

# BEYOND THE DUCT TAPE

**Worst-case scenario: "Homeland Security" becomes accepted usage.**

BY MARIA LUISA TUCKER  
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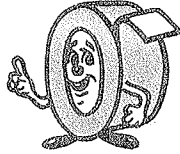
Extra patrols scheduled around schools, watersheds and railways. Bag checks instituted at the Roundhouse. The National Guard deployed to the Albuquerque Sunport. Transportation of nuclear waste to WIPP halted.

These are just a few of the precautionary measures taken during the last week in response to the "threat" to "homeland security" occasioned by war in Iraq, a coordinated effort the US Department of Homeland Security has named Operation Liberty Shield.

"We are just trying to be more alert, we're not trying to put people in a panic," says RL Stockard, New Mexico's Homeland Security Advisor.

For all its Orwellian flavor, homeland security efforts in New Mexico thus far mostly consist of untangling the red tape that separates different government agencies. "It might sound like a lot of bureaucrat-ese," says James Bearzi, New Mexico's chief of the Hazardous Waste Bureau, "but it's really important because if you have an emergency and you have 20 people who think they are the boss, you can't respond efficiently." Better coordination helps the state respond to any sort of disaster, not just terrorism. "We are preparing in an all-hazard capacity," confirms Stockard. "We are prepared for anything from accidental to deliberate."

What exactly are those scenarios? She dissected what seem to be the top five worst-case scenarios, and created a handy Duct-O-Meter to help you gauge how worried you should really be.



**Duct-O-Meter:**

- ① = You're more likely to get rear-ended on Cerrillos Road.
- ②② = Your Y2K stashes should be enough preparation.
- ③③③ = Be very, very afraid. In fact, put on your gas mask now and don't take it off. Ever.

**1. The Fear: Terrorists break into Los Alamos National Laboratory and steal either info or nuclear material.**

**Duct-O-Meter: ③③③**

In 2001, the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) reported that lab security failed miserably during two mock terrorist attacks in previous years. Fake terrorists were able to obtain wheelbarrows full of fissile material in one instance, and an improvised nuclear device was set off in the second mock attack.

"There are deep security problems at LANL," confirms Greg Mello, director of the watchdog organization Los Alamos Study Group. Mello added, however, that he thought such an attack was "relatively unlikely."

**2. The Fear: Bioterrorists release an outbreak of smallpox.**

**Duct-O-Meter: ①**

The threat of bioterrorism became a reality during the anthrax scares that followed 9.11. Shortly thereafter, the Center for Disease Control asked states to prepare for other bioterrorist attacks and specifically named smallpox as one possible threat.

"It's a terrible disease," says Dr. C. Mack Sewell, state epidemiologist. Smallpox, which prompts high fevers and puss-filled rashes and kills about 30 percent of those infected, was an intermittent but rampant killer for thousands of years before

**What You Should Really Be Afraid Of:** How about the fact that lawmakers in DC have yet to agree on a plan to compensate those people who are hurt by the smallpox vaccine? And if that doesn't do it for you, what about New Mexico's chronic public health problems, like obesity, tobacco use, alcoholism and substance abuse?

**3. The Fear: A terrorist hijacks a chemical truck and releases a plume of poisonous gas.**

**Duct-O-Meter: ②②**

New Mexico trucks regularly transport chlorine gas, a common chemical used in swimming pools or as a disinfectant, says Bearzi, the Hazardous Waste Bureau chief. While innocuous when mixed with water, chlorine gas is extremely dangerous when inhaled. "It attacks the central nervous system and makes your organs stop," says Bearzi, noting that Germans used chlorine gas on enemies during World War I. Long story short: If a tanker full of chlorine gas is hijacked and crashed, it's bad news for anyone around.

In that scenario, or any other hazardous waste or chemical terrorism emergency, the state's Emergency Operations Center is able to respond 24 hours a day, with officials from key government agencies always on call. Environment Department officials, like Bearzi, could help measure where a plume of chlorine gas would travel and determine which areas to evacuate.

However, Bearzi says, emergency responders are much more likely to be called to natural disasters. In fact, the top three likely emergencies to prompt a response from the state's Emergency Operations Center, according to a hazard analysis that lists incidents by frequency of occurrence, are wildfires, floods and drought. Terrorism, chemical or otherwise, doesn't even make it on the chart.

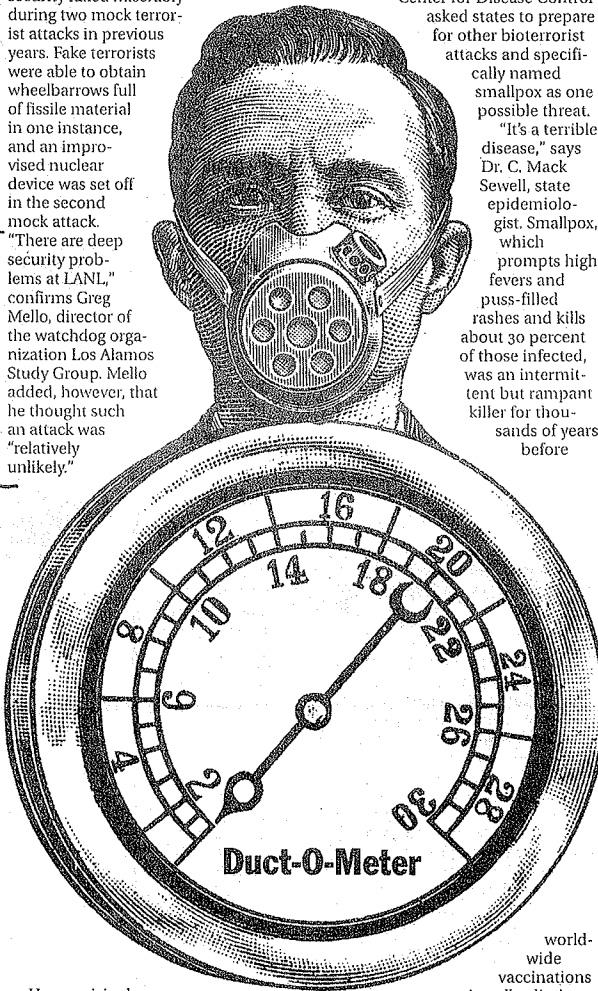
**What You Should Really Be Afraid Of:**

Certainly drought and wildfire are a more likely hazard for most New Mexicans. But if you need a real scare, read "Bioterrorism and the Department of Energy," on Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety's website ([www.nuclearactive.org/docs/bioterrorism-doe.html](http://www.nuclearactive.org/docs/bioterrorism-doe.html)), which details previously noted safety and other hazards in the study of biological agents such as anthrax at LANL and other sites. Also, don't forget the state Environment Department's concern earlier this month about contamination of the main ground water aquifer at Los Alamos, including the toxic chemical perchlorate.

**4. The Fear: Sleeper Cells of Al Qaeda emerge in New Mexico deserts.**

**Duct-O-Meter: ①**

The FBI has already set up headquarters in Albuquerque "to gather relevant information in regard to terrorist topics with those who may be in operation or even those who may be providing funds for terrorists," says Special Agent Bill Elwell. Already the FBI has



Unsurprisingly, "We disagree with the way POGO characterizes these exercises," says LANL spokesman Kevin Roark, who insists that the mock attacks were successful because the lab learned from them. Roark says he's "absolutely confident" that real attackers would not be able to get away with nuclear material or secrets. Since the mock attacks, LANL has added more vehicle checks and increased security around the area, though Roark could not elaborate on other safety measures "for reasons of national security."

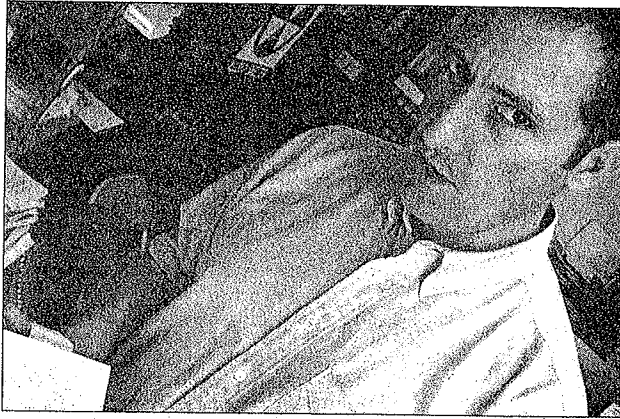
**What You Should Really Be Afraid Of:** There's no shortage of reasons to fear LANL, from its role as a nuclear weapons manufacturer to the ongoing news of potential contamination to its possible role in the new Homeland Security Department to the still unresolved questions about alleged corruption.

world-wide vaccinations virtually eliminated the virus in the 20th century.

In response, the New Mexico Department of Health has given smallpox vaccinations to more than 20 public health workers and will soon offer the inoculation to at least 5,000 more.

Part of the money for the effort comes from a \$12.4 million award, announced March 20, from the US Department of Health and Human Services for bioterror preparedness.

Yet, according to numerous reports, there is no evidence that Iraq even has smallpox as a bioterrorism weapon. Even if they did, American soldiers in Iraq would have to contract the disease there and bring it home to infect New Mexicans. Not likely. "We've made great strides and we're better prepared now than we were a year ago," says Sewell, "but we need to continue on with our lives."



Greg Mello says terrorists would be more drawn to unguarded urban areas than LANL.

interviewed a few dozen Iraqis in New Mexico.

When asked to round up and interrogate young men from countries that had been identified as centers of terrorist activity after 9.11, the New Mexico FBI reported that the 15 or so interviewees were cooperative and none were detained, indicating no terrorist ties.

**What You Should Really Be Afraid Of:**

If the prospect of the government rounding up people based on their heritage and questioning them isn't enough to scare you, how about another US PATRIOT Act? According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the US Department of Justice has drafted new legislation—called the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003—that adds new law enforcement and intelligence gathering powers and expands on many provisions in the US PATRIOT Act. Then there's the fact that US Sen. Pete Domenici, R-NM, wants the Homeland Security Department to purchase the town of Playas, NM, and make it into a counterterrorist training camp.

**5. The Fear: New Mexico is attacked with "weapons of mass destruction."**

**Duct-O-Meter: ○○○**

Much of last week's \$6.4 million homeland security award received last week will go toward weapons of mass destruction training for local law enforcement. Already, a quarter of Santa Fe's police officers have been trained on WMD identification, threat assessment and response. Police Chief Beverly Lennen says all officers will be trained.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Peter Olson says WMD doesn't refer only to nuclear or chemical weapons, but "anything that does a lot of damage," from the homemade explosives used in the Oklahoma City bombing to the airplanes that flew into the World Trade Center. Currently, the

state's Weapons of Mass Destruction Working Group lists 15 different WMD courses for law enforcement, from crime scene management classes to terrorist methods.

However, says Olson, "Chances are extremely slim that anything would happen here, but you can never be too prepared."

**What You Should Really Be Afraid Of:**

It seems clear that this war, if nothing else, will eliminate the possibility of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction (if they ever did). But the increasing evidence that both Iran and North Korea do should make everyone afraid—of, if nothing else, exactly how the US plans to handle it.



New Mexico Homeland Security Advisor RL Stockard has been in nonstop meetings since war started.

For information on what to do in the case of a nuclear blast, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Information on the Department of Homeland Security's Operation Liberty Shield can be found at [www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/).

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Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)  
Title: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
Date: March 30, 2003  
Section: Letters to the Editor  
Page: F-7

Why did the **Los Alamos Study Group** choose an image of a B-1 bomber instead of the often-published image of the dead Kurd baby and mother? In the cause of world peace, the indiscriminate gassing of villages is a more relevant target for opposition. Is LASG just “against Bush?” Does LASG stand only for “world peace lite” — for advancing a domestic political agenda?

Steve Stringer

Section: Letters to the Editor  
Page: F-7

Copyright (c) 2003 The Santa Fe New Mexican

Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)

Title: HARD TIMES ON THE HILL

Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON, Photo (1 & 2) by Clyde Mueller (3) by The Associated Press

Date: April 13, 2003

Section: Main

Page: A-1

The sixty-year marriage of science and academia at Los Alamos National Laboratory hits its rockiest stretch

When scientists watched the nuclear fireball rise above the Trinity Site on July 16, 1945, their success was nearly blinding.

Nearly six decades after the Manhattan Project, the lab's purpose cannot be so succinctly defined, nor is its performance so easily assessed. Science-based stewardship of the nuclear weapons arsenal is the primary mission, but the lab also researches everything from water on Mars to AIDS. More than 12,000 people work there. The current budget is \$2 billion.

The recent scandal over theft, fraud, missing property and alleged cover-ups has led many to conclude the University of California has not performed many of its day-to-day duties as operator of the nuclear-weapons lab — maintaining security, keeping track of property, rooting out problems with the management and business systems.

As a result, the U.S. Department of Energy has embarked on a review of lab management to determine whether the university is fit to continue its work there. The current, five-year contract runs through Sept. 30, 2005. Many say the federal government has failed in its oversight role, but DOE officials say keeping an eye on the lab is no easy task.

“Because it's science and because it's research and development, it's not like you want to order 100 widgets,” said Ralph Erickson, head of the DOE office in Los Alamos. “You have to give some flexibility because research and development is not a finite activity.”

In other words, scientific progress is difficult to measure with a traditional yardstick. That's why the federal government chose a university to run the weapons lab. Scholars should be in charge of research, the government reasoned, even if it's at the direction of politicians and military planners.

Though repeatedly challenged, this marriage of the military and the University of California marked its 60th anniversary this month. The relationship has never been more tenuous.

DOE intends to complete its review of UC and the lab by April 30, leaving Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to decide whether UC's contract at Los Alamos should be maintained, amended or opened up to other institutions.

But how do you assess performance at such a facility? And who is responsible? Although the University of California operates the lab, DOE owns it and to a large extent maintains control over what goes on there.

‘Who exactly  
owns the lab?’

Excellent. Excellent. Excellent. Excellent. Excellent. So read DOE's annual performance appraisals for the last five years, including 2002. Six days into 2003, lab director John Browne stepped down amid scandal and investigations into fraud, theft and missing government property.

"Outstanding." That was the rating for the Safeguards and Security Division for fiscal year 2002. On Jan. 7, the top two security officials were forced out amid allegations they had fired their own investigators to keep a lid on these problems.

If you look at DOE's appraisals, things have improved at the lab in each of the last 10 years, and they were pretty good to begin with. Now the agency is thinking about getting rid of the University of California altogether.

So what happened? Critics of the laboratory, already jaded perhaps, say such annual appraisals are meaningless and move on. Others say you need to read between the lines. (The lab's grade for 2002 — 88 percent — merits a solid "B" in any high-school class but qualifies as "excellent" in this grading system.)

But if DOE doesn't conduct a thorough appraisal of its contractors — entire paragraphs are lifted almost verbatim from one year to the next — how can the agency expect to maintain oversight over billions of taxpayer dollars flowing into the facility? Nobody argues the University of California is guilt-free, but some employees say DOE has sidestepped its responsibility for the problems, many of which were documented years ago.

After all, the agency has almost 800 employees in New Mexico, many of whom maintain day-to-day contact with the facility.

"What are all those people doing? Who exactly owns this lab? Does the nation think the University of California makes nuclear weapons?" These are all questions asked by Mark Dunham, a lab physicist and co-founder of Concerned Staff for LANL Futures, an organization that formed to support maintaining the University of California as the primary contractor at the lab.

For their part, DOE officials say their goal is to maintain a bird's-eye view of lab activities. The university is responsible for accounting systems, property management, security, safety and the oversight of research and development projects. UC hires various private companies for things like maintenance and security.

Annual appraisals are just one tool DOE uses to keep track of the laboratory. All projects at all facilities must go through an annual "work authorization" process managed by DOE, given research priorities, budget requests and ultimately appropriations from Congress.

DOE's Erickson cites employment figures: UC has some 8,000 employees in Los Alamos and several thousand more under contract. That compares to 80 employees at DOE's Los Alamos office, which assumed lab-oversight responsibility from the Albuquerque office in December.

"I think the university has acknowledged that this was primarily their responsibility," he said. "That's basically why we hire them: They are responsible for overall management and operation for activities at the laboratory ... and all the science and research that supports the lab's mission."

Although issues with property management, procurement systems and the Safeguards and Security Division have been around for years, Erickson said the latest round of abuse was of a new variety. Previous steps to make the lab more secure did not solve all the problems, he said.

A partnership:

military and academia

Regardless of who is to blame, almost everybody in New Mexico has come out in support of maintaining UC's contract at the lab. An incomplete list includes former energy secretary and current New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, union leaders, former lab directors, the Congressional delegation and even some of the university's staunchest critics.

In part, that support is representative of concern over employee benefits. Others cite the university's prestige as a major factor in attracting and maintaining scientific expertise. As evidence of UC's status as a scientific powerhouse, interim director Pete Nanos notes that UC grants 15 to 16 percent of the nation's advanced science degrees each year.

But there are still a few calls for opening up the lab contract. Jay Coghlan, who heads Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, cited a litany of problems — lack of real environmental cleanup, security, safety records, high overhead costs — as evidence that UC no longer deserves to be “pampered” with an exclusive contract.

UC can stay, but it should have to compete for the contract, Coghlan said. “It's the American way.”

For Greg Mello, a local disarmament activist, switching the lab contract would only distract people from the important issues — like the Bush administration's nuclear policies — and ultimately give people the false impression that the problem has been solved.

“The weapons ain't broke, and they don't need to be fixed. That leaves a lot of people looking for something to do,” said Mello, who heads the **Los Alamos Study Group**. “Los Alamos has a \$2 billion answer in search of a question.”

‘Draining the swamp’

After wading into his duties as the newly appointed interim director of Los Alamos lab, Nanos said he intended to “drain the swamp.”

It was a significant statement, considering that leadership had previously denied that the alleged problems were anything other than superficial. In a laboratory that is larger than most towns in New Mexico, they said, you are bound to have a few miscreants.

Although Nanos countered allegations describing a “culture of theft” in Los Alamos, he affirmed what many had said before: The lab's problems ran deeper than just a few bad managers.

Exactly how deep remains the subject of debate. Critics have questioned some new management appointments and called for still more removals. They also argue that the university's oversight board, appointed to guide reform efforts, is made up of at least a few members of the old guard, people like Stanford physicist Sidney Drell, who have been involved in lab-management issues for years.

“These are the people who dug the swamp,” said Chris Mechels, a former employee and perennial critic of the lab.

Contacted to discuss the board’s goals, Drell said he has “great confidence” in Bruce Darling, UC’s vice president for lab management, and Nanos to handle the problems. He declined to answer further questions.

Glenn Walp, one of the lab investigators whose termination last year drew widespread condemnation, said he sees improvements.

He, too, expressed confidence in Darling and Nanos, who appear to be making a sincere and open effort to address a wide range of problems.

“Notwithstanding these positive developments, I think it’s time for a change,” he said. “I would highly recommend that they put the contract out for bid, with the caveat that UC still be able to bid. ... May the best institution win.”

To date, the lab has removed more than a dozen people from management positions. Several audits of the lab’s procurement system have identified little in the way of obvious fraud and abuse (earlier reports alleged fraudulent purchases of personal items — even an aborted attempt at picking up a Ford Mustang — as well as millions of dollars in missing property).

However, recent audits have found numerous vulnerabilities in the lab’s business systems. UC officials say they are on track to correcting these problems.

“I think we have a real opportunity to make a serious and systemic change,” Darling said.

“It’s very clear that the business systems were inadequate, and it’s only due to the honesty of thousands and thousands of employees that we didn’t have more problems.”

Whether DOE officials in Washington sign off with a vote of confidence remains to be seen. DOE’s Erickson said he thinks the lab is on the right track. At the same time, he said, the recent organizational change that shifted DOE oversight responsibility for the lab from Albuquerque to Los Alamos should streamline federal oversight of the facility.

“I think there is a clear accounting of who is responsible, and I think as we move through the current contract we will see improvements,” Erickson said.

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Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON, Photo (1 & 2) by Clyde Mueller (3) by The Associated Press

Section: Main

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Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)  
Title: SENATOR: ALLOW BIDS ON CONTRACT FOR LAB  
Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON  
Date: April 23, 2003  
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Page: A-1

LOS ALAMOS — Los Alamos National Laboratory's most ardent supporter in Congress might have foreshadowed Tuesday the end of the exclusive relationship between the federal government and the University of California at the world's first nuclear-weapons laboratory.

Six decades and two days after UC signed its first contract to manage the Los Alamos lab, Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said he would support the U.S. Department of Energy in a decision to open the contract to competitive bids from other institutions.

The senator, speaking during an observance marking the lab's 60th anniversary, stipulated that the current contract must run its course through September 2005 and employees must not lose their benefits. Domenici said Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham has committed to the latter qualification.

"Whatever happens," New Mexico's senior senator said, "the people of this laboratory will be protected."

Abraham has not announced an official decision on the matter.

DOE's acting chief of nuclear weapons, Linton Brooks, one of many officials in Los Alamos for Tuesday's anniversary events, said a review of laboratory management should be finished April 30. That document will include a recommendation on whether to put the contract out to bid, but Brooks would not comment on its contents.

Although problems have arisen in the past, the U.S. Department of Energy has always given UC exclusive rights to the contract. When the latest business and management scandals surfaced late last year, however, DOE officials said they were prepared to put the contract up for bids. Abraham called for the current review in December.

Though praising the laboratory's work over the years, Domenici said repeated management problems — particularly within the lab's business systems — have become an overwhelming liability for the rest of the institution and its employees. Change is inevitable, he said, and preferable while someone like himself is in office to oversee the process.

"That is why I believe the Department of Energy should engage in a new process to determine how best to manage Los Alamos National Laboratory when the current contract expires in September 2005," Domenici told a surprised crowd that had gathered to dedicate a new building at the lab.

Domenici said he plans to hold a series of hearings later this year to look at the management of not only Los Alamos but also Lawrence Livermore and Lawrence Berkeley national laboratories. UC manages all three labs.

He said he will be discussing the Los Alamos contract with Secretary Abraham later this week.



