

Ground Zero

July 2002

Volume 7 Issue 3

Views and perspectives on...

Twenty-five Years of Resistance at Ground Zero

Transformation from Within

By Jim Douglass

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action began in Lockheed Missiles and Space Corporation. The seeds of Ground Zero began to sprout in the early 1970's in the conscience of Lockheed's Trident missile designer Bob Aldridge, who started feeling uneasy about his job. Bob recognized that the underlying purpose of Trident's Mark-500 maneuvering reentry vehicle (MARV), for which he was responsible, was to home-in on underground missile silos in a nuclear first strike. Bob shared his questions of conscience with his family. His oldest daughter encouraged him to resign. "Someone must have the courage to start," she said. Her words troubled him.

In the four days following Christmas 1972, Bob and Janet Aldridge and their children went on retreat at a cabin in the Santa Cruz mountains. They decided to simplify their family's life-style, making the personal changes that would unite them behind Bob's decision to leave Lockheed. He submitted his resignation on January 2, 1973.

A year later, Bob Aldridge drove north to visit Shelley and me at our home in the mountains of British Columbia. He told



Jim Douglass addresses the 1984 Peace Pentacost gathering on the railroad tracks to Subase Bangor. Photo by Brad Reynolds

us about the awesome threat of Trident, and inspired us with his story of the Aldridge family's journey out of Lockheed into a nonviolent way of life. Then he challenged us by unfolding a map on our kitchen table, pointing out the Trident submarine's designated Bangor base, only a few miles south of our B.C. home. As Bob shared further his story and Trident information with Seattle's Pacem in Terris Catholic Worker and other

friends, a community began to be born.

Thus it was that in January 1975 at Vancouver School of Theology where Shelley was studying, a group of Canadians and Americans formed Pacific Life Community and began the Trident campaign. A Gandhian vision personified by Bob Al-

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Causing Severe Indigestion in the Belly of the Beast

By Bob Aldridge

Before the first Trident submarine appeared at Subase Bangor, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action was in place—actively resisting that first-strike submarine and missile system. I would like to reminisce on some high-lights in history from which the current Ground Zero Center evolved.

Pacem in Terris Catholic Worker House was established in Seattle in 1974. From this sprung Pacific Life Community (PLC) which was situated in Seattle WA, Vancouver, British Columbia, and San Jose, CA. The first two locations focused on resisting the Trident Subma-

rine and its base on Hood Canal. The San Jose group resisted manufacture of Trident missiles at Lockheed (now Lockheed Martin) in Sunnyvale, CA.

The main kick-off for the anti-Trident campaign occurred in Canada in November 1975. Organized by PLC, and proclaimed by the Mayor of Vancouver "Trident Concern Week" raised public awareness with seven days of assemblies at various universities, radio and television programs, newspaper interviews, and culminated with the march of the "Trident Monster" down the city's main street. The "Trident Monster" was two strings of black flags strung clothes-line fashion on 20-foot-high poles carried by

about 40 people. It was the length of a Trident submarine and there was a flag for each warhead the sub could carry. It was an awesome display occupying several blocks of city streets.

Other Life Communities emerged across the nation. Following PLC was the Atlantic Life Community, which I believe stemmed from the Community for Creative Nonviolence in Connecticut. Then came the Great Lakes Life Community to resist the Extreme Low Frequency (ELF) communication system for Trident -- now centered around Nuke-watch in Wisconsin.

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Trident and the Public's Right to Know

New lawsuit filed to challenge Navy info blackout

By Glen Milner

The purpose of the Freedom of Information Act is for public access to government information with the underlying belief that democracy works best in an open society.

Usually the Navy releases information only in controlled packages, and to whom it chooses. In February 2002, three staff members of the Seattle Times were given a tour and ride on the USS Michigan in Hood Canal. The result was a glamorous portrayal of the Trident submarine system on the front page of the Sunday paper (see "Trident Rising" by Christine Clarridge, Seattle Times, April 7, 2002).

The Navy will never tell reporters the propellant in the 24 D-5 missiles on one Trident submarine has the net explosive weight equal to 3.7 million pounds of TNT. Add to this a nuclear reactor for a power plant and up to 192 nuclear warheads. And that missile handling operations at the Explosives Handling Wharf somewhat resembles juggling burning roadflares while standing on a mountain of TNT.

Navy documents state, after all, the Navy has only dropped two ballistic missiles in submarine loading operations in the past. That was a long time ago--and if the missiles and attached nuclear warheads had exploded--the Navy would have told you about it.

Since January 2001 Freedom of Information Act requests regarding safety issues at Bangor, and anything to do with rocket motors and missile handling at the base, have almost completely stalled. This is more because of our environmental lawsuit and 60 Day Notice to the Navy, filed in March 2001, than with issues related to September 11, 2001 and the US war on ter-

rorism.

On April 15, 2002 attorney Dave Mann filed a lawsuit against the Navy regarding a March 3, 2001 Freedom of Information Act request for shipment schedules of Trident D-5 rocket motors to Bangor. We believe the public has a right to know about dangerous rocket motor shipments through their communities in order for citizens to decide what is best for themselves.

Mr. Mann is suing the Navy be-



For the love of these children: Glen Milner (with beard) and son Aaron (left) and Alyssa (right) in 1985. Aaron and Alyssa are now young adults who have participated in Trident resistance, along with their younger brother, Jacob, and mother, Karol.

cause he believes the Navy is profoundly wrong in trying to suppress the public's access to government information. Dave Mann is truly a great friend to Trident resistance and our struggle to keep democracy alive.

Glen would be glad to share information on how to file a Freedom of Information Act request. You might actually find out what your government is doing!

