

# THE SUNflower



## NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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## Perspectives

**Peace Begins Now**  
by David Krieger

Given the history of military spending and engagement on the part of the United States, it may seem naïve to think that Americans are ready to change course - or begin again - on issues of peace and disarmament. But as I write this, there is promising political support to put military spending on the table in order to move toward balancing the federal budget. Even more important, the public is realizing that nine years of war in Iraq and eleven years of war in Afghanistan have accomplished very little for the cost of the lives lost and destroyed and the trillions of dollars spent. We've tried controlling the world through military means and it has failed.

To read more, [click here](#).

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## **A Maginot Line in the Mind**

by David Krieger

Prior to World War II, the French built a concrete and steel structure along the French border with Germany to prevent the invasion of France. It was called the "Maginot Line," named after the French Minister of War André Maginot who promoted it. But, when World War II came, the Maginot Line did not prevent the Germans from going around the French fortifications to invade and occupy France. The Maginot Line has become a term of derision that reflects strategic failure of unsuccessful reliance on technology to defend a country.

For a very long time I have thought of missile defenses as a Maginot Line in the Sky, a high-tech defensive system designed to shoot down incoming missiles, but one highly likely to fail under real world conditions. Now, I take one further step in my thinking to recognize that nuclear deterrence itself is a Maginot Line in the Mind.

To read more, [click here](#).

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## **Reflections on the Golden Rule for Today**

by Jonathan Granoff

Today, science, technology and sophisticated social organizational skills have gifted us with unprecedented capacities for enrichment or destruction. The imprint of actions today impact people yet to be born. I believe that there is an ethical responsibility to future generations to ensure we are not passing on a future of horrific wars or ecological catastrophe.

Each of us knows that our individual life is precious and fragile. Our capacity for existential planetary destruction reminds us that our collective existence is fragile. Nuclear weapons have made the modern age a unique age. The future of all people is interconnected as never before and we face numerous issues that can bring us together and for which we must work together to succeed.

To read more, [click here](#).

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## **US Nuclear Weapons Policy**

### **National Ignition Failure**

After more than 16 years and \$8 billion taxpayer dollars, on September 30, 2012, the National Ignition Facility (NIF) missed its last, and final, deadline to achieve the ignition that is its middle name. NIF is a stadium-sized laser built at Livermore Lab in California with 192 beam lines converging on a target chamber. Inside the chamber sits a small "can" with open ends, and inside that is a radioactive fuel pellet

filled with deuterium and tritium. The scientific goal was for the laser beams to hit the open ends of the can, bathe the pellet with intense x-rays and compress the fuel until a self-sustaining thermonuclear reaction occurred, as happens in the sun and in exploding nuclear weapons.

NIF management is now once again touting its role in maintaining the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. Its proponents want nearly another half-billion per year for it with no end in sight. The real question is whether the U.S. Congress will, finally, demand accountability at NIF and cut its funds - or buy into the new hype (just like the old hype) and throw good money after bad.

Kelley, Marylia, "[National Ignition Failure](#)," *Tri-Valley CAREs*, December 2012.

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## **Plutonium Cores Stable for 150 Years**

Scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have determined that plutonium in the fissile core of nuclear weapons is stable for at least 150 years. The results of this work are consistent with, and further reinforce, the Department of Energy Record of Decision to pursue a limited pit manufacturing capability in existing and planned facilities at Los Alamos instead of constructing a new, very large pit manufacturing facility (at a cost of many billions of dollars) that would have been capable of producing hundreds of pits a year.

Greg Mello, Director of the Los Alamos Study Group, said, "Misallocation of tens of billions of dollars - which is what a program of pit production and fielding of new-pit warheads involving new-made plutonium pits would cost - would have very serious national security impacts."

Mello, Greg, "Plutonium in Warhead Cores Stable to 150 Years," *Los Alamos Study Group*, December 6, 2012.

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## **Nuclear Disarmament**

### **U.S. and Russia Slow Pace of Nuclear Drawdowns**

The Federation of American Scientists has published a report that states the U.S. and Russia have slowed the rate at which they are reducing their nuclear arsenals.

