

Paul Wellstone: the use of futuristic weaponry?

Jim Fetzer (READER WEEKLY 20 February 2003, pp. 16-17)

A recent *Reader* (16 January 2003, p. 4) included a letter to me from John Ongaro, who described an unusual experience he had en route to the funeral that Paul Wellstone had planned to attend when his plane crashed, taking not only his life but the life of his wife, six of his aides, and two pilots. The plane was highly reliable, the weather was not a problem, and the pilots appear to have been well-qualified.

John's description of the weather (neither sunny and warm, but with no freezing rain or snow, but generally cloudy, just above freezing, and hazy with little or no wind), coincides extremely closely with the depictions and photographs given by Steve Filipovitch and printed in the *Reader* (2 January 2003, front cover and pp. 16-18). There is no basis for early reports that freezing rain was a contributing factor, as an earlier column has explained (28 November 2002, pp. 18-19).

These circumstances force us to take seriously possibilities we might prefer not to confront on moral, political, or personal grounds. If the more obvious hypotheses, such as mechanical problems, pilot errors, and bad weather, cannot account for the evidence, then other, more sinister, hypotheses require consideration, such as that the crash may have been caused by a small bomb, a gas canister, or EMP weaponry.

Electro-magnetic pulse weaponry may initially sound exotic, but there are reasons to take it seriously. Ongaro wrote to explain exactly what what had happened to him. "Just a few minutes prior to reaching the

Hwy #53 and #37 intersection [which is within a mile or two of the airport], I distinctly remember receiving a call on my cell phone.

Although I have received calls on my cell phone before that have had bad reception and [have been] barely audible, this call was in a league of its own.

"When I answered it, what I heard sounded like a cross between a roar and a loud humming noise. The noise seemed to be oscillating and I could not make out any words being spoken. Instead, just this loud, grotesque, sometimes screeching and humming noise. . . . [John has confirmed that he received an incoming call at 10:18 AM on the morning of 25 October 2002, shortly before the crash.] Could an EMP type event cause this to happen to a cell phone within in a few miles of the immediate area?" Indeed, the answer appears to be, "Yes".

As Major Scott Merkle explained in an issue of *Military Intelligence* (<http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/army/tradoc/usaic/mipb/1997-1/merkle.htm>) published in 1997, the existence of these "Goldeneye-like pulse weapons first became a reality in the early 1960s. While testing hydrogen bombs in outer space, hundreds of miles above the planet, American and Soviet scientists discovered that each atomic blast created a pulse of electromagnetic energy similar to conventional radio-made microwaves, but with energy so great that they erased magnetic memories and melted the microscopic junctions in transistors on the Earth below." This led to a surge in military development of their use as sophisticated electromagnetic pulse (EMP) weaponry.

Indeed, another instance that may exemplify the use of EMP on a civilian target occurred about 30 miles northeast of Nashville on 6 July 2001 at 10:45 AM CST, where a mysterious power surge killed dozens of birds and damaged transmitters, phone lines, and computer equipment at country music radio station, WJFK (1090 AM). The residents of Williamson County were shaken by this occurrence, which had effects that were experienced over a large part of the county. Their disturbing accounts have been chronicled at <http://www.greatdreams.com/1090wjkm.htm>.

More recently, Paul McGeough of *The Sydney Morning Herald* (4 January 2003) of Sydney, Australia, has confirmed reports that the United States has new high-tech weapons to unleash against the Iraqis in order to save American lives. "If the fighting starts in Iraq, Saddam Hussein and his forces will be instant guinea pigs for a new generation of US weapons which may be used for the first time in all-out war. . . .

"In the years since the last Gulf War it has emerged that America's so-called smart bombs were not as precise or as plenty as the world had been led to believe. This time the US and its weaponry have to be smarter--if Washington wants world acceptance of its role in Iraq during and after a war, it cannot afford to trash the country and its civilian infrastructure as it did last time.

"Which is where a new suite of US weapons will come into their own. These are high-powered microwave devices, 'directed energy'

weapons that the US hopes can be used to render a fleet of army vehicles useless by destroying their ignition or fuel systems. They will also cause disorientating pain--but apparently no lasting damage--by playing with nerve-ends in the enemy's skin (<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/01/03/1041566227384.html>).

EMP weapons for military use appear to have been operational at least since 1997: "On 15 December 1997 Raytheon TI Systems (formerly Texas Instruments Defense Systems & Electronics) announced that its AGM-154A JSOW [which is a nonnuclear EMP weapon] has been recommended by the Navy for fleet release. In a report released on October 9th, the Navy's Operational Test and Evaluation Force found JSOW to be operationally effective, operationally suitable and recommended it for fleet release"(<http://www.deepspace4.com/pages/science/emp/empwarheads.htm>).

A Lt. General's Congressional testimony on 17 June 1997 also affirms the adaptability of such devices to take out aircraft: "These weapons can interfere with the takeoff and landing of planes. They can bring an airplane down. . . . They can effect the national power grid, anything that has got an electronic chip in it, a circuit board, any piece of electronic gear that is touched by one of these weapons. And, they come either as narrow beam over long distances, or ultra-high beam, ultra-wide beam, ultra-wide beam weapons that can project greater rates of power(<http://sun.soci.niu.edu/~crypt/other/schweit.htm>).

