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Newsletter #34

India Space Conference & Speaking Tour

By Bruce K. Gagnon

On November 18-19, Global Network (GN) board member J. Narayana Rao organized an International Conference called Peace on Earth & Space for Global Security and Human Development. The event was sponsored by the School of Law, Gitam University in Visakhapatnam and the Global Network.

Several hundred students, faculty and citizens attended the event from throughout India as well as from Nepal, South Korea, Japan, England, and the US. Five GN board members were in attendance.

Each of our Global Network leaders at the event were given the opportunity to speak and our talks were well received. Topics we covered included U.S. plans for control and domination of space; efforts now underway by corporations who want to 'mine the sky' to circumvent United Nations treaties; Pentagon 'missile defense' deployments in Eastern Europe and Asia; Jeju Island Navy base struggle in Korea; as well as testimony about being in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars by William Griffin from Veterans for Peace. Ms. Aruna Kammila, Gitam School of Law Assistant Professor began her talk during the Visakhapatnam conference with the words "Explore but don't exploit" and went on to make a profound presentation that underscored how we should be skeptical about corporate intentions to control space for their own profits. There was a rich and vibrant discussion that made sparks fly throughout the event—just what we want to do all over the world.



The largest English language national newspaper in India is The Hindu. During the weekend conference at Gitam University several of us were interviewed by the paper and an article was published as a result. The journalist did a good job of writing about the dangers from the Pentagon's 'missile defense' system that is now being used to encircle China and Russia.

The U.S. has been working hard to bring India into the space warfare program in order to tilt the power in the region away from China. As corporate globalization has moved low-paying jobs to India in order to exploit cheap labor, the U.S. has decided to try to push some of that new Indian wealth into the coffers of the military industrial complex by signing up Delhi to help pay for the Pentagon's expensive space program.

India has created a 'Space Command' mimicking the U.S. Space Command even down to duplicating much of the aggressive language in the so-called Vi-

sion for 2020 that calls for U.S. 'control and domination' of space.

The U.S. is also currently inviting India to play a key role at the major Pentagon power projection hub inside the Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean.

Because GN Advisory Board member Koohan Paik (from Hawaii) got sick and could not make the trip, I included some of her research about US-India military agreements into my talks.

Koohan learned that US-India have signed the Defense Technology & Trade Initiative (DTTI) which will pump large sums of American \$\$\$\$ into India's largest industrial corporations for the development and manufacturing of weapons of war. DTTI will effectively shift India's power from the people to a domestic elite who will be complicit with U.S. corporate interests. Koohan wrote that this will be India's 'Colonization 2.0' and their participation in expanding U.S. militarism will become part of the current U.S. 'pivot' to control China.

India risks losing its independence and sovereignty when the elite in India from Tata, Reliance Industries, Mahindra and other domestic corporations join with global war industrialists like Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Boeing to bring down India's democracy and help make the world a more dangerous place.

Other deals on space warfare technologies are also underway and the bottom line is that all of India's weapons buys from the U.S. will be 'interoperable' with the Pentagon space warfare system which ensures that the U.S. will remain in charge of the 'tip of the spear'. Es-

entially, India will help pay for a major escalation of U.S. military power in the region and Indian industrial elites will get a cut in the lucrative deals.

Obviously, Russia (which is reducing its military budget this year due to declining oil profits and western economic sanctions) and China are worried about these advances as Washington dangles the tempting apple of being a high stakes military player in front of the power hungry right-wing government in Delhi.

Those who will pay the biggest price for these Indian military expenditures are the poor inside of India who hoped that the massive development of their economy would trickle down to them. Other than increasingly polluted air and water I am not so sure the 25% of Indians who live in poverty will get much from this blossoming military alliance.

After the conference four of us from the GN traveled to several Indian cities for an intense speaking tour in public and private high schools and colleges. Then we went to Nepal for three days of talks at several colleges in Kathmandu. At the Patan Multiple Campus one professor greeted us with the word Namaste which is the recognition of the divine spirit (or soul) in another by the divine spirit in you.

The professor asked how the Global Network was integrating the need to heal the broken spirit in the collective mind and spirit of people around the world. Peace of mind is necessary for the human being, he said. "We must make people human beings again... money is everywhere... we must gather the good people, good minded people... selfishness is an epidemic across the world. This is the time. Let us accept all the people of the world."

With tears in my eyes I thanked the professor for his beautiful words and told him that this is indeed a message that is part of our work at the Global Network. We agree that we must heal the broken circle—we must heal our relationship to Mother Earth.

I suggested that the idea of the U.S.

(See India Conference P 4.)



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Pivot Toward War: U.S. Missile Defense and the Weaponization of Space 25th Annual Space Organizing Conference & Protest April 7-9, 2017 Huntsville, Alabama



Join us for the 25th anniversary of the Global Network at this important conference and protest in the community known as the 'Pentagon of the South.'

Huntsville is the home of the Redstone Arsenal and the Space Command's directorate for 'missile defense.' Huntsville is the manufacturing site for the PAC-3, SM-3 missile defense (MD) systems while the controversial THAAD is built in another part of Alabama. Redstone Arsenal is the place where, after WWII, Nazi rocket scientists were brought by the US to use their scientific and technological expertise to help create the U.S. space and weapons programs. The GN had a similar meeting in Huntsville in 2001.

The U.S. is currently encircling Russia and China with MD systems based on Navy Aegis warships (SM-3 interceptor missiles) and with ground-based launchers (PAC-3 and THAAD). These systems are the 'shield' that would be used to pick-off Russian or Chinese retaliatory strikes after a Pentagon first-strike attack. MD systems were previously banned by the

US-Russian Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty because they are destabilizing and give one side an advantage. George W. Bush pulled the U.S. out of the ABM Treaty in 2001 and since that time the U.S. MD program has been on steroids.

This conference, to be held in the heartland of the conservative south, will be a great opportunity for peace groups everywhere to learn more about the role of U.S. MD systems which could be key triggers to start WW III. Help the growing global movement against MD and space weapons build greater opposition to these destabilizing programs.

We invite peace groups worldwide to become co-sponsors of this timely conference and to send representatives to join the protest at Redstone Arsenal on April 7 and the conference on April 8-9. Organizations interested in being listed as event co-sponsors are asked to pay \$100 - \$500 (whatever you can best afford).

More information about the complete conference agenda will be available soon. Send inquiries to the GN at globalnet@mindspring.com or (207) 443-9502.

US-NATO War Games in Finland

by Kerstin Tuomala

The USA military has this year for the first time since World War II exercised on Finnish territory. We have a right-wing government who says "yes" when USA invites itself. They maybe believe USA is interested in Finland because we are so "good", but the real reason is that we have a 1,300 km long border with Russia—the longest that a single country in whole Europe has.

Until now we have followed a praxis we had during the Cold War through the pact of friendship, support and cooperation we had with the USSR. The most important idea was that Finland committed not to threaten nor let any third party threaten nor attack the Soviet Union through our territory. Since the end of the Soviet Union our politicians, supported with a very strong opinion of the people, continued the interaction in a peaceful way with Russia.

Now they try to turn the opinion in all ways. Still we are many who understand to appreciate a good life in peace. It is still very scary that not our foreign minister nor our defense minister nor the government as such, seems to care about this, but want us to go closer to the bilateral war exercises with the USA and with NATO.

Part of the very big Baltops NATO exercise this year in the Baltic sea was taking place on the Finnish coast exercising invasion - although the main exercise was in other part of the Baltics in June. In May the USA Marine soldiers practiced together with Finnish soldiers land war in southwest of Finland. There were more than 100 USA soldiers and USA armored cars for two weeks and the same amount of time many F-15 planes flying together with the Finnish Air Force near the border of Russia and in fact all over Finland, also here in the North.

We protested in Kemi, and other groups protested near the main bases used for these exercises. Some of these protests were also seen in the news on television. We are trying to build a stronger opinion against these "war games" which are too dangerous. I believe the strongest fight is the fight of the minds and this has also the pro-NATO side realized. They have the main media—we have each other. Still there are also small flashes of hope—at times persons with a good competence and a genuine will for peace get their voices heard in the media and the newspapers still print also the writings of us who stand for peace.

Kerstin Tuomala lives in Simo, Finland



Warsaw—Outcomes of the NATO Summit

by Dave Webb

Warsaw is a beautiful city which has been restored after being totally destroyed by Nazi troops during the Warsaw Uprising in August 1944. A post-war five-year reconstruction campaign by Warsaw citizens restored the churches, palaces and market-place of the Old Town.

It was though, sad to see NATO flags flying in a number of places and projections of the logo on buildings as well as propaganda from Raytheon, corporate partner with NATO, who advertised their role in the US/NATO missile defence system, a component of which (Aegis Ashore) is soon to be installed in Poland. NATO made their presence here from 8-9th July for their summit conference quite clear.

It is rare that anything positive comes from a NATO summit and this one was no exception. Before the meeting, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg had declared that this would be NATO's biggest reinforcement since the Cold War - and he was right! Despite a 1990 agreement not to push NATO further east after the reunification of Germany and a 1997 pledge not to install 'permanent and significant' military forces in former Warsaw Pact countries, multinational battalions of NATO troops are to be deployed to Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland, with the UK sending troops to the two latter countries. Russia has repeatedly expressed concern about the destabilising build up of NATO troops on its doorstep and the increased number of huge NATO exercises in Europe and Scandinavia.

NATO also restated its commitment to being a nuclear alliance for "as long as nuclear weapons exist". Around 180 tactical B-61 nuclear bombs are deployed in Europe under the NATO nuclear sharing arrangement, currently stored in Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Turkey. They are set to receive a U.S. upgrade by 2019-20 that will turn them into guided missiles to be carried by stealth F-35 bombers which the host nations will have to purchase. Delivered in this way they will need to be lower yield bombs, which will make them more usable.

The summit also declared NATO's Ballistic Missile Defence (MD) system in Europe as having an 'Initial Operational Capability.' Current parts of this system include the command and control centre at NATO's Air Command HQ in Ramstein Germany; four U.S. missile defence destroyers based at Rota in southern Spain; a forward-based early-warning radar at Kürecik in Turkey and an 'Aegis Ashore' missile site in Deveselu, Romania. Further 'Aegis Ashore' missiles are due to be stationed in Poland at the Redzikowo military base in 2018. NATO claims that this system is needed to counter threats to Europe by Iran and North Korea, but neither country has actually threatened Europe and the real target is more likely to be Russia which has repeatedly expressed concern about this undermining of its deterrent capabilities and has withdrawn from arms control talks as a consequence.

