

Space Alert!



Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

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Greenland, It Will Never Be For Sale

By Dud Hendrick

President Trump, casting a covetous eye on Greenland, has my attention. I have a history in that place, so little known to Americans in general, having spent the entire year of 1964, at Thule Air Force Base, now Pituffik Space Base, 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The road I've traveled since has me deeply concerned about Trump in every respect--- believing that everything he represents and wants is contrary to the best interests of our country, to the world, and for man-kind altogether, excepting perhaps oligarchs.

At Thule I was responsible for overseeing the maintenance of our air-to-air missiles and for supervising the loading of those missiles on board our F-102 fighter jets in the event of declared hostilities with our great "bugaboo", the Soviet Union.

Many years later, after volunteering for and spending a year in Vietnam, I became a full-fledged "peacenik", an adjunct professor of peace studies at the University of Maine, angry and in despair about this country's militarism and particularly agitated about our vast empire of military bases. My experiences in Greenland and Vietnam were surely foundational to my conversion. I had become well-aware of the wide-spread, anti-base movement and sympathetic with the neighbors of these bases who, so often, experienced profound environmental degradation, noise pollution, and violence.

The heartless displacement of the Inughuit people of Thule, done without forenotice to enable the construction of a military base in 1951 offers a good case in point. The place they called Uummannaq had been their home for centuries, and was the sacred burial grounds of their ancestors. In May of 1953, three hundred men, women, and children, having been given four days to vacate their modest sod homes, set off by dog sled for a place called Qaanaaq, 150 kilometers across the icecap. No promised houses awaited them and they were forced to live thru the cold, wet summer in the tents they'd been given. They were denied the right to return to or hunt in their ancestral homelands.

I'd also learned that in 1968, a B-52 had crashed on the icecap while

attempting to make an emergency landing at Thule, spreading radioactive debris across the land. Four nuclear weapons were on board; one, never to be recovered.

This history and my developing curiosity about the real stories behind our military empire, inspired my quest to visit Qaanaaq, a trip I was able to realize in 2008. That journey, and the people I met provide the basis for my perspectives on Trump's covetous ambitions.

The Principals

Aqqaluk Lynge: Former member of the Greenland Parliament; Former chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (1995-2002); Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters—Dartmouth College (2012); Author of *"The Right to Return: Fifty Years of Struggle by Relocated Inughuit in Greenland"*.

I had the good fortune to meet and to interview Mr. Lynge, who at the time was a visiting scholar at Dartmouth College. He enabled my subsequent meetings with Qaanaaq people who had been among those evicted.

Uusaqqak Qujaukitsoq: Hunter, fisherman, and leader of the so-called Hingitaq 53, the group of nearly 500 Inughuits who launched legal proceedings against Denmark seeking their right to return. Uusaqqak had been a 12 year old boy, living at Uummannaq at the time of the eviction.

Tautianguaq Simigaq: Simigaq, a hunter, had been one of 13 Inuit who worked on the B-52 crash site, 11 of whom had died by the time of my visit. He was among several hunters who reported seeing deformed walrus, seals, and fox in the area of the crash in the years since.

It is no exaggeration that my visit with the people I met in Qaanaaq and Siorapaluk, the northernmost year-round inhabited settlement in Greenland, remain in my soul all these years later. Uusaqqak and his wife, Inger, invited me into their modest home and, though their English was limited, we spent many comfortable hours together, he sharing his life story to include the trauma of the dislocation, hunting and fishing, and education in Copenhagen. His travels had taken him



far and wide. As a representative of the Inughuit people he had proudly once met Nelson Mandela. Their 30-year-old son, Magssanguaq, a virtual renaissance man, spoke English and Danish, and was a teacher, a musician, a poet, and an accomplished photographer. He had a keen sense of the injustices his people had suffered as victims of colonialism and would become my interpreter and guide.

Mags and I devoted much of our time in Qaanaaq to visiting and interviewing elders who had been victims of the displacement. Those sessions were, without exception, emotional in the telling and the listening.

My immersion into Inughuit culture, a deep one during my brief visit, but a lasting one of reflection, leaves me profoundly hopeful-- believing that it will not come to pass that Trump's rapacious nature shall determine the eventual fate of Greenland. I was made mindful of Syracuse University Scholar Philip Arnold's *"The Urgency of Indigenous Values"* in which he argues that the very future of the world is dependent

upon the ascendancy of "green values" of indigenous populations everywhere, as opposed to the "raider" values of our dominant culture. The history of the Inughuits who had lived on their sacred lands at Uummannaq for centuries is known by all Greenlanders, 89% of whom are of Inuit descent. I would assert that Trump represents, even personifies "raider" values, and is seen that way by a large majority of all people of Greenland.

I have read that Trump is bringing Columbus Day "back from the ashes." Hmmm! How might that play with indigenous people?

Speaking of Trump and his eye on Greenland, the senior statesman Aqqaluk Lynge had this to say on *60 Minutes*: "He mentioned Greenland like it was a toy or something. It was ugly!"

They're not words of casual sentiment.

~ Dud Hendrick attended the US Naval Academy and is a Vietnam war veteran. He joins weekly peace vigils near his home in Deer Isle, Maine



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America's tale of woe — step up the protests

By Bruce K. Gagnon

Donald Trump recently stated that the US won WW1 and WW2. That is news to the former Soviet Union that lost 27 million people while breaking the back of Nazi Germany's army. The US lost 419,400 dead.

Trump has started a tariff war with much of the world (especially China) that will likely break the back of the US economy.

The Houthis in Yemen have shot down 22 US MQ-9 Reaper drones that cost \$32 million each. In addition, two \$60 million fighter jets slid off the deck of a US aircraft carrier recently while under attack as planes were being launched to attack Yemen. A third jet was shot down by the Navy in a 'friendly fire' hit. The US has been bombing civilian targets there in retribution for Yemen's pledge not to allow any Israel-bound supply ships in the Red Sea as long as the Israel-US-UK genocide in Gaza continues. It now appears Trump has waived the white flag and quit the Yemen attacks.

Trump promised not to start any wars but he sure is working hard to break that promise as his neo-con administration has been doing everything it can to support the creation of 'Greater Israel'. Israel is now attacking Lebanon, Syria, Gaza and the West Bank. The Zionists have their sights set on Iran and are pushing Trump to 'bomb, bomb, bomb Iran'.

Back here at home things are getting worse when it comes to health care, education, infrastructure maintenance and repair, environmental protection, cost

of living and our freedoms to speak and protest. For someone who claimed he wanted to 'Make America Great Again' Trump sure has taken a wrong turn.

But let's be fair. Most of these issues were staring the Biden administration in the face during his tenure. Virtually nothing was done as the Democrats were preoccupied funding wars against Russia via the US proxy Ukraine, daily carnage in Palestine, attacks on Yemen, and more. It's a bi-partisan war machine that runs Washington these days.

Biden officials have admitted they never pressured Israel for a ceasefire.

Former Israeli ambassador Michael Herzog stated, "God did the State of Israel a favor that Biden was the president during this period...We fought [in Gaza] for over a year and the administration never came to us and said, 'ceasefire now.' It never did. And that's not to be taken for granted."

A sweeping Israeli Channel 13 investigation has exposed the Biden administration's complicity in Israel's 19-month war on Gaza. Nine top Biden officials acknowledged avoiding real pressure on Israel—even as the death toll surpassed 30,000. (It is now well over 50,000—and maybe double considering those still buried under the rubble.) Israeli leaders openly bragged they dragged out the war, playing for time until Donald Trump's return.

Former National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, Ambassador Tom Nides, and others defended their unwavering support for Israel—even as they admit-

ted enabling a campaign one U.S. aide described as "killing and destroying for the sake of killing and destroying."

All over the world protests against genocide in Palestine continue but, in the US, Germany and the UK in particular crackdowns on free speech and assembly continue. So much for the 'exceptional democracy' of the west!

Trump wants a Star Wars-era 'Golden Dome' over the US to protect our nation from counter-strikes after the Pentagon launches their planned wars on China and Russia. Elon Musk's Space X company is in the lead for the contract as well as seeking hundreds of billions for the colonization of Mars that he so often brags about. Yes, there was method in his madness by becoming part of the Trump administration.

Speaking of which – Social Security is in grave danger of being privatized along with the Veterans Administration (VA), the postal service, Amtrak and much more. The oligarchs are literally draining the public sector and pocketing the cash – sort of like pirates stealing the buried treasure chest.

The desperation shows as we watch the angry words coming from Washington demanding control of Greenland, Canada, Panama Canal, Suez Canal, Ukraine's resources and much more. The mis-leadership in the White House and Congress know that our day in the sun is over. The myth of American exceptionalism has been shattered by the emergence of the Global South, BRICS+, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and an ever-feisty African continent.

Our Role

Across the beleaguered west (US, UK, EU) we witness populations of depression and some level of resignation to the frustrations of growing oligarch domination. This is not the time to surrender hope and our demand for political sovereignty.

There has been a rise in protests lately across the US but one sad fact is that many of the events are being led by groups funded and coordinated by the Democrat Party. A close look reveals that foreign policy issues are often absent. Virtually nothing about Palestine, or ending the war in Ukraine. It should never be forgotten that much of our domestic economic crisis is currently due to spending \$1 trillion a year on the military industrial complex. How can that not be a key issue in any protest?

What could be more important at this time in history than for all of us to tell the bitter truth about what the US role in the world has wrought? How could we not declare that America's war-state MUST BE DISMANTLED! How could that issue be absent from any public gathering that presumes to right the wrongs across our land?

Most readers of this Global Network newsletter understand these words. But beyond us are legions of 'progressives' who for various reasons don't see fit to make these deadly connections visible for the public.

That is our task – our mission in the coming times. We must never waver or cower under pressures to go along with the flow. The flow will drown us if we are not alert.

In peace.

