

Ground Zero

March 2003

Volume 8 Issue 1

Martin Luther King Day at Ground Zero 2003:

"Our universe has fundamentally shifted."

By Mary Hanson

From January 20, 2003—when Anne Hall, Lynne Greenwald, Joy Goldstein, Glen Milner and I stood with scores of GZ supporters and temporarily closed the Bangor Trident Submarine base—to today, the last day of February, our universe has fundamentally shifted. We are part of a world-wide movement that is larger and more powerful than our wildest dreams prior to February 15th when the sleeping world stirred. Millions of world citizens in over sixty cities marched in opposition to "preventive"/preemptive war against Iraq. Forty-five thousand marched in Seattle alone and were joined by veterans from a demonstration at the USS Turner Joy in Bremerton.

What was once considered "fringe" is now mainstream world opinion, "the second superpower." But on MLK Day, when we stood in the road at Bangor with our banner quoting King-- "We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters, or perish together as fools," we assumed that few would hear our message. We were wrong.

On January 20, a camera crew quietly recorded the process of the twenty-minute silent circle of prayer and the action at Bangor. They interviewed some of us later at Ground Zero, and on February 18 Fox News devoted over three minutes to the threat Trident poses to the world: each of nine Bangor-based subs is armed with 192 warheads; each sub carries over 1000 times the destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb; Bangor is the #1 terrorist target on the West coast; this destructive power terrifies the rest of the world (most importantly North Korea); and a catastrophic accident at the base or en route to the base would contaminate the entire region. For once, even the Navy consented to an interview, insisting that Trident somehow protects us.

Meanwhile the U.S. continues to refuse to negotiate directly with North Korea, saying they do not want to "reward bad behavior." Nuclear-armed violence, and its illusions, are being exposed as threats to survival and security. We could lose big, and we must pray and demand that Bush and Co. stop acting like

Martin Luther King Day Continued on page 4...

Standing at the Bangor Gate to Honor Dr. King:

"The MLK Day action was my ninth arrest. Each one is different."

By Joy Goldstein

The day before the action I met with Sgt. Cathy Collins of the Kitsap County Sheriff's office to go over what we expected to happen. Sgt. Collins was to be in charge of the group of officers who would arrest us. This preliminary discussion is routine for GZ actions. We understand the goal of the deputies is to see that no one gets hurt. The fewer surprises, the less likely the deputies are to shift into "cop mode." Sgt. Collins also selects "the less hot-headed" officers to do the arrests. "A lot of them understand your point of view," she told me. "What they don't understand is why you have to get arrested."

For this action, the GZ folks thought an unknown number of people from the Port Townsend Peace Movement might show up, and the Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies would be joined by members of the State Patrol, who have little or no experience with non-violent "law breakers."

Because I have a draft age grandson who aspires to be a police officer, and I had recently served on a jury, my conversation with Sgt. Collins covered more than just the plans for the action. She felt her job was "wonderful!" in that it gives her a chance to help so many people.

Only a few Port Townsend folks came, and the State Patrol

people were polite observers.

On the official level, there were no "surprises." But two things were different for me. There were five of us arrested: Glen Milner and four women—Anne Hall, Mary Hanson, Lynne Greenwald, and myself. The women were all put in the same holding cell in Port Orchard—with cement floor and cinderblock walls and the standard one-piece commode/lavatory. We sang—all the civil rights and jail songs we knew. Anne, as a minister, knows a lot of music and harmonies. Mary has a rich tenor. Lynne and I followed along as best we could. The acoustics were fantastic!

So—if you are in a holding cell, my advice is to SING! And if you have a good, concise explanation of "why we have to get arrested," send it to us at info@gzcenter.org.

Joy Goldstein lives on Vashon Island in the middle of Puget Sound. She loves to make things--useful and beautiful--from clay. Her work with Ground Zero has become an integral part of who she is. Joy is currently in charge of Ground Zero's leafleting efforts and was arrested for leafleting the "Bill of Rights" at the gates of Bangor on March 6, 2003! See story page 8.

How we assure a soul-sustaining Earth:

Through the Eyes of our Grandchildren's Grandchildren

By David C. Hall, MD

I write looking out over the blue, gray, green, foam-white Oregon coast, reflecting on the glory of this fragile world we are blessed to inhabit. My prayer is that we treasure Earth by restoring and preserving its beauty and vitality for our grandchildren's grandchildren and beyond.

Here's the big picture as I see it: Over the past 100 years since the Wright brothers proved we could fly, the human community has come to dominate Earth. In that time the human population on Earth has doubled three times to 6.3 billion people. By 2050, we'll reach 9.3 billion with the greatest growth in less-developed countries, where currently some 1.2 billion people, the majority of whom are women and children, are living in extreme poverty.

