



MORE NEW BASES

Australia has signed on for three new "training bases" with the US military at the annual Australian-US Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) in Washington in July.

Australia and the US agreed to develop a Joint Combined Training Centre which will include state-of-the-art technology that allows commanders to oversee the exercises in real time, then replay missions in debriefs to personnel.

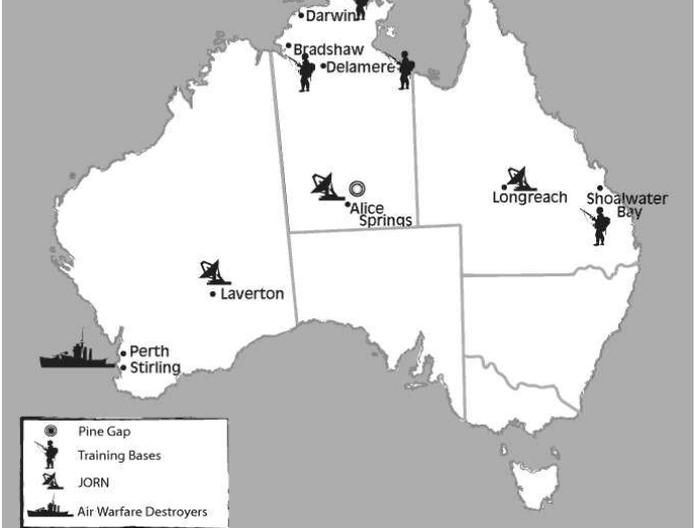
Under the concept, facilities at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland and the Bradshaw Training

Area and Delamere Air Weapons Range in the Northern Territory will be further developed and able to be linked with American facilities.

Shoalwater Bay is north of Rockhampton. Delamere is about 130 kms south-west of Katherine and Bradshaw is near Timber Creek. The three facilities will be linked with certain bases in the United States and will be inter-linked through a node in the Pacific War Fighting Centre in Hawaii.

At a press conference on 7 July, US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said:

Map of US training bases & Star Wars locations in Australia



Enlarged version of map on back page

"As part of the ongoing transformation of our Armed Forces, we are also issuing a joint statement on interoperability and on the cooperative development of a joint combined training capability. By creating a training environment in Australia to test and evaluate our forces in a wide range of scenarios, our countries should be better able to integrate our military capabilities to meet the challenges of the 21st century."

Australian Defence Minister Robert Hill said:

"Joint operations have meant we've learned a lot about interoperability but we've also recognized where we can do better in that regard and we are committed to further enhance our capabilities in terms of joint operations through a range of different interoperability initiatives."

He spoke of Australia

"... enhancing a number of our ranges, in particular the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland, the Delamere Air Range in the Northern Territory and also the new Bradshaw Range in the Northern Territory. And we intend these ranges to be ultimately interlinked and with, as I said, instrumentation and simulation, both of our forces can take opportunities to train together to the highest possible standard."

Asked by a journalist "how many troops you envisage using that, how much money the United States intends putting into these facilities, what sort of training you're proposing, and whether it involves any pre-positioning of American military equipment in Australia", Senator Hill replied:

continued page 2

Editor's Note

With an election soon, AABCC is hoping we've reported on our last winter with Howard. Our Brown Nose Awards were a great success, as reflected in the record number of hits on our website and the great audio material which we hope to circulate. Our space for peace animation project is up and running. Last issue we promised a follow up on international opposition to the Aegis system, however so much has happened since then, that other articles have taken precedence. Many thanks to Hannah Middleton who does a mighty job collecting and writing up much of the material covered each issue. Remember, AABCC meets at 6pm on the third Thursday of every month. Please contact us if you'd like to come or contribute in any way to the job of getting rid of foreign military bases from Australia.

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DEFENCE MINISTER HILL COMES CLEAN ON STAR WARS

In a revealing interview with David Speers on Sky News' Australian Agenda program on 27 June this year, Defence Minister Senator Hill gave some interesting answers on the Howard Government's thinking about Star Wars.

Speers: You say it's not a military base that the US want here but it is going to see possibly thousands of American troops, more than have been in Australia at any one time since the Vietnam War. It is a significant change isn't it?

