

Space Alert!



20th
Anniversary
Edition

Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
globalnet@mindspring.com • www.space4peace.org • (207) 443-9502

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20 Years of Organizing to Keep Space for Peace

By Bruce Gagnon

2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the Global Network (GN). Founded in 1992 by the combined efforts of the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice, Colorado Springs-based Citizens for Peace in Space, and journalist Karl Grossman, the organization was created in order to build a global consciousness and movement around the issue of how space is used to direct modern warfare.

During these 20 years, we've tried to visit communities in the US and around the world where space technology installations or manufacturing facilities are located. By doing this, our hope is to help spread the word about how each local manifestation connects to a wider web of US space warfare planning. With each of these meetings we've expanded our membership base and helped widen the awareness about the dangers of full spectrum dominance as the US Space Command refers to their plan for global domination.



Global Network members from around the world protest in front of the White House in Washington DC prior to our annual space organizing conference at American University in 2000.

It is rather difficult to point to many great victories over the years. In fact we've largely been on the defensive throughout our history. But there have been a few times where we put the space industry on their heels due to our collective efforts. The 1997 NASA launch of the Cassini plutonium space mission was one such time. That three-year campaign led to a true global effort to stop the launch and did put our otherwise hidden space efforts directly in the public eye.

Our homespun documentary video, *Arsenal of Hypocrisy*, created in 2003, turned out to be an Internet phenomenon, and was a major success in helping to introduce legions of viewers to the nuclearization and weaponization of space. That film indirectly led to the recent award-winning documentary *Pax Americana and the Weaponization of Space* that has been shown in mainstream theaters and on TV worldwide and continued the vital education process.

We are very proud of our recent efforts to put a human face on the reality of "missile defense" with our support for the 400-year old Gangjeong village on Jeju Island in South Korea. Global Network members around the world continue to help build support for the tiny fishing and farming community that has been resisting construction of a Navy base that will port Aegis destroyers outfitted with missile offense systems. As a result of our support village

leaders invited the GN to hold our 20th anniversary conference in Gangjeong on February 24-26. This is a great honor and we are excited about standing alongside the villagers.

The explosion of unmanned drone technology for reconnaissance, surveillance, and attack has dramatically underscored how the Pentagon uses military space satellites. While the public is told that drones give the military a "cheaper & cleaner" way of fighting wars, we've all seen how these unforgiving machines have repeatedly killed innocent civilians. This robotic trend in waging war will only increase the Pentagon's reliance on space technology to direct these systems. Thus the Pentagon worries about maintaining "control and domination of the

space medium," which has led the Space Command to continually search for ways to neutralize other nations "space assets" so that the US remains king of the hill. All of this perpetuates the growth of a new arms race.

Woven into our work of all these years has been the steady heartbeat of our call for the conversion of the military industrial complex for peaceful and sustainable production. Unless and until we turn the war machine into something useful, like rail systems, we will sadly continue to face ever more frightening new advancements in war making technology. So without hesitation we will continue to make economic conversion a key part of the GN's public articulation.

None of this work would have been possible during these past 20 years without the steady support of our members. Your donations have given us the ability to remain steadfast in our opposition to the nuclearization, militarization, and weaponization of space. Even during these difficult economic times our members have been remarkably kind in their support for the organization. Maybe it is because you see that we have a vital and hard working international team of peace workers involved in the Global Network.

We hope that as we enter our 20th year that you will continue to support our work. We thank you for being part of this important effort. Best wishes for a better new year.

—Bruce K. Gagnon is coordinator of the Global Network and lives in Bath, Maine



Prior to travelling to Omaha, Nebraska for the GN's 2008 annual meeting some of the group stopped in Colorado Springs and held this banner at the front gate of Peterson AFB where the Air Force Space Command is based.

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Vandenberg Space Command Dominates the Pacific

By MacGregor Eddy

Vandenberg Space Command is located in Southern California 200 miles north of Los Angeles. Poised at the edge of the Pacific, the base routinely tests Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM's). These long-range high speed hydrogen bomb delivery systems are tested several times a year landing in the once beautiful Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands. Every three years Vandenberg does an extended range test all the way to Guam.

If North Korea or Iran tests a few missiles, hysteria breaks out worldwide. When the US does these routine tests, it does not even make the news except as a local story. Many peace activists are not aware that these tests occur, much less the general public.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, said, "The US moratorium on nuclear testing remains incomplete as long as we continue testing missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads. Minuteman III missiles are used solely to deliver nuclear warheads.

"The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation seeks the abolition of all nuclear weapons worldwide. The Foundation calls on the US and all countries around the world to recognize their full obligation to halt all nuclear testing – not only of the warheads, but also of nuclear-capable missiles. The preamble to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) calls upon the 189 countries that signed the NPT to facilitate 'the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery.'

"The US is demonstrating a stark double standard by condemning missile tests of other nations while continuing to conduct them on a regular basis itself.

Continued testing of Minuteman III missiles by the US sends a provocative message and encourages other countries to pursue their own nuclear weapon and missile delivery programs."

Over the years, a dedicated band from Catholic Worker communities, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Global Network (since 1999) have held protests at the base. These protests also opposed the Star Wars "missile defense" interceptor test launches that also take place from Vandenberg (mostly failed interceptions) and the launch of the polar orbit satellites used to conduct war from space.

Until 2008, most of the protests were held during Keep Space for Peace Week, Hiroshima Day, or other special days chosen by the peace movement. In August of 2008, a small protest was held at night at the time of an ICBM launch. The base authorities over-reacted with heavily armed security surrounding the protesters (three women) and trying to intimidate us. Since then, ICBM launch time protests have been held at Vandenberg. Twice there have also been companion protests at the Los Angeles Space and Missile center in El Segundo, which tracks the ICBM trajectory. There have been nighttime arrests of Fr. Louie Vitale, Sister Megan Rice and myself, who have gone onto the base to ask the commander to comply with international law.

On September 21, 2011 the USAF scheduled an ICBM night launch toward Kwajalein atoll. September 21 is the UN International Day of Peace. That day is officially recognized each year by the United Nations General Assembly as a day for "commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within



Vandenberg AFB is a key launch site for US ICBM and Star Wars tests.

and among all nations and peoples." This launch was denounced all over the world, with many nations expressing surprise that the tests were being conducted. This campaign made people worldwide aware that these launches are taking place. The 9/21 launch was postponed.

These ICBM Minuteman III nuclear capable delivery systems are the ones that are armed and set in silos in 450 locations around the Midwest of the USA. These cold war legacy hydrogen bombs are on hair trigger alert, thus greatly increasing our risk of accident. Each ICBM carries up to 3 to 12 warheads and can travel 5,000 miles in 30 minutes. Once launched they cannot be recalled. (www.nucleardarkness.org)

The launching of these tests increases tensions around the world, and sends a message that the US disregards its moral obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This states that the nuclear powers must engage in good faith disarmament efforts. It also violates the 1996 International Court of Justice decision stating that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law.

The few medium range missiles of the DPRK (North Korea) are used as a pretext for the military build up in the Pacific. The proposed naval base at Jeju Island, although directed toward China,

uses the North Korea missiles as its pretext. The Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands is being expanded on Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands. This build up also uses the North Korean "threat" as an excuse.

The island peoples of the Pacific pay the price for this military build up. Jeju, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Hawaii, Okinawa all join in the call for peace in the Pacific.

On February 24-25, protests are planned around the world to demand a stop to the next ICBM test launch. In Santa Barbara, Daniel Ellsberg and David Krieger will hold a press conference and rally at 11 am on Feb 24 to demand a halt. At midnight (11:55 pm Feb 24), a front gate protest will be held at Vandenberg Space Command six miles north of Lompoc in California. In the Los Angeles area, a noon protest will be at the Space and Missile tracking center in El Segundo, which is key to the launch. These launches are world events and a protest can be held at a US embassy or consulate anywhere. Contact macgregoredy@gmail.com for details about the Vandenberg and El Segundo events.

—MacGregor Eddy is a member of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom and serves on the Global Network's Advisory Board. She lives in Salinas, California.



Alice Slater (New York City) and Carol Urner (Portland, Oregon) hold a banner in front of the European Space Agency during the 2007 GN annual conference held in Darmstadt, Germany.

Tone Deaf US Foreign Policy Announcements Create New Provocations in Asia

By Alice Slater

On UN Day, at a panel on Nuclear Disarmament, Secretary General Ban-ki Moon spoke about his 2008 five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament, including the requirement for negotiations to ban the bomb. It was dismaying when the next speaker, a retired US Air Force General, Michael Mosley, breezily assured the audience and his fellow panelists that it certainly was now possible to rid the world of nuclear weapons, since atomic bomb technology is thoroughly out of date. He boasted that today “we” have long range attack weapons of such “unbelievable precision and lethality” that we no longer need nuclear weapons in the US arsenal.

Our conventional weapons are ever so superior to those of any other nation. He said this as his fellow co-panelists, the Russian and Chinese ambassadors, took in the full import of his braggadocio, to my extreme embarrassment as a US citizen. Did the General consider for a moment the effect his words were having on the ambassadors and the other non-US participants in the meeting? His astonishing disregard for the effect of such provocative war talk on our fellow earth mates seems to be a major failure of our “tin ear” foreign policy.

Hillary Clinton proclaimed a similarly tone-deaf policy in an article in November’s *Foreign Affairs*, “America’s Pacific Century,” remarking that now that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were winding down, we are at a “pivot point” and that “one of the most important tasks of American statecraft over the next decade will be to lock in a substantially increased investment—diplomatic economic, strategic and otherwise—in the Asia-Pacific region.” Calling for “forward-deployed” diplomacy, she defined it to include “forging a broad-based military presence” in Asia...that would be “as durable and as consistent with American interests and values as the web we have built across the Atlantic...capable of deterring provocation from the full spectrum of state and non-state actors.” She added that just as our NATO alliance “has paid off many times over...the time has come to make similar investments as a Pacific power”.

Citing our Treaty alliances with Japan, South Korea, Australia, the Philippines and Thailand as the “fulcrum for our strategic turn to the Asian-Pacific,” she also spoke of the need to expand our relationships to include India, Indonesia, Singapore, New Zealand, Malaysia,



The US Pacific Command is doubling its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Aegis destroyers, with MD systems, are being used to help encircle China.

Mongolia, Vietnam, and the Pacific Island countries. While acknowledging “fears and misperceptions that “linger on both sides of the Pacific,” stating that “some in our country see China’s progress as a threat to the United States; some in China worry that America seeks to constrain China’s growth” she blithely asserted, “we reject both those views ... a thriving America is good for China and a thriving China is good for America”. This said as the US aggressively lines up a host of new nations in an expanded Pacific military alliance, providing them with missile defenses, ships, and warplanes, encircling China. What is she thinking?

