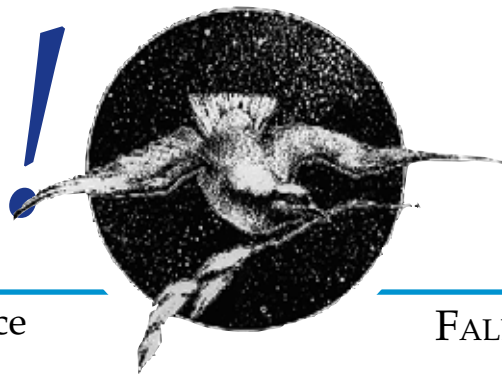


# Space Alert!



Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space  
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FALL-WINTER 2018  
Newsletter #37

## 26th Annual GN Confab in Oxford: Tech takes over space

by Dave Webb

The 26th GN Conference, hosted by the Oxfordshire Peace Campaign in England, gave us all a lot to think about. Just a few days before, on June 18th, Donald Trump made his announcement that he was ordering the Pentagon to create a 'Space Force' to ensure that the heavens would become firmly established as a future battleground. As we gathered for the Conference, at the Friends' Meeting House in Oxford, many were already aware that the U.S. military aims to 'dominate' and 'control' space (see U.S. Space Command's 1996 'Vision for 2020'). Trump is saying clearly that he sees militarising and controlling space as being as important as controlling the Earth below.

It is also becoming clear that Trump has no regard for past international agreements and treaties. He has started unraveling even the limited agreements on protecting the climate and the environment and his plans and funding for building space weapons are reminiscent of Reagan's 'Star Wars' ideas. In his conference speech, Bruce Gagnon outlined how space is now open for business and the consequential exploitation by billionaires and corporations. The Outer Space Treaty, the basis of international space law, recognizes "the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes" and emphasizes the importance of cooperation in space for strengthening good relations between states. This will be seriously challenged by Trump's plans.

The conference emphasized the impor-



Members of the Global Network made a trip from our conference in Oxford to the U.S. Croughton AFB that is being upgraded into a key space surveillance and intelligence operations center.

tance of space to the U.S. military. For example, satellites are integral to drone operations, relaying the command and control signals from remotely situated pilots.

The *Bureau of Investigative Journalism* (BIJ) has kept a running total of U.S. armed drone actions in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Yemen since 2004 amounting to at least 5,000 confirmed strikes, killing 8-11,000 people—including 750-1,600 civilians including 250-350 children. The BIJ notes that this is probably much higher because they began counting drone deaths in Afghanistan only in 2015.

But there's more—at our drone workshop, Peter Burt from *Dronewars UK*, described how drones are also the most visible element of the huge 'data machine' driving modern warfare. As a 2014 Guardian report noted, so-called 'signature strikes' are attacking people "based on a pattern of behavior considered suspicious, rather than intelligence tying their targets to terrorist activity." Computer models are being developed to identify those unwanted 'patterns of behavior.' The U.S. military is constructing a global interconnected data collecting system to control various weapons systems to select and destroy all kinds of targets.

However, the data environment is too complex for humans to direct in the response times required by the military and so Artificial Intelligence (AI) and autonomous systems are being developed to handle it.

In 2014 a U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) program called 'Insight' sought to create a fuller picture of the battlespace using a form of 'data fusion'—integrating different types of data with the aim of producing a multi-dimensional picture. Paul Mobbs referred to data fusion when discussing the extended role of 'RAF'

Croughton, near Oxford, as a U.S./NATO *Joint Intelligence Analysis Center* (JIAC). A new project extension called *Data to Decision* (or D2D) is increasing efforts to fuse text, video, and many other data sources to change the way every commander, airman, and 'thinking' machine make decisions and even take destructive action.

The data itself is collected by satellites, drones, aircraft, ships, land vehicles and social media. All electronic communications systems are susceptible to interception—especially emails and mobile phones and a global network of Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) bases provides data collection and analysis points. Until recently, much electronic communication traffic was by microwaves and readily intercepted at bases around the world at places like Menwith Hill in England and shared through the so-called '5 eyes' intelligence network of the U.S., UK, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia.

In her written report to the conference from Stockholm, Agneta Norberg described how the FRA (*Försvarets radioanstalt*), the Swedish equivalent to the NSA, runs electronic spy installations on the island of Lovön, near Stockholm, and in Lerkil, near Gothenburg. They monitor the fiber optic communications cables from Russia, which pass through Sweden. According to Edward Snowden, Sweden is ranked third for espionage after the U.S. and Great Britain, but Sweden is not the only collaborator with the NSA—now the 5 eyes have become around 43, including senior partners in Europe and the Pacific and the 2010 members of the International Security Assistance Forces to Afghanistan (ISAF).

Working on information released by Snowden, UK expert Duncan Campbell, and others revealed a new kind of satellite espionage, capable of intercepting calls, messages, and data from 35 satellites at once. Called 'Torus' the dishes are shaped so that they can monitor 70 degrees of the sky without moving and all different types of modern communications, from Facebook to fax, are intercepted, sorted and filed away in storage

(See GN Confab P. 15.)



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# Aerospace Pharaohs Building 'Pyramids to the Heavens'

by Bruce Gagnon

I recently returned from a trip to Moscow and Crimea in Russia. It was my first ever trip to that 'forbidden' nation that is #1 on the U.S.-NATO blacklist.

When I worked for the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice back in the 1990s, I organized three study tour trips to Cuba. There I saw that the story is not always so black and white as the corporate media and Congress claim. When I returned to Miami on one trip, I stepped out of the airport and stared at the massive city skyline and broke into tears. The humanness of Cuba had touched my soul deeply. I had picked the 'forbidden fruit' and was glad I had.

A few people wonder if I've been Putin-ized. To me, that idea is a sad carry over from the Red Baiting days of the 1950-60's. I'm not interested in recycling old Hollywood scripts. It's a waste of time. I'm just not interested in a war with nuclear-armed Russia.

The U.S. 'missile defense' program (reported on extensively throughout this newsletter) is the Pentagon 'shield' to be used after they launch a first-strike attack on China and Russia. At the Space Command, they've been computer war gaming it for years—they call it the 'Red' team versus the 'Blue' team.

Russia and China understand all this of course and have for years been urging that we close the door to the barn before the horse gets out—negotiate a new treaty at the United Nations to ban weapons in space. Washington and Tel Aviv have been blocking the treaty. The official position of the U.S. has been (through Democrat & Republican administrations) "There is no problem, thus no need to ban weapons in space."

This is indeed driven by the greed of the military industrial complex. They own the vast majority of Congress—both political parties.

We saw this same situation in our Maine state government last winter when I launched a 37-day hunger strike against the unbelievable request by General Dynamics (GD) for a \$60 million tax break. GD owns Bath Iron Works (BIW) where Navy destroyers are made that are outfitted with 'missile defense' interceptors on board. (They are called Standard Missile-3.)

I handed out flyers and talked to many workers at BIW—some who said they agreed that GD did not need \$60 million from a cash-hungry state like Maine with growing poverty and lack of health care coverage.

A good team of statewide peace activists worked hard to get 100 letters into dozens of newspapers across the state. Radio commercials were aired thanks to the support of Maine Veterans For Peace. We spoke out at the Taxation Committee hearings and held vigils inside the hallway between the state House and Senate chambers inside the capital in Augusta.

Days before the final votes a BIW union member told me the largest union at the shipyard, representing 3,500 Machinists, could not endorse the GD tax give-away because at a general meeting they voted 50-50. This big story was never published in the local newspaper

**...industry is passing their silver cup amongst the increasingly impoverished states. Its high-tech feudalism and we are the new indentured servants—slaves to be precise.**

which not only supported the tax break for GD but also went further and stopped allowing the local Peace-Works group to have a bi-monthly peace column in the daily paper. The op-ed had run for five years with various folks taking turns writing. It was my turn to write when the paper rejected my op-ed explaining our opposition to the \$60 million corporate welfare bill.

The bill was introduced in the Maine legislature by two local Democrats. On our recent Election Day, it was hard to pull the lever for them—and I didn't. You've got to earn my vote. I left those two races blank.

The idea behind GD requesting money from a fiscally broken state like Maine is to make 'normal' the strategy of the military industrial complex going to states and even cities asking for local taxpayers to help fund the war machine. GD has also demanded that Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Kentucky provide them with similar tax breaks. Most of it goes to corporate executives increased stock holdings while people down at the bottom of the barrel are falling deeper into poverty.

The aerospace industry has been claiming for years that 'Star Wars' will be the largest industrial project in the history of the nation—and the most expensive. This is why the industry is passing their silver cup amongst the increasingly impoverished states. Its high-tech feudalism and we are the new indentured servants—slaves to be precise.

The war machine needs an enemy—a really big one—an epic struggle—the U.S. (freedom, justice, capitalism) against the red menace in Russia. But wait, they went capitalist!

The trouble is that Russia has the largest border with the Arctic Ocean and due to

climate change it will soon be possible to 'drill-baby-drill' up there. The U.S. has been secretly developing a plan for years to 'Balkanize' Russia by breaking it up into smaller nations making it easier for the fossil fuel giants to have 'Full Spectrum Dominance.' Washington thinks the U.S. deserves control because it is the 'exceptional nation.'

Russia, China, Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Cuba, North Korea, and others think the time has come to have a multi-polar world rather than the arrogant uni-polar control by the USA. Washington and its military arm at the Pentagon and NATO believe they have a short window of opportunity to smash these 'foreign' upstarts and remain in power.

That is where we are at now. The Global Network will be taking a citizens diplomacy study tour to Russia in the spring of 2019. Members from our organization will be joined by Veterans For Peace members on the trip that will take us to Moscow, Crimea and St Petersburg. We intend to listen, learn and get to know a bit about the culture, history, and people of Russia.

I hope that the American people are wise enough to smell this 'Space Force' rat for what it is. It would be a massive infusion of more debt while creating a new arms race in space that Washington can't win. It's simply insane and is a major reason for the current attacks on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid in Congress.

We know what we have to do. Hard work is ahead. Many are dispirited and have given up the struggle. Our job is to keep moving and keep the sacred vision in the public's sight. We are working for peace and a life on our Mother Earth that is consistent with love.

—Bruce K. Gagnon coordinates the Global Network and lives in mid-coast Maine

*Help support our work!*

*Join Global Network.*

*See page 16!*



**Pyramids To The Heavens, Inc.**

## Nuclear Cycle in New Mexico

Thank you for the updates from Global Network and your relentless commitment to Keep Space for Peace.