William Blum, former State Department employee turned underground newspaper editor and author, summarizes the problem:

"The engine of American foreign policy has been fueled not by a devotion to any kind of morality, nor even simple decency, but rather by the necessity to serve other...imperatives:

- 1) making the world open and hospitable for...globalization
- 2) Enhancing the financial statements of defense contractors
- 3) Preventing the rise of any society that might serve as a successful example of an alternative to the capitalist model
- 4) Extending political, economic and military hegemony over as much of the globe as possible."

The current Nuclear Posture Review makes nuclear weapons the centerpiece of U.S. military force, calls for developing

usable nuclear weapons, and asserts the right to use nuclear weapons first if we so choose, even against non-nuclear aggression. The U.S. National Security Strategy calls for 1) preemptive military action against any nation or entity that we decide presents a threat to US security, 2) military capacity to fight multiple wars simultaneously, and 3) a 12-15% increase in annual military spending.

President Eisenhower warned us in 1953: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed...This is...humanity hanging from a cross of iron." (from the Chance for Peace address delivered before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, April 16, 1953.)

We must confront this Cross of Iron if humanity is to survive with dignity and live in harmony.

True world citizens are the only counterforce to this superpower megalomania. Our task as global citizens is to, in the words of Daniel Ellsberg, "muck up" the plans of the DC insiders. We must hold them accountable to international law and human decency in our domestic and foreign policies. We become world citizens by informing ourselves, then working together in broad coalitions, and by showing up in non-violent force on the streets of our nation.

David Hall MD is president of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and a member of the GZ Stewardship Council.

Kangaroo court set for Jackie, Ardeth and Carol

"Would that they lived in a nation that understood the 'things that make for peace.'"

A letter from the Jonah House Community, Baltimore, MD

Judge Robert Blackburn, in the case of the Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares II, has issued a 32 page order denying all the motions submitted on behalf of the nuns. He went on, in his order, to state that none of the issues they raised could be used as a defense in their regard. In addition, he granted the government's in limine motion.

The judge explained in his order that he does not accept the defendants definition of national defense and national defense material.

All our weapons, in his view, are part of our defense (this, despite the fact that Pentagon spokespeople brag about 80% of our weaponry being offensive - we can take that in more ways than one).

The judge allowed that the only thing that would alter his order is some new information that the defense might submit. At the 11th hour, after extensive work on their part, it is hard to imagine new information.

Local lawyers are trying to convince the nuns to make a try at what they term a "Mistake of Law" defense. This would involve stating that it was their mistaken understanding that they

were acting within the law. They are strongly resisting that advice.

In addition, they are strongly resisting the advice of lawyers to seek a continuance given the war mentality they are likely to encounter in a jury.

It was Carol Gilbert who put in the call last night; they have had some trouble reaching us this week as we - like so many/ most of you - have been in the streets and jails resisting this awful war. Carol is calm and reports that they are all at peace and preparing as best they can for their trial.

These women are, in the words of Anabel Dwyer, a national treasure. Would that they lived in a nation that understood the "things that make for peace."

Editor's Note: *The women involved in the Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares II action are Ground Zero's Jackie Hudson, OP; and Jonah House's Carol Gilbert, OP; and Ardeth Platte, OP. Their trial begins March 31, 2003 in Denver, CO. They face possible sentences of 20-30 years for hammering and pouring their blood on a Minuteman III missile silo cover in northeast CO in early Oct. 2002. They have been jailed since then at the fine accommodations of the Clear Creek County Jail in Georgetown, CO. For more information about the trial, please contact Bill Sutzman P.O. Box 915 Colorado Springs, CO 80901 Phone 719-389-0644.*

U.S. Navy uses depleted uranium in coast waters; activists may go to court

Toxic ammo is tested in fish areas

By Larry Johnson

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER FOREIGN DESK EDITOR

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The Navy routinely tests a weapon by firing radioactive, toxic ammunition in prime fishing areas off the coast of Washington, raising concerns from scientists, fishermen and activists.

The Navy insists the use of depleted uranium off the coast poses no threat to the environment. Depleted uranium, known as DU, is a highly dense metal that is the byproduct of the process during which fissionable uranium used to manufacture nuclear bombs and reactor fuel is separated from natural uranium. DU remains radioactive for about 4.5 billion years.

Cmdr. Karen Sellers, a Navy spokeswoman in Seattle, also said there are no hazards to the servicemen and women on board the ships, adding that "all crew members are medically monitored" to ensure their safety.

But a coalition of Northwest environmental and anti-war activists say they are considering seeking an injunction to halt the tests.

"The Navy is willing to put us all at risk, including its own sailors, to improve its war-fighting capabilities," said Glen Milner, of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Actions, one of the groups weighing a suit to stop the Navy tests. Milner received information on the Navy's tests of depleted uranium ammunition off the coast in a memo released in a response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

No major studies apparently have been done on the effects of such weapons in the ocean. Where depleted uranium munitions have been used in combat on land, such as in Iraq during the Gulf War, or in tests on land, such as Vieques island in Puerto Rico, they only give off relatively small amounts of radiation, but produce toxic dust that can enter the food chain.