The possibility of NATO taking collective military action is now greatly increased through its recognition of cyberspace as 'an operational domain, alongside air, land and sea.' Thus cyber attacks can potentially trigger an Article 5 military response (an attack on one country is an attack on all). This is particularly worrying because of the difficulty in determining the source of cyber attacks and techni-



cal evidence of them is rarely shared or clarified.

To resource all these actions and more, Stoltenberg has said that he expects a real increase of 3% in defence spending by European members and Canada, amounting to an additional \$8 billion. So the UK will be expected to pay even more—on top of the unforgivable £200 billion plus for a replacement for Trident! SIPRI reports that U.S. military spending is 34% of the world's total spending on defence and all NATO countries together add up to more than half. Russia spends 4% of the world's total. Who then is the most dangerous? Even so, the demonization of Putin and Russia is good business for the western military industrial complex and so it goes on.

In another worrying development by NATO, not often commented on in the traditional media, it is to continue to help further militarize the EU - which has been developing its own military since the Lisbon Treaty of 2009. The Secretary General signed a Joint Declaration with the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission to take the partnership between NATO and the European Union 'to a higher level.'

However—wherever there is militarism, there is always opposition and in Warsaw at the same time as NATO, six Polish organisations joined with the international Network 'No to War/No to NATO' to organise an alternative conference 'No to War—No to Militarism—Yes to Refugees.' I was one of the 150 or so people from 18 countries who gathered to discuss ideas for developing peace, social justice and a common security in Europe.

Conference participants expressed concern over the dangers of the increasing militarization of Eastern Europe and NATO's MD and called for the dissolution of NATO. Many thought that the possibility of a "great war in Europe" was no longer unthinkable and all agreed that the peace movement faces its greatest challenge in years.

There is also deep concern about the NATO and EU responses to the refugee crisis. A number of European

countries, including Austria and Poland, now have border controls enforced by the military rather than civilian forces and NATO is "assisting" Turkey in securing its border with Syria. The US/NATO response also enables the positioning aircraft carriers etc. close to Syria and Russia.

A report from Germany told us how the German Left Party (Die Linke) had forced a debate in the German Parliament over whether NATO should be dissolved. The European Left is developing a similar resolution to be introduced into European parliaments later in the year.

There were also a number of activists from Belgium who told us of the situation there regarding the U.S. nuclear weapons they host for NATO. I talked about the Global Network's work on the militarization of space and of our planned meeting in India. The workshop decided we needed to encourage more communication and information exchange between groups and requested a calendar of international events to be hosted on the 'No to War/No to NATO' web site. In addition the Ramstein protest planned for 2017 [September] should include a conference on military bases and missile defence.

During the summit, the Warsaw inner city was turned into a high security area by the presence of over 10,000 police and security force. They blocked main roads and all but closed the city for hours. NATO creates disruption wherever it goes and for whatever reason—time surely for it to go now and disappear forever.

NATO has announced the location for their next summit in 2017 - Brussels, to coincide with the opening of the new NATO HQ there. A strong peace movement exists there and preparations have already begun for protest actions—join in, watch out for details - www.no-to-nato.org

Dave Webb is convener of the Global Network boards and also serves as Chair of the UK's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He lives in Leeds, England.

Preparing for War with China

by Laurence Shoup

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is the think tank of monopoly-finance capital, Wall Street's think tank. One of its latest efforts, a study group on U.S. grand strategy toward China, completed its work and issued a report in March 2015—approved by the CFR board of directors—entitled “Revising U.S. Grand Strategy Toward China.”

Early in their report, the study group and its authors (there were no dissents from any of the forty-three participants mentioned in the report) express their underlying view about the true role of the U.S. in the world. This perspective is one of U.S. global hegemony, and the prevention of the rise of any potential future global competitor. They call this “primacy”: “preserving U.S. primacy in the global system ought to remain the central objective of U.S. grand strategy in the twenty-first century.”

Given the central objective of preserving U.S. global hegemony, its “preeminence in the global system,” the CFR study group concludes that the “principal task that confronts U.S. grand strategy today... is adapting to the fundamental challenge posed by



China's continuing rise.” to “defeat” China's “corrosive” efforts to “undermine” the bilateral relations between the United States and a number of Asian nations, Washington should “reinforce” its alliance system in the Indo-Pacific region, especially with Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, Taiwan, and six Southeast Asian states (the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Myanmar).

South Korea (officially called the Republic of Korea, ROK), is listed as

second in importance behind Japan, and its relationship with the U.S. is called “essential” to maintaining U.S. dominance in Asia. Therefore, Washington should ensure “adequate military capabilities” are in place there. In addition, and quite provocative to Beijing, the study group report recommends advancing a “shared vision for dealing with Korean unification,” one that would “include working with the ROK (and Japan) to develop a comprehensive strategy for regime

change in North Korea.”

Australia, called an “essential link in the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy,” is listed third.

India is mentioned as the fourth key nation that the U.S. should intensify its bilateral relationship with. India is viewed as a country that can independently counter China's rise and the United States should encourage this by “substantially” loosening restraints on military technology transfers to India, “regard Indian nuclear technology as an asset in maintaining the current balance of power in Asia,” and “markedly increase” US-India military cooperation. In addition, the U.S. should “vigorously support” India's policy of strengthening its power projection and influence into East and Southeast Asia.

Finally, the study group report also recommends building up the military power of Taiwan and six Southeast Asian nations, since they are the primary targets of China's power expansion into the South China Sea.

Historian Laurence Shoup's latest book is Wall Street Think Tank.

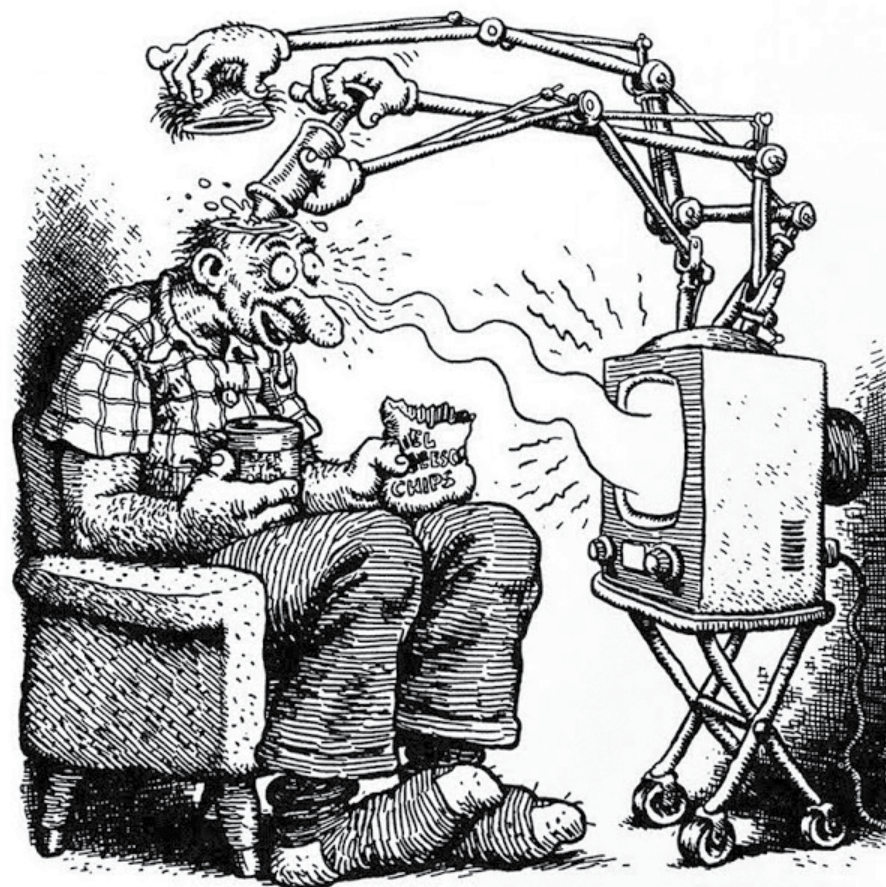
India Conference (cont. from p. 1)



Space Command becoming the ‘Master of Space’ is one sign of the current human sickness. I told about Standing Rock in North Dakota where today Native Americans and their many supporters from around our country are rallying to stop the ‘Black Snake’ oil

pipeline along the Missouri River. The native people call themselves water protectors as they try to defend our sacred Mother Earth—water is life. It is all the same struggle.

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



R. CRUMB '77

Russian 'Threat' Is Great for Business

by Lee Fang

The escalating anti-Russian rhetoric in the U.S. presidential campaign [came] in the midst of a major push by military contractors to position Moscow as a potent enemy that must be countered with a drastic increase in military spending by NATO countries.

Weapon makers have told investors that they are relying on tensions with Russia to fuel new business in the wake of Russian's annexation of Crimea.

In particular, the arms industry—both directly and through its arsenal of hired-gun, think-tank experts and lobbyists—is actively pressuring NATO member nations to hike defense spending in line with the NATO goal for member states to spend at least 2% of gross domestic product on defense.

Retired Army Gen. Richard Cody, a vice president at L-3 Communications, the seventh largest U.S. defense contractor, explained to shareholders in December that the industry was faced with a historic opportunity. Following the end of the Cold War, Cody said, peace had "pretty much broken out all over the world," with Russia in decline and NATO nations celebrating. "The Wall came down," he said, and "all defense budgets went south."

Now, Cody argued, Russia "is resurgent" around the world, putting pressure on U.S. allies. "Nations that belong to NATO are supposed to spend 2% of their GDP on defense," he said, according to a transcript of his remarks. "We know that uptick is coming and so we postured ourselves for it."

Speaking to investors at a conference hosted by Credit Suisse in June, Stuart Bradie, the chief executive of KBR, a military contractor, discussed "opportunities in Europe," highlighting the increase in defense spending by NATO countries in response to "what's happening with Russia and the Ukraine."

The National Defense Industrial Association, a lobby group for the industry, has called on Congress to make it easier for U.S. contractors to sell arms abroad to allies in response to the [alleged] threat from Russia. Recent articles in National Defense, NDIA's magazine, discuss the need for NATO allies to boost maritime military spending, spending on Arctic systems, and missile defense, to counter Russia.

Many experts are unconvinced that Russia poses a direct military threat. The Soviet Union's military once stood at over 4 million soldiers, but today Russia has less than 1 million. NATO's combined military budget vastly outranks Russia's—with the U.S. alone outspending Russia on its military by \$609 billion to less than \$85 billion.

And yet, the Aerospace Industries Association, a lobby group for Lockheed Martin, Textron, Raytheon, and other defense contractors, argued in February that the Pentagon is not spending enough to counter "Russian aggression on NATO's doorstep."

Stephen Hadley, the former National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush now serving on the board of Raytheon, a firm competing for major NATO military contracts, has argued forcefully for hiking defense budgets and providing lethal aid to Ukraine. Hadley said in a speech last summer that the U.S. must "raise the cost for what Russia is doing in Ukraine," adding that "even President Putin is sensitive to body bags."

The business press has noticed the development. The



Washington Business Journal noted that "if anyone is benefiting from the unease between Russia and the rest of the world, it would have to be Bethesda-based Lockheed Martin Corp.," noting that the firm won a major contract from Poland, which is revamping its military in response to Russia. Roman Schweizer, an analyst for the defense industry with Guggenheim Securities, predicted last year that U.S. arms sales would continue to rise, particularly because "eastern NATO countries will increase procurements in the wake of continued Russian activity in Ukraine."

"Companies like Lockheed Martin and Boeing have pledged to increase the share of exports in their overall revenues, and they have been seeking major deals in East and Central Europe since the 1990s, when NATO expansion began," said William Hartung, director of the Arms & Security Project at the Center for International Policy. Hartung noted that as some nations ramp up spending, U.S. firms will be "knocking at the door, looking to sell everything from fighter planes to missile defense systems."

Reprinted from *The Intercept*



U.S. MD Threatens Russia & World Peace

by Vladimir Kozin

The U.S. and NATO ground missile complex "Aegis Ashore" at the Deveselu Air Force Base in Romania is not a harmless defensive facility.

On 12th May 2016, a ceremony took place in Romania to commission the ground missile complex "Aegis Ashore" at the Deveselu base in the south of the country.

Russian military-political leadership paid careful attention to this event, as did the leaders of many other countries around the world.

In accordance with the so-called "Phased Adaptive Approach" for the deployment of a global infrastructure for U.S. missile defense (MD) the systems which will be based at Deveselu air base will eventually be equipped with "Standard-3" interceptor missiles as used on U.S. combat [Aegis] ships as well as AN/SPY-1 radars for target acquisition and guidance.

The "Standard-3" 1B missiles are the most advanced U.S. missile defense interceptor. U.S. experts say they can hit all types of medium-range and shorter-range ballistic and cruise missiles up to a maximum range of 5,500 km. Under the terms of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty signed in 1987 Russia does not have such missiles.

It would seem that deployment of such high-technology elements of the U.S. missile defense system should enhance the security of the people of southern and central Europe, but is that really so?

The declared technical characteristics of the "Standard-3" missiles allow them to maintain "security" from hypothetical missile attacks within a horizontal radius of more than 500 km from the place of their deployment horizontally and up to an altitude of about 250-300 km. Thus, the zone of operation of these missiles covers the whole territory of Romania and of a number of neighboring countries including the European part of the Russian Federation.

In other words, these missiles can intercept ballistic and cruise missiles not just over the territory of Romania, but also over the territories of other states, including Russia.

More destabilizing still is the claim the MD base at Deveselu can protect itself—and by extension Romania—from strikes by Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles and Russian cruise missiles of extended range.

This is a wholly mendacious claim. Firstly, a militarily weak country such as Romania would be most unlikely by itself to be a target for Russian nuclear

weapons. Secondly, deploying a U.S. MD base makes Romania such a target. Thirdly, if the MD base in Romania were attacked by Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles equipped with the sort of modern technical means needed to penetrate U.S. MD—something not only technically feasible but under active consideration by the Russian military and by Russian missile designers—then the U.S. MD base would hardly be able to protect even itself.

words: "launchers, which will be placed after the commissioning of these bases in Romania and Poland can be easily used for emplacing medium-range and shorter-range missiles"—in other words missiles of an offensive not of a defensive nature.

The U.S. Navy has already deployed since 2011 warships equipped with the "Aegis" MD system in the seas and oceans around Europe. There are more than 30 warships equipped with such a

would have been the case if it had been deployed on the territories of Italy, Greece, Germany or especially the UK.

There is probably another reason for deploying the MD base in Romania—one that may seem cynical but which is probably true. In case of retaliation against the new U.S. anti-missile 'shield' the citizens of other countries—specifically those of Romania—can be victims rather than those of the US.

As has already been said, plans for Russian Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles capable of overcoming anti-ballistic missile defenses far more advanced and capable than the most sophisticated anti-missile defense systems planned by NATO and the U.S. already exist. Russian long-range air and sea-based non-nuclear cruise missiles used against the terrorist organizations in Syria have already proved their exceptional capability. The combat capabilities of the Russian Navy and of Russia's electronic warfare capabilities are also being enhanced in a program announced in 2008.

In the meantime, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin has warned that: "the countries of Eastern Europe which house the U.S. first strike missiles are becoming legitimate targets for the Russian retaliation strike."

This is not Moscow's choice. This is a necessary and forced response, prompted by the growing threat stemming from the United States of America.

Amongst the list of potential Russian countermeasures, we could see Russia's withdrawal from the INF Treaty, and even from the START-3 Treaty (known in the West as "New START") which was signed in Prague in 2010.

It is also clear that there will be no further discussion with Washington of any possible new treaty limiting or reducing strategic offensive nuclear weapons. Nor will there be negotiations on a treaty to reduce the number of tactical nuclear weapons. Talks on such treaties will not happen whilst U.S. nuclear missile and missile defense supported by general-purpose forces move towards Russia's door step.

What are the alternatives?

The short answer is that the U.S. and NATO should reverse the dangerous course they have embarked on. They should close the MD base in Romania, withdrawing all their missiles from there, and cease building its twin in Poland. The U.S. should also withdraw its tactical nuclear weapons from Europe and Turkey and cease its and NATO's

(See Russia P 14.)



At the same time, no one can ignore the fact that deploying a MD base to Romania and in 2018 in Poland will plant a powerful destabilizing mine under Russian-Romanian and Russian-Polish relations. Control of the use of interceptor missiles from the territories of Romania and Poland will be in the hands of Washington, not of Bucharest or Warsaw.

Which conclusions can be drawn from all this?

It is logical to assume that by deploying of land and sea-based missile defence system in the European area, in the Middle East and in the Asia-Pacific region the U.S. is pursuing very different and distinctive goals. Of these one, which was discussed at a top level meeting of representatives of the Russian Ministry of Defence with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin—and which looks very convincing—was described by President Putin with these

system, each ship carrying an average of 30-40 "Standard-3" interceptor missiles. This already existing very large naval deployment puts the proposed land based deployment in its proper context.

Deploying a number of naval launchers to land bases in Romania and Poland adds little to the already existing MD capability provided by the naval deployment. However these launchers can without modification house a wide range of missiles, including the notorious land-based "Tomahawk" cruise missiles whose deployment in Europe was prohibited by the Soviet-U.S. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty of 1987. Deploying offensive land-based "Tomahawk" cruise missiles in Romania using infrastructure supposedly created for MD missiles could threaten almost the whole of Russia's European territory.

Quite simply the U.S. MD base in Romania is much closer to the sites of Russia strategic nuclear forces than

Sicily Base Enables More War in Africa

by Carrie Giunta

In Africa, as in the Middle East, the U.S. is creating a vicious circle of war and destabilization. Libya like Iraq became a failed state after U.S.-led regime change in 2011. Trouble and a deepening refugee crisis followed regime change. This contributed to the destabilization of North African countries and effected sub-Saharan countries. Fallout from the 2011 intervention led inexorably to the worsening situation in Libya today.

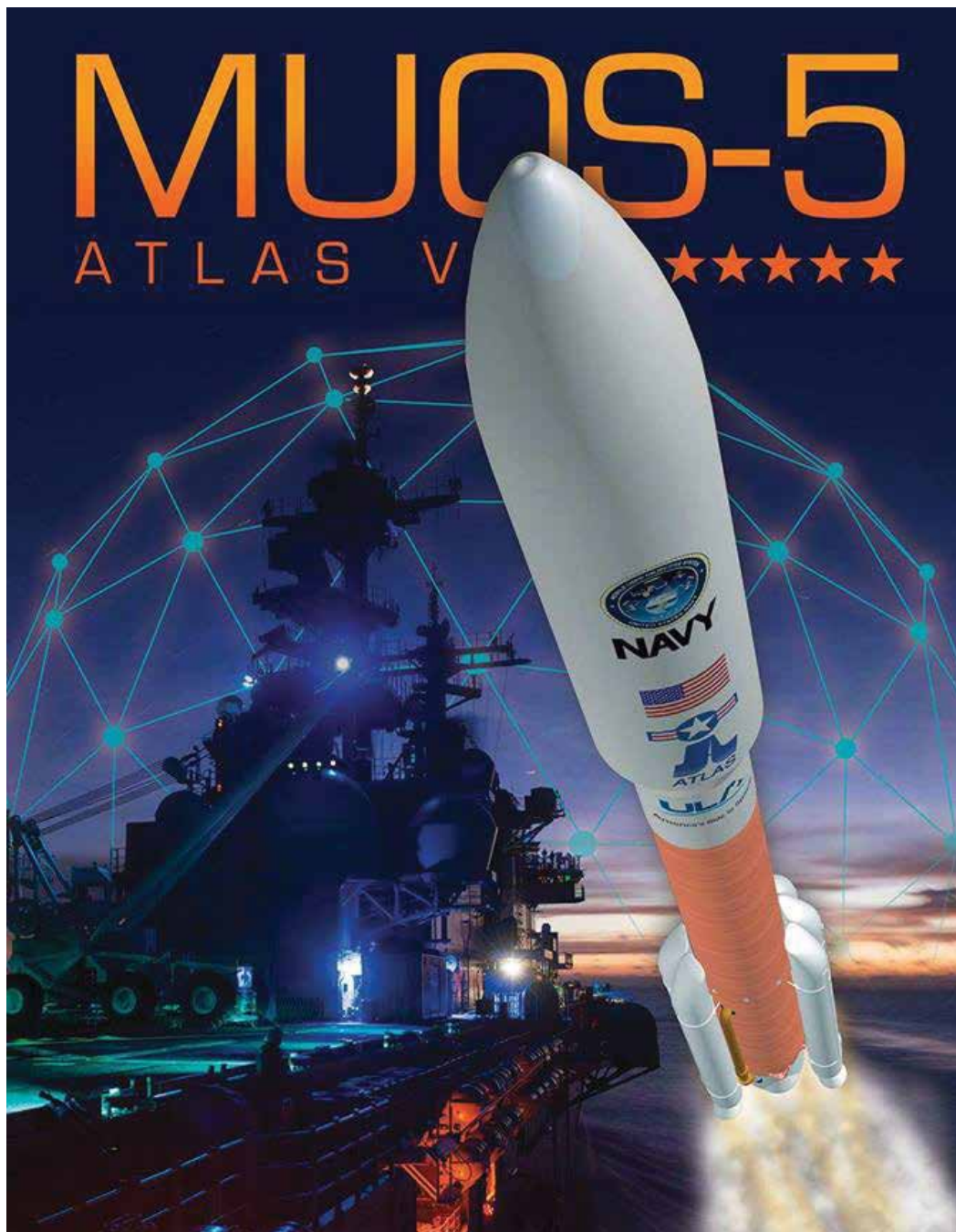
Now the vicious circle of killing and instability will run at a furious pace as the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) shifts the speed of war in the Middle East and Africa. A strategically important navy base located opposite Libya on the Mediterranean houses the global military telecommunications system known as MUOS.