Senator Hill: Well it's not an American base. It's not a permanent presence but it could lead to greater US training in Australia. We hope that's to their advantage but we certainly think it's to our advantage.

Speers: Well to their advantage. Obviously they're looking for what they're now calling places not bases. A more flexible global structure of their defence infrastructure in the defence force aren't they and this is part of that?

Senator Hill: Yes it is.

Speers: It will take our military alliance to a new level won't it? It'll mean that we're likely to fight side by side in more wars.

Senator Hill: Well we tend to do it anyway. So interoperability is very important to us. This gives us another opportunity to exercise that interoperability so in terms of our overall capability it's important.

Speers: So do you envisage then that Australia and the US with this new level of interoperability that this would bring, would be more likely to continue fighting in operations like Afghanistan and Iraq in the parts of the world a long way from Australia?

Senator Hill: Well, each operation will be a decision that the Australian government makes in Australia's interests. But as we've seen from recent years, we tend to be operating with the United States. We did so in Afghanistan, we're still doing so in Iraq. So to train for that possibility is a sensible thing.

Speers: Realistically, is Australia really at risk of long range missiles hitting Australian cities?

Senator Hill: We don't see a threat at this time. But I can't say what the position will be in 10 or 15 years. We know that there is a proliferation of these missiles. You only need to add the will and you've got a problem. Japan would see a problem now. What we're saying is if there are long lead times, if you want to get into this form of defence, protection against these missiles, let's make that decision and start on the project now.

Speers: But is it really worth spending what would obviously be a lot of money on an unknown and undetermined threat?

Senator Hill: Well we don't think that we're talking about spending a lot of money because most of the projects we are already developing for other capability reasons.

NEW ANTI-BASES GROUP IN BRISBANE

The Brisbane Anti-Bases Group is just starting up! We will be working locally through political lobbying, awareness raising and action, and networking with other Queenslanders to oppose the Shoalwater Bay Joint Training Facility, north of Rockhampton, approximately 50 kilometres from Yeppoon.



We will also be working more generally on promoting peace and opposing the expansion of the US military presence in

Two Brisbane activists went up to the Shoalwater Bay region on a "reconnaissance" mission, scoped out the joint, met with some locals - and did a bit of sightseeing!

Many locals do see the military presence and its expansion as a positive thing, with much of the opposition being only soft opposition - i.e. they would support the facility if they received improved roads, services, etc

However, we are also aware of the environmental significance of the region - and its "value" to the local economy. We're hoping that the tourism industry will join us (or even lead us!) in opposing the Shoalwater Bay facility, with its potentially devastating impact on the environment, social welfare and the community.

Many of us will continue to work on other peace, social justice, nuclear and environmental issues as well.

continued page 3

More New Bases cont. from front page

"... the U.S. will determine what it needs in order to maximize the advantage it can get out of these training facilities."

In keeping with Rumsfeld's "transformation" policy of converting the U.S. military from its heavy, largely static Cold War mode to smaller, lighter, more flexible and more rapidly deployed units, these forward outposts would be lightly garrisoned but capable of accommodating a large surge of American military power.

In an ABC interview with Senator Hill, journalist Graeme Dobell said:

"The plan for the US to create what's called a joint combined training centre in Australia is part of the US attempt across the globe to free up forces and rethink old basing strategies. The mantra of 'places, not bases' means many of the US soldiers now in Europe will be heading for the Middle East or Central Asia."

The Australian Government's decision to make Shoalwater Bay another United States base (see cover story) impacts directly on the people of Yeppoon and Rockhampton. The front line struggle against US bases in Australia now includes Queensland as well as the Northern Territory.

The AABCC sent its national coordinator Denis Doherty to Brisbane and Rockhampton. We have also been in contact with the Trades and Labour Council of Rockhampton.

Prior to Denis's arrival in Rockhampton, a successful demonstration against the proposed new base had been held in Yeppoon. Some media reported 500 participants while others gave the figure as 800 or 1,000.

Speakers included Queensland Democrat Senator John Cherry, Local Government reps and local activists. A key issue was the lack of information about the base being given to the local community.

The coordinator of a local women's refuge told the crowd, "Sexual assaults figures in the Rockhampton area spiked when US troops were in town".

