

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Civil Resistance at Vandenberg Air Force Base

by David Krieger

RICK WAYMAN: What made you decide after 30 years of working as President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation to get arrested protesting this missile launch?

DAVID KRIEGER: I felt it was necessary. The leaders in charge of our nuclear policies aren't reacting swiftly enough and with serious determination to end the intolerable threat posed by these weapons of mass annihilation, and so more is needed from citizens. This is an action I took as a citizen, which I hope says to the members of the NAPF and to the public that more is needed – that words are not sufficient. We must speak with our actions as well.

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

For a news report about the February 25 protest at which David Krieger, Daniel Ellsberg and 13 others were arrested, [click here](#).

The Menace of Present and Future Drone Warfare

by Richard Falk

After the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the colossal scale of devastation disclosed, there was a momentary embrace of sanity and rationality by world leaders and cultural commentators. There was a realization that living with such weaponry was at best a precarious journey into the future, and far more likely, an appointment with unprecedented human catastrophe if not apocalypse. This dark mood of foreboding did produce some gestures toward nuclear disarmament tabled initially by the U.S. Government, but in a form that reasonably struck others at the time, especially the Soviet Union, as a bad bargain.

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

Opening Remarks to UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

by Sergio Duarte

When I look at the many obstacles ahead to achieving global nuclear disarmament - in particular the lack of disarmament institutions, laws, regulations, plans, and budgets in the nuclear-weapon states for actually achieving zero - I do tend to worry about the prospects. I feel the same way when I see the nuclear weapon modernization programmes now underway, being propelled along by very long-range plans for the retention and improvement of existing arsenals. I sense this when I see nuclear doctrines and policies that still allow for the first-use of nuclear weapons, for holding weapons on high-alert, for deploying nuclear weapons on foreign soil, and for heralding these weapons as offering the "supreme guarantee" of security - an approach that I believe is a virtual invitation to proliferation.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Budget Cuts Force Delay in New Cruise Missile

Budget documents submitted to Congress in February show that the Air Force will delay development of a replacement for the Air Launched Cruise Missile carried on nuclear bomber aircraft. Development of the new weapon is estimated to cost \$1.3 billion.

The Defense Department has also delayed by two years the replacement of the Ohio-class submarines and refurbished B-61 nuclear bombs.

Grossman, Elaine, "[U.S. Air Force Plans Two-Year Delay in Developing New Cruise Missile](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, February 24, 2012.

Plutonium Pit Facility On Hold for Five Years

President Obama's budget proposal released in February would put on hold for five years plans to build the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

The proposed facility would quadruple U.S. capacity to produce plutonium pits for nuclear weapons. With projected costs for the facility now hovering at around \$6 billion, a five-year delay was deemed necessary by the Obama administration because of the need to cut the national budget. The National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees the laboratory, "has determined in consultation with the national laboratories that existing infrastructure in the nuclear complex has the inherent capacity to provide adequate support for these missions."

Clausing, Jeri, "[Critics of LANL Nuke Facility Hail Funding Cut in Obama's Budget](#)," *Associated Press*, February 13, 2012.

U.S. Considers Deep Cuts in Nuclear Arsenal

The *Associated Press* has reported that President Obama is considering at least three different levels of deployed strategic nuclear weapons that would represent a significant reduction from the 1,550 weapons allowed each country by the New START agreement between the U.S. and Russia.

The three levels reportedly under consideration are 1,000 to 1,100; 700 to 800; and 300 to 400. In written testimony to the House Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces Subcommittee in November 2011, James N. Miller made it clear that the administration was making a fundamental reassessment of nuclear weapons requirements.

Burns, Robert, "[U.S. Weighing Steep Nuclear Arms Cuts](#)," *Associated Press*, February 15, 2012.

Air Force Cancels March 1 Nuclear Missile Test

More than 7,000 NAPF Action Alert Network members sent messages to President Obama demanding the cancellation of the nuclear missile test on March 1, the 58th anniversary of the largest-ever US atmospheric nuclear test, Castle Bravo. The Air Force subsequently announced that the missile test will not occur.

The military is not crediting activist pressure for the cancellation of the launch; rather, they cite technical reasons.

