



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Committed to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

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April 13, 2010

Tax Time & The Fortune We Spend on Weapons of Mass Destruction Press Conference April 15 12 P.M. – 2 P.M.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SANTA BARBARA – As millions of Americans rush to meet the April 15 deadline for filing their taxes, the United States government is spending billions of dollars on nuclear weapons and missile defense.

In Santa Barbara County, millions of taxpayer dollars can occasionally be seen shooting across the sky in the form of missile tests. The US military conducts multiple tests of Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles each year from Vandenberg Air Force Base. The missiles travel thousands of miles before landing at the Ronald Reagan Test Site in the Marshall Islands.

The US Missile Defense Agency also occasionally conducts tests of the missile defense system from Vandenberg Air Force Base. The last missile defense test, on January 31, 2010, was estimated to cost \$150 million and was deemed a failure.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, said, “Spending hundreds of millions of dollars on missile tests has always been a shameful waste of money. Today, with high unemployment and major budget cuts throughout the public sector, this waste is even more egregious. It is time for the United States to begin reallocating resources from war to peace and meeting human needs.”

On Thursday, April 15 from noon to 2 pm there will be a press conference at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation headquarters at 1622 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara. Members of the media will have the opportunity to talk to some of the protestors who have been arrested outside the gates of Vandenberg Air Force Base who are facing major charges for seemingly minor incidents. Some of these protestors will be arraigned in federal court in Santa Barbara on the morning of the press conference. Defendants Bud Boothe and MacGregor Eddy will be available to answer questions and discuss the issues in the case.

Col. Ann Wright, a retired Army colonel and retired State Department official, will also be available to the media at this press conference. Col. Wright is best known for publicly resigning from the State Department in direct protest of the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. She is the author of *Dissent: Voices of Conscience*.

For further comment and interviews, please contact [David Krieger](#), President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, at 805-965-3443 or Rick Wayman, Director of Programs, at 805-696-5159.

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The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law and institutions, and to inspire and empower a new generation of peace leaders. Founded in 1982, the Foundation is comprised of individuals and organizations worldwide who realize the imperative for peace in the Nuclear Age. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international education and advocacy organization. It has consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization.