



Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

MAY/JUNE 2008

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 5

As of May 2008, the Iraq War had cost Nebraskans

\$ 3.75 Billion

For Nebraska Taxpayers, that averages out to...

\$ 1.98 million per day since the war began

\$ 5,350 total per household

\$ 2,121 total per person

These numbers are based on the following:

- Total appropriations for the Iraq War approved by Congress so far
- 1892 days since war began on March 18, 2003.
- 700,888 occupied housing units, from U.S. Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey
- July 1, 2006 population of 1,768,331, from U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program

By comparison, \$3.75 billion is \$250 million more than the entire 2008-2009 Nebraska state government budget

Source: National Priorities Project, Northampton, Massachusetts; Suzanne M. Smith, Research Director, www.nationalpriorities.org

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Nebraska Report

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Nebraskans for Peace

NFP is a statewide grassroots advocacy organization working nonviolently for peace with justice through community-building, education and political action.

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Turn Off the Violence Civil Rights & Economic Justice Environment

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___ Staff a table at NFP-endorsed events

___ Help out with office tasks at the Lincoln or Omaha offices

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Clip & Mail

STAY ON THE BATTLEFIELD

What's Next in the Fight to End the Death Penalty?



by Amy Miller
Vice President,
Nebraskans Against
the Death Penalty
& Legal Director,
ACLU Nebraska

Many of us hoped 2008 would be the year to bring abolition to Nebraska. Sadly, though the repeal bill reached the floor for full debate by all senators, the vote failed.

This was discouraging because (in all modesty), Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty did a really great job organizing across the state this year. Dedicated NADP members from almost every single legislative district phoned, wrote or visited their state senator—some senators had dozens of abolitionists contact them to urge support for ending state-sponsored killing. Over 100 people showed up for the floor debate of the bill, wearing white to indicate their support for abolition. Their silent witness was massively impressive: it is rare to see the balconies filled with observers, and senators were palpably aware of our presence.

In addition to this grassroots support, we used local experts, too. Omaha attorneys Brent Bloom (former Douglas County prosecutor) and David Lanphier (former Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court) graciously aided our lobbying efforts by providing letters to state senators calling for repeal of the death penalty. Captain Jim Davidsaver of the Lincoln Police Department also wrote to the Judiciary Committee, providing his law enforcement perspective that the death penalty simply does not work.

We even brought a national perspective to the debate with assistance from out-of-state organizations such as Amnesty International and "Witness to Innocence." These organizations sent guests to Nebraska to visit with senators. One such visitor was Sam Millsap, a former Texas prosecutor who sent an innocent man to his death and now works as a passionate abolition activist. Another visitor was Curtis McCarty, an Oklahoma man who spent 22 years on death row for a crime he didn't commit. His story of being proven innocent by DNA evidence was clearly moving to senators and audiences around the state.

Yet despite all this work, we still have the death penalty. What happened?

What Happened, and What's Next?

Being pro-capital punishment seems to still be a tried-and-true political stance. Many senators told us, "I can't vote for abolition; my constituents won't approve." So this gives us our marching orders for 2009: we need to make sure that the dozens of calls that went to senators double or triple. Our lawmakers just need to know that they do have the support of the average Nebraskan, and then they will be brave enough to step into the 21st Century and abolish this archaic, inhumane and unjust punishment.

Is there reason for optimism? Absolutely.

Nebraska is now the only state in the entire country with execution on the books and no method to carry it out. This puts us in an excellent position to advocate for abolition in 2009.

Firm hope for the future of the abolition bill can be found from the floor debate, too. While long-time supportive senators such as Chambers, Schimek, Petersen and others spoke movingly about the need to abolish the death penalty, there were strong voices from new senators too. Nantkes and Lathrop, most notably, participated in the debate vigorously and with great leadership. In other words, despite the arrival of term limits, there is a solid block of new leaders who will continue this fight.

All this optimism in Nebraska is reflective of the national picture, too. America as a whole is waking up to the serious flaws with the death penalty. The specter of executing an innocent person seems to have finally sunk in with many people who previously supported executions, and that's being driven by the numbers of exonerations happening nationwide. According to the Innocence Project, as of April 2008, 216 people have been exonerated through DNA evidence; of these, 16 served time on death row. An additional 112 death row inmates have been exonerated through other evidence of innocence.

Exoneration: The Key Issue in 2009

One way we'll highlight exoneration is with the keynote speaker for NADP's annual dinner this fall. Kathleen Hawk Norman was just a regular person with no particular interest in politics when she was called for jury duty in a New Orleans capital murder case in 1996. She was made foreperson and then, believing the prosecu-

tor would not have misled the jury, she helped return a verdict of 'guilty' as well as a death sentence for defendant Dan Bright. There was only one problem: he was innocent of the murder and robbery.

Dan Bright's trial lawyer did no investigation in the case and was drunk during the trial. It was later discovered that the FBI had the correct killer's name all along. Kathleen learned these facts four years later from Dan's post-conviction defense lawyers and had to face the fact that she had sent an innocent man to Louisiana's Death Row.



The story of Curtis McCarty, an Oklahoma man who spent 22 years on death row for a crime he didn't commit, was clearly moving to senators and audiences around the state.

Still having some faith in the system, she believed the courts would agree that a new trial was necessary. Six years and more than 18 trips to various courtrooms later, her trust in the system had vanished and the death penalty was moved to the front burner in her life.

It took 10 years to get Dan Bright released and exonerated as Kathleen continued to work to undo her earlier mistake. Now as founder of the non-profit organization "Jurors for Justice" and as chair of the board of the Innocence Project in New Orleans, Kathleen continues to fight for criminal justice reform and the abolition of the death penalty. Kathleen will be the keynote speaker on Friday, October 17, 2008, at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln for NADP's annual banquet.

Charge Your Batteries and Stay on the Battlefield

So the optimism that I and the NADP board feel is not just empty cheerleading: we are confident that our momentum is unstoppable at this point. Meanwhile, I know it's good to rest occasionally. Nobody can keep up the pace 100 percent of the time, and many of you probably feel exhausted. So take time between now and the next session to rest a little.

Try recharging your batteries over the warmer months by getting some of that reading done. Have you read *The Innocent Man* by John Grisham or *The Death of Innocents* by Sister Helen Prejean or, like me, are those books sitting on the shelf waiting for you to have a spare moment? Or maybe you should rent a classic film like *Twelve Angry Men* or *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Let these works entertain you while simultaneously reminding you of the need to keep up the battle.

Of course, if you are still feeling feisty and charged up, that's great too. Consider doing some research into local candidates in your area. Ask them if they support repeal of the death penalty and if they do, consider volunteering on their campaign. Or keep up the grassroots work by finding a venue for an NADP speaker. Contact NADP at 402-477-7787 or info@nadp.net to request a speaker.

Meanwhile, remember these lyrics from "Sweet Honey in the Rock":

*We kept on organizing,
we kept on teaching,
believing,
moving to a higher ground,
even though our hands were full
of slaughtered truth...
I'm gonna stay on the battlefield.*

Activists Challenge Expansion of Nebraska Uranium Mine

by Buffalo Bruce, Western Nebraska Resources Council

“Drama in western Nebraska surrounding the uranium mining issue continued to unfold in May.”

That was the opening sentence of an article from the June 1989 *Nebraska Report* by Jeff Tracy. Nineteen years later, that statement is equally apt.

May 2008 was a month of deadlines for appeal briefs, rebuttals, support briefs and other filings following the April 29 decision by the “Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel” to grant ‘standing’ to three citizen groups seeking a hearing on the expansion of the Crow Butte Resources uranium mine near Crawford, Nebraska. The 130-page NRC decision not only granted the right of Western Ne-

braska Resources Council, OWE AKU and Debra White Plume from the Pine Ridge Reservation to participate in a July 23-24 hearing in Chadron. The ruling also allowed several of the groups’ contentions to be heard in oral arguments.

The Crow Butte Uranium mine—formerly Crow Butte Resources—is reportedly owned by CAMECO, the world’s largest producer of uranium from Canada. That foreign ownership will be one of the key issues at stake when the oral arguments are presented. In addition, the NRC’s panel of federal judges put out a request for interested governmental bodies to comment on the accepted contentions which include ramifications of water drawdown and quality. The panel also invited the Oglala Sioux Tribe to weigh in.

