

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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- Perspectives
 - Nuclear Detonation: Fifteen Scenarios by David Krieger
 - Persistence and Dedication by Rick Wayman
 - New Terms for a Common Understanding of De-Alerting
- US Nuclear Weapons Policy
 - Arrests at New Kansas City Nuclear Weapons Plant
- Nuclear Disarmament
 - Women Lead US Delegation in Arms Control Talks
 - Nobel Laureates Urge Obama to Renew Disarmament Campaign
- Nuclear Proliferation
 - China Maintains No First Use Policy
 - IAEA Chief Meets with Israeli Officials
- Nuclear Insanity
 - US Ends Payments for 1966 Nuclear Accident
 - Fire No Longer Threatens Russian Atomic Site
 - New Name for Nevada Test Site
- Nuclear Testing
 - Newest World Heritage Site: Bikini Atoll
- Resources
 - Apocalypse Never
 - US Plans for Nuclear Arsenal and Infrastructure Changes

- Reality Radio
- Government Positions on a Nuclear Weapons Convention
- September 21: International Day of Peace
- Foundation Activities
 - New NAPF Video: The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence
 - Peace Leadership Program Starts a Busy New School Year
 - NAPF Backstage Reception with Peter and Paul
- Quotes

Perspectives

Nuclear Detonation: Fifteen Scenarios

by David Krieger

Many people are complacent about nuclear weapons. They would prefer to deny the nuclear threat and put nuclear dangers out of their minds. Unfortunately, this is a dangerous approach to a serious threat to humanity. There are many ways in which a nuclear detonation could take place, including accident, miscalculation and intentional use.

Listed below are 15 possible scenarios for a nuclear detonation. These are 15 arguments against complacency and for engagement in seeking a world without nuclear weapons.

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

Persistence and Dedication

by Rick Wayman

Why is it essential to continue working tirelessly for the abolition of nuclear weapons, even at times when it seems like the world is moving at a snail's pace - or even backwards - toward this goal?

The first reason - one that motivates me every day to do this work - is for the *hibakusha*. I have been fortunate to meet and interact with a number of survivors over the past few years. Their strength to go on after seeing what they've seen; their capacity to forgive after the devastation that was wrought upon them; their persistence in working to make sure that such an event never happens to anyone ever again: these things inspire me greatly, and I am compelled to help them make their dream become a reality.

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

New Terms for a Common Understanding of De-Alerting

The discussion of de-alerting has been complicated by the absence of a common understanding and description of how the United States and the Russian Federation might employ their nuclear arsenals during the initial phases of a nuclear exchange. A resulting lack of universally agreed terminology has hindered diplomatic efforts to lower the operational status of nuclear forces and thus reduce the possibility of accidental, unauthorized or inadvertent use of nuclear weapons.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Arrests at New Kansas City Nuclear Weapons Plant

Fourteen activists were arrested in Kansas City while protesting the construction of a proposed nuclear weapons manufacturing facility. The new plant is envisioned as the “more modern” replacement for the current Kansas City Plant, which is responsible for the production and assembly of approximately 85 percent of the non-nuclear components for the US nuclear arsenal.

According to Jay Coghlan, Executive Director of Nuclear Watch New Mexico, while the international community thinks the US is working towards nuclear disarmament, “the reality is that we’re building three new sites: one to process uranium, one to process plutonium, and one to create the non-nuclear parts of the weapons such as triggers and fuses.” The proposed uranium facility is at the Y-12 plant in Tennessee, the proposed plutonium facility is at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and the non-nuclear component facility is in Kansas City.

McElwee, Joshua, “Catholic Activists Arrested at Kansas City Nuclear Weapons Facility,” *National Catholic Reporter*, August 17, 2010.

Nuclear Disarmament

Women Lead US Delegation in Arms Control Talks

As the US engaged in nuclear reduction talks with Russia recently, a strong contingent of female officials took leading roles. US diplomat Rose Gottemoeller and her deputy Marcie Ries led the American team during the negotiations, and State Department undersecretary and former congresswoman Ellen Tauscher helped to close the deal on the New START agreement. Also on the female roster are two of the top nuclear scientists and senior verification official Karin Look, who helped oversee the dismantling of Libya’s nuclear weapons program.

A recent survey by Women in International Security found that this reflects a larger phenomenon of increasing female presence: women occupy between 21 and 29 percent of the senior positions at the State Department, USAID, the Pentagon and other national security and foreign policy agencies, and 13 percent of

the Senior Intelligence Service is female. “We’re really at a very critical juncture in the field at large. We’ve had many more women than we’ve ever seen,” said Jolynn Shoemaker, executive director of the group. “It’s particularly visible in this administration.” Women still face challenges, however. Many of the study’s respondents noted that they felt a “need to establish credibility quickly, especially in the defense, intelligence and law enforcement areas, and acknowledged that this was sometimes difficult.”

Sheridan, Mary Beth, “In Nuclear Negotiations, More Women at the Table for US,” *Washington Post*, August 22, 2010.

