

Ground Zero

July 2004

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Who cares about Jose Padilla? WORRY ABOUT THE US NAVY.

Navy nearly detonates nuclear dirty bomb

Access ladder rips open nuclear-armed Trident missile's nose cone, comes within inches of colliding with live nuclear warheads and explosive rocket motors

By Glen Milner

Editor's note: This article was first offered to the Seattle Times and Bremerton Sun newspaper, but these two dailies were apparently uninterested in printing it. The Washington Free Press is willing to fill in where the mainstream papers are amiss. This article first appeared in the May/June 2004 issue of the Washington Free Press. This paper deserves our subscriptions and our support. Please see www.washingtonfreepress.org

There is no weapon system in the US arsenal with the operational risks of a Trident submarine. No weapon has as much explosive material, in the form of solid rocket propellant, and the number of nuclear warheads tightly packed in a confined vessel.

On November 7, 2003 a missile handling crew at Bangor, WA hoisted a Trident C-4 missile into a ladder that was left inside the launch tube. A nine-inch hole was made in the nose cone as the ladder came within inches of a live nuclear warhead.

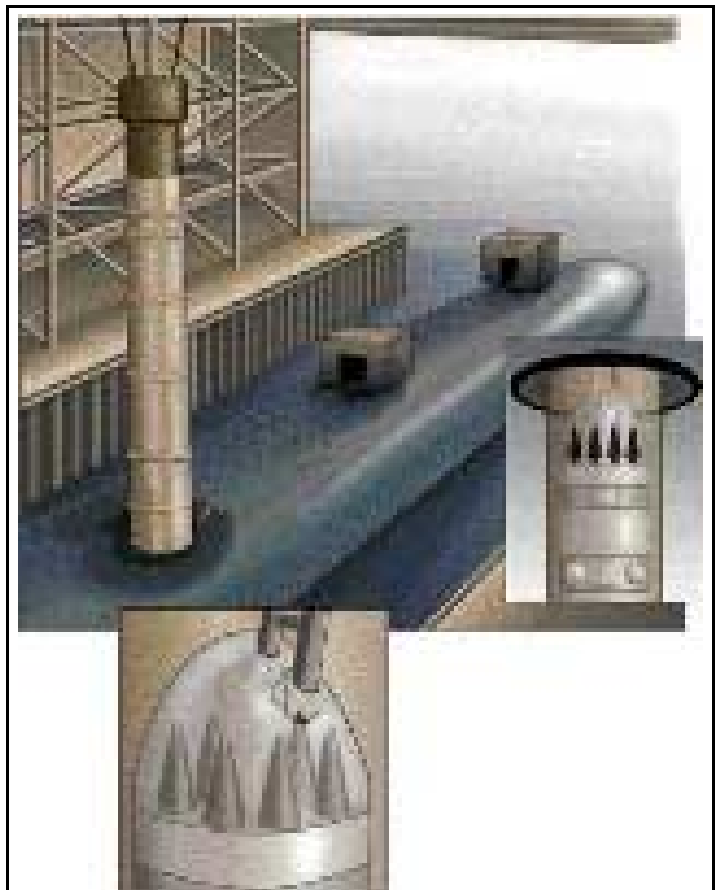
All missile handling operations at the Strategic Weapons Facility were stopped for nine weeks until Bangor could be re-certified for handling nuclear weapons. The top three commanders were dismissed.

When the accident became public in March 2004, many acknowledged the Navy's concern for safety but failed to recognize one critical fact: the design of the missile is inherently flawed.

The critical issue at the Bangor Explosives Handling Wharf in November 2003 was not how close the ladder had come to the nuclear warhead, but instead, how close it had come to the third stage rocket motor. Lockheed Martin and the Navy consider the Trident propellant to be 25 percent more explosive than conventional TNT. Some tests show it to be twice as volatile as TNT. The propellant is capable of detonating upon impact.

Had the ladder struck the third stage rocket motor with sufficient force, the resultant explosion would have detonated the much larger first and second stage rocket motors and spread the plutonium in the nuclear warheads across Puget Sound.

Safety studies of the Trident missile system have been con-



How disaster nearly happened: At the end of each Trident submarine patrol, two of the 24 missiles are removed for inspection. The missiles are lifted out of the sub into protective "loading tubes." In order to lift the missile, an access ladder is lowered into the Trident sub's missile launch tube so cables can be attached to the missile. In the November 7, 2003 accident, missile handlers failed to remove the access ladder before hoisting the missile up into the loading tube. As the missile was lifted, it collided with the ladder, ripping open the missile nose cone and coming within inches of the nuclear warheads and third-stage rocket motor. The impact of the ladder on the rocket motor could likely have caused it, and the other rocket motors, to explode, dispersing radioactive plutonium across the Puget Sound region.