Shortly after Clinton’s article appeared, Obama went to Australia to open up a new military base there with a token 250 US soldiers, and a promise of 2,500 to come with plans for joint military training, promising that “we will allocate the resources necessary to maintain our strong military presence in this region.” He also adopted the “Manila Declaration,” pledging closer military ties with the Philippines and announced the sale of 24 F-16 fighter jets to Indonesia. Clinton also recently paid a visit to Myanmar, long allied with China, to re-establish relations there.

In her article’s conclusion Clinton bragged, “Our military is by far the strongest and our economy is by far the largest in the world. Our workers are the most productive. Our universities

are renowned the world over. So there should be no doubt that America has the capacity to secure and sustain our global leadership in this century as we did in the last.” Didn’t anyone tell her that the number of Americans living below the official poverty line, 46.2 million people, was the highest in the 52 years the census bureau has been publishing those figures? Or that the United States deteriorating transportation infrastructure will cost the economy more than 870,000 jobs and would suppress US economic growth by \$3.1 trillion by 2020, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers?

The tone-deaf quality of US foreign policy pronouncements is like an infant who pulls the covers over his head to play peek-a-boo, thinking he can’t be seen so long as he can’t see out. China has responded as would be expected. A Pentagon report warned Congress that China was increasing its naval power and investing in high-tech weaponry to extend its reach in the Pacific and beyond. It ramped up efforts to produce anti-ship missiles to knock out aircraft carriers, improved targeting radar, expanding its fleet of nuclear-powered submarines and warships and making advances in satellite technology and cyber warfare. What did we expect? And now, having provoked China to beef up its military assets, the warmongers in the US can frighten the public into supporting the next wild burgeoning arms

race in the Pacific for what appears to be endless war.

This month, Mikhail Gorbachev, writing in *The Nation*, observed the US elite’s “winner’s complex” after the end of the Cold War, and the references to the US as a “hyperpower,” capable of creating “a new kind of empire”. He said, “thinking in such terms in our time is a delusion. No wonder that the imperial project failed and that it soon became clear that it was a mission impossible even for the United States.” The opportunity to build a “truly new world order was lost.” The US decision to expand NATO eastward “usurped the functions of the United Nations and thus weakened it. We are engulfed in global turmoil, “drifting in uncharted waters. The global economic crisis of 2008 made that abundantly clear.”

Sadly, the powers in control of US public policy and their far-flung global allies appear to have learned nothing from the extraordinary opportunity we lost for a more peaceful world at the Cold War’s end. We are now repeating those expansionary designs in Asia, and “thus we continue to drift towards unparalleled catastrophe” as Albert Einstein observed when we split the atom which “changed everything save man’s mode of thinking”.

—Alice Slater is the New York Director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and serves on the Advisory Board of the Global Network.

India Organizing Report

By J. Narayana Rao

Former Air Marshall of India S. Krishna Swamy once said, "We all should get together and work for the peaceful use of space. If something bad from space happens, it will be devastating. Indeed the earth will burn off."

This sentence speaks volumes of the danger of the weaponization of space against which we in the Global Network are campaigning for the last two decades. Worldwide campaigning is a gigantic task. Several issues are engrossed in the weaponisation of space. The recent wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya have demonstrated that militarization of space is already in vogue. Issues like global military expenditures, foreign military bases, and nuclear weapons are closely linked with weaponisation of space.

With a deep conviction on the dangers of all these issues, we have to set our campaign agenda. We have directors in the Global Network who are deeply involved in one or more of the these issues. We have to integrate our planning to encompass all these issues and prepare a campaign blueprint. We have scientists, engineers, academicians and campaign strategists amongst us. We have to pool resources and experience into our strategy.

How do we reach the vast strata of our societies? What do we have to do so that our work makes a great impact on governments, especially space faring nations and their supporters, who are actively involved in the weaponisation of space? While the scientists use their



J. Narayana Rao meets with students from the Matru Seva Sangh Institute of Social Work during Keep Space for Peace Week.

intelligence to discover new frontiers of science and technology, it is the politicians who induce them to tread destructive paths and use science for death and destruction. Scientists, engineers and technocrats cannot make the final decisions to turn the weaponisation of space into a reality. It is the politicians who are instrumental for this.

I am neither a scientist nor an engineer. I am only a campaigner, and use the intelligence of other stalwarts of Global Network for my campaign work. [Rao is a retired railroad union worker and lives on a tiny pension.] My obsession is

to carry the message of Global Network "To Prevent An Arms Race in the Outer Space" to every nook and corner of India. To think that I will be able to succeed in this venture is a daydream. But it does not mean that I am wasting my efforts. Since 2007, when Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator of the Global Network, hooked me into the organization it didn't take much time for me to grasp the task ahead and the great opportunity it provided to expand the horizon of my own vision. I am grateful for this opportunity and inspiration, which I took as a challenge to fulfill the trust other directors of the Global Network reposed in me.

I am of the opinion that we have to work on two planks. While a general campaign has to be undertaken through writings, public meetings, seminars and conferences integrating with the general peace movement, a separate plan of action is necessary for involving youth and students. I am deeply convinced that if we make efforts in this direction, the rewards can be achieved.

I am experimenting with a new idea. To create interest in the students to know the danger of space weaponisation I am organizing an essay competition at the national level every year during the Keep Space for Peace Week for the college students by offering them some incentives like certificates and prize money. Till now I have attracted students from the states of Karnataka, Andhrapradesh, Goa, Maharashtra, Orissa, Madhyapradesh, Punjab, Meghalaya, Manipurand, Jammu and Kashmir. I have visited Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, North Maharashtra University in Jalgaon, Nagpur University,

Kashmir University in Srinagar, Cuttack University in Orissa and many other colleges in various states and spoke on the danger of weaponisation of space.

What I am doing may not be of great significance but the issue of weaponisation of space has reached different sections of people in new places. This exercise will have to be broadened. The bi-monthly "Disarmament & Development" newsletter that is being edited and published by me is being used for communication of the GN agenda. To reach a country of more that 1.2 billion people with different languages is an onerous task. A band of resource persons and campaigners and resources are necessary. I am trying to create that network across India.

Our other Global Network International Conference, to be called "Gandhi, Disarmament and Development" which will be held in Indore, India, in Nov 30 through Dec 2, 2012 will definitely give a boost in this direction. On the political side, an approach will be made to reach the political parties and some members of Parliament to make them realise the dangers of weaponisation of space, in which India is also getting involved. I wish to extend an invitation to all members of the Global Network to participate by attending this important conference. We are already pleased to hear that GN Chair Dave Webb from the United Kingdom will be attending. It will mean a lot to us in India to be supported by our friends from around the world.

—J. Narayana Rao lives in Nagpur and works with the All India Peace & Solidarity Organization. He also serves on the Global Network Board of Directors



Statement of Gangjeong Mayor Kang at Court Hearing

By Kang, Dong-Gyun
Mayor Gangjeong Village

First of all, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to those who have sacrificed themselves for Gangjeong village over the past five years in order to keep the peace, and protect its marine creatures from Jeju Naval base construction.

There are many regions in Korea. The regions contribute to their local communities and the nation with their own appealing characteristics and in their own way. Jeju is the same way, but its unique natural and cultural characteristics have inspired people around the world.

The only way Jeju, one of the few remaining treasure houses (bio-regions) of the world, can contribute to the nation and the world is to achieve the realization of world peace by showing our future generations how beautiful it is to have harmony between nature and humans.

I strongly believe that sustainable peace can only be achieved through peaceful means. Jeju Naval base cannot be the path for the future security of Jeju. The ruling party and the Ministry of National Defense have been oppressing Gangjeong villagers in the name of national security. However, any national security business, which obstinately

advances its cause by illegally manipulating related law and ignoring villagers' opinions, is NOT acceptable. This completely goes against the national consensus, which is the foundation of national security. South Korean Navy is consistently justifying their oppression against Gangjeong villagers and the peace activists while enforcing the base construction. Beyond giving me a steaming anger, this whole situation gives me the feeling of terrible disappointment.

But I will not fall into despair because I have my community that cherishes its ancestor given-hometown and plans to pass it along to its descendants. The Jeju Naval base issue is not only critical to our generation but also to our next generation. Peace-lovers from all over the country are watching us, and they are behind us. I'd like to emphasize that the will of the villagers are more important than the mayor's, than the president's.

While I was in the prison for 94 days, I kept telling my sons this: "It doesn't matter whether you study well or poorly. What matters is that you never negotiate with injustice. Follow the way you think is right."

I'd like to see that this kind of society that values justice becomes real someday.



Catholic Father Moon and Gangjeong Mayor Kang following his release after 94 days in prison for standing on a construction crane.

I'd like to see a world that respects that kind of small input no matter how insignificant the input might be.

We can win this fight! Because we've been stopping and fighting against them.

Because we have YOU. We can do this! We are Not weak anymore. We've come through! Our small input gathered bit by

bit is becoming a great mountain. Please give us hope. Thank you.

—Mayor Kang was fined 10 million won (about \$8,700) and remains on probation for more than one year. His crime was to stand on a construction crane where he demanded to speak to authorities about his villages opposition to Navy base construction.

Obama Signs Indefinite Detention Bill

By American Civil Liberties Union

President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law on December 31, 2011. The statute contains a sweeping worldwide indefinite detention provision. While President Obama issued a signing statement saying he had "serious reservations"

about the provisions, the statement only applies to how his administration would use the authorities granted by the NDAA, and would not affect how the law is interpreted by subsequent administrations. The White House had threatened to veto an earlier version of the NDAA, but reversed course shortly

before Congress voted on the final bill.

"President Obama's action is a blight on his legacy because he will forever be known as the president who signed indefinite detention without charge or trial into law," said Anthony D. Romero, ACLU executive director. "The statute is particularly dangerous because it has no temporal or geographic limitations, and can be used by this and future presidents to militarily detain people captured far from any battlefield. The ACLU will fight worldwide detention authority wherever we can, be it in court, in Congress, or internationally."

Under the Bush administration, similar claims of worldwide detention authority were used to hold even a US citizen detained on US soil in military custody, and many in Congress now assert that the NDAA should be used in the same way again. The ACLU believes that any military detention of American citizens or others within the United States is unconstitutional and illegal, including under the NDAA. In addition, the breadth of the NDAA's detention authority violates international law because it is not limited to people captured in the context of an actual armed conflict as required by the laws of war.

