After admiring their work for years, this past spring Nebraskans for Peace officially joined the “Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space.” Based in Brunswick, Maine, the network literally includes numerous members and the group opposes the U.S. government’s ongoing effort to militarize and dominate space. Over the past two decades, Colorado Springs, Colorado has served as the center for this space warfare research and development and today the official home of the U.S. Space Command. SpaceCom’s eerie activities should be a concern to anyone on the planet interested in Peace & Justice. But the command has special significance for Nebraskans. In 2002, in the wake of 9/11, SpaceCom was placed under the authority of StratCom. All of the ‘eye in the sky’ intelligence gathering and war-making-from-space originating from SpaceCom takes its direction from Offutt Air Force Base just outside Omaha.

Planning for the strategic domination of space is, as you might well imagine, an enormous undertaking, requiring all the combined might of the Military-Industrial Complex. For the past 22 years, accordingly, the Pentagon and the defense industry have colluded to host a “Space Symposium” in Colorado Springs to showcase the latest state-of-the-art gadgetry available for sale. The “Symposium,” as the following report by Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator of the Global Network, details, has become little more than a crude ‘trade fair’ for the defense industry and a corresponding ‘shopping spree’ for the Pentagon (paid for, of course, at taxpayer expense).

StratCom, sad to say, has begun replicating this unsavory spectacle with an arms bazaar and confab of its own. This coming October 10-12, the third annual “Strategic Space Conference” will be held in Omaha. The best thing that can be said for this nefarious gathering is that it gives us an opportunity to focus international attention on the growing menace that StratCom has become for the world community since Bush and Cheney launched the “War on Terrorism.”

The trip began on April 2 with a very early morning drive to Portland, Maine so I could catch the bus from there to the Boston airport. After a three-hour wait in Boston, I flew to Chicago where I ended up with a seven-hour delay due to major thunderstorms throughout the Midwest. I finally arrived in Colorado Springs at 12:30 a.m. and gratefully Bill Sulzman still came to the airport to pick me up.

Bill Sulzman [brother of NFP Vice President Jeannette Sulzman] was one of the founding members of the Global Network when it was created in 1992. At that time I was the state coordinator of the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice. Bill’s group, the Colorado Springs-based Citizens for Peace in Space, had been working with us in Florida since the ’80s. For some time the two groups were really the only local organizations in the community since Bush and Cheney launched the “War on Terrorism.”

It became clear to us by 1992 that we needed to grow this movement, and with the help of journalist Karl Grossman, we created the Global Network to do just that. The theme could not have been more timely, as the New York Times reported in its April 2 edition that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington has been uncovering a scientific fraud among builders of the expensive “missile defense” system. The Times reported that the GAO ignored evidence that the two main contractors for the program (Boeing and TRW) had doctor test results and made false statements in a 2002 report.

Our first protest at the symposium beginning the 22nd annual meeting of the Space Symposium, an event put on by the aerospace industry. It was reported that this year almost 8,000 military personnel, aerospace industry executives and technologies were in attendance. In addition, the Space Symposium brought in hundreds of students from elementary, middle schools and high schools as a way to recruit them to work in the industry.

This event draws a protest each year by Citizens for Peace in Space. The symposium is located at the very posh Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. I was told that a membership to the Broadmoor Golf & Country Club has a $100,000 entry fee and there is a waiting list to join. The setting for the protest could not be more ideal. We were able to stand with banners on the sidewalk directly in front of the main symposium auditorium. Each person entering the event passed directly by us.

The theme of the protest this year was “Only You Can Prevent Truth Decay,” and T-shirts were made with that message on the front and the schedule of protest events for the week was listed on the back—similar to a rock-and-roll concert tour. The sub-theme was “Blow the Whistle on Crime and Corruption!”

The group has served as the center for this space warfare research and development and today is the official home of the U.S. Space Command. The best thing that can be said for this unsavory spectacle with an arms bazaar and confab of its own. This coming October 10-12, the third annual “Strategic Space Conference” will be held in Omaha. The best thing that can be said for this nefarious gathering is that it gives us an opportunity to focus international attention on the growing menace that StratCom has become for the world community since Bush and Cheney launched the “War on Terrorism.”

The trip began on April 2 with a very early morning drive to Portland, Maine so I could catch the bus from there to the Boston airport. After a three-hour wait in Boston, I flew to Chicago where I ended up with a seven-hour delay due to major thunderstorms throughout the Midwest. I finally arrived in Colorado Springs at 12:30 a.m. and gratefully Bill Sulzman still came to the airport to pick me up.