Glen Milner lives in Seattle and can be contacted at gkajim@juno.com

Environmental lawsuit keeping Navy's feet to the fire

YOUR DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED NOW!

By Brian Watson

Your donations to Ground Zero on behalf of the Bangor Environmental Defense Fund (BEDF) have made it possible to take the Navy to court over its violations of environmental laws.

Your donations are urgently needed now to keep the lawsuit moving forward.

After many rounds of submitting arguments and responding to Navy rebuttals, the lawsuit is expected to be ruled on in early August 2002 in Federal District Court in Tacoma.

Even through Federal District Court Judge Franklin Burgess has yet to make a ruling, the environmental lawsuit is responsible for holding the Navy accountable to the law. The fact that someone has been closely watching Navy activities related to its Trident II (D5) missile rearmament has given them notice that they are not above the law.

This is a critical time in the progress of this historic lawsuit. Our attorney, Dave Mann, has a very tight case, using the Navy's own documents to prove that the Trident II (D5) missile rearmament poses grave risks to the environment and to the communities where Trident missiles are transported, handled, and stored. A win is a very real possibility.

We appeal to you to make a special donation to Ground Zero at this crucial time. Please make your check out (in US funds) to "Ground Zero" and write "BEDF" on the memo line so we know to send your contribution to the lawsuit fund. **THANK YOU & THANK YOU!**

Brian Watson is the editor of the Ground Zero newsletter and an artist who lives in Bremerton.

Mother's Day Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

By Joy Goldstein

Ten Ground Zero members were arrested by Kitsap County sheriffs on Sunday, May 12 (Mothers' Day) outside the main gate of the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor and charged with "disorderly conduct" for blocking traffic with banners and bodies in resistance to the first-strike weapons of mass destruction at Bangor.

Over 50 nonviolent protestors gathered at the Ground Zero Center to reflect on the connections between protecting life on our planet and abolishing nuclear weapons. In the circle, Mary Hanson invoked the endless chain of motherhood in time, back and back and back to our common ancestor in Africa, and reminded us that as long as Trident exists it may all have been for nothing. A man known as "NoNukes" spoke of his daughter, and his daughter's daughters, and their daughters, on down into time ahead of us, and their right to give birth to healthy children and to nurture them in safety. Mary pointed out that "we carry conflict resolution with love in our DNA," and asked us to think of our ancestors and how many of them came from countries that were at war with one another at some time.

Carrying banners saying THE EARTH IS OUR MOTHER—TREAT HER WITH RESPECT and a banner with the earth picture and pictures of some of the animals who share the planet with us, the group walked quietly down Clear Creek Road to the gate, where some volunteers offered leaflets and little "Home Run" brand apple pies (with earth flags attached) to drivers entering the base. (Motherhood, the flag, baseball and apple pie—how patriotic can we get?)

After prayers and short speeches at the gate, ten individuals moved into the road with banners and stood in silence for a few minutes. In what is becoming a familiar ritual, the sheriffs politely arrested them.

Those arrested were: Rosy Betz-Zall, Seattle; Joy Goldstein, Vashon Island; Sally Grewell, Port Townsend; Rev. Anne Hall, Seattle; Jackie Hudson,

Bremerton; Mack Johnson, Silverdale; Tom Liddle, Seattle; Karol Milner, Seattle; Lynn Nadeau, Port Townsend; and Raven, Port Townsend. All arrestees were booked and released on their own recognizance. They do not expect to be prosecuted. The banners, taken as evidence, were released from the Kitsap

County Courthouse.

Joy Goldstein is the Ground Zero intern. She spends at least one day at week at Ground Zero doing tasks as diverse as writing leaflets and mowing our grass with a riding lawn mower. Joy is the cheerful voice on the phone when you get a call to volunteer for a mailing party. Please be kind to her when she calls!

My First Pair of Plastic Handcuffs

By Sally Grewell

I am embarrassed to admit that prior to this past September 11th, I had not spent a great deal of time thinking about the consequences of violence and warfare. Yes, I knew it was out there, but preferred to let people who were much more knowledgeable about such matters deal with it. I was comfortable in my

"Sallyannish" world. It is amazing to me, looking back on it now, just how complacent I had become. I am no longer willing to be in that place of complacency.

Participating in the Mother's Day Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, sponsored by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action (GZ) in Poulsbo, was an important step in expanding my new-found awareness. As part of a contingent from All My Relations, I was there on behalf of all beings: animal, plant and mineral.

Prior to going down to GZ, I had done a good deal of thinking about what my level of participation would be. I decided that I was willing to risk arrest. This was a scary prospect for someone who has never even received so much as



Resisting Trident for all life: Kitsap County Sheriff's officers arrest Raven (left) and Sally Grewell (right) for closing the road to Bangor on Mother's Day, 2002. None of the 10 people arrested are being charged by prosecutors. *Photo by Brian Watson*

a parking ticket.

Things went smoothly at GZ. The morning began with introductions and the sharing of personal reasons why each of us was there. The remainder of the morning was spent in group discussions and planning our strategy. Some people chose to be witnesses, others to be peace keepers, and some would risk arrest. Each participant is a vital link in the chain of the day's action.

I sensed a certain energy in the air. A quiet, reflective mood; one that represented both the seriousness of the day, and also optimism for the future.

After lunch we departed from GZ's meeting house and walked single file down the road with our banners, stuffed

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"The fence between Ground Zero and its neighbors has in truth been overcome in a way that was a distant goal twenty-five years ago." - Jim Douglass

Transformation continued from page 1

bridge became the key to the Trident campaign and to Ground Zero, founded two years later. Gandhi believed everyone had a piece of the truth, especially the person on the other side of the fence, as borne out by our experience. That beginning became the means by which we understood a campaign whose nonviolent strategy was to overcome the fence between Ground Zero and Naval Sub Base Bangor.

