan](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/kazakhstan/index.html?inline=nyt-geo). Several hundred miles to the west a fortune awaited: highly coveted deposits of uranium that could fuel nuclear reactors around the world. And Mr. Giustra was in hot pursuit of an exclusive deal to tap them.

Unlike more established competitors, Mr. Giustra was a newcomer to uranium mining in Kazakhstan, a former Soviet republic. But what his fledgling company lacked in experience, it made up for in connections. Accompanying Mr. Giustra on his luxuriously appointed MD-87 jet that day was a former president of the United States, [Bill Clinton](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/c/bill_clinton/index.html?inline=nyt-per).

Upon landing on the first stop of a three-country philanthropic tour, the two men were whisked off to share a sumptuous midnight banquet with Kazakhstan’s president, Nursultan A. Nazarbayev, whose 19-year stranglehold on the country has all but quashed political dissent.

Mr. Nazarbayev walked away from the table with a propaganda coup, after Mr. Clinton expressed enthusiastic support for the Kazakh leader’s bid to head an international organization that monitors elections and supports democracy. Mr. Clinton’s public declaration undercut both American foreign policy and sharp criticism of Kazakhstan’s poor human rights record by, among others, Mr. Clinton’s wife, Senator [Hillary Rodham Clinton](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/c/hillary_rodham_clinton/index.html?inline=nyt-per) of New York.

Within two days, corporate records show that Mr. Giustra also came up a winner when his company signed preliminary agreements giving it the right to buy into three uranium projects controlled by Kazakhstan’s state-owned uranium agency, Kazatomprom.

The Times continued:

**Just months after the Kazakh pact was finalized, Mr. Clinton’s charitable foundation received its own windfall: a $31.3 million donation from Mr. Giustra** that had remained a secret until he acknowledged it last month. [in 2008]  The gift, combined with Mr. Giustra’s more recent and public pledge to give the William J. Clinton Foundation an additional $100 million, secured Mr. Giustra a place in Mr. Clinton’s inner circle, an exclusive club of wealthy entrepreneurs in which friendship with the former president has its privileges.

### The Clintons made millions, Russia took one-fifth of US uranium and together they now are working with their crooked partners in the FBI and Deep State to pin false Russia collusion charges on current President Donald Trump.

**So, You Don’t Think We Need a Wall**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at the El Paso port of entry seized 88.6 pounds of marijuana last Thursday -- in just one car.

That drug bust was one of 21 seizures made during the seven-day period ending at midnight on Nov. 16. In that single week in the El Paso area, officers seized a total of 1,638 pounds of marijuana in 16 drug busts -- and 37.5 pounds of cocaine in another five drug busts.

The 88.6-pound marijuana seizure happened last Thursday night when a 2000 Nissan Sentra, driven by a 33-year-old Mexican citizen, entered the Ysleta international crossing from Mexico.

A drug-sniffing dog alerted CBP officers to the presence of marijuana, and officers said they found 80 marijuana-filled bundles in the trunk and engine compartment.

The Mexican driver was turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agents to face charges stemming from the failed smuggling attempt.

“The drug smuggling threat remains consistent, and dedicated CBP officers are focused on stopping this illicit flow while facilitating legitimate trade and travel,” said Beverly Good, CBP El Paso port director.

CBP says on a typical day, it seizes 7,910 pounds of drugs at all U.S. ports of entry, based on Fiscal Year 2016 data.

In addition to drug smuggling, CBP officers also identified numerous violations in other areas, including agriculture enforcement.

CBP agriculture specialists recorded 17 violations last week in the El Paso area, resulting in penalties of $3,475 being assessed. Prohibited agricultural items seized during the seven-day period included pork, pork chorizo, pork skins, bologna, raw chicken, guavas, potatoes, apples, kiwis, oranges, avocados, hawthorns, and pomegranates.

Thirteen wanted criminals were arrested at El Paso area ports last week, in addition to other enforcement actions. Don’t be fooled into thinking everyone who breaks into the U.S. has good intentions, former congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) said Tuesday, reacting to the recent violence against border patrol agents.

After a border agent was killed and others attacked by illegal aliens, Chaffetz appeared on Fox News to warn Americans that illegal aliens break into the U.S. to sell drugs and do “other nefarious things”:

Former Congressman Chaffetz: "Don’t let anybody fool to you think that oh, everybody that’s coming across the border just wants to make their life better. No, come on. These people are — they are running drugs, they're doing other nefarious things. These are some really bad actors out there.

“And I want somebody to go down on that border and actually film, actually look at what that border looks like. Because my guess is, I’m just guessing right in this area, it’s probably like barbed wire, maybe not even a fence at all."

“So I’m totally on board with the President: build that wall,” Chaffetz said.

**Cartel Crime at All-Time High**

## The once peaceful tourist destinations of Los Cabos and La Paz, are now dealing with a record-breaking number of murders. The murders are directly linked to rival Mexican drug cartels fighting for control while other drug cartels continue to fuel more violence throughout Mexico.

The popular vacation spots have become ground zero for a war between Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación and factions of the Sinaloa cartel. The spike in violence has tainted the image of a quiet beach haven that was commonly associated with the area. Authorities reported a record of 10 murders in a 24 hour period.

The state of Baja California Sur has gone from recording 147 murder cases between January and October in 2016 to having 409 murders during that same time frame in 2017.

In a two week span, the Baja California Sur Attorney General’s Office has documented 29 murders. One of the more alarming cases deals with the murder of Silvestre de la Toba Camacho, who headed the state’s human rights commission.

According to [local news outlets](http://www.bcsnoticias.mx/%20presidente-derechos-humanos-%20bcs-fue-asesinado-hijo-esposa-%20e-hija-estan-lesionadas/), Camacho was driving vehicle with his family when a team of gunmen attempted to block him off and then began firing. The multiple bullets fired by the gunmen killed Camacho and his 20-year-old son; the gunmen also injured Camacho’s wife and his 17-year-old daughter.

**Firearms Self Defense an Effective Deterrent**

“Self-defense can be an important crime deterrent,” concluded a study by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mandated via executive order by President Barack Obama. The findings also question the effectiveness of gun-control measures.

The $10 million study was commissioned by President Barack Obama as part of 23 executive orders he signed in January of 2013.

The study’s findings include:

Gun-use is the safest of studied “self-protective strategies,”

Suicide accounts for most firearm deaths,

Felons who use guns very seldom obtain their guns by stealing them, and

There is no evidence that gun restrictions reduce gun violence.

“Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual defensive uses of guns (i.e., incidents in which a gun was ‘used’ by the crime victim in the sense of attacking or threatening an offender) have found consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies,” the CDC study, entitled “Priorities For Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence,” states.

Researchers also found that the majority of firearm deaths are from suicide, not homicide. “Between the years 2000 and 2010, firearm-related suicides significantly outnumbered homicides for all age groups, annually accounting for 61 percent of the more than 335,600 people who died from firearm-related violence in the United States."

“Most felons report obtaining the majority of their firearms from informal sources,” adds the report, while “stolen guns account for only a small percentage of guns used by convicted criminals.”

The report expresses uncertainty about gun control measures, stating that “whether gun restrictions reduce firearm-related violence is an unresolved issue,” and that there is no evidence “that passage of right-to-carry laws decrease or increase violence crime.” It also stated that proposed “gun turn-in programs are ineffective.”

Instead, researchers proposed gun safety technologies such as “external locking devices and biometric systems” to reduce firearm-related deaths.

**BTW**

On Black Friday, the FBI was flooded with the highest number of background checks in one day for gun purchases.

