

A Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence hearing entitled, “Silent Weapons: Examining Foreign Anomalous Health Incidents Targeting Americans in the Homeland and Abroad.”

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My name is Greg Edgreen, I stood up and led DIA’s Anomalous Health Incident (AHI) organization which was tasked to take care of our survivors and determine the cause. For background, I am not an analyst, I am a retired Army and intelligence officer and my career has spanned 8 countries and three embassies. I believe I was selected for this position, which was my first and subsequently last HQs assignment, due to my natural bias toward action and my experiences with Great Power Competition. I am here to give voice to all USG AHI Survivors, and their families. The following are my personal opinions and do not represent the opinions of the government. Given the classification of this topic, some of my comments will have to be made in a future closed door session.¹

We, as a country, have been here before.

Most people think this all started in Havana in 2016, the widely reported "Havana Syndrome", consisting of mysterious health incidents impacting foreign embassy staff living in Cuba. This led to the US withdrawing most of its embassy staff and suspending consular services in 2017 while ending rapprochement between Havana and Washington.

Those attacked reported a range of conditions including debilitating migraines, perceived sounds, dizziness, vertigo, fatigue, nausea, anxiety, cognitive difficulties and memory loss. Some started to develop rare cancers, tumors and heart conditions despite no pre-existing or genetic conditions over time. In some cases, diplomats and intelligence officers were forced to leave active

¹ Please forward the original copy of this testimony to the Homeland Security Committee if any portion of this document is redacted.

service due to complications from their conditions. Early reports were dismissed as psychosomatic or cases of mass hysteria.

Before Havana Syndrome there was the Moscow Signal. From the 1950's to 1970's, Soviet intelligence bathed the US Embassy and diplomatic quarters in Moscow with microwave transmissions every day. The health effects were similar to what we see today. Again, the survivors were accused of mass hysteria and told nothing about the causes of their symptoms, until the government finally informed the staff in 1976 at a confidential meeting. The U.S. Embassy personnel immediately leaked to U.S. newspapers, setting off a major scandal in U.S.-Soviet relations and resulted in a Congressional Investigation which was completed in 1979.

As a result, about 350 adults who were Moscow embassy employees or dependents were tested and compared with a control group of 1,000 diplomats present in the United States. Lymphocyte counts (a type of white blood cells) from the Moscow Embassy subjects were an average 41% higher than the control group, proving that there had been major health impacts.

Between 1962 and 1971, the U.S. military sprayed millions of gallons of “tactical herbicides” or Agent Orange over Vietnam. The US Government also denied Agent Orange was causing various types of cancers, diseases and heart problems until congress took action in the 1980’s and allocated money for care and compensation. With the VA accusing the combat veterans of fabricating ailments.

The Gulf War Syndrome was finally proven last year in 2023, after hundreds of thousands of combat veterans reported symptoms related to their exposure to sarin gas. Again, the USG claimed the veterans symptoms were psychosomatic.

Burn pits during the forever wars of Iraq and Afghanistan, led to the deaths of thousands of service members, including the President’s son, who served in Iraq the same year I was there. The government denied the cancers and other ailments, and recently the 2022 PACT act was passed by Congress.

These same wars also taught us about Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and that some wounds have no entry or

exit wounds, so we created the National Intrepid Center of Excellence or (NICOE) at Walter Reed and started awarding purple hearts to these attacks.

We continue to forget those wounded while serving their countries.

America has a long history of not taking care of those who were wounded when fighting for their country, and Havana Syndrome is no different. Except this time, a large percentage of the survivors are not able to come forward and speak to the Press or Congress, because of their security clearances and bureaucratic regulations. They were kept in the shadows by faulty IC assessments and NIH studies, where wordsmithing and bureaucratic analytical processes made the case there was nothing to see.

The gaslighting of AHI survivors continues to this day in some government agencies, as history repeats itself.

America's best men and women in national security are being targeted and neutralized around the world in a global campaign. Anomalous Health Incidents (AHIs) have been reported in the press in every continent except for Antarctica, with a large percentage of these attacks occurring in the homeland, on American soil. They fought for the American people and were wounded in the line of duty.

The impact has been that the intelligence officers, DoD personnel, national security experts and our diplomats working abroad and at home are being removed from their posts with traumatic brain injuries. They're being neutralized.