The motivation for founding Ground Zero arose from a desire to be consistent with this vision of a transformation from within, both within ourselves and within the Bangor base and Kitsap County. We knew a simple truth at the root of nonviolence was that we couldn't change an evil or an injustice from the outside. Yet as support for the Trident campaign increased, we slipped into the pattern of holding ever larger demonstrations at the Bangor base, then retreating to our own homes in Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, and Tacoma. The military-dependent residents of Kitsap County felt invaded. They were right. And their hostility was rising. So we began looking for a place for a continuous presence by the base and an exploration of nonviolence from within Kitsap County.

In the fall of 1977, John Williams and I discovered 3.8 acres of beautifully wooded land with a little house on it alongside the base fence. Many friends contributed to its purchase. Jo Maynes came up with the name "Ground Zero." As a [Bremerton Sun](#) article put it, "Trident protesters now have a piece of the rock." None of the nine signers of Ground Zero's articles of incorporation, however, lived in Kitsap County. We were commuting to Ground Zero.

The following year Bob Aldridge sent Shelley and me an urgent letter sharing his heightened concern about the impending first strike threat represented by Trident. Shelley responded by deciding to leave her theology studies in Vancouver and her future ministry in the United Church of Canada. She never looked back. With our seven-year-old son Tom we moved from B.C. into a little trailer by the Hood Canal, and eventually into the former station master's house overlooking the railroad tracks gate to the base. We were joined at Ground Zero by Karol Schulkin and Marya Barr from California, René Krisko from Cleveland, Jeanne Clark from Long Island, Jim and Maggie Jarosz from the other side of Lake Washington, and Herbert and Anné Lorenz from Germany, just in time for all of us to be overwhelmed by the cascading events leading up to the Peace Blockade of the USS Ohio, and shortly thereafter, our first spotting of a Nuclear Train.

As the Ground Zero community and the Agape Community along the tracks both grew, as we took turns going to jail, as we leafleted the base workers week after week, month after month, and year after year, a change began to occur in our relationship with our neighbors. There had been an initial polarization. Ground Zero's geodesic dome was burned down by arsonists,

who also smashed the Buddha which had been inside the dome along with a large crucifix. (Provoking a recognition: If you burn the Buddha, you also burn Christ. The remnants of the Buddha and the crucifix are now together in Ground Zero's stupa.) However, even as we continued blocking the weapons trains on the one hand, while leafletting the base workers faithfully on the other, by the mid-eighties Ground Zero became almost imperceptibly the kind of nonviolent presence in Kitsap County whereby our questions about Trident could begin to be heard and understood.

The greatest sign of change was the 1985 trial in which a Kitsap County jury found 19 defendants not guilty of blocking the Nuclear Train. That began the unbroken chain of not-guilty verdicts by Kitsap County judges and juries that extended into 1999. It has been followed by Kitsap County's refusal even to



Love did stop the train: preparing to block the arrival of nuclear warheads to Bangor in 1985. The 19 people who stopped this nuclear train were found not guilty. Shortly thereafter the DoE stopped nuclear train warhead shipments because of resistance to them. *Photo by Petrina L. Walker*

prosecute Trident resisters for regularly blocking the base gate. The fence between Ground Zero and its neighbors has in truth been overcome in a way that was a distant goal 25 years ago.

Shelley and I have not been members of the Ground Zero community for years, but we have immense respect for those who are. Ground Zero's challenge in its second quarter-century seems to be to take the Trident campaign to a new level of nonviolent transformation, now in the context of our government's open-ended war on terrorism. Can a way be found to stretch further the creative tension between heightening the resistance to Trident and deepening the dialogue in Kitsap County, so as to

Jim Douglass is one of the founding members of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. He currently lives in Birmingham, Alabama with his wife Shelley Douglass. Jim is the author of several books, including Lightning East to West, The Nonviolent Coming of God, and Compassion and the Unspeakable. He recently traveled to Scotland to visit with members of the Trident Ploughshares campaign.

"Then during my testimony the prosecutor ceased to object to anything. I was able to explain in full the nature of Trident. Later I was told that the prosecuting attorney had left the district attorney's office and helped the Trident resisters." - Bob Aldridge

Indigestion continued from page 1

The first invasion of a Navy torpedo base -- destined to become Subase Bangor -- occurred about 1975 or 1976. PLC people from Seattle and Vancouver held a demonstration "on-site" to protest the future base. There were no arrests but the US Navy had its first taste of what was to come.

During the 1977 Fellowship of Reconciliation Regional Conference at Seabeck, Washington, 37 people from PLC and other social action groups held a Fourth-of-July picnic on the base. The theme was to illustrate an alternative use as a public park. They were arrested for trespassing. Trial was held in Federal District Court, Seattle. Defendants gave inspiring testimony regarding their beliefs and motivations. I was able to tell how Trident -- because of its stealth, mobility, and precision -- was the ultimate aggressive nuclear system. Richard Falk, renowned professor of international law, testified that building a weapon of Trident's nature was a "Crime Against Peace" -- a Nuremberg law making not only "initiating and waging" a war of aggression a crime, but also "planning and preparing" for such a war. All of this was broadcast in the print and wireless media. Ears perked up in the Seattle area to hear how a US judge had arrogantly declared international law irrelevant in his courtroom.

