



# HOWARD'S APPEASEMENT OF U.S. MILITARISM

No wonder Howard has been nominated for two awards at Anti-Bases' Brown Nose Award Gala to be held on July 4. As if he hasn't already done enough to scoop the pool, Howard and Defence Minister Hill are headed for Washington in June/July to sign an agreement to station American military forces in Australia near Darwin. As our Autumn issue stated, this qualitatively develops

Just ask Cubans about the difficulty of ridding their island of the Guantanamo Base after 102 years, despite overt hostility between Cuba and the United States.

And ask the indigenous people of Diego Garcia, whose call for support to get back to their island homes, which the US and Britain use as a strategic air, naval and spy base dominating the Indian Ocean, was also included in our Autumn edition.

To remove a foreign military based is an act of overt rejection of the power removed, a very sharp rebuke that would be read as a hostile act.

To not agree to one being established in the first place is something most leaders around the world are comfortable with, an act of refusing to provide a platform for strategic expansion.

But not Howard, whose willingness to sign up for the base integrates Australia into the Bush doctrine of reliance on military superiority as the guarantor of American strategic policy.

## THE U.S. RELIES ON MILITARY FORCE

This reliance on military force, not just as the backstop of diplomacy but as the primary instrument of American foreign policy, poses huge dangers for Australia and the world.

American militarism - the reliance on the exercise of military might as the primary instrument of American foreign policy - is often called the Bush doctrine.

Unprovoked invasion, preparation to wage war from space and destroy others' space capacities, building up military forces and equipment with massive military spending, propping up an economy by wasteful, unproductive military manufacture, occupying a large sector of the workforce in military manufacture and military service, expanding and capturing markets and resources by warfare, provocative development of an anti-missile system; all are hallmarks of Bush's militarism.

American military force has always backed up American diplomacy.

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### Australian integration into the US war machine.

The troops, as well as artillery and 100 American tanks, would then be available for rapid deployment to the Middle East, South Asia and North Asia.

Bases stationing foreign military forces are very hard to get rid of.



### Editor's Note

Winter is already here, and Howard and Hill are off to the USA to sign more of Australia over to a US killing base. Anti-Bases Campaign is celebrating with our inaugural Brown Nose Awards from 4-7pm on Sunday, July 4 at Sydney's Gaelic Club. If you are in town, join us for an afternoon of comedy, music and foreign policy. AABCC would also love your assistance with its mammoth task of helping to free Australia from all foreign military bases. We meet at 6pm on the third Thursday of every month. Please call or email us if you'd like to come along.

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## JOHN HOWARD FAVOURITE FOR BROWN NOSE AWARDS

**Comedian Tug Dumbly will join Urthboy and Ozibatla from The Herd, Andy Clockwise, Bertie Blackman, Morgan, Professor Mike McKinley and more at the 2004 Brown Nose Awards at the Gaelic Club on Sunday, July 4 from 4-7pm.**

According to Tug Dumbly, "John Howard is the clear favourite to win Brown Nose of the Year for outstanding achievement in going all the way with the USA - ahead of five other nominees including most of his Cabinet."

A source close to the US embassy said "These commo, pinko, greenie radicals have got it in for Trade Minister Vaille and Defence Minister Hill!"



"The Australian musicians and actors who complained about the Free Trade Agreement are a bunch of whinging, whining wimps. Australians would love more American culture.

"And a new US troop and tank base in Darwin, with tanks that are unusable in Australian terrain, is just what this country needs. I'll be at these so-called Brown Nose Awards to let people know that what's good for the USA is good for Australia," the source stated.

The Prime Minister, along with Rupert Murdoch, has also been nominated for the Brown Nose Hall of Shame for Lifetime Achievement in Grovelling to a Foreign Power.

The embassy source is also critical of Mark Latham who has been nominated for both the Brown Nose of the Year, and for the Up Your Nose Award for outstanding defiance by local activists.

"Stars and stripes suit Mark," the embassy source stated. "He has to forget all this 'bring the troops home for Christmas, nonsense.'"

Other activist nominees include Kerry Nettle, Andrew Wilkie and the one million Australian people who marched for peace on February 14-16, 2003.