According to the report, "There are indications that, although U.S. and Russian reductions are continuing, both countries are becoming more cautious about reducing further. The drawdown of forces has slowed since 2007 and both countries are now investing huge sums of money in new nuclear weapon systems that are designed to operate toward the end of the century. Unless new unilateral reductions take place or significant arms control agreements are reached, large nuclear forces could be retained far into the future."

"[Russia, U.S. Slow Rate of Nuclear Drawdowns, Report Says](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, December 18, 2012.

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## **Nuclear Insanity**

### **British Nuclear Submarine Breaks In Atlantic Ocean**

HMS Vigilant, a British submarine that carries nuclear weapons, test-fired a Trident missile in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida on October 23. After the test, as it was en route to its home port in Scotland, the submarine's rudder broke and it was forced to go to a U.S. naval base in Georgia where some U.S.

nuclear weapon submarines are docked. The submarine had just undergone a three-year overhaul costing \$482 million.

Another British Trident submarine, HMS Vanguard, collided with a nuclear-armed French submarine, Le Triomphant, in February 2009 in the Atlantic Ocean. Both boats had to return to port for repairs.

Edwards, Rob, "[At All Sea: Clyde-Based Trident Sub Stranded In U.S. Despite £300m Overhaul](#)," *Sunday Herald*, December 16, 2012.

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## Plans for Public Open Space on Highly Radioactive Site

A recent federal study reveals that there are still hundreds of radioactive hot spots at the site of the Santa Susana Field Lab, in the suburbs of Los Angeles, which suffered a partial nuclear meltdown on July 14, 1959.

William Preston Bowling, founder of the Aerospace Contamination Museum of Education in Chatsworth, CA, said, "The good news is we now know how bad things are on the site. The bad news is that the high levels of contaminants were in an area that drains into the headwaters of the Los Angeles River."

Boeing, which now owns the site, plans to turn the site into public open space available to nature enthusiasts, hikers, bikers and nonprofits such as the Girl Scouts.

Sahagun, Louis, "[Radioactive Hot Spots Remain at Former Research Facility's Site](#)," *Los Angeles Times*, December 17, 2012.

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## Nuclear Testing

### North Korean Missile Test Reveals U.S. Double Standard

U.S. policy makers reacted strongly to North Korea's launch of a long-range missile on December 12. U.S. National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor called it "another example of North Korea's pattern of irresponsible behavior."

At the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, we believe that the above comment by a U.S. official could be appropriately made regarding not only North Korea, but all countries, including the U.S., that possess nuclear weapons and possess and test long-range missiles as delivery devices for nuclear weapons.

Following the North Korean missile launch, David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, said, "We condemn all long-range missile testing, including the recent launch by North Korea. However, we see North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs as indistinguishable from the missile testing programs of the other eight nuclear weapon states. Why does the U.S. characterize North Korea's long-range missile test as 'highly provocative' while treating U.S. long-range missile tests, such as those launched regularly from Vandenberg Air Force Base, as business as usual?"

Krieger continued, "This double standard makes no sense and is not acceptable. The U.S. should be leading a global effort to negotiate a ban not only on long-range missiles tests but on long-range missiles themselves, and on a new treaty for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the only weapons capable of destroying civilization. Rather than focusing on North Korea, the U.S. should bring the issue of a global ban on long-range missiles and nuclear weapons to the UN Security Council for action. Such leadership by the U.S. would constitute the responsible behavior that is needed to prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons."

Krieger, David, "[North Korean Missile Test Reveals U.S. Double Standard](#)," *Nuclear Age Peace Foundation*, December 12, 2012.

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## **U.S. Conducts Nuclear Weapons Test in Nevada**

In December, researchers from two U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories conducted the 27th "subcritical" nuclear weapons test since 1997 at the Nevada Test Site, now called the Nevada National Security Site. The test was intended to examine the effectiveness of U.S. nuclear weapons.

There has been a moratorium on full-scale nuclear explosions in the U.S. since 1991. Subcritical tests use explosives to test the properties of plutonium, but do not cause a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

The Japan Council Against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo) sent a letter of protest to President Obama. In their letter, they wrote, "Your administration seeks non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. But your position of urging most others to renounce nuclear weapons, while continuing your own nuclear tests, does not stand by reason."