In late 1977, members of Vancouver PLC obtained a house and property abutting the Navy base fence. Trident facilities construction was just commencing. Farm lands were being partitioned by freeways. The local economy was not yet military-dependent. It was in this milieu that PLC metamorphosed into Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

Ground Zero Center mounted an intensive resistance and educational campaign. Weekly distribution of informative leaflets at the base entrances was one aspect. Center members canvassed the neighborhood inviting people to meetings and explaining the reasons and objectives for establishing Ground Zero Center. Members also helped farmers make known their plight in having their land chopped up and lost to freeway construction. Ground Zero was able to develop dialogue with some people who worked on the Navy base. On certain traditional dates there were nonviolent actions resulting in arrests and the public educational forum of courtroom trials and imprisonment. Some base employees and former employees joined in these activities -- one prominent supervisor resigned her Navy job and participated in citizen intervention actions leading to arrest and jail. In short, Ground Zero people became active and influential members of the larger community around Subase Bangor.

Another event that I recall clearly was a trial in Kitsap County during May 1983. Five Ground Zero people had been arrested for blocking the "nuclear train" carrying Trident warheads. The judge ruled against expert testimony on international law and on the necessity to prevent greater harm. However, one creative defendant successfully argued that the jury should hear my testimony in order to understand what motivated her to blockade the train. The prosecuting attorney objected but was

overruled. Then during my testimony the prosecutor ceased to object to anything. I was able to explain in full the nature of Trident. Later I was told that the prosecuting attorney had left the district attorney's office and helped the Trident resisters.

Two years later, in June 1985, a Kitsap County jury found Ground Zero people "not guilty" of a crime when they blockaded another nuclear train. This was the first of more acquittals that were to follow. Soon the county decided to cease using its resources -- law enforcement officer time, courtroom and prosecution expenses, and jail facilities -- for arrests made on Navy property. From that time on the US Government was saddled with that responsibility.



Sallie Shawl leafletting at Bangor circa 1988. Ground Zero still leaflets every month and needs your help to continue (see page 10).

Trident protesters were then able to choose where their case would be held by simply choosing where their action would take place -- on Navy base property or just outside on public property.

For 25 years now Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has carried on a peaceful and consistent protest against Trident and its base. Activities continue, from passing out leaflets and writing op-ed articles to citizen intervention and lawsuits. Where arrests are involved, acquittals or dismissal of charges are becoming

more frequent. All of this has had its effect on the surrounding community. Ground Zero is a well known and respected entity in the Puget Sound area. And as long as Trident exists, that dedicated group of people will continue to cause severe indigestion in the belly of the beast.

Bob Aldridge, a former Trident missile design engineer, has spent the past 29 years opposing the Trident system. He lives in California with his wife Janet. Bob still researches and writes on nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons policy. He can be contacted at: janbob1@yahoo.com. His research papers are available for free on the Ground Zero website www.gzcenter.org.

"Ground Zero's challenge in its second quarter-century seems to be to take the Trident campaign to a new level of nonviolent transformation, now in the context of our government's open-ended war on terrorism." - Jim Douglass

Weekly Vigil for Peace

Ground Zero is still sponsoring a weekly vigil for peace. Come out! Join others who oppose the ongoing war!

- ◆ Every Tuesday, 5-6pm, Silverdale, at the corner by Target. For more info: 360-377-2586.

Can't come to Silverdale? Find a street corner, make signs, and stand there! Take a stand in your own neighborhood!

Honey do list:

- ✓ Sign up for Ground Zero's email alert network: info@gzcenter.org,
- ✓ Check out Ground Zero's website www.gzcenter.org for Trident info and nuclear weapons abolition resources,
- ✓ Mow the lawn.

Nagasaki Remembrance A Nukewatch Peace Camp at Project ELF in Wisconsin

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
August 8, 9, and 10.

Join activists from around the country at Project ELF in northern Wisconsin to show your opposition to expanded and widening U.S. preparations for nuclear war.

Rustic camping in the beautiful Chequamegon National Forest. On Friday, August 9: Nonviolence workshop, speakers, music, and nonviolent direct action, the anniversary of the atomic attack on Nagasaki Japan. For directions, & info. Contact Nukewatch: (715) 472-4185; nukewatch@lakeland.ws; www.nukewatch.com

Project ELF (Extreme Low Frequency) is a huge electromagnetic transmitter located near Clam Lake, WI that sends one-way coded messages to deeply submerged US and UK Trident submarines. ELF enables the US/UK to have a nuclear first-strike capability.

We still need leafleters!

Ground Zero really needs your help to continue our monthly leafleting presence at the gates of the Bangor Submarine Base! There has been a more or less continuous leafleting effort for *more than 25 years* at Bangor, and we could really use a few more warm bodies out there!

We leaflet at Bangor the first Thursday of each month, from 6am – 7:30am. Yes, yes...it is early. Don't ask us why the Navy sees fit to start the work day in the middle of a nice sleep cycle, but, hey, these are the same people who think nuclear weapons are *necessary*, so there you go.

Please call or email us to let us know when you'll be coming. It's fun and you'll be continuing one of Ground Zero's nonviolent efforts! Thank you!

Intl. Disarmament Camp Coulport Scotland August 4 – 19

The good folks with the Trident Ploughshares Campaign, resisting the British Trident in Scotland, invite you to their International Disarmament Camp!

The camp is a fantastic opportunity to have a constant presence at the Coulport and Faslane bases for seventeen days; to share ideas, skills, experience; to sharpen our ability to work together; to bring new people into the campaign; to get a flavour of the ongoing Trident struggle in the local courts. If you are able to come to the camp, even for part of the time, do let us know: coulport@tridentploughshares.org, or ++44 1259 753815, so that the best use can be made of your energy and expertise.

Don't miss the blockade of Faslane Trident base on 5th August to get the camp off to a flying start!