**Vote online in the Brown Nose Awards at [www.anti-bases.org](http://www.anti-bases.org)**

## SEA SWAP — A US MILITARY EXPANSION INTO AUSTRALIA

By Bruce Cornwell

**Sea Swap is the innocuous designation given by the United States navy to a program to change over American warship crews in foreign ports.**

The U.S. government has an agreement with the Australian and Western Australian governments for this virtual home-porting of American warships in Fremantle and Darwin.

In 2003 six Sea Swaps were conducted, which included two in Western Australia and several in Singapore.

The first in WA in January 2003 involved the crew of the destroyer USS Fletcher flying out and the crew of the USS Kinkaid flying into Perth and replacing them, while the Kinkaid was undergoing a refit in the US.

USS Fletcher arrived in Fremantle as part of a carrier group of several warships accompanying USS Abraham Lincoln. Most moored in Cockburn Sound south of Fremantle.

While the ships were in WA, aircraft from the Abraham Lincoln conducted bombing exercises at the Lancelin training area, starting a couple of bushfires. As well, one jet overshot a runway near housing.

20 contracts for maintenance and repairs to the fleet were carried out, to service electrical and mechanical systems and to resurface the deck of the carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln.

This work readied them for the invasion of Iraq.

In June 2003, after a meeting with U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, Australian Defence Minister Robert Hill announced the government was ready to expand facilities for U.S. Navy warship crews to be rotated through Australian ports. (The Age, 2 June 2003).

*continued page 3*

On 30 July the American Ambassador, Tom Schieffer declared Sea Swap a success and foreshadowed a greater U.S. military presence in WA.

In September 2003 USS Higgins, a newer class of destroyer, arrived for a second Sea Swap in Fremantle with a smaller armada in tow.

Peace activists await further visits.

"The Navy wants to extend the 'on station' time for Pacific Fleet warships to patrol the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea without extending deployments for crew members or using more ships," an insightful journalist wrote of Sea Swap.

A rightwing think-tank, the Project for a New American Century (PNAC), developed the policy, calling for forward deployment of American forces, including "a second major home port for a carrier battle group in the southern Pacific, perhaps in Australia or the Philippines."

"Over the next decade, this presence should become roughly equivalent to the naval forces stationed in Japan – 17 ships based around the USS Kitty Hawk carrier battle group and USS Belleau Wood marine amphibious helicopter landing assault carrier." (Strategy, Forces and Resources for a New Century, Sept, 2000).

PNAC members include the Vice-President Dick Cheney, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and the Chair of the Defence Policy Board of the Bush Administration Richard Perle, people directly responsible for policy implementation in

## HEADQUARTERS FOR NEW WEDGETAILS

**Defence Minister Robert Hill opened the new headquarters for Australia's \$3.27 billion Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) Wedgetail aircraft in March this year.**

The headquarters at Williamstown near Newcastle is also the official new home of Air Force's re-formed No 2 Squadron, who will fly the AEW&C Wedgetail when it becomes operational.

Senator Hill said the opening of the headquarters was the first stage of a \$149 million redevelopment of the RAAF base, which includes hangars and parking areas for the AEW&C Wedgetail and improvements to the runways and taxiways.

The current schedule has the first two aircraft being officially handed over to the RAAF in November 2006.

Local residents have been waging a long fight against the pollution and other negative effects of the Williamstown base and associated bombing range. For more information see the R.O.A.R. website: [www.govpollution.info](http://www.govpollution.info)

the Bush Administration.

Sea Swap ties Australia into American strategy, relying on military power as its principal means of engaging in international affairs.

This change in Australia's strategic alignment with the US has been developing with little public knowledge.