The MUOS (Mobile User Objective System) phases in the seamless exchange of data at higher bit rates than ever before. Sending and receiving information and encrypted messages will reach breakneck speeds for troops on the ground, in the air or at sea. The network consists of five satellites connected to four ground stations covering more than three-quarters of the globe—even reaching the Arctic. What this really means is global control of remotely piloted drones, missiles and nuclear weapons, making MUOS the mother of all weapons of mass destruction.

The kingpin of the MUOS system is a naval base on the Italian island of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean and closest European neighbor to Tunisia and Libya. While the three other MUOS ground stations are in Hawaii, Virginia and Australia, Sicily's position in the Mediterranean affords the Pentagon eyes and ears all over Africa and the Middle East. This, writes Sicilian journalist Antonio Mazzeo, is "the perfect weapon for the conflicts of the twenty-first century."

Yet Sicily is not the perfect location. A grassroots campaign organized by the local population shines a full beam on the corruption and illegality surrounding construction of the base. Sicilian residents unintimidated by U.S. power have put up powerful resistance against the presence of MUOS in their home country.

To get a glimpse of the MUOS you must travel to the heart of south central Sicily, where olive groves make chequerboards over sunbaked hillsides, Vespas buzz past the morning tractor brigade and village streets wave a palm tree salute as the bougainvillea climbs over walls to greet you in every



shade of red. In these idyllic surroundings, the DoD has built its most strategically important military base for Africa and the Middle East.

The base is built on a protected nature reserve 3km from the center of Niscemi, a town of 28,000. Upon entering the Riserva Naturale Sughereta di Niscemi, the first thing you see is a towering antenna. It's one of 41 that make up the pre-existing Naval Radio Transmitter Facility (NRTF) military base built on this reserve in 1991.

Down a red dirt road, you pass a military checkpoint, complete with camouflage painted jeeps and armed soldiers. The Italian army guards the base, a centerpiece of three 20-meter satellite dishes. A majestic cork oak forest once stood here until the navy bulldozed the trees to clear a space for the MUOS.

The people of Niscemi have opposed MUOS since construction of the base became known to them in 2009. They are vehemently against the militarization of Sicily. Over 100 U.S. military bases exist on Italian soil—more than any other country after Japan, Germany and South Korea. Sicily is increasingly

becoming a launching pad for the Pentagon's wars across the Mediterranean. In February, Italy confirmed the U.S. flies armed drones to Libya from Sigonella naval air station in Sicily.

While Sigonella is at once a U.S. base as well as NATO's biggest Mediterranean base, Niscemi is exclusively a U.S. base. Therefore, Italian Parliament should be asked for approval of construction of the base. Parliament was not consulted.

Furthermore, MUOS builders hired by the navy lacked the crucial anti-mafia certificate required by law before building can begin. An Italian court confirmed the MUOS was constructed illegally. Unraveling the layers of corruption is unduly complicated.

Amid the legal ping-pong, The Pentagon is depending on the Italian government to do everything in its power to make the base operational despite local opposition demanding the immediate closure of the base. There is pressure on activists too. 129 protestors received summonses for entering the base during a demonstration three years ago. Then on 5 September, the Committee No MUOS was shocked to discover personnel from the Niscemi mayor's office illegally entered and ransacked the No MUOS headquarters.

Niscemi isn't like other bases. Pre-MUOS bases use the legacy satellite system. Ramstein Air Base in Germany is a satellite relay station that supports communication between drone operators in the U.S. and U.S. drones in Yemen, Somalia and Afghanistan. The US's Menwith Hill NSA base in England uses spy satellites for U.S. drone strikes in the Middle East and Africa. The Intercept reports Djibouti and Niger are currently the most important countries for U.S. drone bases and military operations in North and West Africa.

MUOS technology employs a whole new satellite system built to enhance the speed and automation of war by connecting all elements of the military onto a single network. This doesn't guarantee a safer system. The high-speed weapon of mass destruction in the Mediterranean that's poised to attack Africa and the Middle East is not an end to mistakes. It can create a higher number of inaccuracies, with more frequency and with more acute errors.

Protestors converged on Niscemi last October 2 for a national demonstration during Keep Space for Peace week.

Reprinted from *World Beyond War*.

Keep Space for Peace Week 2016



People from Maine and beyond joined a pot luck supper in Brunswick for a visit from the Maine Peace Walk during space week. The event included a program about U.S. 'missile defense' deployments in South Korea and the growing opposition against those systems by the Korean people. The walk lasted for two weeks through the state.



GN affiliate group Stop the War Machine held a space week protest at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, NM which is the directorate for the Pentagon's space laser program.



At right: Our poster this year was translated into Korean and distributed widely around their country. In this photo an enlarged version is on display in Gangjeong village on Jeju Island where a Navy base has been built to host U.S. warships that will be outfitted with 'missile defense' systems. Our space week poster this year was our most popular ever.



Above: A space week protest was held in the moors of North Yorkshire, England where a U.S. early warning radar plays a key role in U.S. 'missile defense' targeting.



At left: During Keep Space for Peace Week activists from around northern California once again held a non-violent protest at Beale AFB where drones are directed and U-2 spy planes are stationed. In addition, a Pave Paws early warning radar is at the base which plays a crucial role in 'missile defense' targeting.



Below left: Activists in Australia held a rally at the U.S. Pine Gap space technology spy base during Keep Space for Peace Week.

Below right: Activists from Syracuse, NY held a space week event outside the gates of Hancock Air Base where Reaper drones are deployed. Protests at Hancock have been regularly held at the base since 2009.



Odds & Ends

Planned Gift to GN

If you are in the process of estate planning, please consider making a gift of a tax-deductible donation in the form of a bequest, donation of stock or other instruments to the Global Network. Your planned gift would be an important contribution to our global movement to stop the militarization and nuclearization of space. Thank you for your consideration.

Cheaper to keep U.S. troops in South Korea

Army Times has reported that the four-star Army general picked to lead American forces in Korea says it's less expensive to keep U.S. troops stationed in South Korea than in the U.S. Gen. Vincent Brooks says South Korea pays half of the annual cost, or \$808 million, for U.S. troops to be stationed on the peninsula. The general says South Korea is paying for 92 percent of a \$10.8 billion construction project to build a new base for U.S. troops.

Trump Space

Roll Call reported in late November that U.S. missile defense and military space programs are likely to get a substantial funding boost under the incoming Republican-dominated government. Coming soon are a greater number of more capable anti-missile interceptors and radars deployed around the globe—on land, at sea and

possibly in space, say these legislators and experts, several of whom have consulted with Trump's advisers. More government money will be directed at protecting U.S. satellites from attack—potentially including systems that can ram into or otherwise disable another country's satellites. Rep. Trent Franks, an Arizona Republican on House Armed Services, said "In every area of warfare, within the Geneva Conventions, America should be second to none. That includes satellite warfare, if it's necessary. We cannot be victims of our own decency here."

Stealth Destroyers Ammo Too Expensive

Defense News reported in November that barely two weeks after the U.S. Navy commissioned its newest and most futuristic 'stealth' destroyer built in Bath, Maine, armed with two huge guns that can hit targets 80 miles away, the service is moving to cancel the projectiles for the guns, citing excessive costs that run up to \$800,000 per round. The Long Range Land-Attack Projectile (LRLAP) is a guided precision munition that is key to the DDG 1000 Zumwalt-class's mission as a land-attack destroyer, able to hit targets with such accuracy that, in the words of manufacturer Lockheed Martin, can "defeat targets in the urban canyons of coastal cities with minimal collateral damage." Even at \$800,000 a copy, the LRLAP's price could go higher.

Aegis Testing Facility in New Jersey

In Moorestown, just off the Jersey Shore in New Jersey, the Pentagon is developing a missile defense system on a platform called the Aegis that is also deployed on 84 U.S. Naval Destroyers and Cruisers, six Japanese ships, five Spanish ships, three Korean ships and is also deployed on land in Hawaii and Romania. The Aegis system linked with its Vertical Launch System (VLS), interceptors and SPY Radar is self-autonomous and can defend itself and other ships as well as cities on land within its range. The system can also strike with offensive Tomahawk cruise missiles from the same VLS as was seen against the radar sites in Yemen. It is both an offense and defensive platform.

