

Space Alert!



Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

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Newsletter #45

Resistance to building a rocket launch site in Maine

By Lisa Savage

I hustled down early to the Maine Space Conference in Portland on October 24 in time to meet with a TV reporter but alas her story fell by the wayside. I told her satellite technology is what enables Israel to target residential buildings where they know doctors and journalists live.

Similarly, an interview of Bruce Gagnon of the Global Network by a reporter from *Space News* was nowhere to be found either. Or as Jonathan Cook put it, "Israel kills the journalists, Western media kills the truth."

If you search for Maine Space Conference you'll find plenty of adulatory articles about how exciting the space industry is and how each step toward turning our beautiful state into a militarized rocket launch site is to be applauded.

Folks in Kodiak, Alaska who had this experience continue to suffer the consequences. Though their launch site was built with assurances that all uses would be civilian in nature, which turned out to be a huge lie as even the Israeli military has used the launch site in Kodiak.

A recent report from a Kodiak resident highlights the pollution risks of hosting launch sites:

The Alaska DEC is keeping on top of a rocket fuel spill accident at the Pacific Spaceport Complex Alaska that happened the end of July. ABL Space was supposed to launch a rocket back in January and for 6 months all ABL did was 'testing' on the launch pad, no launch and closing off the state road to the public off and on during that time.

The end of July the rocket was setting on the pad for engine testing once again when the engine caught on fire, tipping the rocket over and spilled 1,800 gallons of fuel on the pad and surrounding soil. The soil is now in the process of being dug up, stored and covered until it can be shipped off island to a land fill in Washington State.

There was an Astra Space rocket accident last year and it took 6 months to dig up all the contaminated soil and ship it off island, which took until December. Rocket fuel also seeped into the ground water.

At the event in Maine we heard from Gagnon during the protest:

The Maine Space Conference is promoting the militarization of space. Efforts are being made to test hypersonic missiles at the former Loring Air Force Base. bluShit Aerospace is receiving funding from the US Space Force to launch 'dual use' (military/civilian) mini-satellites into dangerously congested Lower Earth Orbit.

Promises of lots of jobs, little to no environmental impacts, and peaceful exploration of space are the standard claims made at a myriad of potential sites the US military is exploring around the world.

The US and Israel have been blocking a space weapons ban treaty (PAROS) at the United Nations for more than 25 years.

Our nation cannot afford to pay for a new expensive arms race in outer space.

And we heard from Mary Beth Sullivan specifically about current wars that already depend on space-based technology:

Space technology is playing a major role in the Gaza genocide.

The current wars in both Ukraine and Gaza are experimental laboratories for arms developers and showcases for their products.

Space is now an essential technical area being used in war fighting.

BY FAR: the US is biggest spender on space programs, and the US launches more objects into space than any other nation.

SpaceX developed the Starlight Satellite constellations to bring the internet and broadband to the world to connect us all to the internet, right? A commercial product to benefit the masses, right?

Did you know that SpaceX's Starlink satellites are used by Israel in its genocide against Gaza, and its bombing campaign against Lebanon? It's a primary enabler of the use of drones.

Militaries have developed a dependency on space systems to coordinate, command, and control activity at all levels over wide areas.

Israel also has its own space launch



capability, and its own military satellites which are part of what's called the Eros NG constellation. One of the most powerful intelligence collection systems in the world. They have satellites in constant orbit downloading info.

GPS Jamming by Israel being used in Gaza and Lebanon.

Also, the US and the UK use spy plane flights for Israel to aid in surveillance, facilitate propaganda, and much more.

Australia has a spy base in Pine Gap which is downloading info from Gaza. Pine Gap sends the info to the US's National Security Agency, who then sends to Israel. This clearly implicates Australia - and the US -- in Israel's genocide.

Same can be said for a spy base called Menwith Hill in the UK.

Reports show that Artificial Intelligence is enabling decision-making systems in Israel against the people

of Palestine. Programs called Gospel, Lavender, and Where's Daddy are trained to recognize features of people who might be affiliated with Hamas. The program tracks individuals and groups.

Techniques using AI and message interception are joined together.

Many nations in the region are developing their own space technology.

There have been no physical attack on a satellite as yet in this war but, if such an attack happens, new replacement satellites will need to be launched quickly. To that end, the US is operationalizing a "rapid response."

For more information on resistance to the construction of a launch site in Maine visit NoToxicRockets4ME.org.

~ Lisa Savage is a retired school teacher and serves on the GN Board of Directors. She lives in Solon, Maine.



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U.S.—Israel—Nato: Partners in Crime

By Bruce K. Gagnon

The recent successful BRICS + conference held in Kazan, Russia was a ‘real downer’ for the colonizing western leadership. More than a dozen new Global South nations were added as ‘partners’ to the ever growing alternative economic institution which now is far larger than the US-EU led G7.

What is the corporate dominated western world to do? Give in? Hardly likely. Start WW3 and attempt to regain control of the now ‘unruly nations’ of the Global South?

A current example of this ‘unruliness’ happened at the United Nations on October 30. A resolution, titled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba,” passed with 187 votes in favor, two against (Israel and the US), and one abstention (Moldova). Even though it was a non-binding resolution (just one of the problems with the UN) it still proved how isolated the US and Israel are these days.

Why does the US and Israel feel so sure that their nations (and economies) can withstand increasing international outrage?

In Palestine the genocidal US-Israel-Germany cabal continue to support the daily slaughter of

innocent people and at the same time repress movements in opposition to these war crimes in unprecedented ways.

Diplomacy is now a dirty word across much of the west. It’s ‘my way or the highway’ to any nation that dares to speak out against western warmongering whether in the Middle East, Asia-Pacific or their favorite target Russia.

Articles in this edition of *Space Alert* are reporting on these parts of the world where western escalation is on steroids – mostly led by the ‘US-NATO alliance’. We hear from our activist friends around the globe that their national economies are being enticed by Washington to become permanent war economies. Forget about social spending, environmental care and the rest of programs needed for a flourishing and peaceful society.

The hammer is the tool that the US-led west is using in their vain and deadly attempt to ‘take back control’ of the world. Washington, London, Brussels, and Tel Aviv appear to be stuck in war-gear no matter the region or reason. It’s a prescription for disaster.

Even in space the US-NATO plan is to ensure ‘control and domination’ of the heavens thus giving the west the ‘advantage of the heights’ in order to achieve their goal of full spectrum dominance.

Thus we find a current explosion of launches of military satellites into Lower Earth Orbit (LEO) by the western nations in order to fill up the space parking lot before the ‘enemies’ China and Russia can get their satellites up there in comparable numbers. There is no national or international regulation of LEO parking spaces. In spite of more than 30 years of effort by China and Russia there is still no UN treaty to ban all weapons in space – which incidentally the US and Israel have been continually blocking. Why?

We are hearing from Global Network members and supporters around the world about the deluge of new space launch facilities being developed in order to ensure western ability to fill LEO with new satellites and replace then quickly in the event of war taking place in space.

Of course the west is not at all concerned about the ‘Kessler Syndrome’ happening where cascading collisions of space debris destroy satellite after satellite (creating even more space debris) and soon enough turning the Earth dark as much of what we do in these ‘modern’ times is linked to space tech.

The US is actively encouraging (some might say twisting the arms of) allies like South Korea, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, UK, Israel and NATO members in order to get them to sign up for the global sheriff’s ‘posse’ as war with China, Russia and Iran is prepared as the final solution. And final it very well could become!

As Kate Kheel movingly writes in her article, the slavish attraction to all things ‘high-tech’ calls for an urgent re-connection with our mother planet if we are to ensure the survival of the next seven generations and all other life forms on this beautiful spinning home we call Earth. The high-tech invitation to the Promised Land is only a dead end street.

Many of the things that make our lives these days such a frustrating and frightening challenge are led by the faceless corporations and nameless oligarchs that run most of our societies. The so-called leaders have lost their ability to see life for what it truly is – a world of wonder, mystery, full of love for nature and the beautiful sky that embraces us. Money and power trump everything else. Any concern for the people and other life forms on our planet is seen as an insufferable weakness. Our biggest enemy on Earth today is heartlessness as we daily witness the world’s pitiful reaction to the decimation of Palestine.

Recent hurricanes in the US and flash floods in Spain are warning signs from our Mother. Watching the beleaguered people in Spain pelt their King and Queen with mud is an indication that the world’s people can turn on the ‘leaders’ in a heartbeat.

We all must push ourselves to do more to end the madness of genocide, endless war and this heartlessness. A dear Quaker friend told me years ago that I did not have to carry the whole world on my shoulders – I should do my very best to do what I can. Added up with all of you that could turn out to be a mighty wave of love and positive motion.

Keep paddling.

~ Bruce K. Gagnon is coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. He lives in Brunswick, Maine.



South Korean Activists’ National Forum on Peace in Space



By Choi Sung-hee

There was the South Korean activists’ national forum on the space industry and the militarization of space in Daejeon from Oct. 18-24, 2024. Co-hosted by around 15 organizations, including People Opposing Space Militarization and Rocket Launches, the forum was to share and deepen questions about the space industry and space militarization, as well as consider future tasks together after Bruce Gagnon’s national speech tour this past February. It was a time to talk about how the space industry, currently promoted by the South Korean government, local governments, and corporations, is linked to militarization; to talk about how the Korean economy and society are moving toward a war economy and leaning toward militarism in many parts of the country; and to brainstorm on what the peace, environment, and human rights movements will do. The meeting was also organized as a part of activities for the Keep Space for Peace Week against the militarization of space, Oct. 5-12.

As Koohan Paik-Mander who visited South Korea this September said, “from a war perspective, South Korea is one of the most logical places to concentrate the space industry,” given its geopolitical location. Following the US Space Forces-Korea creation in Pyeongtaek in 2022, the Korea Aerospace Administration opened its doors in Sacheon, Gyeongsangnam-do this May. A NASA official stated that they expect to cooperate with South Korea in developing AI, which is widely used in space development. In September, President Yoon Suk-yeol’s government said that it would make South Korea one of the top three AI powerhouses by 2027 which could require many nuclear power plants. On Sept. 11, South Korea’s Ministry of National Defense signed a letter of intent with the U.S. Space Force to participate in its Joint Commercial Operations cell.

Daejeon where we held a forum was announced by the Yoon government this March as one of the triangle systems of space industry clusters: Daejeon (human resources), Jeollanam-do (projectiles) and Gyeongsangnam-do (satellites). Oh Hyun-hwa, one of our Daejeon hosts, reminds that Daejeon has long been a place for the Agency for Defense Development

and Korea Aerospace Research Institute. She also reminded how militarization is covered in the names of job, science technology, economic development, self-defense etc.

Our three-day forum largely consisted of field trip on the first day, all day forum and discussion on 2nd day, and brainstorming for the future on the last day. Although the number of participants differed every day, more than 30 people had a pleasant and meaningful time together.