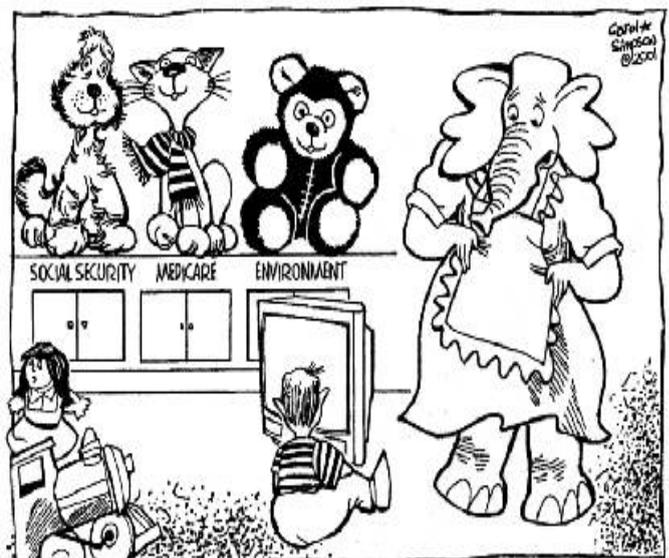
That must change.

*This article is based on the excellent "Sea Swap Handbook" by Fremantle Anti-Nuclear Group available at*

[www.seaswap.org/reference/handbook.pdf](http://www.seaswap.org/reference/handbook.pdf)

## HILL CLOSES GAP ON HOWARD

**Defence Minister Robert Hill has closed the gap with John Howard in the race for the coveted Brown Nose of the Year Award for outstanding achievement in going all the way with the USA.** Hill, who is desperate for the award, has twigged that saddling Australia with another US military base that could take a century to remove might just do it. On June 7 Hill announced an in principle agreement with the United States that could see 20,000 more US military personnel training in Australia. In keeping with the comic tone of the Award Gala, Hill said the U.S. base wouldn't be a U.S. base at all. (U.S. Bases of course are things like Pine Gap from which cruise missiles and not so smart bombs have been directed on to Iraqi and Afghani people by U.S. military subcontractor Raytheon Industries.) Pity it isn't the Pine Gap that's closed.



*"Robert, if you want that cool new Airborne Early Warning and Control Wedgetail aircraft you'll have to make some room on your toy shelf."*

## Grassroots Resistance to Violations of International Law (GROVIL) is offering \$5,000 reward for the arrest and conviction for complicity in Iraq war crimes of any MP supportive of the war on Iraq.

John Howard boasts that he did not shackle Australia to the US led illegal war on Iraq by attending to opinion polls. Quite. Neither he nor his companions in crime, Blair and Bush, attended to the overwhelming world-wide opposition to the war.

Howard also ignored the esteemed opinions of 43 experts in international law who unanimously declared the war to be illegal.

Now we have the tail wagging the UN dog in that the UK and US are trying to inveigle the international community to clean up and pay for the colossal mess they have created. Before the war, they maligned the UN and bugged the deliberations of its members whilst all the time doing their utmost to precipitate a war through lies, distortions, bribes and power politics.

The time has come for citizens everywhere to reclaim their countries now in the hands of shysters, racketeers, con-

men, snake oil salesmen and gangsters. Make no mistake about it, this description aptly describes the military-industrial complex which Eisenhower warned about, and its latest manifestation, corporate globalisation.

In medieval times citizens enjoyed arrestive powers almost the same as those of the sheriff and constable. They were often called upon to form a posse comitatus to assist law officers. GROVIL is part of this long tradition and believes the Rule of Law should dominate, not the rule of War.

The failure of legal authorities to enforce the law, which is being blatantly disregarded by those in high office, has necessitated the formation of GROVIL. Our objective is to bring before the courts MPs charged with complicity in war crimes. To do this we will be totally non-violent and, after touching the offender and announcing the charge, we will immediately hand them over to the police who will be close to hand. July 4 is brown nose day in Australia. It would be supremely apt if John Howard could be arrested at this time.

## Book Review

### STAR WARS - US TOOLS OF SPACE SUPREMACY

by Loring Wirbel

reviewed by Denis Doherty.

