

Ground Zero

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Ground Zero and me

By Masako Usui

It was a beautiful spring day and I was searching for information about US Navy submarines on the Internet. An odd title popped up and hit my eyes. "Why we are suing the US Navy" by Glen Milner. "Wow, this is something," I muttered at my computer screen as I devoured this article. It was my first encounter with Ground Zero.

I am a Japanese journalist who has lived in Saint Paul, MN, for almost 4 years and am still struggling to adjust myself to American culture and a pro-war and pro-nuke government. Particularly right after the tragedy of 9/11, the government has been acting like Nero the Roman Emperor with the biggest military power, threatening other countries and people.

My friends in Japan often ask me, "Why does the United States want to wage war so much?" Actually, Japanese people's memories of war are miserable: lost family members, burned-down homes, sleepless nights from air-raids, no food to eat, etc. The memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is especially horrific. "Hibakusha," the survivors of the atomic bomb, still suffer a great agony from radiation sickness, cancer, and leukemia even after the war ended.

Since the Second World War, Japanese people have been living for 59 years in a "peace country," which has renounced war and the threat or use of force as a way of settling international disputes. (This is in the Japanese Constitution, Article 9). Therefore, it is hard for Japanese people to imagine such a pro-war country. So, I have had a very hard time answering the question. I try to give them a very short answer: "Even if the American government likes war, PEOPLE have different ideas!" Actually I got good proof of this from Ground Zero.

I should explain one more reason why I was so fascinated by Ground Zero. My husband, a "people's lawyer," and I got involved in the *Ehime Maru* case in 2001. You may remember something about the tragedy of the *Ehime Maru*, which was rammed by the submarine *USS Greeneville* and sunk off Hawaii. Nine people of the 35 on board the *Ehime Maru* died. They were fishery high-school students, teachers, and crew. Masumi Terata, the mother of a student, said, "My son died while he was getting trained how to catch tuna. He was a kind boy and loved peace. Why must he die by such a tool of war?" Her son was a symbol of peace, the *Greeneville* a symbol of war. Since then, I have been trying to get a good answer for her. I know it's hard to do, but I try to heal her wounded heart as much as possible. One of the best ways to do this is to let her know American people ALSO are struggling against the Navy, a war monster.

This August, I grabbed the best chance to visit Ground Zero on the Hiroshima/Nagasaki day protest. It was my first trip to Seattle. With a blue ocean and mountains, Seattle is a dreamy place for a Minnesotan, although most tourists never know about the existence of the Trident missile and the Bangor Naval base that is surrounded by forests.

My first impression about the area where the Bangor Naval Submarine Base is



Hiroshima, Nagasaki NEVER AGAIN! Veterans for Peace member Forrest Frownfelter stands with 12 other Ground Zero activists, blocking the main entrance to the Bangor Trident Submarine Base, August 8, 2004. *Photo by Brian E. Watson.*

13 people arrested for blocking road to Bangor Trident base

Arrests come as Bangor readies to become home to 69% of US's submarine launched nuclear warheads

By Glen Milner

Fifty people were present for the demonstration against Trident nuclear weapons at the Bangor base. 13 demonstrators blocked the highway entrance into the base with a long banner that stated, "We Can All Live Without Trident."

The Trident submarine base at Bangor is located 15 miles west of Seattle. It is the only active nuclear weapons depot on the West Coast and is currently the place of deployment for approximately 1,760 nuclear warheads. Soon, more Trident subs will be arriving at Bangor,

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which will make it home to 69% of all the United States's submarine launched nuclear warheads. [Ed. Note: see story on page 3 for more details.]

The base has been recently rebuilt for the deployment of the larger and more accurate Trident D-5 missile system. Each of the 24 D-5 missiles on a Trident submarine is capable of carrying eight of the larger 475-kiloton W-88 warheads. Four older Trident submarines at Bangor are being refitted for the deployment of Tomahawk cruise missiles. Each of the older submarines will be able to launch 154 cruise missiles within a six minute

period.

Demonstrators walked from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action to the entrance of Submarine Base Bangor and held a silent vigil for peace. Thirteen demonstrators then carried large photos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing victims and the long banner onto the highway.

Those arrested by Kitsap County Sheriff's officers: Joy Goldstein of Vashon; Ann Orleman of Waldron; George Rodkey of Tacoma; Brenda McMillan and Liz Goldstein of Port Townsend; Mike Yanasak of Shoreline; Forrest Frownfelter

of Tulalip; and Rev. Anne Hall, David Hall, Chris Pringer, Mary Hanson, Dorli Rainey and Glen Milner of Seattle.

The 13 arrested by Kitsap County Sheriff's officers were quickly booked and released at the Silverdale station. Demonstrators were told by the officer in charge of the arrests that they would not be prosecuted. Kitsap County prosecutors have been unable to get convictions against nonviolent activists arrested at Bangor the last three times they have tried. Juries and judges have found that people arrested at Bangor protests have the legal right to redress grievances under International and US law with nonviolent direct action.

The Trident submarines at Bangor are most likely to be used first in any nuclear attack: either as an isolated "tactical" assault on a specific site, bunker, or weapons location; or in a larger "strategic" nuclear attack. The Bangor-based submarines can launch their weapons in secrecy and operate near Middle East and Asian targets.

Glen Milner lives in Seattle and serves as Ground Zero's media liaison.

Arrest totals

181 arrested at Bangor since 1997

August 1997:	2
August 1998:	22
August 1999:	4
January 2000:	5
August 2000:	8
January 2001:	20
May 2001:	17
August 2001:	19
January 2002:	7
May 2002:	10
August 2002:	7
January 2003:	5
May 2003:	7
August 2003:	9
January 2004:	12
May 2004:	14
August 2004:	13

7 years.
181 arrests.
17 civil resistance actions.
2 trials.
2 acquittals.

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located was "This is almost Okinawa!" You may know Okinawa Island, which located south of mainland Japan. The Okinawa Island makes me imagine a gem on the Coral Sea. This beautiful Okinawa is, however, in a war zone.