“I will urge him to join me ... in guaranteeing that the University of California will be able to compete,” he said. “And I hope they do compete.”

Queried on the matter during a news conference Tuesday, UC President Richard Atkinson said the university has made no decisions about whether it would compete if the contract were opened up for bids. In the past, the university’s position has been that it would take such a decision as a vote of no confidence in UC and bow out, but that does not necessarily hold true today, he said.

“There is no question in my mind that we would like to continue management of the lab,” he said.

In a subsequent e-mail sent to all lab employees, Atkinson said the UC Board of Regents would discuss the matter at its meeting in May. If the contract is opened up for bids, he wrote, “there will be many questions to answer and details to work through, including the cost of such a process and whether or not the Los Alamos decision has potential implications for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory contract.”

Interim Director Pete Nanos sent a similar message to employees. In it, Nanos stressed that no decision has been made and urged employees to continue their work.

“I believe if we continue to make the improvements that are already under way, we will be extremely well positioned at the end of the current contract to compete successfully — if that is the course of action the secretary decides to take,” Nanos wrote.

U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., said Domenici might be jumping the gun.

“There’s been a major effort by the University of California to deal with the management problems that concern us all,” he said. “We’ll have more opportunity to see what action they take ... in the next year or 18 months. In my mind, the wise course would be to decide at that time whether to go forward with competition of the contract.”

Two local watchdog groups remained split on the issue. Greg Mello, a nuclear disarmament activist with the **Los Alamos Study Group**, fears a change of contractor will not solve core problems — as opposed to business accounting scandals — at the laboratory. Ultimately, he said, it could distract Congress and lead to less scrutiny of nuclear-weapons expenditures at the lab.

“The programs and projects themselves are off the table and are no longer legitimate to criticize,” he said. “And if that’s the case, it doesn’t matter who the contractor is.”

For Jay Coghlan, who leads Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, Domenici’s statements are overdue. Competition is the way to go, he said.

“It’s about time he quit pampering UC,” he said. “They can suck it up and compete like anybody else.”

Officials with the University of Texas, often cited as a potential contender, say they have not discussed whether they would bid on the contract. UT was preparing to bid on the contract for Sandia National Laboratories when DOE decided to leave it with Lockheed Martin last year.

Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON

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Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON  
Date: April 23, 2003  
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Page: A-5

Los Alamos National Laboratory has built the first nuclear pit — the heart of a modern thermonuclear bomb — in nearly 14 years, officials announced Tuesday.

“Los Alamos National Laboratory has restored the nation’s ability to make nuclear weapons,” said Pete Nanos, interim director of the lab. “It will now be up to the Department of Energy to examine our work very carefully, which they will do over the next few weeks.”

Nanos joined Linton Brooks, chief of nuclear weapons for the U.S. Department of Energy, in making the announcement during the lab’s 60th-anniversary celebrations Tuesday.

The lab must now work on the certification process to ensure that any new pits will work before they are placed in the stockpile. Around 700 to 800 employees are working on the project. The first certified pit, ready for use in the Trident Submarine’s W-88 warhead, is scheduled for completion by 2007 at a cost of more than \$1.5 billion.

The United States has been unable to build nuclear pits since 1989, when DOE shut down Rocky Flats in Colorado. In 1996, DOE decided to re-establish an interim pit-manufacturing center at Technical Area 55 in Los Alamos. It has taken six years to produce the first certifiable pit.

“From 1989 to today, we were the only nuclear power that couldn’t make pits. ... Now we have that capability,” Brooks said, stressing that DOE is not planning to build new weapons.

“What it means is that we now have the capability if something goes wrong with the stockpile to fix it,” he said. “That is what Stockpile Stewardship is all about: being able to diagnose problems and being able to do something about them.”

The Stockpile Stewardship program is billed as an effort to maintain the nuclear arsenal without testing, which was halted in 1992 as the Cold War came to an end.

Lab officials say the nuclear-testing moratorium, combined with new environmental regulations that banned the use of certain chemicals and processes used at Rocky Flats, has made the pit-manufacturing process more difficult than it used to be. All of the lab’s tools — from supercomputers to materials analysis and X-ray imaging of mock tests — will be put to work on the process, since certifying a nuclear pit without nuclear testing is similar to certifying an entire nuclear weapon.

Greg Mello, a nuclear-disarmament activist with the **Los Alamos Study Group**, greeted Tuesday’s announcement with skepticism. He noted that the United States has about 23,000 pits — 10,600 in the current nuclear arsenal and an additional 12,000 to 14,000 pits stockpiled at DOE’s Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas.

“It would be nice if Los Alamos declared victory and put this program on the back burner, because we don’t need new pits,” he said.

As far as the W-88 warhead goes, lab officials have said Rocky Flats failed to make enough spare pits before closing. The lab says it plans to build about six pits annually from now until 2007.

Along with Carlsbad, Los Alamos is one of five sites in the running for a “modern pit facility.” Scheduled for completion by 2020, this permanent plant could cost anywhere from \$2 billion to \$4 billion and would be capable of manufacturing at least 250 pits annually, according to DOE.

Brooks said his agency expects to make a decision on the placement of the facility next year. In an initial DOE review, Los Alamos ranked as the best site for such a facility. Los Alamos officials, however, have repeatedly said they see the lab more in terms of nuclear-weapons research than large-scale manufacturing.

Tuesday’s celebrations also included the dedication of the Nonproliferation and International Security Center. The facility cost \$54 million and will house about 400 employees working on everything from nuclear-security agreements with Russia to the development of new ways to detect nuclear materials.

Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON

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## FEDERAL REPORT DETAILS BUDGET PROBLEMS WITH LANL FACILITY

Byline: JEFF TOLLEFSON

05/29/2003 p. B-3

### Body Text:

Los Alamos National Laboratory officials shifted costs and work from its latest X-ray facility to other projects in order to maintain a balanced - but erroneous - budget, federal investigators reported Wednesday.

The lab recently announced completion of the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test Facility, or DARHT, an X-ray facility designed to capture images of mock nuclear implosions in an effort to understand potential problems with an aging nuclear-weapons stockpile.

Los Alamos officials said the facility was completed on time and within budget, but auditors with the U.S. Department of Energy's Inspector General say neither claim was accurate.

The audit indicated that the lab reduced the scope of work at DARHT, shifted critical activities to other programs and completed at least two projects with outside funds. Inspectors panned the laboratory for giving unrealistic budget estimates; failing to establish a contingency fund for the project; and failing to request additional, but necessary, funds for the project.

"These activities gave the erroneous appearance that total project cost had remained within the planned budget," the report said. Auditors identified \$57.5 million in additional costs, 22 percent over the reported budget of \$270 million, that will have to be absorbed by other programs.

Moreover, while construction of DARHT was completed this spring, the facility won't be operational until June 2004 - 15 months behind schedule, according to the report.

DARHT is essentially an advanced explosives-firing site. Two long buildings hold accelerators that produce powerful X-rays which provide images of the interior of dense metals during test implosions. The first X-ray machine came on line in 2000. A second, more-complex machine is scheduled to be fully operational late next year, the lab reported Wednesday.

Los Alamos Director Pete Nanos disputed the Inspector General's findings, arguing that all plans and changes to the project, budget and schedule conformed to procedures established by the National Nuclear Security Administration, the branch of DOE in charge of nuclear weapons. While the lab might have underestimated the complexity of the facility and failed to set aside contingency funds when the operation began in 1998, Nanos said, NNSA resolved those issues more than two years ago.

"NNSA has tracked the status of the project in detail throughout and approved every planning change," Nanos said in a prepared statement. "In fact, because of DARHT's importance to the national stockpile-stewardship program, this project has been monitored at the highest levels of government, including scrutiny from Congress."

Greg Mello, who heads the Los Alamos Study Group, a local nuclear-disarmament organization, agrees with the lab on this point.

Mello pointed out that the facility dates back to 1988, when a much simpler version was proposed at a cost of \$30 million. Since then, he said, DOE has watched the price tag increase 11 times over to its current total of about \$327 million - as estimated by the Inspector General.

"They never had a clear project definition, and that's because there never was a clear mission," he said. "There was never a 'good enough.' It was always 'more is better.' "

The Los Alamos Study Group sued the lab in 1994, halting construction on DARHT for more than a year by forcing the lab to do an environmental analysis. He said the lab was trying to sneak the project through without the proper studies, just as the Inspector General claims the lab was shifting budgets to pay for cost overruns without asking for more money from Congress.

Mello's biggest fear, however, is what he perceives as the lab's attitude that good is never good enough. Already, the lab is looking to DARHT's successor, the Advanced Hydrotest Facility, which could cost upward of \$1.2 billion according to one lab estimate.

But if the lab is never satisfied with the answers these machines give, regarding the reliability of existing new weapons now being designed, Mello said, then the only solution for weaponeers is a return to nuclear testing.



# Date:-06/03/2003 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

## LANL On List to Make Nuke Pits

Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer

### Carlsbad Area's WIPP Considered

A report released Monday confirms that the federal government wants to build a new nuclear weapons plant but does not say whether the facility should be located at Los Alamos, near Carlsbad or three other sites under consideration around the country.

The Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration officials have decided to delay announcing a preferred location for the proposed "Modern Pit Facility," which would make the plutonium triggers for nuclear bombs.

"(The preferred site) will be in the final environmental impact statement," said NNSA spokesman Bryan Wilkes.

He said the report made public Monday -- a draft environmental impact statement -- "just basically says these are the five places we are considering and we are holding public meetings so you can tell us what you think."

The proposed nuclear weapons plant would build replacement plutonium "triggers," or pits, for the existing arsenal and would be operational by 2020, producing between 125 to 450 pits per year.

The potential sites include Los Alamos National Laboratory; the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad; the Pantex facility near Amarillo; the Nevada Test Site; and the Savannah River weapons complex in South Carolina.

"All locations have strengths and weaknesses and there is not one that is grandly above the rest and that is the whole reason for this NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process," Wilkes said.

Since the Rocky Flats plant near Denver was closed in 1989, the U.S. has been unable to manufacture pits. An interim facility at Los Alamos, designed to produce about 20 pits per year, was initiated in 1996 and is expected to be fully operational by 2007. LANL produced its first potentially "certifiable" pit in April.

### Issue of security

DOE officials argue starting work now on a new pit facility is prudent risk management, should the pits in reserve and in the nuclear arsenal degrade quicker than expected. The "life-span" of existing pits is estimated at about 45 to 60 years and the average age of pits in the arsenal is about 19 years, according to DOE.

"This issue is an important one since it deals directly with the national security of the U.S. and our ability to keep our nuclear stockpile safe, reliable and secure," Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said in a prepared statement.

Monday's draft environmental impact statement said a new facility is required to produce enough pits to meet future contingencies and to build all the necessary types of pits -- possibly including new designs -- in a relatively short period of time.

The new facility would cost between \$2.2 billion and \$4.4 billion depending on its capacity and would require about 80 acres of land, the report says.

Construction would generate between 770 and 1,100 jobs, and between 990 and 1,800 jobs are expected during its 50-year operation.

Once a location is identified, a site-specific environmental analysis will be conducted to determine the exact location of the new facility at the preferred site, Wilkes said.

Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest said the proposed facility could take up the economic slack for his town after WIPP closes, which is scheduled to take place in about 15 years.

#### Public comment

Anti-nuclear activists and critics of the proposed Modern Pit Facility say they are concerned the delay in naming the preferred site for the new plant will reduce the volume and quality of public comment on the proposed facility.

"They advertised that step one was whether to proceed, and if so where to locate it," said Jay Coghlan, director of Santa Fe-based Nuclear Watch New Mexico. "We already knew they wanted to build it, so they confirmed that, but they made no site selection."

"It makes one's comments a crap shoot," said Greg Mello, head of the Los Alamos Study Group, a nuclear watchdog. "Some might choose not to comment," he said, because they don't know whether their comments are really necessary, since they don't know whether the plant will be located in their area.

"I think it is an abridgement of the process set up by Congress and DOE's own NEPA regulations," he said. "It is a political move by the department -- they are supposed to play this game in a straighter way than they are."

Wilkes explained that while there will be no formal public hearings after issuance of the final environmental impact statement, the public can submit comments at any time, including during a monthlong period after the site is announced.

"The process is long enough that everyone will get a chance to have a voice in it," Wilkes said. "It just allows for a more thorough decision-making process."

Critics say the draft environmental impact statement confirms their suspicions that the Bush administration is looking at building new types of nuclear weapons and on a large scale. Both houses of Congress have given approval to renewing research on development of so-called "mini-nukes."

The document leaves open the possibility of manufacturing more than 450 pits per year, a rate Mello says is unnecessary given recent disarmament treaties signed with Russia.

"The ultimate justification for this facility is making weapons of new design primarily and secondarily maintaining a very large arsenal on the assumption that (disarmament treaties) don't require destruction of arms," he said.

The impact statement found one alternative to a new facility could be upgrading LANL's Technical Area 55, site of the current interim pit manufacturing facility, so that it could produce 80 pits a year.

"This provides a 'hedge' in the event of unforeseeable changes in stockpile size or pit lifetime result(ing) in a significantly smaller pit production capacity requirement," according to the document.

Public hearings on the draft environmental impact statement will be held June 30 in Carlsbad at the DOE's Carlsbad office and July 1 at the Cities of Gold Hotel in Pojoaque.



Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Jun 3, 2003; Section: Final; Page: 78



# Date:-06/03/2003 Section:-New Mexico Edition:-Final Page:-D3

## N.M. In Line For Weapons Plant

### Adam Rankin Journal Northern Bureau

#### Site To Develop Plutonium Pits

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Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Jun 3, 2003; Section: State; Page: 90



## Date:-06/03/2003 Section:-News Edition:-State Page:-A1

### Nuke Plant Site Still In Question

Adam Rankin Journal Northern Bureau

SANTA FE -- A report released Monday confirms that the federal government wants to build a new nuclear weapons plant but does not say whether the facility should be located at Los Alamos, Carlsbad or three other sites under consideration around the country.

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# BUILDING THE RESISTANCE

Santa Fe activist group moves to Albuquerque.

BY JULIA GOLDBERG  
Editor@sfreporter.com

Citing the need to recruit more young people to the anti-nuclear ranks, a Santa Fe-based activist group has moved its headquarters closer to the University of New Mexico.

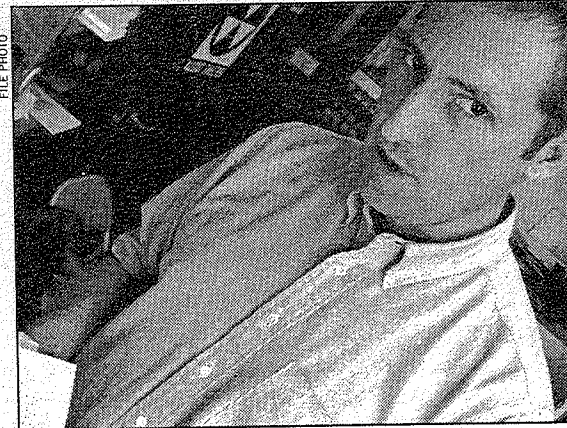
The 11-year-old Los Alamos Study Group, which has been housed in Santa Fe since it first started staging events in 1989, left in May. "There are more young people in Albuquerque," said LASG Executive Director Greg Mello. "There are more young people in learning mode. It's hard to imagine anything truly creative occurring on these issues without involving young people in significant numbers, and we want to be in a position to do that."

In addition to its research papers and lawsuits, LASG has been responsible for highway billboards denouncing the nuclear industry. Mello said that the move puts the nonprofit closer to Sandia Laboratory, although farther away from Los Alamos National Laboratory, which has often been the focus of the study group's research efforts. "The issue has changed," said Mello. "We live in a very dark time now. In the beginning of the study group, responsible individuals from

the laboratory were willing to engage with us in public about policy questions. As far as we know, we see no evidence they are willing to do that today. The laboratory has become far more internally repressive."


LASG will still have and take part in Santa Fe-based activities, Mello said. For example, at 10 am, June 26, the group will gather at the Roundhouse and publicly ask Gov. Bill Richardson to close Area G at the lab (for more info, call LASG at 505-265-1200). Putting the pressure on Democrats to oppose the nuclear industry is paramount these days, Mello said. "The biggest change is not our move to Albuquerque, the biggest change is the dynamics of the neoconservative agenda and the cowardice of liberals in opposing it," he said. "We have been fighting [nuclear] pit production since 1990 and we have file drawers full of stuff on pit production and we have beaten back proposals at the lab, but we need more help from Democrats." LANL is one of the sites under consideration for production of plutonium pits, which are essentially

the triggers for modern nuclear weapons. "The study group has placed a high premium on factual accuracy and on linking those facts with long held values of our civilization," said Mello. "When facts and values are both somewhat out of vogue, then we have to think carefully about what we're doing."



FILE PHOTO  
Greg Mello took LASG to Albuquerque in search of youth.

Believe it or not, those sound like fighting words.



# King's Yellow

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**Conversations with the Playwright**  
 6:45pm-7:15pm, no charge

*"Excellent, delightful, insightful"  
 Denev from our audience*

*"Craig Barnes provides some splendid wordplay, strong,  
 complex characters and provocative themes."  
 The New Mexican*

*"Bravo... This, theatre lovers, is the real thing.  
 And it's here for us in Santa Fe to see first."  
 Santa Fe Reporter*

## Feeling deterred lately?

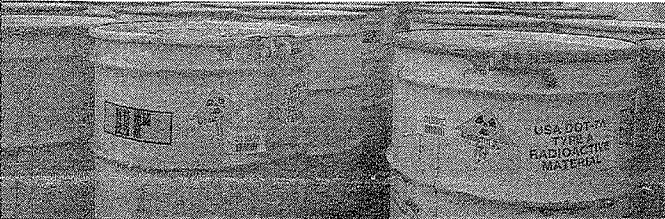
The NM Environment Department is.

2.5 million drums worth of chemical and nuclear waste have been buried in Los Alamos so far. Millions more are yet to come. There is no permit, no closure plan, and no real cleanup requirements. Is the lab, then, above the law?

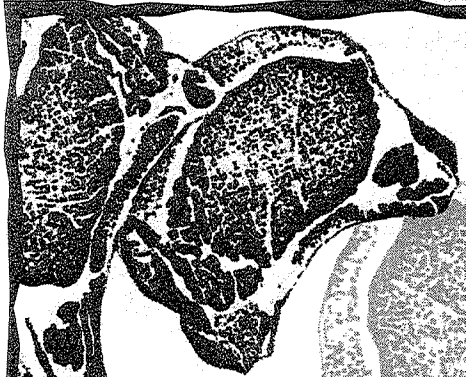
**Rally and Press Conference  
 in the Rotunda of the State Capitol  
 Thursday, June 26, 10:00 am**

Ask Governor Richardson to enforce existing law at the lab and halt illegal nuclear waste disposal. Speak out against new factories for nuclear weapons "pits" in New Mexico.

Adults and children alike are encouraged to attend and participate!  
 For more information, call the Los Alamos Study Group at 505-265-1200 or visit [www.lasg.org](http://www.lasg.org).



PASATIEMPO  
 June 20 - 26, 2003



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Saturday & Sunday, 2:00 - 5:00 pm  
 Suzanne Smith, author of  
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 Lavender Displays, Demonstrations  
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# "Community Safety and Security Day" 2003

8 a.m. - 1 p.m., June 26

Ashley Pond on Central Avenue near the Farmers Market

Health & Wellness • Homeland Security • Child Safety & Fingerprinting • Robotics  
Blood Pressure Checks • Stress Management Class • Biofeedback • Ecology • Ergonomics  
Prevention & Protection • Defensible Space • Mobile Bio Sampling Lab • Senior Services  
Pedestrian & Hiking Safety • Pesticide Safety • Firearm Safety • Emergency Management  
Law Enforcement • Amber Alert • Alcohol & Drug Prevention & Assistance  
Environment & Environmental Restoration • WIPP • Child Car Seat Inspections • Hummers  
"Angel One" Medical Helicopter & other Helicopters

Come meet "Reddy Squirrel," "Sparky the Fire Dog," "Smokey Bear"  
and "GI Johnny"!

For more information call Fran Talley in the Laboratory's Public Affairs Office, 667-5225

Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration

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S.F. New Mexican 6/22/2003



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# Date:-06/27/2003 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

## Anti-Nuclear Activists Want Dump Closed

**Mark Oswald Of the Journal**

Anti-nuclear activists Thursday called on Gov. Bill Richardson and Richardson's environmental regulators to take a stand against Los Alamos National Laboratory's nuclear and hazardous waste dump.

Representatives of the Los Alamos Study Group and other organizations, at a state Capitol gathering, said they want the Richardson administration to shut down the longtime nuclear waste site known as Technical Area 54, Area G.

"We've let it go on for too long," said David Bacon, who ran against Richardson as the Green Party's nominee for governor last year. "We have to insist as citizens that Area G gets taken on by the state of New Mexico to shut it down."

No comment was available from the Governor's Office Thursday.

Jon Goldstein, spokesman for the state Environment Department, said the department is "aggressively looking at oversight of pretty much every activity we can up at Los Alamos," including the dump.

"We're very interested in having Los Alamos be a good environmental citizen," Goldstein said.

Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group, said Richardson was being asked to enforce environmental law by closing the dump and holding hearings on how to dispose of years of waste in Area G.

Mello also called on Richardson to take a position on production of plutonium "pits" -- essentially the triggers for nuclear bombs -- at LANL, which would generate more waste. The lab already is involved in pit production to some degree, but is under consideration as the site for a major new pit-making facility.

Mello said the story of the dump has not really been told and blamed a conspiracy of silence or complacency.

The study group and others have been pushing for years for closure of the 45-year-old dump, saying it has been illegal for at least 20 years. In 2001, the Attorney General's Office sent a letter to the Environment Department saying the dump was out of regulatory compliance.

Lab officials contend the dump, which features tents that contain drums of radioactive wastes, is safe. Critics disagree and say no one really knows everything that has gone into the dump over the years.

Last year, the Environment Department issued a broad cleanup order for LANL that has been tied up in litigation. Part of that order would direct the lab to address waste left in place at the lab, including the waste at the Area G dump, Goldstein said.