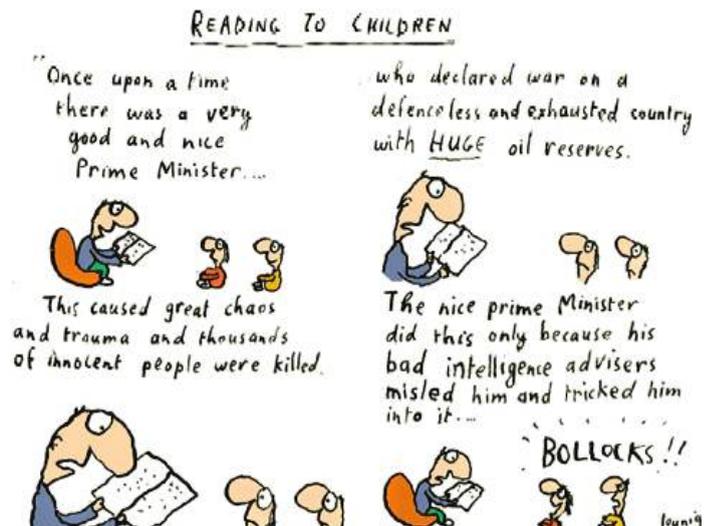
Loring Wirbel's "Star Wars - US Tools of Space Supremacy" is a 'must read' for activists who wish to be informed about the nature of modern war and the politicians who promote it. The book points out that Star Wars is a program in progress, not merely a development yet to come. The use of space for both conventional and nuclear earthly wars is still around the corner, but its beginnings can be seen in the blitzkriegs against Afghanistan and Iraq. According to Wirbel, what is yet to come is ominous.

An historical approach is used to set the context for the policies and actions of today's Space Command. As Wirbel points out, space control, space domination and space force denial have been the goals from the beginning.

The vital role of secret information systems in bringing real time intelligence to the war fighter, and thus increasing the killing and destructive power of modern killing devices, is explained in detail.

The bipartisan acceptance of the notion of the US as world dominator is examined by Wirbel.

"In the final analysis, both major U.S parties perceived global management of all nations by the surviving superpower as right and proper, because the US was seen by all in the Washington power elite as the only nation qualified to own the rule books."(p81)



This book challenges us all to probe behind the spin, the press releases and propaganda speeches of our current crop of politicians. We all need to know more about spying, the black budgets, secret memos, weapons research, etc. Only then will we be up to the task outlined in the last chapter - "Reclaiming Multilateralism and Peace in Space", as the author puts it.

"Unfortunately, those committed to reversing the current space dominance paradigm in US politics will have to employ blunt language of a type few supporters of dominance will want to hear. Global empire-building embodied in the Bush doctrine of pre-emptivity, is simply incompatible with the continued existence of a Democratic republic." (p 153)

The book provides valuable insights into the role of the US base at Pine Gap in Australia.

# NT GOVERNMENT OPPOSES NEW US BASE

**The Anti-Bases Coalition recently wrote to the Northern Territory Government raising concerns about the new United States base proposed for Darwin. We have received the following reply from Peter Blake, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Business, Industry & Resource Development of the Northern Territory Government.**

*Dear Mr Doherty,  
I refer to your letter of 27 February 2004, addressed to the Hon Clare Martin MLA, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, which has been passed to me to respond on her behalf.*



*The Chief Minister and Northern Territory Government have clearly stated the establishment of a US military base in the Northern Territory of the type that has existed overseas in our region would not be supported.*

*Facilitating the permanent basing of US troops or equipment in the Territory would be to a large extent a Commonwealth Government responsibility. The Commonwealth has assured the Northern Territory Government that, in the event of such a request being made by the US, the Commonwealth would undertake proper consultation with the Northern Territory Government prior to any decision being taken.*

## **Book Review** from page 4

### *Star Wars - Us Tools Of Space Supremacy by Loring Wirbel*

Wirbel asserts, and quotes Desmond Ball to support him, that some time in the 1970s military planners realised that the space assets involved in eavesdropping could be used in a more aggressive role.

"Ball warned that the shift of intelligence platforms to outer space, their ability to transmit information in real time, and the ability of ground stations to fuse intelligence from signals, imaging, and other sources, created a situation in which intelligence systems of the future would support provocative first-strike actions, not verification activities that formed the basis of arms control."

Wirbel goes on to say that these warnings were ignored and not realised until the arrival of the pre-emptive policies of the second Bush regime. By that time the space assets were in place for pre-emptive strikes, for waging wars in any place on the globe.

Meanwhile the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition (AABCC) was debating arguments about verification and war fighting. Loring Wirbel's book confirms beyond doubt that during the last two decades at least, US bases in Australia had an aggressive, war fighting role.