American military bases occupy about 20% of Okinawa's main island. If you go there, you see long, long fences along the bases, and people who live there face great hazards. I guess the people of Kitsap and Bangor live in the same situation. Driving along the long fence of the Navy base, I saw a black goat grazing in a peaceful meadow. I pray for the goat and farmers here.

The people of Ground Zero were thoughtful and unexpectedly calm. They prepared well their protest against Trident. I was so moved by a woman organizer's words: "There are some pro-war people who will try to disturb us. But they are the families of soldiers who are deployed in Iraq or other countries. They have deep concern for their family members in the military. The Navy soldiers also suffer from Trident; they are not the enemy."

The protest in front of the main gate of the Navy base was fully prepared. The Sheriff arrested 13 people but he looked like "I don't want to do it, but I must do it." A woman walking with a cane was also arrested and hand-cuffed. When she returned to Ground Zero, her white hair was a little messed-up but her face shone with her triumphant look. I found the other members had the same look. I felt that I saw the protest spirit of American people.

The Japanese people love Seattle, because of the beautiful city, the ocean, the seafood and Ichiro of the Seattle Mariners. I heard that Ichiro bought a beautiful house in Seattle. However, if he knew that there are many powerful nuclear missiles nearby his house, and that a disastrous accident almost happened in 2003, would he still buy it? His former baseball team, Oryx, is based in Kobe, Japan. The port of Kobe has a unique anti-nuke policy: "If your ship is loaded with any nuclear weapon, you can't enter our port!" This is strongly supported by the people of Kobe and all over Japan. My dream is that Seattle and Kobe will share the same policy.

The American war machine looks invincible now. It enjoys mighty power all over the world. However, it makes the U.S. more and more isolated, increases feelings of hatred against her. Is this the American people's hope? I believe that their answer is NO.

I had one little regret about this trip to Ground Zero. I should have shouted "Thank you!" for everyone who joined the action against Trident on behalf of all Japanese. Your action encourages the people who are oppressed by American militarism, including Okinawan people, Hibakusha, and the victims of the Ehime Maru tragedy. So, please let me say it now. "Thank you, Ground Zero!"

Masako Usui is a Japanese journalist who lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota with her partner, Peter Erlinder, and a dog. She had been a reporter/editor for 27 years in Japan and a peace activist. Contact: masako.usui@att.net

Shift of subs underlines Bangor's importance

With the Pentagon's growing concern about the Western Pacific, Kitsap's base gains two more Tridents

By Chris Barron, Sun Staff
Bremerton Sun, Sept. 16, 2004

In a continuing shift of forces to address worldwide threats, the Navy will transfer two more Trident nuclear missile submarines from the East Coast to the Bangor submarine base next year.

The two sub arrivals come on top of three other Trident sub transfers from the East Coast to Bangor since 2002—a total shift of five subs to Bangor over a three-year period.

The moves are considered a clear sign of the Pentagon's growing concern over threats in the Western Pacific, namely China and North Korea, and possibly the re-emergence of a less democratic and stable Russia.

It also means that Bangor will become the preeminent ballistic missile submarine base in the world and house more than half of the nation's active nuclear warheads. *[Ed. Note: this is incorrect. Bangor will be home to 1,988 nuclear warheads (1,728 for use on D-5 missiles, and approximately 160 for use on Tomahawk submarine launched cruise missiles). This represents about 28% of the entire operational US nuclear arsenal, or 69% of the entire operational US submarine launched nuclear arsenal. Source: Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, May/June 2004, pp. 68-70.]*

Each Trident sub brings with it two crews with a combined size of 336 sailors and a payroll of \$20 million. The five subs together will bring about 1,680 sailors and \$100 million in annual payroll.

Each sub also comes equipped with formidable firepower, carrying up to 24 missiles with multiple nuclear warheads.

The Trident subs USS Pennsylvania and USS Kentucky were the first to transfer to Bangor from the Navy's East Coast Trident base at Kings Bay, GA, in 2002.

Early next month, USS Nebraska will arrive at Bangor from Kings Bay, which until recently has homeported the majority of the Trident fleet.

By fall 2005, USS Maine and USS Louisiana will call Bangor home, giving the Kitsap base nine Tridents, at least temporarily.

"The reason they're doing this is they feel the biggest, most serious threats are in the Pacific region," said U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair. "Across the board, you're going to see more of an emphasis on the Pacific region. I think it makes sense."

Once the sub shuffle is complete in two years, Bangor will be the home port for eight Tridents, two SSGNs and the new secret research sub USS Jimmy Carter, set to arrive next year. In late 2005, Bangor will house nine Tridents, compared with just five for Kings Bay. However, a Bangor sub is expected to be transferred to Georgia in 2006, defense sources said.

By 2008, the number of strategic, ballistic missile Trident subs will shrink from 18 to 14, after four subs have completed

conversions from nuclear-missile carriers to cruise-missile launchers, or SSGNs. Those subs will be capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk missiles and 66 special operation forces. *[Ed. Note: see page 4 for more on the SSGN conversion.]*

The former Trident subs USS Ohio and USS Michigan are already undergoing conversions to cruise-missile launchers at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

They will be based at Bangor when the work is complete. USS Florida, formerly based at Bangor, began its SSGN con-



Trident submarine USS Florida in the waters of Hood Canal, WA. The mountains of Olympic National Park (a United Nations World Heritage Site) are in the background. The USS Florida is currently being converted to a cruise missile launch submarine in Norfolk, VA. *Photo courtesy of US Navy.*

version last year in Norfolk, Va., and will be based at Kings Bay. USS Georgia, which recently left Bangor, will begin its conversion next year in Virginia.

It's likely at least one, and possibly two, of the Bangor-based SSGNs will be forward-deployed to Guam in the coming years. That means the sub, with rotating crews, will mostly remain in Guam, but the sub's families will live here.

Similar to the Navy's experiment with several of its smaller ships, two rotating crews will fly back and forth between Guam to man the submarine.

