

# THE SUNflower



## NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

**Issue #180 - July 2012**

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## Perspectives

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### **Fear of Nuclear Weapons**

by David Krieger

I was recently asked during an interview whether people fear nuclear weapons too much, causing them unnecessary anxiety. The implication was that it is not necessary to live in fear of nuclear weapons.

My response was that fear is a healthy mechanism when one is confronted by something fearful. It gives rise to a fight or flight response, both of which are means of surviving real danger.

In the case of nuclear weapons, these are devices to be feared since they are capable of causing terrifying harm to all humanity, including one's family, city and country. If one is fearful of nuclear weapons, there will be an impetus to do something about the dangers these weapons pose to humanity.

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

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### **Do Nuclear Weapons Really Deter Aggression?**

by Lawrence Wittner

It's often said that nuclear weapons have protected nations from military attack.

But is there any solid evidence to bolster this contention? Without such evidence, the argument that nuclear weapons prevented something that never occurred is simply a counter-factual abstraction that cannot be proved.

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

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## US Nuclear Weapons Policy

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### **Obama Administration Defends Nuclear Modernization**

Congressional Republicans have made numerous claims that the Obama administration is not following through on its December 2010 promise to modernize the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal. The promise was part of a deal between the administration and Congress in order to ratify the New START treaty between the U.S. and Russia.

One Department of Energy representative said, "It's about spending the dollars wisely and doing it in a way that we can ensure that the taxpayers are getting what they need and we continue to support the stockpile and get that done." The administration stated that it intends to upgrade 80% of the nuclear arsenal.

Cassata, Donna, "Administration Defends Nuclear Modernization," [Associated Press](#), June 22, 2012.

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## Nuclear Disarmament

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### **Blueprint for the Elimination of British Nuclear Weapons**

A guide published by the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament estimates that within four years, British nuclear weapons, carried on Vanguard-class submarines, can be completely dismantled and removed

from Scottish territory. Such a move would save the UK from spending at least GBP 100 billion on nuclear weapons over the next several decades. The blueprint, supported by several nuclear weapons experts, goes into step-by-step detail of the disarmament process.

Edwards, Rob, "Revealed: Blueprint for a Nuclear-Free Scotland Two Years After Independence," [Sunday Herald](#), June 17, 2012.

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## **U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Nuclear Abolition Resolution**

At the 80th annual U.S. Conference of Mayors on June 16, the meeting adopted a resolution entitled "Calling for U.S. Leadership in Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Redirection of Nuclear Weapons Spending to Meet the Urgent Needs of Cities."

The resolution outlined the severe costs and dangers of nuclear weapons and stressed the urgency of reallocating the U.S.'s multi-billion dollar nuclear weapons budget to meet the needs of cities. The resolution also called for President Obama to work with the leaders of the other nuclear-armed states to implement the UN Secretary-General's Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament by 2020.

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

Cabasso, Jackie, "U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Strong New Mayors for Peace Resolution," June 16, 2012.

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## **French Activists End Hunger Strike**

Two French nuclear weapons abolition activists, Jean-Marie Matagne and Luc Dazy, have ended their hunger strike after consultation with their relatives and doctors. Mr. Matagne did not eat for 42 days and Mr. Dazy went without food for 25 days. Other people around France fasted in solidarity for one or several days throughout the action.

The activists' goal was to meet with French president Francois Hollande and get a national referendum for the elimination of nuclear weapons on the ballot. In a letter to President Hollande, Jean-Marie Matagne wrote, "For over fifty years France has possessed nuclear weapons. Today there are 300 bombs, each of which is 7 to 22 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb, which caused over 200 000 deaths. This means that France's Head of State could, alone, without sharing the decision, cause up to a billion deaths, not to mention the wounded."

He continued, "I politely request you to consult the French people, by means of a referendum that would pose the following question, the very one required by the international agenda of 2012: 'Do you agree that France should participate with the other states concerned in the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, under mutual international monitoring that is strict and effective?'"

While their goals have not yet been achieved, French activists plan to continue with actions in the coming months to put pressure on the French government.

For more information about this action, [click here](#).

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## **P5 Meet in Washington, DC**

Disarmament representatives from China, France, Great Britain, Russia and the United States met in Washington, DC in June for the third conference of the so-called P5. This conference focused on implementing the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The final statement begins, "The five Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) nuclear-weapon states, or P5, met in Washington on June 27-29, 2012, in the wake of the 2009 London and 2011 Paris P5 conferences to review progress towards fulfilling the commitments made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and to continue discussions on issues related to all three pillars of the NPT nonproliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and disarmament, including confidence-building, transparency, and verification experiences."

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

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## Nuclear Proliferation

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### **U.S. and Israel Intensify Cyberwar Against Iranian Nuclear Program**

Following the recent identification of the Stuxnet virus as originating in the United States and Israel, security firms have identified the Flame virus as sharing "DNA" with Stuxnet, effectively identifying Flame as an American and Israeli joint project. The virus, which can "activate computer microphones and cameras, log keyboard strokes, take screen shots, extract geo-location data from images, and send and receive commands and data through Bluetooth wireless technology," came to light last month as Iran reported attacks on its oil industry. There has not been an official response from either Israel or the United States.