It is now clear that the AABCC's policy of *Close Pine Gap* was right on target. Slogans like 'Open Pine Gap' or even 'Expose Pine Gap' have to disappear when we understand that the base is used for 'force multiplying' or causing maximum death.

*My thanks to Bill Sulzman of Citizens for Peace in Space, Colorado Springs, USA, who provided much of the material in this review.*

*Copies of the Loring Wirbel's "Star Wars - US Tools of Space Supremacy", Pluto Press 2004 are available for \$38.95 from Footprint Press 02) 9997 3973. If you mention the Anti-Bases Bulletin you will attract a 15% discount!*

## *Howard's appeasement of U.S. militarism* from page 1

The exploitative nature of a tiny minority within just one nation dominating the world, enslaving the vast majority to enrich a minority of imperialist masters, requires armed force to ensure the submission of the oppressed countries and peoples.

Now armed force is no longer just a back up for US economic power. The Bush pattern is of American directives given and forces mobilised to ensure submission to them.

Howard's alliance with the warmongering militarists of America's elites drags Australia not just into the present

conflict in Iraq, but into future conflicts in the Middle East, South Asia and North Asia.

Militarism is a scourge of international relations.

Howard's commitment to militarism is just one part of his synchronised goose-stepping with Bush, US trade policy and the most reactionary, warmongering, elements in the US.

It arouses great opposition, as it should.

***For the sake of peace, Howard and his appeasement policy must go.***

**The US is rapidly expanding its anti-missile systems around the world, including in Australia. The US is spending \$50 billion a year (the cost of providing clean water for everyone on earth) on Star Wars. For Washington, getting its allies aboard makes it easier politically and financially to push ahead with a system that critics have described as too costly and unproven.**

The Howard Government announced in November 2003 that Australia will become involved in the United States' anti-missile program.

Australia's involvement is likely to mean that the RAN's three new Air Warfare Destroyers (AWD) to be acquired under Project SEA4000 would have to be Aegis-equipped destroyers such as the US Navy's Arleigh Burke-class. The basic unit cost for such vessels is about US\$945.9 million (A\$1454.6 million).

Australia is expected to purchase the current generation SM-2 missile or the SM-3, an interceptor missile that can be launched from an Aegis type cruiser or destroyer that is able to hit ballistic missiles outside the atmosphere.

### **What is 'Aegis'?**

Developed by the U.S. Navy, the Aegis Combat System ("aegis" is Greek for "shield") is a surface-to-air integrated weapons platform designed to defend against airborne threats. It was designed as a "total" system, "from detection to kill."

"The heart of the system is an advanced, automatic detect and track, multi-function phased-array radar, the AN/SPY-1," says a Navy description. "This high powered (four megawatt) radar is able to perform search, track and missile guidance functions simultaneously with a track capacity of over 100 targets."

It operates as a computer-based command-and-decision system at its core, making it "capable of simultaneous operation against a multi-mission threat: anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare," the Navy says.

By next year the Navy will have outfitted an Aegis destroyer with a newly-developed Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) missile system. SM-3 is designed to intercept and destroy short- and medium-range ballistic missiles in space, according to the manufacturer, Raytheon.

Dr. Hans Mark, a former Pentagon director of Defense Research and Engineering, states that by utilising the U.S. Navy's 65 Aegis-equipped warships, theatre commanders could bring to bear a total of 6,950 launchers to protect ships and land-based forces from enemy ballistic missiles fired from 1,000 km. If ground-based radars were added to the equation, the capability could be even more pronounced and effective.

### **Radar upgrade**

Australia is upgrading the Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) to supply just such an enhanced capability.

In February, the government announced it had decided to "further upgrade and enhance the JORN over the horizon radar system".

Defence Minister Hill said the upgrade would make the system "a key component of Australia's contribution to the United States' missile defence program".

### **Surrounding China**

Japan's Kongo-class destroyers are also with Aegis.

The U.S. intends to base the Aegis in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia, essentially surrounding the coast of China

In March, the Pentagon said it would sell Taiwan \$1.78 billion in radar equipment to increase the nation's ability to detect ballistic missiles. American officials were holding talks with India before the recent elections.

China said the radar sale to Taiwan sent the "wrong message" and reiterated its opposition to America's selling "advanced weapons" there.