Mello said the order doesn't call for any study of closure of the dump or what to do about removing the waste.

Also Thursday, the activists delivered to the Governor's Office another 1,514 cans of food with labels to make them look like drums of nuclear waste. The cans serve as petitions, bearing the names of people who paid \$3 for each can and a letter calling for closure of the waste dump.

The study group previously delivered more than 2,000 of the cans to the Governor's Office under the administration of former Gov. Gary Johnson. The food in the cans is supposed to go eventually to the Food Depot, which helps the poor.

# We the People

★ Celebrate Dissent ★  
and Democracy

Independence Day

Friday, July 4th, 2003, 12:00 noon  
The State Capitol Roundhouse, Santa Fe

Bill of Rights Melodrama

Who will prevail? Justice or the Justice Department?

Historic Moments of Dissent

Readings from Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*

In Defense of Democracy

Honoring heroes of the peace and justice movement

FREE STUFF! HELIUM BALLOONS! BUTTONS! BUMPER STICKERS!

★ Peaceful March ★  
to the Governor's Mansion

1:00 pm

Tell Bill Richardson to rid New Mexico of weapons of mass destruction

*No War for Oil & Empire!*

Sponsored by Los Alamos Study Group, *Stop the War Machine* and *The Empty Chair Project*

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Date:-06/29/2003 Edition:-Journal North

Page:-3

## March to Mansion Starts at Capitol

### Journal Staff Report

#### FOURTH OF JULY BRIEFS

A "Celebrate Dissent and Democracy" march on the governor's mansion sponsored by four northern New Mexico groups will be held at 1 p.m. Friday starting at the Capitol.

The event features a "Bill of Rights Melodrama"; "Historic Moments of Dissent," with readings from Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States"; and "In Defense of Democracy," in which heroes of the peace and justice movement will be honored. Helium balloons, buttons and bumper stickers will be given away.

The event is sponsored by the Los Alamos Study Group, the Stop the War Machine, the Action Coalition of Taos and the Empty Chair Project.

Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)  
Title: PROTESTING PLUTONIUM  
Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON, Photos by Luis Sanchez Saturno  
Date: July 2, 2003  
Section: Main  
Page: A-1

Activists dominate hearing on possible nuclear-pit factory in Los Alamos or Carlsbad

POJOAQUE PUEBLO Dozens of loud and often unruly demonstrators on Tuesday protested a new nuclear-weapons factory under consideration by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Both Carlsbad and Los Alamos National Laboratory are on the list of possible sites for the proposed Modern Pit Facility. The manufacturing plant would purify and cast plutonium into round "pits" similar to the bomb dropped on Nagasaki at the end of World War II.

The orbs of plutonium - a highly dangerous substance developed for nuclear bombs - provide the initial explosion, triggering further nuclear reactions, in a modern thermonuclear weapon.

The National Nuclear Security Administration, a DOE branch in charge of nuclear weapons, is conducting an environmental impact statement analyzing whether and where to build the Modern Pit Facility, estimated to cost between \$2 billion and \$4 billion. Tuesday's hearing, dominated by anti-nuclear activists, was one of several in an ongoing series.

While much of the discussion focused on international efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, many also cited environmental and safety concerns associated with plutonium.

Sue Dayton, an activist with the Albuquerque-based watchdog group Citizen Action, questioned DOE's interpretation of its own information on the risk to nuclear workers at such a facility.

A DOE risk analysis in the environmental impact statement indicates that radiation could cause a fatal case of cancer in one worker every five years in a facility with 1,100 workers capable of producing 450 pits annually.

DOE's Jay Rose downplayed these statistics as highly conservative estimates involving a large number of people. Workers at the proposed site would receive one-tenth the annual radiation allowed under DOE regulations and would, individually, incur an extremely low risk, he said in an interview.

"Do we think that every four or five years a worker will get a latent cancer? Absolutely not," he said, citing DOE estimates that a worker would have to work 4,500 years before getting a lethal form of cancer.

DOE documents also indicate that a modern pit facility, depending on its size, would produce between 3,000 and 5,600 drums of plutonium laden nuclear waste annually.

Many at the hearing questioned the need for more bombs in the first place, pointing out that the United States agreed to bring its nuclear arsenal below 2,200 weapons in the coming decade. Miles Nelson, assistant medical director for the Emergency Department at St. Vincent Hospital, said the proposal flies in the face of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and other international agreements meant to head off nuclear weapons.

“I believe this modern pit facility violates the promises we have made to the rest of the world,” Nelson said.

DOE officials insist that the nation has a right to maintain its current arsenal.

The United States has been unable to build pits since DOE shut down its only pit facility at Rocky Flats near Denver in 1989. Although Los Alamos National Laboratory expects to be able to build a limited number of new pits by 2007, DOE officials maintain that the United States needs a full-scale pit production facility to replace aging nuclear warheads and potentially build new ones.

DOE estimates that the current nuclear warheads will last a minimum of 45 to 60 years, so the modern pit facility should be operational by 2020 in case problems arise in the stockpile. None has been found as of yet, but DOE officials say there is no way to predict the future.

Mary Riseley, a founder of the **Los Alamos Study Group** who is no longer active in the group, said a study by a University of California physicist indicated that pits might actually improve with age. She cited that as evidence that there is no need to build a facility now.

The agency wants the facility operational by 2020. Also on the list of potential sites for the modern pit facility are the Savannah River Site in South Carolina; the Nevada Test Site; and the Pantex Site near Amarillo, Texas.

According to the current schedule, DOE expects to make a decision whether to move forward, and if so where to put the facility, by April 2004. DOE would further consider environmental impacts at the site chosen and decide how big the facility will be in a second analysis.

DOE will accept comments on the proposal through Aug. 5. Write to the MPF EIS Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA, 1000 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585; fax (202) 586-5324; or submit comments via e-mail at the Modern Pit Facility Internet site, <http://www.mpfeis.com>.

Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON, Photos by Luis Sanchez Saturno

Section: Main

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- [back to story page](#)

URL: <http://www.abqjournal.com/venue/58417north07-04-03.htm>

Friday, July 4, 2003

## Northern N.M. Activities Planned for Fourth

SANTA FE's annual Pancakes on the Plaza breakfast gets under way at 7 a.m. and continues until noon. The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus performs at 11 a.m., vintage cars will be on display, and a wide variety of arts, crafts, foods, entertainment and kids' activities continue through the day. Tickets to the breakfast are \$6 at the gate. Santa Fe Trails provides shuttle service to the Plaza from Villa Linda Mall every half-hour beginning at 7:15 a.m. and continuing until 6 p.m. Round-trip cost is \$2 for adults, and \$1 for those 6-17 and seniors. Santa Fe's fireworks display begins at dusk at Santa Fe High's Ivan Head Stadium, 2100 Yucca Rd. Gates open at 5 p.m. for music and entertainment on the stadium field. Admission is a suggested donation of \$1 per person and \$5 for parking.


LAS VEGAS celebrates its annual Fiesta this weekend. Festivities begin today with the Fiesta Run at 7:30 a.m., followed by the Fiesta Mass and Processional and the traditional Veterans Parade at 10 a.m. Music, entertainment, arts and crafts continue today through Sunday on the Plaza. A teen dance is scheduled in the Old Broadway Fashion store off the Plaza this evening, and fireworks, visible from all over town, light up the sky from dusk on. For more information, call the Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-832-5947.

MADRID hosts an Old Fashioned Fourth of July Picnic 1-6 p.m. in the Madrid Ballpark. The event features music, games, a pot-luck picnic and a raffle. Admission is free, but pets are not allowed.

HONDO's Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual picnic at Station No. 1 from noon to 3 p.m. today. Take the Seton Village/Sunlit Hills exit off the Old Las Vegas Highway. Festivities include games for the whole family, plus hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, watermelon and lemonade. Everyone is welcome, and there is no admission charge.

IN LOS ALAMOS, all-day Fourth of July festivities start with a softball tournament at the Overlook Park in White Rock. A country and western dance with South by Southwest begins at the park at 7 p.m., followed by fireworks. All events are free and open to the public.

CELEBRATE DISSENT and democracy this Independence Day by marching on the governor's mansion in Santa Fe. The rally at 1 p.m. at the state Capitol, Old Santa Fe Trail at Paseo de Peralta, features a "Bill of Rights Melodrama," "Historic Moments of Dissent," and readings from the works of populist historian Howard Zinn. The rally and march are sponsored by the Los Alamos Study Group, the Stop the War Machine, the Action Coalition of Taos and the Empty Chair Project.

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# Despite drought, July 4 hasn't fizzled out

7/5/03

The Associated Press

It's been a long Independence Day week for Anecita Hudson, mother of one of the POWs rescued in Iraq earlier this year. And the holiday has just begun.

Hudson's July 4 activities began Wednesday, when she attended a ceremony at Fort Bliss, Texas, to watch her son and other former POWs receive medals. Army Spc. Joseph Hudson, one of six former POWs from the 507th Maintenance Co. captured in Iraq in March, was awarded a Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and a POW medal.

"I'm going to be more busy," Anecita Hudson said Friday from her home in Alamogordo.

Silver City residents were marking the birth of the nation as well as the 125th birthday of their community.

Communities throughout

## **Dissidents used the holiday to celebrate democratic dissent, announcing a march to the governor's mansion to ask him to rid the state of hazardous wastes and weapons of mass destruction.**

New Mexico added more than fireworks to their celebrations, with everything from concerts, a pancake breakfast, community picnics and barbecues and the traditional parades.

In Santa Fe, a group of dissidents used the holiday to celebrate democratic dissent, announcing a march to the governor's mansion to stage a demonstration and ask him to rid New Mexico of hazardous wastes and weapons of mass destruction.

Farmington began festivities a day before July 4, getting its Freedom Days

celebration under way with an early fireworks display Thursday night. The celebration continued Friday with plans for a colorful mix of shimmering octopus-shaped fireworks and the twinkle of an Electric Light Parade.

Albuquerque moved its large community fireworks display from Kirtland Air Force Base, where it had been held for years, to Balloon Fiesta Park on the other end of town. The celebration also was paying tribute to the armed forces.

Lt. Michelle Estep, a spokeswoman for the Albuquerque

base, said a lot of people have been deployed "so the city was being supportive by letting us be with our families this weekend."

Shooting off fireworks is traditional on Independence Day, but firefighters issued strong cautions because of extremely dry conditions and wildfires across the state. Many fire and police departments were taking a tougher stance against illegal fireworks this year.

In the past, illegal fireworks were simply confiscated. But after a fireworks-sparked blaze in the Rio Grande bosque in the heart of Albuquerque burned 195 acres and forced hundreds of people to flee their homes, those caught with illegal fireworks will face stiff penalties, said Lt. Lynn Ruele, spokeswoman for the Albuquerque Fire Department.

People caught with illegal fireworks can be fined \$500, spend up to 90 days in jail or both, she said.



# Date:-07/07/2003 Edition:-Journal North

## Page:-1

### Lawmakers' Fiat Shocks Activists

**Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer**

\* State's congressional delegates all signed letter backing Carlsbad for new nuke factory

Many anti-nuclear activists were surprised to learn that all five of New Mexico's congressional delegates recently signed a letter endorsing Carlsbad as the proposed site of a new nuclear weapons factory.

"Everybody is a little shocked by (Sen. Jeff Bingaman) and majorly shocked by (Rep. Tom Udall)," said Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group.

In a strong, bipartisan show of support, Democrats Bingaman and Udall, along with their Republican counterparts, Sen. Pete Domenici and Reps. Heather Wilson and Steve Pearce, signed a June 30 letter to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham supporting Carlsbad as the proposed location of the "Modern Pit Facility," a \$2 billion to \$4 billion factory under consideration by the Department of Energy.

For the people of Carlsbad, many of whom are in favor of hosting the facility, the endorsements are political capital in a decision that may come down to politics and which community most favors the project.

The pit facility, which could be sited at Los Alamos, Carlsbad or three other locations, would build plutonium "triggers," or pits, to replace the nation's aging nuclear stockpile. The pits set off a larger, second-stage blast in nuclear weapons.

But Bingaman and Udall only signed the letter on the condition that it contain a qualifier.

"It was originally written as if the Modern Pit Facility was a foregone conclusion," said Udall spokesman Glen Loveland. "Congressman Udall insisted that we add an initial paragraph that says they should consider Carlsbad only if it is found this facility is really needed."

In the final version of the letter to Abraham, the second sentence now reads: "If it is determined such a facility is necessary, we believe the WIPP site in Carlsbad, New Mexico, provides the best option ... "

"We just wanted to stress the debate is still going on, and no final decisions have been made," Loveland said. "We know they don't want it in northern New Mexico, and at this point, that is our primary concern."

In Bingaman's case, he also wrote a separate letter to Abraham expanding on the group's statement.

"If the Department determines that such a facility is necessary, and has carefully informed the public and the Congress of all the safety, environmental and fiscal consequences of the Facility, then I believe that the WIPP facility at Carlsbad should be seriously considered as the best option for its location," Bingaman wrote.

Domenici spokesman Chris Gallegos and a policy official with Pearce said both lawmakers considered the language added by Udall and Bingaman to be implicit in the original wording because the pit facility is not a certainty. The final decision rests with Abraham.

Regardless of the qualifiers, Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce President Mark Schinnerer said having all five delegates sign the letter translates into "tremendous support."

Having the pit facility "would be a big economic boost, not just for Carlsbad," but for neighboring communities, such as Hobbs, he said.

Hosting the pit facility would mean an infusion of cash and jobs -- yearly operations are estimated to cost \$200 million to \$300 million, and the facility would support about 1,000 jobs over a 50-year period -- at a time when Carlsbad's other government mainstay, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, is scheduled to begin closing.

But New Mexico's delegates should be thinking about more than economic or community development when it comes to endorsing such weighty projects, said Joni Arends with Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety.

"The congressional delegates should be looking at these larger issues -- like violations of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty -- before they start endorsing sites," she said.

Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Jul 8, 2003; Section: Final; Page: 76



**Date:-07/08/2003 Section:-News  
Edition:-Final Page:-A2**

## Lawmakers' Support Shocks Groups

**Adam Rankin Journal Northern Bureau**

SANTA FE -- Many anti-nuclear activists were surprised to learn that all five of New Mexico's congressional delegates recently signed a letter endorsing Carlsbad as the proposed site of a new nuclear weapons factory.

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1988 JUL  
7-10-03

# Nuke Material Move On Hold

## Cost Estimates Have Tripled

BY ADAM RANKIN  
Journal Staff Writer

An unexpected cost increase has temporarily put on hold the planned relocation of nuclear material from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Technical Area 18 to the Nevada Test Site.

The delay has critics of the Department of Energy and LANL worried that the relocation of the material, which they say is no longer fully secure at LANL, is being sabotaged.

Deputy administrator for defense programs Everet H. Beckner wrote in a June 20 memo that a new cost estimate for a building upgrade to the Device Assembly Facility in Nevada, which would house the material, is about \$210 million more than the original estimate of \$100 million.

"I consider the cost estimate for relocating these missions to the Device Assembly Facility excessive and unsupportable," Beckner wrote. "Since there is no reasonable explanation for this significant change, I am directing a temporary halt to all project work," with a few exceptions, he said.

National Nuclear Security Administration spokesman Bryan Wilkes said the memo signifies a "time out" to determine how the new value was established and what the best course of action will be.

"This figure was a little sur-

See **RELOCATION** on **PAGE 3**

# Relocation of Nuke Material On Hold

from **PAGE 1**

prising; we are regrouping to determine the best course from here on out," he said, adding that moving the material to Nevada is still the preferred alternative.

"We are concerned about the materials, we are concerned about the security, we are concerned about the best place to hold TA-18 activities, but we are also concerned about taxpayer money," Wilkes said.

Aspects of the relocation that will continue include an independent project review and an assessment of why the new cost estimate deviates so substantially from the original, according to the memo.

DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees DOE nuclear weapons labs, announced in September in a

record of decision that they recommended moving the machinery and radioactive, weapons-grade nuclear materials to Nevada.

According to the decision, the move would begin in 2006 or 2007 and take about four years to complete.

Highly sensitive nuclear materials are stored and used at LANL's TA-18 for a number of purposes, including training nuclear arms inspectors and conducting criticality experiments, which initiate controlled nuclear chain reactions.

Critics, especially the Washington, D.C.-based Project on Government Oversight, have argued that the location of TA-18 at the bottom of a canyon make it especially susceptible to attack. POGO executive director Danielle Brian said recent mock attacks on the site

were unsuccessfully defended, indicating its vulnerability to infiltration by terrorists.

She said the "totally bizarre" cost estimate of \$310 million is "clearly a nefarious scheme to keep (the relocation) from happening."

She said two administrations have independently determined the best course would be to move the material out of TA-18, yet years have passed and no action has been taken.

Just last summer, then-lab director John Browne wrote Beckner to say LANL "agrees with NNSA that the best overall decision to meet the post Sept. 11th challenges for the long-term security of nuclear activities associated with TA-18" is move the materials to the Nevada Test Site.

In NNSA's own assessment it determined "the TA-18 opera-

tions are located in a canyon which is difficult to secure, resulting in increasingly high costs to maintain a security infrastructure for the special nuclear materials used and stored at the site."

DOE recently estimated the cost of securing the site against attack at about \$12 million a year.

Beyond security issues, NNSA determined the age of the buildings — between 30 and 50 years — is another reason the most sensitive materials should be moved.

"DOE is unable to enforce or implement its own desires here," said Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group. "I think it is very likely this is an attempt to sabotage what DOE is doing, just as there have been many other attempts before now."



Published Thursday  
July 17, 2003

## Nuclear meeting could be volatile

BY ROBYNN TYSVER

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The nation's top nuclear scientists and experts will gather next month at Offutt Air Force Base to discuss the future of the nation's nuclear arsenal.

The Aug. 7 meeting has galvanized the region's anti-nuke community into action.

Leaders say at least 1,000 protesters are expected to descend on Omaha Aug. 1 to 3 to protest proposals to develop a new generation of nuclear weapons.

There will be speeches from four survivors of Hiroshima, a concert from independent rocker Michelle Shocked and a "peaceful" protest at Offutt.

Buses and vans are expected to come from Kansas, Des Moines and Minneapolis.

"We are framing this at least as a regional event, if not an international event," said Josh Cramer, a Lincoln peace activist who is organizing the event called "Speak Out at Stratcom."

The protest grew out of documents leaked last month that showed officials had been planning for almost a year a top-level meeting at Offutt, the home of the nation's nuclear command, to discuss possible new weapons, such as mini-nukes and neutron bombs.

The meeting was first revealed by the Los Alamos Study Group. The pro-disarmament group obtained minutes of a January meeting at the Pentagon that said Admiral James O. Ellis Jr., commander of the U.S. Strategic Command, would host the meeting.

Offutt is home of the Strategic Command, which oversees the nation's nuclear weapons on land, sea and in the air.

"It's the whole enchilada, this meeting. Anybody who is anybody in nuclear weapons will be there," said Greg Mello, a spokesman for the Study Group.

The U.S. Department of Defense confirmed the scheduled meeting, saying officials with the department and the National Nuclear Security Administration, scientists from the nation's two nuclear laboratories and other nuclear experts would be present.

"The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues regarding the current status and future projections concerning the U.S. nuclear arsenal," a department statement said.

The meeting is significant in the context of the debate raging in the nuclear community, said Robert Nelson, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, which promotes studies on international affairs and publishes the Foreign Affairs journal.

There are some in the military and in President George W. Bush's administration who believe there is a need to develop new nuclear weapons, such a mini-nukes that, they argue, could be used to destroy underground bunkers and biological and chemical weapons.

They want options beyond the high-level nuclear weapons, Nelson said.

"There is a general belief that only through a strong and credible nuclear deterrent can we maintain our long-term security," Nelson said.

The Nuclear Weapons Council, made up of Defense and Energy Department officials, has ordered a three-year study of potential nuclear bunker busters.

However, the plan got a setback this week when a House committee eliminated much of the money sought by the Bush administration to research new nuclear weapons.

Officials with the National Nuclear Security Administration have promised to fight the proposed cut.

Opponents of nuclear proliferation argue that the development of new nuclear weapons will generate an arms race and obliterate the line between nuclear and conventional warfare. They say mini-nukes will be easier to use in small-scale wars such as Iraq.

"This is a very dangerous road to be going down, especially at a time when we're dealing with nonproliferation problems like North Korea and Iran," said Kathy Crandall of the British American Security Information Council.

"If this happens, we will be letting the nuclear genie out of the bottle," said Tim Rinne of Nebraskans for Peace, a major organization behind the three-day protest.

Groups involved in the three-day protest include Nebraskans for Peace, Nebraska Green Party, Lancaster County Democrats, ACT to Stop War Coalition and Central Nebraska Peace Workers.

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# TheOmahaChannel.com

## Nebraska Nuclear Protest Planned

### *Organizers Expect Dissidents From Entire Region*

POSTED: 3:44 p.m. CDT July 18, 2003

UPDATED: 3:47 p.m. CDT July 18, 2003

**OMAHA, Neb.** -- Iraq's alleged stash of weapons of mass destruction has been in the headlines for months. But it is American weapons that will be the target of a protest in Nebraska in August.

A demonstration is planned outside an Aug. 7 meeting of top nuclear experts at STRATCOM in Bellevue. Top-level Bush administration officials will be talking with nuclear weapons experts discussing the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons.

The protesters will meet for three days of events starting on Friday, Aug. 1. Organizers are expecting buses to come in from Minneapolis, Kansas City and Des Moines.

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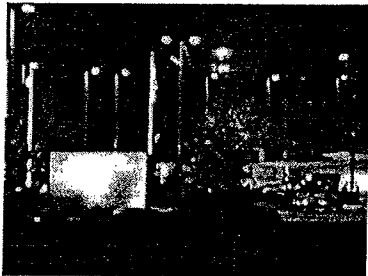
## Nuclear Protest Planned At Offutt

### *Group Upset By Mini-Nukes*

POSTED: 3:50 p.m. CDT July 24, 2003

UPDATED: 4:01 p.m. CDT July 24, 2003

**OMAHA, Neb.** -- A meeting planned for Aug. 7 at STRATCOM in Bellevue has raised the ire of nuclear protesters from around the region. The meeting is being held to discuss the current status and future projections for the U.S. nuclear arsenal.