Graphic courtesy of The Bremerton Sun from the March 12, 2004 edition. <http://www.thesunlink.com/redesign/2004-03-12/local/423493.shtml#>

Missile accident ...Continued on page 2.

ducted through a process of "fault tree analysis," in which every identified hazardous event in deployment operations is analyzed. Based upon analysis by Lockheed Martin and the Navy, the chance of an accident leading to the dispersal of plutonium is less than the acceptable number of "one in a million." The analysis, however, is dependent upon correctly identifying every causative event that could lead to a catastrophic failure.

In July 2003, a federal lawsuit, *Milner v. US Department of the Navy* [of which the writer is the plaintiff], brought the public release of the Navy's Trident missile accident review and propellant hazard analysis. While issues such as tornadoes and crane failure were considered in the safety reviews, no mention was made of missile technicians leaving for coffee break and forgetting the ladder in the missile launch tube. A number of other causative events, such as falling objects and electrical fires, were not studied because the chances of such an event at the Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor were con-

"...no mention was made of missile technicians leaving for coffee break and forgetting the ladder in the missile launch tube."

sidered too remote. The Space Shuttle program is similar in complexity to the Trident submarine system. NASA, with the assistance of Lockheed Martin and other prime contractors, had concluded the chances of a catastrophic accident involving a Space Shuttle to be 1 in 100,000. Actual operations resulted in two tragic accidents in 113 launches, giving the program a 1 in 57 failure rate.

The cause of the last Shuttle disaster, light-weight foam on an external fuel tank, had never been considered a potential problem.

A Freedom of Information Act response in September 2003 brought the release of documents from the Bangor Submarine Base Safety Office showing three accidents at Bangor involving Trident missiles. One accident, in November 2001, involved a cover that was pulled off the side of a Trident first stage rocket motor in a scenario the Navy had not thought was possible. The report concluded, "...we need to understand how the contact could have happened...."

One Trident submarine, loaded with the newer D-5 missile, has enough solid rocket propellant to equal 3.7 million pounds of TNT. This conventional explosive is equal to a small 1.8 kiloton nuclear bomb. Add to this the nuclear reactor and up to 192 nuclear warheads on one Trident submarine.

In June 2001, a coalition of two environmental and three peace organizations filed a federal lawsuit against the D-5 missile upgrade at Bangor. The case, focusing on the risks involved in missile handling operations at Bangor, was argued in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on June 10, 2004. The risks of a catastrophic accident at Bangor are enormous. The Navy could lose the operational base for approximately 25 percent of our nation's deployed nuclear arsenal. Citizens of Puget Sound could lose their homes and their lives. ♦

Glen Milner lives in Seattle and is a member of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo.

Broken arrow: Hood Canal, WA

Never handle nuclear weapons on a Monday or Friday

*Editor's note: The story on the damaged Trident missile was first made public on March 7, 2004 by Walter Fitzpatrick on his website, <http://jaghunters.blogspot.com>, dedicated to the reform of the military justice system. Fitzpatrick, a retired Navy officer, learned details of the incident from community neighbors. Several days later, front page articles appeared in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Seattle Times*, and *The Bremerton Sun*.*

By Walter Francis Fitzpatrick, III

SILVERDALE, WA. – A Navy Strategic Weapons Facility, Pacific handling crew came within inches of impacting a live Trident I C4 missile nuclear warhead during a Nov. 7, 2003 daylight dockside offload of the USS GEORGIA (SSBN - 729) at Submarine Base, Bangor, WA.

Subbase Bangor is located on the Puget Sound's Hood Canal, near Silverdale, WA.

President Bush was notified immediately of the "BROKEN ARROW," a military code word alerting military governors of a nuclear weapons accident. SWFPAC was shut down instantly, prohibited from continued weapons handling evolutions. SWFPAC's de-certification seriously limited essential stateside military operations.

The submarine's missile was hoisted up into an access ladder left installed in tube #16 slicing a 9-inch hole in the nose-cone. The lift was stopped inches from one of the missiles multiple warheads, a distance measured between thumb and fore-finger.

Impact concussion, impalement, or crushing a nuclear warhead can cause deadly plutonium air and water radiation contamination, non-nuclear explosion, sympathetic non-nuclear explosions (other warheads), and missile propulsion fueled fires.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigation ruled out terrorist involvement or connections.

Captain Lawrence Lehman relieved SWFPAC's former CO, Captain Keith Lyles, on Dec. 19, 2003. Citing "loss of confidence" in Lyles, Navy officials gave no other details in their Christmas press release.

