

NUKEWATCH

# PATHFINDER

A publication of the Progressive Foundation — Spring 2002



## Collateral Damage: Mother's Anguish

**Mothers' Day 2002  
Anti-Trident/ELF Gathering  
May 9, 10 & 11**

**Thurs. May 9** — at Anathoth Farm: *Camp set-up, food, music*; **Fri. May 10** — *All day at Anathoth Farm: Workshops on nonviolence, ELF & direct action*; **Sat. May 11** — *Noon gathering at ELF, food, speakers & nonviolent action. Music by SARA THOMSEN.*

**Keynote: POLLY MANN**, founder of Women Against Military Madness, on  
“*A nonviolent response to terrorism*”  
and **FRANCES CROWE**, of AFSC, on “*Womanhood and peacemaking*”

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# 80,000 U.S. Cancers Caused by Bomb Test Fall-out — 15,000 of Them Fatal

## Critics Call for Public Health Response, Compensation, Radiation Truth Commission

An estimated 80,000 people who were born or lived in the United States in the past 50 years have contracted or will contract cancer because of fallout from atmospheric nuclear weapons testing, according to an analysis of government studies. Well over 15,000 of them are estimated to be fatal.

The government exploded 215 A- and H-bombs above ground between 1951 and 1963, half at the Nevada Test Site and the others in the Pacific Islands.

The study, prepared by the National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), estimates some of the radiation doses and cancers that resulted from the open-air tests. It is the first study to find that heavy radiation doses contaminated the United States following nuclear explosions outside the country — Soviet tests in Kazakhstan, U.S. and British explosions in the Pacific.

"This report and other official data show that hot spots occurred thousands of miles away from the test sites," said Dr. Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER). "Hot spots were found as far away as New York and Maine." *The Guardian's* Julian Borger explained that the tests sent plumes of debris into the atmosphere to be blown around the Earth and dumped highly radioactive isotopes in the form of rain.

The CDC investigation was mandated by Congress after a 1997 National Cancer Institute report that dealt only with the iodine-131 in the fallout. That study showed extensive exposures across the country (See Fall 1997 *Pathfinder*), and found that iodine-131 poisoning caused around 75,000 thyroid cancers, ten percent of which are estimated to have been fatal. It revealed that the bomb tests spread "more than 100 times" the radioactive iodine than the government acknowledged at the time of the tests.

"The 1997 report indicates that some farm children, those who drank goat's milk in the 1950's in high fallout areas, were as severely exposed as the worst exposed children after the 1986 Chernobyl [reactor] accident. Such exposure creates a high probability of a variety of illnesses," said Dr. Makhijani. "Yet the government did nothing to inform the people in these affected areas."

The CDC report examined 18 additional isotopes that were spewed by the bomb tests, including strontium-90 and cesium-137, which are dangerous for between 280 and 300 years. Moreover, cesium-137 makes up 40 percent of total fallout in

### On Yucca Mountain

## Battle Lines Drawn Over Nuclear Waste Shell Game

By John LaForge

President Bush has endorsed the proposed "Mobile Chernobyl" plan to wheel all the commercial high-level radioactive waste in the country to Yucca Mountain in Nevada for deep burial. Bush said that giving his nod to the plan, "is necessary to protect public safety, health and this nation's security."

The statement is preposterous. The DOE itself found in August 1999 that leaving the waste where it is is just as safe as moving it, as long as it is repackaged every 100 years. If enacted, the proposal involves risking tens of thousands of shipments across 43 states over 25 years, creating a radioactive game of chicken that my brother calls "Chernobyl roulette." At least 138 million Americans live along the proposed routes and would be exposed to the risk of accidents or terror attacks.

Consider the statistics on railroad crashes. The Federal Railway Administration reports that in 1998 there were 3,500 collisions at highway rail crossings. About every 100 minutes, a train collides with a person or a vehicle. Locomotive engineer Ken Gillsdorf told National Public Radio, "We have a lot of close calls every trip. No records are kept of close calls."

Of course rail accidents happen everywhere. On Feb. 3, 1997, a train carrying 180 tons of high-level radioactive waste derailed near Apach, France. On Jan. 15, 1997, a nuclear fuel cask derailed in front of the German reactor at Krummel.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said despite the risk of terrorism, moving 77,000 tons of irradiated fuel is "safe in comparison to leaving this waste where it is." But as Molly Ivins points out, "It's a lot easier to knock over a truck than it is to fly into a nuclear power plant." And Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER), explains the deception in the Administration's public relations blitz. Moving the high-level waste will take

a given test. Together, a test's cesium, zirconium-95, carbon-14 and strontium-90 make up 76 percent of the total radioactive fallout from most tests.

James Glanz in the *New York Times* reported that these poisons can be carried thousands of miles, "potentially causing leukemia, breast cancer, liver cancer and other types of cancer."



Santa Cruz Comic News

*USA Today* said the CDC report found that about 22,000 cancers, half of them fatal — from melanoma to breast cancer — were likely caused by external exposure to the fallout. Thousands of additional cancers were caused by internal exposure, including 550 fatal leukemias and 2,500 thyroid cancer deaths from inhalation or eating contaminated foods.

Those most seriously harmed will have been children and pregnant women. *Reuters* reported that, "No U.S. resident born after 1951 escaped exposure." *The Guardian* says the same, adding, "all organs and tissues of the body have received some radiation exposure."

The President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments found in 1995 that the government knew "the possibility of external beta burns is quite real," and "that those injuries would cause a public uproar that would prevent them from using test sites in the U.S." The Air Force recommended that the weapons test site be located on the East Coast, but the advice was rejected because of cost analysis.

"The message is we are all downwinders," said Bob Schaeffer of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, who noted that the study was supposed to have been completed by July 2000.

Frustration over the long delay was aggravated by the fact that only an executive summary has been made public. Bill Burton, an aide to Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), said that while the summary was dated August 2001, it was not received by Harkin until this February. Harkin complained that

### Editorial

## Bush Embraces First-use Against Non-nuclear States

The Bush White House announced in February that it would abandon a 1978 commitment of the Carter Administration that forbade the U.S. from initiating nuclear war against nonnuclear weapon states. "... we're not ruling anything out," said John Bolton, Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. "We would do whatever is necessary to defend America's innocent civilian population."

The leak was inaccurately portrayed as a change in nuclear war-fighting policy. The Clinton Administration formally quit the agreement six years ago. Presidential Directive 60, issued on Thanksgiving Day, 1996, called for "a wide range of nuclear retaliatory options, from a limited strike to a more general exchange." This came well after Bush, Sr. likewise "refused to rule out" using nuclear weapons against nonnuclear Iraq in 1991.

While this nuclear war-starting posture is now routine, Bush's announcement is alarming in the midst of the "war on terror" and the Pentagon's plans to develop "low-yield" nuclear weapons it "can actually use." Now comes Bush Jr.'s open threat, leaked in March, to use such weapons against seven countries — Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, North Korea, Russia and China. An object lesson in his Administration's unreflective militarism, if the same "leak" came from any of the targeted countries, Bush would justly denounce it as terrorism. When it comes to addressing the White House's nuclearism, civil society must do nothing less. —JB & JL

there should be "no more stalling" and urged release of the full study.

In the 1950's — under threat of a lawsuit by Kodak — the government informed photographic film producers of expected fallout patterns so they could protect their film supply. But did nothing to inform milk producers so that they could protect a vital component of the food supply. (See Winter '97/'98 *Pathfinder*.)

"It is late in the day," said Lisa Ledwidge, a biologist working for IEER. "The government should not only urgently formulate a health and compensation response strategy with public involvement; it should implement it without any further delay."

"Now is the time for people from nuclear weapons states to call for truth from their governments. Right here in Idaho we know the news is grim. There are hot spots all over the inter-mountain West," said Margaret Macdonald Stewart, of the Snake River Alliance. "Now," Stewart said, "the job — the government's job — is to take the news to small towns all over [the country] and help unsuspecting people whose health has been damaged by nuclear weapons."

"The United States has a compensation program for Nevada Test Site neighbors who are geographical downwinders. But this is clearly not enough," explained Ms. Ledwidge. "There are hot spots thousands of miles from tests sites and the new definition of 'downwinder' should include all of them."

"The new fallout maps and radiation dose estimates show that nuclear weapons states not only harmed their own people but also people in other countries," said Dr. Makhijani. "It is high time for the United Nations to create a Global Truth Commission that would examine, in detail comparable to the U.S. government studies, the harm that has been inflicted upon the people of the world by nuclear weapons production and testing. Nuclear weapons states owe an honest accounting, treatment, and compensation to the victims of the nuclear age."

*The CDC/NCI progress report, a fact sheet, and official fallout maps are posted on the IEER web site: [www.ieer.org](http://www.ieer.org). The report and maps are also scheduled to be posted at the Centers for Disease Control's site: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).*

## More Bomb Building & Testing Posed by White House

WASHINGTON, DC — A highly classified Nuclear Posture Review partially presented to Congress Jan. 8 explained the Bush administration's plan for reducing intercontinental ballistic nuclear weapons systems over the next decade, from today's roughly 7,000 warheads to between 1,700 and 2,100.

But the review also says that the U.S. "needs" to be able to resume nuclear weapons testing at the Nevada Test Site.

"They do not want to say they are going to resume testing," one DOE official told the *Washington Post*. "They want the option to do so if they think they need it."

George Bush, Sr. halted large underground H-bomb tests in 1992. But so-called "subcritical" bomb tests have continued since then under Bill Clinton and Bush II, raising objections from the arms control community, European allies and the nuclear abolition movement. Major new underground bomb tests "would almost certainly provoke an outcry by countries around the world, including leading U.S. allies, which largely support a global ban," reported Walter Pincus in the Jan. 8 *Washington Post*.

According to the *Post*, the nuclear weapons review may discuss White House plans for work on new weapons designs as a school for a new generation of scientists.

Congress since 1994 has prohibited the DOE from conducting research or development leading to new so-called "low-yield" nuclear weapons. (These devices would be "only" as powerful as the bomb used on Hiroshima which initially killed 170,000.) The fiscal 2002 Pentagon authorization bill prohibits the National Nuclear Security Agency, which runs the DOE's nuclear weapons labs, from using funds "to initiate new weapons development programs."

However, while the Pentagon recently told Congress it had no current requirements for smaller nuclear warheads, senior Pentagon officials have criticized congressional prohibitions of design work on new H-bombs.

A study on future requirements for U.S. nuclear weapons, produced in Dec. 2000 by a panel that included many current Bush administration Pentagon officials raised the "need" for "a capacity to design and build new weapons."

