

**Mona Harper Personal Interview**  
**May 10, 2014**

**Mrs. Mona Harper is the daughter of Mrs. Reba Parish, whose family owned the land that the missile silo was located on and that the government gained through the use of eminent domain. Mrs. Harper did not want to be recorded, and we have no picture of her. She also remembered well her families' feelings about losing their land to the government for the silo. Mrs. Harper took us to see the actual location of the missile silo. There is not much there except some concrete remains of buildings and the huge pile of gravel (grown over with wildflowers) that the military used to fill in the missile silo.**

**Q.** How did you feel about having a missile silo near you? (Both before and after the explosion.)

**A.** We were very uncomfortable with the idea of the missile silo being in our backyard, and fought the government over it. We lost that battle, but still did not like it being so close.

**Q.** What do you remember from the night of the explosion?

**A.** I was at Bee Branch, which was four miles away, and left there before the evacuation started because of all of the activity. We were afraid of what might happen. We ended up about 8 miles away, but I could feel the explosion. It was strong enough to knock me off the bed.

**Q.** Did you suffer from any adverse effects?

**A.** My sister got an immune disorder from exposure to "poisonous gases" the doctor said. He said it could be caused by exposure to the fumes of a toxic substance, like the fuel and oxidizer. However, we weren't told anything about the gas, even when we returned after the evacuation. John Stacks and a worker both got sick when the gas was leaking.

**A.** We were never told anything about the missile dangers before. We were also not told much after the explosion. We would have protested if the government had told the truth at the time. For instance, the next day they faked taking the warhead away, while the real one was found that night and hidden.

Photos taken at the site of the Damascus Missile Silo:



Sean Cline & Sean McGinnis on top of the pile of gravel filling the missile silo.



Sean Cline & Sean McGinnis on top of a concrete building pad, one of the few remnants of the Damascus missile silo installation.



This was another remnant of the Damascus missile silo installation, a capped well that the military drilled. Mrs. Harper said that it tapped into the groundwater and their family well did not produce as much as it had before.