Here in New Mexico we are actively working to block new uranium mining projects and prevent Holtec International from plans to bring all lethal radioactive waste from nuclear power plants across the U.S. by rail and public highways to an 'Interim' storage site in southeastern New Mexico.

Enclosed is my donation to aid your work.

Peace Blessings  
Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini,  
Maryknoll Sisters,  
Gallup, New Mexico

# The demonization of Russia in a New Cold War Era

by Mairead Maguire

In examining the future, we must look to the past.

As we watch the media today, we are spooned more and more propaganda and fear of the unknown, that we should be afraid of the unknown and have full faith that our government is keeping us safe from the unknown. But by looking at media today, those of us who are old enough will be reminded of the era of Cold War news articles, the hysteria of how the Russians would invade and how we should duck and cover under tables in our kitchens for the ensuing nuclear war. Under this mass hysteria, all Western governments were convinced that we should join Western allies to fight the unknown evil that lies to the east. Later through my travels in Russia during the height of the Cold War with a

peace delegation, we were shocked by the poverty of the country and questioned how we ever were led to believe that Russia was a force to fear. We talked to the Russian students who were dismayed by their absolute poverty and showed anger against NATO for leading their country into an arms race that they could not win. Many years later, when speaking to young Americans in the U.S., I was in disbelief about the fear the students had of Russia and their talk of invasion. This is a good example of how the unknown can cause a deep-rooted paranoia when manipulated by the right powers.

All armies must have an enemy to deem them necessary. An enemy must be created, and the people must be convinced that there is a need for action to safeguard the freedom of their country.

All military is expensive, and we can see in Europe that the countries are reluctant to expand their military spending and find it hard to justify this to their people. In looking at this scenario, we can ask ourselves what is beneficial about this hysteria and fear caused on both sides. All armies must have an enemy to deem them necessary. An enemy must be created, and the people convinced that there is a need for action to safeguard the freedom of their country. Right now, we can see a shifting of financial power from old Western powers to the rise of the Middle East and Asia. Do we honestly believe that the Western allies are going to give up their power? My suggestion is: not easily. The old dying empires will fight tooth and nail to protect their financial interests such as the petrol dollar and the many benefits that

come through their power over poverty-stricken countries.

Firstly, I must say, that I believe that Russia is not by any means without faults. But the amount of anti-Russian propaganda in our media today is a throwback to the Cold War era. We must ask the question: Is this leading to more arms, a bigger NATO? Possibly to challenge large powers in the Middle East and Asia, as we see the U.S. approaching the South China seas, and NATO Naval games taking place in the Black Sea. Missile compounds are being erected in Romania, Poland, and other ex-Soviet countries, while military games are set up in Scandinavia close to the Russian border to practice for a cold climate war scenario. At the same time, we see the U.S. President arriving in Europe asking for increased military spending. At the same time, the USA has increased its budget by \$300 billion in one year.

The demonization of Russia is, I believe, one of the most dangerous things that are happening in our world today. The scapegoating of Russia is an inexcusable game that the West is indulging in. It is time for political leaders and each individual to move us back from the brink of catastrophe to begin to build relationships with our Russian brothers and sisters. Too long has the elite financially gained from war while millions are moved into poverty and desperation. The people of the world have

been subjected to war propaganda based on lies and misinformation, and we have seen the results of invasions and occupations by NATO disguised as “humanitarian intervention” and “right to protect.” NATO has destroyed the lives of millions of people and purposely devastated their lands, causing the exodus of millions of refugees.

The people around the world must not be misled yet again. I believe that the U.S., the UK, and France are the most military minded countries, whose inability to use their imagination and creativity to solve conflict through dialogue and negotiation is astonishing to myself and many people. In a highly militarized, dangerous world it is important we start to humanize each other and find ways of cooperation and build fraternity amongst the nations. The policies of demonization of political leaders as a means of preparing the way for invasions and wars must be stopped immediately, and serious effort put into the building of relationships across the world. The isolation and marginalization of countries will only lead to extremism, fundamentalism, and violence.

During our visit to Moscow, we had the pleasure of attending a celebration of mass at the main Orthodox Cathedral. I was very inspired by the deep spirituality and faith of the people as they sang the entire three-hour mass. I was moved by the culture of the Russian people, and I could feel that their tremendous history of suffering and persecution gave them sensitivity and passion for peace.

Surely it is time that we in Europe refuse to be put in a position where we are forced to choose between our Russian and American brothers and sisters. The enormous problems that we are faced with, such as, due to climate change and wars, mass migration and movement of peoples around the world, need to be tackled as a world community. The lifting of sanctions against Russia and the setting up of programs of cooperation will help build friendships amongst the nations.

I call on all people to encourage their political leaders in the U.S., EU, and Russia to show vision and political leadership and use their skills to build trust and work for peace and nonviolence.

—Mairead Corrigan Maguire won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for her work for peace in Northern Ireland. She lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Reprinted from *Common Dreams*.



# Update from Finland: No NATO & No war with Russia!

by Kerstin Tuomala

All my greetings to you all!

I want to share about our wonderful trip to the Northeast of Norway and the Northern peoples' parliament. It was very interesting for many reasons.

The first reason is the place it was on. It is a part of Norway where there live Finns, Samis and Norwegians and where Russia is a near neighbor and the interaction between the Norwegian and Russian people has a long tradition as has the friendship between the peoples in the region.

For the second, there were many interesting presentations, about Norwegian and Russian relationships, about the NATO surveillance installations near the Russian border. Norwegian journalist Bård Wormdal was one of the speakers. We also learned about the cultures up there as the families have mixtures of Samis, Finns, Russians and Norwegians. It was a truly international and truly friendly area. The Norwegians had never forgotten that the Soviet soldiers in 1944 liberated them from the occupation of the Nazis.

We also visited a village at the shore of the Arctic Sea struggling for surviving in this world where the big money is dictating and it is hard for ordinary people to make a living.

Two peace activists from the north



A manifestation against NATO in Rovaniemi on Oct 27. In Trondheim, Norway there were 500 persons manifesting against the NATO exercise. Also in Luleå there was a manifestation.

of Sweden, Barbro Midbjer and Edla Lantto and two from Lapland, Finland, Tuula Sykkö and me went by my car up to the Northeast of Finland. I had never thought that we have to go east to Norway but at that place Norway is in the East, between Finland and Russia. We all had a great time in the parliament

and enjoyed the journey.

In the area of the East 'Finnmark' in Norway where the peoples' parliament took place this year, there are NATO installations—not only the radars North in Vardö—but military areas with restrictions for the people. The persons we talked with did not like it, but there is no protest movement—they are getting along with their everyday lives. The chef cook, who talked both Sami, Norwegian and Finnish, has started a Facebook group: Armsfree nations. In the Sami language there is no word for war, the Samis have always negotiated—or then withdrawn.

Barbro and Edla came to my place and they rested one day in my home before they went home. In the morning they had written a wonderful statement which we have tried to get into newspapers. I offer it to *Space Alert* with their permission. I like the simplicity and honesty of the text so much. The translation to English is made by me.

*"Russia is a military threat", is repeated all the time by media, government and parliament. But Russia has no economic benefit from attacking Sweden. They have never expressed any interest in exploiting Sweden. We can ask could Russia really have benefit from using our territory, our resources, people's knowledge and skills. Russia has 14 times more inhabitants than Sweden. It is the biggest country in the world with more resources than any other country. Do you really believe that Russia would like to fight against us?*

*Sven Hirdman, a former ambassador in Moscow, says that the Russian people do*

*not want to experience more wars, because 25 millions of Russians died in the Second World War. They don't want that more of the population die in wars. Are you letting yourself get scared by the war propaganda, which is trying to make us believe in the Russian threat in order to make us join NATO? A membership of NATO would cost us at least 76 billion of Swedish Kronor [about 2% of the national income—it is what NATO expects from member states in military spending each year.] The change of the climate is the big threat in the world today. It is our big enemy and we have to try to unite our force and to cooperate in order to survive. Before it is too late.*

*Barbro Midbjer from, Luleå, Sweden and Edla Lantto from Kiruna, Sweden*

The big NATO exercise, Trident Juncture 18, hosted by Norway lasted until Nov 7th. The airport in Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland is used as a base. One morning as I came home with my dog, 4-5 fighters flew over my house along the coastline of the Northern Bay of the Baltic Sea, probably to Luleå, Sweden, or maybe to Norway, where the main activity is taking place.

Sending a picture where we have a manifestation against a NATO exercise in Rovaniemi Oct 27th. In Trondheim, Norway there were 500 persons manifesting against the exercise. Also in Luleå there was a manifestation.

—Kerstin Tuomala lives in Simo, Finland

## Letter from Nepal

We are happy and honored to be part of the Global Network for a noble cause of saving humanity from manmade catastrophe and particularly the war mongering policies of irresponsible and insensitive leaders. We will continue to fight against this insanity.

We salute you and other friends in arms who have been holding the flag of conscience to awaken the people worldwide against the danger of putting nuclear power in space and the proliferation of nuclear arms on earth. I assure you we are with you and do all the possible to show our solidarity and commitment to the very objectives of the Global Network.

I am sad that because of visa rejection I personally could not participate in the USA and UK during the [last two] annual conferences, but our solidarity is strong and eternal. You know we applied and paid all visa fees for Oxford too, but none of us could get visa.

Please keep us updated about the activities of the Network and I assure you we will do the needful from our part.

Regards.

Professor Shreedhar Gautam, President Global Network Chapter-Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal

## Putin: In his own words—A New Arms Race in Space?

“Now, on to the most important defence issue. I will speak about the newest systems of Russian strategic weapons that we are creating in response to the unilateral withdrawal of the United States of America from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the practical deployment of their missile defence systems both in the U.S. and beyond their national borders.

I would like to make a short journey into the recent past.

Back in 2000, the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Russia was categorically against this. We saw the Soviet-U.S. ABM Treaty signed in 1972 as the cornerstone of the international security system. Under this treaty, the parties had the right to deploy ballistic missile defence systems only in one of its regions. Russia deployed these systems around Moscow, and the U.S. around its Grand Forks land-based ICBM base.

Together with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the ABM Treaty not only created an atmosphere of trust but also prevented either party from recklessly using nuclear weapons, which would have endangered humankind, because the limited number of ballistic missile defence systems made the potential aggressor vulnerable to a response strike.