The field trip was to the cluster munitions plant in a small village, Imhwa-ri, Nonsan which is about an hour away from Daejeon. I was shocked when the billboard reading ‘Nonsan, the National Defense Military Industry City’ became clear in the rainy landscape outside the bus window. It is the transformation of Nonsan, famous for its strawberries and Confucian tradition. The mayor of Nonsan said that he would make Nonsan like Huntsville, Alabama, which is well known as rockets and military industries. Pastor Bae Yong-ha, who guided us, said that the first shell produced in the factory whose building was completed this June, just happened to go out of the factory, on the day we went. The KDI which built the factory to produce 14,000 unguided cluster bomb units per day, ignoring safety and environmental issues, was derived from Hanwha, an infamous arms/aerospace corporation in South Korea.

Hanwha, having signed the MOU with Israeli arms companies like Elbit Systems, is contributing to the genocide of Palestinians. Hanwha System, a branch of Hanwha Corporation, is currently building a space center for satellite manufacturing on the Jeju Groundwater Special Management Zone. Flexel Space, an in-house venture of Hanwha Systems signed a business agreement with the U.S. satellite manufacturing company, Terran Orbital, in June, to supply solar cells. Terran Orbital is involved in manufacturing military satellite bodies under the US Defense Department.

Back in Nonsan, when we went to the Nonsan City Hall, to meet the village mayor of the daily struggle there, the city hall had just taken off all the banners of his protest vehicle. And shockingly, a banner reading

“supporting the KDI” was wrapping a van which was known later to belong to the local machinery construction union branch of Korean Confederation of Trade Unions. How terrible that war-economic system can transform the consciousness of workers! After the event, local activists raised issues to the related union branch and urged it to issue an apology. The answer is not yet heard.

The second day consisted of all day forum with four sessions: (1) The political situation and the space industry (2) Why Daejeon? (3) Why these sites- Pyeongtaek, Gunsan, Soseong-ri, Gadeokdo of Busan, Daejeon, and Jeju, and (4) What to do? A total of 13 activists made presentations. I introduced Space Peace Week with a presentation titled ‘The Space Industry Comes with the All-Out War for War and Genocide,’ quoting Gen. Chance Saltzman, US Space Force Chief of Space Operations, who said, “The U.S. military cannot go it alone. Collaboration with commercial partners and allies is essential.” The US Space Force and Navy respectively points out the year of 2027 for combat readiness. The next speaker, Hee-eum, presented the theme of ‘The War and Space Industry eats Life, Climate, Ecology, and Democracy.’

The last day consisted of sharing one’s impression and ideas about future. Some said that the forum helped to connect the theory and field more concrete. Yong-woon has proposed to utilize the movies and Jyu has introduced some examples of direct actions. There were other suggestions such as book-reading gathering, meetings with workers, lectures on educational sites, and art events to tackle space colonization issues during next year’s Space Peace Week. The need for biennial offline debates was also suggested. No matter what the realization of those ideas, it was certain that the national forum this October helped activists to consider more on the space peace issues. The ruling class prepares for war and genocide, but we will make peace step by step. (See Space Alert No. 44 for Bruce’s South Korea speech tour)

~ Choi Sung-Hee is an activist living in Gangjeong village on Jeju Island, South Korea. She serves on the GN Advisory board.

The use of space in the war in Ukraine & the genocide in Gaza

By Dr. Dave Webb

Ukraine and Gaza are being used as test sites and as a shop window for new weapons technologies. Just over two years ago Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov openly offered Ukraine as a venue to test NATO weapons against Russia and as a testing ground for a US war with China.

Drones

Perhaps the most significant development in warfare in Ukraine and Gaza has been the use of drones. On the battlefield, they are everywhere, scanning the ground to identify targets or in the form of flying bombs, delivering deadly payloads from hand grenades to specially developed warheads.

From the start of the war in Ukraine, Russia has repurposed inexpensive commercial off-the-shelf drones as flying bombs and Ukraine quickly followed suit. Hamas has also copied the idea by using cheap Chinese drones packed with explosives. They can be made to loiter above targets for long periods of time before crashing into them. Hamas used drones to take out communications towers while Israel's Iron Dome, was distracted by a hail of rockets from Gaza.

Israel also uses hundreds of *Xtend*'s small drones in Gaza to carry grenades and scan tunnels and buildings. *Xtend* is also reported to be developing warheads to transform these drones into "special weapons".

Satellites

Satellites are now well integrated into conventional warfare, and enable precision strikes, missile warnings and long-distance drone operations.

The primary military functions of satellites are Communications; Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR); and Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT).

Communications satellites allow the sharing of information and the command and control of military action and can be used to pilot drones remotely.

ISR satellites use a variety of sensors, from cameras to radars, to locate possible targets and military movements. ISR satellites are also used for missile warning, mapping, and weather monitoring.

PNT satellites allow GPS navigation, the coordination of military actions and the targeting of drones. They also guide several types of precision munitions.

Intelligence Gathering

The US has provided classified intelligence to Ukraine throughout the war obtained from spy planes, drones and satellites. In September 2022, *The New York Times* reported that "the US has provided Ukraine with information on command posts, ammunition depots and other key nodes in the Russian military lines" allowing Ukraine to "target Russian forces, kill senior generals and force ammunition supplies to be moved farther from the Russian front lines."

The US has entered Gazan airspace with its *MQ-9 Reaper* drone, it was claimed that it was searching for hostages, but it is likely also to be collecting intelligence for the IDF. *Declassified UK* has disclosed that the US was transporting arms to Israel from bases in Germany, Turkey and Spain via RAF Akrotiri, a British airbase in Cyprus.

Declassified UK has also reported that the UK had

flown over 200 spy missions over Gaza from Cyprus in five months. The UK also claimed that the aircraft were looking for hostages, but it is unclear how they could add anything to the search by ground forces.

Satellites also collect intelligence and ground-based stations around the world download information obtained from the satellite interception of electronic communications including cell phones and emails. Specifically, Pine Gap in the centre of Australia and Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, England, are two major spy stations run by the US National Security Agency. Both have a history of processing satellite intelligence from the Middle East that would be useful to Israel.

The governments of the US, U.K. and Australia could all be subject to charges of complicity in the acts of genocide that are being committed in Gaza.

The information gathered is also be used by AI-enabled decision-making systems known as "*Gospel*", "*Laovender*" and "*Where's Daddy?*". These systems are trained to recognise features that characterise people associated with Hamas. For example, membership of the same *WhatsApp* group as Hamas supporters and frequent changes of cell phones or addresses. The use of AI is increasing the number and scale of targeted attacks, but mistakes are often made, and civilians are suffering the consequences.

Signal Jamming

In Ukraine, efforts to disrupt satellite and radio-controlled operations through jamming or hacking have become the norm. Radio-frequency jamming is used to attack drones, and Russia is deploying a range of mobile electronic jamming systems broadcasting interference preventing devices from receiving any signals.

However, the position of electronic jammers can be traced and it is important to deploy small jamming devices that can be moved around easily or to place

them on drones.

Terrestrial receivers of communication and GPS signals are also subject to jamming and GPS spoofing also occurs, involving misleading signals that fool drones into thinking that they, or their targets, are not where they are.

Israel has used GPS jamming in Gaza, Lebanon, and against Iran strikes. However, jamming also interferes with civilian communications and civil aviation and emergency services. Hamas too has actively jammed Israeli communication systems during the initial stages of the conflict.

The US has supplied precision weapons to Ukraine including Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs). These "smart" guidance kits add GPS capabilities to 'dumb' bombs and enable them to be steered to targets. However, Russian jamming of the GPS guidance on precision weapons has been widespread, preventing the use of some types of munitions altogether.

The US has also supplied JDAM kits and a range of precision guided weapons to Israel but there are reports that Hamas has been jamming their GPS signals too.

Cyberattacks

Cyberattacks can be used to disable satellites, ground stations, or other equipment. Probably the most significant cyberattack in Ukraine was a Russian hack against the *Viasat* internet system that shut down terminals used by the Ukrainian military and police. Destructive malware was used to attack modems and routers, permanently disabling thousands of terminals.

There are few soft cyber-targets in the government or military, but Ukrainian hacktivist groups have temporarily disrupted banks, businesses, pharmacies, hospitals, railway networks and civilian government services for Russian citizens.

Continued on next page



Microsoft, Amazon, and Google have all worked to protect Ukraine from cyberattacks, and to migrate critical government data to the cloud and keep the country connected.

Although Israel is considered to be one of the most advanced countries in cybersecurity, hacking groups have launched numerous cyberattacks against Israel. They claim to have compromised websites, the Israeli electric grid and the Iron Dome missile defense system. There are also reports that Israel has its own "citizen cyber brigades".

Commercial Providers

One new aspect in space war fighting has been the role of commercial providers. Ukraine has obtained satellite services from American, Canadian, and European companies who have provided optical images, synthetic-aperture radar images that see through cloud cover and at night, and radio-frequency data, for detecting electronic emissions from jammers and to locate and track Russian forces. In the first two weeks of the war, Ukraine downloaded more than 40 million square kms' worth of geospatial imagery.

Israel has its own satellite communications satellites and its own reconnaissance and spy satellites, including *ImageSat's* *EROS NG* surveillance satellite constellation and the *Ofeq 13* with radar observation capabilities that enable intelligence collection in any weather and conditions of visibility.

Ukraine and Israel both have use of Space X *Starlink* satellite communications services which are given free to the Ukrainian military. *Starlink* has been used to carry out drone strikes and other military operations and has served as the backbone of the command-and-control software that Ukraine uses to share data, coordinate military operations, and communicate with US and NATO advisers outside the country.

However, Russia has been able to successfully jam *Starlink* satellite internet dishes and, despite sanctions, they are also using *Starlink* terminals obtained from third parties.

These developments are encouraging other states to engage in military space activities and Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Iran are all investing in military space programmes.

The US Space Force is looking at ways in which it can learn from experiences in Ukraine and Gaza to increase the use of space for warfighting through "*Rapid Resilient Command and Control*" that will enable more threats, more wars, more devastation and many more deaths in the continuing struggle to maintain space, and therefore ground, supremacy.

~ Dr. Dave Webb is the GN Board of Directors convener and also chairs Yorkshire Region CND. He is a retired university professor and lives in Leeds, England.

Help support our work!
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See page 16!



Space X & Space Force blow off enviro concerns

By Dennis Apel

When our son Thomas was in the second grade a precocious young girl in his class used to like to respond to almost any suggestion or request from any of her classmates with the retort, "You not da boss'a me!" In our family we sometimes used to jokingly imitate her by stating, "You not da boss'a me!" when confronted by one another.

Recently that phrase came to mind regarding Elon Musk's company Space X. Vandenberg Space Force Base is very close to Guadalupe, CA where we have worked for the past 28 years. Not long ago Space X began using Vandenberg's space launch complexes (rocket launch platforms) to launch its Falcon 9 rockets to place satellites into low-earth orbit (LEO). The satellites are part of the Starlink satellite network which is a large web of satellites designed to provide broadband internet service anywhere on the globe. Currently Space X has around 7,000 Starlink satellites in orbit and intends to go up to at least 12,000 and possibly as many as 34,400 in the future. The satellites have about a five-year lifespan and will need to be constantly replaced as they are dragged back to earth by gravity. The most recent launch from Vandenberg carried 21 satellites into space.