Several peace organizations are planning a protest here in Omaha. Nebraskans For Peace held a press conference Thursday to preview the goals of the protest.

The group expects about 3,000 participants from cities around the region, including the Kansas City area and Minneapolis. The protest is a reaction to recent reports that the United States is considering development of so-called "mini-nukes." They are relatively small nuclear weapons designed to destroy underground targets.

"It is a proposal guaranteed to kick start a new nuclear arms race," said Tim Rinne with Nebraskans For Peace. "Proliferate nuclear weapons all across the planet, and make a world already racked by terror an even scarier and more destabilized place."

Security forces at Offutt are gearing up for the protest. Bellevue police and the Sarpy County Sheriff's Department will have extra officers patrolling the area. Officials don't expect things to get out of hand.

"We don't consider protesters a risk to the base," said Corinna Jones, second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force based at Offutt, "but we do exercise diligence anytime a crowd is gathered outside the installation."

Peaceful protesting is allowed on public property, but not on base property. The protests will begin a few days before the Aug. 7 meeting.

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**Subject:** Lincoln Journal Star article on STRATCOM

**From:** Kay Walter & Tim Rinne <walterinne@redjellyfish.net>

**Date:** Tue, 29 Jul 2003 15:32:46 -0500

**To:** Becca Kaiser <becca@bugeaters.net>, Brian Debew <brian@kucinich.us>, Cary Vigneri <nfpomaha@redjellyfish.net>, Frances Mendenhall <fmendenh@creighton.edu>, Greg Mello <gmello@lasg.org>, Kevin Kamps <kevin@nirs.org>, Phyllis Gilbert <phyllis.peace@juno.com>, gdubois@pol.net, ieeroffice@ieer.org

Lincoln Journal Star  
Tuesday, July 29, 2003

Mini-nukes protest set for weekend

BY DON WALTON / Lincoln Journal Star

Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich and four survivors of the U.S. atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima will headline a weekend protest in Omaha against development of a new generation of nuclear weapons.

Kucinich, an Ohio congressman, will be the featured speaker at a Friday evening forum.

A teach-in at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a rally in Memorial Park will highlight Saturday's activities.

The weekend will culminate with a peaceful vigil Sunday near the gates of Offutt Air Force Base, headquarters of the U.S. Strategic Command.

Bush administration officials and military weapons experts are scheduled to meet at Stratcom next week to discuss development and production of a new generation of battlefield nuclear weapons for use in conventional military conflicts.

That would "kick-start a new nuclear arms race, proliferate nuclear weapons all across the planet and make a world already wracked by terror an even scarier and more destabilized place," said Tim Rinne, state coordinator of Nebraskans for Peace.

NFP is co-sponsoring the "International SOS" weekend, dubbed "Speak Out at Stratcom," as part of a coalition called Citizens Against Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Although that coalition is planning to engage in a lawful demonstration at Offutt, near Bellevue south of Omaha, another organization called NukeWatch is coordinating plans for nonviolent civil disobedience at the site.

Civil disobedience activities traditionally involve stepping across a line marking the distance protesters must remain from a military base.

The proposed new generation of battlefield nuclear weapons, often referred to as mini-nukes or bunker-busters, would destroy "the firewall" between conventional and nuclear conflict, Rinne said.

"The likelihood of future conventional conflicts `going nuclear' would mushroom," he said. "And the nuclear genie would be out of the bottle with no prospect of ever being put back."

Bush administration officials have argued that battlefield nuclear weapons may be the only effective way to attack and destroy underground bunkers, tunnels and caves employed by terrorists and terrorist states.

Following Friday evening's opening forum, which begins at 6 p.m. at the Peter Kiewit Center in downtown Omaha, demonstrators will gather along the lagoon at Eugene Leahy Mall for a candlelight lantern float commemorating the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Saturday noon rally at Memorial Park will be followed by a free concert featuring recording artist Michelle Shocked.

Groups from Minneapolis, Des Moines, Iowa, and the Kansas City area have announced plans to send chartered buses to Omaha for the weekend activities, said Rebecca Kaiser, one of the event's organizers.

Reach Don Walton at 473-7248 or [dwalton@journalstar.com](mailto:dwalton@journalstar.com).

The Study Group helped quite a bit on this article. And we were there in Omaha, helping lead the Citizens Inspection referred to on the second page (aka "vigil"). The entire event was catalyzed by documents we released in February.

# Facing A Second Nuclear Age

The New York Times

Sunday, August 3, 2003

By WILLIAM J. BROAD

**T**HIS week, ten minutes by car south of Omaha, Neb., the United States Strategic Command is holding a little-advertised meeting at which the Bush administration is to solidify its plans for acquiring a new generation of nuclear arms. Topping the wish list are weapons meant to penetrate deep into the earth to destroy enemy bunkers. The Pentagon believes that more than 70 nations, big and small, now have some 1,400 underground command posts and sites for ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

Determined to fight fire with fire, the Defense Department wants bomb makers to develop a class of relatively small nuclear arms — ranging from a fraction the size of the Hiroshima bomb to several times as large — that could pierce rock and reinforced concrete and turn strongholds into radioactive dust.

"With an effective earth penetrator, many buried targets could be attacked," the administration said in its Nuclear Posture Review, which it sent to Congress last year.

Welcome to the second nuclear age and the Bush administration's quiet responses to the age's perceived dangers.

While initiatives like pre-emptive war have gotten most of the headlines (understandably, given the invasion of Iraq and its shaky aftermath), the administration is hard at work on other ways to counteract the spread of weapons like nuclear arms. Federal and private experts agree that with the notable exception of North Korea, diplomacy and arms control, for now, have taken a back seat to muscle flexing.

For instance, as part of its missile defense program, on which nearly \$8 billion is being spent this year, the administration is erecting a rudimentary system of ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California. By late next year, 10 interceptors are supposed to be ready to zap any warheads that North Korea might lob at the United States. Whether the system would work as advertised is open to doubt. But, then, so is whether North Korea could — or would — ever directly attack the United States.

Skeptics are more likely to think that North Korea has nuclear blackmail in mind, and that what the White House really is doing is an election-year bit of showing its determination, even as it moves toward negotiating with Pyongyang. Late last week, there were even signs that the North Koreans were beginning to consider a principal American demand — that they accede to talks not with the United States alone, but including other powers like China, Russia and Japan.

Still, while critics may berate the administration's plans and responses, the long-term dangers are considered real. Most alarming are the declared effort by North Korea to build a nuclear arsenal and a presumed effort by Iran. Experts talk of wide repercussions — of an atomic Iran inspiring nuclear ambitions in other Middle Eastern countries, and of North Korea prompting rapid proliferation in the Far East.

Japan is considered a likely flash point, despite its

historic disdain for things nuclear after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nisohachi Hyodo, once seen as part of the lunatic fringe for promoting a plan by which Japan would quickly acquire nuclear arms, now has his own radio program on a major Tokyo station and is a popular speaker on college campuses.

And if Japan went nuclear, experts say, China might feel compelled to expand its own arsenal.

Paul Bracken, a Yale political scientist who described the second nuclear age in "Fire in the East" (HarperCollins, 1999), argued that the danger lies not just in the spread of nuclear arms but in the culture of the second age. He said most of the new powers are poor, unlike their atomic predecessors. Thus, India, Pakistan and North Korea are cannibalizing their conventional forces to finance their atomic and missile ambitions. In a crisis, he said, the military repercussions of that trend could erode the traditional restraints on nuclear arms. Pakistan, he said, "will be forced to use them earlier."

Perhaps least-known of the administration's responses to the second age is its effort to fight arms of

## Will smaller atom bombs make America safer, or atomic war more likely?

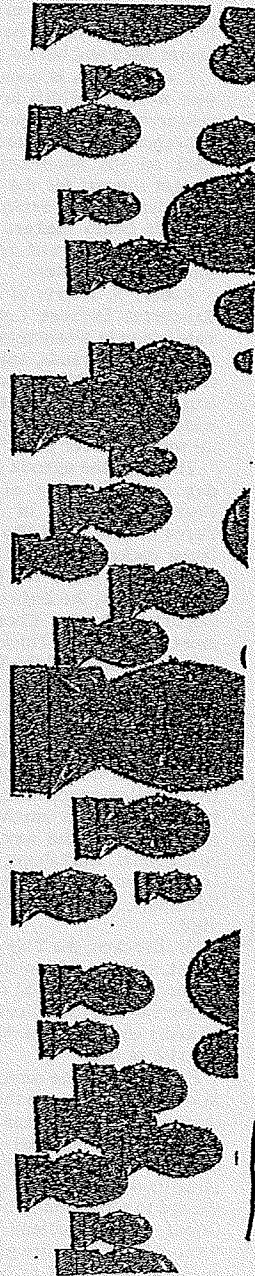
mass destruction with arms of mass destruction. Advocates say that relatively small nuclear weapons that burrowed deep into the ground to destroy enemy bunkers would cause reduced collateral damage — that is, less accidental destruction beyond the intended target.

"These kinds of capabilities could contribute to our ability to prevent attacks by deterring them," said Keith E. Payne, who from April 2002 to this May argued for the new arms as deputy assistant secretary of defense for forces policy. "If an opponent thinks he has a sanctuary, he could be emboldened to aggression."

Dr. Payne, who plans to be at the Omaha meeting, is now president of the National Institute for Public Policy, a Washington research group. He added that the new arms might dissuade an enemy from ever building deep bunkers. "It's not worth the investment," he said.

Critics hate the proposed arms, fearing that their relative smallness will breach the firewall between conventional and nuclear war and pose a new threat to world security. They also question whether radioactive fallout can be contained and denounce the project's overall secrecy.

"We worked hard to get civilian control over nuclear arms," said Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group, a private organization in Albuquerque that monitors arms labs. "Even though nuclear weapons are inimical to the democratic spirit, the idea of these being



made by a small minority is especially dangerous."

Dr. Payne challenged the idea that small weapons would lower the bar for nuclear war, saying America had deployed very small atomic arms in the past. "There's no evidence I've seen," he said, "that these made any U.S. president anything other than very reluctant to think about the use of nuclear weapons."

If the arms are ever built, critics say, the biggest hurdle to bunker busting may be targeting. Atomic intelligence is notoriously crude, as the failed weapons hunt in Iraq suggests. Recently, America's spies have also had trouble tracking nuclear arms production in Iran and in North Korea, which has a maze of secret sites and buried bunkers.

Congress, too, is uneasy about the new weapons, which are still in the research stage. Last month, a House appropriations subcommittee cut back on the administration's 2004 budget request for the arms, citing organizational disarray among the nation's bomb makers and calling "pursuit of a broad range of new initiatives premature."

Robert S. Norris of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a private group in Washington that monitors nuclear trends, said the rebuff from the Republican-led House was surprising. "But they may buy it," he added, "if the administration comes up with a clearer plan."

That tops the agenda this Wednesday and Thursday at Offutt Air Force Base south of Omaha. Air Force Maj. Michael Shavers, a Pentagon spokesman, said the meeting will involve some 150 people from weapons labs, the Defense and State Departments, the Energy Department, its National Nuclear Security Administration and the White House.

The United States Strategic Command, the host, controls the nation's deployed nuclear arms and writes the war plans for their use.

Eager to shed light on the secretive meeting, peace advocates organized a descent on Omaha this weekend to protest the new arms with educational workshops, a rally, a commemoration of the Japanese bombings, a peace concert and a vigil.

Dr. Bracken, the Yale political scientist, said the administration has a historic opportunity, of the Nixon-in-China variety, to pioneer a new kind of arms control that actually lowers the risk of war.

For instance, he said, the United States could renounce the first use of nuclear arms. He said that step would help counteract the current downward spiral toward a lower nuclear threshold. "In the cold war you needed to retain that," he said of the threat to use nuclear arms first. "But today, with more players in the game, there's a lot to be gained by giving it up."

# TheOmahaChannel.com

## Offutt Draws Protest

### *Hiroshima Survivors Among Speakers*

POSTED: 6:46 a.m. CDT August 4, 2003

UPDATED: 7:00 a.m. CDT August 4, 2003

**OMAHA, Neb.** -- About 300 marchers gathered Sunday at the gates of Offutt Air Force Base to protest nuclear weapons. Strategic Command is in charge of the nation's nuclear weapons, and is the site of a meeting of the nation's nuclear experts later this week.

Three of the protesters asked permission to enter the base as a citizen weapons inspection team to look over the U.S. Strategic Command based at Offutt. The three were promptly turned away. Event organizers expected as much, saying the request was a symbolic gesture. However, the protest outside the gates continued.

Among hundreds protesting nuclear weapons outside Offutt Air Force Base were several survivors of the atomic bombing at Hiroshima 58 years ago.

One survivor was Nakanishi Eiji, 61, who was three years old when the Japanese city was bombed. He said the A-bomb is a lifelong burden that he must carry. He added that those who were killed or injured by the bomb were not soldiers, but civilians.

Another survivor, Saito Masakazu, 79, was 21 when the blast severely injured him. He said today that he has had lifelong health problems since.

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## POLITICS

## Pentagon Nuclear Arms Session Worries Critics

Mon August 4, 2003 05:35 PM  
ET  
By Will Dunham

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - With the Bush administration pushing to study possible new types of atomic bombs, the Pentagon is set to hold a meeting this week on the U.S. nuclear arsenal as arms control advocates say Washington is only encouraging the global spread of nuclear weapons.

Maj. Michael Shavers, a Pentagon spokesman, said on Monday roughly 150 senior officials from the Defense Department and other parts of the government will meet in private on Thursday at Offutt Air Force Base, headquarters of U.S. Strategic Command near Omaha, Nebraska.

Arms control advocates worried that the Pentagon will use the meeting as a key next step toward creating a new generation of atomic bombs and resuming nuclear testing.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, said the meeting could produce a formal determination of a military requirement for a new or modified type of nuclear weapon.

"Traditionally, once there has been a stated need by the uniformed military for a new weapon to deal with some contingency or some threat that's out there, that has been the catalyst for design, engineering, development and testing of nuclear weapons," Kimball said.

Arguing that new threats such as deeply buried bunkers and enemy chemical and biological weapon stockpiles may require new weapons, the administration has asked Congress to permit research on possible new low-yield (less than 5 kiloton) nuclear bombs and on modifying two existing higher-yield ones.

Administration officials, citing concerns about the aging U.S. nuclear stockpile, also have said they can foresee conditions under which they would urge President Bush to resume nuclear testing. America has observed a nuclear test moratorium since 1992.

"Why in the world would we move toward manufacturing small, usable nuclear weapons and show how valuable they are, and then expect that no one will ever try to steal, beg or borrow one and use it against us?" asked Robert Musil, executive director of the Physicians for Social Responsibility advocacy group.

"It really stirs up proliferation, and that is one of our key concerns," Musil said.

Shavers said this week's meeting will be chaired by Pentagon official Michael Wynne. Shavers said others taking part come from the departments of state and energy, the



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National Nuclear Security Administration and the White House National Security Council.

"They're going to take a look at the status of the nation's nuclear stockpile, particularly with an eye toward the Moscow Treaty that says we've got to get our stockpile numbers down, and how do we do that in a manner that still allows us to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent," Shavers said.

Under this pact, the United States promised to cut the number of operationally deployed strategic nuclear weapons to 1,700 to 2,200 warheads by 2012, down from the current 6,000.

The Pentagon has not released specifics of what will be discussed at the meeting. But a leaked document released by a disarmament group, the Los Alamos Study Group, revealed the minutes of a January planning session.

The document said one panel will discuss "requirements for low-yield weapons, EPWs (earth-penetrating weapons), enhanced radiation weapons, agent defeat weapons (designed to obliterate enemy stocks of chemical and biological weapons) ... What forms of testing will these new designs require? ... What is the testing strategy for weapons more likely to be used in small strikes?"

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## **U.S. Marks Hiroshima Anniversary By Holding Top Secret Summit to Discuss Expanding Nation's Nuclear Arsenal**

Tuesday, August 5th, 2003

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=03/08/05/1455235>

Some 150 top U.S. officials and military contractors are scheduled to gather Thursday in Omaha, Nebraska at the U.S. Strategic Command Center. The meeting's agenda is secret as is the guest list. But observers say the Bush administration will likely agree to launch a new nuclear age. [Includes transcript]

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[Click here to read to full transcript](#)

This week marks the 58th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, 150 top U.S. officials and defense contractors will quietly meet in Omaha Nebraska to develop plans for the U.S. to expand its nuclear arsenal.

The meeting was supposed to be top secret. The list of attendees hasn't been released. Rumor has it that Vice President Dick Cheney will be in attendance. A man often compared to Dr. Strangelove, Keith Payne will be there. There are expected to be no advocates for nuclear disarmament.

The agenda of the meeting is also unknown but observers say the attendees are expected to begin rewriting the country's nuclear policy. Calls to resume nuclear testing are expected. So are calls to build a new generation of nukes.

To get an idea of what will likely be discussed you can just browse some of the headlines that have appeared in the nation's press over the past year.

Facing A Second Nuclear Age

Bush pushes for new nukes

A New Nuclear Age; Planners design technology to withstand the apocalypse,

Bush Plans to Serve Little Nukes At Next War Party

US sees renewed role for nukes in military arsenal

The bomb is back.

To protest the government's return to nuclear-friendly policies, over the weekend hundreds gathered outside the gates of the U.S. Strategic Command center, better known as Stratcom, where Thursday's meeting will take place. Four survivors from the U.S. nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were in attendance. Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich addressed the crowd. And a handful of attendees attempted to conduct citizens weapons inspections at Stratcom. Among those citizen weapons inspectors was Greg Mello, executive director of the Los Alamos Study Group. His organization revealed earlier this year that the government was planning to hold these secret nuclear talks.

- **Greg Mello**, director of the Los Alamos Study Group which monitors arms labs. He took part in protests in Nebraska and attempted to conduct a citizen's weapons inspection at the United States Strategic Command but was denied entry.

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## TRANSCRIPT

**GREG MELLO:** Good morning.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Good to have you with us Greg. Tell us more about this meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, at Stratcom.

**GREG MELLO:** It's Almost unprecedented to bring this many senior decision makers in the executive branch and their contractors together to discuss nuclear policy. On the terms of reference for these meetings are topics like how to frame the discussion in congress. What kind of authority do we need to begin small production runs of special weapons. Is the production complex agile enough to make these special weapons at short notice. What kind of nuclear testing do we need. And of course what are the weapons we want that will be as they put it most likely to be used. It is really a breathtaking agenda and yesterday I learned that those congressional staff members, committee staff members who want to just come and observe are being barred from the meeting. So we have a meeting which is pretty much stacked with contractors and it would be inaccurate not to say just ideologues and congressional oversight is being stiffed at the door.

**AMY GOODMAN:** What do you say about Pentagon saying it wants to develop a class of relatively small nuclear weapons, what does that mean?

**GREG MELLO:** It means many things. There are quite a few different candidates for production that will be discussed. We know this because the subject has come up in the 1990's. These plans aren't exactly new, but they have legs in the Bush administration. They didn't have before. So they're going to be high yield weapons discussed. There are going to be earth penetrating weapons. Socalled agent defeat weapons which are optimized to attempt the crazy mission of trying to incinerate biological weapons or chemical weapons. They're going to be enhanced radiation weapons. You remember that neutron bombs, there may even be some microwave weapon ideas brought to the table. We don't know all the kinds of weapons. But we know that they will run the gamut.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Can you talk about Keith Paine?

**GREG MELLO:** Keith Paine wrote an article in 1980, I think the title was, why not victory. There he suggested that the United States might be able to absorb losses of 20 million dead in a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. Which as you may remember is not too different than what Buck Turgidson said in

"Dr. Strangelove" he has been very active in think tank circles that are close to the Bush administration. The national institute for public policy(NIP), I think he is or was the president, I haven't kept up whether he is in government, in Mr. Rumsfeld's shop at this moment or gone back to NIP. In any case our best information is he is going to be there. Whether that's true or not, it's not too important because his coauthors of that 1980 article in are the Bush administration as well. People that were on the margins at one time are now very central in policy making .

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, what are your plans for this week, how did you discover that this meeting was taking place at Stratcom.

**GREG MELLO:** a document kind of fell into our hands. We can't take a lot of credit for it wasn't one of the documents that you struggle for a year to get. It just kind of fell out of the sky. We would like to know who exactly is going to be there. We'd like to know what exactly is the agenda. We'd like to know what are the so-called prereads, the material circulated to the committee members and what will be the outcome of this meeting and how will it be applied in the decision-making process. All of this is hard to pry out and I'm afraid that one of the things that makes it more difficult is that the democratic opposition to these nuclear weapons policies is not firm enough. People are most of the democrats are a little passive about this. Perhaps because they don't understand how dynamic this process is. And how many of the cards in the deck already are in the hands of those who would proceed with your testing, with development of these weapons.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Greg Mello, head of the Los Alamos group. Part of the protesting outside the Stratcom this week in Omaha, Nebraska, where major meeting that could launch a new generation of nuclear weapons is taking place, the United States strategic command which is host of this meeting controls the nation's deployed nuclear arms and writes the war plans for their use.

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### Washington Pushes the Nuclear Taboo

*Experts work hard on new anti-bunker weapons.*

By Pascal Riche  
La Liberation

Thursday 07 August 2003

Ten minutes south of Omaha, Offutt airbase appears from a distance to be a university campus. However the entrance, flanked by two enormous airplanes, a B52 and an EC135, is not easy: "If you cross this line, you'll be handcuffed. I don't recommend it", suggests a soldier. "StratCom" (Strategic Command), in charge of piloting the American nuclear arsenal, is located behind the bars in an armored underground shelter. That's where George W. Bush was hidden during the chaotic day of September 11, 2001...

