

Space Alert!



Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
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FALL 2013
Newsletter #28

Big Brother and the Secret Security State

by Dave Webb

The outrage and shock, that greeted Edward Snowden's exposure of the NSA's Prism programme was a bit frustrating to many of us in the Global Network. We've been warning about all of this for a long time. There is so much that hasn't yet been covered by the media that is even more frightening. For those of us campaigning around the issues in the UK it was even more exasperating that there was hardly a mention of Menwith Hill's role in all this.

As many in the Global Network know Menwith Hill, in North Yorkshire, is probably the biggest NSA establishment outside the US and has been key to the global system of US espionage, war planning and execution and general global hegemony. Menwith Hill has undergone a huge expansion of its surveillance capabilities, combining both satellite and fibre-optic telecommunications interceptions, with unbelievable computing power and analytical support



in conjunction with GCHQ (the Government Communications Head Quarters, the UK equivalent to the NSA), it is probably the largest and most sophisticated technological system ever developed in the UK.

Although it is labelled as 'RAF' most of the staff are from the NSA and commercial contractors such as Lockheed Martin. The UK is represented through GCHQ operatives and Snowden has commented that UK eavesdropping through GCHQ is even worse than that of the US and NSA.

In 2011 Yorkshire CND commissioned writer and researcher Dr. Steve Schofield to carry out a study on the base and the result was published in March 2012 as a 65-page report titled "Lifting the Lid on Menwith Hill." In the report Steve describes how Menwith Hill's primary mission is to provide "intelligence support for UK, US and allied interests." The multimillion-pound expansion to the base known as Project Phoenix is "one of

the largest and most sophisticated high technology programs carried out anywhere in the UK over the last 10 years" but there was little or no mention of these connections in the UK national media when the news of Prism broke. As Steve has pointed out "what should be even more disturbing is that Prism is only one element of a global, electronic surveillance system constructed by the NSA to ensure US supremacy in intelligence-led warfare, using special operations forces and armed drones."

Then on 17th June the *Guardian* reported that the UK Ministry of Defence had issued a confidential D-Notice (Defence Advisory Notice) to the BBC and other media organisations. D-Notices are government requests not to publish or broadcast items on specified subjects on the grounds of "national security" and one was issued the day after the *Guardian* had printed their report on the extent of the NSA's systematic police-state surveillance - its purpose was obviously

to censor any further coverage and it is worth noting that a D-Notice was also served on the UK media in November 2010, two days before Julian Assange began publishing 251,287 secret US embassy cables that exposed the lies and criminal activities of the US and other governments. The UK government was telling the 'free' press not to say or do anything that might jeopardise the illegal and criminal wars in which the UK was involved. In the UK as in the US, the mainstream media continues to do what it is told.

The *Guardian* continues to highlight Snowden's disclosures but the emphasis is still on privacy and on how the NSA or GCHQ "watches nearly everything we do online." But even they are not saying anything about the other role of these systems.

Both Bush and Obama administrations have increased funding of the

(See *Big Brother* P 13.)

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Seeing the Pivot Up Close

by Bruce Gagnon

It was a busy summer. First I made the trip to Sweden for our wonderful 21st annual space conference in late June. I was home for a week and was then off on my three-week Pacific speaking tour that took me to Hawaii, the Philippines, and Australia.

In Hawaii I stopped on the island of Kauai where the Navy has their “missile defense” test range that is growing in size as we speak. Local peace activists try to keep the issue alive but in the current job market the public is held hostage by the growing concentration of power over the economy by the military industrial complex.

In Manila I attended the Ban the Bases conference for three days that brought activists together from around the Pacific and the world. The number one item of discussion was Obama’s “pivot” of 60% of US military forces into the region in order to box in China. The day after the conference was over a march with more than 10,000 people made its way down the eight-lane Commonwealth Avenue in an attempt to get to the Congress building where Filipino President Aquino was delivering his “State of the Nation Address” but the courts blocked the protest organizers from having access to the “people’s house.” I was invited to speak at the rally following the march that had to be held in the middle of the very hot congested highway.

Following the rally long-time GN friend Corazon Fabros took me on a whirlwind three-day speaking tour that included a visit to former US bases at Subic Bay and Clark Air Force Base. I learned that five US warships each week are arriving into the former US Navy base at Subic Bay. (The US was kicked out in 1992 but the current Visiting Forces Agreement allows Navy warships to return and not have to pay docking fees.) In addition, Corazon organized about half-a-dozen speaking events for me with students, teachers, union organizers, and workers. She also arranged several media interviews including one on a regional award-winning TV talk show.

My next stop was to Darwin in the north of Australia where Obama has announced that 2,500 Marines will be deployed. (To protect Australia?) While there I was joined by Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero from Guam and Dennis Doherty from Sydney. We all spoke at an impressive event in Darwin and then took tours to see Robertson Barracks (where the US Marines are being deployed) and the Shoal Bay Satellite Re-



While in the Philippines Bruce Gagnon marched in this protest against the Aquino government that is increasingly under the control of an expanding US military/corporate agenda.

ceiving Station that is part of the whole NSA global surveillance network.

Next Victoria and I went on to Melbourne where we spoke at the historic trades hall and taped an interview on a popular local radio station. Victoria spoke movingly about how the US military, which now occupies one-third of Guam, wants even more land on the small island due to expansion as a result of the pivot. We met up with Dennis Doherty again in Sydney for a wonderful peace walk (white-faced invisibles) that moved through the heart of the city in single file followed by a public rally in front of city hall where both Victoria and I spoke and sang to the assembled.

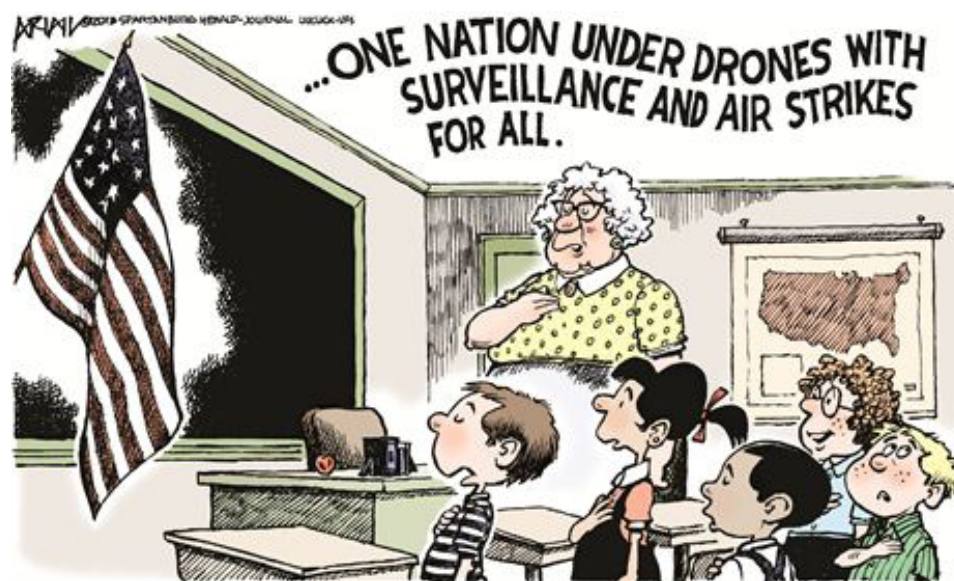
I hobbled home, worn out from the travel, and had a couple days to catch my breath before heading to Washington DC for the 90th War Resisters League conference. I saw many old friends there and spoke in a workshop, a plenary panel, and showed the new documentary film “The Ghosts of Jeju” during a workshop session on the final day. (I gave copies of this extraordinary Jeju film away all along my trip in Sweden and across the Pacific. Made by Maine friend Regis Tremblay, the film is a must-see as it connects the Jeju Naval base issue with Obama’s pivot into the Asia-Pacific. You can order the film at www.TheGhostsOfJeju.net)

Throughout this trip people were saying that if we want peace we have to defeat the current economic system where people are slaves to the resource extraction and corporate production program. I fully agree. We can’t just simply talk about various weapons programs and hope for a solution. That’s why nationalization and conversion of the military production system should be a top priority for us.

I am deeply appreciative of all those who hosted me along the way during

this hectic but inspiring month of travel on behalf of the Global Network. Everywhere you go good people are working hard to stop the military madness. Let that knowledge give us all the strength to keep pushing for peace, environmental sustainability, social progress, and human rights for all.

—Bruce K. Gagnon is the Coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space and lives in Bath, Maine.



Oliver Stone Goes to Jeju

For six days at the end of July, and beginning of August, activists on Jeju Island, South Korea held a March for Life and Peace. They sent hundreds of marchers east and west from Gangjeong village—site of the Navy base now being built for US warships that will dock there as part of Obama’s “pivot” into the Asia-Pacific.

Oliver Stone had earlier been invited to attend Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9) events in Japan and was heading to Okinawa after those dates to show solidarity for struggling citizens trying to remove US bases from their island home. So once approached and invited to come to Jeju Island prior to his trip to Japan—the acclaimed filmmaker quickly agreed.

Arriving on Jeju during a hot spell, Stone jumped into the peace march just as the east and west teams joined together for the final leg into Jeju City on the north side of the island. Stone, along with Gangjeong Mayor Kang and the Catholic Father Moon, led the more than 1,000 marchers to their final rally site.

Noting the current US military strategy, Stone told one South Korean newspaper that the issue with the Jeju base was “global, not regional.”

“The Obama administration has adopted a ‘pivot to Asia’ strategy as a way of containing China,” he said. “It’s similar to the way the Soviet Union was contained during the Cold War. And in its push to do this, Washington has built or is building military alliances not just with South Korea and Japan, but also with the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Cambodia, and Myanmar. It’s a foolish, paranoid strategy.”

Soon after he arrived on Jeju, Stone went to the Jeju prison to visit film critic professor Yang Yun-mo, who began serving an 18-month sentence (his fourth jail term) in late 2012 for trying to non-violently block base construction vehicles. While previously in prison Yang has completed three long hunger strikes—one of which nearly took his life.