A US territory, Guam is already home to three fast-attack subs and is dredging its main harbor to make room for a Trident.

Editor's Note: for a breakdown on the submarine shuffle, see Page 7

Trident SSGNs, nuclear Tomahawks, and our kids' future

“A culture of violence is brewing – and it is destroying our younger generation.”

By Bob Aldridge

The federal government, in our name, is refueling the four oldest Trident submarines and converting them to carry Tomahawk cruise missiles. Each sub will carry 154 Tomahawks. Two of those newly-converted nuclear-powered guided missile submarines (SSGNs) will be stationed on each coast. Navy planners allow us to believe they will carry Tactical Tomahawks with conventional warheads. But there is much more to the story. Tomahawks carrying the W80, Mod-0 nuclear warheads are still lurking

ships are presumably still nuclear-weapons-free. But submarines are another matter. With this “capability to deploy” nuclear Tomahawks on submarines, it is reasonable to assume that this has been done – especially on many of the *Los Angeles* class submarines which were especially designed for Tomahawks. They have 12 vertical launch tubes mounted outside their pressure hulls and forward of their conning towers. That same logic applies with even more credibility to the newly-configured Trident SSGNs which are designed to be cruise missile launch platforms.

ommended developing low-yield nuclear weapons for battlefield use. The Bush administration is now struggling to get \$27.6 million for fiscal year 2005 to continue studies, a down-payment on \$485 million over the next five years. We can rest assured those weapons will be fitted to Tomahawk missiles which military officials readily proclaim to be the weapon of choice for regional wars. Tomahawks would be relatively inexpensive delivery vehicles for such tactical nukes, and they would not require human beings to fly them to their targets. Carrying this logic one step further, we



The reality of the cruise missile: from L to R: a Tomahawk cruise missile being launched from an attack submarine; missile about to hit target; explosion of missile. Four Trident subs are being armed with Tomahawks, which can be armed with either conventional or nuclear warheads.

Photos from www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/smart/bgm-109.htm

on the sidelines. They were reportedly removed from operational service by a unilateral initiative during the 1990s, but removing them is not the same as destroying them. Those warheads were placed safely in storage for potential future use. Original plans were to manufacture 1,000, and at least 750 were actually built.

Just before the Clinton administration left office, we Americans learned that this unilateral initiative had been unilaterally reversed, at least partially. In his fiscal year 2000 *Annual Report To The President And The Congress*, then Defense Secretary William C. Cohen stated: “Nuclear weapons capability on surface ships has been eliminated, but the capability to deploy Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles armed with a nuclear warhead on submarines has been maintained.” So, as far as we know, surface

The W80, Mod-0 nuclear bombs carried on Tomahawks have an explosive yield of 200 kilotons. That is the equivalent of 200,000 tons (400 million pounds) of TNT. By comparison, the Hiroshima bomb was approximately 14 kilotons. 200 kilotons is a little too big a bang for blowing uncooperative dictators out of their bunkers. It would destroy the entire city that US troops were trying to “liberate.” So the general feeling – at least the impression conveyed to the public – is that these are unsuitable for regional wars and thus we are led to conclude that nuclear Tomahawks won’t be carried on Trident SSGNs. But there is still more to the story.

On 8 January 2002 the Pentagon’s latest Nuclear Posture Review was transmitted to Congress. Information was leaked to the press that the Review rec-

can rest assured that after low-yield nuclear weapons are fitted to Tomahawk missiles, those missiles will be loaded onto Trident SSGNs.

The Nuclear Posture Review outlines three situations in which tactical nuclear warheads could be used: 1) against targets able to withstand conventional warheads; 2) in retaliation for a nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons attack; or 3) in the event of surprising military developments. Examples of a “surprising military development” that have been offered by military officials are a huge Arab invasion of Israel or a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. So it is easy to see that a low-yield nuclear Tomahawk would be a cherished device in the Pentagon’s bag of tricks. In addition, if the low-yield warhead were in a

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penetrating case and equipped with a rocket motor to drive it deep into the ground before exploding, nuclear Tomahawks could be used against extremely hard and even more deeply-buried command bunkers.

That is still not the end of the story. During the 1980s the US and NATO deployed Pershing-2 missiles and Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles (GLCMs) in Europe. The Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was signed in mid-1988 and required that Pershings and GLCMs be removed and destroyed. The loophole in the INF Treaty was that only the missiles had to be destroyed – the warheads could be saved and stored. The plot thickens.

GLCMs belonged to the Tomahawk family. They were identical to their sea-launched counterparts except for land-mobile launchers and selectable-yield warheads. The warheads were designated W84. It was planned that 565 would be built and at least 500 of that number were actually produced. The key point here is that they were made specifically for Tomahawks.

The clincher is that W84s have the “dial-a-yield” feature. An explosive power of from 10 to 50 kilotons can be selected, which is more suitable for battlefield use. Additional tweaking would conceivably reduce the yield further, and that may have already been done. Bush’s desire for battlefield nuclear weapons has already been realized. It is wise to assume that W-84 bombs will be, or have already been, fitted to today’s Tomahawk missiles, and that they will be carried on Trident SSGNs.

Tridents converted to launch Tomahawks – especially low-yield nuclear Tomahawks – will enhance the Navy’s “weapon of choice” for regional wars. That’s fine in the pseudo-patriotic circles where wars are deemed acceptable so long as there are very few American casualties. Especially since 11 September 2001, America has tolerated a permanent state of war. Its morality has been numbed by the expediency of a military solution. It is OK to bully weaker nations if that protects our lifestyle.

Is that what we really want for this country we love? Look around. What is happening? These weapons and the mental attitude that allows them are hav-

Peace activists and democracy keep USS Olympia nuclear submarine away from namesake city

By Brian E. Watson, with help from the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation website

Peace activists and the democratic process scored a victory when the Navy canceled a visit to the port of Olympia, WA by the *USS Olympia* (SSN 117), a Los Angeles-class, nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine. As soon as Olympia activists learned that it was planned to dock at the Port of Olympia from May 30 through June 3, 2004, they sprang into action and started mobilizing.