New Drone Base in Niger

The Intercept reported in late-September that a town called Agadez in the center of Niger has become a new base for Pentagon drones. U.S. military documents reveal new information about an American drone base under construction on the outskirts of the city. The long-planned project—considered the most important U.S. military construction effort in Africa, according to formerly secret files obtained by The Intercept through the Freedom of Information Act—is slated to cost \$100 million, and is just one of a number of recent American military initiatives in

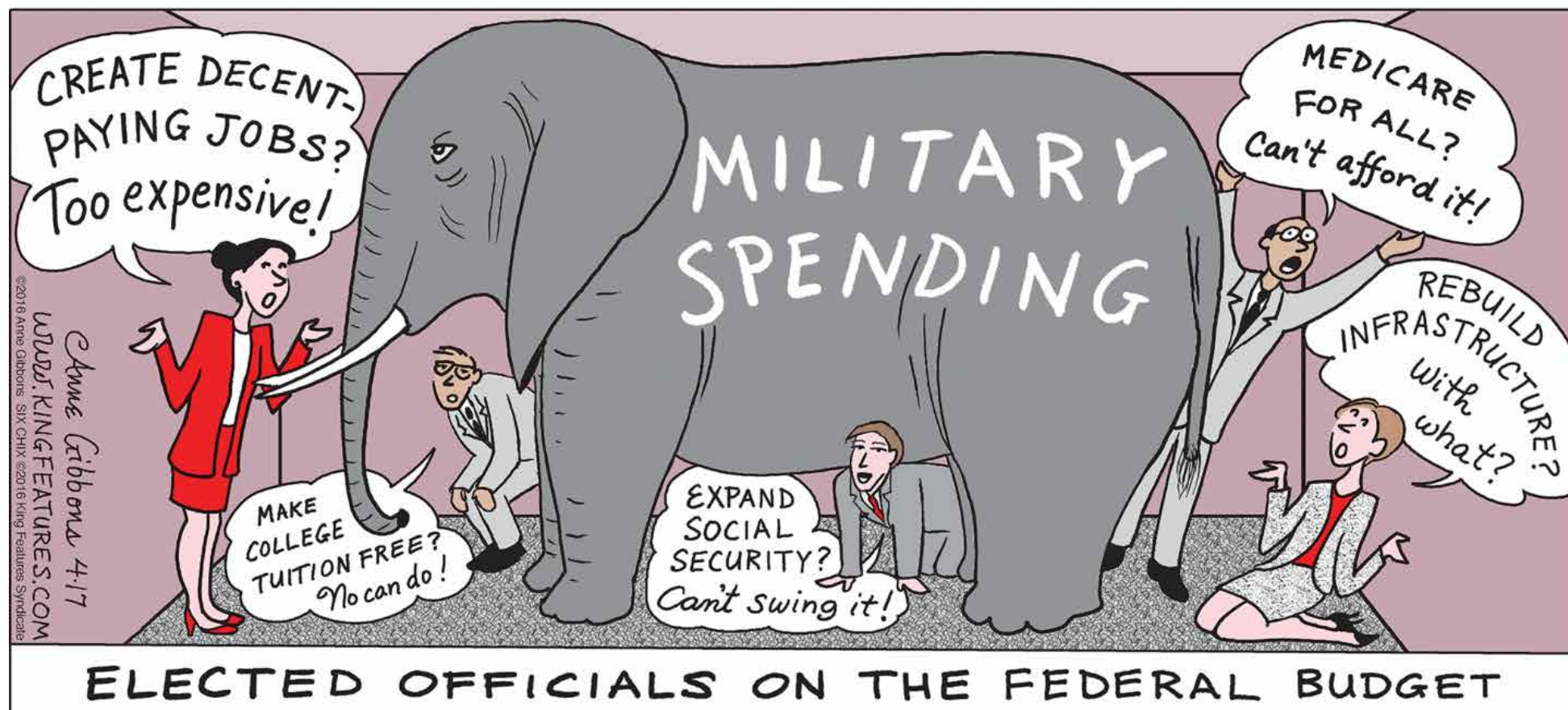
the impoverished nation. The base is the latest sign, experts say, of an ever-increasing emphasis on counterterrorism operations in the north and west of the continent. As the only country in the region willing to allow a U.S. base for MQ-9 Reapers—a newer, larger, and potentially more lethal model than the Predator drone—Niger has positioned itself to be the key regional hub for U.S. military operations, with Agadez serving as the premier outpost for launching intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions against a plethora of targets.

Space Fence

Space News reports that in 2018, the Air Force's next-generation space object tracking system, known as the Space Fence, will go online and detect satellites and space debris 5 centimeters and larger. Defense Department officials said they are optimistic that on the best days, the \$900 million Space Fence, built by Lockheed Martin on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, may be able to track objects as small as 1 centimeter. That's a marked improvement over the Defense Department's current network of radars and sensors, which tracks objects 10 centimeters and larger. But that additional precision means the Air Force will have tracking data for 200,000 objects, up from the approximately 20,000 objects it tracks today. With the advanced accuracy the new data could lead to

SIX CHIX

BY ANNE GIBBONS



Odds & Ends

an orders of magnitude increase in collision warnings. While the information would provide operators a better understanding of their surroundings on orbit, it could ultimately lead to an overwhelming number of false alarms.

New StratCom Commander Wants Space Control

Outgoing President Obama nominated Gen. John Hyten, the former head of Air Force Space Command, to lead U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB in Nebraska. At STRATCOM, Hyten will oversee space operations, missile defense, cyber warfare, the nuclear arsenal and combatting weapons of mass destruction. Hyten told the Senate Armed Services Committee that space control programs and a battle management command and control system should be among the Defense Department's top space priorities. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the Pentagon would spend \$2 billion this year on space control, which often implies offensive space capabilities. The Pentagon rarely discusses its own offensive space capabilities or the operational details, which are classified. However, the Air Force's 2017 budget request included funding for several space control programs for the next five years. Among those programs are \$144 million for the Counter Communications System, which is used to deny adversaries the use of military communications satellites in conflict and \$158 million for the Space Security and Defense Program, which is thought to include some work on offensive space capabilities.

Heat Em Up and They Run Away

An Air Force Research Laboratory scientist presented at an Albuquerque, New Mexico TED talk last September on the use of nonlethal weapons in combat. Mary Lou Robinson, the division chief of High Power Electromagnetics at Kirtland AFB, called her talk 'The Power of High-Powered Microwaves: Winning Battles and Minimizing Harm.' "Just because someone puts on a uniform doesn't mean they lose the morals, values and ethics we as a society have instilled on them. They have American values, and they are interested in nonlethal ways to engage in combat," Robinson said. Using systems such as the Active Denial System and the Counter-electronics High Powered Microwave Advanced Missile Project (CHAMP), American forces are potentially able to eliminate threats from crowds. "What I want is for troops to have a nonlethal option in combat to limit collateral damage and I don't think anyone in our organization

believes kinetic weapons will ever be replaced," she said. Kinetic weapons fire projectiles. "The system feels like a blast of heat when you open the oven door," Robinson said. The uncomfortable sensation causes people to want to run from the area of the microwave beam. Expect to see more on these on the streets of America in the years ahead.

U.S. Gives Israel \$38 billion

Israel and the United States have agreed to a ten-year military deal, the largest such agreement between the two nations. The agreement was signed in September and is worth \$38 billion. The agreement is the follow-on to a \$30 billion, 10-year memorandum of understanding signed in 2007. Defense News first reported over the summer that the latest U.S. offer stands at \$3.8 billion annually, which includes some \$400 million to be spent in Israel on cooperative missile defense and other joint programs.

Gabbard Promotes MD in Hawaii

Popular Democratic Party rising star Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02) passed two amendments last spring to the FY17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to increase missile defense capabilities in Hawaii in order to address the 'ongoing threat of North Korea'. The amendments would provide funding for a new missile defense (MD) radar in Hawaii, and require the Missile Defense Agency to brief Congress on their short-term plan to enhance missile defense capabilities in Hawaii and the Pacific. In addition to the two amendments, Rep. Gabbard also secured language in the bill authorizing \$10 million for the planning and design for a new radar at the Kauai (PMRF) missile test range. Raymond Catania of the Kauai Alliance for Peace and Social Justice said any further militarization of his home island is unhelpful. He said an Aegis MD system on Kauai puts the U.S. in direct conflict with China. He pointed to the U.S. military buildup on Okinawa, Japan, and on Jeju Island, where South Korea has built a large naval base. He said making the PMRF combat ready would be a dangerous move but added that with many people in Hawaii dependent on the military for jobs, the likelihood of widespread opposition is small. "On Kauai, you're going to have the political apparatus—the business elements in the community—say we need this buildup, its jobs," he said. "But we have to wean the working class away from war for employment."



U.S. Brings Old Enemies into Military Alliance

South Korea has taken a step toward joining the United States' anti-ballistic missile system in the Asia-Pacific region. Seoul will set up a data link allowing its military to share information with not only the U.S., but also Japan. The agreement is part of a Washington-encouraged cooling of tensions between Seoul and Tokyo that is now being utilized to further align the U.S. allies in war preparations against China. South Korea's Defense Ministry last year said that it will establish a connection to Link 16, an exchange network used by the United States, Japan, as well as NATO and other nations. This will allow Seoul's military to share and receive intelligence from the U.S. and Japan in real-time. The data gathered by ships, aircrafts and satellites includes information on enemy positions, altitudes, and speed. This is another step in Washington's plan for an anti-ballistic missile system throughout Asia. There is nothing defensive about this system. It is designed to protect U.S. bases in South Korea, Japan and Guam from counter-attack by China, or Russia, were Washington to launch a first strike on either one. The United States has been pushing for this type of integration by South Korea into its systems, without which, U.S. war plans and the "pivot to Asia," both aimed against China, are incomplete.

Space Telescope to Australia

The Space Surveillance Telescope is housed on an 8,000-foot mountaintop at the northern edge of White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The telescope, which scans the skies for satellites, space debris and asteroids for the U.S. Air Force, is being moved to Australia. The estimated half-million pieces of "space junk" and roughly 2,200 man-made satellites circling the globe are a growing concern for the U.S. military, which increasingly views space as a "contested environment" where decisive battles in future wars could be fought. The Air Force has already announced plans to move the 270,000-pound telescope to Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt in Exmouth, Western Australia, as part of the service's efforts to im-

prove "space situational awareness," a term for the ability to view, track and understand natural and man-made objects in orbit around the Earth. The new location will allow SST to scan the skies over the southern hemisphere—an area that is currently sparsely observed. The SST will be jointly operated by Air Force Space Command and the Royal Australian Air Force.

