

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #189 - April 2013

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Perspectives

Reflections on Omnicide, Nuclear Deterrence and a Maginot Line in the Mind

by David Krieger

I urge national leaders and security specialists, as well as the public, to base their strategic thinking, leadership and action regarding nuclear weapons on three basic understandings that separate fact from fiction, truth from hypothesis. First, nuclear weapons are capable of omnicide. Second, nuclear deterrence is only a hypothesis about human behavior, not a fact that can be relied upon for the indefinite future. Third, the Maginot Line was fancy and high-tech and was thought to be foolproof by most security experts, but it failed to provide a defense when it mattered, and its failure was devastating for France.

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

Nuclear Myths Could Result in Catastrophe, Historian Warns

by Robert Kazel

In his new book, *Five Myths About Nuclear Weapons*, historian Ward Wilson mines historical case studies – some ancient, some recent – to deflate the assumption that enemy leaders will capitulate if we wipe out a horribly large percentage of their urban populations. Reducing a rival country's cities to smoking rubble on a massive scale, he writes, actually boosts its morale and determination to prevail.

NAPF spoke to Wilson about his belief that accepting old, unchallenged nuclear lessons will surely lead to eventual disaster.

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

Next Step: A Ban on Nuclear Weapons

by Tim Wright

A quiet revolution took place in Oslo earlier this month. More than 120 governments, UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and civil society gathered to debate the problem of nuclear weapons, not in military and geopolitical terms, as has been done for decades, but through a humanitarian lens. Never before in the 68 years of the atomic age has there been any serious discussion at a governmental level of the catastrophic harm caused by nuclear weapons, nor a concerted push by states to outlaw these weapons completely.

The five major nuclear powers - the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China - were understandably unhappy about this Norwegian government initiative. Just days before the conference kicked off, they issued a joint statement declaring that they would boycott it, even though a couple of them had earlier indicated that they would attend. But this was not enough to deter other governments from taking part, including many members of NATO, Australia, Japan and South Korea, all of which rely on America's so-called "extended nuclear deterrent."

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Ratification of Test Ban Treaty is a Top Priority for President Obama

Getting Congress to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a "top priority" for President Obama's second term, the administration's top arms control negotiator said Wednesday.

The remarks by Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller are the strongest signal to date that the administration plans to launch a lobbying blitz on Capitol Hill like it did to secure passage of the New START treaty with Russia in 2010. Then-President Clinton signed the treaty in 1996, but the Senate failed to ratify it in a 1999 vote.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will keep a close eye on developments around Senate ratification of the CTBT, and will work to ensure that no "deals" are made that will slow the move toward the global abolition of nuclear weapons.

Julian Pecquet, "[Official: Obama to seek Senate action on Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty](#)," *The Hill*, March 20, 2013.

Nuclear Insanity

Is There a Taboo Against Using Nuclear Weapons?

A new study finds that, among the American public, the taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is far weaker than one might imagine. "When people are faced with scenarios they consider high-stakes, they end up supporting - or even preferring - actions that initially seem hard to imagine," said Daryl Press, an associate professor at the Dartmouth College Department of Government.

Given the right set of circumstances, those actions include a nuclear strike - even one that results in huge loss of life. That is the central finding of a paper that Press co-authored with Scott Sagan and Benjamin Valentino, published in the *American Political Science Review*.

Tom Jacobs, "[How We Learned to Set Aside Our Moral Qualms and Love the Bomb](#)," *Pacific Standard*, March 18, 2013.

U.S. and North Korea Exchange Threats

The U.S. military announced that two nuclear-capable B-2 stealth bombers made non-stop round-trip flights from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri to South Korea on March 28 in a demonstration of its ability to attack North Korea with nuclear weapons by air. The planes dropped their "inert" munitions on an island bombing range off the coast of South Korea before returning to their base in the central United States. The U.S. also utilized nuclear-capable B-52 bombers in military drills in South Korea in March.

North Korean leaders made numerous verbal threats against the United States and South Korea in March. "From this time on, the North-South [Korean] relations will be entering the state of war and all issues raised between the North and the South will be handled accordingly," according to the Korean Central News Agency. North Korean leaders also threatened to strike Guam, Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

Choe Sang-Hun, "[U.S. Begins Stealth Bombing Runs Over South Korea](#)," *The New York Times*, March 28, 2013.