Stone also spoke to the media about his environmental concerns, noting the base



Oliver Stone (on right) joins Gangjeong village Mayor Kang and other leaders as they conclude the March for Life and Peace on August 3 on Jeju Island.

was “destroying beautiful soft coral reefs and contaminating the water.”

Following the huge finale protest celebration event in Jeju City Stone went to Gangjeong village where he joined villagers and activists in doing 100 bows before the construction entrance and witnessed priests and nuns being

removed from their daily gate blockage by police forces.

Pledging his support for the villagers Stone concluded, “This is going beyond South Korea and turning into a worldwide issue. I don’t know how this battle is going to go, but the residents’ fight will not be forgotten.”

Time for a Missile Ban Treaty

by Alice Slater

This July, only one day after the US celebrated another anniversary of its Declaration of Independence from tyranny, it was reported that a test of one US anti-missile system against incoming long-range ballistic missiles, launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California had failed again. This was the third consecutive test [of the Missile Defense Agency’s Ground-Based Mid-

Course system] in which our military was unable to intercept an incoming missile, programmed to target the US, which had been launched towards the mainland from the US Army’s Reagan Test Site on Kwajalein atoll, in the Marshall Islands. This lunatic program, dreamt up by Reagan and known by its comic book reality, Star Wars, will never work.

Numerous scientists have testified

that it would be impossible to guarantee that our anti-missile interceptors could accurately hit an incoming nuclear missile [in deep space], because the enemy launch would be accompanied by a phalanx of decoys, preventing us from ever knowing with certainty which incoming missile would be carrying a lethal payload. In the sixteen tests of this ill-conceived “defense,” only eight have ever hit their target over the past nine years and those targets were rigged with a homing device sending a signal to allow the anti-missile interceptor to zero in on its location. One truly need not be a rocket scientist to figure out that this ill-gotten program, a multi-billion dollar gift to the military-industrial-academic-congressional complex is insane because no enemy attack would give such friendly instructions to our “defenses.”

In 2002, the US unilaterally withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which had been negotiated with the Soviet Union as a way to slow down the arms race. The two countries reasoned that if they refrained from building anti-missile interceptor systems, they could also stop the burgeoning pile-up of missiles they were acquiring to “deter” each other during the Cold War. After the Berlin Wall came down, any goodwill we

had built up with the Russians swiftly began to dissipate. We expanded NATO right up to Russia’s border, despite promises we gave to Gorbachev that if he didn’t object to a united Germany joining NATO, it would expand no further. Russia lost twenty million people during the Nazi onslaught, and was understandably wary of a reunited Germany in NATO. Today NATO is even working to admit former Soviet Republics, Georgia and Ukraine, as members. And we are planting our “missile defenses” (MD) in Poland, Romania, and Turkey [and on Navy Aegis destroyers heading to the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic, Bering, and Barents Seas].

A powerful global grassroots campaign influenced the Czech Republic to back out of a scheduled MD deployment in that eastern European country. Adding Turkey to the mix of NATO MD bases must be particularly offensive to Russia, when you consider that part of the deal during the Cuban missile crisis between Kennedy and Khrushchev, was a secret agreement to remove US missiles from Turkey when the Soviets agreed to bring back their missiles from Cuba.

The US anti-ballistic missile defense program, started in 2002 after we walked

(See Missile Ban P 12.)



Global Network Conference Meets at High North

by Dave Webb

Kiruna, Sweden is a city of about 20,000 people in the High North, Lapland, above the Arctic Circle. It is the land of the midnight sun and while we were there we never saw the sun set, it was daylight round-the-clock which was a bit disorienting at first but we soon got used to it.

Just outside of Kiruna is NEAT—the North European Aerospace Test range, Europe's largest military test range being spread over 24,000 km. This area is regularly used by NATO for war exercises and encompasses the Esrange Space Center, which was built in 1964 by ESRO the European Space Research Organisation (which later became the European Space Agency—ESA). Esrange is the world's largest satellite receiving station and where images from satellites in polar orbits are downloaded daily. The information from many of these satellites is used for both civilian and military purposes.

The conference was well attended and included people from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Germany, England, Russia, US, Mexico and Japan.

The main presenter on the first the day was Norwegian journalist Bård Wormdal (author of *The Satellite War*) who spoke on "Norwegian double standards on security policy in the Arctic." He began by reminding us about the Vardø radar controversy. Back in 1998 a Raytheon high-resolution X-band tracking and imaging radar which had been operational at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California since 1995, was quietly dismantled and moved to northern Norway. In California it was used in early development tests of the National Missile Defense (NMD) program and in Norway it was reassembled by the US and Norway under the project name "Globus II" at Vardø just 40 miles from Russian border. The US and Norway claimed that the radar would be used to monitor space debris however

Russian and US experts have demonstrated how its principal use would be to collect detailed intelligence data on Russia's long-range ballistic missiles.

It now seems clear that the radar did violate the 1972 ABM Treaty, which did not allow the deployment of such radar outside US territory. This was clearly underlined when, in June 2000—two years before George W. Bush withdrew from the ABM Treaty—the US did intend to use it as a basis for missile defense purposes. A \$50 million upgrade to the radar by the US was announced in February this year to extend its operational life.

Bård spoke about the Norwegian government's treaty violations—in particular, Norway violates the Svalbard Treaty of 1920 that strictly forbids military operations of any kind from this archipelago in the far north.

Kongsberg Satellite Services (a commercial Norwegian company, 50% owned by the state) has uniquely positioned ground stations that can download information for all 14 daily orbits of polar orbiting satellites at Tromsø, Svalbard (SvalSat) and TrollSat in the Antarctic. SvalSat downloads images of the Earth that are used for intelligence and military activities.

In the afternoon conference participants took a bus trip to the Esrange Space Center. We received a briefing from the public relations team representing the Swedish Space Corporation. They were very keen to make sure we understood that the rocket range was used for scientific purposes and they claimed no knowledge of military exercises or tests. GN Coordinator Bruce Gagnon pointed out quite strongly that the text on a wall display about the satellite systems downloaded here claimed they were civilian systems when we know that they are used by the military who purchase the images from the Esrange Space Center. Eventually after much questioning from our group they did admit that they were acting as conduits for the images received from the satellites which are frequently dual use systems—final customers could be anybody and often are the US and NATO military.

The next morning opened with Bruce Gagnon talking about "21 years of Organizing on Space Issues." He emphasized the growing importance of space technology to the military—just about every military operation now depends upon satellite for support, communication, surveillance and battle management activities—and gave an overview of the Global Network and its 21 years of activity. He described how we have been to the Space Command headquarters in Colorado and the headquarters of the Strategic Command in Nebraska. We've gone to Cape Canaveral in Florida just before the 1997 NASA launch of the Cassini mission that carried 72 pounds of deadly plutonium-238 into the heavens. We've been to Menwith Hill in the Yorkshire dales of England where the US NSA spy base is located. The GN has also been to Maine to hold a protest at Bath Iron Works where they build Navy Aegis destroyers that are outfitted with so-called "missile defense" systems which are now being used to surround Russia and China.

GN board convener Dave Webb spoke on "US Missile Defence—Space War in Action" with the purpose of showing how US missile defense is just part of the overall strategy of the US military to develop global hegemony through space power—the development



Regina Hagen (Germany) shares the latest information about European Space Agency plans to create the expensive Galileo space navigation/surveillance system.



Bard Wormdal (Norway) listens as Agneta Norberg (Sweden) shows the growing numbers of US military bases around the globe.

and use of space technology to dominate and control.

Dave began by pointing out that Sweden sent its first satellite (Viking) into orbit in 1986 and that Sweden's non-military space activities are coordinated through the Swedish National Space Board, created in 1972 and responsible for national and international activities relating to space and remote sensing. Remote sensing is of major importance to the military and it is often difficult to tell whether projects are entirely non-military. There are a growing number of Swedish companies involved in space technology in one way or another and—a quick and simple internet search reveals around 30-40 companies.

The US missile defence system currently comes in two parts—the Ground-based Mid-Course Defense (GMD) system of George W. Bush and President Obama's European system.

Dave outlined the GMD—26 silo-based interceptors at Ft Greely, Alaska (another 14 are due in 2017) and 4 more at Vandenberg AFB, California. Ground-based early warning and tracking radars in Alaska, at Thule in Greenland and Fylingdales in the UK have been upgraded for the missile defense role and a \$1 billion sea-based X-band radar has been developed to track, discriminate and assess targets from a mobile semi-submersible platform in the Aleutian Islands. A third missile interceptor site on the East Coast of the US could also be established by 2018 at an estimated cost of at least \$3.6 billion. A forward based X-band system has been deployed in Turkey and Japan has agreed to host another.

The Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System is the US ship-based program that employs the Lockheed Martin

Aegis Weapon System and the Raytheon Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptor. The Aegis system demonstrated its use as an anti-satellite weapon in February 2008 when it was used to destroy a US satellite said to have gone out of control.

In 2009, President Obama announced that plans for a so-called “Phased Adaptive Approach,” which is focused on the use of Aegis ships and the development of the SM-3 missile with 32 ships fitted for missile defense missions to be made ready by 2015. (Perhaps this has something to do with the fact that the former chair of General Dynamics, who build Aegis destroyers, Lester Crown, helped raise millions of dollars for Obama’s presidential campaign?) The Aegis destroyers are built in Maine at Bath Iron Works and these ships are due to carry more than 430 Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) and 100 SM-2 interceptors (up from 60 and 40 in 2011 respectively).

The title for Vladimir Kozin’s talk, our speaker from Russia, was “The US BMD: Russia’s Stance—The Way to Overcome The Deadlock.” He spoke about Obama’s recent speech in Berlin and how the US president mentioned the need for cuts in nuclear weapons at the same time that the Pentagon was releasing a new plan to upgrade existing US nuclear weapons based in Europe (the US is the only nuclear power that bases its nukes outside of its own country).