Seattle environment attorney David Mann asked, "How can the Navy fire depleted uranium rounds and spread radioactive material into prime fishing areas off our coast?"

Sellers, however, said that only 400 to 600 rounds would be fired during a typical test at sea. And even though these tests have been going on since 1977, she said Navy environment experts say that the DU dissolves very slowly in the ocean.

"It would be too diluted to distinguish from natural background uranium in the sea water," she said.

The weapon in question is the Phalanx, also known as a Close In Weapons System. Such a system is on virtually all U. S. Navy combat ships. It includes radar and rapid-fire 20mm guns. The guns are capable of firing up to 3,000 or 4,500 rounds per minute of depleted uranium, a super hard material prized for its armor-piercing ability.

The Defense Department says the military uses the munitions "because of DU's superior lethality against armor and other hard targets."

Although depleted uranium emits radiation, a second, potentially more serious hazard is created when a DU round hits a hard target. As much as 70 percent of the projectile can burn on impact, creating a firestorm of ceramic DU oxide particles. The residue of this firestorm is an extremely fine ceramic uranium dust that can be spread by the wind, inhaled and

absorbed into the human body and absorbed by plants and animals, becoming part of the food chain.

Once in the soil, DU can pollute the environment and create up to a hundredfold increase in uranium levels in ground water, according to the U. N. Environmental Program.

The Defense Department said DU munitions are "war reserve munitions; that is, used for combat and not fired for training purposes," with the exception that DU munitions may be fired at sea for weapon calibration purposes."

Another Navy spokeswoman described those firings at sea as "routine" and says they occur regularly off both East and West coasts.

"If the firing is with DU, it's probably with what we call the Close In Weapons System, and it is routine," said Lt. Brauna Carl, a Navy spokeswoman in Washington D.C. and a former gunnery officer who has worked with DU weapons.

When asked if the tests of DU rounds posed any health hazards, she replied, "God, I hope not. All I know is I haven't started glowing."

But Milner says, "Its just makes sense that if DU can contaminate land and get into the food chain, then it would do the same thing in the sea."

Robert Alverson, president of the Fishing Vessel Owners Association in Seattle, said he was "very troubled" to hear that the Navy was using depleted uranium off the coast of Washington. "I don't like what I'm hearing," he said.

The Navy memo obtained by Milner described a June 2001 operation by the USS Fife, and Everett-based destroyer. The memo said the Fife would conduct gunnery operations with depleted rounds in what was described as areas W237C and W237F.

These areas are designated Navy Warning Areas and are about 25-100 miles off the coast between Ocean Shores and Ozette, south of Neah Bay, according to Milner.

"These are certainly prime fishing areas," for some salmon, flounder and other bottom fish, Alverson said. "It is folly to be testing anything in the area that might contaminate the natural food supply. How would the Navy feel about eating fish caught there?" he asked. Alverson said even the perception that fish might be contaminated could scare consumers and have dire consequences.

"If any species ever turns up with radiation, it would devastating to the fishing industry."

Leonard Dietz, a research associate with the private, non-profit Uranium Medical Research Centre in Canada and the United States, said that the degree of environmental contamination the DU rounds will cause in sea water depends on what kinds of targets were hit and how much DU was fired.

"Corrosion of the DU by sea water would occur over a long time," said Dietz, who with Asaf Durakovic, director of the center, and research associate Patricia Horan, published a landmark study in inhaled DU that showed Gulf War veterans still head DU in their urine nine years after the war.

"The end result is that the ocean becomes a dumping ground for the spent DU-penetrators and they add to the (natural) uranium content of sea water," he said.

Questions the Navy on Depleted Uranium

Captain Dale Lumme
Director, House Liaison Office
Department of the Navy
B-324 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Captain Lumme:

It has come to my attention that the United States Navy has been conducting gunnery operations using depleted uranium bullets off the coast of Washington State. Specifically, I understand that the USS Fife, a U.S. Navy destroyer stationed at your base in Everett, has been firing depleted uranium rounds in Areas W237C and W237F.

Depleted uranium is a highly toxic material, presenting the same dangers to humans, animals and fish, and the environment as other heavy metals. Its chemical toxicity is, in fact, likely to be even more dangerous than its radiological properties. In the strongest terms, I condemn the use of this hazardous material in American—or any other—waters.

Areas W237C and W237F represent the waters between Neah Bay and Ocean Shores, which are a prime fish habitat and home to a number of endangered species. Depleted uranium has the potential not only to damage the health of vulnerable fauna, but also it has the potential to infect our food chain. Of even greater concern is the level of risk at which you place American citizens and Navy personnel. Exposure to depleted uranium has been associated with health problems ranging from kidney failure to lung cancer. These risks are completely unacceptable.