This week, they fool around even less with security since the base expects to host a very secret meeting of very high level experts responsible for imagining the nuclear arsenal of the future. At least 150 scientists and strategists (from the Pentagon, the White House, laboratories such as Los Alamos, and even from contractors like Lockheed Martin...), all involved in nuclear military use, are to be hosted by StratCom today. The order of the day for this "Bomb Jamboree" was leaked on an anti-nuclear site, [the Los Alamos Study Group](#). Among the subjects for discussion: how to marry the nuclear arsenal to new precision weapons? Should nuclear anti-bunker weapons be developed? Should nuclear tests be resumed? So many questions that demonstrate that the Bush administration is not afraid to blur the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons, nor to take the exact opposite direction from internationally accepted doctrine, namely that the atomic bomb should serve as deterrent and for nothing else.

Gatherings. American pacifists sounded the alarm, without triggering much commotion. This weekend, a few gatherings were held in Omaha. "Nebraska's motto is "The Good Life"! How can they have a meeting here to develop the most fatal weapons in human history!" fulminates Becca Kaiser, a young militant from Lincoln. However, only 300 people (including a few survivors of Hiroshima) showed up Sunday at the entrance to Offutt Base, to demand "an inspection of the weapons of mass destruction"...

The meeting, dubbed "Stockpile Stewardship Conference", was decided on at the beginning of the year by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's entourage. The names of the participants are not public. No Congressional representative has been invited. The only organization capable of "civil" oversight of these discussions, the "National Nuclear Security Administration Advisory Panel", an offshoot of the Energy Department, was dissolved without advance notice... "These experts cultivate secrecy to try and surreptitiously advance their projects and so preempt political debate", concludes Greg Mello, Director of the Los Alamos Study Group.

To justify the study of "new" nuclear weapons, Pentagon experts bring up their present inability to reach deeply buried bunkers. According to the Defense Intelligence Agency, there are 10,000 military bunkers in 70 countries, 1,400 of which are linked to weapons of mass destruction... However these bunkers are outside the reach of American forces, which, in these terrorist days, Washington considers in itself an enormous threat. Only nuclear weapons would allow-perhaps- a resolution of this "technical impediment".

One of the fiercest advocates for the development of these weapons is the President of the National Institute for Public Policy, Keith Payne, who, after spending a year in the Pentagon, earned the nickname, "Rumsfeld's Dr. Strangelove". He should be participating in today's meeting. He asserts that these new nuclear weapons, far from reviving the arms race, will actually lead to

a... reduction of proliferation. In fact, he explained to the New York Times, they would deter hostile countries from investing in the construction of underground arsenals...

Dance of ideas. These arguments have found a fertile compost heap in the present administration. By declaring the MAD ("Mutual Assured Destruction") doctrine, on which deterrence rested up to now, obsolete, Bush opened the dance of new ideas. In December 2001, the Nuclear Posture Review, a theoretically confidential document submitted to Congress by the Pentagon, suggested the hypothesis of new nuclear tests to "respond to the goals of the twenty-first century" and considered it necessary "to develop new capabilities to respond to emerging threats, such as deeply buried targets..." The war against terrorism has exploded all taboos. So, Gary Schmidt, Director of the neoconservative research center, the Project for a New American Century, rejects the idea that there was a "red line" in this area that should not be crossed: "These new projects will not trigger proliferation because proliferation already exists", he concludes.

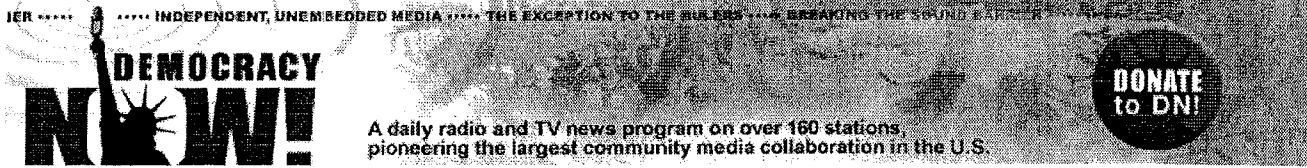
Congress, however, is more cautious. Last month, the House of Representatives dramatically reduced the projected budget for research in new weapons, considering them "premature". The final Senate position remains to be seen: it will have the last word when the recess is over.

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*Translation: TruthOut French language correspondent Leslie Thatcher.*

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**U.S. Top Secret Nuke Meeting May Mark Start of New Nuclear Age**

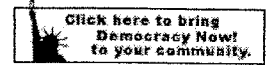
150 Top Pentagon officials, nuclear scientists and defense contractors will meet behind closed doors today in a top secret meeting to discuss rewriting the country's nuclear strategy. Congressional observers have been barred from attending. Some observers fear the attendees will agree to end the U.S. moratorium on nuclear testing and to launch a new generation of nuclear weapons.

The meeting is taking place at the Offutt military base also known as U.S. Strategic Command outside of Omaha Nebraska.

The *Guardian* of London notes many ironies of the meeting's location and timing:

The Offutt site inspired the setting for the 1964 film *Dr Strangelove*.

Attendees of the meeting arrived last night on the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing and some are expected to stay until Saturday, the anniversary of the attack on Nagasaki.



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The B-29 planes which dropped those nuclear bombs, were both built at the base.

The *Guardian* writes QUOTE “ The use of those weapons marked the beginning of the cold war and the first nuclear age. Today's meeting, many observers believe, could mark the start of a second.”

Protests outside the base took place over the weekend and resumed yesterday. We are joined on the phone by one of them, Father Frank Cordero from the Des Moines Catholic Worker movement.

XML Headlines**Up to 10 Die in Car Bombing at Jordanian Embassy in Iraq**

This news from Baghdad: Up to 10 people have died after a car bomb exploded outside the Jordanian embassy today. Another 40 were injured.

Meanwhile two U.S. soldiers died last night in separate firefights in Baghdad. *The New York Times* reports the U.S. plans to scale back the number of house raids in Iraq because the raids are turning the population against U.S. troops.

**Palestinians Charge Israel's Release of Prisoners Is PR Ploy**

Israel yesterday freed nearly 340 Palestinian prisoners in a move hailed by Gen. Ariel Sharon as a sign that Israel is committed to peace. But the *Guardian* of London reports the Palestinian leadership dismissed the move as a public relations ploy. Most of the freed men were within months, weeks and days of being released.

**The ABCs of Who's Who in the Calif. Recall: A is for Arnold, B is for Bustamante, C is for Coleman**

The California gubernatorial race yesterday got a lot more crowded. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the star of films such as *The Terminator* and *Conan the Barbarian*, announced he would run as a Republican. Political pundit and columnist Arianna Huffington threw her hat into the ring. So did Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante and child acting star Gary Coleman of *Different Strokes*. Earlier in the week Larry Flynt, the publisher of *Hustler*, said he too would run. Over 200 people have now taken out papers to replace Gov. Gray Davis if voters recall him in October.

If Schwarzenegger wins, he would become the second actor elected governor in California. The first was Ronald Reagan.

**Bali Bomber Sentenced to Death**

An Indonesian court today sentenced Amrozi bin Nurhasyim to death by firing squad after he was found guilty of helping orchestrate last year's bombing in Bali that killed more than 200 people.

Meanwhile the death toll of Tuesday's bombing outside the Marriott Hotel in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta has risen to

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**Last Update:** Thursday, August 7, 2003. 4:29pm (AEST)

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# 'Secret' nuclear meeting revealed

Arms control groups say the development of mini nuclear weapons will be discussed tomorrow at a top level meeting in the United States.

The conference is taking place at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters at an air base near the city of Omaha in Nebraska.

The BBC reports the meeting was supposed to take place in secret.

The US Defence Department has now acknowledged that the meeting in Nebraska involves 150 people, including officials, technicians and scientists.

Arms control groups are convinced they will discuss the new generation of nuclear weapons.

It is already clear, through testimonies to Congress and elsewhere, what direction many experts want the defence establishment to take.

They want to move towards the development of small, low-yield weapons, or 'mini nukes'.

They would be designed to burrow themselves deep underground before exploding.

That is in tune with President Bush's doctrine that the US should be capable of carrying out controlled pre-emptive strikes on hidden weapons of mass destruction.

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## 'Dr Strangeloves' meet to plan new nuclear era

Julian Borger in Bellevue, Nebraska

Thursday August 7, 2003

The Guardian

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In this section

US government scientists and Pentagon officials will gather today behind tight security at a Nebraska air force base to discuss the development of a modernised arsenal of small, specialised nuclear weapons which critics believe could mark the dawn of a new era in proliferation.

The Pentagon has not released a list of the 150 people at the secret meeting, but according to leaks, they will include scientists and administrators from the three main nuclear weapons laboratories, Los Alamos, Sandia and Livermore, senior officers from the air force and strategic command, weapons contractors and civilian defence officials.

Requests by Congress to send observers were rejected, and an oversight committee which included academic nuclear experts was disbanded only a few weeks earlier.

The purpose of the meeting, at Offutt air force base, only became known after a draft agenda was leaked earlier this year, which included discussions on a new generation of low-yield "mini-nukes", "bunker-buster" bombs for possible use against rogue states or organisations armed with nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

The session will also debate whether development of the weapons will require the White House to end the US moratorium on nuclear testing declared in 1992.

Major Michael Shavers, a Pentagon spokesman, said: "We need to change our nuclear strategy from the cold war to one that can deal with emerging threats."

He said the administration remained committed to the test moratorium (the US has not ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, but has pledged to observe it). But he said: "The meeting will give some thought to how we guarantee the efficacy of the [nuclear] stockpile."

While insisting that it has no plans to resume testing, the administration has asked Congress for funds for a project that would cut down the amount of time it would take for the cold war-era test site in Nevada to start functioning again.

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Yesterday, a steady stream of men in summer suits and uniforms arrived at Omaha airport, to be met by welcoming parties of air force officers and taken to the Offutt base, 10 miles to the south in the small town of Bellevue.

The lushly-landscaped base, where the grey shell of a B-52 bomber has been mounted behind a screen of fruit trees, sits atop a labyrinth of high-tech bunkers from where strategic command is poised, 24 hours a day, to fight a nuclear war. It inspired the setting for the 1964 film Dr Strangelove. It is where President George Bush was flown on September 11 2001, when it was thought that the terrorist attacks could be part of a sustained onslaught on the US.

The place and time of the Offutt meeting is infused with apparently unintended historical irony. The visitors arrived on the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing and the last will be leaving on Saturday, the anniversary of the attack on Nagasaki. The B-29 planes which dropped those nuclear bombs, Enola Gay and Bock's Car, were both built at Offutt.

The use of those weapons marked the beginning of the cold war and the first nuclear age. Today's meeting, many observers believe, could mark the start of a second.

"This is a confab of Dr Strangeloves," said Daryl Kimball, head of the Arms Control Association, a national non-partisan membership organisation dedicated to working for arms control.

"The fact that the Pentagon is barring the public and congressional staff from this key meeting on US nuclear weapons policy suggests that the administration seeks to discuss and deliberate on its policies largely in secret."

The uncanny echoes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not go unnoticed by a handful of Catholic protesters from Iowa who have gathered at Offutt to mark the anniversaries for the past 25 years.

## **Blasphemy**

Father Frank Cordaro, the leader of the protest group, said: "This is an American blasphemy to life and to God. They are going to violate another treaty by developing small nuclear weapons. We had made the promise not to do these weapons, but this sole superpower is just ignoring the non-proliferation treaty. That's madness."

Today's meeting traces its origins to a report by the

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National Institute for Public Policy (NIPP) published in January 2001 as the Bush administration took office. The report argued for a "smaller, more efficient, arsenal" of specialised weapons. Some deeply buried targets, it argued, could only be destroyed by "one or more nuclear weapons". Only by developing these new weapons could the US maintain its deterrent, it said.

Paul Robinson, the head of the Sandia weapons laboratory, who is attending the Offutt meeting, believes that America's new adversaries would be more successfully deterred if the line between conventional and nuclear weapons was blurred.

### Senior jobs

He argued in a recent commentary in the Albuquerque Tribune that "military strategy is evolving to consider combinations of conventional and/or nuclear attacks for pre-emption or retaliation."

Many of the NIPP report's authors went on to take senior positions in the administration, including Linton Brooks, head of the national nuclear security administration which oversees new weapons projects, Stephen Hadley, the deputy national security adviser, and Stephen Cambone, undersecretary of defence for intelligence.

The report became the basis for the administration's Nuclear Posture Review in late 2001 which contemplated the use of nuclear weapons pre-emptively against rogue states, to destroy stockpiles of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

The officials involved in compiling both documents will play a prominent role at Offutt, but scientists and officials with dissenting views have not been invited.

"I was specifically told I couldn't come," a congressional weapons expert said.

Greg Mello, the head of the Los Alamos Study Group, a watchdog organisation, said: "There will be tonnes of contractors there from the weapons labs and the weapons plants. Contractors can come, but Congress can't."

The Pentagon insists that today's meeting is technical rather than policy-making, but critics are concerned that it is being used to build up momentum behind the development of the weapons, despite opposition from Congress.

"I'm suspicious that further down the road, they're going to

say 'this was decided at Offutt', or 'this comes out of the recommendations at Offutt', a congressional staff member said.

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## monde

## Washington bouscule le tabou nucléaire

Des experts planchent sur de nouvelles armes antibunkers.

Par Pascal RICHE Omaha, Nebraska envoyé spécial

jeudi 07 août 2003

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articles les plus envoyés

«Ces nouveaux projets ne déclencheront pas de prolifération, parce que la prolifération existe déjà.»

Gary Schmidt, directeur d'un centre de recherche néoconser-vateur

A dix minutes au sud d'Omaha, la base aérienne d'Offutt, ressemble de loin à un campus universitaire. Mais l'entrée, flanquée de deux énormes avions, un B52 et un EC135, n'est pas aisée : «*Si vous franchissez cette ligne, vous serez menotté. Je vous le déconseille*», suggère un militaire. Derrière les grilles se trouve, dans un abri sous-terrain blindé, le «StratCom» (Strategic Command), chargé de piloter l'arsenal atomique américain. C'est là que George W. Bush avait été caché lors de la journée chaotique du 11 septembre 2001...

Cette semaine, on plaisante d'autant moins avec la sécurité que la base attend, dans la plus grande discrétion, une réunion d'experts de très haut niveau, chargés d'imaginer ce que sera l'arsenal nucléaire du futur. Pas moins de 150 scientifiques et stratèges (du Pentagone, de la Maison Blanche, de laboratoires comme Los Alamos, et même de contractants comme Lockheed Martin...), tous impliqués dans le nucléaire militaire, doivent être reçus aujourd'hui par le StratCom. L'ordre du jour de ce «jamboree de la bombe» a fuité sur un site antinucléaire, le Los Alamos Study Group. Parmi les points en discussion : comment marier l'arsenal nucléaire aux nouvelles armes de précision? faut-il développer des armes nucléaires antibunkers? faut-il reprendre les tests nucléaires? Autant de questions qui montrent que l'administration Bush ne craint plus de brouiller la frontière entre armes nucléaires et conventionnelles, et à prendre le contre-pied de la doctrine internationalement acceptée, à savoir que la bombe atomique ne doit servir qu'à la dissuasion et rien d'autre.

Rassemblements. Les pacifistes américains ont sonné l'alarme, mais sans déclencher un grand émoi. Ce week-end, quelques rassemblements ont eu lieu à Omaha. «*La devise du Nebraska, c'est "la bonne vie" ! Comment peut-on y tenir une réunion visant à développer les armes les plus mortelles de l'humanité !*», s'indigne Becca Kaiser, une jeune militante de Lincoln. Mais seules 300 personnes (dont quelques survivants de Hiroshima) se sont retrouvées dimanche devant l'entrée de la base d'Offutt, pour exiger «*une inspection des armes de destruction massive*»...

à lire aussi

Le vocabulaire de la dissuasion

(Publicité)

La réunion, baptisée «Stockpile Stewardship Conference», a été décidée au début de l'année par l'entourage du secrétaire à la Défense, Donald Rumsfeld. Les noms des participants ne sont pas publics. Aucun représentant du Congrès n'a été invité. Le seul organe capable de jeter un regard «civil» sur ces discussions, le «National Nuclear Security Administration Advisory Panel», dépendant du département de l'Energie, a été dissous sans préavis... «*Ces experts cultivent le secret pour tenter d'avancer subrepticement leurs projets, et de préempter ainsi le débat politique*», juge Greg Mello, directeur du Los Alamos Study Group.


Pour justifier la réflexion sur de «nouvelles» armes nucléaires, les experts du Pentagone évoquent l'impossibilité actuelle d'atteindre des bunkers enterrés profondément. Selon la Defense Intelligence Agency, il existe, dans 70 pays, 10 000 bunkers militaires, dont 1 400 sont liés à des armes de destruction massive... Mais ces bunkers sont hors de portée des forces américaines, ce qui, en ces temps de terrorisme, est considéré à Washington comme une énorme menace. Seules des armes nucléaires permettraient peut-être de résoudre ce «blocage technique».

L'un des farouches partisans du développement de telles armes est le président du National Institute for Public Policy, Keith Payne, qui, après avoir passé un an au Pentagone, a gagné le surnom de «*Dr Folamour de Rumsfeld*». Il doit participer à la réunion d'aujourd'hui. Il affirme que ces nouvelles armes nucléaires, loin de relancer la course aux armements, conduiront en réalité à une... réduction de la prolifération. En effet, a-t-il expliqué au *New York Times*, elles dissuaderont les pays hostiles d'investir dans la construction d'arsenaux sous-terrains...

**Bal des idées.** Ces arguments ont trouvé, dans l'administration actuelle, un terreau fertile. En déclarant caduque la doctrine MAD («Mutual Assured Destruction»), sur lequel reposait jusque-là la dissuasion, Bush a ouvert le bal des idées nouvelles. En décembre 2001, le *Nuclear Posture Review*, un document théoriquement confidentiel remis au Congrès par le Pentagone, suggérait l'hypothèse de nouveaux tests nucléaires pour «*répondre aux objectifs du XXIe siècle*» et estimait nécessaire de «*développer de nouvelles capacités pour répondre à des menaces émergentes comme les cibles enterrées profondément...*» La guerre contre le terrorisme a fait sauter tous les tabous. Ainsi, Gary Schmidt, directeur du Project for a New American Century, centre de recherche néoconservateur, refuse l'idée qu'il existerait en la matière une «ligne rouge» à ne pas franchir : «*Ces nouveaux projets ne déclencheront pas de prolifération, parce que la prolifération existe déjà*», estime-t-il.

Le Congrès, pourtant, est plus prudent. Le mois dernier, la chambre des Représentants a réduit drastiquement l'enveloppe budgétaire prévue pour

les recherches sur ces nouvelles armes, les estimant «*prématurées*». Reste à connaître la position finale du Sénat : c'est lui qui aura le dernier mot, à la rentrée.

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**Last Update:** Friday, August 8, 2003. 7:00am (AEST)

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— Bounce —

# US not restarting nuclear testing: Powell

The US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, says the Bush administration has no intention to recommence nuclear weapons testing.

The US Strategic Air Command has been meeting this week to discuss the future of America's nuclear arsenal, including the development of so-called mini-nuclear weapons.

Mr Powell says the administration has consistently held the view there is no need to begin nuclear weapons tests for the moment.

"The president has no intention of testing nuclear weapons, we have no need to," he said.

"All nuclear holding powers have a responsibility to make sure that their stockpiles are safe and reliable. We see no need to test in order to do that at the moment."

Mr Powell's comments came as up to 150 scientists and officials involved in the US military's nuclear weapons program were due to meet.

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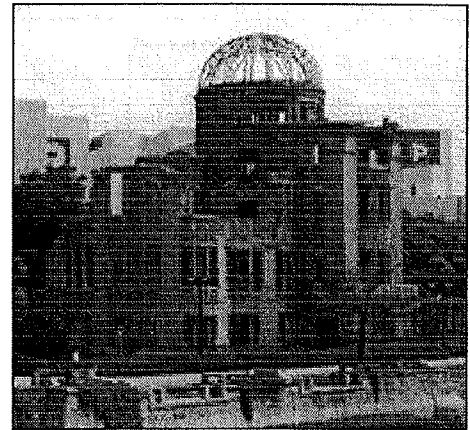
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an independent magazine of the green and radical left in Britain

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## rabble news

# 58 years on



**Where may nuclear developments lead? What will be the role of the US, and how have artists responded to the nuclear danger?**

*The Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome - Located directly beneath the center of explosion. it is the symbol of the people of Hiroshima's hope that it will not happen again.*

>by Scott Redding; research by Claudia De Simone  
August 8, 2003

*Father Kleinsorge heard a voice from the underbrush, "Have you anything to drink?" He saw a uniform. Thinking there was just one soldier, he approached with the water. When he had penetrated the bushes, he saw there were about twenty men, and they were all in exactly the same nightmarish state: their faces were wholly burned, their eyesockets were hollow, the fluid from their melted eyes had run down their cheeks. (They must have had their faces upturned when the bomb went off; perhaps they were anti-aircraft personnel.) ... One of them said, "I can't see anything." Father Kleinsorge answered, as cheerily as he could, "There's a doctor at the entrance to the park. He's busy now, but he'll come soon and fix your eyes, I hope."*

- John Hersey, "Hiroshima"

8:15 a.m. on Aug. 6, 1945, and a second sun lit the sky above Hiroshima.

For forty-five years, our lexicon contained doublethink: balance of terror, mutually assured destruction and the friendly idea of a

2004 budget request for funding the development of small nuclear weapons. Tadatoshi Akiba said it represented "an extremely regrettable frontal attack on the process of nuclear disarmament."

American Friends Service Committee, "[The Bush Administration's nuclear weapons policy: a double standard with lethal implications](#)," June 2003

"[A Threat to Peace](#)" - a map of the US from NYC Indymedia that outlines all submarine bases, mercenary companies, nuclear facilities and corporate partners of the US military-industrial complex.