Obama’s Berlin speech did not contain “a single word” about missile defence and yet the crucial problem with progress on nuclear disarmament is the US and NATO development of a missile defence system in Europe. Kozin stated that the Russian government feels strongly that this program undercuts their strategic defence capability.

Kozin also reported that in recent times the US Navy has been sending nuclear submarines toward Russian submarine bases (imagine the outcry if it had been the other way around).

GN board member Regina Hagen from Germany spoke about the new “Galileo” military/civilian satellite navigation system being built by the European Union (EU) and the European Space Agency (ESA), at a cost of some €5 billion. The project aims to provide a high-precision positioning system for European nations that is independent from the Russian GLONASS, US GPS, and Chinese Compass systems, which can be disabled in times of war or conflict.

After 9-11, the US opposed the Galileo project and argued that it would end the ability of the Pentagon to shut down satellite navigation when it thought necessary. However, in June 2004, an agreement was signed between the US and the EU whereby it was agreed that Galileo would operate in a way that would allow it to coexist with GPS and the EU agreed to address the “mutual concerns related to the protection of allied and U.S. national security capabilities.”

Regina reported that when in operation, it would use two ground operations centres near Munich, Germany and in Fucino, Italy. In December 2010, EU ministers in Brussels voted Prague, Czech Republic as the headquarters of the Galileo project. The Galileo ground station at Esrangle was officially inaugurated on 13th December 2010.

During the discussion session that followed activists from Finland showed the conference a map of the large drone testing area that has been established in their country. The 11,000 square kilometer test area is only 30 kms from the Russian border. In 2005 drones were tested there that were later used in Afghanistan.

Finnish corporate controlled media, like in Sweden



Conference delegates took a bus to the Esrangle Space Center and following a meeting with Public Relations staff held a vigil at the gate as workers left for the day.

and Norway, are doing major anti-Russian propaganda that is pumping up conflict in the region. (The same is happening in the US.)

A number of suggestions/decisions were made during this conference:

- We need to draft an international anti-drone treaty at the NGO level—it was decided to begin that process immediately and distribute widely.
- The Global Network should pursue the idea of making a documentary video about the dangers of expanding “missile defense”.
- It was also resolved to create a Nordic network to work on drone and space issues that would also organize local actions during Keep Space for Peace Week—October 5-12.
- There was a tentative decision to hold our 22nd annual space organizing conference in 2014 near Vandenberg AFB in California. A committee will be formed to work on this.

- Over and over during the conference links were made between climate change and expanding militarism. There was total agreement that we should all be demanding the conversion of the military industrial complex so that our resources can be used to deal with climate change.
- We must turn the Arctic region into an International Nature Park in order to prevent the drilling for oil and natural gas and the militarization of the Arctic.

Finally, everyone expressed their deep appreciation to all those in the Swedish peace movement for doing a wonderful job hosting our conference. Particular thanks go to Women for Peace and especially those in Kiruna who worked so hard to take such good care of us.

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



Gun-Britt Mäkitalo and Eva Jonsson from Kiruna, Sweden welcome people to the 21st annual Global Network space organizing conference.

Drone Testing on Finland-Russia Border

by Kerstin Tuomala

In the North of Finland the airport of Kemijärvi is rented to Robonic Ltd, a branch of the multilateral weapon corporations Sagem and Safran.

Robonic arranges tests of drones—both targets and tactical drones. It advertises the Arctic conditions and the few inhabitants of the test area, which includes the airspace of four municipalities and is 11,000 square kilometers along the Russian border, just 30 kilometers from Russia.

The activity of Robonic is very secret. Even the Finnish peace movement only got to know about it in Stockholm in 2011 from Global Network convener Dave Webb. We have asked who has given permission to use our air space for such violent purpose, but we have not received an answer. A member of the parliament from Kemijärvi, Markus Mustajärvi, has made an official question about it in the parliament, but the same result.

I asked the person who is responsible for Unmanned Aerial Systems pilot teaching programmes in Kemijärvi and he told me that the teaching program he

is responsible for has to do with peaceful purposes and is mastered by the city of Kemijärvi. It has nothing to do with the activities of Robonic. Kemijärvi City has received about 600,000 Euros from EU's Social fund and the fund for regional development in order to create the educational equipment and program for pilots of drones, "but there are no customers yet, because the peaceful use of drones in Finland is so small scale." He told me also that he does not know who is testing drones through Robonic, because that activity is confidential and secret. He admitted however that the city of Kemijärvi could deny Robonic the access to the airport. I understand that if the democratically-elected organ of the city decides, not to rent the airport to Robonic, they cannot test the vehicles there. Over Robonic's activities there is no other democratic control. The only benefit Kemijärvi gets, is the rent of the airport. The other three municipalities in the area (Salla, Savukoski and Pelkosenniemi) get nothing.

Those people who are flying as a hobby, because they like to fly ordinary sport planes, cannot use the Kemijärvi airport



A delegation of peace activists from Finland attended the 21st annual Global Network conference in Sweden and shared a map detailing the NATO drone range that has been established along the border with Russia.

Hancock Expands Drone Flight Path Over Syracuse



Peace activists in Syracuse, New York report that the base commander at Hancock Field drone base has announced that the FAA has authorized the base "to operate MQ9 reapers in airspace south of Fort Drum in the Syracuse region."

A local TV reporter who attended the news conference said that Col. Greg Semmel of the Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing told reporters that airspace expansion would include metropolitan Syracuse.

The 174th Attack Wing switched three years ago from flying F-16 fighter jets to operating unmanned aircraft from Hancock Field. The drones operated from the Syracuse base support military operations in Afghanistan.

The unit conducts drone-training exercises at Fort Drum, located 70 miles north of Syracuse.

In recent years Hancock Field has drawn major protests with many activists from around the country being arrested for civil resistance against the drone operations base. Last April thirty-one more people were arrested at the base including GN Coordinator Bruce Gagnon. The local court system is now clogged with a backlog of protest cases awaiting trial.

as they did before Robonic started their activities, because every time Robonic has customers there, the airport is closed to ordinary people, because of the confidentiality to Robonic's customers. People complain that this happens almost always when the weather is good to fly.

Robonic began its activity in 2005 and its headquarters is in Tampere. One of the benefits of using air space in Lapland is that there are "no extra eyes." I wonder if the closure of the Kemijärvi wood factory, which was making profit, has to do with the need to get even less eyes. This happened 2007. The workers started a mass movement but they could not save their factory. They even offered to buy it, but were not allowed to do so. The Finnish state was one of the owners of the factory.

Near the Robonic area, there is the biggest military area in Europe for shooting exercises on the ground, Rovajärvi. In 2006 a meeting of European ministers of defence was held in Lapland. They expressed their interest in this area. We know that at least German troops have exercised there. People who live near the area are frustrated because the plans of the military forces to enlarge that area are interfering with their everyday life. For example they have difficulties in getting permission to build houses.

The latest deed by the army was to shoot over the roofs of the inhabitants. That happened in May this year. However, local residents have gathered together in a movement they call Pro Rovajärvi

with the agenda to defend their rights to live in their homes and cottages.

This development is serious for many reasons. It makes Finland a part of stealing benefits from the peoples. It brings us closer to the goals of NATO—to use violence for the interests of the rich. And it is also dangerous for ourselves since we have a long border with Russia. History has showed that we can live in peace with Russia as long as we are cooperating and concentrating on mutual benefits for each other. However, Russia has never tolerated that we use, nor let our military forces use, our area in a hostile way.

What only few know is that Finland had activities together with Hitler's Germany, which the Soviet Union saw as a threat both before and after the Winter War. Many persons opposed to that collaboration were condemned to prison in Finnish concentration camps from 1941 on. After the war more than 5,000 peace activists—those who survived—were released from this internment.

I am very concerned that our leaders today ignore Russia's protests against Finland's policy with USA and NATO. They ignore also our protests against the war in Afghanistan and other USA/NATO wars. The peace movement must learn better how to raise our voices for peace and justice.

—Kerstin Tuomala is from Simo, Finland and attended the GN's 21st annual conference in Sweden

We “Red Card” Obama

Dear friends and colleagues,

The US is doing it again—this time the president’s name is Barack Obama. In 2003 the lie of biological and nuclear weapons was the reason for an illegal attack on Iraq. Now Obama constructs a reason for war for Syria. But according to CNN this war has been prepared for a long time. The state of evidence is more than thin.

If there really was the usage of poison gas, it remains unknown who used it. The argumentation “it only could have been Assad since he controls the depots” is farfetched. Don’t the rebels want the US to join the war? What about the imprisonments because of ownership and transport of chemical substances in Baghdad and Jordan? It is very important that the Syria-Commission of the UN indicates that the offenders cannot be identified.

Again, the first victim of war is truth. We did not believe you, Mr. President Bush; we do not believe you, Mr. President Obama.

It remains our demand: no intervention in Syria, yes to truce and negotiations; and no arms exports.

Bush and Obama—different in charisma, social background, and political positions—have one thing in common: they want to secure US hegemony in the world; they fight for a global military dominance of the US. This always means that they are willing to wage and intensify war.

US President Obama intensified the war in Afghanistan massively. The obvious defeats in Afghanistan and the opposition of the majority of people in



the US led to the change that is labeled as “withdrawal 2014.” This is not the end of the intervention of NATO/ USA but the reduction and shift of war. Our central demand remains: Bring all troops home.

It was Barack Obama who increased the deployment of drones—especially against countries who are not at war with USA: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, and Pakistan—in many cases civilians were the victims; more than 3,000, maybe even 5,000 or more humans were downright executed.

Drones might be handy from a military perspective; in their consequence drones are barbaric. They conduct targeted killings in which humans are killed without trial from a safe distance crossing borders without anybody noticing it—illegal according to international law.

We call for a ban of drones and a loud “no” to the continuation of the robotization and automatization of war.

We protest strongly against the control of drones from Germany—in

Ramstein and Stuttgart.