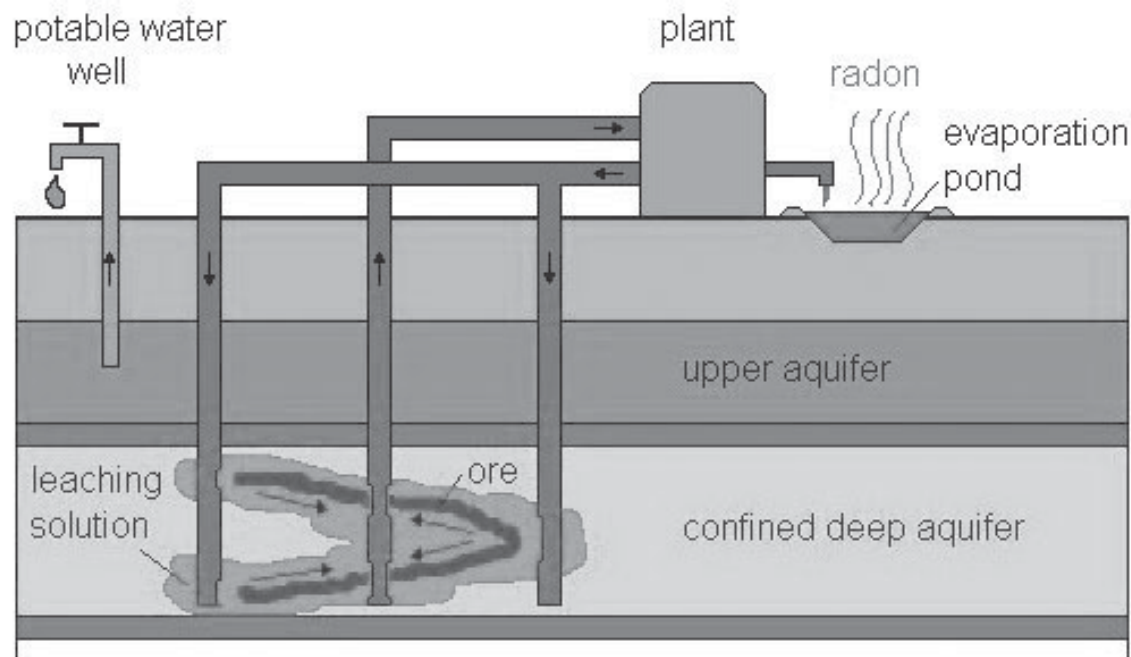
Here are a few notes taken by

an observer during the January oral arguments that led to the decision:

Before lunch we presented Chiefs Joe American Horse and Oliver Red Cloud, each of which a grandson of a chief who signed the Fort Laramie Treaties with the U.S. Government of 1851 and 1868. Chief American Horse, wearing a full feather headdress and formal beaded attire, introduced himself in Lakota and then, in English, talked about how the water is used sacredly in the sweat lodge where prayers are made for everyone. Chief Red Cloud stated that under the Fort Laramie Treaties, all this mining was occurring in treaty territory, and that as chief of the eight Reservations, he found it interesting to sit and listen to these people arguing about

conclusion on page 11

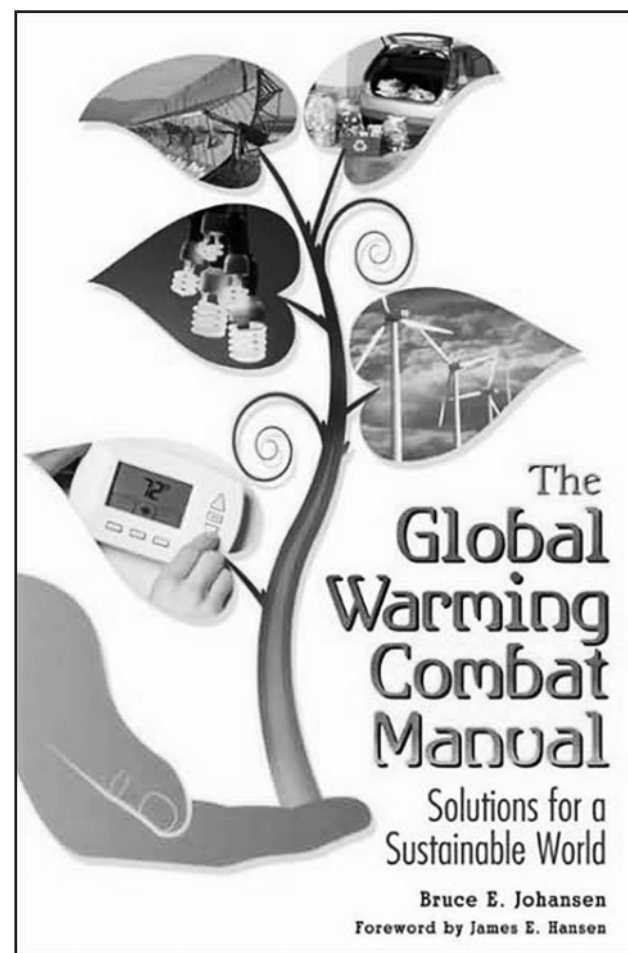
Scheme of Normal In Situ Leech Mining Operation



In situ mining is great in theory but it's not perfected. When the injection fluid called “lixiviant” is pumped into the ground, the uranium, radium and many other toxic and radioactive isotopes are oxidized and turned to liquid. The “pregnant lixiviant” is then pumped to the surface and processed. In the process, the uranium is extracted and the remaining isotope-bearing fluid is circulated underground again and again, until it's finally disposed of either by deep-well injection (back into the ground) or in an evaporation pond where radon gas is emitted into the air. During the process, some of the lixiviant escapes into the underground water supply. Even the mining folks will admit this but they say it won't substantially migrate.

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COMING SOON...



From the 'Foreword' by James Hansen,
NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

Bruce Johansen is the most prolific and down-to-earth writer among all the authors that I know who have chosen to focus on the topic of global warming. He has been at it for a long time, even back when global warming was only of interest to the sandals and granola crowd. Now the topic is in the news every day, and even politicians, except for the most well-oiled, agree that we must deal with the problem.

I am glad to see that in his new book, *The Global Warming Combat Manual*, Bruce has turned his attention to the actions that we all can take to help preserve our climate and allow all the creatures of nature to continue to thrive on our planet. There are many things that we can do in our daily lives to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming, but perhaps the most important thing that we can do is make clear to government officials that we want policies that favor our children, grandchildren, and all the species that live with us on Earth, not the short-term profits of fossil fuel special interests.

Seattle Mayor Gregory J. Nickels,
Founder, U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

When people consider global warming, they think big: icebergs melting, seas rising, islands disappearing. But climate pollution comes down to individuals. In Seattle, we recognize the importance of acting locally. And I've encouraged hundreds of mayors around the country to do the same. We understand that cities are essential to averting climate catastrophe and creating a cleaner, more prosperous future. *The Global Warming Combat Manual* answers the question: 'What can I do to make a difference?'

Available July 1; To order, visit

www.greenwood.com/books/printFlyer.aspx?sku=C35286

What's HOT in Global Warming?

by Professor Bruce E. Johansen

Hansen: Cut CO₂ 10 Percent in 10 Years

Jim Hansen and colleagues' evaluation of global warming is leaving us less wiggle-room than ever before. The latest, contained in a scientific article that Hansen and several coauthors are now preparing, says that the atmosphere's carbon dioxide level not only must stop growing from its present 385 parts per million, but must be cut at least 10 per cent in 10 years (to below 350 p.p.m.).

Failing such a reduction, we have placed enough warming "in the pipeline" during years to come to provoke not only uncomfortably warmer temperatures, but also significantly eroding Arctic and Antarctic ice, major sea-level rises, intensifying droughts and deluges, and animal extinctions on the land and in the oceans (including much of the world's coral reefs). The oceans may acidify to the point that anything in a shell will be in peril. Of the 2 degrees C. required to provoke unstoppable feedbacks, about half is now "in the pipeline," according to Hansen's calculations.

