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Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
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PERILOUS PIVOT:

Pentagon Positions Itself For Confrontation With China

By Rick Rozoff

The US deploys long-range B-52 strategic bombers to the East China Sea only days after China declares an air defense identification zone in the region.

Less than three weeks later the American guided missile cruiser USS Cowpens [which fired the first cruise missile in George W. Bush's 'shock and awe' attack on Iraq in 2003] almost collides with a Chinese vessel escorting China's newly acquired first aircraft carrier in the South China Sea.

Are these incidents from the Taiwan Strait Crisis of sixty years ago? From the period of US-Chinese armed hostilities during the war on the Korean Peninsula that had ended a year earlier?

No, the above confrontations, the above provocations occurred in the last five weeks of 2013 and herald more incidents of the sort as Washington has declared the strategic shift of military assets from Europe and the Middle East to the Asia-Pacific region.



Indeed, with the emergence of China as the world's second-largest economy and its concomitant renewal of (comparatively minor) territorial claims in the East China Sea and South China Sea, the stage is set for a US-Chinese confrontation of a nature and on a scale not seen since before the Sino-Soviet split of 1960.

The so-called Asia-Pacific pivot entails the deployment of 60% of total American naval assets—quantitatively the largest and qualitatively the most technologically advanced and lethal in the world—to the region. The Pentagon, unparalleled in world history, divides the entire planet between six regional military commands (unified combatant commands) and six naval fleets. The largest in both categories are those that encompass the Asia-Pacific: US Pacific Command's area of responsibility, East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean, includes over 50% of the world's surface, more than 100 million square miles, with US Central Command's ranging from Egypt in the west to China and India in the east. The US Seventh Fleet, tasked to patrol the waters of the Asia-Pacific, is the largest overseas naval force in the

world and will be further enhanced by the US Navy's intensified deployment to the region. The US has eleven of the world's twelve nuclear aircraft carriers and all eleven super carriers. It already had 60% of its submarines—attack, cruise missile and ballistic missile submarines, all nuclear-powered—assigned to the Asia-Pacific.

Following the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) throughout Europe over the past fifteen years—every European nation except one (Cyprus, which is under intensified pressure to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program) is now a full member of, or involved in one or more partnership arrangements with, the US-led military bloc, which has enforced a cordon sanitaire on Russia's western and much of its southern frontier, it was inevitable that the US and its allies would next move to encircle, quarantine and ultimately confront China.

In the past decade the Pentagon has begun conducting annual multinational military exercises in nations bordering China (Khaan Quest in Mongolia, Steppe Eagle in Kazakhstan) and near it

(Angkor Sentinel in Cambodia). With its NATO allies the US has waged war and moved into bases in nations bordering China—Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan—as well as nearby Uzbekistan, and, even before the official announcement of the strategic shift to the Asia-Pacific region, acquired the use of new military facilities in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Australia, Singapore and the Philippines. After securing rights to base naval and air force personnel and assets in Sembawang during the early 1990s, the Pentagon has now reached an agreement to rotate—in fact to permanently station—its new Littoral Combat Ships in Singapore.

USS Cowpens, mentioned above, is a Ticonderoga class guided missile cruiser equipped to, or capable of being upgraded to, carry Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptors that are an integral component of plans for a global so-called 'missile defense' shield being developed by the US and its military allies in Europe, the Asia-Pacific area and the Persian Gulf.

Washington is incorporating several Asia-Pacific nations into its global interceptor missile grid, in its initial manifestation launched in conjunction with NATO as the so-called European Phased Adaptive Approach which will station increasingly longer-range land-based missiles in Romania and Poland and Aegis class cruisers and destroyers equipped with SM-3 interceptors in the Mediterranean and likely later in the Baltic, Norwegian, Black and even Barents Seas.

The Pentagon's partners in the Asia-Pacific wing of the international missile system, which targets China as the European version does Russia, include to date Japan, South Korea, Australia and Taiwan, with the Philippines reported to be the future location of a third Forward-Based X-Band Radar interceptor site, with one already in Japan and a third slated for deployment there, of the sort deployed to Turkey in 2012 and to Israel in 2008. The X-band radar, also known by its manufacturer, Raytheon, as Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveil-

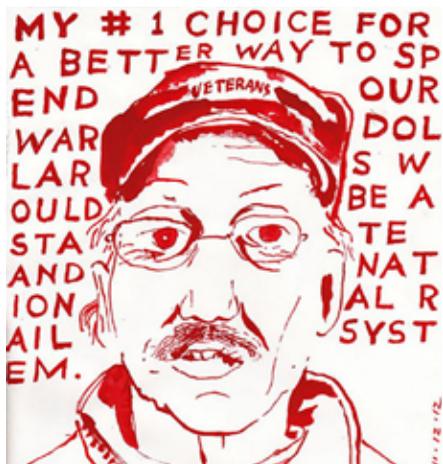
(See Pivot P 8.)

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How do we stop a run-away freight train?



by Bruce Gagnon

The US (along with its NATO allies) is now waging war on behalf of corporate interests across the planet. In his disturbing but moving film called "Dirty Wars" investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill chases down the hidden truth behind America's covert wars. He reports that the largely unaccountable Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) is now doing targeted assassinations and other military operations in more than 75 countries.

Foreign policy has essentially become privatized and is used to serve the agenda of resource extraction corporations seeking control of oil, rare minerals, water and more. The world is now the battlefield and by selling their dirty program as a fight against "terrorism" there is no real end to the war. What is our global peace movement to do?

Thanks to courageous world citizens like Julian Assange, Chelsea Manning, and Edward Snowden we now have a greater understanding how the US National Security Agency (NSA), National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and US Cyber Command are waging war on all of us. We've all become identified as potential enemies of the corporate state. Fortunately, because of the revelations by these whistleblowers there is growing international push back against these programs.

There has also been a major growth in anti-drone protest activity during the past year across the globe. This effort to stand with the many innocent victims of US drone strikes, particularly in Pakistan and Yemen, is a welcome sign of solidarity. But one is forced to ask why does the US continue to kill innocent people at weddings, funerals, and jirgas (a tribal assembly of elders in Pakistan which takes decisions by consensus)? I have come to the sad conclusion that the US is intentionally killing these innocent people because their deaths help create new potential enemies. This then gives

the Pentagon "justification" to claim that continued occupation of these "war zones" is vital to security.

All one has to do is study a map of Central Asia and Africa. You find that Afghanistan and Pakistan hug the border of China, which is clearly being encircled by the US-NATO military war machine (see our cover story by Rick Rozoff). The Obama administration has expanded the military operations of the Bush administration's Africa Command (AFRICOM) with the clear intention of grabbing resources on that continent for the corporate masters. Creating more conflict by killing people with drones in Pakistan and Yemen or Somalia, the Obama team then makes the case that "our job of bringing peace" to these chaotic nations is not done and we must stay—even with "privatized" para-military forces that answer to only a few elites.

As the US-NATO encircle Russia and China both those nations have become hyper vigilant particularly because of "missile defense" deployments near their borders. This cancerous deployment program is seen by Russia and China as the shield that gives US first-strike attack planners the confidence to contemplate such an insane strategy. Computer war

games are held annually at the US Space Command where they unleash a devastating first-strike aimed at Russian or Chinese nuclear forces. When those attacked nations try to fire their remaining retaliatory capability the US "missile defense" systems are then used to intercept each missile launched. New generations of expensive military satellites help bring the global military machine this enormous power to identify anyone on the planet, listen to their communications and target them for attack.

How then do we get the people in the US and other allied nations to pay more attention to these destabilizing and expensive plans? One way is to link these provocative actions to the austerity cutbacks across the US and NATO countries. As activists we must work harder to find those particular economic issues in our local community that people are concerned about and illustrate how in fact loss of jobs and social spending cuts are part and parcel of this US program of aggressive military expansion and endless war. There will be no money for anything else or any peace until we dramatically cut the military budget. People remember that it was the corporations who moved many jobs to China. Now

those same corporations want to control China as well—simple capitalism—and using the military to get their way is what they do best.

One last word on this theme.... it is solidarity. As anti-drone organizers have shown, when we help the public see the faces, and consequences of US militarism, whether in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Jeju Island, Okinawa, Philippines, Guam, Hawaii or anywhere else, we can touch the hearts of the public and move some of them into action. That is our challenge during this coming year.

In the end it is important to remember that we are not alone. There exists now a multi-layered global movement that increasingly is operating hand-in-hand. We have no idea how any of this will turn out. That is out of our direct control. But we can control the precondition if we are to get through this period. That precondition is global citizens action. Each of us only has to play our vital part in bringing these issues to the light of day. We must stop this run-away train of corporate militarism... call it what it is—fascism.

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



Alchemy on Jeju Island

By Koohan Paik

I recently spoke with two members of Veterans for Peace, who had become involved with Korea issues in only the past few years. Each of them came to know Korea through their support for the Gangjeong villagers who have been battling, for nearly eight years straight, construction of a huge, high-tech navy base being built on their Jeju Island coastline. Both men said that before Jeju, their work with northeast Asia was Japan-centered, and that “no one ever talked about Korea.” But through their engagement with Gangjeong, they have learned about the April 3 massacre, about the unending Korean War, about the unprecedented tonnage of bombs that the US levied upon the Korean people in the early 1950s, and about modern Korean history, in general. Today, they recognize that the Korean War was certainly as consequential in US history as the war in Vietnam. It now perplexes them that Korea had been effectively erased from the books.

It appears that the tragedy unfolding at Gangjeong village might offer just the sort of alchemy that could usher Korea into the wider consciousness. Ecumenical groups, environmental groups, artists, lawyers, social workers, peace-studies groups, student groups, indigenous-rights groups, and food-sovereignty groups have all passed through the tiny village whose fame is now of global proportion. Numerous articles on the villagers’ plight have been published in Europe, South America, the Asia-Pacific and the US. Last summer, I was at the San Francisco airport with Gangjeong’s charismatic Mayor Kang Dong-kyun on his first foray outside of northeast Asia, when a woman behind him in line said, “Aren’t you Mayor Kang? From Gangjeong village?” It turned out she had studied Gangjeong as part of a peace-studies program in Virginia, and recognized him from Internet videos. Little Gangjeong has put Korea “on the map” and affirms that the Korean War is indeed alive and well.

Then, in fall of 2013, the City of Berkeley, California, was the first city in the world to formally declare its support of the Gangjeong villagers in the form of a resolution opposing the navy base. Shortly thereafter, in Madison, Wisconsin, the National Board of Veterans for Peace passed a similar resolution to “Stop the Second US Assault on Jeju Island.”