We call on Chancellor Merkel to show President Obama the German Basic Law. These illegal acts of war must stop immediately.

The UN and thousands of declarations demand a world without nuclear weapons. The Nobel Peace Laureate commands the modernization of nukes for \$700 billion over the next ten years. The soapbox oratories in Cairo and Prague are forgotten; the interests in profit of the weapons industry remain.

Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht continuously highlighted that war or preparation of war and the decrease or even destruction of democracy are two sides of the same coin.

It doesn’t take the events of the past days to show the gigantic international apparatus of surveillance and spying which is standing against us; the European criticism against the US is criticism of caught hypocrites.

Europe and Germany are actively engaged in the decrease of democracy as well as the deepening and increase of structures of surveillance.

Thus today’s demonstration is also an action to defend democracy!

We need democracy like the air to breathe. We will defend it everywhere and every day: Therefore our solidarity is with the people of Taksim Square;

therefore we stand beside the whistleblowers Bradley Manning and Edward Snowden. To uncover criminal activities is an act of democracy and of courage. The ones responsible for war and crimes have to be prosecuted and judged upon, never the ones uncovering these acts.

Civil courage remains one of the great challenges of our time. Our whole solidarity rests with Bradley Manning, Edward Snowden, and the Cuban 5. They struggle for freedom, democracy, truth, and human rights. Schools and universities should teach about them.

Dear friends of peace, the proverb “constant dripping wears the stone” remains. We will reach our humanistic aims with courage and determination, never with just one action. We need to continue our path of protest and opposition; this also is the consequence of the protests on the occasion of Obama’s visit in Berlin.

We will always be struggling for peace and against war and for freedom and democracy. We will continue educating and spreading information. Our solidarity is with our fellows all over the world. Together we can reach a world free of war and oppression.

Today we red-card Obama.
—Speech of Reiner Braun, Executive Director of IALANA, at the demonstration ‘Red-card Obama’ in Berlin on June 17, 2013



MD Radar in Japan



The US plans to deploy another “missile defense” (MD) radar in Japan to “watch” China’s missile launches. Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Obama made the deployment agreement last winter. It is planned that this radar will be deployed on the Kyogamisaki military base in Kyoto’s Kyotango city along the coastline of the Sea of Japan. However, the local government has said that if the Japanese government could not relieve anxiety of local residents over the installation, it would not allow the radar to be deployed at the Kyogamisaki base. The US has previously deployed an X-band radar in north Aomori Prefecture in Japan and claims that overall MD accuracy will be improved by adding the second X-Band radar.

Odds & Ends (cont from p. 11)

Satellites & Drones

Some have been asking the Global Network for more information about how drones use satellites to do their dirty work. GN board member Loring Wirbel explains: “In all military fields, the Pentagon uses the proprietary U.S. systems it can, then fills in gaps with commercial systems. For navigation of drones, the Pentagon is stuck with federal GPS, as it does not trust European Galileo or Russian Glonass systems. For drone-to-Earth communication, the Pentagon can use U.S. satellites such as MUOS (Mobile User Objective System), AEHF (Advanced Extremely High Frequency), GBS (Global Broadcast System), WGS (Wideband Global SATCOM), and a secret satellite network known only as PAN (what PAN stands for is secret). To fill in the gaps, the Pentagon contracts with any commercial satellite company with Ku-band or Ka-band services, such as Hughes, Iridium, or Intelsat General. No one says no.”

No Drones for Mindanao

Recent news from the Philippines: Mayor Rodrigo Duterte of Davao City was approached by the US to use the old airport as a military base, starting with its drone program, speaks of a US military design in Mindanao as part of the US pivot to Asia. Mayor Duterte turned the US down. Already the US has hundreds of troops on Mindanao, which is the second largest and southernmost island in the Philippines. Davao City is the largest city in Mindanao. Mindanao is the only area of the Philippines with a significant Muslim presence. Due to widespread poverty the island has been the site of a separatist movement by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Fighting between MILF and Philippine forces has displaced more than 100,000 people. US troops are there to ostensibly fight against “terrorism”.

Short on Drone Pilots

The US Air Force is unable to keep up with a growing demand for pilots capable of operating drones, partly due to a shortage of volunteers, according to a new study. Despite the importance placed on the burgeoning robotic fleet, drone operators face a lack of opportunities for promotion to higher ranks and the military has failed to identify and cultivate this new category of aviators, Air Force Colonel Bradley Hoagland wrote in the report published for the Brookings Institution think tank. In 2012, the Air Force had a goal to train 1,129 “traditional” pilots and 150 drone pilots to operate Predator, Reaper and Global Hawk robotic aircraft. But the Air Force “was not able to meet its RPA (remotely piloted aircraft) training requirements since there were not enough volunteers,” the report said.

Germany Makes Noise About NSA

Russia Today reported in July that Germany has dissolved a fifty-year-old surveillance pact with the US, France, and Britain in response to a “debate about protecting personal privacy” in the country, which was sparked by revelations of the former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. The agreement that dated back to the late 1960s gave the US, Britain and France the right to request German authorities carry out surveillance operations so as to protect their troops stationed within the country. Following Snowden’s leaks, which disclosed the span of the NSA surveillance program and revealed that Germany is the most spied on EU country by the US, there has been a heated nationwide debate on whether the massive breach of German citizens privacy should have been allowed. The leaked documents show that the US spy agency combs through half a billion of German phone calls, emails and text messages on a monthly basis.

A New Low

The US was reportedly able to target an alleged al-Qaeda operative named Adnan al-Qadhi for a drone strike after U.S. allies in Yemen convinced an eight-year-old boy to place a tracking chip in the pocket of the man he considered to be his surrogate father. Shortly after the child planted the device, a U.S. drone tracked and killed al-Qadhi with a missile. He was killed last November, less than 24 hours after Barack Obama’s re-election. Gregory Johnsen writes about the case in his article “Did an 8-Year-Old Spy for America?” published in *The Atlantic*.

Chomsky: One-Party State

Noam Chomsky writes in a recent article called *A Roadmap to a Just World*: “In the past, the US has sometimes, kind of sardonically, been described as a one-party state: the business party with two factions called Democrats and Republicans. That’s no longer true. It’s still a one-party state, the business party. But it only has one faction. The faction is moderate Republicans, who are now called Democrats. There are virtually no moderate Republicans in what’s called the Republican Party and virtually no liberal Democrats in what’s called the Democratic [sic] Party. It’s basically a party of what would be moderate Republicans and similarly, Richard Nixon would be way at the left of the political spectrum today. Eisenhower would be in outer space.”

KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE



OCTOBER 5-12, 2013

Satellites: The Triggers for Surveillance & Endless War

Virtually all warfare on the planet today is directed by military space satellites. The US currently has more than 100 active military satellites.

Ground stations around the globe, including at the North and South poles, download images from the satellites that are used by the military for spying and offensive operations.

This massively expensive space control system helps deliver death from the sky as drones kill innocents in Afghanistan, Pakistan and on the African continent. Cutbacks in social programs are being made in order to pay for this space-directed war.

International Week of Protest to
Stop the Militarization of Space

Help us call for an end to the
militarization of space and
destruction of social progress.
Organize a local action during
Keep Space for Peace Week.

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
www.space4peace.org • 207.443.9502

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Local Contact:

Above is the image of this year’s Keep Space for Peace Week Oct 5-12 poster. Purchase posters with the coupon on page 16 of this newsletter.

A DEADLY COMBINATION

Gorgon Stare: Satellites & Drones

Someone has subscribed me to the magazine called *The Atlantic*. I used to read *The Atlantic* back in the 1970's while in the military, before I knew much about alternative media sources. I'd say it's a centrist publication—Clinton and Obama Democratic Party with Cadillac car ads.

The cover story in the edition that arrived in my mailbox in August is called "Drone Warrior: Has it Become Too Easy for a President to Kill?" The article raises many good questions but then gives Obama a pass at the end by concluding, "Obama's efforts to mitigate the use of drones have already made a big difference in reducing the number of strikes...."

The author of the article, Mark Bowden, also reports on Gorgon Stare. He writes: Drones collect three primary packages of data: straight visual; infrared (via a heat-sensing camera that can see through darkness and clouds); and what is called SIGINT (Signals Intelligence), gathered via electronic eavesdropping devices and other sensors. One such device is known as LIDAR (a combination of the words light and radar), which can map large areas in 3-D. The optical sensors are so good, and the pixel array so dense, that the device can zoom in clearly on objects only inches wide from well over 15,000 feet above. With computer enhancement to eliminate distortion and counteract motion, facial-recognition software is very close to being able to pick individuals out of crowds. Operators do not even have to know exactly where to look.

"We put in the theatre [in 2011] a system called Gorgon Stare," Lt. General Larry James, the Air Force's deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, said. "Instead of one soda-straw-size view of the world with the camera, we put essentially 10 cameras ganged together, and it gives you a very wide area of view of about four kilometers by four kilometers—about the size of the city of Fairfax, [Virginia] - that you can watch continuously. Not as much fidelity in terms of what the camera can see, but I can see movement of cars and people—those sorts of things. Now, instead of staring at a small space, which may be, like, a villa or compound, I can look at a whole city continuously

for as long as I am flying that particular [drone] system."

In another part of the article Bowden quotes James Poss, a retired Air Force major general who helped oversee the Predator drone's development. Poss says he is tired of the fascination with the drone vehicle itself and wants people to understand that cut off from its satellite links and its data processors the drone is basically worthless. This is an important point because I think many anti-drone activists today concentrate nearly solely on the drone plane and talk (or maybe even know) little about the entire military satellite system in space and/or the downlink station network around the globe that basically fly the drones.

The satellites are very expensive to build and the rockets that launch them into space are not cheap either. I've taken to calling the satellites that make drones possible the triggers. It would help the public become more anti-drone if they had a better understanding just how expensive and deadly this whole system really is. And once the public has a better understanding about how systems like Gorgon Stare can be used here at home to monitor the American people they will move even more rapidly into opposition.