Many Asian nations say the system will destabilise the region and start an arms race.

North Korea said the US Navy's plan to deploy an Aegis destroyer in the Sea of Japan by September this year was preparation for war and part of its "attempt to dominate the Asia-Pacific region."

Indonesia, which does not have ballistic missiles, has said Australia's decision could ignite an arms race.

*Source: AABCC leaflets*

<http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2003/11/24/194502.shtml>



# US AEGIS DESTROYER IN SEA OF JAPAN BY SEPTEMBER

**The U.S. Navy will deploy a destroyer equipped with the Aegis combat system in the Sea of Japan in September as part of efforts to build a missile defense network.**

"This means that in just six months, we will have queuing and target data from this region of the world that can be instantaneously shared with command and control and ground-based elements of our layered defense system," US Navy Secretary Gordon England said.

Tokyo's chief Cabinet Secretary, Yasuo Fukuda, said the plan would strengthen the bilateral military alliance.

The Bush administration is pushing to build a worldwide missile defense network by combining air, land and sea-based systems to intercept ballistic missiles with various ranges in their ascent, intermediate and descent phases.

President Bush in late 2002 ordered the initiative to be speeded up, with October 1 this year as the target date for a limited system to be in place.

By then, a total of ten long-range interceptors are due to be installed and ready at Fort Greely in Alaska and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, designed to intercept and destroy enemy warheads in flight.

Navy Secretary England said the deployment of an Aegis destroyer with long-range missile tracking and surveillance capability in the Sea of Japan will be the first step of the three-phase approach by the Navy.

As the second stage, the U.S. Navy will begin deploying an Aegis cruiser with the newly developed Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) system in 2005.

The Navy plans to complete the third phase in spring 2006, by which time ten destroyers equipped with the SM-3 system will be deployed to carry out operations "against a wide variety of missile threats from virtually anywhere in the world," England said.

The deployment of a Navy destroyer in the Sea of Japan will coincide with the U.S. military's plan to put on alert several ground-based interceptor missiles at Fort Greely in Alaska by September.

A few days after the United States Navy announced that it would deploy a destroyer in September in the Sea of Japan as a first step in forming a system capable of intercepting missiles, Japan's Parliament approved spending \$1 billion this year to start work on a shield that would be in place by 2007.

Japan's role in missile defense is particularly significant because deployment could force it to alter long-held pacifist practices and re-examine its Constitution.

To build the shield, Japan plans to modify its four Aegis destroyers by adding the interceptor, the Standard Missile-3, and by purchasing 16 new versions of the Patriot missiles. To track incoming missiles, Japan would rely on intelligence from United States' satellites, but it also plans to construct a land-based radar network and a command and control system.

The United States and Japan are expected shortly to conduct joint tests of an upgraded version of the missile that would incorporate four components developed together: an infrared seeker, kinetic warhead, rocket motor and nose cone. The first joint test is to take place in late 2005, followed by another in early 2006.

The production of these components and the likelihood that they will eventually be sold to other nations joining the network could force Japan to abandon one of the elements of its postwar pacifism: a ban on arms exports.

Another change might be a redefinition of Japan's concept of collective self-defense. The government argues that intercepting a missile aimed at Japan would be self-defense. But others point out that Japan will be part of a system linking the United States and other nations.

China's defense minister, Cao Gang Chuan, has warned that Japan's adoption of an anti-missile system would disrupt the global strategic balance and set off an arms race.

*Sources: Stars and Stripes Pacific edition, March 26, 2004  
CNSNews.com, March 25, 2004  
New York Times, April 3, 2004*

Next issue: **Global Activists Denounce Aegis**

## POLL: AMERICANS SUPPORT ARMS CONTROL

**Americans continue to fear weapons of mass destruction and believe the Bush administration should work more closely with U.S. allies to stop their spread, according to a US opinion poll released in April.**

International co-operation and arms control agreements are likely to be more effective than U.S. military threats against countries that try to develop nuclear weapons, respondents said.

When asked about Pakistan, 73 per cent of respondents said the United States should give international agencies "more power to conduct intrusive inspections."