Trident Ploughshares website:
www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/

Let your fingers do the walking Peace directory now available

Peace Movement Directory: North American Organizations, Programs, Museums, & Memorials. Compiled by James Richard Bennett. McFarland, 2001. New directory to the North American Peace Movement. 1400 entries on USA, Mexico, and Canada. Organized by states/provinces and cities. Description of each, address, phone, email, website. Extensive Index. Ground Zero is included in the Directory. To order: www.mcfarlandpub.com

The envelope(s) please! Keep sending 'em in!

In our last issue, we called on you to search your desks and homes for the small Ground Zero return envelopes. We called our appeal *Envelope Amnesty*.

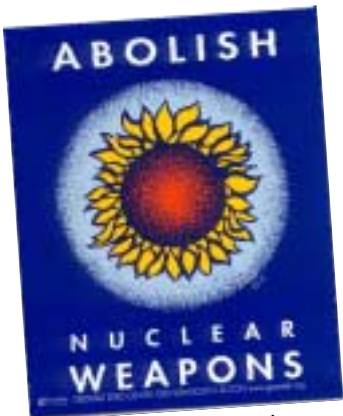
Well, many of you were successful in your search! We received return envelopes back from Elisabeth Bondy, Rich Renner, and Alan Newberg in Kitsap County. Janet Van Fleet of Seattle found several—including 40 for another organization! The JVC Cherry Abbey in Seattle found and returned an envelope, but our winner is... Laurie Cross from Husum, WA. Laurie located 14 of the small Ground Zero return envelopes! For returning these envelopes to us we sent Laurie a fabulous prize.

Thank you for your diligent searching! If you haven't mailed back your extra Ground Zero return envelopes, it is not too late. Send them to us, along with a donation if you can, and we'll be eternally grateful.



T-Shirts, bumperstickers, postcards, and donations

Get 'em while you can!



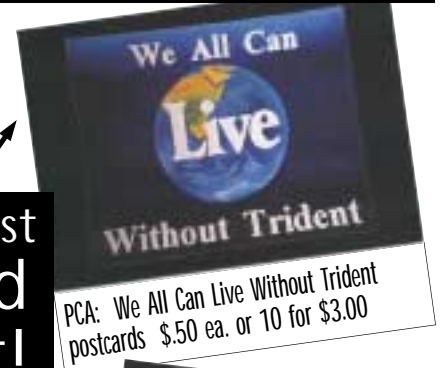
BS: 4"x5" vinyl bumpersticker; white lettering on dark blue background with yellow sunflower in the middle. Price: \$.25ea., 10 for \$2, or 50 for \$10.

New T-shirt and postcard designs coming soon!



TSC: Hefty T's -Purple with white lettering
 Front: We All Can Live Without Trident
 Back: Nobody needs a nuclear weapon
 Sizes: S, L, XL
 \$14 ea., 2 for \$25, or \$10 ea. for 5 or more

Almost sold out!



PCA: We All Can Live Without Trident postcards \$.50 ea. or 10 for \$3.00

TSD: Hefty T's -White with black lettering

Front: Resist Trident-Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Back: Sow the Seeds of Peace
 Sizes: S, M, L
 \$14 ea., 2 for \$25, or \$10 ea. for 5 or more



PCB: Abolish Nuclear Weapons-Resist Trident postcards \$.50 ea. or 10 for \$3.00

Your orders and donations to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action are helping build the Trident Resistance Network and a growing movement to resist Trident and abolish nuclear weapons. Each dollar you send to Ground Zero helps build this movement: by paying for phone calls, postage, printing, networking expenses, utilities, and much more.

Item #	Quantity	Size	Description	Price Each	TOTAL
Shipping: please add \$3.00/shirt, \$.50 for each set of 10 postcards and/or bumperstickers =					
We request US funds from all our supporters. <i>Thanks!</i>				TOTAL =	

- ___ Enclosed is my contribution toward the nonviolent work of Ground Zero. \$ _____
- ___ Enclosed is my contribution to the Bangor Environmental Defense Fund (BEDF) \$ _____
- ___ Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Bangor on the first Thursday of these months: _____
- ___ Please send me _____ free Trident Campaign Organizing Packets.
- ___ 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: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State/Prov: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Mail orders and donations to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Phone: 360-377-2586 E-mail: info@gzcenter.org Website: www.gzcenter.org

Ground Zero Featured on "France 5" TV

Sham 'treaty' sparks international interest in Trident

By Jackie Hudson

What brought two Parisian journalists from "France 5" TV to Ground Zero?

We received a call from Paris Wednesday, May 15, 2002 requesting an interview for French TV. They were interested in what effect the treaty to be signed by the US and Russia on May 24, 2002 would have on the nuclear weapons at Subase Bangor? Could they come and interview us at Ground Zero and film scenes at the Trident submarine base?

David and Gregory arrived at the airport Saturday, May 18. Sue Ablao, Jackie Hudson and Brian Watson met with them on Sunday and introduced them to Subase Bangor, Ground Zero Center and its environs. We explained that if this area became its own country it would be the third largest nuclear power in the world. They knew then that they had come to the right place to discuss the upcoming treaty.

In reality, this three page treaty makes the world a much more dangerous place for all living things!! Basically it calls for a reduction in strategic nuclear warheads by the year 2012. If the US Senate and the Russian Duma ratify this toothless treaty, the U.S. and Russia would be "limited" to 1,700 - 2,200 strategic nuclear warheads each. These reductions can be made "in their own way," technically, neither country is required to destroy a single warhead. In fact, it is expected that these warheads will be stored, not destroyed.