Nakashima, Ellen, "U.S., Israel Developed Flame Computer Virus to Slow Iranian Nuclear Efforts, Officials Say," [The Washington Post](#), June 19, 2012.

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### **President Obama Extends Executive Order on Russian Nuclear Material**

U.S. President Barack Obama has ordered a one-year extension on Executive Order 13159, the declaration of national emergency over Russian nuclear weapon materials.

The executive order describes the large volume of nuclear weapon-usable material that has accumulated in the Russian Federation. It declares an official state of national emergency and grants permission to U.S. emergency authorities to respond to the threat. President Bill Clinton first issued Executive Order 13159 in June 2000. The order has been extended annually ever since.

Sergey Guneev, "Obama Extends National Emergency Over Russian Nuke Material," [Ria Novosti](#), June 19, 2012.

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### **Still No Progress in Iranian Nuclear Negotiations**

Negotiation efforts between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany (P5 + 1) continued in Moscow on June 18. The conditions of the P5 + 1 appear to have hardened in this most recent round of talks. The P5+1 insisted that Iran meets all three of the conditions in their proposals: stopping at 20% enrichment, shipping out its existing uranium stockpile, and closing its Fordo uranium enrichment plant. Although this was the third round of talks between Iran and the P5 + 1 this year (the parties have also met in Baghdad and Istanbul), signs of compromise are not yet in sight.

Tehran maintains that its nuclear program is solely for civilian purposes, but the U.S. and other Western powers fear that Iran is attempting to enrich uranium to levels high enough for nuclear weapons.

On June 20, President Ahmadinejad spoke with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in a meeting held in Brazil on the sidelines of the Rio+20 Summit. "All Iran's nuclear energy activities have so far been based on [international] regulations and under the surveillance of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran has remained committed to and fulfilled all its undertakings," stated Ahmadinejad.

"Iran's president hopes for understanding in P5+1 negotiations," [Press TV](#), June 21, 2012.

Rozen, Laura and Slavin, Barbara, "US Hardens Stance in Iran Nuclear Talks," [Al-Monitor](#), June 27, 2012.

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## Nuclear Insanity

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### Nuclear Weapon Corporations Donate Millions to U.S. Lawmakers

A report released by the Center for International Policy reveals the staggering amount of funds contributed by the nuclear weapons industry to key members of Congress. Corporations involved in producing nuclear weapons in the United States have given over \$18 million to the current lawmakers who oversee federal defense spending.

So far in 2012, these corporations have contributed over \$3 million to lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee, which must approve all spending on nuclear arms, as well to lawmakers on the Energy and Water subcommittee and the Defense Appropriations subcommittee.

The six companies involved in nuclear weapons production that have donated the most money to these lawmakers are Lockheed Martin, Honeywell International, Northrop Grumman, Boeing Co, General Dynamics and General Electric.

Smith, Jeffery, "Are Nuclear Weapons Contractors' Millions in Campaign Contributions Buying Favors?" [Galesburg Planet](#), June 12, 2012.

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### Highway Marker to Commemorate Nuclear Accident

A new North Carolina Historical Highway marker has been posted in the town of Eureka to commemorate the near-disaster at the site in 1961. In January of that year, a B-52 bomber carrying two nuclear weapons caught fire in the air. Three of the eight crew members died in the accident, and the nuclear weapons were released from the aircraft.

One bomb's parachute deployed and it fell to the ground with minor damage. The other bomb's parachute did not deploy and it broke apart upon impact. Five of the six interlocking safety triggers on the bomb failed. Only a single switch prevented the 24-megaton bomb from detonating. The bomb was nearly 2,000 times more powerful than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945.

Uranium and other contaminants were spread over a large site; the U.S. government still maintains an easement in the area to prevent people from digging in the ground.

For more information on this and other nuclear accidents throughout the Nuclear Age, please visit the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's [Nuclear Files](#) website.

"N.C. Highway Historical Marker Will Commemorate 1961 Nuclear Near-Miss in Rural Wayne County," [Beach Carolina](#), June 2012.

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## Resources

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### **Resolving Ambiguity: Costing Nuclear Weapons**

The Stimson Center has published a report by Russell Rumbaugh and Nathan Cohn entitled "Resolving Ambiguity: Costing Nuclear Weapons." The report attempts to clear up disagreements around how much the United States spends on nuclear weapons each year.

This report specifically identifies that the U.S. spends about \$31 billion annually on strategic nuclear offensive forces. This figure purposely does not include many programs that are inextricably linked to nuclear weapons, such as environmental cleanup at contaminated nuclear weapons production facilities and ballistic missile defense.

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

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### **National Peace Academy Workshop**

The National Peace Academy and La Casa de Maria have collaborated to put on a workshop conducted by Dr. Kathleen Barry. The workshop is entitled "Empathy and Consciousness Raising for Unmaking War, Remaking Men." Empathy, particularly for those who live in states that initiate war, often does not extend beyond their own national boundaries. Yet empathy, more than just a feeling, can be a powerfully positive force for change. This course will show how it draws upon and expands human interaction, making it accessible to anyone to cultivate in themselves.