"We are incredibly disappointed that President Obama signed this new law even though his administration had already claimed overly broad detention authority in court," said Romero. "Any hope that the Obama administration would roll back the constitutional excesses of George Bush in the war on terror was extinguished on December 31. Thankfully, we have three branches of government, and the final word belongs to the Supreme Court, which has yet to rule on the scope of detention authority. But Congress and the president also have a role to play in cleaning up the mess they have created because no American citizen or anyone else should live in fear of this or any future president misusing the NDAA's detention authority."

The bill also contains provisions making it difficult to transfer suspects out of military detention, which prompted FBI Director Robert Mueller to testify that it could jeopardize criminal investigations. It also restricts the transfers of cleared detainees from the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay to foreign countries for resettlement or repatriation, making it more difficult to close Guantanamo, as President Obama pledged to do in one of his first acts in office.



GN Coordinator Bruce Gagnon joined South Korean Professor Yang Yoon-Mo in his July 2011 hunger strike by going to Bath Iron Works each weekday and handed out flyers explaining the Gangjeong village struggle against the Navy base that would port the Aegis warships built in Bath. Some workers actually took them.

—A War of Terror—

By Dave Webb

In August 2011, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) revealed that over 160 children have been reported as being killed by armed drone strikes in Pakistan in the last seven years. The CIA is carrying out these strikes across national borders (and have been condemned by Amnesty and Human Rights Watch).

Terrorists and insurgents are alleged to be targeted with 'pin point accuracy,' yet numerous drone crashes, the killing of US servicemen by drone 'friendly fire' and the recent electronic hijacking of a US Sentinel drone in Iran has demonstrated that the technology is far from error free. The BIJ and other studies are now starting to uncover who the real victims are. The New America Foundation estimates that one third of casualties are actually civilians and the Pakistan Body Count's assessment is even higher—50 civilians for every combatant killed, with a total of 1,245–2,420 killed and 263–959 injured by drones since 2004. The US now deploys

armed drones in six countries—Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq, Libya and Somalia—with their pilots safely seated some 7,000 miles away from their victims. In just one period of 24-hours in July 2011, four US drones killed 54 people in northern Pakistan and their increasing use clearly demonstrates that the 'war on terror' is actually a 'war of terror'.

In the UK, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) does acknowledge that there are serious legal and moral issues arising from the use of armed drones and a recent Joint Doctrine Note has recognised that the role of humans in deciding if and when missiles are launched is being eroded. By lowering the threshold when attacks might be considered, drones make war more likely. Even so, the MoD have been using armed US "Reaper" drones in Afghanistan since 2007 and 178 armed attacks have been carried out since the first in 2008. The UK government currently has five US

The New America Foundation estimates that one third of casualties are actually civilians ...



Citizens for Peace in Space lined up outside Schriever Air Force Base, east of Colorado Springs. The base hosts the "world's premier space operations team" and "wields space, cyberspace and expeditionary capabilities to deliver decisive global combat effects in support of national security objectives," the Schriever website says.

Reaper drones and it will be making up to 10 at a cost of £135 million. (At the same time as they cut funding for local services, education and health).

In December 2010, British Prime Minister David Cameron announced that British drone attacks had killed 124 people—but they were all 'insurgents'. Following challenges to this statement the MoD has now admitted that Afghan civilians were killed in a British drone strike in July 2011. They either don't know or don't want to know what the civilian casualties are, but a recent report from the Oxford Research Group has reminded them that under international law they are required to record and announce the civilian casualties in each attack. We await the recognition and publication of the true numbers. At the moment UK RAF pilots fly drones from the US but a new Reaper Squadron is being established to fly them from RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire. In September GN Board member Helen John established a peace camp outside the base to draw attention to its new role.

The Global Network first focused on drones during Keep Space for Peace Week in 2009 when it had become increasingly obvious that this was going to be a growing area of enormous concern—and that space technology is at the centre of it all. Once again, in October 2011, groups and individuals around the world organised some 50 or so demonstrations and events in 10 countries during Keep Space for Peace Week to draw attention to the problems raised by drones. The theme for the week of actions was "Even in the heavens, war is hell" and was co-sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (UK), Swedish Peace Council, Drone Campaign Network (UK), and United Against Drones (US).



Activists dropped this banner inside the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum (Washington DC) protesting its promotion of unmanned drones, missiles, and bombs. Many were pepper sprayed as they attempted to enter the museum.



Women for Peace in Kiruna (northern Sweden) held an anti-drone sit-in protest during space week reminding the public of the large numbers of innocent children being killed by US drone attacks.

—Drones Protested Worldwide—

To reach people—events were held in busy cities such as Canterbury, Leicester, Oxford and Wandsworth in England; Perth, Australia; Victoria in British Columbia, Canada; San Jose in California; at Nuclear Missile site N-8 in Weld County, Colorado; Waterville and Portland in Maine and Syracuse, New York. In Stockholm GN Board member Agneta Norberg organised an open meeting in front of the Swedish parliament protesting against Sweden manufacturing and training drones, while on International Children's day, Women for Peace in Kiruna, Sweden held a sit-in at Kupolsquare against the killing of children by drones.

In Washington DC, some 300 people joined a protest at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum which was featuring an exhibit on drones. On entering the museum chanting, "When drones fly, children die" the guards greeted them and other visitors with blasts of pepper spray.

To reach the academic world—laboratories where drone research and development is taking place, like the University of New Mexico, were confronted by protestors, while other professors, students and citizens in Ridhara, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam and Guntur, India, (organised by GN Board member J. Narayana Rao) and Brighton, UK (with keynote speaker and GN Convenor Dave Webb) explored the many political and ethical issues.

To reach the manufacturers and developers—protests and rallies were held outside corporations such as Raytheon in Andover, Massachusetts and Tucson, Arizona; Lockheed Martin in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; General Atomics in Washington DC; and the Thales/UAV Tactical Systems Ltd factory in Leicester, England. Workers in these places are becoming more sympathetic to our calls for conversion from military to more socially useful enterprises—such as tackling climate change. The authorities don't seem to know how to react—as is clearly demonstrated by the reactions to the Occupy sites around the US and Europe.

Protests were organised at drone sites and over 200 radical Christian and other pacifists joined local activists at the International Catholic Worker gathering in Las Vegas, Nevada. Eighteen people were arrested at Creech Air Force Base, headquarters of the USAF's 432nd Air Wing of Predator and Reaper drones. Others gathered in the green and pleasant hills around Aberporth in Wales where UK drones are test flown.

To emphasise the connections in so-called 'network centric warfare'—demonstrations were held at Security Agency Sites such as the NSA HQ at Fort Mead in Maryland (where 14 people were arrested as they sought a meeting with Lt. Gen. Keith Alexander, the NSA Director). At the NSA base at Menwith Hill in Yorkshire, England GN Advisory Board member Lindis Percy and the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases organised an alternative "Tea Party" and a few days later the CND annual meeting, being held nearby in Bradford, took a day trip to visit the base and help launch a new guided walk produced by Yorkshire CND. Other Communication and Command centres such those as Croughton in England; Shriever 'chAir' Force base, Colorado Springs and Stratcom in Omaha, Nebraska also had space week protests.

Other places where space warfare systems exist or are being constructed were also the subject of protests—such as Vandenberg Air Force Base, California; the missile

defense test sites in and around Kauai in Hawaii; and Bath Iron Works in Maine where General Dynamics build Aegis 'missile defense' destroyers. These ships are being deployed around the world soon to include Gangjeong on Jeju Island in South Korea where a huge naval base construction to berth Aegis warships is currently destroying the lives of the villagers.

The films 'Arsenal of Hypocrisy' and 'Pax Americana' were shown to some 50 Gangjeong villagers and GN Advisory Board member Sung-Hee Choi spoke of the need for diverting money away from warfare and towards welfare. Films and talks were also held in Oakville, Ontario, Canada; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Halifax Nova Scotia and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

These can't and won't be the last protests and actions against drones of course. The Pentagon intends to double its military arsenal of drones in the next 10 years—and most of its future military planes are likely to be robotic. There are plans to build a new fleet of 80–100 long-range nuclear capable bombers that could operate with or without a pilot on board. Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing already have existing robot planes that look very much like stealth bombers. They are also developing UACVs (Unmanned Aerial Combat Vehicles) that will have the ability to make their own decisions about maneuvering and targeting in battle. So unless we stop them we can look ahead to a future in which nuclear bombs are flown by robot planes able to make their own combat decisions.

As GN Board member Loring Wirbel has pointed out vigils and protests outside the various universities, corporations, bases and installations involved remind local residents that their "mission is seldom defensive or deterrent in nature. The militarization of space does not just mean a future war in space—space support allows the perfection of war on the ground, acting in global, instantaneous ways." —Dave Webb is the chair of the Global Network and also serves as the chair of CND in the UK. He lives in Leeds, England.

By lowering the threshold when attacks might be considered, drones make war more likely. Even so, the MoD have been using armed US "Reaper" drones in Afghanistan since 2007 and 178 armed attacks have been carried out since the first in 2008.



Members of CND in the UK gathered at US Menwith Hill National Security Agency spy base following their annual general meeting during space week.



Father Louis Vitale led an interfaith service in front of Creech AFB where drones are piloted. Eighteen people were arrested.



A spirited Global Network annual conference was held in New York City in 2005 at the Musicians Union Hall.

Global Network Conferences in 2012

The Global Network (GN) will hold several international meetings in 2012 as we attempt to expand our outreach and give support to our friends and supporters.

On February 19-21, several of our leaders will stop in Hawaii on our way to South Korea. Hawaii is one of the most militarized places on the planet, hosting the headquarters of the Pacific Command. A tour of "militarized Oahu" and protest is planned on Feb 19; Feb 20 will feature a daylong meeting between GN leaders and key Hawaiian activists. On Feb 21 GN leaders will travel to the island of Kauai to discuss the expansion of the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands which is a key "missile defense" testing range. Kyle Kajihiro (Hawaii Peace & Justice Center) is coordinating our visit on Oahu.

On February 24-26, at least a dozen GN leaders from around the planet will

meet on Jeju Island, South Korea for our annual conference. We were invited by the leaders of Gangjeong village to hold our conference in their community as they continue their struggle to stop the construction of a Navy base in their 400-year old community. A peace plane will be organized to bring South Korean activists from the mainland to Jeju Island for the conference, which will also feature a big cultural festival in Gangjeong village while we are there.

From November 30 through December 2, GN members are invited to Indore, India for an international conference called "Gandhi, Disarmament and Development". GN board member J. Narayana Rao is organizing the event. India is increasingly being pulled by the US into the space warfare game and Rao has undertaken a determined campaign to build consciousness across India about this little known issue. Our support for the Indore conference is crucial.