There were 203,086 requests received by the bureau’s [**National Instant Criminal Background Check System**](https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/nics), [**USA Today reported.**](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/11/25/black-friday-posts-new-single-day-record-gun-checks-more-than-200-000/894706001/) The previous single-day records both on Black Friday, were 185,713 last year and 185,345 in 2015.

Gun checks are not a measure of the actual number of guns sold. Multiple firearms can be purchased in a single transaction by the same buyer. One thing is clear. Obama was the greatest gun salesman in history.

This weekend’s surge comes days after Attorney General Jeff Sessions asked for a [**review of the background system**](https://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/church-shooting-justice-department-jeff-sessions-mass-shooting/2017/11/22/id/827786/) in the wake of the Texas church shooting by a court-martialed veteran who was able to purchase a weapon used to kill 25 people. The Air Force also is investigating its part in the breakdown. The point is that when people feel their 2nd Amendment rights to own a firearm are infringed, the people respond by buying more of them. I will give this thought. If you do not own 5,000 rounds for each caliber of gun you own, you are a derelict gun owner.

**Consumer Protection Wars**

The White House may name an acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Justice Department said in a memo on Saturday that endorsed an action by the Trump administration.

"The President may designate an Acting Director of the CFPB," the eight-page memo said.

On Friday, the White House said Mick Mulvaney, President Donald Trump's budget director, would lead the CFPB on an interim basis.

The leadership of the independent regulatory agency was thrown into question on Friday when its outgoing director Richard Cordray, a Democrat, named his deputy as his acting replacement until the U.S. Senate confirms a new director.

But Trump named White House budget director Mulvaney, a fierce critic of the agency, to temporarily oversee the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) until he nominates someone to take on the job - a pick expected in upcoming weeks, senior administration officials told reporters on a conference call.

Trump's nominee must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, meaning that Mulvaney - who will be at the CFPB on Monday - could be the acting director for months.

"We don't have any reason to think that anything out of the ordinary course will happen: we think he will show up Monday and he will go into the office and start working," a senior administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The officials said Trump's move to name an acting director was "routine" and is supported by a plain reading of the 1998 Federal Vacancies Reform Act.

Cordray was Obama’s creation, the CFPB, still operates under its first director, so this is the first time the agency's succession plan has been tested. Actually, this agency does not do what it sounds like. The agency was created by former Democratic President Barack Obama in the wake of the financial crisis and has imposed steep penalties on banks, auto dealers, student lenders and credit card companies for alleged predatory lending practices. The 2008 Crash, that many say was precipitated by Obama’s election and effort to destroy capitalism, provided an opportunity for the Democrat majority to effectively take over the financial industry.

That’s exactly what they did, and the CFPB went straight after the banks by regulating business startups out of the picture. In order for the banks to commercially loan money, the business had to have been in operation and profitable for two consecutive years under the same management. They could only be loaned money based upon those earnings, and not on any expansion plans. That very effectively starved out the business startup. We are now at the lowest level of business startups, arguably the life blood of any nation, than in any time in recorded history. Obama got exactly what he wanted, which was the entire banking and business community is populated by and for global multi-billion dollar corporations. The CEO’s and CFO’s of those corporations are the very people making up the leadership inside the Agencies Obama formed or reformed in his transformation of America into a pure fascism.

Republicans have complained the agency is too powerful without Congressional oversight. Actually, all Agencies are completely immune to Congress. Every Agency has shown open contempt for Congress in hearings, secret regulations passed without review, and the appointment of regulators without Senatorial consent. The DOJ, IRS, State Department, and FBI have all openly refused to cooperate with Congress. Even when they are convicted of contempt, they walk free and show their ass on the way out. This is the sign of a people that has lost control of its government; the other government inside the elected one we see on TV. Democrats such as Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts - who pushed for the agency's creation - argue the CFPB protects Americans from financial abuses. Nothing could be more opposite of the truth. Nearly 150 thousand Small Business Administration loans went un processed in the last 4 years alone, primarily due to banks being prohibited from helping those borrowers. Credit card companies, predatory student loan companies, paycheck cashing companies, and banking regulations have put the population in a high-interest $25 trillion debt bubble in less than 8 years.

Trump has pressed to ease regulations on businesses, including the financial sector. It will be very interesting tomorrow to see this fight on the street. If Trump wins, Obama has lost another one of his trophy shackles he placed on America. If the Democrat Senators, and Rinos, succeed in blocking Trump any financial growth in America will have to come from these global corporations, and not from Americans crowded outside the bank looking to start new and exciting industries.

**The Conservative Philosophy in Nature**

For the last few decades, we have seen Progressives in our one-party system slowly and surely seize more than 700 million acres of American land as collateral for the central government. I hesitate to call it Federal anymore. It is clear to everyone that something else is in control now, and they are fighting Americans tooth and nail for ownership of the Republic.

In nature, there is a balance that occurs between life forces. Predator, scavengers, hydrologists, and horticulturalists move nature into a place of harmony for all life. Progressives are all about removing competition in the role of predator. They kill off every competitor. They did the same thing with wolves. They were big and smart and scary and impossible to control. This is exactly the life force they sought to kill off. Few people talked about, or even noticed, the long-term effects of removing this predator “for the good of mankind.”

It wasn’t until decades later, when the wolf was reintroduced to the wild in Yellowstone, that those effects became stunningly clear.

A young forest service employee named Aldo Leopold, charged with killing wolves in New Mexico in the early 1900's started to notice that as the wolves died off, the deer population boomed and ate all the plants to nothing. In his groundbreaking work, "Thinking Like a Mountain", Leopold put forth an idea 50 years ahead of his time: predators control ecosystems.

Since the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, we have learned much about the effect large carnivores have on an ecosystem. In the past it was thought that an ecosystem was built from the bottom up... with plant life as the basis from which everything grew. Once healthy plants were established, insects, small rodents, birds, larger herbivores and finally the top predators fell into a balance with each other. Almost all conservation and reintroduction efforts were based on this idea. In a damaged area, biologists would first try to rebuild the plant life before doing anything else. However, some ecosystems could not be fixed before reintroducing an endangered top-level animal. In Yellowstone National Park, the US Fish and Wildlife Service was required by the Endangered Species Act to reintroduce wolves before balancing the plant base and herbivore populations.

In the years since the wolf reintroduction, Yellowstone has become a premiere scientific laboratory for wilderness observation and ecosystem recovery. Scientists have come from around the world to watch the effect wild wolves have on the park. We have discovered that an ecological effect called the “trophic cascade” has taken over Yellowstone, with the wolves initiating a more natural ecosystem balance than has been seen in over 65 years.

The idea of a “trophic cascade” is relatively basic. The term “trophic” refers to the different levels of a food chain (with the plants being one trophic level, insects the next, all of the way up the ladder). However, the “cascade” forces us to look at the traditional food chain from a different perspective. Picture a small stream flowing through the woods – then the stream comes to a waterfall, or cascade. As the stream falls over the edge of the cascade, it hits a rock and splits, then each of those waterfalls hits another rock and splinters again. You end up with a single stream at the top scattering out into many cascades. Now, put the two terms together: trophic cascade. We are learning that a large carnivore at the top of the food chain is just like the little stream – it’s effects on the rest of the ecosystem splinter out over all of the trophic levels. In other words, when wild wolves return to an ecosystem, by chasing and hunting their prey and competing with other species, they help restore balance to the ecosystem.