The Bush administration, as quoted in the *Seattle Times* (6-19-02 p. A8), "is eager to explore new uses and improved designs" for these warheads. They could be modified by "advanced-warhead concept teams." The same article states: "the administration wants to look at ways to cut the time needed to restart underground nuclear tests."

This treaty is setting the stage for a new Nuclear Arms Race. It represents a profound shift in four decades of US Russian arms-control efforts. Years have been spent negotiating complex accords

designed to lower the risks of a nuclear holocaust by setting precise limits on each other's nuclear forces. This process has now stopped. The treaty also fails to deal with a real threat to our "national security:" tactical nuclear weapons. US officials acknowledged that such tactical weapons pose a proliferation danger. Alstair Millar of the Fourth Freedom Forum, an arms control group in Washington D.C. has confirmed that "these are the weapons that pose the greatest threat" in our post September 11 world.

"Tactical nuclear weapons are generally defined as those designed for use against military targets on the battlefield. Strategic nuclear weapons are larger long-range weapons designed for use against cities or strategic nuclear missile forces." (*Seattle Times*, 5-25-02 p. A11)

The only perceived relation of this treaty to Subase Bangor is the refit of four Trident submarines to carry the more deadly D-5 missile instead of the present C-4 missile (which was in progress long before the treaty was signed). The four oldest Tridents will be refitted to carry Tomahawk Cruise Missiles that

are capable of delivering conventional or nuclear warheads. Is this progress toward nuclear disarmament?

Weapons makers like Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Bechtel are not complaining about this Bush-Putin agreement. The Pentagon's so-called "New Triad" spending will increase by more than \$30 billion over the next five years. The US will proceed to militarize outer space as well as develop an anti-missile defense system.

Now is the time to let Congress and President Bush know that the only way to protect our country and the world from nuclear destruction is to eliminate all nuclear warheads once and for all.

Go to www.psr.org/acthome to send such a message. Also go to www.urgentcall.org to sign the international nuclear abolition petition (see p. 7).

Jackie Hudson lives in Bremerton and grows great raspberries in her garden. She has worked with Ground Zero since 1994.

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animals, cardboard animals, flowers and cedar toward the main gate of the Trident submarine base.

My heart went to my throat as we topped the hill and the sight of fifteen Sheriff's Deputies standing side by side came into view. We stopped in front of the gate where speeches and prayers were offered; then proceeded past the county/federal line to where blocking the street would take place. The traffic was stopped, and people carrying Ground Zero's banner were first to block the road. A three minute warning to disperse was given by the police, and those who chose not to leave the road were arrested. The people with the All My Relations' banner and cardboard animals were next. A two minute warning was given and those remaining in the road were ar-

rested, I among them, and taken in plastic handcuffs to the Sheriff's Office in Silverdale. Altogether, ten people were arrested. The whole process, from the warnings through the booking process and release, was very respectful.

It was a powerful and significant experience. I am grateful for All My Relations' support and for enabling me to expand my horizons. I am equally grateful to the Ground Zero Center for Non-violent Action for their dedication and commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Sally Grewell lives in Port Townsend, WA and is a volunteer with All My Relations, a group dedicated to fostering inter-species kinship, Earth stewardship, and peace. Visit www.allmyrelations.org

End the Nuclear Danger: An Urgent Call

by Jonathan Schell, Randall Caroline Forsberg, & David Cortright

A decade after the end of the cold war, the peril of nuclear destruction is mounting. The great powers have refused to give up nuclear arms, other countries are producing them and terrorist groups are trying to acquire them. Poorly guarded warheads and nuclear material in the former Soviet Union may fall into the hands of terrorists. The Bush Administration is developing nuclear "bunker busters" and threatens to use them against nonnuclear countries. The risk of nuclear war between India and Pakistan is grave.

Despite the end of the cold war, the United States plans to keep large numbers of nuclear weapons indefinitely. The latest US-Russian treaty, which will cut deployed strategic warheads to 2,200, leaves both nations facing "assured destruction" and lets them keep total arsenals (active and inactive, strategic and tactical) of more than 10,000 warheads each. The dangers posed by huge arsenals, threats of use, proliferation and terrorism are linked: The nuclear powers' refusal to disarm fuels proliferation, and proliferation makes nuclear materials more accessible to terrorists.

The events of September 11 brought home to Americans what it means to experience a catastrophic attack. Yet the horrifying losses that day were only a fraction of what any nation would suffer if a single nuclear weapon were used on a city. The drift toward catastrophe must be reversed. Safety from nuclear destruction must be our goal. We can reach it only by reducing and then eliminating nuclear arms under binding agreements.

We therefore call on the United States and Russia to fulfill their commitments under the Nonproliferation Treaty to move together with the other nuclear powers step by step by carefully inspected and verified steps to the abolition of nuclear weapons. As key steps toward this goal we call on the United States to:

- ◆ **RENOUNCE** the first use of nuclear weapons.
- ◆ **Permanently END** the development, testing and production of nuclear warheads.
- ◆ **SEEK AGREEMENT** with Russia on the mutual and verified destruction of nuclear weapons withdrawn under treaties, and increase the resources available here and in the former Soviet Union to secure nuclear warheads and material and to destroy them.
- ◆ **STRENGTHEN** nonproliferation efforts by ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, finalizing a missile ban in North Korea, supporting UN inspections in Iraq, locating and reducing fissile material worldwide and negotiating a ban on its production.
- ◆ **TAKE** nuclear weapons off hairtrigger alert in concert with the other nuclear powers (the UK, France, Russia, China, India, Pakistan and Israel) in order to reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorized use.
- ◆ **INITIATE** talks on further nuclear cuts, beginning with US and Russian reductions to 1,000 warheads each.