The Satellite War

By Bård Wormdal

Norway takes an extremely active part in the militarization of space, although the country is more known worldwide for handing out Nobel's Peace Prize. This is described in my new book: *The Satellite War*.

A radar of US origin on Norwegian soil will be essential in attacks against satellites. It is an important part of the US global Missile Defence system. In violation of international agreements, Norway has built two satellite ground stations at the polar center that download military intelligence and other important data for warfare and conflict areas over the entire globe.

Norway's official policy is quite another thing. In United Nations, Norway has many times warned against increasing the military use of space and demanded a sharpening of the international rules. These demands are also an official policy for the Norwegian government.

The most serious thing is that Norway has permitted the US to move the military radar, Have Stare, from California to the small town of Vardo, which is situated at the border between Norway and Russia. The radar has the capability to track the test launchings of intercontinental missiles from Northwest Russia to Chamchatka peninsula at the eastern side of Russia. The US radar collects data, which are an essential precondition for the US Missile Defence to work in a real situation.

Have Stare is the most advanced US radar in this category in the world today. From its location close to the North Pole it monitors satellites, in a fixed position above the Equator, from Canary Islands in the West to Pakistan in the East. The US radar covers the entire area over the turbulent Middle East. In the whole area, the US radar in Norway is capable of monitoring objects as small as a tennis ball.

In the doctrine for the US warfare in space, there are defensive and offensive goals. The US radar in Norway shall be used for both goals, and the radar is modernized for these purposes. China, India and other countries are now arming for the satellite war. The next larger regional war will most probably be spread to space. The Norwegian authorities are not willing to comment on the disclosures of the US radar in Norway.

All warfare today are dependent on satellites. Missile guiding, intelligence, communications and positioning, are all dependent on satellites. During the last 15 years Norway has constructed the world's biggest ground station for directing and downloading data for satellites that go in a polar orbit. The Norwegian satellite station SvalSat, on Svalbard, provides many countries with military intelligence, among them the US, Germany, Italy, France, Taiwan, South Korea and India. This is done in violation of international treaties, which



regulate the use of the Svalbard Islands. The Spitsbergen Treaty decided that the islands should not be used for warlike purposes. After the publishing of my book, *The Satellite War*, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated in the Norwegian Parliament that the treaty has not been violated.

The Norwegian fervor to use the polar area for satellites is not limited to the Arctic. A similar satellite ground station is established in Antarctic as well. With this, the satellites are able to download twice, when they round the planet. This means that the collected data are half an hour when they reach their consumers. This is good for those who own the satellites, and for the military. As an

example: the US military's intelligence favorite satellite Worldview-2, which took the photos of Osama Bin Laden's hide out and Muammar Qaddafi's place, used the Norwegian satellite station in Antarctic. The Treaty of Antarctic, which regulates the use of Antarctic, says in its first paragraph, that the continent shall be used only for civil activities.

—Bård Wormdal, journalist at the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, lives in Vadsö, a town in Northern Norway, at the Barents Sea, just opposite the Russian boarder. Bård received Tore Sandberg's Award for Muckraking Journalism for this book. (Translated by Agneta Norberg who will host the Global Network annual conference in 2013 in Sweden)

Moving from a War to a Peace Economy

By Mary Beth Sullivan

Behind every question about how to get the US back on track and improve the lives of average Americans (the so-called 99 percent) lies the necessity for economic conversion—that is, planning, designing, and implementing a transformation from a war economy to a peace economy. Historically, this is an effort that would include a changeover from military to civilian work in industrial facilities, in laboratories, and at US military bases.

To that end, I am compelled to share what I've learned from reading Seymour Melman, the most prolific writer on the topic.

Melman was a professor emeritus of industrial engineering at Columbia University. He joined the Columbia faculty in 1949 and, by all reports, was a popular instructor for over five decades until he retired from teaching in 2003. (He died a year later.)

Melman was also an active member of the peace movement. He was the co-chair of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE), and the creator and chair of the National Commission for Economic Conversion and Disarmament. It is reported that Melman was under surveillance by the FBI for much of his career because of his work criticizing the military-industrial complex—a sure sign that there must be something worth hearing in his work.

The economic conversion movement in past decades played a valuable role in bringing together the peace movement and union leadership to do the heady work of imagining how this country could sustain industrial jobs when, as it was envisioned, the US would cease production of the weapons of the Cold War. It

is a history that should not be forgotten.

In one of Melman's last articles, published in the political newsletter *Counterpunch* in March of 2003, his frustration was palpable. He noted that New York City put out a request for a proposal to spend between \$3 and \$4 billion to replace subway cars. Not a single US company bid on the proposal—in part because the nation no longer had the tools it needed to build its subway trains. In the article, titled "In the Grip of a Permanent War Economy," Melman calculated that if this manufacturing work were done in the US, it would have generated, directly and indirectly, about 32,000 jobs. "The production facilities and labor force that could deliver six new subway cars each week could produce 300 cars per year, and thereby provide new replacement cars for the New York subway system in a twenty-year cycle," Melman wrote, noting that such an endeavor would depend on well-trained engineers but that "it is almost twenty-five years since the last book was published in the US on [urban public transportation]."

Three principal functions would be served by economic conversion: First, the planning stage would offer assurance to the working people of the war economy that they could have an economic future in a society where war-making was a diminished institution. Second, reversing the process of economic decay in the US economy, particularly in manufacturing, the national commission would be empowered to facilitate planning for capital investments in all aspects of infrastructure by governments of cities, counties, states, and the federal government, which would comprise a massive program of new jobs and new markets. (Melman



Laurie Kirby (Woodstock, N.Y.) and Dave Webb (Leeds, England) march through Bath, Maine calling for the conversion of Bath Iron Works during the Global Network's 2004 annual conference held in Portland.

frequently referred to the annual "report card" published by the American Society of Civil Engineers to highlight the declining US infrastructure—deteriorating roads, bridges, schools, and so on—a situation that continues to worsen.) And third, the national network of alternative-use committees would constitute a gain in decision-making power by all the working people involved.

It behooves the peace movement to create a vision that the populace can get excited about—a vision that will capture people's imagination. A vision that sees the skills and talents of our engineers and scientists creating the renewable energy infrastructure critical to surviving the twenty-first century; a vision that engages peace activists, environmentalists, labor, students, artists, and food security folks in creating plans for how we will warm,

feed, and transport people in the year 2040. This is the true security need for the US, and the world.

The vision is clear, it is obvious, and it is mainstream. An important next step for us is to determine what we can do in our home communities to empower local unions and workers, environmentalists, healthcare workers, social workers, secular and spiritual leaders alike, and the neighbors next door to engage—to look around, determine the needs, create the collaborations, and wrestle the funds away to start building a survivable future.

This was printed in part from a larger article that ran in the Jan/Feb 2012 edition of The Humanist: A Magazine of Critical Inquiry and Social Concern. Mary Beth Sullivan is a social worker and Global Network member who lives in Bath, Maine.

International Spotlight (cont from p. 12)

Island an estimated 30,000–60,000 people were killed in genocide known as the Sasam. One-third of those who lost their lives were women, children and the elderly. These innocent Jeju Islanders were murdered by the South Korean security services under the direction of a US military run government beginning in 1948. It was only in 2005 that a formal apology came to the people of Jeju Island from the South Korean government—along with it was the official designation that Jeju would be forever known as "The Island of World Peace." It was around this time period that Jeju was selected as the location for a new naval facility.

Jeju Island is an idyllic location that boasts three UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites—this is more than any other single geographic location on the planet. There are nine UNESCO Geoparks on the island as well. Moreover the island is known as a Global Biosphere Reserve because of the diversity of its plants and animals. Most recently Jeju was declared one of seven new Wonders of Nature in an international competition.

The coastline where the base is being constructed is one of the only locations on all of Jeju Island that has a natural spring with crystal clear water. The preservation of this environment with such a massive military facility is impossible. What few people know is that this entire area was designated an "Absolute Preservation Zone" meaning that it was protected. The military simply ignored that designation.

The South Korean Navy claims that they are constructing an "environmentally friendly military base"—an absurd comment only rivaled by claims that the navy can reconstitute soft-coral reefs being dredged by lead contractor Samsung, and that endangered and at risk species in the area will be relocated and unharmed by the project.

The lack of transparency and abundance of illegalities are mounting, yet the project continues. Recently the provincial government called on the military to halt the demolition of the coastline, yet the military regularly operates above the provincial government and they

refused. The military is running the show on Jeju Island, above the people, above the provincial government.

Today despite the unfair tactics being used against them, the Gangjeong resistance has become a global movement spanning multiple areas of activism from environmental to anti-war. More than 125 organizations are involved. In Korea the protests against the Korean-United States Free Trade Agreement (KORUS-FTA) is converging with the Global Campaign to Save Jeju Island. This is a very critical time and the project can be halted, with increased international pressure. With more activists around the world working together, calling attention to the militarization of the Island of World Peace we can stop this dangerous and shortsighted project.

To find out more about how you can get involved please visit www.savejejuisland.org
—Matthew Hoey is a military analyst from Cambridge, MA. and serves on the Global Campaign to Save Jeju Island Board of Advisors.

Odds & Ends

Heartland Theory

Lin Zhiyuan, a Chinese expert on US issues at the Department of World Military Research under the Academy of Military Sciences, recently commented on the US strategy to 'return to Asia.' He said, "Some thinkers of the US Navy are quite interested in the English geographer Halford Mackinder's 'Heartland' theory. Mackinder said, 'Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland; who rules the Heartland commands the World Island (Eurasia).' Mackinder's followers have applied this strategy to Asia, and believe that controlling South China Sea will make the US Air Force and Navy command East Asia, and consequently command the 'World Island'. Currently, the situation in Europe is under American control, and the situation in the Middle East is beneficial to the US. The world's geographic center is transferring from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the Asia-Pacific region has become the world's political and economic center. The strategic adjustment of the US will pose a great challenge to the geopolitical situation in the Asia-Pacific region and even the world order. The American intervention in some regions' hot spots will result in a more complicated strategic environment for China's peaceful rise."

Pentagon South?

Huntsville, Alabama, long known as "Rocket City," lately also is saluted as a "Pentagon of the South." *The Huntsville Times* reports that the title sneaks into conversations and even into print every once in a while as a shorthand way of referring to the growth of commands, programs and influence at Redstone Arsenal and, by extension, area defense contractors and businesses. "We are more of a technological hub than the Pentagon is," Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said. "The Pentagon is a management agency." There has recently been a slew of transfers to the Redstone Arsenal that include the Missile Defense Agency relocation of more than 2,200 positions, solidifying Huntsville as the agency's "center of gravity." (MDA, which is a "joint command," meaning that it serves the Army, Navy and Air Force, is led by a three-star general.)