"Paleoclimate evidence and ongoing global changes imply that today's CO₂, about 385 p.p.m., is already too high to maintain the climate to which humanity, wildlife, and the rest of the biosphere are adapted," they write.

In a world where climate diplomacy dwaddles and China adds a new coal-fired power plant on an average of every two weeks, carbon-dioxide levels have been rising at a faster rate than any time since detailed records have been kept. As I wrote this word arrived that carbon-dioxide emissions from U.S. power plants rose almost 3 percent in 2007 over 2006, the largest increase in a decade.

The nature of thermal inertia and feedbacks makes this a sneaky, slow-motion crisis that many people will not feel (nor appreciate) until greenhouse-gas levels are too high to avoid major damage to the ecosystem.

Full-scale Mobilization

Hansen calls upon World War II as an example of the full-scale mobilization required to avoid a climatic crackup, if, according to Hansen and colleagues, "humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed." Construction of coal-fired power plants must be stopped until carbon-capture technology is available, and everyone must scour their lives for ways to conserve electricity. Efficiency standards for vehicles must be raised dramatically, and the very structure of our cities fundamentally changed to reduce the need to travel long distances on a daily basis. Air travel, which has become a major source of greenhouse-gas emissions, will need to be curtailed sharply. Non-fossil fuels (wind, solar, and others) will require development on a crisis basis. The peoples of the world will have to realize that modern machine warfare, with its huge carbon footprint, is a threat to survival of the environment. Agriculture and forestry practices will change to minimize production of carbon dioxide. All of these actions, and more, will require world-wide scope, and quickly.

Icemelt to Come at the Poles

"Present-day observations of Greenland and Antarctica show increasing surface melt, loss of

buttressing ice shelves, accelerating ice streams, and increasing overall mass loss," Hansen says. He adds that existing models of ice-sheet disintegration lack complete analysis of the physics of melting ice, including, in some cases, the fact that sea-level changes of sev-

"Continued growth of greenhouse gas emissions, for just another decade, practically eliminates the possibility of near-term return of atmospheric composition beneath the tipping level for catastrophic effects."

eral meters per century occur in the paleoclimate record, in response to influences that are slower and weaker than the present-day human-made forcings. "It seems likely," he writes "that large ice sheet response will occur within centuries, if human-made forcings continue to increase. Once ice sheet disintegration is underway, decadal changes [sea-level change within a period of 10 years] may be substantial."

The amount of warming that we feel now is being restrained by the enormous thermal inertia of the oceans that cover two-thirds of Earth's surface. Once that warming is realized, however, it will endure for centuries, even if human consumption of fossil fuels stops completely. No additional forcing is required, according to

Hansen, to raise global temperature to that of the Pliocene, 2 to 3 million years ago, "a degree of warming that would surely yield dangerous climate impacts." Equilibrium sea level rise for today's 385 p.p.m. CO₂ is "at least" several meters, judging from paleoclimate history, Hansen and colleagues state.

"Alpine glaciers are in near-global retreat," Hansen and colleagues write.

"After a flush of fresh water, glacier loss foretells long summers of frequently dry rivers, including rivers originating in the Himalayas, Andes and Rocky Mountains that now supply water to hundreds of millions of people. Present glacier retreat, and warming in the pipeline, indicate that 385 p.p.m. CO₂ is already a threat." To relieve these and other stresses, the carbon-dioxide level must be brought down to 300 to 350 p.p.m. then stabilized.

Spreading Deserts

As carbon-dioxide levels rise, atmospheric circulation patterns change. Spin the globe and you'll notice that most of the world's deserts lie between 20 and 40 degrees north and south latitude. This is because air usually descends in these areas. As the air warms, these dry areas expand northward and southward, creating more deserts. One such area is the U.S. Southwest; this dry area expands from time to time over Nebraska. "Data reveal a 4-degree latitudinal shift already," Hansen et al. write. "[This is] larger than model predictions, yielding increased aridity in southern United States, the Mediterranean region,

Australia and parts of Africa."

Although nothing of this kind exists now, the Hansen paper raises the possibility of a massive research effort "strong research and development support and industrial-scale pilot projects sustained over decades" to find technology that could reduce airborne carbon dioxide on a massive level. The cost? They estimate \$10 trillion – enough to make the Iraq war look cheap.

"Present policies, with continued construction of coal-fired power plants without CO₂ capture, suggest that decision-makers do not appreciate the gravity of the situation. We must begin to move now toward the era beyond fossil fuels," the paper concludes. "Continued growth of greenhouse gas emissions, for just another decade, practically eliminates the possibility of near-term return of atmospheric composition beneath the tipping level for catastrophic effects. The stakes, for all life on the planet, surpass those of any previous crisis. The greatest danger is continued ignorance and denial, which could make tragic consequences unavoidable."

Source: Hansen, James, Makiko Sato, Pushker Kharecha, David Beerling, Valerie Masson-Delmotte, Mark Pagani, Maureen Raymo, Dana Royer, and James C. Zachos. "Target Atmospheric CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?" Draft, March 18, 2008. www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2008/TargetCO2_20080317.pdf

Bruce E. Johansen, Frederick W. Kayser Professor of Communication at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, is the author of the three-volume *Global Warming in the Twenty-First Century* (2006).

STRATCOM CONFERENCE



All photos by Aurel Duta

Darth Vader of Star Wars fame served as the unofficial mascot for the 2008 Global Network Conference—“StratCom: The Most Dangerous Place on the Face of the Earth.” Vader is pictured in front of his permanent residence at Offutt Air Force Base in suburban Omaha.

*by Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator
Global Network Against Weapons &
Nuclear Power in Space,
& Tim Rinne, NFP State Coordinator*

*A version of this article was just published
in the June 2008 Z Magazine.*

Admittedly, “StratCom: The Most Dangerous Place on the Face of the Earth” sounded a bit over the top for the title of a conference. But by the time the participants caught their flight home from Omaha, Nebraska last month, there wasn’t anybody disputing whether U.S. Strategic Command deserved the label.

Two hundred people from 12 countries and 28 states gathered April 11-13 at the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space 16th Annual Space Organizing Conference to learn about this remote command in America’s heartland. And the local sponsor, Nebraskans for Peace, who for years had been fretting about what was going on in its own backyard, couldn’t have been more excited. There’d never before been an international conference specifically addressing the transformation that’s taken place at StratCom. But then, until just recently,

StratCom had never before represented the threat to the world that it does now.

From the moment George W. Bush was rushed to StratCom’s underground headquarters at Offutt A.F.B. on 9/11, the U.S.’s nuclear command began to undergo what StratCom Commander General Kevin Chilton described as “not a sea-state change, but a tsunami of change” in its role and mission. In the years since 9/11, the command has seen its traditional and sole responsibility of maintaining America’s nuclear deterrent proliferate to include missions for space, cyberspace, intelligence/reconnaissance/surveillance, missile defense, full spectrum global strike, information operations and combating weapons of mass destruction.

In the blink of a strategic eye, the command has gone from being something that was ‘never supposed to be used’ (i.e. the doomsday machine) to ‘being used for everything.’ It’s gone from being putatively ‘defensive’ to overtly ‘offensive’ to become, in the words of Nebraska activists, “Dr. Strangelove on steroids.”

With now eight missions under its belt, StratCom’s fingerprints are seemingly everywhere. Though it’s almost never

mentioned by name, you can hardly open a newspaper anymore without reading about one of its various machinations. Here’s a rundown:

- Now charged with actively waging the White House’s “War on Terror,” StratCom is authorized to attack any place on the planet in one hour—using either conventional or *nuclear* weapons—on the mere perception of a threat to America’s ‘national interests.’
- Through its National Security Agency “component command,” StratCom is regularly conducting the now-infamous ‘warrantless wiretaps’ on unsuspecting American citizens.
- The proposed “missile defense” bases in Poland and the Czech Republic that are reviving Cold War tensions with Russia are StratCom installations under StratCom’s command.
- Having conducted what it touts as “the first space war” with its “Shock and Awe” bombing campaign on Iraq, the command is now actively executing the Bush/Cheney Administration’s expressed goal of the weaponization and “domination”



Lindis Percy of the “Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases” in Yorkshire, England was a panelist on the conference plenary, “U.S. Bases Worldwide & Their Connections to Space Technology.” Arrested last October for “Aggravated Trespass” at StratCom’s radar base in Fylingdales, she was just sentenced to 30 days in prison for, as she put it, “walking on the land of the country she was born in.”



