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WAR FIGHTING SANS BLOODSHED

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High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP)

In 1993, the US started an initiative to study the effect on the performance of communication, navigation and surveillance systems by simulated heating of the ionosphere. The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) site has 180 antennas on 30 acres that are used to direct energy into the ionosphere (55 to 370 miles above the Earth). The device located in Alaska, focuses radio-frequency energy (beam of more than 1.7 gigawatts) into the atmosphere, which ricochets when it encounters the ionosphere. The radiations bounce back onto the earth in the form of long waves, which penetrate living organisms, the ground and the oceans. Briefly stated, the Program entails transmission of a powerful HF signal to heat a limited area of the ionosphere for a specified time. Scientists then record the effects of temporarily altered conditions through advanced instruments. Built at a cost of more than \$290 million, the Program was funded by the US Department of Defence (DOD).¹

The Program, which was expected to

continue until 2013, has remained shrouded in absolute secrecy all through its existence of over two decades. The results of the studies carried out are not available in the open domain. Nonetheless, it has generated as much heat in the scientific, media, military, political and diplomatic circles as in the ionosphere. Some organisations claim that the transmission antennae may be used as weapons. The capabilities attributed to the facility, at times fringe on being *fictional* and the opinions are divided.

Conjectured Capabilities

The secrecy has given rise to endless conspiracy theories, portraying HAARP as a super-weapon capable of weather control and mind control with the power to initiate devastation of sorts: hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes.² According to Dr. Nick Begich and Jeane Manning the system manipulates the environment in a way, which can:³

- Disrupt human mental processes
- Jam all global communications systems

- Change weather patterns over large areas
- Interfere with wildlife migration patterns
- Negatively affect your health
- Unnaturally impact the Earth's upper atmosphere

reaped rich dividends by controlling weather. The Americas also paid for the manipulation of weather: the Son Tay Raid (Operation Ivory Coast, 1970) for the rescue of 61 American POWs failed because the prisoners had had been transported to another location due to the problem of flooding caused by Operation Popeye.⁸

Controlling the Elements of Nature

"Weather and terrain have a greater impact on battles than any other physical factor, including weapons."

~ G.R. Svoboda⁴

Outcomes of many a war in history have been attributed to the effects of weather and terrain. Therefore, it is not surprising that ability to control the elements of nature is a sought capability. During the 2008 Olympics in Beijing the Chinese Meteorological Department had forecast rain over the main stadium. At a time when the humidity in the vicinity of the stadium touched 90%, it is believed that the Chinese Weather Modification Office fired rain dispersal rockets from different sites.⁵ The clouds dissipated on site causing more than 100 mm rain, leaving the stadium dry.⁶ This type of wilful manipulation of weather can be used to influence battles.

In the late sixties, the US prolonged the monsoon in Vietnam (*Project Popeye*). Artificially produced excessive rain resulted in flash floods and blocked the enemy vehicles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which were then attacked by the US aircraft.⁷ The US forces

HAARP, a Step Ahead: Questionable Performance

As said earlier, it is believed that HAARP can control physical and mental processes of human beings; jam global communications systems; change weather patterns over large areas; interfere with wildlife migration patterns and; unnaturally impact the Earth's atmosphere.⁹ Some people believe that the uncommon natural phenomena like the Indonesian Tsunami (December 2004), floods in Pakistan (July 2010), the cloudburst in Leh-Laddakh region (August 2010)¹⁰ and the Tsunami and earthquake in Japan (March 2011) could have been the result of similar experiments conducted to control weather. Scientists sitting on the opposite benches say that the degree of ionosphere control possible through HAARP is akin to controlling the Pacific Ocean by tossing a rock into it.¹¹ There is no concrete evidence to prove any of these theories.

Status of HAARP

As per a report, which appeared in the online edition of Alaska Dispatch in May 2014, at the hearing on defence research and innovation,

featuring six representatives of the Pentagon, no one said HAARP had a future in the defence budget. The report added that USAF was preparing to dismantle the Program ahead of the summer shutdown last year. According to the report, the USAF had given an official notice to the Congress that it intended to dismantle the \$300 million Program in Gakona. The dismantling, if it were to take place, would have started after a final research experiment took place in mid-June. The University of Alaska had expressed interest in taking over the site. The present status is unknown.

Questions arise: Did a Project like HAARP exist? In all probability, it did exist and there was a move to close down the Project in 2014. Were the capabilities anywhere close to what was conjectured? Whatever were the capabilities, they did not meet the expectations; a probable reason for recommending closure.

HAARP and Sun Tzu

HAARP was an ambitious Project. The conjectured capabilities were doubtful, but are definitely desirable—a desideratum. Centuries ago, Sun Tzu harped: “The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.” Means apart, the capability to control weather and influence minds can win wars without bloodshed. How so ever fictional it might sound, HAARP strikes a cord: If only there could be simpler, more economic ways to manipulate weather and minds!

(Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Centre for Air Power Studies [CAPS])

Notes

¹ “What is HAARP?” on the online edition of *Times of India*, August 31, 2008 available at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/sunday-times/What-is-HAARP/articleshow/3426519.cms> accessed on September 12, 2015.

² Dermot Cole, “Air Force prepares to dismantle HAARP ahead of summer shutdown,” *Alaska Dispatch*, May 14, 2014 available at <http://www.adn.com/article/20140514/air-force-prepares-dismantle-haarp-ahead-summer-shutdown> accessed on September 12, 2015.

³ Dr. Jeane Manning & Dr. Nick Begich, *Angels Don't Play This HAARP: Advances in Tesla Technology*, extract available at <http://www.biblioteca-tercer-milenio.com/mispdfs/HAARP.pdf> accessed Jul 05, 2011.

⁴ G.R. Svoboda, *Military Weather History*, Army Weather Support (A. Deepak Publishing, 1986) available at <http://space.au.af.mil/aberdeen/history.htm> accessed July 11, 2011.

⁵ Ajeylele, *China's Experiments with Weather Modification: A cause for Concern* available at http://www.idsa.in/idsastrategiccomments/ChinasExperimentswithWeatherModification_ALele_121009 accessed July 21, 2011.

⁶ Barbara Demick, *China plans to halt rain for Beijing Olympics*, Los Angeles Times, January 31, 2008 available at <http://travel.latimes.com/articles/la-trw-rain31jan31> accessed July 12, 2011.

⁷ Ibid. n. 5.

⁸ Al Hemingway, *Daring POW Raid at Son Tay*, VFW magazine, November 1995 available at http://www.pjsinnam.com/vn_history/stories/Son_Tay.htm accessed on August 16, 2011.

⁹ Ibid. n. 3.

¹⁰ Climate Himalaya available at <http://chimalaya.org/2010/08/16/the-devastating-flood-from-cloudburst-in-leh-ladakh-a-chinese-experiment-of-weather-bomb-or-an-effect-of-the-underground-ufo-bases-in-the-himalayas/> accessed on August 17, 2011.

¹¹ Ibid. n. 2.