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



Israel's Violations of International Law & the Way Forward

By Dr. Aruna Kammila

The Israel-Palestine conflict has long been one of the most intractable and controversial conflicts in modern history. However, the events following the attacks by Hamas on 7 October 2023 marked a dramatic escalation that brought unprecedented devastation to the Gaza Strip. Gaza's Ministry of Health said in late-April at least 50,021 Palestinians have been killed and 113,274 wounded since Israel began attacking the besieged territory. The destruction has rendered vast areas of Gaza uninhabitable, destroying homes, hospitals, schools, and essential infrastructure (Amnesty International, 2024). The extent and intensity of the offensive raise serious concerns regarding Israel's compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Key Principles of International Humanitarian Law

International Humanitarian Law, also known as the law of armed conflict or the law of war, is enshrined in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols. The central principles include: Distinction - Parties must distinguish between combatants and civilians; Proportionality - Attacks must not cause excessive civilian harm in relation to the anticipated military advantage; Precaution - Parties must take precautions to avoid or minimize incidental harm to civilians; Prohibition of Collective Punishment - Civilians must not be punished for acts they did not commit; Humane Treatment - All persons not actively participating in hostilities must be treated humanely, without adverse distinction.



Alleged Violations by Israel in Gaza

1. Indiscriminate and Disproportionate Attacks: Numerous reports by the UN, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International have accused Israel of conducting indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks.
2. Destruction of Civilian Infrastructure: The targeting of hospitals, schools, water supply systems, and cultural sites violates the principle of distinction and the special protection afforded to civilian objects.
3. Blockade and Denial of Humanitarian Aid: Israel's blockade of Gaza, intensified during the conflict, effectively cut off vital supplies, including food, fuel, and medicine. Such denial of humanitarian assistance contravenes Geneva Convention IV. The resulting humanitarian catastrophe has been likened to collective punishment, a grave breach under IHL.
4. Forced Displacement and Evacuations: Mass evacuation orders issued by Israel, often without ensuring safe passage or adequate shelter, have displaced over 1.9 million people within Gaza. Forced displacement not justified by military necessity is prohibited under the Geneva Convention IV.
5. Torture and Inhumane Treatment: Reports of detainees, including minors, being subjected to degrading treatment and torture have surfaced. These acts, when verified, would constitute violations of Geneva Conventions, the Convention Against Torture, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Legal and Political Ramifications

The international community has responded with a mix of condemnation, legal actions, and calls for accountability. In 2021, the International Criminal Court (ICC) opened an investigation into alleged crimes committed in the occupied Palestinian territories since 2014. Given that Palestine is a party to the Rome Statute, the ICC has jurisdiction over crimes committed in Gaza, West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

In December 2023, South Africa filed a case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the Genocide Convention, accusing Israel of acts of genocide in Gaza. The ICJ issued provisional measures in early 2024, ordering Israel to take immediate steps to prevent genocidal acts, ensure humanitarian aid reaches civilians, and report on compliance.

Conclusion:

The Israel-Gaza conflict has underscored the fragility of the global commitment to International Humanitarian Law. The sheer scale of destruction, civilian suffering, and legal violations in Gaza demands urgent international attention and accountability. While legal mechanisms exist, their enforcement has often been selective, politicized, and ineffective.

The pathways to accountability and compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) must be reimagined through a more inclusive and equitable lens. Especially in regions like Gaza and Sudan, where the toll of war is counted not only in numbers but in broken families and destroyed futures, violations can no longer be viewed as mere legal abstractions. The focus must shift to the lived suffering of communities torn apart by conflict and the glaring failure of the systems meant to protect them.

For many in the Global South, international mechanisms feel distant, selective, and often politicised. When sanctions or accountability measures are ignored or unevenly applied, as seen with the impunity surrounding Israeli actions in Gaza or long-standing conflicts in Africa, it sends a message that some lives matter less. This erodes trust in international law and the global promise of justice and dignity for all.

One of the most pressing questions the international community must now answer is: why, despite overwhelming evidence and formal legal procedures, has the Palestinian genocide not received the kind of judicial reckoning witnessed during the Nuremberg Trials or through the ad hoc tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia? The answer lies partly in the structure of the international system itself. The veto power held by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council enables powerful states to block investigations, shield allies, and paralyse collective action. Israel's strategic alliances—particularly with veto-wielding powers—have contributed to a political environment in which accountability is selectively applied and often denied.

This impunity reveals a double standard in the enforcement of international law. Powerful nations can often act with impunity, shielded by geopolitical interests and global inertia. Unlike Rwanda or the Balkans, where the international community eventually mobilised tribunals to administer justice, the response to Palestine has been delayed, muted, or redirected through legal institutions whose authority is undermined by non-cooperation and political defiance.

If global frameworks are to remain relevant and respected, they must reflect a universal standard, free from political shielding and grounded in compassion, equity, and genuine accountability. To restore the credibility of IHL, the global community must move beyond reactive measures and adopt systemic reforms that ensure justice is pursued and achieved. Only then can we hope to uphold the dignity of war's victims and restore faith in the rule of law.

~ Dr. Aruna Kammila is Associate Professor at ICAFI Law School Hyderabad, India. She also serves on the GN Board of Directors.

Space Force Prepares for War

By Dr. Dave Webb

The U.S. military preparations for war continue - on land, at sea, in the air and in space. Wars cannot be fought these days without significant support from space systems, and the aim of the U.S. Space Force is to ensure that it controls outer space.

The recent Space Force publication ‘*Space Warfighting: A Framework for Planners*’, outlines how it sees “space superiority as a necessary condition for Joint Forces success.” Space superiority is defined as having a “degree of control that allows forces to operate at a time and place of their choosing without prohibitive interference from space or counterspace threats, while also denying the same to an adversary.” The document lays out plans for how satellites will be defended and describes how space superiority will be gained and maintained. Space is seen as another battleground and the various orbital regions must be controlled and their use denied to others.

These concepts are not new they were also stated in the 1997 US Space Command’s ‘*Vision for 2020*’. But now the vision is being implemented with plans for offensive and defensive actions.

Satellites are vulnerable and relatively easy targets, and the Space Force aims to provide the ability to identify and respond rapidly to potential threats in orbit through a program called ‘*Tactically Responsive Space*’ (TacRS). As part of this program, ‘*Space Domain Awareness*’ (SDA) involves the detection, tracking, characterization, and understanding of all activity within the space domain. Data is collected from satellites and ground-based telescopes and radars and combined with intelligence sources to produce a picture of the space environment.

Space Force says that it needs to expand its SDA networks to keep up with manoeuvring Chinese or Russian satellites, and major ongoing SDA projects include the *Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability* (DARC), a proposed network of powerful radar sites in the U.S., Wales and Australia; the global *Ground-based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance System* of telescopes; a constellation of *Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program* (GSSAP) satellites and a new satellite called *Silent Barker* to augment the existing *Space-Based Space Surveillance* (SBSS) satellites.

These systems are used to monitor the activities of others in space. They can also provide data for the targeting of anti-satellite systems and therefore play a significant role in Space Battle Management.

If, for whatever reason, the use of key satellites is lost, a quick response may require satellites to be replaced, or existing coverage enhanced. This could mean launching satellites at short notice, moving already deployed space objects to reinforce damaged systems, or buying data/resources from commercial companies during a crisis. The Space Force goal is for satellites to be placed into orbit with just 24 hours’ notice. This was the aim of the *Tactically Responsive Launch-2* (TacRL-2) mission.

In 2021 Northrup Grumman launched an SDA satellite into orbit from a *Pegasus* rocket carried on a *Stargazer* aircraft. The satellite was built and operated by the Air Force Research Laboratory and Space Dynamics Laboratory. Space Force declared that the *Space and Missile Systems Center* (SMC) team had reduced the time taken to prepare the satellite for launch from 2-5 years to 11 months.

In 2022, *Firefly Aerospace* won a contract for a TacRL-3 mission called ‘*Victus Nox*’ (“conquest of the

night”) alongside satellite manufacturer *Millennium Space Systems* (a Boeing subsidiary). They were given 8 months to prepare launch and ground systems, and given 24 hours’ notice to launch the payload into orbit. Space Force reported that was achieved in February last year.

The next phase, managed by *Space Safari*, involves a \$32 million contract to *Rocket Lab* to launch a mission named ‘*Victus Haze*’. *True Anomaly*, developers of a highly manoeuvrable autonomous satellite called ‘*Jackal*’, have also been awarded \$30 million for the project which includes launches of *Firefly’s Alpha* and *Rocket Lab’s Electron* rockets. This mission will also include an in-orbit up-close inspection of a satellite used to simulate a threat. *Firefly* will carry the *True Anomaly* payload, and *Rocket Lab* will carry one of its own satellites. The previously prepared satellites are again to be launched with 24 hours’ notice and the mission is expected to take place later this year.

Other missions to address on-orbit threats by developing manoeuvrable satellites are also being planned. In October last year *Impulse Space* was awarded \$34.5 million to support two orbital transfer missions, ‘*Victus Surgo*’ and ‘*Victus Salo*’, to test how prepositioned space assets could be manoeuvred away from on-orbit threats.