We did our best to dissuade the Americans from withdrawing from the treaty. All in vain. The U.S. pulled out of the treaty in 2002. Even after that we tried to develop constructive dialogue with the Americans. We proposed working together in this area to ease concerns and maintain the atmosphere of trust. At one point, I thought that a compromise was possible, but this was not to be. All our proposals, absolutely all of them, were rejected. And then we said that we would have to improve our modern strike systems to protect our security. In reply, the U.S. said that it is not creating a global BMD system against Russia, which is free to do as it pleases, and that the U.S. will presume that our actions are not spearheaded against the U.S..

The reasons behind this position are obvious. After the collapse of the USSR, Russia, which was known as the



Soviet Union or Soviet Russia abroad, lost 23.8 percent of its national territory, 48.5 percent of its population, 41 of the GDP, 39.4 percent of its industrial potential (nearly half of our potential, I would underscore), as well as 44.6 percent of its military capability due to the division of the Soviet Armed Forces among the former Soviet republics. The military equipment of the Russian army was becoming obsolete, and the Armed Forces were in a sorry state. A civil war was raging in the Caucasus, and U.S. inspectors oversaw the operation of our leading uranium enrichment plants.

For a certain time, the question was not whether we would be able to develop a strategic weapon system—some wondered if our country would even be able to safely store and maintain the nuclear weapons that we inherited after the collapse of the USSR. Russia had outstanding debts, its economy could not function without loans from the IMF and the World Bank; the social sphere was impossible to sustain.

Apparently, our partners got the impression that it was impossible in the foreseeable historical perspective for our country to revive its economy, industry, defence industry and Armed Forces to levels supporting the necessary strategic potential. And if that is the case, there is no point in reckoning with Russia's opinion, it is necessary to further pursue ultimate unilateral military advantage in order to dictate the terms in every sphere in the future.

Basically, this position, this logic, judging from the realities of that period, is understandable, and we ourselves are to blame. All these years, the entire 15 years since the withdrawal of the United States from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, we have consistently tried to reengage the American side in serious discussions, in reaching agreements in the sphere of strategic stability.

We managed to accomplish some of these goals. In 2010, Russia and the U.S. signed the New START treaty, containing measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms. However, in light of the plans to build a global anti-ballistic missile system, which are still being carried out today, all agree-

ments signed within the framework of New START are now gradually being devaluated, because while the number of carriers and weapons is being reduced, one of the parties, namely, the U.S., is permitting constant, uncontrolled growth of the number of anti-ballistic missiles, improving their quality, and creating new missile launching areas. If we do not do something, eventually this will result in the complete devaluation of Russia's nuclear potential. Meaning that all of our missiles could simply be intercepted.

Despite our numerous protests and pleas, the American machine has been set into motion, the conveyer belt is moving forward. There are new missile defence systems installed in Alaska and California; as a result of NATO's expansion to the east, two new missile defence areas were created in Western Europe: one has already been created in Romania, while the deployment of the system in Poland is now almost complete. Their range will keep increasing; new launching areas are to be created in Japan and South Korea. The U.S. global missile defence system also includes five cruisers and 30 destroyers, which, as far as we know, have been deployed to regions in close proximity to Russia's borders. I am not exaggerating in the least; and this work proceeds apace.

So, what have we done, apart from protesting and warning? How will Russia respond to this challenge? This is how.

During all these years since the unilateral U.S. withdrawal from the ABM Treaty, we have been working intensively on advanced equipment and arms, which allowed us to make a breakthrough in developing new models of strategic weapons.

Let me recall that the United States is creating a global missile defence system primarily for countering strategic arms that follow ballistic trajectories. These weapons form the backbone of our nuclear deterrence forces, just as of other members of the nuclear club.

As such, Russia has developed, and works continuously to perfect, highly effective but modestly priced systems to overcome missile defence. They are installed on all of our intercontinental ballistic missile complexes.”

—Delivered to the world in 2018 by Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin a Russian statesman and former intelligence officer serving as President of Russia since 2012, previously holding the position from 2000 until 2008. His words sadly reveal the consequences of an unrestrained U.S. push for ‘full spectrum dominance’—a new arms race in space.

# Illusion Of Choice

**There Are:**

- 1,500 Newspapers**
- 1,100 Magazines**
- 9,000 Radio Stations**
- 1,500 TV Stations**
- 2,400 Publishers**

**Owned by 6 Corporations**

**& 272 Executives**

**That control 90 % of what 277 million**

**Americans SEE, HEAR & READ**



# Living the future nightmare: Fleet Review in Jeju

by Choi Sung-hee

While many people were full of positive expectation for peace in Korea as they witnessed the 3rd inter-Korean Summit meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Sept. 19th, there was a Korean village that could not join such festivities, feeling betrayed and abandoned.

It was Gangjeong village, the Life and Peace village of less than 2,000 population. A village in the south of Jeju, the World Peace Island, located in the south sea below the Korean peninsula. As the world cheered the removal of mines and armaments at joint security area in the Korean DMZ this October, more than 40 warships including 19 international warships from 13 countries were heading to the Jeju navy base located in the Gangjeong village. One of the warships was the U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan, homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. It was radiated during the rescue work on the of Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011.

We had the International Fleet Review in Jeju from Oct. 10-14. For us, it was the 'ceremony to proclaim the Jeju military base.' In his speech during the pass-in-review, on Oct. 11, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, welcoming all the warships, declared that 'peace comes through national defense power,' and the Jeju navy base would be 'the stronghold for peace', as if confirming the abusive title of the fleet review: "Jeju Where Peace Starts".

Meanwhile, Cho Kyung-chul, a former mayor of village sat in front of the Jeju navy base in protest to the enforced fleet review by the Moon government. Policemen tried to remove him and others away from the gate while a female villager, Kim Mi-ryang climbed up to the top of base gate in protest. However, the most infuriating part on the day occurred after the pass-in-review when Moon made a show of apology for the enforcement of the Jeju navy base construction in a new luxurious community building, surrounded by media reporters who, many of them, wrote later as if the issue of Gangjeong was settled by President Moon's apology to the villagers who were represented by current mayor, and vice-mayor, of the village.

The truth is that the very ones such as Kang Dong-kyun, a former mayor, Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon, and other protestors who have struggled against Jeju navy base project for last 11 years were forcefully stopped by the policemen on the street when they tried to protest to Moon face-to-face. In July, Moon's Presidential House sent its delegates to the village five times, to persuade the villagers to support the fleet review. It was even suggested President Moon's apology to Gangjeong would be conditioned on the village supporting fleet review. The villagers were annoyed by such a deceptive proposal. There had already been villagers' official decision against the fleet review in March. However, the new representatives of current village association are unfortunately compromising to the navy. Many of them were inclined toward economic earnings from the fleet review. Finally, a village meeting was held again on July 29 to revisit the issue of the fleet review. The anti-base villagers' committee boycotted the vote. By the result of suspicious vote, the village association announced its acceptance of fleet review. The Jeju Island [regional] Council whose 43 members had all signed the

draft for a petition of opposition to the fleet review but cancelled to submit the petition at its main meeting, after its contact with a delegate from the Presidential House. As former mayor Cho would say, Moon brought the 10 year conflict between con and pro base villagers into a new 100 year conflict.

The U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan could enter the Jeju navy base only the day after the pass-in-review ceremony. It is told that our small but



courageous kayak team splendidly delayed its entry to the base. The Ronald Reagan docked in the cruise terminal located in the west side of Jeju navy base whose other name is the 'Beautiful Tourism Port for Civilian Military Complex'.

The Ronald Reagan stayed until Oct. 16th. With its 5,700 crew members and two accompanying U.S. guided missile cruisers' 600 crew members, the numbers of U.S. soldiers totaled more than 60% of the 10,000 international soldiers who joined the fleet review. On Oct. 15 when there was protest in front of the cruise terminal, a villager was arrested and released the next day.

## U.S. Sailor to Jeju residents:

*'You are the slave.'*

The lines of tour bus carrying U.S. sailors into the various parts of Jeju Island were endless. People stayed in front of base gate until 1:00 am for protest as those buses returned to gate. They were carried even in police and navy buses. Some sailors were drunk. Whether drunk or not, some of them mocked the protesters, throwing the remarks of sexual harassment, such as 'I love you.' Some of them were making gestures of hand kiss. However, the most remarkable word came out from the mouth of a U.S. sailor on the day: "You are the slave."

On the day, we could realize: The fleet review (which marks the 70th year of April 3rd uprising and massacre this year) is nothing but declaration of U.S. Navy base on Jeju. For near a week, the UNESCO biosphere designated sea was suffering. There was the leaked oil from two international warships. Water was strangely coming out from the USS *Ronald Reagan* from which a massive numbers of garbage bags were carried out for disposal in Busan.

But above all, the fleet review was for the Moon government and navy to nail the Jeju navy base as the

stronghold for the 'ocean navy,' which means the navy aims to extend its activity area 'beyond Korea.'

Two remarkable bits of news came out during the National Assembly investigation on the government affairs. On Oct. 12, it was known that the navy almost decided to introduce Raytheon's Standard missile (SM-3), a key element of missile defense.

The other was navy's plan to have two operational Commands of which the 2nd Operation Command aims to respond to 'potential or nonmilitary threat.' The 2nd Operation Command will be in line with the creation of task fleet Command which 'would run Aegis-equipped destroyers and submarines.' Together with aviation Command which will be created also, the task fleet command will compose the 2nd Operation Command.

It will be likely that the activities of 2nd Operation Command and introduction of SM-3 would be much related to the Jeju navy base as it homeports the task force and submarine squadrons. It is the homeport of nine South Korean destroyers including three biggest Aegis destroyers in South Korea. And its location is close to China and South China Sea where military tension between U.S. and China is being rapidly escalated.

We became to know later that the reason that China declined to send its warship to the fleet review in Jeju was because one of South Korean destroyers, *Munmu, the Great*, happened to enter China's claimed sea territory near the Paracel Islands on Sept. 16, allegedly for the reason of typhoon. The homeport of *Munmu, the Great* is the Jeju navy base.

On Oct. 26, Jeong Kyeong-doo, Minister of National Defense said that THAAD [ground-based missile defense system] will be officially deployed after the general environmental impact assessment. This brought fury to the people of Soseong-ri and Seongju, both villages on the mainland of Korea continue to demand the withdrawal of THAAD from their communities. Not only that, the sale of 64 PAC-3 missiles in South Korea has been approved. Cheong Wooksik of the Peace Network notes the U.S. move to integrate THAAD and PAC-3 systems through THAAD radar.