As an arm of the Department of Defense, you have sent mixed messages to your dedicated service members and to the American citizens about the dangers of depleted uranium. On the one hand, you have required soldiers to have DU safety

training and to wear protective gear when handling DU, you have required post-exposure testing for service members who may have been exposed to DU, and submarines must “stay clear” of DU-contaminated waters. These policies indicate there is cause for concern—as one might expect, given the toxic properties of the material. On the other hand, the Department of Defense has repeatedly denied that DU poses any danger whatsoever. There has been no remorse about leaving tons of DU equipment in the soil in foreign countries, and there appears to be no remorse about leaving it in the waters of our own country.

These mixed messages are made more frustrating by the continued silence on your part to share information about DU. In fact, were it not for the detective work of Washington state organizations such as Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and the Waste Action Project, citizens of Washington state might not be aware of the dangers now sitting in their waters.

On behalf of these citizens, I request detailed information from your office on the following:

1. The amount of depleted uranium that has been deposited and remains in the waters off the coast of Washington state.
2. The dangers to human health posed by depleted uranium, both direct and via contaminated water or food.
3. The dangers to the environment, including fish, posed by DU.
4. The steps that will be taken to remove DU from the water and to decontaminate the affected areas.

I'm sure you understand and share my concerns about the need to protect the environment and the people of Washington. Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Martin Luther King Day Continued from page 1

the U.S. is invulnerable because of its military might. We are vulnerable, everyone knows it, and threats and violence will only make it worse.

Fred Rogers died yesterday. A man who taught generations of children to be kind and use their words lived to see the day when the peaceful children and their parents stood up to the bullying and fear-mongering, stood up for the millions of Iraqi children and the tens of thousands of U.S. young people in uniform whose lives are being put at risk. Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and even Powell need to learn to use their words. Putting them in remedial daycare is in order. Millions of people are trying to teach them that if you grab the butterfly you will kill it—that the U.S. should not and cannot dominate the rest of the world.

By the time you read this, we may well know if the U.S. attacked Iraq, and what the initial consequences were. Few good, some bad and many worse choices face all of us. Any course of action has a downside, and the U.S. monopoly of violent coercion with nuclear weapons must become a fact of the

past. The only way forward, as both Rodney King and Martin Luther King, Jr. said, is to learn to get along. Millions of people understand the message already, and our ranks are growing daily.

Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about the beloved community, and it is growing too. The new SNOW groups and the older peace and justice groups had fifteen days to both plan and advertise February 15, building community as we held meetings and educational events, and handed out tens of thousands of flyers. Recently, the Internet-based February 26 Virtual March on Washington flooded D.C. with phone calls, emails, and faxes. January 20, February 15, and February 26 did not stop Bush's war on Iraq, but it gave us an opening to begin the dialogue, expand the organizing efforts to renounce war, and warn that nuclear weapons and violence will proliferate unless the world chooses the path of nuclear disarmament and non-violence.

Mary Hanson lives in Seattle and has spent almost twenty years educating and organizing against nuclear weapons. She has been arrested at Bangor eight times.

Environmental lawsuit appealed to 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

By Glen Milner

A coalition of environmental and peace organizations have filed an appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the Trident II (D-5) missile upgrade at the Trident submarine base at Bangor, WA.

According to the lawsuit, originally filed in federal court in June 2001, the Navy has never consulted with fish and wildlife agencies nor prepared an environmental impact statement analyzing the full impacts of its proposal to bring the more powerful Trident II D-5 missile to the submarine base at Bangor. This includes, but is not limited to, the impact from an accidental detonation or explosion of the Trident D-5 missile from accidental or intentional mishandling during the transportation, storage, handling, loading or unloading process.

The decision on the lawsuit by federal Judge Franklin Burgess in October 2002 is being appealed. Judge Burgess concluded the possibility of a catastrophic accident was too remote, despite these key points:

- Expert testimony by former Trident missile designer, Robert C. Aldridge, showed the possibility of an accident is much greater than the Navy states.
- A study commissioned by the House Armed Services committee in 1990 stated that Trident missile fuel could detonate in an accident.
- The Navy is spending over \$6 million to move shop buildings out of the larger D-5 missile handling zones.

Also being appealed is an earlier decision by Judge Franklin Burgess in January 2002 to dismiss nuclear weapons from the lawsuit because of the Navy's "neither confirm nor deny" policy for nuclear weapons. The ruling did not allow discussion in court on the potential of a catastrophic accident involving nuclear weapons at the base. Judge Burgess reached his decision despite the fact the Bangor base is 15 miles from Seattle and other populated areas, and is the last active nuclear weapons depot on the West coast. The Trident base is the site of deployment for approximately 1,760 nuclear warheads.