Enter the California Coastal Commission which was established in 1972 and made permanent by the Legislature in 1976. Their mission states, "The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective governmental coordination." Virtually every development or project which potentially affects the coast, the ocean and the islands off the coast must pass through the commission for approval after extensive public hearings. Understandably launches from Vandenberg by Space X have been on the agenda of the commission for some time. Issues of concern to both the public and scientists are impacts on the environment, both on land and in the ocean channel, from rocket exhaust, debris, and noise from the launches as well as sonic booms from the reentry of the first stage.

Space X has sought authorization from the Coastal Commission several times to increase their number of launches with the most recent request on August 8 for 36 launches per year. No Space X representative appeared at the Aug. 8 hearing, and a representative from US Space Force refused to take questions from commissioners or the public. Here is a quote from Caryl Hart the Commission Chair:

"We have before us a federal agency that's refusing to answer questions from ourselves and also from the

public — of course we represent the public — also not willing to conduct the monitoring ... that's being required by our conditions, not willing to facilitate and, in fact based on my meeting with Space X who indicated the Space Force has told them not to come to our meetings, not to respond to our request for CDP." (Coastal Development Permit)

In the end, the Commission voted to approve the requested 36 launches per year even though the US Space Force flatly stated that they did not intend to comply with three conditions of the commission to conduct environmental monitoring that were required for the approval.

Prior to the request for 36 launches per year, Space X in partnership with the Space Force was previously approved by the commission for six launches per year. Space X has already completed 27 launches of Falcon 9 rockets from Vandenberg in 2024. They are expected to submit a request in October to boost that schedule to 50 annual launches, and later 100 annual launches.

Here is a quote from Coastal Commission Environmental Scientist Walt Deppe:

"The project has the potential to adversely impact marine resources including the biological productivity of marine waters and marine areas and species of a special biological significance such as marine protected areas, national marine sanctuaries and marine mammal breeding and haul-out sites due to marine debris and noise from rocket engines and sonic booms." He said an increase in launches may also impact on-base habitats of sensitive and protected species including the Western snowy plover, California least tern, California red-legged frog, pallid and Western red bats, and monarch butterflies.

So, here is a project with serious concerns for the local environment, both from scientists and concerned citizens who have spent hours before the Coastal Commission voicing their concerns, and the US Space Force has flat-out said they will ignore some of those concerns, have refuted scientific assessments of other concerns, and its partner, Elon Musk's Space X, has decided to not even show up for the meetings. The partnership of the Space Force and Space X may be the first in the 52-year history of the California Coastal Commission to say, "You not da boss'a me!" Unfortunately it may also be the first time that the Coastal Commission is saying, "Okay, I guess you're right."

Hmm...I wonder what's going on here??

~ Dennis Apel serves on the GN's board of directors and works with migrant farm workers near his home in Santa Maria, California. He regularly organizes protests at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

100 researchers call out FCC on Musk Starlink launches

By Sarah Fortinsky (The Hill)

Researchers are urging the federal government to pause further low-orbit internet satellite launches until a comprehensive review is conducted to determine the potential environmental damage that could result.

In a letter to Julie Kearney, chief of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Space Bureau, more than 100 researchers expressed concern about the rapid development of low-orbit satellites and urged international cooperation to determine the best path forward.

“The environmental harms of launching and burning up so many satellites aren’t clear. That’s because the federal government hasn’t conducted an environmental review to understand the impacts. What we do know is that more satellites and more launches lead to more damaging gasses and metals in our atmosphere,” the researchers wrote in the letter.

“We shouldn’t rush forward with launching satellites at this scale without making sure the benefits justify the potential consequences of these new mega-constellations being launched, and then re-entering our atmosphere to burn up and or create debris,” they continued. “This is a new frontier, and we should save ourselves a lot of trouble by making sure we move forward in a way that doesn’t cause major problems for our future.”

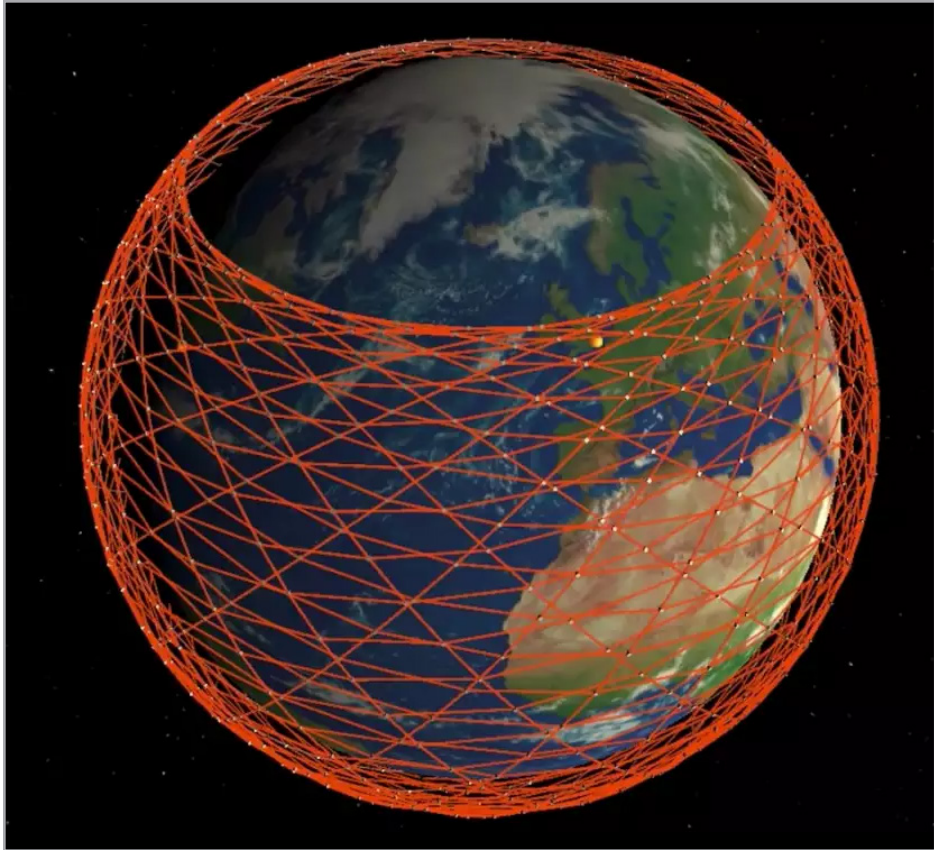
The researchers noted that, in just more than five years, tech billionaire Elon Musk’s Starlink service has launched more than 6,000 units that now make up 60 percent of all satellites.

“The new space race took off faster than governments were able to act,” they wrote, adding that regulatory agencies now lack the policies to make fair assessments about “the total effects of all proposed mega constellations.”

They criticized the FCC for granting licenses on a “first-come, first-served basis,” noting orbital space and the broadcast spectrum are not limitless and they require an “unprecedented system of cooperation” with international regulators “to share the commons of our final frontier.”

“Until extensive coordination is in place, we shouldn’t let the commercial interests first to launch determine the rules,” they wrote.

The researchers also encouraged the FCC to end the “categorical exclusion of satellites” from environmental review, writing, “that launching 30,000 to 500,000 satellites into low earth orbit doesn’t even warrant an environmental review offends common sense.”



Cuban Missile Crisis in Reverse

The US has officially opened its new Aegis Ashore missile base in Poland (after nine years of construction) to go along with a similar one recently opened in Romania.

These launch platforms (same as what is found on Navy Aegis destroyers) can fire either nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missiles (the first strike sword) or SM-3 interceptor ‘missile defense’ systems (the shield).

The Poland base is only 160km from Kaliningrad and within Tomahawks’ range even of Moscow.

Russia’s recently unveiled Oreshnik (hazelnut) hypersonic missile is essentially a direct counterweight to the Aegis Ashore.

The US has created the ability to launch a first-strike with Tomahawk cruise missiles into Russia and the American people know virtually nothing about this 2024 Cuban Missile Crisis in reverse. Imagine if Russia or China built a similar facility in Mexico or Canada!

The new US launch facilities are now a target.

These kind of intermediate-range missile systems used to be banned by the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) signed by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987. The US pulled out of the treaty in 2019.

The US withdrew from the landmark 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in 2002. That treaty banned missile defense systems. It’s clear that the Pentagon has been developing this offensive strategy for some time to encircle Russia and China with these ‘sword and shield’ missile systems on the land and at sea using Aegis destroyer platforms.

In July 2024 NATO announced that the US would, starting in 2026, deploy nuclear capable intermediate range missiles in Germany.

This has led Russia and China to develop new missile technologies that could evade and overwhelm the US ‘sword and shield’ systems as we recently witnessed Moscow fire the Oreshnik missile that hit a vast Ukrainian military production facility in eastern Ukraine.

So the US in effect has created a new nuclear arms race due to its arrogant exceptionalism which moves the world closer to WW3 and possibly nuclear Armageddon.



Space Watch UK and network partners gather outside the Ministry of Defence in London, UK during Space Week actions

THAAD gift is another Biden miscalculation with Israel

By Martin Jay

The decision of Joe Biden to send Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system to Israel seemed like a tactical move, a strategic ace, some might argue. Biden has made it clear that Israel must not strike Iran’s military or its nuclear power infrastructure and that any such retaliation won’t be supported by the US. And so, in many ways, Israel is restricted now to reach out for low hanging fruit by bombing weapon sites in Syria and hitting Beirut. Netanyahu is like a shark at the bottom of the ocean. He has to keep a momentum going with war as the moment he stops, he sinks to the bottom and perishes. Hitting Iran is not as easy as it sounds. Israel cannot send fighter jets as the US would have to offer refuelling facilities; and it can’t even fly over most countries surrounding Iran as they have all discounted this possibility. There is only the option of long-range missiles but no one knows for sure if Israel’s missiles would get past Iran’s own missile defence systems which analysts assume are probably very good. And imagine the humiliation and loss of political capital if Netanyahu sent missiles there and discovered that Iran intercepted all of them. He would be finished.

Yet the same can be said about the THAAD batteries. Many experts argue they probably won’t be effective against hypersonic missiles. They’ve never been tested so we don’t know.

In reality the basis of Netanyahu’s political longevity is keeping such things a mystery. The more we don’t know about Iran’s military capabilities, the more that can be exploited. Same goes for the THAADs. Clarity really is the enemy here.

Israel has already had one moment of lucidity which has shocked both its elite and its people. The so-called impenetrable ‘Iron Dome’ missile defence system which intercepted most of Hezbollah’s medium-range ballistic missiles is pretty useless for hypersonic, high-altitude missiles which both Iran and Hezbollah have in their arsenal. Israel is now more vulnerable than ever against a massive attack of such missiles and the recent strike on a military base south of Haifa has shown both sides the extent of this susceptibility. Iran’s hypersonic missiles could wipe out all of Israel’s infrastructure if Tehran wishes. The truth is though that Iran does not want a war with Israel and is hoping that once the Israeli public notice just how many IDF soldiers are being killed in the south of Lebanon along its border, the exit of Netanyahu will be swift. His days are numbered.