*Jonathan Schell is the Harold Willens Peace Fellow of the National Institute and author of The Fate of the Earth,
Caroline (Randy) Forsberg is Director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies and author
of the "Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race"-Manifesto of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign,
and David Cortright, is President of the Fourth Freedom Forum and former Executive Director of SAME.*

Signed _____ Date _____

Address _____

This Urgent Call originally appeared in the June 24, 2002 issue of The Nation. You can sign the Urgent Call by going to www.urgentcall.org.
Ground Zero recently passed this out as a leaflet to Bangor workers and in downtown Seattle.

IDEA: Copy this page, sign it, get others to sign it, and mail or fax to your US Representative, US Senators, and Pres. Bush. DO IT TODAY!!

Keeping Witness, Faithfully, at Ground Zero

by Brian E. Watson

This year, the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action celebrates 25 years of education, contemplation, and nonviolent direct action in response to the Trident nuclear weapons system. This year is also a difficult time, as the US wages a war without boundaries, without end, escalating violence, and openly brandishing nuclear weapons, all in the name of fighting "terrorism." Such challenges to peacemaking make the work of nonviolent resistance terribly important. The stakes are high. In such a time as today, the voice of conscientious dissent is critical and required for survival. As it has done for the past 25 years, Ground Zero raises up that voice in our little corner of the world, and sometimes, even though our cries seem swallowed up, lost,

and ignored, we are surprised at what transformations that voice can inspire, surprised the most, in fact, by the transformations that happen within our own hearts.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, located 15 miles west of Seattle, began in 1977 in rural Kitsap County, WA, when people who had been protesting the development and deployment of the Trident nuclear weapons system wanted to be more than commuter protesters. They wanted to live in the community directly affected by Trident, to have an on-going nonviolent presence within the military-dependent community of Kitsap County, a peninsula in the middle of Puget Sound. They sought to find a piece of land as close as possible

Keeping Witness continued on page 9

From the Ground Zero archives...

“Truly, the most scenic Ground Zero”

Originally printed in the January 1978 issue of “Ballast”

One can imagine the Trident facility breathing a sigh of relief at the end of each summer as the last of the scraggly protesters return to their “normal” lives or become protesters-in-residence at the King County Jail. They, each year, leave behind the base to carry on its business: the business of building weapons of death to “assure” peace. Work continues, pay-rolls swell. Every now and then, perhaps, an acid stomach at the thought of next summer—but generally business goes on as usual.

An idea which was born merely a couple of months ago is becoming a reality and threatens to change the safe assumption of “fair-weather protesters.” A few hardy souls went in search of some land next to the Trident base—a place to serve as a staging area, a constant presence, and a chance “to be neighbors.”

Within site of the gate house on the ammunitions road, and less than a mile from the main gate, a place was found and christened “Ground Zero—Center for Non-Violent Action.” It is 3.9 acres, 330 feet right along the base fence. The cost is \$35,000. With appeals, we have raised \$14,000 to cover the down payment (just in the nick of time).

We are hoping, with donations large and small, to raise the rest of the \$35,000

quickly. That would allow us to get on with the purpose of the land—to establish a training center for non-violent action, to be an ever-present reminder that Trident protesters will not go away with the seasons, but will be residents of Kitsap County. We will be a constant voice for peace emanating through a very weak

fence to those inside.

Ground Zero could use furniture, some working hands, a chain saw, and some electrical knowledge. And if all of us contributed a little (or could find people who could contribute a lot) we’d have it made. Most of all, it needs all of us to make it work.



Ground Zero house circa 1982: This photo shows what the house looked like before repainting and its addition in the late 1980's. The pine tree to the right of the door now stands 40+ feet tall! One thing hasn't changed: Ground Zero still need all of us to make it work! *Photo by Karol Schulkin.*

Toni Mirosovich, O.O.Z. wrote this article for the January 1978 issue of “Ballast: an in-depth monthly report of the Trident movement.” We think it speaks eloquently to the importance of our little piece of Kitsap County and why it is important to take care of the little house and grounds at 16159 Clear Creek Road even now, in 2002.

"...even though our cries seem swallowed up, lost, and ignored, we are surprised at what transformations that voice can inspire, surprised the most, in fact, by the transformations that happen within our own hearts." - Brian Watson

Keeping Witness continued from page 8

to Submarine Base Bangor, the west-coast base for the Trident nuclear weapons submarines. They did so simply by going door-to-door, asking people who owned property next to the base if they wanted to sell. They eventually knocked on the door of 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, a 3.8 acre wooded parcel with a small house. The owner wanted to sell and they wanted to buy. Money was raised, the place was bought, and 25 years later, it's still there and still home of Ground Zero.

A permanent home for nonviolent resistance and peacemaking was founded then and it was named "Ground Zero: Center for Nonviolent Action" because it literally is at ground zero—the storage bunkers for the 1,760 nuclear weapons of Subase Bangor are a half-mile away—and because that physical closeness to the epicenter of violence draws us to the point of nonviolent criticality, to a place in our hearts where nonviolent transformation can happen. This is as important now as it was then, and will always be so. Sharing 330 feet of razor-wire fence with Subase Bangor has a way of making the impossible reality of nuclear war very real: as you stand with your fingers wrapped through the chain-link, you realize you're looking at the home of 8 nuclear-powered Trident submarines, each of which is loaded with 24 long-range missiles, each of those missiles armed with 8 100-kiloton nuclear warheads. You realize that each Trident submarine is the rough equivalent of 1,000 Hiroshima atomic bombs, and such a realization, at Ground Zero, changes you.