The global draw of the Gangjeong village struggle owes much to the fact that the land, water, heritage and culture at stake have already garnered international recognition. Gangjeong’s culture and environment have earned UNESCO

designations. It is one of Korea’s few remaining traditional, indigenous villages; it contains some of Korea’s best farms and richest soil, its purest water and its [women] haenyo sea-diver tradition; its coast was home to Korea’s only pod of dolphins and one of the world’s finest,



soft-coral forests (now being dredged); and its 1,900 residents practice authentic local democracy.

But the most enduring appeal of the humble village sits squarely in its remarkable community spirit. The community is comprised of an eclectic mix of villagers, clergy and Seoul activists, who strategize and carry out campaign after campaign. It is no exaggeration to say that the village is as fueled on dynamic love as it is by donation.

Most recently, there have been scores of knitters—yes, knitters!—sitting cross-legged in the Peace Center for hours at a time, lashing together enormous woolen quilts in rainbow hues, out of



Mayor Kang Dong-kyun from Gangjeong village on Jeju Island visited Ireland, England, and Paris last October for a speaking tour. While in England he was hosted by Lindis Percy (holding umbrella) at the US NSA spy base at Menwith Hill. Mayor Kang proudly carried the yellow “No Navy Base” flag.

over a thousand knitted squares sent to them by supporters from all over Korea. December 2013 in Gangjeong saw the streets festooned with the quilts, and even the skeletal trees were given cheery, colorful “sweaters” that fit snugly over their trunks and branches. The sight of



this whimsical riot of color splashed across winter’s dreary landscape, in contrast with the phalanxes of stern and smooth-faced cops who robotically pull away every protestor from blocking cement trucks, is indeed chilling—yet somehow, transcendent. Even an atheist once commented that life in Gangjeong was the closest one could come to living with God.

Update: environmental destruction, incarceration, depression

Today, almost eight years since the announcement of the base project, the Gangjeong coastline is unrecognizable, carpeted with enormous stacked cement forms of varying shapes and sizes that resemble a giant’s erector set. The 86 species of seaweed and over 500 species of mollusks—once food for the village—have all but perished. The sea is no longer a clear dark blue, but grayish brown. Gargantuan concrete cubes called “caissons,” 10 stories high apiece, sit on the ocean floor where biodiverse coral habitats once thrived. On land, an enormous rebar mold for manufacturing the caissons looms hideously over the horizon. The rumbling and scraping sounds of construction fill the air night and day. The

base is slated to start operation in 2015.

To add insult to injury, resistance leaders are jailed for months on end, often caught in a revolving door of multiple prison sentences. Currently, three beloved individuals languish unjustly behind bars: 22-year-old Kim Eun-hye, Brother Park Do-hyun, and film critic Yang Yoon-mo, who has been incarcerated for about a year. [First two released just as we go to print.]

Depression and suicidal tendencies have skyrocketed in Gangjeong, according to the Jeju media. Women weep in the streets. Often, there are scant visitors to boost morale (and the visitors really do make a positive difference). During the winter when it’s off-season for tourists, they feel alone and helpless against the cranes, dredges and cops of the transnational defense industry’s destructive juggernaut.

Community creativity

Someone once asked Gangjeong Mayor Kang Dong-kyun, “What keeps you going?” He said, “Knowing that this is not just for me, not just for my children, or my children’s children, or for my ancestors. It is for world peace.” But Mayor Kang left out a key component as to how the villagers have maintained their resilience for as long as they have: through dance. As silly as it may sound, a series of four wacky dances that celebrate Gangjeong has served as an indispensable catharsis ritual that ends each day. The villagers will also spontaneously break out into the Gangjeong dances when times get tough, such as what happened upon the tearful announcement at the International Union for Conservation of Nature convention [meeting on Jeju in 2012] that a resolution to stop base construction had been defeated. It’s how they let off steam so they can keep going.

In a certain sense, Gangjeong uses creativity as a weapon in psychic self-defense. Once the villagers mounted a film festival of anti-war videos directly in the gaze of a row of riot cops surrounding the base. It is as if, for every harsh blow, every broken bone, every dead dolphin, every prison sentence, and every fine levied upon them, they emerge with a surprising rejoinder of equal, positive force. Recently they lined the village streets with six-foot high stacks of books, 30,000 in all, creating both political art and a library al fresco—a stunning visual juxtaposition against the squadrons of police.

Perhaps *this* is the alchemy that can heal all of Korea.

—Koohan Paik’s last trip to Gangjeong village in August 2013 was funded, in part, by the Korea Policy Institute. She lives on the Big Island, Hawaii

Successful Conference in India

By Dave Webb

In 2010 we were preparing to hold our annual Global Network (GN) meeting in Nagpur, India. Our board member J. Narayana Rao was convening and had applied to the Indian Ministries of Defense and External Affairs for approval to hold an international conference. They had previously indicated their agreement but in April the Indian National Security Advisers Office suddenly stepped in and, to our surprise, vetoed the proposal.

Perhaps it was just bureaucracy or maybe we were considered too controver-

sial—various nuclear and military deals between the US and India were (and are still) being developed—in any case, Rao did not give up. He decided to broaden the issues and get more groups involved. It paid off and a major international conference on “Gandhi, Disarmament and Development” was held in India from 4–6th October last year, jointly organised by an impressive collaboration of organisations in and around Indore in the state of Madhya Pradesh. I went along to represent the GN.

Indore has a population of over two

million and is the largest city and commercial centre of Madhya Pradesh. It is some 190 km west of Bhopal, the state capital. There is a large student population and a number of important colleges and universities—it is the only city in India to house an Institute of Technology and an Institute of Management. During my stay I was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Manohar Dev, Dev is an engineer and vice chair of the Indian Red Cross Society in Madhya Pradesh. I was made very welcome and I am so grateful to my hosts for their kind attention and for introducing me to so many interesting people working for change.

This was my first visit to India, a truly amazing country. Life comes at you from every angle and at all speeds. With a population of over 1.2 billion (nearly 4 times that of the US and almost double the growth rate) but only one-third the landmass, the gap between rich and poor is shocking. Over one quarter of the people live in poverty and over 96 million do not have access to safe water. But still the country spends 3% of GDP on the military. India and the US both seem particularly concerned about China and Pakistan and both celebrate the social and political changes made in their countries by a sustained campaign of non-violent resistance but both also

still consider military (and space) technology to be crucial to national security.

There is not enough space available for a full report of the three-day conference but more details and some of the presentations are available on the GN website. The conference was conducted in English and Hindi. Some presentations were given in both languages but many only in Hindi so I did miss quite a bit but not everyone in the 400–500 or so audience (which included a large number of students from local schools and colleges) could follow English easily and it was understandable that they should not be ignored.

There were so many distinguished participants and eminent guests present and a somewhat formal air about much of the proceedings but there was also so much passion inspirationally mixed with humour and a sense of humanity. The programme was expansive and covered many issues, with sessions on the Relevance of Gandhi in the 21st Century; People Oriented Development and Corporate Oriented Development; Disarmament, Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space; Disarmament, Reduction of Global Military Expenditure; and Asian

(See India P 5.)



GN board convener Dave Webb talks about space issues during the conference held in Indore last October.

German Satellite for Intelligence and Warfare

By Bard Wormdal

Many have been shocked by revelations of US military surveillance of the Internet. But military surveillance is becoming more extensive and advanced in many areas. Germany in recent years has built up its own satellite surveillance that downloads data in the Arctic in violation of international law.

Following Germany's military experiences during the Kosovo war it was decided that they should have their own satellite-based intelligence information. The US has strong restrictions on sharing satellite intelligence with other countries, and therefore Germany got a “no” to their request for access to US satellite intelligence. German military units said this put the German soldiers' lives in unnecessary danger, and it was decided that Germany should have their own satellites. Now US buys satellite surveillance from Germany.

Imagine that you want to scan the globe with an Earth observation satellite. Which path of the satellite is best to create images of all the earth? The best path is a fixed orbit over the North Pole and

South Pole. As we know the Earth rotates around its own axis in the course of a day, and satellite covers new areas each time it goes around the Earth. (The satellite uses about 90 minutes around the Earth.) Thus, satellites produce images from all regions of the world within 24 hours. It was decided to go for polar-orbiting satellites.

The problem was getting the downloaded data from the satellite to military facilities in Germany because satellites cannot communicate directly. They are dependent on download stations just below the satellite to transmit data. It is only possible close to the North Pole. On a group of islands between mainland Norway and the North Pole called Svalbard, Norway and the US have worked together to build a satel-

lite downlink station that can take the data from all 14 satellite passes over the North Pole in 24 hours. No other satellite stations in the world can do it. German satellite interests want Svalbard.

Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic Ocean belonged to no country until 1920. As part of the Versailles negotiations after World War I there was an international agreement signed on the archipelago, giving Norway sovereignty, but with some clear limitations.

The archipelago should be used for peaceful purposes and could not be used for war purposes. For this reason, the Norwegian authorities refused the first application of the German satellite TerraSAR-X, built in a partnership between the German Aerospace authorities, DLR and

EADS Astrium private company GmbH. TerraSAR-X produces images using radar and is not dependent on sunlight to create images. It can create images with one-meter resolution of areas with thick cover or areas that are in complete darkness.

The United States has no separate radar satellites and US military intelligence has entered into an agreement to purchase images from the TerraSAR-X. Only after German pressure on the Norwegian Foreign Ministry did TerraSAR-X receive permission to download data on Svalbard. The German RapidEye satellite system—which consists of five satellites—loads data on Svalbard, and sells data to the US Military Intelligence National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

The Arctic has become important for global military surveillance from space—military surveillance is becoming more extensive and advanced.

—Bard Wormdal is an award-winning journalist working for NRK, Norway's largest media house. After several TV-documentaries, he published his first book, *The Satellite War*, in Norway November 2011.



India (cont. from p 4.)

Union for Peace and Development.

It was a great pleasure to be able to meet with people such as former Navy Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat, a special guest of honour at the conference, who gave several extended presentations. He was appointed Chief of the naval staff of India in 1996 and then fired for political reasons two years later just two days after he took over as chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff Committee. He is an insightful and powerful speaker and a paper of his, published by Global Research in 2010, entitled "Globalization and Militarization: The Root Causes of the Worldwide War against Humanity", is well worth reading.