And yet, despite all of the rhetoric we hear from the Biden camp, it would seem America does want a war. Or at least it’s happy to take Israel to the brink with the same foolhardy, delusional mentality that



we see in Ukraine. Even today the US mindset still believes it can threaten and other countries will back down, simply due to the size of America’s military capability. The ‘escalate to de-escalate’ game. It might just work with the THAAD initiative. But for all the wrong reasons.

The problem with the THAAD move by Biden is that the installation of such a system is too little, too late and may well blow up in the faces of the next US administration creating a war with Iran when even Washington has been avoiding one all along. It all comes down to personalities. How will the next US president react when the US soldiers operating it are killed? Do they throw the lever, or stay cool? And doesn’t the mere presence of one of these vehicles present Iran with a sitting duck target?

It might reach a comical level of farce for the Americans. Iran might choose to not strike it, knowing this would be a declaration of war. Or, alternatively, it might choose to avoid a direct hit simply because the impact of one of these units isn’t likely to be much against a huge wave of 200 missiles from Iran, given that the entire package sent to Israel consists of a total of 48 missiles only. Imagine the

embarrassment to the US and Israel when it becomes clear to them that Iran doesn’t believe THAAD to be a contender in the theatre of war. Whether it’s taken out or not, either scenario is inimical to America’s credibility both as a stalwart partner of Israel or as a heavy weight adversary of Iran.

Biden probably sent the system to humour Bibi as he can’t be seen to not support Israel in its hour of need, but it does throw the question up of who is running whom? While Biden has drawn the line on US involvement or support for an Iran strike, everything else he says with regards to Lebanon and Gaza – the latter no doubt a policy of starvation in play – is ignored. It reminded some pundits of the 1996 press conference with Netanyahu and Clinton, where the US president was so annoyed by Bibi’s swagger that he said to his aides “who’s the fucking superpower here?”.

~ Martin Jay is an award-winning British journalist based in Morocco where he is a correspondent for The Daily Mail (UK) and previously reported on the Arab Spring for CNN, as well as Euronews. This article is reprinted from Strategic Culture Foundation.

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The Ukraine War is Lost. Three Options Remain.

By Eugene Doyle

I started listening to George Beebe a few years ago when he was warning about tensions in Ukraine, the real risk of escalation to nuclear war and the dangers of groupthink. Back in 2021 he assessed that Russia was likely to invade Ukraine given the combination of the US's determination to bring the country into NATO and the fact that it was a "now-or-never moment" for Moscow to stop this happening. Years earlier, US Ambassador to Moscow, and now CIA director, William Burns had urgently cabled Washington to warn that the Russians regarded Ukraine as 'the reddest of red lines':

"Ukrainian entry into NATO is the brightest of all redlines for the Russian elite (not just Putin)," Ambassador Burns wrote. "In more than two and a half years of conversations with key Russian players, from knuckle-draggers in the dark recesses of the Kremlin to Putin's sharpest liberal critics, I have yet to find anyone who views Ukraine in NATO as anything other than a direct challenge to Russian interests."

I quote all this because if Ukraine, all of Europe, and quite possibly all of us, are to be spared worse, we have to get past one very unhelpful word: "unprovoked".

It stands in the way of doing what is utterly essential: deep, constructive and ongoing discussions between Russia and the West to create a security framework for all of Europe that is acceptable to all parties.

Since February 2022 Western propaganda has drummed into people's minds that the invasion was "unprovoked". Very few outside the West, however, share this perspective. George Beebe doesn't support the invasion, estimates that Russia has a lot to answer for, but rejects this kind of simplistic rhetoric as unhelpful and potentially disastrous. He was interviewed [recently] by Professor Glenn Diesen and Alexander Mercouris on The Duran and, in my estimation, gave a masterclass in responsible statecraft.



"There has been a lot of narrative management, a lot of policing of public discourse," Beebe said. "Anybody who suggested that there may have been some element of provocation that affected Russian decisions on this was immediately anathematized."

Beebe says the West has an erroneous idea as to the very nature of the conflict. The US and the Europeans defined the Russian invasion as a "deterrence model problem" rather than a "spiral model problem". In the former, the adversary is a kind of Hitler that must be stopped at all costs.

"We have internalised that model as a universal truth in international relations. We believe every problem that we're facing is that deterrence model problem and we can't possibly negotiate."

In reality, Beebe says, the conflict conforms to what Robert Jervis defined back in the 1970s as a "spiral model problem" – where you have one state that attempts to enhance its own security by taking measures (for example, Ukraine joining NATO) that another state (Russia) believes are threatening. You get into a dynamic of action and reaction that can spiral to the point where you get into a conflict.

"When you attempt to deal with a spiral problem by refusing to negotiate, you make the problem worse on both sides. It's like pouring gasoline on a fire," Beebe says.

The former head of the CIA's Russia desk argues that if we are to think our way out of the disaster that is Ukraine, the West needs to rediscover diplomacy and the ability to negotiate with geostrategic opponents. US triumphalism after the fall of the Berlin Wall led, he says, to the US feeling it could abandon statecraft.

"We no longer felt that we had to engage in normal diplomatic give-and-take, attempting to balance interests as well as balance power – the kinds of things that statecraft has involved for thousands of years. We thought that wasn't necessary. Number one: we know we're right. And number two: US power was just so disproportionately greater than any other country's power, we could simply impose our views, whether

they liked it or not."

That moment – the Unipolar Moment – has passed and we are now in a multipolar world. There is no sharper confirmation of this altered geopolitical landscape than the fact that Russia, by force of arms, has almost certainly defeated US plans to extend NATO into Ukraine.

Russia's slow, grinding use of attrition warfare has paid off: the eastern front is buckling before them and the Ukrainian army, which has put up an astonishingly stout and courageous resistance [only with huge help from NATO], is increasingly unable to hold the line.

[In late October] the fortress city of Selydove fell with scarcely a mention in the mainstream media. A couple of weeks [previously] Vuhledar, another key in Ukraine's defenses, fell after months of pressure from the Russians. Every day villages and towns are tumbling at a quickening tempo. Chasiv Yar, one of the toughest nuts for the Russians to crack, is close to collapse. The Russians are closing in on Pokrovsk, a key logistical hub in Donetsk.

The Ukrainians face a terrible dilemma. Most seem to realize the war is lost. Any attempt at negotiation with the Russians, however, would unleash internal pressures inside Ukraine that could lead to a coup, assassinations or other upheaval. The US won't want the war to end before President Biden leaves office in January 2025 – and may prolong the agony, loss of life and the ceding of yet more territory to Russia for US domestic reasons rather than the best interests of Ukraine. Where is all this leading?

George Beebe sees three options. NATO escalates and becomes directly involved in the fighting – action that could have unspeakable consequences. More likely, Ukraine could suffer a collapse – a combination of military and political failure as the ability to put an effective army in the field is lost.

"If I am wearing my analyst hat, I would say the more likely scenario is Ukraine collapses and becomes some sort of dysfunctional ward of the West. We then have more or less a security black hole in the middle of Europe that causes real problems."

Absent an agreed framework, other hot spots could flare at any time – including Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Kaliningrad.

The third option, and clearly the preferable one for Beebe, is that the West changes course and "picks up the phone", ending its refusal to negotiate.

"The West has got to recognize that it is important for us to find a negotiated settlement," Beebe says.

"We can't simply say to the Russians, let's freeze the conflict in Ukraine, and someday we'll get down to talking about broader European security – 'trust us'. That's not going to work. We're going to have to indicate that we understand that these issues are important and that it is in our self-interest to address them in a way that accommodates Russia's core security interests. The Russians are not going to get everything they want out of this. Neither will we. Both sides are going to have to get their most vital interests protected in all of this. That's a truism in diplomatic agreements."

And that is how grown-ups talk.

~ Eugene Doyle is a writer based in Wellington, New Zealand. He has written extensively on the Middle East, as well as peace and security issues in the Asia Pacific region.

Perfidy in Tehran

By Alastair Crooke

John Kerry, at the recent World Economic Forum, so clearly blurring out the truth: "Our First Amendment stands as a major block to our ability to be able to hammer [disinformation] out of existence".

Translated: Governing is all about narrative control. Kerry articulates the 'International Order's' solution to the unwelcome phenomenon of an uncontrolled populism: Simply, 'freedom to speak' is unacceptable to the prescriptions agreed by the 'inter-agency' – the institutionalised distillation of the 'International Order'.

Eric Weinstein calls this The Unburdening: The first Amendment; gender; merit; sovereignty; privacy; ethics; investigative journalism; borders; freedom ... the Constitution? Gone?

Today's reality unhinged narration is that Iran's launch on of 200 ballistic missiles – of which 181 reached Israel – were overwhelmingly intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome and Arrow missile defence systems. And with no deaths to show for the assault. It was "defeated and ineffective", Biden pronounced.

Will Schryver however, a technical engineer and security commentator, writes: "I don't understand how anyone who has seen the many video clips of the Iranian missile strikes on Israel cannot recognize and acknowledge that it was a stunning demonstration of Iranian capabilities. Iran's ballistic missiles smashed through US-Israeli air defences and delivered several large-warhead strikes to Israeli military targets".

But the message has been erased from sight.

How is it that the US Administration refuses to look truth in the eye and acknowledge what occurred, and prefers instead to ask the entire world, who saw the videos of missiles impacting in Israel, to 'move along' – as the authorities advise, pretending that there was 'nothing substantive to see here'. Was

'the affair' just a nuisance to system governance and 'consensus', as Kerry so branded free speech? It seems so.

The structural problem, essayist Aurelien writes is not simply that the western professional class holds to an ideology – one that is the opposite of how ordinary people experience the world. That certainly is one aspect. But the bigger problem lies rather, with a technocratic conception of politics that is not 'about' anything. It is not really politics at all (as Tony Blair once said), but is nihilistic and absent of moral considerations.

Having no real culture of its own, the western professional class views religion as outdated and sees history as dangerous since it contains components that can be misused by 'extremists'. It prefers therefore not to know history.

This produces the mixture of the conviction of superiority, yet deep insecurity, which typifies western leadership. The ignorance and fear of events and ideas that fall outside the confines of their rigid zeitgeist, they perceive, almost invariably, as innately inimical to their interests. And rather than seek to discuss and understand, that which is outside their capabilities, they use disparagement and character assassination instead to remove the nuisance.

It must be clear to all that Iran falls into all the categories that excite most western insecurity: Iran is the apex of everything that is unsettling: It has a profound culture and intellectual legacy that stands explicitly 'different' (albeit, not at odds) with western tradition. These qualities however, relegate Iran to being unreflectively categorised as inimical to 'International Order' management; not because it is a 'threat', but because it 'unsettles' message alignment.

Does this matter?

Yes, it matters, because it makes Iran's ability

to communicate effectively with the International Order's ideological alignment highly problematic.

The West sought and pressured for a mitigated response from Iran – firstly after Israel's April assassination of an Iranian General and his colleagues at the Iranian Consulate in Damascus.