# Food Irradiation Deregulated by Farm Bill; Unlabeled School Lunches Would Be Irradiated

On Feb. 13, just before the Senate passed its version of the Farm Bill, an amendment presented by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) was adopted without any debate. The amendment's Sec. 1079E grants the Food and Drug Administration the power to define what the term "pasteurization" means.

Why is this significant? Because for the past five years the food irradiation industry has been trying to force the FDA to change the labeling requirements for irradiated food to allow the terms "cold pasteurization" or "electronic pasteurization." Right now, foods that have been irradiated must carry

the disclaimer, "Treated with irradiation" or "Treated by radiation." The language in Harkin's amendment would allow the irradiation industry to label foods with euphemisms and hijack a term that many consumers are familiar with and comforted by in order to sell food treated by an entirely different process.

Sales of irradiated food in various test-marketing efforts across the country have been weak. The irradiation industry's reaction has been to try to trick consumers by replacing the word irradiation in the label with the term "pasteurization."

The Senate version of the Farm Bill (Sec. 442) directs the Agriculture Secretary *not* to prohibit the purchase of irradiated food by various nutrition programs it administers. Among these programs is the National School Lunch Program. This proposal is especially worrisome because irradiated food served by schools does not have to be labeled, and low-income children will be disproportionately affected.

Consumers deserve to have all the food they purchase properly labeled so they can make educated choices, especially regarding children's diets.

The next step for the Farm Bill is the House/Senate Conference Committee, which will resolve the differences between the two versions of the bill.

**Take Action:** Tell the Farm Bill Conference Committee to

remove Sen. Harkin's amendments from the final version of the bill and to protect consumers' right to know how their food has been treated.

**Send a free fax urging defeat of the amendment from the Public Citizen website:** <[www.citizen.org/fax/background.cfm?ID=35&source=12](http://www.citizen.org/fax/background.cfm?ID=35&source=12)> To learn more about food irradiation, visit [www.citizen.org/cmep](http://www.citizen.org/cmep).

## New Jersey Assembly Votes Ban on Irradiated Foods in State

NEWARK — The New Jersey State Assembly delivered a black eye to the food irradiation industry in January, voting 49 to 15 to support a five-year moratorium on the sale of irradiated foods in the state.

"The FDA approval of meat irradiation last year was based on studies done in the 1970's, 60's, and 50's," said Republican Assemblyman John Kelly, who introduced the bill. "All of these studies were determined by an FDA committee to be seriously flawed and unable to support the safety of irradiated food." Kelly contends that the federal government's decision last year to allow the sale of radiation-exposed meat in the United States was based on politics, not science. The New Jersey Senate has yet to act on the bill.

Proponents of food irradiation argue that it sterilizes and kills harmful microorganisms in food, especially in fresh fruit and meats. Critics maintain that unsanitary conditions in factory farms and food-processing centers are responsible for the majority of the 76 million food poisoning cases reported each year. Irradiation, a dangerous and questionably effective procedure, would be unnecessary under more stringent sanitation guidelines.

In January, the General Accounting Office criticized a pilot inspection program for slaughterhouses, recently expanded by the Bush Administration to include 25 more plants. The GAO recommended that the Secretary of Agriculture impose more rigorous inspection standards.

## Workers Sickened by Irradiated Mail

WASHINGTON, DC — In the first two weeks of December, more than 40 U.S. Postal workers in Washington were made sick opening bundles of irradiated mail.

At least 11 Commerce Department mail room workers were sickened Jan. 10 by irradiated mail that caused nausea, breathing problems, throat irritation and sent two to the hospital.

Mail irradiation has burned, discolored and delayed letters. In Bridgewater, N. J., where two fires destroyed 90 pounds of mail, Ion Beam Applications — which runs the irradiator — first said that "material present in the mail" ignited the fires, but later admitted that their conveyor jammed and caused the blazes.

The U.S. Postal Service is using electron beam irradiators in Lima, Ohio, and Bridgewater to try to decontaminate mail headed for Congress and the federal courts.

Responding to the problems at the Commerce Dept., Alan Etter of the Washington, DC Fire Department said that the mail gave off a noxious gas when it was opened, and that health officials thought irradiation may have caused the paper to give off hydrocarbons. People in Washington have been made sick at least five times over the past several weeks, Etter said.

Jeff Trewjitt, of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, told Cox News Service Jan. 28 that medicines subjected to irradiation could become ineffective and possibly harmful, especially when it comes to biological products such as vaccines.

"It's a very destructive process," said Eliza Gilligan, a book conservator at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. "It breaks down the chemical structure of paper fibers. ... There's nothing you can do to reverse that." Several books sit in her office with yellow, brittle pages, some stuck together because of melted ink and others with bindings unglued and pages falling out.

The Postal Service's *USPS NewsTalk* of Jan. 25, reports that, "Irradiating mail produces carbon monoxide, other gases and volatile organic compounds from the breakdown of plastics and similar materials. USPS has studied the situation and implemented aeration and other controls to dramatically reduce the concentration of these gases before employees process the mail. Other studies are being conducted ...."

Gene Del Polito, president of the Association for Postal Commerce, told the *Washington Post* that irradiation has other bad side effects. The color of some plastic is changed, so a platinum credit card is no longer platinum. Smart cards have been rendered dumb. Other postal officials have warned customers that the process can damage film, pharmaceuticals, biological samples and medical equipment like blood sugar diagnostic kits. Del Polito said, "Postal officials ... would like to get out of the mail radiation business." USPS spokesperson Jim Mruk told the *Chicago Tribune*, "... we need to look at something else other than irradiation."

In October, before all these workers were injured, Jeffrey Barach, a vice president at the National Food Processors Association, told the press, "With food, you have the concern about taste and quality after the radiation (sic). So, generally, fairly low doses of radiation are used on food products. With mail, of course, nobody tastes mail. You could give it fairly healthy dosages. It doesn't do anything to the mail. It certainly doesn't make the product radioactive or leave any residue. So the mail opener or handler would have no problems in handling the mail after that."

Mail irradiation can involve much higher doses than the 7 kiloGrays allowed for food — the equivalent of 233 million chest X-rays. To kill anthrax spores in mail, irradiation machines are being calibrated to 25 kiloGrays or about 700 million chest X-rays. Consumer groups warn that fresh food "cooked" with 25kG would change color, become mushy, develop off-flavors and odors. Fats in baked goods will go rancid quickly, the potency of vitamins will be affected, seeds will not germinate or will produce mutant plants, and photographic film and electronic media like CDs and diskettes will also be damaged.

Public Citizen says that even at these extremely high levels, the irradiators may not effectively kill anthrax spores. The group has demanded copies of scientific studies used by the USPS to prove that irradiation does the job.

### Radiation Doses Allowed for Food

Here are some radiation doses for food approved by the FDA. A rad is an amount of ionizing radiation absorbed by a substance. For a comparison, a typical chest X-ray dose is about 20 millirad, or one-50th of a rad. One rad equals 1,000 millirad.

\* Fresh meat, ground or cuts: 450,000 rads [22.5 million X-rays]

\* Frozen meat: 700,000 rads [35 million X-rays]

\* Organ meat, such as liver: 450,000 rads [22.5 million X-rays]

\* Poultry: 300,000 rads [15 million X-rays]

\* Spices: 3 million rads [150 million X-rays]

\* Fresh fruits and vegetables: 100,000 rads [5 million X-rays]

(Source: Associated Press, *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 3, 1997)

## The propaganda office is closed, honest, says the Pentagon

WASHINGTON, DC — In what may have been the first major operation of the Office of Strategic Influence (OSI) — a military propaganda office formed after Sept. 11 — Pentagon Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Feb. 24 that "the military would not be permitted to tell lies," and three days later announced that the secret office had been eliminated.

However, the public relations firm hired to help the office, Rendon Group, has been retained and will continue getting \$100,000 a month "to do work for other Pentagon offices." Rendon Group created the notorious "incubator baby killing" fiction during the 1990 buildup to the 1991 U.S. bombardment of the Persian Gulf.

The OSI has been headed by Air Force Brig. Gen. Simon Worden, and its assistant for operations has been retired Army Col. and psychological warfare expert Thomas Timmes. The Army's Psychological Operations Command was one group assigned to carry out the OSI's orders.

An international and domestic uproar was ignited over the leaked and embarrassing disclosure of the office's existence and its proposed mission. Using the media, the Internet

and secret operations, "General Worden envisions a broad mission," including, "'black' campaigns that use disinformation and other covert activities ..." the *New York Times* reported. Secret Pentagon memos even said the office should "coerce" foreign journalists and "punish" those who "convey the wrong message."

The OSI, with a secret multimillion-dollar budget and a staff of 15, was formed to boost public support overseas for his war on Afghanistan, particularly in Islamic countries.

The Pentagon and the CIA are barred by law from propaganda activities in the U.S., but critics of the OSI point out that disinformation planted with foreign press has often been published or broadcast by U.S. news organizations.

Simultaneously, the White House has engaged in an entirely separate propaganda effort since Sept. 11. Initially called a temporary office, the Coalition Information Center or "war room" may become a long-term fixture. The "intense shaping of information and coordination of messages" about the bombing of Afghanistan "should become a permanent feature of national security policy," White House officials now say.



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Nukewatch educates and organizes to nonviolently promote an environment free of the nuclear industry, militarism and weapons of mass destruction.

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# Civilian Casualties: Theirs and Ours

**Editor's note:** Marc Herold, an Economics Professor at the University of New Hampshire, reviewed daily foreign press reports since the bombing of Afghanistan began October 7. Prof. Herold said on Dec. 6, "More than 3,700 civilians have been killed in Afghanistan directly from U.S. bombs since October 7. ... The U.S. military has hit electrical and telephone facilities, news outlets, fuel supplies, hospitals, religious schools and mosques."

By William Blum

The question is now upon us.

Who killed more innocent, defenseless people? The terrorists in the United States on September 11 with their crashing airplanes? Or the U.S. Government in Afghanistan the past 10 weeks with their AGM-86D Cruise missiles, their AGM-130 missiles, their 15,000 pound "daisy cutter" bombs, their depleted uranium, and their cluster bombs?

The count in New York and Washington is now 3,062 and going down steadily. The total count of civilian dead in Afghanistan has been essentially ignored by American officials and the domestic media, but a painstaking compilation of domestic and international press reports by University of New Hampshire professor Marc Herold ["Dossier on Civilian Victims of United States' Aerial Bombing of Afghanistan: A Comprehensive Accounting"], hunting down the many incidents of 100-plus counts of the dead, the scores of dead, the dozens, and the smaller numbers, arrived at 3,767 through December 6, and still counting.