Japan's Arms Exports

China fears that Tokyo's decision to partially lift a self-imposed 40-year ban on arms exports is fraught with danger, for it could start a new arms race in Asia and worsen Mideast security. The latest move to relax the ban on arms exports will surely fan military sentiments in some sectors of Japanese society. Japan's defense industry is the most advanced in Asia, capable of manufacturing destroyers with Aegis Combat System, advanced fighters,

military satellites and submarines. On the global front, there is already speculation about India's eagerness to buy arms from Japan. India has been the leading arms procurer in the world over the past five years. Some Japanese media outlets report that some of the weapons Japan makes could also be sold to Israel, creating tension between Japan and the Arab world.

Surrounding Iran

The *Associated Press* reported in December, 2011 that the US reached a deal to sell \$3.48 billion worth of missiles and related technology to the United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven monarchies, as part of a massive buildup of military technology among Mideast nations near Iran. The deal included 96 missiles, along with supporting technology and training support that will bolster the nation's missile defense capacity. A contract with Lockheed Martin to produce the highly sophisticated Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, weapon system for the U.A.E. was a key part of the weapons sale. Wishing to surround Iran, the US has been building up missile defenses of its allies, including a \$1.7 billion deal to upgrade Saudi Arabia's Patriot missiles and the sale of 209 Patriot missiles to Kuwait, valued at about \$900 million. The Obama administration also announced in late 2011 the sale of \$30 billion worth of F-15SA fighter jets to Saudi Arabia.

Obama's Military Moves in Australia

Australia will purchase from the US 10 military planes and other equipment worth \$950 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency informed the US Congress in December about the sales of C-27J aircraft, missile warning systems and radar. The announcement of Washington's approval of the sale came a month after the Australia visit of Barack Obama who unveiled plans to send up to 2,500 American Marines to Australia where a training centre will be opened to help "protect American interests" in Asia.

Congress Doubles Aid to Israel on MD Project

The US House and Senate Committees on Appropriations doubled an Obama request for special aid it gives Israel for the development and implementation of "missile defense" systems. Obama asked for aid totaling \$106.1 million for the Arrow-3 anti-ballistic long-range defense system and two other related programs. Both Appropriations Committees went far beyond the request and raised the amount of aid from \$129 million to \$235.7 million in 2012. Rep. Steve Rothman, from New Jersey's 9th district,

said that Israel's anti-missile programs advance US interests in the Middle East. "The growing distribution of missiles and rockets around the globe, starting with Iran and Hizbullah and ending with Gaza and Syria is a direct threat to US national security," Rothman said, "Our enemies know they cannot cope with the combined power of the world's only military superpower and the most powerful military force in the Middle East. This aid is the latest illustration of the unprecedented level of military cooperation and intelligence between the two countries."

Drone Problems

Twice in a short period of time in late 2011, the Pentagon lost contact with a drone aircraft. The second failure resulted in a fiery crash on the Indian Ocean island of Seychelles. The US has operated an Air Force base there since 2009 to dispatch drone aircraft for use in anti-piracy missions, and to patrol the skies over Somalia and elsewhere. The loss of the second drone raised questions about security within the US military and the unmanned craft themselves. It was reported earlier this year that drones dispatched from Creech Air Force Base in Nevada were plagued with a computer virus that made its way into the cockpits of the craft without American authorities able to quickly identify it. Even though military officials claimed that the virus didn't harm the security of US drones, it is suspicious that two American drones have been downed in such a short amount of time, raising questions as to whether it is possible retaliation from Iran for an alleged cyber attack the year prior. Stuxnet, a 2010 computer worm that targeted Iranian nuclear facilities, was suspected to have been planted by American intelligence agencies. It is estimated that the US will spend over \$12 billion on drones by 2015.

AirSea Battle Plan

Global Times reported in December 2011 that "AirSea Battle" (ASB) is a US strategic plan that envisions China as the main opponent. According to the 2010 US Quadrennial Defense Review, the ASB concept is intended to defeat adversaries across the range of military operations. Although there is no official statement that the plan mainly targets China, the intention is obvious. Confronted by a rising China, the US is panicky. It worries China may replace it as the biggest economy and challenge its global leadership. The Pentagon is constantly expanding air and navy bases in Guam and increasing military presence there. It deployed the USS *George Washington*, an extremely advanced aircraft carrier, to the Yokosuka base in Japan to checkmate Chinese air and navy forces. The

US also shifted the headquarters of its land forces' first army from Washington State to Japan to enhance the command and management abilities of the US Pacific Command. The Pentagon is increasing its combat capacities in the coastal regions of East Asia as well as building or renting new military bases in Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam and Australia to improve its rapid response ability. The possible battlefields may be shifted from Middle East and Southeast Asia to the West Pacific. In a future war, the US may fight against opponents simultaneously in space, cyberspace, air and maritime theaters. Ensuring free US movement in the West Pacific and containing China's rise will become the top Pentagon goal.

UK's Libya Costs

The U.K. contribution to the NATO operation in Libya cost 212 million pounds (\$333 million). The mission formally ended on Oct. 31, seven months after NATO took control of military operations. The funds included 145 million pounds of operating costs and 67 million pounds to replenish munitions. The UK's cost of the Libya operation will be met from the Treasury reserve rather than the Ministry of Defense budget. The UK is presently slashing funding for local services, education and health.

African Oil

An article in *Southern Times* called "Black Gold" spells out how Africa is the last oil frontier. As was seen in Libya, oil-hungry nations are prepared to go to war to get their hands on the resource. Libya holds the largest oil deposits on the African continent. In March 2006, speaking before the Senate Armed Services Committee, General James Jones, then head of EUCOM (European Command) and Obama's first National Security Adviser, said: "Africa currently provides over 15% of US oil imports, and recent explorations in the Gulf of Guinea region indicate potential reserves that could account for 25-35% of US imports within the next decade. These high-quality reserves—West African oil is typically low in sulfur and thus ideal for refining—are easily accessible by sea to Western Europe and the US." Since 1980, the US has been officially committed to the use of "any means necessary, including military force" to ensure the free-flow of Persian Gulf oil. (President Jimmy Carter at that time created what became known as the 'Carter Doctrine'.) Now Obama has extended the 'Carter Doctrine' to Africa.

Odds & Ends

Campaign Against Israeli Drone Sales

A group of activists involved in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign in France have launched a campaign calling on the French government to call off a deal to purchase \$500 million worth of Heron TP Predator drones manufactured by the Israeli company IAI. The campaign in France follows a similar action by activists in Finland that was successful in stopping the Finnish government from purchasing military drones from an Israeli company. The Finnish President later came out with a statement condemning what he called 'Israeli apartheid', which is a term used by the activists in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement to refer to Israel's discriminatory practices and policies toward the indigenous Palestinian population. The international campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions aims to target Israeli companies and companies that do business in Israel in order to use economic pressure to push the Israeli government to adhere to its obligations under international law and signed agreements with the Palestinian people.

Alaska Remains in MD Game

Boeing Corp. has landed a seven-year, \$3.5 billion contract extension to oversee Missile Defense Agency work for the Department of Defense, including operations at Fort Greely in Alaska. Boeing has held the Ground-based Midcourse Defense contract, known as GMD, for the past decade. The extension will last through 2018. The program is part of George W. Bush's Global Ballistic Missile Defense System, which was designed to protect the US from long-range ballistic missile threats but has been riddled with failures from the start. Boeing has more than 20 so-called "operational interceptors" at Fort Greely and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Obama promised that only MD systems that worked would be funded, but like so many other weapons programs the GMD seems to hang on despite its abysmal record.

Drone Pilot Burnout

A new Pentagon study shows that almost 30% of drone pilots surveyed suffer from what the military calls "burnout." It's the first time the military has tried to measure the psychological impact of waging a "remote-controlled war." Around 1,100 Air Force pilots fly remotely piloted aircraft. These planes soar over battlefields but the pilots sit at military bases back in the US. The report, commissioned by the USAF, shows that 29% of the pilots said they were burned out and suffered from high levels of fatigue. Although the Air

Force doesn't consider this a dangerous level of stress. However, 17% of active duty pilots surveyed are thought to be "clinically distressed." The Air Force says this means the pilots stress level has crossed a threshold where it's now affecting the pilots' work and family life. A large majority of these pilots said they're not getting any counseling for their stress level.

China To Open It's GPS

China opened its homegrown satellite navigation system, called Beidou, to civilian use in late 2011, presenting the US with a challenge to its global dominance in the field.

Currently with just 10 satellites in operation, only China and neighboring countries can use the service. But the entire Asia-Pacific region will receive Beidou's signal with the launch of six more satellites by the end of next year. "In 2020, we will go global" they announced, with a 37-satellite constellation to rival America's GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's planned Galileo system. The government admits that Beidou is the least accurate of the three functioning satellite navigation systems today—accurate to 25 meters for civilian users at first and eventually 10 meters when more satellites are put into orbit.

A Small But Welcome Cut

Global Security Newswire reports that an annual US defense appropriations bill for fiscal 2012 has cut \$25 million from a program aimed at developing a conventional capability to attack far-away targets on short notice. Lawmakers said in a House-Senate conference report that new appropriations for non-nuclear "prompt global strike" systems (military space plane) would be reduced because of "program delays caused by two consecutive flight test failures of the Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2." Prompt global strike refers to a capability sought by the Defense Department in which targets halfway around the world could be attacked within 60 minutes of a launch command. The HTV-2 technology produced two test-flight disappointments, first in April 2010 and again in August 2011. In total, the legislation offers \$179.8 million for prompt global strike for 2012, down from the Obama administration's \$204.8 million request.

NATO Leader Confident

The head of NATO says he remains optimistic about US-European defense cooperation, particularly in missile defense, in spite of the risk of massive new US budget cuts and fears of recession in Europe next year. Anders Fogh Rasmussen told *Reuters* in November 2011 that he was confident after meeting Barack Obama and Congressional leaders in Washington that NATO's

flagship cooperation project—missile defense—would survive even if Washington were to make radically higher defense cuts on top of \$450 billion faced over the next decade. "I am sure it is ring-fenced and protected against cuts," he said. "I got the impression... that there is bipartisan support for continuing that project. The fact that the US will provide an input to the NATO missile defense system demonstrates a continued American commitment to Euro-Atlantic security and the continued presence in Europe," Rasmussen said.