According to Tim Cahill, Lockheed Martin, vice president of air-and-missile defense, such interoperability 'could open other doors to achieve an even more seamless tiered and layered missile defense capability.' (Defense News, Oct. 10, 2018) Now with the plan of introduction of SM-3, the U.S.-led multilayer missile defense system in South Korea will be even more extended.

In the ROK-U.S. Security Consultative meeting on Oct. 31, U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis 'reaffirmed the continued U.S. commitment to provide extended deterrence to the ROK using the full range of military capabilities, including U.S. nuclear, conventional, and missile defense capabilities' which is denial of NK-U.S. Summit meeting in Singapore, June 12, this year. Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea also notes that the international fleet review in Jeju is a part of U.S. plan to make ROK-U.S. alliance a 'junior partner' of NATO as the aggressive alliance goes global.

In his pass-in review speech on Oct. 11, President

(See Jeju P 7.)

# A COLOSSALLY BAD IDEA

## Congress Wants a Space-Based Missile Defense System

by John F. Tierney & Philip E. Coyle

**A provision in the 2019 defense authorization act orders the Pentagon to start development.**

In March 1983, President Ronald Reagan delivered an Oval Office speech to announce his Strategic Defense Initiative — or as it was dubbed by critics, “Star Wars.” He proposed a space-based missile defense program that would have placed infrastructure featuring high-powered lasers, beams of atomic particles, and rocket interceptors in orbit to shoot down enemy missiles before they reached the United States.

The program, infeasible from the start, never came to fruition. That was for the best because it would have only incentivized the Soviet Union to build more missiles to overwhelm U.S. defenses. In other words: a much bigger arms race.

More than three decades later, most security experts consider the idea a dangerous relic of the past, but some members of Congress have chosen nostalgia over reason. In the recent defense authorization bill signed into law by President Trump, the Pentagon is ordered to “develop a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer” even though senior military officials have rightly opposed the idea.

The opposition is warranted. Because military satellites carrying space-based interceptors would be enormously expensive and operationally unviable and would result in unintended strategic consequences, Congress should refuse to fund the program.

How much would it cost? While the estimates vary, experts have consistently found the costs for space-based missile defense interceptor systems to be prohibitive. For example, a 2004 report issued by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that the cost to acquire a limited kinetic space-based system, launch the parts into orbit, and operate them for 20 years could reach almost \$80 billion in 2004 dollars (more than \$100 billion today).

In 2012, the National Academy of Sciences assessed that a program larger than CBO assumed, but still “austere,” would have a life-cycle cost of at least \$300 billion in 2010 dollars (about \$350 billion today), or 10 times more expensive than other missile defense options they examined. A more extensive program would further burden taxpayers and either way, they concluded, the cost “would probably prove unaffordable.”

### *Jeju continued from p. 6*

Moon mentioned Columbus as a historic example who sailed to far away oceans. The originally planned date for pass-in-review was Oct. 12. Columbus stepped on America lands on Oct. 12, 1492. It is not known well he was the merchant of ‘slaves.’

To finally add, 435 internationals including Prof. Noam Chomsky signed on to an international petition in opposition to the fleet review in Jeju. We thank them.

—Sung-hee Choi lives in the Gangjeong village, Jeju Island, South Korea. She is a coordinator of village international team, as well as a Korean advisory board member for the Global Network. [www.save-jejunow.org](http://www.save-jejunow.org)



To put these numbers in perspective, NASA’s entire annual budget is about \$20 billion. At a minimum, such a space-based missile defense system would brutally siphon funds from higher priority Pentagon programs.

Would it work? The existing ground-based national missile defense program, at a total cost of about \$70 billion, has yet to demonstrate reliable effectiveness. In 18 tests of the system, it has destroyed the target missile only nine times — a 50 percent rate of success. In the last five tests, the interceptor has worked successfully just twice. This poor record is despite the tests being highly scripted for success. In these tests, critical information is provided to the defense that would not be known in battle. Making matters worse, the system has never been tested against realistic enemy decoys and countermeasures that can “fool” the radars and interceptors. If the tests were operationally realistic, the failure rate would be even higher.

Despite the failed record, Michael Griffin, the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, has argued that a much more advanced space-based missile defense system would be “a relatively easy technological challenge.” He’s wrong. Space-based interceptors have unique, impractical limitations that exacerbate the challenges of missile defense.

To be close enough for boost-phase intercept, the interceptor satellites must travel in a low-earth orbit. But in low-earth orbit, the interceptor satellites pass over target sites on the ground so quickly that they don’t remain in position long enough to reach a boosting enemy missile. For this reason, a 2003 study by the American Physical Society concluded that a system of space-based interceptors designed to defeat boosting enemy missiles “would require a fleet of a thousand or more orbiting satellites just to intercept a single missile.”

What would be the unintended consequences? In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, which strictly limited each side’s missile defense programs. The idea was simple: If one side deployed systems that aimed to intercept the other’s nuclear missiles, the other would be incentivized to build more of-

defensive missiles to defeat them and vice versa — exactly the opposite of what either nation wanted. The result, both sides understood, would be an unsustainable arms race with increased risks of nuclear war.

Unfortunately, President George W. Bush withdrew the U.S. from the treaty in 2002, laying the groundwork for a new kind of conflict with Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin has specifically cited U.S. missile defenses as the primary motivation for building new Russian nuclear delivery systems. China has improved its capabilities for the same reason.

Space-based missile defenses would motivate U.S. adversaries to increase their nuclear arsenals and expand their anti-satellite capabilities to neutralize the new space infrastructure.

Along with President Trump’s proposal for a new Space Force, this type of system could become an unwitting step towards the weaponization of space. While Russia, China, and the United States have experimented with anti-satellite weapons, no nation has deployed attack weapons in space. The deployment of space-based interceptors for missile defense could lead to a dangerous war in space — the consequences of which are nearly unimaginable.

Ultimately, congressional appropriators hold the prerogative to fund this new proposal for space-based interceptors. Considering the financial and strategic implications, they would be wise to ignore 35 years of false promises and focus on supporting initiatives that will actually protect this nation. (*Reprinted from Defense One*)

—John F. Tierney is the executive director of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. As a Democratic representative from Massachusetts, he was chairman of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Subcommittee of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Philip E. Coyle is the senior science fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. Previously, he served as the Pentagon’s top weapons tester and as an associate director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

# Keep Space for Peace Week 2018



Vigil outside the Raytheon missile production factory in the desert near Tucson, Arizona



Dr. Anumita Agarwal (on left) led a meeting of the new peace club to discuss space issues at PNG Government Post Graduate College, Nainital, Uttarakhand, India



Several educational events were held at local colleges in Kathmandu, Nepal by the Global Network chapter there



Catholic Worker Art Laffin from Washington DC took his space issue sign to their weekly morning vigil at the Pentagon. On the way he snapped this photo inside the Pentagon Metro stop to share how the aerospace industry is mind washing Pentagon workers



Above: Activists turned out on the bridge in Blue Hill, Maine and got a good response as they opposed Trump's announcement of the 'Space Force'



(Right) In Bath, Maine a space week vigil was held outside the administration building at Bath Iron Works where Navy destroyers are built that are outfitted with so-called 'missile defense' systems—key elements in Pentagon first-strike attack planning

# Keep Space for Peace Week 2018



In front of the federal building in Eugene, Oregon.



An entire week of educational events were held at various college and technical schools throughout the city of Visakhapatnam, India.



Peace activists in England marched on the U.S. Croughton AFB during space week to call for the closure of the space intelligence and surveillance base



The gate to the Lockheed-Martin aerospace production plant in Sunnyvale, California was closed during this space week protest by local citizens



In Cairns, Australia this mock rocket drew much interest at the Esplanade Lagoon.



This protest at the main gate of the U.S. NSA spy base was held at Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, England

## 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.

### Spam Filter

We have found that many of the emails sent to our members and friends are ending up in their spam filters. Please be sure to regularly check your spam filters for our emails and those of others who are trying to share important stories. You can keep up with the work of the GN at our web site [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org) and Bruce Gagnon's blog called Organizing Notes.

### Cost of Space Force

Creating the Pentagon's new Space Force will cost nearly \$13 billion over five years, according to U.S. Air Force estimates, *Defense One* has learned. That estimate was included in a Sept. 14 memo from Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson to Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan. In the 16-page memo, Wilson lays out her own plan for standing up the new branch of the U.S. military championed by President Trump. The Air Force estimates the Space Force would total

about 13,000 people. Should any Space Force be a full department with its own headquarters, service academy, recruiting and all the costly paraphernalia that comes with a military department? An Air Force organization is arguing that we shouldn't create the Space Force at all, but rather rename the Air Force. The Air Force Association, a nonprofit organization that promotes the Air Force, released a paper, arguing against the Space Force. The group contends that the Air Force has been managing most of the military's space missions for decades and those capabilities shouldn't be taken away. Instead, simply rename the Air Force to the Aerospace Force, the group says.

### Phantom Express

Boeing and the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency are collaborating to design, build and test a technology demonstration vehicle for the agency's Experimental Spaceplane program. The spaceplane—called Phantom Express—would reinvent space missions for commercial and government customers by providing rapid, aircraft-like access to space. Within minutes, the autonomous, reusable spaceplane would launch its upper stage to deploy small satellites into low Earth orbit. It would then land on a runway to be prepared for its next flight. The idea is that the Phantom Express would lift off from a launch pad and go into a suborbital

trajectory at hypersonic speeds while shielded by third-generation thermal protection. After it reaches the edge of space, it would launch a small, expendable second stage, which would deliver the payload to orbit. According to the agency, this first of a new class of spaceplanes would allow the U.S. to quickly recover even if faced with the catastrophic loss of military or commercial satellites.

### Good Steps in Korea toward Peace

Congratulations to leaders of North and South Korea for burying the hatchet and joining hands and hearts in their great effort to bring peace and reunification to the Korean peninsula. They are making peace with or without the U.S.A. It's about time people around the globe figured out they need to do it on their own. Washington is not interested in peace—weapons are America's #1 industrial export product. When weapons are your #1 industrial export product, what is your global marketing strategy for that product line? Next on the agenda is to close the many U.S. military bases in Korea. The governments of the two estranged nations were set to begin preliminary plans for the rail link in September, but their application to send a train from Seoul across the length of North Korea was denied by the U.S.-led United Nations Command. The multinational military body, which traces its roots back to the Korean War, controls movement across the demilitarized zone which separates North and South Korea.