Iran obliged. It launched drones and missiles towards Israel on 13 April in such a manner that sent a short (pre-warned) concerted message of capability, yet did not invite all-out war (as requested by the West).

Subsequent to the Israeli assassination of Ismail Haniyeh (a guest of Tehran participating in the inauguration of the new Iranian President), western states once again pleaded with Iran that it should again refrain from any military retaliation against Israel.

The new President has said publicly, that European and American officials offered Iran the removal of substantive sanctions on the Iranian Republic and a guaranteed ceasefire in Gaza in line with Hamas' terms – if Israel was not attacked.

Iran held fire, accepting to appear weak to the outside world (for which it was harshly criticised). Yet western action shocked the inexperienced new President, Pezeshkian:

"They (the western states) lied", he said. None of the promises were kept.

To be fair to the new Reformist President, Iran did face a real dilemma: It hoped to pursue a policy of restraint in order to avoid a damaging war. That is one side to the dilemma; but the other side is that this restraint could be misinterpreted (perhaps maliciously), and used as pretext for escalation. In short the flip side is that, 'want it or not; war is coming to Iran'.

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Odds & Ends

The dark cloud of surveillance

Members of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance would like to create a shared top secret cloud environment someday to seamlessly exchange data, *Breaking Defense* reported on Oct 29, citing top Canadian intelligence official Brig. Gen. Eric Vandenberg. “Not only would this cloud be a top secret cloud, but it would be classification agnostic as well, because the data is all tagged, because all of my users all have the correct digital identities, I can store all the data in the cloud.” Vandenberg made the remarks at the Department of Defense Intelligence Information System conference in Omaha, Nebraska.

Israel wants laser weapons

Israel’s defence ministry said on Oct 28 it has earmarked \$530 million to accelerate development of the laser air defence system known as “Iron Beam”. “The Ministry of Defence has signed a major deal worth approximately 2 billion shekels to significantly expand procurement of the laser interception systems, ‘Iron Beam,’” a statement said. The system is aimed at improving the interception of drones and other projectiles. Iron Beam would supplement other aerial defence capacities such as the more well-known Iron Dome. The defence ministry will work with defence companies Rafael and Elbit, the statement said.

South Korea’s ‘StarWarsProject’

South Korea will begin deploying drone-melting laser weapons designed to shoot down North Korean UAVs this year, the country’s arms procurement agency told *AFP* in late October. The new laser weapons -- dubbed the “StarWars Project” by the South -- are invisible and noise-free, require no additional ammunition, operate solely on electricity and cost only about 2,000 won (\$1.45) per shot, according to the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA). The “Block-I” system, developed by Hanwha Aerospace, will be “put into operational deployment in the military this year”, Lee Sang-yoon, a DAPA official stated.

New Rand Corp study has bad news for US

Kit Klarenberg reports that on July 29 Pentagon-funded “think tank” RAND Corporation published a landmark appraisal of the state of the Pentagon’s 2022 National Defense Strategy (NDS), and current US military readiness. It includes the following: “We believe the magnitude of the threats the US faces is

understated and significantly worse.... In many ways, China is outpacing the US in defense production and growth in force size and, increasingly, in force capability and is almost certain to continue to do so. [Beijing] has largely negated the US military advantage in the Western Pacific through two decades of focused military investment. Without significant change by the US, the balance of power will continue to shift in China’s favor....The US Navy is also suffering from readiness issues stemming from its high operational tempo, aging ships, shipyard backlogs, and crew fatigue. Continued mishaps at sea and in military aviation pose risks to troop safety and are symptomatic of a decline in readiness, reflecting both a lack of experience and the increased complexity of the future warfighting mission. The steady demands of campaigning on a smaller military force - and an even smaller number of responsive, modernized, and combat-credible forces - has stressed force readiness.”

Space Week event in UK

In London, Space Watch UK took their demands right to Whitehall, demonstrating outside of the UK Ministry of Defence with CND and Scientists for Global Responsibility. Passers-by were particularly interested in our banner of solidarity with PARC Against DARC, and were shocked to learn about the construction of a US military deep space radar in the Pembrokehire countryside in Wales. Meanwhile, speeches from CND General Secretary Kate Hudson and Space Watch director Chris Cole delved into the dangers posed by the UK’s military space programme, and the urgency of government transparency and action.

BRICS calls for ban on space weapons

BRICS + held a summit in Kazan, Russia in October 2024, where 13 new “partner nations” were accepted. BRICS member nations are rapidly growing in number with the plan to challenge the West’s imperial political and economic control over Global South nations. Resolutions were passed at the event that included a call for a global ban on space weapons (something that the US and Israel have been blocking at the United Nations for years). BRICS also called for no nuclear weapons in the Middle East-Israel and much more!

International Spaceport Meeting

On October 13, 2024 eight commercial spaceports located across five continents signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will establish a forum to explore potential strategic collaboration in a range of areas of common interest and introduce a dialogue on establishing international spaceport standards. The inaugural signatories to the MOU include: Esrange Space Center, Swedish Space Corporation, Sweden; Hokkaido Spaceport, SPACE COTAN Co., Ltd., Japan; Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (Virginia Spaceport Authority), USA; Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska, Alaska Aerospace Corporation, USA; SaxaVord Spaceport, Scotland, United Kingdom; Space Centre Australia, Australia; Stargate Peru S.A.C., Peru; and Sutherland Spaceport, Orbital Express Launch Limited, Scotland, United Kingdom. Hon. Scott Morrison, former Australian Prime Minister, founder of AUKUS and Non-Executive Chair of Space Centre Australia said, “This Space-Port MOU announces the arrival of space related infrastructure as a new and maturing asset class that is increasingly engaging the attention of global investors. It also provides a platform for the sector to authoritatively engage with the regulatory, defence and security agencies of Government, as space becomes an increasingly important item on the strategic agenda of global political leaders. Such engagement will be vital to realising the extraordinary potential of the space sector.”

GPS role in wars celebrated

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. - The Joint Navigation Warfare Center, headquartered at Kirtland AFB, held a ceremony for its 20th anniversary, Oct. 23. The ceremony recognized JNWC’s contribution to the joint fight and its ability to assess global space operations in order to deliver combat relevant space effects by ensuring military assets that use GPS can withstand any adversary attacks like jamming and spoofing to the system for the US and its allies. “GPS continues to be a foundation for America’s military and its society, with thousands of military systems depending on navigation satellites to move and communicate,” said Lt. Gen Douglas Schiess, Combined Joint Force Space Component Commander.

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CIA mercenaries to run biometric concentration camps

The Biden administration has approved the deployment of 1,000 CIA-trained private mercenaries as part of a joint US-Israeli plan to turn Gaza’s apocalyptic rubblescape into a high-tech dystopia. Starting with Al-Atatra, a village in the northwestern Gaza Strip, the plan calls to build what the Israeli daily Ynet calls “humanitarian bubbles” – turning the remains of villages and neighborhoods into tiny concentration camps cut off from their environs and surrounded and controlled by mercenaries. This comes as Israel carries out daily massacres and ethnic cleansing in northern Gaza, enacting the proposal known as The Generals’ Plan, originally crafted by former national security chief Giora Eiland to turn Gaza into “a place where no human being can exist.” This plan, first reported by Israeli journalist Shlomi Eldar, allocates \$90 million for the residents to rebuild their homes, and calls to appoint a “local sheikh” to the position of “head of the council.”

Middle East Embraces Space Race

As Middle Eastern countries expand their capabilities in multi-domain operations, many states have integrated satellite technology into its military force structures. Nations like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Iran are investing in space programs not just for commercial or scientific purposes, but to strengthen their military capabilities and compete in the global defense market. With ambitions to establish self-reliant space infrastructures, these countries are positioning themselves as regional leaders and aim to enhance surveillance, communications, and overall strategic reach through space-based assets.

Odds & Ends

Hypersonic testing in Maine

VALT Enterprize Inc., Presque Isle, Maine, is being awarded a competitive cost-plus-fixed-fee contract from the Missile Defense Agency. The total value of this contract is \$14,808,269. Under this new Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Phase III contract, the contractor will scale up the high-speed air-breathing propulsion solid rocket motor 2nd-stage and verify high acceleration rates in vertical, or near vertical operation through multiple flight demonstrations at hypersonic speeds achieving Mach 6. The work will be performed in Presque Isle, Maine. The performance period is from September 2024 through September 2027. The Missile Defense Agency, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, is the contracting activity (HQ0860-24-C-7303).

US Navy: From Red Sea to China

The US Navy is taking lessons from its combat in the Red Sea over the past year to help US military leaders prepare the service for a potential future conflict with China. From drones and unmanned surface vessels to the more advanced operation of shipboard guns, the US Navy is expanding its combat skills and broadening training. It is also working to overcome recruiting struggles so it can have the sailors it needs to fight the next war. (Total of 17 vessels to be put in “extended maintenance” by Navy ‘cause they ain’t got enough people to crew them’, latest victims of armed forces’ recruitment woes.) Admiral Lisa Franchetti, chief of naval operations, is laying out a series of goals, including several that will be highly challenging to meet, in a new navigation plan she described in an interview with the AP. The objective is to be ready to face what the Pentagon calls its key national security challenge – China.

Stop the Space Waste! in New Zealand demands

Aerospace New Zealand ends all connections, financial ties, investments, and partnerships with both national and foreign militaries, and companies involved in the design or supply of technologies with military or surveillance applications. Rocket Lab ends all connections, financial ties, investments, and partnerships with both national and foreign militaries, as well as commits to zero launches for surveillance or military purposes; honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and respect the right of mana whenua to

refuse military involvement on their land; disbands its Māhia Peninsula base, handing the land back to Ngāti Rongomaiwahine; The Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre ends all connections, financial ties, and partnerships with both national and foreign militaries, and companies involved in the design or supply of technologies with military or surveillance applications. The New Zealand Government prohibits all launches of satellites, rockets, or other aerospace technology for military or surveillance purposes.

German rocket blows in Scotland

The test was spectacular, but not in the way those involved had hoped. A rocket engine firing at a planned spaceport on a remote Scottish island ended in a tower of fire last August, with an explosion that engulfed the launch platform in flames. The site, a former radar station on Unst, in the north of the Shetland Islands, is intended to become a base for launching small satellites. The rocket manufacturer involved, the German company Rocket Factory Augsburg was SaxaVord’s first client. SaxaVord and Rocket Factory Augsburg say tests like these will become more common as the country develops its satellite launching capabilities. “This was a test, and test campaigns are designed to identify issues prior to the next stage,” SaxaVord, the spaceport, said in a statement. One must wonder how the fire was put out. Was the ‘forever chemical’ PFAS foam used as it often is in such industrial fires around the world?