For *Victus Surgo*, *Impulse Space* will launch a *Mira* Orbital Manoeuvre Vehicle (OMV) carrying a commercial optical payload into Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

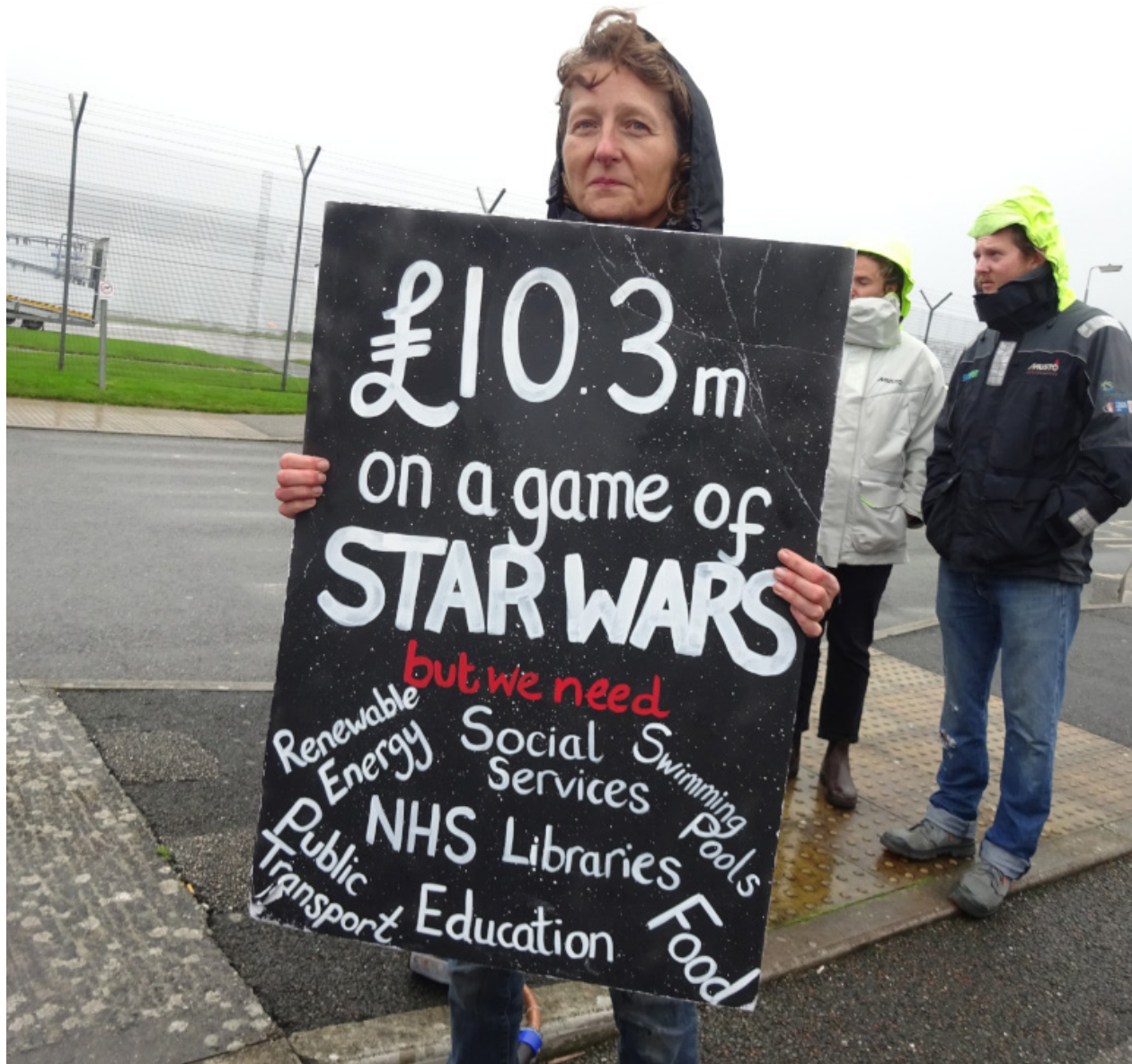
via a *SpaceX Falcon 9* rocket. The payload will then be shifted to Geostationary Orbit (GEO) by *Impulse Space’s Helios* vehicle, which is being developed for this purpose. From here other satellites in GEO can be investigated more closely.

For *Victus Salo* another *Mira* OMV carrying a government payload developed by MIT, will be placed in LEO using *SpaceX’s Rideshare* program. Both OMVs will conduct SDA missions.

An important aspect of this TacRS program is the use of commercially available satellites and capabilities - commercial satellites, launch and ground facilities. The *Defense Innovation Unit* (DIU) has a mission to find already commercially available capabilities that can be easily adapted for the Defense Department. So, we see commercial and military space systems developing hand-in-hand.

Space Force will also find the growing number of spaceports around the world useful – providing options for launching commercial/military satellites. TacRS ground stations such as radars, antennas, launch sites and command centres, will all be targets in any major conflict. Communities close to any of these should beware.

~ 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



China is Killing Boeing as a major Pentagon Contractor

By Kevin Walmsley

The Pentagon and Congress are concerned that Boeing’s safety, legal, and financial troubles leave the Defense Department vulnerable in event of the company’s bankruptcy.

But while Boeing’s poor management and engineering problems are grave in the short term, it is China’s decisions to cut off Boeing from key supply chains that will doom the company.

Boeing is the archetypal buyer of “dual-use” technologies and materials from China, which are used in both civilian and military sectors. China has monopolies on heavy rare magnets, and the REM that are required to build them.

These magnets are crucial in avionics systems for passenger jets, but even more so for advanced military systems, hypersonic missiles, and stealth aircraft.

China closed export markets for all these dual-use technologies. Boeing and other Pentagon contractors will be unable to fulfill the multi-billion-dollar contracts, now that they’ve been cut off from China’s supply chains.

Boeing’s future in commercial aviation is very much in doubt, especially in the fastest-growing markets in the world. COMAC (Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China) will take over most of the new markets in the fastest-growing areas of the world, and going forward the market share for Chinese airlines--and for China’s plane maker--will grow, while shrinking at Boeing and Airbus.

Fortunately for Boeing, the company also makes a lot of money building planes for the Pentagon. Unfortunately for Boeing, they need raw materials, electronics, and components from China to build those planes for the Pentagon, and China is cutting them off. “Dual Use” refers to technologies that have applications in both civilian and military sectors, and anything dual use that goes through China is basically dead. In order for companies to import China components or materials that have a dual use purpose, they need to guarantee Chinese regulators that those materials will not be sold to a third party, or otherwise be used in military applications.

That is impossible, basically—if a regulator in China knows he will lose his job if he approves the sale of materials that later show up in a Stealth bomber or hypersonic missile system, the default answer from that guy is going to be hard no. So, the markets for these materials are effectively closed.

More explicitly, Boeing itself was placed on China’s export ban list, by name. This means that Boeing, along with a group of 20 other companies, cannot get materials they need to build weapons, from China. And China is where almost all of them come from.

For the rare earths export bans that have already been announced by China, they have deep and wide use in aerospace, and especially in military aerospace. An aerospace company builds planes for passengers. A military aerospace company builds bombers and missiles. So, these rare earth export bans from China are a serious problem for companies that build planes of all types, but the dual-use export bans of rare earth metals, and magnets, and components, are an existential threat to military aerospace contractors. Exports of magnets that are necessary for the manufacturing of drones and cars have been stopped at China’s ports. These are also the magnets needed by weapons makers, who build robots, missiles, and spacecraft. This means Boeing, then, along with some others that were specifically singled out by China.

These are the critical inputs for the supply chains of everything we need for the future of warfare. Those chains are shut down. China produces—basically all of the heavy rare earth metals in the world, and 90% of the world’s rare earth magnets, which are much more powerful. Japan and Germany make up most of the remaining 10 percent, but then we run into China, again—Japan and Germany need China for the raw materials to build their magnets, and we should assume that China’s export ban is going to include companies in Japan and Germany.

And in case we’re wondering how much pain this will cause here, in China, it’s none at all. These magnets are insignificant, and are just a tiny share of China’s overall exports. So minimal economic pain in China, with big effects everywhere else. As a result,

we are wholly dependent on imports for scandium and yttrium, at 100% dependence, and overall, we are dependent on China for 70%. So, we are decades away from having a supply chain for these raw materials, then the magnets, that Boeing can use in their civilian aircraft, let alone their military planes.

Boeing has a lot of problems, and Boeing is losing a lot of money. Fatal crashes, safety, legal and financial troubles. The machinists went on strike, then got big pay raises. Then Boeing had to raise \$25 billion to build cash. Big problems for Boeing in Space and in Defense, in addition to everything happening in their commercial jets.

Congress and the Pentagon realize that our defense systems are highly dependent on Boeing. In turn, though, Boeing is highly dependent on China. Boeing is the fourth-largest Pentagon contractor, with over \$20 billion dollars a year: F-15’s, Apaches and Chinooks, refueling tankers, as well as space. And for every single thing on this list, Boeing is dependent on China to get the parts and materials they need. And China just cut them off.

Boeing won the contract for the F-47 fighter jet. The Next Generation Air Dominance Future Fighter jet. It has “state-of-the-art stealth technologies”. “There is nothing close to it, “in terms of speed, maneuverability, payload—payload being missiles and bombs. “America’s enemies will never see it coming.”

That part is true. Nobody will see it coming, because it’s not coming. This plane will never be built.

~ Kevin Walmsley has lived in China since 2012 and works for Direct Equipment from Qingdao.

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Sweden a platform for space war

By Agneta Norberg

Sweden has become a platform for space warfare towards Russia. The Swedish Minister of Defence - Pål Jonsson - has offered the US military to use 17 military bases in a crisis. These bases are situated along the Swedish landmass from the North to the South. One of the most important of them all is, Esrange Space Base, in the north, not far from the city of Kiruna.

In 2024 the Swedish government decided to enlarge the space base to “enhance the Swedish defence capabilities” for one billion Swedish crowns. This will enhance the Swedish ‘defence’ to launch numerous military satellites at the end of this decade. This dangerous decision was decided at the Swedish government in July 2024.

The US also plans to launch military satellites from the Space base Esrange. This was revealed by General Chance Saltzman, Commander of the US Space Forces, when visiting Sweden. In the meantime, Sweden has invited NATO forces to Esrange.

The plans include the first Swedish operational satellite launch from Esrange. The Air Defence Commander,

Jonas Wikman said in an interview: “We will launch the first satellite from Esrange, named Heimdal at the end of 2027.”