The main session of relevance to GN was "Disarmament, Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space". The breadth of experience and knowledge of the speakers on the panel was impressive. There were politicians, academics and activists. Dr. Ajay Lele, from the Delhi Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, is an expert on Space and National Security and Non Military Threats. N.D. Jayaprakash, Joint Secretary of the Delhi Science Forum and Member of the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP) gave an impassioned speech from an activist point of view. Also speaking was peace campaigner from the US Bernie Meyer, dressed in traditional dhoti with walking stick, well known for playing the role and speaking the words of Mahatma Gandhi. Apart from Rao and I the GN was represented through a paper on missile defence by Vladimir Radyuhin which was included in the conference booklet.

Over the few days following the conference Manisha Gaura, a local peace campaigner who is keen to work with us, accompanied Rao and me. We heard about how climate change is causing real problems in many areas of the country and we were invited to speak on "Disarmament and Development" to students at a local college and a private girls' school. It was really encouraging to see so much interest from young people who study business and management at the college. They were polite and attentive and asked excellent questions. It seemed to me that there is every chance that they will not become like those western business people who are all too prepared to put profit before people. The school children also seemed genuinely interested in hearing about and discussing these issues—they were obviously not new to them and we were shown some of their artwork depicting a peaceful world. I do not know how typical these young people are but I felt very encouraged after meeting them.

During the conference it was clear that the organisers did not want things to stop there. We were told that they were looking to organise in many different places in the region and beyond. This and our visits to the college and school was so positive for me—it was wonderful to see how seriously people in India are taking these issues—they are continuously reminded of the failures of western systems to address the needs of all people and there seemed a real desire to find alternatives and ensure a sustainable future for the country and its citizens. Let us hope they are able to achieve this and become a major force in creating a world free from the threat of nuclear war and a space environment free from military domination.

—Dave Webb chairs the UK's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Global Network. He lives in Leeds, England.

Vandenberg's Role in US Global Domination Implications of US "Pivot" into the Asia-Pacific 22nd Annual Space Organizing Conference March 14-16, 2014, Santa Barbara, California



The 2014 Global Network space organizing conference will be held near Vandenberg AFB, California on March 14-16. We will meet at the La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center in Santa Barbara. On Friday, **March 14** we'll organize a 4:00 pm **vigil at the front gate of Vandenberg** and on the evening of **March 15** we will hold a **public event** at Trinity Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara.

Speakers at the March 15 event will include: David Krieger (Nuclear Age Peace Foundation), Dave Webb (Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament-UK & Global Network board convener), Dennis Apel (Guadalupe Catholic Worker House), Christine Hong (Korea Policy Institute and UC Santa Cruz), Andrew Lichterman (Western States Legal Foundation), and Mary Beth Sullivan (Social worker & peace conversion activist). Music will be provided by singer/songwriters Tom Neilson and Holly Gwinn Graham.

We will have limited sleeping space (dormitory style) available at the La Casa de Maria Retreat center so reservations will be necessary. (Other hotel information will be available if you would prefer those arrangements.) We will provide meals for those staying at the conference center. A sliding scale charge will run from \$50-\$150 (pay what you can best afford.)

Events will conclude on March 16 after lunch.

- Please sign me up for a sleeping space at the retreat center on March 14 & 15. Enclosed is _____ (Pay what you can best afford between \$50-\$150) Meals are included.
- Please send me local hotel information in the Santa Barbara area.
- I can't come but here is a donation to help with conference expenses.

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Six Drone Test Sites Selected Across US

The Electronic Frontier Foundation reported in December that commercial unmanned aerial systems are set to start flying over US airspace in 2015. In November, the Federal Aviation Administration released its final privacy rules for the six drone “test sites” that the agency will use to evaluate how drones will be integrated into domestic air traffic.

In 2012 Obama signed the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act, which mandated that the FAA implement “test sites” to fly domestic drones before opening the door to nationwide regulations and licensing for commercial drone flying. Two dozen states applied to be FAA drone test sites. While the FAA’s rules do establish minimal transparency guidelines for the new

drone test sites, the new rules apply only to the test sites and do not apply to the drones that are already authorized to fly.

The new transparency rules require each test site operator to create, post, and enforce its own privacy policy, as well as set up “a mechanism to receive and consider comments from the public.” The FAA rules further state that test sites must require all drone operators to establish “a written plan for the operator’s use and retention of data collected by the UAS.” Although the FAA’s rules require the test site privacy policies to be made available to the public, there seems to be no similar requirement for the UAS operators’ “written plans.” There also appears to be no FAA oversight for these transparency rules—the rules basically call for the test sites to police themselves.

A brief description of the six test site operators and the research they will conduct into future UAS use are below:

University of Alaska. The University of Alaska proposal contained a diverse set of test site range locations in seven climatic zones as well as geographic diversity with test site range locations in Hawaii and Oregon. The research plan includes the development of a set of standards for unmanned aircraft categories, state monitoring and navigation. Alaska also plans to work on safety standards for UAS operations.

State of Nevada. Nevada’s project objectives concentrate on UAS standards and operations as well as operator standards and certification requirements. The applicant’s research will also include a concentrated look at how air traffic control procedures will evolve with the introduction of UAS into the civil environment and how these aircraft will be integrated with NextGen. Nevada’s selection contributes to geographic and climatic diversity.

New York’s Griffiss International Airport. Griffiss International plans to work on developing test and evaluation as well as verification and validation processes under FAA safety oversight. The applicant also plans to focus its research on sense and avoid capabilities for UAS and its sites will aid in researching the complexities of integrating UAS into the congested, northeast airspace.

North Dakota Department of Commerce. North Dakota plans to develop UAS airworthiness essential data and

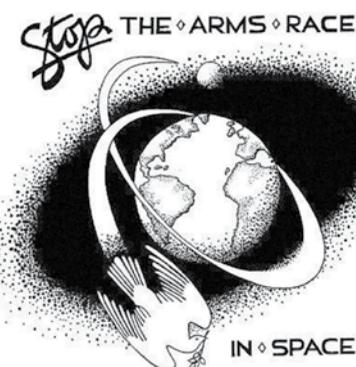
validate high reliability link technology. This applicant will also conduct human factors research. North Dakota’s application was the only one to offer a test range in the Temperate (continental) climate zone and included a variety of different airspace, which will benefit multiple users.

Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi. Texas A&M plans to develop system safety requirements for UAS vehicles and operations with a goal of protocols and procedures for airworthiness testing. The selection of Texas A&M contributes to geographic and climatic diversity.

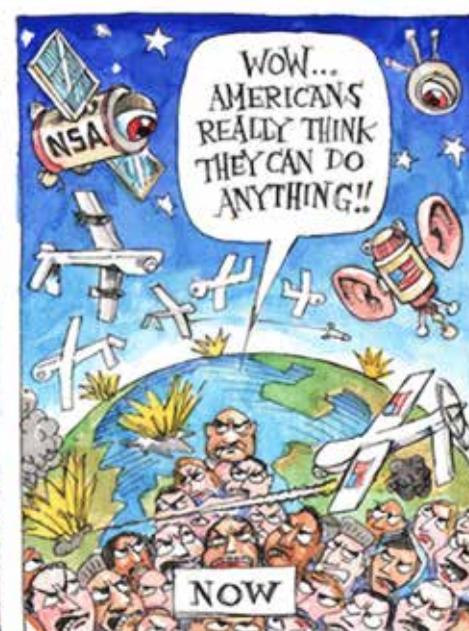
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). Virginia Tech plans to conduct UAS failure mode testing and identify and evaluate operational and technical risks areas. This proposal includes test site range locations in both Virginia and New Jersey.



Peace activists, led by Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist monks, walked across parts of Maine speaking out against drones last October during Keep Space for Peace Week. There was a surprisingly warm response from the public. Maine is one of many states trying to bring drone manufacturing and testing into their communities as military production is about the only money available these days for job creation. The walk was sponsored by Maine Veterans for Peace and the Maine Campaign to Bring Our War \$\$ Home.



AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM



Malala tells Obama to “Stop the drone strikes”

By MacGregor Eddy

Malala Yousafzai is a 16-year-old girl from the Swat Valley in rural Pakistan. She survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban. She was targeted for advocating education for girls. The media has hailed her as a heroine for her advocacy of education and praises her for speaking out with courage.

But did they really listen to her? When she met with the Obama family last October she spoke about the terrible effects of the CIA drone program on rural Pakistan. In an official statement released after the meeting she said, “I...expressed my concerns that drone attacks are fueling terrorism. Innocent victims are killed in these acts, and they lead to resentment among the Pakistani people. If we refocus efforts on education, it will make a big impact.”

Print media ran 24 Malala-related articles during her US visit and only one (*Washington Post*) mentioned her criticism of the use of US drones in Pakistan.

A Stanford and NYU report (*Living under Drones*, 9/12) states that the drone presence causes “anxiety and trauma in civilian communities” and “some parents choose to keep their children home, and children injured or traumatized by strikes have dropped out of school.”

Malala’s words deserve to be spread. Quoting her was very effective while I was talking to a pro-war conservative in the visitor’s center of Beale AFB (just north of Sacramento, California) after my arrest at the base last November. We were protesting the use of the Global Hawk (target and surveillance) drone. While in the visitor’s center waiting for my fellow detainees to be processed, a civilian visitor proclaimed himself a Reagan style Republican and asked me “What about that girl that the Taliban shot in the head?” This provided an opening to talk about Malala and her message. The man was surprised and interested and then he said with a sigh that using drones “was not like storm-



Activists block the entrance to Beale AFB, California, last November during an early morning traffic protest of drones sent from that base to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

ing Omaha beach.”

Beale AFB is the home of the U-2 spy plane and also the home base for the Global Hawk drone. The US Air Force states that “the superior surveillance capabilities of the aircraft allow more precise weapons targeting.” Each Global Hawk costs more than \$200 million and is capable of covering 40,000 square miles in one day. With a range of over 8,000 miles and capable of staying aloft for 28 hours, the Global Hawk uses X-band radar, GPS, and satellite links for target-acquisition.

It is these large dreaded shapes in the sky that create terror in the villages they survey. No one can know if a Predator drone armed with Hellfire missiles will follow these dark shapes of ill omen.

Defenders of the drone say the Global Hawk carries “only cameras”. The constant presence of this large eye in the sky creates a life of terror, bringing fear of coming strikes in the rural areas. Is this not the definition of “terrorism”?