Ground Zero activist Alice Zillah was one of the first to find out about the planned visit and immediately sent out “thousands” of e-mails to other activists. Soon, the Olympia City Council was deliberating a resolution expressing opposition to the *USS Olympia*’s visit, and voted to hold a public hearing on the matter.

The proposed resolution, which merely cited environmental and security concerns (and did not address the larger issue of glorifying war and militarism), generated an enormous “support-the-troops” backlash in the Olympia area and beyond. Courageous Olympia City Council members reported that they were receiving hostile—even threatening—e-mails and phone calls from across the country as news of the controversy spread.

The public hearing was packed from wall to wall, with a majority of

people expressing outrage that the Olympia City Council would “slap the face” of the crew of the *USS Olympia* by even proposing a resolution in opposition to its visit. A good many peace activists and other community members also spoke up. One man, who, noting that many had testified that night wearing military uniforms, pointed to his own clothing—flannel shirt and jeans—and said that he too was wearing his uniform: that of a civilian. He said that in this country, such a uniform outranks any military uniform, because the military takes orders from civilians, not the other way around.

Eventually, the Olympia City Council dropped the resolution altogether and the Navy cancelled the sub’s visit.

In publicly canceling the visit, the Navy dared not to admit that its nuclear submarine was unwelcome, so it claimed that the City of Olympia could not provide adequate security for it. The irony of this is that the submarine is supposed to provide security, but instead the Navy admitted it to be a drain on Olympia’s security resources! How nice to have a victory to celebrate! Democracy wins!

Throughout the controversy, Zillah drew inspiration from her involvement with Ground Zero. “The example of people who have their lives, but who still make time to promote peace and challenge militarism is really inspiring to me,” she said. “I’m just so impressed by the people [with Ground Zero], so thoughtful and committed.”

ing a subtle and extremely devastating effect. A culture of violence is brewing – and it is destroying our younger generation. True patriotism – that which seeks the well being of not only our own country, but of all countries – has to become a stronger force. The relationship between America’s need for weapons to protect our “national interests,” and the motivation of terrorists, needs to be recognized and proclaimed to all.

People have been and will continue to be bombarded with propaganda advocating bigger and better weapons. They have been intimidated on everything from jobs and the economy to homeland security, from protecting our vital inter-

ests to saving the huge investment in Trident by spending more money. It will take resourcefulness, ingenuity, perseverance, knowledge, and integrity to sway the general public away from false delusions and back to hope for the future. There will be rewards reaped – the greatest of which is reducing and someday eliminating the culture of violence that has infested America’s society and alienated oppressed peoples – and others – all over the globe. A big job? Yes. But a wholesome atmosphere in which our future generations can grow is worth it.

Bob Aldridge’s research papers can be obtained at <http://www.plrc.org>.

You win some...

Anti-nuclear community celebrates long-sought shut-down of ELF submarine warfare “trigger”



Press release from Nukewatch

CLAM LAKE, Wisconsin -- The Navy's Space and Navy Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) announced Sept. 17 that it will permanently shut down and then dismantle its embattled extremely low frequency (ELF) submarine transmitter system, Project ELF. The giant transmitter sends one-way messages to submerged British and US submarines around the world. It was built to allow Trident ballistic missile submarines to get close enough to the USSR to launch a sneak attack or first-strike with nuclear weapons.

The US still deploys 14 Tridents, the deadliest and most expensive weapons system in human history. The \$155 billion Trident fleet carries over 2,880 intercontinental ballistic missile warheads, some of which—the 475-kiloton W88s—are 38 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb.

Calling the twin ELF transmitters (one in Clam Lake, Wisconsin and another in Republic, Michigan) “outdated and no longer needed,” SPAWAR in San Diego said it will cease transmitting ELF's secret codes Sept. 30 and that over the course of three years it will disassemble the two antenna grids.

Anti-nuclear weapons activists celebrated the surprise announcement, recalling the 36-year long campaign against what they dubbed a “nuclear war trigger.” The struggle involved state-wide referendums, federal lawsuits, marches, pole-cutting disarmament actions, and an 18-year-long campaign of line-crossing civil resistance. Over 40 of the nuclear weapons resisters who refused to pay court-ordered fines have been incarcerated in county jails and state and federal prisons.

Altogether, more than nine years of incarceration have been served by the nuclear abolitionists.

Bonnie Urfer, senior staff person and co-director of Nukewatch said, “I feel relief for the people of the area and the local environment, knowing that ELF's million-point-three watts of electricity will no longer be jolted into the ground, shocking the aquatic life and increasing the threat of leukemia and other cancers.”

“We did it,” said John LaForge, also at Nukewatch, which has helped coordinate the Coalition to Stop Project ELF. “This is another victory for nonviolence, because everybody who has confronted this nuclear war system has been made stronger by the experience,” LaForge said. “No attention was ever paid to ELF unless we were out there putting ourselves in legal jeopardy. After so many years of actions, trials, and jail-going, cynics said to us, ‘You've failed.’ But we hadn't lost, because we never gave up.”

The dead-end of constitutional protest methods—including a successful state-wide anti-ELF referendum in Michigan, the repeated introduction in Congress of the “ELF Termination Act,” and a 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals reversal—led to the campaign of civil resistance. Five times since 1984, the antenna poles have been cut down by Plowshares activists who temporarily shut off the system. In 1996, two pole cutters won

a jury acquittal on state sabotage charges after expert testimony showed that the Trident system was unable to act defensively, but is only useful as a first-strike or offensive nuclear war machine. Since 1991, 636 trespass citations have been issued to activists who converged on the site 58 times in 13 years.

In 1984, Federal Judge Barbara Crabb ruled against the Navy in *Wisconsin v. Weinberger*. In her 72-page injunction which halted construction of the ELF system, Crabb said the Navy was in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because they ignored studies showing human health hazards from ELF's electromagnetic radiation. The case was the culmination of years of work by the original Stop Project ELF. But Crabb's injunction was vacated on appeal to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said the supposed Soviet threat was more tangible than the threat of cancer from ELF waves. A blistering dissenting opinion reminded the majority that NEPA has no national security exemption, so the majority opinion itself violated the NEPA. The Appeals Court order allowed ELF to be built without ever answering the health questions raised by the lower court.