Ah, people say, but the terrorists "purposely" aimed to kill civilians (actually, many of the victims were military or military employees), while any noncombatant victims of the American bombings were completely accidental.

Whenever the U.S. goes into one of its periodic bombing frenzies and its missiles take the lives of numerous civilians, this is called "collateral damage" — inflicted by the Fates of

War — for the real targets, we are invariably told, were military. But if day after day, in one country after another, the same scenario takes place — dropping lethal ordnance with the knowledge that large numbers of civilians will perish or be maimed, even without missiles going "astray" — what can one say about the intentions of the American military?

## To His Britannic Majesty,

... The ruthless bombing from the air of civilians in unfortified centers of population during the course of the hostilities which have raged in various quarters of the earth during the past few years, which has resulted in the maiming and in the death of thousands of defenseless men, women, and children, has sickened the hearts of every civilized man and woman, and has profoundly shocked the conscience of humanity. ...

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Sept. 1, 1939

The best, the most charitable, thing that can be said is that they simply don't care. They want to bomb and destroy for certain political ends and they don't particularly care if the civilian population suffers grievously. Often, the U.S. actually does want to cause the suffering, hoping that it will lead the people to turn against the government. This was a recurrent feature of the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999. US/NATO officials freely admitted this again and again.

Now let's look at the September 11 terrorist hijackers. They also had a political purpose: retaliation for decades of military, economic and political oppression imposed upon the Middle East by the American Empire. The buildings targeted by them were clearly not chosen at random. The Pentagon and World Trade Center represented the military and economic might of the United States, while the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania may well have been aiming for the political wing, the White House. Destruction of these institutions — powerful both symbolically and in actuality — was the purpose of the operation.

And the resulting casualties? In the hijackers' view, these people could be seen as collateral damage. The best, the most charitable, thing that can be said is that the hijackers simply didn't care.

In reaction to some awful photos of Afghan victims of US bombing that appeared in the U.S. media, the host of Fox News Channel's "Special Report with Brit Hume," in a November program, wondered why journalists should bother covering civilian deaths at all. "The question I have is," said Hume, "Civilian casualties are historically, by definition, a part of war, really. Should they be as big news as they've been?" Mara Liasson from National Public Radio was direct: "No. Look, war is about killing people. Civilian casualties are unavoidable."

Fox pundit and *U.S. News & World Report* columnist Michael Barone had no argument. "I think the real problem here is that this is poor news judgment on the part of some of these news organizations. Civilian casualties are not, as Mara says, news. The fact is that they accompany wars."

But, if in fact the September 11 attacks were an act of war, as we're told repeatedly, then the casualties of the World Trade Center were clearly civilian war casualties. Why then has the media devoted so much time to their deaths?

— William Blum is author of *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II*

## Fighting 'Evil-doers' with Nuclear Waste Bombs: Is Depleted Uranium Being Used in Afghanistan?

By John LaForge

After bombing Iraq, Kuwait, Bosnia and Kosovo with thousands of tons of plutonium-contaminated waste known as "depleted uranium" (DU), there is renewed speculation that U.S. and UK Air Forces have likewise attacked Afghanistan with their arsenals of toxic, radioactive uranium-238 shells.

The U.S. and Britain admit to using some 320 tons of DU in their 1991 bombardment of Iraq while U.S. forces fired around 10 tons during the bombing of Kosovo. DU was also used in Bosnia in 1995. DU ignites on impact and turns into dust which can be inhaled and remain in the body for years, emitting small doses of alpha radiation.

Recently however, secrecy, censorship and denials have obscured the recent bombing, so we may never know if or how much DU has contaminated Afghanistan. As the UK's Campaign Against Depleted Uranium reports in Issue 9 of *CADU News*, "If you take at face value the parliamentary response from Geoff Hoon, Secretary of State for Defense, the answer to the question ("Is DU being used in Afghanistan?") would be 'no'."

Hoon said, "No British Forces currently engaged in operations around Afghanistan are armed with [DU] ammunition. However, we do not rule out the use of [DU] ammunition in Afghanistan should its penetrative capability be judged necessary in the future."

All the evidence of the use of DU against Afghanistan has been circumstantial and unverified. Reporters, researchers and scientists have all tried unsuccessfully to get answers to their inquiries. This is the information I have compiled since the last *Pathfinder*.

Dai Williams, an independent DU researcher in England, reports that, "several 'hard target' versions of smart bomb and guided missile systems used by Allied forces in Afghanistan may contain depleted uranium as a major component to increase their penetration effect."

Of particular concern, Williams says, are systems that use the U.S. "Advanced Unitary Penetrator" technology, or the UK-developed MWS technology with "shaped charge" penetrators.

Williams has found that the 2-ton GBU-37 "bunker busters," the 1-ton BGU-24 Pave-way smart bombs, plus the Boeing AGM-86D, Maverick AGM-65G and AGM-145C hard target cruise missiles, all use advanced unitary penetrators or BROACH warheads with a "mystery high density metal" in alloy casings.

DU is especially heavy and 1.7 times as dense as lead. Using figures compiled by the Center for Defense Information in Washington, DC, Williams says, "If depleted uranium is the 'mystery metal' used in most of the [weapons] systems suspected ... I estimate that 500-to-1000 tons of DU may have been used by the end of December...two-to-three times more than in Iraq, far more concentrated per target, and used in known populated areas including towns, villages and water facilities." See the full report at: <[www.eoslifework.co.uk/du2012.htm](http://www.eoslifework.co.uk/du2012.htm)>

### U.S. Calls Alleged al-Qaida DU "Dirty bomb"

U.S. officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, announced Dec. 22 that anti-Taliban fighters had found depleted uranium in storage near the Kandahar airport in Afghanistan.

The unnamed U.S. agents and Kandahar's secret service chief claimed that, "al-Qaida intended to use the Uranium-238 found in the complex to make 'dirty bombs,' which use conventional explosives to spread radioactive material over a wide area. In addition to killing people in the bomb blast and poisoning others with radiation, the officials said, such a bomb could render large area unusable and require lengthy and expensive clean-up efforts."

This denunciation of DU stands as the clearest and most direct admission of DU hazards ever pronounced by U.S. government representatives. The bizarre announcement was so unprecedented and contrary to the military's standard dismissal of DU hazards, it may well have been one of the first operations of the Pentagon's new propaganda arm, the Office of Strategic Influence.

But, according to Pentagon and British MoD assurances, when the U.S. and the UK use depleted uranium as a weapon, there is no harm done to human health or the environment.

### U.S. Navy and Marines to Stop Using DU

*USA Today* reported June 25 that the Navy and Marines had decided to abandon their use of the DU munitions. Both branches have reportedly switched to tungsten, a nonradioactive, high-density metal. "We're not considering [DU] anymore because of the environmental problems associated with it, be them [sic] real or perceived," Col. Clayton Nans, head of the Marines' Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle program, told the paper. Col. Nans said, "We don't want to be in a position of having someone say, 'You can't bring your armor piercing rounds on the battlefield'."

### British Study Links Cancer and DU

British soldiers exposed to DU in wartime have suffered substantial genetic damage — at least 10 times more than that found in the general population — according to new research by Professor Albrecht Schott, a retired chemist formerly with the Free University of Berlin. Prof. Schott, who led the research team, said, "This level of genetic damage doesn't occur naturally."

In Schott's study, eight veterans of the conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Bosnia and Kosovo were shown to have high levels of deformed chromosomes, which increases the likelihood of cancer and abnormalities in children.

"Alpha radiation from DU is the likely cause of the chromosome aberrations we found in the white blood cells of the veterans. Gene damage on this scale makes cancer, deformed babies and other genetic conditions more likely," Prof. Schott said.

Chromosome damage in white blood cells from the eight was compared to that of a group of German civilians. "Previous studies have shown a normal chromosome aberration reading for a member of the public is 0.5 per 1,000 cells. Those of the former soldiers were closer to the average of 5.8 per 1,000 recorded in a group of staff at the Chernobyl power plant following the reactor meltdown in April 1986," *The Express* (UK) reported Dec. 24.

The new findings come on the heels of a U.S. government survey of 21,000 U.S. veterans released in Oct. 2001 that found those who served in the Gulf were two- to three-times more likely to report birth defects in their children = defects including webbed digits, heart murmurs, brain tumors and chromosome abnormalities. Prof. Schott's results will be published early next year.

### Italy, France and Portugal Urge DU Moratorium

Dr. Ali Ahmed Rind reports in the *Baltimore Chronicle*, December 5, 2001, that Italy, France and Portugal have asked NATO to institute a moratorium on the use of DU in its armaments until more studies are done. Canada stopped using its own DU weapons two years ago. Portugal has withdrawn its soldiers from peacekeeping duty in Kosovo, and the Portuguese Defense Minister declared that his soldiers were not going to become "uranium meat" by taking further part in the Kosovo mission.

# Nuclear Shorts

## New Law Won't Keep UK Nukewatchers Quiet

LONDON — Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment (CORE), says it will not be gagged over the government's so-called anti-terrorist bill which criminalizes the publishing of news on nuclear issues and makes it illegal to warn the public about radioactive waste train movements.

CORE, which has been the first to tell the world about plutonium shipments to Sellafield — including future armed shipments from Barrow — says it will continue to inform the public even at the risk of going to prison. The bill is expected to become law in a few weeks.

Under the act it will become a criminal offense carrying imprisonment to give details of nuclear waste train movements to Sellafield. Sellafield holds one of the world's biggest plutonium stockpiles.

CORE's campaign coordinator, Martin Forwood, said: "If we think there is a very good reason for informing the public about what is going on with nuclear transports we will find a way round it. At the end of the day, what is the national interest? We will judge everything on its merits."

CORE is lending its support to Greenpeace, which took a full-page ad in *The Guardian* urging the public to protest to the Home Secretary David Blunkett over what it described as an "outrageous" bill.

A large part of the ad is taken up with a map showing a nuclear waste transportation route through London ending up at Sellafield, with the headline: "In four weeks this advert will be ILLEGAL." — *Whitehaven News* (UK), Nov. 22, 2001

## Boeing Raiding the Treasury

WASHINGTON — America's largest aircraft maker mobilized an attack force of 34 in-house and more than 50 for-hire lobbyists to go after military money that it knew would flow like manna from heaven as a result of the war build-up. "I'm very optimistic about what's coming," gushed a top Boeing exec.

Sure enough, December's Pentagon appropriations bill showered the corporation with gifts, including an expensive extra-special gewgaw that requires the Air Force to lease 100 of Boeing's wide-body 767 commercial jets to use as refueling tankers. The lease price for this Boeing boondoggle is \$20 million per jet per year for 10 years. That's \$20 billion — way more costly than simply buying the planes.