This why three others and I were arrested protesting drone warfare on November 25 at Beale. Our intent was to deliver a letter to the Beale base commander calling on them to cease participating in the drone targeting work. We cited the October 2013 report by Amnesty International, which described the Pakistan drones strikes as war crimes. My co-defendants are Shirley Osgood, Flora Rogers and Mike Kerr. The action was part of the once a month vigil

that has been held by CodePink and Veterans for Peace at Beale for the past three years. Five others were arrested last year, and convicted of trespassing in federal court.

The CIA run drone warfare in Pakistan and Yemen sets a frightening prec-

edent of a civilian spy agency running a military operation.

Tell your fellow citizens to listen to Malala.

—MacGregor Eddy is a member of WILPF and serves on the Global Network board of advisers. She lives in Salinas, California.



War Resisters League led a protest at L-3 Communications HQ building in New York City last November. The Occupy “Light Brigade” team put their message onto a building wall for the public to see. They also handed out flyers to people on the street.



Drones: Who Really Benefits?

By Ed Kinane

On December 30, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) designated six US regions as test sites for the domestic development of drone technology. One of those regions includes Syracuse, NY, my hometown. We "host" the Hancock Air Base 174th Attack Wing, now piloting weaponized Reaper drones over Afghanistan.

Here in the US, the multibillion-dollar drone industry generates an enormous amount of hype. Various corporations stand to make huge profits, not only from ongoing military contracts, but also increasingly from the domestic and commercial development of drones.

This is why industry lobbyists have recruited the two Congressional drone caucuses. Here in Central New York, we have Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Representative Maffei parroting the drone corporation line.

In applauding the FAA decision, these politicians dangle the promise of lots more "jobs" and "money" coming our way. So it's time to press the skeptic button:

Who is making those glowing estimates? What interest might they have in exaggerating them?

Who will get those jobs? How many will be high-tech jobs going to those already comfortably placed to take on new contracts?

Who gets to ride first class on the gravy train? Will that income go to local folks.... or will the lion's share go as profit to CEOs and investors?

Drones are robots, mindless and heartless, mostly designed to surveil and assassinate. Who benefits from having robots further infiltrate the workplace?

Robots don't have mouths to feed, don't need wages, health and unemployment insurance, pensions. They don't need workplace safety. Robots never blow the whistle when their bosses skirt the law or abuse the environment. They don't join pesky unions.



Who benefits from having robots do the work? Certainly not those whose jobs are made obsolete. Remember how the wonders of automation decimated the ranks of blue- and pink-collar workers? If Amazon Inc. really does begin to deliver books and other products via drone, might that not mean fewer jobs for truck drivers and postal workers?

Recall the 1950s' "Atoms for Peace" hype. With nuclear energy, electricity would be "too cheap to meter." Sounded great, right? But those corporados

and their Congressional pals pushing nuclear energy forgot to tell us that the toxic, radioactive nuclear waste can't be disposed of safely. They didn't warn us about the Three Mile Islands or the Fukushima waiting in the wings. Nor did they acknowledge that so much of that

nuclear research our taxes were funding was going into nuclear weapon development - making every living thing on the planet less safe.

Nor are the weaponized drones, for all their short-term tactical cleverness, making the world safer. Like the nuke, they terrorize. They too proliferate, generating fear and blowback.

In this age of NSA global surveillance, both targeted and indiscriminate, it's disturbing that our Congress people seem so eager to sell down the river not only our privacy, but also our safety. We may or may not trust Mr. Obama, but we need to consider that subsequent presidents may be even less sensitive to civil liberties and constitutional issues.

We need to recall that some presidents within the last generation or so were more than willing to sacrifice hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of lives "over there." Can we be sure they will always make that dicey distinction between "over there" and "here?" Can we be sure future presidents won't also see some classes of people here as "other," as expendable? Do we really want to give any government, any fallible human beings, such power?

—Ed Kinane is an activist based in Syracuse, New York and has gone to jail for protesting the Reaper drone killings in Afghanistan originating at the Hancock Air Base near his home. Copyright Truthout.org. Reprinted with permission.

Pivot (from P. 1)

lance, is being used in conjunction with the ship-based interceptor missile system known as the Aegis Combat System produced by Lockheed Martin.

The US alone possesses 86 warships, 64 Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyers and 22 Ticonderoga class guided missile cruisers, already or capable of being integrated into the above, ultimately global, sea-based interceptor missile system.

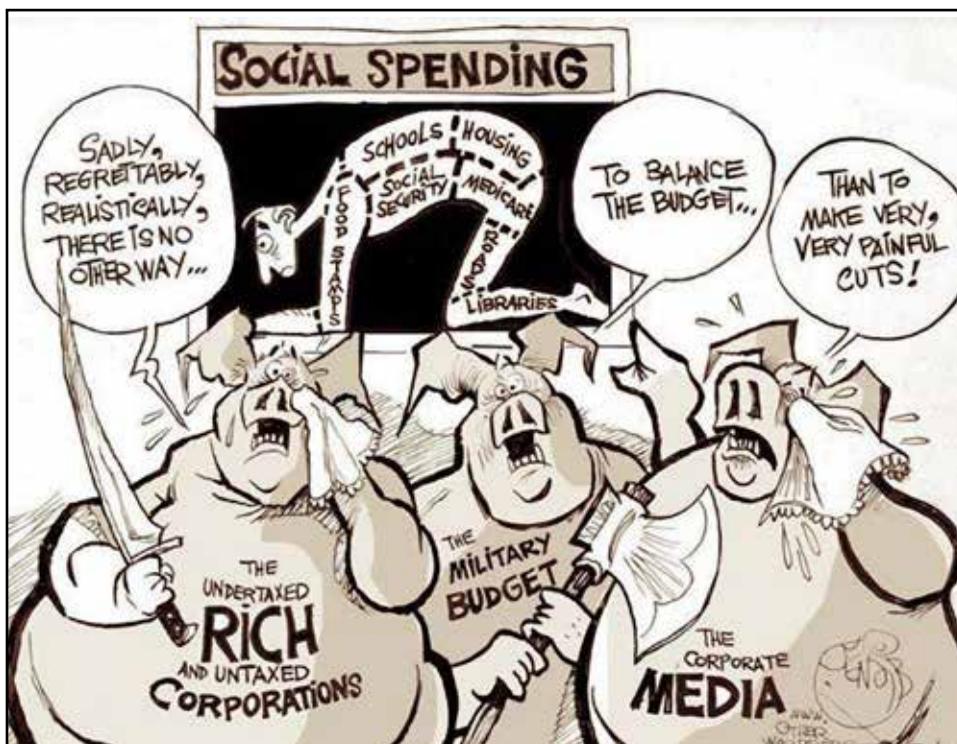
In addition, the current National Defense Authorization Act envisions expanding the amount of the US Missile Defense Agency's longer-range Ground-based Mid-course Defense missiles based in Fort Greely, Alaska from 26 to 40. Those missiles are aimed to the east, of course, a fact that will not be missed in either Beijing or Moscow.

As with the international missile interception program, NATO has obediently followed Washington's lead far outside the North Atlantic region, engaging in wars in Southeast Europe, South Asia and North Africa. It is now integrally committed to the intensified push into the Asia-Pacific and the military encirclement of China.

In 2012 NATO announced the launching of its latest, and first non-geographically specific, partnership program, Partners Across the Globe, which began with the incorporation of eight Asia-Pacific nations: Afghanistan, Australia, Iraq, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Korea, three of which share borders with China, as do Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the latter three members of NATO's Partnership for Peace program employed to bring twelve Eastern European nations into the military bloc as full members in the decade of 1999-2009.

China is a critically important component of the two groups representing the greatest potential for a multipolar world, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. As such it is the inevitable target of American brinkmanship, gunboat diplomacy and, perhaps most dangerously of all, the Pentagon's worldwide interceptor missile system.

—Rick Rozoff manages the Stop NATO web site and lives in Chicago, Illinois



Boeing—The War Corporation

By Kait McIntyre

We cannot just rely on appealing to our politicians' conscience. We also must disrupt the machine that manufactures these weapons. The antiwar committee Chicago has chosen Boeing, the second largest weapons manufacturer in the US and currently among four corporations vying for the navy's next killer drone contract.

Boeing works hard to maintain their image as a friendly, commercial airline company and to avoid being seen as war profiteers. However, the numbers do not lie. Forty-six percent of Boeing's profits in 2011 came from arms sales. When Boeing moved its headquarters to Chicago in 2001, it received over \$64 million in tax breaks, \$20 million of which came from the city of Chicago itself. Yet, the past few years in Chicago have seen tremendous attacks on the public sector. Half of the city's mental health clinics have been shut down, 49 public schools have been closed, and public transportation fares have increased substantially while lower income areas face diminishing bus and train lines. Yet, Boeing's CEO James McNerney's received a 20% raise in 2012, bringing his total salary to \$27.5 million. His pay is more than Boeing paid in taxes that year. These are not isolated incidents; it is a direct result of a system that values profits over people. Additionally, of the 500 headquarters jobs Chicago gained, over 80% were filled by transfers from Seattle. Clearly, Boeing is not creating jobs or aiding the working class citizens of Chicago; it only serves the bloodthirsty interests of the 1%.

When I use the word bloodthirsty, it is not hyperbole. Part of the work that the Antiwar Committee Chicago does in its Boeing campaign is make it clear that we want no part of money that is generated by creating weapons used to terrorize and kill those overseas. This sentiment is true toward drone manufacturers, drone bases, and research facilities.

While the Phantom Ray is Boeing's first killer drone prototype, they have been and continue to make sur-

veillance drones, primarily the Scan Eagle, that are used to threaten and carry out assassinations in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

It is with this knowledge that we in the Antiwar Committee Chicago began our campaign against Boeing. But first, it is important to know how the Antiwar Committee Chicago began. After the 15,000 person protests against NATO in May of 2012, antiwar sentiment in Chicago was rejuvenated and on the rise. Many people in Chicago wanted to continue applying organizing tactics that illustrate how the 1% is causing the economic crisis and attacking working people across the US while, at the same time, going to war with countries around the world for their own gain. Thus, we saw Boeing and their fight to win the next killer drone contract as a viable point of struggle.