Bill Sulzman [brother of NFP Vice President Jeannette Sulzman] was one of the founding members of the Global Network when it was created in 1992. At that time I was the state coordinator of the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice. Bill’s group, the Colorado Springs-based Citizens for Peace in Space, had been working with us in Florida since the ’80s. For some time the two groups were really the only local organizations in the community since Bush and Cheney launched the “War on Terrorism.”

It became clear to us by 1992 that we needed to grow this movement, and with the help of journalist Karl Grossman, we created the Global Network to do just that. The theme could not have been more timely, as the New York Times reported in its April 2 edition that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington has been uncovering a scientific fraud among builders of the expensive “missile defense” system. The Times reported that the GAO ignored evidence that the two main contractors for the program (Boeing and TRW) had doctor test results and made false statements in a 2002 report.

Our first protest at the symposium began at 5:00 p.m. on April 3, just as the confab was to begin with a banquet. Our group of about 25 folks blew whistles and handed out leaflets urging the vast assemblage entering the building to “blow the whistle on the deception that is rampant in the military space program.” We even handed out baloney sandwiches to those willing to take one, suggesting our baloney was better than the baloney being passed out inside the space symposium.

On April 4 we got to the symposium at 7:30 a.m. just as the crowd arrived. I held a banner that read “Beware of the Military-Industrial Complex—Dwight D. Eisenhower” and would routinely ask military officers passing by if they would like to take a turn holding it for awhile. I got no takers.

From the space symposium that morning we drove north to Aurora, Colorado where Buckley Air Force Spy & Space War Base is located. We held a vigil outside the main gate with the giant white golf ball-shaped “radomes” in view. Loring Wirbel explained how these systems “suck in” all phone, fax and e-mail communications from throughout the entire world as part of the U.S. program called Echelon. I told the story about how Global Network-affiliated groups in Australia, Germany, England and the like continually protest at U.S. “downlink facilities” that collect this information regionally, and then send it via satellite in “real time” to Buckley AFB for final processing.

We were met at the Buckley vigil by the three Dominican Nuns, Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson, who were found guilty in 2003 for having symbolically “disarmed” a Minuteman nuclear missile silo in northeastern Colorado. Their action, “Sacred Earth and Space Ploshshares,” put them in jail for a considerable amount of time and Ardeth was the last to get out just a couple...
Colorado Springs. During the film, Haggard is discussing the WMDs, who is based in their lives, the sisters insisted that the fund-ness against weapons of mass destruction. Their mission at the N-8 silo in 2002 was to explain how U.S. military technology keeps the world free and called the disarmament action by the nuns misguided, criticizing their theological interpretations. On April 5 we were back out to the Broadmoor Hotel for a lunch time vigil. Bill Sulzmann remarked that he had never seen so many military personnel as this year. Many generals (one star, two stars, three stars, four stars) walked past us. Former Republican Congressman Robert Walker, a 20-year vet-eran of the House of Representatives, where he served as Chair of the House Science Committee, passed by us on three different occasions. While in Congress he was a big critic of “liberal big spending,” so each time he walked by I would ask him why we were not reading any quotes from him in the newspaper about the “big spending” Bush Admin-istration. He groaned and gruffed as he slinked by. At one point I also noticed former Sen. Chuck Robb (D-VA) enter the sympo-sium. Robb, a former Marine, became the first senator ever to simultaneously serve on the Senate Armed Services, Foreign Re-lations, and Intelligence Committees. All these politicians are now working as con-sultants and lobbyists for the military in-dustrial complex. I also noted their business suits were cut from very expensive cloth these days.

Following this mid-day vigil I was in-vited to speak to a Philosophy class at Pikes Peak Community College. The class, I was warned, had a couple of recent Iraq war vet-erans in it and some wives of soldiers at nearby Fort Carson, an Army base that regu-larly sends troops to the war in Iraq. About 20 students were in the class and I was asked to speak about Ethics and the Military Indus-trial Complex. My talk went quite well with no real opposition expressed during our dis-cussions, and Intelligence Committees. All these politicians are now working as con-sultants and lobbyists for the military in-dustrial complex. I also noted their business suits were cut from very expensive cloth these days.

The open question is how will the American people respond? If my talk to the Philosophy class was any indication, they are not eager to see the dismantling of social progress. But first they must learn about the issue. The week-long protest at the 22nd Annual Space Symposium in Colorado Springs was an important contribution to this much needed public debate. I’ll be back next year for more. I hope more of you will join us.

More information about the Global Network can be found at www.space4peace.org.

MAY/JUNE 2006 NEBRASKA REPORT, P.7