Space industry struggles with ‘constitutional crisis’

Western US Air Force bases could become ports of entry for pharmaceuticals manufactured in space. Western missile ranges could someday enable a steady stream of new cargo returning to Earth: parachute-borne orbital labs carrying lucrative and highly potent forms of existing drugs. Those labs are the creation of Varda Space Industries, the first company to successfully carry out commercial space manufacturing — and to date the only commercial space company to bring cargo back to U.S. soil. As first entrants into orbital manufacturing, Varda is at the forefront of a rapidly evolving and still-confusing dispute within the US government over how to regulate America’s nascent commercial space industry. The still open-ended nature of space manufacturing’s development is why the House, Senate and White

House are in a historic fight over who should control the passage to orbit — and who takes responsibility if a launch or reentry ultimately ends in disaster. At the core of those questions is a consideration of both the potential benefits of private-industry spaceflight in an age of governmental retreat from the sector.

Space Force wants control of ‘Dual use’ sats

The US Space Force is calling on the commercial space industry to weigh in on its draft plan for a Commercial Augmentation Space Reserve. At this point, the Space Force can require companies to cut off service to their other customers, if necessary, to focus on military needs. A key concern for commercial companies using ‘Dual use’ satellites is the potential loss of income if they are required to deny service to other customers during a military crisis. To address this, the draft plan asks for feedback on nine proposed incentives, such as early R&D funding, preferred contract status with the Space Force, and financial protections against potential losses if satellites are damaged during operations. The Space Force plans to begin initial contracts soon, with the goal of achieving operational capability by fiscal year 2026.

LEO crowding & ozone damage gets worse

Earth orbit is about to get a lot more crowded. On Aug. 6, China launched the first 18 satellites of its new Thousand Sails mega-constellation. Thousand Sails is a Chinese initiative to compete with Space X’s Starlink. Officials say that 108 Chinese satellites are planned for launch this year in separate batches of 36 and 54 satellites; another 500+ are planned for 2025. Ultimately the mega-constellation will contain more than 14,000 satellites. (Starlink currently has about 6,200 in space but has permission to launch 30,000 more.) Astronomers have raised many concerns about Starlink including light-pollution of the night sky, a potentially hazardous traffic jam in low-Earth orbit (LEO), metallic contamination of the stratosphere, and even ozone depletion. Thousand Sails and a second proposed Chinese mega-constellation named “SatNet” (13,000 satellites) will multiply these concerns. There is currently no real regulation of space satellite launching. The US wants to keep China out of LEO because that high ground gives military advantage to the nation which controls the limited orbital parking spaces. China

refuses to allow the US full control of LEO. On July 12, 2024, a 3-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit gave the green light to SpaceX to keep filling the sky with their satellites. The court ruled that satellite launches and deployment, no matter how many, “are deemed individually and cumulatively to have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment and are categorically excluded from environmental processing.” In a new study, researchers from the University of Southern California estimated the harmful effects from satellites injecting harmful pollutants such as aluminum oxides into the upper atmosphere as they burn up during reentry. These dying satellites may even be contributing to “significant ozone depletion,” according to the researchers. The ozone layer is the Earth’s “sunscreen” that shields us from too much UV radiation from the Sun.

US NSA base Pine Gap in Australia expanding

The US satellite surveillance base at Pine Gap in Australia, has been undergoing its largest and most rapid expansion ever, with 10 new satellite antennas or dishes being constructed over the past few years. Linked remotely from Buckley Space Force Base in Colorado, these new Pine Gap satellite antennas can collect an enormous amount of intelligence on missile and rocket launches, including location, size, type, likely warhead, range, speed, trajectory, tracking and target location. They operate as an integral part of the US nuclear war-fighting strategy. The base has also had major new operations thought to be for an expanded data centre for the collection and analysis of signals intelligence (SIGINT). The SIGINT capability of the base gives it the battlefield surveillance capability to spy on military command and data communications, as well as on personal phones and communications. It also allows the geolocation of targets for elimination, most notably by lethal drones. Pine Gap assists the US in its military operations on the African continent and also helps Israel direct it attacks on Gaza.

Latvia out of ESA?

Latvia could become the first country expelled from the European Space Agency (ESA) if it fails to pay membership fees. The Baltic nation will have to spend over €15 million (\$16.2 million) in contributions to

Odds & Ends (continued)

the ESA between 2025 and 2027. This could become a growing trend across Europe as many nations there are facing tough economic times since they refused to use cheap Russian natural gas. Germany in particular faces bleak forecasts as its once vaunted industrial might is now quickly fading. Many Euro nations are importing US LNG (fracked gas) at 3-4 times the rate that Russian gas had previously cost them. The Biden administration’s detonation of the Nordstream 2 pipeline was a tragedy for Europe.

State Dept. ignores genocide in Palestine

The US government has received close to 500 reports over the past year stating that Israel used US-supplied weapons for attacks in the Gaza Strip that killed civilians. However, not a single case has reached the “action” stage of the investigation that should take place under the State Department’s Civilian Harm Incident Response Guidance (CHIRG). The cases came from “across the US government, international aid organizations, nonprofits, media reports and other eyewitnesses,” and included photo evidence of “US-made bomb fragments at sites where scores of children were killed.” But current and former US officials have stated “while detailed and deliberate on paper,” the process “has become functionally irrelevant with more senior leaders at the State Department

broadly dismissive of non-Israeli sources and unwilling to sign off on action plans.” Mike Casey, a State Department official who resigned in July, reports that senior officials often dismissed the credibility of Palestinian sources, eyewitness accounts, non-governmental organizations, and even the United Nations. A recent study by Brown University’s Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs concluded that Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of US military aid since World War II. Israel has received at least \$17.9 billion in US military assistance in the past year alone, according to the study.

Canada out of NATO!

Tamara Lorincz reports: The Canadian Parliamentary Budget Office just released its report “The Fiscal Implications of Meeting the NATO Military Spending Target”, on October 30, 2024. The PBO estimated that it would cost \$81 billion annually (a doubling in 8 years) to meet the NATO GDP target of 2% by 2032. Canada’s military spending has increased 100% in ten years from \$20 billion to \$41 billion. Canada CANNOT afford this. It means risking every social and environmental program! It is a threat to our youth, future generations and the environment and climate. This is why it is so urgent that we call for Canada to withdraw from NATO and for dissolution of this US-led, nuclear-armed military alliance that is

impoverishing countries and causing endless war. Canada out of NATO!

Nuland to NED board

The Obama-Biden administration orchestrated coup d’état in Kiev, Ukraine (led by Victoria Nuland) in 2014 turned Ukraine into a disaster zone setting the stage for the NATO-Russia war in Ukraine. Nuland recently was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Endowment for Democracy, the US government’s overt foreign regime change arm which works with the covert foreign interference arm - the CIA. Don’t believe that the NED is a CIA cut-out? It’s been publically admitted many times. Allen Weinstein, the director of the research study that led to creation of the NED in the 1980s, remarked in 1991: “A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA.”

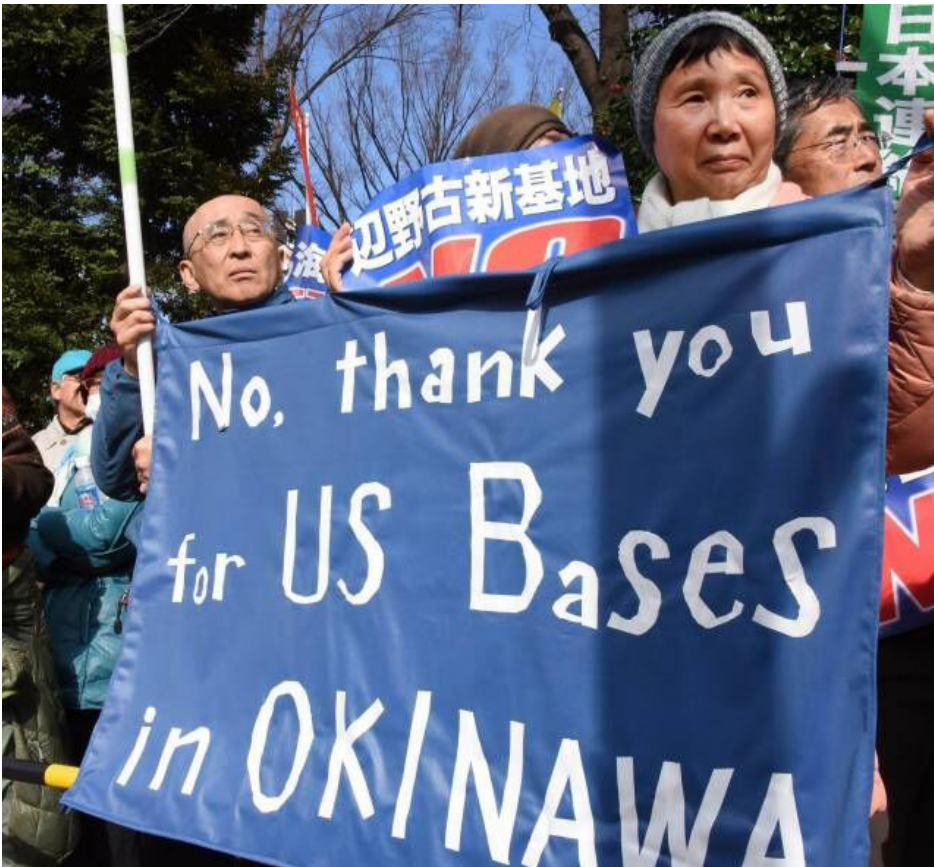
Yemen shoots down 12th Reaper drone

The Yemeni Armed Forces in Sanaa announced the downing of another American ‘MQ 9’ Reaper drone while it was conducting a “hostile mission” in the airspace of Saada province in late September. The Yemeni Armed Forces statement said that the aircraft is the twelfth of this type that the Yemeni air defenses have succeeded in downing. The statement confirmed that this operation comes within their “struggle in support of the Al-Aqsa Flood and in victory for the Palestin-

ian and Lebanese people”. The US army admitted the downing of another MQ-9 drone without providing further details, according to the AP. In 2022 Forbes magazine reported that the MQ-9 drones cost \$32 million each. US-UK bombing attacks continue on Yemen – the latest on October 31. Navy Aegis destroyers (built at Bath Iron Works in Maine and owned by General Dynamics) have been heavily involved in the continued shelling of Yemen for the past year.

Space Force wants first-strike capability

SpaceNews reports: General Chance Saltzman, Chief of Space Operations in the US Space Force, recently proposed “Competitive Endurance” as a theory of Space Force success. Competitive Endurance has three core tenets: Avoiding operational surprise, denying adversaries a first-mover advantage in space, and implementing responsible counterspace campaigns. In essence, the theory of Competitive Endurance rests on the Space Force’s ability to provide actionable space domain awareness (SDA), achieve resiliency, and field capabilities that protect the Joint Force from space-enabled attack. Given that adversarial action in the space domain is likely to be the precursor to any modern conflict, being able to quickly switch gears from peacetime cat-and-mouse activities or gray-zone operations to orbital warfare will be necessary.



Finding our ecological niche here on Earth

By Kate Kheel

In a thought-provoking essay, *The Simple Story of Civilization*, author Tom Murphy condenses the approximately 2.5 million years we humans have been here on Earth into an average life span of 75 years. In this model, the first 70 years represent the period during which different species of humans evolved. The last five years correlate to the age of Homo Sapiens (starting c. 200,000 years ago) where we lived and evolved in a kind of ecological homeostasis with the rest of the natural world.

