

Space Alert!



Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

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A Space Force in Times of Economic & Health Crisis

by Karl Grossman

Amid the scourge of coronavirus sweeping the US, the rising death toll and huge shortages in medical equipment needed to treat victims of the epidemic and protect doctors, nurses and other health care workers, the Space Force has gotten its “first new offensive weapon” and the government is getting ready to pour billions into the newly established sixth branch of its armed forces.

“Space Force Just Received Its First New Offensive Weapon,” was the headline of a March 13th article on “The War Zone” section of the website “The Drive.”

The sub-head: “This is just one of two acknowledged US ‘counterspace’ capabilities, but there are more in the classified realm.”

The article said the “new offensive weapon system [is] an upgraded version of a ground-based satellite jamming system. It quoted Lt. Colonel Steven Brogan, the Combat Systems branch leader within the Space Force’s Special Programs Directorate as saying: “This upgrade puts the ‘force’ in Space Force and is critical for Space as a warfighting domain.”

“Details on exactly how the CCS [Counter Communications System] functions are limited, but it is understood to be a jamming system that disrupts transmissions from enemy communications satellites. This could give US forces valuable advantages on the battlefield by disrupting the ability of enemy units to rapidly communicate and share information using satellite-



based systems,” said the article.

It also quoted Space Force Vice Commander Lt. General David Thomas speaking about how “the new service was working on new capabilities ‘to protect and defend’ America’s space-based assets.” He said “we did that extensively in the budget” for the 2020 US fiscal year, and for the 2021 fiscal year “we are now taking steps to extend that across the fleet, as well as look at other capabilities to be able to continue to defend those assets that we have and defend [against] adversary use of space.”



“The Trump administration’s \$740.5 billion budget request for [the military] in 2021 includes \$15.4 billion for the US Space Force, according to documents released by the Pentagon on Feb. 10,” Space News reported.

President Trump on December 20, 2019 signed the National Defense Authorization Act providing for a US Space Force and declared: “Space. Going to be a lot of things happening in space. Because space is the world’s newest warfighting domain....This is very big and important moment.” The US military, he said, would “control the ultimate high ground.”

The formation of the Space Force has come despite the landmark Outer Space Treaty which designates space as a global commons to be used for peaceful purposes. The treaty was put together by the US, the then Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, enacted in 1967 and since signed by virtually all nations on Earth.

Trump and the US military claim a US Space Force is needed because China and Russia have been moving into space militarily. However, China and Russia—

along with US neighbor Canada—have for decades been seeking to expand the Outer Space Treaty, to ban any weapons in space. The treaty provides that nations “undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in space in any other manner.”

China, Russia and Canada have led in advocating the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space or PAROS treaty, prohibiting all space weaponry. But although the PAROS treaty has had overwhelming support at the United Nations, year after year the US [and Israel] have voted against it, essentially vetoing its passage. I’ve been at the UN and seen this.

Trump has further stressed that “it is not enough to merely have an American presence in space, we must have American dominance in space.”

Despite their pushing for years to expand the Outer Space Treaty and prohibiting the deployment of any weapons in

(See Space Force p. 7)



Global Network
PO Box 652
Brunswick, ME 04011

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Help us defeat arrogant US 'control & domination' of space plan

by Bruce K. Gagnon

This edition of Space Alert was due out just before the coronavirus pandemic struck. I delayed working on it wondering how this worldwide shutdown would impact the military industrial complex and their new pet project—Trump's Space Force. Needless to say many things have stopped dead in their tracks but the US war machine appears to be grinding along with minimal delays.

Yes, there is the US navy aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt presently grounded in Guam with almost 1,000 sailors testing positive for the virus and their captain removed from duty for courageously advocating for the health and safety of his crew.

The USS Kidd, a destroyer still at sea, as I write has 47 sailors testing positive for the virus but the Navy has not brought them to shore.

There was a semi-cancellation of the US-NATO Defender-Europe war games aimed at Russia which was to involve tens of thousands of US and European troops. Massive amounts of US hardware were shipped overseas to be left at a new US Army base in Poland that has been turned into a regional weapons hub near the Russian border. Some of the planned ground exercises were cancelled, and the US-NATO concentrated their wasteful militaristic energies on practicing a major nuclear air attack on Moscow.

Space Force, as you will see in this newsletter, has not been impacted by the pandemic. Trump was able to 'stand up' his new high-tech legacy branch of the military as they say at the Pentagon. Congress was overwhelmingly in favor—that means both parties supported it—the only thing the Democrats wanted to change was the name to the 'Space Corp'.

I've noted that when the new leaders of the Space Force speak about it they keep using the word 'lean' to describe the new service branch. They want to make it sound like it won't be a 'fiscal burden' to the nation, especially at a time when we have more unemployment than during the Great Depression. But facts are facts and I can testify that the aerospace industry publications have been bragging since the 1980s, when Ronald Reagan first proposed 'Star Wars' that this would be the largest industrial project in the history of the planet. So \$15 billion is just the foot in the door. Where will the funds come from to pay for this? The entitlement programs are on the aerospace industry's chopping block. They are officially Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and what little is left of the social safety net.

Trump has also recently announced that the US rejects the United Nations Outer Space and Moon Treaties that declare the planetary bodies the 'province of all humankind'—meaning that no nation, corporation or individual can claim ownership of them. Thus the new gold rush is underway to grab the planets for resource extraction.

I've long believed that the Space Force (and before that the Space Command) will have two primary missions. First, to give the US and its western capitalist



allies 'control and domination' of Earth. Secondly, the Space Force will be given the task to create the technologies to 'control and dominate' the pathway on and off our sacred Mother Earth.

In 1989, the US Congress published an internal study called 'Military Space Forces: The Next 50 Years.' In this study, the congressional staffer who wrote it talked about the need to control the pathway between the Earth and the Moon. He suggested that armed space stations on either side of the Moon would allow the Pentagon to seize the 'Earth-Moon gravity well'. He wrote: "Armed forces might lie in wait at that location to hijack rival shipments on return." So this plan has been in the works for many years—in fact since one of the former Nazis first briefed Congress back in 1958.

Maj. Gen. Walter Dornberger was Hitler's head man in charge of his WW II era V-1 and V-2 rocket program. He was the staff link between scientist Wernher von Braun and Hitler. Dornberger, like von Braun and 1,600 other Germans, was smuggled into the US after the war in the secret military program called Operation Paperclip.

Speaking at a congressional hearing in 1958, Dornberger insisted that America's first space priority ought to be to "conquer, occupy, keep and utilize space between the Earth and the Moon."

So there has been unanimity in the halls of Congress since Dornberger's testimony—both parties have faithfully kept the funding alive and growing for the military space program. Dornberger would be happy today to see that his Nazi prophecy has largely come to fruition.

The US has been leading the way to militarize and weaponized since the start. For a while the former Soviet Union was in the game—until its collapse in 1991. Neither Russia nor China could keep up with the US in the following years and they continually begged the US to join them in negotiating a treaty to ban all weapons in space—close the door to the barn before the horse gets out. During Republican and Democrat administrations the response to Moscow and Beijing was the same from Washington—NO.

So Russia and China slowly but steadily have moved forward since the early 1990s and have begun to close the space gap—always continuing to urge the creation of a space weapons ban treaty. But Washington still refuses to even consider it. In fact, the US has gone the other direction—pulling out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM), Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), the Iran Nuclear Deal and today refuses to renew the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) that runs out in 2021.

It's all really quite simple—the US does not want to be bound by any treaties that limit its goal for 'control and domination.' One could say the US has become a 'renegade' or 'pirate' nation controlled by the soulless corporate agenda which is all about power and greed.

This all makes the job of the Global Network terribly difficult. Since our founding in 1992 we've been working

hard to build an international constituency to keep space for peace. The corporate agenda is determined to block any progress toward that goal.

I've always maintained that like everything else, the aerospace industry and their Star Wars project has an 'Achilles heel'. It's money. The current global virus pandemic is only bringing this reality to bear like never before.

If we hope to beat this insane and provocative plan then we must starve the beast. We can do that by fighting for social progress—programs like health care for all and funding to deal with our real problem today called climate crisis.

Please help us beat the expensive and dangerous Space Force by fighting for programs that honor life on this lovely planet. Best wishes to all of you and keep your spirit strong.

—Bruce K. Gagnon is Coordinator of the Global Network and lives in Brunswick, Maine. He began working on peace in space issues in 1982.



Toronto to Berlin: Growing Global Resistance to NATO

by Tamara Lorincz

To counter NATO's 70th anniversary celebration, I launched a monthly protest outside the NATO Association of Canada (NAOC) in Toronto in January 2019. I made a commitment to stand with my signs "No to NATO" and "Canada Out of NATO" for one hour once a month for twelve months to oppose this aggressive, nuclear-armed alliance.

A few months earlier, the Canadian Standing Committee on National Defence released a laudatory report entitled "Canada and NATO: An Alliance Forged in Strength and Reliability." The report called for greater promotion of the alliance to increase public support. The chair of the Standing Committee was the Liberal Member of Parliament Stephen Fuhr, a former fighter pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau then hosted the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Ottawa and announced a new social media strategy #WeAreNATO. Canada along with Poland, Slovakia, Romania and the United Kingdom were the first members to roll out this public relations strategy. With my protest, I wanted to directly challenge the alliance's propaganda on unity and security.

Every month, I took a two-hour bus ride from my home in Waterloo to downtown Toronto where the NAOC's office is located. The NAOC is a non-governmental organization that promotes support of the military alliance throughout Canada, but is largely funded by American weapons manufacturers Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics among other donors.

Every NATO member country has a similar organization to the NAOC. In the United States, it is the Atlantic Council, which is funded and run by arms dealers, oil companies and banks. These skills are part of a network called the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) and they hold events, publish articles and host internships for the alliance in their respective countries. The ATA extends the reach and deceit of NATO.

For my first two protests, a few members of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) and the Canadian Peace Congress braved the freezing temperatures to stand with me. Word spread about my monthly demonstrations and, by the spring, more people came out. We passed out leaflets and collected signatures on a petition to reject NATO's 2% target, reduce military spending, and re-allocate it to urgent social and environmental needs.