One of our first actions at Boeing headquarters was part of the 11th anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan in fall 2009. Drone use has been on the rise in Afghanistan since 2009. Over 100 people marched and we included a stop at Boeing headquarters. Soon after, a Boeing spy drone was captured over Iran and we held an emergency protest. After this protest we developed a petition that opposed the drone wars, condemned drone killing, and demanded that money go for people's needs not war, to circulate at various locations and events. On 3/20 we organized an event to commemorate the anniversary of the Iraq invasion emphasizing the future of warfare. We talked about drones' role as well as the importance of linking economic demands with antiwar demands. On April 6th, over 150 people came to march with us to Boeing headquarters and to watch the Star Wars street theater we had developed specially for this occasion. We also made sure to include Yemeni & Chicago Teachers Union speakers. The press asked Boeing what their opinion of the protests but Boeing declined to comment. On April 29th over a dozen activists protested outside the Boeing shareholders meeting. The coverage of our action in mainstream press was favorable. Boeing was once again asked for comment & once again declined. After this, Antiwar Committee Minnesota approached us about hosting a Midwest Action Against Drones. Folks there wanted a target and felt that Boeing made the most sense. Our goals were to concentrate regional opposition to drones on Boeing while, at the same time, highlighting local campaigns and actions across the Midwest. To do this we had a rally at Boeing as well as a conference. The result was the largest protest against drones in fall 2013. We had over 200 people, 6 states, and activists against 3 different command centers.

While this may be self-evident, I want to clarify that when we demand money for people's needs not for drone warfare, occupations, and intervention in other countries we are not diminishing the devastation and death countries like Pakistan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, and many more have suffered under the hands of US imperialism. On the contrary, we are recognizing that we have much more in common with the people of those countries than we do with our "leaders" here. The first step to ending the suffering abroad is challenging "leaders" here to value human needs over greed by mobilizing as many people as possible here to oppose war and the military-industrial complex of the United States. Martin Luther King once said, "The security we profess to seek in foreign adventures we will lose in



Kait McIntyre at the November 2013 Drone Summit in Washington DC.

our decaying cities, the bombs in Vietnam explode at home." Chicago is only one city out of many in the US that are facing school closings and cuts in social services due to the nation prioritizing pillage & conquest over people. This is especially true for drone pilots, who are facing diminishing veterans services and have higher incident rates for anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, PTSD, substance abuse, and suicidal thoughts.

For the Antiwar Committee Chicago, our plans for future anti-drone work include continuing to turn up the heat on Boeing as the fight for the next killer drone contract unfolds over the next year. A few of our members have purchased shares of Boeing stock in an effort to be able to address Boeing directly and, hopefully, turn other shareholders against the idea of Boeing being the creator of the next killer drone. We are also discussing having another Midwest action against drones.

At my first antiwar demonstration opposing the Afghanistan war, I had a sign that simply said: "troops out now." I want to remind people that drones are not the answer to that demand. We must keep agitating, educating people, and stressing this point to the people we organize. We must take to task any public entity or individual that tries to say that the lives of US troops are worth more than the lives of people in countries that are under siege by drone strikes. Like Ella Baker said, "we who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes." We must continue fighting until freedom and justice for all is not just an empty phrase in a pledge of allegiance but a reality for those in the US and across the globe. Because the people, united, shall never be defeated.

—Kait McIntyre delivered this speech at the November 2013 Drone Summit in Washington DC. She is a proud member of the Antiwar Committee Chicago and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

Asian-Pacific (cont. from P. 12.)

Mark Harrison—United Methodist General Board of Church and Society

Christine Hong—Korea Policy Institute

Kyle Kajihira—Hawai'i Peace and Justice

Peter Kuznick—American University

Judith LeBlanc—Peace Action

Hyun Lee—Nodutdol

Andrew Lichterman—Western States Legal Foundation

Ramsay Liem—Boston College

Kevin Martin—Peace Action

Stephen McNeil—American Friends Service Committee

Satoko Norimatsu—Peace Philosophy Centre (Vancouver)

Mike Prokosch—Working Group for Peace & Demilitarization in Asia & the Pacific

Arnie Saiki—Moana Nui Action Network

Chloe Schwabe—Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

Tim Shorrock—Journalist

Odds & Ends

GN's 22nd Annual Conference

The 2014 Global Network space organizing conference will be held near Vandenberg AFB, California on March 14-16. The theme for our 22nd annual conference is "Vandenberg's Role in US Global Domination: Implications of US Pivot into the Asia-Pacific." We will meet at the La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center in Santa Barbara. On Friday, March 14 we'll organize a 4:00 pm vigil at the front gate of Vandenberg and on the evening of March 15 we will hold a public event at Trinity Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara. The remainder of the event will take place at the retreat center where we will have presentations from key activists from around the world. GN Board member Dennis Apel from the Guadalupe Catholic Worker House in nearby Santa Maria will be our host organizer. More details are available on our web site.

Wisconsin Drone Facility

The Wisconsin National Guard unveiled new drone facility last December for a tactical unmanned aerial system (TUAS). The \$4.5 million building houses a 27-person platoon and four RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aerial vehicles. The Shadow provides real-time information to battlefield commanders and was sent to Iraq in 2009, when Shadow drones observed the areas and main supply routes around Camp Bucca. The RQ-7B Shadow carries no armament, and is equipped with a camera. Six members of the TUAS platoon deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 logging more than 1,800 hours of flight time. In Wisconsin, the platoon has logged more than 650 hours of flight time at Volk Field and Fort McCoy, Wis., since 2009.

Resolution Passes in Syracuse

In mid-December the Syracuse (New York) Common Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring that no agents or agency of the City of Syracuse "will operate Drones in the airspace of the City of Syracuse until federal and state laws, rules and regulations regarding the use of Drones are adopted that adequately protect the privacy of the population as guaranteed by the First and Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution...." The Resolution, originating with the Syracuse Peace Council, arises out of concerns about the unwarranted use of drone surveillance and crowd control technology by intelligence and law enforcement agencies. This is the fifth such resolution passed by a municipal government in the US.

Drones Over Gaza

Palestinians in Gaza daily face the anxiety-producing buzz of the drones that hover in the skies above. Drones are increasingly being used for surveillance and extra-judicial execution in parts of

the Middle East, especially by the US, but in nowhere more than Gaza has the drone become a permanent fixture of life. More than 1.7 million Palestinians, confined by Israel to a small territory in one of the most densely populated areas in the world, are subject to near continual surveillance and intermittent death raining down from the sky. Many of the new drone and satellite technologies that make these weapons possible have first been tested by Israel on the Palestinian people. The new Watchkeeper drone being developed for the UK is based on a model that Israel has 'field tested' in attacks on Gaza which left many Palestinians dead, including children. The UK Ministry of Defense awarded a \$1.6 billion contract for the drone to a joint venture between Israeli arms company Elbit and Thales UK.

Flaws in Navy Ships

Defense Daily reported last November that the Navy has continued to accept delivery of ships containing hundreds and in some cases thousands of deficiencies and is not adequately pressuring contractors to minimize the number of flaws. A Government Accountability Report highlighted commercial shipbuilding standards that apply firm fixed priced contracts to their builders, believing that "the risks to the quality belong with the shipbuilders." That's in contrast to the Navy's practice of cost-reimbursement and fixed priced incentive contracts that leave less risk on the shipbuilder. The GAO said the Navy should at least tie incentives to quality control. This is one example of what happens when military production is privatized.

Russia Responds to US-NATO MD

Russia confirmed in December that it deployed tactical ballistic missiles near its borders with NATO but said the move did not violate international agreements. *Bild* newspaper in Germany reported that Russia had "quietly" moved 10 Iskander-M (SS-26) missile systems into its Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad and along its border with the Baltic States and NATO members Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The deployment marks the realization of promises from Moscow that it would respond to NATO plans to place elements of the so-called European missile shield close to Russian borders.

Yemen Bans Drones

In mid-December Yemen's parliament passed a law banning drone strikes, *Saba News* agency reported, days after one such attack hit a wedding motorcade and killed civilians.

"Lawmakers have voted to ban drone strikes in Yemen," *Saba* reported after a parliamentary meeting. The US military operates all drones flying over Yemen. Lawmakers stressed "the importance of protecting all citizens from any aggression" and "the importance of preserving

the sovereignty of Yemeni air space." On December 12 a US drone attack in Rada, in the central province of Bayda, killed 17 people, mostly civilians, in a wedding motorcade, triggering protests in the impoverished Arabian peninsula country.

Kissinger on the Pivot

At a recent event by the World Affairs Council of Washington former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had this to say in part about Obama's 'pivot' into the Asia-Pacific: "In the immediate post-war period... the focal point of [US] foreign policy was Europe: the restoration of Europe, the protection of Europe... But in Asia, we have seen the emergence of a number of major countries of a scope much greater than [that of] the European national states: India, Japan recovering, and China. A rebalancing of American policy was inevitable. I'm a great friend of China, but I've always said that it is not in the American interest or in the world interest for one country to exercise hegemony over all of Asia... So, of course we should have adequate military forces accessible to Asia, but I would not assign them in such a way that they look as designed for offensive operations."

Hagel Threatened Pakistan

US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel threatened Pakistani heads of state in late 2013 with cutting off up to \$1.6 billion in aid if the country's mass protests against US drone strikes continue. The warning came after nonviolent blockades in protest of US drone strikes in Pakistan forced the US to halt ground transport of NATO military supplies from Afghanistan via Pakistan. A statement from Pakistan's foreign ministry reported by Reuters said Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif "conveyed Pakistan's deep concern over continuing US drone strikes, stressing that drone strikes were counterproductive to our efforts to combat terrorism and extremism on an enduring basis."

Canada & the NSA

A top secret document retrieved by American whistleblower Edward Snowden reveals Canada has set up covert spying posts around the world and conducted espionage against trading partners at the request of the US National Security Agency. The leaked NSA document reported by *CBC News* reveals Canada is involved with the huge American intelligence agency in clandestine surveillance activities in "approximately 20 high-priority countries." Much of the document contains hyper-sensitive operational details, which *CBC News* chose not to make public. Sections of the document with the highest classification make it clear in some instances why American spymasters are particularly keen about enlisting their Canadian counterparts, the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC).

"CSEC shares with the NSA their unique geographic access to areas unavailable to the US," the document says. Take a good look at the map and see who they are talking about.

NRO Slogan Draws Heat

The US National Reconnaissance Office [NRO] launched a top-secret surveillance satellite into space in late 2013. Launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California the latest spy satellite to be sent into orbit by the NRO can be recognized by its seal: a malevolent octopus with furrowed brows that also happens to be wrapping its tentacles around all corners of the Earth. "Nothing is beyond our reach," the NRO boasts on the bottom half of the emblem. According to a top-secret budget document released by Snowden, the NRO is in the midst of modernizing their expensive signals intelligence, geospatial and communications satellite system to replace current capabilities.