The last 15 weeks (beginning c.10,000 years ago real time) represents the beginnings of agriculture where we set ourselves apart from, and above the rest of the natural world, and when we began to view Earth as a mere repository of resources for human endeavors. With the advent of agriculture came cities, property, surplus, storage, enslavement of both animals and humans, armies, and hierarchy.

In the last 36 hours, a mere blip in time, we dialed things up with the discovery of fossil fuels imagining we now had unlimited powers and could manifest all manner of creature comforts.

The remaining 12 hours (representing the last 50 years in real time) bring us to the present day of “global ecological devastation” in Murphy’s own words.

Most recently, with the exponential proliferation of technology and AI, our hubristic notions of super-power have been amplified adding fuel to the already expansionary fires of unchecked growth and resource extraction.

Implications of the technological Tsunami for 21st century warfighting

War too has morphed over time from person-to-person combat, perhaps atop horses or on war elephants, to the current battlefield of AI-controlled systems that weave together Earth, sea, air, space, and cyber space. Invisible electromagnetic battles now take place through the airwaves, with cyber warfare a click away. Remote-controlled nuclear warheads boast speeds up to 20 times that of sound, and nuclear Armageddon is precariously locked in a global stalemate of mutually assured destruction – which, according to the *Doomsday Clock*, is currently 90 seconds before midnight.

The world’s military is a major contributor to our global ecological devastation. In 2022 it accounted for an estimated 5.5% of global CO2 emissions, although

likely that figure is higher as militaries are quite secretive and not required to report emissions. The US military alone is the world’s largest institutional consumer of hydrocarbons...“belching out more emissions than industrialized nations like Portugal and Denmark” in the words of Lorraine Mallinder from Aljazeera.

Mallinder goes on to say that military expansion has also impacted air quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, and the health of people living near bases.

Outer space has become pivotal for warfighting and is now being decked out with thousands of satellites to weave together, coordinate, and manage the deluge of data flowing in from all branches of the military as well as from civilian sources.

Transmitters include cell towers, satellites, underwater sensors, surveillance cameras, cell phones, smart cities, facial recognition technology and other biometric markers, robots, the Internet of Battlefield Things (IoBT) consisting of networked helmets, combat gear and other wearables, etc.. AI algorithms sort through and make sense of these vast streams of data and provide actionable items to militaries.

In addition, electromagnetic radiation has significantly upped the ante in three new domains of warfighting:

- Cyber Warfare – attacks on computer systems and connected infrastructure
- Electronic Warfare – battles in the electromagnetic spectrum; electromagnetic pulse attacks potentially downing a nation’s entire electrical grid; or directed energy weapons used to fry components.
- Cognitive Warfare – manipulation of how people think, feel, and act.

Other means of expansion being used to recklessly hurtle us all from 5G to 6G, FutureG, and beyond include:

- *Dual use technology* where militaries join forces with industry to speed innovation.
- *Proliferation* – whereby satellites and other systems scale to thousands or tens of thousands, so the loss of a few won’t affect the overall viability of the system.
- *Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (LAWs) where warfighting is increasingly handed over to AI-controlled weapons and systems that make decisions at blistering speeds, while relegating humans to mere bystanders attempting to stay in the loop if at all possible.



With the US and China vying for first mover advantage, over seventy countries sporting government space agencies, and many satellite programs springing up from the private sector as well, we are fast depleting Earth’s “resources,” turbo-charging warfighting, while clogging up the Heavens with ever more debris.

Reflections

If the notion of digital technology as a testament to human ingenuity seems a bit grim, and *techno-optimism* – technology’s power to “save mankind” – is beginning to sound lame.... well, you’re not alone. Many of us are grieving deeply as we bear witness to the harms being inflicted on all Life.

Personally, I find some solace and inspiration in the following phrase from the Hebrew blessing recited after a meal: *V’achalta, v’savata, ou v’rachta* – And you shall eat, and be satiated, and you shall bless.

And you shall eat – in Hebrew *v-achalta* – refers to more than just consuming food. It means taking in or experiencing something from “outside” of ourselves and allowing it to inform or transform us as it is “digested” into our mind, heart, and body – e.g., smelling a flower, listening to a song, or navigating a life challenge.

And you shall be satiated – *v’savata* – refers to the sweet point of satiation where we have *just enough* but not one drop too much. When we ingest food deplete of nutrients or partake of experiences devoid of meaning, we are left feeling unsatisfied and prone to over consume. But when we partake of the substance of *real* life – not the illusory and frivolous distractions of for-sale and for-profit substitutes – then enough is truly and generously enough.

Ou’verachta -- and you shall bless. We lend our unique signature to what we “consume” as we send it back out into the world via our thoughts, intentions, words, and deeds - hopefully, in the form of blessings to all living beings and to Earth herself.

If we can find our eco-niche – our unique place in the web of life – we will interrelate with one another with respect, restraint, and love... and our actions – both individual and collective – will bring blessing, not war.

During this vanishingly small moment in evolutionary time brought about by the confluence of

- separating ourselves from the *web of life*
- the desire for *dominion*
- the discovery of *fossil fuels*
- and more recently supercharged by *digital technology and AI*,

... we humans seem to have lost our way and have become a threat to all living beings.

But there’s an undertow growing stronger by the day beneath the tidal waves of consumerism and war: A powerful movement of people dedicating every fiber of their being to help shift our global consciousness to one of *inter-being*, and to rekindle greater reverence and care for all Life. The movement isn’t new but thankfully is growing by leaps and bounds, fueled by our collective grief and our inherent reverence for Life.

Many wonderful authors, visionaries, speakers etc. are contributing to the movement, each with their own unique flavor. Following is a small sampling of a few I have found particularly inspiring.

Bill Plotkin from the *Animas Institute* has developed

Perfidy in Iran, Continued from Page 9

Then followed the ‘pager assault’ and assassinations of the Hizbullah leadership, including the iconic figure of its leader, Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, amidst huge civilian collateral deaths. The Biden administration said simply that this was ‘justice’ being done.

And once again, the West importuned, and threatened Iran against any retaliation towards Israel. But on this occasion, Iran launched a more effective ballistic missile attack, though one which deliberately omitted targeting Israel’s economic and industrial infrastructure, or the Israeli people, focusing instead on key military and intelligence sites. It was, in short, a demonstrative signal – albeit one with an effective component of inflicting damage on air bases and military and intelligence sites.

And for what?
Open sneering from the West that Iran was deterred - too frightened - too divided to fully respond. In fact, the US - knowing well that Netanyahu is looking for the pretext for war with Iran - offered Israel full support for a major retribution against Iran: “There will be severe consequences for this attack and we will work with Israel to make that the case”, Jake Sullivan said. “Make no mistake, the US is fully, fully, fully supportive of Israel”, Biden said.

The moral of the story is plain: President Pezeshkian was ‘played’ by the West - shades of the West’s deliberate ‘Minsk deceit’ of President Putin; shades too, of the Istanbul II Accord’s knife in the back. Restraint that the International Order insists upon, invariably is broadcast as ‘weakness’.

The ‘professional permanent class’ (the western deep state) eschews any moral underpinning. It makes a virtue of its nihilism. Perhaps the last leader capable of real diplomacy that springs to mind was JFK during the Cuban Missile Crisis and in his subsequent dealings with the Soviet leaders. And what happened? ... He was killed by the system.

Of course, many are angry in Iran. They ask whether Iran projected weakness too readily, and question whether that manifestation in some way contributed to Israel’s readiness to strike Lebanon so ruthlessly and

without limitations, as in the Gaza model. Later reports suggest that the US has new technological intel (not available to Israel) that pinpointed Sayyed Nasrallah’s whereabouts, and was supplied to Israel, which led to his assassination.

If the West insists to so demean Iranian restraint – wrongly attributing restraint to impotence – is the European and US world order ‘uni-party’ ever capable of cold realism? Can they make a sound assessment of the consequences should Israel launch war on Iran? Netanyahu has made it clear that this is the Israeli government’s aim – war with Iran.

Hubristic misperception of an adversary, and the misperception of his hidden strengths, is so often the precursor to wider war (WW1). And Israel is awash with fervour for war to establish its ‘New Order’ for the Middle East.

The Biden Administration is ‘more than willing’ – laying the ‘revolver on the table’ – for Netanyahu to pick it up and discharge it, whilst Washington pretends to stand aloof from the act. Washington’s ultimate target is of course Russia.

That in diplomacy the West is not to be trusted is understood. The story’s moral, however, has wider implications. How exactly, in such circumstances, can Russia bring an end to the Ukraine conflict? It would appear that many more will needlessly die, simply because of the uni-party’s rigidity and its incapacity to ‘do’ diplomacy.

Just as many more Ukrainians have perished since the Istanbul II process was trashed [by the west].

The West is in the throes of at least one, potentially two, crushing defeats at the moment – and so the question arises: What lessons be learned? Can the right lessons be learned? Does the professional world order class even accept that there are lessons to be learned?

~ Alastair Crooke is a former British diplomat, founder and director of the Beirut-based Conflicts Forum. This article is reprinted from Strategic Culture Foundation

Space Environment Statistics

Environment Report
The eighth edition of the Space Debris Environment Report issued by ESA’s Space Debris Office.

Environment Statistics
Last update: 15 August 2024

- Number of rocket launches since the start of the space age in 1957 is about 6,710 (excluding failures).
- Number of satellites these rocket launches have placed into Earth orbit is about 19,160. Number of these still in space is about 13,030. Number of these still functioning is about 10,200.
- Number of space objects regularly tracked by Space Surveillance Networks and maintained in their catalogue is about 36,440.
- Estimated number of break-ups, explosions, collisions, or anomalous events resulting in fragmentation is more than 650. Total mass of all space objects in Earth orbit is more than 12,900 tons.
- Not all objects are tracked and catalogued.
- 40,500 space debris objects greater than 10 cm. 1,100,000 space debris objects from greater than 1 cm to 10 cm. 130 million space debris objects from greater than 1 mm to 1 cm.
- The number of satellites launched in total by the US was 9,632 up to 2023. Russia had launched only 3,723 in total.

Finding our ecological niche here on Earth, Continued from Page 13

a program for guiding *soul initiation* and assisting people in becoming *Visionary Artisans of Cultural Evolution*. Author and visionary Jeremy Lent invites people to join *Deep Transformation Network*, a growing group of people feeling their way into a more eco-conscious future. In the podcast series, *The Great Simplification*, Nate Hagen interviews an extraordinary array of people from diverse fields each addressing the *Metacrisis* in their own way. Author and translator, David Hinten recalls past civilizations that were able to sustain and nurture the land they were on for thousands of years due to a profound understanding of their niche in the web of Life. And finally, Iain McGilchrist who explains how, in our 21st century civilization, the more strategic goal-oriented left hemisphere

of the brain has gained dominance over the right hemisphere that sees more holistically, and that intuitu our interconnectedness with all Life.
At this pivotal and critical moment in time the powerful forces driving expansion and war coupled with exponential technology and AI are a *Cosmic Invitation* – indeed a plea and a prayer – for us to find and savor our individual and collective *ecological niche* here on Earth where enough is truly and generously enough.