Additionally, the Swedish Defence Force plans to erect a Space Operation Center, in Uppsala (a city not far from Stockholm) from where they can guide the satellites. The Swedish Space Corporation has made an agreement with the South Korean rocket manufacturer Perigee and the US corporation, Firefly Aerospace, to deliver the 29.5-meter-high rocket.

General Saltzman: says, “The US will launch several rockets from the entire North within a NATO framework”.

The Swedish military authorities comply. This is what Jonas Wikman, Swedish Air Force Commander says: “The US is an extremely important cooperation partner for us. Our ambition is to build a strong space ability and the support from the US is fundamental for this ambition».

~ Agneta Norberg is a leading peace activist in Sweden and a member of the GN Board of Advisers.



Trump’s Golden Dome Over America?

President Trump’s proposed “Golden Dome” missile defense system won’t stop missiles but it may just contribute to an escalatory dynamic that ends at worst in nuclear Armageddon. At best, it will waste hundreds of billions of dollars while further engorging the military-industrial complex, weakening what’s left of democracy in America.

Trump’s Golden Dome vision is a callback to previous antiballistic missile (ABM) systems from the

Cold War, together with President Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), popularly known as “Star Wars,” and concepts such as Brilliant Pebbles that featured space-based interceptors. These systems, thankfully never tested under the conditions of a nuclear attack, have proven to be enormously expensive as well as unreliable in hitting targets even under favorable test conditions. There is no shield, no iron or “golden” dome, that could protect America from

thousands of missiles and warheads launched by a rival such as Russia. To imagine there is or could be is to place irrational faith in grandiose technology as a solution to winning a nuclear war for America.

The best golden dome is iron-willed diplomacy, by which I mean determined efforts to negotiate major reductions in nuclear arsenals across the globe.

That said, there are those who will argue America should be protected from small-scale nuclear attacks from rogue actors. Perhaps so, but that is not what President Trump is calling for. His Golden Dome, assuming it worked, would likely be dangerously escalatory, opening a strategic opportunity for the U.S. to launch a first strike as the “Dome” shielded America from the worst effects of an enemy counterattack.

A rival (Russia, China, perhaps both) would likely expand its arsenal so as to “flood the zone” with real and dummy warheads, overwhelming whatever missile defense system the U.S. is likely to field. In the case of a crisis that leads to a nuclear war, Golden Dome would motivate a rival to launch a massive attack against America, making a doomsday scenario of mass death and nuclear winter more likely rather than less.

Having served in the U.S. Air Force for twenty years, I’ve witnessed the hype surrounding U.S. weapons systems and how often weapons developers lie about the reliability and effectiveness of their wares. Golden Dome will be no different. Far too much money will be wasted on a system that will never shield America even as it needlessly escalates tensions with other nuclear powers.

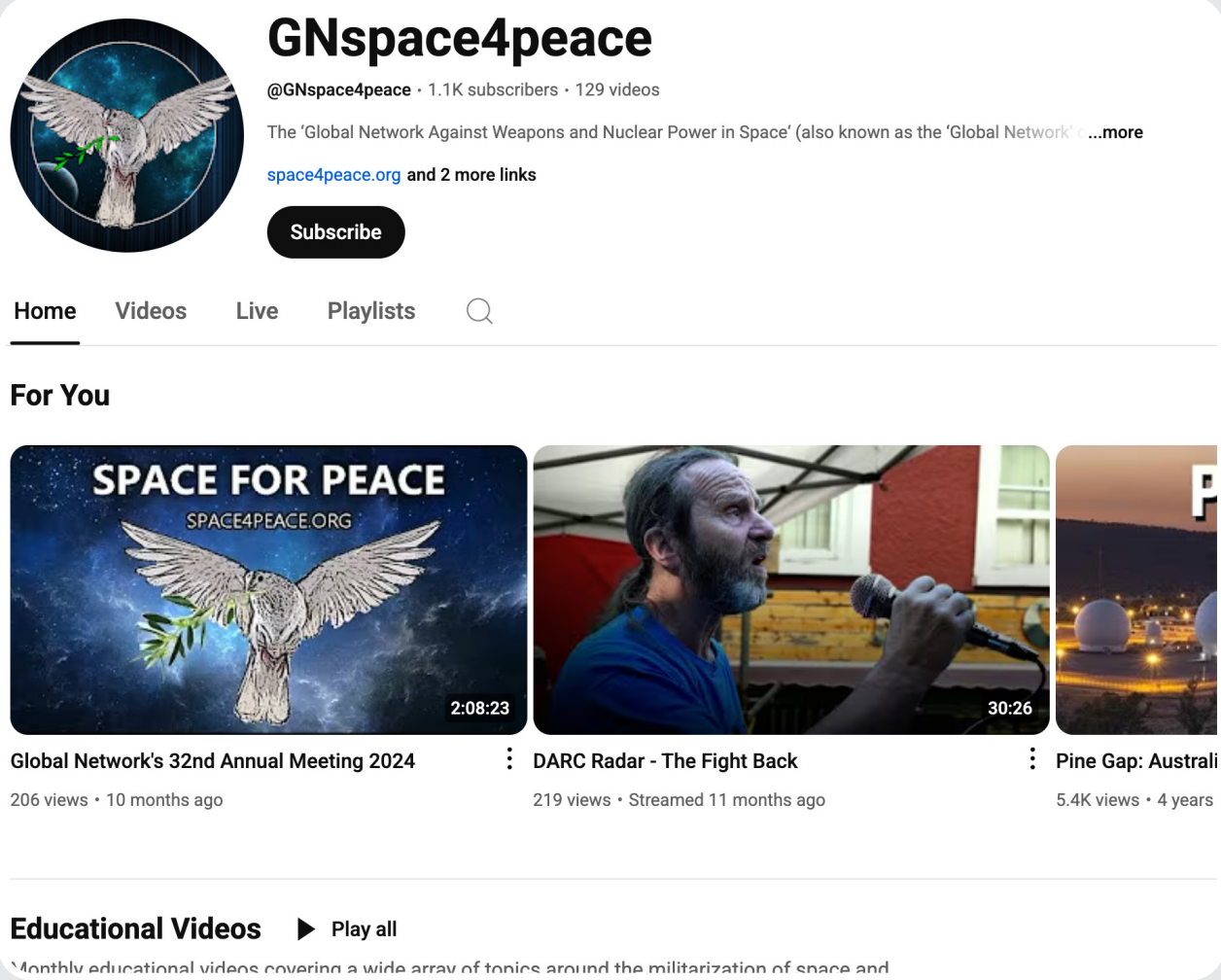
What Golden Dome is and will be is a boondoggle to the military-industrial complex, especially those corporations that will build the sensors, the software, the missile sites, and everything else associated with this massive project. Already the Pentagon is seeking \$27 billion for this grandiose program. As wasteful as it is wrongheaded, Trump’s Golden Dome is far more likely to lead to nuclear war on an unimaginable scale than it is to shield America from such a war.

~ William J. Astore, a retired lieutenant colonel (USAF) and professor of history, worked in Cheyenne Mountain as a young lieutenant in the 1980s. He serves on the GN Board of Advisers and lives in Massachusetts.



GN YouTube channel

Be sure to check out the GN’s YouTube channel at ‘GNspace4peace’. If you click on the ‘Subscribe’ button you’ll get a notice each time a new video is posted there. You can help by sharing the links to these videos so that more people can watch and learn. Thanks.



Update: Global Development of Spaceports

By Daniel Walsh

My PhD research is situated in an emerging sub-field of geography called the “geographies of outer space”. Considering “geography” translates from Greek as “earth-writing”, it seems an oxymoron that there can be “geographies of outer space”. What this area of study is attempting to address is a historic demarcation between Earth and outer space, a division through which they are treated as separate realms. The geographies of outer space highlight that what happens in space and on Earth is mutually intertwined. The same processes, the same domination, the same exploitation is present across the terrestrial and cosmic.

This is a blind spot for many radical viewpoints across disciplines in the social sciences and humanities where the focus is mostly on the terrestrial. Militaristic and capitalist forces have traversed this division between Earth and outer space, shaping outer space into their image with insufficient challenge from radical academic and political thought. (This emphasises why the work of the Global Network is *vital*).

I wanted to contextualise the position from where I am writing. The intention of this brief piece is to provide an overview of the development of spaceports globally. Spaceports are the focus of my research, but more importantly, they are an essential infrastructural node highlighting the connection between

Earth and outer space. Illustrating the expansion of the “space economy”, which it is estimated will be worth \$1.8 trillion by 2035, the number of spaceports is proliferating globally, with spaceports being constructed, proposed, or feasibility studies being undertaken on every continent other than Antarctica. I will provide an outline of developments in select continents; I have omitted Asia and Oceania due to constraints of space.

North America

In 2025, most orbital launches have been undertaken in the US, predominantly by SpaceX from Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg Space Force Bases, the two busiest spaceports globally. These spaceports are deemed to be congested, so other spaceports are positioning themselves as potential solutions to ease this congestion, such as the Pacific Spaceport Complex on Kodiak, Alaska.

SpaceX continues to test the Starship launch system – “the most powerful launch system ever developed” – at their private facility, ‘Starbase’, located near Brownsville at the US/Mexico border. SpaceX continues to wield its influence with an election scheduled on 3rd May to incorporate Starbase as a city. Considering Starbase was constructed on land considered sacred by the Carrizo/Comecrudo Nation, an unrecognised Indigenous Nation at the federal or state level, this constitutes a further form

of colonial erasure.

Another potential major player in commercial launch services may relocate some of their operations to Texas – Relativity Space. According to Ars Technica, the company was recently acquired by Eric Schmidt, the former CEO of Google, and is planning on relocating some manufacturing to Baytown, east of Houston. Another big tech billionaire in the commercial space race.

Given the Trump administration’s hostility to traditional allies, there may be an incentive to establish spaceports in allied countries, such as Canada. This hasn’t gone without difficulty. Spaceport Nova Scotia, owned by Maritime Launch Services, had no operating cash flow. This has been alleviated and they have secured their first commercial contract. Another spaceport – Spaceport Canada – has been proposed by NordSpace to be developed in Newfoundland.

