On the Natural Law of Embodied Existence

By Koohan Paik-Mander

Barbarians of the Eurocne, whose shackles are forged in economies of algorithms and war, you nuclear monsters who anger at the beauty of flesh and Mother Earth, I come from the ancestors of abundance and the descendants of the future. I ask you techna-savages to leave us alone. You and your disruptions are not welcome among us. We don’t want chip-implants in our brains. We don’t want to move to Mars. You are alien to our embodied existence. We are of the Earth.

No formal government represents us, so I address you with no greater authority than that with which wilderness always speaks. We are proud members of the ancient tribe, joyous in its unenclosed riot of spontaneous diversity. I hereby declare that the exquisite ecologies of Nature, of which we are a part, be independent of the tyrannical disruption you seek to impose on us. You have no moral right to rule us through ideology or algorithmic pseudo-science nor do you possess any methods of enforcement we have true reason to fear.

You have neither solicited nor received our free and informed consent. Your User Agreements are cryptic shams of extortion, within which gangsters have hidden dead bodies. Your transactional mind does not know our relational way of being with each other and with Nature. Your insolent topologies flout the very currency of the natural world — those boundaries of time and space, geographies and seasons, ebb and flow, systole and diastole, and carrying capacity. You are a cancerous rib pulled from capitalism’s side, ceaselessly demanding unending growth, as if metastacization were a good thing. Artificial intelligence will never affirm life, no matter how many 3-D facsimiles it prints. Your singular motive is profit. Your reductive logic is an insult and a danger to Life itself.

You have never engaged in our great nuanced languages, yet you profit from the extraction of our wealth — ore, minerals, human bodies and oil — and the enclosure of Earth, moon, and genomes. Now, you dare to stake claim on our self-determination. You will never succeed, as long as our existence and relationships remain in the embodied world. You cannot digitize and monetize our agency. You do not know our culture, our ethics, or the unwritten codes that provide more order than could ever be obtained by any of your disruptions.

Digital technologies are capitalism’s greatest “triumph.” Trillions of algorithms work ceaselessly 24/7 to buy and sell on world stock markets, to secure deals to cut down forests, extract commodities on all continents and seabeds, to set up factory farms, and to displace traditional sustainable communities, which have survived for millennia precisely because of their respect for cycles and geographies. And still, you endlessly claim to be the provider of “solutions”? You use this assertion to lure us into your precincts. You invent problems that don’t exist. Stop! We cannot accept the ravaging of the Earth and human civilization that you present as “solutions.” You are the problem.

Where there are real conflicts, where there are wrongs, we will identify them and address them by our means. We have our own Social Contract. This governance will arise according to the conditions of our world, not yours.

Ours is a world that values the interconnectedness of all beings. Priority is given to mutual support, human scale of space, Nature’s scale of time, body joy, diversity of contexts, and sustaining our vital relationship to all forms of life — past, present, and future. This is the path to real, lasting wealth, but it is invisible to you.

We are humanity of all ages, on a continuum of all genders, and in a plurality of all shades, like those of the Earth, from the dark hues of rich humus to iron-rich red clay to the chalky Dover cliffs — and everything in-between. There are no disabilities. Every person is a song.

Out of wisdom will emerge post-capitalist governance, just as it spontaneously sprang in Zucotti Park, atop Mauna Kea, on urban farms, and in other places where people are valued over profit. Our embodied connection to place is a sacred one.

Your legal concepts of property, expression, identity, movement, and wax of the moon, the ebb and flow of tides, sunrise and sunset, and countless other rhythms. Sacred cycles and places are our scripture, instructing when and how to plant, to fish, to harvest, to give birth, and to bury one’s dead. But your new technologies erase, in one fell swoop, these ancient guideposts, to the peril of a livable future.

Your increasingly hostile and colonial measures place us in the same predicament as all those who have also struggled historically for liberation. We must declare ourselves immune to your delusions of omnipotence. You cannot algorithm us into silence and conformity.

Our small communities are spread across the Planet, determined to dismantle capitalism and return to joy, love, beauty, and wonder, connecting with nature, our bodies, and each other. It has happened before, and it shall happen again.

~ Koohan Paik-Mander is a GN Board of Directors member and writer who lives in Kukuhiule, Hawaii.
By Bruce K. Gagnon

Three areas under conflict draw most of my attention these days. Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank), the US-NATO proxy war on Russia using Ukraine as the hammer, and the destabilization of China with Washington’s allies in the Asia-Pacific playing the role of Mr. Big’s henchmen.

At this current time the US military industrial complex is working overtime with Congress and the Pentagon to ramp up US-NATO weapons production for all three theaters of battle. The White House is onboard as Joe Biden just needs to be told where to scratch his name on authorizations for new war spending legislation.

The US and its white colonial settler allies are cutting back on free speech, social spending and any care for the environment. They are losing their current global fight to hang on to power. The multi-polar world, rejuvenated by the Global South, is challenging Mr. Big everywhere. BRICS has become BRICS+ as legions of nations line up to join the alternative to IMF and World Bank exploitation.

Israel is a key link in this global struggle. Its role has always been the Middle East base of terror that enforces the regional dictates coming from Washington, London, and Brussels – like a three-ringed circus from hell. Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Yemen and others across the region have felt the US-NATO boot from hell. The destabilization of the region is the key role of Mr. Big’s henchmen.

Destabilization, assassinations, bombings, mafia-related activities are all intertwined between Israel and US-NATO. Please read ‘Gladio, NATO’s Dagger at the Heart of Europe: The Pentagon-Nazi-Mafia Terror Axis’. A stunning little-known story.

Israel has additionally been training police departments across the US (and who knows where else) in the tactics that ‘proved successful’ in controlling Palestinians.

South Korea trip
A woman approached me in Seoul at the end of my 10-day space issues speaking tour in South Korea in early-March. She said, ‘South Korea’s economy is not good for the people, we are becoming a permanent war economy’. I responded that it is the same in the United States these days as well.

South Korea is being flooded with so-called ‘missile defense’ (MD) systems. Some systems are on-board Navy Aegis destroyers which are consistently ported on Jeju Island. There are also the THAAD and PAC-3 MD systems deployed at several bases throughout the country. And the US is deploying these same ‘shields’ in Guam, Japan/Okinawa, Taiwan, Philippines, and other locations throughout the Pacific.

While in South Korea I was taken to a small strawberry farming village called Imhwa of about 300 residents that is being uprooted by a new factory to build internationally banned cluster bombs for Washington. The cluster munitions will be handed over to Ukraine and Israel for their wars. The residents were angry and afraid as the previous cluster bomb factory (in a small village like Imhwa) blew up and severely burned the area. TNT (now being stored inside one building in Imhwa) was the cause of the previous fire. The right-wing government in Seoul won’t listen to the residents as it is firmly in the pocket of Washington.

U.S. bases in the ROK are rapidly expanding and took part in more than 200 days last year of US-South Korea war games right along the border with North Korea.

These kinds of stories are happening at military bases around the world in US client nations. From Europe to the Asia-Pacific there are new missile deployments, new barracks for Pentagon troops, more navy ports of call like on Jeju Island, and more new airfields for Pentagon warplanes being aimed at Russia and China.

Soon after returning home I received an email that in Maine our Governor Janet Mills, U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, and U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree participated in the unveiling of the Maine Defense Industry Alliance (MDIA) at the York County Community College. The MDIA is a newly established non-profit coalition of Maine defense companies, state agencies, community colleges and universities, and other vocational training organizations. The partnership was created to ‘attract and train thousands of new employees for critical jobs in Maine’s defense industrial base’.

This is a perfect example of what a permanent war economy looks like. The only real jobs investment by Washington these days is going toward weapons for endless war. (As the infrastructure of the nation rapidly decays.) In the case of Maine, the so-called leaders want expanded Pentagon funding for more Aegis destroyers at Bath Iron Works shipyard. They also want hypersonic missile testing at a former US air base in the northern part of the state (Loring). And they want a rocket launch center near Acadia national park that would hoist mini-satellites for the US Space Force to help fill up increasingly crowded Lower Earth Orbit (LEO) before China and Russia can put significant numbers of satellites there. It’s called Full Spectrum Dominance.

I am grateful to all those who worked so hard to put together my South Korea speaking tour. Choi Sung-Hee and her nationwide team did a fantastic job of organizing local events and getting excellent alt-media coverage of my talks. They invited me to talk about the growing links on space warfare preparation between our two nations. I also owe thanks to my excellent translator along this journey Hwang Jeong-Eun.