Nobel Laureates Urge Obama to Renew Disarmament Campaign

The 11th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates will be held on November 12-14 in Hiroshima. While US President Barack Obama is not scheduled to attend, several Nobel Laureates are urging him to reconsider. In fact, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Poland’s Lech Walesa, former South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk, East Timorese President Jose Ramos-Horta and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez have all signed a letter stating that Obama should offer the keynote address at the summit. The Nobel Laureates feel that Hiroshima, as the Japanese city where an atomic weapon was first used in war, is ideal place for Obama to speak given his professed commitment to nuclear disarmament. To date, no sitting US president has visited Hiroshima.

“Nobel Laureates Urge Obama to Renew Disarmament Campaign,” *Global Security Newswire*, August 26, 2010.

Nuclear Proliferation

China Maintains No First Use Policy

While China’s nuclear arsenal is the object of much speculation and some worry, the commander of the People’s Liberation Army’s Second Artillery Force has sought to assuage potential worries. He claims that China’s nuclear arms capacity is limited to the “lowest level necessary” to safeguard national security. Gen. Jing Zhiyuan also insisted that China is strictly pursuing a No First Use policy. “We, the Second Artillery Force, will always stick to the principle of limited development of nuclear weapons and we will not engage in a nuclear arms race,” Jing wrote.

“China’s Nuclear Arsenal Limited to Lowest Levels: Top General,” *DNA India*, August 14, 2010.

IAEA Chief Meets with Israeli Officials

Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), traveled to Israel in August for talks on the Israeli nuclear program. The IAEA recently passed a non-binding resolution calling for Israel to

ensure that its nuclear facilities and materials are not being used for military purposes. The resolution passed with a narrow 49-45 margin and was seen as a victory for Arab states. Israel initially announced that it would not comply, yet Amano expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of his recent visit. During the three-day period, Amano met with President Shimon Peres and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy Dan Meridor.

“UN Nuclear Chief in Israel to Press on NPT,” *Reuters*, August 24, 2010.

Nuclear Insanity

US Ends Payments for 1966 Nuclear Accident

In January 1966, a US B-52 bomber with four nuclear weapons on board crashed after colliding with a refueling tanker over the town of Palomares, Spain. Two of the four H-bombs on board spread radioactive plutonium across a wide area. Since the accident the US government has paid Spain for blood tests on local residents and monitoring of radioactive pollution levels in the area.

According to the US Department of Energy, the US stopped compensating Spain in 2008. For more information on this and other nuclear accidents, see the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's [Nuclear Files](#) website.

“US Ends Payments to Spain for 1966 Nuclear Accident,” *Agence France Presse*, August 23, 2010.

Fire No Longer Threatens Russian Atomic Site

According to a Russian crisis management official, wildfires are no longer threatening the nation's Federal Nuclear Center. The blazes claimed more than 50 lives. Roughly 3,000 fire responders and 1,000 atomic facility personnel battled the fires, facing a six mile wall of flame.

Sergei Kiriyenko, head of the Russian atomic agency Rosatom recently assured television viewers that there was never any serious nuclear, radiation, or environmental threat, as the agency “stopped work at key facilities and removed all nuclear, radioactive and explosive materials.” Regardless, *Reuters* reports that Rosatom plans to increase fire safeguards at its nuclear facilities. This will include special robotic equipment that monitors and controls systems, and Light detection and Light Detection and Ranging systems capable of tracking any changes and any source of fire within 15 kilometers.

“Fire No Longer Threatens Russian Atomic Site, Official Says,” *Global Security Newswire*, August 19, 2010.

New Name for Nevada Test Site

For more than 41 years, the federal government detonated nuclear warheads at the Nevada Test Site. The majority of this testing was underground, depositing toxic loads of radioactivity into the ground and, in some cases, directly into aquifers. By the time the US halted nuclear testing in 1992, the 1,360 sq km of desert and mountainous terrain that comprise the site had become one of the most radioactively contaminated places in the nation. For many, the Nevada Test Site is a legacy of the Cold War, and the sacrifice of sanity and safety that was made in the name of the arms race.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) hopes to change that. NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino recently announced that the Nevada Test Site will be renamed as the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), a move that, according to a NNSA press release, "better reflects the diversity of nuclear, energy and homeland security activities being conducted there."

There are some things that a name change can't fix, however. Increases in leukemia and other cancers have been tied to the site since the late 1950s, and it is estimated that the underground tests polluted 1.6 trillion gallons of water.

Nuclear Testing

Newest World Heritage Site: Bikini Atoll

UNESCO has added the Bikini Atoll, a Pacific archipelago in the Marshall Islands, to its World Heritage List. While cities such as Amsterdam and Albi were honored for their architecture and beauty, UNESCO hailed Bikini as a symbol of the dawn of the Nuclear Age. During the transition period between World War II and the Cold War, the United States of America displaced Bikini Atoll's local people in order to carry out nuclear testing.

In the years between 1946 and 1958 the US conducted at least 67 nuclear tests, including the detonation of the first H-bomb. The cumulative effect of the tests was 7,000 times that of the Hiroshima bomb. They littered ships at the bottom of the lagoon, carved out the Bravo crater, and exposed the people and environment to radiation. UNESCO notes that in light of this history, the Bikini Atoll is a "paradoxical image of peace and of earthly paradise."