—Bruce K. Gagnon lives in Bath, Maine

Closing in on Russia

The US, and a cancerous NATO, has their eyes on bringing Georgia into the alliance next. Already more than a dozen former members of the Soviet-era Warsaw Pact bloc have been brought over to NATO. Georgia, sitting along the strategic Black Sea on Russia's southern border, would be the grand prize.

In 2008 the US encouraged Georgia to attack the two break away provinces Abkhazia and S. Ossetia (which have large Russian populations). The brief war was a disaster for the US and Georgia as Russia counter-attacked and pushed Georgian forces back.

In the summer of 2008, just as the



Plan Local Events!
Keep Space
for
Peace Week
October 5-12, 2013



Pine Gap's Secrets Revealed

In late July *The Australian* reported it was revealed that the US/Australian satellite tracking spy base Pine Gap is likely connected to US drone strikes which have killed Pakistani citizens.

Pine Gap is a secretive facility nearly 20km southwest of Alice Springs and has been there since 1970. Run by both Australia and the United States, its official name is the Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap.

"It is fair to say that Pine Gap has some fairly awesome capabilities when it comes to intelligence gathering," said a former worker at Pine Gap, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak about his work. "It's secretive."

Pine Gap is essentially a satellite tracking station, situated in the middle of nowhere. It is believed that the US and Australia "listen to Asia" from the 14 antennae concealed beneath white domes at Pine Gap.

A Pakistani lawyer went on record in July saying Pine Gap tracks the communications of al-Qaeda and Taliban militants. This, he says, enables the US to target those militants with its drone strikes. Sadly, these strikes kill civilians in increasing numbers.

smoking embers were subsiding, then Senator Joseph Biden made the trip to Georgia to beat the war drums and threaten Russia with "consequences" if they didn't leave Georgia alone. "When Congress reconvenes, I intend to work with the [George W. Bush] administration to seek Congressional approval for \$1 billion in emergency assistance for Georgia, with a substantial down payment on that aid to be included in the Congress' next supplemental spending bill," Biden said at the time.

Since Obama and Biden took power in Washington they've increased efforts to bring Georgia under NATO control and they've continued sending money and military equipment there.

In August the US Navy Destroyer Bulkeley arrived at a Georgian Black Sea port for several days of "maneuvers". Very recently two Georgian

combat battalions were undergoing training at a US Army base in Southern Germany.

After the reunification of Germany the former Soviet Union was worried what this could mean as a unified Germany had previously tried to invade the Russian territories. Although then-Secretary of State James Baker had assured Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at the time of German reunification in 1990 that NATO would not be moved one inch eastward, a unified Germany was brought into NATO and the capitalist military alliance immediately began moving east to the borders of Poland and Czechoslovakia and closer to that of the Soviet Union. Today NATO perches in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia along Russia's western border. Georgia and Finland (both bordering Russia) are on the NATO expansion list. At the same time we see Russia being demonized in the corporate dominated media in the US and in Europe and the US/NATO "missile defense" system continues to grow in its encirclement of Russia.

Put two and two together and what do you get?

Odds & Ends

GN's 22nd Annual Conference

The 2014 Global Network space organizing conference will be held near Vandenberg AFB, California on March 14-16. We will meet at the La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center in Santa Barbara. On Friday, March 14 we'll organize an afternoon vigil at the front gate of Vandenberg and on the evening of March 15 we will hold a public event at a local church in Santa Barbara. GN Board member Dennis Apel from the Guadalupe Catholic Worker House in nearby Santa Maria will be our host organizer. More details later.

Canadian Space

General Walter Natynczyk has recently been named as the new head of the Canadian Space Agency. A former Canadian Chief of Defence Staff, he was also a Deputy Commanding General during the invasion of Iraq. There are concerns his appointment to the Canadian Space Agency may herald an even more militarized role for Canada in space. In recent years US-based aerospace corporations have been working hard to establish closer relations with Canadian aerospace firms in hopes to lock the Canadian government into greater spending for space warfare technology development.

Hawaii MD Testing

On May 15, 2013 the Pentagon successfully ran a Navy Aegis destroyer based "missile defense" (MD) interceptor test that took place at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii. In this program, the most successful of the Pentagon's various MD systems now being tested, a dummy rocket was launched from the Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) located on Kauai. Just offshore the Navy positioned Aegis destroyers that are outfitted with the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptors. Their job was to knock out the dummy rocket fired from Kauai. One of these same systems successfully knocked out a falling US military satellite in 2008. That particular operation showed that these Aegis-based MD systems could also serve as destabilizing anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons. GN Coordinator Bruce Gagnon stopped in Kauai to meet with local peace activists at the start of his Pacific speaking tour in July 2013. They reported that the Pentagon is now expanding the PMRF for Aegis-ashore, a program to put the more successful Navy MD program on ground-based launchers that are scheduled for deployment in Romania in coming years. Russia and China are most concerned with the Aegis-based MD programs because of their versatility and testing results.

US MD In Poland

US Ambassador to Poland, Stephen Mull, spoke to the US European Com-

mand on April 30 and stated: "Militarily, even though there have been some cutbacks, there are more American troops in Europe than in any other place in the world... Even as we are cutting back in places like Germany, in Poland we're actually establishing a larger military presence. In 2018, we will open a new, much bigger base in northern Poland, in Redzikowo, as part of the NATO missile defense system for Europe. That will bring about 100 American naval personnel, based in Poland, to establish that system. Article 5 [NATO's protection/intervention clause] is like a religion, it's absolutely sacred, and the US is very serious about it. There are many American defense manufacturers who are coming quite regularly to Poland."

Plutonium for Space

Scientific American reported in March 2013 that, "The US has begun producing plutonium-238 again for the first time in a quarter century, marking a key step toward averting a feared shortage of this important spacecraft fuel, NASA officials say. The US Department of Energy's (DOE) plutonium reboot has not yet advanced beyond the test phase, but NASA is confident that production will eventually ramp up enough to power space probes for several decades to come. The DOE stopped producing plutonium-238 in 1988, after which time NASA began sourcing the material from Russia. But the space agency received its last Russian shipments in 2010, and its supplies have been dwindling ever since." The plutonium production program is happening at the DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory near Knoxville, Tennessee.

Obama Pivot Good for Weapons Biz

Reuters has reported that US sales of warplanes, anti-missile systems and other costly weapons to China's neighbors appear set for significant growth amid the Pentagon "pivot" into the region. The pivot "will result in growing opportunities for our industry to help equip our friends," said Fred Downey, vice president for national security at the Aerospace Industries Association, a trade group that includes top US arms makers. The Obama administration says arms sales are an increasingly critical and cost-efficient way to defend US corporate interests. Contractors such as Lockheed, Boeing, Northrop and Raytheon expect Asia-Pacific weapons markets to make up for any cuts in Pentagon spending by Congress. Sales "opportunities" include Global Hawk spy drones to South Korea; F-35 fighter planes to Japan; and retrofitting all 145 F-16 fighters previously sold to Taiwan.

Global Strike Test

Sandia National Laboratories (Albuquerque, NM) is a key player in the Pentagon's plan to develop an unmanned "hypersonic" vehicle that can travel at least five times the speed of sound and strike a target anywhere in the world within an hour. A test of one technology program has successfully been launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Kauai, Hawaii. It flew its "non-ballistic glide trajectory at hypersonic speed" before splashing down 2,485 miles away at the Army's Test Site on Kwajalein Atoll. The hypersonic project is one of several similar technologies that the Pentagon is now testing. The Pentagon's ultimate goal is to develop a reusable military space plane that can take off from a conventional runway and strike targets 10,000 miles away within an hour as part of Strategic Command's Global Strike capability. Russia and China see these systems as first-strike attack weapons that could drop bunker buster weapons and take out their underground nuclear weapons. A handful of hypersonic projects have been funded at the rate of about \$2 billion in the past decade.

Japan Moves Further Right

AFSC's Joseph Gerson wrote from Japan in early August, "I woke here in Hiroshima to nasty news. After winning the upper house election on the basis of his economic promises, not foreign and military policies, Prime Minister Abe is moving almost immediately to radically revise the official interpretation of Article 9 of the Japanese constitution... as Japan deepens its military preparations and alliance with the US to confront North Korea and China. Look for one of the Japanese government's next moves to be authorization of developing non-nuclear pre-emptive strike capabilities. Although the Obama Administration has been wary of Abe's revisionist nationalism, this will warm the cockles of the hearts of many militarists in Washington, not the least Armitage, Nye and Green, who have been pressing for just such a change."

Nagasaki Mayors Responds

Nagasaki's mayor has urged the Japanese government to take stronger action in opposing nuclear weapons, during a ceremony to mark the 68th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city on August 9. As tens of thousands of people gathered in Nagasaki for the anniversary, Mayor Tomihisa Taue used the occasion to call for stronger anti-nuclear leadership from Tokyo. Mr. Taue says the recent failure to sign a statement rejecting the use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances was a betrayal. "If we cannot accept the wording that usage of nuclear weapons will never be permitted, it means the Japanese government

is showing that nuclear weapons can be used depending on the circumstance," he said.

Pivot—Not Just the Navy

The Stars & Stripes military newspaper reported in July that the US Air Force will dramatically expand its military presence across the Pacific this year, sending jets to Thailand, India, Singapore and Australia. In Australia, for example, the Air Force will dispatch "fighters, tankers, and at some point in the future, maybe bombers on a rotational basis," said Gen. Herbert 'Hawk' Carlisle, chief of Air Force operations in the Pacific. The jets will likely start their Australian presence sometime in the next year at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base at Darwin (already crowded with US Marines), before moving to nearby RAAF Base Tindal. In addition, the Air Force will be sending jets to Changi East air base in Singapore, Korat air base in Thailand, a site in India, and possibly bases at Kubi Point and Puerto Princesa in the Philippines and airfields in Indonesia and Malaysia.