David Swanson, whose website AfterDowningStreet.org is the leading advocate for impeaching George Bush and Dick Cheney, warmed up the crowd of freezing protesters outside StratCom’s Kinney Gate the first day of the conference. Throughout the program, he provided ‘blog’ updates on the proceedings—and international media coverage.

of space.

- StratCom’s recent shoot-down of a falling satellite using its Missile Defense system, just after the U.S. had repudiated a Russian proposal banning space weapons, demonstrated the anti-satellite capability of this allegedly ‘defensive’ program and is certain to jump-start an arms race in space.
- In actively promoting the development of new generations of nuclear weapons (the so-called ‘bunker-buster’ tactical nukes and the Reliable Replacement Warhead), StratCom is seeking to ensure America will wield *offensive* nuclear capability for the remainder of the 21st century.
- Under the White House’s “Unified Command Plan,” StratCom commands access to the hundreds of military bases around the globe and all four military service branches, while working hand-in-glove with the CIA, FBI, Homeland Security and the Department of Justice.
- Operating like some executive branch vigilante and scofflaw, StratCom is now poised to routinely violate international law with preemptive attacks and to usurp

PEACE TAKES ISSUE GLOBAL

Congress' constitutional authority to declare war under the "War Powers Act."

StratCom, in the words of Commander Chilton, is today "the most responsive combatant command in the U.S. arsenal"—and the next war the White House gets us into (be it against Iran or geo-political rival like China) will be planned, launched and coordinated from StratCom. In fact, Chilton recently told Congress, he believes the name actually ought to be changed to "Global Command," to better reflect the "global" nature of its new role and mission.

This is the "New StratCom" that Nebraskans for Peace has watched materialize before its eyes. This is the enhanced threat, which the world community has no notion of whatsoever, because the changes at StratCom have occurred with the speed and power of a "tsunami." This is the global menace the Global Network sought to expose to the international public at its conference in Omaha this past month.

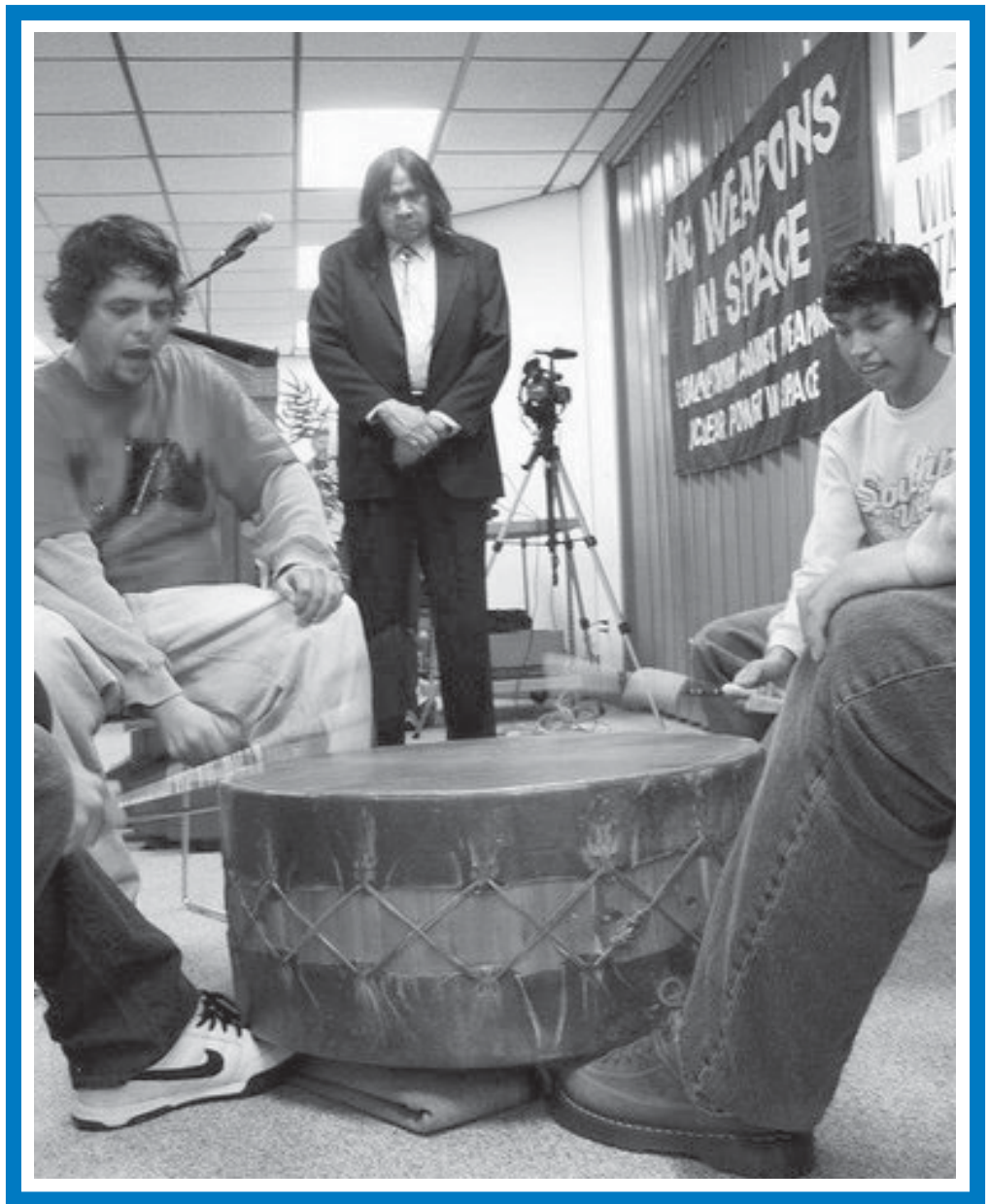
And while the media coverage of the conference was minimal, the word is nevertheless starting to get out nationally and internationally. Most of the people in attendance were activists, organizers and academics from all across the country and around the world. Picking up on the comment that StratCom is now a *global* problem, Jackie Cabasso of the Western States Legal Foundation stressed that addressing it will in

turn require a global response. Americans, she said, can no more be expected to halt this threat than we can expect Nebraskans to do it: "It's going to take the efforts of the world community."

That sort of international commitment was already strongly in evidence. While the speaker from Poland was prohibited from entering the U.S. by Homeland Security, Jan Tamas of the "No To Bases Initiative" in the Czech Republic tied the proposed Star Wars radar in his country directly to StratCom. From the title of his talk alone, "StratCom is the Main Threat to Peace in the Korean Peninsula," Ko Young-Dae, the representative from Solidarity for Peace and Reunification in Korea (SPARK), made it clear that he understood the connection to the Omaha command center. British activist Lindis Percy of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, who regularly contends with StratCom's presence in her homeland, sized it up perfectly with the expression, "horrid StratCom." Similar sentiments were expressed by the German, Swedish, Indian, Japanese, Filipino, Mauritian, Italian, Romanian and Canadian participants. In country after country, an understanding the StratCom menace is starting to take hold.

The final keynote of the conference was delivered by Bishop Emeritus Thomas Gumbleton, who back in the mid-'80s had committed civil disobedience at Offutt A.F.B. when it was still the "Strategic Air Command." Back then, all we had to fear—and it was plenty—was nuclear holocaust. Today, the Bishop said, because of our greed for wealth and power, we now have to fear StratCom's nuclear prowess and much more.

That greed for ever-more wealth and power had been the message of the conference's first speaker, national Indian activist and Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska member, Frank LaMere. The city of Omaha, LaMere noted, was named after the Indian Tribe of the same name that had inhabited this area for centuries and still has a reservation about an hour north of the city. The Omaha, he said, had a covenant with Mother Earth, that in return for the corn and buffalo she so generously provided them to live, they would in turn honor her by living in a good way. Never, LaMere said, when the Omaha deeded their lands to the U.S. government—without once going to war—had they ever imagined that an instrument of destruction like StratCom, capable of destroying the Earth multiple times over,



Nationally known American Indian leader and Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska member Frank LaMere delivered the opening remarks at the Global Network conference. An Indian drumming group, comprised of young men from various Nebraska Tribes performed several songs to welcome the conference participants to Omaha.

would rest on their ancestral homeland, on that sacred ground.