At the Wales Summit in 2014, the 29 NATO members pledged to increase their military budgets to 2% of GDP by 2024. During this critical decade when funding is needed to achieve the Paris Agreement on the climate emergency and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, NATO countries are irresponsibly increasing their military spending.

Torontonians expressed their support for our protest as they walked by, because many of them are struggling to live in one of the wealthiest but most unequal cities in the country. Toronto has become a place where poverty and precarity have become more visible and pervasive. Most agreed with us that the federal government should be investing in affordable housing and a green new deal, instead of wasting tax dollars to buy new weapons, so that the Canadian Armed Forces can stay interoperable with NATO allies.



Before I started my year-long protest, I knew only a handful of people in the city and was pleasantly surprised that new faces appeared every month. For instance, Dee Stapleton, a 90-year old Raging Granny and VOW member, became a regular and I enjoyed her company. Members of Science for Peace, Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War, and the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) came out often with their signs and solidarity.

In the summer of 2019, NATO defence ministers announced that space would be a new operational domain after President Trump re-established US Space Command. In response to this dangerous development, the Global Network created new a banner "No to NATO: Keep Space for Peace." I ordered one and brought it to my protests in Toronto, but I also took it with me to every conference and rally that I attended in Canada and abroad.

In September, I went to the International Peace Bureau's symposium and the No to War-No to NATO Network's meeting in Berlin. It was great to strategize with activists from across Europe who are opposed to the transatlantic alliance. We discussed plans to protest NATO's annual summit and its war games. I also took my NATO opposition to Stockholm, London, Windsor, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Ottawa and to women's organizations.

The male-dominated alliance has been trying to garner greater female support. Women make up only 10% of NATO members' armed forces and only 6% of NATO operations. Its deadly and destructive interventions have injured and killed women and girls in Serbia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. In Eastern Europe, NATO's provocations against Russia and its diversion of public funds for the military have made women's lives in the region more insecure.

Yet the NAOC held an event "#WeAreNATO: The Alliance's Efforts to Advance Women, Peace, and Security" in Toronto. Outside the venue, VOW

members and I protested holding signs "Women Say No to NATO" and "Feminists Against Militarism." We want women to help us dismantle the alliance, a patriarchal institution that is premised on domination and violence.

In December, the leaders of NATO countries met for the alliance's summit in England, but snubbed the crucial UN climate meeting that was taking place at the same time in Spain. In all the NATO countries, it is the military that is the largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels and emitter of greenhouse gases. NATO's petroleum-powered weapons systems and carbon-intensive wars are exacerbating global warming. For my last monthly protest, I made up signs "NATO is a threat to the climate; War is not green."

My street action was a positive and personally transformative experience. I looked forward to seeing new friends and standing with them for peace, nonviolence and disarmament. After every protest, we took pictures and posted them on social media. We always had lunch together to get to know each other better and create "beloved community."

Over the course of the year, we also lobbied politicians, organized lectures, and published articles against NATO. This year, local activists are sustaining the monthly protest outside the NAOC. From Toronto to Berlin, the resistance to the military alliance is growing—#WeAreNOTNATO.

—Tamara Lorincz is a PhD candidate at the Balsillie School of International Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University. She is a member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and a director of the Global Network. She lives in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

The final frontier: What is our vision?

by Dave Webb

When Donald Trump signed the US National Defense Authorization Act last December, he not only authorised a record military budget of \$738 billion and established the US Space Force, he also took a giant leap forward in the continuing militarisation of space.

Trump has said that forming a Space Force marked “a big moment” and that there was “going to be a lot of things happening in space. Because space is the world’s newest warfighting domain and gives the military and aerospace corporations so much more room for weapons and war-fighting technologies. And military eyes are turning to the heavens for a reason—although the US and others say that they need to be able to counter aggression from Russia and China, it is the US alone that has a stated aim to dominate space. As GN Board member Karl Grossman has said: “the weaponization of space is essential to US imperialist ambitions for ‘full spectrum dominance’ over the entire planet.” Where the US leads, others are following and now the arms race in space is seriously undermining global security and greatly increasing the risk of a nuclear war.

The US, Russia, China and India have all had military space programs for many years and all have now developed and tested anti-satellite weapons. However, the number of contenders in this new space race is growing fast and last July President Macron declared that France had allocated 3.6 billion euros for its own military space force to take warfighting into space. In his speech Macron spoke of reinforcing France’s “strategic autonomy” but he also said that it should take place in a “European framework” although other EU states, such as Germany, are not so keen. A few days after Macron’s announcement, Penny Mordaunt, the U.K. Defence Secretary at that time (they have been changing a lot recently), outlined a £30 million space programme for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) involving the development of small satellites. The work will be supported by Artemis, a new transatlantic team involving UK and US defence personnel working closely together. This is not entirely unexpected, the UK designated space as a Critical National Infrastructure in 2015 and the UK and US have worked closely together on a range of military and intelligence programmes for years.

The UK also specialises in miniature satellites through Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), founded in 1985 as a spin-off company of the University of Surrey. In 2005 Elon Musk’s SpaceX Company bought a 10% share and in 2008 the EADS Astrium group purchased another 80%. SSTL has captured 40% of the global small satellite market and the MoD has paid them over £4 million to develop Carbonite 2, a small, low-orbit satellite launched in 2018 to pro-



vide high-resolution reconnaissance for intelligence gathering. Artemis will probably be launched from a dedicated small-satellite launcher at the new Cornwall Space Hub at Newquay airport, or maybe one of those being developed at Sutherland in Scotland or in Snowdonia in Wales.

Mordaunt also announced that “today we show the sky is no longer the limit for our Armed Forces” and that Joint Forces Command will become Strategic Command and will coordinate the war-fighting domains: Air, Land, Sea, Cyber and Space. This sounds very much like US Space Command, created in 1985 to coordinate the use of space by the USAF. In 2002 it became part of US Strategic Command but was re-activated in 2019 as a precursor to Space Force. Mordaunt talked too of facing up to “evolving threats” from “hostile actors in space” by working more closely with “international allies through Five Eyes, NATO” and also as the first partner in Operation Olympic Defender, a US-led international coalition aimed at deterring “hostile actions by rivals.”

‘Five eyes’ is the intelligence sharing alliance of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US, established at the end of the Second World War and described by Edward Snowden as a “supra-national intelligence organisation that does not answer to the known laws of its own countries.” Originally formed to share intelligence on the Soviet Union, it has grown exponentially through the interception of electronic communications via satellites and fibre optic cables. Major collection centres are scattered around the globe. The alliance has grown to at least 35 states, and includes 88 locations in US embassies and consulates around the world that eavesdrop on foreign embassies, communications centres, and government installations.

Among the other states joining in is Japan. Last December Shinzo Abe submitted a \$460 million budget for space related projects. Then, in January he announced the creation of a Japanese Space Defence Force which would work closely with its US counterpart. It will be fully launched in 2022. It comes as no surprise that NATO is also participating - the London Summit last December declared that it too is develop-

ing a space warfighting policy.

Several other states are looking at what is happening in space with some concern especially about the problems associated with space debris. Many developing countries are now moving towards acquiring outer space capabilities for non-military purposes. Membership of the UN Outer Space Committee has grown to 92 States and 41 observer organizations with interests in applications for global health and environment monitoring, communications and space traffic management, among others. Delegates to the UN Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) in 2018, discussed international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. They emphasised that outer space activities must

benefit all states, whatever their level of technological development and moves to prevent international cooperation and contain their development can no longer be tolerated.

So, another vision for the use of space exists. Rather than thinking of space as just another opportunity to make billions of dollars from developing new technologies for war, it can be used for the common good, as the Outer Space Treaty says: “for the benefit all [human]kind.” Can we learn to work with and trust others rather than demonise and exploit them? If we can’t then we may well be sowing the seeds of our own destruction.

—Dave Webb is the Convener of the Global Network’s two governing boards. He is also Chair of the UK’s Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He lives in Leeds, England.



SUCCESS STORY IN HAWAII!

MD Radar in Hawaii Postponed!

by Lynda Williams

The US Missile Defense Agency (MDA) announced in 2018 that it was planning to build a two-billion-dollar radar system called the Homeland Defense Radar—Hawaii (HDR-H) on Oahu, Hawaii. The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act required the MDA to develop and field a “discrimination radar” to improve the defense of Hawaii from ballistic missile threats. “Discrimination” refers to the ability to distinguish actual warheads from rocket debris, countermeasures and decoys, which, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, such radar systems are not capable of doing and have never been tested for under real life scenarios.

A preliminary Environmental Impact Study (EIS) named two possible locations on Oahu for the 8-story-tall-by-8-story-wide radar station that would take up approximately 160-acres of land, both of which have sites of cultural significance, native temples or heiau sacred to native Hawaiians. In June 2018 the MDA held public meetings to invite members of the community to participate in the scoping process in order to prepare a final EIS which was supposed to be completed in 2020. Sparky Rodrigues, a Native Hawaiian activist and founding member of indigenous environmental activist group, Mālama Mākua, was present at a public meeting.

According to Sparky: “The USA military continues the attack and invasion of Hawaii. Another state sanctioned abuse of conservation lands and sacred cultural sites. Desecration of Hawaii national treasures destroyed forever.”

Mālama Mākua adopted and published a resolution opposing the HDR-H in July, 2018.

I became aware of the HDRH project in 2019 when it was announced that Lockheed Martin won the contract to build the radar. I wrote an article about it as a Global Network analyst that was published in November in Op-ED News. I was then invited to give talks on the radar system by Dr. Lynette Cruz of Mālama Mākua in Oahu and in Wai‘anae, near one of the proposed locations, along with Helen Jaccard of the Veteran’s for Peace Golden Rule, the anti-nuclear peace boat.

The opposition from the mostly indigenous community was fierce. It was streamed live on Facebook. I also attended several Neighborhood Board community meetings where the MDA team put on a pitch for the HDR-H. The local community wasn’t buying it. The opposition was loud and clear. In December 2019, the MDA granted cultural practitioners from Mālama Mākua access to one of the proposed sites to visit the heiau and conduct ceremonies. Witnesses told me that MDA

officials present were brought to tears witnessing and participating in ceremonies of Aloha Āina or love of the land shared by the practitioners.