Don't take my word for it. Nikolai Patrushev, the secretary of Russia's Security Council, wrote in September 2023 article that:

"In recent years, hundreds of employees of foreign intelligence services, as well as other persons involved in organizing intelligence and subversive activities against our country and our strategic partners, have been identified and neutralized".

This is a victory lap that is meant to discourage other survivors from coming forward, and sow division among our ranks. It's as if Moscow is saying "The USG turned their back on you and doesn't believe you, and we know it. We will continue the attacks."

Our best men and women have been removed from their posts, at home and abroad. The American people are losing strategic warning and decision making advantage in great power competition with Russia, China, North Korea and Iran. America's eyes are being blinded, their voices muted and their ears deafened.

This is emboldening our other strategic rivals such as China, and could encourage North Korea and Iran to take similar actions with no repercussions.

I would like to briefly talk about our investigation. We were collecting a large body of data, ranging from signals intelligence, to human intelligence, to open-source reporting and everything in between. Anything regarding the internet, travel records, financial records, or online activities. Unfortunately I can't get into specifics, based on the classification.

But I can tell you at a very early stage, I started to focus on Moscow.

One of the things I started to notice was the caliber of our officers that were being targeted. This wasn't happening to our worst or our middle-range officers. This was happening to our top 5%, 10% performing officers across the Defense Intelligence Agency.

And consistently there was a Russia nexus. There was some angle where they had worked against Russia, focused on Russia, and done extremely well.

I also noticed that a large number of attacks were occurring in nations that were traditionally aligned with Moscow but starting to develop relations with Washington.

AHIs resulted in the end of rapprochement between Havana and Washington. The widely reported attack in the news on eleven personnel, in Hanoi on the eve

of Vice President Harris's 2021 visit to announce a strategic comprehensive partnership also endangered Washington/Hanoi relations.

Who would stand to gain from such attacks? Havana? Hanoi? Or did Moscow stand to gain the most, knowing that the USG would automatically accuse the host nation of such attacks. Can you imagine? Non-lethal directed energy weapon attacks against our diplomats, DoD, and Intel officers had such a strategic impact?

I don't know when it started but from 2010 onwards, the rules of engagement shifted in the shadows. It used to be a gentleman's game, we did not attack each other's officers and families. The number of CI incidents began to rise, and so did Russian grey zone activities. Grey Zone activities which have been widely documented in the press by colleagues at Bellingcat which included assassinations, poisonings, and sabotage attacks against NATO allies.

After talking with the survivors who were hit in the US and abroad, I quickly realized these were not isolated incidences.

There were reports of counterintelligence incidents which often included: harassment at customs and immigration, room intrusions, houses being tossed or defiled, animals and pets poisoned, assaults on our personnel, officers and diplomats being drugged, doxxing- where foreign news outlets published the personal information about our Officers, cars being vandalized, families harassed and followed, then an attack, via directed energy, a red line to many, because of the debilitating nature of these weapons.

The US Government never hit back and the problem continues to this day.

Despite all of this our group maintained neutrality to avoid confirmation bias by conducting deep dives into all great power competitors, but I still kept coming back to Moscow.

People in the FBI often talk about motive, means, and opportunity when it comes to their investigations.

Motive- Look at Putin and Lavrov recent comments.

President Putin said at the 8th Eastern Economic Forum last September "If one looks into the security sphere, new physical principles weapons will ensure the security of any country in the near historic perspective. We understand this very well and are working on it,"

According to Russia's Ministry of Defense website, "weapons based on new physical principles" involves the use of novel technologies like directed energy and pulsed radio frequency.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the US is 'directly at war' with Moscow at a UN general Assembly meeting the same month.

The motive is there.

Means- Look at the contract for directed energy weapons which was uncovered by my colleague and documented in the press. Look at open source photos of President Putin awarding scientists Presidential Prizes in Science and Innovation for their work in weapons based on new physical principles which "may be used in the fight against terrorism."

Opportunity- who has a global footprint and a robust capability here in the homeland, where have we seen their people around the attacks? Look at the intercepts and online activities?

Look at some of the cases in the news. As reported by 60 Minutes, For example, in 2014, three CIA officers were stationed in Ukraine, Vladimir Putin's obsession. 2014 was the year that a popular revolt overthrew Putin's preferred leader. Later, those CIA officers went on to other assignments and reported being hit, one in Uzbekistan, one in Vietnam, and the third officer's family was hit in London.