Rear Admiral Charles Young ordered Captain Lyles' relief for cause. Young is responsible for the care and feeding of all fleet ballistic missile submarine nuclear weapons.

Three enlisted men on the handling team face court-martial or less severe disciplinary action: petty officer Robert Steel, topside supervisor; petty officer Mark Hammock, topside team leader; and petty officer Christopher Hamilton, a topside team member.

CDR Phillip Jackson (SWFPAC's executive officer), and CDR Marshall Millett (weapons officer) were also canned in what's been coined the "royal flush."

A lift fitting must be attached to a missile before it's hoisted up and out of the submarine silo. The tube hatch is opened, an access ladder affixed inside the silo above the nose-

Broken arrow...Continued on page 3

Trident missiles can never be safe

By Brian E. Watson

The Trident missile accident that occurred last year is an opportunity for us to see and contemplate the real dangers of living with nuclear weapons. While there have been studies to examine possible accident scenarios, and while the warheads are designed to avoid accidental detonation, the reality is that had the missile been raised up another foot or more, colliding with the warheads or the missile propellant motors, none of us knows what would have happened. The possibility of an explosion or ignition of the missile propellant is very real, carrying with it the risk of the plutonium in the nuclear warheads being dispersed and blown downwind.

As a father, such possibilities send chills down my back. How am I supposed to protect my one-year-old daughter from plutonium dust in the air? How can I keep her from the harm of a Trident missile catching fire or exploding? Would the Navy even let the public know of such an accident? Even if they did, would it do any good, given that by the time word got out, the damage would already be done? Would our local emergency preparedness teams be any less flat-footed and helpless than the rest of us? What about all the other children who would suffer from a missile accident? What is the emergency response

plan for Clear Creek Elementary and Cougar Valley Elementary, which border Bangor, not to mention all the other schools in the area?

The reality is that living with nuclear weapons, especially Trident, means we are always living in the shadow of death. Trident is a weapon of mass destruction, explicitly designed to inflict widespread, indiscriminate damage and death. Each nuclear warhead on a Trident missile is more than 6 times as destructive as the Hiroshima bomb, which killed 140,000 people. Each Trident sub is loaded with up to 192 such warheads. The US currently deploys 14 nuclear-armed Trident subs.

These subs are always ready to launch their missiles and cast nuclear detonations onto somebody's daughters and sons, children as beloved and precious as my daughter. Such detonations would not be accidental. They would be intentional, and would be deemed a "success" by those who designed, built, deployed, and launched them.

When we learned that a ladder punctured a nuclear missile at Bangor last year, we were rightly alarmed. But we should be equally alarmed, if not more so, when nuclear missiles are loaded and unloaded "without incident," when nuclear warheads are loaded "successfully" onto the tips of missiles, when Trident subs disappear into the ocean to execute

another "deterrent patrol." The daily work that occurs at Bangor, and at all nuclear weapons facilities across the US, is the real danger because it is such work, when done successfully, that enables these weapons to be used as they were designed to be used.

As long as we are willing to threaten nuclear death on other people, we too will suffer the consequences of that choice. To pretend that we can wield nuclear weapons with impunity, with no risk to ourselves, is foolish. The risk we willingly impose on other people with Trident is a risk we necessarily impose on ourselves as well.

The way to make us safe from future missile accidents at Bangor, in the end, is not to enforce stricter missile handling procedures, or even to redesign the missile to make accidental explosions or ignitions less likely. Such measures, while they would increase missile handling security, would not remove the fundamental problem of Trident.

The only way to ensure, beyond doubt, that we are safe from the risk of a Trident accident, is to eliminate Trident altogether.

As long as we live by the sword, we die by it, as well. ♦

Brian E. Watson is an artist and is editor of the Ground Zero newsletter.

Missile accident...from page 2

cone. A sailor climbs down the ladder, attaches the lift fitting to the ICBM, then after connecting the hoist to the lift fitting, climbs back up on deck.

The access ladder must be removed from above the nosecone before the missile is lifted skyward.

On Nov. 7 2003, it wasn't.

The handling crew took a break after making the bird in tube #16 ready for lift, leaving the access ladder in place. The sailors returned and began the hoist. The missile was lifted into the ladder slicing a large hole in the nosecone. The lift was stopped an instant before warhead impact.

The accident occurred late morning after one missile had been successfully offloaded and another made ready for extraction.

SWFPAC failed a weeklong nuclear weapons acceptance inspection (NWA), ending Dec. 16, 2003, attempting new cer-

tification after corrective measures were implemented. Capt. Lehman led the 40-man inspection team.

