

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 13

June, 2019

Greetings Dear Friends in Peace,

As summer beckons us to get out and do things, I have not spent much time researching, in the library or internet. So this month we have just a few quick updates on several fronts. Good news, bad news, and downright ugly. Not well organized, I admit, but I hope there will be something here that catches your attention. Thank you for reading.

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The schooner Golden Rule, after sailing from San Diego bound for Hawaii on May 5, has suffered engine trouble just a few days out, and had to return to port. The engine is beyond repair, so they need a new one. A new fundraising campaign is underway, and you can read all about the project and how to help here: <http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org/> The video on the page is well worth viewing. They hope to restart their peace voyage in July, so there is time to apply for a place on the crew. We wish them well on their historic mission to alert the world to the dangers of nuclear war.

The Hanford cleanup site is in the news again, and as some of our members are visiting it and will report back to us on what they see there, this item on Crosscut News will help us make sense of what is happening there now. https://crosscut.com/2019/06/feds-plan-b-hanford-waste-cleanup-draws-state-officials-ire?utm_source=Crosscut%20Daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Crosscut+Daily+-+060619

This one of the clearest descriptions of the overall enterprise I have seen. It starts with the most recent move by the US Department of Energy, to reclassify much of the nuclear waste, labelling it safer than it is, to allow itself to cut corners on the cleanup and reduce the cost. The stated plan is to retry their failed experiment in vitrification, without properly separating out high level wastes, because now they can just pretend it is all low level waste. The next step would be to send those glass lumps to the Yucca Mountain disposal dump in Nevada, which has already closed the site.

US refuses to comply with annual reporting on nuclear weapons arsenal. The Federation of American Scientists keeps track of, and makes public every year the numbers of nuclear weapons and the progress of dismantling retired warheads during the previous year, as required by the treaties agreed to by the US and Russia since 2010. For the first time, this April, the US Department of Energy refused to release any information, and also indicated the decision came from the White House. This puts any further arms control negotiations at risk, and threatens to undermine US credibility worldwide. Here is a [link to the latest numbers](#) as reported by Hans Kristiansen of the Federation of American Scientists and Arms Control Association. It may be a while before we learn again what is really there.

2020 election: where do candidates stand on nuclear weapons?

This question has come up in many recent conversations, and I have not really been able to find good answers. Most of the politicians, especially when running for the biggest prize, will say what they think their audience of the moment wants to hear, and few of them have actually been in the position to demonstrate what they really think. Here is one suggestion. Look at the actions of those few who have participated in government, on a variety of peace issues. This website can provide some hints. <https://livableworld.org/meet-the-candidates/our-legacy-in-congress-who-weve-helped-elect/>

The Council for a Livable World is a political action group associated with the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, keepers of the Doomsday Clock. They have vetted many past candidates at the federal level, and only endorsed the ones with credibility on peace issues, specifically on nuclear weapons. Check it out.

Just now, [WPSR has shared a petition](#) that urges all the presidential candidates to renounce first use of nuclear weapons. So far, this is the first nation wide attempt to introduce this crucial issue into the campaign. Please use this link to read and sign, and then share with everyone you know.

Warheads to Windmills is a [new publication from nuclearban.us](#). At first glance, it seems a little dreamy and too good to be real, but the more I read the more I like it. The proposal would transfer money from our nuclear weapons modernization project to implementation of a Green New Deal. It is well worth reading, and thinking about ways to change the conversations about both of the existential survival issues threatening life on earth: climate change and nuclear war. The link above will open the report, please take a look.

A couple good books to read:

War Is A Racket , by Brigadier General Smedley D Butler, 1935, and
The Untold History of the United States, by Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick, updated 2019.

The latter is a little heavy on pages, but it does lay out how the American Empire was built up, through warmaking, by fruit companies, banks, and big oil. The last chapter, the new material, helps to make sense of the present day. Both books describe the same phenomena, how corporate greed and political hysteria create and then sustain the military institutions our nation has done so well to build, and the colossal destruction that has been, and continues to be spread around the globe, in our names.

Marshall Islands survivors of the US nuclear weapons tests, which lasted 12 years, have been struggling with the medical legacies of being unknowingly turned into guinea pigs. In response to recent conversations with NMB members, here are some facts to ponder.

Marshall Islands nuclear testing, 1946 to 1958

Summary of explosive yields from 67 nuclear detonations, atmospheric, surface, and underwater

Crossroads Series	1946	Bikini Atoll	2 tests	combined yield	46 Kt
Sandstone Series	1948	Enewetak Atoll	3 tests	combined yield	104 Kt
Greenhouse Series	1951	Enewetak	4 tests	combined yield	398.5 Kt
Ivy Series	1952	Enewetak	2 tests	combined yield	10.9 Mt
Castle Series	1954	Bikini	6 tests	combined yield	48.2 Mt
Redwing Series	1956	Bikini & Enewetak	17 tests	combined yield	20.8 Mt
Hardtack Series	1958	Bikini & Enewetak	33 tests	combined yield	28 Mt
Totals	1946 to 1958	Both atolls	67 tests	combined yield	108.4 MT

Now we hear again about the unstable condition of the concrete containment dome that was supposed to have secured the waste products of these tests, making the Marshall Islands once again safely habitable. Of course it never really did. If we consider the Hanford site an extremely hazardous place to live, imagine the toxicity of the nuclear waste left behind on these islands. Thousands of times worse.

Please contact any of us, if you have questions, complaints, or suggestions about our group and the work we do. We are all in this together, and every idea you share will move us all forward. Especially if you have thoughts about potential presentations at meetings, or group participation in other events, we want to know what you want us to do.

Chairs and secretary: Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com.

I am tracy powell tracy@nomorebombs.org, call me or text at 360-840-3826. We really do appreciate your comments, and will always respond.

Peace quote:

"I spent 33 years in the Marines, most of my time being a high-class muscleman for big business, for Wall Street and the bankers. I was a racketeer for Capitalism."

General Smedley Butler, War is a Racket