Even TIME magazine's web site has reported on their availability:

America's Ultra-Secret Weapon

By MARK THOMPSON

Posted Sunday, 19 January 2003; 10:31 AM EST

"If there's a second Gulf War, get ready to meet the high-power microwave. HPMs are man-made lightning bolts crammed into cruise missiles. . . . HPMs fry the sophisticated computers and electronic gear necessary to produce, protect, store and deliver such agents. The powerful electromagnetic pulses can travel into deeply buried bunkers.

"The HPM is a top-secret program, and the Pentagon wants to keep it that way. Senior military officials have dropped hints about a new, classified weapon for Iraq but won't provide details. Still, information about HPMs, first successfully tested in 1999, has trickled out. 'High-power microwave technology is ready for the transition to active weapons in the US military,' Air Force Colonel Eileen Walling wrote in a rare, unclassified report on the program three years ago. 'There are signs that microwave weapons will represent a revolutionary concept for warfare, principally because microwaves are designed to incapacitate equipment rather than humans.'

(<http://www.time.com/time/covers/1101030127/nmicro.html>).

It may not remain "top secret" for long. Even *The New York Times* (2 February 2003) has reported that the war with Iraq is going to be fought using these sophisticated weapons, almost in passing as

an aside: "Although some experimental weapons are expected to be used--including high powered-microwave weapons that could flash millions of watts of electricity to cripple Iraqi computer and equipment--the air campaign would shut down but not destroy important city services, like water and electricity, so they could more easily be restarted to minimized public health problems."

Phil Ratte´ has drawn thoughtful comparisons with the Carnahan crash, raising many questions about the similarities between the events, including that they were both on final landing approach when they veered off and dove into the ground; that both had loss of communication coincident upon the loss of control; that both could be explained by the use of EMP weaponry; that their Senate seats were crucial to Republican control; and that Carol Carmody, a former employee of the CIA, led both NTSB investigations. (The use of EMP in the Carnahan case may even have been captured by radar weather maps. See "Carnahan Crash EMP?" and related links at <http://www.assassinationscience.com>.)

Ratte´ believes--and I agree--that both tragedies deserve further scrutiny and objective investigation by authorities not controlled by the US government. "Political insiders know that a number of US Congressmen and US Senators suspect that both Wellstone and Carnahan were assassinated but are afraid to speak out", Ratte´ remarks. "They are afraid for their lives because of the anthrax attacks on two Democratic US Senators [Tom Daschel and Patrick Leahy] and the assassination of two more Democratic US Senators.

As FDR remarked, "There are no coincidences in politics."

It should also be observed that Senator Wellstone had experienced two close calls during visits to South America in recent years. On a fact-finding trip to Columbia, Wellstone was doused with herbicide while he was observing a Columbian National Police demonstration. According to *Weekly News Update on the Americas*, which reported it, "Wellstone and other members of his delegation were hit with a fine spray of the herbicide *glyphosate* from a helicopter flying less than 200 feet above them.

"Just before the incident, Lt. Col. Marcos Pederos, the police official in charge of the spraying mission, had assured Wellstone the spray posed no risk to humans, animals or the environment." That seems to be false. Glyphosate has causal links to acrylamide, which turns out to be a potent nerve toxin in humans that can bring about the translocation of mercury toxins stored in the fat cells of the body to cross the blood-brain barrier and poison brain cells, according to a recent medical report(<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/acrylamide.php>).

And it is ridiculous on its face to suppose that a herbicide strong enough to destroy coca fields should have no ill-effects. Ironically, the US Embassy in Colombia had just circulated materials to reporters, noting the 'precise geographical coordinates' used to spray coca fields. According to embassy officials, a computer program sets precise flight lines with a 170-foot width, leaving little room for error"(http://www.americas.org/news/nir/20001210_herbicide_douses_u_s_senator.asp).

As though one close call were not remarkable enough, bombs were found at crucial locations as Senator Wellstone continued his visit to the small town of Barrancabermeja. Although American authorities denied that the Senator or the US Ambassador to Colombia, Anne Patterson, who accompanied him, were targeted for assassination, suggesting it was merely a "coincidence", Police Colonel José Miguel Villar said Wellstone and Patterson were the most likely targets.

According to ABCNews.com, which reported the story, "Villar said two shrapnel-wrapped land mines were found on Thursday hours before the US officials flew into Barrancabermeja alongside the road leading from the airport to the town. The land mines each carried a 6.6-pound explosive charge, were attached to cables and a detonator and were ready to be set off, 'If the bomb had gone off, it could have caused immense damage,' Villar said. 'It would have spread shrapnel over a wide area and could have taken out 10 or 15 people'" ([http://abcnews.go.com/sections.world/Daily_News/columbia001201.html](http://abcnews.go.com/sections/world/Daily_News/columbia001201.html)).

Wellstone, displaying his knack for standing up to political pressure, was one of a handful of senators opposing a \$1.3 billion US aid plan ostensibly directed against drug trading in Columbia and said he would insist that Colombia get no more US aid until it improved its human rights record. Ratte´ has observed that the herbicide, through its links with acrylamide, might have induced Wellstone's MS. Mercury poisoning appears to have MS, Parkinson's, and ALS among its effects. Maybe they had killed him, just not fast enough.

Jim Fetzer, a professor of philosophy at UMD, has become convinced by his investigations that Paul Wellstone was taken out for political reasons and that his death thus properly qualifies as an assassination.