The Omaha, he said, cannot stop what is happening today by themselves. Nor for that matter can the people of Nebraska, nor even the people of the United States. To stop what is happening at StratCom—indeed to save ourselves from our own greed and self-destruction—Americans will need, LaMere said, the help of all their relations around the world. So he was cheered, he said, to see all these relations from around the world here in

Omaha, willing to help. That was good, he said. But we need to act fast. Time is getting short.

A five-minute introductory video about StratCom created by Global Network chairperson Dave Webb, who is also the Vice-Chair of Britain's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), can be viewed by clicking on: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkOeUHHV1eU.



StratCom's "Missile Defense" mission had particular significance for Czech activist Jan Tamas. The 'No Bases Initiative,' which he co-founded, is opposing the deployment of a Missile Defense radar installation in the Czech Republic. In mid-May, Jan and a colleague, Jan Bednar, started a hunger strike to force their government to submit the base deployment issue to a popular vote.

StratCom Is the Main Threat to Peace on the Korean Peninsula

The following keynote speech was delivered by Ko Young-dae, the SPARK co-representative at the StratCom conference this past April in Omaha. Mr. Ko served as the co-representative of SPARK, *Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea*. His remarks were translated by Ms. Lee Hyun-chong and published on the websites CounterPunch.org and AfterDowningStreet.org.

After the September 11 attacks, by the Bush Administration's decision, USSTRATCOM began developing a close relationship with the Korean Peninsula. On December 31, 2001, President Bush submitted the "Nuclear Posture Review," which defined Russia, China, and the so-called "rogue states"—North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Libya—as potential targets of pre-emptive nuclear strikes. Moreover, North Korea and Iraq, unlike the other three nations, were singled out as "chronic military concerns." Since Iraq is now under U.S. occupation, only North Korea remains as a "chronic military concern."

Moreover, based on the NPR, the Bush Administration has formulated a nuclear war strategy plan with North Korea and Iran as the main targets, thereby making the Korean Peninsula the most dangerous region in the world, with the U.S. nuclear

weapons playing a part in military strategy.

This nuclear war plan is called CONPLAN 8022, which combines five regional theaters into a single unit and articulates the idea of a global strike, whereby the U.S. can strike at any region within one hour.

CONPLAN 8022 was completed in November 2003, and was approved by former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld in June 2004. This plan includes pinpoint attack, destruction of underground military facilities, cyberwarfare to demobilize anti-missile systems and air defense, and the use of Special Operational Forces to seize North Korea's nuclear facilities and weapons.

It is telling that CONPLAN 8022 was formulated and implemented in 2003, precisely when the Korean Peninsula was immersed in a military crisis atmosphere.

During that period, Bush also strengthened the Operational Plans (OPLANS) of the USPACOM (U.S. Pacific Command) and ROK (Republic of Korea)-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC)/United Nations Command (UNC). These included PACOM, CFC, UNC OPLANS 5026, 5028, 5029, 5030, in addition to 5027. OPLAN 5027 was developed beginning in 1974, but



OPLAN 5026 and 5029 were developed concurrent with CONPLAN 8022, and have similar operational purposes and complementary characteristics.

OPLAN 5027 also is based on the use of nuclear weapons. The pre-emptive strike strategy appeared after OPLAN 5027-98. OPLAN 5027-04 includes Missile Defense, while OPLAN 5027-06 includes pre-emptive strike against North Korea's nuclear missile facilities.

During the 25th ROK-U.S. Military Committee Meeting (November 2003), it was agreed that CONPLAN 5029 would develop OPLAN 5029, but it was not established due to the ROK government's opposition. Under U.S. pressure, however, in June 2005 the ROK's defense ministers agreed to push OPLAN 5029, which is expected to be completed by 2008. OPLAN 5029 violates international law because it is aggressive in nature. It envisions military intervention during turmoil in North Korea, and even in times of natural disasters. The main purpose of OPLAN 5029 is to allow the U.S.—not South Korea—to seize North Korea's nuclear facilities, weapons and materials.

As requested by the U.S., OPLAN 5026 was agreed upon during the ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) in December 2002 and was completed in July 2003. It stipulates pinpoint attacks on 700 targets including nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) facilities and command and control facilities. It also includes a counter-plan against North Korea's long-range artillery. Thus OPLAN 5026 functions as a supplement to OPLAN 5027 and 5029, and CONPLAN 8022.

If a war breaks out in Korea, USSTRATCOM, with its strengthened authority, increased responsibilities and organic units, is likely to take the commanding lead. USSTRATCOM's role has expanded to cover conventional as well as nuclear war, space, global strike, missile defense, cyberwarfare, and combating WMD. To perform this role, USSTRATCOM absorbed USSPACECOM in October 1, 2002, and organized Air Combat Com-

mand, USPACFLTCOM (U.S. Pacific Fleet Command) and USATLANTFLTCOM (U.S. Atlantic Fleet Command). Intelligence reports including IMINT (Imagery Intelligence) and SIGINT (Signals Intelligence) collected from the Korean Peninsula and the rest of Northeast Asia are dispatched to USSTRATCOM.

If a war breaks
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"A Framework for Peace and Security in Korea and Northeast Asia," formulated by the Atlantic Council Working Group in April 2007, cites North Korea's fear of a potential U.S. attack as one of the reasons why the North developed nuclear weapons.

This Working Group's suggestion is valid, considering the development of the crisis at the time. Whenever Bush exerted pressure on North Korea by including North Korea as a pre-emptive strike target in the Nuclear Posture Review, including it in the "axis of evil" and expanding the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) that is an anti-North Korea blockade policy, North Korea responded defensively. For example, North Korea regarded the "axis of evil" label as a declaration of war. In response to being targeted for a preemptive under NPR, it stated that the Agreed Framework would have to

conclusion on page 10



I've got to confess, when I arrived at StratCom, I was a bit overwhelmed with the number of missions this command has. Eight... I noticed [though] that there was a common thread in everything we'd been asked to do and that is that every mission we're given is global in nature... In fact I thought StratCom ought to be better named "Global Command" for all the reasons that we do so many global missions.

StratCom Commander Kevin Chilton
Air Warfare Symposium, February 2008

Whiteclay: The Movie

Former NFP President Mark Vasina has just completed a two-hour documentary on the controversy surrounding the alcohol sales at Whiteclay, Nebraska. The product of five years of work (including an earlier half-hour version), *The Battle for Whiteclay* is now in final preparation for public distribution and screenings at film festivals. In the following interview, Mark provides some background into the making of this timely and heartbreaking documentary.

Nebraska Report: You grew up in Colon, Nebraska, near Wahoo, served as a founding director of the Open Harvest Food Co-op in Lincoln in the '70s, studied accounting and economics in the '80s, and worked on Wall Street in the '90s. How did you get into filmmaking?

Mark Vasina: In high school I was fascinated by the American new wave films of the time, such as *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Medium Cool* and *M*A*S*H*. I was struck by the power of film to introduce audiences to events and ideas outside of their immediate experience, and to move and inspire them. Since that time I nurtured a secret wish to make films. Few choices were available to study film production, and 'low-budget' filmmaking was not as low-budget as it is today, with affordable digital video cameras and computer editing. By 1999, I had saved some money and decided to quit my job with a New York brokerage firm and enroll in film school.

Nebraska Report: It's a long way from Wall Street to Whiteclay. What got you interested in the Whiteclay issue?