Since wild wolves have returned to Yellowstone, the elk and deer are stronger, the aspens and willows are healthier and the grasses taller. For example, when wolves chase elk during the hunt, the elk are forced to run faster and farther. As the elk run, their hooves aerate the soil, allowing more grasses to grow. Since the elk cannot remain stationary for too long, aspens and willows in one area are not heavily grazed, and therefore can fully recover between migrations. As with the rest of the country, coyote populations were nearly out of control in Yellowstone before the wolves returned. Now, the coyotes have been out-competed and essentially reduced by 80 percent in areas occupied by wolves. The coyotes that do remain are more skittish and wary. With fewer coyotes hunting small rodents, raptors like the eagle and osprey have more prey and are making a comeback. The endangered grizzly bears successfully steal wolf kills more often than not, thus having more food to feed their cubs. In essence, we have learned that by starting recovery at the top with predators like wolves, the whole system benefits. A wild wolf population actually makes for a stronger, healthier and more balanced ecosystem. From plant, to insect, to people... we all stand to benefit from wolves.

With only 5% of our nation’s wilderness left, people are recognizing the important roles complete ecosystems play in keeping all of us healthy. With new knowledge of the trophic cascade, we can now begin to focus wilderness recovery efforts on a wider variety of ecosystems. Using Yellowstone as an example, we can teach the world about the wolf’s positive and vital role in the wild.

It is exactly the same in business. Once we killed off all the small businesses, with their powerful alpha entrepreneurs, and their undaunted determination, the rest of life in our communities suffered as well. Perhaps President Trump will see what I see. That the wolf needs to be reintroduced into the small business world. It is time the fat grizzlies and overgrown snakes and pigs felt the teeth of competition chasing them through the woods.

**DARPA Missing Critical Space Tech Business**

The military space business is stuck in its old ways and missing a "golden opportunity" to capture the energy of a rejuvenated commercial industry, said a former White House space and aviation technology adviser who is now a top official at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

"In the national security space sector, we're in dire need of new thinking and innovation," said Fred Kennedy, director of DARPA's Tactical Technology Office. He assumed that post in September after serving as deputy director since January.

Speaking at a breakfast meeting of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation Nov. 15, Kennedy criticized the Pentagon's methods for acquiring satellites and called for a "shakeup" in national security space programs. In the Defense Department, Kennedy said, "We've gotten very good at building small numbers of extremely exquisite things, very expensive things on very long time schedules." That culture that emphasizes high performance and low risk is now working against the military because its satellites have become huge targets for adversaries.

"Our savior is going to be the commercial sector," said Kennedy. Some pockets within the military are moving in that direction but not soon enough. "We're starting to see an influx of commercial technology, but we need more of it, and quick."

Kennedy worries that the commercial space boom could turn out to be a fad that fades in a few years, so the Pentagon should be harnessing that energy now. "My biggest fear is that in a couple of years people will forget Matt Damon and 'The Martian' and be back where we were before."

**Other transactions' contracting**

DARPA's weapon for capturing privately funded technology is an authority known as "other transactions," or OTA, to sign contracts with vendors that bypasses some of the federal procurement red tape.

"We do that. It's very effective and useful," said Kennedy. "I can't say it's always quicker than the normal contracting process. But it is actually an effective way of teaming."

The way it works with DARPA: The agency selects a commercial partner and the company is expected to help fund the venture. "Then we can go out and work on problems jointly," Kennedy said.

He touted one of DARPA's most ambitious space programs, the robotic servicing of geosynchronous satellites, or RSGS. It is a government-industry partnership with SSL MDA Holdings.

If the project is successful — a launch is planned for 2021 — it would elevate DARPA's status as a disruptor, Kennedy said. He recalled that an earlier program called Orbital Express, designed to service spacecraft in low-Earth orbit, got off to a fast start but was deactivated in 2007 because there was no business case for it.

The RSGS effort is aimed at high-orbit satellites, most of which are in need of some type of service — new flight computers, more fuel, more propellant. Companies in the industry told DARPA that they would buy that service if available. "We have to get out of today's culture of treating satellites like a Rolls Royce or Ferrari, that they have to work for 15 years, so you'd better test the hell out it, make sure it absolutely works," said Kennedy. "Geosynchronous orbit is a natural place to go. … They all need to be refueled, repaired, moved or retired. There is a commercial interest and a national security need."

The RSGS will be a "commercial transition and not something we push to the Air Force," he said. Once the system is up and running, SSL will commercialize it.

**Industry skeptical**

Kennedy's cheering words of encouragement, however, were met with skepticism from executives in the audience who argued that DARPA often funds the development of technologies that already are available in the private sector, creating government vs. industry competitions that undermine private efforts.

Kennedy only partially agreed. He said he hopes projects like the RSGS will result in a "shakeup" in how the space sector does business with the government. "I'd like to use RSGS and other systems to be some kind of a wedge to force people to think differently about the enterprise, in our case, about the 'order of battle.'"

But he acknowledged that "culture is the biggest problem" in military programs. "I'd like to live in a world where we do not have to wait 10 years and spend $20 billion to get a capability," he said. "I would like to see a change away from that."

Executives in the audience pointed out that the Defense Department has not moved to capitalize on the small satellite revolution or "hosted payloads" as alternatives to custom-built military spacecraft. The industry had expected to see movement in that direction by now as the Pentagon considers future replacements for its constellations of missile-warning and classified communications satellites.

Rather than deploy hundreds of sensors in tiny satellites that are cheaper to replace, the Pentagon has preferred to buy large expensive systems, giving enemies richer targets, industry officials said.

"That is a problem," said Kennedy. "The idea of having lots of something as a deterrent isn't a bad thing. … It's very difficult for DoD to see beyond the traditional model. But DARPA is well positioned to poke at that model."

Kennedy defended DARPA's decision to award BAE Systems a $12 million contract to develop a digital "testbed" for space command-and-control technologies. Companies in the sector contend that such technology is commercially available.

The project, known as "Hallmark," is more ambitious than it looks, said Kennedy, and DARPA believes it needs to invest in areas where there is no commercial capability. The testbed is not just to experiment with technology but also to do cognitive assessments of operators. "We want to measure how people are performing when they get new tools. We think that's a unique place for us," he said. "We thought we needed to invest in that."

**Space plane moving forward**

DARPA also has come under criticism for rejecting commercial proposals for a military space plane in favor of a new development venture with Boeing Phantom Works.

Kennedy said the experimental space plane, dubbed XS-P, will help the military services launch satellites into space quickly and at less cost than traditional methods. DARPA reportedly invested $40 million in the project.

The space plane was initially named the XS-1 but it was relabeled once DARPA realized XS-1 also was the designation of the original rocket engine–powered aircraft, the Bell XS-1, designed and built in 1945.

The new XS-P uses an AR-22 engine built by Aerojet Rocketdyne. It would be reusable like a commercial airliner and DARPA wants it to be able to fly to space 10 times in 10 days.

An initial flight is scheduled for 2019, said Kennedy. The contract with Boeing is an "other transactions" deal so it will be up to the company to move it forward after the development is completed.

"That's commercial transition," he said. "I'm not here to sustain capability. I can't afford that." Boeing has a commercial business case for the space plane, he added. "They believe they can go off and launch capability and make money. DoD then can purchase those services." Of course, everyone knows that when DARPA has a legitimate need for national security, they won’t be purchasing anything. They will simply take it by force.

**The AI Challenge**

How many of you are sick of politics in government? Sick of corruption? Sick of greed? Sick of sickness? Then you are ready for your State to put an AI Congressman in Washington. No salary. No insider trading. No interns. No office rent. No lobbyists. Emails answered instantly, at a rate of 10 thousand a second.. Total, 100% State legislature control, and zero Federal control. Sound good?