According to David Mann, Seattle environmental attorney representing the coalition, "Citizens of Puget Sound should be alarmed the Navy is allowed to build and rework a major project on the shores of Puget Sound without any public oversight as allowed in the National Environmental Policy Act." Mann added, "The Navy base at Bangor is a hazard to the entire Puget Sound region."

The following points are included in an outline of the suit, District Court Case No. C01-5339FDB, and also, U.S. Court of Appeals Docket No. 02-36096:

- The Navy's 1989 Environmental Assessment did not discuss the probable environmental impacts associated with the handling of the Trident II D-5 missiles during loading or unloading.
- Soon after the 1989 EA, the D-5 upgrade was stopped. The

upgrade was restarted in 2000.

- The explosive propellant on one Trident submarine loaded with D-5 missiles is equal to 3,720,000 pounds of TNT versus 1,788,000 pounds of TNT for the older Trident C-4 missile.
- In 1990, a three-scientist group, the House Committee on Armed Services Panel on Nuclear Weapons Safety, stated there was a greater risk for unintended detonation of the propellant in the D-5 missile and the conventional explosives in the nuclear warheads used on the D-5 missile and the conventional explosives in the nuclear warheads used on the D-5 missile than previously estimated. Few of the problems raised by the committee have been resolved.
- In the mid-1970's Senator Warren Magnuson made agreements with the DOD for the safe rail transport of Trident missile components through Washington State. These agreements are now being ignored. Nuclear warheads now can only be shipped by truck on our public highways.
- The Trident submarine base at Bangor has recently become the only facility on the West Coast with an active nuclear stockpile. The new D-5 missile at Bangor is capable of delivering eight W88 475 kiloton nuclear warheads to targets, compared to the W76 100 kiloton warheads deployed on the C-4 missiles.
- There are 1,760 nuclear warheads deployed at SUBASE Bangor. 1,600 nuclear warheads, for the Trident submarines, are scheduled to begin a service life extension program and upgrade for the D-5 missiles. This will involve the shipment of these warheads in and out of SUBASE Bangor by truck.
- In 2000, the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon and Hood Canal Chum Salmon were identified as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Shoreline areas of the base are part of the designated critical habitat for these species. On February 11, 2000, an accident occurred the Explosive Handling Wharf in which a containment platform with approximately 6,000 pounds of sandblast and toxic paint chip material fell 70 feet into Hood Canal. A Navy report states that no explosives were present at the time. The complete failure of the containment systems shows that Navy operations in the past in extremely critical areas have failed and may fail in the future. Of the 6,000 pounds of toxic material dropped into Hood Canal, only 905 pounds were recovered. The remaining 5,000 pounds of toxic material dispersed into endangered salmon habitat in Hood Canal.

Glen Milner lives in Seattle with his family and can be contacted at gkaajm@juno.com. When he's not submitting FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests, he enjoys playing music with his family. Glen is a member of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council.

A response to the invasion of Iraq:

War with Iraq is murder by another name

By Joy Goldstein

This is NOT a just war. No proof has been provided that Iraq has nuclear weapons mounted on launchers aimed at the U.S. No proof has been offered that Iraq has troops massed on its borders. No proof has been offered that Iraq has developed deliverable "weapons of mass destruction." **No case can be made that a war against Iraq is justified for the self-defense of the United States.** No other nation has called upon the U.S. for assistance against Iraq. No one, no group of nations has appointed the U.S. to bring justice and order to the planet. Even if we are the "good guys," war and violence have never stamped out evil. It has only created more evil.

This war is murder by another name. There is no honor in murder. When, in an unjust war, and errant bomb kills a mother and child, it is not "collateral damage." It is murder. When, in an unjust war, a child dies of dysentery because a bomb damaged a sewage treatment plant, it is not "*destroying enemy infrastructure*," it is murder. When, in an unjust war, a father dies of a heart attack because a bomb disrupted the phone lines so he could not call an ambulance, it is not "*neutralizing command and control facilities*," it is murder. When in an unjust war, a thousand poor farmer conscripts die in a trench defending a town they have lived in their whole lives, it is not victory, it is

murder.

We need to turn attention to building a world of peace. We need to support the UN, to ratify and use the World Court, to sign the Kyoto Protocol on Global Warming and the Landmine treaty, and to reinstate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty. **We need to look at the ways in which "American interests" are making money from war—and hoping to make more by selling weapons system abroad, and by hoping to acquire access to oil beneath the soil of Iraq.** We need to increase inspections, *and to invite inspections of U.S. "weapons of mass destruction."* We need to reduce our dependence on oil. Most of all, we need to begin rebuilding the infrastructure we have destroyed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere: highways, water and sewer systems, cleaning up depleted uranium from US weapons, providing medicines, rebuilding hospitals and schools, developing and making appropriate technology available, including solar and wind power.

Joy Goldstein is a member of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council. She wrote this piece as a leaflet that was handed out on March 21, 2003 in response to the war on Iraq. Please call Joy if you are interested in leafletting (see story pg. 8 on leafletting at Bangor).