Hawaii Hosts Largest Pentagon Command

US control in the Asia-Pacific is made possible by its heavy military presence across the vast Pacific Ocean, which is directed from Hawaii. "We've seen over the past 30-plus years the region really blossom both economically and politically and people tend to forget or not even realize a reason for that is that the US has ensured stability in Asia and the Asia-Pacific," said Michael Mazza, a security expert at the conservative American Enterprise Institute think tank. Based just outside Honolulu USPACOM (Pacific Command) covers an area from California to India that is home to five of the world's 10 biggest economies. On any given day, the US Navy has 50–60 ships in the region. Some 325,000 military and civilian personnel, or about one-fifth of total US military strength, serve under USPACOM, including about 80,000 troops stationed in Japan and South Korea. Lately, Secretary of War Leon Panetta has gone to great lengths to reassure allies that the US military will maintain a strong posture in the Pacific despite looming Pentagon spending cuts at home. "We are not anticipating any cutbacks in this region. If anything we are going to strengthen our presence in the Pacific," Panetta said in Tokyo late last year.

India Considering NATO Offer

NATO's invitation to India in the first week of September 2011 to be a partner in its ballistic missile defence (BMD) programme is being considered says V.K. Saraswat, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister. "We are analysing the report. It is under consideration," he said after the successful launch of the Agni-II ballistic missile from the Wheeler Island on the Orissa coast. India has so far conducted six interceptor missile tests as part of its quest to establish a shield against ballistic missiles. These six tests featured a missile launched from the test range at Chandipur on the Orissa coast, mimicking the path of a ballistic missile coming from an "enemy country" and an interceptor launched from the Wheeler Island

destroying the incoming missile in mid-flight. The US has helped India create a "Space Command" and they have published a document similar to the Pentagon's provocative "Vision for 2020" that threatens to "control and dominate" space to benefit corporate globalization. India is also working on anti-satellite weapons technology.

Space Junk Problem Worsening

The amount of debris orbiting the Earth has reached "a tipping point" for collisions, which would in turn generate more of the debris that threatens astronauts and satellites.

NASA has no plan for mitigating the hazards posed by spent rocket bodies, discarded satellites and thousands of other pieces of junk flying around the planet at speeds of 28,164 km/h, (17,500 mph), the US National Research Council said in a study published in September 2011. Orbital debris poses a threat to the approximately 1,100 operational commercial, military and civilian satellites orbiting the Earth—part of a global industry that generated \$168 billion in revenues last year. Some computer models show the amount of orbital debris is currently enough to continually collide and create even more debris, raising the risk of spacecraft failures. There is presently no way to clean up the mess. Any testing of anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons in space would make things even worse.

Email Spam Filters

Increasingly we are hearing from GN friends that emails from us are landing in their Spam filters. Email providers are cracking down on organizations that send emails out so please be sure to check your Spam filter box for our messages. You might want to tell your provider to let GN emails go thru without putting them in your Spam filter.

How Do We Create Jobs?

The University of Massachusetts-Amherst Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) has updated their study called "The US Employment Effects of Military & Domestic Spending Priorities" in 2011. (You can find the study on the GN's web site home page.) The jobs study found that \$1 billion of spending on military production created 8,600 (directly) and 2,600 (indirectly) for a total of 11,200. That same spending on clean energy job production would create 16,800 (direct & indirect); 12,300 on health care (direct & indirect); or 19,100 on education (direct & indirect). Don't let politicians get away with saying that cuts in military spending will hurt the economy. The facts prove otherwise.

Conversion of MIC Requires New Coalitions

By Jonathan Feldman

In a panel discussion at New York University last December, Immanuel Wallerstein, Michael Mann, Craig Calhoun and other noted speakers addressed the question, "Does Capitalism Have a Future?" There wasn't a consensus on the panel. At one extreme, Wallerstein described a capitalist system unable to sustain itself because of underconsumption and a growing international labor force of competing workers. In contrast, Michael Mann suggested that a Keynesian reflation attached to green jobs might sustain the capitalist economy through a Schumpeterian boom.

Mann's arguments seem plausible, leaving open alternatives to a kind of deterministic zero-hope agenda for the future. Yet, many states underinvest in green markets and products. Moreover, the green jobs argument has taken a lot of hits lately. In Ontario, Canada, the US transnational Caterpillar recently locked out its workers making locomotives, perhaps as part of an effort to shift production to another rail plant in the US in Detroit, Michigan, a plan that would have expanded the market for green products through establishment of a new light rail line was scuttled by the City of Detroit and the US Department of Transportation. The two parties supported using buses instead, but this decision (if permanent) shrinks the market for Oregon Iron Works, a new US entrant into the passenger rail business. Detroit's mayor is in danger of losing his authority to an outside manager, given the city's serious fiscal difficulties. It becomes hard to talk about green job reflation when some cities in the US, like national governments in Europe, are apparently running out of money.

A Green New Deal offers an opportunity to expand locally-based manufacturing; manufacturing growth is necessary to promote the tax base that funds mass

transit. Mass transit is a key bridge to reindustrialization because the state procures the product and helps create the market. Tax dollars can be recycled to support domestic employment if rail products are made locally. Yet, if the state can't afford to buy green products like trains, the would-be virtuous circles become a dead end. Protectionism in the US saves assembly jobs at the lower end of the economic food chain, but can't by itself generate high-end engineering and design jobs that could form the nucleus of new industries as transit makers diversify into related products and markets. Keynesianism becomes just wishful thinking unless we explain how a political process could be launched to realize needed investments.

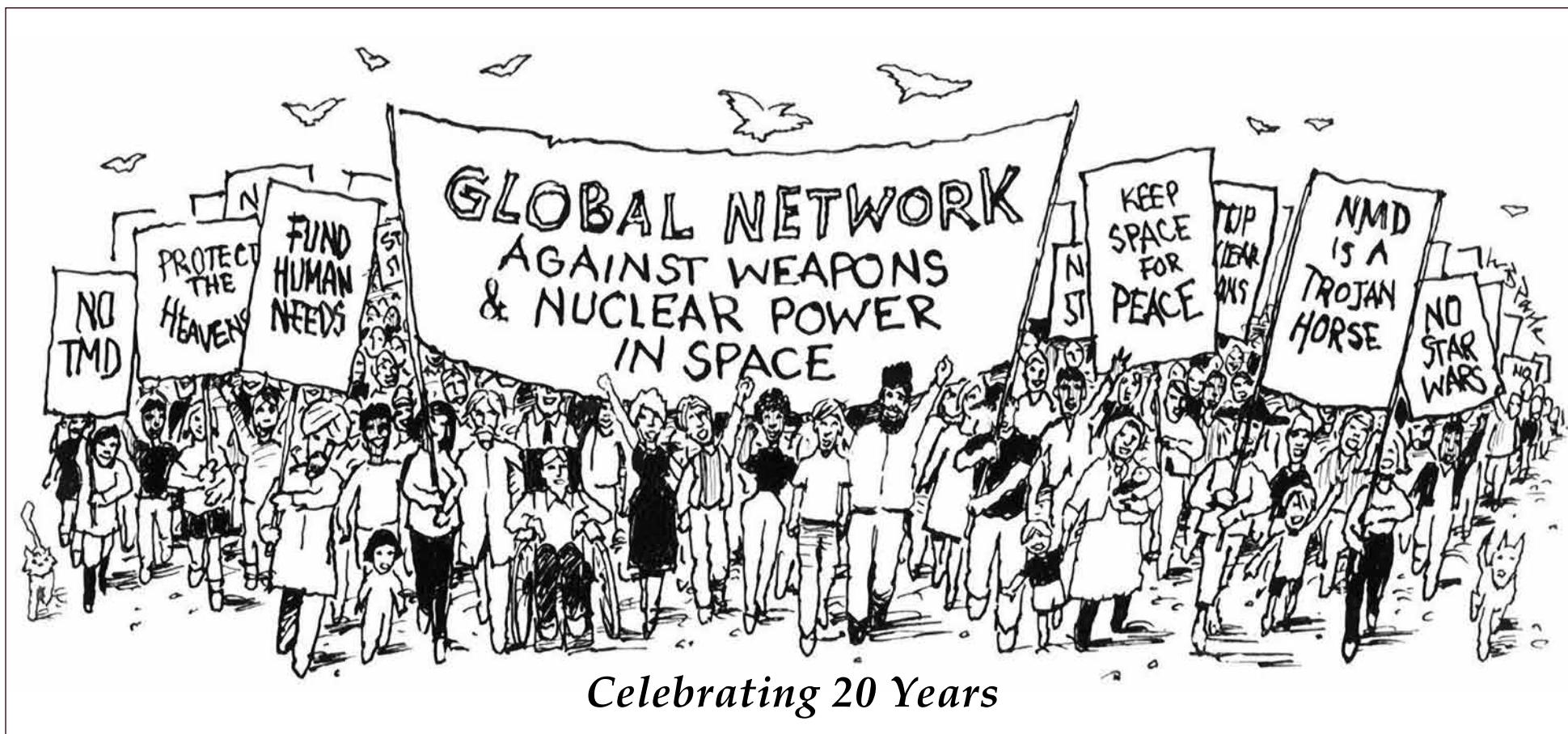
Marxian determinism and Keynesian voluntarism do not immediately address the question of social, political and economic design. In other words, how do people become freer by extending their choices through economic reconstruction of institutions? At a micro level, cooperatives and alternative banking systems become means for recycling the consumptive power of individuals and triggering alternatives to transnational companies and banks that sit on cash and fail to organize work at home. The guild socialist, G. D. H. Cole recognized the power of consumption as a key means of triggering and implementing an alternative economic architecture. In other words, green banks and alternative financial institutions patronized by citizens at large could finance new and emerging networks of green producers and suppliers.

This patronage system itself can be tied to the dynamic new social movements like UK Uncut or Occupy Wall Street. In fact, activists in Occupy Wall Street have supported a new US-campaign, "Move Your Money," in which millions of dollars have been moved out of established banks into alternative, com-

munity or smaller scale banks. Political capital was transferred into economic capital and potentially a funding base for green reflation. Similarly, political action to cut military budgets can create such new green investment funds. In September, the Obama Administration announced a jobs creation plan worth \$450 billion. In December, the Administration proposed future military budget cuts in an equivalent amount. Conversion of defense firms could bridge these two proposals by making such firms green wealth generators.

Expanding an alternative economics from below, requires the creation of new coalitions. A new kind of dialogue is needed where environmental, labor, peace and social economy constituencies come together and exchange ideas. Only by bridging the intellectual divide can we overcome both economic determinism and voluntarism.

— Jonathan Michael Feldman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economic History at Stockholm University. He is presently organizing a Global Teach-In on these themes (www.globalteachin.com).