### Celebrity Spacenic Supports Space Force

Celebrity astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson has a new book 'Accessory to War'. Tyson, who is director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, weighs in on the privatization of space exploration, Trump's Space Force proposal and more. He writes, "I don't value judge it. It's hard to not value judge something like this, but I've worked hard to not value judge it. For me, compiling this book, looking at the role that science in general and astrophysics in particular has played in aiding the warfighter, I stepped aside and I said, 'I will not pass judgment on this.' On President Trump's call to create a Space Force Tyson says, "I don't have a horse in that race. I don't have a fundamental problem with it, and just because it came out of Trump's mouth doesn't make it crazy."

### Israel Gives Oil Contract to Dick Cheney

Israel has granted a U.S. company the first license to explore for oil and gas in the occupied Golan Heights.

A local subsidiary of the New York-listed company Genie Energy — which is advised by former vice president Dick Cheney and whose shareholders include Jacob Rothschild and Rupert Murdoch — will now have exclusive rights to a 153-square mile radius in the southern part of the Golan Heights. That geographic location will likely prove controversial. Israel seized the Golan Heights in the Six-Day War in 1967 and annexed the territory in 1981.

### Russia Blames Israel for Shoot down

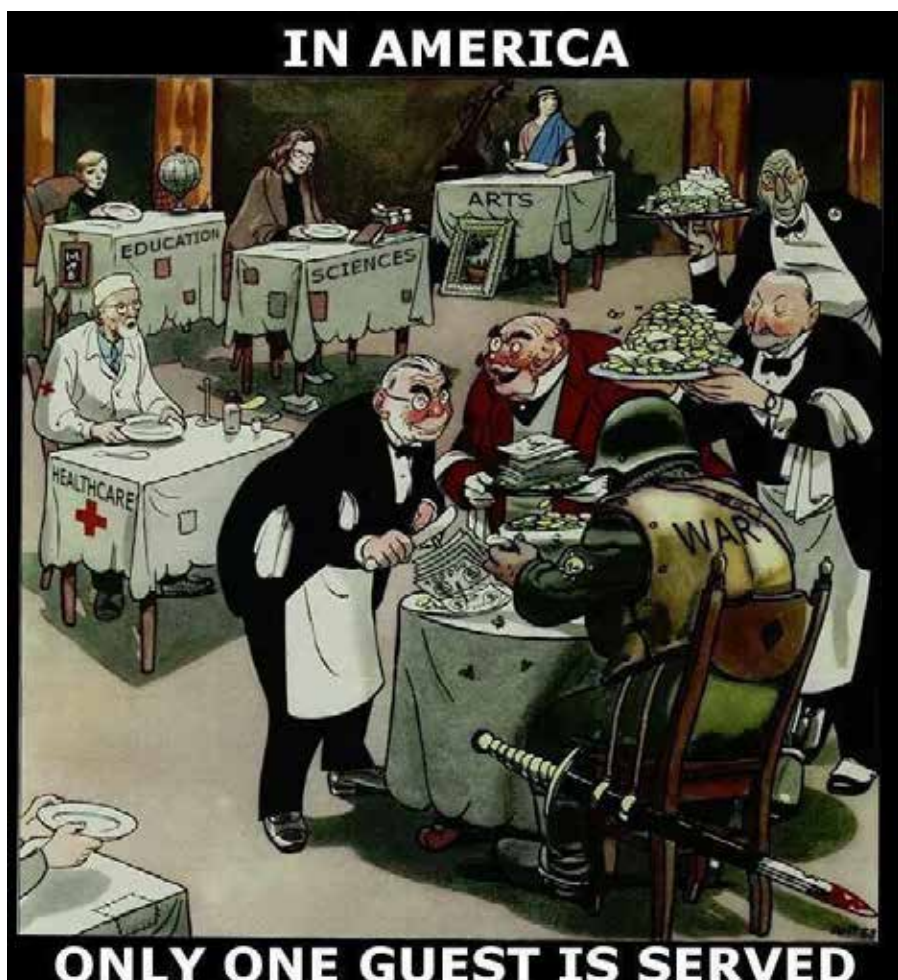
Russia announced a batch of measures in September, which will be employed in response to the shoot down of the IL-20 military plane (that killed 15 Russian airmen) as a result of hostile actions by Israeli F-16 off the Syrian coast. The defense ministry released data captured by the S-400 air defense system deployed at Khmeimim Air Base, which shows how an Israeli F-16 used the IL-20 plane as cover against Syrian air defense fire. The data clearly proves that the blame for the tragedy with the Russian Il-20 aircraft lies entirely with the Israeli air force and with those who authorized this kind of activity," military spokesman Major General Igor Konashenkov stated during the press briefing.

### Pentagon Fuels Yemen War

U.S. Air Force tankers have unloaded 95 million pounds of fuel into the gas tanks of jets flying near the Horn of Africa, including Saudi coalition jets conducting bombing raids over Yemen, during more than 12,000 refueling missions since 2015, according to newly released data. Military.com reports that as of August 31, U.S. tankers like the KC-135 Stratotanker had dropped off incredible sums of fuel to other aircraft, citing data from U.S. Central Command officials. An unknown — but likely high — number of recipient aircraft have been Saudi coalition jets bombing the Houthi Shia militia forces in Yemen. Yemen's Ministry of Education, based in Sanaa, estimates that the Saudi-led coalition has destroyed at least 3,000 schools and partially damaged 1,300 others. Yemen once boasted 9,517 primary schools and 2,811 high schools. Today, the inability to pay teachers and staff combined with the systematic destruction of Yemen's civilian infrastructure may lead to the shutdown of the country's remaining schools.

### U.S. Illegal Occupation in Syria

As part of its campaign to topple the last force of Arab independence, the United States currently controls about one-third of Syrian territory, by means of an unspecified number of U.S. ser-



## Odds & Ends

vice personnel who direct a mercenary force of Kurds, and some Arabs under Kurd control. Dennis Ross, who held several senior national security positions in the U.S. state department, says that “the U.S. and its partners control about 40% of Syrian territory.” The Pentagon says there are some 2,500 U.S. troops in Syria, but acknowledges the number is higher, since covert forces and aircrew are not counted. The Pentagon, then, is running a semi-covert war on a sovereign Arab state, having obtained no legal authorization for its actions, either from the United Nations Security Council or the U.S. Congress.

### War\$ are U.S.

Included in the Pentagon 2019 Budget request of \$717 Billion, is \$89 Billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), which predominantly funds the wars (operations, in-theatre support, classified programs, coalition forces, counter-ISIS training, security, etc.) Specifically stated areas include Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and “other mobilization” sites. The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, includes \$616.9 billion for the Pentagon’s base budget, \$89 billion for overseas contingency operations funding and \$21.9 billion for nuclear weapons programs under the Energy Department. The NDAA is only half the process, since Congress must still pass a spending bill to fund specific priorities with the Defense Department.

### Japan Lands Probe on Asteroid

A pair of tiny robots released by the Hayabusa2 space probe touched down in September on an asteroid 300 million km from Earth, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said. The cylinder-shaped Minerva-II1 explorers will take photos and temperature readings on the asteroid Ryugu before the main probe lands. The probe will also release a French-German landing vehicle named Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout (Mascot) for surface observation. This mission is part of the growing aerospace industry effort to develop the technology to search for rare minerals and mine the sky.

### Troubles at BIW

Bath Iron Works’ second Zumwalt-class stealth destroyer, the \$7.5 billion USS *Michael Monsoor*, needed a \$20 million engine replaced because inspectors found damage after the ship’s naval acceptance trials. The *Monsoor* had a main turbine engine replaced before the ship sailed to San Diego for its combat system activation, according to the U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command. The engine was made by Rolls-Royce and installed at BIW in Bath, where the ship was built. Previously the Navy had admitted it is canceling am-

munition specially developed for the ship’s high-tech gun systems because the rounds are too expensive. According to *Defense News*, one round costs \$800,000 (or more), making the rounds prohibitively expensive. The troubled Zumwalt ‘stealth’ destroyers were actually not wanted by the Navy but Barack Obama forced the construction of three of the ships. Obama rewarded General Dynamics (which owns BIW) with the Zumwalt contract largely due to the fact that the largest stockholders in the weapons corporation are the Crown family of Chicago who worked hard to make him president.

### Oil Wars Hit India

“Our goal is to increase pressure on the Iranian regime by reducing to zero its revenue on crude oil sales,” said U.S. State Department Director of Policy Planning Brian Hook. Fearing U.S. sanctions if they bought Iran’s oil, India, Iran’s second-largest importer of oil after China, has since started scaling down its reliance on Iranian energy. In June, oil imports from Iran to India went from more than 705,000 barrels down to almost 593,000 barrels per day, a decrease of 16 percent, according to the Reuters news agency. Meanwhile, oil imports from the U.S. have steadily been climbing this year. In the first six months of this year, the amount of oil imported from the U.S. is almost double that of the whole of 2017, *Times of India* reported.

### Nordic NATO

All Nordic countries are being re-armed under the leadership of NATO. The danger of war increases accordingly, we must stand together against NATO’s preparations for war. The Nordic countries are an important part of the preparations for war. Bases and equipment for NATO-U.S. armies are already in Norway and agreements ensure possibilities to use, Danish, Swedish, Icelandic and Finnish soil for war against Russia. Surveillance equipment is situated near to the Russian borders and command structures are established and many exercises are held. The huge exercise Trident Juncture in October-November this year in Norway was met with protests from all the Nordic countries. Thirty-eight organizations in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden signed the statement Stop rearmament in the Nordic countries.

### New Pentagon Mission

For at least two decades, the Department of Defense has explicitly defined its mission on its website as providing “the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country.” But earlier this year, it quietly changed that statement, perhaps

suggesting a more ominous approach to national security. The new mission statement — featured at the bottom of every page on the site — removes the words “to deter war” while adding that it is the Pentagon’s job to “sustain American influence” overseas.

### Expensive & Obsolete

Pentagon has their hands on the national treasury and it is still not enough to run their war machine....U.S. Navy aircraft carrier deployment rates around the world are at their lowest point in 25 years, *USNI News* recently reported, as the service copes with maintenance costs that have accrued over the 17-year War on Terror. Just 15 percent of the Navy’s carriers have been operationally deployed at a given point in 2018, *USNI News* calculated. In the last 15 months, fewer carriers have been underway than at any point since 1992, according to the report. Operating a Nimitz-class carrier runs about \$298 million per year, the Government Accountability Office estimated in a 1997 study. The U.S. currently has 11 operational aircraft carriers.