In January 2020, the MDA announced it was delaying the final EIS by at least a year due to “cultural chal-

lenges” by native Hawaiians. The recent actions by native Kia’i or protectors challenging the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea certainly had the MDA concerned about future protests to HDR-H. The MDA then proposed an alternative site for the radar on the island of Kauai at the naval Pacific Missile Range Test Facility (PMRF) to try to sidestep local opposition. But in February 2020, the Pentagon’s 2021 Budget proposal zeroed out funding for the HDR-H radar, indicating it was cancelled. However congressional and senate representatives from Hawaii are lobbying for the project to still be built.

In a March (2020) congressional hearing of the House Armed Services Committee, Senator Mazie Hirono from Hawaii pressed Defense Secretary Mark Esper if the decision to zero out funding in 2021 for the radar was a decision to not build the radar. “Not necessarily,” Esper replied. “What we’re trying to do is in an era of tight budgets, make sure we don’t put money against something that has no possibility of being effected in the near term,” he said.

According to a recent *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* article, delegates from Hawaii, Sens. Hirono and Brian Schatz and Reps. Ed Case and Tulsi Gabbard said in a joint statement, “We will work in the authorizing and appropriating committees to keep this project funded so that MDA can continue to apply a technically sound strategy for protecting all of us.”

Pentagon analysts assess that the HDR-H is being replaced by a space-based sensor layer currently under development by the MDA in what is a major overhaul in missile defense strategies to counter hypersonic

missiles. The HDR-H, like its precursor, the nearly completed Long Range Defense Radar in Alaska, is a midcourse tracking radar used to identify ballistic missiles early in flight to be intercepted by ground based interceptors (GMD) based in California and Alaska. But the MDA is upgrading GMD interceptors with the Next Generation Interceptor (NGI) that will take 10 years to develop and deploy, rendering the HDR-H useless.

In the meantime, the MDA is developing a “layered” approach to missile defense that relies on extending the range of Aegis destroyer SM3-Block 2 interceptor missiles while awaiting the NGI upgrade. The Aegis SM3-Block 2 interceptor was designed for short and intermediate range targets, not intercontinental-range ballistic missiles (ICBM). The MDA is planning to test the extended SM3 in Hawaii in 2020 to intercept an ICBM launched from the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. SM3 interceptors are cheaper than GMDs and can be deployed on Aegis navy destroyers and on land in an Aegis Ashore system. Hawaii has an Aegis Ashore test system at PRMF on Kauai that the

MDA wants to make operational as a defense system. Arms control experts fear that the US deploying large numbers of Aegis interceptors will compromise new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) negotiations. Although the postponement of the HDR-H seems a victory, the battle is not over. In early April the US Indo-Pacific Command submitted a \$20 Billion slush fund, a Pacific Deterrence Initiative, or PDI, to bolster military presence in the Pacific, including building the HDR-H radar system. It is critical for Hawaiian and GN activists to continue to lobby the congress to stop advocating for the funding of HDR-H and to oppose making Aegis Ashore operational on Kauai at PMRF. For more information about missile defense in Hawaii, please see my blog <http://lyndalovon.blogspot.com/> and YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/STOPtheHDRH>.

—Lynda Williams is a physicist and science entertainer who is devoted to nuclear disarmament and the proliferation of peace. Lynda lives and teaches in northern California and serves on the GN Advisory board.



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Bailing out aerospace industry during virus



The Colorado Springs newspaper, *The Gazette*, reported in late April that the Pentagon says Washington is concerned that the young, innovative industry that is helping the US make 'leaping advancements in space' could be killed by the coronavirus.

From making extra cash available to waiving state social distancing rules for military contractors, Congress and military leaders have jumped in to help small space companies. It's a move that local leaders say could bolster the only sector of the economy that's performed well in the Pikes Peak region of Colorado as stay-at-home rules threatened many businesses.

Defense and aerospace makes up an estimated 40% of the Pikes Peak region's economy and small space companies make up an increasingly important piece of that portfolio.

"To have that cash flow from the Department of Defense is very helpful," said Reggie Ash, who oversees defense programs for the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and EDC.

Space, including the new Space Force service branch, are a top priority at the Pentagon, at the White House and in Congress.

Colorado Springs US Rep. Doug Lamborn said that focus puts the Pikes Peak region in the spotlight, as home to the bulk of the new Space Force, US Space Command and an unrivaled civilian space workforce.

"Colorado Springs is the epicenter of military space and I think that role is only increasing," Lamborn said.

Russia accuses Trump of trying to conquer the galaxy

by Tyler Durden at *Zerohedge.com*

President Trump took a 'giant leap' for America in early April by signing an executive order outlining US policy on commercial mining in space.

Upon Trump signing the order, entitled "Encouraging International Support for the Recovery and Use of Space Resources," which gives Americans the "the right to engage in the commercial exploration, recovery, and use of resources in outer space," the Russian space agency, Roscosmos, accused the US of attempting to conquer the galaxy.

Roscosmos said in a statement that "Attempts to expropriate outer space and aggressive plans to de facto seize the territories of other planets will hardly encourage other nations to participate in fruitful cooperation."

Sergey Savelyev, Roscosmos deputy director responsible for international cooperation, insisted President Trump's space ambitions were tantamount to space colonialism.

"There have already been examples in history when one country decided to

start seizing territories in its own interests and everyone remembers how that turned out," Savelyev said.

The Kremlin said colonization of space would be "unacceptable."

This is not the first time Washington has outlined the [desire] to harvest resources from space. In 2015, [Obama] signed a law permitting companies to extract resources from asteroids and the moon.

After 50 years, NASA has recently released plans of returning to the moon by 2024. On the other hand, Roscosmos has said it will land Russians on Earth's only natural satellite by 2030. As it appears, both space agencies are locked in a moon race for this decade.

It becomes quite apparent at this point why President Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act in late 2019 to usher in the Space Force—the newest and sixth branch of the military—the first since the last branch, the US Air Force was established in 1947. That is because resource wars on other planets or the moon could be the next domain in warfare.



Northrup Grumman Brags About Bombing of Iraq

Northrop Grumman has released a new promotional video extolling the virtues of its B-2 stealthy long-range strike bombers, boasting that its planes have played a key role in virtually every US foreign war since the 1990s.

The clip, set to bumping 'Stranger Things'-style synth music, explains that unlike conventional aircraft, stealth bombers "can reach any target, anywhere in the world," deploying the heaviest weapons against hard targets and destroying large numbers of targets in a single mission.

Moreover, the company proudly notes, "when the US goes to war, the B-2 goes first – it was the first in Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia and Libya (2011 and 2017)."

Northrop Grumman points out, for in-

stance, that in January, 2017, B-2s bombed dozens of terrorist targets in Libya, (the company does not mention that it was the 2011 NATO intervention in Libya that helped turn the country into a failed state and a hotbed for terrorism)

According to the company, its long-

range stealth bombers can be deployed from the US to "strike anywhere around the world in a matter of hours," with B-2s used in a 44 hour-long 2001 mission in Afghanistan against the Taliban. (Taliban had no real air defenses, apart from its CIA-provided shoulder-fired Stinger missiles).



A B-21 Raider concept in a hangar at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Whiteman AFB is one of the bases expected to host the new airplane.

The clip concludes by mentioning the new B-21 Raider—expected to replace the B-2 Spirit, and promising that it will feature even more advanced capabilities. That aircraft is expected to make its first flight in December 2021, with the military expected to buy at least 100 of the next-gen stealth bombers.

The B-2 Spirit is famously known for its extravagant price tag, with the cost of a single bomber estimated at over \$2 billion, and the plane costing \$135,000 per hour of flight time. Northrop Grumman built 21 of the bombers between 1987 and 2000. The company promises that the B-21 will be substantially cheaper than its predecessor, with current projections estimating a cost of \$564 million per plane.

Building the Space Force

Space News reported in late March the Air Force has identified 23 internal organizations with space-related missions that will transfer to the Space Force.

The goal is to transfer 23 Air Force units and 1,840 Air Force billets located at bases in Colorado, California, Nevada, Ohio, New Mexico and Maryland from the Air Force into the Space Force within the next three to six months.

The 23 organizations and billets will be reorganized under the Space Force but will not be physically moved to a different geographic location. These units will “remain in place to leverage the talent, infrastructure, and key capabilities at their current location,” said the Space Force announcement.

Currently, the Space Force is supported by units that previously fell under the former Air Force Space

Command and have been detailed to the Space Force.

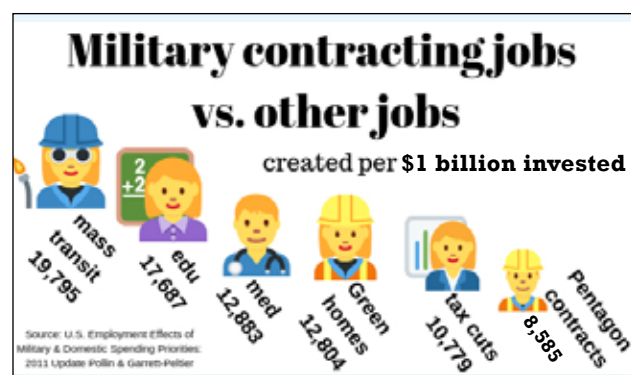
The personnel assigned to these units that will transfer will remain members of the US Air Force who are assigned to the Space Force.

“In the coming months, and when appropriate provisions are in place as part of a separate process, military members who meet applicable criteria will be given the opportunity to volunteer to transfer to the Space Force,” spokesman Maj. William Russell said in a statement. “If they choose not to transfer, they will remain in the Air Force and assigned to the Space Force unit until their normal assignment rotation is complete, at which time they will be moved to an assignment within the Air Force.”

The following locations have been identified for transfer:

- 17th Test Squadron, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado
- 18th Intel Squadron, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- 25th Space Range Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colorado
- 328th Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nevada
- 527th Space Aggressor Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colorado
- 705th Combat Training Squadron OL-A, Schriever AFB, Colorado
- 7th Intel Squadron, Ft. Meade, Maryland
- 16th AF/Advanced Programs, Schriever AFB, Colorado

- 32nd Intel Squadron, Ft. Meade, Maryland
- 566th Intel Squadron, Buckley AFB, Colorado
- 544th ISR Group Staff & Detachment 5, Peterson AFB, Colorado
- Detachment 1, USAF Warfare Center, Schriever AFB, Colorado
- 533rd Training Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, California
- National Security Space Institute, Peterson AFB, Colorado
- AFRL Research Lab Mission Execution, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- AFRL Space Vehicles Directorate, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
- AFRL Rocket Propulsion Division, Edwards AFB, California
- AFRL Electro-Optical Division, Maui, Hawaii & Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
- AFRL Sensors Directorate, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- Counter-Space Analysis Squadron, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- Space Analysis Squadron, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Detachment 4, Peterson AFB, Colorado
- Air Force Safety Center-Space Safety Division, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico



Space Force in Times of Crisis (cont. from p. 1)

space, with the US forming a Space Force and seeking “American dominance in space,” China and Russia will not sit back. They will meet the US in kind. They would be followed by other nations.