War against Iraq:

If this is not a War Crime, then what is?

By Brian Watson

The war President Bush is determined to have will be illegal under both US and International Law, violating the US Constitution, the UN Charter, and, most notably, the laws of war as codified in the Hague Regulations, the Geneva Conventions, and the Nuremberg Principles.

As an illegal war, then, it is every citizen's moral responsibility and legal duty to speak out against it and take action to stop it. The responsibility and duty to not engage in an illegal war extends to all US military personnel, from the lowest-rank enlisted member, to the highest-rank generals and admirals.

The US Army Field Manual, for example, incorporates the Nuremberg Principles, Hague Regulations, and sections of the Geneva Conventions, thereby making such International Laws an integral part of US domestic law.

In Paragraph 498 the manual states: "Any person, whether a member of the armed forces or a civilian, who commits an act that constitutes a crime under international law is responsible for it and liable to punishment. Such offenses in connection with warfare comprise crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, and war crimes."

Article VI of the Nuremberg Principles states that "Crimes Against Peace" include "Planning, preparation, initiation or waging a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances...."

"War Crimes" includes "... murder...wanton destruction of cities, towns or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity."

"Crimes Against Humanity" includes "Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts done against any civilian population...."

The proposed war against Iraq is a

war of aggression, clearly violating the UN Charter. Bush's war plans, which the Pentagon chillingly calls "Shock and Awe," call for a massive cruise missile and aerial bombardment in the first hours of a US attack, raining down on large population centers such as Baghdad and Basra thousands of thousands of tons of explosives. Donald Rumsfeld has repeatedly threatened the use of nuclear weapons against Iraq, as well. Pentagon plans call for the immediate destruction of Iraq's electrical, water, agricultural, sanitation, transportation, and communication infrastructure.

The UN estimates that 500,000 Iraqi civilians will be killed or wounded, and that a US attack will force millions of Iraqis to become refugees, as they attempt to flee the US violence. A US attack will plunge an unknown number of children into disease and death, if not

Illegal War, contd. on page 7...

Mark your calendars!
Mother's Day Action 2003
Sunday, May 11, 2003 at GZ

*If not now, then when?
If not here, then where?
If not you and me, then who?*

Come to Ground Zero on Mother's Day, Sunday May 11, 2003 to resist Trident and celebrate life.

Resistance to Trident is as important now as ever. Speak out for life! Raise your voice against nuclear death! Place yourself at the gates of Bangor to say no to the nuclear threat of Trident.

See page 10 and the enclosed flyer for more info. Make the time to come.

"Our husbands shall not come to us reeking with carnage... Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

*—Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910)
from her Mother's Day Proclamation*

...Illegal war, contd. from page 6

from the direct bombing and its environmental damage, then from the fact that they will have nothing to drink but sewage-contaminated water.

If this is not "murder, wanton destruction of cities, towns, and villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity," then what is? If this is not "inhumane acts committed against any civilian population," then what is?

There are thousands of military personnel asking these same questions. These men and women have given their trust to the US government, and do not want to participate in war crimes. All military personnel need to know that they have the right and duty, under US military law and International Law, to only obey lawful orders, and to refuse to obey orders which engage in illegal military activity.

"Nuclear arms protect privilege and exploitation.

Giving them up would mean our having to give up economic power over other peoples. Peace and justice go together. On the path we now follow, our economic policies toward other countries require nuclear weapons. Giving up the weapons would mean giving up the reason for such terror—our privileged place in the world."

—Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen

Alternative News Sources:

www.democracynow.org

Daily, 2-hour broadcast nationwide on Pacifica radio affiliates, satellite TV, and streaming on the web. Excellent!

www.fsrn.org

Daily, 30-minute radio broadcast nationwide on Pacifica radio affiliates from Free Speech Radio News.



The editors of this issue of the Ground Zero newsletter were: Lisa Johnson, Elizabeth Roberts, and Brian Watson. We welcome your news, photos, graphics, and story ideas. Want to contribute? Contact info@gzcenter.org

More than a TV show

"Avoiding Armageddon"

**April 14-17, 2003, 9-11pm
On local PBS Channels**

Hosted by Walter Cronkite, "Avoiding Armageddon" tells compelling stories from Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kashmir, and throughout the Middle East.

Episode 1: "Silent Killers: Poisons and Plagues"

Episode 2: "Nuclear Nightmares: Losing Control"

Episode 3: "The New Face of Terror: Upping the Ante"

Episode 4: "Confronting Terrorism: Turning the Tide"

Physicians for Social Responsibility is encouraging people to host viewing parties and discussion circles to create community building and awareness. For more info:

E-mail Dane Spencer at Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility fontleroy@bainbridge.net
www.pbs.org/avoidingarmageddon

"Many men...have asked God for what they thought was 'peace' and wondered why their prayer was not answered. They could not understand that it actually was answered. God left them with what they desired, for their idea of peace was only another form of war...."

