

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #163 - February 2011

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Perspectives

Remembering Eisenhower's Farewell Address

by David Krieger

January 17, 2011 marked the 50th anniversary of President Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the nation in which he warned of the dangers of the unwarranted influence of the military-industrial complex. I think he would be shocked to see how this influence has grown over the past half century and how it has manifested in the country's immense military budgets, the nuclear arms race, our permanent war footing, the failure to achieve meaningful disarmament, and the illegal wars the US has initiated.

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

Next Steps for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World

by NAPF Advisors

Many advisors to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation have communicated their ideas for what needs to be done in 2011 to bring the world closer to the abolition of nuclear weapons. The article (linked below) is a summary of the points raised by Foundation advisors.

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

Why Military Spending Remains Untouchable

by Andrew Bacevich

In defense circles, "cutting" the Pentagon budget has once again become a topic of conversation. Americans should not confuse that talk with reality. Any cuts exacted will at most reduce the rate of growth. The essential facts remain: U.S. military outlays today equal that of every other nation on the planet combined, a situation without precedent in modern history.

The Pentagon presently spends more in constant dollars than it did at any time during the Cold War - this despite the absence of anything remotely approximating what national security experts like to call a "peer competitor."

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Spain Demands US Cleanup of Nuclear Accident

The Spanish government has demanded that the United States remove 50,000 cubic meters of contaminated soil from the site of the 1966 nuclear accident at Palomares. A US plane carrying four nuclear weapons collided with a refueling plane over the Spanish town of Palomares, causing all four bombs to fall. While there was not a full-scale nuclear explosion, two of the bombs partially detonated, spreading plutonium over a large area.

Spain has nowhere to store the remaining contaminated soil, which will take thousands of years to lose its radioactivity. US authorities took away some 1,300 cubic meters of contaminated soil at the time of the accident, shipping it to the Savannah River nuclear reservation in South Carolina. The casings of two bombs recovered from the accident are displayed at the National Atomic Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For more information on this and other nuclear accidents, visit the [Nuclear Files](#) website.

Tremlett, Giles, "Spain Demands US Clears Earth from 1966 Nuclear Bomb Mishap," *The Guardian*, January 16, 2011.

US to Develop New Nuclear Bomber

On January 6, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced that the Air Force would begin development of a new nuclear-capable strategic bomber. The decision was announced just days after the Senate ratified the New START treaty, which limits the US to 60 nuclear-capable bombers.

Sen. John Thune (R-SD) supports the development of new nuclear-capable aircraft. "I think most people understand it is the bombers, the heavy bombers, that have given us the extended deterrence," Thune said during debate on New START, which he voted against. "They are visible. They are recallable. They are psychological. They are political. You put them into a theater, they loiter, they persist, and that is a powerful deterrent to those who would like to proliferate nuclear weapons."

Thune did not comment on whether building a new fleet of nuclear bombers would also stimulate other countries to develop nuclear weapons to try to protect against attack.

Oliveri, Frank, "Pentagon's New Bomber Plans Could Fly with Republicans," *CQ Online*, January 10, 2011.

Nuclear Disarmament

Russia Ratifies New START Treaty

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the New START Treaty after approval by the Duma and Federation Council. Russian lawmakers have emphasized that their nation reserves the option of ending participation in the pact if it deems future US missile defense deployments in Europe to pose an unacceptable strategic risk.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are expected to exchange ratification instruments for the treaty early next month, formally bringing the agreement into force.

"Medvedev Inks New START Ratification Text," *Global Security Newswire*, January 28, 2011.

Nuclear Proliferation

China Reaffirms No First Use Policy

Chinese officials strongly denied a report that the country has developed plans to use nuclear weapons first against a nuclear-armed foe engaged in heavy conventional warfare in China. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said, "From the first day China possessed nuclear weapons, the Chinese government has solemnly pledged never to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstances and has always strictly adhered to this pledge."

China continues to be the only nuclear-armed nation with an explicit "No First Use" policy. The United States, Russia and others continue to rule out such a policy.

"China Reaffirms 'No First Use' Nuke Rule," *Global Security Newswire*, January 6, 2011.

Stuxnet Worm Is Most Sophisticated Cyberweapon Ever

The Stuxnet computer worm, widely thought to have been developed by Israel with US support to disrupt the Iranian nuclear program, is considered by many computer experts to be the most sophisticated cyberweapon ever deployed. The worm was designed to send uranium enrichment centrifuges spinning wildly out of control while sending signals to plant operators that everything is working normally.

Israel is thought to have centrifuges nearly identical to those at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment facility, enabling Israel to test the effectiveness of Stuxnet before deploying it.

In recent weeks, both Israel and the United States have announced that they believe Iran's nuclear program has been set back by several years. This represents a clear change from Israel's long-standing line that Iran was only a year or two from a nuclear weapon capability.

Broad, William, John Markoff and David Sanger, "Stuxnet Worm Used Against Iran was Tested in Israel," *The New York Times*, January 15, 2011.

Nuclear Insanity

Flooding at US Nuclear Weapons Headquarters

Much of the US Strategic Command, in charge of the nation's ICBMs, bomber aircraft and subs, and carrying out any nuclear strikes ordered by the president, was submerged under several feet of water in late December after a main water line burst. The incident caused several days of power, heat and plumbing outages, as well as a failure in the facility's email system.

Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska, where Strategic Command is located, has argued for the construction of a new \$564 million facility to replace the current Strategic Command building.

Grossman, Elaine, "US Nuclear Command Goes Cold After Water Main Break," *Global Security Newswire*, January 7, 2011.