"Bikini Atoll Given UN Heritage Listing," *Australia Network News*, August 6, 2010.

Resources

Apocalypse Never

Tad Daley of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) has recently published a book entitled *Apocalypse Never: Forging the Path to a Nuclear Weapon-Free World*.

Apocalypse Never illuminates why we must abolish nuclear weapons, how we can, and what the world will

look like after we do. The twenty-first century has ushered in a world at the atomic edge. The pop culture days of *Dr. Strangelove* have been replaced by the all-too-real single day of 24. Tad Daley has written a book for the general reader about this most crucial of contemporary challenges.

Apocalypse Never maintains that the abolition of nuclear weapons is both essential and achievable, and reveals in fine detail what we need to do—both governments and movements—to make it a reality.

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

US Plans for Nuclear Arsenal and Infrastructure Changes

The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) have obtained unpublicized sections of the Obama administration's first detailed plan for the future of the US nuclear arsenal and its supporting infrastructure. These two unclassified sections are from the "FY 2011 Stockpile Stewardship and Management Plan," which is part of the Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed fiscal year 2011 budget that was written by the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration.

On July 13 the science organizations released the two sections along with the plan's summary section, which already had been made public. The report reveals new information about US plans for its nuclear arsenal and infrastructure through 2030.

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

Reality Radio

Reality Radio is a new podcast committed to bringing you news and political analysis informed by the values of peace and justice. One recent show features an interview with long-standing peace activist and former General-Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Bruce Kent. Kent tackles a range of issues, including the 65th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the changing tide against nuclear weapons in Britain and around the world, and the prospect of global nuclear abolition

To hear this and similar podcasts from Reality Radio, [click here](#).

Government Positions on a Nuclear Weapons Convention

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has produced a detailed guide to government positions on a Nuclear Weapons Convention; a global treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons within a specific timeframe. The guide uses a star system, where four stars signifies that a country is "very supportive"; three "supportive"; two "lukewarm"; and one star means "skeptical." The detailed list of government positions briefly explains how each rating was derived.

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

September 21: International Day of Peace

September 21 is the International Day of Peace, which provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly.

One example of an activity taking place on September 21 is “A Million Minutes for Peace,” a multi-faith movement led by Odyssey Networks. The group is asking individuals to pledge to take one minute to pray - in their own way - for peace at noon on September 21. To learn more or to take the pledge, [click here](#).

You can also watch Peace Day celebrations around the world live online. Organized by the Unity Foundation, the broadcast will intersperse the live feeds with video segments showcasing the vibrant work of thousands of changemakers around the globe. For previews of the broadcast, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

New NAPF Video: The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence

“The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence,” a new video from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, challenges the Cold War theory that nuclear deterrence keeps us safe. Using computer animation, the five-minute video touches on many of the reasons why nuclear deterrence can fail and the catastrophic consequences of such a failure. The video is available for download or on DVD from [our website](#).

Peace Leadership Program Starts a Busy New School Year

Paul Chappell, Director of the Foundation’s Peace Leadership Program, has begun a busy Fall Semester delivering Peace Leadership workshops at schools and universities around the United States. Paul currently has trips scheduled through December in California, Texas, Hawaii, Washington, Kentucky, Massachusetts and Wisconsin.

The Foundation is able to reach thousands of young people each year through the Peace Leadership Program because of the generous financial support of our donors. Please consider making a donation today at [our website](#) to help us empower more young people to “make a career of humanity.” To find out more about the Peace Leadership Program, [click here](#).

NAPF Backstage Reception with Peter and Paul

Peter Yarrow and Noel “Paul” Stookey of the iconic folk group Peter, Paul & Mary have organized a backstage reception for NAPF supporters after their September 10 concert at the Lobero Theater in Santa Barbara. Peter, Paul and Mary received the Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award in 2007 in recognition of their significant contributions and dedication to peace throughout their careers. Peter and Noel continue to serve on the Foundation’s Advisory Council.

Only a few tickets remain for the special backstage reception. You can reserve the tickets online by [clicking here](#) or call the Lobero box office for more information at (805) 963-0761.

Quotes

“The experience of nuclear testing, the displacement of our people from our homeland and the devastating contamination of our country is a story that has been repeated in many places around the world. As a World Heritage site, Bikini Atoll will forever tell the story of this period for human history.”

-- **Alson Kelen**, Mayor of Bikini Atoll, after the atoll was named a World Heritage Site in July 2010.

“So long as any state has nuclear weapons, others will want them. So long as any such weapons remain, it defies credibility that they will not one day be used, by accident, miscalculation or design. And any such use would be catastrophic. It is sheer luck that the world has escaped such catastrophe until now.”

-- Report of the **International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament**, Synopsis, December 2009. To see additional quotes on the double standards of possessing nuclear weapons, [click here](#).

“Together, let us put out the last fire of Hiroshima. Let us replace that flame with the light of hope. Let us realize our dream of a world free of nuclear weapons so that our children and all succeeding generations can live in freedom, security and peace.”

-- UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, in a [speech](#) at the Hiroshima Peace Park on August 6, 2010.

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