 Hollywood movies make people worry about the wrong things in terms of super intelligence. **What we should really worry about is not malice but competence, where we have machines that are smarter than us whose goals just aren’t aligned with ours.** For example, I don’t hate ants, I don’t go out of my way to stomp an ant if I see one on the sidewalk, but if I’m in charge of this hydroelectric dam construction and just as I’m going to flood this valley with water I see an ant hill there, tough luck for the ants. Their goals weren’t aligned with mine and because I’m smarter it’s going to be my goals, not the ant’s goals, that get fulfilled. We never want to put humanity in the role of those ants.

**On the other hand it doesn’t have to be bad if you solve the goal alignment problem.**Little babies tend to be in a household surrounded by human level intelligence as they’re smarter than the babies, namely their parents. And that works out fine because the goals of the parents are wonderfully aligned with the goals of the child’s so it’s all good. And this is one vision that a lot of AI researchers have, the friendly AI vision that we will succeed in not just making machines that are smarter than us, but also machines that then learn, adopt and retain our goals as they get ever smarter.

**It might sound easy to get machines to learn, adopt and retain our goals, but these are all very tough problems.** First of all, if you take a self-driving taxi and tell it in the future to take you to the airport as fast as possible and then you get there covered in vomit and chased by helicopters and you say, “No, no, no! That’s not what I wanted!” and it replies, “That is exactly what you asked for,” then you’ve appreciated how hard it is to get a machine to understand your goals, your actual goals.

A human cabdriver would have realized that you also had other goals that were unstated because she was also a human and has all this shared reference frame, but a machine doesn’t have that unless we explicitly teach it that. And then once the machine understands our goals there’s a separate problem of getting them to adopt the goals. Anyone who has had kids knows how big the difference is between making the kids understand what you want and actually adopt your goals to do what you want.

And finally, even if you can get your kids to adopt your goals that doesn’t mean they’re going to retain them for life. My kids are a lot less excited about Lego now than they were when they were little, and we don’t want machines as they get ever-smarter to gradually change their goals away from being excited about protecting us and thinking of this thing about taking care of humanity as this little childhood thing (like Legos) that they get bored with eventually.

**If we can solve all three of these challenges, getting machines to understand our goals, adopt them and retain them then we can create an awesome future.**Because everything I love about civilization is a product of intelligence. Then if we can use machines to amplify our intelligence then we have this potential to solve all the problems that are stumping us today and create a better future than we even dare to dream of.

**If machines ever surpass us and can outsmart us at all tasks that’s going to be a really big deal because intelligence is power.**

**The reason that we humans have more power on this planet than tigers is not because we have larger muscles or sharper claws, it’s because we’re smarter than the tigers. And in the exact same way if machines are smarter than us it becomes perfectly plausible for them to control us and become the rulers of this planet and beyond.**

When I. J. Good made this famous analysis of how you could get an intelligence explosion, or intelligence just kept creating greater and greater intelligence leaving us far behind, he also mentioned that this super intelligence would be the last invention that man need ever make. And what he meant by that, of course, was that so far the most intelligent being on this planet that’s been doing all the inventing - it’s been us.

***But once we make machines that are better than us at inventing, all future technology that we ever need can be created by those machines if we can make sure that they do things for us that we want and help us create an awesome future where humanity can flourish like never before.***

**China in Space Five Times as fast as America**

The U.S. Space Council met for the first time in 25 years. That is like since before the dot com boom; the first one. Air Force lieutenant general Steve Kwast believes a "Kitty Hawk" moment will begin a new era in space. But while the U.S. still leads every other country in space, Kwast cautions that edge is whittling away.

"In my best military judgement China is on a 10-year journey to operationalize space. We're on a 50-year journey," Kwast told CNBC.

Kwast, who is also the commander and president of Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, says the United States must "bring together the right talent to accelerate the journey" in a Manhattan Project-like meeting of minds. He says this would push the space industry to a moment like Wright Brothers had when they completed the first successful airplane flight in 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

"We could be on a five year journey, because it's all about how aggressively we are going about this journey," Kwast said.

**Regulations in the way**

A half century of regulating satellites made government regulations bulky and nearly impossible for entrepreneurs. Kwast analogizes the current regulatory environment to needing to submit an itinerary for every item you plan to bring on a flight from D.C. to Los Angeles – one year before the flight.

"You have to detail everything in your suitcase – each item's material, manufacturer, weight and more – the government takes a year to go through it and then tells you what you can and can't take," Kwast said. "And, if you have to update your request, then you have to start all over."

He continued, "When you finally get approval you have to spend your entire life savings for the airplane, which, when you land, you have to burn to the ground."

Officials want to evolve regulatory methods but must placate taxpayers that discarded rockets will not begin falling on suburban rooftops.

"You need technological innovations to reassure Congress that this is safe and effective, as the FAA cannot do this unilaterally," Kwast said. "Low-cost access to space is the first domino to making this possible."

SpaceX has also criticized the regulatory process, with President Gwynne Shotwell noting the process takes six months "and then you re-apply at 90 days, 30 days, and then 15 days to file a flight plan."

"If we want to achieve rapid progress in space, the U.S. government must remove bureaucratic practices that run counter to innovation and speed," Shotwell said.

**National security and global prosperity at stake**

Militaries will soon work more extensively in the space between the earth and moon, according to Kwast. That realm is the next high ground, where nations are straining to gain a strategic advantage.

"China is working on building a 'navy in space'" that would work even beyond earth's gravity well, Kwast said.

Yet China is the not the most pressing threat. North Korea, with its continued missile testing, is "a real problem" today, Kwast says.

"Right now, if North Korea were to launch a missile into space and detonate an electro magnetic pulse, it would take out our eyes in space," Kwast said.

The Cold War-era "Star Wars" concept was "very strategic," Kwast says, but the technology was not feasible. The more the U.S. innovates in space, the lower the potential threat from a missile.

But even though the space industry poised to become eight times as valuable over the next 30 years, Kwast believes it's too early to think about a new military force in space.

"We could have an operational space force in 3 to 5 years," Kwast said. "However, that would be jumping to answering what the form looks like, before you know the function."

Earlier this year Kwast penned a list of recommendations to the Air Force's U.S. Space Command in a January study called "Fast Space." In it he details that public-private partnerships must be the nation's focus, not an "an Air Force in space."

Kwast notes, "It took from the Wright Brothers in 1903 to 1945 -- two World Wars -- to get flying to where we needed an Air Force."

**Finding balance in public-private partnerships**

Kwast is a staunch supporter of the potential from corporations partnering with government actors. But he warns against the military completely depending on the private sector, giving the example of how the Air Force contracts out launches to both SpaceX and United Launch Alliance.

"I think the balance between public and private is reasonable right now but we're still not doing enough, and we're not aggressive enough," Kwast said.

At the New Worlds conference in Austin, Texas on Friday, Bill Gerstenmaier, the NASA associate administrator for Human Exploration and Operations, said his organization shares a similar vision. He does not expect "to get another huge budget like the Apollo missions," and says NASA will focus on "orchestrating human spaceflight," instead of conceptualizing, funding, building and operating all on its own.

Gerstenmaier told CNBC that he sees NASA now operating more akin to a venture capital firm, picking investments and helping build them up. He cited Morgan Stanley'srecent report on the industry as a look into the direction space is heading.

Kwast applauds the high-risk, high-reward entrepreneurial spirit of modern space companies. He calls himself "a very strong advocate" for partnerships "based on economic realities" which create competition.

"Corporations have a vicious, clear-eyed view of the bottom line, which is a very healthy thing," Kwast said, before adding: "Companies that fail should fail."

**How Many Politicians Can We Afford?**

[Authored by Michael Snyder via The Economic Collapse blog,](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/how-the-elite-dominate-the-world-part-4-they-buy-politicians-and-incumbents-almost-always-win)

***Once we wake up to how the game is being played, then we will have a real shot at changing things.*** For decades, the elites have been pulling the strings behind the scenes in both major political parties.  That is why nothing has ever seemed to change very much no matter which party has been in power.