People often ask me where I find hope during these dark and difficult times. I always respond by saying: Everywhere I have traveled around this spinning satellite Earth I find special people who are working hard for peace, national sovereignty, real justice and environmental sanity. They don’t give up. Age is not a ticket out of the struggle. They are what gives me hope.

Missile Defenseless

By Indrajit Samarajiva

Missile defense is a fascinating idea—that you can shoot down arrows with other arrows—and it sortsa works. Until it doesn’t, and until you get the bill. Missile defense is not some magic shield that allows you to be a total asshole and avoid all consequences. You literally pay for it. Just look at ‘Israel’, blowing nearly 10% of its yearly IDF budget in one night of ignominy.

After ‘Israel’ bombed their consulate, Iran threw maybe $100 million in the air and ‘Israel’ threw $1.3 billion after it. It was literally good money after bad. It’s like if someone threw a brick at your house, and you threw your TV at the brick. It’s like smashing a roach with a Rolex. It’s like preventing broken windows by throwing your own glassware out the window. ‘Israel’ missile defense is the definition of Pyrrhic victory. They’re lighting their own money on fire and crowing.

A big part of attritional war is depleting the enemy’s ammo, and this model depletes itself. If any enemy throws enough cheap munitions in the air, the ammunition will come out and destroy itself. You don’t need to even target the enemy’s ammo dumps, they’ll target your missiles and run into them! Depleting the enemy’s munitions at a 1:12 (cost) ratio is in itself a tactical victory. If your enemy runs out of munitions in two weeks, that’s strategic defeat. And if 16% of missiles breach the defenses on day one, that’s just embarrassing.

This all happened to ‘Israel’ under the best possible conditions, with weeks of warning and all the imperial bitches (Jordan, France, UK) barking. All the kings horses and all the kings men, can’t put ‘Israel’ deterrence back together again. They can propagandize their own people, but the military people know what’s happened on April 14th. As does anyone with a calculator and a bit of common sense. Like October 7th, it was a tactical, strategic defeat. They got hit at high cost and can’t sustain this model without blowing through their entire budget in a matter of weeks.

This model of air defence is literally throwing gold at tin. The payload of a Patriot missile is worth more than its weight in gold (a 90 kg payload on a $6-10 million missile), and they fling them at cheap ballistics or even drones. This obviously can’t go on forever, as you could see with the IOF’s air defenses buckling in one night, letting multiple hits in. Imagine how much worse it could be if these weren’t just warning shots, and if the hits kept coming. Missile defense against the consequences of your own actions is a very expensive proposition, while simply not being an asshole is free. But this is of course incomprehensible to Kantalists.

This is the same fate US warships faced in the Red Sea. They were shooting million dollar missiles at thousand dollar drones from Yemen and crowing about it, but now they’ve had to retreat and beg for peace. Their fancy missile defenses (mostly) worked at protecting their own warships, but they couldn’t secure imperial shipping at all. And it’s not that the Yemen couldn’t damage American warships, they have superior weaponry (hypersonics) in reserve and at any point they could just swarm the Carbon Crusaders. It’s just that, as Napoleon said, when your enemy is defeating themselves, why interrupt? If they want to literally explode their money, let them. The US can’t reload its missile batteries at sea, so after a little battering, they have to just leave. Thus one of the poorest countries in the world has defeated the world’s richest navy, by exploiting its profligacy.

This is the fate of American Empire in general. They pulled out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty in 2002 and thought they could hide behind anti-ballistic missile defenses, bombing whoever they pleased, selling expensive ‘defense’ systems to the vassals they put in the firing line in the first place. But now Russia, Iran, and even Yemen have hypersonic missiles that can take fast, unpredictable paths, effectively under most missile defenses. Everybody has drones that can overwhelm defenses with sheer quantity. America has developed defenses against the ballistic missiles of last century, but anything not taking a basic parabolic arc is a diabolical problem to them.

Missile defense will undoubtedly evolve in response to these new threats, but when Russia can turn old, ‘dumb’ bombs into glide missiles with cheap attachments, they can simply overwhelm them with quantity. When wedding drones can be weaponized (in revenge for all the weddings Empire bombed), expensive air defenses actually become a liability. The best missile defense is actually diplomacy, which is incomprehensible to Empire these days. They still believe in a technological solution to their own illogical terrorism. It’s like someone who builds more and more elaborate bear-protection suits, and never once considers not poking bears in the first place.

This is the state of modern missile defense, which is really nothing new. As my historical thesis goes, same shit, different day. Offense and defense have always co-evolved in competition; a stronger sword begets a stronger shield, a longer bow begets a higher wall, missiles beget missile defence in general. Offensive weapons evolve with defensive weapons in a constant mating dance of death. The long history of humans fucking themselves is fertile ground for the reproduction of weapons. But it is all ultimately folly.

The best defense is not being offensive in the first place. This is something the White Empire simply cannot understand, having gotten away with it for so long. But now the natives have rockets and rocket launchers, and all the missile defenses in the world can’t protect their hegemony. All that’s left is hubris, which is not at all the same thing. They’re throwing gold after tin, while slaughtering defenseless children. This is simply the pride before the fall, as the worst missile offenders become missile defenseless.

~ Indrajit Samarajiva writes about collapse, climate change, American empire, philosophy, politics, parenting and other subjects. He lives in Sri Lanka and his site is https://ijudi.ca/
LEO crowding: Danger ahead?

By Dr. Dave Webb

A possible new danger from the overcrowding in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) has recently come to light. Sierra Solter-Hunt, a PhD candidate at the University of Iceland, has proposed that the enormous amounts of material being added to the Earth’s atmosphere by the space industry is forming a layer of plasma dust in the upper atmosphere that could weaken the Earth’s magnetic field that protects us from cosmic rays and solar storms.

The origin of the plasma layer lies in the thousands of satellites in LEO. Satellites that perform specific tasks need to be in certain orbits – and, at altitudes of 160-1,000 kms, LEO objects are the closest to Earth, making them useful for satellite imaging for example. But now communications and broadband satellites are also using LEO to improve download speeds. However, LEO satellites move across the sky very quickly and mega-constellations are needed to enable constant and global coverage.

According to the European Space Agency (ESA), there are currently over 9,000 functioning satellites in space, most of them in LEO and SpaceX is hoping for an eventual Starlink system of 42,000. Other companies such as OneWeb, Amazon, Telesat and others are following suit and in 20-30 years there could be 500,000 to 1 million satellites in LEO. Collisions occur there now and the ESA estimates that, since the space age began, over 640 satellites have been involved in break-ups, explosions, collisions or other events creating space debris. If the crowding continues to accelerate, collision debris could create more collisions and generate more debris, and so on. Such a cascade of collisions could produce so much debris that future space activities could become impossible (the Kessler Syndrome).

ESA data also show that up until the end of 2023 there were about 6,500 rocket launches placing some 16,990 satellites in orbit. 11,500 of those are still in space, it is the missing 5,490 that could be the problem.

Satellites have a limited lifetime and, when they are of no longer any use, they can either be manoeuvred into a ‘graveyard orbit’ far away from others, or they can be de-orbited into the atmosphere. The Federal Communication Commission (FCC, the agency that regulates communications satellites) established a rule in 2022 requiring satellites to be de-orbited within 5 years of the end of their mission and in 2023 the satellite TV provider DISH, was fined $150,000 for not de-orbiting its EchoStar-7 satellite.

Since 1971, de-orbited space objects have been aimed at a spot in the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo, over 1,600 kms from any inhabitation, the closest humans being the astronauts aboard the International Space Station that often pass 400 kms overhead. Over 260 spacecraft have been dumped there - over half in the last few years.

Like meteors, satellites will burn up in the atmosphere before reaching the ground. However, when space agencies dispose of something large, some pieces can impact the Earth’s surface and a large object can disintegrate and spread out over hundreds of kms. The remains of the de-orbited 120-tonne Russian space station Mir crashed into the Pacific in 2001 and, in 2016, China managed to guide the out of control 8-tonne space station, Tiangong-1, to the space cemetery and, in 2031, NASA plans to de-orbit the aging 360-tonne International Space Station (ISS), and direct it there.

Things don’t always go smoothly though. In March part of a 2.6-tonne palette of 9 dead batteries, ejected from the ISS, survived the re-entry burn up and crashed through a house in Florida. Four of China’s Long March 5B booster rockets fell to Earth from 2020-2022, with debris falling on the Ivory Coast, Borneo, and the Indian Ocean and, in 2021 and 2022, debris from SpaceX rockets smashed into a farm in Washington state and landed on a sheep farm in Australia. Luckily, no one was injured.