NATO Wants Finland

James J. Townsend, a senior defence official responsible for US policy on NATO and Europe, has criticized Russian interference in Finland's possible NATO membership.

With most foreign troops to be pulled from Afghanistan during the next year, Townsend asked for Finland's continued support in the strife-torn country. "We're hoping that the international community, Finland and NATO members, NATO partners, all of us will remain engaged and in support of the Afghan government," Townsend said. Russia, bordering Finland, has expressed strong dissatisfaction about Finland becoming part of NATO. In mid-July, Russia staged its biggest military exercises since Soviet times. Adding Finland would mean that NATO will have a military presence in about a dozen countries who at one time belonged to the Soviet-era Warsaw Pact alliance.

High-Tech Manhunt

Wired Magazine has reported that in September, the U.S. government will fire into orbit a two-stage rocket from a Virginia launch pad. The launch will help the elite forces of Special Operations Command (SOCOM) hunt down people considered to be dangerous to the Pentagon and its corporate backers. For years, special operators have used tiny "tags" to clandestinely mark their targets—and satellites to relay information from those beacons. But there are parts of the world where satellite coverage is thin, and there aren't enough cell towers to provide an alternative. That's why SOCOM is putting eight miniature

Odds & Ends

communications satellites, each about the size of a water jug, on top of the Minotaur rocket that's getting ready to launch from Wallops Island, Virginia. They'll sit more than 300 miles above the earth and provide a new way for the beacons to call back to their military controllers.

US & NATO Space "Interoperability"

The US and its NATO allies are discussing details for the first agreement ever promoting combined space operations the *American Forces Press Service* has reported. The agreement will be the first step in forging international military-to-military cooperation in space. "Space is vital to military operations, providing an array of capabilities that give space-faring nations' forces a military advantage. These include intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities that enhance war fighters' situational awareness, space-based communications that provide them instant, global communications, and global positioning systems that deliver highly accurate navigation and targeting positions. Of particular concern to military leaders, space is an increasingly contested domain, with potential adversaries hoping to level the playing field by denying access to space and space-based capabilities." Another factor motivating the Pentagon is the growing cost of space operations in tight budget times. By bringing NATO allies under the US Space Command's direction, the Pentagon finds a way to share costs but still control expanding military space operations. The Pentagon likes to call this "interoperability".

Drones in Minnesota

The Minnesota National Guard has officially launched its new \$3.9 million Unmanned Aircraft Operations Facility at Camp Ripley. The Guard has flown the drones since 2004 and has seven of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles now at Camp Ripley. They are used for both reconnaissance missions, such as going ahead of convoys to provide information on what's happening in an area, as well as for surveillance. Camp Ripley officials expect the facility will be used not only by Minnesota National Guard troops, but units from around the country.

The War for African Resources

Award-winning journalist John Pilger writes: "A full-scale invasion of Africa is under way. The US is deploying troops in 35 African countries, beginning with Libya, Sudan, Algeria and Niger. The invasion has almost nothing to do with 'Islamism', and almost everything to do with the acquisition of resources, notably minerals, and an accelerating

rivalry with China. Unlike China, the US and its allies are prepared to use a degree of violence demonstrated in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Palestine. As in the cold war, a division of labour requires that western journalism and popular culture provide the cover of a holy war against a 'menacing arc' of Islamic extremism, no different from the bogus 'red menace' of a worldwide communist conspiracy. It is as if Africa's proud history of liberation, from Patrice Lumumba to Nelson Mandela, is consigned to oblivion by a new master's black colonial elite whose 'historic mission', warned Frantz Fanon half a century ago, is the promotion of 'a capitalism rampant though camouflaged'."

Trip to Mars Only \$500,000

Elon Musk, the billionaire founder and chief executive of the private space flight company Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX), wants to help establish a Mars colony of up to 80,000 people by ferrying explorers there for \$500,000 a trip.

In Musk's vision, the ambitious Mars settlement program would start with a pioneering group of fewer than 10 people, who would journey to the red planet aboard a huge reusable rocket powered by liquid oxygen and methane. The pioneers would also take construction materials to build transparent domes, which when pressurized with Mars' atmospheric carbon dioxide could possibly grow Earth crops in Martian soil. Musk figures the colony program—which he wants to be collaboration between government and private enterprise—would end up costing about \$36 billion. The aerospace industry loves the plan, as they would make massive profit from the risky undertaking. The nuclear industry is also anxious to get involved in Moon and Mars colonization plans as they view space as a vast new market. The pro-colonization organization called the Mars Society says that Earth is a rotting, dying, stinking planet and urges the "terraforming" of Mars.

Lockheed Martin Greed

The world's largest weapons corporation, Lockheed Martin (L-M), has built a hotel in Montgomery County, Maryland. They got the state to pass a law that exempts L-M from paying the state hotel occupancy tax. Then L-M tried to get the county to exempt them from their local occupancy tax as well but public outrage halted those plans. Not to be denied, L-M then went back to the Democrat-controlled state legislature and governor, and got them to pass a law requiring Montgomery County to exempt L-M's new hotel from their occupancy tax.

Drone Base North of Philly

Activists in Pennsylvania have held two recent protests at a newly planned Reaper drone base just north of Philadelphia. The former Horsham Naval Air Base is slated to be a Reaper drone control base for these machines that are killing people and inciting anger toward our country. When the center opens in the beginning of October, pilots at the base will fly remote surveillance, search and rescue, and precision strike missions around the world. The physical drones, armed MQ-9 Reapers, will not take off from Horsham. Protesting groups include Veterans For Peace, Coalition for Peace Action, Brandywine Peace Community, AFSC, and the Green Parties of Philadelphia, Montgomery and Bucks counties.

Iowa Drone Walk

About 15 people walked 200 miles in June across parts of Iowa to protest the possible opening of a Drone Command center at the Air National Guard field in Des Moines. The walk drew serious media attention and was picked up by the Associated Press making newspapers like the *San Francisco Chronicle*. It was also covered by several Catholic publications. President Obama's drone program has undergone serious scrutiny the past several weeks and the *New York Times* recently reported the number of drone bombings may be on the decrease as a result of pressure from both political parties and citizens like the people who walked from Illinois to Iowa.

Maine Drone Walk In October

The Maine Campaign to Bring Our War \$\$ Home, with support from Maine Veterans For Peace, is planning a walk protesting drones across parts of that large state from October 10-19. The walk

will begin near Caribou where efforts are being made to turn a former Air Force base into a weaponized drones test center and a missile defense deployment site. Japanese Buddhist nun Jun-san from the order Nipponzan Myohoji (Grafton, NY) has agreed to lead the no drone peace walk. People from other states, including VFP members and renowned activist Kathy Kelly, plan to join the walk. The walk will pass through Bangor, Skowhegan, Farmington, Waterville and Belgrade and will hold a rally on October 18 at the state capitol in Augusta. During the spring a bill that required police to secure warrants before using drones for surveillance in Maine passed the state legislature but Republican Gov. Paul LePage vetoed the bill. The bill also carried an exception to allow weaponized drone testing in Maine, requested by the aerospace industry.

Bradley Manning

Kevin Zeese (Baltimore, MD) wrote from the Bradley Manning sentencing courtroom: "Courtroom TV cut-off immediately so media could not hear audience erupt with calls of continued support for Bradley and shouts of ongoing efforts to free Bradley Manning; but Bradley heard it. The 35-year sentence was extreme; Manning will serve 2/3 plus get 4 years off for time served. Could also get parole and serve 1/3. Tonight [protest] at the White House effort for pardon begins." The one standing up for transparency, true democracy, and support for peace and justice gets 35 years. The real criminals like Bush, Cheney, Obama and those corporate banksters/warmongers who are robbing us blind sip champagne and celebrate. Their day will come.

(continued on p. 8)





Bruce Gagnon (left) and Victoria-Leon Guerrero (from Guam on the right) join their Australian hosts for a photo in front of Robertson Barracks near Darwin where Obama is sending 2,500 US Marines and Air Force warplanes in the pivot to surround China.



A US Navy Aegis destroyer pays a recent port call to Subic Bay in the Philippines. Since being kicked out of Subic Bay in 1992 the US is now averaging five warship visits per week as the Obama pivot requires more ports for US warships.



UK Drone Base Gets Protest

An RAF base in Britain is being used by America in its controversial drone warfare campaign. Documents reveal that the US has established a drone "operations centre" in the heart of the Lincolnshire countryside that is used to help coordinate attacks in the Middle East and Africa.

One document requests US security-cleared staff to work at RAF Waddington on US Air Force Predator drones. A second document describes a role for a communications technician at the same base "supporting 24/7 operations of critical real-time USAF/ANG [Air National Guard] mission operations." Professor Noel Sharkey, of the University of Sheffield and Britain's foremost expert on drones, said the documents demanded an explanation from the UK and US military.

In June six peace activists, representing "Disarm the Drones" became the first UK activists to face charges for anti-drone related offenses. They were kept overnight at Lincoln police station after they planted a peace garden in RAF Waddington. They had been charged with Conspiracy and Intent to Trespass and Criminal Damage; the charge of Conspiracy was later dropped.

Missions of the missile-carrying Reaper aircraft began from a newly-built headquarters at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire in April—five years after the Ministry of Defence bought the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to monitor and attack the Taliban.

Hundreds of peace campaigners have subsequently gathered outside the base to protest.



Missile Ban (cont. from p. 3)

out of the ABM Treaty, now deploys about 30 ground-based interceptors in Fort Greely, Alaska and at Vandenberg in California. Despite the latest fizzle, the Pentagon announced that it would not be deterred in its plans to place another 13 interceptors in Alaska at a cost of \$1 billion. [In addition the Congress has mandated that the Pentagon study a ground-based MD base in either New York or Maine.]