Europe

Similarly, the European Space Agency are aiming to develop the European space sector with the European Launcher Challenge, after recently relying on SpaceX to launch their payloads. €169 million are available for European companies to launch ESA and European government payloads from 2026-2030. ISAR Aerospace, a German aerospace company, is a possible contestant. They conducted the first commercial orbital test flight from continental Europe,



New doc on growing Space Junk

The European Space Agency’s (ESA) short documentary film ‘*Space Debris: Is it a Crisis?*’ on the state of space debris premiered at the 9th European Conference on Space Debris in April 2025. (Now available on YouTube.)

Earth is surrounded by thousands of satellites to provide telecommunications and navigation services, military intel and targeting, help us understand our climate, and answer fundamental questions about the Universe.

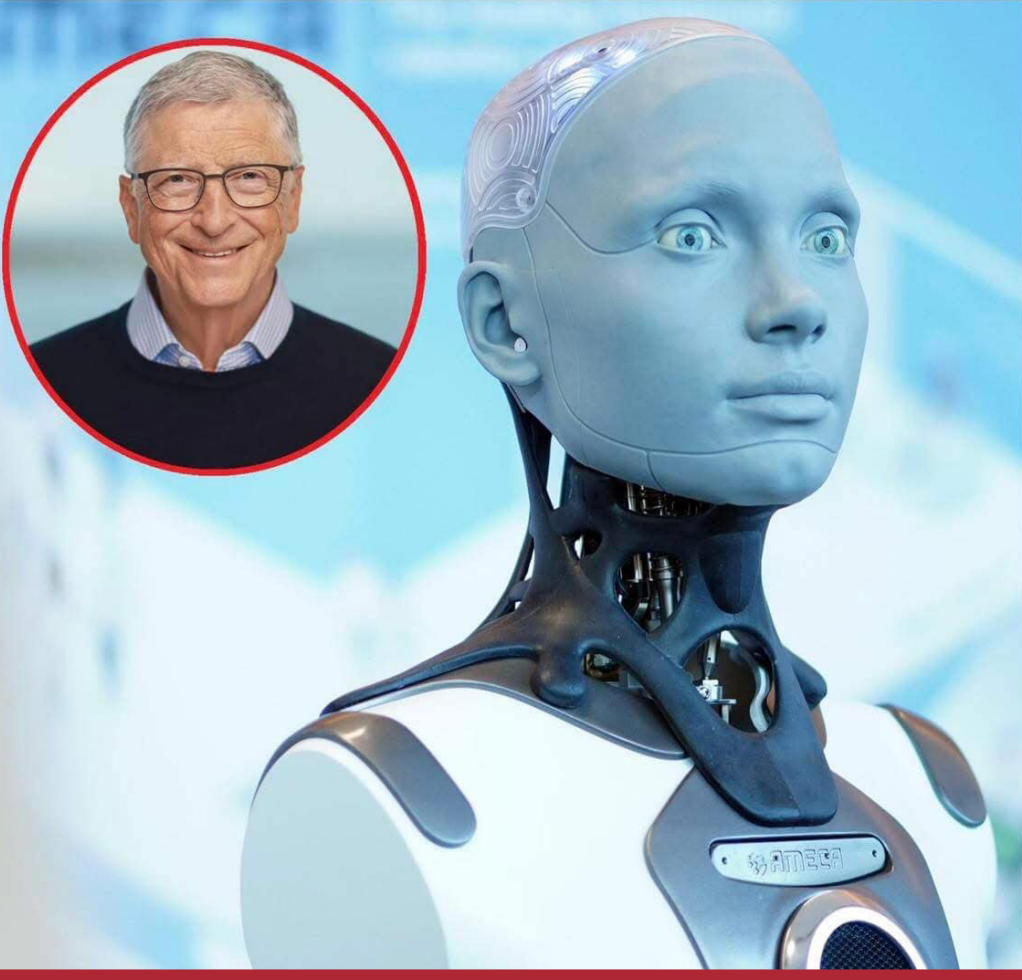
However, as our use of space accelerates like never before, these satellites find themselves navigating increasingly congested orbits in an environment criss-crossed by streams of fast-moving debris fragments resulting from collisions, fragmentations and breakups in space.

Each fragment can damage additional satellites, with fears that a cascade of collisions may eventually render some orbits around Earth no longer useable. (This is called the Kessler Syndrome.)

Additionally, the extent of the harm of the drastic increase in launches and number of objects re-entering our atmosphere and oceans is not yet known.

The documentary explores the current situation in Earth’s orbits and explains the threat space debris poses to our future in space. It also outlines what might be done about space debris and how we might reach true sustainability in space, because our actions today will have consequences for generations to come.

OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, AI WILL REPLACE DOCTORS AND TEACHERS, & HUMANS WILL NO LONGER BE NEEDED 'FOR MOST THINGS' SAYS BILLIONAIRE BILL GATES



Africa

Relative to the Guiana Space Centre, perhaps less well known is that the European space sector has extended into Africa. Under the “Mattei Plan for Africa”, the Italian government have signed an agreement with the Kenyan government to revive the Broglia Space Centre. Currently engaging in satellite monitoring, the aim is for it to become a launch hub for African micro-satellites.

Other countries are currently constructing spaceports in Africa, or are looking to do so, to benefit their space sectors. In December 2024, Turkey commenced the construction of a spaceport in Somalia. This is part of Turkey’s space strategy to conduct a lunar landing by 2028. The legal groundwork is being set for two Chinese companies – Hong Kong Aerospace Technology Group and Touchroad International Holdings Group – to construct a spaceport in Djibouti valued at \$1 billion. Russia’s Roscosmos is considering constructing spaceports in nations that it considers “friendly”, such as Algeria, Zimbabwe, or South Africa. There is little research or political analysis about how these spaceport developments will impact local communities. Yet this utilisation of African territories for launch sites appears predicated on geopolitical power differentials and bears the hallmarks of previous waves of colonialism.

~ Daniel Walsh is a PhD Student at Northumbria University in the UK and serves on the GN Advisory Board.

Check Your Spam Filter

We have found that many of the emails sent to our members and friends are ending up in their spam filters. Please be sure to regularly check your spam filters for our emails and those of others who are trying to share important news. You can keep up with the work of the GN at our web site www.space4peace.org and Bruce Gagnon’s blog called *Organizing Notes*.

Odds & Ends

Space Week in October

The Global Network’s annual Keep Space for Peace Week will be held October 4-11 this year. We urge members and supporters to hold public activities during the week to help increase public awareness and political mobilization around increasingly dangerous space issues. Be sure to help share the links to our web site and our YouTube page during space week as they each contain many excellent resources.

Army troop cuts?

The Army is quietly considering a sweeping reduction of up to 90,000 active-duty troops, a move that underscores mounting fiscal pressures at the Pentagon and a broader shift in military strategy away from Europe and counterterrorism, according to defense officials familiar with the deliberations. The target is moving to China with NATO expanding into the Asia-Pacific region.

Ukrainian troops in Africa?

Ukraine is acting as a destabilizing force in Africa by backing terrorist groups in the Sahel region, Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop has said. In an interview with RIA Novosti on April 7, Diop claimed Ukraine’s actions pose a significant threat to regional security. “I must say that Mali, which has also severed relations with Ukraine, considers Ukraine a terrorist state to the extent that Ukraine has openly called for and declared its support for terrorist groups in the Sahel,” the minister stated. This has resulted in the deaths of numerous Malian soldiers and civilians, he added.

Ukraine General supports censorship

Many Ukrainians cannot handle the “harsh reality” of the conflict with Russia and should be kept in the dark about the details, Kiev’s military intelligence chief has said. Three-star general Kirill Budanov expressed his views on information censorship during wartime in a conversation with journalist Anna Maksimchuk in early April, suggesting that much of the truth of the conflict

should only become public knowledge to Ukrainians “in the future”. During wartime, knowing the whole truth is not necessary. Otherwise, “people may develop opinions,” Budanov said. “Some minds are not prepared to grasp the harsh reality. Let’s not put them to the test.” Researcher Oksana Romanyuk estimated in January that nearly 90% of Ukrainian outlets relied on foreign aid, with 80% specifically receiving funding from USAID.

More subs in India

India plans to commission a new naval base for nuclear submarines and other warships on its southeast coast next year, according to a report by the Times of India. The strategic base, which will be located near the village of Rambilli, about 50 km (31 miles) south of the Eastern Naval Command headquarters in Visakhapatnam, will have underground pens and a network of tunnels to house nuclear submarines. In April Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an operational, repair, and logistics facility in Karwar, constructed under Project Sea-bird and valued at over \$250 million.

UK warns Russia coming – grab your Swiss Army knives

UK households should prepare 72-hour emergency survival kits over fears that Russia could sabotage Britain’s energy pipelines, potentially leading to significant disruptions, the Daily Mail reported on April 6, citing unnamed security experts. Russia has repeatedly denied speculation it has plans to damage Western energy infrastructure. (Remember Biden blowing up the Nordstream pipeline from Russia to Germany.) According to the British tabloid, the UK’s energy system has faced challenges and came close to blackouts during the past winter, relying on emergency reserves and electricity imports from Denmark to maintain supply. In light of this, security experts said that British households should also follow the EU’s advice of assembling a three-day survival kit. This kit should include water, non-perishable food, medicines,

a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, identity documents, and a Swiss Army knife. “We know that the Russians are active in the North Sea and have the power to cripple our energy links. We need to become much more self-sufficient, and quickly. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer intends to “reignite the industrial heartlands” through carbon capture, storage, wind farms and defense spending, a government source told Daily Mail.