Despite this large body of data, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said last year it's "very unlikely a foreign adversary is responsible." But the DNI also acknowledged that some intelligence agencies had only "low" or "moderate" confidence in that assessment. Last month, the National Institutes of Health reported results of brain scans. NIH said there's no evidence of physical damage despite all survivors reporting the same symptoms. This same study is now under review for its methodology and promising care in exchange for survivors to be lab rats.

The Director of National Intelligence says the symptoms probably result from "... pre existing conditions, conventional illnesses, and environmental factors." Yet, the DNI and those agencies do not follow up with the survivors and tell them what those pre existing conditions or environmental factors are, which hurts the possibility of long term care.

I would point this committee to the AHI expert panel whose findings were released in 2022, which saw all of the same intelligence and information we did, but came to the opposite conclusion.

Departments and agencies provided the panel with dozens of briefings and more than 1000 classified documents on a range of scientific, medical, and intelligence topics. This information included the findings of compartmented programs sensitive intelligence reporting, and AHI incident reports and trend analyses. Affected individuals also shared their personal experiences and medical records.

Their key findings included:

- The signs and symptoms of AHIs are genuine and compelling.
- Pulsed electromagnetic energy, particularly in the radiofrequency range, plausibly explains the core characteristics
- Psychosocial factors alone cannot account for the AHIs

I urge this committee to read the unredacted version of the AHI experts panel which outlines more impactful information.

This report ended with the following:

“The panel was moved by the experiences of individuals affected by AHIs. They deserve the best possible care, as well as appreciation for their sacrifices.”

I think the bar for AHI attribution was set so high because we did not, as a country, and a government, want to face some very hard truths.

Can we secure America? Are these massive counterintelligence failures? Can we protect American soil and our people on American soil? Are we being attacked? And if we're being attacked, is that an act of war?

After what I learned in my classified investigation, I retired from the Army to start a company to help the victims. We hope to channel government contracts into treatment programs for the survivors using allocated funds.

This problem has existed in one form or another since President Dwight D. Eisenhower was in office and it is time to take a new path. We need to **take care of the survivors and seek attribution** so we can stop these attacks on our people.

Despite our history of walking away from those who sacrificed for their country, **I am optimistic.** With Congressional support and an informed public, it is time to take action. This is a non-partisan issue which has spanned several administrations. America loves a good underdog, and there is no greater underdog than this group of AHI survivors we have.

We can do two things which will set this right, executive action and legislation.

The first, is to execute existing funding in the Defense Health Program which was allocated to take care of DoD survivors and their families. As you know, Walter Reed is the central hub for US Government AHI care, executing this funding helps everyone.

We should fully implement the HAVANA Act to ensure payments are made, and we need a VA Diagnostic code for AHIs to ensure proper compensation and disability benefits for active duty servicemen who are not covered by the HAVANA act.

We tried working this from 2021 unsuccessfully, similar to our efforts with purple hearts. We need to award purple hearts, secretary awards in the Department of State and exceptional service medals in the IC.

I am personally aware of three purple heart citations which were halted, your congressional follow up on these issues would be extremely impactful.

On the legislative front, this issue needs to be covered in a NDAA and a new Havana Act.

NDAA- Congress should designate the DoD the central clearing house for the US government on AHIs, in terms of care, attribution, and they also have the tools for retribution. If you push this back to certain agencies in the IC nothing will change, and their people won't be cared for yet again.

Place these efforts under the cross functional team, which should be a two star billet which rotates between the services for three year assignments, and is not an additional duty. Create a central reporting hub for the USG, which doesn't exist. Triple Defense Health Program funding for AHI care for the next ten years to care for all USG employees, their families and government contractors. And provide funding for DIA and NSA and FBI to build up and maintain their teams in perpetuity to help seek attribution.

Lastly, is **another HAVANA Act**. The original HAVANA Act was a step in the right direction and helped thousands of American families. We thank the original sponsors of the Havana Act and those in Congress who continue to fight for the survivors on both sides of the aisle.

It should include contractors and active duty personnel, and reimburse for economic losses, similar to injury law, accounting for both past and future potential earnings, there should no twelve month clause, or a TBI diagnosis requirement, or a required Department of State consultation for attacks abroad, the sudden onset clause should also be removed to account for the low intensity long duration attacks and others.

I would like to thank this committee for their attention to this issue and I look forward to your questions.

I urge this committee to take care of the survivors, execute existing funding, and most importantly, pressure the government to fight back in the shadows.

Thank you for your time.