Building on good contacts established in the Rockhampton areas during our struggles against the Tandem Thrust 97 war games, a meeting was arranged by the AABCC in Yeppoon on 8 August. It was attended by social justice activists from the local Catholic Church and the demonstration organiser Peter Murray as well as Denis from the AABCC.

The meeting agreed that there was more feeling against the base in Yeppoon than in Rockhampton where there is some support for it. Local people at the meeting felt they had already made headway when the Defence Minister Hill told the local paper that the US 'is not seeking to base forces here.' Previously Hill had implied that the US would have a semi continuous presence at Shoalwater Bay.

They agreed that the base would impose environmental and social costs on the communities. However, at the moment the main concern is that the text of the agreement is not known. Locals are convinced that the devil is in the fine print, which is not in the public domain.

New Anti-Bases Group in Brisbane

from page 2

Some of the issues/campaigns/events worked on by people involved include: Hiroshima Day and Palm Sunday Peace rallies, local anti-nuclear/anti-food-irradiation campaign, women's issues and peace, Pine Gap, West Papua, DU, independent media, arms race, globalisation, and refugees.

We also have a fledgling Brisbane Peace Fleet which will continue to bravely protest the visit of US warships and nuclear vessels entering our waters. Boaties, kyakers, and supporters are invited to join in!

Join us! For more information or to get involved contact: 0411 118 737

**STOP
THE MILITARISATION
OF SPACE**

The meeting exposed some problems that will have to be dealt with.

Local participants felt the campaign must remain local and not go national. There was some resistance to the presence of 'protesters' from the outside intruding. Protest organiser Peter Murray was adamant that the US had to have a base in Australia, he just wanted it somewhere else. He had collected 1,500 signatures on a petition saying it should not be in Central Queensland but in the Northern Territory

In response it was pointed out that basing US forces anywhere in Australia is not an exclusively local matter. This issue was not resolved although AABCC's opposition to all US bases in Australia is understood.

The meeting was amicable and follow up is needed on where to go from here.

Trade union responses

The AABCC has received responses to its letters about the proposed new "training bases" from the Barrier Council in Broken Hill, the NSW/ACT Independent Teachers Union and the Victorian State Council of the CEPU.

The CEPU has adopted a resolution congratulating the AABCC on its work against the bases and for peace.

SHOALWATER BAY DUGONG SANCTUARY

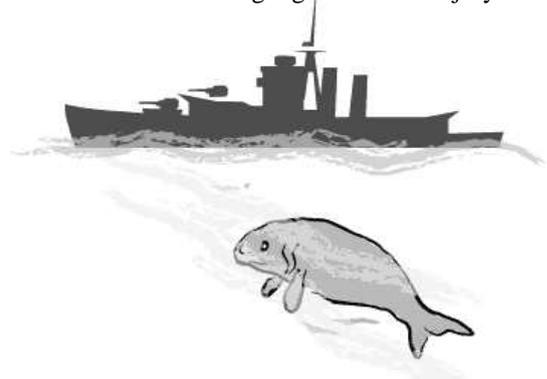
Earlier in the year it was announced that the United States was interested in having a joint training facility at Shoalwater Bay 50km north of Yeppoon on the central Queensland coast.

As well as issues about US imperialism and the spread of the military industrial complex, there are many environmental factors which are reasons to oppose the Shoalwater Bay training facility.

The Shoalwater Bay region is an important environmental area, as it is a part of the Great Barrier Reef. The region is home to the largest Dugong population in the Reef.

Dugongs, which are only found in Australian waters, are classified as vulnerable and the Shoalwater Bay Dugong Sanctuary is considered crucial to the stabilisation and recovery of local dugong numbers.

Training activities involving underwater explosions undertaken by the Department of Defence will have an impact on dugongs. Boat strikes by Defence and other vessels could also cause Dugong deaths and injury.



US MARINE EXERCISES MAY BE MOVED TO AUSTRALIA

A senior official at the US National Security Council has said that US marines stationed in Okinawa may conduct their exercises in Australia in the future to reduce the burden on Japan of hosting such a large concentration of US forces.

Hidenao Nakagawa, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Diet Affairs Committee, told Michael Green, senior director for Asian affairs at the White House's National Security Council, that US marine exercises in Okinawa were a burden on local residents.