There's more. Since the 767s are commercial aircraft, the Air Force must spend another \$3 billion to convert the 100 planes to tankers. And when the 10-year lease is up, each plane must be returned to Boeing as it was delivered, requiring another \$3 billion from taxpayers to restore them to commercial use.

The Air Force doesn't even want these pricey planes, and there were no hearings or even a vote on this — the whole thing was inserted into the Pentagon bill at the last minute by Republican Senator Ted Stevens and Democrat Patty Murray. They also threw in one more bauble: a 10-year lease by the Air Force of four Boeing 737s to be used as executive jets to ferry Pentagon brass and members of Congress hither, thither, and yon.

— *The Hightower Lowdown*, Feb. 2002

## California to Allow Radioactive Debris at Regular Landfills

SACRAMENTO — Under a policy finalized in November by the California Department of Health Services, dirt and debris from decommissioned nuclear reactors and other facilities could be disposed of in ordinary landfills never designed for such material. Just two years ago the state abandoned a plan to open a nuclear waste dump at Ward Valley in the Mojave Desert. In an ironic twist, the radioactive waste shipped to ordinary landfills would be allowed to emit radiation up to 25 millirem per year, in comparison to the much lower level of two millirem per year that would have been permitted at the Mojave Desert site. This is allowed under a new state policy that applies to debris at some decommissioned reactor sites considered "released for unrestricted use."

Municipal landfills are not equipped to handle radioactive waste, and it is likely that the public would eventually be exposed to the debris.

Dan Hirsch, president of the Committee to Bridge the Gap which is suing the state over the new policy, said, "There are 170 municipal waste facilities in the state and no one knows if they'll become nuclear waste sites, and it has all happened overnight and under cover of dark."

— *Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 23, 2002

## NASA Wants Nukes Aboard Rockets

CAPE CANAVERAL — NASA is lobbying for expansion of its dormant "radioisotope thermoelectric generator" (RTG) or plutonium program for long-distance space probes.

The space agency caused a world-wide uproar in 1997 when it launched "Cassini" toward Saturn with more than 70 pounds of plutonium-239 atop the faulty Titan IV rocket. (The Titan VI has a 1-in-20 failure rate, but NASA took the risk of a radiation disaster anyway.) Plutonium was used for electric power generation on the multiple-year-long mission.

Now NASA wants \$950 million over five years to develop new RTGs and even "a nuclear reactor" that could pro-

vide power for new kinds of booster engines. The DOE's nuclear weapons labs will build the power packs, and Earl Wahlquist of the Space and Defense Power Systems Division said DOE intends to buy plutonium from Russia. The involvement of the DOE is regarded by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space as evidence that the project is a weapons program only thinly veiled with a gloss of space exploration rhetoric.

Edward Weiler, chief of space science at NASA, tried to deflect criticism of the proposed "Chernobyl on a rocket," saying a priority will be safety and "technology that will virtually eliminate any risk to the public if something goes wrong, like a launching accident."

"We will design these new systems for a worst-case scenario," Weiler said. "They'll be designed to survive a rocket blowing up, or one going up and then coming down and hitting the ground."

— *New York Times*, February 12, 2002; Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

## FROM THE ARCHIVES: Burial Tunnel for Hanford's "Hot" Equipment

HANFORD, Wash. — "Construction of a 500-foot tunnel at the Hanford, Wash. Site for disposal of equipment too radioactively 'hot' to be repaired and too heavy to be hauled away for burial has solved another atomic problem.

"The tunnel, about as big as an Egyptian pharaoh's tomb, was outfitted with a spur railroad track. When a piece of heavy apparatus is worn beyond use and too contaminated by radioactive materials to be repaired, it will be loaded aboard a railroad car and rolled into the tunnel.

"When the car stops, a concrete, water-filled radiation-barrier gate will clang shut, safely entombing the contaminated equipment.

"Usually at Hanford, contaminated equipment that has worn out is crated, loaded on a flat car, hauled to a desert burial site and interred there where it can do no harm.

"Extra-heavy or bulky pieces, however, pose problems because they are too heavy to be dragged from a freight car for burial. Instead, they can be left aboard the car and rolled into the Hanford burial tunnel.

"The tunnel, 19 feet high and 23 feet wide, will hold 12 loaded flat cars. The tunnel is an underground extension of a new chemical separations plant where uranium fuel is processed after being irradiated in nuclear reactors."

— *Science Digest*, March 1957

## Record Shredding and Cover-up Alleged Against TVA Nuclear

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — A former Tennessee Valley Authority engineer claims radiation exposure records for thousands of TVA nuclear workers could be missing or falsified. Ronald Grover discovered discrepancies and gaps in the data when he was assigned to co-manage a massive inventory of the personal dose records in 1999. According to Grover, his inventory found:

- \* Conflicting dose records for as many as 11,320 TVA workers or contractors for the period 1970 to 1984.

- \* Missing documentation for as many as 2,088 workers known to have "exceeded dose limits."

- \* A pattern of missing records from critical times, including a 1975 fire at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Decatur, Ala., and a major pipe break at the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant near Chattanooga in the early 1980s.

TVA officials say all records are in order. "His allegations are either untrue or only tell part of the story because whenever a dose record (with a problem) was identified it was corrected," TVA spokesman Gil Francis said.

But the Union of Concerned Scientists, a Washington watchdog group, asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to investigate what it called a "serious violation of federal regulations...."

Grover, 47, contends the inventory job was a no-win assignment for supporting another TVA whistleblower and he has sued TVA for discrimination over his firing in April.

His discrimination suit alleges that the 1999 assignment to co-manage the records inventory project was a setup to get rid of him. — *News & Observer*, Raleigh, NC, Oct. 7, 2001

## Deadly Strontium-90 Packs Still Missing

ABZHAZA, Georgia — Two highly radioactive cylinders filled with strontium-90 were accidentally retrieved in December by three woodsmen in the remote Abkhazia region of the former Soviet Republic of Georgia. The area is particularly volatile because Muslim rebels in this region have been trying to break away for years.

The loggers noticed the cylinders because the snow around them had melted. They hauled the objects back to their campsite for warmth and soon became dizzy and nauseated. All have suffered severe radiation sickness and are now hospitalized, with one in critical condition. The U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) dispatched a team and retrieved the cylinders in February after several failed attempts due to heavy snow and rough terrain.

The cylinders, the size of a can of beans, are the cores of nuclear batteries that use radioactive decay and heat to pro-

duce electrical power. Strontium-90 remains dangerous for 280 years and binds readily with human bones. Hundreds of these cylinders were abandoned by the Soviets when the USSR broke up in the early 1990's. The IAEA's Abel Gonzalez reported that the agency has recovered 280 of the radiation batteries. An unknown number are still missing. There is concern that the devices could be turned into "dirty" bombs that would spread radiation when exploded.

— *Boston Globe*, Feb. 4 & *New York Times*, Feb. 1, 2002

## Search Complete: Reactor Fuel Rods Still Lost

NEW LONDON, Conn. — A 10-month, multi-million dollar internal investigation to determine what became of two highly radioactive irradiated fuel rods, missing from the Millstone Nuclear Station in Connecticut since 1980, has been completed — sort of — by Northeast Utilities (NU), the former owner of the reactor. NU's report concludes that the location of the rods could not be determined. However, NU and the NRC agree the rods were probably mistaken for other radioactive material and shipped off for long-term storage at low-level radioactive waste sites — in violation of state and federal law. The deadly waste most likely went to Barnwell, S.C., or Hanford, Wash. Management at both of these facilities is trying to determine whether the fuel rods pose a significant hazard. Digging up the contaminated waste appears to be the only way to locate the rods, which remain dangerously radioactive for thousands of years.

— *New London Day*, Jan. 17, 2002

## Chernobyl Endangers Millions as Tomb Crumbles

KIEV, Ukraine — A panel of UN experts reported in February that the Chernobyl disaster is still affecting millions of people. The year-long study concluded that 200,000 people still live in severely contaminated areas; between 8,000 and 10,000 cases of thyroid cancer are expected to develop in the next 10 years; and thousands remain in a state of "chronic dependency" with few opportunities and little control over their destinies. The serious consequences of the accident have been exacerbated by uncertainty and difficult economic and social situations.

The findings advocate a shift in assistance from an "emergency phase" which emphasized containment, relocation and direct welfare to a "recovery phase" to include long-term community redevelopment. A key aspect would be involvement of affected populations in addressing issues such as health services, economic development, the environment and unresolved health questions.

In other Chernobyl news, the hastily-built sarcophagus that covers the destroyed reactor No. 4 is in worsening condition and in danger of collapsing. Oleksandr Smyshlyayev, first deputy minister of environment and nuclear safety, said, "If things go from bad to worse and the heavy metal parts of the roof fall inside the sarcophagus, we can predict the contamination of the whole territory within 30 kilometers, including a high level of radioactivity on the territory of the nuclear plant." Construction of a new sarcophagus is being planned. — UN Development Program, Feb. 2002; Russian Centre TV, Feb. 26, 2002

## Resources

- \* **Alliance for Nuclear Accountability**, 1914 N 34 St., Suite 407, Seattle, WA 98103; (206) 547-3175; Email: ananuclear@earthlink.net; Web: www.ananuclear.org

- \* **Campaign Against Depleted Uranium**, Manchester, England, Phone: +44(0)161-273-8293; Email: gmdcnd@gn.apc.org; Web: www.cadu.org.uk

- \* **Center for Defense Information**, 1779 Mass. Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20036; (800) 234-3334; Web: www.cdi.org

- \* **Christian Peacemaker Teams**, P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680; (312) 455-1199, Email: synapses@igc.org

- \* **Committee to Bridge the Gap**, 1637 Butler Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90025; (831) 462-6136; Email C/O: nci@nci.org

- \* **Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space**, P.O. Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; Email: globalnet@mindspring.com; Web: www.space4peace.org

- \* **The Hightower Lowdown**, P.O. Box 20596, New York, NY 10011; (212) 741-2365, \$10/yr

- \* **Institute for Energy & Environmental Research**, 6935 Laurel Ave., Suite 204, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-5500; Email: ieer@ieer.org; Web: www.ieer.org

- \* **Low Level Radiation Campaign, LLC**, The Knoll, Montpelier Park, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LW, England; Phone: +44 (0) 159-7 82-4771; Email: SiteManager@llrc.org; Web: www.llrc.org

- \* **Nuclear Information & Resource Service**, 1424 16th St. NW, #404, Wash., DC 20036; (202) 328-0002; Email: nirsnet@nirs.org

- \* **Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance**, P.O. Box 5743; Oak Ridge, TN 37831; Phone, Email, Web: (See calendar, 4/13.)