Reflecting worries about atomic dangers, 86 per cent of respondents to the poll said the United States should work with other nuclear powers toward eliminating nuclear weapons. A similar percentage said the administration should join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

A majority questioned the effectiveness of a test ban, given that crude nuclear weapons can be built without testing. Yet only 18 per cent supported the idea of periodic explosions to make certain U.S. weapons work.

As the Bush administration studies low-yield nuclear weapons for potential use against underground targets, such as terrorist caves, two-thirds said production of such weapons would set a bad example.

A treaty banning all weapons in space was considered a good idea by 74 per cent of respondents, and only 21 per cent favored building a missile defense system right away. Sixty-eight per cent said more research should be done first.

*Source: article by Peter Slevin in the Washington Post, April 17, 2004*

# NEW MEXICO, WAR MACHINE

By Bob Anderson

*(Anderson, a Vietnam War veteran, is a member of the 'Committee To Stop the War Machine'. A New Mexico group, it is affiliated with the Center for Peace and Justice in Albuquerque) As in Australia, public schools, universities and hospitals suffer cutbacks, while billions are spent on the military.*

The protest sign reads: "New Mexico #1 in Killing Machines." It has an image of an atom bomb cloud, a stealth jet and a space-based laser. It also says: "Last in schools, health care, living wages, democracy, environment, water."

Passing cars honk horns; Wal-Mart clerks without health care say "right on"; low-wage guards at otherwise highly paid weapons research conferences that take place here shout, "Awesome!"

This is New Mexico. But how did we get here, and what are we to do about it?

In his 1961 farewell address, President Eisenhower warned America of the new military-industrial complex, which had the potential to destroy our democracy and world peace. But Ike also pointed out that an informed and active public could save our country.

Thomas Friedman in his book on global capitalism, "The Lexus and the Olive Tree," wrote that the sweatshops of corporate profit -- companies like Coke, Nike, Chevron-Texaco and McDonald's -- could not exist without the war machinery producers, like McDonnell-Douglas, Boeing, Lockheed-Martin and Northrup Grumman. None of them is a stranger to New Mexico; all are dependent on high-tech suppliers like Intel, which has its major plant in Rio Rancho.

In our state, the war industry probably has more absolute power than any other interest group, which explains why we have so many social problems. Our money and resources are turned over to the military-industrial complex by a weak political structure that promises a trickle-down utopia.

Our state, so crucial to the military-industrial complex, has deep poverty side by side with some of the most advanced research and development for the most expensive and deadly weapons ever conceived. Some of the latest research is being done in partnership between entities at Kirtland Air Force Base and the University of New Mexico.

UNM President Louis Caldera defends war research as academic freedom. Caldera is like an emperor with no clothes, as students see tuition fees increased to help cover war research and the debt for UNM's Science and

Technology Park.

Other examples of the economic and moral corrosion from New Mexico's reliance on war for profit include:

- **Boeing stockholders being offered a \$10 million tax gift for laser weapons testing.**
- **Boeing gets to access taxpayer-funded University of New Mexico nuclear research to power its profits from a space-based laser weapon.**
- **Intel has long benefited from non-enforcement of environmental standards and a subsidy to tap our precious aquifer.**

The headquarters of Albuquerque's public schools sits next to a billion-dollar laser weapons research program -- the Manhattan Project of the 21st century. As lasers are mounted on jeeps, fighter and jumbo jets and in space for corporate global wars, our local school system continues to suffer.

Our dependency on the nuclear industry has given us more radioactive waste per capita than any other state.

**We have a depot that houses some 2,000 mass-killing weapons, perhaps the largest number at any one place on the planet. It sits next to next to our schools and hospitals; right next to a city of half-million people.**

Is there a plan for our evacuation if there is ever an accident or an attack on even one of these

weapons? No.

But some New Mexicans are saying we cannot afford more colonial exploitation of our state, that we need our money spent on our needs here. Many are organizing to liberate our state by keeping space for peace and working to let the base-closing commission work. Those of us who are doing this know this will be a better place to live, if we end New Mexico's economic dependency on war and violence.

*Source: The Albuquerque Tribune, February 19, 2004 (abridged)*

*"In our state, the war industry probably has more absolute power than any other interest group, which explains why we have so many social problems."*

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