Green was quoted by the officials as replying that Washington was currently considering a plan to build large-scale facilities for military exercises in northern Australia. The U.S. official said it might take several years to complete the facilities.

From an article by Toshiyuki Ito, Yomiuri Shimbun correspondent, July 22, 2004

HOWARD GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO STAR WARS

At the Australia-United States ministerial consultations (AUSMIN) in Washington in early July, Defence Minister Senator Hill finally officially committed Australia to joining the US "Star Wars" anti-missile program, despite strong opposition to the project.

Hill said the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) formalised Australia's "long-term commitment" to participating in the program.

For decades successive Labor and Liberal Governments have denied any Australian involvement in successive US Star Wars plans. More recently Prime Minister Howard and his ministers consistently claimed they were only considering getting involved.

Now, however, media releases from Hill and the Department of Defence openly boast about Australia's "long involvement in missile defence through hosting a ballistic missile early warning ground station for 29 years as the Joint Defence Facility Nurrungar and now as the relay ground station at Pine Gap in the Northern Territory".

The Labor Party is critical of the controversial agreement, the Greens reject it out of hand, and the Democrats argue that no agreement should be signed ahead of the election in which the government could lose office.

Labor foreign affairs spokesman Kevin Rudd said the opposition has profound reservations about the program, fearing it might prompt an arms race by countries such as China and India.

He called on the government to produce evidence of its effectiveness. "We still don't know whether missile defence systems actually work," he said.

The ALP's opposition is contradicted by the party leadership's strong support for the US base at Pine Gap which is an essential component of the US Star Wars program.

Hill said the MOU would provide a 25-year framework under which broad areas of cooperation can be agreed, before entering into more specific arrangements once individual projects were agreed to.

One of the first projects will include investigating the potential of Australia's over the horizon radar technology in missile defence, he said.

This again demonstrates the dishonesty of the Howard Government. On July 7, on the eve of signing the MOU in Washington, Senator Hill announced that trials of the possible application of Australia's Jindalee over the horizon radar to missile defence had proved successful in detecting a target.

The trials, led by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation and conducted around Darwin with US officials present, had been conducted in April.

"Although the report on this research is still being finalised, the trials demonstrated the feasibility of applying JORN to missile defence," Senator Hill said.

"The research examined whether Australia's over the horizon radar technology could improve the detection of ballistic missiles during the early boost phase, therefore allowing earlier interception.

"Existing missile detection systems that depend on infra-red detection from spacecraft may not always detect the missile until it breaks cloud cover," the Minister's press release said.

US tests of Star Wars kill vehicles have been rigged to try (unsuccessfully most of the time) to ensure success. Australia is following its master in this too. The media release states: "For convenience the Darwin trials used an aircraft as a target rather than a missile. Given that missiles are a more demanding target than an aircraft in level flight, a further trial of the technology is proposed for later this year using missile launches from a test range in the United States."

STAR WARS CANNOT WORK

According to a report released by the Union of Concerned Scientists on 13 May, the US Star Wars project due to be deployed by 30 September this year is incapable of shooting down any incoming warheads.

The report, entitled "*Technical Realities: An Analysis of the 2004 Deployment of a US National Missile Defense System*", found "no basis for believing the system will have any capability to defend against a real attack."

To read the full report please visit:

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_security/missile_defense/page.cfm?pageID=1403

NEW MISSILES

The Howard Government has made a series of recent decisions which significantly upgrade the missiles used by the ADF, including introducing state of the art systems which are elements of theatre anti-missile systems, part of the Star Wars program.

The Government has embarked on a spending spree for US military hardware over the past 12 months, saying it wants its defence forces to have "inter-operability" with their American counterparts.

Cruise missiles

Australia's F/A-18 Hornet fighter and AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft will be equipped with long range cruise missiles capable of destroying land and sea targets, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced on August 26.

The new missile will have a range - depending on which one is chosen - of between 250 and 400 kilometres

"Combined with the new air-to-air missiles and upgraded precision-guided bombs, Australia's fighter jets will be the region's most lethal capacity for air combat and strike operations.

In response to a question about the likelihood that the Australian decision might trigger an arms race in the Asia-Pacific region, Senator Hill made the unbelievable reply: "No likelihood at all."