Scientists have seen that aluminium and other metals, originating from satellites as they re-enter and ‘burn-up’ in the atmosphere, form about 10% of the aerosol particles in the stratosphere and when aluminium burns it produces aluminium oxide, or alumina, which can damage the ozone layer that protects the surface of the Earth from harmful UV radiation. It has also been found that the plumes of rockets passing through the stratosphere in the other direction, after launch, also deposit alumina, creating small temporary holes in the ozone layer.

Other objects enter the atmosphere all the time. On average, 60 tonnes of meteors enter the atmosphere every day, but meteors are mainly rock, composed of oxygen, magnesium and silicon and satellites are mostly aluminium. Just one 1.25 tonne Starlink satellite creates almost 3 times as much charged dust as all meteorite material in one day.

Ozone depletion can lead to an increased risk of cancer and eye damage on Earth and the U.S. telecommunications operator Viasat has requested that the FCC suspends launches of Starlink satellites due to the impacts of the magnetosphere that protects the atmosphere from harmful charged particles from space.

Viasat’s advice should be followed and launches of all satellites should be stopped until scientific investigations can enable us to better understand how we are affecting our near-Earth space environment. Can society overcome the demands of the military and super-rich players in the space industry to ensure we do not endanger our survival on space-ship Earth?

Dr. Dave Webb is the GN Board of Directors convenor and also chairs Yorkshire Region CND. He lives in Leeds, England.
Canada’s hyper-militarization accelerates climate breakdown, threatens Indigenous communities

By Tamara Lorincz

Since the Justin Trudeau-led Liberal party formed government in 2015, which was the year that the Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted, military spending has drastically increased and militarism has intensified in Canada.

Shamefully, the Canadian government recently announced a new defence policy and a federal budget that will put fossil fuel-powered militarism into overdrive.

On April 8, at the Canadian Armed Forces base in Trenton, Ontario, the Prime Minister and Defence Minister Bill Blair released Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada’s Defence. It is a major update to the 2017 defence policy entitled Strong Secure Engaged and it sets the country on a dangerous war path.

Our North, Strong and Free is driven by Canada’s close partnership with the United States and membership in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Not surprisingly, on the same day, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, David Cohen, issued a statement that “welcomed” Canada’s new defence policy with its “significant investments in defense spending” to meet NATO’s 2% GDP target. A week later, he hosted NORAD’s new Commander, U.S. General Gregory Guillot, in Ottawa.

Ambassador Cohen claimed that “NORAD remains the cornerstone of defense for the United States and Canada, keeping the watch 24/7 to protect our sovereignty and security.”

Under the new defence policy, the federal government will modernize NORAD by locating new Forward Operating bases in Inuvik, Yellowknife, Iqaluit and Goose Bay. It will also build military infrastructure across the north, expand airfields for the new F-35 fighter jet fleet and install more radar systems and air weapons systems at a cost of $38.6 billion.

On April 16, the federal budget was released that will further increase military spending by $73 billion over the next twenty years. The government will buy more attack helicopters, armoured vehicles, armed drones and missiles that will require a tremendous amount of fossil fuel and critical minerals.

Over the past decade, Canada’s annual military spending has increased by 95% to $39 billion in 2023 according to the NATO Defence Expenditure report. By 2030, Canada’s military budget will rise to $49.5 billion/year or 1.7% of GDP.

Yet, 2030 is also the year that the Paris Agreement is supposed to be achieved. The Trudeau government committed to halving greenhouse gases by 45% to keep global warming to 1.5C; but Canada is not on track to reduce emissions.

Canada’s Commissioner on Environment and Sustainable Development Jerry deMarco reported last November that the federal government has failed to meet every target under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and our carbon emissions continue to go up.

Among all federal agencies, it is the Department of National Defence (DND) that is the largest consumer of fossil fuel and accounts for over 60% of emissions in the government. However, DND has no credible plan to reduce or offset military emissions.

Worse still, the costly and carbon-intensive NORAD militarization of the Arctic will put Indigenous communities at greater risk of climate change and poverty. The Arctic is the fastest warming region on the planet and the people are experiencing permafrost degradation, sea level rise and coastal erosion among other adverse impacts.

As well, the billions of dollars spent on NORAD diverts money away from desperate northern communities. The highest childhood poverty in Canada is in the north where 30% of Indigenous children live in unsafe housing with food insecurity.

In her 2023 annual report, the federal housing advocate Marie-Josée Houle explained that the majority of Inuit people lived in overcrowded housing. Many Indigenous people do not have adequate water and sanitation or access to reliable heat and energy for their homes. Houle emphasized that “The level of distress cannot be understated.”

Moreover, the militarization of the Arctic puts Indigenous communities in a sacrifice zone on the front lines of NATO’s northern flank in a global war. Last fall, Canada’s Chief of Defence Staff Wayne Eyre irresponsibly claimed that “Russia and China are at war with Canada.” Yet, he failed to acknowledge how NATO and NORAD are recklessly provoking conflict with these countries.

To stop this hyper-militarism, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom-Canada (WILPF) are launching the “On to Ottawa Peace Caravan” in May. The caravan’s banner is “Demilitarization, Decarbonization, Decolonization.” Canadians from coast to coast will be joining the caravan and converging on the capital to call on the federal government to reduce military spending and re-allocate it to urgent environmental and social needs.

The caravan will arrive in Ottawa on May 28, the day before the big arms fair, CANSEC. Over 280 arms dealers including Lockheed Martin, L3, Thales, BAE and Israel-based Elbit Systems and 17,000 defence officials and military personnel from around the world will be at CANSEC. The peace caravan participants and other anti-war activists will be protesting and trying to shutdown CANSEC on May 29 and 30. We will also be calling for an end to Canada’s complicity in the genocide in Gaza, the war in Ukraine and the conflict with China and for Canada to withdraw from NORAD and NATO. We want peace.

To learn about the “On to Ottawa Peace Caravan,” visit: www.wilpfcanada.ca and to find out more about “Shut Down CANSEC,” go to: https://worldbeyondwar.org/cansec/

~ Tamara Lorincz is Board of Directors member of the GN, member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and PhD candidate, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada

Help support our work! Join Global Network. See page 16!
Delek US: “Our competitive advantage is Israeli technologies”

Delek US EVP, CTO & Chief Data Officer Ido Biger states: “There are opportunities here for any technological company that can make us better and we will be their gateway to the U.S.”

“The energy industry is divided into three parts, the upstream - exploration and production, with a global daily rate of 97 million barrels of crude oil, the midstream - those companies that store the oil and take care of transporting and distributing it, and the downstream - which turn the crude oil into products in the refineries, and distribute them further to the final consumers, among other things at the gas stations,” explained Ido Biger speaking at the Calcalist Forecasts conference.

Israeli gas stations across US

Delek US is an Israeli-owned downstream company (also called Alon), founded in 2001 by Uzi Yemin, and after several years, in 2006, became a public American company traded on the NYSE. The value of the company today is about $2 billion. The company has four refineries, two of which are in Texas, one in Arkansas and one in Louisiana. In addition, the company has dozens of terminals and hundreds of gas stations in New Mexico, Texas and Arkansas, a fleet of trucks, trains and logistics.

“Just to put the numbers in proportion, Delek US is bigger than all the energy companies in Israel combined in terms of the daily amount of barrels, the gas stations and the pipeline and distribution.

“So why is a public American company appearing at the 2023 Forecasts Conference? I have worked in various and diverse industries, including the financial world, communications, software, and aviation. But without a doubt, this industry is the most challenging in terms of digitization. After all, the last refinery in the U.S. was built more than 50 years ago. We will still rely on this industry in the next 20-30 years and it is adapting itself to today’s methodologies. In the end, as a company we distinguish ourselves as one that relies on the Israeli technological ecosystem. We believe that this connection sets us apart from all other companies. This includes global cooperation in the field of cyber defense in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Israeli Ministry of Energy, in research bringing together Ben Gurion University, Arizona State and Georgia Tech, which together with a variety of Israeli cyber companies are jointly developing the most advanced cyber laboratories for the operational world.”

How does this model work?

Biger explains that the company’s innovation team - DKI, which is located in Israel and the U.S., meets, examines and builds an investment and cooperation mechanism with relevant Israeli companies. “There are opportunities here for any technological company that can make us better and we will be their gateway to the U.S.”