Sweden Meeting in February

GN board member Agneta Norberg in Stockholm is organizing a one-day space conference on February 4 in her community. Three other GN board members will be attending (Dave Webb, Regina Hagen and Bruce Gagnon). The conference will highlight the dangerous security situation in Sweden. Sweden's military installations are currently being adapted to NATO's needs. NATO will be able to attack Russia from Swedish territory. US-NATO Air Force and warships will have permanent access to bases and ports in Sweden. There is growing resistance and action groups formed all over Sweden to oppose these operations. One problem though is the movement doesn't know much about how space technology directs all warfare today and Sweden's growing role in space warfare technology development. Following the conference Dave Webb and Bruce Gagnon will do a speaking tour throughout Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

Trump in Asia

Whether President-elect Donald Trump goes through with a deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense (MD) system in South Korea will be a key indicator to how political ties unfold with China. South Korea and the U.S. have agreed to deploy THAAD within 8-10 months despite massive opposition inside the country. China has argued the planned deployment undermines strategic stability in Northeast Asia, and worries that THAAD's powerful radar allows targeting of China's missile installations. Trump's election does offer some good news for China: it signals the possible demise of the U.S.-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

The Next Frontier: Trump and Space Weapons

by Karl Grossman

It is highly likely that the Trump administration will move to have the U.S. deploy weapons in space. If this happens, it will be profoundly destabilizing, setting off an arms race and, also likely, leading to war in space.

For decades there's been interest by U.S. administrations—the Reagan administration with its “Star Wars” plan a leading example—in placing weapons in space. But that has alternated with some administrations more-or-less opposed, the Obama administration an example.

Still, no matter the administration, since work at the United Nations began in 1985 on a treaty seeking, as its title declares, the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), the U.S. has not supported it. Canada, Russia and China have been leaders in urging passage of this PAROS treaty, and there has been virtually universal backing from nations around the world. But by balking, U.S. administration after administration has prevented its passage.

With the Trump administration, more than non-support of the PAROS treaty is probable. A drive by the U.S. to weaponize space appears in the offing.

The weaponization of space has long been sought by the U.S. military. The U.S. Air Force Space Command and U.S. Space Command (now merged into the U.S. Strategic Command) have repeatedly described space as the “ultimate high ground.” There has been continued development of space weapons.

Atomic physicist Edward Teller, the main figure in developing the hydrogen bomb and instrumental in founding Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, pitched to Ronald Reagan, when he was governor of California visiting the lab, a plan of orbiting hydrogen bombs which became the initial basis for Reagan's “Star Wars.” The bombs were to energize X-ray lasers. “As the bomb at the core of an X-ray battle station exploded, multiple beams would flash out to strike multiple targets before the entire station consumed itself in a ball of nuclear fire,” explained New York Times journalist William Broad in his book *Star Warriors*.

Teller's orbiting H-bomb scheme, code-named *Excalibur*, was finally dropped, in part, according to Broad, because another Reagan advisor, Army Lt. General Daniel O. Graham, felt the U.S. “public would never accept the placement of nuclear weapons in space.”

So there was a shift on “Star Wars to battle platforms having nuclear reactors or “super” plutonium-fueled radioisotope thermoelectric generators on board that would provide the power for hypervelocity guns, particle beams and also laser weapons.

What kind of space weaponry might scientists and the military sell Trump on?

“Under Trump, GOP to Give Space Weapons Close Look,” was the headline of an article last month in *Roll Call*, a reliable 61-year-old Washington-based media outlet. The article said “Trump's thinking on missile defense and military space programs have gotten next to no attention, as compared to the president-elect's other defense proposals...But experts expect such programs to account for a significant share of what is likely to be a defense budget boost, potentially amounting to \$500 billion or more in the coming decade.”

Intense support for the Republican president's plans is anticipated from the GOP-dominated Congress. *Roll*

Call noted that Representative Trent Franks, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and an Arizona Republican, “said the GOP's newly strengthened hand in Washington means a big payday is coming for programs aimed at developing weapons that can be deployed in space.”

It quoted Franks as saying: “It was a Democrat mindset that caused us to step back from space-based defense assets to ostensibly not ‘weaponize space,’ while our enemies proceeded to do just that, and now, we find ourselves in a grave deficit.”

As to what space weapons the Trump administration might be interested in, the website *Blasting News* in an article last month—headed “Donald Trump administration



to develop space weapons”—pointed to what has been called “rods from God.” This piece opened with: “One of the significant changes that the incoming Trump administration is contemplating in defense is the development of space-based weapons.” It said “another approach the incoming administration will look at will be space-based weapons that could strike targets on Earth. One idea that has kicked around for decades is a system that would consist of a tungsten projectile and a navigation system. Upon command, these ‘rods from God’ as they are poetically called would re-enter the Earth's atmosphere and would strike a target, even one in a superhardened underground bunker, at 36,000 feet per second, obliterating it.”

As an op-ed piece by two “senior Trump policy advisors” titled “Donald Trump's ‘peace through strength’ space vision” in *Space News* in October said, the Trump administration will “lead the way on emerging technologies that have the potential to revolutionize warfare...”

Trump's priorities for our military space program are clear: We must reduce our current vulnerabilities and assure that our military commands have the space tools they need for their missions.” The op-ed was by Robert Walker who as a congressman chaired the U.S. House Science, Space and Technology Committee and is now chairman of the Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Committee and Peter Navarro, a professor of business at the University of California-Irvine.

In *Weapons in Space*, I relate a 1999 presentation I gave at the UN in Geneva. The next day, a vote was to be held there on the PAROS treaty. On my way to observe the vote, I saw a U.S. diplomat who had been at my presentation and had not been happy with it. We approached each other and he said he would like to talk to me, anonymously. He said, on the street in front of the UN buildings, that the U.S. has trouble with its citizenry in fielding a large number of

troops on the ground. But the U.S. military believes “we can project power from space” and that was why the military was moving in this direction. I questioned him on whether, if the U.S. moved ahead with weapons in space, other nations would meet the U.S. in kind igniting an arms race in space. He replied that the U.S. military had done analyses and determined that China was “30 years behind” in competing with the U.S. militarily in space and Russia “doesn't have the money.”

Then he went to vote and I watched as again there was overwhelming international support for the PAROS treaty—but the U.S. balked. And because a consensus was needed for the passage of the treaty, it was blocked once more. And this was during the Clinton administration.

In 2001, with the election of George W. Bush, space weaponization was again on high-boil rather than the low-boil it was during the Clinton time. That's when I began work on the TV documentary *Star Wars Returns*.

And that year, too, I gave a presentation before members of the British Parliament in London. In it I outlined the just-released plan of the Space Commission led by then U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. I noted how it asserted: “In the coming period the U.S. will conduct operations to, from, in and through space in support of its national interests both on the earth and in space.” I pointed out how it urged the U.S. president to “have the option to deploy weapons in space.”

I quoted from the U.S. Space Command's Vision for 2020 report's speaking of “dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect U.S. interests and investment. Integrating Space Forces into warfighting capabilities across the full spectrum of conflict.”

“What the U.S. is up to,” I said, “will destabilize the world.”

I suggested the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, signed by nations all over the world—including the U.S.—“be strengthened to ban all weapons in space.” It simply prohibits weapons of mass destruction. “Verification mechanisms should be added,” I said. “And space be kept for peace.”

The rapid boil that the push for space weaponry was on during the Bush administration returned to a low boil with Obama. However, from the outset, it wasn't full opposition. Moments after Obama was sworn in in 2009, the White House website displayed a policy statement about the new administration seeking a “worldwide ban on weapons that interfere with military and commercial satellites.” This was widely interpreted as meaning an end to U.S. efforts to place weapons in space. As Reuters reported: “President Barack Obama's pledge to seek a worldwide ban on weapons in space marks a dramatic shift in U.S. policy.” The statement was soon removed from the website and attributed to a junior staffer.

And now a Trump administration is ahead. And so is the likely arming of the heavens—unless we stop it, and we must. Connect with the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. Join the debate on Facebook

Karl Grossman, professor of journalism at the State University of New York/College of New York, is the author of the book, The Wrong Stuff: The Space's Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet. (See http://www.space4peace.org/articles/trump_and_space_weapons.htm for complete version of article.)

CNN Beats Drums for War

Review of "War in Space: The Next Battlefield," Jim Sciutto CNN Reports, Nov. 29, 2016

by Loring Wirbel

It's been a good decade since a detailed media piece has appeared on the joint plans of Space Command, Cyber Command, and Strategic Command. Since then, the normal tedium of the mainstream media has been supplanted at least in part by fact-free "fake news" from the likes of Breitbart and InfoWars, who see no problem with making events up out of whole cloth. With the naming of Breitbart alt-right activist Steve Bannon to the Trump cabinet, the government itself appears to be living in the post-fact era. In such an environment, CNN's on-site visits to StratCom headquarters at Offutt AFB in Omaha, to Buckley AFB in Aurora, Colo., and to Schriever AFB in Colorado Springs, would seem to have some merit simply for the chronicling of space warfare. Unfortunately, it comes with a dose of cheerleader behavior for offensive warfare of a type not seen since the pro-nuclear-war media of the 1950s.

Maybe it's worthwhile for Sciutto to interview Gen. John Hyten, just as he is moving from Space Command to StratCom, to show the revolving door among the related agencies for first-strike warfare. Maybe there is value to see former

Space Command head Gen. William Shelton warn of a growing danger from Russian and Chinese space assets, even if those proto-weapons only represent the state of U.S. space capabilities in the 1970s. But must Sciutto infuse his entire report with the type of alarmist tone that is only appropriate for a blockbuster apocalypse movie? The only sign of a "loyal opposition" critic is Pete Singer, a writer who used to be a good source on mercenary warriors, in books such as "Corporate Warriors." Unfortunately, we learn that Singer is now a consultant for the Pentagon, who has swallowed the DoD line on militarizing space, lock, stock, and barrel. Why are there no Global Network principals or a space-war critic like Noam Chomsky? Because it might disrupt Sciutto's fear-based narrative.

CNN shows the tight links among space warfare, signals intelligence, and cyber-warfare, but doesn't mention such obvious details on U.S. integration of next-generation warfare as the fact that the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command share headquarters. Sure, it's appropriate to mention Russia's Cosmos 2499 "lingering" satellite and its Luch

maneuverable signals intelligence satellite. It's appropriate to talk about China's 2007 ASAT test and its 2013 "shadowing satellite" test. But why is there no mention of the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office's Inter-Satellite Link technology, which can duplicate most of the Russian capabilities? Why is it not pointed out that China's anti-satellite tests resembled tests the U.S. carried out 40 years ago? Sciutto basically has absorbed the Space Command's definitions on what constitutes offensive and defensive use of space, and structures his reporting accordingly.