### Slow kids in gym class?

*Space News* reported in October: For those who have a hard time understanding why the U.S. military is worried about a war in space, Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond offered a vivid analogy: He compared the constellations that the military has on orbit today to “slow kids in gym class that can’t run very fast.” Slowness could be a big problem if Chinese or Russian anti-satellite weapons were targeted at U.S. spacecraft. U.S. constellations “are not all that defensible,” Raymond said at the Air Force Association’s an-

nual symposium. Raymond said there is a lot of work underway to make U.S. space systems more resilient. “We’re going to make them run a little faster,” he said. (New smaller, faster ‘hardened’ satellites are now under development by the Pentagon.)

### Naval Blockade of Russia?

Speaking at an event in Pittsburgh in early October, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said the U.S. Navy could impose a “naval blockade” on Russia if necessary to prevent Moscow from shipping fossil fuels to the Middle East. “The U.S. has the possibility to keep the sea lanes open or to block them, whenever necessary, to ensure that Russia’s energy resources do not reach the market,” said the secretary, noting that fuel trade plays a key role for the economic survival of Russia. Zinke’s recent remarks produced a reaction in Moscow, where Russian Senator Aleksei Pushkov commented on the words of the American secretary and opined that “besides being stupid, it is a threat that, if fulfilled, would become a declaration of war, as stipulated by international standards.”

### China’s Response to Space Force

Trump’s decision to establish a Space Force could create a military competition in outer space, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has warned. “China always advocates the peaceful use of outer space and opposes the placement of weapons and an arms race in outer space,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said. “In particular, we oppose turning outer space into a battlefield.”

### Walk the good path

Do not be daunted  
by the enormity  
of the world’s grief.  
Do justly, now.  
Love mercy, now.  
Walk humbly, now.  
You are not obligated  
to complete the work,  
but neither are you  
free to abandon it.

~The Talmud



# Space Force: The Back Story—Not to Be Forgotten

By Karl Grossman

If Donald Trump gets his way on formation of a Space Force, the heavens would become a war zone.

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 which designates space as the global commons to be used for peaceful purposes—and of which Russia and China, as well as the United States, are parties—and the years of work facilitating the treaty since would be wasted.

If the U.S. goes up into space with weapons, Russia and China, and then India and Pakistan and other countries, will follow.

Moreover space weaponry, as I have detailed through the years in my writings and TV programs, would be nuclear-powered—as Reagan's Star Wars scheme was to be with nuclear reactors and plutonium systems on orbiting battle platforms providing the power for hypervelocity guns, particle beams and laser weapons.

This is what would be above our heads.

Amid the many horrible things being done by the Trump administration, this would be the most terribly destructive.

"It is not enough to merely have an American presence in space, we must have American dominance in space," Trump said at a recent meeting of the National Space Council.

"Very importantly, I'm hereby directing the Department of Defense and Pentagon," he went on, "to immediately begin the process necessary to establish a Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces; that is a big statement. We are going to have the Air Force and we are going to have the Space Force, separate but equal, it is going to be something."

The notion of the U.S. moving into space with weaponry isn't new.

It goes back to the post-World War II years when the U.S. government brought former Nazi rocket scientists from Germany to the U.S.—mainly to the U.S. Army's Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama—to use "their technological expertise to help create the U.S. space and weapons program," writes Jack Manno, who retired last year as a professor at the State University of New York/Environmental Science and Forestry College, in his book *Arming the Heavens: The Hidden Military Agenda for Space, 1945-1995*.

"Many of the early space war schemes were dreamt up by scientists working for the German military, scientists who brought their rockets and their ideas to America after the war," he relates. "It was like a professional sports draft."

Nearly 1,500 of these scientists were brought to the U.S., "many of whom later rose to positions of power in

the U.S. military, NASA, and the aerospace industry." Among them were "Wernher von Braun and his V-2 colleagues" who began "working on rockets for the U.S. Army," and at the Redstone Arsenal "were given the task of producing an intermediate range ballistic missile to carry battlefield atomic weapons up to 200 miles. The Germans produced a modified V-2 renamed the Redstone....Huntsville became a major center of U.S. space military activities."

Manno writes about former German Major General Walter Dornberger, who had been in charge of the entire Nazi rocket program and, "in 1947, as a consultant to the U.S. Air Force and adviser to the Department of Defense...wrote a planning paper for his new employers. He proposed a system of hundreds of nuclear-armed satellites all orbiting at different altitudes and angles, each capable of reentering the atmosphere on command from Earth to proceed to its target. The Air Force began early work on Dornberger's idea under the acronym NABS (Nuclear Armed Bombardment Satellites)."

For my 2001 book, *Weapons in Space*, Manno told me that "control over the Earth" was what those who have wanted to weaponize space seek. He said the Nazi scientists are an important "historical and technical link, and also an ideological link....The aim is to... have the capacity to carry out global warfare, including weapons systems that reside in space."

But then came the Outer Space Treaty put together by the U.S., Soviet Union and the United Kingdom. In the 2001 TV documentary I wrote and narrate, "Star Wars Returns," Craig Eisendrath, who had been a U.S. State Department officer involved in its creation, notes that the Soviet Union launched the first space satellite, Sputnik, in 1957 and "we sought to de-weaponize space before it got weaponized...to keep war out of space."

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1966, it entered into force in 1967. It has been ratified or signed by 123 nations.

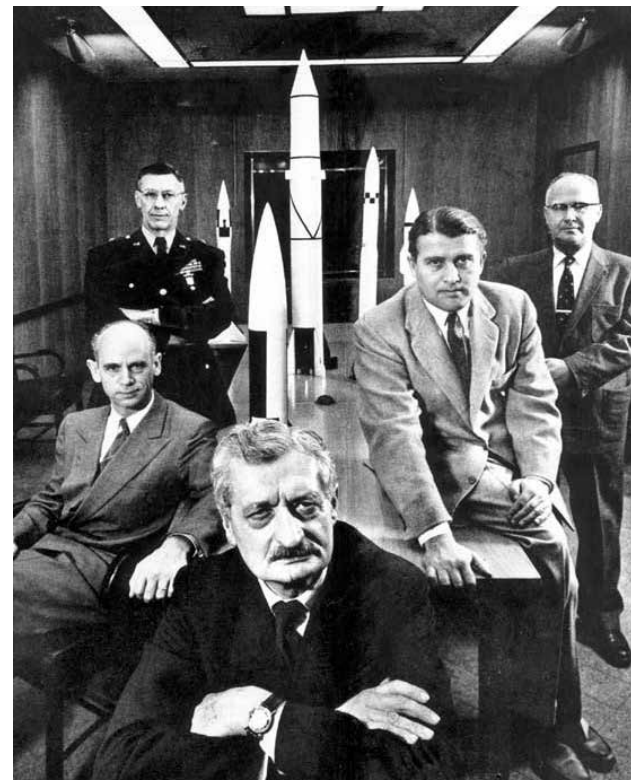
Atomic physicist Edward Teller, the main figure in developing the hydrogen bomb and instrumental in founding Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, pitched to Ronald Reagan, when he was governor of California visiting the lab, a plan of orbiting hydrogen bombs which became the initial basis for Reagan's "Star Wars." The bombs were to energize X-ray lasers.

The rapid boil of "Star Wars" under Reagan picked up again under the administrations George H. W. Bush and son George W. Bush. And all along the U.S. military has been gung-ho on space warfare.

A U.S. Space Command was formed in 1982.

"U.S. Space Command—dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect U.S. interests and investment. Integrating Space Forces into war-fighting capabilities across the full spectrum of conflict," it trumpeted in its 1998 report *Vision for 2020*. It laid out these words to resemble the crawl at the start of the Star Wars movies. The U.S. Space Command was set up by the Pentagon to "help institutionalize the use of space." Or, as the motto of one of its units declares, to be "Master of Space."

The basic concept of the Pentagon's approach to space is contained in *The Future of War: Power, Technology & American World Dominance in the*



Former Nazi SS officer and lead scientist on Hitler's WW II V-2 rocket program Werner Von Braun poses along with his team of former Nazi engineers and a U.S. military officer. The Germans were brought to the U.S. under a secret program called Operation Paperclip following the war. They created the Pentagon's space program.

21st Century. Written by "arms experts" George and Meredith Friedman, the 1996 book concludes: "Just as by the year 1500 it was apparent that the European experience of power would be its domination of the global seas, it does not take much to see that the American experience of power will rest on the domination of space. Just as Europe expanded war and its power to the global oceans, the United States is expanding war and its power into space and to the planets. Just as Europe shaped the world for a half a millennium [by dominating the oceans with fleets], so too the United States will shape the world for at least that length of time."

Since 1985 there have been attempts at the UN to expand the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 to prohibit not only nuclear weapons but all weapons from space. This is called the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) treaty and leading in urging its passage have been Canada, Russia and China. There has been virtually universal backing from nations around the world for it. But by balking, U.S. administration after administration has prevented its passage.

Although waging war in space was hotly promoted by the Reagan and Bush administrations all [recent] U.S. administrations have refused to sign on to the PAROS treaty.

In my book *Weapons in Space*, I relate a presentation I gave at a conference at the UN in Geneva in 1999 on the eve of a vote the next day on PAROS. I spoke about the "military use of space being planned by the U.S." being "in total contradiction of the principles of

(See *Space Force* P. 13. )



# One man 'space week' parade in Asheville



Ken Jones, member of Veterans For Peace, set up his one-man parade in Asheville, North Carolina.

## Space Force (cont. from P. 12.)

peaceful international cooperation that the U.S. likes to espouse" and "pushes us—all of us—to war in the heavens."

I was followed by Wang Xiaoyu, first secretary of the Delegation of China, who declared: "Outer space is the common heritage of human beings. It should be used for peaceful purposes...It must not be weaponized and become another arena of the arms race."

The next day, on my way to observe the vote, I saw a U.S. diplomat who had been at my presentation. 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 that was during the Clinton administration.

With the Trump administration, there is more than non-support of the PAROS treaty but now a drive by the U.S. to weaponize space.

Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, notes that Trump cannot establish a Space Force on his own—that Congressional authorization and approval is needed. And last year, Gagnon points out, an attempt

to establish what was called a Space Corps within the Air Force passed in the House but "stalled in the Senate." [It will be most interesting to see what the new Democrat controlled House of Representatives in Washington will do about 'Space Force'.]

"I think though," Gagnon says, "his proposal indicates that the aerospace industry has taken full control of the White House and we can be sure that Trump will use all his 'Twitter powers' to push this hard."