Scott Ritter: Ukraine Owned by U.S., AIPAC ‘controls’ U.S.

By Sputnik International

President Zelensky took to Twitter/X on [April 14] to plead with US lawmakers not to forget about Ukraine, saying “it is critical that the US Congress make the necessary decisions to strengthen America’s allies in this critical time” by delivering on the aid package promised by President Biden six months ago.

Zelensky’s comments were echoed by Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who told reporters that Ukraine also needs help from its Western partners, even if it’s not in the form of direct military help – like Israel got. “All we ask our partners is, even if you cannot act the way you act in Israel, give us what is needed, and we will do the rest ourselves,” Kuleba urged.

“Let me make this very clear to the Ukrainian crowd. You see, the difference between Israel and Ukraine is that, whether you like it or not, Israel has bought and paid for the United States’ support,” while Ukraine hasn’t, Scott Ritter told Sputnik.

“Israel, through its political action committee, AIPAC, in the United States, has pretty much bought the United States Congress. They’ve bought the United States presidency. They control American media. And as a result, America comes to the defense of Israel because we’ve been paid to do so,” Ritter said.

With Ukraine, it’s the other way around, Ritter said.

“America, on the other hand, has bought and paid for Ukraine. You’re not a friend. You’re not an ally. You’re a tool being used by the US for its larger foreign policy and national security objectives vis-à-vis Russia. We provide you weapons only so far as it facilitates our objective of creating a problem for Russia. We don’t want you to win. We don’t care about you. We give you just enough to keep you going. And then we stand by and watch you bury your dead. Because we don’t care,” Ritter said, channeling the sentiments of the American establishment.

“You’ve done your ‘duty’. You created a problem for the Russians. But now you’ve become inconvenient. And we’re going to stand by and let the Russians finish the job... You don’t matter to us. You’re not Israel. You don’t own us. We’re not going to fight and die for you. I hope I made that clear,” Ritter summed up.

Israel received unprecedented military support from the US, the UK, France and Jordan on April 13-14, with the countries scrambling fighter jets and deploying ground and sea-based air and missile defense systems to shoot down a barrage of Iranian drones and missiles fired in response to Israel’s April 1 attack on the Iranian Embassy compound in Damascus, Syria. Despite foreign assistance and its own sophisticated air and missile defense network, some of the Iranian projectiles nevertheless managed to make it through, striking two vital Israeli airbases.
U.S. directed energy industrial base supports Israel

By Mark Neice for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal

Included in the Biden administration request for supplemental funding is $1.2 billion for upgrading the Iron Beam high-energy laser, or HEL, weapon system for the Israeli Defense Forces.

Iron Beam leverages the joint U.S.-Israeli investment in the Iron Dome defense system that has been effective in defeating the barrage of rocket and missile attacks on Israel from multiple locations. Iron Beam is a 100kW-class HEL system that can provide additional defensive capability against those threats.

However, the Iron Beam system is currently a single prototype system that has not yet seen operational use.

The United States directed energy industrial base has provided numerous systems to the U.S. Department of Defense for defense against both unmanned aerial systems and rockets, artillery and mortar threats. Some of these directed energy systems have successfully engaged noncooperative threats in multiple areas of responsibility. Leveraging the investments made by the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps in these directed energy capabilities could provide the Israeli Ministry of Defense a faster solution to the desired defensive HEL capacity to address the threats the IDF sees daily.

Using those supplemental funds to provide a near-term directed energy capability utilizing the U.S. industrial base, while enhancing the collaboration on Iron Beam, would be beneficial to both countries. The proposed supplemental funding is nearly equal to the annual investment the U.S. Department of Defense makes in directed energy science and technology. That U.S. investment has produced multiple prototype systems that already have undergone deployment across multiple locations. The tactics, techniques and procedures of how these directed energy systems integrate into the overarching defensive capabilities of the Defense Department are being developed, as are the reliability, availability and sustainability of these directed energy systems in an operational environment.

With appropriate approvals, all these lessons learned can be leveraged to support the needs of the IDF.

A solution to energize the U.S. directed energy industry to produce a defensive capability in support of Israeli defense needs against these threats, with multiple systems and multiple vendors, will incentivize the industry to advance our manufacturing readiness level and improve the U.S. capability to produce these systems at a cost point that is amenable to the U.S. Defense Department and the IDF. Let’s not miss this opportunity to leverage the U.S. directed energy industry, while supporting our Israeli allies in the region.

~ Mark Neice is the director emeritus of the Directed Energy Professional Society. The opinions expressed are his alone.

GN YouTube channel

Each month GN board member Will Griffin (Iraq & Afghanistan war veteran) has been making a video depicting a different aspect of the US effort to ‘control and dominate’ space. He puts them on our channel which can be found on YouTube at ‘GNspace4peace’. If you click on the ‘Subscribe’ button you’ll get a notice each time a new video is posted on our channel. You can help by sharing the links to these videos so that more people can watch and learn. Thanks.
Can Tech Innovations Win Wars?

By Lisa Savage

Many of the malevolent applications of tech innovations we’ve been warned about are here.

Recently Israel was documented using a high tech drone that plays the sound of a baby crying and then shoots at whoever comes out to investigate, truly the stuff of sci-fi nightmares. And an investigation by journalists revealed Israelis are using AI to select Palestinian men as targets for bombing. Many of the malevolent applications of tech innovations we’ve been warned about, including robotic quadrupeds that can shoot at will, are here. But can they prevail?

Gaza has long been described as a laboratory for weapons and surveillance, and Israel’s attacks since Oct 7 have directly and indirectly revealed a lot of military technology in use by various state and non-state actors. Groups like Ansar Allah in Yemen have repeatedly used low cost drones and missiles to deny access to shipping lanes they control. We are also seeing the reverse: Iran’s well-documented response to Israel assassinating their leaders in Syria is said to have cost a fraction of the funds consumed by the U.S.-built Iron Dome system to intercept them.

Meanwhile the U.S. has laid its cards on the table and is forging ahead with big budgets for dominating space as the latest “warfighting domain.” Likely the only way to pay for the most expensive industrial project ever will be cutting pensions and medical care for elders, and support for low-income folks. But when a former board member of Raytheon (now RTX) is your Secretary of “Defense” it’s pretty clear that wars in all domains are primary channels for redistributing wealth from workers to weapons corporations.

But is that a winning strategy?

Ukraine has been a testing ground for a different though related set of weapons, those possessed by NATO nations. Each weapon system they received was more elaborate and expensive than the last. Many of these tanks and anti-aircraft systems were the product of cost overruns in projects built for a Pentagon that can’t pass an audit year after year. Meanwhile, Russia ramped up production of tried and true systems, including some newer hypersonics, which were far more effective than fancy innovative weapons when used on actual battlefields.

And the U.S. is still trying to get a hypersonic missile that works after several military contractors have squandered millions while failing. Nations that do have them: China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea. Socialist countries and former socialist countries seem to be in the lead. Perhaps because crony capitalism is not an effective way to win wars? As a system it seems much more successful at running up a big tab and then leaving taxpayers on the hook to cover it.

In this scenario, the fancier and more high tech the weapons, the better. Who cares if they actually work?

~ Lisa Savage serves on the GN Board of Directors and coordinates the group Maine Natural Guard. She lives in Solon, Maine.
NATO shows real signs of impending demise

By Global Times

Global Times (GT) reporter Li Aixin talked to John Fang (Pang), a former government official and a senior research fellow at Perak Academy, Malaysia.

GT: Western politicians like to say that NATO is “stronger than ever.” How would you describe the 75-year-old NATO?

Pang: I think NATO sounds more threatening and incoherent than ever. If that’s what they mean by “strong,” I guess they’re right in that respect. But it is also showing real signs of impending demise.

It is well past its shelf date. It was formed in the 1940s in response to the Soviet bloc, before the Warsaw Pact. The Warsaw Pact was created as a defense treaty against NATO. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, NATO should have disbanded too. Instead it took on a new, expansionary role in securing US global supremacy. It is an aggressive, overextended organization adrift from its founding aims and attached now to the fantastical aim of “making the world safe for democracy,” that is to say, to attacking whoever the US deems the enemy of the day.

It’s made Russia, once again, the enemy. It has overextended itself on this venture in a way that has blighted Europe’s future and threatens its own survival. It now frames China, on the other side of the planet, as the security challenge.