One of the biggest sticking points in moving towards meaningful negotiations for nuclear disarmament is Russia's strong objection to the US missile defense program. When you realize that it wouldn't work anyway, that it's costing billions of dollars and untold losses of intellectual treasure applied to meaningless work, surely it's time to call for a missile ban treaty. Indeed, both China and Russia have repeatedly offered a draft treaty to ban weapons in space where the US was the only nation to block their proposal at the UN's

Commission on Disarmament, which requires consensus to move forward. Any ban on weapons in space would have to deal with the missiles as well which are an integral part of a space war fighting system.

—Alice Slater lives in New York City and serves on the Global Network's Advisory Board.

Wide Gender Divide on Drone Strikes

% Approve of U.S. drone strikes

	Male	Female	Gap
	%	%	
Japan	41	10	-31
Czech Rep.	47	17	-30
Canada	57	28	-29
Australia	58	30	-28
Germany	58	33	-25
Spain	34	9	-25
Britain	51	27	-24
Poland	45	26	-19
U.S.	70	53	-17
France	52	38	-14
S. Korea	38	24	-14
Uganda	49	36	-13

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q53



The Pentagon is now moving 60% of its military forces into the Asia-Pacific as part of Obama's announced "pivot" into the region. This containment of China will be an expensive and destabilizing strategy that could easily create miscalculation and ultimately war. The US is dragging an expanding NATO into the region as well to help share the costs.

Pentagon Pivots Its Forces



Big Brother (cont. from p. 1)

NSA and the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to over \$80 billion a year with the aim of providing real-time intelligence to identify targets and carry out attacks anywhere in the world with or without conventional ground forces. A major product of the military industrial complex is the use of satellite and other communications systems to link the thousand or so US military bases and installations like Menwith Hill established around the world to provide a system that doesn't just monitor but also identifies targets and controls, among other things, targeted killings from drone strikes.

Last year in the UK questions arose as to the role of GCHQ in assisting the CIA's targeting of alleged militants in Pakistan. Legal action was sought by the group **Reprieve** on behalf of Noor Khan, whose father had been killed, along with 49 other people, by a US drone attack in March 2011 while he was chairing a peaceful tribal assembly meeting in North Waziristan. However, the High Court in London rejected the request for a judicial inquiry by using the usual excuse rolled out on these occasions—that it would require the UK government to reveal information that would "cause serious harm to national security and international relations."

So, legal protections and basic human rights are being ignored and trashed so that the whole planet can become, as Steve Schofield has put it, "a permanent, remote-control battlefield for secret

operations against military and civilian targets." Any attempt to question the direction that the military is taking us is rejected by merely quoting national security and the terrorist threat, while ignoring the fact that those draconian and oppressive acts that generate discontent, contempt and dissent helps fuel recruitment to the terrorist ranks.

Steve Schofield believes that we need to re-establish the primacy of the people's interest over the state. One positive outcome of Edward Snowden's disclosures will be the recognition of a need for serious reform. We must be careful though not to allow a sticking plaster "solution" that only proposes a few scapegoats and/or minor tweaks that just leaves things as they are.

This has all happened before—the activities of the NSA at Menwith Hill were the subject of an investigation by the European Parliament almost 20 years ago. Then it was commercial espionage being carried out, giving US corporations access to its European competition's bids for lucrative contracts which caused fury and indignation. A report presented to the European Parliament in 2001, heavily criticized the UK for allowing the NSA to spy on European communications and a number of recommendations were made including one that strongly urged the European Council to establish a system for the democratic monitoring and control of intelligence activities at European level. However, then 9/11 came along and everything was dropped in the interests of "national security."

In his novel *1984*, George Orwell wrote about a world of perpetual war,

total government surveillance and mind control, under the direction of an elite led by someone or something called Big Brother. We are now living in that world and we must demand a change from the military domination of the ways our society thinks and reacts. We have to demand that Menwith Hill and similar installations be closed and national security states dismantled. We urgently need to be ready and willing to work with others to rebuild democratic institutions, and enhance civil rights, as Steve Schofield says: "let's live in a democracy of hope rather than a tyranny of fear."

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



GN Leaders to Turkey

Probably partly because of our support for the demonstrations against the installation of US-NATO Patriot missiles in Turkey in January (supposedly because of concerns of a possible attack from Syria), the Global Network was invited to send representatives to an International Peace Conference (April 25-29, 2013) organized by the Peace Association of Turkey under the auspices of the World Peace Council.

This event was a follow-up from a similar conference held in Antakya (ancient Antioch) in November 2012, very close to the border with Syria. Antioch is being used as a springboard by the Turkish government for training exercises, preparations and interventions into Syria.

Dave Webb (UK) and Agneta Norberg (Sweden) attended the Peace Conference on behalf of the Global Network. In Istanbul they met with representatives of peace-organizations from many parts of the world who were gathering to protest against the NATO war on Syria and declare the solidarity with the Syrian people.

Dave and Agneta were panelists in one plenary session and described the growing importance of space technology to the hegemonic plans for global reach by the US and NATO. Agneta specifically highlighted the importance of the "High North" and listed the steps for invading a country used by the US. Agneta also frequently demonstrated her 3-D teaching tools—a world map and globe showing key US bases around our planet!

Letter from a Reader

Dear GN Friends,

We had a peace group here for about 10 years after Iraq I. We are a bankrupt city, with a bankrupt school system, no jobs, high crime city of about 100,000 people.

The only thing for our youth in this city is a military job or prison guard. If that doesn't work there's drugs and prison, oh yes, many "find Jesus."

We had a large military base, it was the main source of jobs—no base, no jobs. Wars R Us!

No \$\$ for seniors, schools, health care, the homeless, libraries—only \$\$ for wars (in our town)!

I'm involved with several peace groups. Thank you for your great work. Keep going.

Peace
Beverly McGain
Vallejo, California

Alaskan Drone Testing Draws Organizing

by Rob Mulford

The Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) is the Department of Defense's (DoD) training, experimenting, and war-gaming footprint in Alaska. It

encompasses in excess of 100,000 square land, air and sea miles. The DoD is planning on expanding and "enhancing" this footprint. On June 28, 2013 DoD published the final Environmental Impact

Statement of a plan it calls the Joint Alaska Pacific Range Complex Modernization and Enhancement. It allowed for only 30 days of written public comment. Like many Alaskans I was busy with summer projects and unavailable. The official comment period is over but we can and should raise our voices in opposition.

JPARC "enhancements" would in effect make a large part of Alaska's Interior a test bench and training area for autonomous and semiautonomous weapons systems known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, drones), Unmanned Ground Vehicles, and the associated ground systems that link them to military and Central Intelligence Agency operators. The plan includes a flight corridor that stretches from Fairbanks to south of Fort Greely where they will be flying Predator, Reaper, Gray Eagle, and other winged robot assassins carrying Hell Fire Missile simulators and live armaments. Included is an already constructed mock US town for training, gaming and experimenting with these technologies in an urban setting. The plan also calls for increasing the size of the Air Force's bombing ranges and allows for bombing to continue late into the night. The recent artillery-initiated fire that has destroyed over 100 square miles of local forest should be a caveat.

Contrary to the commonly heard argument that these systems save lives and are more humane methods of executing warfare, they have proven to be agents of war crimes. Their use in Afghanistan, Pakistan (where I have personally witnessed the effect of their implementation), Yemen, etc., is responsible for the indiscriminate murder of innocent men, women, and children, a scenario conducive to more hate and war—not less. Going to war should be the most painful decision made by a nation. Any technology that masks the pain of war is the worst of deceptions. Like murderous chickens coming home to roost they pose severe civil liberty threats at home as well.

We can find better uses of our research institutions, technology, and our military bases in Alaska (e.g. alternative energy/mitigating global climate change) than those that serve the industries of death. If interested in joining an effort to halt the implementation of the JPARC "enhancements" and proposing alternatives to an economy based on militarism please contact me (mulford.rob@gmail.com, 907-457-5578, 907-687-6606).

—Rob Mulford lives in Fairbanks, Alaska and is working with the Alaska Peace Center and North Star Veterans for Peace



Pentagon Deploys THAAD Into Guam

Another Pentagon missile defense (MD) system that has been testing with some success is the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system now being deployed to the island of Guam. THAAD's role is to detect, target, discriminate, and destroy, with kinetic impact, multiple incoming ballistic missiles during their downward flight phase in lower space as well as in the upper atmosphere. Additionally, the heat and friction of reentry into the earth's atmosphere is used to further discriminate incoming debris and missile warheads for potential THAAD intercepts.

THAAD relies on its own X-Band Radar to detect and target with its own interceptors, similar to those forward based X-band radars deployed today in the US, Israel, Turkey, Europe, and Japan. The THAAD system is intended to fill the gap of interceptor battle space between the higher Aegis ship-based interceptors that operate

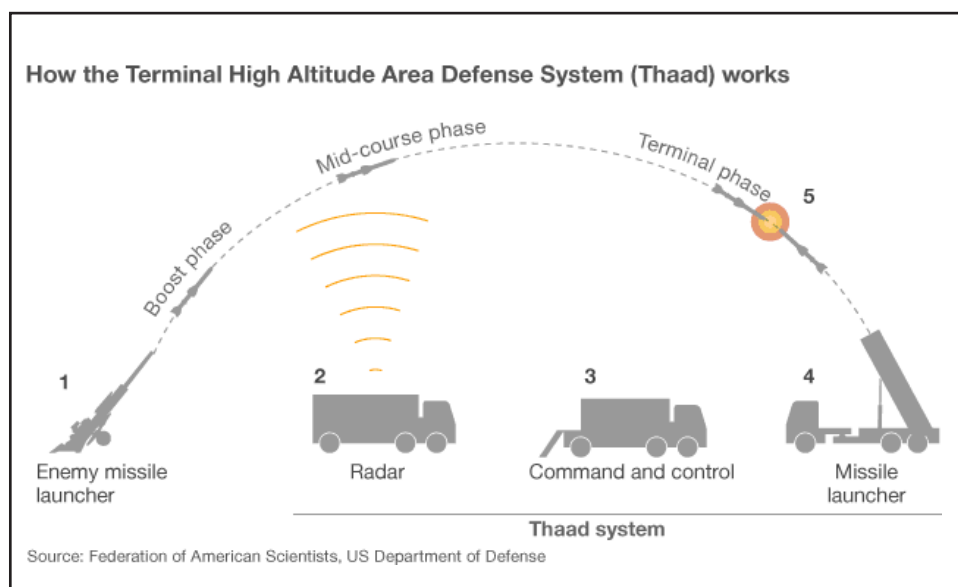
in space and the lower Patriot land-based systems operating in the lower atmosphere for regional ballistic missile threats. THAAD is the most successfully tested MD system since 2003.