Palestine Space Institute

The Palestine Space Institute (PSI) is a pioneering and visionary think tank that stands at the forefront of space ethics and the responsible use of outer space. Established with a mission to advocate for the peaceful and ethical exploration of space, PSI is committed to decoupling defense from space, safeguarding space technologies and applications, promoting the demilitarization of space, and using space to advocate for social justice and the Palestinian cause. At the heart of PSI’s mission is a dedication to the principles of peace, cooperation, and sustainability in space exploration. This innovative institute seeks to reshape the narrative surrounding space, striving to ensure that outer space remains a domain for the betterment of all humanity rather than a perpetuation of conflict and militarization. They also have a potentially useful database detailing companies and organisations that have supplied materials to the Israeli state/military. The Palestine Space Institute (PSI) is located in Ramallah, West Bank.

Britain hiding U.S. nuke info from public

UK’s Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament recently secured an exclusive with The Daily Mirror newspaper exposing a shocking MoD cover-up, which has exempted US Forces from British emergency radiation regulations. The revelations were released in a declassified exemption certificate obtained by CND, signed by former Defence Secretary Ben Wallace in March 2021. The certificate uses so-called

national security grounds to exempt US troops in Britain from any legal enforcement of safety standards, using powers under Ionizing Radiations Regulations. This means they are not legally bound to have in place plans and measures for emergency situations involving radioactive materials and nuclear weapons. It also means that local authorities will never be told about the presence of nuclear weapons in their area.

South Korea Prez impeached

The Constitutional Court of South Korea in early-April upheld the impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol, resulting in his immediate removal from office. The decision to remove the president from office was unanimous, with all eight Constitutional Court justices voting in favor. The ruling came 111 days after the National Assembly passed the impeachment motion against Yoon, accusing him of treason for declaring martial law on December 3. This marks the first dismissal of a sitting president in Korea in eight years, following the impeachment of former President Park Geun-hye in March 2017. Under Article 68 of the Constitution, a new presidential election must be held within 60 days of the court’s ruling.

AI ‘Missile Defense’ Swarms

Booz Allen Hamilton has unveiled a new concept for space-based defense: Brilliant Swarms. This proposed AI-powered constellation of up to 2,000 interconnected satellites would autonomously detect and intercept missile threats using kinetic “hit-to-kill” methods — no onboard warheads required. Each satellite would serve as a sensor, communications node, and weapon, all coordinated via machine learning in real time. At an estimated cost of \$25 billion — less than half the price of current missile defense systems — Booz Allen believes it could demonstrate the tech within three years. The satellites’ AI brains would evaluate which assets are best positioned to intercept a missile, swarm toward it, and neutralize it. The idea of swarms fighting wars

Odds & Ends

in space ought to remind us about the Kessler Syndrome - the creation of massive fields of debris.

Musk at war with Apple

Apple and Elon Musk, the CEO of SpaceX, are at odds over satellite technology as both companies vie to eliminate cellphone dead zones. Apple has been investing heavily in satellite-based communications to keep users connected where traditional networks fail. Meanwhile, Musk’s SpaceX has launched over 550 satellites to support cellphone service through its Starlink network. The competition has escalated over spectrum rights—limited airwaves essential for signal transmission. SpaceX has urged federal regulators to delay Apple’s satellite expansion efforts.

Space Force builds western team for war

The Pentagon says it must prepare for conflict in space to ensure deterrence. If that fails, the U.S. military is ready to ‘fight and win’, said Space Force Commander Gen. Stephen N. Whiting, who testified in late-March at a Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing. The general said Operation Olympic Defender is an example of working with allies and partners. He noted that Germany, France and New Zealand recently joined the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia as participating nations. Whiting said SpaceCom is fully integrated into and contributing to the department’s efforts to establish a Golden Dome missile defense shield over America, adding that Space Command requires stable funding, as well as effective and efficient acquisition programs that deliver advanced space capabilities.

NRO ups the ante

“Over the past two years, National Reconnaissance Office has launched more than 150 satellites, creating the largest and most capable government constellation on orbit in our nation’s history,” the NRO said in a March statement. “Continuing with this momentum, 2025 is set to be another dynamic year, with approximately one dozen NRO launches scheduled.” This new imaging satellite constellation, built in partnership with SpaceX and Northrop Grumman, is designed to support military operations. The NRO, which designs and operates classified U.S. government surveillance and intelligence satellites, has characterized this rapidly expanding network as critical to modernize U.S. intelligence-gathering from space.

Israeli pager design crew to U.S.

In March, Google bought Israeli cybersecurity company Wiz for \$32 billion. The acquisition will mark the single largest transfer of former Israeli spies into an American company. This is because Wiz is run and staffed by dozens of former Unit 8200 members, the specialist cyber-spying arm of the IDF. Unit 8200 wrote the programming and designed the algorithms that automated the genocide of Gaza and was also responsible for the pager attack in Lebanon.

Yemen shot down 22nd Recon drone

Houthis keep shooting down more US MQ-9 reconnaissance drones over the center of Yemen. The average unit cost of a Reaper drone is approximately \$32 million. According to Yemen, 22 of the MQ-9 UAV’s have been downed by the Houthis, bringing the estimated total cost to US taxpayers to over \$700 million in Reaper drones alone. Also, in late April the US Navy reported two \$60 million F-18 Super Hornet jets assigned to the USS Harry S. Truman air-

craft carrier fell overboard into the Red Sea when the Truman made evasive moves to avoid Houthi missiles that came dangerously close. Yemen maintains that they will continue to support the beleaguered Palestinian people as long as the Israel-US genocide continues. Ansar Allah (Houthis), supporters chanted slogans during an anti-U.S. and anti-Israel rally in Sanaa, Yemen, on April 18, 2025. They welcomed 100 officers from the UAE-backed National Resistance Forces (NRF) in Yemen who defected to join Ansar Allah delivering a major blow to U.S. and Gulf-backed efforts to divide the country. The development comes amid threats of a U.S.-supported ground offensive and intensified American airstrikes against civilian targets. Instead of destroying Ansar Allah, Trump’s military escalation may be achieving the opposite: unifying a nation torn by nearly a decade of civil war.

X-37 military space plane

The U.S. Space Force’s secretive X-37, an unmanned spaceplane, completed its seventh successful mission in March when it landed at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, a service press release said. The X-37 was a largely secret program until 2019, when it returned from its fifth mission to widespread news coverage and social media chatter. The seventh mission saw the unmanned craft remain on orbit for over 434 days. The missions of the X-37 remain classified though in annual Space Force computer war games the X-37 plays a key role in first strike attacks on China and Russia.

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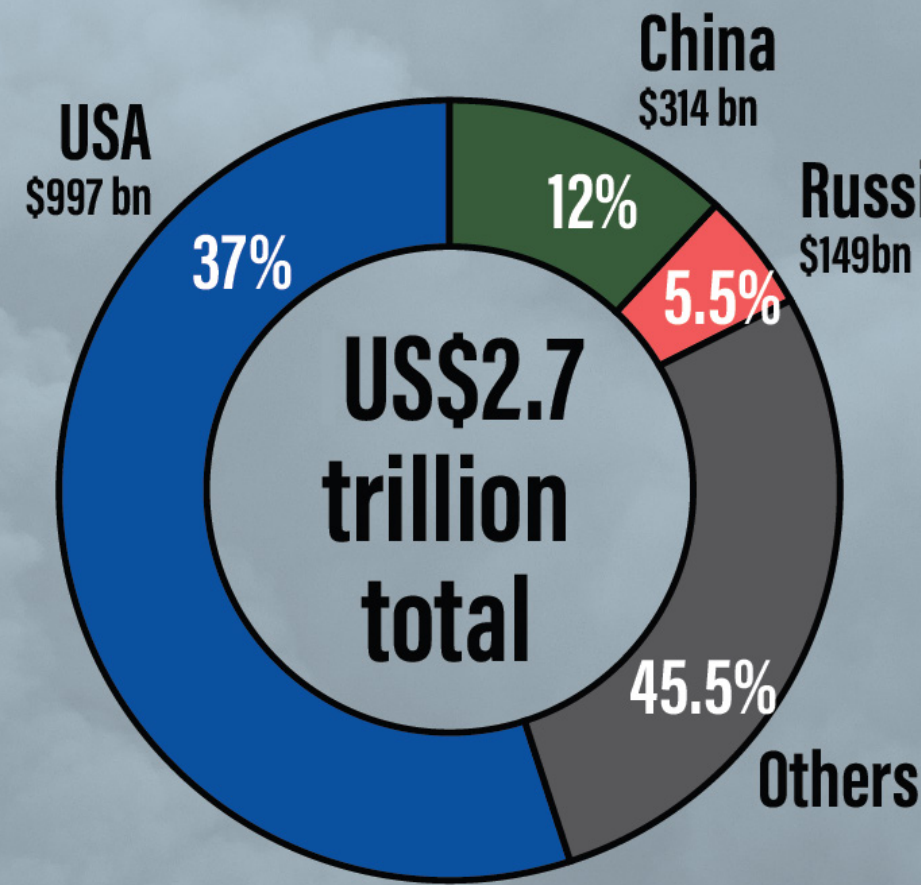
Golden Dome & AI

Aerospace contractor L3Harris Technologies plans to leverage artificial intelligence partnerships to enhance the Pentagon’s ambitious Golden Dome missile defense initiative. The Golden Dome program, established through a Trump administration executive order, aims to create a comprehensive shield protecting the US against an array of missile threats, including ballistic, hypersonic and advanced cruise missiles. Space Force intends to incorporate AI and machine learning (ML) technologies developed through partnerships with Palantir Technologies and Shield

Planned Gift to Global Network

If you are in the process of estate planning, please consider making a gift of a tax-deductible donation in the form of a bequest, donation of stock or other instruments to the Global Network. Your planned gift would be an important contribution to our movement to stop the nuclearization and weaponization of space. Thank you for your consideration.

GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING (2024)



Source: SIPRI Global Military Spending Report 2024



Odds & Ends (continued)

AI into the program’s framework.