Nukewatch said the Navy's closure announcement, while welcome, raises more questions than it answers. The SPAWAR press release said “improved technologies” and “changing requirements of today's Navy” made ELF obsolete. However, “Very-low-frequency (VLF) alternatives to ELF have been around for 30 years and the ‘changing requirements’ refer to the end of the cold war that happened 14 years ago,” Nukewatch's LaForge said.

“I suspect the Navy is afraid of liability over ELF's electromagnetic radiation and its likelihood of causing health problems around the transmitter,” said LaForge, who was jailed for 7-1/2 months in 1995 for refusing two separate ELF fines. “It may be also afraid of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe's investigation into health concerns which began in Hayward, Wisconsin two years ago,” he said.

Urfer, who served 6 months in 1995 for refusing to pay fines, and later spent two years in federal custody for cutting down three ELF poles, added that, “Since the trespass charges went federal in Sept. of 2001, more attention has been paid in Washington to this cold war relic.”

Urfer also announced that, “We (the Coalition to Stop Project ELF) will gather at the site Sept. 30, all day, to confirm the shutdown and to celebrate, and if they don't shut it off we'll cross the line to continue the resistance.”

John Heid, of Anathoth Community Farm near Luck, WI who, along with LaForge, served 60 days in Ashland County jail in 2001, said of the announcement, “Today ELF, tomorrow Trident.”

Nukewatch monitors and nonviolently resists nuclear weapons, nuclear waste, and nuclear power from its home in Luck, WI. Visit www.nukewatch.com.

Trident: Above the Law?

By Glen Milner

The decision from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on our environmental lawsuit against the Trident D-5 missile upgrade at Bangor was released on September 21, 2004. Unfortunately for all, we lost.

The decision was written by Circuit Judge Robert Gould with Judge Margaret McKeown and Judge Melvin Brunetti concurring.

The three judges rejected our case because of the Navy's claim that the Trident D-5 missile upgrade was ordered by President Clinton under Presidential Decision Directive No. 30 (PDD 30), a largely classified 1994 document. The Navy argued that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) does not apply to presidential action, which gave the court and the Navy a way out of the case.

The Judges never looked at the classified Presidential Directive, even though the Navy offered to show it to them. The plaintiffs were not allowed to see it (see note below). Judge Gould concluded they did not need to review the Presidential Directive because "other documents in the record persuade us that it cannot be genuinely disputed that President Clinton used PDD 30 to order the Navy to locate the Trident II missiles at Bangor and to proceed with the Backfit Program." Essentially, we lost our case to a document that we were not allowed to see and that the 9th Circuit chose not to examine.

Judge Gould stated, "When the President as Commander-in-Chief makes a presidential decision to deploy a weapons system at a particular military installation, the military must follow the President's order and has no ability to disregard it. Accordingly there is no agency decision regarding the President's military directive suitable for review under NEPA."

The danger of this argument is obvious: presidential action is not subject to judicial review.

Acknowledging that some actions were within the Navy's discretion,

Judge Gould continued with a brief discussion of other issues. He believed, as did District Judge Burgess, that the chances of a Trident II missile explosion are remote.

Judge Gould concluded in his statement, "We confirm the district court's grant of summary judgement to the Navy on Ground Zero's claims. Because the Navy has only limited discretion in the operation of the Backfit Program, and within that discretion the risk of a Trident II missile explosion is remote, NEPA does not require the Navy to issue an EIS assessing the environmental effects of such an accident at Bangor. Similarly, because of the Navy's limited discretion and the remoteness of a possible accidental missile explosion, the ESA [Endangered Species Act] did not require the Navy to consult with the NMFS [National Marine Fisheries Service] about whether such an accident would jeopardize the continued existence or adversely affect the critical habitat of threatened salmon species inhabiting the Hood Canal."

I have thought a lot in recent months about the outcome of this case. We entered the case knowing our chances of success were remote, but we knew it was the right thing to do. A different panel in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals or a different district court judge could have brought a different ruling. We would do it again.

Still, this is another chapter in a long effort to bring the US military into compliance with national and international law. We did the best we could.

We greatly appreciate David Mann, who took the case knowing the chances of success, and knowing the Navy would present numerous and detailed arguments against our case. He has been faithful throughout, since the filing of our 60 day notice in March 2001. David Mann has done far more work on this case than anyone, most of which was without pay-

ment. David also knows that we will offer our full support should he choose to appeal to the full 9th Circuit. At this time, however, it seems unlikely the case will proceed.

It is ironic that the decision against our case would come one week after the Navy's announcement that two more Trident D-5 submarines would be transferred from King's Bay, GA to Bangor. Bangor will then have nine Trident D-5 submarines compared to five on the east coast. This type of lopsided deployment was never envisioned in 1994 and could not have been in the Presidential Directive. Bangor, incidentally, has one Explosives Handling Wharf compared to the two wharfs at King's Bay. The Navy may be conducting more missile handling operations on one wharf at Bangor than originally designed.

The decision also came after an accident on November 7, 2003 at the Ex-

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Kitsap sub shuffle

After years of stability, Kitsap's ship and submarine bases have witnessed plenty of change since 2002.

The Bangor submarine base will grow by five subs by next year, with three eventually leaving for the East Coast Trident sub base at Kings Bay, GA.

Here's a breakdown of the Trident submarine split by late 2005:

<u>Bangor, WA</u>	<u>Kings Bay, GA</u>
USS Alabama	USS Tennessee
USS Alaska	USS West Virginia
USS Henry M. Jackson	USS Maryland
USS Kentucky	USS Rhode Island
USS Nevada	USS Wyoming
USS Pennsylvania	USS Florida*
USS Nebraska	USS Georgia*
USS Maine	
USS Louisiana	
USS Ohio*	
USS Michigan*	

* Being converted from Trident subs to cruise-missile launchers.