Lehman was ordered to relieve the fired Capt. Lyles on the spot - Dec. 19.

SWFPAC passed its second NWA on Jan. 9, 2004 ending a 9-week shut down of the nuclear weapons handling facility.

Navy seniors have issued a gag order to all military and civilian personnel familiar with the accident, threatening court-martial or other federal punitive action if violated.

Prevailing winds that day blew at 5 to 10 mph over courthouses in Kitsap, Mason, and Thurston counties, and over the state house and government campus in Olympia. Also downwind: the Belfair, WA, home of Congressman Norm Dicks.

No one was injured during the mishap or emergency response. ♦

Walter Francis Fitzpatrick III lives in Kitsap County, WA.

Letter from imprisoned Ground Zero activist Jackie Hudson

Epistle Five from Victorville, Federal Prison Camp, May 2004

Editor's Note: Jackie Hudson is serving a 30-month prison sentence for a Plowshares action she did, along with Carol Gilbert and Ardeth Platte, at a Minuteman missile site in October 2002. If you would like to receive e-mail updates on how Jackie is doing, let Sue Ablao know at sabla01@yahoo.com. Write to Jackie at: Sister Jacqueline Hudson, OP; #08808-039; FPC Victorville; PO Box 5100; Adelanto, CA 92301. The address must be exact.

My apologies for being so tardy in writing, but I am now a "working woman ." I began reporting to the library for afternoon duty in March. It cuts into my day terribly!!

Warm/hot days and cool evenings have begun. We celebrate springtime and new life. Easter, preceded by Holy Week, brought days of wonderful ritual. I thank those of you who carried me on your Good Friday Via Crucis. You all were in my heart as I walked the compound that day. My prayers were at various spots where Jesus is daily crucified on these premises: the warehousing of bodies in the various housing units, the criminal lack of medical care both in and outside the clinic, the dehumanizing "power over" by those in administration, lack of nutritional food in the cafeteria, etc, etc. Other Good Fridays of life: the death of Bishop Ken Utner, friends and family dealing with cancer, new arrivals at prisons around the globe...

But always after Good Friday comes Resurrection: the new life of Amos Philip (born to Molly and Jerry Mechtenberg Berrigan), the release of Mordici Vannunu, Mother's Day actions at the Bangor, Washington Trident Submarine Base and the ELF site in Wisconsin, other actions around the nation and the world calling for the end of the occupation of Iraq, just solutions in Palestine and Afghanistan as well as other "hot spots" around the world, women heading home after months and years of incarceration, wonderful weekend visits, the return of the hummingbirds....

An update on Frieda (80 years old). She has been assigned to AM Food Service by the camp administrator, not by the person in charge of work assignments. When the women converged on him for an explanation he said he had "nothing to do with it," picked up his briefcase, and headed out. So goes life in the gulag.

Speaking of gulag, a friend received an article on the Russian gulags of the 50s and 60s. It showed an aerial view of the complex. It looked remarkably similar to the isolated desert setting of Victorville. In Russia, as here, prisoners did all the manual labor and worked for the government. So many similarities and yet we hear little condemnation of the US version. Instead we hear of the "coddling" of prisoners from folks who have never experienced the system. The latest figures show that 701 of every 100,000 US citizens are currently in prisons.

The news is filled with the inhumane treatment of Iraqi prisoners. Truly an atrocity. Folks in this country refuse to acknowledge that this is commonplace in our own jails and prisons. Prisoners are considered "property of the US Government," literally! Disrespect, dehumanization, humiliation are all part of the prison process. The horrible brutalization suffered by our "war on terrorism" prisoners is not commonplace here at Victorville.

This is a minimum-security facility. There are no bars or barbed wire to keep us here. Rather it is the 3-5 years for escape that keeps us in place. After a visit, we are routinely strip-searched, forced to squat and cough, open our mouths, wag our tongues, showing nostrils and ears, bowing heads while running our fingers through our hair. It is supposed to be random, but is used for punishment also. So many of our military police and "contractors" rotate from, or back into, the US prison/jail environment, so why should we be surprised? This seems to be acceptable behavior within each system. Prisoners, wherever they are, are property, not human beings, all the more so if they are "different." And we continue to ask, "Why do they hate us so?" When will we wake up!!

It is encouraging that the mainstream media has picked up the atrocities being perpetuated in our name. Now it is up to us to demand change.

Our case has now reached the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, CO. Our dedicated attorneys have narrowed the appeal to three issues:

1. The trial court's definition of "national defense" and "national defense materials" was unconstitutionally broad and vague;
2. The record is devoid of evidence establishing the requisite specific intent to commit the crime of sabotage (*which, in fact, the judge and the prosecutor both repeatedly said we were not charged with!!*);
3. A "good faith" defense should have been part of the jury instructions.