Nuclear Labs

University of New Mexico Wants to Manage Nuclear Weapons Lab

The University of New Mexico has expressed a strong interest in partnering with private companies to manage Sandia National Laboratories, part of the United States' network of nuclear weapons laboratories. The management contract will likely be up for bidding later in 2013.

The University of California (UC) has managed the Los Alamos National Laboratory since the dawn of the Manhattan Project in the early 1940s. UC also manages Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. In recent years, the UC has co-managed these labs with corporations including Bechtel and Babcock & Wilcox. The University of Tennessee is part of a management partnership at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

These universities spin their involvement in nuclear weapons laboratories as providing good training possibilities for students and career opportunities for their graduates. In reality, their involvement makes the universities complicit in the potential destruction of cities and indiscriminate slaughter of hundreds of thousands or millions of people. It demonstrates a deep moral failing of our institutions of higher learning.

["University of New Mexico Talking to Several Companies about Managing Sandia Labs Contract,"](#) *Associated Press*, March 27, 2013.

Major Safety Concerns at Pantex Nuclear Weapons Plant

In 2011, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, the agency that monitors safety at U.S. nuclear weapons facilities, learned about an incident in which nuclear warhead disassembly work proceeded beyond authorized operations at Pantex. As part of the investigation, the contractor (B&W Pantex) surveyed personnel in its nuclear explosives safety division. According to the survey, "eight out of 10 employees believe it is a career-limiting move to raise concerns."

Officials say that they are working to improve worker-management relations at Pantex after this "sobering" report. Activities at Pantex primarily consist of modifying nuclear weapons and dismantling retired nuclear weapons.

["Panhandle Nuclear Weapons Plant Vows to Improve Worker Relations After Report,"](#) *Star-Telegram*, March 15, 2013.

Missile Defense

U.S. Calls for New Interceptor Missiles in Alaska

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has announced a plan to add 14 new anti-missile interceptors at Fort Greely in Alaska at a cost of nearly \$1 billion. Hagel claims that the move is in response to North Korean threats of a missile strike against the United States. Hagel's announcement came with the caveat that the U.S. would only purchase the additional interceptors if future tests are successful. The interceptors have not hit a target in a test since 2008. That bears repeating: the anti-missile interceptors in question have not hit a target in a test in five years.

The U.S. currently has 26 interceptors deployed at Fort Greely and four at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Militarists on the House Armed Services Committee, including Michael Turner and Chairman Buck McKeon, have called for even more missile defense deployment, including a possible site on the East Coast of the U.S.

Phil Stewart and David Alexander, ["U.S. to Bolster Missile Defenses to Counter North Korea Threat: Hagel,"](#) *Reuters*, March 15, 2013.

U.S. and Russia Agree to Talks on Missile Defense

The United States and Russia agreed on Monday to hold senior-level talks on missile defense following Washington's decision to not develop a controversial ICBM interceptor planned for deployment in Eastern Europe, close to Russian territory. It was not immediately clear when the talks will take place.

Following the U.S. decision to cancel the Standard Missile 3 Block 2B interceptor, there is a new possibility the two former Cold War rivals can finally reach an understanding on missile defense. For years, Russia has protested an Obama administration plan to field increasingly capable SM-3 interceptors in and around Europe for the stated purpose of defending against a possible ballistic missile strike by Iran.

The Kremlin was particularly worried the Block 2B missile might secretly target its strategic nuclear forces; the U.S. insisted this would not be the case.

Also in March, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a joint statement on missile defense that read in part, "[We] urge members of international society to be prudent on the issues of deploying and beginning cooperation on missile defenses, and oppose one country or group of countries unilaterally and unlimitedly strengthening missile defenses, harming strategic stability and international security."

Rachel Oswald, "[Russia, U.S. Plan High-Level Missile Defense Talks](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, March 26, 2013.

Gregory Kulacki, "[Chinese-Russian Joint Statement on Missile Defense](#)," *All Things Nuclear*, March 27, 2013.

War and Peace

10th Anniversary of the Iraq War

To observe the 10th anniversary of the illegal U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq in March, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation published three pieces looking at the shameful legacy of this war.