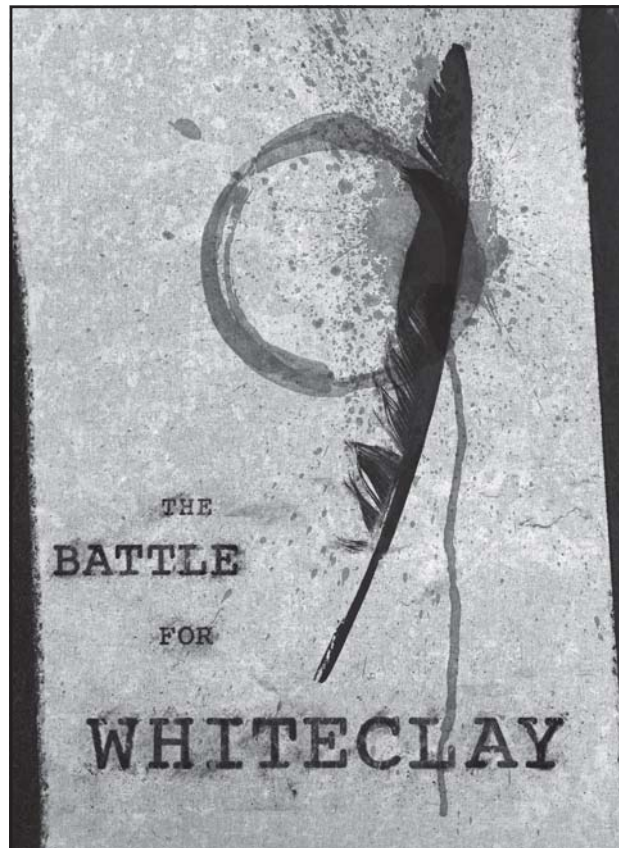
Mark Vasina: I had developed a love for documentary films, particularly those of Frederick Wiseman, Barbara Kopple and other 'direct cinema' filmmakers. I wanted to make these kinds of films and combine my interest in social activism with documentary filmmaking. After film school I returned to Nebraska to make a film about Hispanics in a small town. This project remains unfinished. But I made a film in 2003 about the anti-war rally in Lincoln which took place before the Iraq invasion. At about that time I was elected to the board of Nebraskans for Peace.

Whiteclay came to the attention of NFP following the discovery of the brutally murdered bodies of two Lakota men near the tiny reservation border town of Whiteclay in June 1999. The still-unsolved murders highlighted the neglect by Nebraska authorities regarding the regulation of alcohol sales in Whiteclay. Four off-sale beer stores in Whiteclay sell over 11,000 cans of beer a day to a Native clientele with virtually no legal place to drink them, since the sale and possession of alcohol is banned on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Reports of sales to minors and intoxicated persons, and in exchange for sexual favors from young Native women, were widespread. The 1999 murders were rumored to have been tied to unpaid liquor tabs. NFP joined Native efforts to get Nebraska officials to address the situation in Whiteclay—to provide adequate law enforcement and end the licensing of liquor sales.

My own education about Whiteclay began in March 2003 when NFP organized a teach-in at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. NFP State Coordinator Tim Rinne suggested I videotape it and consider making a film about Whiteclay. I agreed, and followed up by taping the annual march from Pine Ridge to Whiteclay held four months later.

Nebraska Report: The film covers an eight-year span of time, but by the movie's end, there are still four dealers in Whiteclay and the alcohol sales are continuing. There's no feel-good 'happy ending.' When you started making the movie, did you foresee that there wouldn't be any sort of closure?

Mark Vasina: The film includes video of the 1999 march to Whiteclay during which nine people (all Natives) were arrested by the Nebraska State Patrol for "crossing," as Frank LaMere says, "an imaginary line." However, the film is essentially the story of events recorded over a four-year period between March 2003 and June 2007.



Artwork by Justin Kemerling

Cover art for the DVD of Nebraska filmmaker Mark Vasina's Whiteclay documentary

My original intent was to record events for one year, beginning in March 2003. But little had changed during that time. I came to realize that the kind of film I wanted to make demanded a time span of several years. At the end of the first year my involvement had led to a much deeper commitment. And I had come to believe that audiences would be moved not only by what happens in the streets of Whiteclay but also by what takes place in the meeting rooms of the state and local governing bodies where much of the 'battle for Whiteclay' is actually waged.

Nebraska Report: Watching the film, you're gripped by the tragedy of it all, by the utter horror of what alcohol is doing to the Pine Ridge, but the movie isn't particularly 'preachy'

about what should be done. What was your filmmaking vision in creating the documentary?

Mark Vasina: Early on I recognized the complexity of the issues around Whiteclay and the difficulty one faces trying to grasp the public policy implications. These issues evolved for me throughout my work on this film. The question I asked as a filmmaker was how to shape this film to help the viewers work through these same issues.

Everyone agrees in principle that public policy decisions should be made based on careful evaluation of the best available information. But in reality policy debates are often more about battles between groups with different values and competing interests than about objective analyses of the issues. It is this dimension of conflict that I wanted to capture. My task as filmmaker is to help the viewers construct the issues, obstacles and possibilities from the unfolding events as they observe the participants operating inside the process of conflict. If viewers fail to recognize the roles of racism and greed in the public 'debate' over Whiteclay, I haven't done my job.

I realize that this style of filmmaking embraces a large measure of ambiguity; all the pieces are not tied together into one forceful conclusion. It is left up to us to interpret what we see and suggest actions to resolve the conflicts. But I believe the film contains all the elements needed to do this.

Nebraska Report: So, in your view, what should be done?

Mark Vasina: The 'problem' of Whiteclay is not, as some suggest in the film, how to control alcoholism on the Pine Ridge Reservation. It emerges, I think, from a focused series of questions: What is the appropriate role of public policy regarding the regulation of alcoholic beverages in the service of public health? Are liquor laws enforced adequately in Whiteclay, or not? If not, do state regulatory authorities have a responsibility to end alcohol sales? Is justice served when Nebraska officials ignore the concerns of the residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation, the community actually 'served' and harmed by alcohol sales in Whiteclay?

We must ask these questions again and again of our state officials, until they take notice. The Governor can direct the State Patrol to enforce liquor laws more effectively in Whiteclay, and can appoint Liquor Control Commissioners who will take seriously their duty to protect the public—not just the liquor industry. The Liquor Control Commission can more forcefully assert their official role to "promote the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state, and encourage temperance in the consumption of alcohol." The Legislature must address, over the objections of liquor and retail lobbyists, weaknesses in our state liquor law so that conflicts between liquor licensees and public health are not routinely resolved in favor of the licensees. Liquor law must be amended so that citizen protests of existing licenses may be heard at the state level.

For information on how to order *The Battle for Whiteclay* DVD, visit: www.battleforwhiteclay.org.

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StratCom Is the Main Threat, conclusion

be reevaluated completely. It claimed that the PSI is another example of the U.S.'s hostile policy, which aims to isolate and strangle North Korea.

Thus, after the U.S. occupied Iraq and began to talk about a military crisis in Korea in October 2003, North Korea announced that it had completed the reprocessing of nuclear materials and that it was strengthening its nuclear deterrence capability as a self-defense measure. This turn of events clearly shows that North Korea decided to develop nuclear weapons in response to U.S. military policies such as the preemptive strike plan and CONPLAN 8022.

The Bush Administration is capable of pressuring North Korea militarily more than any other previous administration, because of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, which evolved from the Mutual Defense Treaty and Agreed Minutes (November 1954). With the establishment of the alliance, South Korea became dependent on the U.S. in political, military, economic, state, reunification matters. In military matters specifically, ROK forces lost war-time military operational control authority, (OPCON) to U.S. Forces in Korea. This means that South Korea has limited power over military administration and is dependent on the U.S. in areas such as military strategy and weapons systems.

After the Cold War, as the U.S. became the only superpower and as South Korea surpassed North Korea in military capabilities, the ROK-U.S. alliance's stance against North Korea became more apparent. In June 1994, the Clinton Administration contemplated a nuclear strike against the North, but gave up after computer simulations showed that vast destruction in South Korea and even Japan would result.

The aggressive nature of the ROK-U.S. alliance has actually heightened under the Bush Administration. The U.S. and South Korean authorities are now envisioning a new ROK-U.S. alliance that would further strengthen their posture against North Korea, as well as expand operations 'out of area'—beyond the .

This more aggressive policy involved relocating U.S. forces from the forward deployment near the DMZ (De-Militarized Zone) to the rear, out of range of North Korea's long-range artillery, removing the obstacles to launching a preemptive strike, and installing Missile Defense. To implement CONPLAN 8022, the U.S. is deploying Aegis destroyers and submarines carrying Trident missiles, equipped with the most advanced ultra-sophisticated conventional warheads, on the high seas near the Korean Peninsula.