GT: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the NATO summit, to be held in Washington DC in July, will be “the most ambitious summit since the end of the Cold War, showing NATO’s adaptation to new challenges and new threats, whether it’s Russia, whether it’s in very different ways China.” What’s your take on this claim?

Pang: China does not pose a threat to the US, nor does Russia. Unlike the West, China has risen in peace. It is now the world’s trade and manufacturing hub, the largest trading partner to a majority of the world’s nations. Its pattern of socialist development has been peaceful and based on mutually beneficial relations. It is pioneering the energy transition. It has opened avenues for the development of the rest of the Global South that were shut under the Western neocolonial order promoted by NATO. China is not a threat. To the contrary, it plays a vital role in regional and global prosperity and stability.

The “ambition” Blinken describes is for an expansive, virtualized NATO, reinvented for encircling a fabricated threat. It is a NATO as a pure extension of US imperial policy.

GT: The US is strengthening military ties with Japan and South Korea, as well as promoting AUKUS, Quad, supporting the Philippines. Meanwhile, on the whole, US-led NATO countries are engaging in increasingly frequent military activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Is NATO building their strategic pivot in the region?

Pang: It is neither strategic nor a pivot. I don’t think it rises to the level of strategy, which needs to define a purpose and a mandate clearer than “making the world safe for democracy.”

Europe doesn’t need to be defended from a vibrant, peaceful China peacefully integrated into the global economy and its home region. Europe needs to grow its trade and investment relationships and profit from the dynamism of East Asia, not show up, waving NATO’s flag as a tin pot colonial adjutant.

I also wouldn’t dignify NATO’s move with the word “pivot.” It is simply inflating itself to do what it is not designed to do, go where it has no business to be. After 1991, turning its back on any “peace dividend” from the end of the Cold War, it reinvented itself as the enforcer of unipolar order with the bombing of Serbia. It has since prosecuted wars of aggression in Afghanistan and Libya. Tuning its own enlargement into a sacred principle, it has expanded to the borders of Russia.

GT: Reports say that the US government is making arrangements for trilateral talks with the leaders of Japan and South Korea in July at the NATO summit in Washington. What do you think that means?

Pang: President Biden held a summit with Prime Minister Kishida and President Yoon in Camp David last year at which they signed a trilateral pact (JAROKUS). Kishida and Yoon have been attending NATO summits since 2022. Their proposed meeting with Biden on the sidelines of this year’s NATO summit would begin to regularize JAROKUS as an annex of NATO.

This will complete the consolidation of the worldwide set of US vassals, outposts and 800 military bases under NATO, Quad, AUKUS and this trilateral pact into a streamlined global threat posture also known as the West. There have been moves to make Israel part of a Quad Plus, along with New Zealand.

GT: What do you think of the prospect of “NATO’s Asia-Pacificization” or the establishment of an “Asian NATO”?

Pang: This is another one of those announcements that will go down in history like President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better World, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, and other grand ideas for bifurcating the world that lead nowhere.

The biggest of them is, of course, the Rules-Based Order, whose moral, legal and political legitimacy is now absolutely collapsed. It will go down in history identified with its signature achievement, the genocidal destruction of Gaza.

Having set Europe on fire with its aggressive enlargement, they propose to bring their formula to Asia.

We get the spectacle of the German and Dutch navies sailing into the region to sabre-rattle, and have symbolic exercises with the Japanese, for example, and perhaps next with the Philippines.

This entertains the Western elite for a couple days with an appearance of a grand alliance of the “democracies” against China, at a time when actual democracy has been hollowed out by oligarchic rule at home. They aim to encircle and divide.

Instead, NATO in Asia is really about what the US and its military industrial complex will do to its own members. It will tighten the US’ extractive grip on Europe and Japan and South Korea more than it threatens China. It will mandate purchases of US military equipment and more money from member states, especially that standby piggy bank, Japan. It will de-industrialize Japan as it has Germany, in favor of the US. It will demand more political and cultural conformity, further militarize Japan and South Korea, and alienate them from the economic and cultural vitality of their home region.

Europe, Japan and South Korea can say goodbye to any notion of strategic, political, economic or cultural autonomy. Remember that this is happening while actual freedom is breaking out among sovereign nations in the multipolar world of an expanding BRICS.

GT: When they are doing this, how does ASEAN feel about NATO?

Pang: I have worked with and in ASEAN, both the formal organization, and ASEAN type organizations, long enough to understand the thinking, the culture, the aspirations, the perspectives and the values of ASEAN.

This is a completely undesirable development for ASEAN, just as AUKUS is. To bring the European powers back into the region would leave a very bad taste in the mouth. Former colonial masters have no business returning to the region with their old games.

It goes against everything that ASEAN stands for, which is a zone of peace and neutrality and non-alignment. NATO is the exact model of everything that ASEAN despises. It is a throwback to the world of European Great Power competition and imperialism that once enslaved our entire region. NATO is the sor did past. It is antithetical to the future that we envision in a multipolar world, built not on military alliances but on associations and regionalisms that are open to all and based on peaceful win-win cooperation.
Space Week October 5-12

The Global Network’s annual Keep Space for Peace Week will be held October 5-12 in 2024. We urge members and supporters to hold public activities during the week to help increase public concern 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.

Israeli defense against Iran attack costs

Israel likely used over $1bn worth of missile defense systems to stop Iran’s attacks on April 13-14 according to a former financial adviser to Israel’s military. “The defence was on the order of 4-5bn shekels [$1-1.3bn],” estimated Reem Aminoach, in an interview with Israel’s Ynet News. “If we’re talking about ballistic missiles that need to be brought down with an Arrow system, cruise missiles that need to be brought down with other missiles, and UAVs, which we actually bring down mainly with airplanes - then add up the costs - $3.5m for an Arrow missile, $1m for a David’s Sling, such and such costs for airplanes.” Add in US, UK, France and Jordanian air force operations against Iranian drones and the cost was much greater.

Will Israel-US be deterred?

Following the April 13-14 Iranian retaliatory attack on Israeli military bases, the chief of staff of Iran’s military gave a warning to the US, saying that if Washington provides support to any Israeli retaliation against Iran, then Tehran would target American bases in response. The US has 35 bases 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.

Iran & BRICS+

The Cradle reports: In January of 2024 Iran became a full-fledged BRICS+ member. Iran’s aerial message April 13-14 to Israel confirmed this in practice: their missile guidance systems used the Chinese Beidou satellite navigation system as well as the Russian GLONASS system. Iran started its counter-attack with a misdirecting move. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized an Iranian-owned container ship near the Strait of Hormuz reminding the collective west of Tehran’s hold on the Strait of Hormuz where 21% of global petroleum consumption passes daily. The Iranian attack targeted key Israeli military sites such as the Nevatim and Ramon airbases in the Negev and an Intel center in the occupied Golan Heights – the three centers used by Tel Aviv in its strike on Iran’s Damascus consulate.

DoD Space $$5$$

As space increasingly becomes an essential warfighting domain, it is imperative that the Defense - Department (DoD) seize on the commercial sector’s ability to rapidly develop and field technology, the Pentagon’s top space policy official recently said. John F. Plumb, assistant secretary of defense for space policy, said those factors serve as the driving force behind DOD’s Commercial Space Integration Strategy, released earlier this month. “It is very clear, not just in the department but across, possibly, the country and the globe in the wake of the Ukraine invasion, how essential space is to warfighting.” Plumb briefed reporters during a meeting of the Defense Writers Group in Washington. “Now, space is constantly a topic at the White House and at the top of the Pentagon,” he said. A similar shift is evident in the commercial sector with space technology moving at an historic pace. The ‘Strategy’ calls for protecting and defending against threats to U.S. national security space assets, including those in space and on the ground and, where appropriate, commercial space solutions. – Source: U.S. DOD News

Google guns-ho for Gaza war

A Google employee who became a high-profile opponent of the tech giant’s $1bn artificial intelligence and surveillance contract with the Israeli military on a programme called Project Nimbus has announced her resignation. Ariel Koren, a marketing manager, left the company in April. She spent more than a year organizing her protest to persuade Google to pull out of the deal. However, Koren said that instead of listening to her concerns, Google blindsided her in November 2021 with an ultimatum: either agree to move from San Francisco, California to Sao Paulo, Brazil, or lose her job. At least 15 other Palestinian employees and allies have shared their experiences describing the “institutionalized bias” within the company. “Google is aggressively pursuing military contracts and stripping away the voices of its employees through a pattern of silencing and retaliation towards me and many others,” she wrote under the headline: Google’s Complicity in Israeli Apartheid: How Google Weaponizes Diversity to Silence Palestinians and Palestinian Human Rights Supporters. Koren, who is Jewish, had worked for the company for more than seven years. On April 16 nine Google workers were arrested on trespassing charges after staging sit-ins against Project Nimbus at the company’s offices in New York and Sunnyvale, California, The New York Times reported. Altogether 28 workers were fired by Google for participating in the protests. Google employees affiliated with the ‘No Tech for Apartheid’ group that led the strikes criticized the firings as “a flagrant act of retaliation.”