- \* **Public Citizen**, 1600 20th St., NW, Washington, DC 20099; (202) 588-1000; Email: cmep@citizen.org; Web: www.citizen.org

- \* **Radiation and Public Health Project**, P.O. Box 60; Unionville, NY 10988; 212-496-6787; E-mail: odiejoe@aol.com; Web: www.radiation.org

- \* **School of the Americas Watch**, P.O. Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017; (202) 234-3440; Email: info@soaw.org; Web: www.soaw.org

- \* **Union of Concerned Scientists**, 2 Brattle Sq., Cambridge, MA 02238; (617) 547-5552; Email: ucs@ucsususa.org; Web: www.uscusa.org

- \* **Women Against Military Madness**, 310 E 38 St., Mpls., MN 55409; (612) 827-5364; Email: wamm@mtn.org; Web: www.worldwidewamm.org

- \* **World Policy Institute**, 66 Fifth Ave., 9th floor, New York, NY 10011; (212) 229-5430; Email: Web: www.worldpolicy.org

## Urfer Sentenced to 2nd Prison Term for Refusing Restitution Order

MADISON, WI — Long-time anti-nuclear activist and Nukewatch staffer Bonnie Urfer was sentenced Dec. 14 to an additional five months in federal prison for her refusal to pay restitution to the U.S. Navy. Bonnie returned to Greenville women's federal prison camp in Illinois Jan. 4, and is due out May 31.

The sentence was imposed after U.S. Magistrate Stephen Crocker revoked Bonnie's conditional release which required payment of \$7,492 to the Navy, for the Silence Trident action's damage done to Project ELF.

Bonnie, 50, served six months in prison for the June 2000 Silence Trident disarmament action in which she and Michael Sprong used handsaws to cut down three of the thousands of antenna poles that hold up the Trident/ELF transmitter line. The action took the system off line for at least 24 hours.

At the revocation hearing, Magistrate Crocker claimed that his "hands were tied [by mandatory sentencing guidelines] even if I wanted to do something more beneficial for the society as a whole." Bonnie's attorney Margaret Danielson suggested that she might make a nominal payment to a veteran's hospital rather than to the Navy. But Assistant District U.S. Attorney John Vaudreuil objected saying, "Defendants don't get to pick and choose who will be compensated."

The Magistrate Crocker agreed that, "... we really don't gain anything by putting Ms. Urfer in jail." He then ordered five months imprisonment with the stipulation that the sentence will be complete upon release, with no supervision or probation. The restitution is evidently still due.

Bonnie's and Michael's misdemeanor damage convictions were handed down in Feb. 2001. Michael was imprisoned in South Dakota for two months and then released with probationary conditions.

The case is still open because the conviction and Crocker's controversial jury instructions are being appealed to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

**In the action's most ironic twist, defense attorney Danielson has threatened a with contempt citation by the Appeals Court after her reply brief (a formal rebuttal to the government's argument) failed to arrive at the Chicago offices in a legible state. The document was burned and damaged beyond recognition by mail irradiation!**

## Bonnie writes from prison...

Yesterday at mail call, I received the *Nuclear Resister*. Editors Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa have been reporting on non-violent opposition to the nuclear industry from their home in Arizona since 1983. I also read the Feb. 16 Mpls. *Star Tribune*. Both papers carried news that made me want to scream.

The *Resister* tallied the number of anti-nuclear arrests in the U.S. for 2001 — the lowest number recorded in over 19 years. The *Star Tribune* announced President Bush's approval of commercial radioactive waste dumping at Yucca Mt. in Nevada. I can't help but see a connection.

Throughout the 1980's, yearly arrests against the bombs, bomb tests and reactors numbered in the thousands. In 1983 — 5,300; 1987 — 5,300; 1989 — 5,530. Resistance dropped drastically in the early 1990's once the Berlin Wall came down, the Soviet Union collapsed and the U.S. brought its Cruise missiles back from England and Europe.

By 1996, only 590 people placed their bodies on the line against the most deadly industry and weapons on Earth. Last year there were only 570 arrests at 21 sites in 45 actions — an average of fewer than 4 a month.

The struggle to keep Yucca Mt. from becoming the nuclear power industry's waste dump is 20 years old. But the effort to squash it has waned despite valiant efforts by the Shundahai Network, Nevada Desert Experience, Citizen Alert and others. The DOE gained a stronger position as our numbers at the gates dwindled, and, with the travesty of Sept. 11, the scales tipped. The nuclear power conglomerates are getting what they want in order to continue operating and contaminating.

Yucca Mt. is due to open in 2010. At that point our roads and rails will be swarming with radioactive traffic. The *Star Tribune* said the plan "marked a significant victory for nuclear utilities such as Twin Cities-based Exel Energy." But the pro-nuclear lobby still has to get past Congressional votes, court challenges and licensing tests.

In the meantime, war rages in 35 places around the world with nuclear exchanges threatened or hinted at in at least two. In spite of those threats and the power of nuclear-armed nations to wipe out earthly life-as-we-know-it, the outcry is at best weak.

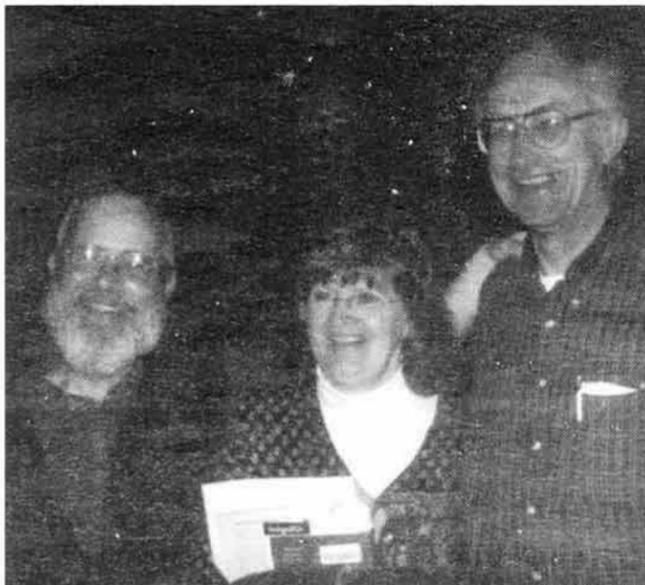
Perhaps the lack of activism would be easier to swallow

# ELF/Trident Resisters Convicted in Federal Court; More Arraigned

## Federal Prosecutions Underway in Wis. Anti-Trident Campaign

MADISON, WI — Three ELF/Trident resisters were convicted of federal trespass Jan. 29 in U.S. District Court, following a bench trial before Magistrate Stephen Crocker.

Roberta Thurston and Don Timmerman, both of Park Falls, Wis., and John Heid, of Luck, Wis., were charged with misdemeanor trespass "on national forest land" during the Oct. 7 protest against the Trident submarine transmitter sys-



John Heid, Roberta Thurston & Don Timmerman, after their federal trespass trial in Madison, face sentencing April 12.

tem called "Project ELF" near Clam Lake, Wis. The three are the first to face federal trespass charges resulting from protests at the Wisconsin submarine transmitter.

Magistrate Crocker set sentencing for April 12 and ordered an investigation of each defendant's prior record. They face a maximum fine of \$5000, six months in prison, or both.

Project ELF sends one-way messages to submerged British and U.S. Trident and fast-attack submarines around the world. It was designed to help coordinate a first-strike with nuclear weapons, but has been employed in Cruise missile attacks against Iraq, Kosovo and possibly Afghanistan.

Following a 1996 Supreme Court decision, defendants have no right to a jury trial, as long as the maximum penalty is six months imprisonment or less.

if the human race weren't hurling itself into extinction. If the nuclear industry's radiation doesn't eventually kill us, then our daily automobile driving habit — the distance from to Pluto and back — and the resulting global climate change will. If we curtail our driving but don't stop poisoning the water, we don't have a chance. If we destroy the rain forests and carry on destabilizing the oceans' ecosystems, we won't have oxygen. I don't know about anybody else, but I'm feeling like a dinosaur walking into a tar pit.

What I find most distressing is that all of this destruction happens by choice. For some, it's motivated by profit, for others the decision to not protest amounts to consent. For many, there's no incentive to learn the truth about our literally Earth-shaking habits — in order to act in self-defense.

Friends and family often ask that I not engage in resistance anymore. My friend John says I should retire and leave the work to younger folks. Fact is, I'm part of the 5% of the world's population that consumes 1/3 or more of the resources and produces almost half of its hazardous waste. Countering this gross injustice weighs heavily on my sense of humanity.

Within a decade, the DOE could be schlepping more than 77,000 metric tons of deadly radioactive waste to Yucca Mt. through every state by rail and truck. This isn't new. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, a nuclear dump near Carlsbad, NM, opened two years ago and plutonium-tainted military wastes are hauled right through downtown Denver. Every person in the U.S. is adversely affected by nuclear profiteers [as the bomb test fallout report on page one makes clear]. Certainly more than 570 people should be concerned enough to recognize that the consequence for acting pales in comparison with what we face in staying home.

This is a pitch for justice, for clean water, air and soil. This is a plea for peace and an end to the self-destructiveness of the nuclear industry. This is a cry for the common sense it takes to turn our backs on the tar pits.

The *Resister* should never have to tally decreasing numbers in activism, and the papers shouldn't be congratulating private utilities on their "victory."

**Bonnie is due out May 31. You may write her C/O Bonnie Urfer, 04970-045, FPC, P.O. Box 6000, Greenville, IL 62246**

John Heid told the Court, "There is a geography beyond individual rights ... called responsibility. ... The operation of ELF is a crime. I was at the scene of a crime ...." John pointed out that a trespass conviction required proof of "criminal intent," and that the three had no such intent. John asked the first prosecution witness, "Are you aware that ELF was directing submarine missiles against Afghanistan?"

"Objection!" the government interrupted, "Relevance," its one-word basis. "Sustained," ruled Magistrate Crocker.

John offered to the Court an Oct. 4 report from the *Duluth News Tribune* that states, "If American submarines patrolling waters of the Middle East get ordered to action, it's likely that message, or at least part of it, will come by way of Clam Lake in northern Wisconsin." Mag. Crocker eventually accepted the news report into evidence, but later said, "Technically, none of this is relevant."

In her testimony Roberta Thurston quoted from Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld. While in the same position in 1977, Rumsfeld said, "The United States has never renounced the first use of nuclear weapons." Roberta went on to say, "When I know what ELF can do, my crime would be not to speak out."