In proposing a space-based equivalent of the sea-based anti-missile lasers the U.S. has fielded, Sciutto completely ignores the problems the U.S. ran into with the X-ray laser during Reagan's Star Wars program, or the airborne laser program which kept wasting money right through the early 2000s. The CNN report acts as if laser weapons had never been proposed for space! In the discussion on kinetic weapons in space, Sciutto acts as though Russia and China have fielded working weapons, while he skips over the capability of the U.S. Burnt Frost project of 2008, in which a sea-based SM-3 missile was used to take out an NRO spy satellite. Certainly, any element developed for ground-based missile defense could be used for space warfare, such as Raytheon kill vehicle for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system, but Sciutto does not want the U.S. to ever appear to

be an offensive player.

In the final five minutes of the hour-long report, we get the faintest of suggestions that offensive and defensive intent may lie in the eye of the beholder, and that others could interpret U.S. space activities as aggressive. But that is a virtual throwaway line in a hyped-up nonsensical work designed to generate fear and justify larger Pentagon budgets. If the mainstream media is willing to stoop to such lows to back up the new aggression of a Trump administration, we're almost as bad off as if we lived on a strict diet of fake news.

Loring Wirbel is a member of Citizens for Peace in Space in Colorado Springs and also served on the GN Board of Directors

NASA's Secret Relationships with Pentagon

Furnishing cover stories for covert operations, monitoring Soviet missile tests, and supplying weather data to the U.S. military have been part of the secret side of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) since its inception in 1958, according to declassified documents released by the National Security Archive at George Washington University. (www.nsarchive.org).

James E. David, a curator in NASA's Division of Space History, obtained the documents in the course of researching his critically praised book, *Spies and Shuttles: NASA's Secret Relationships with the DoD and CIA* (University Press of Florida, 2015).

Even though Congress's intention in forming NASA was to establish a purely civilian space agency, according to David a combination of circumstances led the agency to commingle its activities with secret programs operated by the U.S. military and Intelligence Community. This often tight cooperation did not, however, keep disputes from bubbling over on issues such as cost sharing, access to classified information, encryption of data originally intended for civilian use, and delays to military satellite launches caused by the Challenger disaster.

Over the years, classification restrictions have kept most of the story of NASA's secret activities out of the public eye. The records were acquired through agency declassification review procedures, specific declassification requests, and archival research.

Spaceport on Island of Hawaii

By Koohan Paik

I can't get a public bus to the airport, which is over an hour's drive from my house on the Big Island of Hawaii, but I can get to the moon. Yep, our cash-strapped county has found enough money to help fund a project to build a spaceport (omg!) at the Kona airport. It's a perfect metaphor for how our taxes are skewed to favor technology, military and corporations over people's needs.

The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems, or PISCES, has been quietly laying the foundation over the past few years, for a vertically integrated industry that would include not only a spaceport, but also the transportation of supplies and passengers into space. Once on the moon or Mars, PISCES would robotically construct shelters for future space colonies. Funding has come from NASA, the State of Hawaii and the County of Hawaii.

I had been reading over the past year how PISCES crews have been camping out on Mauna Loa volcano, to simulate



living on Mars. President Obama even paid them a visit a few months ago. But it was only recently that I learned what exactly they were doing there. They programmed a robot to build a lunar landing pad. It was built of ultra-strong concrete paver tiles made (also by the robot) of regolith. Regolith is a kind of rock found only on Mars, the moon and on Big Island volcanoes.

PISCES has brought on board a lot of interns from the high schools and college, and even set sidewalks in downtown Hilo with "lunar concrete,"

to successfully ingratiate itself to the community. It also formed a "cultural adviser" team (viewed with great skepticism by many indigenous leaders). As expected, unquestioning government officials celebrate PISCES, saying that it would provide jobs and save the island from importing concrete, since it would be made locally. No one seems to be concerned that global demand for high-quality concrete might portend that the volcanoes, sacred to the native community, would be contaminated and severely disfigured by regolith mining.

When all is said and done, PISCES expects to reap tremendous profits through 1) mining lunar concrete on Earth, the moon and Mars; 2) construction contracts on the three heavenly bodies; and 3) partnering with intergalactic transportation companies. Profits would be maximized due to the replacement of union Earthling labor with robots.

Koohan Paik lives in Honokaa, Hawaii and serves on the Global Network Board of Advisers.

Trump's Secretary of War

By Marjorie Cohn

President-elect Donald Trump has selected retired Marine General James Mattis to exercise civilian control over the Department of Defense. Originally known as the Department of War, it was renamed Department of Defense in 1949. But war is precisely what Mattis, known as “Mad Dog,” has enthusiastically done throughout his career.

In 2005, Mattis declared, “It’s fun to shoot some people.” That was one year after he oversaw the Battle of Fallujah in Iraq, which began in April 2004, after four Blackwater Security Consulting mercenaries were killed and their bodies mutilated. In retaliation, U.S. forces attacked the village and killed 736 people. At least 60 percent of them were women and children, according to independent journalist Dahr Jamal, who interviewed doctors at Fallujah General Hospital and at other small clinics inside the city both during and after the April siege.

In November 2004 NBC News correspondent Kevin Sites, embedded with the U.S. Marines, heard Staff Sgt. Sam Mortimer radio that “everything to the west is weapons free.” Weapons Free, explained Sites, “means the Marines can shoot whatever they see—it’s all considered hostile.” The rules of engagement come from the top, and Mattis was in charge.

Collective punishment against an occupied population constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Yet, according to the Study Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, the U.S. attack on Fallujah in November 2004 killed between 4,000 and 6,000 civilians. Targeting civilians is a war crime.

Mattis’ enthusiasm for battle may lead us into a war with Iran. A vigorous critic of the nuclear deal with Iran, Mattis said in an April 2016 speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies that the Iranian



regime is “the single most enduring threat to stability and peace in the Middle East.” He added, however, “There’s no going back” on the deal and it would be an issue for the next president.

To his credit, Mattis has been clear-eyed about blowback from U.S. policy on Israel. He noted the United States is paying a “security price” in the Middle East because the U.S. is considered biased in favor of Israel, and Israel is in danger of becoming an “apartheid” state.

Mattis criticized Israel for building settlements in the occupied West Bank, saying they “are going to make it impossible to maintain the two-state option.”

Also to his credit, Mattis opposes torture—because it doesn’t work. Trump may have changed his mind about torture after conferring with Mattis. Trump told *The New York Times* that when he asked Mattis what the general thought of waterboarding, Mattis replied,

“I’ve never found it to be useful. I’ve always found, give me a pack of cigarettes and a couple of beers and I do better with that than I do with torture.” Trump said he was “very impressed by that answer. I was surprised, because [Mattis is] known as being like the toughest guy.”

“If there’s any concern at all [about Mattis], it’s the principle of civilian control over the military. The framers of the Constitution were wary of putting the military in charge of making foreign policy, which explicitly resides in the executive branch; that is, the president as commander-in-chief and his secretary of defense.

But the president-elect has stated, “We will use military force only in cases of vital necessity to the national security of the United States. We will put an end to attempts of imposing democracy and overthrowing regimes abroad, as well as involving ourselves in situations in which we have no right to intervene.”

Let’s hope Trump can maintain that position in the face of inevitable militaristic advice. Trump frequently makes contradictory statements about foreign policy. During the campaign, he insisted that he opposed the Iraq War and Libya regime change, when in fact he supported both. In fact, Trump called for all U.S. troops in the Middle East to overthrow Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi.

It is our challenge to hold Trump’s feet to the fire in every way we can—speaking out, writing, demonstrating, and pressuring Congress and the White House. We cannot relent in demanding peace.

Marjorie Cohn is professor emerita at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, former president of the National Lawyers Guild and on the advisory board of Veterans for Peace.



Russia (Cont. from p. 6)

provocative aerial displays over the Baltic States, which moreover use dual-capable aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

The U.S. should also commit itself together with Russia to a policy of non-first use of nuclear weapons and ideally to a policy of no use at all.

As the same time, there should be serious negotiations for a new multilateral treaty on MD—one which involves other states, not just the U.S. and Russia as the old ABM Treaty did—and which limits the number and capability of such systems and prohibits their deployment beyond national borders.

Some in the West will balk at these steps saying they are unreasonable. They are in fact the only reasonable response if the danger current U.S. and NATO actions is creating is to be ended.

Vladimir Kozin is Chief Adviser, Russian Institute for Strategic Studies and a Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. In 2013 Kozin spoke at the Global Network annual space conference in Kiruna, Sweden.

New Zealand Plan to Launch Military Satellites

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important issue. The Pacific Institute of Resource Management, Incorporated, (PIRM) is dedicated to sustainable use of the Earth's natural resources, to peace, equity and justice issues. We publish the journal *Pacific Ecologist*.

In the Ministry for the Environment August 2016 discussion document: *Proposed regulation of jettisoned material from space launch vehicles*, Environment Minister Nick Smith's message reports: "Space rocket launches are a new activity for New Zealand. The Government wishes to help develop a peaceful, safe, responsible, and secure space industry that meets New Zealand's international obligations." He continues: "We are proposing to make this activity permitted subject to conditions. This is similar to the approach we take to regulating the environmental effects of seismic surveying, marine scientific research, and prospecting and exploration for petroleum (excluding exploration drilling)."

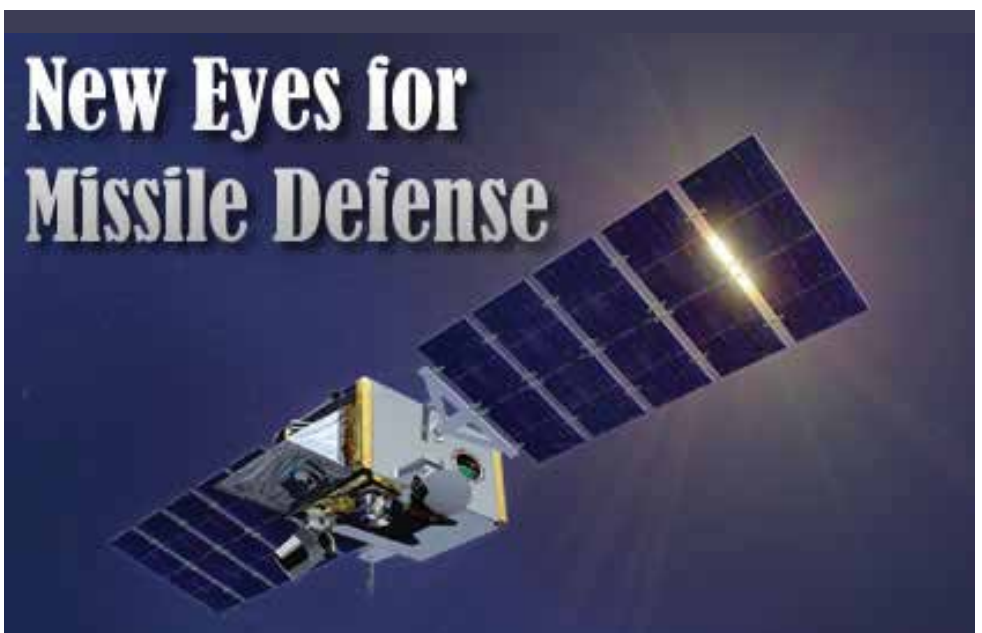
We support the Government's wishes as set out above, but see difficulties in maintaining NZ's international obligations by permitting the activity itself, which is very different from seismic surveys etc., as it has international military implications through its links with U.S. Defense agencies. This is evident from the fact that Rocket Lab has worked under contract for the Operationally Responsive Space Office," studying "a low-cost space launcher to place nano-satellites into orbit. "A browse of the ORSO site declares it "focuses on providing quick-response tactical space-based capabilities to the warfighter utilising smaller satellites such as the Tactical Satellite Program and

smaller launch vehicles." Organisations involved with ORSO activities include the U.S. Army, the U.S. NAVY, DARPA, the (US) National Reconnaissance Office, the (US) Missile Defense Agency and NASA.