This is the second time in less than six months that the Air Force has canceled a nuclear missile test after pressure from NAPF Action Alert Network members. The first time was when they had scheduled a test on the International Day of Peace, September 21, 2011.

Wayman, Rick, "[Air Force Cancels Nuclear Missile Launch After Pressure from NAPF Action Alert Network](#)," *Waging Peace Today*, February 28, 2012.

Nuclear Disarmament

North Korea Agrees to Suspend Nuclear Work

North Korea has announced that it will suspend nuclear weapons tests and uranium enrichment activities and allow international inspectors to monitor activities at its Yongbyon nuclear facility. While the Obama administration calls the steps "important, if limited," observers see some hope that North Korea's new leader Kim Jong-un is willing to engage with the United States.

In exchange for the new promises from North Korea, the United States has pledged to provide tons of food aid. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "The United States...still has profound concerns. But on the occasion of Kim Jong Il's death, I said that it is our hope that the new leadership will choose to guide their nation onto the path of peace by living up to its obligations. Today's announcement represents a modest first step in the right direction."

Myers, Steven and Sang-Hun, Choe, "[North Korea Agrees to Suspend Nuclear Work, U.S. Says](#)," *The New York Times*, February 29, 2012.

Nuclear Proliferation

Putin Promises New Weapons for Russia

Vladimir Putin, the current Prime Minister and candidate for President of Russia, has promised to provide the Russian military with 400 intercontinental ballistic missiles and 100 military spacecraft over the next ten years if elected. Putin also said that substantial investment in Russia's weapons will be positive for the country's economy.

Putin's comments came just days after Chief of the Russian General Staff, Army Gen. Nikolai Makarov, said that Russia would use nuclear weapons in response to any imminent threat to its national security.

"[Putin Pledges 400 ICBMs for Russia in 10 Years](#)," *Indo-Asia News Service*, February 21, 2012.

Nuclear Insanity

US Promises to Clean Up in Spain

The Spanish Foreign Minister said that the United States has finally promised to help clean up radioactive land from a 1966 accident involving U.S. nuclear weapons.

On January 17, 1966, a B-52 bomber collided with a refueling plane over Palomares, Spain, killing seven crew members and causing the four nuclear weapons aboard the B-52 to free fall. Three of the bombs fell on land, while one fell in the sea and took months to locate. None of the bombs exploded, but plutonium from two of the weapons was spread across a wide area of land.

Heckle, Harold, "[Spanish Foreign Minister Says U.S. Promises to Help Clean Up Nuclear Contamination in South](#)," *Associated Press*, February 3, 2012.

Argentina Accuses Britain of Deploying Nuclear Weapons Near Falklands

Argentina has lodged a formal protest at the United Nations accusing the United Kingdom of deploying nuclear weapons near the Falkland Islands. The UK has refused to say whether or not a Vanguard submarine, which carries nuclear weapons, is in the area.

Argentinian Foreign Minister, Héctor Timerman, said, "Are there nuclear weapons or are there not? The information Argentina has is that there are these nuclear weapons." Timerman also said that the presence of a nuclear-armed submarine in the area would violate the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which prohibits nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed concern about the situation and has reportedly offered to mediate. April 2 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War between the UK and Argentina.

Carroll, Rory, "[Argentina Accuses UK of Deploying Nuclear Weapons Near Falkland Islands](#)," *The Guardian*, February 10, 2012.

Missile Defense

NATO Missile Defense Radar Active in Turkey

Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, the U.S. Army's Commander in Europe, stated that the X-band radar site in Turkey as part of NATO's missile defense system, is now operational. "From an Army perspective, the missile defense plans are going as scheduled," Hertling said.

The U.S. says that the missile defense system in Europe is intended to counter a missile threat from Iran. However, Russian leaders continue to object to the system's deployment, elements of which are very close to the Russian border.

"[Missile System in Turkey On Track: U.S.](#)," *Associated Press*, February 28, 2012.

Resources

Poland, NATO and Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons in Europe

The European Leadership Network and Royal United Services Institute have published a paper entitled "Poland, NATO and Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons in Europe" by Andrew Somerville, Ian Kearns and Malcolm Chalmers. The paper charts Poland's security concerns and changing foreign policy considerations, and sets the country's approach to the nuclear question within this wider context.