And space will be turned into a war zone.

China called establishment of a US Space Force a “direct threat to outer space peace and security.” Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said it is “a serious violation of the international consensus on the peaceful use of outer space” and would “undermine global strategic balance and stability, and pose a direct threat to outer space peace and security.”

“Militarization of space is a way to disaster,” Viktor Bondarev, the head of the Russian Federation Council’s Defense and Security Committee, declared. He said Moscow is ready to “strongly retaliate” if the US violates the Outer Space Treaty by putting weapons of mass destruction in space.

The basis for the “Star Wars” scheme of President Reagan in the 1980s involved orbiting battle platforms with onboard nuclear reactors and plutonium systems providing power for hypervelocity guns, particle beams and laser weapons, all of which require large amounts of energy. As said General James Abrahamson, director of what was then called the Strategic Defense Initiative, “without reactors in orbit [there is] going to be a long, long light [extension] cord that goes down to the surface of the Earth” to power space weapons.

As *The Economist* reported on March 7, “Laser weapons are almost ready to go to war.” “Reagan’s effort

to weaponise lasers in the ‘Star Wars’ programme of the 1980s was spectacularly unsuccessful. This time, however, it’s different.” The British magazine quoted Kelly Hammett of the Air Force Research Laboratory in New Mexico—“who runs its Directed Energy Directorate”—as saying: “For my entire career, we have been working on directed energy.” But now “we’re going to see systems that will make a difference...”

Craig Eisendrath who as a US State Department officer was deeply involved in the construction of the Outer Space Treaty explained in an interview with me that “we sought to de-weaponize space before it got weaponized.” A model used, he said, was the Antarctic Treaty which bars military deployments and declares that “Antarctica shall continue to be exclusively used for peaceful purposes.” The intent of the Outer Space Treaty, he said, has been “to keep war out of space.”

Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network, says: “The words ‘warfighting domain’ and US ‘dominance in space’ indicate that the Pentagon is actively planning to fight a war in space. This misguided notion is probably the most dangerous and frightening development of my lifetime — and I had thought the Cold War-era was bad. The idea that the US thinks it can fight and ‘win’ a war in space is indeed the height of insanity.”

“It is clear to me that what the Pentagon has long called ‘the largest, and most expensive, industrial project in human history—‘Star Wars,’ will drive our nation’s economy over the cliff,” said Gagnon. “There will be rockets and weapons in space and more home-

less across the nation than anyone could ever imagine. Yes, we should call it Pyramids to the Heavens. The aerospace industry is the contemporary version of the Pharaohs of Egypt and the taxpayers will be the slaves. But everything has an Achilles Heel and the enormous cost of Star Wars could just be it.”

“It’s more than the right time for the public to declare a resounding NO.”

Meanwhile, in the US those who believe they’ll benefit from the US Space Force are competing with each other. Several areas of the country are vying to be its headquarters.

Aerospace companies are eyeing a multi-billion pie. “The establishment of the US Space Force has been welcomed by the industry,” reported *Space News* on March 16 in a story heading: “Industry wonders if Space Force will bring about a new buying culture.”

Some US Air Force bases are being renamed US Space Force bases.

The people of the world must join together, work cooperatively, to defeat the coronavirus plague. The vision of the Outer Space Treaty of keeping space for peace must be upheld and widened. The turning of space into a war zone by the US would be a tragedy of historic proportions from which there would be no going back. It must be stopped.

—Karl Grossman was a co-founder of the Global Network in 1992. He is an award-winning investigative reporter and a full professor of journalism at the State University of New York/College at Old Westbury. He lives on Long Island, New York.

Keep Space for Peace Week 2019



Ken Jones and members of Veterans For Peace took to the streets in Asheville, North Carolina throughout Keep Space for Peace Week to bring the message to the public.



GN advisory board member Sung-Hee Choi on Jeju Island, South Korea held a sign during our annual international week calling for peaceful use of space



GN board member and law professor Aruna Kammila organized an international space conference at her law school in Visakhapatnam, India during Keep Space for Peace Week. Over 200 students attended representing 20 law schools across India. The students made presentations on various aspects of international space law. It was a moving event for

all who attended. Fellow GN board members Lindis Percy (UK) and Subrata Ghoshroy (Boston) also spoke at the event. GN coordinator Bruce Gagnon (center) sits with historian Peter Kuznick, director of American University's Nuclear Studies Institute, (on left) and GN Visakhapatnam chapter chairman Jalluri Prabhakar (right of Bruce).

The Climate/Military Nexus

by Judith Deutsch

The connection between the military and climate change still receives scant attention. It has been over 10 years since Sara Flounders, anti-war activist and witness to the 2009 Copenhagen COP meeting, brought forth this startling observation:

"In evaluating the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen — with more than 15,000 participants from 192 countries, including more than 100 heads of state, as well as 100,000 demonstrators in the streets — it is important to ask: How is it possible that the worst polluter of carbon dioxide and other toxic emissions on the planet is not a focus of any conference discussion or proposed restrictions? By every measure, the Pentagon is the largest institutional user of petroleum products and energy in general. Yet the Pentagon has a blanket exemption in all international climate agreements."

At this time, the military and climate change clearly threaten human existence. NATO sanctions a first strike nuclear option and all NATO countries reject the nuclear ban treaty. The "carbon budget" is a recipe for disaster as its calculations omit amplifying feedbacks and the paleoclimate record of sudden shifts. Thousands of years of evidence show us that militaries are trained to kill, with impunity, and that war is always devas-



tating and has always been avoidable. War is not intrinsic to human nature, part of DNA; wars require an enormous amount of propaganda and lies. There have always been alternatives to war, innumerable examples of diplomacy, negotiation, and compromise. Is it finally essential to ask whether there needs to be a military at all and that the military is "nonessential"? From the climate justice movement comes the call to "honor Mother Earth;" honor human mothers who know to say and enforce "Stop" to bad behavior.

This is what we know about the military and climate change/justice. Military spending, carbon emissions, and global average surface temperature have continued to rise at ever increasing rates since climate scientist James Hansen gave his

definitive testimony to the US Congress in 1988 about catastrophic anthropogenic climate change. Subsequent attempts at regulation are challenged, reversed, or unenforced. Despite the October 2018 warning about the climate emergency, all major greenhouse gases increased this past year, and after 25 years of climate meetings, there are still no mandatory caps on emissions in any sector.

From SIPRI, global military expenditure is estimated to have been \$1,917 billion in 2019, while climate finance dropped by 11% to USD \$46 billion in 2018. But human life is priceless. Wars "cost" millions of lives, mainly civilians, the destroyed environment, and generations of young men who represent phallic extensions for mainly older men.

Military greenhouse gas emissions include: the manufacturing, material procurement, transportation, and deployment of military machinery; the militarization of policing; militarized borders, data centres, securitization and surveillance; strategies of "pacification"; the destruction of carbon sinks. Full-spectrum dominance means "the technological control of land, sea, air, and space, the 'human terrain', the electromagnetic spectrum, and the ability to rapidly translate global power projection into decisive force in any circumstance and environment" within minutes or hours."

For perspective on the magnitude of battlefield emissions, on the first night of Shock and Awe in 2003, "1,700 aircraft — bombers, fighters, and other warships — flew roughly 1,400 strike sorties on critical targets, and fired 504 cruise missiles, directly into the heart of Baghdad." The B-52H Bomber holds 47,975 gallons of fuel and still requires mid-air refueling. The F-15 uses 25 gallons/minute or 1,580 gallons/hour. The B-52 Stratocruiser with eight jet engines uses roughly 3,334 gallons/hour. Added to this are the refueling tankers accompanying fighter jets, loaded with between 150,000 lbs and 210,000 lbs of transfer fuel.

There are now 77 militarized/electronic-

cally securitized borders in the world. Relying on Israel's border strategies and technology, borders are armed with drones, satellites, surveillance cameras, radar and electronic warfare. At present, climate refugees are not protected under international law. An estimated 85% of the ammunitions used by the US Army targets environments sheltering people. Reconstruction of war-torn areas requires the most energy-intensive production of steel and cement. China has built a vast fossil-fuel corridor stretching through Asia, Europe, and North Africa with a chain of Chinese military bases to be included in the project as well as a military presence in the Arctic Ocean.

Especially ominous is the military "mission" to take charge of global humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The united branches of the US military make two claims: that the American military is the global institution best equipped and trained to respond to climate disasters, and that climate victims will inevitably respond violently to climate-related crises. There is ample evidence of the exact opposite. Attribution of violence to victims of climate disasters is used to justify a permanent role, militarized borders, global surveillance, and strategies of pacification. Historian Michael Klare's new book, 'All Hell Breaking Loose: The Pentagon's Perspective on Climate Change', was received with acclaim by climate activist Bill McKibben. Klare uncritically supports the military role in climate change/justice. Klare concurs with the military view that it alone can restore global order, that "missions in remote and contested areas 'will not prove bloodless.' The United States may need to use its full combat and weapons capacity to preserve order." The least developed countries are seen as resource-poor and plagued with ethnic discord and with corrupt and authoritarian leaders. Simmering political, racial, ethnic, religious, and tribal differences will erupt into violence and mass uncontrolled migration."

Both the military and the fossil system may well then work in synchrony with the same fatalistic, Hobbesian projection to the "other" of violence and greed. The military is embedded and sanctified in a nation wealthy enough to attempt the folly of full-spectrum global dominance. Silence about the climate/military nexus is alarming when fascistic militarization is increasingly globalized.

—Judith Deutsch is president of Science for Peace in Toronto, Canada and a member of Independent Jewish Voices. Her articles appear in Counterpunch and Socialist Bullet. She works as a psychoanalyst.