The assistant U.S. Attorney was surprised to learn that John Heid would not pay a fine or cooperate with probation. The government had promised that no prison time would be recommended. John's non-cooperation has raised the chances that the government will have to renege on its promise.

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Another surprise was delivered by the Assistant U.S. Attorney who produced a "Public Safety and Property Closure Order" issued by the National Forest Supervisor Robert Lueckel. The order establishes trespass at the ELF site as a federal petty misdemeanor and says, "...it is prohibited to go into or be upon the area known as the ELF transmitter site..." The order went into effect at midnight Oct. 6, a mere 12 hours before the annual Gandhi/St. Francis day protest.

A trespass conviction at the site now carries a maximum fine of \$5,000 for individuals, or \$10,000 for organizations, imprisonment for six months, or both. How an organization can be imprisoned or convicted of trespass remains unclear.



"In the interest of streamlining the judicial process, we'll skip the evidence and go directly to sentencing."

## Trials Set for MLK Holiday ELF Resisters

CLAM LAKE, WI, Jan. 20 — Six activists were ticketed for trespassing during the 11th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday ELF action. The six were part of about 30 people from nine states and two Canadian provinces who rallied against the submarine warfare system.

The group recalled that Dr. King said, "War is the enemy of the poor," and that "The chain reaction of evil — hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars — must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation."

Those ticketed are all members of the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams, which sends volunteers to trouble spots around the world. They are the second trespass group to be charged in federal court, and they face up to six months in prison and/or \$5,000 in fines.

At their March 7 arraignment, which the defendants attended via telephone, Magistrate Stephen Crocker set a Sept. 10, 2002, trial in Madison for Carol and Charles Spring of Palo Alto, Calif., and a May 22, 2002 trial for Genie and Bill Durland of Cokedale, Colo., and Sis and Jerry Levin, Birmingham, Ala.

# Stop 'Radiation Roulette'

## Risky Renewal of the Price-Anderson Act

WASHINGTON, DC — The Price-Anderson Act establishes a taxpayer-backed insurance policy for nuclear power reactors that limits the liability of reactor operators in the event of an accident. It was originally enacted in 1957 as a temporary measure. Now, 45 years later, Congress wants to extend this subsidy to a proposed new generation of reactors and government nuclear activities.

Under Price-Anderson, commercial nuclear operators are required to carry only \$200 million in primary insurance. In the event of an accident, the operators would be required to pay only up to \$88.9 million per reactor, for an industry-wide total of \$9.4 billion. Yet according to a 1982 study, a worst case accident scenario at a U.S. reactor would result in between \$24.8 billion and \$590 billion in damages. The economic consequences of a severe nuclear waste transportation accident have been calculated at between \$20 billion and \$271 billion. The large discrepancy between the coverage available under Price-Anderson and the calculated consequences of a radiation disaster, leaves the public unprotected and the pampered industry unaccountable.

### Read the Fine Print!

Most homeowners' insurance and health insurance policies will not cover costs resulting from a "nuclear accident." Why should you foot the bill for damages that exceed the level of Price-Anderson coverage?

Moreover, by artificially limiting the liability of nuclear operators, Price-Anderson serves as a subsidy to the nuclear industry in terms of forgone insurance premiums. The amount of this subsidy ranges from \$3.45 million to \$33 million per

### Yucca Mountain. Continued from page one

25-to-40 years during which the hottest waste remains at the reactor sites anyway, since it is too dangerous to move.

In addition, Makhijani points out, as long as the reactors are operating, the amount of high level nuclear waste is growing by 2,000 tons a year.

Transport plans increase the likelihood of accidents and the number of places for potential disaster. "Yucca Mt. is Nevada's problem," Ivins says, "Getting it there is ours." There are 131 sites around the nation, "... where the really, really bad stuff is stored. So we're taking a 131-point problem and making it a several-hundred-thousand-point problem."

Among the scientific groups opposed to the plans are the Government Accounting Office, Bechtel, SAIC, the private contractor on the site, the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the IEER and Radioactive Waste Management Associates.

The President's announcement does nothing to solve the radioactive waste problem. It does clarify battle lines. Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman says he'll fight the dump by organizing the mayors of cities along the transport routes.

Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn lambasted the Administration's use of national security rhetoric. "We've learned the hard way ... and we're just not going to be ... taking someone's word." He was referring to federal assurances in the 1950's and '60s that the government's open-air bomb testing was safe when, in fact, the tests caused tens of thousands of cancers and cancer deaths. (See page one.)

Guinn promised to veto the President's actions, which will force the Congress into action. Both houses will then have 90 days to pass override resolutions by majority votes. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle said ambiguously last January that, "Yucca Mt. is dead." Daschle was referring to his party's new found control of the Senate and his earlier opposition to the Mobile Chernobyl bill.

While Congressional opinion on the Yucca proposal is split along partisan lines, Nevada's Republican Senator John Ensign has promised to fight the project. Ensign has said the DOE seemed "hell-bent on making Yucca mountain the repository," no matter what the scientific studies showed. He was alluding to changes in radiation protection standards introduced December 12, 2001.

The changes replaced reliance on Yucca Mountain's geology as a barrier to radiation leaks, with faith in yet-to-be-designed waste containers. Gov. Guinn said at the time that the rules "were transparently reconfigured at the 11th hour because DOE could not meet the statutory demands of Congress nor the scientific recommendations" of other agencies.

Nevada immediately filed suit in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington on the grounds that the site doesn't meet criteria required by law.

Another of Nevada's lawsuits challenges the adequacy of radiation leakage standards set by EPA; still another alleges that DOE violated the 1982 Act by ignoring the requirement that geology provide the primary containment. A suit still pending charges that the DOE is breaking its own procedural laws by prematurely adopting an environmental impact study of the site.

### Reasons for rejecting Yucca are well documented:

\* In 1999, proof that the site is periodically flooded came from Zircon crystals found deep inside. Jerry Szymanski, formerly DOE's top geologist, said "... hot underground water has invaded the mountain and might again ... The results would be catastrophic."

reactor, per year, conferring an annual windfall to the nuclear industry of between \$366 million and \$3.4 billion. This unprecedented federal intervention distorts competition in wholesale electricity markets in favor of nuclear power — and masks its enormous risks. It also significantly mitigates investment risk for corporations developing new nuclear reactors, artificially securing a competitive advantage for the nuclear industry relative to solar and wind power.

Price-Anderson will expire in August 2002 unless Congress reauthorizes it, although under a grandfather clause, existing nuclear reactors and DOE contracts would continue to be covered. In Nov., the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2983, which extends the act for another 15 years. In the Senate, Majority Leader Tom Daschle's Democratic energy bill indefinitely reauthorizes sections of Price-Anderson pertaining to DOE contractors. Reauthorization of the commercial nuclear power sections may be added to the energy bill or introduced separately early in 2002.

### Action:

Contact your Senators through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or toll free via the AFLCIO hotline at (800) 718-1008, and urge their opposition to reauthorization. Get the address & phone numbers of your Senator's district offices at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). (Due to delays in the Capitol mail, it is better to mail letters to district offices.)

For a list of talking points, contact Public Citizen. (See Resources on page 4.)

Sign an on-line petition opposing Price-Anderson reauthorization at [www.petitiononline.com/pealpa/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/pealpa/petition.html) —Public Citizen News, Jan./Feb. 2002

\* In 1998, the Yucca site was found to be subject to 10 times more earthquakes or lava flows than earlier estimated. A recent quake did a million dollars in damage to the DOE field office studying the site!

\* In 1997, the DOE's own researchers admitted that rain-water had seeped 800 feet into the repository in only 40 years. They'd earlier claimed it would take water hundreds or thousands of years to reach the waste.

\* In 1995, a Los Alamos National Laboratory report said the wastes might erupt in a fission explosion, scattering radioactivity to the winds or into groundwater, or both.

\* In 1990, the National Research Council said successful deep nuclear waste burial is "a scientific impossibility."

Action: Contact Nuclear Information & Resource Service or Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project to help stop this railroad job. (See Resources on page 4.)

## April 13 & 14: Action for Peace Oak Ridge H-bomb Factory GET ON THE BUS!

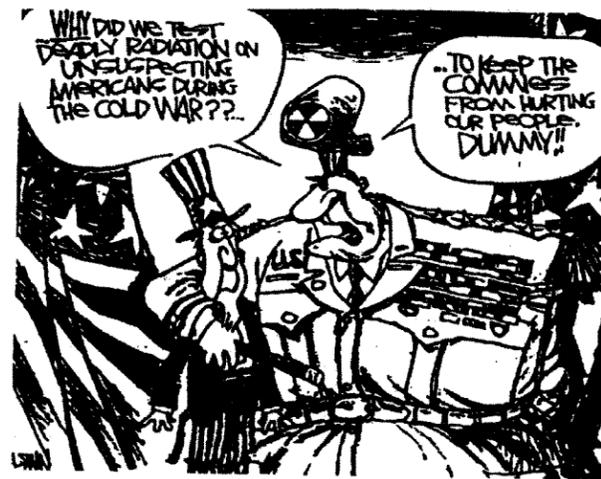
The Department of Energy has begun the process of revving the nuclear weapon machine. The Y-12 Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn. has started a 10-year, \$4 billion plan that calls for complete replacement of weapons building facilities.

Y-12 is the last full-scale nuclear weapons production facility in the country and is responsible for the thermonuclear subassembly for all U.S. nuclear weapons. Y-12 is currently building parts to upgrade and extend the life of the MX missile warhead. The new Y-12 is expected to play a key manufacturing role in producing so-called "mini-nukes."

On April 13 and 14, 2002, peacemakers from across the country will gather in Oak Ridge and say "No" to nuclear weapons. The third annual "April Action for Peace" will provide an opportunity for those who wish to give voice to their consciences through nonviolent action. The hope is to interrupt business as usual with sheer numbers and send a powerful message: We want peace!