South Korean Space Program

South Korea plans to launch an exploratory lunar probe aboard its own launch vehicle by June 2020 and later embark on missions to Mars and asteroids by 2040, the government announced in November. This represents a revision of the space development blueprint and moves up the time frame of the lunar landing mission and outlines a budget and other long-term space plans. Initially, the development of the space launch vehicle was scheduled for September 2021 with a budget of 1.545 trillion won (\$1.45 billion). The ministry pushed up the schedule by one year and three months, and boosted the budget to 1.957 trillion won. Despite the optimism of the government, some analysts worry that the plan is too ambitious. In order to accomplish a moon-landing mission, South Korea needs to develop both a lunar probe and the launch vehicle.

Aegis Ashore on Kauai

The Navy's largely successful sea-based ballistic missile defense system is coming ashore in Hawaii, Romania and Poland. The "Aegis Ashore" test facility at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai, which cost \$400 million to build, was "turned on" in late 2013.

The first Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) is expected to be test fired at a simulated short- or intermediate-range ballistic missile—reversing the role PMRF usually plays as a launch site for "enemy" missiles and ship-based Navy shoot-down practice. Using the same equipment as on ballistic missile defense destroyers and cruisers, including a deckhouse with an Aegis radar system, and a Vertical Launch System with SM-3 missiles, the land-based variant is like a ship that's been dismantled and partially reassembled on shore.

Odds & Ends

The new Kauai facility is part of a 2009 Obama administration initiative called the “phased adaptive approach” to deploy these systems throughout Europe helping to encircle Russia using US Navy ships with ballistic missile defense and Aegis Ashore installations in Romania and Poland that would each have 24 SM-3 missiles.

No Impact at PMRF?

Last fall *The Garden Island* newspaper on the Hawaiian island of Kauai interviewed Capt. Bruce Hay who is the new commanding officer of the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) where the Navy tests its growing ‘missile defense’ program. He told the local paper: “It’s not just ballistic missile testing. We’re training the Fleet all the time. We train our international partners. Since I’ve been here we’ve had the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, the Australians have come out here to do work. Not only are we benefiting our own military, but also we’re strengthening our ties throughout Asia, Australia, and Japan. It’s a small base. We’re in an isolated location. But, we’re doing big things for very important people all across the globe. We have 2.1 million square miles of extended [test] range out here that has nothing on it [but ocean and sea life that is highly sensitive to sonar]. We’re not impacting large shipping lanes. We’re not impacting large civilian air traffic lines. We’re not disrupting the ability of people to make their livelihood by doing our operations. We’re also in a great location as our country rebalances where we spend our time and focus.”

Making War Automatic

Defense News reports that the Pentagon is drowning in data, unable to keep up with the gigabytes of information collected every day—and it is only going to get worse as more capabilities come online. It is a large enough problem that the NSA included a special subject line for research on “coping with information overload” in the National Intelligence Program Summary, also known as the Black Budget. “We need to start processing [the data] without an overabundance of human intervention,” said Rob Mitrevski, vice president for Environmental Intelligence/Integrated Sensing and Information Solutions at Exelis. To handle the level of automated analysis being discussed, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) satellites would require an increase in onboard processing. A few years ago, that would be hard to imagine. Increasing the processing power on these military satellites would require upgrades in power and weight—two things at a premium on space systems. Current space systems have a developmental lifespan of up to 14 years, and often last a decade or longer once launched. While

it is possible to update software, the capabilities of the satellites are mostly locked in place once they are launched.

East Coast MD Update

Reuters reported last September that the Pentagon announced five possible missile defense deployment sites in the eastern US but said it was far from any decision to proceed with what would be an “extraordinarily expensive” program expansion in an era of budget cuts. The possible new sites are Fort Drum, New York; Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Vermont; SERE Training Area at Naval Air Station Portsmouth, Maine; Camp Ravenna Joint Training Center in Ohio; and Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan. The cost of a new Ground-based Mid-Course missile defense site could well be as much as \$5 billion. Boeing manages the Pentagon’s existing Mid-Course program while Raytheon and Orbital Sciences Corp build the interceptors and rockets. It is not yet known which contractors would be involved in construction of any new site. It is clear that this MD site would be aimed at Russia.

Canberra Convergence

How may we create an independent and peaceful Australia? How may we promote a foreign policy, which builds peace and nonviolent resolutions to conflict in our region and beyond? On 21-26 April 2014 the Canberra Peace Convergence will take form as a series of independent events such as conference, lectures, forums, direct actions and vigils at venues in and around Canberra. Its focus will be on the cost of the US alliance in terms of foreign wars, military bases, and military spending. Also in focus will be the economic, social, cultural and environmental costs of militarism. For inquiries & registration contact Graeme Dunstan at graemed01@gmail.com or www.peacebus.com

Earth Day to May Day

The Global Climate Convergence for People, Planet and Peace over Profit is an education and direct action campaign beginning this spring, with “10 days to change course,” from Earth Day to May Day. It provides coordinated action to amplify and build synergy across grassroots justice movements that are sweeping the globe—rising up against the crisis of economy, ecology, peace and democracy. The accelerating climate disaster, which threatens to make civilization as we know it unlivable as soon as 2050, intensifies all these struggles, and provides new urgency for collaboration and unified action. The Convergence creates a unifying call for a solution as big as the crisis barreling down on us—an emergency Green Economic Transformation through a Global Green New

Deal including universal jobs, health care and education, food and housing security, economic and political democracy, demilitarization and an end to fossil fuel use by 2030. It will occur each year at this time, building capacity for global collaboration—across movements and national borders—to harness the transformative power we already possess as a thousand separate movements. Clearly the time for action is NOW. Go to www.GlobalClimateConvergence.org to join the Convergence, and begin organizing for Earth Day to May Day action in your community, for People, Planet, and Peace over Profit.

Conversion Movement Grows

Miriam Pemberton at the Institute for Policy Studies reports: Connecticut, one of the most defense-dependent states in the nation, is providing one new model for action. In May of 2013, peace, environmental and faith groups joined with labor unions to push the legislature to pass “An Act Concerning Connecticut’s Future.” This vague-sounding law contains a visionary mandate: convene a broad-based Commission to come up with a plan to diversify Connecticut’s overly defense-dependent economy. This commission, made up of state economic development directors, legislators, representatives of business groups, the state AFL-CIO, and representatives of peace and environmental organizations, is beginning to meet and will reveal its plan by the end of 2014. Other states are following suit. Maryland will vote on a similar bill in its next legislative session. Wisconsin has one in the works. Activists are pushing the process in Massachusetts, Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota. It’s a growing movement that can become a model for the kind of postwar planning that needs to happen on the federal level.

Drone Pilots in College

The University of North Dakota’s unmanned aircraft degree program, the nation’s first, grew from five students in 2009 to 120 students last year. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Kansas State have since added similar programs. Dozens of other schools offer some courses in what’s known as UAS—unmanned aircraft systems—which range from drones as big as small planes to 2-foot-wide mini-helicopters. The first UAS master’s degree program, focused on engineering, was launched at Embry-Riddle’s Daytona Beach, Fla., campus in 2013. “This pie is pretty big,” said Al Palmer, director of UND’s unmanned aircraft program. “Everyone can get their little slice of the pie because we can’t do all the training in North Dakota.”

US-Russian Relations Worsens

US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told his Russian counterpart in late 2013 that the US and its allies would continue implementing missile defense (MD) deployment plans in Europe despite the deal to resolve Iran’s nuclear dispute. (The US has long maintained that its MD deployments in Europe were aimed at Iran and not Russia.) Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said that Russia was “preparing a response” to plans by the US to develop a new first-strike weapons platform capable of hitting high-priority targets around the globe. He told the State Duma that the development of a ‘global strike program’ was “the most important new strategy being developed by the US today. They may experiment with conventional weapons on strategic delivery platforms, but they must bear in mind, that if we

(See Odds & Ends P 12.)



The Navy’s new Zumwalt class “stealth” destroyer was moved from dry dock into the water in late 2013 at Bath Iron Works in Maine. The mission of this ship will be to sneak up along the coast and blast China with new electromagnetic ‘rail guns’ right out of a sci-fi movie. Using electric pulses, not chemical explosives, the ‘rail gun’ can shoot a 40-pound metal slug from New York to Philadelphia at up to 5,600 mph — more than seven times the speed of sound — with 32 times the force of a car traveling at 100 miles per hour.

CALL FOR SPRING

Asia-Pacific Events Around the World

After twelve years of war in the Middle East and Central Asia, the Obama Administration is "pivoting" to the Asia-Pacific. Sixty percent of the US military forces are being deployed in the region to "contain" China. The popular phrase in Washington to describe this process is a "re-balancing" of US forces.

The increased militarization of the US's Asia-Pacific policies is anything but benign. It is fueling region-wide arms races, increasing the dangers of war, as we have seen in the territorial dispute over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, reinforces Japan's transformation into a national security state, and has devastating impacts on the people of Jeju Island, Okinawa, Guam and Hawaii where new bases are being built.

The House Armed Services Committee will begin a series of hearings in February to further demonize China and to create the support for additional Congressional funding for the military "pivot".

The Working Group for Peace and Demilitarization invites peace groups, faith communities, and API solidarity groups to join us to counter-organize around those hearings this coming spring. We invite you to organize local or regional educational forums or other public events to create greater public awareness about the pivot.

Our plan is to follow up after the spring events by organizing a national conference on the Asia-Pacific in the fall of 2014.

We will soon provide a list of Asia-Pacific resources including speakers, films, books, websites, and articles



that could help further grow the issue in our communities.

The pivot is an issue that will touch every community. The military industrial complex fully knows that in order to pay for the massively expensive "re-balancing" the remaining slim thread of social spending must be cut in order to pay for corporate imperial ambitions. The military also creates a large carbon footprint that will only exacerbate climate change.

We hope that with your collaboration, we can connect the dots between cancerous militarism, environmental degradation, a new costly arms race, and human rights abuses.

Please let us know if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions or would like to offer to become a local or regional sparkplug for these events.

Contact us at: JGerson@afsc.org or globalnet@mind-spring.com

In peace,
Christine Ahn—Women De-Militarize the Zone (DMZ)
Liberato Bautista - United Nations Ministry of the General Board of Church and Society
Jackie Cabasso—Western States Legal Foundation
John Feffer—Foreign Policy in Focus
Bruce K. Gagnon—Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
Joseph Gerson—American Friends Service Committee
Subrata Ghoshroy—Massachusetts Institute of Technology

(See *Asia-Pacific* P 9.)