Odds & Ends

Planned Gift to GN

If you are in the process of estate planning, please consider making a gift of a tax-deductible donation in the form of a bequest, donation of stock or other instruments to the Global Network. Your planned gift would be an important contribution to our global movement to stop the militarization and nuclearization of space. Thank you for your consideration.

Spam Filter

We have found that many of the emails sent to our members and friends are ending up in their spam filters. Please be sure to regularly check your spam filters for our emails and those of others who are trying to share important news. You can keep up with the work of the GN at our web site www.space4peace.org and Bruce Gagnon's blog called Organizing Notes.

German Nuclear row

The German defence minister has angered her centre-left coalition partners by forging ahead with a plan to buy 45 US fighter jets, 30 of which will be fitted to carry American nuclear bombs. Germany's fleet of roughly 90 Tornado jets, the symbol of Berlin's commitment to upholding the NATO nuclear umbrella, must be replaced in 2025. Yet Angela Merkel's coalition is rancorously divided over the next generation of nuclear-capable aircraft.

Next Gen nuclear cruise

The Air Force has named Tucson, Arizona based Raytheon Missiles & Defense the sole-source contractor on a multibillion program to develop the nation's next air-launched, nuclear-armed cruise missile. Raytheon and Lockheed Martin had been awarded \$900 million contracts in 2017 to develop competing technologies for the Long Range Standoff missile (LRSO), which will replace the 1980s-era Air

Launched Cruise Missile. Critics say the new nuclear-tipped cruise missile would be destabilizing, the weapon is redundant in light of other land-attack options and is too costly.

New Space Force personnel

The web site Space War reports that 86 graduates from the Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs) received their diplomas in April and moved directly into the US Space Force, marking the first infusion of commissioned officers into the new service since its creation last year. Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett commented on the role these new officers will play. "As our nation's first Space Force lieutenants, these leaders will defend democracy and protect the ultimate high ground of space," said Barrett. "As they depart the Academy today, they will join the ranks of air and space power pioneers. They will be instrumental in building a lean, agile and forward-looking Space Force defending our nation, our allies and our American interests in space." While approximately 16,000 military and civilians from the former Air Force Space Command are now assigned to the Space Force, the arrival of these newest officers' signals that the new service is taking a significant step toward filling its ranks.

Space Force be jammin'

The Space Force has requested over \$15.3 billion in funding for operations, equipment and satellite technology for fiscal year 2021. Over the next seven years, Space Force is looking to amass dozens of ground-based weapons systems capable of jamming Russian or Chinese communication satellites en masse, Bloomberg News has reported. The arsenal is expected to consist of Counter Communications System (CCS) ground-based satellite communications jamming units, with 16 of these already delivered and 28 more

on the way. In a statement the Air Force indicated that jamming using these systems could prevent the 'enemy' from accomplishing 'command and control, early warning and propaganda' across multiple frequency bands. It's not clear what the Air Force means by 'propaganda,' although it can be speculated that it means Russian or Chinese foreign-

language media broadcasting information which may not line up with the US narrative of events.

Nuclear power in space

At the 23rd annual Commercial Space Transportation Conference (CST) in Washington, D.C., in January, a panel of nuclear technology experts and leaders in the commercial space industry spoke about developments of the technology that could propel future spacecraft faster and more efficiently than current systems can. Nuclear technology has powered spacecraft such as NASA's Mars rovers, the Cassini mission and the two Voyagers that are currently exploring the outer reaches of our solar system. "The reason we want to use a reactor is we have a lot of power from [it], which is really what enables us to be so agile and move such heavy payloads so quickly," one panelist said. The nuclear industry has long viewed space as a new market for their product which is increasingly unpopular here on Earth.

US Aegis Ashore in Japan

The US intends to deploy Aegis Ashore missile launch systems in Akita and Hagi in Japan. The direct trajectories from Musudan-ri, one the two missile launching bases in North Korea, pass Akita in one direction to Hawaii, and Hagi in the other to Guam. The trajectories are nearly the same in case of Tongch'ang-ri, the other North Korean missile launching base in the west side of the Korean Peninsula. So the US Aegis Ashore systems to be deployed in Japan (paid for by Japan's taxpayers) will protect the US military assets on Hawaii and on Guam not the people of Japan. 5G technology currently being deployed in Japan will make the US missile system work much faster in its 'shield role' as a key element in Pentagon first-strike attack planning. Local residents have voiced concerns about health hazards from strong radar pulses that are part of Aegis Ashore and becoming a potential target for attack. The Abe administration is eager to introduce the Aegis Ashore in part because of strong pressure from Donald Trump who is demanding that Tokyo purchase more expensive US weapons systems.

NATO declares space operational domain

NATO has declared that space is an "operational domain" for the alliance. Though much work remains to actualize an integrated NATO space posture, the affirmation indicates that pressure from the US on allies to help pay for the expensive space warfare program is working. Today, space-based assets are

the most expensive part of US military operations. Ever since the publication of the Space Command's 'Vision for 2020' in 1997, the US has been putting enormous pressure on NATO members to pay more for the costs of the metastasizing space-technology directed global military alliance. In the document the Space Command called for 'Global Partnerships' through the 'leveraging of civil, commercial, and international space systems'. Even though NATO members are increasingly tied into the Pentagon's 'space architecture' program, Washington still controls the 'tip of the spear' ensuring that the US remains the primary hegemonic power.

Maine Spaceport?

Maine State Representative Shenna Bellows (Democrat) is among others in Augusta who are sponsoring legislation to make Brunswick Landing a future base for launching rockets. "Maine's involvement in space exploration and space technology development has been growing in recent years," a leader from the Maine Space Grant Consortium said in March during testimony supporting the bill. "This growth is real, and we want to take advantage of this fact to advance a new space economy that would support Maine's economic prosperity." Maine's coastline, they maintain, is suited for rocket launching without the risk of hitting anything if a launch goes astray. So let's see - help from the state in dealing with the impact of coronavirus or a spaceport in Brunswick? Which should we spend taxpayer dollars on? Anticipate requests soon for large corporate tax breaks by aerospace companies wanting the citizens to subsidize very expensive space operations if this actually gets going in Maine. There are so many spaceport proposals around the world that a glut has been created. While always pledging that the launches would be for civilian missions, spaceports like the one in Kodiak Island, Alaska can bear witness that all they have ever had launched there were Star Wars tests.

Stop the START?

The US has declined an invitation to begin formal negotiations on extending the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which is due to expire in 2021. Washington has decided to ditch important talks on the bilateral treaty's fate. Moscow has argued that the treaty should be extended without preconditions. The US, meanwhile, hinted that it wants China to join the agreement, an idea Beijing has rejected. In February Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov criticized the US for its reluctance to extend the treaty, saying that "the lack of clarity with regards



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to the fate of START is concerning.” Last year, the US left the landmark Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) with Russia, after accusing Moscow of having secretly violated it. Russia, which denied these allegations, abandoned the agreement after the US pulled out.

Big Spender

The US continues to drive growth in global military spending, which saw its largest annual increase in a decade as European countries also ramped up expenditures says the report recently released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The US was by far the biggest spender, with its \$732 billion military budget accounting for more than a third of global military spending last year and marking an increase of 5.3% compared with 2018. “The increase in US spending in 2019 alone was equivalent to the entirety of Germany’s military expenditure for that year,” it said. China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia rounded out the top five behind the US.

Pentagon contamination of water now global problem

At US military bases around the world there is growing outrage about contamination of drinking water supplies that are poisoning the local populations. PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, are manmade contaminants. The US Environmental Protection Agency has not yet established a drinking water limit for any PFAS chemical. The EPA has established a Lifetime Health Advisory level for two chemicals in the PFAS family – PFOA and PFOS – at 70 parts per trillion. This means there may be adverse health effects for someone who drinks water contaminated above that level over a lifetime. Communities around America are currently in litigation with the Pentagon over its failure to clean up contamination at its bases.

Stop 5G in Space & on Earth

The FCC recently granted permits to eight companies, including Amazon, Facebook and Space X, to launch more than 20,000 5G satellites into space. Once activated, these satellites would blanket the entire planet with harmful pulsed, data-modulated microwave radiation. The constant exposure to this radiation could drastically alter the Earth’s natural magnetic resonances upon which all life depends. Thousands of launched 5G satellites, requiring massive amounts of rocket fuel, would further disrupt our climate and generate tons of space debris. Add to this the installation of millions of terrestrial

close-proximity antennas and we could be threatening irreparable harm to the earth’s biosphere. We must not allow this to happen. It’s time for us to stop 5G on Earth and in space. Let us envision living in a world in peace and harmony with nature.

Bio-warfare weapons

Francis Boyle, a former advisory board member for the Council for Responsible Genetics, is a long-time peace activist and professor of international law at the University of Illinois, College of Law. His educational background includes an undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago, a juris doctor (lawyer) degree from Harvard and a Ph.D. in political science. For decades, he’s advocated against the development and use of bio-weapons. Boyle was the one who called for bio-warfare legislation at the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972, and drafted the Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1989, which was passed unanimously by both houses of Congress and signed into law by George Bush Sr. He recently wrote: “It’s clear that since [President Ronald] Reagan we have seen an offensive biological warfare weapons race involving DNA genetic engineering which was sponsored by and paid for and set up by the Pentagon’s DARPA office. Other governments have reciprocated in kind, they don’t want to say anything in public because it’s illegal, they would be admitting to a violation of the biological weapons convention.”

Idaho’s role in space nukes

Idaho National Laboratory’s (INL’s) Space Nuclear Power and Isotope Technologies Division fuels and tests Radioisotope Power Systems at the Materials and Fuels Complex, then delivers the systems for use in space. INL is working on the Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG) for NASA’s upcoming Mars 2020 mission that will send a rover to the Red Planet. Generators fueled and tested at INL are currently powering the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover (launched in 2011) and Pluto New Horizons (launched in 2006). The power system on New Horizons was the first assembled and tested at INL.