Insurance corporation slow to pay for Kodiak cleanup

The Alaska Aerospace Corporation is suing an aviation insurance group for the roughly \$3 million it spent cleaning up damages at the Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska on Kodiak Island last year. In July, 2024, California-based ABL Space Systems was doing a test on its RS1 rocket at the Spaceport on Kodiak Island. The ground test was in preparation for an upcoming rocket launch, but a fire damaged the rocket beyond repair. That caused 1,800 gallons of aviation fuel and other contaminants to spill at the spaceport according to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Toxic satellite re-entries

As many as 120 Starlink satellites operated by SpaceX crashed back to Earth in January 2025. This incident has raised significant concerns among scientists and environmentalists about the potential impact on atmospheric pollution. Astronomers, highlighted the unprecedented rate of daily re-entries, with approximately four to five Starlink satellites being retired and incinerated daily. The surge in crashing satellites is primarily due to the mass retirement of the first-generation Starlink satellites,

which are being replaced by newer models. The disintegration of satellites releases metallic vapors, including aluminum oxide, which can deplete the ozone layer. A 2023 study found that 10% of aerosols collected 60,000 feet above Alaska contained aluminum and other metals from satellite burn-up. Scientists warn that the increased rate of re-entry could alter atmospheric chemistry in unpredictable ways.

Space nuke test delayed

The DARPA-NASA nuclear thermal propulsion project is extending its time frame for an on-orbit demonstration. The 2027 launch date for the Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations (DRACO) is on indefinite hold. Since initiating the program’s design phase two years ago, the DARPA-NASA management team has encountered the challenges inherent in sending a nuclear reactor into space for the first time in more than 60 years. The U.S. has not launched a reactor since the 1960s, an era euphemistically referred to as “the time before safety was invented,” says Jim Shoemaker, DARPA’s program manager. Scientists conducted six ground tests of radioactive reactors in open air between 1964 and 1969, “which we could never get approved to do today,” Shoemaker notes. A DRACO ground test would need to capture plume exhaust fully

to ensure no radioactive materials are released to the environment, but the U.S. does not possess this type of engine test capability. Once a DRACO demonstration proves successful, it could take another 10-15 years before the technology is used on an operational basis, says Shoemaker. Nuclear propulsion is crucial to future military and civil space programs, offering the potential to reduce trip times substantially and lower the risks associated with space radiation, zero gravity, launch and orbital assembly requirements. The U.S. Space Force needs it to allow spacecraft to maneuver more nimbly on orbit [and possibly power space-based lasers], while NASA’s goal is to support deep space exploration and transport humans to Mars.

“They are shooting back at us!”

Kit Klarenberg wrote in his Substack post entitled ‘Collapsing Empire: The Delusion of US Air Power’ that ever since March 15th, Washington has barged Sanaa from the sky, killing and injuring countless innocent civilians while destroying vital infrastructure. For example, on April 2nd, US jets targeted a reservoir in western Yemen, cutting off access to water for over 50,000 people. Three days later, Donald Trump gloatingly posted a horrific video on social media of a tribal gathering being incinerated in a US airstrike - the President falsely claimed the individuals were in fact “Houthis gathered for instructions on an attack.” The New York Times also observed the White House hasn’t indicated “why it thinks its campaign against the group will succeed”, after the Biden administration’s long-running Operation Prosperity Guardian embarrassingly failed to break the Red Sea’s blockade. The answer is simple - for three decades, the Empire has been consumed by a dangerously self-deluded belief in the primacy of air power, over all other forms of warfare. Ergo, the Trump administration believes that if only they intensify Yemen’s bombardment, Ansar Allah will finally crumble. As a result, Pentagon officials were investigating how to tend to thousands of pilots and sailors adversely affected by their involvement in the bruising effort, “including counseling and treatment for possible post-traumatic stress.” One pilot told Associated Press, “Most of [us]...weren’t used to being fired on given the nation’s previous military engagements in recent decades.” He described the experience of Ansar Allah’s retaliation as “incredibly different” and “traumatizing”, as

getting shot at is “something that we don’t think about a lot.”

Washington pulls Tokyo into Space Force

The U.S. military’s Space Force has launched its first-ever unit in Japan, part of an effort to boost coordination and interoperability with its ally. Activated last December, U.S. Space Forces Japan — a component similar to the one established at South Korea’s Osan Air Base in 2022 — will operate out of Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo. Experts such as Misato Matsuoka, an associate professor at Teikyo University, said that while presence of the U.S. Space Force in Japan will facilitate closer coordination and bolster defensive capabilities, it risks further entrenching Japan into Washington’s strategic framework. This level of integration might “limit Japan’s ability to independently navigate its space policy and prioritize non-military uses of space,” she warned. In a historic break from its pacifist post-WWII stance, Japan has agreed to provide real-time geospatial intelligence to Ukraine — a move that marks Tokyo’s entry into the heart of the Russia-Ukraine war.

ISS closing shop

The Russian and American space agencies are developing a plan for de-orbiting the International Space Station (ISS), NASA’s associate administrator for Space Operations Mission Directorate, Ken Bowersox, has told TASS. Launched back in 1998, the project has seen Russia, the US, Canada, Japan, as well as multiple European nations join forces to keep the station operational. Speaking to TASS on Wednesday, Bowersox said that “we work together to come up with a detailed plan for how we will actually end station.”

Costly nukes

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its latest biennial estimate of the costs of nuclear weapons over the coming decade (2025-2034). CBO estimates that nuclear weapons will cost a total of \$946 billion over the coming decade, an average of about \$95 billion per year. This is \$190 B (25%) higher than CBO’s estimate from two years ago. Of this sum, \$357 B (44%) is to be incurred by the operation and sustainment of current and future nuclear forces and support activities. The balance is for modernization of nuclear forces.

Rocket Lab’s shot at \$10b of Trump’s Space Force funds

By Caron Copek (Stuff)

Kiwi [New Zealand] space pioneer Sir Peter Beck’s Rocket Lab has had the path opened to big military contracts with the US Pentagon worth up to \$10 billion, so what does it mean? The company, which launches from Māhia, is one of five chosen as the Pentagon looks to carry out 30 launches, or missions, in the next few years.

Rocket Lab said it had been selected by the US Space Force to compete for “the Department of Defense’s highest-priority national security missions for its National Security Space Launch (NSSL) Phase 3 Lane 1 programme”. The Space Force contract is valued at US \$5.6b (\$9.8b) over five years and the programme plans to award a minimum of 30 missions through to 2029, with potential for an extension until 2034, according to Rocket Lab.

What is Space Force?

The US Space Force was created in 2019 by US President Donald Trump [and the Congress] during his first term. Trump said space was “the world’s newest war-fighting domain” when he launched the new military branch that conducts operations in outer space and space warfare. Its mission: “Secure our nation’s interests in, from, and to space.”

In New Zealand, Space Minister Judith Collins said its selection was great news for Rocket Lab. When asked if she has any concerns about its connection with Space Force, she told Stuff the decision was one for the company to make. “Rocket Lab is a commercial business, and I will leave it for them to make decisions about who they do business with.”

A Rocket Lab spokesperson said it had more

than 2,000 staff across the US and NZ and New Zealand’s relationship with the US was also “important for its politics, and international partnerships and security.

“The New Zealand Defence Force’s response and rescue efforts in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle’s devastation were enabled by space systems including navigation, satellite imagery and communications,” the spokesperson said.

Who are Rocket Lab’s competitors?

Aside from NASA, other companies now provide launch services, including Elon Musk’s SpaceX and Blue Origin, which is a Jeff Bezos’ operation. Stoke Space Technologies and United Launch Alliance are also thought to be contenders. Rocket Lab deployed the first New Zealand-built satellite into space in 2020. SpaceX is the biggest competitor. It now accounts for the most orbital launches, including more in 2024 than the rest of the world combined.

Is Rocket Lab positioned for success?

Rocket Lab has supported NASA missions to the Moon and Mars, as well as the first private commercial mission to Venus. Rocket Lab became known for its small satellite launcher Electron, which launches from Māhia on the East Coast. Since 2006, it has completed about 60 launches with its Electron rocket, including some for US Space Force.

What is a Neutron rocket?

Rocket Lab says Neutron is a “next-generation challenger to deliver a cost-effective, reliable, and responsive launch service for commercial and government missions”. Rocket Lab said

Neutron will be its launch vehicle for the Space Force highest-priority national security missions programme.

A reusable rocket, Neutron is due for its first launch later this year and is designed to carry up to 11.7 metric tons to orbit. It will lift off from Rocket Lab’s launch complex on Wallops Island, in the US state of Virginia.

Rocket Lab founder and CEO Beck, who has been awarded a KNZM honour for services to the aerospace industry, said the company was incredibly proud to be selected by Space Force. “We can’t wait to showcase Neutron as the important platform it will become for the Department of Defense.” If Neutron has a successful flight, it will be eligible to bid for individual missions within the US Space Force’s programme. Beck said its selection to the programme showed a high degree of confidence in Neutron’s capabilities ahead of its first launch later this year.

Will weapons be sent to space from Māhia?

Stuff asked Collins if there were any restrictions or laws that could stop the new Neutron rockets being launched from Māhia if Rocket Lab chose to do that. “Any space activity launched from New Zealand needs to comply with relevant legislation to ensure the peaceful, safe and sustainable use of space,” Collins said. Beck has gone on the record about this, saying in 2021 that the company would not deal in weapons. He now owns about 10% of the Nasdaq-listed company.

A Rocket Lab spokesperson told Stuff that Neutron rockets are too large to be launched from Māhia.



The existence of a space race between billionaires is a clear sign these people aren’t being taxed nearly enough.

