

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

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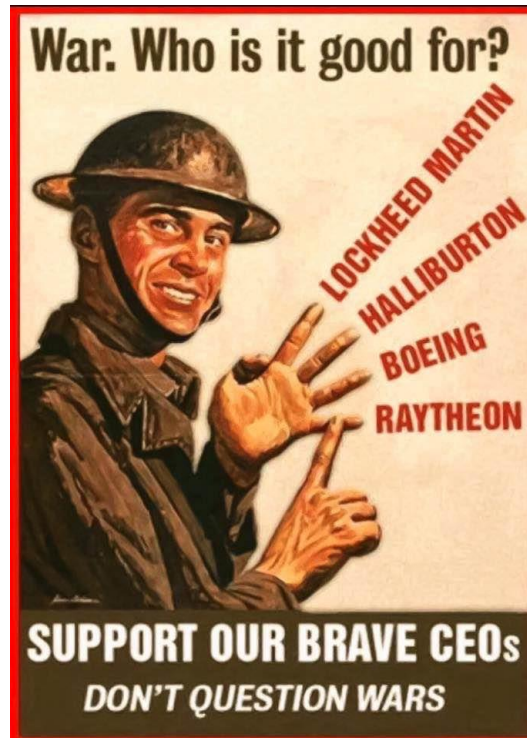
Hello, Dear Friends and Seekers of Peace,

This issue may be somewhat abbreviated; I haven't done as much work on it as I should have, my excuse being Spring. Lots to do. What we will focus on is the upcoming visit some of you will be making to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. We will share some background information on that site and its 75 year history of plutonium production, as well as some other facets of the monumental military-industrial complex that has come to dominate the US economy.

I just finished reading a very powerful book, **PLUTOPIA: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters**, by Kate Brown. It is a detailed and comprehensive chronicle of the twin nuclear weapon fuel production plants Hanford, in eastern Washington, and Maiak, in Russia's southern Urals, and their respective service cities, Richland and Ozersk. Hanford was the primary producer of plutonium for the Manhattan Project, built from the ground up beginning in 1942, even before the research on how to build an atomic bomb was complete, and by mid 1945 had already produced the required amounts of plutonium for the Trinity test and the Nagasaki bomb. It continued to expand throughout the Cold War years, and by 1963 had 9 reactors on line, 5 of which were making weapons grade plutonium, enough for 60,000 weapons by the time its last reactor was shut down in 1987. Only recently has serious attention been paid to try to clean up the disastrous wastes left behind. Likewise, the Maiak plant was the primary source of plutonium for the Soviet nuclear weapons arsenal, and it too has severely polluted its surrounding territory and the residents there. This book compares the two cities, the people who lived and worked there, the social engineering that enabled the work, and the progression of disasters that grew out of both these enterprises. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to know what has gone on behind the shrouds of secrecy enclosing both of these facilities.

We will have a meeting this summer, date to be announced, when Bud Anderson will share his insights after this years Hanford tour, his second. Anybody else who would like to report on their experiences there, and their thoughts about our state's nuclear legacy, are welcome to do the same. Stay tuned.

The biggest obstacle to Peace continues to be the US Military- Industrial Complex that President Eisenhower warned us about in 1960. Every state is home to military bases, weapons producers, or both. These coalitions of political power escalate the weapons budgets and the support facilities subsidized by other federal departments, to provide the jobs and goodwill on the home front that keep them all in office, and in business.



Of course, our local Purveyor of War is Boeing, one of whose chief executives, Patrick Shanahan, is now US Secretary of Defense. How convenient is that?

Here are some figures from a recent report from ICAN and PAX: [Producing Mass Destruction: Private companies and the nuclear weapon industry, available as a pdf on our website.](#)

Boeing is building new nuclear weapons for the US. These include a 2017 contract for \$349.2 million for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, to replace the Minuteman III ICBMs. Boeing is also involved in the Long-Range Standoff weapon development and has been awarded several contracts since 2017 for this new nuclear weapon, valued at \$344.5 million.

Boeing holds several contracts related to the US long-range nuclear Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM). Boeing currently has contracts valued at over \$703.3 million for key components for the Minuteman system. One of these contracts includes the development of 'kill switches' to cause the missile to self-destruct after launch.

Boeing received a new \$26.7 million contract from the US and UK for Trident II work in October 2018. This is in addition to existing outstanding contracts for work related to the system valued at over \$88.9 million.

Boeing is also producing the tail-kit assembly for the new B61 bombs. More than half of all these bombs are currently deployed by the US in five European countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey). The \$185 million in contracts will mean the new B61-12 bombs are ready for use by May 2019. It is yet unclear when the new bombs will be delivered to their European locations, other companies are currently modifying the storage facilities in the host countries.

Boeing is not the only guilty party in this business. Banks and pension funds serving corporate and union retirement enrollees, as well as public service workers funds, and individual investors, invest heavily in Boeing, Aecom, Aerojet Rocketdyne, BAE Systems, Bechtel, BWX, C2HM Hill, Flour, General Dynamics, Honeywell International, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Jacobs Engineering, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Orbital ATK, and their subsidiary companies, all of which produce weapons of mass destruction. In a sense, every such investor is participating in the manufacture and use of guns, missiles, and bombs, here in the US and everywhere these products are sold. The international financial researchers at [Don't Bank on the Bomb](#) provide detailed comprehensive lists of all of them. If you are at all interested in how deep your local institutions are connected to the weapons producers, please check it out. In addition, if you are an investment counselor, or know someone who is, please contact me. This is one of our most important issues, and I am woefully ignorant. I believe we can all benefit by learning about how our money is spent.

As you all know, our little group is a member of the Washington Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons, a statewide group founded by the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. Carly Brook, coordinator of WANW, writes the newsletter for the organization, as well as leading their meetings and maintaining connections among the local chapters' activities. [You can sign up to receive their newsletters and other publications on the WANW website.](#) I strongly encourage you all to do so.

As always, contact us any time: Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, or tracy powell tracy@nomorebombs.org, call me or text at 360-840-3826. We appreciate your questions and suggestions.

If any one of you wants to be more involved in planning, meetings, or writing for this newsletter, please step up and just do it. There is plenty of work to be done, and the more people doing it the more effective we all can be. We are eager to hear from you.

Peace Quote:

"Nuclear deterrence is not a policy that guarantees the absence of war but rather the absence of trust."

-- **H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations in New York, speaking on April 30 at the Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom.