#### Art and Nuclear War:

[Art of the Hibakusha](#) — this collection of paintings began in 1974 when a survivor presented a hand drawn picture to the NHK (the Japan Broadcasting Corporation). The drawing was broadcast on Japanese television. Soon, thousands of drawings by other hibakusha began to arrive at the offices of NHK. An exhibition of the collected Paintings and Drawings was mounted at the Peace Culture Center of Hiroshima in 1975. Since that time the Artworks have been compiled into several books and travelling exhibitions.

[The Hiroshima Archive](#) is at Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon. Their Hiroshima Directory offers Internet resources as well as a selected bibliography of printed books, articles, and other research materials. Their Gallery shows poignant imagery from the postwar work "Hiroshima" by Hiromi Tsuchida, published with permission.

[Paul Quayle](#), a photographer based in Hiroshima, has a website of photos from his book, "Hiroshima Calling"

[The War Game](#), a drama documentary made for BBC TV in 1965 about a "limited" nuclear attack on England was banned from British TV for 20 years. The director, Peter Watkins, exposes the inadequacy of the nation's Civil Defence programme and questions the philosophy of the nuclear deterrent

Anand Patwardhan battled the Indian censor board for 1 ½ years. The board had requested 21 cuts to his award-winning documentary, [War and Peace](#). From the plight of residents living near the nuclear test site, and the horrendous effects of [uranium mining on local indigenous populations](#), it becomes clear that, contrary to a myth first created in the U.S., there is no such thing as the "peaceful Atom."

*Scott Redding is a former Columns Editor with rabble; Claudia De Simone is an intern with rabble.*

[Bounce]

# Front Page

## US proliferation and bunker busters

By Katrin Dauenhauer



WASHINGTON - The Strategic Command (Stratcom) meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, this week, behind closed doors, will involve some 150 people from weapons laboratories, the US Energy, Defense and State departments, and the White House. The weapons labs of the Pentagon and the Department of Energy have already proposed developing low-yield nuclear earth-penetrating weapons, also referred to as nuclear bunker busters.

Since President George W Bush last year announced plans to deploy a limited missile defense system at several sites in the US, counter-proliferation has moved center-stage.

Under current administration plans, new strategic nuclear forces will remain in the US arsenal until at least 2070, the 100th anniversary of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, under which the United States and other nuclear-weapon states promised to disarm.

"In my view, proposals for new nuclear weapons provide no military value for the United States and it would result in enormous political, diplomatic and proliferation costs," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, a Washington-based non-governmental research organization.

"To pursue the development of new types of nuclear weapons would make the task to ban the spread of nuclear weapons even more difficult," he said. "There is a 'do as I say, not as I do' philosophy implied. In order to develop and produce them, testing would be required that by itself would trigger a global reaction cycle that would harm international security. China might resume testing, or Russia."

Meanwhile, a 112-page report by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), an advocacy group based in Washington, states, "The 2002 National Security Strategy is radical in its prescription for a preventive or preemptive use of force in halting NBC [nuclear, biological, chemical] weapons proliferation."

That strategy to fight weapons of mass destruction (WMD) "is a dramatic extension of the policy of counter proliferation, and gives a far greater role than in the past to nuclear weapons within that strategy", continues the report, "What Wrongs Our Arms May Do", presented at a conference on Tuesday.

Critics also oppose bunker busters, fearing that their relative smallness will blur the line between conventional and nuclear war, posing a new threat to world security.

They also question whether radioactive fallout can actually be contained. "Constraints of physics stop bunker busters from being effective, as there are limits to how far the bomb can penetrate. In order to hit the deepest bunker - meaning 20-30 feet [six to nine meters] - it has to be a large bomb to send shock waves to penetrate down," said Martin Butcher, director of security programs at PSR and author of the report. "However, this will lead the fireball ... to disperse and radiate

Aug 8, 2003

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dust particles up into the atmosphere, creating a dirty bomb - the most dangerous weapon there is," he said. "These questions just weren't addressed by those who are in charge of the development of these weapons," added Butcher.

In the 2003 federal budget, Bush requested US\$15.5 million for research on bunker busters. The administration is spending almost \$8 billion on missile defense this year, which will include equipping a California air force base with interceptor missiles.

Washington's missile-defense plans are also intricately linked to its preemptive-war policies aimed at countering proliferation of WMD, say critics.

While the administration argues that the missile-defense system will increase protection against a missile attack, experts question that assumption. "Missile defense will encourage the United States to pursue preemptive attacks, possibly with tactical nuclear weapons," said Martha Clar, author of another PSR report, "A False Sense of Security: The Role of Missile Defenses in Counter-Proliferation Doctrine", at a conference on Tuesday. "Missile-defense deployment will actually encourage proliferation as rogue states attempt to develop the number of weapons necessary to overwhelm a US missile defense," she added.

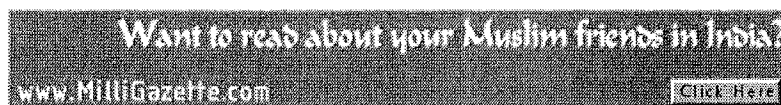
If the United States resumed new nuclear testing, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would be severely harmed, critics charge. Washington signed the treaty in 1996, but the Senate denied its ratification in 1999. Still, the United States' current status as a signatory places considerable political constraint on future testing, experts say.

"If the United States started testing again, it would destroy the treaty, which has been the goal of American administrations for 40 years. To throw this away would be reckless," said Butcher.

Coinciding with the Stratcom meeting are countrywide commemorations of the August 1945 US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in which 215,000 people were incinerated instantly or died from injuries that year.

"It's actually a tragic thing that in the week when people across the world remember the two uses of nuclear weapons in war in Hiroshima and Nagasaki that this administration should get together hundreds of its top officials and have them examine how to develop new nuclear weapons and test new nuclear weapons and maintain America's nuclear arsenal for the rest of the century," said Butcher.

(Inter Press Service)



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## Closure of Lab Nuke Site Urged

### Journal Staff and Wire Reports

#### AROUND NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

Nearly 50 businesses and nonprofit organizations have called for the closure of Los Alamos National Laboratory's "Area G" nuclear waste disposal site in a letter to Gov. Bill Richardson.

The letter, organized by the Los Alamos Study Group, follows a petition signed by 3,350 people urging the state to close the site.

"We hope that other nonprofits and businesses in New Mexico will join those who have stepped forward this week," said Study Group Director Greg Mello. "This is an age of political cynicism, but these organizations and businesses understand that only by our participation can we save our democracy."

The letter and the list of signatories is available online at [www.lasg.org](http://www.lasg.org).

Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)  
Title: NAMING THE DEAD  
Author: CELIA SHATZMAN, Photos: Jamie Humphrey  
Date: September 9, 2003  
Section: Santa Fe/El Norte  
Page: B-1

## VIGIL TO REMEMBER MORE THAN 14,000 CIVILIANS KILLED ON SEPT. 11, 2001, AND IN SUBSEQUENT WAR ON TERROR

A 24-hour vigil will be held from midnight Wednesday to midnight Thursday at the state Capitol for civilians who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

About 14,460 civilians have been killed, and their names will be read aloud during the 24-hour period. That means a name will be read aloud every six seconds until the vigil ends. Dead civilians whose names are not known will be read as Afghan One or Iraqi Two and so on.

More than 100 people have volunteered to read names, said Joe Mowrey, organizer of the event, which is co-sponsored by Veterans for Peace, the **Los Alamos study group**, and the Empty Chair Project, which is Mowrey's organization.

"We decided to do a 24-hour vigil because we needed that much time ... to fit them all in, and it seems appropriate to be inclusive of all 24 hours of Sept. 11," said Mowrey. "The concept of a vigil is going out of your normal schedule and staying awake and holding a watch, a vigil."

Beverly Weiler, who will be among those reading names, said she decided to volunteer because her cousin, Julie Geis, was killed during the World Trade Center attack. Geis was attending a work-related training session in one of the buildings. Weiler will be reading her cousin's name early Thursday morning. Her nephew was also in the World Trade Center at the time of the attack, but he escaped.

"I think it's very necessary to keep remembering and to honor the lives of everyone, both (those who) were killed and ... that are still alive," said Weiler. "Each person counts, each person's life is important, and everything that happens to each person affects all of us. ... It's important to be able to continue the grief process with other people in the community, to remember that we're all part of a large community, and that we're all continuing to grieve."

Along with the reading of names, a wooden peg will be placed in a frame as each name is read. The pegs will be of three colors: orange for those killed in the World Trade Center attack, green for civilians killed in Afghanistan and purple for those killed in Iraq.

Weiler likes the idea of including Afghan and Iraqi civilians in the vigil, since she has nieces and nephews serving in the military. "It's important to know that each person's life is as valuable as every other life. Whether they are citizens of the United States or of another country, their lives are valuable to me," Weiler said.

"We decided to include Afghanistan and Iraq because they are all innocent civilians whose deaths are a result of what's gone on in our country since Sept. 11. And because there is so little attention paid to those killed in Afghanistan or Iraq, it is never mentioned in our media," said Mowrey. "I

think most Americans have the impression that we just went over there and blew up a bunch of empty buildings, but Baghdad is a city of 5 million. There were people living in that city."

Veterans for Peace will also display their Iraq Vinyl Wall series, consisting of 10 8-foot-long panels. The display includes the name and information, and photo if available, of all American and British soldiers killed in Iraq. That number is greater than 300.

"We want to make people aware of the horrible thing that is going on," said Mowrey. "Most Americans are asleep, considering these issues. Our government has adopted a policy of pre-emptive war, and most people don't seem to care. We invaded Iraq based on what has clearly now been seen as a series of blatant lies of weapons of mass destruction, and we brought a country to their knees, that has no army or air force."

Santa Fe is a long distance from these events, Weiler said, but they still have an impact. "Individually, we all probably knew someone or knew someone who knew someone (killed on Sept. 11), (so) somehow we're all personally affected in a deep and profound way ...," said Weiler. "Every time we take an airplane, every time we hear a helicopter, every time we leave our families and friends for any extended period of time, we're aware ... that we may not come back as easily as we have in the past."

Author: CELIA SHATZMAN, Photos: Jamie Humphrey  
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# Japan Bounce

## US must get serious on WMD policy

By Ralph A Cossa

KUALA LUMPUR - On Wednesday, August 6, peace activists from around the world flocked to Hiroshima, Japan, to pray for peace and remember those who died when the first nuclear bomb was dropped on that city 58 years ago. More subdued ceremonies have marked the anniversary of the second, and we all hope last, use of nuclear weapons in anger on August 9, 1945, in Nagasaki.



Sandwiched in between these two dates was a "secret" conference in Omaha, Nebraska, where senior US Defense Department officials reportedly met with nuclear-weapons specialists to discuss ways of upgrading America's aging nuclear arsenal. While one can argue that there is never a good time to discuss the use of nuclear weapons, the Pentagon's timing of this event underscores and reinforces the impression around the world of US callousness toward the views and feelings of others.

These views have been very much in evidence at this year's annual Asia Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur. Speaker after speaker, including many who have traditionally been supportive of Washington and still favor a continued US military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, condemned US "unilateralism" and "arrogance". While some of these accusations are emotional and do not stand up to the facts - or overlook the reality that all nations, when their interests appear at stake, act unilaterally - the bottom line remains: the administration of US President George W Bush has a serious image problem that it appears intent on exacerbating. Given its "hyperpower" status, many argued, Washington no longer is concerned about what others think. Multilateralism, US-style, means "get on our bandwagon or get out of the way".

Washington sees itself as a primary proponent of nuclear non-proliferation. Its current standoff with North Korea is aimed, first and foremost, at stemming the development and potential use or export of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Washington, along with the international community in general, demands that Pyongyang rejoin and honor its commitment to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Yet Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba says the NPT is "on the verge of collapse", not because of North Korean actions but because the United States "appears to worship nuclear weapons as God".

Akiba described US policy as "openly declaring the possibility of a preemptive nuclear first strike". To my knowledge, the United States does not have and has never professed to support a "preemptive nuclear first strike" strategy. Nonetheless, this accusation has increasingly been accepted as fact. After all, the Bush administration's National Security Strategy endorses a strategy of preemption against the use of WMD and the Pentagon's Nuclear Posture Review (as leaked to the press) reportedly lays out contingencies under which nuclear weapons may be used. While neither talks about "first use", they don't rule it out either.

The latest "proof", as cited by Mayor Akiba, is the Bush

Aug 9, 2003

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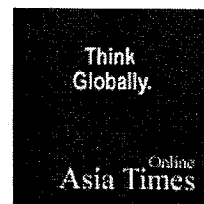
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administration's "resumed research into mini-nukes and other so-called 'usable nuclear weapons'". He is referring to recent congressional legislation approving research on the potential development of smaller nuclear weapons (reversing a 10-year ban on research and development of weapons with a yield of less than five kilotons). Approval actually to produce such weapons was neither sought by the Pentagon nor granted by Congress. The legislation does permit the Pentagon to begin examining, in Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's words, "a variety of different ways - conceivably - to develop the ability to reach a deeply buried target". This is the apparent objective of the Omaha meeting.

Critics at home and abroad are quick to point out that such actions run contrary to the Bush administration's professed counter-proliferation goals, since they emphasize rather than downplay the potential future importance of nuclear weapons and thus could encourage others also to seek this edge. It's no wonder, critics argue, that North Korea feels compelled to pursue its own nuclear deterrent in the face of this increased US nuclear threat.

While experts can easily dismiss such misconceptions, they have a cumulative impact on the minds of friends and potential foes alike about Washington's commitment to the NPT (under which the nuclear-weapons states also have responsibilities) and to the probability or desirability of the future use of nuclear weapons. This hardly serves US non-proliferation or broader national-security interests.

Perhaps it's time for the Bush administration to consider a "no first use of weapons of mass destruction" policy. This would emphasize the purely deterrent role that nuclear weapons continue to play in US defense strategy, not just against the use of nuclear weapons by potential adversaries but by their use of chemical or biological weapons (the "poor man's nukes") as well. It recognizes the political reality that the American people would never tolerate the use of nuclear weapons by its government other than in self-defense in response to a WMD strike; and the military reality that, in this age of advanced technology and US weapons superiority, nuclear weapons are not needed either for preemption or to prevail in a conventional conflict.

It's time for Washington to return to the moral high road and put the WMD debate into proper perspective. A "no first use of weapons of mass destruction" policy declaration would be a significant step in this direction.

*Ralph A Cossa is president of the Pacific Forum CSIS (e-mail [pacforum@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pacforum@hawaii.rr.com)), a Honolulu-based non-profit research institute affiliated with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, and senior editor of Comparative Connections, a quarterly electronic journal. This article is used by permission.*



# TAIPEI TIMES



S E P T E M B E R 11th, 2003  
**LOSS of INNOCENTS**  
 9/11 · AFGHANISTAN · IRAQ

**24-HOUR VIGIL**

The Roundhouse, New Mexico State Capitol  
 (midnight September 10th until midnight September 11th)

**READING OF NAMES**

14,375 names & surrogate numbers will be read aloud in remembrance of innocent civilian lives lost in the attacks of 9/11 and the invasions of Afghanistan & Iraq.

**COMMEMORATIVE MOSAIC**

A mosaic will be assembled using three different colors of wooden pegs. One peg will be placed in the mosaic as each name is read.

*To participate by reading names  
 and/or placing pegs in the mosaic  
 contact Joe Mowrey at 988-5582*

*A Time for Contemplation  
 A Celebration of Hope*



*Sponsored by Los Alamos Study Group, Veterans for Peace and The Empty Chair Project*

**Events Across New Mexico  
 Mark Two-Year Anniversary**

9/11/03

*Journal Staff Report*

Ceremonies commemorating the attacks of Sept. 11 will start early and last throughout the day around New Mexico.

This morning's events will include an observation of silence at 8:45 a.m. in all Albuquerque's city facilities and the ringing of fire alarms by Bernalillo County firefighters.

In Las Cruces, the city, Doña Ana County and New Mexico State University are hosting two remembrances on the university campus.

In the first event, starting at 6:46 a.m. on the university Horseshoe — the time at which the first of two hijacked airliners struck the World Trade Center in New York City — a muted bell will toll once every two seconds until 8:28 a.m., when the second tower collapsed. The number of bell tolls will approximate the number of people who died in the terrorist attacks.

At 7 p.m. there will be music, speakers and a candlelight vigil at the outdoor stage on the east side of the Corbett Center Student Union.

Local peace activists who have held weekly peace demonstrations over the last year will meet at 7 p.m. for a candlelight vigil and meditation at the Las Cruces home of activists David Boje and Grace Ann Rosile.

In Santa Fe, community

activists will assemble a mosaic at the state Capitol with a wooden peg to remember each attack victim, as well as people who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. They will participate in a 24-hour vigil that began last night. The event is sponsored by the Veterans for Peace, the Los Alamos Study Group and the Empty Chair Project.

Tonight, the University of New Mexico's Southwest Film Center in Albuquerque will show a documentary about the effect of the attacks on Muslims and Arabs in the United States and a movie that follows then-New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his staff through the attacks. They will be shown at 7 and 9 p.m.

Also in Albuquerque, Barelax' Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 412 Stover SW, will keep its 9-11 memorial open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The church's chapel contains two steel beams from the fallen World Trade Center along with a list of those killed and other memorabilia.

A special Mass will follow at 6 p.m., featuring a New Mexico Symphony Orchestra ensemble and several guest speakers. The church, which has about 500 seats, is open to the public.

Flags around the state will be flown at half staff, as per Gov. Bill Richardson's request.



# Date:-09/12/2003 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

## War Victims Also Honored

**John T. Huddy and Jeremy Pawloski Journal Staff Writers**

Peace groups read more than 14,000 names of those killed in the 9-11 terrorist attacks and in Afghanistan and Iraq

At the state Capitol on Thursday, it wasn't only the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks two years ago who were remembered.

During a 24-hour, midnight-to-midnight vigil organized by local peace groups, names -- or for those whose identities weren't known, just numbers -- were read off to commemorate civilians who died in the 9-11 attacks and in America's subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We forget that these people killed in Afghanistan and Iraq mean as much to their families as people killed in New York City mean to theirs," said Ann Anthony of Santa Fe, who spent 15 minutes reading off names outside the Roundhouse.

The event attracted only a small group of people throughout the day -- the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks -- as more than 100 participants read victims' names every six seconds. Some of the dead were just given numbers, such as "Iraqi civilian 5,600."

As the victims were listed, other participants placed hand-painted wooden pegs on a commemorative mosaic, with different colored pegs representing Americans, Afghans and Iraqis who have died.

A few people wandered by the event's small tent as more than 14,000 names were read. Every now and again, a car would drive by and honk, some shouting "No War" and others, "Support Our Troops".

An empty chair with a candle sat near the ceremony site, a seat designated for President George W. Bush, who organizers said was invited to be present. Also nearby was a vinyl banner with the pictures and names of U.S. soldiers killed during the past two years during the war on terrorism.

"I expect to hear a helicopter any minute," a smiling Sam Hitt, one of the vigil's organizers, said of the prospect that the president would show up. "We're always hopeful."

"What's unique about this is that it's not about only the victims of the Twin Towers attacks or the soldiers killed," Hitt said. "It's about all of the innocents and making those people who are sometimes forgotten visible ... Far more have perished overseas than those that died in the World Trade Center attacks."

The vigil was sponsored by the Los Alamos Study Group, Veterans for Peace and The Empty Chair Project.

Different take

There was another Sept. 11 memorial Thursday that had a different take on the anniversary.

Off-duty police officers, firefighters and a few civilians took to their motorcycles Thursday for a "Heroes Memorial Ride" from Albuquerque to Santa Fe to honor the thousands killed on Sept. 11 two years ago.

Close to 100 motorcycles rolled through downtown Santa Fe with police escorts. Officers from the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department and from as far south as Las Cruces took part in the ride.

Albert Longobardi, an 18-year veteran of the Albuquerque Police Department who is originally from the Bronx, New York, said he took part after leaving work Thursday morning.

"It's the least that could be done to honor everybody that was lost," Longobardi said. "It's nothing at all."

American flags were worn in some form by many of the riders -- on T-shirts, bandanas and patches on jackets. One rider drove a motorcycle with an American flag design on the fuel tank -- a replica of the "Captain America" bike from the film "Easy Rider."

Tim Fassler, an Albuquerque police officer and member of the "Blue Knights" police motorcycle club, said he got the idea to organize the event about four months ago when he realized something needed to be done to commemorate those who died on Sept. 11.

He said the ride honors not only those who died in the attacks, but any police, firefighters, or military men who have died in the line of duty.

"In my opinion, you can't do enough for people who've sacrificed anything," Fassler said. "... I want to make sure that they've never forgotten."

Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., who's from Santa Fe, issued a statement for the anniversary.

"Today is the commemoration of both incalculable loss and limitless courage, of enduring sorrow and indomitable spirit," Udall said.

"The only fitting tribute to those who were lost or injured on September 11 is the assurance that we have done everything in our power to prevent such horror from touching our shores again."

Two years later

Families command center state on second anniversary of attacks A1

Teaming up

United States and Mexico working together A7

Families mourn

Relatives of those who died visit the World Trade Center site A6

9.11 TWO YEARS LATER

PHOTO: Color

Marion Seymour reads the names of people killed in the 9-11 terrorist attacks, Afghan-istan and Iraq during a ceremony Thursday at the state Capitol.

PHOTO BY: EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

PHOTO: Color

Marion Seymour places a wooden peg over the flag as the names of those killed in the 9-11 terrorist attacks and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are read during a ceremony Thursday at the state Capitol. The orange pegs represent lives lost on 9-11, the green lives lost in Afghanistan and the purple those lost in

Iraq.

PHOTO: Color

Angela Werneke of Santa Fe listens as the names of those killed in the 9-11 terrorist attacks, Afghanistan and Iraq are read Thursday during a ceremony.

PHOTO BY: JOSH STEPHENSON/JOURNAL

PHOTO: b/w

Cassandra Estrada donned red, white and blue for Thursday's "Heroes Memorial Ride" from Albuquerque to Santa Fe.

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Wednesday, October 15, 2003

## Judge Says LANL Broke Law

By Adam Rankin

*Journal Staff Writer*

A New Mexico district judge ruled Los Alamos National Laboratory failed to follow a California public records law when it failed to provide information for a request quickly enough.