Odds & Ends (cont from p. 11)

are attacked, in certain circumstances we will of course respond with nuclear weapons." He stressed that Russia cannot ignore the development of high-precision hypersonic weapon systems. The US global strike program is run by StratCom at Offutt AFB in Nebraska.

New US Hypersonic Plane

CNN reported in 2013 that Lockheed-Martin, the maker of the now retired SR-71 spy plane, says the "Son of the Blackbird," the SR-72, is in the works, and it will be twice as fast as and way more lethal than its predecessor. That's because the SR-72 will be designed to launch missiles, something the SR-71 didn't do. "Even with the SR-71, at Mach 3, there was still time to notify that the plane was coming, but at Mach 6, there is no reaction time to hide a mobile target," Brad Leland, Lockheed Martin's program manager for hypersonics, told *Aviation Week and Space Technology*. "Hypersonic aircraft, coupled with hypersonic missiles, could penetrate denied airspace and strike at nearly any location across a continent in less than an hour," Leland said in a news release. You can imagine why Russia and China are worried. It's first-strike attack preparation. Dangerous to global stability.

US-Israel Work on MD

In late-November, in Israel's Negev desert, a new missile defense interceptor called the "Stunner" of the "David's Sling" missile defense system was tested and completed two separate intercepts

for the Israel Missile Defense Organization. The new Stunner interceptor is a hit-to-kill kinetic energy, "metal on metal," interceptor. The "Stunner" is designed to defeat both short-range missiles and cruise missiles inside of the Earth's atmosphere by Israel with technological support and parts from the US.

Brits Help Spy on Leaders

The US has used a British spy base to listen in on the phone calls of Angela Merkel and 35 other world leaders. RAF Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, which is run by America's NSA, is the biggest surveillance and interception facility in Europe. The base analyses satellite signals. Menwith Hill, which has 33 distinctive golf ball-shaped 'radomes' to house satellite dishes, was effectively handed over to the Americans in the 1950s. The base works closely with Britain's own top-secret listening station, GCHQ in Cheltenham. Documents leaked by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden in 2013 revealed how spies based at Menwith Hill also managed to intercept Dmitry Medvedev's calls when the former Russian president visited Britain for the G20 summit in 2009.

Anti-Drone Activists Threats?

The Guardian (UK) reported in September the abusive detention of Baraa Shiban well-known and highly respected Yemeni anti-drone activist who was held by UK officials under that country's "anti-terrorism" law at Gatwick Airport, where he had traveled to speak at an event. Baraa Shiban, the

project coordinator for the London-based legal charity Reprieve, was held for an hour and a half and repeatedly questioned about his anti-drone work and political views regarding human rights abuses in Yemen. Shiban shared how the UK official told him "he had detained me not merely because I was from Yemen, but also because of Reprieve's work investigating and criticizing the efficacy of US drone strikes in my country." Top-secret US government documents obtained by *The Guardian* from NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden characterize even the most basic political and legal opposition to drone attacks as part of "propaganda campaigns" from America's "adversaries."

Arming Iraq

Amid an escalation of fighting in war-torn Iraq, the Obama administration announced in January it will accelerate the shipment of Hellfire missiles and surveillance drones to the Nuri al-Maliki regime, a move critics charge will only worsen the violence set in motion by the US invasion. "The last thing Iraq needs right now is more weapons," said Phyllis Bennis, senior fellow at Institute for Policy Studies, in an interview with *Common Dreams*. The White House announced that the US would send the Iraqi government 58 drones. In addition, a delivery of 100 Hellfire missiles will be expedited to the Iraqi government, said a Pentagon spokesman. This is on top of a shipment of 75 Hellfire missiles delivered to Iraq in late 2013.

Congressional Hearings on Pivot

We need to become much more familiar with the intrigue surrounding the growing congressional and military industrial complex "pivot" into the Asia-Pacific. Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) has said that we need to cut our military budget by getting "our allies to pay for more of our bases overseas" —like on Jeju Island in South Korea. US lawmakers have voiced bipartisan support for the Obama administration's pivot to Asia but stressed the need for partner nations to strengthen their own military capabilities and to contribute more to their "own defense." Members of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee plan to step up hearings about the Asia-Pacific region in early 2014 and want to build public support for more military funding as the Pentagon increases its presence there. Democratic congressman Adam Smith said the committee would look at how the US can guarantee its alliance commitments with nations such as South Korea, Japan and others while building on its many other relationships in the region. "One of the keys to making this work is partner capacity," he said, citing as an example US counterinsurgency support for Philippine forces fighting Islamic rebels. "What other options are out there to build capacity in forces so it doesn't all fall on us?"

US-Australian 'Inter-Operability'

By Justin Tutty

Last November's AUSMin (Australia-United States Ministerial Consultation) outlined plans for further cooperation on missile defence and space surveillance between the US and Australia. The discussions ranged from cyber security to ballistic missile defence, but centered upon the growing US presence in the region, under cover of a generous dose of rhetoric regarding disaster response and humanitarian assistance.

A joint communiqué from the routine meeting underscored the US military's growing interest—and presence—in the Asia-Pacific region. Growing US military presence in Australia includes a new US Marine Corp (USMC) base in the northern city of Darwin. In deference to local concerns and national sensitivities to foreign bases, facilities for the Marines are being co-located at an existing Australian barracks, and local politicians are careful to use the euphemism of 'co-located rotational deployment' when referring to the new base. In the same way, the regional pivot is called a 'rebalance'; progressing the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement becomes 'resisting protectionism'; and interests in protecting sea-lanes between regional resources and northern consumers are merely 'enhancing resilience'.

The November communiqué reasserts the joint force posture initiatives and objectives, which go beyond the highly visible 2,500 Marines headed for Darwin, to include co-locating US Air Force resources both at RAAF (Royal Australian Air Force) base Darwin, and further south at Tindal Air Base near Katherine, and increased US naval ship visits to both Darwin and other Australian ports.

Here in Darwin, the public has been variously told first that no formal agreement exists to describe the parameters of the USMC base, then that, though existing, the agreement cannot be made public. The recent AUSMin meetings agreed to develop a further specific binding agreement that encompasses the potential for 'multilateral engagement in the broader region'.

Three specific treaty-level agreements exist between the two nations, which are of particular relevance to the growing US military presence in Northern Australia, and the surrounding region. Australia recently became only the second nation (after the UK) to enter into a bilateral Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty with the US. This move might best be understood as a mechanism for furthering 'inter-operability' of Australian and American military forces, which local peace activists warn is an uneven relationship

that increases our dependence on the (far greater) US military, and reduces our capacity for independence. In fact, inter-operability was a recurring theme of last year's AUSMin, including "cooperation on combat and transport aircraft, helicopters, and submarine systems and weapons, with special focus on future submarine efforts."

Secondly, in 2011 an exchange of notes extended the Defence Logistics Co-operation Agreement between our two nations. Local peace groups were particularly concerned that this treaty may commit Australia to provide logistical support to the USMC base in Darwin, even in the case where that base is being used for deployment to a conflict zone, regardless of Australian policy towards that conflict. Requests for assurances that the treaty would not require Australia's defence forces to provide support for any future US war that Australia chose not to participate in went unanswered, as were similar requests regarding logistical support for nuclear capable ships and aircraft (Australian law prohibits the presence of nuclear weapons, however many believe that a long held 'neither confirm or deny' policy has allowed routine incursions of these illegal weapons of mass destruction). Further clarification was sought regarding ambiguous laws regarding the presence of indiscriminate munitions, which are

either illegal under Australian law, or unused as a matter of internal defence policy, remain unanswered.

But while these two treaty agreements have been recently addressed in the context of the new USMC base in Darwin, a third relevant treaty—the Aus/US Status of Forces Agreement (SoFA)—remains unaltered from its 1963 form. This flawed, fifty year old treaty has failed Australia in the past, allowing foreign servicemen to evade prosecution for crimes committed against Australian citizens. Review of the Aus/US SoFA was a priority demand of activists responding to the announcement of a USMC base in Darwin, and one which was renewed following the rape in September last year of a Darwin woman by a visiting US sailor.

Australia's defence heads have vigorously denied the value of reviewing this 50-year-old treaty, despite an independent impact assessment reporting a high risk rating for sexual assault by visiting forces.

Seemingly oblivious to mounting international outrage at the broad 'five-eyes' [multilateral agreement for cooperation in signals intelligence between the United Kingdom, US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand] surveillance programs, both governments committed "to work closely together, including with the private sector, to address cyberspace threats". Australia's parliament has

found it difficult to address questions of our roles as both participants in and subjects of security agency data surveillance, but at AUSMin easily spouted platitudes of "responsible state behavior in cyberspace" and international law were heard.

Far more attention was given to surveillance of space. The two governments signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly operate US space surveillance infrastructure in Western Australia from 2016. While building upon the existing Space Situational Awareness Partnership, the new MoU specifically links the closer military cooperation to "establishing combined space operations". Under the terms of the MoU, the US space surveillance telescope (SST), which has completed operational testing at Whitesands missile range in New Mexico, will be deployed to the Harold E. Holt Naval Communication Facility in Exmouth, Western Australia. The relocated SST, and accompanying space surveillance radar, will increase capacity of the US global space surveillance network to monitor space over the southern hemisphere, out to 36,000 km above the earth. Australia will nominally operate the facility, sharing costs with the US Air Force, under "full knowledge and concurrence"—loaded terms, referenced in relation to all our 'joint facilities', but effectively meaningless to the public.

—Justin Tutty is a member of BaseWatch in Darwin, Australia



Australian soldiers show off their drones while helping the US occupy Afghanistan. Australia is increasingly becoming a larger base for US military operations in the Asia-Pacific

Steering toward conflict in the Arctic?

By Tamara Lorincz

Last year, Canada became the new chair of the Arctic Council and introduced a troubling new mandate that focuses on greater industrialization and militarization of the Arctic.

The Council was established in 1996 to promote cooperation among the eight states that border the Arctic Ocean: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the US. There are twelve observing states including China, indigenous permanent participants, and non-governmental organizations.

Canada's term as chair of the Arctic Council runs from 2013-2015. Under Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the conservative government has identified three priorities for the Arctic: responsible resource development, shipping and communities.

"Responsible resource development" is an Orwellian euphemism for the government's environmentally destructive natural resource extraction policies including the expansion of the Alberta tar sands. Canada has its eye on the untapped mineral wealth and oil and gas resources in the Arctic. The US Geological Survey estimated that the Arctic holds 30% of the world's recoverable gas and over 10% of the world's remaining oil deposits.