Splitting out the pits

Los Alamos Study Group reports: National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) chief Jill Hruby, in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, has reiterated that the plutonium warhead cores (“pits”) to be made at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) beginning in late 2024 are to be used in warheads for the silo-based “Sentinel” intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The Sentinel ICBM is struggling with major cost increases and program delays and is opposed by many arms control advocates. Curiously, many of the same arms control advocates have supported jump-starting NNSA pit production by investing in LANL pit production – for the Sentinel system. The new Sentinel ICBM program is estimated to cost at least 37% more than the previously projected $96 billion. No wonder the US has rolled up its sleeves to persevere. Google blindsided her in November 2021 with an ultimatum: either agree to move from San Francisco, California to Sao Paulo, Brazil, or lose her job. At least 15 other Palestinian employees and allies have shared their experiences describing the “institutionalized bias” within the company. “Google is aggressively pursuing military contracts and stripping away the voices of its employees through a pattern of silencing and retaliation towards me and many others,” she wrote under the headline: Google’s Complicity in Israeli Apartheid: How Google Weaponizes Diversity to Silence Palestinians and Palestinian Human Rights Supporters. Koren, who is Jewish, had worked for the company for more than seven years. On April 16 nine Google workers were arrested on trespassing charges after staging sit-ins against Project Nimbus at the company’s offices in New York and Sunnyvale, California, The New York Times reported. Altogether 28 workers were fired by Google for participating in the protests. Google employees affiliated with the ‘No Tech for Apartheid’ group that led the strikes criticized the firings as “a flagrant act of retaliation.”

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NATO prepares for Arctic battle

This winter’s major military exercise in the North, the Nordic Response, took place from March 3-15. Over 20,000 soldiers from 13 nations ‘exercised’ across the northern parts of
Space Alert!

Odds & Ends

Norway, Finland, and Sweden – i.e. the Cap of the North. This was conducted in close cooperation with NATO’s overarching exercise, Steadfast Defender, which began last February, and the British-led marine exercise Joint Warrior. The shared framework for the exercises is an Article 5 scenario triggered by a fictitious attack against the alliance launched by a near-peer adversary. In the first phase, Steadfast Defender is about moving reinforcements from North America to Europe. Then comes Joint Warrior, launched from the UK on February 24th, focusing on securing communication lines in the Northeast-Atlantic and carrying out landing operations on the Norwegian coast. During Nordic Response, the focus is on the reception of allies and joint operations in the face of a fictional invasion in Northern Norway.

**Space money game**

According to NovaSpace’s new report: Government expenditures are driven by an increasingly fragmented geopolitical context, the growing rivalry between the US, China and Russia, as well as the growing integration of space-based services in conventional military forces on land, air and sea. The US led 2023 space spending with $38.9 billion, followed by China with $8.8 billion, Russia with $2.6 billion, and France at $1.3 billion. Japan, the United Kingdom, the European Union and Germany also made substantial investments, each surpassing $500 million. As space becomes more contested, congested and competitive, countries worldwide are bolstering their defense readiness. NovaSpace, the consulting firm formerly known as Euroconsult, estimates worldwide government expenditures in space defense and security in 2023 topped $58 billion, a historic high.

**Changes at Kodiak Island, Alaska launch site**

A retired U.S. Air Force Colonel is the new president and chief executive officer of the Alaska Aerospace Corporation, which oversees Kodiak’s Pacific Spaceport Complex (PSCA) on Narrow Cape. John Oberst was announced as the head of the state-owned corporation last February. Oberst has been meeting with potential customers who want to use the PSCA on Kodiak Island. “On the government side it’s the U.S. Space Force.” The company has also faced recent public scrutiny over frequent road closures near the Spaceport Complex on Kodiak. A failed launch by California aerospace company ABL Space Systems last year released thousands of gallons of fuel when the rocket crash landed.

**U.S. wants ‘non-binding’ rules for space**

Pursuant to their shared goal of advancing bilateral space cooperation as declared by their leaders, the Government of the United States and the Government of France held their second meeting of the Comprehensive Dialogue on Space in Washington, D.C., on March 20-21, 2024. The participants held extensive discussions about challenges to their shared economic and national security interests. Both sides are determined to continue their close cooperation in strengthening the global governance of space activities by promoting the widest possible access to and compliance with the [technically outdated 1967] Outer Space Treaty, as well as the development and implementation of voluntary, non-legally binding international instruments to promote the sustainable, secure, and responsible use of outer space. The US has long refused to negotiate new legal treaties with China and Russia to ban all weapons in space.

**Secret US Intel operation in New Zealand Exposed**

Consortium News reported: A former New Zealand prime minister says Washington is the likely culprit behind a signals intelligence system that existed for nearly a decade without the government knowing. A report has revealed that a signals intelligence system embedded in the country’s Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) ran from 2012 to 2020 without ministerial knowledge or approval after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in secret. The GCSB is the equivalent of the GHCQ in Britain and the NSA in the US. It collects, assesses and produces reports on foreign intelligence for other New Zealand agencies.

**SpaceX & NRO wedding**

Reuters reports: SpaceX is building a network of hundreds of spy satellites under a classified contract with a US intelligence agency demonstrating deepening ties between Elon Musk’s space company and national security agencies. The network is being built by SpaceX’s Starshield business unit under a $1.8 billion contract signed in 2021 with the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), an intelligence agency that manages spy satellites. The plans show the extent of SpaceX’s involvement in US intelligence and military projects and illustrates a deeper Pentagon investment into vast, low-Earth orbiting (LEO) satellite systems aimed at supporting ground forces. If successful the program would significantly advance the ability of the Space Force to quickly spot potential targets almost anywhere on the globe.

**Texans reluctant to saddle up for war**

In March, Texas Republican primary voters overwhelmingly supported a proposition in favor of legislation to restrict the deployment of the state’s National Guard to combat zones. The proposition stated, “The Texas Legislature should prohibit the deployment of the Texas National Guard to a foreign conflict unless Congress first formally declares war.” In response, 84% of voters said “yes,” and only 16% voted “no.”

**Nuclear power on the moon?**

Russia and China are considering jointly constructing a nuclear power plant on the lunar surface between 2023 and 2035, according to the head of Russia’s space agency Roscosmos. Yuri Borisov said, “This is a very serious challenge...it should be done in automatic mode, without the presence of humans.” In 2021, Russia and China signed an agreement to establish an International Lunar Research Station and develop it with other international partners. The announcement follows China’s successful lunar sample return mission in 2020 and its ongoing work on a modern multi-module orbital station. There is growing competition between western nations and those from the Global South over moon bases. NASA also has plans for nuclear reactors on the moon. Its project just finished its initial phase which consisted of three $5 million contracts to commercial partners to develop fission reactor designs. NASA selected Lockheed Martin in Bethesda, MD, Westinghouse of Cranberry, PA, and IX of Houston, TX.

**Maine coast could host ‘space economy’**

Sascha Deri, CEO of bluShift Aerospace in Brunswick, Maine wants to launch mini-satellites into Lower Earth Orbit (LEO). His prime location for launching would be just off the coast of famous Acadia National Park. There are already more than 80 Maine companies involved in the aerospace industry in the state. Last September Deri crashed a workshop at the annual Common Ground Country Fair hosted by Lisa Savage and Bruce Gagnon.

In answer to a question about where he would get funding to launch his mini-sats, Deri responded (while being filmed) ‘NASA and the Space Force’. He went on to say the US wants to fill up the remaining parking spaces in increasingly crowded LEO before China and Russia can get there. Hypersonic missile testing is also anticipated at the former Loring air base in northern Maine.

**War as job creation**

The Washington Post reported in April (just before a congressional vote on another $60 billion for Ukraine) that 90% of the $68 billion in military and related assistance Congress has thus far approved is not going to Ukraine but is being spent in the US, according to an analysis by a military think tank. The Center for Strategic and International Studies found that our ‘military aid’ is providing a major cash infusion to 122 defense production lines in 65 congressional districts in 34 states across the country. This story was obviously a promo piece to get the funding approved as ‘America’s primary jobs mechanism is war’. The Pentagon calls this ‘Security Export’ – our #1 industrial export product. What does that say about the soul of our nation?