@owillis



Second Maine town votes NO on Rocket launch site

Steuben’s ordinance bans not only privately-owned BlueShift Aerospace, but also the Pentagon’s U.S. Space Force

Local resistance to building a rocket launch site for low earth orbit (LEO) satellites and other payloads has successfully blocked two efforts on the coast of Maine. The most northerly state of the New England region is located in a geographically desirable spot for LEO launches, and its extensive coastline seems to offer entrepreneurs an abundance of possible locations. But coalitions of commercial fishing communities, sea weed harvesters, environmentalists, antiwar activists, and Not in My Backyard (NIMBY) types who don’t want their spectacular views of the coast to change have now blocked the creation of two different launch sites.

A victory for the people of coastal Maine occurred March 11 as the town of Steuben voted nearly 2 to 1 to ban commercial rocket launches from its coast. Such a site would be visible and probably audible from the shores of iconic nearby Acadia National Park.

The ordinance went into effect immediately and also bans rocket building, activity by the Maine Space Corporation, and any use by the U.S. Space Force. Presciently, it also prohibits “retrieval of launch vehicles or payloads within the boundaries of the town.”

It prohibits a whole lot more, too, and you can read the ordinance as passed on the town’s website.

Seaweed harvester Larch Hanson drafted the ordinance in time to get it on the annual town ballot, and he sent out two mass mailings prior to referendum. Citizens stood with signs urging a yes vote on the referendum near the polls all day on March 11.

Prior to Hanson’s efforts the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space created public service radio and newspaper ads about the noise pollution inherent in rocket launches; gave a talk at the annual Common Ground Fair to raise awareness of BlueShift Aerospace designs on the Maine coast; and protested and lobbied for two consecutive years at the Maine Space Conference in Portland. Op-eds, letters to the editor, radio interviews, and a dedicated website NoToxicRockets4ME.org contribute to communications efforts to prevent a launch site being built.

At the Fair in September 2023, BlueShift CEO Sascha Deri showed up to heckle presenters (myself and GN coordinator Bruce Gagon) and claim on camera that we were lying. He also admitted under close questioning that a potential launch site presented to Maine lawmakers as “civilian use only” was being sought by BlueShift after accepting grants from the U.S. Space Force, a branch of the Pentagon. This is part of a pattern in places as far apart as Alaska and New Zealand where local communities were promised no military use if they permitted launch sites to be built, promises which were almost immediately broken. As an example, the Kodiak site has seen multiple instances of Pentagon surveillance satellites and Golden Dome missile tests launched by Israel’s military.

Prior to the effort in Steuben the nearby fishing village of Jonesport turned down BlueShift’s overtures and enacted a moratorium on rocket-related construction when they felt they were being rushed into making a decision with having all the relevant facts at hand.

The corporate press in the state then began publishing BlueShift press releases as if they were news. A typical headline, “Maine town selected as the site of a sustainable rocket company,” sidestepped the public approval needed for any such use of public shoreline.

Hanson says he’s ready and willing to support other towns that may need to defend their coastal waters from for-profit rocket companies in the future. “Happy to consult with the next town, and refine the message and the process,” says Hanson who can be reached at hanson.larch@gmail.com.

~ Lisa Savage is a retired school teacher, former candidate for the US Senate from Maine and serves on the GN Board of Directors. She lives in Solon, Maine.



Project 704 No More: Cell Towers and the Military

By Kate Kheel

Why has an article about cell towers found its way into a publication about weapons and nuclear power in space?

On March 13, 2025, the FCC established a *Council on National Security*. This council has three stated goals the third of which is to “Ensure the U.S. wins the strategic competition with China over critical technologies, such as 5G and 6G, AI, satellites and space....” All the technologies cited are directly or indirectly dependent on robust cellular networks. But let’s backtrack a bit to the beginning of the digital age.

In 1996, when cellphones were just becoming “a thing”, a huge piece of legislation called the Telecommunications Act (TCA) – about the size of the Manhattan telephone book – made its way through Congress. Buried deep within it, near the very end under “Miscellaneous Provisions”, was a tiny clause in Section 704 that would have enormous ramifications by enabling the rapid and largely unregulated proliferation of cell towers in the US:

“No State or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulate the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the Commission’s regulations concerning such emissions.”

Clearly, bad news for the birds, bees, flora and fauna but that clause doesn’t appear particularly problematic for humans. However, due to how it was interpreted, this provision became the life blood of the wireless industry, and the silent threat looming beneath nearly every hearing thenceforth regarding cell tower approvals in local communities. For some reason, “environmental impacts” was interpreted to refer to human health effects.

So, if a municipality refused a permit application and mentioned potential or even experienced health impacts from cell towers, the wireless provider

would sue or threaten to sue to the tune of thousands of dollars. This, despite the fact there are tens of thousands of studies showing adverse health impacts to humans from wireless radiation. These impacts include, increased cancer risk, cellular stress, harmful free radicals, DNA damage, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, ADHD, Autism, and other neurological disorders, Type 2 Diabetes, impacts on sleep, mood, and general well-being in humans. Moreover, many people are experiencing Electromagnetic Radiation Syndrome (EMR-S) a federally recognized condition in the U.S. in which people suffer from a wide range of acute and chronic adverse health effects due to exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

Our 21st century quest for so-called “progress” at all costs, as well as for economic and military superiority has led to the digital revolution where nearly everything and everyone is being connected 24/7 to the internet. Data has become the new oil, and AI is well on its way to being integrated into just about every facet of our lives. And both cell towers as well as satellites are foundational for enabling digitalization.

When people think of cell towers, they may imagine tall structures far from residential areas. That was largely the case for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation cellular technology, but 5th generation technology is another story altogether. Boasting faster speeds and carrying far more data from video streaming, smart cities, surveillance cameras, and the internet of things, 5G requires vastly more cell towers, many of which are butting up to homes and schools. Although dubbed “small cells”, these antennas carry far more data and use frequencies, modulations, and cell arrays arguably even more bioactive than larger cell towers.

When people become aware these “small cells” are moving into their neighborhood, they understandably set about opposing them but are in for a surprise. They can’t. Not allowed. So nearly 30 years

later, people are organizing to get to the root of the problem – Section 704 of the TCA – which has enabled the tech Tsunami to proceed with zero public input, knowledge, or consent.

But once again, what does this have to do with the military?

Technology and AI are fundamental to the military for Electronic, Cyber, and Cognitive Warfare as well as for kinetic weapons of war, all of which are directly dependent on harvesting vast amounts of data and cutting-edge low latency technologies. The on-going tech arms race necessitates unrestrained proliferation of cell towers (and satellites) to win the global race to space, AI, and economic and military dominance. The “thinking” is that whichever nation leads in one or more of these technologies will gain superiority logarithmically into the future as predicted in the following statement from the US Department of Defense, 2020.

“5G is a critical strategic technology: those nations that master advanced communications technologies and ubiquitous connectivity will have a long-term economic and military advantage.” Department of Defense (DoD) 5G Strategy (U) Approved by Secretary of Defense.

Total Military Insight concurs, *“Competition among global military powers drives rapid innovation, leading to a technology arms race...The ongoing impact of technology on each branch will be profound, shaping the nature of warfare in the foreseeable future.”*

In Dec. 2020, in an article *What 5G Means to the Military*, author John Keller wrote, *“Bringing the 5G future to fruition will require time, much testing, experimentation, investment — and a whole lot more cell towers than we have today.”*

Thus far, there are upwards of 80 groups endorsing this initiative. If your organization would like to lend its logo, please contact, www.704NoMore.org

To join 704 No More TM FB group, <https://www.facebook.com/704NoMore/>

For a handout on Tech, AI, the Military and War, <https://safetechinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Technology-Artificial-Intelligence-the-Military-and-War.pdf>

May peace, sanity, and survival prevail; and may we humans find the wisdom needed to carry us and all living beings into the future, to thrive and be fully alive.

~ Kate Kheel is a musician, founding member of Safe Tech International and serves on the GN’s board of advisers. Kate lives in Maryland.

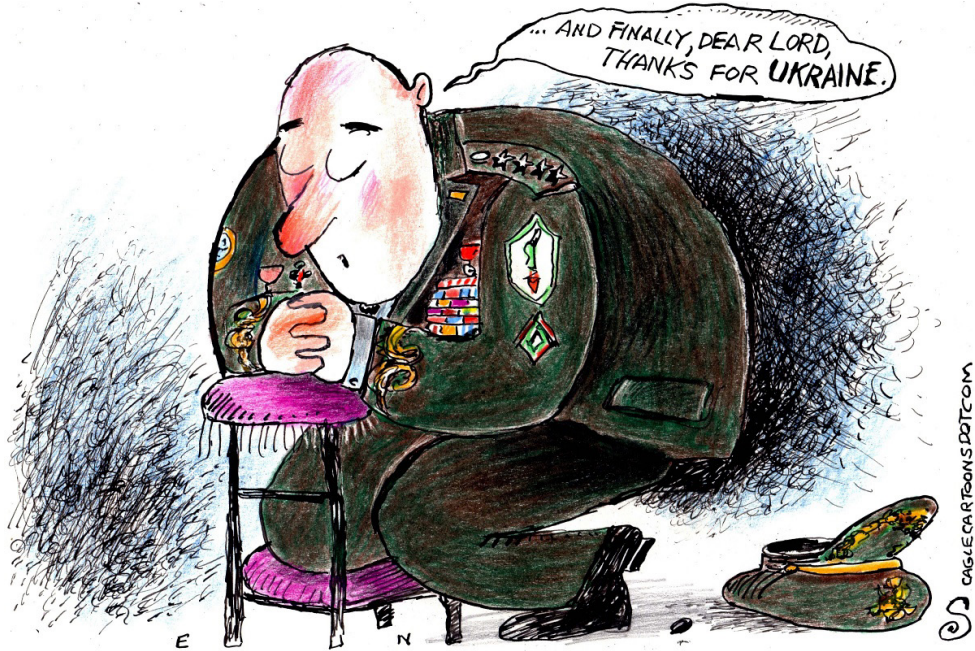
5G Applications

Military

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