***The agenda of the elite has always seemed to march forward, and ordinary people like us have always been frustrated that we can’t seem to make a difference.  But now a shift seems to be taking place.***  Donald Trump took on the establishment in both major parties, and he miraculously won the presidency.  Down in Alabama, the elite spent more than 30 million dollars to defeat Roy Moore, and he still defeated Luther Strange.  A political awakening is taking place, and I can’t wait to see what happens during the mid-term elections in 2018.

In [*Part I*](http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-10-16/how-elite-dominate-world-%E2%80%93-part-1-debt-tool-enslavement) and [*Part II*](http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-10-17/how-elite-dominate-world-%E2%80%93-part-2-999-world-live-country-central-bank) of this series, I talked about how the elite use debt as a tool of enslavement.  In [*Part III*](http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-10-18/how-elite-dominate-world-%E2%80%93-part-3-90-what-you-watch-tv-controlled-just-6-giant-corpo), I went over how the elite use the colossal media corporations they own to control what we think.  ***Today, I want to talk about their influence in the realm of politics.***

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**In Washington D.C., it is well understood that the game of politics is all about the money.**  If I win my election, and online polling suggests [that there is a ton of enthusiasm for my campaign](http://kidotalkradio.com/1st-congressional-district-poll/), I will be expected to spend most of my time on the phone raising money.  **As a freshman member of Congress, at orientation it will be explained to me that I am supposed to spend approximately four hours a day doing fundraising, and that is why the House and Senate floors are so empty most of the time.**

By law, members of Congress cannot make fundraising calls from their offices, and so both parties have huge call centers just across from the Capitol.  Especially around lunch and dinner times (because those are some of the best times to reach people), those call centers are packed as members of the House and Senate run through lists of potential donors.

**And it isn’t just about raising money for their own campaigns.**  As a freshman member of Congress I would be expected to raise at least $200,000 for the NRCC (the National Republican Congressional Committee).  If I don’t pay my dues, I would get into big trouble with party leadership.

But you know what?  I have already pledged that I am **not** going to participate in this very corrupt system.  If I am sent to Congress, I am going to spend my time doing the job that the people of Idaho sent me there to do.

**So will Paul Ryan and the others in leadership get very upset with me for not “paying my dues”?**

Of course.

**But it is time for some of us to take a stand and do what is right.  Congress has become a cesspool of filth and corruption, and it is time to flush the toilet.**

Because if we don’t fight this corrupt system, the influence of money in politics will just get worse and worse.  Today, the elite pour millions upon millions of dollars even into small campaigns, and in 2016 it took an average of more than 10 million dollars [to win a U.S. Senate seat](https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2016/11/the-price-of-winning-just-got-higher-especially-in-the-senate/)…

While the White House may not have gone to the biggest spender, an awful lot of House and Senate seats did — as usual. And it was pricier than ever to win them.

This election cycle, an average winning Senate candidate had spent $10.4 million through Oct. 19 (reflecting the latest reports filed with the Federal Election Commission). That’s a [$1.8 million increase](https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2014/11/money-won-on-tuesday-but-rules-of-the-game-changed/) over the same period in the 2014 cycle. By the end of last cycle, the number rose to $10.6 million, and a similar uptick is expected this time once post-election and year-end reports are filed.

Once you win, the pressure to raise money for your next campaign never ends.

**The elite know this, and they use this pressure to influence votes.**  Prior to a big vote, lobbyists will make it abundantly clear how they want certain members of Congress to vote, and if they vote the “right way” those members of Congress will be rewarded.

Just across from the U.S. Capitol there are clubs where fancy receptions are regularly held.  If you vote the “right way” on a particular bill, you may be invited to one of these receptions, and there will be big, fat donation checks waiting there for you.

**Of course most members of Congress have learned how to play the game, and this is why it is nearly impossible to defeat incumbents.** Over the past six decades, the re-election rate for members of the House of Representatives has consistently been well over 80 percent, and according to [the UVA Center for Politics](http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/incumbent-reelection-rates-higher-than-average-in-2016/) incumbents actually did far better than that in 2016…

This election cycle, 393 of 435 House representatives, 29 of 34 senators, and five of 12 governors sought reelection (several of the governors were prohibited from seeking another term). Of those, 380 of 393 House members (**97%**), 27 of 29 senators (**93%**), and four of five governors (**80%**) won another term. These members of Congress and governors not only won renomination, but also won in November.

**Since World War II, the overall success rate for Senate incumbents has been** [**84 percent**](http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/incumbent-reelection-rates-higher-than-average-in-2016/)**, and the overall success rate for House incumbents has been** [**94 percent**](http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/incumbent-reelection-rates-higher-than-average-in-2016/)**.**

Incumbents are almost always armed with huge war chests and most of them have tremendous name recognition, and so toppling them is not easy.

Fortunately, there is no incumbent in my race because Raul Labrador is running for governor.  So the race is completely wide open, and right now my campaign has [the most enthusiasm by far](http://kidotalkradio.com/1st-congressional-district-poll/).  If you would like to help me flush the toilet in Washington, I would encourage you to visit [MichaelSnyderForCongress.com](https://www.michaelsnyderforcongress.com/).

**If we don’t fight back, we will never break the stranglehold that the elite have on our political system.**

Every generation of Americans has had to stand up and fight for liberty and freedom, and now it is our turn.  This particular battle will not be fought with guns and bullets, but rather with ideas, values and principles.

**We are part of a movement that is sweeping the nation.  Good men and women are rising up to run in federal, state and local races all across the country, and it is absolutely imperative that we all get behind them and support them.**

**Loud Booms Heard All over the World**

Something very strange is going on, and it seems to be happening all around our planet. Reports continue to emerge of booming sounds of mysterious origin echoing from the sky, from Colorado and Alabama to the Middle East, United Kingdom and Australia, [according to News Corp Australia](http://www.news.com.au/technology/science/space/mysterious-loud-booms-heard-across-the-world-in-64-locations-and-nasa-doesnt-even-know-why/news-story/eb4d5b2a8117d05b00d15ffb51500c4c).

The sounds, understandably startling for those who hear them, are certainly not the voices of gods, although their source has thus far defied scientific explanation as well.

A recent example occurred in Alabama, when a thunderous noise shook houses and frightened residents on Nov. 20. Not long after, explosion-like sounds were also heard in Colorado, although officials now believe that the Colorado clamor was unrelated to the worldwide phenomenon, likely caused by oil and gas extraction.

Other booms around the world, like the one in Alabama, remain unexplained. Locals in Cairns, Australia, were shaken by a loud rumble on Oct. 10. Then two weeks later, another boom was heard over the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. Other mysterious sounds have been heard in as far reaching places as Michigan and Yorkshire, U.K.

Of course, there are theories. Anytime booming sounds are heard from the sky, it's worth ruling out a sonic boom caused by aircraft breaking the sound barrier. This might explain a few of the events — for instance, there are reports of a FA-18 Hornet plane flying nearby when the sound was heard in Cairns, Australia — but it's not a viable theme across all of the events.

Another possibility is that the booms are caused by meteors exploding in the sky. The [Leonid meteor shower](https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/space/blogs/how-watch-leonid-meteor-shower) has coincided with the hysteria. This theory would certainly explain why the phenomenon is global, though astronomers have insisted that meteors produced by the Leonids are way too small for this to happen.

Ground explosions also make for a prime suspect, but it's unclear how a ground disruption could explain the worldwide distribution of the sounds.