Santa Fe District Judge James Hall ruled on Oct. 1 that LANL and the University of California "failed to comply with the time obligations" of the California Public Records Act, which is enforced in California and was adopted by LANL.

The California Public Records Law requires institutions to determine within 10 days whether or not they can provide the information requested, then to notify the requester. It does not require that information or documents actually be provided within 10 days.

The ruling means Chris Mechels, a retired LANL computer technician who filed the lawsuit, could get about \$4,800 in attorney's fees paid by LANL or the University of California, which operates the laboratory.

LANL spokesman Jim Danneskiold said the case isn't over yet. Last week LANL lawyers filed a motion requesting Hall reconsider his decision, claiming LANL fully complied with the California law.

LANL's lawyers claim "The Act provides no remedy for failure to timely comply with a request for records," and that Mechels would only be entitled to attorney's fees if LANL

never provided the documents, which they eventually did.

To Mechels and others who track LANL operations the ruling signifies an important precedent: LANL may be held accountable by New Mexico courts for providing information to the public.

"It is a great victory," said Greg Mello, who heads the Los Alamos Study Group, a LANL watchdog which relies heavily on obtaining information through the federal Freedom of Information Act, which has less defined response time limits.

Mello said his group hasn't used the California Public Records Act, because "we didn't know whether a New Mexico court would order Los Alamos to deliver documents, but it appears from this decision that they would."

Mechels said he filed the lawsuit when four separate requests for public information went unanswered for as long as six months to a year. And when he did get information it was heavily redacted and edited to the point it no longer served his purpose.

"They think the public shouldn't have any right to know," Mechels said. "They just seem to think they are above the law, but the purpose of this is just to show that they are not."

Mechels wanted to know how the LANL Foundation awards its grants; he wanted to see the foundation's board minutes; information on how LANL's Blue Mountain super computer is used, by whom and for how long; and the contract awarded to Compaq for LANL's new super computer, Q.

He said he suspects Blue Mountain isn't being used as it was intended and that installing Q is running over budget and behind schedule.

But in its Oct. 9 motion, LANL disputes Mechels' claims that it was unresponsive to his requests and that the information redacted in the documents provided him violated the California law.

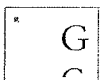
LANL lawyers say e-mail correspondence illustrates the lab

was responsive to his requests "and at no time demonstrated an unwillingness to comply with (the act) or an unwillingness to provide (Mechels) with the requested documents subject to disclosure."

They also argued to Hall that all information redacted or otherwise omitted follows the California law, which allows sensitive national security information or propriety information to be withheld, such as the Compaq contract.

Danneskiold said LANL provided more than 3,000 photocopies and waived more than \$300 in copying fees for Mechels because of the delay in providing him the information.

Mechels says the clerk who responded to his requests never said whether or not LANL would provide the information, as the law requires, only that they received his request.

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Friday, October 17, 2003

# LANL Retrieves Dumped PCB Oil

By Adam Rankin  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Workers at Los Alamos National Laboratory extricated an improperly dumped metal drum from a deep disposal shaft at its radioactive disposal facility using a remote camera and a barrel grabber.

One quart of toxic, low-level radioactive solidified PCB oil was disposed of Sept. 10 at the bottom of a 40-foot shaft at LANL's Area G in Technical Area 54. It shouldn't have been.

Such hazardous chemicals need to be stored or incinerated at a licensed facility, not buried, LANL officials said.

As soon as LANL officials discovered the mistake on Oct. 10, they contacted the Environmental Protection Agency. The federal agency told them to remove the low-level radioactive PCB waste or face a stiff penalty.

The challenge was finding the PCB waste where people can't go— at the bottom of a deep disposal shaft loaded with low-level radioactive materials— and then retrieving it.

Area G in LANL's Technical Area 54 is at the top of environmentalists' hit lists as a waste cleanup priority.

The Los Alamos Study Group, among others, has urged the state and federal governments to clean up the site, which opened as a nuclear and hazardous chemical waste dump in 1957.

As recently as June the group delivered more than 1,500 cans of food to the governor's office with labels that make them look like drums of nuclear waste and a petition underneath calling for the closure of the dump.

Lab officials contend the dump is safe, but environmentalists say Area G has been out of compliance with a 1980 federal law that requires dumps that dispose of chemical hazardous wastes to

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have a special permit.

LANL acquired a temporary permit, but withdrew its application in 1985 and began shipping its hazardous waste elsewhere.

The groups say years of chemical and transuranic waste are still buried at the site, even though the federal law requires chemical waste sites to be cleaned up or stabilized and transuranic waste to be shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad.

Old chemical waste is the issue at Area G, so when LANL discovered new waste had erroneously made its way into the site officials moved quickly.

LANL spokeswoman Linn Tytler said that even before hearing back from EPA, workers had a remote camera down the 6-foot-wide shaft trying to find the 14-gallon barrel that held absorbent material surrounding a smaller container with the PCB oil.

By Thursday afternoon the workers spotted the metal drum and grabbed it. The job was made easier since the drum was the last item placed in the shaft, she said.

"They are happy as clams they got this thing," Tytler said. "They corralled it and we can now report to EPA that we got the job done."



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# Date:-10/21/2003 Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

## Retired Admiral Takes on Lab Leadership Position

**Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer**

Los Alamos National Laboratory has another retired Navy admiral on board to oversee its rebound from recent business and security management lapses.

University of California Regents on Monday approved Bob Foley, a Reagan-era nuclear weapons program director, as vice president for UC laboratory management, overseeing two nuclear weapons labs and the basic science lab it manages for the Department of Energy.

In January, UC officials appointed retired Navy vice-admiral Pete Nanos director of LANL in an effort to shore up management lapses there.

Foley replaces acting vice president Bruce Darling, who had been serving in that position since John McTague resigned in November. Darling will continue as senior vice president for university affairs.

McTague, appointed in May 2001, was the first to hold the laboratory oversight position created as part of an agreement between UC and DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration to strengthen laboratory oversight following several high-profile security lapses at LANL.

Darling said Foley will help UC continue improving lab management and will be extremely helpful for the regents in deciding whether to compete for the LANL contract, due to end in 2005.

"He is an ideal person to take on this responsibility," because of his extensive background, Darling said.

Besides serving as assistant secretary for defense in the Reagan administration, Foley became president of federal contractor Raytheon Japan in 1991, served as a consultant to the departments of Defense and Energy and more recently was a member of President George W. Bush's energy transition team.

Foley, 75, acknowledged his new job will be challenging and that he will see some tough times.

"But I think I could be helpful to them and I am willing to give it a shot," he said during a telephone press conference. "I am a strong fan and supporter of the national laboratories."

He said UC's relationship with DOE has been strained at times. He pledged to work more closely with energy officials to learn what their concerns are.

"I see my role as an intermediary," he said, adding that he doesn't want to micro-manage lab directors.

Nanos hailed the addition of Foley as a wonderful choice for the job.

Nanos said in a statement that Foley's "distinguished military career" and experience with DOE and laboratory operations will help UC set the standard for national security science.

Before retiring from the Navy in 1985, Foley as a four-star admiral commanded the Pacific Fleet. Following that post, Foley took on the role of assistant secretary of energy for defense programs, putting him in charge of the nation's nuclear weapons complex, including its weapons labs.

Foley also served as chair of a series of advisory groups at LANL, including chairman of the blue ribbon committee to oversee manufacturing and certification of nuclear bomb triggers, or "pits."

He said he's visited LANL about once a month since 2001 for that committee and for committees on program and project management at LANL.

Greg Mello, with LANL watchdog Los Alamos Study Group, said the vice president for laboratory management position has not had a very strong oversight role in the past and that it has functioned more as a political office.

He said he is a little concerned about Foley's military and weapons background in light of the current administration's push for new nuclear weapons, but thought he might be a good choice to influence LANL critics in Washington because of his extensive background.

"I suppose it means it is an indication that they (UC) are seriously trying to get a contract," Mello said.



# Date:-11/07/2003 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

## Buried Nuke Waste A Mystery

**Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer**

### Report Asks DOE for Plans

A new report by an independent group of scientists revisits long-standing questions about the U.S. Department of Energy's plans for buried radioactive waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory and other nuclear weapons complex sites around the country.

The report, issued last week by the Environmental Evaluation Group, focuses on transuranic waste that the report says "seems destined" to remain buried at LANL and other DOE sites.

EEG is an independent technical advisory group for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad designed to store transuranic waste from around the country.

Transuranic waste refers to radioactive metals heavier than uranium that also can include other contaminated materials. Much of the wastes in question at LANL and elsewhere were buried before 1970.

Environmental groups and, more recently, the state of New Mexico have been pressuring LANL and DOE to figure out exactly what is buried there and to clean it up. The EEG report summarizes what little is known about various burial sites at LANL and briefly outlines DOE's failure to follow its own 1999 order to assess buried transuranic waste.

"The risk to human health and the environment that necessitates disposal of (transuranic waste) at the WIPP would seem to be similar regardless of the time period in which the waste was generated, either before or after 1970," the report states.

Larry Allen, the report's primary author, said EEG decided to write the report in preparation for a potential increase in transuranic waste shipped to WIPP as a result of pending lawsuits from host states and groups seeking to force DOE site cleanups.

Part of the problem is that neither DOE, nor LANL nor many of the other DOE sites, know how much waste, or what types of waste, are buried at various locations, he said.

"The question is what can DOE do to reduce the uncertainty, so they can make rational decisions about what to do with this stuff," he said. "It apparently has not been adequately characterized."

After reviewing the wide-ranging estimates of LANL's buried waste -- much of it in shallow, unlined pits or shafts -- the EEG report comes close to urging DOE to develop a comprehensive plan for both managing the waste on site and for exhuming a portion of it for proper storage at WIPP.

DOE's manager of the Los Alamos Site Office, Ralph Erickson, said the older, buried transuranic waste has been considered in programmatic reviews and risk analyses but doesn't top the list of priorities.

"Our main concerns are the 'quick to WIPP,' the higher-level, greater risk materials," that are currently being stored at LANL's Area G, he said, adding that he had not yet read the EEG report.

Acknowledging that much remains unknown about LANL's buried waste, Erickson said complex issues arise with attempts to move them to WIPP.

"You get into some serious safety issues when you try to exhume this... that can be greater than if you leave it where it is," he said.

But that approach has been repeatedly criticized by such groups as the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research -- a weapons complex watchdog group -- which claims DOE has de-prioritized buried waste in favor of dealing with the easier-to-access stored wastes.

Referencing the environmental documents that led to the creation of WIPP, which began operations in 1999, the EEG report points out the higher long-term risk for human and environmental health of leaving retrievable stored transuranic waste buried on site versus permanent disposal at WIPP.

The report also points out that alternatives to long-term stewardship of waste on site -- such as exhuming it, repackaging it and shipping it to WIPP -- "has been mostly forced by state governments... instead of DOE working with the states and stake holders."

Idaho and New Mexico are both in the midst of drawn-out lawsuits aimed at forcing DOE to first determine how much and what kind of wastes are buried on sites in their states, then clean it up.

State Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry said the "quick-to-WIPP" wastes are a legitimate concern but shouldn't outweigh the importance of legacy waste characterization and cleanup.

"There is always an excuse, always a reason why they can't characterize something," he said.

LANL and DOE officials at the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C., have been negotiating the terms of a settlement order with Curry and NMED for more than a year, following the state environmental agency's finding of "imminent and substantial endangerment" to people and the environment in May 2002.

Curry said he expects negotiations to be finished by the end of the year. He and LANL officials said the negotiations are going well, but Curry said a lack of leadership by DOE on site at LANL has slowed progress.

"I just don't see that lack of leadership at Sandia (National Laboratories) or at WIPP," regarding environmental responsibilities, Curry said.

Local environmental and anti-nuclear groups praised the report for its directness.

Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group said the report effectively raises the question, "If it is OK to leave (the waste at LANL), why do we need WIPP?"

He said the report shows how politically driven nuclear cleanup is, "rather than proceeding from any kind of consistent scientific basis."

Jay Coghlan, the executive director of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, said the report "helps to throw light on some of the deceptive practices of DOE and LANL."

"Despite all their professed expertise in all things scientific, they don't know what they have buried, and furthermore, they don't demonstrate any willingness to find out," he said.

Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)  
Title: WEAPONS BUDGET UP \$367 MILLION  
Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON  
Date: November 9, 2003  
Section: Santa Fe/EI Norte  
Page: B-1

Bill will pay for nuclear-weapons work at LANL

Congressional conferees agreed on a \$27.3 billion appropriations bill that funds everything from nuclear-stockpile work at national labs to water projects throughout the West, U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., announced last week.

The bill provides \$22.1 billion to the U.S. Department of Energy, including more than \$6.3 billion for work on the nuclear-weapons stockpile at Los Alamos and the other two primary nuclear-weapons laboratories, according to Domenici, who led the negotiations on the Senate side as chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee.

Domenici spokesman Chris Gallegos could not provide a breakdown on the total budget for Los Alamos lab, but Gallegos said the \$6.3 billion would be split fairly equally among Los Alamos, Sandia National Laboratories and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

The bill boosts the nuclear-stockpile budget by \$367 million while providing nearly \$1.4 billion, an increase of \$196 million, for nuclear-nonproliferation activities within DOE.

"We've done a good job to craft a bill that meets the national-security mission needs for our labs and moves the nation forward in terms of water projects," Domenici said in a statement.

Los Alamos funding includes \$50 million for the new headquarters building and \$10 million for preliminary work to replace the Chemical and Metallurgy Research Facility. The bill provides \$230.5 million to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and DOE's field office in Carlsbad.

Nuclear activists were upbeat about one provision in the bill: Congress cut by more than half the funding for preliminary studies on the Modern Pit Facility, a multibillion-dollar factory that DOE is proposing to build new pits, or cores, for nuclear bombs.

Jay Coghlan, who heads Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, cited that as evidence the proposal could be defeated.

The agreement also cut funding for research into the "Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator," the so-called nuclear bunker buster, from \$15 million to \$7.5 million

The legislation provides nearly \$25 million for DOE to shorten the time that would be necessary to conduct a nuclear test, if such a decision were made.

While the administration sought to shorten that schedule to 18 months, the bill stipulates that DOE should work toward a 24-month "test-readiness" capability.

Meanwhile, a conference-committee agreement on separate Defense Department legislation last week repealed a decade-long prohibition on research into low-yield nuclear weapons, often called mininukes or battlefield nukes. Although Congress ultimately must sign off on any new projects,

the decision opens the door to research and development of new bombs, said Greg Mello, who heads the **Los Alamos Study Group**.

"The biggest, clearest signal to the lab and to the world is that they can make mininukes now, and they will want to do that," he said.

"Everybody should sit up and take notice that these aren't weapons which are designed not to be used. The reason they are being requested is that their use is said to be credible. That's why they are supposedly a better deterrent against small tyrants."

The energy and water appropriations bill provides \$35 million to the Bureau of Reclamation for various work along the Rio Grande, \$3 million for desalination research in Otero County and funding to the Army Corps of Engineers for work throughout New Mexico.

Both the Senate and House must approve the conference-committee report, which will then be sent to the president.

Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON

Section: Santa Fe/El Norte

Page: B-1

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Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)  
Title: PROGRAM EYES 'MISSILES OF EMPIRE'  
Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON  
Date: November 16, 2003  
Section: Santa Fe/El Norte  
Page: B-1

Defense officials are planning the development of a new generation of long-range missile systems that "may in the long run be more dangerous than proposed improvements in nuclear warheads," according to research by the Western States Legal Foundation.

Andy Lichterman, program director for the Oakland-based nonprofit organization, will discuss these efforts and their potential effect on the nation's defense policies at public presentations in Santa Fe and Albuquerque this week.

While limited debate has taken place regarding research into new nuclear weapons, including bunker busters, Lichterman is concerned that no attention is being paid to other conventional technologies that could significantly boost the nation's capability to carry out its military agenda.

In a paper on the foundation's Internet site ([www.wslfweb.org](http://www.wslfweb.org)), Lichterman discusses Defense Department plans to develop cheaper, more versatile and increasingly accurate missile systems, capable of carrying both nuclear and conventional warheads. The Pentagon also is considering the use of intercontinental ballistic missiles, which currently provide the bulk of the nation's nuclear deterrent, to deliver conventional weapons anywhere on the globe, according to the paper titled "Missiles of Empire: America's 21st Century Global Legions."

"In the eyes of their advocates, such systems allow the rapid application of overwhelming force with impunity from afar," according to the paper. Military planners could thus avoid "practical and political obstacles" to smaller wars, be they on-the-ground casualties or the difficulties of obtaining permission for troop deployments and overflights from allies who are "increasingly uncomfortable with aggressive U.S. policies."

Lichterman indicates, "these technologies could provide the building blocks for new nuclear capabilities."

Sponsored by the **Los Alamos Study Group**, talks will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Cloud Cliff Bakery and 6 p.m. Thursday in the Lobo Room at The University of New Mexico student union. The suggested donation is \$5.

Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON  
Section: Santa Fe/El Norte  
Page: B-1

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# Common Dreams NEWS CENTER

Breaking News & Views for the Progressive Community

Published on Monday, December 8, 2003 by [WorkingforChange.com](http://WorkingforChange.com)

## The Cockroaches are Celebrating

### U.S. Leads Way Toward New Nuclear Arms Race

by Sean Gonsalves

The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill signed by President Bush last week is being celebrated by cockroaches the world over.

The bill, among other things, provides funding for research in developing nuclear weapons with first-strike capability.

We are now one step closer to nuclear war and if the path we are following is pursued to its logical conclusion, the Information Age will be followed by a radioactive Cockroach Era.

The tragic irony here is that while the president speaks forcefully about the need to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, his administration is pursuing policies that is likely to enflame the global threat.

"The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill... is a milestone in the further nuclearization of U.S. foreign policy," cautions Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group.

"The weapons to be developed are explicitly for potential use against targets in many countries, not just one or two," he says.

The fact that these weapons are of little use to the military, to say nothing of the predictable health, political, legal, and moral consequences of such policy directives, suggests that this is being driven more by an ideological "push" than any military "pull," Mello says.

"It is unlikely that the drive for new nukes can be stopped unless Democrats and arms controllers are willing to rethink their support and legitimization of the other 99.9 percent of Department of Energy and Department of Defense nuclear weapons programs."

John Burroughs, executive director of the New York-based Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy and co-editor of the book "Rule of Power or Rule of Law?" reminds us that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty -- the very same agreement the United States insists North Korea and Iran respect by submitting to international inspections -- requires its signatories to eliminate existing nuclear arsenals through good-faith negotiation.

But, at the U.N. General Assembly this past fall, the United States voted against resolutions calling for compliance with the program -- compliance that is supposed to be transparent, irreversible and verifiable, which is what U.S. diplomats agreed to in 2000, Burroughs points out.

How can we claim to be the leaders of the free world when we don't abide by the same standards we demand other nations follow, even to the point of threatening pre-emptive strikes?

It's a bit like beating your child in order to drive home the point that violence is wrong. As

a parent, I can say unequivocally that such thinking is the antithesis of what being a role model is all about.

I like how Jacqueline Cabasso, executive director of the Western States Legal Foundation, poses the question:

"If the world's only remaining superpower feels that it must threaten the first use of nuclear weapons to ensure its 'national security,' why shouldn't we expect other countries to follow suit? As responsible global citizens, we must insist on a more sustainable concept of universal 'human security.' Nuclear weapons have no place in this new security paradigm," Cabasso says.

To buttress their "free-market" theories, neocons love to talk about the harmful effects of "unintended consequences." But I think it's much more fruitful to focus on predictable consequences.

And what are the predictable consequences of pursuing first-strike nuclear capabilities?

Lloyd Dumas, professor of political economy at the University of Texas at Dallas and author of "Lethal Arrogance: Human Fallibility and Dangerous Technologies," offers this assessment:

"By signing a bill that allocates nearly \$40 million for research on new nuclear weapons and readying the Nevada nuclear test site for quicker reactivation, the administration has found yet another way to weaken American security, while claiming to strengthen it.

"Building these weapons can only undercut diplomatic efforts to prevent other nations from building their own. And the idea that we can protect ourselves against proliferation with nuclear 'bunker-busters' by going around the world blowing up underground storage sites that our intelligence reports claim contain weapons of mass destruction is too ludicrous for words. Have we learned nothing from Iraq?"

Strong words that only a fool would ignore. Long live the cockroaches!

*Sean Gonsalves is a Cape Cod Times staff writer and syndicated columnist. E-mail him at [sgonsalves@capecodonline.com](mailto:sgonsalves@capecodonline.com)*

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### Labs Encouraged To Develop Nukes

#### Leaked Memo Urges Nuclear Weapons Research

POSTED: 6:34 PM MST December 11, 2003

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- The Bush administration is encouraging nuclear laboratories, such as Los Alamos, to develop new nuclear weapons.

According to an anti-nuclear group, the president is throwing the barn door open on nuclear weapons research. The Albuquerque-based Los Alamos Study Group points to a recent memo sent to nuclear weapons labs in New Mexico and California. A copy of the memo from National Nuclear Security Administration Chief Linton Brooks was leaked to the group.

It comes after President George W. Bush signed a defense authorization bill that lifted a decade-old ban on low-yield nuclear weapons research. In the memo, Brooks said the labs are now free to explore a range of technical options in nuclear weapons research. He urged the labs to take advantage of the opportunity offered by repeal of the ban.

Los Alamos Study Group leader Greg Mello said the memo shows the administration plans to use the repeal to push the envelope of nuclear weapons research.

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# Oakland Tribune

## Bush presses lab nuke research

Memo asks scientists at UC labs to explore new types of nuclear weapons

By Ian Hoffman  
STAFF WRITER

**Thursday, December 11, 2003** - In a newly leaked memo, the Bush administration's top nuclear-weapons executive urged the three federal H-bomb labs to explore a full range of new thermonuclear weapons.