"[U.S. Tests Effectiveness of Nuclear Weapons at Nevada Proving Ground](#)," *Associated Press*, December 7, 2012.

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## **Resources**

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### **Military Spending and the UN Development Agenda**

The International Peace Bureau has published a new paper entitled "Opportunity Costs: Military Spending and the UN's Development Agenda." The paper makes the case that peace and security should be included as important elements in the new post-2015 development agenda and that, in particular, disarmament and military spending should be among the indicators to be adopted. Furthermore, the massive resources devoted to the military sector could - if even a small portion were reallocated - make a major contribution to meeting the challenges of mass poverty, unemployment and climate change.

To download the paper, [click here](#).

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### **New Estimate of Russia's Non-Strategic Nuclear Forces**

The Royal United Services Institute has published a new paper by Igor Sutyagin entitled "Atomic Accounting: A New Estimate of Russia's Non-Strategic Nuclear Forces."

As Russia's strategic nuclear forces have been drawn down in parallel with those of the US, its stockpile of non-strategic nuclear weapons (NSNW) has begun to play a greater role in the arms-control policies of Western states. The US Senate, in its instrument of ratification of the New START treaty in December 2010, urged the president "to seek to initiate, following consultation with NATO allies ... negotiations with the Russian Federation on an agreement to address the disparity between the non-strategic (tactical) nuclear weapons stockpiles of the Russian Federation and of the United States and to secure and reduce tactical nuclear weapons in a verifiable manner."

The author estimates that Russia has between 860 and 1,040 non-strategic nuclear weapons currently assigned to delivery vehicles.

To read the full paper, [click here](#).

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## Foundation Activities

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### Dennis Kucinich to Give 12th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture

Dennis Kucinich, an outspoken progressive leader in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1997 to 2013, will deliver the 12th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future on February 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lobero Theatre in Santa Barbara, CA. Rep. Kucinich was a presidential contender in 2004 and 2008, and served for many years as the United Nations Representative for the group Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

The Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future was established by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in 2001. Frank K. Kelly was a founder and senior vice president of the Foundation. He was a visionary advocate for humanity and inspired many people through his writing and example to take action on behalf of humanity.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Tickets are not necessary.

For more information on the Kelly Lecture series, [click here](#).

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### NAPF Peace Leadership Workshops in 2013

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is pleased to offer a week-long Peace Leadership Summer Workshop again in Summer 2013. The first workshop in July 2012 was a resounding success, and we are excited to welcome a new group of peace leaders from July 21-27, 2013, in Santa Barbara, California. For more information on the workshop, [click here](#).

Paul K. Chappell, NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director, is also teaching a three-day peace leadership workshop March 15-17 at the University of San Diego. The workshop is open to both students and the public. For more information on this opportunity, [click here](#).

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### NAPF Carries on Beyond War Legacy

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is proud to be one of three organizations chosen to carry on the legacy of the group Beyond War. NAPF will continue Beyond War's work to achieve a world without nuclear weapons and war. The Foundation will also host the core hard copy archival materials from Beyond War, including a complete set of the Timeline and On Beyond War publications from the 1980s and 1990s.

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## Quotes

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"Independence will certainly mean an end to the stationing of nuclear weapons in Scotland."

-- Scottish First Minister **Alex Salmond**, referring to the referendum on independence that will come before voters in Scotland in 2014.

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"Who's the target? The Red Army. The Red Army that's sitting in East Germany, ready to plunge into Europe. No, I'm serious."

-- **Jeffrey Lewis** of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, talking about the planned \$10 billion upgrade of the B61 nuclear bomb that is deployed by the U.S. in five European countries.

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"We...understand that the atomic weapons of leading western countries are aimed mainly against Russia. In these conditions - and given the insufficient strength of Russia's conventional armed forces - the preservation of the nuclear potential is a priority task."

-- **Nikolay Patrushev**, Secretary of the Security Council of Russia.

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## Editorial Team

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