For more information on the conference, which will take place from July 20-22, [click here](#).

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### **Growing Up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats**

*Full Body Burden: Growing Up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats* is Kristen Iversen's story of growing up close to Rocky Flats, a secret nuclear weapons plant once designated "the most contaminated site in America." It's the story of a childhood and adolescence in the shadow of the Cold War, in a landscape, unbeknownst to those who lived there at the time, tainted with invisible yet deadly particles of plutonium.

As the memoir unfolds, it reveals itself as a brilliant work of investigative journalism - a detailed and shocking account of the government's sustained attempt to conceal the effects of the toxic and radioactive waste released by Rocky Flats, and of local residents' vain attempts to seek justice in court. There are also vivid portraits of former Rocky Flats workers, from the healthy, who regard their work at the plant with pride and patriotism, to the ill or dying, who battle for compensation for cancers they got on the job.

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

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### **Blog Series on Nuclear Deterrence**

Martin Hellman, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering at Stanford University and a founding member of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Silicon Valley Chapter, has written a series of blogs entitled "How Logical is Nuclear Deterrence?" Hellman says, "The logical inconsistency – and danger – of nuclear deterrence should be obvious, but it still forms the foundation of our national security strategy."

To read the full blog series on nuclear deterrence, starting with Part One, [click here](#).

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## Waging Peace Today

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's blog, [Waging Peace Today](#), has been very active so far this summer. At least four new posts are added each week. Recent titles include: "Nuclear Iran Does Not Increase Stability: 8 Reasons;" "The Symbol of the Sunflower;" and "Distorted Prestige in the Nuclear World."

Please visit the [Foundation's blog](#) often, where you can sign up for automatic notifications of new posts and comment on the articles.

## Foundation Activities

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### Nuclear Famine Resources from NAPF

We have known since the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima about the deadly direct effects of nuclear weapons: blast, fire, radiation. Now we know that the indirect effects of even a regional nuclear war would have global consequences leading to a nuclear famine, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of millions of people. Nuclear famine is yet another reason why nuclear weapons need to be abolished now.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has produced numerous new resources highlighting the dangers of nuclear famine. A [new section](#) of the Foundation's website provides detailed information on the issue. A full-color flyer is available for [download](#). If you would like multiple copies to distribute in your area, please contact us at (805) 965-3443. A short video that won the Foundation's 2012 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest is available to watch on [YouTube](#). The Foundation has also begun publishing articles relating to nuclear famine, which can be found in our [article archive](#).

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### Sadako Peace Day

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 18th Annual Sadako Peace Day commemoration will take place on August 6, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at La Casa de Maria in Montecito, California. The featured speaker at this year's event is Kikuko Otake, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. She is the author of [Masako's Story: Surviving the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima](#), and will be signing copies of the book immediately following the event. There will also be poetry, music and reflection at the event.

The event marks the anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by commemorating the life of Sadako Sasaki. Sadako was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and developed leukemia ten years later due to radiation from the bomb. Sadako attempted to bring about her wish for world peace by folding 1,000 paper cranes. The paper crane has become a global symbol of peace, and a statue of Sadako now stands in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (805) 965-3443 or [click here](#).

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### Peace Leadership Workshop this Month

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's first week-long Peace Leadership Workshop will take place on July 22-29 at La Casa de Maria in Montecito, California. The workshop is filled to capacity with people of all ages and from many different parts of the United States.

Please watch for next month's Sunflower newsletter to read more about what happened at the workshop. Also, please watch our [Facebook page](#) for daily updates from the workshop and information about sessions that will be live-streamed online.

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### Three New Books from NAPF

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has recently published three books on peace and nuclear weapons that are now available to purchase in our [Peace Store](#).

1. *The Path to Zero: Dialogues on Nuclear Dangers*. This dialogue between NAPF President David Krieger and NAPF Senior Vice President Richard Falk explores ten different aspects of nuclear disarmament, including nuclear deterrence, militarism, international law and morality.
2. *Never Enough Flowers: The Poetry of Peace II*. This book is an exciting collection of winning poems from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards from 2003-2010.
3. *Speaking of Peace: Quotations to Inspire Action*. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has just published an updated second edition of this book, containing even more inspirational and informative quotations on peace, war and the human spirit.

All three books and many more items are available from the [NAPF Peace Store](#).

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### Quotes

"The president needs to leverage that support to argue the case for much deeper cuts [in the U.S. nuclear arsenal] and push back against members of Congress who - incredibly - still haven't gotten beyond their cold war obsessions."

-- Editorial in [The New York Times](#) on June 11, 2012, entitled "Nuclear Time Warp"

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"Is it not evident that our policy of [nuclear] deterrence is unlawful if the actual use [of nuclear weapons] would be unlawful?"

-- Professor **Charles J. Moxley, Jr.**, speaking at an American Bar Association panel on nuclear weapons and international humanitarian law.

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"If Israel will attack, there is no doubt in my mind that this will also provide [Iran] with the justification to go ahead and move quickly to nuclear weapons."

-- **Meir Dagan**, former chief of Israel's Mossad.

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