Meanwhile, relates Gagnon, there is the "steadily mounting" U.S. "fiscal crisis...Some years ago one aerospace industry publication editorialized that they needed a 'dedicated funding source' to pay for space plans and indicated that they had come up with it—the entitlement programs. That means the industry is now working to destroy Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and what little is left of the welfare program. You want to help stop Star Wars and Trump's new Space Force. Fight for Social Security and social progress in America. Trump and the aerospace industry can't have it both ways—it's going to be social progress or war in space."

As Robert Anderson of New Mexico, a board member of the Global Network, puts it: "There is no money for water in Flint, Michigan or a power grid in Puerto Rico, but there is money to wage war in space."

Or as another Global Network director, J. Narayana Rao of India, comments: "President Donald Trump has formally inaugurated weaponization of space in announcing that the U.S. should establish a Space Force which will lead to an arms race in outer space."

—Karl Grossman is full professor of journalism at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury. For more than 50 years he has pioneered the combination of investigative reporting and environmental journalism in a variety of media. He was a founder of the Global Network in 1992 and serves on the Advisory Board.

by Ken Jones

I began my week-long sandwich boardwalks around Asheville for Keep Space for Peace Week on October 6. It was a sunny day, and the town was full of tourists. At first, I extended flyers as I walked by people but stopped when I realized that people were not only giving the sign no reaction but were looking away in an attempt to avoid me. Then I just walked, making eye contact when I could, saying good morning, and handing a flyer to anyone that reacted visibly to the sign. I was walking around from 10:30 until 12:00, right before lunchtime. Sidewalks were busy with spenders and fun seekers.

Overall, most people looked away from me, though I did spot quite a number sneaking a look at the poster. Usually with no facial response at all. Then there were a good number of people—maybe 20 or so—who almost immediately laughed at the image of Trump in the Darth Vader helmet. I even had four to five people ask to take my picture with them (just like any tourist attraction). I had actual conversations with maybe ten people about the message of No Space Force and Keep Space for Peace. All agreed with the message, though only a couple realized that Trump was setting up a whole other branch of the military to accelerate militarism in space.

This walk is a study in how most people don't know, don't want to know, or don't want their good times interrupted with the bad news. One piece of feedback—my initial impression is that for those who do react, the Trump image is the thing they react to, not the message of keep space for peace. It could be that the image is a distraction from the issue, just as Trump always serves that function for the rulers. Something to think about for next time.

I'll keep at it each day this week for at least an hour. I am casting seeds into the sheltered minds of the bourgeoisie, giving the choir a laugh, and sometimes even touching a nerve about the future we are facing, as I move through Amusement World in my one-person parade.

--Ken Jones is a member of Veterans For Peace and lives in Asheville, North Carolina



# Cyber Command: From Traditional Network Warfare to Cyber Chaos

By Loring Wirbel

On Sept. 21, National Security Advisor John Bolton unveiled a new “National Cyber Strategy” which removed all self-imposed restrictions on the U.S. Cyber Command for carrying out offensive computer warfare. The new rules follow by mere weeks Bolton’s loosening of restrictions on the CIA’s aggressive use of drones, and a new pledge by the U.S. to ignore all rulings of the International Criminal Court. Taken together, the actions suggest an integrated and aggressive orchestration of hacking and robotic warfare. It follows a period in the Cyber Command’s first decade when mercenary hacking actions ruled the roost, both within the U.S. and abroad.

When U.S. Cyber Command was formed at National Security Agency headquarters in 2009, the state-sponsored hacking world was much simpler. Nation-states devised secret computer-assault efforts aimed at other nation-states or at non-state groups deemed to be terrorists, using the U.S.-Israeli Stuxnet virus attack on Iranian uranium centrifuges as a model. Autonomous vehicles such as drones and robot submarines were the sole province of large nations, and only the U.S. was talking about using clusters of coordinated drones in swarms. The few military cyber operations outside the U.S., largely limited to Israel, Russia, and China, were structured to use computer network offense and defense as tools in very traditional war scenarios.

But in the last five years, several nations have funneled secret money to freelance hackers that use social networks such as Twitter, Facebook, and Snapchat to spread populist and white supremacist messages. As various groups of uncertain origin make claims and counter-claims of “fake news” and “astroturf nonprofits,” the global environment resembles the waning years of the Cold War, in which the U.S. and Soviet Union funded independent mercenary groups that would overthrow small nations. In recent years, some of these freelance mercenaries in the physical world were formalized into covert-action corporations such as Blackwater.

In the same way, many freelance hacker outfits in the cyber-world may well become either for-profit corporations or official agencies of a particular state. In fact, alleged assaults on political parties in several countries are small compared to corporate hacker warfare. In June 2017, a piece of malware called NotPetya caused \$10 billion in damages to companies such as Maersk, FedEx, and Cisco. But by all public indications, Cyber Command/NSA is playing catch-up in the cyber-mercenary field. When Cyber Command and NSA established a new Joint Operations Center at Fort Meade in May 2018, it appeared oriented strictly to traditional computer warfare.

Congress has made attempts to address the freelance nature of hacker threats in recent weeks. On Aug. 28, Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) introduced a bipartisan bill with Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) to have individuals who intrude on national computer infrastructures be named as “critical cyber threat actors,” subject to Interpol warrants and individual economic sanctions. If a nation is identified as providing funds to those actors, the nation could be sanctioned. However, the NSA itself often recruits its programmers from the Black Hat hacker conference, and if the international hacker



community is criminalized, it could make hiring more difficult for NSA and Cyber Command. Nevertheless, at a Sept. 21 press conference, Bolton warned that any individual or any nation that attempts hacks or even trolling probes within the U.S. should expect to receive “an all-out response, where we act both defensively and offensively.”

One nice thing about traditional computer warfare is that it represents a clear target for peace activists to address. Cyber Command is working with Strategic Command, DARPA, and the nascent Space Command to use emerging neural-network-based artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to create robotic military forces capable of making independent decisions on the battlefield. Some military officers have expressed concern about the dangers of applying autonomous robot forces in nuclear-weapon realms, but they are usually silent when the same hazards are apparent in realms such as tactical conventional-weapon battlefields and physical covert action missions. Today, airborne armed drones are much more capable of independent decision-making, separate from a ground-based drone pilot, than they were in the Obama administration. It’s relatively straightforward to demand that nations not give robots decision-making capability in physical warfare. And it’s probably safe to say that offensive computer-assault efforts directed by nations, using viruses, worms, phishing assaults, and botnet denial-of-service attacks, are always morally wrong.

The correct stance for activists addressing the murky world of hacker mercenaries in social-media networks is a lot tougher to define. The hate groups that make up stories out of whole cloth, such as Alex Jones’ InfoWars, are easy to condemn, but should they be banned from social networks? Does this give Facebook free reign to ban most advocacy traffic? In late August 2018, Facebook’s efforts to combat what it claimed to be astroturf nonprofit sites from Iran and Russia, caused the social network to temporarily end the posting of images by any user—in fact, Facebook capabilities appeared to be collapsing in late summer, due to the company’s own over-policing. Clearly, when social networks use filters and algorithms that are too broad in limiting user traffic, their own profitability suffers. But who defines hate

speech and how will online censorship work?

The best way for activists to keep an even keel is to recognize that freelance hackers masquerading as trolls are very real, and are dangerous whether they receive nation-state funding or not. Activists should make sure they know the principal actors of groups claiming to be progressive peace groups, and should watch out for phony groups arising from both left and right. Activists should not pass on cute comical memes or serious news items without using Snopes or similar sites to check on the veracity of news. This strategy should be applied whether alleged assaults are based in the U.S., Russia, Europe, or anywhere. Media manipulators are a danger to free debate whether they are freelance or not.

While Cyber Command’s work is largely classified, its initial targets in social media fields would likely be Russian social networks like VK, or China’s emerging phone-based apps like WeChat or Sina Weibo. Cyber Command’s interest in China could easily eclipse the current “cold cyber war” with Russia. China is poised to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on artificial intelligence and cyber-defense in the next 10 years, and could dominate the standards bodies for computing by 2025. It would be natural for the U.S. to focus most efforts on China, but if NSA and Cyber Command attempt to insert information in U.S.-based networks like Twitter, it would create constitutional problems the agencies might wish to avoid.

Nevertheless, the bombastic Bolton press conference of Sept. 21 adds an urgency to peace activists’ work. It’s important to recognize that social-media freelance chaos and traditional computer-network warfare can enhance each other, and may be used jointly by many nations in the future, with the U.S. possibly taking the lead with the revamped Cyber Command. The result may be that global citizens shy away from social networks or from computer networks in general.

Unfortunately, few of us can retreat into a world without computers. We must continuously shine a light on the shadowy world of cyber warfare, and remember to use computer tools wisely to fight disinformation.

—Loring Wirbel is a long time peace in space activist and lives in Colorado

## GN Confab (cont. from p. 1)

places such as the huge NSA Data Center at Camp Williams, Utah.

Fiber optic cables are now replacing satellites to form the intercontinental communications backbone and, in addition to the Swedish interceptions, the UK plugs into long-distance cables surfacing in Cornwall, Cyprus, and Oman, and Sicily is a crossroad for communications between Europe, North Africa, Middle East, and Asia and 19 cables surface there.

Further information disclosed by Snowden and an Amnesty report of April 2018: (“*European assistance to deadly U.S. drone strikes*”) reveals that European States’ intelligence shared with the U.S. is used to locate and identify targets for drone strikes. Kristine Karch (who co-ran the drone workshop) described how Ramstein Air Base, a major USAF base in southwest Germany, plays a critical role in the U.S. drone programme, by relaying command and control instructions from drone operators in the U.S. received via special fiber optic cables to satellites which then pass it on to the drones operating in Yemen or Somalia.

UK intelligence is also crucial for U.S. drone operations. The media and NGOs have shown how the U.S. uses information gathered from communications intercepted by the UK to identify targets for drone strikes in areas including Yemen and Pakistan. At least four military bases in the UK also provide critical communication and intelligence infrastructure for the U.S. drone programme. One of these is Croughton, which has a direct fiber-optic communications link with the U.S. military base Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti from which most drone strikes on Yemen and Somalia are carried out.

In 2016 the Italian government authorized the U.S. to launch ‘defensive’ armed drone strikes from Sigonella in Sicily against armed groups in Libya. Of course, the U.S. uses a broad notion of self-defense to justify drone strikes, and successive administrations have asserted the right to treat the whole world as a battlefield. There is an urgent need for European States who assist the drone programme to be held accountable.