The project will cost the Australian taxpayers about \$450 million. The missiles themselves can cost up to about half a million dollars.

Senator Hill said there will be a 12-month detailed evaluation of the three alternative missile systems and that the new weapons will be introduced into service between 2007 and 2009.

The decision follows an August 20 announcement by Senator Hill that the F/A-18 Hornet fighter aircraft are now equipped with the world's most modern missile capability following the introduction into service of the Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile.

"The Howard Government has invested \$488 million to provide the Hornets with leading edge state-of-the art missile technology and capability," Senator Hill said.

"The ASRAAM is a short range heat-seeking missile capable of tracking and intercepting airborne targets. It has a significantly greater range than the Sidewinder missiles which it will replace.

Aegis System for air warfare destroyers

The Howard Government selected the Aegis air warfare system for Australia's new air warfare destroyers, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced on August 11.

Developed by the U.S. Navy as part of the Star Wars program and produced by Raytheon, the Aegis Combat System 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."

"Also currently in-service with the Japanese and Spanish navies and soon to be introduced into the South Korean and Norwegian fleets, the Aegis is capable of detecting and defeating multiple hostile aircraft and missiles at ranges in excess of 150 kilometres," Senator Hill said.

The first of Australia's three new air warfare destroyers will be delivered in 2013. The new ships, including the Aegis combat system, will be constructed at a cost of \$6 billion.

SM-2 missiles for Australian frigates

Australia on 15 July signed a \$550 million contract with US defence contractor Raytheon for upgraded missiles systems capable of firing the SM-2 missiles for four navy frigates.

Senator Hill said the upgrade of HMA Guided Missile Frigates Darwin, Melbourne, Newcastle and Sydney would be completed by early 2009.

The SM-2 missile is a member of the Standard Missile family produced by Raytheon. A more recent version is an element of the Aegis air warfare system to be used for Australia's new air warfare destroyers.

The Defence Minister said the missile upgrade will be "a great asset for potential coalition operations".

Sparrow missiles

The Royal Australian Navy has accepted on 1 June 'Operational Release' of its three ANZAC class frigates as equipped with the Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile system.

Senator Hill said the Navy was now confident in the ability of HMAS Warramunga, Stuart and Parramatta to undertake operational employment equipped with this new state-of-the-art weaponry.

"Australia is the first of the 10 nations involved in developing the evolved sea sparrow missile system to formally reach operational release of the weapon," Senator Hill said.

KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK

**INTERNATIONAL DAYS
OF PROTEST TO STOP
THE MILITARISATION
OF SPACE**

Sept. 25 - Oct. 2, 2004

Events are being planned around the world to mark Keep Space for Peace Week. So far, actions have been organised at the following centres:

USA - *Albuquerque, Asheville, Amherst, Bath Ironworks, Maine, Cape Cod, Chicago, Colorado, Fort Greely, Alaska, Graham, Hartford, Kennedy Space Center, Portland, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, Toledo, Tucson, Valley Forge, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and Washington.*

Japan - *Hiroshima.*

UK - *Fylingdales, Menwith Hill, Molesworth Joint Analysis Centre, and Croughton RAF/USAF base.*

France - *Saintes.*

Sweden - *Stockholm.*

Germany - *Stuttgart.*

**NO STAR WARS!
NO WEAPONS IN SPACE!
FUND HUMAN NEEDS!**

HOWARD SCOOPS THE POOL AT THE BROWN NOSE AWARDS

The inaugural Brown Nose Award Gala was held in Sydney on 4th July. M.C. Tug Dumbly began proceedings with his Declaration Of Dependence and in his best John Howard voice, declared "We are endowed with certain unalienable rights, like life, liberty and the pursuit of U.S. Foreign Policy."



The Prime Minister celebrates winning the Brown Nose of the Year Award.

In accepting the Brown Nose Hall of Shame Award for lifetime achievement in grovelling to a foreign power, John Howard - AKA Bart Rose - sang "George maintains that Saddam had the weapons, you know I suspect

it's a little white lie. No more a fraud than the kids overboard. I'm in love with a paranoid guy." Never a truer word - he seemed to have trouble both lying and staying in tune. Maybe he should sing his way through the election campaign and we might get a few less porkies.