David Krieger, NAPF President, wrote a piece entitled "[The Iraq War: Ten Years, Five Poems of Remembrance](#)." Richard Falk, NAPF Senior Vice President, wrote an article entitled "[The Iraq War: 10 Years Later](#)." Robert Dodge, a member of the NAPF Board of Directors, wrote an article entitled "[Iraq Ten Years Later: What Lessons Have Been Learned?](#)"

Resources

The Score on Peace in Congress

Peace Action West has issued its 2012 Congressional voting record, which captures 28 House votes and 9 Senate votes on Afghanistan, Iran, Pentagon spending, nuclear weapons, the "war on terror" and more.

The user-friendly voting record allows you to easily find out how your elected officials voted on key peace issues during 2012.

[Click here](#) to see how your House and Senate representatives rate.

Athens Dialogue on Middle East WMD Free Zone

The La Trobe University Centre for Dialogue and the European Public Law Organization have published a new report on establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. The report is based on a conference held in late 2012 in Greece called the "Athens Dialogue."

In a foreword to the report, Judge Christopher Weeramantry, member of the NAPF Advisory Council and former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice, wrote, "The Athens Dialogue has addressed this problem at various levels both conceptually and procedurally - exploring obstacles standing in the way of such zones, examining the untenability of the concept of nuclear deterrence, analyzing the transformation taking place in the Arab world, bringing inter-religious perspectives to bear on the problem, unraveling the economic and cultural factors that must be considered and working out schemes of verification."

For more information on the report and to download a free copy, [click here](#).

Nuclear Weapons: The State of Play

This report, edited by Ramesh Thakur and Gareth Evans, describes the progress – or lack of it – on the commitments and recommendations of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the 2010 and 2012 Nuclear Security Summits, and the 2009 report of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

It provides an authoritative analysis and advocacy tool for governments, organizations and individuals committed to achieving a safer and saner nuclear-weapon-free world.

To read a summary of the report and download the full file, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

Peace Leadership Program Updates

In March, NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director Paul K. Chappell taught a three-day accredited course on Peace Leadership at the University of San Diego. Steve Gelb, a professor of Leadership Studies at USD who attended the course, said, "[Paul's] insightful presentation on strategic nonviolent leadership inspired, empowered and equipped participants to work as activists for peace and social justice. He has developed an original, compelling, honest, realistic and pragmatic educational program that will engage and benefit all who seek to work effectively for peace. The value and the need for this teaching cannot be overestimated."

A few spots remain for the NAPF Peace Leadership summer workshop in Santa Barbara on July 21-27. To learn more about the workshop and to apply, [click here](#).

Paul will be in Uganda April 8-12 to give a series of lectures at Peace Week at the invitation of the Archdiocese of Gulu. An update from this trip will appear in the May edition of *The Sunflower*.

NAPF at the United Nations in Geneva

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will be strongly represented at the 2013 Nonproliferation Treaty PrepCom in Geneva, Switzerland, from April 20-27. The Foundation will convene a seminar at the United Nations on Friday, April 26, addressing the topic, "Nuclear Abolition: A Time for Boldness and Hope."

The Foundation will also host a panel discussion at Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Development Studies on Tuesday, April 23. Panelists will discuss "Advances in Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education."

In addition to these two events, NAPF representatives will engage in numerous meetings with UN ambassadors and NGOs during the NPT PrepCom.

NAPF Representatives to Lobby on Capitol Hill

Rick Wayman, NAPF Director of Programs, and Brooks Troiani, a full-time NAPF intern and recent graduate of Westmont College, will be in Washington, D.C. April 14-17 to take part in the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's D.C. Days program.

D.C. Days brings together activists from around the United States to meet with Congressional offices and administration officials on issues of nuclear disarmament and cleanup of contaminated nuclear weapons facilities.

There is still time to register for D.C. Days. It is an outstanding opportunity to meet dedicated individuals from around the country and make a difference in U.S. nuclear policy. For more information, [click here](#).

Quotes

"When we preach peace but practice war, when we preach self-defense but practice aggression, we are [not] being consistent in how we exercise power."

-- **Gregory D. Foster**, former Army officer and West Point graduate who now teaches national security studies at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

"This is a statement of peace. May it never become an epitaph."

-- **Paul Conrad**, the artist who created the "Chain Reaction" sculpture in Santa Monica, California. Six former mayors of Santa Monica have come together to raise funds to restore the sculpture so that it is not removed. For more information on this effort, [click here](#).

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

-- **Albert Einstein** (1879-1955), American physicist and 1921 Nobel Laureate in Physics. This quote appears in the book *Speaking of Peace: Quotations to Inspire Action*, available in the [NAPF Peace Store](#).

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