There will be marching, dancing, music, nonviolence training, food, excellent speakers, a chance to network, and direct action. Workshops on nonviolence begin Saturday and on Sunday there will be a march to Y-12 beginning at Bissell Park. For more information — directions, places to stay, ride boards — check the Stop the Bombs website: [www.stopthebombs.org](http://www.stopthebombs.org)

The Mobile Peace Center bus will travel from Anathoth Community Farm (home to Nukewatch) to Y-12 for the weekend. Get on board! Contact us at (715) 472-4185 or [nukewatch@lakeland.ws](mailto:nukewatch@lakeland.ws)



# CALENDAR

## APRIL

### 1-5 Congressional call-in days to Stop

Star Wars research & development; support the Kucinich "Space Preservation Act." Congressional switchboard: via AFLCIO Hotline: (800) 718-1008, or (202) 224-3121; Capitol Internet directory: <http://Congress.org>; Contact: Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, Web: [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org); Email: [globalnet@mindspring.com](mailto:globalnet@mindspring.com)

### 13-14 Action for Peace at the Y-12 Plant

in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Come to the last full-scale operating nuclear weapons production plant in the United States. Say "No!" to U.S. global domination and nuclear weapons. Contact: Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, (865) 483-8202; Email: [palomagal@earthlink.net](mailto:palomagal@earthlink.net); Web: [www.stopthebombs.org/calendar/rides.html](http://www.stopthebombs.org/calendar/rides.html)

### 19-22 School of the Americas Watch

Columbia Teach-in, Vigil and Lobby Action, Washington, DC; Contact: SOAW, P.O. Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017; (202) 234-3440; Email: [info@soaw.org](mailto:info@soaw.org); Web: [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

### 20 Stop the War at Home and

Abroad; March on Washington, DC. Hosts include War Resisters League, Vets for Peace, Muslim Students Association, Student Environmental Action Coalition, School of the Americas Watch, AFSC, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Student Peace Action Network, WILPF and many others. Contact: War Resisters League, (212) 228-0450, or Email: [aprilmobilization@riseup.net](mailto:aprilmobilization@riseup.net); Web: [www.a20stopthewar.org](http://www.a20stopthewar.org)

### 26-28 ReVisioning: Building Community

for a Sustainable Future — St. Paul, MN, Macalester College; Discover, explore, and practice democratic, participatory, and earth-centered actions to ensure a sustainable future. Speakers: David Korten, Michael Albert, Marjorie Kelly, Ronnie Dugger, Polly Mann, Mel Duncan; Contact: (612) 827-1894; Web: [www.JustView.org/revisioning.html](http://www.JustView.org/revisioning.html); Email: [ReVisioning@yahoo.com](mailto:ReVisioning@yahoo.com)

## MAY

### 3-5 Lakes & Prairies Life Community

Semi Annual Gathering; Ferryville, Wis., Nuclear Reactors, & Waste Transportation Issues, Contact: Jim Murphy: (608) 348-7530; Email: [newmanclub@uwplatt.edu](mailto:newmanclub@uwplatt.edu); or Gail Vaughn: (608) 734-3037; Email: [gvaughn@serve.com](mailto:gvaughn@serve.com)

### 9-10-11 Collateral Damage: A Mother's

Anguish. Mothers' Day Gathering and Nonviolent Direct Action at Navy's Project Trident/ELF; Thur., May 9 — camp setup at Anathoth Community Farm; Fri., May 10 — workshops on ELF & nonviolence; Sat., May 11 — Noon gathering at ELF with food, Music by Sara Thomsen, speakers, Keynotes by Polly Mann, founder of Women Against Military Madness, and AFSC's Frances Crowe, and nonviolent direct action. Contact: Nukewatch.

### 10-12 No Star Wars: International

Space Organizing Conference and Protest: Berkeley, CA; Conference with representatives from peace groups worldwide and protest at Lockheed Martin (Sunnyvale). Contact: Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space; (532) 337-9274; [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org); Email: [globalnet@mindspring.com](mailto:globalnet@mindspring.com)

## JUNE

### 15-20 Fellowship of Reconciliation

National Conference, Manhattanville College, "The Power of Nonviolence: Exploring Alternatives." Contact: (845) 358-4601; or on the Web: [www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)

## AUGUST

### 15-18 Veterans for Peace National

Convention, Duluth, MN, St. Scholastic College, Contact: (218) 723-6087.

# Star Wars

## Billions for Industry, Fairy Tales for the Public

By Jerry Berrigan

In his July 9, 2001, column in *The Nation*, Christopher Hitchens quotes Dr. Martin Luther King: "The preparation for nuclear war is the willingness to commit genocide and suicide at the same time." Hitchens then observes: "... the delusion of Missile Defense is that the 'suicide' bit can be removed from the equation."

Hitchens' insight is apt. Yet "missile defense" as an umbrella term is a euphemism; U.S. goals in space are primarily offensive. *The Pathfinder* has quoted the Space Command document, *Vision for 2020*, in the past: the overall goal is "dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect U.S. interests and investment."

### Theater missile defense: an offensive system

The Pentagon is presently moving ahead on two fronts under the rubric of "Missile Defense." The first, National Missile Defense (NMD), is designed to protect the U.S. mainland from attack. The second, Theater Missile Defense (TMD), is aimed at protecting U.S. forces.

Geov Parrish, in his article "TMD: The Pentagon's Trojan Horse," warns about NMD's "silent sibling." Theater Missile Defense, Parrish says, "is more politically achievable, has elements that are more technically achievable, can bust arms control agreements just as easily, and because it is to be deployed on land, sea, air, and space around the world, much more immediately threatening to allies and potential enemies alike. When Europe, China, Russia, and the rest of the world have sent up howls about the Bush Administration's ballistic missile plans, TMD is what frightens them the most."

The "space dimension" has been a component of the U.S. battlefield since the 1991 Gulf War, most recently directing the airstrikes of the "war on terror." This war, as we know, is not over. "Afghanistan is only one piece ... I would say since World War II we haven't thought this broadly about a campaign," said Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (and former commander of the U.S. Space Command) in October. On Feb. 5, Gen. Ralph Eberhart, chief of the Space Command, spoke to an industry gathering on the importance of space in today's battlefield. "Using space assets for future force enhancement" was one topic covered.

As the U.S. military eyes its next victims, our present domination of space will play a role. And failing a drastic shift in policy, the role of space in war-fighting will be dramatically expanded in the future.

Below is a report of developments since last Fall in the areas of cost, testing, new systems and international relations. Also, the governmental organization overseeing NMD/TMD has been renamed and its mission has been overhauled.

### Astronomical costs

Within a week of Sept. 11, Congress approved President Bush's full \$8.3 billion request for Star Wars research and development. Democrats had previously wanted to trim \$1 billion from the package, but capitulated in the name of "unity."

The Congressional Budget Office projected in Jan. 2002 that the full "layered" system envisioned by the Bush Administration could cost \$238 billion by 2025.

The Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers and the Council for a Livable World Education Fund estimate that the U.S. has spent roughly \$125 billion on various systems to intercept incoming missiles since 1957. To date a workable device has not been produced.

### Faked tests, fired whistle-blowers

Dr. Nira Schwartz, an employee of weapons giant TRW, was fired in 2000 after revealing that TRW had faked test results in order to claim that its "kill vehicle" could distinguish between decoy missiles and missiles carrying live warheads. When Dr. Theodore Postol, a professor at MIT, took Dr. Schwartz's findings to the White House and the General Accounting Office, the Pentagon classified his report. TRW and the Pentagon knew the system could not work, but attempted to deploy it anyway. Schwartz and Postol maintain that no existing technology can distinguish between decoys and live warheads; thus, it is not possible to field an effective missile defense.

Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish of the Air Force, director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), was quoted in the *New York Times* (Aug. 16, 2001) as doubting the "basic functionality" of the antimissile system.

The third and fourth tests of ballistic missile interceptors, unlike the first and second, which flopped, were "successful." Unfortunately, the tests (July 14 and Dec. 3, 2001) were rigged. In both cases, although the target missile and interceptor were fired 5000 miles away from each other, the interceptor was guided to within 400 meters of the target by a beacon implanted in the target's nose.

General Kadish does not seem worried about this problem. "Our test philosophy is to add step-by-step complexities over time. It is a walk-before-you-run, learn-as-you-go development."

"The focus is on testing, and lots of it," said Col. Rick Lehner, spokesman for the BMDO. Each test costs taxpayers \$100 million. The next test is scheduled for May.

### New stationary, same mission

On Jan. 4, the Pentagon announced that the BMDO, which oversaw the space program, would become the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). The MDA has a more clearly defined, more directly offensive mission than did the BMDO.

The MDA is charged with defending the United States and troops deployed overseas from ballistic missile attacks by deploying defenses "as soon as practicable," including prototype and testing elements. Compared with the BMDO, the MDA enjoys a more streamlined command and seeks to integrate into one "bundled" complex the vast array of systems the Pentagon wishes to develop.

This "bundling" of command and control violates a 1997 agreement between former Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin.

### New systems

The following new systems are all intended primarily for "theater" application, which means they have an offensive function. True to the "layered" concept favored by the Bush Administration, these systems focus on varied stages of a missile's trajectory.

\***THAAD:** Theater High-Altitude Area Defense "long-range, high-altitude destruction of theater-class missiles";

\***NTW:** Navy Theater-Wide Missile Defense, using updated AEGIS radar and a modified Standard missile;

\***PAC-3:** This machine is a spin-off from the Patriot missile of Desert Storm fame. (MIT's Ted Postol proved that the success rate of the Patriot was not 96% as the military claimed, but closer to 0%);

\***MEADS:** Medium Extended Air Defense System, for short-range, low-altitude destruction of Cruise and ballistic missiles;

\***Airborne laser:** Consists of a high energy chemical oxygen iodine laser mounted on a modified Boeing 747;

\***Space-based laser:** The BMDO estimates this program alone will cost \$30 billion. The SBL is designed to shoot down missiles soon after launch, raining debris over 'enemy' territory. The SBL would "induce potential aggressors to abandon ballistic missile programs by rendering them useless... [and] provide the impetus for nations to expand their security agreements with the United States, bringing them under a United States-sponsored missile defense umbrella."

### Other new programs:

\***Outer space nuclear reactor:** In Feb. 2002, NASA requested \$1 billion over five years for development of nuclear reactors to be used in exploratory missions. In the past, the

U.S. has launched about 24 spacecraft utilizing plutonium-powered electrical generators, which are not technically reactors. Steven Aftergood, an analyst at the Federation of American Scientists, commented brightly, "... considering the other news of the day, an old-fashioned controversy about space nuclear power would come as a relief right now."

\***Military "space plane":** An Air Force scheme for a successor to the space shuttle. The space plane will violate the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 (reiterated by the UN General Assembly in Nov. 2000 by a vote of 163-3). But the USAF claims it's legal as it won't be "stationed" in space. The plane would fly into outer space, "deliver precision strikes to terrestrial targets," and return to earth. Funding will be requested in the 2004 budget.