Our concern is that Space, that vast, mysterious region beyond Earth's atmosphere, has tragically become a region from which human beings are directing wars. The U.S. space programme has been meshed with the U.S. military and weapons corporations since 2003, when 70% of the weaponry used in the illegal invasion of Iraq was directed using space-based technology. Attacks on many other countries since have used drones, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and GPS-guided bombs, directed by space satellites and remotely controlled far from the battlefield, causing huge civilian casualties.

This new activity is of great concern because the proposed activity will principally benefit the perpetrators of the many egregious and ill-advised wars going on in the world today. These wars have caused the deaths of millions of people and great suffering for millions more, including refugees, forced to leave war-torn countries.

Bearing all this in mind, there is no reasonable case for New Zealand to support the ability of America, which is leading these wars, to wage war more effectively through more efficient rocketry. If New Zealand does this we are contributing to the psychosis of endless wars that cause enormous misery and prevent peaceful co-operation in the world and within the United Nations. New Zealand's great gift to the world lies in taking an independent stance, not agreeing with the Iraq war, having



an independent nuclear-free policy, etc.

The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), is a UN resolution advocating a ban on the weaponization of space. In 1981, debate over weaponization of outer space led the Conference on Disarmament, CD, to begin talks on the PAROS treaty. America is the only country to vote against the resolution, with Israel abstaining, America argues PAROS is unnecessary because there are no weapons, thus no arms race in outer space at this time. Russia and China, which America depicts as threats to its supremacy, have been calling for a global ban on weapons in space since 1981. In July 2003 they delivered their pleas for this ban again at a session of the U.N. Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

At last on 8 December 2015, a UN Resolution, sponsored by Russia banning weapons in space was passed at the General Assembly with 126 votes in favour and 4 votes against: the US, and its allies, Georgia, Israel, and Ukraine. The U.S. again refused to enter into negotiations banning weapons in space, claiming there was "no problem in space."

It's clear that America sees space as another region for its "full spectrum dominance" policies. It is actually using space vehicles now to pitilessly kill people. Can New Zealand's involvement in launching space vehicles in association with the American military really be termed peaceful?

The Pacific Institute of Resource Management,

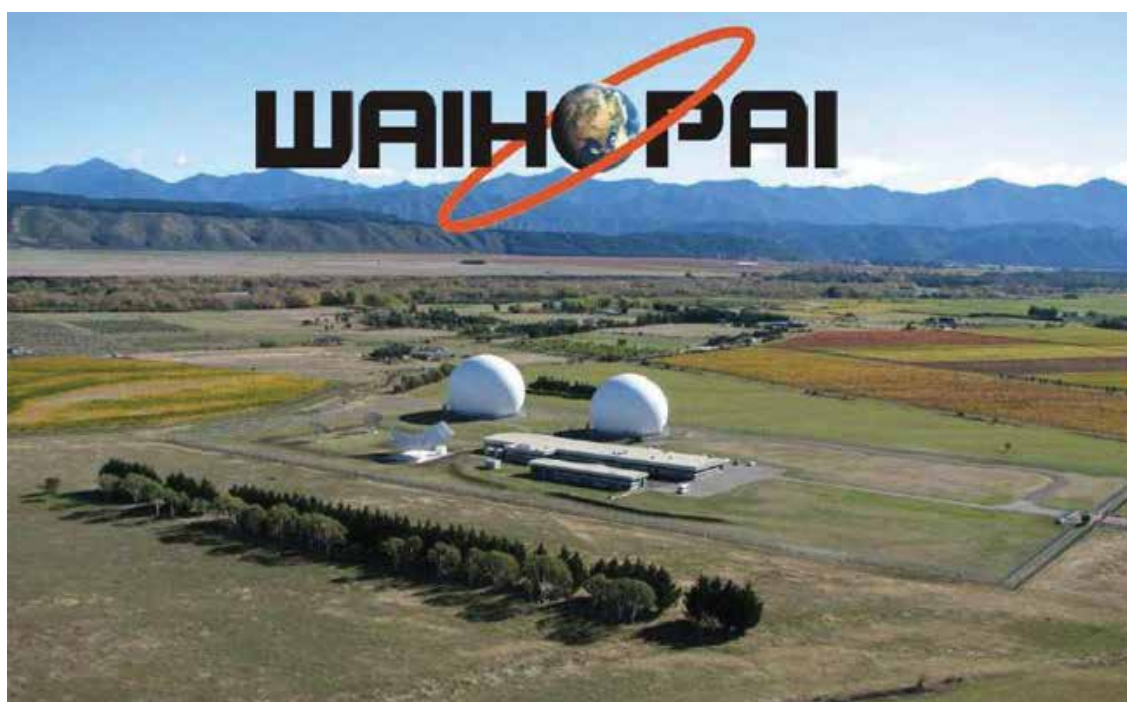
rejects the idea that it is in New Zealand or the world's interests, or international obligations for our country to be involved in launching space vehicles in association with the U.S. war-fighting machinery. It is certainly not in the interests of peace and security in the world to do this and can only lead to worsening violence and accelerate dangers of space warfare that could speedily wipe out all life on Earth.

We call for a ban on launching space vehicles from New Zealand, and a ban on weapons in space. Space vehicles are being used for war-mongering purposes by America and are causing instability around the world. We call for an end to the sickness and inhumanity of the west's wars.

The appalling amounts of money spent on weapons, including nuclear weapons, and money spent on space stations for military purposes must be diverted to remediating the damage done by these wars to the people and countries of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, etc.

We call on the New Zealand government, to request that the U.S. government transform its foreign and domestic policies away from endless wars, to cultivate real security in America and worldwide, addressing inequity/injustice concerns and the increasing problems of global warming which worsen yearly, even as military budgets increase. A new culture of co-operation around peaceful initiatives to build security for all is urgently needed.

Kay Weir, Editor Pacific Ecologist, Wellington, New Zealand submitted public comments to Ministry for Environment.



The U.S.'s NSA spy base at Waihopai in New Zealand. Annual protests are held at the spy base by the NZ Anti-Bases Campaign.

Croughton 'Joint Intelligence Analysis Centre'

By Paul Mobbs

U.S. military doctrine is changing. Today the political imperative behind military action is to minimize the risks to military personnel, while maximizing the ability to "project force" around the globe in support of the USA's political objectives. This shift in doctrine is also driving changes in how the U.S. operates its installations. At USAF Croughton, on the border of Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, that means its historic role as a 'telephone exchange' for the U.S. military, intelligence agencies and the State Department is being upgraded and extended.

The USA's new military doctrine relies upon drones and small Special Forces units. An essential part of that process is a large increase in the use of surveillance technology. As the (so called) "precision" use military and intelligence operations increase, it requires that far more data be gathered from an area to 'fix' and 'follow' the targets under surveillance—either to collect intelligence or undertake some form of "kinetic action" (the military euphemism for capture/kill strikes). That in turn requires more communications links and large banks of computers to process all the information gathered from satellites, drones and monitoring stations. It also requires analysts to review the output from data processing to decide how to react.

That is what the new Joint Intelligence Analysis Centre at USAF Croughton is for. The existing U.S./NATO centres at Alconbury and Molesworth are being closed, and the staff redeployed to Croughton. New communications links will also tie Croughton's

equipment into key sites across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. This new JIAC facility will begin construction in 2017, and is scheduled for completion in 2020. The new 'SATCOM' (satellite communications) development will house an array of computer servers to receive, analyse and redirect information to various sites. USAF Croughton has a pre-existing network of communications links to enable this. Perhaps more importantly, the UK government does not ask questions about what the site is being used for. Recent Parliamentary inquiries and questions from MPs have found that the Government denies all knowledge of the activities carried out at Croughton—hence why the site should be called a "USAF" base rather than "RAF".

The U.S. military's new doctrine is creating change across NATO. In Sigonella, Sicily, the U.S. airbase has just become the new home for NATO's 'Alliance Ground Surveillance' (AGS) system. This uses seven Global Hawk drones (plus additional 'in kind' intelligence resources provided by the UK) to create a seamless, '24/7/365' zone of surveillance across North Africa and the Middle East. Much publicity is given to the use of drones for dropping bombs. However, the military's main use for drones is surveillance—taking not only high resolution pictures of the ground, but also mopping up all electromagnetic signals emanating from the area. The aim of this is to allow constant "full spectrum" surveillance across the area of interest. Croughton forms an essential way-station in communications between the US, the Middle East and North Africa. The satellite ground-station at Croughton



receives communications from U.S. military and intelligence operations in those areas, and then relays that information back to the U.S. for further processing and decision-making.

Like giant puffballs, the radomes at Croughton are the 'visible' part of a much larger communications 'organism'—with 'digital mycorrhizae' which span the globe. Though the satellite, or 'SATCOM,' ground-station grabs our attention, far more information is being exchanged via an extensive network of underground fibre-optic cables. These cables are part of a dedicated military network, and also utilize existing commercial data networks too. Croughton's connections span the UK, Europe, the Middle East, and reach across the Atlantic to the continental USA.

Paul Mobbs is with Croughtonwatch in England

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