

There has been a lot of controversy over exactly what the helicopter cameraman photographed. It was not contrails from an airliner. It was not a contrail from a single-engined or centerline thrust dual-engine aircraft. Here's why.

Contrails are composed of ice crystals formed from the water in the jet exhaust. These crystals require specific temperatures to form. They form in a narrow band usually about 6000 feet thick and starting at about 27,000 feet in the winter. Contrails can vary in thickness and persistence but they are not heavy and tend to disperse in the horizontal if there is any wind present. This cloud was much thicker than normal contrails and it dispersed very little.

It is also unlikely that an airplane was present. The airspace where the launch occurred appears to be an area called W-289. This is what we call a Warning Area. W-289 is only one of several Warning Areas located off the Southern California coast. It is controlled by the naval station at Point Mugu and goes from the surface to unlimited. This is an area used by Pt. Mugu for various aerial weapons testing including things like air-to-air missiles. Civilian aircraft flying through this area, such as airliners, are under the positive control of Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center. Airliners flying from San Diego to Los Angeles area airports do not generally go into this area.

Then there is the bright dot where the trail begins. Airliners do not have afterburners on their engines. Nor is this a trail made by a military jet in afterburner. Even in full afterburner, jet exhaust is clear to slightly sooty colored. It is not solid. I have flown less than 50 feet from an airplane creating contrails. These were not contrails.

Missiles come in two flavors: liquid fueled and solid fueled. A good example of both kinds of engines is the space shuttle. The space shuttle main engines are liquid fueled burning liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen. The exhaust is clear as this particular combination produces only water as its exhaust. The solid rocket boosters produce heavy white exhausts as they use compounds containing aluminum powder or other metallic components. It is these chemicals that produce the heavy white exhaust trail. This was a solid fuel missile trail with the burning fuel visible as the bright dot at the head of the trail.

The most important questions to ask are who and why? The list of nations with ballistic missile submarines is relatively short. Eliminate Great Britain and France. Russia too is unlikely. Too much of their "boomer" fleet is busy rusting away in port. North Korea? Again, probably not. Their submarine fleet is more optimized for operations in the Yellow sea and Sea of Japan. That leaves the People's Republic of China.

Why? Several reasons. The PRC got really upset when we announced that we were going to hold anti-submarine exercises with the South Korean Navy in the Yellow Sea and that the USS George Washington would participate. The PRC does not feel comfortable with a carrier battle group within striking range of its capital. A recent article in the JoongAng Ilbo indicated that such an exercise is still possible. Nor is the PRC real happy with our support of the Japanese claim to the Senkaku Islands. Add to that the current "quantitative easing" undertaken by the Federal Reserve to attempt to alter the relative value of currencies, especially the Renminbi. I have been watching the currency rates over the last few months. It is apparent from the changes in the rates over the last few days that the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan have been intervening in the currency markets to keep the value of their currencies from rising too much compared to the dollar. The PRC is having to take extraordinary measure to keep the Renminbi from appreciating and hurting their export trade balances. They are not happy.

Note also that this event was timed to be precisely prior to the beginning of the G-20 meeting in Seoul. There is little doubt that President Hu and President Obama were scheduled to meet on the sidelines of this conference. This launch was designed, I believe, to send a real clear signal to President Obama of just how upset the Chinese are.

I believe that this launch was a direct challenge to the United States to start listening to the PRC and stop doing things that harm them whether or not they harm us. Welcome to the second Cold War.

Update: 12 Nov 10.

Alex Jones' website Prison Planet, <http://www.infowars.com/wayne-madsen-china-fired-missile-seen-in-southern-california/>, is carrying an article from the Wayne Madison Report providing additional details on the missile launch. Here is an excerpt.

“There are no records of a plane in the area having taken off from Los Angeles International Airport or from other airports in the region. The Navy and Air Force have said that they were not conducting any missile tests from submarines, ships, or Vandenberg Air Force Base. The Navy has also ruled out an accidental firing from one of its own submarines.

Missile experts, including those from Jane's in London, say the plume was definitely from a missile, possibly launched from a submarine. WMR has learned that the missile was likely a JL-2 ICBM, which has a range of 7,000 miles, and was fired in a northwesterly direction over the Pacific and away from U.S. territory from a Jin class submarine. The Jin class can carry up to twelve such missiles.

Navy sources have revealed that the missile may have impacted on Chinese territory and that the National Security Agency (NSA) likely possesses intercepts of Chinese telemetry signals during the missile firing and subsequent testing operations.”