Moreover, the policy of Strategic Flexibility was agreed on, allowing 'out of area'

operations beyond the Korean Peninsula, which before January 2006 had been prohibited. Consequently, U.S. forces in Korea, without consultation or agreement by the ROK government, have acquired the potential to intervene in a conflict in the Taiwan Strait or any other crisis region in the world.

The new alliance's call for 'out of area' operations beyond Korea suggests the goal of a 'regional' alliance. The current Asia-Pacific alliance system is based on bilateral alliances such as the U.S.-Japan, U.S.-Australia, U.S.-Korea, and Japan-Australia alliances. The U.S. is using the USPACOM's Theater Security Cooperation Plan to de-

One of the ways to
disable the threat
StratCom poses with
CONPLAN 8022
is to establish
peace on the
Korean Peninsula.

velop these bilateral alliances into an Asia-Pacific regional military alliance.

On November 18, 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and then-President Roh Moo Hyun agreed to expand the ROK-U.S. alliance into a global alliance and agreed to explore South Korea's participation in NATO and the Global Partnership program, all of which suggests the U.S. ambition of elevating the Asia-Pacific alliance into a global military alliance.

The U.S. government reportedly is planning to establish a U.S.-led 'Pan-Asia Pacific Security Union' (PAPSU). The first step toward this broadened alliance is to include South Korea and Japan, and the forthcoming South Korea-U.S. Summit Talk will be the beginning of this first step. The second step is to include Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand in PAPSU. The plan to establish PAPSU clearly shows the U.S. government's intention to build a multilateral security alliance in the Asia-Pacific region.

The formation of a U.S.-led Asia-Pacific alliance and a global alliance will be facilitated by U.S.-led combined military exercises such as the 'Rim of the Pacific' exercise, involving Asia-Pacific alliance nations and NATO, and the Theater Security Cooperation Plan, RF-A/N, in which the U.S.'s Asia-Pacific allies and NATO countries take part.

Countering this trend, China and Rus-

sia are increasing their military cooperation and are engaged in combined exercises such as landing on the Korean Peninsula. They are continuously engaged in combined exercises through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In August 2007, SCO, in order to counter NATO's eastward expansion, held large-scale combined exercises, using advanced conventional weapons in Xinjiang, China and Chelyabinsk, Russia, in the Eurasian heartland. This suggests the U.S.'s global alliance-building may be leading to a new Cold War.

One of the ways to disable USSTRATCOM's CONPLAN 8022 is to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. For the 55 years since the Korean War ended with the signing of the armistice agreement, the Korean Peninsula has been experiencing continuous military confrontation and local conflicts, and has been exposed to the constant danger that these could escalate into all-out war.


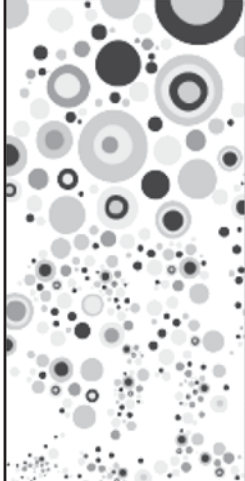
The only way to ensure peace on the Korean Peninsula is to conclude a peace agreement and legally end the Korean War and to demilitarize to the level where the two sides would not be able to engage in aggressive all-out war. Moreover, during this process, the U.S. Forces in Korea (USFK) must be withdrawn. The USFK are the principal offender in the military crises that destabilize the Korean Peninsula. Therefore, unless and until the USFK are completely and permanently withdrawn from South Korea, it will be impossible to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. Also, withdrawal of the USFK is an obligation stipulated in Article 60 of the armistice agreement.

In the 9.19 Joint Declaration resulting from the 6-Party Talks in Beijing, it was agreed that holding a forum on the establishment of a peace structure for the Korean Peninsula greatly increases the chances for concluding a peace agreement. If a peace agreement for the Korean Peninsula is concluded, the withdrawal of the USFK is realized, and peace is established on the Peninsula, this will be a major contribution to the attainment of peace in the Northeast Asian region as well.

SPARK (Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea) is now working with other civic organizations to realize the conclusion of a peace agreement and the withdrawal of the USFK. SPARK is also struggling to prevent the reinforcement of the South Korean-U.S. military alliance, since it is incompatible with a peace agreement and withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Our struggle to achieve that result will make a small contribution toward disabling USSTRATCOM and CONPLAN 8022.

We rely on the Global Network's active support and engagement to this end.

 <p>MARY RIEPMA ROSS MEDIA ARTS CENTER</p> <p>UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Lincoln HIXSON-LIED COLLEGE OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS</p> 	<p>NOW SHOWING</p>	<p>COMING SOON</p> <p>6.6 - 6.19 Young@Heart The feature film, re-released for the screen in 2008, would perhaps be an uncomfortably comic look at a bunch of geezers set up to look ridiculous for the smug delectation of hipster audiences everywhere.</p> <p>6.6 - 6.19 The Visitor Richard Jenkins (Six Feet Under) stars as a disillusioned Connecticut economics professor whose life is transformed by a chance encounter in New York City.</p> <p>6.20-6.26 Chop Shop Set in Willet's Point, an industrial sprawl of auto repair shops and junkyards in outer NYC, Chop Shop tells the story of 12-year-old Alejandro, an orphan living a hard existence in the "Iron Triangle."</p> <p>6.20-6.26 Shotgun Stories Scored with ragged, boozy soul, persuasively cast, a great feeling for dust-blown small-town streets and off-the-interstate Americana, the movie creates a red-state milieu that can turn from cozily familiar to Balkan at the click of a hammer.</p> <p>6.27-7.3 Battle for Haditha On Nov. 19, 2005, marines stationed in Haditha killed 24 Iraqi civilians. The reasons for the killings remain in dispute, though not this evidence: no weapons were found in the houses, most victims died from close-range gunfire and at least five were shot in the head. After various investigations, murder charges against four marines were dropped; one still faces reduced charges.</p>
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Uranium Mine, conclusion

what belongs to his people.

The panel of judges called this a "Case of First Impression" several times, stating that there were no applicable rules in many areas regarding this case. The Chief Judge invited a briefing on tribal law issues, Indian law, the treaty law issues, rights of consultation and Native American rights under religious freedom laws, trust responsibility, the U.N. Declaration from September 2007, mineral and water rights of the native people here, and anything else that would educate the panel on the indigenous people's rights in the case.

The U.S. Government has failed to fulfill its duties under the 'Trust Doctrine,' which protects indigenous rights granted to Native American populations under U.S. treaties. Allowing the main water source flowing into the Reservation—the White River—to be sucked up and go dry is proof of that.

According to Oglala Tribal members, downstream from the Crow Butte mine, at least 98 wells are contaminated because of high radioactivity, combined with an unusually high incidence of related sickness among reservation inhabitants. "The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has basically given us the right to fight for our rights," said Debra White Plume, director of Owe Aku/Bring Back the Way.

Never in recorded history had the Pine Ridge streams gone dry, even during the drought of the 1930s, until the uranium mine started doing business. Now Squaw Creek, East Ash and others are going dry seasonally.

Crow Butte's proposed 2,100-acre expansion, a few hundred yards north of Crawford's cemetery, will draw 2.4 billion gallons of water annually.

Miners remove uranium by pumping water and bicarbonate into the ground; they then withdraw the solution and recover the mineral, after pumping it into evaporation ponds. The company said in its permit application that the new area would yield between 500,000 and 600,000 pounds of ura-

nium oxide per year and be active for about 11 years. They currently process 800,000 pounds of yellow cake annually and have been since 1991. Lyle Krahn from Cameco headquarters in Saskatchewan stated, "We are committed to safe, sustainable operations, and we're following the regulatory process in good faith."

Crow Butte officials have been petitioning to renew their existing license, and have filed notices of intention to develop two new uranium mines.

Crow Butte officials have been petitioning to renew their existing license, and have filed notices of intention to develop two new uranium mines: "Three Crow," four miles west of the main plant and "Marsland," about ten miles south of the current facility.