However, natural resource development in this northern, remote region is risky. It is costly and difficult to monitor, attend to emergencies, and clean up spills. The concern over environmental impacts led the 'Greenpeace Arctic 30' to protest Russia's Gazprom oilrig last year to try to stop further offshore development.

With the melting of the permafrost due to global warming, Canada wants to promote and control shipping in the Arctic Ocean. University of Colorado Boulder's National Snow and Ice Data Center has found that the ice is at a record low. Last October, with the encouragement of the Canadian government, the first marine bulk carrier picked up a load of coal from Vancouver, sailed across the Northwest Passage and made a delivery in Finland.

Not only is Canada promoting the industrialization, it is also pushing for more militarization that is steering toward conflict in the Arctic. Last August, the press revealed that the Canadian military was testing "stealth snowmobiles" for Arctic operations. The government is also planning to convert a former lead-zinc mine and deep-water port on Baffin Island into a naval base for Canada's new warships.

Under the National Shipbuilding Pro-



Tamara Lorincz standing at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada

curement Strategy (NSPS), the government will build new combat vessels for the Canadian navy. The strategy came out in 2010 with little parliamentary debate and no public consultations. The government will spend \$25 billion to build 21 combat vessels at the Irving Shipyard in Halifax, Nova Scotia. There will be an additional \$14 billion spent for in-service support over the life cycle of the new combat vessels.

However, a study last fall by the Auditor General found that the life cycle costs of the NSPS would be much higher.

This past December, the Rideau Institute and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives released a report entitled "Blank Cheque: National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy Puts Canadians at Risk" showing that the Irving Shipyard has chosen US weapons giant Lockheed Martin as the "command and

surveillance systems integrator without any competitive process" and that cost-overruns and delays are likely.

Warships also pose an environmental risk to the Arctic. In May, there was an oil spill from a Canadian frigate into the Halifax Harbour. Through the Freedom of Information process, I obtained documents that showed that there are many cases of the Canadian navy oil spills. As well, Ecojustice Canada and the Natural Resources Defense Council have documented how the sonar and explosives used by the navy injure and kill marine life. Last spring, the death of a young killer whale was attributed to the war games conducted by the HMCS Ottawa off the coast of British Columbia.

Walrus, seals, narwhals, beluga whales, bowhead whales and polar bears are some of the endangered animals that will be more threatened by the industri-

alization and militarization of the Arctic.

My concern for the environment and my commitment to peace led me to start protesting the plan to build new warships outside the Irving Shipyard and the naval dockyard in December 2012. Every Wednesday at noon for one hour, I would stand with my signs "No Warships: Green Jobs: Demilitarize"; "Action on Poverty and Climate Change: No Warships;" "Don't Trust Irving & Lockheed Martin" among others. I also launched my blog "Wednesdays against Warships" and my new web site: demilitarize.ca.

Along with my weekly protest, I have been doing other creative acts of resistance. Last year, I went to the capital to hold up my signs outside the House of Commons and deliver open letters to the leaders of all of the federal political parties. I visited the offices of Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Conservative MP Scott Armstrong. In April, on Earth Day, I stood outside of office of Megan Leslie, the MP for Halifax and the NDP Environment Critic, to call on her to reverse her support for the (war) shipbuilding strategy. Last spring, I launched a province-wide high school essay contest asking students to write how they would spend \$25 billion to create a greener, more peaceful and socially just country instead of investing in warships. I also ran the Bluenose Marathon in my t-shirt "No Warships: Green Jobs: Demilitarize" and flashed peace signs along the 42-kilometre course.

Instead of warships and combat, maritime disputes can be settled more responsibly through international law and diplomacy. In 2003, Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas, which is a comprehensive legal framework with a binding dispute settlement system to ensure "the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans."

"In Disarming Arctic Security" a column written last August by Ernie Regehr, he reports that Russia is modernizing its Arctic nuclear arsenal. International civil society groups must put pressure on Canada to put the issue of nuclear weapons on the agenda of the Arctic Council and demand that the Arctic be declared a nuclear weapons free zone.

Let's change course from industrializing and militarizing the Arctic to creating a green economy that cares for the planet and people. With the urgency of climate change and poverty, there's no more time and money to lose.

—Tamara Lorincz is on the board of directors of the Global Network. She is the founder of the campaign Demilitarize.ca and a board director of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace. She is currently spending a year in England as a Rotary International World Peace Fellow at University of Bradford.

US Supports a “Code Of Conduct” Instead of a Treaty to Ban Weapons In Space

By Alice Slater

The most important lesson one can acquire about US foreign policy is the understanding that our leaders do not mean well. They do not have any noble goals of democracy and freedom and all that jazz. They aim to dominate the world by any means necessary. And as long as an American believes that the intentions are noble and honorable, it's very difficult to penetrate that wall. That wall surrounds the thinking and blocks any attempt to make them realize the harm being done by US foreign policy.

—William Blum, former member of the US State Department, author of *Killing Hope: US Military and CIA Interventions since World War II*

More than 5,000 satellites have been launched into orbit since the space age began. Today, eleven countries have space launch capability, with over sixty nations operating about 1,100 satellites orbiting the earth and providing a constant stream of data and information relied upon for critical civilian communications and for military operations by some. As we grow ever more dependent on the ability of these satellites to perform their essential functions without interruption, there are growing concerns that this useful technology is giving rise to a new battleground in space for the purpose of sabotaging or destroying the vital services our space-based communications now provide.

The US and Russia have tested anti-satellite (ASAT) technology since the space age began, and have even contemplated using nuclear tipped ballistic

missiles to destroy space assets. In 1967, the US and Russia realized it would be in their interest to support the Outer Space Treaty, banning nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in space, although they failed to ban the use of conventional weapons in space. And in 1972 they signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) to slow down the space race and the ability to harm each other's assets in space. Unfortunately, George W. Bush pulled out of the ABM treaty in 2002, and the race to weaponize space was on once again in full force. China is getting into the act too, having launched, in 2007, a device that destroyed one of its own aging weather satellites orbiting in space. The US followed suit in 2008, destroying a non-functioning satellite, while both nations denied any military mission for their acts, claiming they were merely trying to destroy outdated satellites that no longer functioned.

With the proliferation of military spacecraft such as imaging and communications satellites and ballistic missile and anti-missiles systems, which often pass through outer space, there have been numerous efforts in the UN Committee on Disarmament (CD) to outlaw the weaponization of space through a legally binding treaty. But the United States is having none of it. In the CD, which requires consensus to take action, the US has been the only nation to block every vote to begin negotiations on such a treaty, with Israel generally abstaining in support. Russia and China actually prepared a draft treaty to ban weapons in space in 2008, but the US blocked the proposal, voting against it each

year thereafter when it was reintroduced for consideration, saying the proposal was “a diplomatic ploy by the two nations to gain a military advantage.”

While continuing to block a legally binding treaty to ban weapons in space, the US has recently begun to work with a group of nations on a new initiative that began in the European Union in 2008 proposing a “Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities” which would lay out a non-binding set of rules of the road for a safer and more responsible environment in space. Some of its key objectives are to mitigate damage to satellites that could be caused by space debris orbiting the earth, to avoid the potential of destructive collisions, and to manage the crowding of satellites and the saturation of the radio-frequency spectrum, as well as to address direct threats of hostility to assets in space. At first, the US rejected any support for the Code, but has now agreed to participate in drafting a new version based on the third iteration from the European Union. Obama's Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Rose Gottemoeller, acknowledged in 2012 the necessity for a Code to deal with orbital debris and “other irresponsible actions in space,” while at the same time noting that, “It is important to clarify several points with respect to the code. It is still under development, we would not subscribe to any code unless it protects and enhances our national security, and the code would not be legally binding.”

In addition, the US is insisting on a provision in this third version of the Code of Conduct that, while making a voluntary promise to “refrain from any action which brings about, directly or indirectly, damage, or destruction, of space objects”, qualifies that directive with the language “unless such action is justified.” One justification given for destructive action is “the Charter of the United Nations including the inherent



right of individual or collective self-defense”, thus lending legitimacy and codifying the possibility for warfare in space as part of the Code's established norm. And while the Charter of the United Nations prohibits aggressive action by any nation without Security Council approval unless a nation acts in self-defense, we know there have been numerous occasions where nations have by-passed the Security Council to take aggressive action, often protesting they were acting in self-defense.

Instead of banning ASAT development and warfare, this Code justifies such warfare as long as it's done, individually and collectively, under the guise of “self-defense.” Thus despite lacking the force of law that would be established with a legally binding treaty, this new US version of the Code creates, with the norm it is proposing, a possibility for space warfare rather than its prohibition. Our world deserves better!

—Alice Slater is on the Coordinating Committee of Abolition 2000 and serves on the Advisory Board of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space





Above: Protests have been growing in the Sicilian town of Niscemi. Residents are calling on the US to halt the construction of the Mobile User Objective System (MUOS), a next generation military satellite communication facility largely to be used for military operations on the African continent. Niscemi's citizens are not satisfied with US reassurances of safety and are worried about the consequences of extended exposure to electromagnetic fields on the human body from the station antennas. During the past year protesters have held rallies and blocked trucks carrying construction materials into the base. About 2,000 protestors gathered recently in Palermo, accusing Rosario Crocetta, President of Sicily, of betraying his own people by revoking the ban on the construction.



Above: Peace activists in South Korea oppose US sales of drones to their government.



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In Memoriam of GN Board Member

We learned on September 27, 2013 that our newest Global Network board member Luis Gutiérrez-Esparza from Mexico City has unexpectedly passed away. This was sad and shocking news for us.

Luis had been on our email list for several years and came to our Sweden space conference last year. His humble and open personality quickly endeared him to many of us. We enjoyed his quick wit and were thrilled to have him agree to join our board—our first board member from Latin America.

Luis was a journalist and an academic and as soon as he got back to Mexico he wrote an article for a newspaper about our space issues conference. Since our board members are spread around the world we mostly communicate via email and he was always one of the first to respond to any board matters.

We first learned this tragic news from GN board convener Dave Webb in England. Dave wrote in part, "It's a great shock. I saw him not so long ago in Sarajevo and he seemed fine. We spent quite a bit of time together."

We become family very quickly in the activist world—our work, our meetings, and our lives are intense. When we make new friends we hold them close to our hearts. This loss will be hard to handle. Luis was a good man and was becoming a good friend to many of us.

We send our love and best wishes to his grieving family and friends in Mexico.