Please read the entire article for more important information.

Analysis. We just got “bitch slapped” by the People's Republic of China. Probably more correctly they just threw down the gauntlet. In either case, the Public Affairs people at the five-sided puzzle palace (Pentagon) are wearing out their “tap shoes” dancing around this one. This one qualifies as “Oh shit. Oh dear.” and in a big way. That an enemy submarine could get this close to the CONUS obviously without us knowing it is a major disaster. That may be why this item appeared in the daily listing of military contracts on November 10.

“ Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding, Newport News, Va., is being awarded a \$189,214,000 modification under contract (N00024-08-C-2110) as part of the planned increment of detailed design engineering work supporting Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) construction. This modification exercises an option to increase the level of effort. Work includes engineering; integration; related development efforts including drawing and work package development; advanced planning; design weight estimate; lifecycle support products and related logistics data; production planning; test and evaluation; further definition of initiatives to reduce CVN 78 class total ownership costs; and other data necessary to support construction of CVN 78. Work will be conducted in Newport News, Va., and is expected to complete by September 2015. Contract funds will not expire at the end of the current fiscal year. This contract was not competitively procured. The Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C., is the contracting activity.”

Increasing level of effort. Build this ship faster. We just might need it before we thought we would.

There is no doubt in my mind that we have taken the PRC for granted for too long. Back in the 1980s, Jiang Zemin wrote out a series of ideographs that basically said that the PRC should bide its time and make its preparations in secret for the time in the future when they might be needed. Notice the result.

I would expect (and hope) that there would be some agonizing reappraisals of our military strength vis-a-vis the PRC. All of those naval ships and fighter wings we threw away after Desert Storm just might handy to have right about now. Or at least their replacements on a one for one basis. The original F-22 buy was supposed to be over 600. That was later reduced to 339 and has now been capped at 187. The F-35 program is a mess especially the “jump jet” version for the USMC.

The other problem is the lack of an industrial base to enable us to begin to produce the weapons of war. Our production capability in steel is such that we had to buy steel from Canada to put armor on our HumVs. We can't roll a bomber an hour off the production lines like we did in World War Two. We just might also have a strategic materials problem with things like rare earths.

Like I said earlier, welcome to the second Cold War.

13 Nov 10, 1950.

I got this email from Ryan.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LivRJOWrcpA>

It is a segment from the Shaun Hannity show where Hannity interviews Tom McInerney, Lt. Gen., USAF, Retired about the missile firing. If you did not see this segment of the show, please watch the segment before reading what I wrote.

This is what I sent him back.

I agree with General T. Mac. You can see in the distance shot where it goes into its pitch program taking it from the vertical of the launch tube to the correct angle for its ballistic arc. The rest is just plain bullshit. The two reporters are being fed the company line.

Black program? Probably not. The Navy would find a more concealed place to launch a test missile than right off the second largest city in the United States. I can sometimes see the exhaust plumes from my house when they launch a missile from Vandenberg and I am about 75 miles away straight line. If the Navy had brought a boomer into the area of Vandenberg and launched, that would have been more consistent with a black program than where this one was launched from. It would simply look like any other missile test from Vandenberg or a classified satellite launch.

I believe General T. Mac was hedging because he is well aware of what this represents. The second time Hannity went back to him you could tell he was thinking hard. Not even the Soviets would have driven a boomer into the Channel Islands area and launched a missile. To me, the confirmation will be that the USS George Washington never enters the Yellow Sea or that the anti-submarine exercises are called off. After all, that is what this incident is all about. If we don't go there, the Yellow Sea becomes a Chinese lake and freedom of the seas is gone.

We stand up to the butchers of Beijing now or we perform kowtow in the Great Hall of the People.

CONCLUSION

It has been a long time since I have seen this amount of effort put forth to convince people that they shouldn't believe their own eyes. Like General McInerney, I have made my share of contrails, watched other planes make them while less than fifty feet from the contrails being made, and have seen many missile launches. I believe that I know the difference between a trail of ice crystals and a trail of combustion products from a solid fuel rocket. This was not a trail of ice crystals.

There are all sorts of reasons why our government wants this event to be far from our minds. First, undoubtedly, is the embarrassment. How do you explain to the President that while he was away in India making all sorts of deals, military and civilian, our mutual arch rival, the People's Republic of China, drove a nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine into relatively shallow water off of our second largest city and launched a missile.