At least one NASA scientist, Bill Cooke, has chimed in, [telling ABC 3340](http://abc3340.com/news/local/loud-boom-heard-across-north-alabama-no-explosions-reported) that NASA’s meteor scientists are still in the process of analyzing the data and are looking for possible patterns between each of the reports. So far, though, there have been no consistent leads.

Of course, it's also possible that each of these booming sounds is entirely unrelated to the others, each with its own local explanation. It's not as if many of the booms from around the world occurred at the same time; several events are separated by weeks, even months at this point. Even so, anytime a loud boom is heard, it's worth getting to the bottom of it. Booms, whether connected to largescale, global phenomena or not, can be jarring to the imagination.

**Past Lives**

A while back, one of my listeners wrote to ask me to cover the subject of past lives. She felt like there was something there, but she has not been able to reach it, touch it, or get any kind of advantage from the possibility that she had experience before this life.

Well, I thought I would discuss that subject tonight around an article to kind of get the thoughts going tonight. The soul is not born. It does have a point of creation as an individual, but the Source, as it is called, has no beginning. Your source intelligence took the square root of itself to create you. You had an exact equal, positive or negative, at your beginning, but since that nanosecond, the two of you have gained your own experience, and have hence diverged from one another. Once created, the soul does not die. Your physical bodies can age and die or be slain, but the spiritual intelligence in you lives on forever.

I am certain that I have been here as I am now a thousand times before, and I hope to return a thousand times. – Goethe

We observe the principles of reincarnation everywhere in life: the cycles of nature, day and night, the cyclic motion of the sun, earth, moon and solar system. We also see the principles of reincarnation reflected around us each day: a plant grows, dies and releases its seeds. Its seeds burrow into the earth, begin to sprout, and new life is reborn once again. Please note that this is not a transmigration of the soul from one form of life to another. It is the same being living again and again, but I am going to add a twist to this later. So hang in there.

Reincarnation, or the rebirth of energy, or life, occurs all around us in different shapes and forms every day. Perhaps this is why to many of us reincarnation is something intuitive, something that resonates the very nature, the very essence of life. We also see that our lives, and everything around us, follows a fundamental pattern; that of change, growth, transformation and evolution. We see that all of life goes through a maturing process at different rates and different velocities. Thus to many of us, the maturation process of the soul through the process of reincarnation sounds just as instinctively and fundamentally correct as any other maturing process in life.

Not only that, but some of us have experienced extraordinary feelings, memories and sensations that point to the legitimacy of such a mysterious experience. We will be exploring many different signs that you might have touched the “other side” in this article.

PAST LIVES AND ‘YOUR’ SOUL

The doctrine of metempsychosis is, above all, neither absurd nor useless … It is no more surprising to be born twice than once; everything in nature is resurrection. – Voltaire

Reincarnation and the concept of past lives has existed for thousands of years, spanning back to the ancient Celtic, Greek, Asian and Indian traditions. These days, about 51% of the world’s population believe in some form of an afterlife, with about 7% believing that we are ultimately reincarnated. I think the other 42% only believe this when they are dead. Once they are born again and figure out how to wipe their own ass again, they choose to believe that we only live once, and then return to the void or the big snooze.

One of the most intrinsic beliefs of reincarnation is that most of us have lived many lives before, and sometimes we can actually remember bits or segments of these past lives. These past lives and past ‘selves’ we tend to identify with as extensions of ourselves and our egos. It is not so much the sights and smells and loves we had in those lives, but the skills and lessons that we learned as well as the bad habits we picked up in those lives that make us who we are. If we are aware of those weaknesses, we can make them strengths in this life, simply by not being so fooled this time.

Reincarnation of an ‘individual self’ is only as possible to the extent of believing that your sense of ‘self’ – your ego – is real. Two identities who are dwelling within two different physical bodies in the present, or in the past, will be two very distinct personalities. In truth, the ‘I’ is a transitioning, ever-changing phenomenon. Although our identities and senses of self are ever-changing, there is something that remains the same. There is something within us that is constant and continuous and that is pure awareness; some call it consciousness.

Be that as it may, most people are not conscious that they are conscious and go through life completely affected by the universe. It is this very pure awareness which serves as the experiencer and observer of life, and it is this pure awareness that we can refer to as ‘our’ Intelligence. It is not a reference to our smartness, or lack thereof. It means the thing that has the desire. That is the one thing that separates us from beings like angels. We have desire, they are forbidden from expressing that. Believe me, it puts us on a completely different path than the angels. We can do and be whatever be desire. They cannot.

**11 SIGNS YOUR SOUL HAS REINCARNATED**

When we understand reincarnation as the maturation process, or evolution, of soulful energy, it follows that some of us have intuitively experienced different things in our lives that reflect on the age of the energy known as our souls. It is commonly believed that many of our personal characteristics, experiences and capabilities in this life reflect on whether we have lived before on earth. It is thought that the more we mature, the more gifted we are in certain areas of life and the more frequently we have ‘spiritual’ experiences.

The truth is that all of us have most likely reincarnated, however some of us have gone through this cycle more than others and therefore experience many of the following characteristics:

1. RECURRING DREAMS

Dreams are reflections of the unconscious mind, and while repetitive dreams may sometimes signify trauma, fear or issues that your brain is trying to process (“unfinished business”), repetitive dreams can also potentially be reflections of past life experiences. Many people claim to have experienced certain events, seen particular people or gone to specific places frequently in their dreams that feel very familiar, and somehow recognizable. For example, I often have recurring dreams of a 15th century castle that I have a distinct feeling of knowing very well, yet I have never seen or been to this castle before in waking life.

 2. OUT-OF-PLACE MEMORIES

There are many recorded instances of young children who have out-of-place memories that later prove to be oddly accurate in detail. While out-of-place memories could be due to simple fantasies, misunderstandings or an incongruency in the ability to remember, there is mounting evidence that suggests out-of-place memories could reveal connections to past lives.

3. YOU HAVE A STRONG INTUITION

Intuition is the ability to balance the conscious and unconscious mind and to tap into our deeper wellsprings of primal wisdom and innate knowledge. It is said that the more we soulfully mature, the more we are closer to returning to the ‘source’ (known also as nirvana, eternity, oneness) from which our Souls come, and from which the collective unconscious – a body of universal knowledge – exists. This can also be a weakness, because our past experience can influence decisions we make in this life. Habits, vices, and failures that we tend to repeat from life to life are often because we have trust our inner ability to guess. Try drinking whiskey and playing Black Jack. You will begin betting based upon your feelings rather than the actual probability. You will lean on luck, and you will lose all your money. This is fine for some occasions, and dreadful for others.

4. DÉJÀ VU

We’ve all experienced déjà vu before at some point in our lives. It’s that bizarre feeling that somehow we have already experienced or lived a moment in time before. Often déjà vu comes spontaneously, and is triggered by smells, sounds, sights, tastes and various other sensations. While some claim that déjà vu is a neurological dissonance, others claim that déjà vu reflects the possibility of other dimensions (i.e. parallel universes), and still others believe it is revealing of past life experience. The strongest and most valuable of these types of events are when you meet people.

I believe that we come to worlds in soul groups. Maybe it is from the original source from whom we mathematically derived through the square root function. Maybe we have shared love with one another. Maybe we gave birth to one in one life, and were born of them the next. Maybe we were married over and over again, and love being around one another and making love. Maybe we were musicians or warriors or explorers together. But, plus or minus a few years we come to worlds together.