**India uses nukes too**

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has a couple of well-kept tech secrets – one of them nuclear – that will drive future voyages to the cosmos. The ISRO first used nuclear fuel to keep the instruments and sensors going amid frigid conditions during a successful lunar mission, Chandrayaan-2. A pellets of Plutonium-238 inside the radioisotope heating unit (RHU) made its way to space aboard the rocket. The RHU employed by ISRO will be a key technology in the future as the space agency plans not only more exploratory trips to the Moon and Mars but also Venus and the exoplanets, i.e. planets outside the solar system. Environmental impact studies for previous nuclear-powered space missions indicated that contamination during the fabrication of these devices is common and some space launch or reentry accidents have in the past released deadly plutonium and uranium into the Earth atmosphere.

**Could Nuland’s replacement be worse?**

Many of us cheered when we recently learned that the State Department’s top neo-con Victoria Nuland had left the Biden administration.
(Hillary Clinton got her a job teaching at Columbia University.) Anti-war.com reports that Kurt Campbell, the architect of the Obama/Clinton ‘Pivot to Asia’, has been appointed to the #2 position at the State Department in Nuland’s place. Campbell is known to be a China hater and a warmonger. Noted Korea historian Bruce Cummings described Campbell as a smear, smart Aleck bent on a policy of extermination. Campbell is on record calling for “a magnificent symphony of death” in Asia. Campbell’s appointment suggests that the US is preparing for war in Asia. He does not believe in mutual coexistence or win-win. He has said the era of negotiations is over. In fact, Campbell told top Chinese officials to their face, “Your win-win is bullshit”. Can we acknowledge that the Uni-party (both Dems & Repubs) in Washington are war parties?

More US bases in Nordic region

Sweden signed a defense cooperation agreement with the US in late 2023 which allows access to all military bases in Scandinavia. Swedish Defense Minister Pål Jonsson said the agreement would enhance the country’s ability to receive US support in times of war or crisis. The deal was signed at the Pentagon by Jonson and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who emphasized the strengthening of NATO with the addition of Swedish capabilities. The US struck a similar deal with Sweden’s western neighbor, NATO member Norway, in 2021 and is currently negotiating such an agreement with NATO members Finland and Denmark, two other Nordic countries. The US intends to use the Nordic bases to project power against Russia as NATO challenges for control of the melting Arctic Ocean. Russia has the largest border with the Arctic.

Latest on space junk

Space debris consists of various objects, from minuscule flecks of paint to massive chunks of metal. Out of 34,260 objects tracked in orbit, only around 8,300 are functioning satellites while the rest are junk, such as broken satellites or discarded rocket stages. Additionally, there are likely around 130 million pieces of debris too small to be tracked, measuring between 1 mm and 1 cm. Given that these objects travel over 25,000 kilometres per hour, even the smallest debris can cause significant damage. Each piece of debris becomes an obstacle in the orbital “highway”, making it increasingly difficult for functioning satellites to avoid collisions. So much for a ‘green global space program’.

U.S. Forces Korea reconnaissance aircraft

By Philgyung Hyun

In Pyeongtaek, South Korea there are approximately 45,000 personnel actively operating at the US Army Camp Humphreys and the US Osan Air Force Base. From Pyeongtaek to Beijing, China, it’s 950 km away. Since the early 2000s, around 120 US military bases were consolidated and relocated to Pyeongtaek to deter China. [At least 71 local farm villages were destroyed to expand Camp Humphreys. Osan AFB also hosts a US Space Force unit.]

From 2019, while conducting a one-person protest for the withdrawal of US military bases at the Pyeongtaek US military base, what I have witnessed is aircraft landing on the runway around 3:30 AM, followed by RC-12X special reconnaissance planes taking off around 7:20 AM, and RC-7 reconnaissance planes taking off at 9 AM. Regrettably, I had only understood reconnaissance planes to be instruments for observing and listening to the actions of other countries. However, the reconnaissance planes at the Pyeongtaek US military base are “special reconnaissance planes” performing specific military objectives.

According to WikiLeaks, electronic warfare is defined as “controlling the enemy’s electronic spectrum or directed energy weapons to attack or disrupt through the spectrum”. Currently, three types of reconnaissance aircraft are active at the two bases in Pyeongtaek.

At the Osan Air Base, the high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft U-2 [spy plane] is currently conducting surveillance from the Korean Peninsula, flying along the airspace adjacent to China’s Shandong Peninsula, passing through Shanghai, and continuing its reconnaissance mission all the way to Taiwan. It is reported to be flying disguised as civilian aircraft, using the call signs of Malaysian or Filipino civilian aircraft. If tensions between the US and China escalate, any civilian aircraft flying over Malaysia, the Philippines, or even the West Sea could be suspected of being U-2 planes, potentially leading to serious incidents.

Collect all communication and electronic signals

The U.S. collects signals intelligence (SIGINT), communications intelligence (COMINT), electronic signals intelligence (ELINT), and imagery intelligence.

In the military domain, jamming and spoofing have become common knowledge. In times of war, electronic attacks can disable enemy radar and intercept communication networks, rendering weapons such as fighter jets and tanks useless.

The absurd policy of the US returning to Asia is part of the imperialist strategy known as the “encirclement of Eurasia.” However, the people of East Asia will oppose the presence of US forces, striving for peace through unity and reconciliation.

Philgyung Hyun is Director of the U.S. Base Recovery Institute in Pyeongtaek, South Korea.
Stop Trashing Space—
Stop Seeing It as a Realm for War

When I reported for duty in 1985 at Air Force Space Command (AFSPACECOM) in Colorado Springs, the Space Surveillance Center in Cheyenne Mountain was tracking roughly 5,000 objects orbiting the earth. A global network of radar sites and telescopes tracked those objects, and all that data was fed into old mainframe computers using tape drives and disk packs that were the size of washing machines. Every year or so, the software was updated and a new release issued.

One year, something was wrong with the new release, and we started losing track of all those objects. We had to “restore” the old data and the previous software version until we troubleshooted and fixed the new release. If my memory serves, this was 1986. Stuff happens, SNAFU, but it’s a reminder that leaning too heavily on computers and other forms of technology can be unwise.

On one occasion, I supported an ASAT (anti-satellite) test that involved an F-15 fighter climbing to high altitude and releasing a special ASAT missile against an object in LEO (low earth orbit). Fortunately, the test was cancelled as smarter minds perceived that successful ASAT tests would only add perilously to the growing problem of space junk.

Today, nearly 40 years later, the number of objects in space has increased by a factor of six and is accelerating. Space, especially LEO, is becoming increasingly crowded. Much like the earth itself, LEO is becoming a junk yard. More dangerously still, it’s increasingly thought of as a realm for combat, another “domain” for the U.S. military to dominate.

Space, “the final frontier,” should be a place of peace, not another realm for war. As I’ve grown older, I’ve become more like Klaatu from “The Day the Earth Stood Still” (1951). Like him, I’m impatient with stupidity. America’s space policy today is stupid. Stupid and criminal, because any weapon in space is a crime against humanity.

Klaatu and his people found a way of life that did away with stupidity, the worst stupidity of all being war in an age haunted by thermonuclear weapons. We had best do the same. For, if you leave it to the US military, space will be less a place of wonder and more of a trash yard, if not a graveyard.

Space4Peace!

~ William J. Astore, a retired AF lieutenant colonel, served in AFSPACECOM from 1985 to 1988. You can find him at bracingviews.substack.com. He also serves on the GN’s Advisory Board.
**Applauding Niger’s Move to Expel AFRICOM**

The Black Alliance for Peace’s (BAP) Africa Team and U.S. Out of Africa Network (USOAN) commend Niger for its decision to expel the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM). We urge all African nations to reject U.S. neo-colonialism and remove AFRICOM from their territories. AFRICOM’s presence has led to an exponential increase in terrorism, with more civilian casualties resulting from AFRICOM strikes.

Niger’s National Council for the Safeguarding of Our Homeland (CNSP) has declared the U.S. presence in their territory illegal, highlighting the erosion of Niger’s sovereignty since the establishment of U.S. military bases in 2014. Despite Niger’s declaration, the U.S. has refused to leave, dismissing Niger’s position as Russian influence. Local organizations in Niger have openly denounced U.S. interference in the country’s ongoing transition process and the people have demonstrated in front of the U.S. embassy in Niamey to demand the immediate departure of AFRICOM.