The Brown Nose Of The Year award, for going all the way with the U.S.A. in 2003/2004 also went to Howard, with a monstrous 76% of the vote. In presenting the award, Andrew Wilkie essayed some the reasons for this landslide. "Many Australians would be concerned about where John Howard is taking the Alliance relationship

... Under John Howard, the US doesn't have to make its case to us, to persuade us, it doesn't have to give us a good deal on a free trade agreement, or anything else. Because George Bush knows that Australia will just follow blindly along. When is the last time you can remember John Howard saying anything critical of the Bush administration? In fact I think things have got so bad under John Howard that we

have virtually given up our foreign policy decision making to the Pentagon & State Department. Things are now so bad under John Howard, that we have virtually passed our sovereignty to Washington. And that is completely unacceptable...



Grovelling...Howard shows how it's done. John Howard assumes the position with George Bush.

"There is another way for Australia. For a start, we can realise the importance of dialogue, and seeking to solve our security concerns through diplomacy and negotiation. We can re-engage with our region. We can start to support the U.N. We can close every foreign base on our soil, not controlled by Australians. In essence, we can develop an

independent Foreign Policy."

The final award acknowledged the good guys. The Up Your Nose award for outstanding defiance shown by local activists, unlike the Brown Nose Awards, was closely contested, or maybe that the nominees were more evenly acknowledged. The million Australians who marched in February, 2003 won from Andrew Wilkie, and Will and Dave, the Sydney Opera House "No War" painters. Will and Dave accepted the award on behalf of the million marchers, saying that the February rallies had given them the strength to carry out the Opera House action.

The gala also included wonderful live music from Bertie Blackman, Andy Clockwise, Michele Morgan and Ozibatla, who improvised a rap, dedicated to the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition.

IS MISSILE DEFENSE NEEDED?

This is an edited version of an article entitled "Is missile defense really needed?" published in the San Francisco Chronicle on May 23, 2004

The Bush administration plans to deploy a national missile defense system in California and Alaska that has already cost \$130 billion. This year, the Bush budget calls for spending yet another \$10.2 billion.

But who is the enemy? If it's North Korea, diplomatic reassurance that we will not invade that country will work better than a still unproven missile system. If it's China, why have we given them "most-favored nation" trade status? If it's Iran, they do not have the nuclear material or the missiles with which to attack the United States. If it's al Qaeda, no missile shield will protect us from a dirty bomb, the dispersion of biological or chemical weapons or suicide bombers who decide to detonate themselves in our shopping malls.

But the real problem with the missile shield is that scientists say there is virtually no proof that we Americans have gotten anything for our billions of dollars. Nevertheless, President Bush is determined to get Star Wars up and running by Sept. 30,

before the presidential election. Why? Probably because he wants to prove that, despite the disarray and scandal in Iraq, he is the leader who can protect our national security.

Scientists, however, have voiced great doubt that any part of Star Wars can work. In a May, 76-page, report titled "Technical Realities," the Union of Concerned Scientists found "no basis for believing the system will have any capability to defend against a real attack."

In addition, 49 retired senior military officers, including a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote an "Open Letter to the President" in March, asking Bush to postpone deployment of an untested and unproven ground-based missile shield.

Think what California's share of these billions could buy. Money that's projected for ballistic missile defense in 2005, for example, could pay for 205,234 housing vouchers or health care for 413,584 uninsured adults or 21,569 elementary school teachers, or 6,079 fire engines, or 163,534 Head Start placements or health care for 949,480 children.

SINISTER MILESTONE THE FIRST WEAPON IN SPACE

The human race has passed a sinister milestone. The United States has broken a long-held taboo and launched the first weapon into the global commons of outer space.

It is a small step, a test satellite called the "Near Field Infrared Experiment" launched by a Minotaur missile from a NASA base in Virginia. NFIRE is part of the Bush Regime's multibillion-dollar "missile defense".

The satellite's primary mission is to gather data on the exhaust fumes of rockets in space, information that will be used to help future space weapons differentiate more clearly between a target and its trailing plume.

But NFIRE is itself weaponised, carrying a projectile-packed "kill vehicle" that can destroy passing missiles or the satellites of US military and commercial rivals.