David Frankel, a lawyer representing the Western Nebraska Resources Council, said "that there is no authority under federal law for a foreign-owned company, such as Cameco, to receive licenses to mine uranium in the U.S."

Frankel said the hearings also will require the company to show that its mining in the Chadron aquifer is not intermingling with two other aquifers, the Brule and High Plains aquifers, from which water for humans, crops and livestock is drawn.

He said the Resources Council believes that fractures in underground rock formations allow mixing of water used for mining with water used by people, spreading contamination from one aquifer to others. The existence of a connection, Frankel said, is backed up in a letter submitted as evidence by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

Letters to NFP...

U.S. military spending (at \$550 billion per annum) is nearly equal to that of the rest of the world combined. Even so, our dismal performance in defeating the insurgencies in both Afghanistan and Iraq has clearly shown the limits of our technological and military superiority.

Our national debt, already at \$10 trillion, is projected to increase by another \$2 trillion over the next five years—with almost half of this debt owed to foreign creditors. David Walker, the retired head of the Government Accountability Office, has warned that if we continue this kind of economic policy, aging 'baby boomers' and rising healthcare costs will reduce the government "to doing little more than mailing out Social Security checks to retirees and paying interest on the massive national debt."

Two factors have combined to make the U.S.'s collapse possible: imperial overreach and financial meltdown—much like the erstwhile Soviet Union before its collapse. Our ruling elites are too arrogant to admit the failure of their policies. At the same time, they are too greedy to care much about the suffering they cause to us—and to the people of the developing world—while lining their pockets.

And there will be 'blowback.' The Soviet Army was defeated in Afghanistan

largely because of the resolve and the sacrifice of the Afghans; the U.S. Army's defeat is taking place at the hands of the same Afghans, and also now the Iraqis.

With the colossal failure of our domestic and foreign policies, our country is in desperate need of an enlightened agenda. This agenda must offer humanity a way out of endless wars, indiscriminate killings and the resultant suffering of millions in our country and elsewhere. Now, more than ever, we must invoke the ethical teachings propounded in our great religious traditions. We need to build a civil society—and a foreign policy—founded on the principles of justice, equality and peace. And we need to do so urgently.

Our unwise actions, particularly over the last seven years, have made us deserving of the scorn of both the wretched of the earth and our formerly friendly allies. In Iraq, we have not only lost bodies, treasure, security and reputation, but we have also destroyed that country and offended its people to the soul.

Before it's too late, as a country, we must begin to examine who we really are and what we truly value, because the window of opportunity in which to change is closing fast.

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Your Foundation Speaks

by Loyal Park, President, Nebraska Peace Foundation

What are you going to do for the good of the world when it is in such bad shape?

Our national values have been systematically subverted since Sept. 11, 2001. Acceptance of torture, preemptive war, 'first strike' preparedness—everything Nebraskans for Peace has worked against in its nearly 40 years of existence subverted by the present administration and its close association with those preaching world domination.

Please support the peace education work of NFP today by a generous donation to the Nebraska Peace Foundation.



BULLETIN BOARD

Wednesdays in Lincoln Anti-war vigil, Lincoln Federal Building, 15th & 'O' St., 5-6 p.m.

Wednesdays in Omaha Vigil at StratCom's Global Innovation & Strategy Center, 6825 Pine Street, UNO Campus, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

June 19 Juneteenth—the oldest known celebration, dating back to June 19, 1865, commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.

June 20 Summer Solstice

November 4 General Election Day (the clock is ticking)

To list an event, submit in writing by the tenth of the month preceding the event to: NFP, 941 'O' Street, #1026, Lincoln, NE 68508, or email: NeReport@neb.rr.com.

NFP State Office Hours in Lincoln, 9:00 – 2:00 weekdays.



Speaking Our Peace

On Liars that Figure

by Paul Olson, NFP President

In August of 2007, Senators Barack Obama and Chuck Hagel introduced Senate Bill 1977—the Nuclear Weapons Threat Reduction Act of 2007—to control nuclear proliferation across the world. An ambitious piece of legislation, it calls upon the U.S. to lead a cooperative global effort to prevent nuclear terrorism, reduce global nuclear arsenals, stop the spread of nuclear weapons and related material and technology, and support the responsible and peaceful use of nuclear technology. The objective, pure and simple, is to try to start putting the nuclear genie, which is now running utterly amok, back in the bottle. S1977 not only seeks to contain the threat of nuclear terrorism by limiting access to fissile material, but to get the nuclear states themselves to get serious about reducing their own dangerous stockpiles.

The Obama-Hagel bill is the only game in town seeking to derail our will to nuclear self-destruction. *But you will have to look long and hard to find a serious analysis, pro or con, of the bill in our state's major papers.* We do not discuss such matters publicly. What require space are Jenna Bush's wedding, the latest case of a schoolteacher's sexual misdeeds with students and the Berkshire-Hathaway shareholders meeting. The scant coverage and analysis we do get of foreign policy issues far too often take the fawning tone we saw so often in the run-up to

the Iraq War. Like proud parents cooing and aahing over a newborn, our local media shamelessly parroted the White House's claims about Saddam's weapons of mass destruction. By the time the WMD allegations were found to be phony, the damage had been done, and the media had moved on.

The effect of this lack of serious local and national discussion of the errors of the Iraq venture is that in 2004, the last year for which we have complete data, the U.S. blithely spent \$620 billion on the military while our closest rival, China, spent \$65 billion. The entire rest of the world spent \$500 billion. We must think they really hate us if we have to spend more on 'defense' than the whole world put together. Or perhaps we bought the 'guns' while the rest of the world that was not at war spent its money on 'butter.' Already in 1953, Dwight Eisenhower, the general-turned-president, warned, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." Today, similar military theft spends the mortgages of our unhoused, the quality of our levees, the fabric of our roads and bridges and the sanity of our post-traumatic stress-suffering veterans.

Lying that produces the fear of nuclear holocaust and leads to increased military spending is, as Richard Rhodes

observes in his book *Arsenals of Folly*, an old game. Paul Nitze, who served in the Defense and State Departments during and after World War II, inflated the figures on Soviet nuclear weapons (while underestimating ours) to create Washington's will to escalate our nukes to 20,000 by 1960. Departing Washington, Nitze went to the University of Chicago where he trained Paul Wolfowitz and Richard Perle in the arts of military prevarication, and the Chicagoans, in turn, handed the fake adding machine over, during Father Bush's CIA stint, to Dick Cheney, Don Rumsfeld and the CIA's "Team B" experts to continue misrepresenting what the Soviets had. When President Jimmy Carter fired "Team B," they transmogrified into the "Committee on the Present Danger" and added William Casey, Jeanne Kirkpatrick and Edward Teller, who would all find a welcome home in the Reagan Administration.

The apostolic succession of mythmakers continued into the present administration with the substitution, for the Soviet bogey, of Jihadist radicals—and, for the balance of power, the "doctrine of preemption." Young Bush returned Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld, Cheney and Perle to major policy roles, and Cheney gave neo-con new kid, Douglas Feith, the task of making up data in a whole new special branch of the CIA.

Now we have a three-trillion-dollar

war to get rid of nuclear terrorists where none existed before. Aside from S1977, we have no serious U.S. effort to aid in the control of nukes or nuclear materials worldwide. We have a catastrophic economy, a broken-down infrastructure, and an educational system that has few resources to spend where real problems exist. We have endless poverty in rural areas, reservations, inner cities and among immigrant Hispanics. We are no longer a country, but a jigsaw of gated communities and siren-sounding ghettos. If patriotism was once the last refuge of the scoundrel, it is now the first appeal of the military-industrial-complex profiteer. He—yes, *he*—has it all.

Peace activists should be asking our national candidates what they think of S1977. How will they act to remedy the war economy? How will they take care of the war debt each of us faces (see page 1)? What will each do to show care for the 'least of these, our U.S. brothers and sisters' located in the run-down areas and neighborhoods of our country? What will they do about poverty, health care, a GI bill and rural reconstruction? America's 'wretched of the earth' are being burned out more slowly than our brothers and sisters in Baghdad and in the millions-strong Iraqi refugee camps. But they are being burned out as surely. If ever there was a time for us, as patriots, to rouse ourselves, this election campaign is it.