The THAAD deployment on Guam, one of the Pentagon's largest Pacific staging areas, is another move in Obama's "pivot" to surround and control China.

The pro-MD organization called the "Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance" hailed the THAAD deployment in Guam by saying, "We give great credit and sincere appreciation to our President, Department of Defense, Pacific Combatant Commander, and to the Commander of the U.S. Army's 94th AAMDC for making the decision to deploy the THAAD Battery, out of Fort Bliss, Texas... into Guam and making our world, nation, our men and women of our armed forces, and our citizens of the American territory Guam safer."

The military boot print on Guam is growing as not only missile defense deployments are expanding there but so are US naval and Air Force operations. The Pentagon already controls

one-third of the island and wants even more. Local activists are organizing to halt this expansion and fighting hard to maintain their indigenous culture in the midst of the war machine.



Make War Unprofitable

by Joseph Gainza

"The committee listened daily to men striving to defend acts which found them nothing more than international racketeers, bent upon gaining profit through a game of arming the world to fight itself."

With these words Republican Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota neatly summed up the findings of 93 Senate hearings held from April 1934 to February 1936. Nye headed the Senate Munitions Investigating Committee, known to history as the Nye Committee, whose purpose was to investigate four topics: the munitions industry; bidding on Government contracts in the shipbuilding industry; war profits; and the background leading up to U.S. entry into World War I.

In April of 1936, the Nye Committee issued its final report. Of the seven members, four called for nationalization of the munitions industry. The three remaining members called for "rigid and conclusive munitions control."

It is time to have another congressional investigation into what is today called the arms industry, its cozy relationship with the Pentagon and how members of the US House and Senate abet what President (and General) Dwight Eisenhower called the "military-industrial complex." And if Congress fails to initiate such an investigation—which in all likelihood it would—then a citizen's commission must do the job.

It is citizens, calling their government to account, who have the potential of halting the tsunami of weapons overwhelming the peoples of the world. All countries that host components of the arms industry must engage in this inquest. But the USA—with by far the largest military budget (larger than the next 14 nations combined), the preponderance of international weapons sales, a global network of over one thousand military bases, and pushing hardest to militarize space – is where this process must start. We must demand honest and thorough answers, and complete transparency.

Just as the tobacco industry, in order to continue to profit on sales of cigarettes, covered up findings that their product caused scores of thousands of deaths each year, so does the arms industry obscure the catalyst for war, terrorism and gun violence which their products provide. We are told that the arms industry is helping to defend our freedoms and insures our security even as weapons manufacturers sell billions of dollars worth of sophisticated weaponry to authoritarian governments, some of whom, like Pakistan, have reason to hate the US. Many of the weapons these corporations pour

into countries around the world end up in the hands of people only too willing to use them to terrorize others or to destabilize their government, as happened in Afghanistan. Soon, those weapons are pointing at American soldiers and Marines.

An indication of the enormity of expenditures by military contractors to influence public policy is provided by Harvard historian Jill Lapore in "The Force," an article that appeared in the January 28, 2013 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine. Lapore reports that Lockheed Martin has contracts with the Pentagon worth about thirty billion dollars annually. The firm contributed to the campaigns of nine of the twelve members of the Congressional Super Committee, whose failure in finding budget cuts to reduce the federal deficit resulted in the automatic sequester. But Lockheed did not stop there, the weapons manufacturer also lavished campaign "donations" on "...fifty-one of the sixty-two members of the House Armed Services Committee, twenty-four of the twenty-five members of that committee's Subcommittee on Tactical and Land Forces—in all to three hundred and eighty-six of the four hundred and thirty members of the 112th Congress."

While Lockheed Martin and fellow arms producers may not directly drive the hawkish policies of the US Government, as political scientist Daniel Wirls, quoted by Lapore, says: "hawkish policies (driven primarily by political decisions) produce an opening for the military-industrial coalition to take advantage of the biases built into the system that favor, over the long run, hawkish policies."

This comfortable relationship is enhanced by the "revolving door" which has high-ranking members of the military retiring into executive positions at arms industry corporate headquarters. For example Boeing's head of business development for military aircraft, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Kohler, formerly ran the Pentagon agency that oversees arms exports. Boeing returns the compliment by having W. James McNerney, President and Chief Executive Officer of Boeing, serve as the chairman of the President's Export Council, the principal national advisory committee on international trade.

Leslie Gelb, former senior official in both the US Defense Department and the State Department, writing in *Foreign Affairs*, November, 2010, reports that most nations have adjusted their foreign policies to focus on economic security but the US has not. Washington, says Gelb, still thinks of its security in traditional military terms and responds to threats with military



means. He does not offer an explanation for this; perhaps Eisenhower did when he talked about the "undue influence" of the military-industrial complex.

The arms business is rife with corruption. So say those most familiar with the business. As reported by Gideon Burrows in the "No-Nonsense Guide to the Arms Trade," in 1999 the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs invited to "an international colloquium on corruption in the arms trade...arms industry, government and military officials from twelve countries, [and] academics, and non-governmental organizations from around the world." These trade insiders "soon agreed that the very nature of the arms trade made it ripe for corruption." They cited as reasons: The arms industry faces continued over-capacity in production, making competition fierce; the huge size of relatively scarce contracts makes many contracts represent the difference between success and bankruptcy.

Here in the US, the sequester is forcing cuts in the Pentagon budget. While their military and congressional friends are doing everything they can to protect Lockheed Martin, Boeing and the rest of the domestic arms industry, even furloughing 660,000 Pentagon employees one day a week, if the sequester continues, the manufacturers will start feeling an unfamiliar pinch. Very likely they will turn to foreign markets to buttress sales. The flood of weapons to unstable areas will rise to a torrent. At all costs profits will continue to be made.

Now, more than ever there is reason to take the profit out of war and preparations for war. A citizens' investigative committee can make a strong case for doing so. Such a committee would examine such questions as: what financial and other influence do corporations who manufacture weapons have on US military and foreign policy; how does lobbying and campaign "contributions" by the arms industry affect how Congress votes on weapons systems, on how the White House prepares its annual military budget and the Pentagon its periodic strategic review; how do weapons manufacturers and their financial backers influence how our government defines "national interest," and decide how to achieve "national security."

It would not be simple. The military-industrial-congressional complex is more powerful than ever, the arms industry permeates so much of the economy, and parallel efforts in other weapons producing countries would be needed.

But we may have more allies than we think. Just before the release of the final Nye Committee report, a Gallop poll made public on March 7, 1936, reported that when asked, "Should the manufacture and sale of war munitions for private profit be prohibited?" 82 percent of Americans responded yes.

—Joseph Gainza is a founding member of Vermont Action for Peace. He lives in Marshfield, Vermont and has a weekly radio show, *Gathering Peace*, on WGDR Radio at Goddard College.

Pushback Against the “Cyber Industrial Complex”

by David P. Fidler

Greg Austin of the EastWest Institute published a piece in *China-US Focus* on August 6th in which he identifies possible push-back against the US government’s race to achieve “cyber superiority” and the emergence of “the American cyber industrial complex” from people in the US military knowledgeable about US nuclear weapons and strategy. He argues that disclosures by Edward Snowden reveal a “lack of restraint” in US cyber behavior and:

“This lack of restraint is especially important because the command and control of strategic nuclear weapons is a potential target both of cyber espionage and offensive cyber operations. The argument here is not to suggest a similarity between the weapons themselves, but

to identify correctly the very close relationship between cyber operations and nuclear weapons planning. Thus the lack of restraint in cyber weapons might arguably affect (destabilize) pre-existing agreements that constrain nuclear weapons deployment and possible use.

“The cyber superiority of the US... is now a cause of strategic instability between nuclear armed powers... [I]n the long run, the most influential voice to end the American quest for cyber military superiority may come from its own armed forces. There are military figures in the US who have had responsibility for nuclear weapons command and control systems and who, in private, counsel caution. They advocate the need to abandon the quest for cyber dominance and pursue a strategy of “mutual security” in cyber space—though

that has yet to be defined. They cite military exercises where the Blue team gets little or no warning of Red team disruptive cyber attack on systems that might affect critical nuclear command and control or wider war mobilization functions. Strategic nuclear stability may be at risk because of uncertainty about innovations in cyber attack capability. This question is worth much more attention.”

Cybersecurity literature contains references and analogies to nuclear weapons and nuclear strategy, including attempts to draw on the nuclear experience to address what some perceive as a cyber arms race. However, Austin is talking about something different—concern among experts that what is happening with US cyber policy, strategy, and capabilities threaten US nuclear strategy and stability. I do not know how prominent such strategic introspection actually is, or whether it deserves the level of deliberation Austin advocates.

In the most general terms, Austin seeks reassessment of what he and others believe is an insufficiently restrained American quest for superiority in military and intelligence cyber capabilities—not because of perceived threats to privacy and other civil liberties at home, but because this path might create strategic problems for US national security down the road, including in the context of nuclear weapons. For Austin, this reassessment should include more scrutiny of permitting one military officer to lead both NSA and US Cyber Command, a situation Austin provocatively describes as “an unprecedented alignment of Praetorian political power in any major democracy in modern political history.”

An unrestrained cyber industrial complex led by a cyber Praetorian Guard potentially causing strategic nuclear instability? Well, now, the “national conversation” is getting more interesting by the day.

—David P. Fidler specializes in the relationship between international law and cyberspace. He teaches at the Maurer School of Law in Indiana.



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

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