Second, how do you prevent it from happening again? There is an answer to that but it is a very expensive one both in people power and equipment. Even if we had detected the submarine, what ships would we have sent to ask it to leave? The USS Ronald Reagan battle group happened to be in the area helping a cruise ship with no engines. But that group was about 100 miles away. Four hours at 25 knots. Long Beach Naval Station? Gone. Los Alamitos Naval Air station? Now a joint forces reserve base. Nearest P-3 anti-submarine warfare aircraft to at least drop sonobouys? No idea.

Third, how do you reply? As I said above, sailing the USS George Washington battle group into the Yellow Sea is a start. Increased surveillance of the new Chinese submarine base on (and mostly under) the south coast of Hainan Island is a good thing to do. Frequent visits by surface action groups to Camh Ran Bay is another. In fact, establishing a regular schedule of port visits to Camh Ran and Subic with anti-submarine exercises in the South China Sea would probably get the message across.

In this confrontation with the PRC, there are no points for second place. The mainland Chinese are well aware of this. We are finding that out the hard way. Surprising how our President got stiffed at the G-20 and the APEC summits. We have no leverage. Our economy is shot. It is mostly our own doing but there was some help from the PRC which was more than happy to provide the low cost manufacturing that is breaking us. Henry Ford was once quoted as saying that you had to pay your workers enough to buy your products. What workers?

Si vis pacem, para bellum. (If you wish peace, prepare for war.).

15 November 10. I seldom give credence to posts on sites written by my favorite rodent A Nony Mous(e). However, in light of the extensive and pervasive disinformation campaign to turn this missile launch into airliner contrails, I will quote from this anonymous post on Steve Quayle's site (http://www.stevequayle.com/News.alert/10_Global/101115.CA.missile.html).

November 15, 2010
Anonymous

You saw the news of the missile launch north of Catalina in California. Before they put a total lock down on audio/video I picked up a LOT! I managed to

record some of it.

1. I have brief video recorded of a close-up telephoto of the missile. It is a MISSILE. NOT an aircraft! Not jet engine "contrails" as the military is now saying.

2. I listened to people interviewed who were on boats out in that area. No one was hurt but they all said this "object" suddenly arose from the ocean at a blinding speed.

3. They ALL said it went straight up. Not sideways like the military now says. Note the military did not ID the "jet" that caused such an odd "contrail". Today, no news, no interviews, no anything other than articles saying "it was just a harmless contrail".

4. YouTube or Google the video "Nike ABM launch" to see video of a real missile and observe the exhaust then compare it to the exhaust of what was shot yesterday (if you saw it - see below for some poor video). It is NOT a wispy multiengine white cloud contrail drifting in the wind. The missile yesterday left a compacted pencil thin dark exhaust JUST LIKE THE ABM MISSILE IN THE YOUTUBE/GOOGLE video. I know what missile exhaust looks like and what contrails look like. This left 50,000 feet ++ of compacted dark exhaust. THAT IS ROCKET FUEL EXHAUST! Early on you could see the shape of the object. Long and thin like a cigar. How many airplanes look like that? In one telephoto shot I saw but my recording wasn't running then I THOUGHT I could make out markings on the side of the object (I'd say it was several hundred feet long). NOT English letters. Cyrillic, Greek, Chinese, Japanese -- something other than English.

5. The object eventually went out of sight. A lady was interviewed who said she saw a brief blinding flash followed by a "plume" of "smoke" above where the object was last seen. She said it was about 15 seconds after losing sight of the object. Look up the speed of an ICBM. Calculate visual range of an object 200 feet long at that speed then add 15 seconds. That puts it at about 140,000 feet above the earth. That is technically outer space and no gasses, radiation, etc. would fall to earth in measurable amounts from that high up. Nothing to go look for or even measure.

6. Bulletins began to pop up totally independent of this event that nuclear explosion monitoring stations around the world had just picked up an "event" somewhere in the world. Not one report connected the two events. Ooops! Somebody suddenly connected the two. This was on Google News for all of

about six minutes -- then gone. No trace anywhere. There were at least a dozen reports from monitoring stations then the news was GONE!!

7. 95% of all you just read is now gone from the Internet. If I post it to YouTube and it is all true, I'll probably never be seen again. If this is just a series of events of panicked people I create a small, unwarranted panic and IT IS MY FAULT! I finally decided to make a few other people aware of this then stop. This is that message.

Take it for what it is worth including part of the continuing disinformation effort.