"So instead of loving what you think is peace, love other men and love God above all. And instead of hating the people you think are warmongers, hate the appetites and the disorder in your own soul, which are the causes of war. If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed—but hate these things in yourself, not in another."

—Thomas Merton

Trident: "Protecting" our freedoms once again

Navy bans leafleting at Bangor; two GZ members arrested

By Glen Milner and Brian Watson

For over 25 years, Ground Zero leafleters have greeted workers heading to work at the Bangor Trident Submarine Base.

They've stood 30 feet outside of the guard-houses in the medians and between lanes of traffic leading to the base, with bright orange vests, hands extended, offering leaflets, on a regular basis as long as anyone can remember.

But on March 3, 2003, the Navy told Ground Zero that leafleting at Bangor

would no longer be allowed.

Early in the morning on March 6, 2003, several Ground Zero members went to Bangor to protest the leafleting ban. Two Ground Zero members, Joy Goldstein and Brenda McMillan, were quickly arrested when they walked to their usual leafleting positions to hand out copies of the Bill of Rights.

Other Ground Zero members stood outside base property holding signs (a la Burma Shave), which read: "Leafleting banned by US Navy. Whose rights are you 'protecting'?"

Mary Gleysteen, longtime member of Ground Zero asks, "**How many times have we been told the U.S. military is there to defend our rights?**" She adds, "We are constantly being told the Navy honors our right to speak against nuclear weapons. Why now, at a time when all views need consideration, does the Navy ban our communication with Navy personnel and civilians at the base?"

Joy Goldstein, a regular participant at the once-a-month leafleting at the Trident nuclear submarine base, said, "Leafleting is the way we exercise our right of free speech." Goldstein adds, "**If everything peace activists do is made illegal (in their work for peace), what recourse do we have?**"

The Navy's ban prohibits leafleting on base property, even if that property is open and accessible to the public.

The location where leafleters have stood for over two decades is on base property, but is outside of secure areas, where cars slow down to go through a guarded checkpoint. Leafleters are able to leaflet safely and effectively at this location because traffic is slow and there are safe places to stand, with street lights.

Options for "legal" leafleting are slim at Bangor. It is possible to attempt to leaflet incoming workers outside of base property, but it is extremely dangerous to leaflet any other lane of traffic than the one bordering the median, effectively making leafleting impossible.

Ground Zero is exploring what to do next, hoping this is not the end of being able to communicate with Bangor workers.

One wonders if Ground Zero will have to resort to the technique of leafleting from the air, dumping hundreds of leaflets from an airplane, the way the US military does in wartime. As the airspace above and around Bangor is off-limits too, it appears that, for now, anyway, Bangor is a zone where free speech is no longer allowed.

Both articles on this page are expansions on a press releases Glen Milner wrote after each event. Brian Watson is the Expander of Press Releases at Ground Zero.

War against Iraq begins...again

Ground Zero actions to stop the war...before and during

By Brian Watson and Glen Milner

As the US bombed Iraq on Friday, March 21, 2003, 16 Ground Zero members gathered at the gates of the Bangor Trident Submarine Base to mourn, protest, and bear witness.

Holding signs which said "Support our troops. Bring them home," those gathered noted an overwhelmingly positive response from those entering the base.

Joy Goldstein, of Ground Zero stated, "Our efforts are **not to attack or challenge members of the military in a time of war, but instead, to support the many in the military who oppose this war** and our nation's increasingly hostile posture toward the rest of the world."

Glen Milner, of Ground Zero stated, "We will always work to stop the next war. Our biggest fear now is that sailors at the base will be ordered to launch nuclear weapons on Iraq, North Korea or elsewhere." "We know," added Milner. "that **the development and proliferation of nuclear weapons at Subbase Bangor can only lead to their eventual use.**"

Ground Zero's efforts to organize opposition to the invasion of Iraq have been on-going for many months. Often, it hasn't been so much Ground Zero itself that has done the work of organizing

opposition to the war, as much as it has been Ground Zero members doing their own autonomous organizing in their own communities. This is perhaps the most heartening fruition of the many years of work Ground Zero has done for peace: that when called to action, people touched by Ground Zero took matters into their own, gentle, strong hands and went to work to organize vigils, stage peace portraits, set up teaching events, supply people with anti-war agitprop, and spread the know-how of peace activism.

Ground Zero is still organizing against the war in Iraq and still serves as a base—or spiritual home anyway—for many peace activists.

Ground Zero is also continuing to concentrate on the dangers of the Trident nuclear weapons system. On Mother's Day, May 11, 2003, Ground Zero hopes to converge a large gathering at the gates of Bangor to protest the use of Trident in the war against Iraq, or elsewhere, for any reason.