Peace Fleet Arrival in Elliott Bay August 5, 2004

Playing “Calvinball” with the US Coast Guard

by Glen Milner

“Calvinball” is the sport invented by the Calvin and Hobbs comic strip creator, Bill Watterson. General rules are that any rule, once used, may never be followed again in the same way. The Coast Guardsmen we encountered on August 5th seemed well-versed in the game. We in the Peace Fleet, however, were only on the receiving end of this foolishness and the hot heads, fast boats, and big guns of the US Coast Guard.

This year at the Peace Fleet arrival at Seafair, we again attempted to publicize the use of depleted uranium munitions by the US Navy. As it turned out, all five US Navy vessels arriving at Seafair had two Close-In Weapons System guns onboard which fire 20mm depleted uranium rounds. The guns are fired twice a month for calibration and fire approximately 400 to 600 rounds for each test. Revealed in 2002 through the Freedom of Information Act, the Navy fires these radioactive rounds almost anywhere, including into prime fishing waters off the Washington Coast.

As in 2003, Commander Karen Sellers of Navy Region Northwest was contacted several weeks before the Navy Seafair fleet arrival to inform her of our plans and our intention to respect the 500-yard security zone around Navy vessels. Two days before the fleet arrival, Jim Diamond of the US Coast Guard Field Intelligence Support Team, a vanguard intelligence unit of the Department of Homeland Security, called to check on our plans. On the morning of August 5th, Jim Diamond called again and was told the exact number of vessels in the Peace Fleet and their descriptions. Our attempts to cooperate with the US Navy and Coast Guard appear to have later been used against us.

The Peace Fleet this year consisted of 12 peace sailors and three peace vessels: a sailboat from the Port Orchard area with a sign, “*Danger! Navy has weapons of mass destruction;*” a beautiful wooden vessel from Edmonds with two large peace signs and a “Wage Peace” banner; and the maiden voyage

of our own 11-foot inflatable, the *Jackie Hudson*, with an Earth flag. The two larger vessels arrived in Elliott Bay well ahead of the Navy fleet arrival. The inflatable, with Mike McCormick and me onboard, tried to come in just ahead of the Navy fleet. We were immediately approached by the Coast Guard. After explaining our route, we were approached again for stopping to make a telephone call to the other boats.

As the Navy fleet arrived, we were continually told by the Coast Guard to stay 500 yards from the Navy vessels, even though we had not violated the security zone. Later in the day we were told to stay 500 yards from the Coast Guard command boat, the *USCGC Cuttyhunk*. In a lull in activities, Mike and I stopped for lunch. With the motor off and egg-salad sandwiches in our hands, a Coast Guard inflatable pulled up with three armed men on board. One called out, “Ever been boarded by the Coast Guard before?” and our adventure began.

The Coast Guardman immediately asked for identification and the boat registration papers. We were cited for not having an audible signaling device and the proper spaces between the numbers and letters on our boat. We were also informed that the 500-yard security zone now applied to all Coast Guard vessels including the small Coast Guard inflatable that was boarding us. We were then informed we had violated the 500 yard security zone four times that day, although we were not being cited for it. Our voyage was then “terminated” and we were told to return to Golden Gardens, where we had left our truck and trailer.

On the way out of Elliott Bay, we heard the bullhorn of the *Cuttyhunk*

some distance away, with other boats between us. The vessel pulled up with a different Coast Guard inflatable and ordered us to stop. We were told it did not matter what the previous Coast Guardman had told us and that the skipper of this inflatable was now our new boarding officer. We were ordered back into Seattle to Bell Harbor Marina, which had no boat loading facilities, and informed the boat would not be going anywhere else that day. As we arrived in the ma-



A real national security threat: Glen Milner and Mike McCormick in the *Jackie Hudson* (the little boat on the right) being confronted by Coast Guard boats in Elliott Bay. *Photo by Michael Hill.*

rina, the officer began to treat Mike McCormick and me in the same manner, even though I was the skipper of our vessel. We were told again we had violated the security zone four times and it did not matter what we thought about it or whether it was on the printed citation form. I was told I could likely be charged with six years in jail and a \$250,000 fine. After being ordered through a narrow passage in the marina, we were ordered to leave the boat.

While trying to resolve how to pay for overnight boat mooring and get to our truck in Golden Gardens, the Coast Guardsmen returned. Before I could see the man with the automatic rifle coming toward me on the pier, I heard his command, “Stop right there. Don’t move.” Mike was ordered out of our boat. We

Calvinball ... contd. on Page 10

Letter from Jackie Hudson, imprisoned Ground Zero Plowshares activist

Epistle 6, Fall 2004

“ . . . is it possible to befriend our dying and live into it, trusting that we have nothing to fear.”

— Our Greatest Gift by Henri Nowen

I chose this quote to represent my dear friend Jackie as she prepared herself, her family, and friends for her approaching death. She found it possible to befriend her dying and was gifted with a peaceful death surrounded by family, our sisters, and friends. Thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy at the death of my friend of over 50 years.

Shortly after Jackie's death, I received word of the death of the a great peacemaker and resister, Helen Casey. She truly inspired us with her actions, her words and her courtroom statements.

So many of us have been blessed with the presence of Jackie and Helen in our lives.

It was so encouraging to receive the reports of August actions on land and sea around the globe. There is truly a widespread call for peaceful solutions to conflicts and an end to all war. Next up is the week of actions calling for a peaceful use of space. Check this web page for more information:

www.space4peace.org.

October 2nd is Adopt a Silo Day. For more information go to www.rmjc.org. My spirit is with each of you as you act for a non-nuclear future.

We have received the government attorney's response to our appeal. A three-judge panel will hear oral arguments on October 1st in Denver. A decision will come at a future date.

Speaking of dates, my release date is listed as March 6, 2005. No one works in “discharge” on the weekends so I am anticipating a March 4th release. Three years of supervised released will follow: a convenient way for the court to *attempt* to extend control beyond the guidelines for incarceration.