No date has yet been set for a hearing and I expect the decision will not affect us personally, but anticipate that it will provide material for similar actions in the future. Blessings and many thanks to Anabel, Susan, Scott, Walter and Cliff for all your labors on our behalf.

In reply to your offers of support financial help for mailings, telephone, and basic needs, donations can be sent to Sue Ablao, 3495 Dyes Inlet Rd. NW, Bremerton, WA 98312. Sue sees that my monthly needs are covered. Occasionally a piece of stationery, blank card or stamp slips in unnoticed, but they are not allowed.

Our letters are now being posted on the web: www.jonahhouse.org and www.gzcenter.org. Another great site with information on weapons in space is www.space4peace.org.

Some items of interest:

- Excluding civilian and military retirement, veterans benefits, medical care and environmental clean up cost, the US Federal debt is approximately \$7 TRILLION. That's \$24,000 annually for every man woman and child in the US! — *David Walker, Comptroller General of the US April 4, 2004*
- The US military is present in 120 of the 191 recognized countries in the world. — *Testimony given be-*

Letter from Jackie... continued on page 5

Recreating Trident: A Conversion of Words

By Stephen Vincent Kobasa

*I can add colors to the chameleon,
Change shapes with Proteus for advantages,
And set the murderous Machiavel to school.*
- Henry VI, Part III, (III, ii)

As if predestined, the conversion of four of the oldest U.S. Trident submarines to cruise missile carriers and the retrofitting of four others to carry the more threatening Trident II missile has proceeded without criticism - almost without notice. What we know of the technical details of this process is less interesting than the reasons for the fatalistic silence in response to it.

Given the cultural acceptance of apocalypse upon which Trident has always depended, its partial mutation into a merely "conventional" weapon was hardly likely to produce general outrage. But the revisions of language that have accompanied Trident's new guise are clues to the larger dangers which we now face.

These do not, ironically enough, include the notion of nuclear weapons becoming "usable" which some commentators have seized upon. The "problem of proper use," which US Secretary of State Henry Stimson identified in 1945 as central to the first atomic weapon, has long ago

been solved. How much more "usable" than Hiroshima and Nagasaki could the bomb be? Trident is, by extension, the ultimate utility, since it could effect total annihilation. The difference between it and the weapon carried by the Enola Gay has always been one of degree, not kind.

The lie of deterrence that was constructed during the Cold War meant nothing if the weapons would not be intentionally, and usefully, employed. This notion endures in the recent UK Ministry of Defence statement which affirmed that the UK Trident system is "required" as a "minimum" deterrent, with the adjective implying some tolerable level of nuclear war. The tone of anguished necessity suggests a hypocrisy of tears, like that of the walrus in *Alice In Wonderland*, crying over the gobbled oysters. All this grief in anticipation of the mass destruction that would be so reluctantly, but deliberately, done.

What has changed in the justification for the reconfigured US Trident can be found within the expansive foreign policy that has adopted the oxymoron of "preventive war." From the beginning, the first-strike capacity of Trident has been its greatest value. It is the prototype of prevention by violence, with its scale the only difference when it is compared with the recent US military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

All the euphemisms in this new world ring hollow. As a theory, the "asymmetric advantage" that is now so crucial to American warfare is simply another version of attacking the defenseless. And the "target base," approached along a "firing line" which "minimizes overflight issues" (as if there would be any surviving diplomat to file a protest over the use a country's airspace without permission), has all the pathos of the Joseph Brodsky poem in which two missiles in flight acknowledge that "There is nothing ahead and nothing behind."

The perverse recycling of the older vessels in the Trident fleet - particularly noteworthy in a culture renowned for planned obsolescence - that will not allow any abandonment of such a serviceable war machine, particularly when the economics of omnicide reveal that while over half of the nuclear warheads in the US inventory are aboard Tridents, they require less than a quarter of the total budget set aside for that purpose.

In the end, it is Thoreau's "rule of expediency" which allows Trident to exist. The weapon, with its offer of an illusory security, renders its supposed beneficiaries tractable to any purpose, convinced as most are that there is no way to alter the reality it portrays. That must be the focus of our resistance: restoring the possibility of hope. ♦

Letter from Jackie ... continued from page 4

fore the Armed Services Committee, May 4, 2004

- Estimated 1998 spending on all US weapons and weapons related programs was \$35.1 BILLION. — *US Weapons Cost Study Project*
- Vaccinations for 10 million children world-wide would be \$310 million. This equals the cost of 6 Trident II Missiles. — *Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action*
- On a different note: An adult male panda does an average of 8 handstands daily! — *Harpers Index*

I am extremely grateful to each of you for your continued love, support and prayers. The inner peace I continue to experience is miraculous, truly a gift. These experiences have brought me to a deeper realization of living in the moment. The past is gone, the future is yet to come: we have only this moment and this moment makes life possible. In carrying the Burden of Knowledge, may we each find ourselves doing our best to provide a world that all can live in as one people, relishing the new life each moment affords.