French Company Plans Underwater Nuclear Power Plants

Areva, a company 90% owned by the French government, has launched a program to study deployment of nuclear energy reactors on the sea floor. Areva says that such a system is based on proven technologies and would pose less of a safety risk than nuclear-powered submarines. The company has not yet commented on the consequences of an accident in such a plant.

Eaton, Kit, "Undersea Nuclear Power Stations Could Be En Route to France," *Fast Company*, January 21, 2011.

Nuclear Testing

Japan Allowed Dropping of Mock Nuclear Weapons at Okinawa

In the 1970s, the Japanese government allowed the US military to drop mock nuclear weapons on Okinawa. Japanese officials had initially demanded the cancellation of such operations, but the US rejected the demands. Defense Agency Director Ezaki Masumi justified the operations by saying, "It is a matter of course for a nuclear weapon state to carry out nuclear-related training."

“Japan Approved Dropping of Mock Nuclear Weapons on Okinawa,” *PanOrient News*, January 9, 2011.

Resources

Civil Society and Nuclear Disarmament

The most recent issue of Disarmament Forum, published by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, considers the question of civil society and nuclear abolition. How can the objective of nuclear disarmament and abolition once again captivate and motivate the public as it did during and even immediately following the Cold War? Are there lessons that could be drawn from more recent (and more successful) civil society movements in other areas of disarmament?

The expert contributors to this issue address these questions and more in a manner that is both thought-provoking and forward-looking.

[Click here](#) to download the report.

\$85 Billion: Where is the Money Going?

Nickolas Roth of the Union of Concerned Scientists recently gave a presentation on the precise breakdown of how the \$85 billion promised for nuclear “modernization” in exchange for ratification of the New START treaty will be spent. Roth concludes that more than \$10 billion of the \$85 billion is being spent on new production facilities that increase US warhead production capacity.

To read Roth’s work in more detail, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

Join Us at DC Days - April 3-6

Please join NAPF Director of Programs Rick Wayman at the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's 23rd annual DC Days! The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability will be bringing anti-nuclear activists from around the country to DC **April 3-6** to deliver some "Nuclear Reality Check\$" to Congress and the Obama Administration. This is the perfect opportunity for new or seasoned disarmament and environmental activists to reject Obama's nuclear give-away, encourage fiscal responsibility, and have fun with other activists from across the country.

Early bird registration is only \$125, but ends March 1. After March 1st, registration will be \$150. Student registration is \$50. Click [here](#) to register online!

Registration covers the costs of a comprehensive training on Sunday, April 3; entry to our awards reception on Tuesday, April 5; and snacks and expert support during the week. ANA will also host a pizza party on Monday, April 4. DC Days 2011 will be during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the most popular time to visit DC, so book your travel and lodging in advance!

[Click here](#) for more information.

2011 Disarmament Video Contest Announced

The topic for the 2011 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest has been announced. Contestants are asked to make a video of three minutes or less on the following theme, which will “reimagine the world without nuclear weapons:”

How would the world look if the funds allocated to nuclear weapons throughout the Nuclear Age (\$7.5 trillion for the US alone) had been spent instead on building a more decent world?

Background: Since the dawn of the Nuclear Age, the United States has spent over \$7.5 trillion on nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. The US continues to spend at least \$54 billion annually on nuclear weapons-related activities.

For more information about the contest, including instructions on how to enter and to view previous years' winners, [click here](#).

The American Unity Project is Launched

The American Unity Project, a web-based documentary series following NAPF Peace Leadership Director Paul Chappell, was officially launched on January 19. The first episode follows Chappell to Kentucky, where he talks about peace leadership issues with a broad range of people, from high school students to Tea Party members and conservative radio talk show hosts.

To find out more about The American Unity Project and watch the first episode, [click here](#).

10th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future

On February 17, Commander Robert Green (Royal Navy, ret.) will deliver the 10th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future. As a bombardier-navigator in the British Royal Navy, Commander Green was involved in many flights with nuclear weapons on board. After thinking critically about the human and environmental consequences of using such weapons, Commander Green began developing his philosophy of national security without reliance on nuclear weapons. He is the author of a recent book entitled *Security Without Nuclear Deterrence*.

The lecture will take place at 7:00 pm at the Fe Bland Forum on the campus of Santa Barbara City College. A transcript of the lecture will be published; please contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443 if you would like to receive a copy.

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

The Dangers of Nuclear Deterrence

On February 16 and 17, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will bring together experts to discuss the dangers of nuclear deterrence. Participants in the conference include David Krieger and Richard Falk (Nuclear Age Peace Foundation), Jackie Cabasso (Western States Legal Foundation), John Burroughs (Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy) and Commander Robert Green and Kate Dewes (Disarmament & Security Centre).

Many conference participants will be submitting papers to the conference, which will be published on the Foundation's website in mid-February.

Quotes

“The Cold War is long over. The wars of occupation are almost over and were complete failures - Afghanistan and Iraq. The American empire is done. There are no real seriously armed enemies left in the world that can possibly justify an \$800 billion national defense and security establishment.”

-- **David Stockman**, former Director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Ronald Reagan.

“It looks like Mars.”

-- **Marsha Monestersky**, program director of Forgotten People, an advocacy organization for the Navajo Nation. She is referring to the site of a uranium mine on Navajo land that is littered with toxic uranium tailings and is not even fenced off.

“If we are each going to own ABM [anti-ballistic missile] systems, the consequences will be catastrophic.”

-- **Nikolai Makarov**, Russian General Staff chief, alluding to the US and NATO’s refusal to cooperate with Russia on missile defense.

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