I am trying not to spend too much time thinking about the above right now. The present moment presents its own demands as I struggle to deal with my own inner violence. The opportunity to grow in nonviolence presents itself daily in the person of the most abusive guard I've ever encountered. Not physical; he wouldn't dare. His greeting when he was reassigned to the FPC was, “Daddy's back!” Many opportunities to practice the gospel message of love and forgiveness.

But this is all so minor when we consider Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Haiti, etc, etc. and the overall effect of US empire building and domination of land, air, sea and space. I think often of the quote Frieda Berrigan used as she received the Pax Christi award in New York this last June, quoting from her uncle, Daniel Berrigan:

“We have assumed the name of peacemaker, but we have been, by and large, unwilling to pay any significant price. And because we want peace with half a life and half a heart and will, the war will, of course, continues because the waging of war, by its very nature, is total but the waging of peace, by our own cowardice, is partial . . . We cry peace and we cry peace but there is not peace. There is no peace because the cost of making peace is at least as costly as making war, at least as exigent, at least as disruptive, at least as liable to

bring disgrace, prison and death in its wake.”

— No Bars to Manhood, Daniel Berrigan SJ

In fewer words, if you want to be truly Christian, a follower of Christ, “you had better look good on wood” (a quote I heard from Phil Berrigan). To what degree are we willing to place ourselves in harm's way to achieve peace? What next step are we willing to take as violence surrounds us on so many fronts?

Violence presents itself right outside our fence. The former housing area and airstrip at George's Air Force Base is being used for “urban environment” training: preparing the troops before sending them to Iraq.

KPFK, an independent Pacifica Radio station out of Los Angeles, is my main source of news. They recently ran an 8- week series on prisons. I recommend the web page: www.criticalresistance.org. The seventh in the series debunked the myth surrounding the need for prisons. The prison system is beyond reforming. The soul of our nation demands the abolishment of this primitive enslavement of our citizens.

Recent statistics:

- Incarceration rates: 1950 Russia under Stalin: 1,423 per 100,000 population.
- Incarceration rates: 2004 US under George Bush: 2,298 per 100,000 population.
- Increase in US prison guards: year 2000: 270,000; year 2004: 476,000.

Billions of dollars continue to pour into this evil system as homelessness, insufficient health care and education continue to wreak havoc on the multitudes.

The website mentioned will put you in touch with the National Organization of Critical Resistance. Their goal is the abolition of prisons.

On a lighter note, my exposure to life's offerings have expanded due to incarceration. Michigan jails introduced me to Fruit Loops and now Victorville has added Coco Puffs! Both provide an occasional “sugar snack.”

I take this opportunity again to express my gratitude for so many thoughtful acts on your part. My sister-in-law Evelyn has completed her chemo and begins intensive radiation treatment now. To date she has suffered no severe reactions to the treatment. We are all extremely grateful.

Financial support continues so that Sue Ablao can care for my temporal needs as well as mailing these epistles. If you wish to receive these by e-mail contact Sue at sablao1@yahoo.com or contact Sue at 3495 Dyes Inlet, Bremerton, WA 98312. For donations to the appeal fund contact Bill Sulzman at PO Box 915, Colorado Springs CO 80901.

There is so much to challenge our complacency these days. May we all use energies toward achieving a more loving world.

Always grateful, I promise my prayers and good wishes to each of you. MAY THE NONVIOLENT REVOLUTION COME!

Love, **Jackie**

Write to Jackie!

Jackie Hudson #08808-039
FPC Victorville
PO Box 5100
Adelanto, CA 92301

plosives Handling Wharf at Bangor when a missile handling crew at Bangor hoisted a Trident C-4 missile into a ladder that was left inside the launch tube. A nine-inch hole was made in the nose cone as the ladder came within inches of a live nuclear warhead.

All missile handling operations at the Strategic Weapons Facility were stopped for nine weeks until Bangor could again be recertified for handling nuclear weapons in January 2004. The top three commanders were dismissed.

In addition, the September 16, 2004 Bremerton Sun announced that "Bangor will become the preeminent ballistic missile submarine base in the world and house more than half of the nation's active nuclear warheads." This action will not be subject to environmental review.

I would like to thank my colleagues at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action for their unfailing support in this lawsuit, and the other plaintiffs in the case, and the many individuals who helped with financial assistance, advice and support.

We will never give up.

Plaintiffs in the case include:

- Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, Poulsbo, WA
- Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Seattle, WA
- Peace Action, Seattle, WA
- Waste Action Project, Seattle, WA

- Cascadia Wildlands Project, Eugene, OR
- Mary Gleysteen, Kingston, WA
- Glen Milner, Seattle, WA

The complete decision is on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals website at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf>. Search under opinions by date and go to September 21, 2004.

Note—I submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on September 2, 2002 for Presidential Decision Directive No. 30 when we first learned this document might become an issue. A September 24, 2002 response from the Clinton Presidential Materials Project stated that the document, according to the Presidential Records Act of 1978, was exempt from FOIA review "for a period of five years after the Archivist of the United States takes custody of the records..." I was told if I contacted the agency on or after January 20, 2006, they would then review Presidential Decision Directive No. 30 under FOIA.

Glen Milner was absolutely key in the Ground Zero lawsuit against the Navy. The lawsuit fund could still use your financial help to help defray the considerable cost of the lawsuit. Make checks payable to "Ground Zero" and write "environmental lawsuit" or "BEDF" on the memo line. Thank you for your past support.