Space issues Webinar

On April 17 the Global Network, along with Yorkshire CND, held an international space issues Webinar. People tuned in from the UK, US, Russia, India, Australia, Canada and more. GN board convener Dave Webb chaired the online event that also featured GN board member Lynda Williams and Coordinator Bruce Gagnon. Since it appears this worldwide virus lock

down might continue for some time we are considering holding more of these events. Keep an eye on our web site for more details. You can find our recent Webinar on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/2L8wuGo>

Australian collaboration to support Space Force

The Australian Department of Defence, in partnership with the US Space Force’s Space Surveillance program, recently moved a Space Surveillance Telescope (SST) from White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, to the Harold

E. Holt Naval Communications Station in Western Australia. The completed facilities are located in Exmouth. Moving the SST to Australia satisfied a critical objective to improve the broader Space Force Space Surveillance Network’s ground-based electro-optical coverage of the geosynchronous space regime. Once operational, the SST will become part of the global Space Surveillance Network, benefiting the US, Australia and key allies. The SST will now undergo extensive testing, and is expected to be operational in 2022.

Controversial Space Force Bible blessing



National Public Radio (NPR) reported in January that the blessing of what’s being called “the official Bible for the new US Space Force” at the Washington National Cathedral is drawing an outpouring of criticism on social media and condemnation from a prominent religious freedom advocacy group.

“The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) condemns, in as full-throated a manner as is humanly possible, the shocking and repulsive display of only the most vile, exclusivist, fundamentalist Christian supremacy,” MRFF founder and president Mikey Weinstein wrote in a statement denouncing the Bible blessing. “The utilization of a Christian bible to ‘swear in’ commanders of the new Space Force or any other [Department of Defense] branch at ANY level is completely violative of the bedrock separation of church and state mandate of the First Amendment of the US Constitution.”

At the National Cathedral ceremony, the US Air Force chief of chaplains, Maj. Gen. Steven Schaick, stood in full dress uniform before the congregation holding a King James Bible donated by the Museum of the Bible, a private Washington,

D.C., institution whose board chairman is Hobby Lobby President Steve Green.

“Almighty God, who set the planets in their courses and the stars in space,” the Rt. Rev. Carl Wright, the Episcopal Church’s bishop suffragan for the armed forces, implored, “look with favor, we pray you, upon the commander in chief, the 45th president of this great nation, who looked to the heavens and dared to dream of a safer future for all mankind.”

Wright says the Bible will be entrusted to Gen. John Raymond, who recently assumed command of the US Space Force.

The MRFF’s Weinstein says he’s lodging a formal complaint about the Bible blessing with Defense Secretary Mark Esper “to stop this train-wreck disaster in its stinking tracks from ever even leaving the station.”

Weinstein says the “official Bible” of the US Space Force violates the Balance of Free Exercise of Religion and Establishment Clause in Air Force Instruction 1-1, which states that leaders “must ensure their words and actions cannot reasonably be construed to be officially endorsing or disapproving of, or extending preferential treatment for any faith, belief, or absence of belief.”

Welcome to Space Force....

The US Space Force unveiled its first official recruiting commercial on May 6, featuring scenes from space, rockets launching, military troops in spacesuits and a glimpse of the secretive X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle, an Air Force-owned, unmanned space craft that looks like a small version of a space shuttle and will launch sometime in May.

In the short video, a young man looks longingly up at a night sky full of bright stars between short flashes of images associated with the military and space as a narrator says, "some people look to the stars and ask, 'What if?'"

"Maybe you weren't put here just to ask the questions," the voiceover says in the 30-second video. "Maybe you were put here to be the answer. Maybe your purpose on this planet isn't on this planet."

The military space plane will be launched by the Space Force in Florida from Cape Canaveral Air Force Base, which will transition at some point to Cape Canaveral Space Force Base. It will mark the sixth mission into space for the X-37B, but the first conducted by the Space Force, which will be responsible for the vehicle's launch, its operations in orbit and its landing.

The X-37B completed its most recent mission in October 2019 after spending 780 days in orbit. The 'super drone' has spent a total of 2,875 days in space, serving primarily classified operations, officials said.

The X-37 is likely involved in space and Earth surveillance and could be utilized as an 'anti-satellite'

(ASAT) weapon. This military space plane has been used in annual Space Command computer war games to drop down from orbit for attacks on Earth targets. The newly created Space Force has stated that the

upcoming mission of the X-37 will be 'testing seeds' which sounds much like a public relations ploy to hid the true mission of the expensive war fighting vehicle. —Parts reprinted from the Stars & Stripes



Coronavirus and Carcinogens in Okinawa

By Curry (Jeju Island, South Korea)

The first case of COVID-19 in Okinawa was found on February 14. Sit-ins at the Henoko base construction site continued cautiously, but people were concerned that the guards were not wearing masks. The All Okinawa Coalition suspended the sit-in protest from April

15 through May 6. On April 17, one of the construction workers at the Henoko new base was found to have the coronavirus and landfill construction was temporarily halted. The shipping of sand and dirt for the landfill at Awa and Shiokawa piers was stopped on April 20. As of April 29, 145 cases of the novel coronavirus were

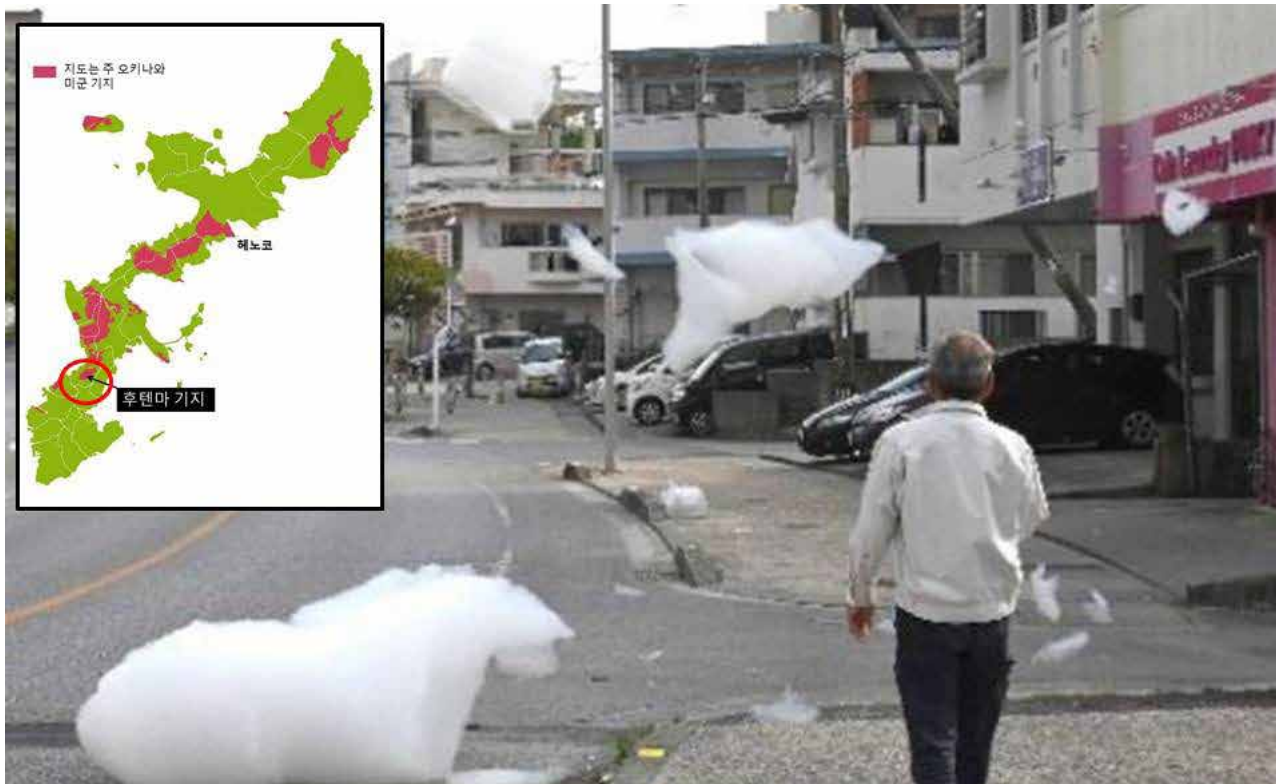
confirmed in Okinawa, but the US military has prevented Okinawa prefecture from conducting contact tracing for infected US soldiers.

Also, on April 10, a massive spill released carcinogenic PFOA and PFOS fire-fighting foams at the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. 143,000 liters of the foam spread outside the base, flowing into a river and floating in the air. A similar incident releasing a smaller amount of the foam also occurred at Futenma in December, and Okinawa's drinking water already contains high levels of the 'forever chemicals.'

The US military's continued use of PFOA and PFOS blatantly ignores safer alternatives which are already used by civilian airlines and around the world. An Okinawan prefectural assembly committee unanimously called for authorities to investigate the leak, clean up the contaminated area, apply domestic laws on US bases, and shut down Futenma airfield.

On a more positive note, FY2019 survey results reported feeding trails of the endangered dugongs in the under-sea grasses of Hateruma and Irabu Islands. However, these islands are far from the dugongs' previously known feeding grounds. (Hateruma is near Ishigaki and Irabu is near Miyako). Then it was reported that in February on days with no construction the sounds of dugongs were recorded at Henoko. (Reference: standwithokinawa.net)

—Reprinted from Gangjeong Village Story published on Jeju, South Korea. Bimonthly news on the struggle against the Jeju Naval base.



Don't Let Them Leave! A Treatise Against Space

The following are a few reprints from the program of the *Salish-Sea-Anti-Space-Symposium* organized in Seattle, Washington in 2019.

Seattle, WA — Astronauts are always brave and billionaires always benevolent, if you believe their PR. But what's really more important, colonizing the Moon or housing people? Putting a Tesla in orbit or studying global climate change? In a country that heaps undeserved tax breaks on CEOs, in a city with thousands of unhoused people sleeping on the streets, the morality of Seattle's space-struck billionaires—and the system propping them up—requires examination. The Salish Sea Anti-Space Symposium (SSASS) is a first of its kind event to say NO TO SPACE EXPLOITATION!

Space preservation requires that the solar system be valued for its own sake, not on the basis of what it can do for us. Space conservation insists that extraterrestrial resources ought not to be exploited to benefit the few at the expense of the many or of the solar system itself. Space sustainability asks that our explorations 'do no harm' and that we leave the moon, Mars, and space itself no worse—and perhaps better—than we found them.