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

Petition Against War with Iran

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has made multiple, unambiguous statements this year that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon. Also, it is widely recognized that a war with Iran would be an economic, humanitarian and national security disaster.

If you agree that war is not the answer, please consider signing the petition started by the Brave New Foundation on the White House "We the People" petition site. To see the petition, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

Daniel Ellsberg in Santa Barbara

Daniel Ellsberg, the whistleblower who leaked the Pentagon Papers to the press in 1971, traveled to Santa Barbara to deliver the 11th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future on February 23. Speaking to a crowd of over 600 people at the Lobero Theatre, Dr. Ellsberg outlined his thoughts on "Nuclear Weapons and Humanity's Future." A transcript and video of the lecture will be available in the coming weeks.

While in Santa Barbara, Dr. Ellsberg also spoke at a press conference organized by NAPF regarding the February 25 test of a Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base. Later that night, he was [arrested](#) along with NAPF President David Krieger, activist Cindy Sheehan and 12 others while protesting the launch at the front gate of Vandenberg.

Dr. Helen Caldicott to Give Free Lecture in Santa Barbara

Dr. Helen Caldicott, a member of the NAPF Advisory Council, will give a free lecture in Santa Barbara on Friday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Caldicott, a long-time opponent of nuclear power and nuclear weapons, will discuss "The Medical Implications of Fukushima, Nuclear Power and Nuclear Proliferation."

The lecture is free and will take place at the Faulkner Gallery in downtown Santa Barbara. For more information, [click here](#) or call (805) 965-3443.

You can help underwrite the Foundation's presentation of Dr. Helen Caldicott's important lecture with a gift of \$100 or more. To donate, [click here](#). Supporters at the \$250 level and above will receive a signed copy of Dr. Caldicott's book *Nuclear Madness*.

Peace Leadership Program Summer Workshop

Only a few spots remain for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's seven-day summer workshop on peace leadership at the beautiful La Casa de Maria Retreat Center in Santa Barbara, California, July 22-29, 2012.

The NAPF Peace Leadership Summer Workshop is an intensive course on leadership skills for waging peace. Led by NAPF Peace Leadership Director Capt. Paul K. Chappell, participants will be empowered with the understanding and tools that can help them make a positive difference in their lives, communities and the world.

If you are interested in participating, please apply as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information about this exciting workshop, [click here](#).

Your World With or Without Nuclear Weapons

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is co-sponsoring a free event in Santa Barbara on Saturday, March 10 entitled "Your World With or Without Nuclear Weapons." Organized by the Pacific Life Community, the event features Joanna Macy, Paul K. Chappell and Dennis Apel.

The event takes place on Saturday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Faulkner Gallery in downtown Santa Barbara. [Click here](#) to download a flyer.

Lobbying on Nuclear Issues in Washington, DC

Rick Wayman, NAPF Director of Programs, and Jack Amend, a NAPF intern, will attend the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's DC Days event from March 18-21. They will join dozens of experts and grassroots activists from all over the United States in lobbying members of Congress and the Obama administration on key nuclear issues.

DC Days is an outstanding opportunity for experienced lobbyists and first-time lobbyists to come together to make a difference. There is still time to register for this event. [Click here](#) for more information.

Quotes

"When we talked about this in the government, the consensus was that [attacking Iran] would guarantee that which we are trying to prevent - an Iran that will spare nothing to build a nuclear weapon and that would build it in secret."

-- **Gen. Michael Hayden**, former CIA and NSA Chief during the George W. Bush administration.

"They are living in a state with a government that would rather spend money on a nuclear weapons program than on the welfare of its people, and that's why we are compelled to increase the pressure and increase the isolation until they see the light."

-- U.S. State Department spokesperson **Victoria Nuland**, referring to new economic sanctions against Iran. Do you notice any irony?

"If you just have a few [nuclear weapons], your deterrent is essentially to hold civilians at risk, innocent civilians in cities, because that's all the weapons you have to put against targets."

-- **Sen. Jon Kyl** (R-AZ), justifying large nuclear arsenals and criticizing reports that President Obama is considering cutting the number of deployed strategic weapons in the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

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