### U.S. ABM Treaty abrogation and the world's response

On Dec. 13, Bush announced withdrawal from the ABM Treaty in six months. Russian President Vladimir Putin replied that Russia is prepared for "modifications" in the treaty. Vladimir Lukin, the Russian Duma's Deputy Speaker, complained, "As soon as the [Afghanistan] campaign was won, the U.S. policy became like this: 'Thank you, but even in matters that concern us both, we will do as we please.'"

China will respond to the U.S. abrogation by modernizing its arsenal to maintain "strategic credibility."

Although South Korea is pursuing reunification with North Korea — which has frozen its ballistic missile program — the U.S. plans to install a Star Wars radar base in the South.

The U.S. is currently lobbying NATO to deploy a Europe-wide Theater Missile Defense System. An Army study released Nov. 9 concludes: "... emerging threats require a capability for space control to deny potential adversaries the ability to see us, target us, and attack us from space. Common access to space will challenge, perhaps even limit, U.S. ability to achieve strategic surprise."

Some European leaders, reading this, are calling for Europe to develop its own space satellite system — "Galileo" — intended as a response to the U.S. Global Positioning System technology, the bedrock of the Star Wars program. French President Chirac in particular foresees "vassal status" for Europe if such a system is not deployed.

### Congressional call-in to oppose Star Wars

Call your U.S. Representatives April 1-5 requesting their support of the "Space Preservation Act." See *Calendar*, p. 6.

*Further reading: See the upcoming "Tangled Web: The Marketing of Missile Defense," from the World Policy Institute. Web: <www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms>*

— Jerry Berrigan is a Nukewatch volunteer and a

## TRIDENT D-5 MISSILE INSTALLATION

# Judge Sides with Navy & Trident, Dismisses Ground Zero's Law Suit

## Judge Pretends Nuclear Warheads May Not Be Present at Trident Sub Base

BREMERTON, Wash. — A federal judge has agreed with the Navy and dismissed most of the claims in a lawsuit that says a nuclear-missile upgrade at Bangor Submarine Base violates U.S. environmental law. U.S. District Judge Franklin Burgess threw out claims by a coalition of environmental and peace groups led by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action that would have forced the Navy to disclose the environmental impact of an explosive nuclear weapons accident. Ground Zero argued that the planned Trident-II (D-5) long-range nuclear missile replacement at Bangor violates the National Environmental Policy Act.

Judge Burgess said the allegation of a chance of accidents is "beyond judicial scrutiny" because the Navy neither confirms nor denies the presence of nuclear weapons at Bangor or anywhere else.

Dave Mann, an environmental lawyer representing the coalition, said, "In this day and age, it's disturbing that the Navy can hide behind a policy that it won't discuss the presence of nuclear weapons at Bangor," he said. "Everyone in the Navy and elected officials know full well they are there."

Navy officials were pleased with Burgess' decision and called the lawsuit baseless. Lt. Kevin Stephens, spokesman for the Bangor-based Trident fleet, said, "We're confident in the measures we've taken here, and any lawsuit on these grounds is completely without merit."

The only matter left to be considered in a trial is whether the Navy must provide information on how the explosion of a Trident rocket motor could impact the environment around the base. That would not include information about the possible spread of radiation from nuclear warheads that surround

the D5's third-stage motor. "This ruling eliminates that question," attorney Mann said.

The coalition will pursue the remaining issue in court, with a ruling likely coming in the late summer or early fall.

Mann said the coalition still considers the questions of the safety of the D5 missile program to be at the heart of the case.

"It's just unfortunate it's left to all of our imaginations to figure out the impacts of the radiation with an explosion over there."

The D5 missile, with up to eight 475-kiloton warheads, is bigger (38 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb) and more accurate than the 100-kiloton Trident-I that the Bangor-based submarines were designed to carry.

Much of the conversion work that will allow facilities at the base to handle the new missiles is already complete, including modifications to bunkers and roads. A special missile-loading pier known as the Explosive Handling Wharf needs to be strengthened and upgraded for the heavier missiles. "The Navy feels all appropriate environmental regulations have been met," Stephens said.

The submarines too have to be modified to accept the larger missiles. Puget Sound Naval Shipyard is completing work on conversions of Bangor's four newest Trident subs, the *USS Henry M. Jackson*, *USS Alabama*, *USS Alaska*, and *USS Nevada*. *USS Alaska* has already been converted to handle the D5.

In January, the Navy awarded Lockheed Martin Missiles & Space Operations in Sunnyvale, Calif., a \$248 million contract for the follow-on production of 12 Trident D5 missiles. Production of the missiles will begin in 2002, with delivery expected in 2004. Since production began in 1987, the Navy has purchased 396 Trident D5s — 120,384 Hiroshima equivalents.

# Breast X-rays: Do Benefits Outweigh Risks?

By Molly Mechtenberg

Over the years, breast X-rays or mammography has come to be considered the cornerstone in the fight against breast cancer. The American Cancer Society and other high-profile cancer institutions have carried the motto: "There are no practical ways to prevent breast cancer — only early detection." However, in the past few months the assumption that breast X-rays actually save lives has been challenged and drawn into the public realm for debate.

The latest reappraisal began in October when two European researchers reviewed the long-term mammography trials upon which groups such as the National Cancer Institute have based their cancer screening recommendations. The authors concluded that the trials had fundamental flaws in conduct and analysis and therefore the results were worthless.

These findings were then backed up by the PDQ Screening and Prevention Editorial Board. This panel consists of experts from leading medical institutions and government agencies who update scientific information and advise health professionals on cancer screening.

The debate over mammography currently appearing in the media has been going on for years. It arises from two factors: First, there is the current question about how many lives mammography actually saves. Second, the screening procedure brings its own health risks.

The biology of breast cancer is complex. It is often the case that a tumor grows so fast that a mammogram will not spot it until it has already spread and it's too late for treatment. On the other extreme, one-fifth of the cases of breast cancer detected by mammograms will never spread, and women run the risk of getting unnecessary and dangerous treatment: radiation, chemotherapy and surgery. Additionally, mammograms miss some tumors. Past studies have found it reduces breast cancer mortality by 30 percent at the most, and this statistic is now in question.

Mammograms are X-rays that emit ionizing radiation. This type of radiation is the only cause of cancer according to acknowledged by the American Cancer Society. Samuel Epstein, M.D., Professor of Environmental Medicine at the University of Illinois School of Public Health, writes, "There is clear evidence that the breast, particularly in premenopausal women, is highly sensitive to radiation, with estimates of increased risk of up to 1 percent for every Rad (radiation absorbed dose) unit of X-ray exposure. Even for low dosage exposure of two Rads or less, this exposure can add up quickly for women having an annual mammography."

Dr. Epstein says it is critical for women to know how many Rads they are receiving with their mammogram. As technology has advanced, exposures have decreased — today, a breast X-ray should emit about 0.4 Rads. This is a drastic improvement over early machines that emitted 10 Rads. It is also important to keep in mind that premenopausal women have about 40 times the sensitivity to radiation as postmenopausal women. Furthermore, 1 percent of women carry a gene that increases fourfold their risk of breast cancer from radiation. In light of all these facts, alternative detection methods such as Digital Infrared Imaging and thermography are on the rise and are worth investigating.

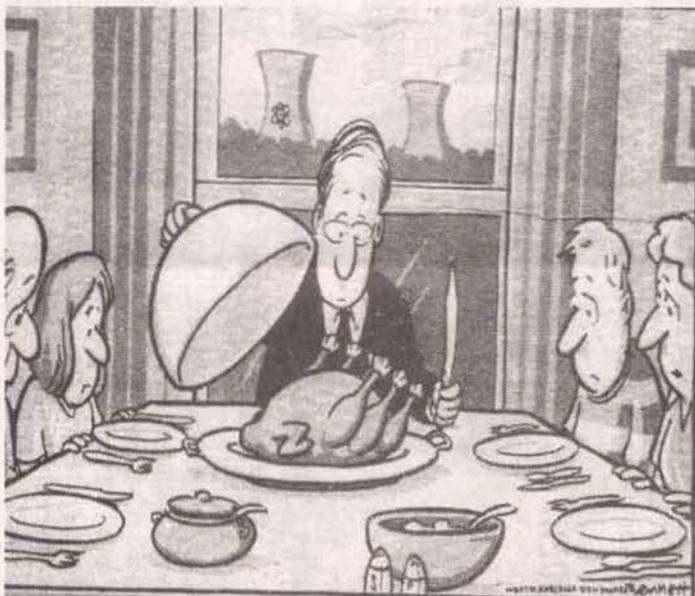
In the face of all this evidence, why do cancer institutions such as the National Cancer Institute recommend mammograms starting at age 40? The answer may lie in the fact that the cancer industry and mammography are big businesses.

Breast cancer rates have reached unprecedented levels in the U.S. and other industrialized countries. Fifty years ago the chance of getting breast cancer was one-in-twenty, now it is one-in-eight. There is increasing and substantial evidence that this

epidemic is directly related to industrial carcinogens in the air, water, workplace and consumer products. However, major cancer establishments have been fixated on "damage control"— diagnosis and treatment.

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) — every October — carries the motto, "Early detection is your best protection." The founder and major sponsor of NBCAM is AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, which manufactures a controversial and widely prescribed breast cancer drug, tamoxifen. AstraZeneca is also the 4<sup>th</sup> largest producer of pesticides in the United States. Many pesticides are known to contain carcinogenic chemicals, which are linked to breast cancer. With AstraZeneca as a major source of funding, it is no surprise that cancer institutes are not spending time or money on cancer prevention, focusing instead on detection and treatment.

The mammography industry itself has direct ties to the major cancer establishments. Dr. Epstein writes, "The American Cancer Society has close connections to the mammography industry.



Five radiologists have served as ACS presidents, and in its every move the ACS reflects the interests of major manufacturers of mammography machines and film including Siemens, DuPont, General Electric, Eastman Kodak, and Piker."

The debate over mammograms is far from over. The major cancer institutes are taking a strong stand in support of mammography. Many doctors will continue recommending mammograms until there is more evidence to advise otherwise. As the *New York Times* said editorially January 27, "Mammography has been so strongly endorsed by the cancer establishment and has become such a significant source of revenue and patients for many hospitals and doctors that it may be difficult to excise without overwhelming evidence that it is dangerous."

However, many believe that the current debate over mammography ignores the real issue. In a letter to the *Times*, Jeanne Rizzo, Director of the Breast Cancer Fund in San Francisco, writes, "There is no shortage of advice for women about things they can do in their personal lives to possibly reduce the risk... get a mammogram, drink less alcohol; exercise more... To keep women alive, we need to accept the mounting body of evidence linking breast cancer with exposure to synthetic chemicals... It is time to act on this evidence and to eliminate these cancer-causing chemicals from our bodies and environment."

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