—Margaret R. McLean (Associate director and director of bioethics at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics)

These men, particularly Elon Musk, are not only heavily invested in who can get their rocket into space first, but in colonizing Mars. The desire to colonize—to have unquestioned, unchallenged and automatic access to something, to any type of body, and to use it

at will—is a patriarchal one. Indeed, there is no ethical consideration among billionaires about whether this should be done; rather, the conversation is when it will be done. Because, in the eyes of these intrepid explorers, this is the only way to save humanity. Rather, the impulse to colonize—to colonize lands, to colonize peoples, and, now that we may soon be technologically capable of doing so, colonizing space—has its origins in gendered power structures. Entitlement to power, control, domination and ownership. The presumed right to use and abuse something and then walk away to conquer and colonized something new.

—Marcie Bianco (Writer & Editorial and Communications Manager of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford University)

What do I look like, living in Watts, in the projects, sitting in a living room that really doesn't have too much of anything, looking at the launching of a missile to orbit a man around space, and... I'll hear a police siren and... I'll go outside and I'll see him going down the street and I'll look away because it's no big thing, this happens every day, and then I can look down a little further and see kids playing around trash cans, because that's all they have... The reality of being poor is in you. And a space race has to be the last thing on your mind. You're too concerned... and the word is 'hustling'... you're too concerned with just trying to make enough to live.

—Professor Johnnie Scott

We knew that we had created a new means of warfare, and the question as to what nation, to what victorious

nation we were willing to entrust this brainchild of ours was a moral decision more than anything else. We wanted to see the world spared another conflict such as Germany had just been through, and we felt that only by surrendering such a weapons to people who are guided by the Bible could such an assurance to the world be best secured.

—Wernher Von Braun (Hitler's top rocket scientist brought to the US under 'Operation Paperclip' at the end of WW II. He along with 1,600 other German scientists and militarists were used to seed the American post-war military machine.)

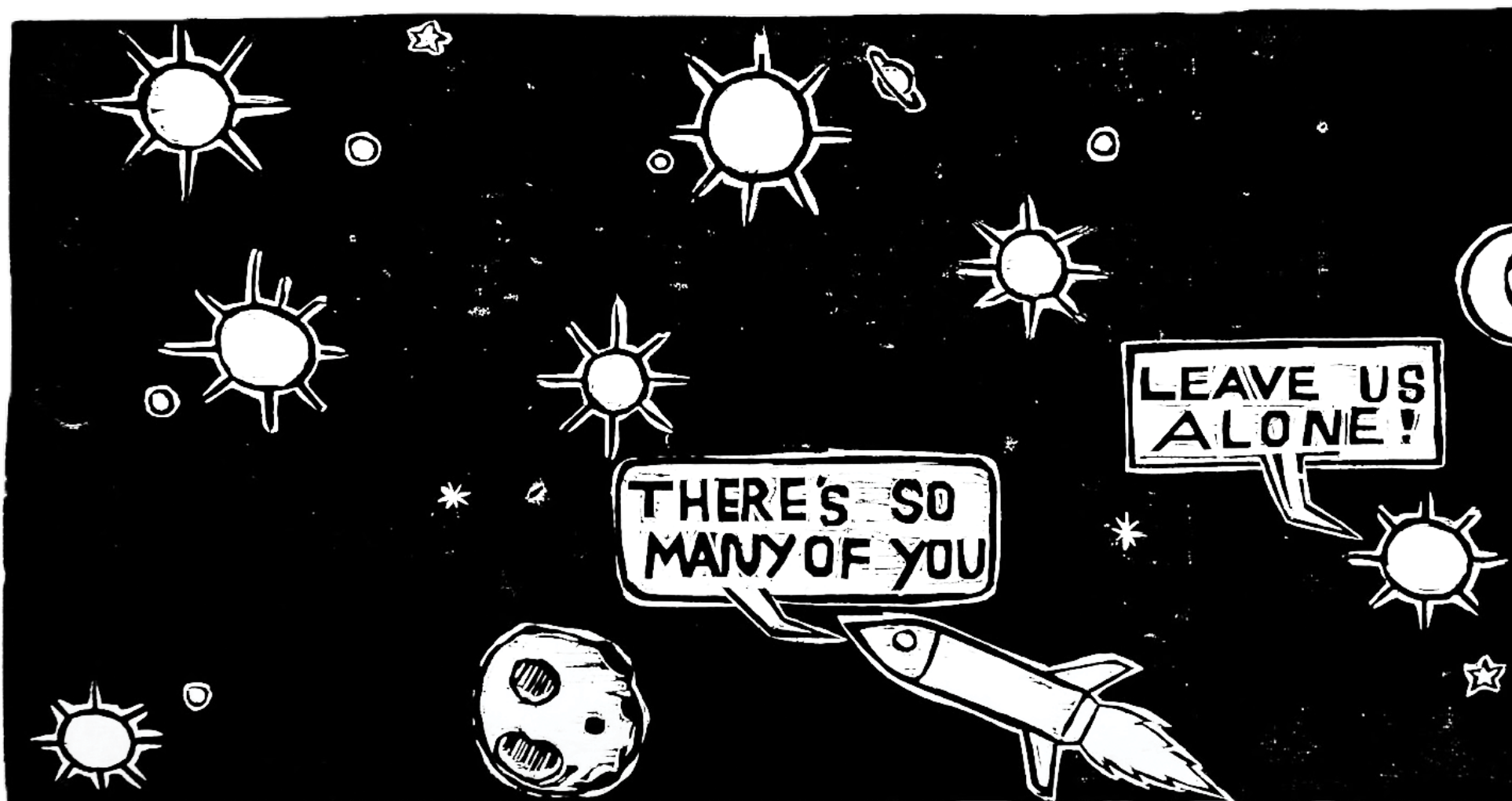
The space age has been a roaring success. Telecommunications, weather forecasting, agriculture, forestry, and even the search for minerals have all been revolutionized. So has warfare. No power can any longer mobilise its armed forces in secret. The exact location of every building on the planet can be known. And satellite-based global positioning systems will guide a smart bomb to that exact location on demand.

—The Economist, June 2011

Space superiority is not our birthright, but it our destiny... Space superiority is our day-to-day mission. Space supremacy is our vision for the future.

—General Lance Lord (Former head of the US Air Force Space Command)

Project A119, also known as 'A Study of Lunar Research Flights', was a top-secret plan developed in 1958 by the US Air Force. The aim of the project was to detonate a nuclear bomb on the Moon, to display US superiority to the Soviet Union and the rest of the world.



US refuses to extradite CIA agent who killed UK teen

As the US government hunts Julian Assange, it refuses to extradite a CIA agent who killed UK teen Harry Dunn in a road incident.

The British Home Office has sought the extradition from the US of an American citizen for a road collision that killed 19-year old British citizen Harry Dunn riding a motorcycle in August 2019. The American who was driving in the wrong lane when she hit and killed Dunn was identified as Anne Sacoolas. The US government claimed Sacoolas had diplomatic immunity because she was the wife of a US diplomat working in the UK at a nearby US military base.

The base is called Croughton very near the city of Oxford. In 2018 the Global Network's annual space conference was held in Oxford and included a protest at Croughton.

Sacoolas fled the UK on a US military plane in September, and the US has fought her extradition since. But recently a new twist emerged. Sacoolas was not the wife of a diplomat, as the US claimed, but in fact, a CIA operative. Dunn's family is voicing outrage, saying that they were lied to by both the US and British governments.

Dunn's family was invited to New York for media interviews. While there President Trump invited them to the White House where he made a financial offer to the family which they refused. In the next room, Anne Sacoolas was waiting to meet the family but again they refused.

The US Secretary of Treasury was waiting in the oval office with a check.

Croughton is an important military and intelligence communications base for the US and NATO and a major hub in the global electronic communications, control and surveillance network which serves the interests of the US military and intelligence services regardless of the location and the mission objectives. It handles a huge portion of US military communications in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East and is used to route vast amounts of data captured by their network of listening posts in diplomatic premises back to the US for analysis by the CIA and the NSA.

Israel Defense Ministry buys small exploding drones

by Ed Adamczyk

The Israel's Ministry of Defense ordered 6.6-pound drones for its ground forces working in urban areas, maker Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. reported in May.

The Spike Firefly is a "loitering munition," also known as a kamikaze drone or suicide drone, a category in which the single-use munition loiters airborne in a target area, searches for targets, and attacks once one is located, exploding on contact. The munition weighs about 6.6 pounds.

It fills a niche between cruise missiles and unmanned combat aerial vehicles, although the system chosen by the IDF is notably small and transportable by a single soldier.

Controlled by a tablet computer, it requires no special training to use and can function in or out of an operator's line of sight, the manufacturer said. Its munitions are powered by twin electric motors which can loiter for a maximum of 15 minutes at a maximum altitude of 1,640 feet in urban terrain and nearly 5,000 feet in open areas.

No details regarding the cost or number to be produced were announced. Rafael, headquartered in Tel Aviv, is a major defense contractor for the IDF.

—Reprinted from UAV NEWS.



Coming Soon: Military drones overhead across America

TRUTHOUT reported in early 2020 that the aerospace industry is preparing to test-fly domestic versions of its combat drones over major American cities in an effort to fully integrate military-grade drones into civil airspace alongside commercial air traffic in the coming years.

That's right, those robotic killing machines used for counterterrorism strikes in the Middle East are coming home — and could eventually be used to surveil all of us.

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., will test-fly its SkyGuardian drone, outfitted with a 79-foot wingspan and advanced surveillance capabilities of more than 2,000 feet, over San Diego, California, sometime this year.

The SkyGuardian, also known as the MQ-9B or Predator B, is an advanced version of the Predator military drone used overseas in the war on terror but designed to be 'compliant with regulations' for US airspace.

According to the San Diego Union-Tribune, General Atomics did not disclose a date or flight paths for the drone but said it will be used for "mapping of critical infrastructure" in the region and displaying the drone's civilian capabilities.

The test flight "could open the skies to a multitude of missions that could be carried out using large (drones), including broader support for first responders contending with natural disasters such as floods and forest fires," a General Atomics spokesperson told the Union-Tribune.