Some questions

Poetry by Barbara Wolf

they are born
at first they are nurtured, cherished even
then they are grown up
and are told that they are needed
to keep the foe at bay
the mothers are proud, if sad
but some are bitter
they have questions
does war provide the only
means to be heroes?
do we think that if blood is not spilled
on the ground
the sun will not rise?

and what of all the maimed and crippled
those who survive
legless
crumpled in their wheel chairs
forgotten
to live out their lives
long after the war is over
the next war on its way?
did they lust to be heroes?
were they the children of zealots
eager to see them brave
fighting for their country
making their parents proud?
or were they merely the unlucky
the ones whose numbers came up
the sons and daughters of the poor
to whom promises were made

or is war our disease?
in our blood
chronic
incurable

Barbara Wolf lives in Suquamish, WA

Calvinball... contd. from Page 8

were lined up on the pier with an armed guard and told by the officer, "Keep your hands where I can see them." We were informed that the Coast Guard was trying to figure out what to do with us. It appeared we would soon be under arrest.

Our identification was checked again and we were asked numerous questions about what we were doing. We were informed that if we ever came within 500 yards of a Navy vessel, we would be arrested on the spot. After being held on the pier under armed guard for about a half an hour, we were released again.

We later heard from Mary Gleysteen that the sailboat was boarded by the Coast Guard as they were leaving Elliott Bay. Sailboat passengers were asked to

present identification against their wishes, only to be told later by the same Coast Guard boarding officer that they had not legally needed to present it.

The sailboat had no violations, but while being boarded, they heard on the radio the Coast Guard was trying to decide our fate. Meanwhile, throughout the day, many other recreational vessels seemed to go wherever they wanted. We saw a parasail boat ignore a direct order from the Coast Guard to stop. The skipper of one Coast Guard inflatable had asked permission to terminate the parasail boat voyage, though we saw the boat later in the afternoon, with parasail and passengers out cruising around Navy vessels.

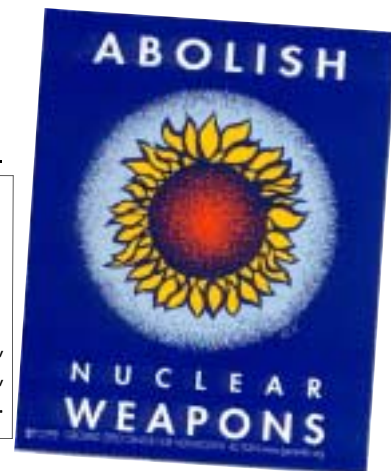
Friday morning, in heavy rain, we returned and took the *Jackie Hudson* out of Elliott Bay.

We later discovered the Coast Guard had no grounds to terminate our voyage and that no security zones exist around Coast Guard vessels. Essentially, all afternoon the Coast Guardmen told us, and did to us, whatever they wanted.

The struggle for free speech in Elliott Bay at Seafair will continue, as will our efforts to publicize the US Navy's reckless use of radioactive munitions. We should not be put in jeopardy by the US Coast Guard and the US Navy as though what we believe in, what we are trying to do—even our very lives—mean nothing to them.

Glen Milner is a mighty sailor man and a skipper, brave and sure. When not polishing his yacht, he writes FOIA requests.

Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with T-SHIRTS and BUMPERSTICKERS



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.

WE FOUND THEM!
Weapons of Mass Destruction...They're closer to home than you think! Map shows dozens of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons sites across the US, with a full list on the back. Sage green shirt.
S, M, L, XL, 3XL

HOT!



\$14 each
or
2 for \$25



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

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	Description	Price Each	TOTAL
Shipping: please add \$3.50 per shirt, \$1.50 per 10 bumper stickers.			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. (Make checks out to Ground Zero and memo it BEDF) \$ _____
- _____ Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, downtown Seattle.
- _____ 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: house & grounds _____ 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: 360-779-4672 E-mail: info@gzcenter.org Website: www.gzcenter.org

Come to the Annual Ground Zero Membership Meeting!

October 30, 2004 at Ground Zero, 12 noon to 5pm

Please come to the annual Ground Zero Community membership meeting for reflection and renewal on **Saturday, October 30, 2004**. It is also a time for new proposals for peace and justice.

Potluck lunch at noon. General membership meeting is 1 pm to 5 pm. **All are invited**. Hang out with friends and walk the beautiful grounds of Ground Zero!

Special guest Rosalie Riegle will be reading from her book, Dorothy Day: Portraits by Those Who Knew Her.

The annual meeting was one of the matters decided at the November 23, 2002 Ground Zero membership meeting regarding the organizational structure of Ground Zero.

It was also decided in November 2002 that decisions of the **Stewardship Council** and committees would be by consensus and in accord with the Mission Statement, which reads, *"Founded in 1977, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action offers the opportunity to explore the meaning and practice of nonviolence from a perspective of deep spiritual reflection, providing a means for witnessing to and resisting all nuclear weapons, especially Trident. We seek to go to the root of violence and injustice in our world and experience the transforming power of love through nonviolent direct action."*

All positions of the Stewardship Council, including Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson and committee positions, will be chosen or renewed at the annual meeting for the next year. Current **committees** include: Direct Action and Events; Leafleting; House and Grounds; Media; Legal; Newsletter; Website; and Fundraising. There are several "at large" positions on the Council, held by Jackie Hudson, Cathy Palzkill and Raven. Jackie will continue in this position, offering us support and advice as she is able, while in prison.

The purpose of the Stewardship Council and committee positions is to divide the responsibilities and work of Ground Zero into **manageable sections**. We all **help** one another in the process. The Council meets **once a month**, alternating monthly between meetings in Seattle and the Ground Zero house. The meetings are **open** to all members.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is part of a larger **peace community** in the Pacific Northwest that extends across geographic boundaries, gender, race and time. We invite all to come and share with us your **ideas** for a peaceful and larger world community and to continue our resistance to the Trident nuclear submarine system.

This newsletter was edited by Brian E. Watson, with Magical Proofreading Rescue Service ably provided by Mack and Lisa Johnson and Glen Milner. Thanks to all the contributors to this issue: Masako Usui, Glen Milner, Bob Aldridge, Jackie Hudson, and Barbara Wolf. Send your newsletter ideas to info@gzcenter.org. THANK YOU!

GROUND ZERO

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August 8, 2004: a giant banner hung from the overpass at the gates of Subase Bangor while Ground Zero members gathered below to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. *Photo by Brian E. Watson*