Celebrating 20 Years

Russian Mars Probe Fails with Radioactive Payload

By Karl Grossman

The plutonium-fueled rover that NASA calls Curiosity was launched without incident November 26 on a voyage to Mars—but that's just one trigger-pull in a game of space borne nuclear Russian roulette.

Not only is NASA planning more space missions using plutonium but it's also developing nuclear-powered rockets. Some of the designs go back to the 1950s and 60s when a series of nuclear rocket programs came to an end out of concern for such a rocket blowing up on launch or falling back to Earth.

Also, NASA is planning nuclear-powered colonies on the Moon and Mars. The nuclear material would be launched from Earth—and an accident on launch or a subsequent crash back to Earth would spell disaster.

NASA and its counterpart agency in Russia keep pulling the trigger hoping there's not a disaster in their space nuclear programs. But accidents have already occurred in both, and if they persist there will be more.

An example of what could have happened with Curiosity occurred just a few weeks before its launch. Russia's Phobos-Grunt space probe was launched on November 9 to go to a moon of Mars. But its rocket system failed to fire it onward from low Earth orbit.

Phobos-Grunt, it was reported in December, as this article was written, was expected to fall to Earth between January 6 to 19.

And there is nuclear material aboard Phobos-Grunt. The Associated Press on December 16 reported that "one of the craft's instruments" contains 22 pounds of Cobalt-57.

The AP story told of how the Russian space agency, Roscosmos, expects that "between 20 and 30 fragments of the probe with a total weight of up to...440 pounds will survive the fiery plunge and shower the Earth's surface."

Cobalt-57 isn't plutonium, considered the most deadly radioactive substance. But it still can be harmful. As notes Argonne National Laboratory's "Human Health Fact Sheet," available online, Cobalt-57 has a half-life of 270 days, "long enough to warrant concern." (The hazardous lifetime of a radioactive material is 10 to 20 times its half-life.) The document notes that Cobalt-57 can cause cancer. It "can be taken into the body by eating food, drinking water, or breathing."

Still, says Roscosmos, according to the AP, Phobos-Grunt's "toxic fuel and radioactive material on board will pose no danger of contamination."

Russia, and before that the Soviet

Union, have had a series of accidents involving nuclear materials in space. The AP article noted that Phobos-Grunt "was Russia's first interplanetary mission since a botched 1996 robotic mission to Mars, which failed when the probe crashed shortly after the launch due to an engine failure." AP neglected to mention that this Mars 96 space probe had a half-pound of plutonium on it. It disintegrated as it fell back to Earth with debris raining down on Chile and Bolivia.

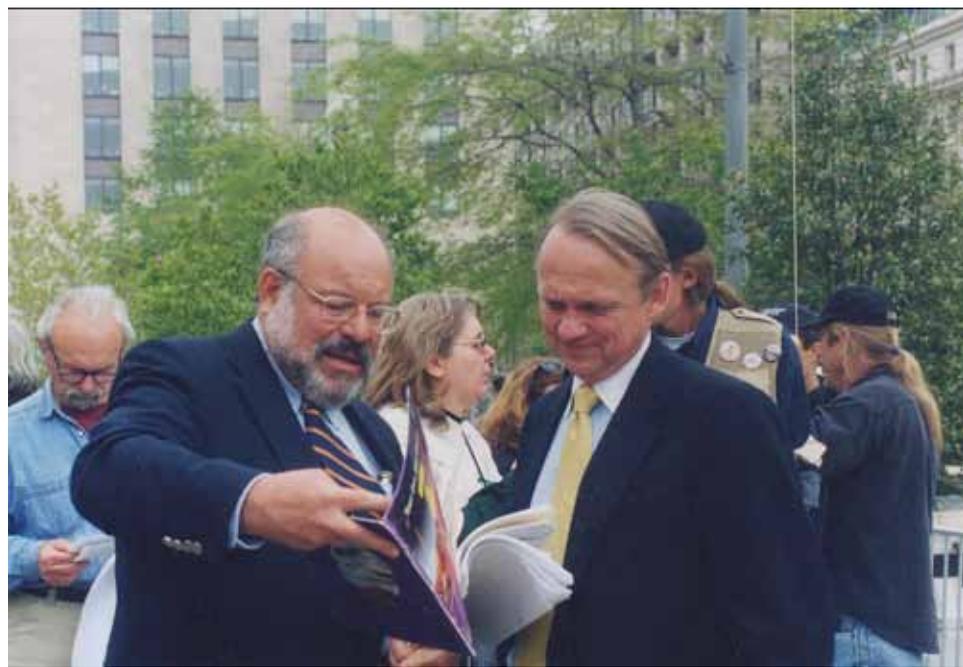
Back in the USA., a big push for space nuclear power is underway at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama. "NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center here is expanding the scope of its nuclear technology work," wrote Frank Moring, Jr. on www.aviationweek.com on November 15. "Marshall worked with the Department of Energy on nuclear power technology that might one day power a lunar outpost," said the article. "That work continues, but it has expanded to encompass another technology goal under the new Obama policy: advanced in-space propulsion."

The Obama administration is also seeking construction of a facility at Idaho National Laboratory to produce for space use Plutonium-238. It is an "ill-conceived plan" which risks the public's safety, says James Powell, executive director of Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free. The organization has been fighting opening of the facility.

Florida, meanwhile, would continue on the front line for launches in the space nuclear program. Pax Christi of Tampa Bay and other Florida groups were active protesting the Curiosity launch. They took to the streets with signs declaring: "No Nukes In Space" and "Danger: Launching of NASA Mars Probe With 10 Lbs. Plutonium. Don't Do Disney." That referred to Disney theme parks in Orlando. NASA's Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Curiosity mission said a launch accident releasing plutonium had a 1-in-420 chance of happening and could "release material into the regional area defined... to be within...62 miles of the launch pad." That would take in Orlando.

Using plutonium—or any nuclear poisons—on space systems that can blow up on launch (and one in 100 rockets destruct on launch) or can fall back to Earth can be deadly. A millionth of a gram of plutonium is a fatal dose.

A fall from orbit of a satellite in 1964 powered by 2.1 pounds of plutonium caused fine particles to fall widely over the Earth. Dr. John Gofman, professor of medical physics at the University of California at Berkeley, long linked this accident to an increase in global lung cancer.



Karl Grossman shares the *Space Command's Vision for 2020* document with journalist during Global Network protest in Washington DC in 2000.

With it, NASA switched to solar energy on satellites. Now all satellites and the International Space Station are solar powered. This mishap was cited in the NASA EIS for the Curiosity shot as being among the three accidents that have occurred among the 26 US space missions that have used plutonium.

Still, space nuclear power has its promoters. On November 22, days before the Curiosity launch, Martin LaMonica of CNET's Green Tech blog, wrote a piece headed "Nuclear 'Space Battery' Bests Solar in Curiosity Mars Mission." LaMonica quoted Stephen Johnson, director of the Idaho National Laboratory's Space Nuclear Systems and Technology Division, as saying: "You can operate with solar panels on Mars. You just can't operate everywhere."

To "operate everywhere" we are to endanger life on Earth? To try to look for life on Mars we would threaten life on Earth?

And Time magazine, in its "The Invention Issue" on November 25, listed among the year's "50 Best Inventions" the Curiosity rover. It's "powered by a radioisotope generator that uses radioactive decay to produce heat and electricity," said Time. That sounds harmless enough. No use of the words plutonium or nuclear.

In addition to costs in lives, space nuclear power can cost plenty of dollars. The potential clean-up costs for dispersal of the 10.6 pounds of plutonium on Curiosity would be, said the NASA EIS, \$267 million for each square mile of farmland contaminated, \$478 million for each square mile of forests and \$1.5 billion for each square mile of "mixed-use urban areas." The mission itself carries a price of \$2.5 billion.

As Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network, said: "The taxpayers [were] asked once again to pay for nuclear missions that could endanger the lives of all the people on the planet. Have we not learned anything from Chernobyl and Fukushima? We don't need to be launching nukes into space. It's not a gamble we can afford to take."

As John Stewart of Pax Christi of Tampa Bay put it: "NASA [planned] a mission that could endanger not only its future but the state of Florida and beyond. The absurd—and maddening—aspect of this risk is that it is unnecessary. The locomotion for NASA's Sojourner Mars rover, launched in 1996, and the Spirit and Opportunity Mars rovers, both launched in 2003, was solar powered, with the latter two rovers performing well beyond what their engineers expected. Curiosity's locomotion could also be solar-powered. NASA admits this in its EIS, but decided to put us all at risk because plutonium-powered batteries last longer and they want to have the 'flexibility to select the most scientifically interesting location on the surface' of Mars."

The Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space is THE international organization taking on space nuclear madness.

The Global Network and its members and affiliates have a lot of challenges ahead.

—Karl Grossman, professor of journalism at the State University of New York/College of New York, was a founding member of the Global Network in 1992 and serves on the Board of Advisors.

20th Anniversary West Coast Tour

To help observe the 20th anniversary of the Global Network, GN Coordinator Bruce Gagnon will do a west coast speaking tour from April 1-30. Plans are already underway for Bruce to begin the trip in Los Angeles on April 1 and work his way north to Washington State via Amtrak.

Invitations have already been received from organizations in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Oakland, Berkeley, Santa Rosa, Sacramento, Garberville, Lakeport, Eugene, Portland, Olympia, Seattle, and Bellingham. More are still likely to come.

Bruce's talks will be tailored to fit local needs but will also touch on such themes as: Current US space technology strategy; US expanding militarism in Asia-Pacific region; Impact of expanding militarism on economic crisis here at home; the need to promote the conversion of the military industrial complex to sustainable production if we hope to have the slightest impact on climate change; the 2012 national elections and what we can do about the corporate domination of Congress and our economy.

If you have any questions about the speaking tour please call the GN office at (207) 443-9502.



Satomi Oba (2nd from left) was a Global Network stalwart and attended our 2004 annual conference in Maine. Satomi translated our space videos, posters, and literature into Japanese and spread them all over her country. She passed away unexpectedly in 2005.



Dr. Helen Caldicott, a GN advisory board member, spoke during a protest rally in Bath, Maine that was part of the 2004 annual meeting held in Portland.



J. Sri Raman, a long-time Global Network board member, passed away in 2011. Sri, a freelance journalist, was a writer with the daily Indian Express when India carried out five nuclear weapon tests in May 1998. With the help of friends, he founded the Journalists Against Nuclear Weapons (JANW).



Tom Sturtevant holds a sign during the Global Network protest in Bath, Maine that kicked-off our 2004 annual event. Tom came to every GN event possible and passed away in early 2012.