My love to all, Jackie

PATRIOTISM IS THE LAST REFUGE OF THE
SCOUNDREL — Samuel Johnson ♦

Stephen Vincent Kobasa is the coordinator for the Trident Resistance Network based in New Haven, Connecticut. A version of this article appeared in the March 2004 issue of Speed the Plough, the newsletter of the Trident Ploughshares, UK.

Mother's Day Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

By Bryce Brown

Being arrested with my wife, Alice, and sharing our beliefs through a physical act, I felt the same grin I had during our wedding ceremony.

It's a grin I'm not conscious of at the time, but returns when I think of the state of love and support that brought it on. The silent vigil before the arrest, like the gathering of family and friends at our wedding, added strength to the moment Alice and I shared.

The parallels don't extend much further between the two events. We chose private property to be married on, and chose federal property for the arrest. No police presence at our wedding, and very little chance our arrest would result in a trip to Maui like our honeymoon did.

But both days left me gushing over the feeling one gets being a part of people pulling together. ♦

Bryce Brown and his wife Alice Zillah live in Olympia, WA. Alice works for the State of Washington in information technology and Bryce owns a barber shop in downtown Olympia.



Blocking the road to Bangor: Ray Kelleher helps hold a giant banner across the Bangor entrance, May 8, 2004. Twelve people were arrested by Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies and State Patrol officers, were taken to Silverdale and were immediately released without booking. Two people were arrested on the other side of the "blue line" on the Bangor base itself (federal property), were given "ban and bar" letters, and released. *Photo by Brian E. Watson*



Fill up the jails (or at least the paddy wagon):

Ground Zero activists awaiting escort into a waiting Kitsap County Sheriff's van, after being arrested for blocking the road to the Bangor Trident Submarine Base on May 8, 2004. Joy Goldstein (at R) gives her name to a State Patrol officer. *Photo by Brian E. Watson*

Quotes from Mother's Day Action participants

What brings me here today

"Visiting Hiroshima on August 6th, 1997, was a transformative event in my life. In the last two years I've been participating in peace demonstrations and today I want to stand for the peaceful re-ordering of society."

— Benjie Peters, Tacoma, WA

"Our weapons of mass destruction hold the whole world hostage and torture all of us. I feel called to help create a different future."

— Rosy Betz-Zall, Seattle, WA

"These Trident subs shouldn't be here---or anywhere else."

— Stuart Isto, Vancouver BC

"I want to be here and take a stand witnessing for peace."

— Paula Eisenrich, Seattle, WA

"The abominations that are occurring now in society; just fed up with lies, deceit on all levels. Every little step in a positive direction hopefully will assist others to think."

— Janice Tuft, Mill Creek, WA

"It's my job."

— Joy Goldstein, Vashon Island, WA

Love will have the final word...

Nonviolence tested in new ways on Mother's Day

By Brian E. Watson

The May 8 Mother's Day action was the first time in recent memory that our nonviolent action was accompanied by a "counter-protest."

As I silently approached the vigil site at the gates of Bangor on the afternoon of May 8, I was surprised, disturbed, and amused to hear the loud strains of so-called patriotic music blaring out of a set of loudspeakers. When I got closer, I saw more red, white, and blue in one place than I'd ever seen in my life.

There, across the 6-lane highway from us, was a group of about 40 people holding "Support Our Troops" signs and waving a lot of flags. They were from the group Operation Support Our Troops (OSOT), a group whose primary reason for being is to go to military bases and wave a lot of flags.

This purpose is all the more urgent when they learn about a peace demonstration happening at a military base. When they learned of the Ground Zero action, they mobilized via their website (<http://operation-support-our-troops.org/>), email, and possibly over AM radio stations, as well.

My heart rate sped up dramatically, not knowing what would happen when, after a silent vigil, a group of Ground Zero folks would block the entrance to the Bangor gate. *Would they storm over here and beat us up? How will I carry myself?*

I calmed myself knowing that

Navy invades...cont. from p. 8

supplying power to the base.