The Pentagon stated: "The Generation 2 kill vehicle will be integrated into the near-field experiment payload" when the spacecraft launches in summer 2004.

This marks the first time in history that any nation has put a weapon in space, despite America's official policy against such a practice.

And as Pentagon officials made clear in a presentation to Congress in February, the NFIRE test is just the first spark of a conflagration that will soon set the heavens ablaze with American weaponry capable of striking and destroying any spot on earth.

The weaponisation of space is not some distant prospect: That dark future is now.

Taken from "Dark Matter" by Chris Floyd, Moscow Times, April 9, 2004

USABLE NUKES

The United States Senate on June 15 endorsed funding to study new kinds of nuclear bombs, including a 100-kiloton nuclear "bunker-buster" capable of burrowing underground and destroying deeply buried targets making it more likely that nuclear weapons would be used.

A nuclear bunker buster is essentially an atomic bomb encased in a hardened metal shell that can pierce the ground. The time-delayed bomb goes off deep underground.

It is claimed that these weapons can destroy a bunker 300 feet down and that their heat and radiation will sterilise all the biological and chemical weapons.

However, experts say that to reach a bunker 300 feet deep will require a 40 kiloton device. Radiation from such a device cannot be contained - about 90 per cent of it will be spread over a ten mile area.

They also say that the heat and radiation will not destroy biological and chemical weapons.

A bomb produces only a very short burst of intense heat and even very hot short bursts don't kill bacteria. To kill biological weapons requires 15 minutes at 1300 degrees. A nuclear explosion only lasts about 50 milliseconds.

The radiation is only strong enough to destroy chemical weapons right near the centre of the blast. So you'd need almost a direct hit. If the bomb is a little off target and explodes rock before it gets to the bunker, the radiation will be absorbed by the rock and will not neutralise the chemical weapons.

Is missile defense needed? *from page 6*

Beyond spending precious taxpayer dollars, Star Wars has voided the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty and is likely to ignite an arms race with other countries -- perhaps China.

Nor is the missile shield completely defensive. As many critics have noted, the technology needed to make a ballistic-missile system work perfectly also creates the ability to build offensive space-based weapons, which would violate the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

Late in the fall of 2001, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld delivered to Congress a report from a task force he chaired. It was called "Vision 2020" and described how the United States could use space-based weapons to dominate the world. Such military dominance, however, will only intensify fear and resentment of our nation and likely result in even more terrorist attacks.

We don't need more weapons to secure our future. What we need are solutions to the ethnic and religious clashes and political and economic inequities that divide the people on this planet.



Obituary

Ron Gray 9.2.1925 – 13.8.2004

By Bob Briton

Ron Gray will was a quiet but incredibly energetic force behind a long, long list of activities in support of peace and disarmament over many years. He was half of a dynamic activist partnership with Irene Gale and together they had built up a national and international reputation for thoroughness in building a broad-based peace movement. It will be hard to get used to going to rallies and other peace functions in Adelaide and not seeing Ron busily attending to several tasks on behalf of the movement.

Ron came to Australia from the UK and found work on the coalfields later at Adelaide's powerhouse. He was soon president of his union's rank and file committee and, according to fellow Australian Peace Committee member Don Jarrett, "on every committee known to a union member".

When he retired Ron threw himself into voluntary work with the peace movement. A recollection from Irene's daughter Linda, will sound familiar to his friends: "Visits to Ron and Irene's place always carried a fairly high chance of being roped into a project ... But, along with the shared work would come laughter, intelligent conversation, and a wealth of knowledge across a huge range of subjects ... and a glass of good red wine."

Members of the Peace Committee will also recall Ron's good-natured (though firm) reminders whenever their subscription fell due.

Ron was firmly behind the decision to send a delegate from the APC to the Campaign to Ban Land Mines, its participation in the global Abolition 2000 movement, the maintenance of contacts concerned with commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and many activities in support of human rights like those of Refugees Week.