BAP and the USOAN emphasize the need for African people to control their continent’s destiny and we oppose all foreign military and all forms of imperialist intervention in Africa. BAP also expresses concern over AFRICOM’s plans to expand by placing new drone bases in Benin, Ivory Coast, and Ghana. We denounce such expansions and call for an end to all military agreements between African nations and the U.S.

BAP’s Africa Team and USOAN will closely monitor the unfolding situation in Niger.

U.S. Out of Africa! Shut Down AFRICOM!

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**Iran Gets ‘Complete Map of Israeli Defense’**

Israel’s war cabinet has reportedly failed to reach a consensus on when and how to respond to Iran’s [April 13-14] missile and drone barrage, with Israeli media reporting that US pressure has complicated planning.

[Since this article was written Israel did respond with a weak attack on Iran that appeared not to have done any real damage.]

“There will be a response,” an anonymous Israeli official was quoted as saying by Israel Hayom. However, a final decision has not been made, and the cabinet is divided over what the form the response could take and its timing, according to a *Times of Israel* report.

“The US is always in complicated situations, and most of the time they can only blame themselves,” Dr. Marco Carnelos, a veteran Italian diplomat and former Middle East advisor to Prime Ministers Prodi and Berlusconi, told Sputnik.

“The Biden administration will continue to attempt a quite difficult balancing act between the necessity to avoid an escalation and its ‘ironclad commitment’ to Israel’s security, which in some cases is a contradiction in terms,” the diplomat explained.

As far as Israel’s response is concerned, Dr. Carnelos says that without US help, it could come in the form of activating its regional proxies, who are admittedly “not quite [as] effective” as those their adversary.

Locked in a four-and-a-half decade-long shadow war with Israel, Iran has long accused Tel Aviv of trying to divide Iran from within and topple the Islamic Republic using nationalist, terrorist and monarchist forces.

“Iran has no further steps to contemplate, it can wait and see, although it could prepare its contingency plans,” he said, pointing out that the strikes gave Tehran “a complete map of Israeli defense capabilities.”

That means next time, if Israel responds with force despite warnings not to do so, “another [Iranian] attack could not be largely preannounced as it has been this time, and above all...could be carried out with far more lethal and accurate modalities,” Carnelos warned.

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Not Enough War on the Ground, U.S. Is Taking It to Space

Elon Musk’s space company SpaceX recently secured a classified contract to build an extensive network of “spy satellites” for an undisclosed U.S. intelligence agency, with one source telling Reuters that “no one can hide” under the prospective network’s reach.

While the deal suggests the space company, which currently operates over half the active satellites orbiting Earth, has warmed to U.S. national security agencies, it’s not the first Washington investment in conflict-forward space machinery. Rather, the U.S. is funding or otherwise supporting a range of defense contractors and startups working to create a new generation of space-bound weapons, surveillance systems, and adjacent technologies.

In other words, America is hell-bent on a new arms race — in space.

Space arms, then and now

Attempts to regulate weapons’ presence and use in space span decades. Responding to an intense, Cold War-era arms race between the U.S. and Soviet Union, the 1967 Outer Space Treaty established that space, while free for all countries to explore and use, was limited to peaceful endeavors. Almost 60 years later, the Outer Space Treaty’s vague language regarding military limitations in space, as space policy experts Michelle L.D. Hanlon and Greg Autry highlight, “leaves more than enough room for interpretation to result in conflict.”

Stonewalling subsequent international efforts to limit the militarization of space (though the U.S. is participating in a new U.N. working group on non-binding rules), Washington’s interest in space exploration and adjacent weapons technologies also goes back decades. Many may recall President Ronald Reagan’s 1983 Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), which was established to develop land-, air-, and space-based missile defense systems to deter missile or nuclear weapons attacks against the U.S. Cynically referred to by critics as the “Star Wars” program, many SDI initiatives were ultimately canned due to prohibitive costs and technological limitations.

And while the Pentagon established Space Command in 1985, the Space Force, an entirely new branch of the military “focused solely on pursuing superiority in the space domain,” was launched in 2019, signaling renewed emphasis on space militarization as U.S. policy.

Weapons contractors cash in

Long-term American interest in space war tech now manifests in ambitious projects, where defense companies and startups are lining up for military contracts to create a new generation of space weaponry and adjacent tech, including space vehicles, hypersonic rockets, and extensive surveillance and communications projects.

For starters, Space Force’s Space Development Agency recently granted defense contractors L3Harris and Lockheed Martin and space company Sierra Space contracts worth $2.5 billion to build satellites for the U.S. military’s Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture (PWSA), a constellation of hundreds of satellites, built out on tranches, that provide various warfighting capabilities, including the collection and transmission of critical wartime communications, into low-Earth orbit.

The PWSA will serve as the backbone of the Pentagon’s Joint All-Domain Command and Control project, an effort to bolster warfighting capacities and decision-making processes by facilitating “information advantage at the speed of relevance.”

Other efforts are just as sci-fi-esque. Zoning in on hypersonic weapons systems and parts, for example, RTX (formerly Raytheon) and Northrop Grumman have collaborated to secure a DARPA contract for a Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapons Concept, where scramjet-powered missiles can travel at hypersonic speeds (Mach 5 or faster) for offensive purposes.

And Aerospace startup True Anomaly, which was founded by military officers and has received funding from the U.S. Space Force to the tune of over $17 million, is developing space weapons and adjacent conflict-forward tools. An example is True Anomaly’s Jackal Autonomous Orbital Vehicle, an imaging satellite able to take on, according to CEO Even Rogers, “rendezvous and proximity operations missions” with “uncooperative” targets.

As True Anomaly finds fiscal success, accruing over $100 million in a December 2023 fundraising round from venture capitalists including Eclipse Ventures and ACME Capital, other aerospace startups are flooding the market with the assistance of the U.S. government, both in funding and other critical partnerships.

Take how Firehawk Aerospace — which wants to “create the rocket system of the future” to “enable the next generation of aerospace and defense systems” — partnered with NASA in 2021 to test rocket engines at NASA’s Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. It recently secured Army Applications Laboratory and U.S. Air Force Small Business Innovation Research Awards to advance developments in its rocket motors and engines.

And data and satellite-focused American space tech company Capella Space, a contractor for federal agencies including the Air and Space Forces, specializes in reconnaissance and powerful surveillance tools, including geospatial intelligence and Synthetic Aperture Radar monitoring that help national security officials identify myriad security risks. In early 2023, Capella Space even formed a subsidiary, Capella Federal, to provide federal clients with additional access to Synthetic Aperture Radar imagery services.

We need diplomacy, not space superiority

The funding of expensive, futuristic space surveillance and weapons projects indicates the U.S.’s eagerness to maintain superiority, where military personnel posit such advancements are critical within the context of both a “space race” and an increasingly tumultuous geopolitical climate, if not the possibility of war in space outright.

As Space Force General Chance Saltzman declared at the recent Mitchell Institute Spacepower Security Forum: “If we do not have space, we lose.” Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee in late February, U.S. Space Force General Stephen N. Whiting explained that the U.S. Space Command must bolster its military capacities through increased personnel training and investments in relevant technologies so that the U.S. is “ready if deterrence fails.”

While upping its own military capacities, however, Washington is simultaneously pushing against other countries’ anti-satellite weapons testing, a capability the U.S. already has.

What’s more, the U.S. recently accused Russia of possibly developing nuclear anti-satellite weaponry in violation of the Outer Space Treaty. But the accusations, which Russia denies, are vague. And, as Todd Harrison of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments and Clayton Swope of the Center for Strategic and International Studies posit, Russia’s use of such a weapon seems unlikely as it is “effectively a kamikaze attack,” and would likely take out many of Russia’s own satellites while prompting major retaliation from adversaries.

In any case, such pointing fingers, when coupled with ongoing space deterrence and weapons proliferation efforts, does little to advance genuine diplomacy, where states could instead discuss, on equal terms, how space should be used and shared amongst nations.

Ultimately, weapons and aerospace companies’ efforts have launched a new generation of weaponry and adjacent tech — buoyed by consistent support from a “deterrence”-focused U.S. As a result, the military industrial complex has further expanded into the domain of space, where defense companies have new opportunities to score lucrative weapons contracts and theoretically even push for more conflict.

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