Currently, the U.S. military collects more raw data daily than they can analyze. AI is being used to help recognize patterns and identify features in an image. The vast quantities of data that have been archived are also being used to train the AI systems. Project Maven is one such programme being developed to speedily turn the enormous volume of data available into useful intelligence and provide new insights. Its first task is to automate the processing of data from drones to support U.S. military operations in Iraq and Syria. The Maven algorithms are based on commercial technology including image recognition software developed by Google. The goal is to use onboard computers to process the data, giving the drone the ability to identify potential targets—i.e., act as an autonomous weapon system—a ‘flying robot’ able to kill without orders from a human.

Realizing what Project Maven was leading to, over 4,000 employees signed a petition calling on Google to ditch the project and vow never to develop ‘*technology for war*.’ The protest was also backed by “400 technology academics and researchers from around the world”—who published an open letter to Google. The company has reportedly told staff that its partnership with the Pentagon is “*specifically scoped to be for non-offensive purposes*” and only uses “*open-source object recognition software available to any Google Cloud customer*.” A dozen or so employees felt so strongly that they resigned from Google over the issue and eventually, the company decided to end ties with the program when the current contract expires. Google now appears to have pledged to unveil new principles guiding its ethical use of artificial intelligence technology although the Tech Workers Coalition, a group calling for Silicon Valley companies “*to stay out of the business of war*” and develop ethics standards for AI, remain skeptical.

We need to help persuade companies large and small, to avoid military projects wherever possible. Our mission must be to take care of each other, inform people of the dangers of new developments in these technologies, and organize and work together to Keep Space for Peace and Free from Weapons.

—Dave Webb chairs the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the UK and serves as board convener of the Global Network. He lives in Leeds, England

## Militarizing Space Is a Bad Idea

by Carolyn Coe

As a child, space exploration sounded exciting. How cool to see human beings floating in space! And at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, my brother and I got to try space ice cream. It wasn’t tasty, but I didn’t care because I had just eaten what the astronauts had, and I considered them to be some of the world’s great explorers, like deep ocean divers and high-altitude mountaineers.

As a child, I didn’t consider what might be lost or who might be harmed by the U.S. space program. But when the Reagan Administration advanced the idea of having orbiting nuclear reactors powering U.S. weapons from space, that idea sounded dangerous. I could imagine radioactive waste raining down on Earth from war-damaged reactors. The space-based “missile shield” plan was also very expensive and technologically flawed.

The Trump Administration has now revisited the Star Wars plan and intends to establish a “Space Force” as the sixth branch of the U.S. military. And this year the U.S. Congress voted to start building space-based interceptors. Militarizing space is a bad idea.

According to a web post by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), space-based missile defense is “enormously expensive, easily defeated, and *fundamentally destabilizing*. It creates new problems without solving existing ones.” The UCS offers nonpartisan expertise on nuclear weapons

issues, and they estimate that deploying even a modest 600 weapons interceptors in space would cost U.S. taxpayers \$300 billion, or half the current U.S. military budget. Furthermore, these interceptors could be shot down with anti-satellite short or medium-range missiles, rendering this costly space-based missile system useless. Simply deploying these weapons in space would likely increase tensions between the U.S. and other nations, and it could set off an arms race.

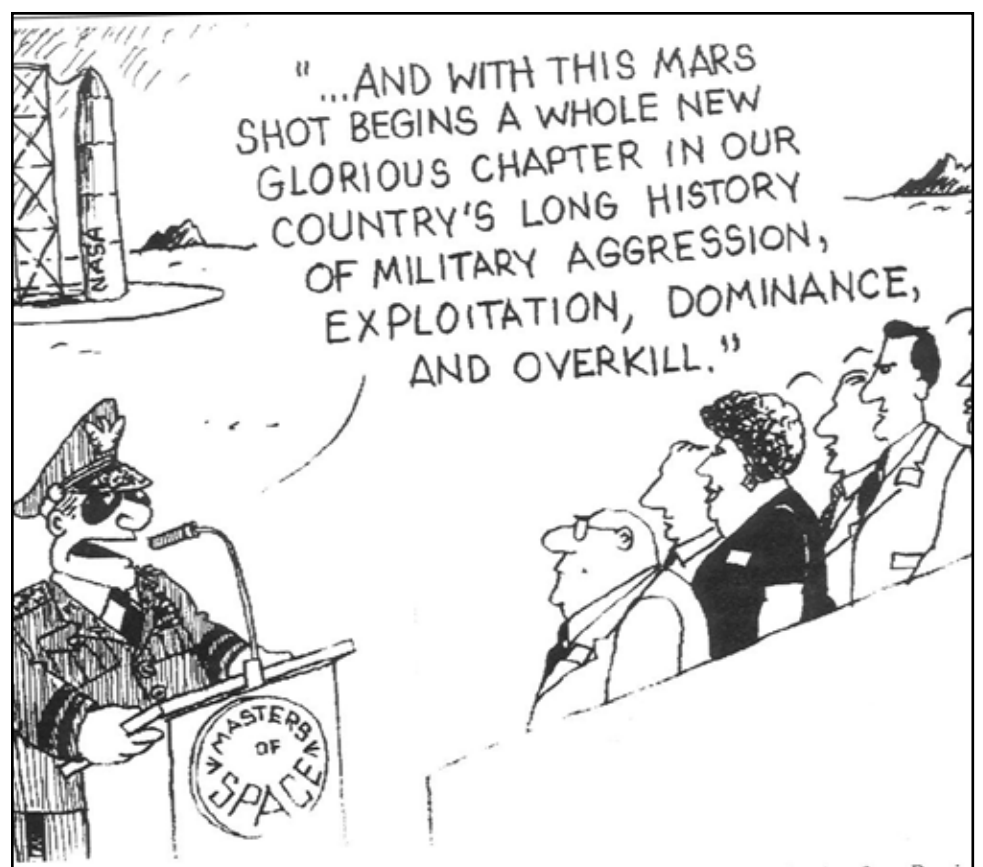
Who would benefit from militarization of space? The Pentagon and military aerospace firms like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

Who wouldn’t benefit? The children of the U.S.. For the Pentagon budget to swell another 50%, the U.S. government would need to slash spending to other programs. Would it be to public schools? And to school lunch programs? And to student grants to attend college? What about funding to help mitigate climate change? Or to provide a social safety net to the sick or homeless, to those most vulnerable in our society?

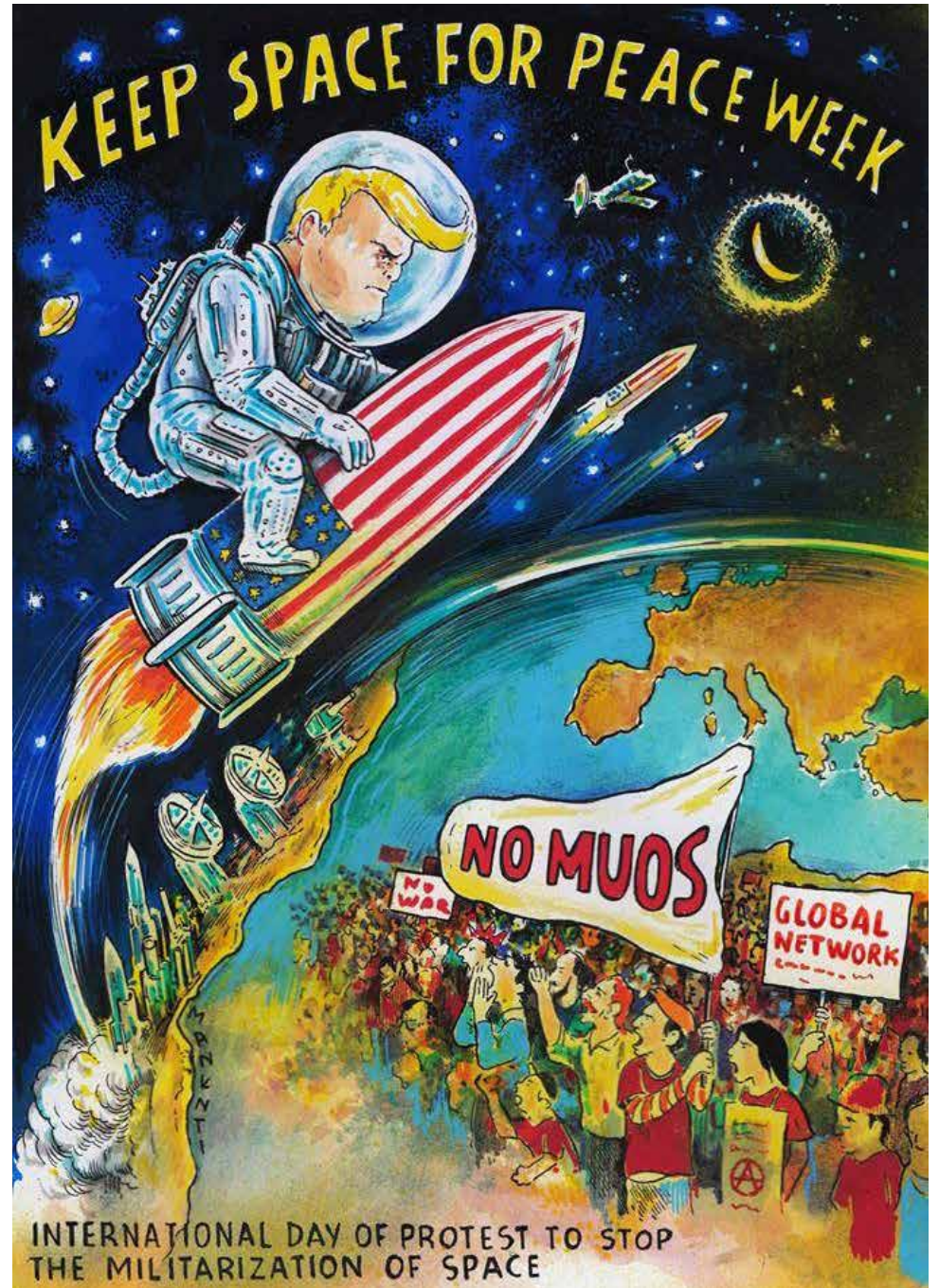
What do we want for our children?

Russia, China, and Canada have been promoting the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) Treaty. Why not the U.S.?

— Carolyn Coe lives in Orland, Maine and is a volunteer reporter at WERU Community Radio.



the funnies



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