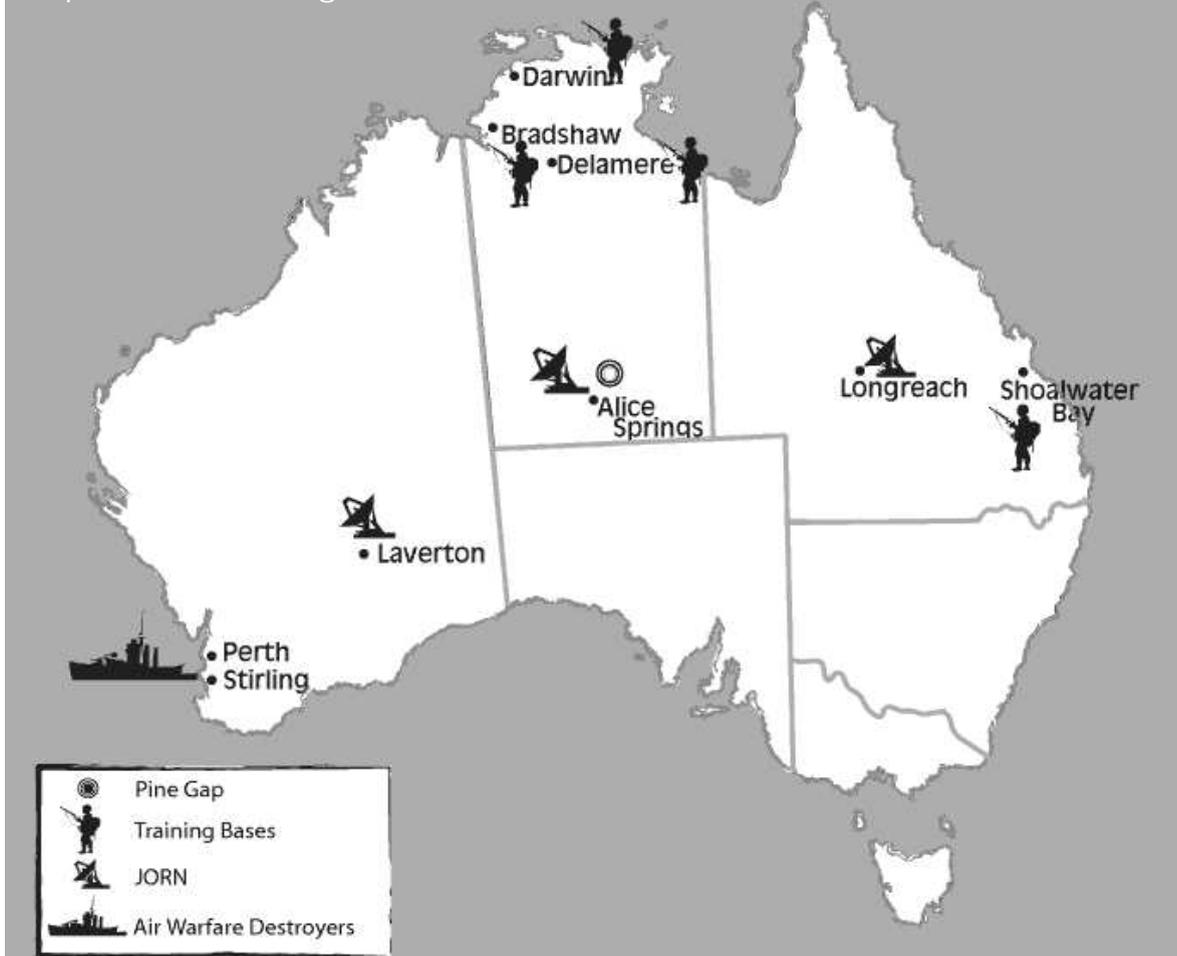
Ron didn't just "support" an activity or movement, he wasn't there "in spirit", he was there in person doing his utmost to ensure its success. He carried out his many duties whether they took him down the road to Adelaide's Victoria Square or Parliament or to a protest among the flies and dust outside the US spy base at Pine Gap.

He did all of this in spite of health problems.

Bertolt Brecht had comrades like Ron in mind when he wrote: "There are those who struggle for a day and they are good. There are others who struggle for a year and they are better. There are those who struggle many years, and they are better still. But, there are those who struggle all their lives: These are the indispensable ones".

Ron was truly among the indispensable ones. The thoughts of AABCC's members are with Ron's family and friends.

Map of US training bases & Star Wars locations in Australia



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