Ground Zero's work is, unfortunately, far from over. The hope is in all the people who have learned nonviolence and practiced peace at Ground Zero, who are now out spreading the seeds of peace and resistance throughout Kitsap County, the Puget Sound region, the US, and the world.

T-Shirts, bumperstickers, postcards, and donations



Hefty T's -Purple with white lettering
 Front: We All Can Live Without Trident
 Back: Nobody needs a nuclear weapon
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL
 \$14 ea., 2 for \$25, or \$10 ea. for 5 or more



We All Can Live Without Trident postcards
 \$0.50 ea. or 10 for \$3.00

NEW!



NEW! 3 x 12" Bumpersticker. White and red on blue.
 Price: 1-10: \$1.00 ea.; 11-100: \$.50 ea.; 101+ \$.25 ea.



Hefty T's -White with black lettering
 Front: Resist Trident-Abolish Nuclear Weapons
 Back: Sow the Seeds of Peace
 Sizes: S, M, L
 \$14 ea., 2 for \$25, or \$10 ea. for 5 or more

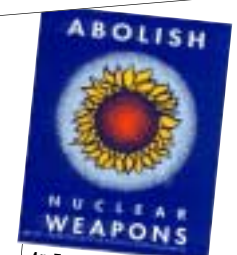


Abolish Nuclear Weapons-Resist Trident postcards
 \$.50 ea. or 10 for \$3.00

NEW!



NEW! Buttons: Red, white, & blue, \$1.00 ea.
 Bumperstickers: 4 x 5", red, white, & blue, \$1.00 ea.



4"x5" vinyl bumper sticker; white lettering on dark blue background with yellow sunflower in the middle. Price: \$.25ea., 10 for \$2, or 50 for \$10.

Your orders and donations to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action are helping build the Trident Resistance Network and a **growing movement** to resist Trident and abolish nuclear weapons. **Each dollar** you send to Ground Zero helps build this movement: by paying for phone calls, postage, printing, networking expenses, organizing, utilities, and more.

Quantity	Size for shirts	Color for shirts (purple or white)	Description	Price Each	TOTAL
Shipping: please add \$3.50 per shirt, \$1.50 per 10 postcards or bumper stickers, or \$2/10 buttons.				SHIPPING =	
We request US funds from all our supporters. <i>This helps save bank charges.</i>				TOTAL =	

Enclosed is my contribution toward the nonviolent work of Ground Zero. \$ _____
 Enclosed is my contribution to the Bangor Environmental Defense Fund (BEDF) \$ _____
 Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Bangor on the first Thursday of these months: _____
 Please send me _____ free Trident Campaign Organizing Packets.
 Please contact me about having a Ground Zero speaker come to speak to my group, church, school or union.
 I have these skills I'd be willing to share in the work of Ground Zero: _____
 I would like to become a member of a committee: leafleting newsletter mailings special events website _____ (specify)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State/Prov: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Mail orders and donations in US funds to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Phone: 360-377-2586 E-mail: info@gzcenter.org Website: www.gzcenter.org

Trident is not healthy for children and other living things...

Mother's Day Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Sunday, May 11, 2003; 9:30 AM—3:30 PM

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action



Everyone has a mother.

We are all children of Mother Earth. Nuclear weapons threaten all life and endanger all the hard work to nurture life. We mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons refuse to be silent. Anyone who cares for life: Come to Ground Zero to take nonviolent direct action to demand the abolition of Trident and all nuclear weapons. Bring your loved ones.

“Our husbands shall not come to us reeking with carnage... Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.”

*—Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910)
from her Mother's Day Proclamation*

- 9:30am: Plan to arrive
- 9:45am: Introductions
- 10:00am: Nonviolence Discussion and Practice
- 12:00 Noon: Brown Bag lunch (GZ will provide beverages, soup and snacks)
- 1:00pm: Gather to walk to gate
- 2:00pm: Action
- post-action: Return to GZ for closure

We encourage you to wait at GZ for the arrestees to return. This is always a great time of fellowship, sharing, and clean-up! Welcoming our friends and family back from their trip to jail is an important part of any action. Hope you'll plan to stay!

Please contact us for more information: info@gzcenter.org or 360-377-2586

See enclosed flyer for directions and map to Ground Zero.

Kids, bring your parents. Parents, bring your kids. Resist Trident...For Love and for Life!

GROUND ZERO

**Ground Zero Center
for Nonviolent Action
16159 Clear Creek Road NW
Poulsbo WA 98370**

Website: www.gzcenter.org
E-mail: info@gzcenter.org
Phone: 360-377-2586

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A United Nations sub-commission has asked for a ban on DU weapons, claiming they're inhumane. The World Health Organization in January 2001 recommended further health-risk studies. In January 2001, NATO declined to ban depleted-uranium weapons as requested by Italy, Germany, Norway And Greece—primarily under pressure from the U.S. See stories on DU ammo testing in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Washington pgs. 3 & 4.