No mention was made in the documents of the neighbors adjacent to the Navy's new land purchase, the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

An inquiry to Kitsap County Commissioner Chris Endresen and later to Kitsap County Land Use and Environmental Planning revealed the Navy may purchase property anywhere in Kitsap County without any oversight from Washington State or Kitsap County. Once the land is purchased by the Navy,



Operation Support Our Troops...oops...Troops members holding a "counter-protest" across the street from the Mother's Day action. *Photo by Brian E. Watson*

among us were many people with many gifts, and that we were all deeply committed to practicing nonviolence with integrity.

In that moment of calm, I also realized that they were acting out of fear. *They are afraid of us*, I thought, and chuckled, shaking my head.

Their vehement "patriotism" was intended to cancel out our witness that day. The presence of OSOT folks was also intended to intimidate, and maybe even threaten us. Indeed, I think OSOT

it is automatically rezoned as "Military." Once zoned "Military," the U.S. Navy can do whatever it wants within federal guidelines.

In the interest of fairness, the land owned by Ground Zero should be rezoned by Kitsap County from "Rural Residential" to "Peace." Accordingly, we should have no problems with Kitsap County Land Use and Environmental Planning with the building of a Peace Pagoda on our land.

We promise we will not install a razor wire fence. Nor will we, accidentally or otherwise, blow up a Trident missile. ♦

represents a peculiar neo-fascist impulse in America—one in which the world is clearly divided between those who are "with us," and those who are "against us"—and which sees any kind of dissent as "giving aid and comfort to our enemies." There is almost a sense of desperation in their zeal, evident in this posting on the OSOT website: "We must not let the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action vigil stand – we **must** counter it!!"

I was proud of the way all the participants in the Mother's Day action acted that day. We simply carried on with our plans to vigil in silence, and then blocked the entrance to the base.

I was especially proud when I saw David Hall walk all the way across the highway with a bunch of carnations. He went across to offer each of them a flower and wish them a happy Mother's Day.

Even though they summarily rebuffed his gesture, I felt that same sense of calm, knowing the truth that, in the end, as Martin Luther King Jr. put it, love will indeed have the final word. ♦

Brian Watson lives in Bremerton, WA.

HEY LANDLUBBERS! WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE PEACE NAVY!

Meet the 2004 Seafair fleet—New date of Navy fleet arrival: August 5, 2004

By Glen Milner

The last issue of Ground Zero incorrectly listed the day the US Navy Fleet will arrive at Seafair in 2004. The arrival day this year has been changed to Thursday, August 5, 2004. It appears the fleet will be in Seattle for four days instead of five days this year.

We usually try to be out in Elliott



Meeting the fleet in 2000: Glen Milner, Jacob Milner, and Mary Gleysteen pilot a small boat to greet the Trident sub USS Alabama in August 2000. It is unknown if a Trident will be part of the 2004 Seafair fleet.

Still photo from video shot by Jackie Hudson

Bay by noon. The time goes pretty fast while out on the water. We will know more about this as the date gets closer, such as which Navy ships are coming to Seattle. For updates, please call or e-mail the contacts listed below.

We are inviting all with the spirit of nonviolence, a sign, and a boat to join us on August 5. Please note that there has never been an arrest at this event and we

have always left with all our boats. Peace boats in the past have displayed earth and peace flags, and signs stating “No More War,” “Impeach Bush,” and “USN=WMD,” and a banner stating “Danger! Navy has weapons of mass destruction.”

All boats are required to stay 500 yards away from the warships.

Why would we demonstrate for peace at a Seattle maritime festival? Because the celebration of warships in our harbor

helps bring about the normalcy of modern war.

The fleet arrival at Seafair is a public relations and recruiting event for the U.S. Navy. Previous years have brought Trident nuclear submarines and Navy warships used to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles in the first and second Wars on Iraq and the War on Afghanistan. The fleet is displayed for four days in downtown Seattle at tremendous cost to taxpayers while crucial social services in education, health care and transportation are being cut for lack of funds.

Each year at Seafair, the Navy has brought ships into Puget Sound used to fire depleted uranium bullets. The Close-In Weapons System, aboard almost every U.S. Navy vessel, must be test-fired twice a month for calibration. The depleted uranium rounds are fired off the Washington coast or wherever the Navy chooses to leave them.

Beat the Seafair blues and meet the fleet! August 5, 2004.

Please call or e-mail for more information: contact Mary Gleysteen at (360) 297-3894, Glen Milner at (206) 365-7865, or info@gzcenter.org. ♦

Navy invades!

Ground Zero property now bordered by Bangor on 2 sides

By Glen Milner

Recent research into Kitsap County’s parcel map of Ground Zero’s 3.8 acres, for a possible Peace Pagoda site and supporting parking lot and out-buildings, discovered a 4.75 acre parcel of land adjacent and directly north of Ground Zero without a house or improvements. It was owned by a couple in California and was divided almost in half by a small piece of Navy property and NW Rabaul Drive.