Just to clarify, because everyone assumes so: nobody actually lives at Ground Zero, and nobody has for many, many years. Those of us who do the day-to-day work at Ground Zero live in our own homes. Many of us also live in Kitsap County and hold other jobs as well. Even those who disagree with us grant us a measure of respect simply for our persistence here. The fact that we are members of the larger community gives us the opportunity to be in long-term witness: we don't just protest with signs at the gates of Subase Bangor, but also at the check-out line at the grocery store, at work, or at church. What we find in so doing is a surprising amount of solidarity from other "locals" who find in Ground Zero a way to connect with other people who care.

These two qualities—a permanent, physical place that Ground Zero owns outright, combined with the fact that we don't all try to live together all the time at that place—is in part why Ground Zero is still around. We're not just a group or an organization that can simply drift away: we are rooted by the sheer necessity of mowing the grass and paying the property taxes. Nor are we an "intentional community" that attempts to live collectively, risking implosion under the pressure of personality quirks and idiosyncratic habits. We can have separate lives as we join together at Ground Zero.

So we plug along, year after year, till today, 25 years of nonviolent resistance to Trident and counting. Sometimes it's hard to see that any of it has made any difference. But then, this work of peace is something slow growing, like a tree. I try

to keep that in mind as I join with the others to keep witness, faithfully, at Ground Zero.

Brian Watson and his wife Elizabeth Roberts have worked with Ground Zero since 1992, when they moved to Kitsap County. They can't believe it's been 10 years!!!

Articles of Incorporation
Of
Ground Zero: Center for Nonviolent Action

Filed Dec. 7, 1977

The undersigned, Bob Bradac, James W. Douglass, and Jo Maynes, for the purpose of forming a corporation under the non-profit laws, RCW 24.03, of the State of Washington, state:

- I. The name of the corporation shall be Ground Zero: Center for Nonviolent Action
- II. The term of existence shall be perpetual.
- III. The purposes for which the corporation is organized are as follows:
 - To establish a Center for Nonviolent Action which seeks the goal of a world free from nuclear destruction and unjust divisions in humanity;
 - To hold the land on which the Center is located in an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner;
 - To develop at the Center for Nonviolent Action specific means toward a nuclear-free world which are based on the principle of truth in thought, word, and action, the principle of the unity of all beings, and the principle of transforming love in resistance to war and injustice;
 - To explore at the Center strategies and tactics for nonviolent campaigns incorporating that end-means vision;
 - To use the Center as a training site for participants in nonviolent action;
 - To encourage and foster at the Center a continual reflection on, and deepening in, nonviolence as a way of life.
- IV. The specific land held by Ground Zero shall have as its sole purposes the above. It shall therefore be seen always in relation to community and campaign purposes, rather than its exclusive use by individuals. It shall never be sold, unless conditions should eventually change so that in the Board's judgment the Center's purposes can be carried out better by other means.

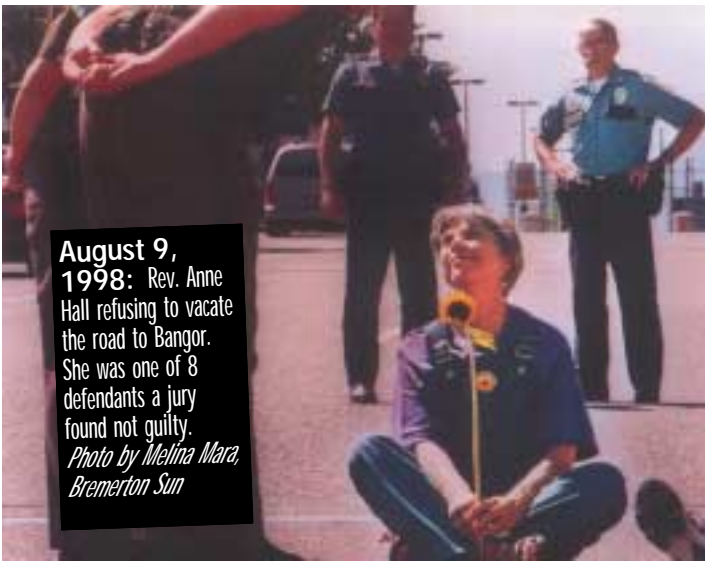
Remembering Nagasaki...Resisting Trident

“We’re still here!” Resisting Trident 25 years

August 9 & 10, 2002

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

After 25 years of resisting Trident, we are still here, and we are not going away.



August 9, 1998: Rev. Anne Hall refusing to vacate the road to Bangor. She was one of 8 defendants a jury found not guilty.
Photo by Melina Mara, Bremerton Sun

As long as Trident exists, so will nonviolent resistance to it. Come to Ground Zero August 9 & 10 to commemorate the 57th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Come to bear witness to Nagasaki’s legacy at Bangor. Come to vigil for peace. Come for fellowship. Come to RESIST TRIDENT...for love and for life.

WHEN: August 9: All-day vigil at Bangor gates 9am-7pm; come for all or part: music, readings, silence, expressions of peace are welcome; Nonviolence training for action 7pm.

August 10: Nonviolent resistance action 10am; Lunch at noon; Theatre of the Oppressed workshop 1:30 – 3:30pm; sharing stories of 25 years of Ground Zero 4pm; dinner & birthday cake 6pm; music 7pm

WHERE: Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA

GROUND ZERO

**Ground Zero Center
for Nonviolent Action
16159 Clear Creek Road NW
Poulsbo WA 98370**

Website: www.gzcenter.org
E-mail: info@gzcenter.org
Phone: 360-377-2586

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Classic Sub: the artwork for the 1978 action at Bangor that drew over 4,000 people and resulted in 300 arrests. *From p. 15 of the April 1978 issue of "Ballast: a Monthly Report on the resistance to Trident and Nuclear Power."*