An article by Defense One points out that General Atomics officials want the SkyGuardian to freely fly in American skies by 2025, and one of the drone's biggest selling points is its FAA stamp of approval coupled with its intelligence-gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance abilities—including signals intelligence. Larger drones may appeal to police departments over smaller, more common quadcopters, as they can stay in the air for days—in SkyGuardian's case, up to 40 hours.

"What large drones actually make possible is true persistent aerial surveillance, because they're likely to drive down the cost... It's much more expensive to do it with a manned airplane where you actually have to pay a trained pilot, and you have to switch pilots every so often," says Jeramie Scott, the director of the Domestic Surveillance Project at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC).

Now, military-grade drone integration in civilian airspace is rapidly advancing without substantial public debate regarding the privacy and civil liberties implications of normalizing military surveillance technologies over American cities.



Neighbours as friends, not enemies: Nordic-Russian Seminar Statement

A Nordic-Russian civil society seminar was organized in Oslo 3–4 February 2020 by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Norway, and the Norwegian Peace Association. The theme of the seminar was "Neighbours as friends, not enemies." The seminar, which gathered some 45 participants from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden was a follow up to a Nordic peace and dialogue trip to Russia in May 2018. The seminar was held at the Norwegian Peace Institute Oslo, PRIO, and was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The organisers are already planning another seminar

in Norway in 2021.

The main intention with the seminar was to strengthen relations between peace activists in the North, discuss common challenges and visions and contribute to mutual understanding and perhaps even help reduce the present tension. The tension between the West and Russia is one of the drivers behind the present militarization and arms' race, involving both conventional and nuclear weapons.

Participants had open discussions on how to promote peace, disarmament and a sound environment, and agreed to seek ways to continue with practical

and strategic forward-looking initiatives and solution-oriented dialogues. Many echoed the words of the Mayor of the border city of Kirkenes that our security lies in the strengthening of people to people cooperation across borders.

The use of enemy images and the demonization of leaders both in mainstream political discourse and media is dangerous as it installs fear and also is meant to influence people's acceptance of rising military budgets.

Participants agreed that we should not accept that the world's resources, natural, financial and intellectual, are being misused for military purposes, and that we need to prove that this thinking is dangerous, naive and obsolete. The military actually makes us less safe, both economically and ecologically, by taking so much of the resources that are needed for other purposes and by the enormous greenhouse gas emissions, the radiation and pollution it provides. We cannot allow the military to be an exception to international climate agreements. Instead we must move the money to be able to tackle the real security issues such as the threat to the very survival of humanity and the planet, be it by climate change, environmental degradation, excessive inequality or nuclear weapons.

Different alternatives were discussed of how we can contribute to changing attitudes in order to reverse the nuclear and space-arms race, reduce defence spending and get us out of the dominant growth oriented, militarized, confrontational and competitive patterns. In short, how can we build common security, human security, a culture of peace, and non-violence?

Among the concrete suggestions were to:

- Continue the sharing of knowledge and ideas,
- Get inspiration from each other's culture and art,
- Work for the strengthening of civil society and democratic practices,
- Seek ways of producing and consuming which ensures the well being of all and the integrity of the biosphere.
- Establish permanent structures for peace, such as ministries and departments for peace to promote peace at all levels,
- Cherish and use the UN, diplomacy and multi-lateral cooperation,
- Help implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate,
- Strive for a non-militarized and nuclear free Arctic and Baltic Sea basin,
- Maintain the Arctic Council non-militarized and operational,
- Gather individual signatures and cities in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,
- Continue to warn against nuclear and other hazardous waste and make waste management safer,
- Seek closer cooperation between the peace movement and environmental organizations,
- Actively learn to work across generations and share knowledge and priorities,
- Cross borders and seek new partnerships with "sister" groups and organisations.

Finally, it was considered most vital to build trust between peoples, so essential for real cooperation, and for our survival.

"Child and household food insecurity are off the charts."



The economic crisis that has come in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak has left nearly a fifth of children in the US without enough food, according to new research from the Hamilton Project, and one in three households in the country food insecure.

"This is alarming," researcher and report author Lauren Bauer told the New York Times Wednesday of her findings. "These are households cutting back on portion sizes, having kids skip meals. The numbers are much higher than I expected."

Bauer, a research fellow on education, children, and the social safety net for the Hamilton Project—an economic policy project of the Brookings Institute—used data from two surveys of mothers on eating habits and food resources. She found rates of food insecurity for polled households and children doubled and quadrupled, respectively, their rates during the Great Recession of 2008-2010.

"Child and household food insecurity are off the charts," Bauer tweeted of her study.

According to Bauer's report:

In the Survey of Mothers with Young Children, 17.4% of mothers with children ages 12 and under reported that since the pandemic started, "the children in my household were not eating enough because we just couldn't afford enough food." Of those mothers, 3.4% reported that it was often the case that their chil-

dren were not eating enough due to a lack of resources since the coronavirus pandemic began... The incidence of hardship among children as measured by responses to this question has increased 460%.

The Survey of Mothers with Young Children found that 40.9% of mothers with children ages 12 and under reported household food insecurity since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic... The share of mothers with children 12 and under reporting that the food that they bought did not last has increased 170%.

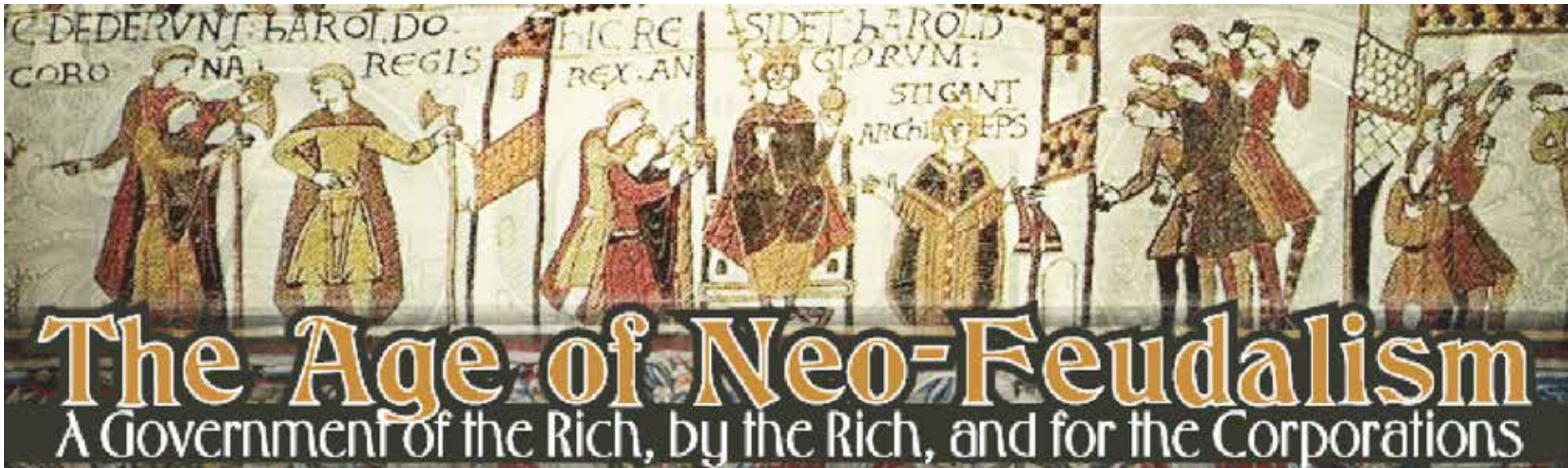
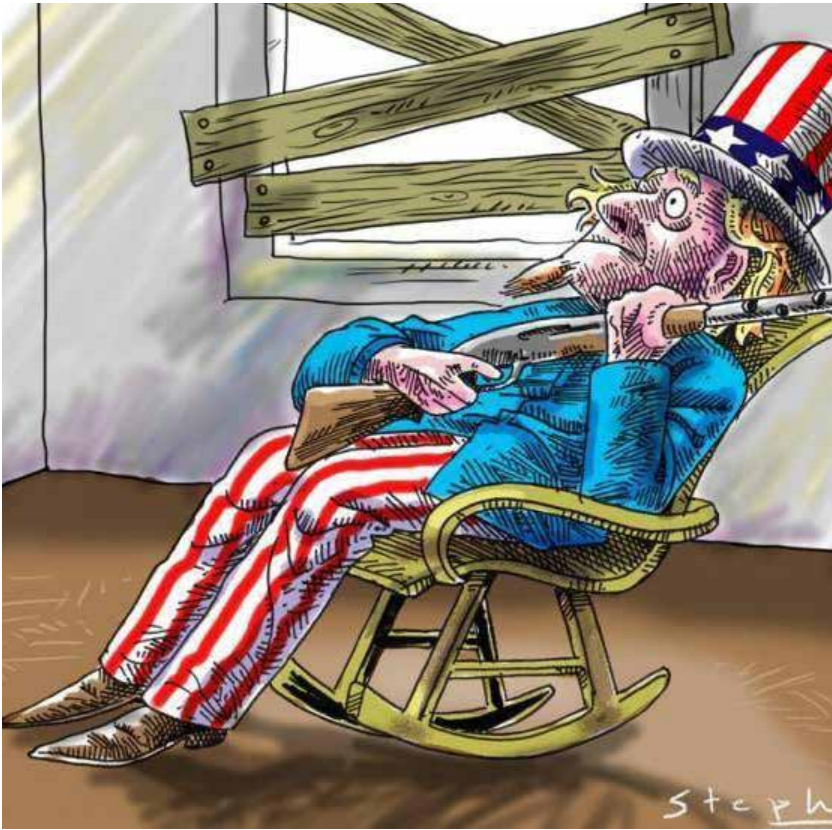
As Common Dreams has reported, the coronavirus outbreak has strained food supply chains, led meat processing plants to shut down and massacre animals due to dropping demand from restaurants, and resulted in tons of food rotting with no available means of distribution. Despite the food waste, millions of Americans are going hungry, with food banks stressed past capacity as companies institute mass layoffs while paying out millions to shareholders.

Bauer said that though her findings were dire, the answer to the problem was obvious.

"Luckily, food insecurity is an unusual policy challenge in that it recommends a clear solution," Bauer wrote. "To reduce the number of people, including children, who have insufficient food due to a lack of resources, policymakers can supply the resources."

—From Common Dreams. Used with permission.

the funnies



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