National Nuclear Security Administration chief Linton Brooks twice pressed weapons-lab directors last week to "take advantage of this opportunity" raised by repeal last month of a 1993 ban on low-yield nuclear weapons development.

Critics of the administration's new nuclear policies say the Dec. 5 memo suggests a no-holds-barred approach to designing new weapons that is more reminiscent of a Cold War arms race -- without a competitor -- than trying to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

"This is really very distressing," said physicist and public policy professor Frank von Hippel, co-director of Princeton's Program on Science and Global Security. "They're saying, 'Go after it, guys. We're back in the fifties. Come up with all the crazy ideas you can -- if there are any crazy ideas left out there.' This is fossil Cold War mentality surfacing again."

President Bush signed a defense bill Nov. 24 that contained the repeal and re-established "advanced concepts" weapons design teams at Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia labs for the first time since the mid-1990s.

"I expect your design teams to engage fully with the Department of Defense to examine advanced (thermonuclear) concepts that could contribute to our nation's security," Brooks wrote. "Potentially important areas of such research include agent defeat and reduced collateral damage."

Agent defeat and reduced collateral damage are the latest lingo for nuclear weapons to attack stores of chemical and biological arms and for low-yield bombs that penetrate the ground before detonating.

"In addition, we must take advantage of this opportunity to ensure that we close any gaps that may have opened this past decade in our understanding of the possible military applications of atomic energy -- no novel nuclear weapons concept developed by any other nation should ever come as a technical surprise to us," Brooks wrote.

While U.S. weapons scientists often have designed and built mockups of foreign nuclear weapons to assess their value, these assessments were exempted from the low-yield ban and do not entail designing new U.S. weapons.

On behalf of the administration, Brooks expressed gratitude to the three lab directors -- Livermore's Michael Anastasio, Los Alamos' G. Pete Nanos and Sandia labs' C. Paul Robinson -- for backing repeal of the low-yield ban.

"I would like to thank you and your staff for helping to support this important effort," Brooks wrote. "We are now free to explore a range of technical options that could strengthen our ability to deter, or respond to new or emerging threats without any concern that some ideas could violate some vague and arbitrary limitation."

The sentiment is noteworthy: The three lab directors -- two executives of the University of California and one of Lockheed Martin -- are typically discouraged from lobbying Congress, especially in pursuit of new nuclear weapons.

The memo was leaked Wednesday to the Los Alamos Study Group, an Albuquerque, N.M.-based disarmament organization.

"It's kind of cry havoc and release the dogs of nuclear design," said study group director Greg Mello.

He suggested the memo marked a shift from disciplined public service claimed by lab contractors such as the University of California to "nuclear opportunism" timed with the Bush administration.

"I think it means that all weapons concepts are on the table. Let's look at nuclear-driven radio-frequency weapons, let's look at neutron bombs and agent defeat and earth penetrators. Let's look at even more advanced concepts," he said. "You don't sense a lot of restraint here."

Ian Hoffman can be contacted at [ihoffman](mailto:ihoffman)

[@angnewspapers.com](mailto:@angnewspapers.com) .

In December 2001, civilian leaders in the Pentagon called for new weapons designs in a still-classified Nuclear Posture Review. Since then, defense and Energy Department officials and allies in Congress have argued that the current U.S. arsenal of 7,000 deployed weapons was full of such high-yield bombs and warheads that an adversary might be emboldened to attack, thinking the United States never would retaliate.

We should not fail to take advantage of this opportunity, Brooks wrote in closing his memo.

Yet the Bush administration has avoided mentioning that all existing U.S. nuclear weapons are multi-staged devices, easily adjusted or modified for at least three explosive yields. Every bomb and warhead can be detonated at the equivalent of a few hundred tons of high-explosive, the definition of mini-nuke.

Suggesting the nation needs new, low-yield bombs, says retired Sandia weapons executive Robert Peurifoy, is a con game that he suspects is aimed at restarting nuclear testing.

Tell me what yield you want and I can give it to you within the present inventory, Peurifoy said. I do not understand this present argument that we are at some disadvantage with respect to the Chinese and the Russians or whoever. We can do any damn thing we want to do today, without nuclear testing.

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Paper: Tri-Valley Herald (Pleasanton, CA)

Title: Bush nuke guru tells labs to bring it on - Designers encouraged to explore new range of thermonuclear devices

Author: Ian Hoffman, STAFF WRITER

Date: December 11, 2003

Section: None Specified

[article run in other ANG newspapers]

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Ian Hoffman can be contacted at [ihoffman@angnewspapers.com](mailto:ihoffman@angnewspapers.com)

Author: Ian Hoffman, STAFF WRITER  
Section: None Specified

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# Labs asked for bomb designs

Alb. Tribune

By Ian Hoffman

OAKLAND (CALIF.) TRIBUNE

12/11/03

A top Bush administration executive is urging the nation's three nuclear weapons labs to explore a full range of new thermonuclear weapons, a memo obtained by the Los Alamos Study Group reveals.

Linton Brooks, chief of the National Nuclear Security Administration, pressed the directors of Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California to

"take advantage of this opportunity" raised by the repeal last month of a 1993 ban on low-yield nuclear weapons development, according to the memo.

Critics of the administration's nuclear policies say Friday's memo suggests a no-holds-barred approach to designing new weapons that is more reminiscent of a Cold War arms race — without a competitor — than trying to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

"This is really very distressing," said physicist and public policy pro-

fessor Frank von Hippel, co-director of Princeton's Program on Science and Global Security.

"They're saying: 'Go after it, guys. We're back in the '50s. Come up with all the crazy ideas you can — if there are any crazy ideas left out there.' This is fossil Cold War mentality surfacing again."

President Bush signed a military appropriations bill Nov. 24 that contained the repeal and re-established "advanced concepts" weapons

Please see **LABS/A3**

Thursday, December 11, 2003

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## LABS from A1

design teams at the three labs for the first time since the mid-1990s.

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# Date:-12/12/2003 Edition:-Final Page:-A9

## U.S. Nuke Memo Upsets Local Activist

### The Associated Press

A memo from a top Bush official to the nation's nuclear weapons labs celebrating the repeal of a ban on low-yield nuclear weapons research is chest-beating reminiscent of a Cold War-era arms climate, anti-nuclear advocates say.

The memo from National Nuclear Security Administration chief Linton Brooks shows top officials in the nuclear weapons complex view the repeal as a broad mandate "to pursue every kind of nuclear weapon that might be feasible," said Greg Mello of the Albuquerque-based Los Alamos Study Group.

The memo, obtained by Mello's group, was sent to the directors of Los Alamos and Sandia national laboratories in New Mexico and California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Bryan Wilkes, a spokesman for the National Nuclear Security Administration, said the memo was a congratulatory note intended also as a congressional update but declined to comment further.

It comes after President Bush's Nov. 24 signature on a \$401.3 billion defense authorization bill that lifted a decade-old ban on research into low-yield nuclear weapons and authorized \$15 million for continued research into the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, capable of destroying deep underground bunkers.

Republicans who supported the measure argued the United States needed to adapt its nuclear arsenal to defend against terrorism and other modern threats. Democrats countered that the change could trigger a new arms race and increase the risk of nuclear war.

"... We are now free to explore a range of technical options that could strengthen our ability to deter, or respond to new or emerging threats without any concern that some ideas could inadvertently violate a vague and arbitrary limitation," Brooks wrote.

He warned: "We should not fail to take advantage of this opportunity."

"I have to say what is striking about it is the almost adolescent enthusiasm for nuclear weapons, as if they're going to solve any of our problems," said Christopher Paine, a senior analyst for Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington. The council is a New York-based environmental and arms control organization.



# Date:-12/12/2003 Section:-New Mexico Edition:-Final Page:-B4

## Nuke Factory Funding Cut Worries Agency

**John Fleck Journal Staff Writer**

\* Two N.M. cities considered for plutonium plant

The National Nuclear Security Administration is wrestling with a deep cut in the fiscal year 2004 budget for construction of a factory to build plutonium parts for nuclear weapons. Two New Mexico cities are being considered as sites for the factory.

The Bush Administration asked Congress for \$23 million for the plant, but at the end of complex negotiations over the nuclear weapons budget, House and Senate appropriators agreed to give the project only \$11 million in fiscal year 2004.

"We're assessing the situation," said NNSA spokesman Bryan Wilkes.

Rep. Dave Hobson, R-Ohio, pushed for the cuts. The chairman of the House subcommittee in charge of the DOE's budget, Hobson has expressed repeated skepticism about the size of the nuclear weapons budget.

"Unfortunately, the Department of Energy continues to ask Congress to fund a Cold War nuclear arsenal, and the nuclear weapons complex necessary to maintain that arsenal, even though we no longer face a Cold War adversary. The Cold War ended over a decade ago," Hobson said during a July 8 hearing.

Carlsbad and Los Alamos are among five sites around the country being considered for the project, which has been estimated to cost as much as \$5 billion.

Carlsbad leaders are lobbying heavily to try to win the project because of the jobs it would create, while officials at Los Alamos National Laboratory have said they don't want it.

Supporters and critics of the plant say they expect the budget cut to have little effect because the money was only for early planning. Actual high-dollar construction is still years away.

"This will have very little impact on actual schedule," said Alex Flint, a senior aide to Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M.

Greg Mello, head of the anti-nuclear Los Alamos Study Group and a leading critic of the plant, agreed that the budget cut was not likely to significantly delay the project.

The NNSA is in the midst of a lengthy environmental study required under federal law. Actual construction of the plant was not scheduled to begin until 2011, with bomb-making not to begin until some time around 2018.

Government backers of the project say it is needed to replace aging plutonium parts in U.S. nuclear weapons. The parts used to be made at the Rocky Flats plant in Colorado, which was closed in 1989 because of environmental problems.

Critics say the plant is an unnecessary contribution to nuclear proliferation.

"It signals to ourselves and to the world our intention to retain a huge nuclear arsenal," Mello said.

**Subject:** Secrecy News -- 12/17/03  
**From:** "Aftergood, Steven" <saftergood@fas.org>  
**Date:** Wed, 17 Dec 2003 12:39:52 -0500  
**To:** <secrecy\_news@lists.fas.org>

SECREC Y NEWS  
from the FAS Project on Government Secrecy  
Volume 2003, Issue No. 109  
December 17, 2003

\*\* US URGES PURSUIT OF ADVANCED NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
\*\* SCIENTIFIC OPENNESS AND TERRORISM  
\*\* PUBLICATION OF DIPLOMATIC HISTORY LAGS  
\*\* CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT, THEN AND NOW

#### US URGES PURSUIT OF ADVANCED NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Bush Administration has advocated, and Congress recently approved, the repeal of a 1994 ban on U.S. research and development on new, low-yield nuclear weapons, setting the stage for pursuit of a new generation of such weapons.

"The Administration had sought to remove this restriction because of the chilling effect it has had on nuclear weapons research and development," wrote Linton F. Brooks, head of the National Nuclear Security Administration in a December 5 memo.

Now the Bush Administration is encouraging weapon designers at the national laboratories to "engage fully... to examine advanced [nuclear] concepts that could contribute to our nation's security."

"We must take advantage of this opportunity to ensure that we close any gaps that may have opened this past decade in our understanding of the possible military applications of atomic energy," Brooks wrote to lab directors.

"We are now free to explore a range of technical options that could strengthen our ability to deter, or respond to new or emerging threats without any concern that some ideas could inadvertently violate a vague and arbitrary limitation," he wrote.

[ A copy of the Brooks memo was obtained by the Los Alamos Study Group, and posted here:

[http://www.lasg.org/LintonBrooksMemoDec5-2003\\_0001.pdf](http://www.lasg.org/LintonBrooksMemoDec5-2003_0001.pdf)

It was first reported in "Bush Presses Lab Nuke Research" by Ian Hoffman, Oakland Tribune, December 11:

<http://tinyurl.com/zn69>

A detailed Congressional Research Service (CRS) report on "Nuclear Weapon Initiatives: Low-Yield R&D, Advanced Concepts, Earth Penetrators, Test Readiness" was newly updated on December 11.

The U.S. Congress does not believe that the American public should have direct access to CRS reports like this one, and has taken steps to impede such access. A copy is nevertheless posted here:

<http://www.fas.org/spp/starwars/crs/RL32130.pdf>

#### SCIENTIFIC OPENNESS AND TERRORISM

Documents recovered from a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan suggest that al Qaida terrorists are making a diligent effort to collect scientific data related to the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction. Yet scientists do not generally recognize or appreciate the potential for misuse of their work, according to an opinion column in Science magazine.

"Skepticism of the existence, breadth, and severity of the threat posed by would-be bioweaponers is compounded by the failure to find clear evidence of biological weapons in Iraq," wrote James B. Petro of the Joint Military Intelligence College, and D.A. Relman.

"Also, some even question the extent to which open-source scientific material contributes to the threat."

But "documents recovered from an al Qaida training camp in Afghanistan in 2001 have shed light on procedures and methodologies used by al Qaida in its efforts to establish a biological warfare program," the authors write.

They conclude with a call for greater awareness of the problem and for guidelines governing the publication of potentially dangerous dual-use research, a proposal recently advanced by the National Academies of Science.

Thank you

**Subject:** Thank you  
**From:** "Masakatsu Ota" <wf9m-oot@asahi-net.or.jp>  
**Date:** Sat, 13 Dec 2003 01:52:40 +0900  
**To:** <gmello@lasg.org>

Dear Mr. Mello

Thank you so much for yesterday.  
I learned a lot from our quite productive exchanges.  
Since I started my career as a correspondence in Hiroshima, I have focused my special attention and serious interest on anything related with the word "nuclear". Now I am avidly following stories on North Korea and this administration's spearheading course to dangerous "second nuclear era". Please keep me posted with your knowledge and warning not to make the situation worse.  
I appreciate your generous help and respect your deep knowledge and experience.  
Thank you,

Masa

Masakatsu Ota  
Kyodo News  
cell 202-255-6863  
office(tel) 202-347-5767  
(fax)202-393-2342

#### U.S. asks labs to pursue technologies for new nuclear arms

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 - The U.S. administration has told its nuclear weapons research arms to explore technical options that could lead to a new type of low-yield nuclear weapon, an official of a nuclear watchdog group said Thursday.

Linton Brooks, head of the U.S. Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration, gave the instructions in a letter to the three nuclear arms laboratories in New Mexico's Los Alamos, California's Livermore and Texas' Sandia, said Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group.

In late November, U.S. President George W. Bush signed a bill authorizing fiscal 2004 defense programs, under which a decade-old ban on research into nuclear weapons with a low explosive yield of less than 5 kilotons was lifted by abolishing the Furse-Spratt provision.

"We must take advantage of this opportunity to ensure that we close any gaps that may have opened this decade in our understanding of the possible military applications of atomic energy," Brooks said in the letter, whose copy was obtained by Mello.

As potentially important areas of nuclear arms research, Brooks called for the destruction of biological and chemical weapons and the reduction of undesired damage to nonmilitary personnel.

Thank you

In the letter, Brooks said the decade-old ban has had  
''chilling'' effects on nuclear arms weapons research and development.

''We are now free to explore a range of technical options that  
could strengthen our ability to deter, or respond to new or emerging threats  
without any concern that some ideas could inadvertently violate a vague and  
arbitrary limitation,'' he said.

The development and production of low-yield nuclear weapons will  
continue to be prohibited.

But Mello voiced concern that with the lifting of the research  
ban, the Bush administration may accelerate moves toward the development of  
such weapons.

''There is no need to divide between research and development''  
once budgetary spending is appropriated, he said.

Scientists ''are free to pursue what they want,'' Mello said.

December 12, 2003 17:23:25

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# Date:-12/24/2003 Edition:-Journal North

## Page:-1

### Nuke Plant Doubts Voiced

**Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer**

Richardson Not Sure N.M. Being Seriously Considered

Gov. Bill Richardson on Tuesday expressed misgivings about government plans to possibly build a \$2 billion to \$4 billion nuclear weapons plant in New Mexico.

His comments come months after all five of the state's congressional delegates joined in a bipartisan message to say they favored siting the plant in Carlsbad.

"I have serious reservations about that project," Richardson said Tuesday at a news conference.

The governor had remained mum on the subject until now.

"I am not even sure we are being seriously considered (for the plant)," Richardson said during a news conference in Santa Fe.

As former secretary of the Department of Energy in the Clinton administration, Richardson may have some inside knowledge on the matter -- at least, that is what some critics of the proposal to build the plant say.

"We're very pleased that the governor thinks this way, but it's not enough," said Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group, which opposes the plant. Mello has said the plant would allow the U.S. nuclear arsenal to swell and new designs to be built at a time when such weapons should be dismantled.

"The important decision about the 'Modern Pit Facility' is not where to site it, but whether to build it," Mello said.

The Modern Pit Facility, which could be built at Los Alamos, Carlsbad or one of three other locations elsewhere in the country, would produce plutonium triggers, or pits, to replace the nation's aging nuclear stockpile. The pits set off a larger, second-stage blast in nuclear weapons.

In June, Democrats Sen. Jeff Bingaman and Rep. Tom Udall signed a letter to DOE chief Spencer Abraham endorsing Carlsbad as a potential site for the plant only if the DOE deems the facility necessary. They joined Republicans Sen. Pete Domenici, Rep. Heather Wilson and Rep. Steve Pearce in recommending Carlsbad be given preference over other sites for the project that would bring with it about 1,000 jobs.

Carlsbad officials and local leaders have voiced strong support for hosting the nuclear weapons facility, citing its economic benefits and DOE's good reputation for running Carlsbad's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Richardson spokesman Gilbert Gallegos said the governor, who refrained from endorsing Carlsbad with the congressional delegation, has remained neutral on the issue until now.

"All he's really said on that as of late is that he has serious reservations," Gallegos said.

During the news conference, Richardson said he wants to settle another issue with DOE before dealing with the matter of the pit plant.

Louisiana Energy Services announced in September its intention to build the National Enrichment Facility in Lea County to process uranium so it can be used as fuel in nuclear power plants.

Richardson has expressed concern that waste tailings from the enrichment plant will be left in the state.

"I am very insistent that there be legislative language in the Congress that prohibits the disposal of waste in New Mexico or by the Department of Energy in New Mexico," Richardson said. "I am supportive of the project only if those restrictions are accomplished."

PHOTO: Color

RICHARDSON: "I have serious reservations about that project"

# Facility Bothers Governor

## Doubts Expressed About Nuke Plant

12/24/03  
BY ADAM RANKIN

*Journal Northern Bureau*

SANTA FE — Gov. Bill Richardson on Tuesday expressed misgivings about government plans to possibly build a \$2 billion to \$4 billion nuclear weapons plant in New Mexico, months after all five of the state's congressional delegates joined in a bipartisan message to say they favored siting the plant in Carlsbad.

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The governor had remained mum on the subject up until now.

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# Date:-12/30/2003 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

## State, DOE Need Deal For LANL Cleanup

**Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer**

### Lack of Agreement Keeps Up to \$43 Million on Hold

The U.S. Energy Department's environmental management program is withholding extra funding for the cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory because New Mexico and the federal government have failed to achieve regulatory agreement.

Program head Jessie Roberson said agreement is a necessary before as much as \$43 million in cleanup funds is released to LANL.

To say otherwise would be to suggest DOE should distribute extra money for cleanup to states even without collaboration and agreement, she said. A recent increase in federal cleanup funding is contingent on following DOE's approach, she said.

The extra funding was scheduled as part of 2002 DOE "accelerated cleanup" plans, or Performance Management Plans, for each of its sites across the country. LANL's accelerated cleanup is scheduled to remove legacy waste -- some 9,100 cubic meters of transuranic waste in temporary storage, ground water contamination and hundreds of surface waste sites -- by 2015 instead of 2030.

LANL officials say that schedule is in jeopardy if funding continues to be withheld, which is also serving to increase the costs of cleanup.

Roberson, while acknowledging that delays increase costs, said she strongly disagreed with the interpretation by some, including local environmental groups and the Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board, that DOE is "strong-arming" the state to agree to DOE's terms. She said that view was an "unfair representation."

"I think everybody has the best of intentions and the goal of environmentally protective clean up," Roberson said, but that "negotiations can be complicated."

Roberson spoke just days before New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry said the state will abandon more than a year of negotiations with DOE over the state's cleanup order for LANL. He said NMED will address regulatory disagreements through state and federal courts.

Multiple lawsuits, filed by University of California and LANL seeking judicial review of the state cleanup order, are pending in state and federal courts.

The final order, which found LANL waste posed an "imminent and substantial" endangerment to the environment and public health, was filed by the state in November 2002. An earlier draft was released in May 2002.

The Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board, volunteers who review and comment on DOE's environmental management at LANL, recently chastised DOE for holding the state hostage by not

delivering the money to LANL.

Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group, said he agreed with the advisory board that DOE is withholding money to get the state to buckle.

"Basically, withholding the money gives the DOE more leverage over the state," he said. "The DOE game is to keep the ball moving so that people don't notice the underlying problems."

Mello was also critical of DOE cleanup plans. He said: "There's not supposed to be much cleanup in the (Performance Management Plan), that is what is accelerated about it."

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THE YEAR THAT WAS

# RISING STARS

*These 10 stories of success in Albuquerque show how natural talent and hard work in 2003 laid foundations for big success in 2004*

## ACTIVISM

### Greg Mello

Rising concerns over extensive changes the Bush administration is making in U.S. nuclear weapons policy are raising the star of Greg Mello, head of the Los Alamos Study Group, based in Albuquerque.



Mello

Mello, 53, born in Northern California, co-founded the group in 1989 to pursue "nuclear disarmament in a just and sustainable world." Its focus is the national laboratories, primarily Los Alamos and Sandia in Albuquerque.

Mello, who has written for The Trib's Insight & Opinion section, concedes he is getting more inquiries and national attention lately as a voice balancing the Bush administration on nukes.

Of particular concern to Mello lately are the administration's efforts to develop low-yield "mini-nukes" and other "advanced concepts" in nuclear weapons and to build new nuclear weapons production plants; refusal to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; decision to back out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty; and foot dragging on complying with biological and chemical weapons conventions and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Expect to hear more from him as the administration proceeds.