I also believe that souls are bound or synchronized with a certain planet. Once that planet is destroyed, the souls can move to another world of their choice. Souls outlive planets, so some souls have the opportunity to move to many worlds. Some of us traveled between worlds in a single life, then died on that new planet, returned to our synchro-planet, or moved on to another world. The rules are purely mathematical, but finally, all the greatest souls come here to Earth. It may be a thousand years or more between lives, because soul groups agree to come to a new world. If there is no agreement, or a long sorrow that must be soothed for a few thousand years, then the group stays out of the body for a while. Then, when they are ready, or when that world needs them, they come.

More than half a century ago, this world was in great need of us, so we came here. The world I am from was destroyed in a fireball of a super-nova like exploding star 1,800 years ago. That is no time at all when you’re out of the body. But in 1953, my group began coming here. It was time. In two years, this planet will see the light from that exploding star that consumed my world all those years ago. The light will be bright and visible for about 3 years, but very bright for about 6 months. I suppose they still won’t believe me, but sometimes I go outside and look back up there and remember that life. I wrote about it. I cherish it, but I have no desire to return. This world is a thousand times more glorious than that one. You would agree, believe me.

5. YOU’RE AN EMPATH

Empaths absorb the emotions, and in some instances the physical pains, of those around them literally empathizing, or directly feeling and experiencing what others experience. In this article about Empaths I go into greater depth about this unique breed of people. While identifying as an Empath and absorbing the emotions of others could be seen in some instances as a psychological form of avoidance to bypass one’s own problems and pin the blame on others, in other genuine cases it can be seen as a sign of a soul that has undergone many previous reincarnations and has refined to the point of transcending the individual self and its problems, extending to others as well.

This is an enormous causation for artistic expression, and is brings with it great burdens. Yes, it is a gift to be able to read thoughts and feelings of others, but those energies for an empath become difficult to shake and can be mistaken for your own emotions, when they are not. This is supposed to be a healer’s gift, but you are not meant to carry the patient’s sickness with you. If you perceive that you are an empath, and you will know who you are, then seek out training, so you can resume healing without getting sick.

6. PRECOGNITION

Also known as ‘future sight’ or ‘second sight’, precognition is the ability to obtain information about future events that isn’t usually available. Precognition can be experienced through visions, physical sensations and feelings as well as in dreams. While considered quasi-scientific by some, to others precognition is a very real experience and could indicate the maturation of soulful energy.

This is weak in most people, and corruptive in others. It is a powerful gift, but the temptation is to glorify yourself with this gift. It is the saddest thing to see on any world. We are employed by evil men to see the future. We gravitate to religions and it does not take long for a true precog to gain notoriety. But, the way this gift works is like a sword. Yes, it can cut time open for you to see the future and the past. But it can cut you as well, if you misuse the gift. Using it to get gain or to harm another person is evil, but it still works, because it is a true gift.

The one thing to remember is that the greatest seer of all time told us things of the future, but he did so in parables and stories. He did not lay down who and when and where. That keeps us looking and alert, instead of lazy and slothful. Knowing you have term paper due in three weeks, you will almost always delay working on it for two and a half weeks. I graduated at the top of my class, because I started on that term paper the next day. Knowing the future, does not make me lazy, but more energetic to be fully prepared when it arrives. That’s what I want for you too.

7. RETROCOGNITION

You probably guessed it! Retrocognition is the opposite of the above precognition, and refers to the ability to obtain information not usually available about past events. These past events could be in your own lifetime, or sometime in the distant past. Of course, retrocognition unlike precognition is not easy to prove or verify, however, for those who have genuinely experienced it (and have been able to honestly verify it), this ability could also be a sign of soulful reincarnation.

Trust me, it is a great advantage to know what really happened. This gift is truly amazing, and you should be able to do it, knowing how old you probably are, by learning a good form of meditation. It is just a matter of listening to the sounds of the day in your heart. Time travel to the past is perhaps more important than to the future, because you know stuff. If you go to the future, and you don’t know what you’re looking at, you usually bring back fear. No good. Going to the past and speaking to Thomas Jefferson or Churchill or a great author, you get a much better perspective.

8. YOU FEEL OLDER THAN YOUR AGE REFLECTS

This has absolutely nothing to do with your chronological age. Old souls can be just as young as young souls, but there is a huge difference in the way they see the world. Old souls know the things I am telling you, because they have contemplated these things thousands of times over thousand of lifetimes. No matter who they are, or whether they are your child or your parent, there is this one irrefutable principle. Where there are two souls, one will be greater than the other. And there are great souls out there. Jesus is greater than all of them. You will meet one of these ancient ones someday. You’ll know it right away.

The young ones right now are also easy to see. They wear black jeans, a mask, and believe that abdicating their individual rights to the greater State is the right thing to do. These soul children have been with us for a very long time on all worlds. They are always slaves. I am so sorry to say that, but they don’t want to be individuals. They want to be like ducks or sheep and follow the person in front of them to the feeding trough, and to the watering hole, and to the bed. They want to be in the herd, and they have never in all the millions of years I can image, ever stepped away from that.

 The experience of feeling older than your age reflects is commonly associated with having reincarnated many times over and this is echoed in the “Soul Age” theory where there is a certain progression of soulful development: from Infant Souls, to Awakened Souls. For example: if you have reincarnated few times on earth, this would be reflected in the age of your energy, and in this life you will display many primitive and child-like characteristics. If, however, your soulful energy has many good use of their lives many times over, you will display many matured and wizened characteristics (such as the ones mentioned in this article). If you feel older than your age reflects you might be a Mature or Old Soul.

9. YOU HAVE A GREAT AFFINITY FOR CERTAIN CULTURES/TIME PERIODS/ENVIRONMENTS

It is said that having a great, unexplainable attraction for certain cultures or time periods is a kind of past life “residue” reminiscent of a certain place, culture or environment that your soul may have experienced in past lives. For instance, you may have an inexplicable affinity to Asian culture, Celtic artifacts, or the 19th century.

I would not give up you’re here and now for those times. This is the greatest time for mankind to be alive in the history of this planet. Believe me, it is a time when integrity and leadership and honor of an old soul is needed, but this is a great world. It needs you. It needs you to find a way to make your voice heard. I use books and this radio program. You have to find a path and walk it.

10. UNEXPLAINABLE FEARS OR PHOBIAS

As touched on in the last point, many believe that certain memories or experiences can pass on or leave “residues” in our childhoods and adulthood’s from past lives. Whether this is true, or is simply a form of problem bypassing, many believe that we can experience the echoes of past traumas in our own lifetimes in the form of unexplainable fears and phobias. Examples can include: the fear of drowning, the fear of certain types of animals, the fear of certain places, the fear of particular numbers, colors, objects, and so forth.

11. YOU FEEL AS THOUGH THIS EARTH IS NOT YOUR HOME

The yearning to find your ‘home’ can be seen as a reflection of the desire to return back to the source (oneness, consciousness, divinity). Many people feel this yearning to be reminiscent of an athlete running a long race and longing to reach the ‘finish line’. In the same manner, Souls that have reincarnated many times over express this basic need for finally completing the cycle and returning home. Feeling that this earth is not your home is often accompanied by chronic feelings of tiredness and wariness for life on earth. I caution you, though. Don’t give up on yourself, or this planet. You came here by choice with others like you. You have to find them and resume your journey.

**Our lives** prior to this incarnation can teach us so much about our ultimate soul journey, and what we came here to accomplish on the path to remembering our highest selves. The more you know about your own soul, the clearer your road becomes. So much comfort and wisdom exists in recalling memories of ourselves before we even became humans, and this knowledge can provide you with valuable information about the steps you should take on your own spiritual journey.

Although many people desire to know more about their past incarnations, it can be a bit difficult to get started on this journey alone. Luckily, many healers out there can help you out, such as specialists called past life regressionists, who have undertaken an incredible feat of discovering who they once were so they can guide others to do the same.