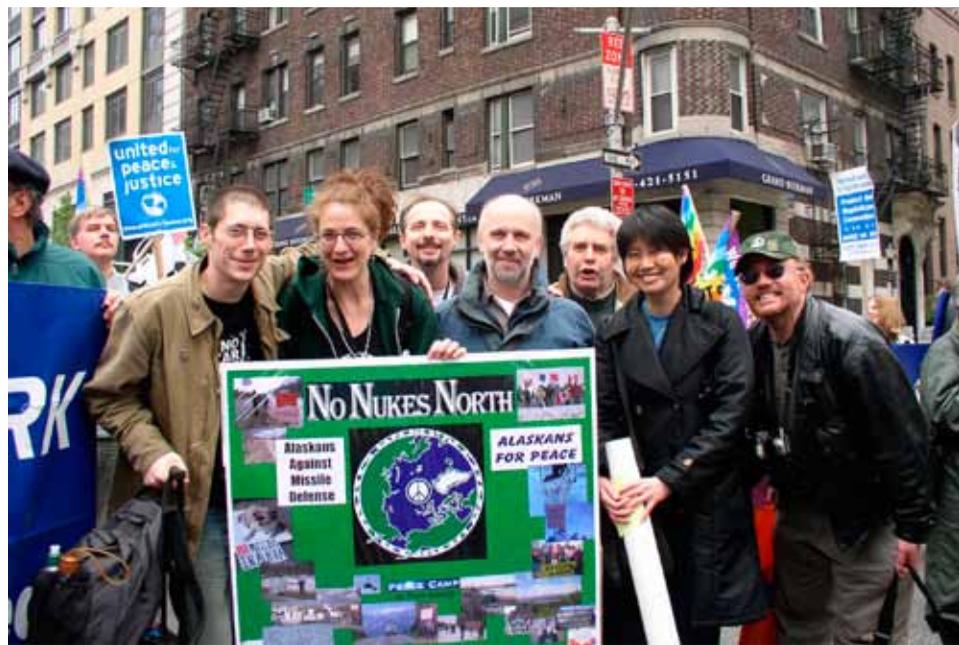


Left: We began holding Keep Space for Peace Week events in 2001. Aurel Duta, in Bucharest, Romania, went out alone on the street to hand out leaflets alerting the public to the dangers of Star Wars.

Join today
www.space4peace.org



During the GN's 2007 conference in Germany a protest was held at a now closed US military radar/spy station near Darmstadt.



The Global Network crew preparing to march through New York City following our 2005 annual conference. The march called for the rapid implementation of the promise of nuclear disarmament and was organized by Abolition 2000 and United for Peace & Justice.



Stacey Fritz, No Nukes North coordinator in Alaska, spoke during a news conference that kicked off the GN's 2008 annual event in Nebraska that highlighted the growing role of Strategic Command (StratCom) at Offutt AFB. Stacey serves on the GN board of directors.

In Memory of Our Stalwarts

The challenges we all face from the forces of globalized militarism can be overwhelming. But when we each do our own bit, and connect that effort to the larger movement, we begin to see just how powerful we can be.

The recent Occupy movement around the world further proves that sharing our energy, our message, and our determination can be an unstoppable force.

So it has been for us in the Global Network during the past 20 years. When you add up our collective efforts to educate and mobilize the world's citizens to demand an end to the arms race in space it is clear that we have made progress. Our progress is in our development of a connected and resilient community of activists who refuse to quit. We stand together and will not give way to despair or corporate bullying.

On Friday, January 6 the Global Network received a check for \$500 in the mail from Maine Veterans for Peace stalwart Tom Sturtevant. Tom went with us to South Ko-

rea in 2009 for our annual GN conference in Seoul. Tom was stationed on a US Navy aircraft carrier off the coast of Korea during the war and was deeply changed by the saturation bombing of North Korea. He often recalled how virtually every standing building in the north was destroyed by US warplanes. I called Tom on January 6 to thank him for his kind donation. He said he wanted the funds to go toward our February 24–26 Global Network meeting on Jeju Island. He said he wished he could come along but felt his age prevented him from the travel. On January 7, Tom passed away.

We invite everyone to become part of this network of good-hearted activists. In this work we are able to become friends with remarkable people like Tom Sturtevant and our lives are forever enriched. We will miss Tom, and so many others like him who have given so much of themselves, but their memories will always live within us.



New Book Surveys State of the Military Industrial Complex

Published on MLK Day 2012, a new book called *The Military Industrial Complex at 50* is the most comprehensive collection on the subject available. Edited by activist David Swanson, the book explains what the military industrial complex (MIC) is, where it comes from, what damage it does, what further destruction it threatens, and what can be done and is being done to chart a different course.

Authors (from within and without the MIC) contributing chapters to this collection include: Ellen Brown • Paul Chappell • Helena Cobban • Ben Davis • Jeff Fogel • Bunny Greenhouse • Bruce Gagnon • Clare Hanrahan • John Heuer • Steve Horn • Robert Jensen • Karen Kwiatkowski • Judith Le Blanc • Bruce Levine • Ray McGovern • Wally Myers • Robert Naiman • Gareth Porter • Chris Rodda • Allen Ruff • Mia Austin Scoggins • Tony Russell • Lisa Savage • Mary Beth Sullivan • Coleman Smith • Dave Shreve • David Swanson • Pat Elder • Jonathan Williams • Ann Wright.

The book will be available at MIC50.org in paperback, bulk discount, audio, PDF, kindle, Epub, and iPad/iPhone.

The MIC, this book expertly argues, kills large numbers of people, endangers us, hollows out our economy, transfers our wealth to a tiny elite, devastates the natural environment, and threatens civil liberties, the rule of law, and representative government.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower found the nerve in his farewell speech in 1961 to articulate one of the most prescient, potentially valuable, and tragically as yet unheeded warnings of human history:

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

"We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

This collection shows that the "total influence" of the MIC has increased, the disastrous rise of misplaced power is no longer merely a potential event, our liberties and democratic processes are in a state of collapse, and that Ike himself disastrously misinformed the citizenry when he claimed that the very monster he warned of had been "compelled" by the need for "defense."

The book can be ordered at <http://MIC50.org>

International Spotlight: Jeju Navy Base Fight

By Matt Hoey

They have huddled together in their makeshift camp through rain, snow and even typhoons—occupying government-claimed land and defying authorities with their art, protest songs, candle lit vigils and handmade signs. On September 2, 2011 the occupation of the Gangjeong military base construction site ended—the result of a brutal crackdown by nearly 2,000 riot police. More than 35 people were arrested that day. At this moment the resistance continues and is stronger than ever.

Since 2007, residents of Jeju Island, also officially designated the Island of World Peace, have been risking their lives and their freedom to prevent the construction of a naval base on what many revere as the picturesque island's most beautiful coastline. This military base if completed will be home to both US and South Korean naval vessels and a sea-based Aegis ballistic missile defense system.

For international peace activists, the Save Jeju Island campaign is what many have been waiting for: An entirely winnable cause for peace with significant international implications. The Jeju Island naval base project is not only highly symbolic, but also quite dire in its potential impact on global security. The planned Jeju naval base facility would have a capacity for two submarines, 20 large destroyers and up to two aircraft carriers. Its purpose, as stated by both South Korean and US military officials, is to project force towards China. Many experts believe that the location of the base will provide a forward operating installation in the event of a military conflict between the US and China. The Jeju base could become a flashpoint to trigger a large-scale military conflict between superpowers.

The Aegis ballistic missile defense system will also be housed at the Jeju Island base that will be among the largest naval installations in the region if completed. This Aegis BMD platform is a small component of a much larger US strategy to contain China—at the expense of South Korea. If the base is completed, Jeju Island could be destined for destruction as tensions escalate between the world's two military goliaths. War hawks in the US are not shy about stating that an eventual war between China and the US is possible. The nation of Korea has been caught in the middle of other nation's wars far too many times already.



Located approximately 300 miles from China, the simple presence of the Jeju Island naval base alone will undermine China's national security and strategic nuclear deterrent. This ability to undermine grows exponentially when we take into consideration the presence of Aegis destroyers outfitted with a missile defense platform. Many world-renowned experts and missile defense analysts have stated that this base would be completely ineffective at addressing the true threat to South Korean security—that being the missile threat from North Korea, since the Aegis system cannot target DPRK ballistic missiles as a result of their flight trajectory and altitude.

The location of the base does, on the other hand, serve as a prime location for the intercept of ballistic missiles located in South East China that could in theory be used to target Japan. It is not farfetched to imagine a Cuban Missile-style crisis in the future. A standoff between the US and China—with the Island of World Peace caught in the middle.

The temporary basing of a US nuclear sub on Jeju during a time of extreme tension between the US and China

would provide an unparalleled first-strike ability and set off a rapid escalation scenario. For this and many reasons China is and will continue to be increasingly concerned about the naval base. Simply put, this military venture stands to benefit US national and economic security policy and not that of South Korea. The base will create far more problems than it will solve. Contrary to some misconceptions in the press South Korea and China have positive relations. In fact China is South Korea's number one trading partner.

Another argument against the Jeju base is the negative impact it has had on the fundamental human rights of those who are actively resisting the project. There have been many documented instances of Gangjeong villagers being targeted by police for their political beliefs. Police officers from Jeju Island and the mainland have fined, imprisoned and detained innocent villagers without bail for extended periods of time for legally standing up and expressing their discontent with the base project.

The primary legal tool used to oppress activists is known in the Korean Penal Code as Article 314 or "Obstruction of Business." This law is a tool commonly used for pressuring trade unions and cracking down on public assemblies that threaten the interests of Korea's one percent. Penalties are stiff and carry with them a sentence of up to five years imprisonment and a fine not exceeding 15,000,000 Won (\$13,297.00 USD). Jeju anti-base activists have been held for as many as six months on a single Article 314 charge while awaiting trial.

Recently 200 Gangjeong villagers and activists received letters stating that they must present themselves for an interview with detectives. These innocent people have committed no crime and are not affiliated with any criminal activity. If these targeted villagers and activists do not arrive for questioning they are hit with crushing monetary penalties and can even be arrested. Members of the Global Campaign to Save Jeju Island have been regularly presenting evidence of these law enforcement tactics to leading international human rights organizations and investigations are underway. Most recently, three men were released from prison after being held without bail for 94 days. Their only crime was an Article 314 violation. One of these men was the democratically elected mayor of the village.

Jeju Island has endured a dark and painful past. The last time such a military base was located on Jeju

Space Alert! is the educational publication of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. GN's Coordinator, Bruce Gagnon is editor and compiler of this publication. Layout design by Nancy E. Randolph. Please send address corrections to the address below.

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(See International Spotlight P 9.)