~ Kate Kheel is a musician, founding member of Safe Tech International, and on an inner quest to be of service as we humans feel our way into a new way of being more aligned with the rest of the natural world. She serves on the GN’s board of advisers and lives in Maryland.

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Japan-US Military Shift to Ryukyu Islands, Daring War Against China

By Makoto Konishi (Translated by Makoko Sato)

Military utilization of private airports and harbors having begun in 2023, a new big step in the Japan’s Self Defense Forces (SDF) troop’s deployment shift to Ryukyu (Nansei, meaning southwest) Islands, can be said to be full-scale preparations for war against China. The SDFs integrated military exercise in Nov. 2023, de facto US-Japan joint war game, revealed the policy leaning to war.

In that war game, 30,000 service men from all the SDF forces and 10,000 from US Pacific Fleet, Army, Air Force and Marine participated, using 3,500 vehicles, 20 war vessels, 210 aircrafts in their joint land, sea, air and amphibious operation exercises. ‘Touch and Go’ exercises by jet fighters at private airports not only in Nansei Islands but in Tokunoshima Islands, Amami Island, Oita, and Okayama, surprised local residents, causing opposition movements.

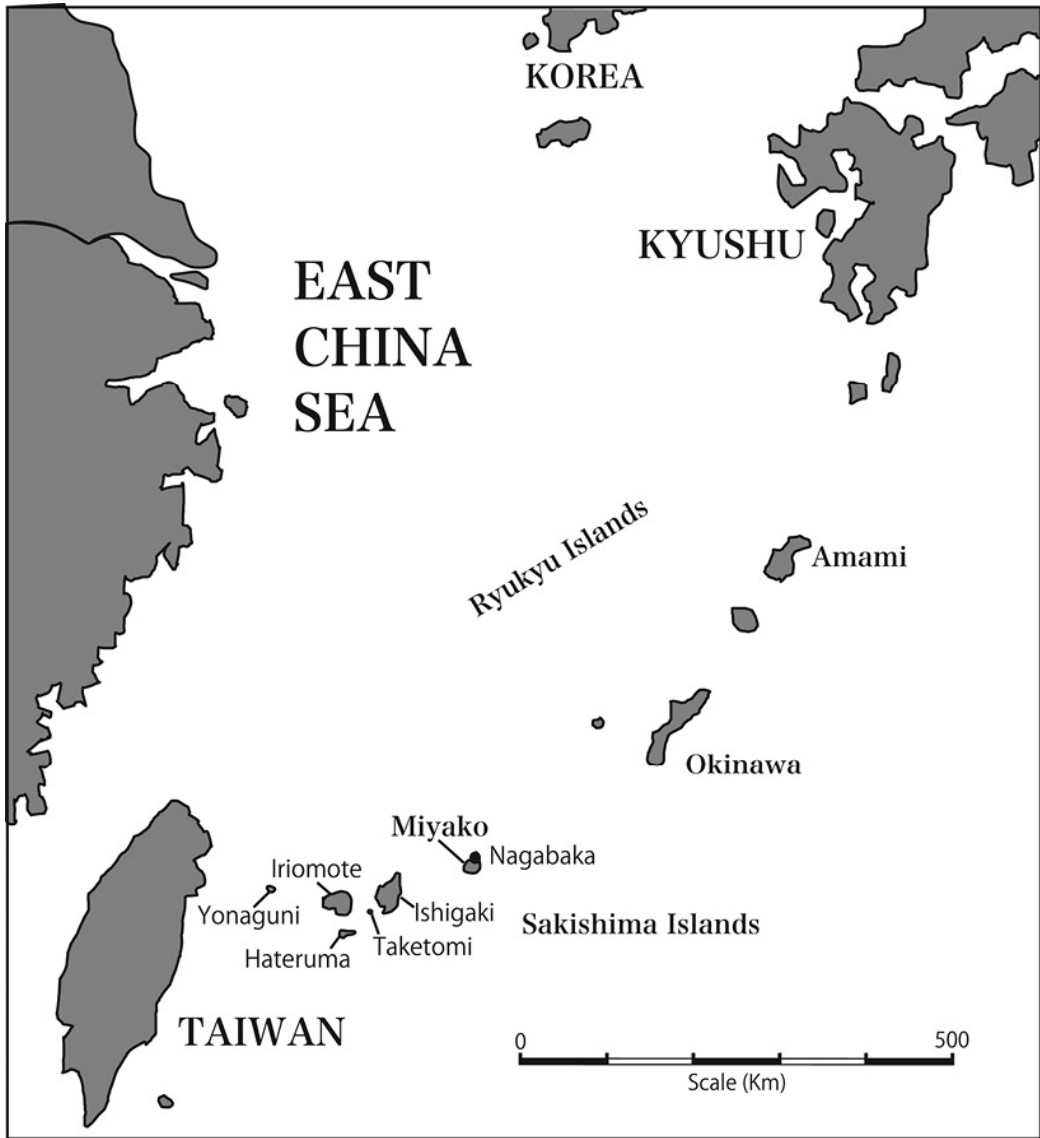
Prime Minister Fumio Kishida government announced, in December 2022, its Defense Buildup Plan with 43 trillion yen defense budget in total for five years, which would make Japan, with the war-renouncing Constitution, the third global military power. We should recognize this not as for defense but for war-preparing military buildup, including the capability to attack adversary military bases in order to win over missile-launching war.

The big budget aims at:

- 1) Development and mass-production of long-range missiles (1,500 missiles with 1,500 km range)
- 2) Establishment and deployment of long-range

missile troops with hypersonic missiles and Tomahawk missiles; Out of 400 missiles under the purchase contract with the USA (costing over 211.3 billion yen), 200 missiles are to be purchased in a lump sum this year and to be deployed as early as 2025. Total budget for missiles is eight trillion yen.

- 3) Big reinforcement of SDF on Nansei Islands; Nansei emergency increase troops will be changed into the mobile deployment posture by all divisions and all brigades.
- 4) Greatly expanded transportation capacity for that mobile deployment posture;
 - configuration of the first SDF troop for sea transport
 - expanded military utilization of private ships and aircrafts as ‘public infrastructure for the defense,’ designating 33 facilities in 10 prefectures (14 airports and 19 harbors), including 16 from Ryukyu Islands, Kyusyu and Shikoku, as bases of ‘specific importance’
 - commandeering to use, in a contingency, buses, trucks, ferries, trains, airplanes, even local employees and laborers, under the relating law already in force, besides placing those private infrastructure and facilities under ‘dual use’ all year long in the peace-time.
- 5) To reinforce, with the allocated budget of 15 trillion yen, the survivability and the sustenance of the functionality of this posture;
 - commanding headquarters of nationwide SDF



- troops will be constructed under the ground
- bunkers for accommodating jet fighters will be constructed or reinforced
- massive ammunitions and missiles are to be stored in ammunition depots being currently constructed or expanded in 130 places nationwide

In the defense plan, the whole Okinawa prefectural area is designated for evacuation-needing area, with some 120,000 residents and tourists estimated at 10,000 on Sakishima Islands to be evacuated within 6 days by airplanes and ships to Kyusyu or Yamaguchi, while some 1.3 million residents on Okinawa Island to stay indoors.

How could this be possible? SDFs are supposed to commandeer and utilize private airplanes and ships in order to be fully committed to “eliminating military attacks on our territory.” Moreover, construction of underground concrete shelters is now underway on Miyako, Yonakuni, and Ishigaki Islands. So, this evacuation plan is just another hypocritical story for abandoning locals under fire, just as it happened in the past.

At the US Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in March, 2021, Phillip Davidson, then Commander of US Indo-Pacific Command, referred to “the possibility of military actions in six years”. Then, Biden administration, in their National Defense Strategy (NDS) in Oct. 2022, referred to China as “most important strategically competing rival”, placing military priority on China over Russia. So, obviously, the political purpose in this NDS is to prevent China’s influence in Asia-Pacific for the sake of US’ own hegemony, igniting another ‘Cold War.’

Only in two months, Kishida government issued its version of NDS, in which, naturally, the same wording “by 2027” repeatedly appeared like this; “Japan should reinforce its defense capability by 2027, in order to respond to an invasive actions to our land, preventing and eliminating them with main responsibility on our own, receiving supports from allies.”

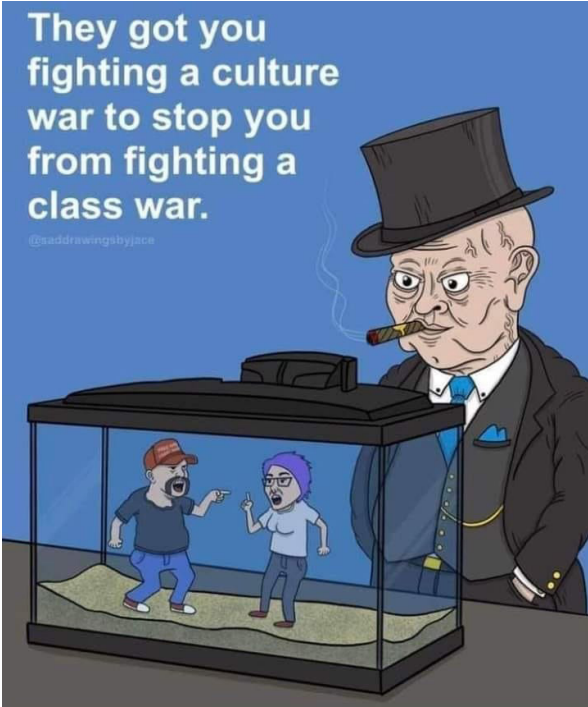
Everything mentioned above suggests very likely war with China. Although Japanese government and SDFs presume that possible war with China would be limited to ‘island war’ on the Ryukyu archipelago, such theoretically designed battles are easily blown up to real bigger war, expanding to Kyusyu, the mainland, and even to neighboring countries with allies of each side involved.

With such harsh recognition, in order to stop war, which is nothing but assisting US hegemony in east and Southeast Asia, we should issue dire warnings to this leap in the SDFs’ southwest shift currently enforcing war-preparedness posture on to us from Okinawa to Hokkaido.

Under the detailed SDFs plan submitted to a Diet member at a Diet committee, not ‘island war’ but all-out war throughout Japan is presumed, including ABC bombs by the enemy, subterfuge explosions, electronic pulse war, etc., necessitating 12,636 new buildings and 5,102 refurbished buildings, in 283 places all over Japan.

~ Makoto Konishi is a 10th generation graduate from JASDF Cadet. He is an anti-war military analyst and publisher, focusing on SDFs and its shift to Ryukyu Islands, Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Philippine, etc. He lives in Tokyo.

the funnies



COUNTRY	GOLD MINES	GOLD RESERVES
FRANCE	0	2,436 TONS
MALI	860	0 TONS

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