However, even if you don’t have a past life regressionist near you, the following tips can get you started on the path to knowing yourself in greater detail:

THINK OF WHAT PLACES OR PEOPLE SEEM ODDLY FAMILIAR TO YOU.

You know that weird feeling of déjà vu we all experience at some point or another? Well, these feelings that you have met someone long before this lifetime or gone through that exact situation before might actually be memories of your past lives. In this life, we are automatically drawn to people and places that we have known before, because that makes discovering ourselves much more effortless. The universe conspires to make events and people come into your life that will assist you on your soul journey, so it often brings you to familiar people and places so that you will remember who you are.

Don’t dismiss these seemingly random moments of déjà vu; they actually serve a purpose and can help you identify yourself from past lives.

SIT IN A QUIET, DIMLY LIT ROOM, AND MEDITATE.

Meditation serves as a wonderful tool to uncover hidden truths about yourself, because once you quiet the chatter of your mind, you can more easily tap into the endless energy and wisdom of the soul. Your soul existed way before your physical body did, so therefore, it has been through many incarnations. As you go deeper within, pay attention to what comes into your stream of consciousness.

Do you remember certain faces, places, or experiences? What seems familiar to you? Maybe you have vivid memories of living in a different part of the world or meeting a spiritual master in a foreign land. Whatever comes to mind, if it resonates with your soul, you probably have experienced it before.

DON’T TRY TOO HARD.

If you make learning about your past lives into more of a chore rather than a fun undertaking or hobby, you won’t really get anywhere with it. The more you look for the knowledge, the less you will find it. Just accept whatever comes into your stream of consciousness naturally, and allow it to flow through you. If you put too much effort into it, you might become misguided and recall memories of experiences that you didn’t actually have.

Relax, breathe deeply, and don’t focus too much on remembering. Focus more on Being, and the wisdom will naturally come to you.

START OFF BY THINKING OF YOUR CURRENT EXISTENCE. WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IN YOUR PAST LIVES TO GET YOU TO THIS POINT?

Think of everything you have been through. The pain, the struggles, the heartaches, your upbringing, your family life…anything that has shaped you into the person you are today. Maybe you haven’t had the best relationships with people in your past, and wonder why things just don’t seem to go your way. Maybe you have parents that work a lot, and didn’t get to spend much time with them as a child.

Take everything in your life into consideration, because this life happened as a direct result of an experience in a past life. We come here to learn from the past, and some people think of this planet as a deliverer of karma.

So, maybe in the past you got what you wanted from people by manipulating and conniving, and in this existence, you have to work through that karma by experiencing unsatisfying, hurtful relationships. Maybe you neglected others in the past and valued your work over your relationships. In a way, having a lonely childhood could be the universe’s way of dishing out karma.

These are just examples, but whatever you have experienced in this lifetime, try to put all the pieces together. The culmination of events and people you’ve encountered have played an important role in your journey, and it’s your job to find out what could’ve led your soul to these experiences.

PAY ATTENTION TO HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU CONJURE UP OLD MEMORIES.

Sometimes, the “memories” will really just be realities we have created in our heads. You will feel differently, however, when you simply imagine something rather than actually remembering it. If something clicks within your soul and you get a sensation of bliss, awe, or some other powerful emotion moving through your body, you likely have remembered an important part of your soul as it existed in a past life!

**Earth Becoming a Planet of Light**

Earth is losing its darkness, scientists say.

In a study posted in the journal Science Advances, researchers cited satellite data that found artificially lit surfaces around the world are spreading and growing brighter, producing more light pollution at night.

The researchers studied data from the month of October in each year from 2012 to 2016. They found that over that time, Earth's artificially lit outdoor surface grew by 2.2 percent each year, and the total radiance grew by 1.8 percent per year. The outdoor areas that already had been lit when the study started in 2012 also brightened by 2.2 percent per year.

The trend has some worried about the implications for the environment and health, the Los Angeles Times reported.

"This is concerning, of course, because we are convinced that artificial light is an environmental pollutant with ecological and evolutionary implications for many organisms — from bacteria to mammals, including us humans — and may reshape entire social ecological systems," Franz Holker of the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, one of the study's authors, said in a briefing, the L.A. Times reported.

Electric lights and outdoor lighting grew at a rate of 3-6 percent annually in the second half of the 20th century — an increase that has helped productivity and safety but means the night is no longer dark enough, the researchers noted. Half of Europe and a quarter of North America have experienced modified light-dark cycles, the study authors wrote, calling it a "widespread 'loss of the night,"" the L.A. Times reported.

"From an evolutionary perspective, now, artificial light at night is a very new stressor," Holker said. "The problem is that light has been introduced in places, times and intensities at which it does not naturally occur, and many organisms have had no chance to adapt to this new stressor."

"It threatens biodiversity through changed night habits, such as reproduction or migration patterns, of many different species: insects, amphibians, fish, birds, bats and other animals," he added.

Humans are impacted as well because certain physiological processes happen during the day while others take place at night — and tinkering with the body clock can lead to issues ranging from depression-like symptoms to obesity and diabetes, the newspaper noted.

**Free Speech is Dead**

The Columbia University student newspaper has declined to publish an op-ed written by Ari Boosalis, the president of the school’s College Republicans group.

In an opinion submission to The Columbia Spectator obtained by Campus Reform, Boosalis sought to raise awareness of how his club members were doxed by NYC and how the targeting of conservatives on college campuses shows that free speech might be “dead.”

“Recently at Columbia University, a student who is part of Antifa placed a flyer on the door of my residence hall that targeted me as President of the Columbia University College Republicans,” Boosalis began, adding that the flyer included his full name and photo
“This action can be considered as libel and harassment, but it concerns a much larger issue that I wish to address: the suppression of ideas and dialogue on college campuses today,” Boosalis added.

As Campus Reform previously reported, the NYC Antifa branch claimed responsibility for posting the flyers, which were initially seen in public areas of campus. Students also joined in, it seems, as some flyers have also been seen in buildings on campus that are only accessible to students. The Columbia Spectator’s news section has not reported on any of the Antifa flyers, and it is unclear whether the administration has investigated them. Although the flyers were brought to the school’s attention multiple times, Columbia never announced a formal investigation.

When reached by Campus Reform, a Columbia University spokesperson claimed that investigations are confidential, if they ever occur.

However, this does not appear to be a consistently applied rule. In the past few years, the Columbia University administration has been transparent about harassment investigations, sometimes even encouraging students who may know something to speak up.

For example, in February 2017, multiple East Asian students had their door tags torn down, in a potential act of racial bias. In response, the university announced a formal investigation, and the associate dean of multicultural affairs sent an email to all Columbia students to encourage them to speak out if they had information on the incident. No similar administrative outreach or investigation appears to have happened after Columbia Republicans were targeted by student Antifa members. Columbia spokespersons did not respond to multiple requests for comment on the apparent discrepancy.

If his article had been accepted, Boosalis’s op-ed would have been the very first article published in a campus newspaper to shed light on the Antifa flyers that doxed all 7 members of the Columbia Republicans board. Instead, Octavio Galaviz, the lead editor of the opinion section, rejected the op-ed. Galviz, who uses they/them pronouns, argued that the editors “did not find in your piece a new argument that adds this nuance to the current conversation [on campus free speech].”

Galaviz also did not offer to let Boosalis revise his article, which is a common concession that is often offered to other students whose op-eds are initially rejected. Galaviz did not respond to multiple requests for comment. Since the beginning of the semester, The Columbia Spectator has published at least five op-eds critical of the Columbia University College Republicans (CUCR), including “CUCR and the privilege of unaccountability” and “Is CUCR Afraid of Free Speech.”