The approximately two acres north of Ground Zero and south of the Navy property would have been a perfect addition to our property to ensure room for a Peace Pagoda. A supportive real estate agent in Kingston offered to contact the couple in California about the land.

In March 2004 we discovered the

land had been recently purchased by the U.S. Navy. Ground Zero is now bordered on two sides of our property by the Bangor submarine base. Further investigation revealed that the 4.75 acres was the only property adjacent to the base purchased by the U.S. Navy.

A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of the Navy regarding this land purchase yielded the fastest FOIA response received to date. The request was made on March 21, 2004 to the Bangor submarine base. On March 24, 2004, Doris Lama, of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C., called about the request. That same day, two documents from September 2002 and October 2002 were in the mail explaining the Navy’s \$110,000 land purchase. The Navy may

have responded sooner than its normal three-month to three-year time period for a FOIA request out of concern of how this could be presented to the media.

Two references listed in the documents authorizing the land purchase were “Navy Physical Security Manual” and “Protection of DoD Personnel and Activities Against Acts of Terrorism and Political Turbulence.” An e-mail message outlined the need to protect a power substation on the small plot of land owned by the Navy dividing the 4.75 acre tract. The Navy plans included closing off NW Rabaul Drive and establishing an “island of security” for the critical asset. No mention was made, however, that the power lines could be broken in numerous locations across Kitsap County which would also shut down the electrical switching station

Navy invades...cont. on page 7

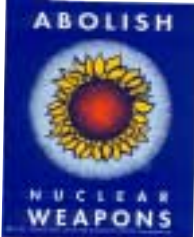
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- ___ Enclosed is my contribution toward the nonviolent work of Ground Zero. \$ _____
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- ___ Please call me; I want to start leafletting at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
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- ___ Please contact me about having a Ground Zero speaker come to speak to my group, church, school or union.
- ___ I have these skills I'd be willing to share in the work of Ground Zero: _____
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Mail orders and donations in US funds to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370
Phone: 360-779-4672 E-mail: info@gzcenter.org Website: www.gzcenter.org

GROUND ZERO NEEDS YOUR HELP

We at Ground Zero are delighted and humbled by the gifts that GZ supporters, without even being asked, send to support our work. Many of you have said, "Just let us know when you need financial help, and we'll send it."

Well, such a time has come. Even though we have relatively few expenses, the cost of publishing our quarterly newsletter and maintaining the Ground Zero house as a center for resistance, are considerable.

This year our costs included an unexpected reconstruction of our septic system that left us \$2000 in the red. If you can help, please make out your check to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and send it in the enclosed envelope to 16159 Clear Creek Rd., NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370.

Thank you! - Anne Hall, Treasurer



Ground Zero Open House and Work Party, Saturday, July 10, 2004

Please come to our Ground Zero Community open house and work party on Saturday, July 10, 2003. We are hoping to visit with Ground Zero friends and others in the Kitsap County community.

Open house at 10 am. Potluck lunch at noon. Stewardship Council meeting is at 2 pm. All are invited. Please do not feel you need to work if you come. Hang out with friends and walk the beautiful grounds of Ground Zero!

Several films will be available to watch. We will even supply the popcorn!

Gardening projects include taming the blackberry bushes around the property and whatever else presents itself on our 3.8 acres of land. Please bring gloves, pruning tools, and your favorite gardening equipment.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is part of a larger peace community in the Pacific Northwest ex-

tending across geographic boundaries, gender, race and time. We invite all to come and share with us your ideas for a peaceful and larger world community and to continue our resistance to the Trident nuclear submarine system.

Please contact Betsy Collins at (360) 297-2890 or info@gzcenter.org for more information. ♦

Hiroshima and Nagasaki: NEVER AGAIN

59 years ago, the US dropped two atomic bombs on two cities. 59 years later, each Trident sub is armed with the equivalent of 1,000 Hiroshima bombs. Bangor is home to 8 Tridents. Older Tridents are being retrofitted to launch cruise missiles.

Come to Ground Zero on Sunday Aug. 8, 2004 to say NEVER AGAIN.

See the enclosed flyer for details. If you want more flyers, just let us know. ♦

Many thanks to all the contributors for this issue of Ground Zero. Thanks also to Mack and Lisa Johnson, Elizabeth Roberts, and Glen Milner for proofreading it. — Brian Watson, Editor

GROUND ZERO

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for Nonviolent Action
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"Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead

Photo by Brian E. Watson