NUCLEAR SHORTS

US Army Fudges Books—by $6.5 Trillion

A Reuters investigation by Scot Paltrow published August 19 found $6.5 trillion in public Army funding is unaccounted for in the year 2015, after military book keepers fudged the numbers on a massive scale. The news of the mishandling of funds at an unfathomable scale—reported by the US Army's own Inspector General (IG) July 26—prompted anti-militarist critics to action.

Worldbeyondwar.org published a scathing open letter to the Army Inspector General offering to launch its own inspection "until we determine exactly where the unaccounted for $6.5 trillion ended up—the $6.5 trillion that you report you just can't locate."

The group offered "to do this on a contingency basis, accepting as payment a 0.0001% percent finder's fee each."

To put the level of fraud in perspective, Worldbeyondwar.org's letter pointed out to the Army that "$30 billion a year could end starvation and hunger worldwide"; "$11 billion a year could provide clean drinking water to everyone who needs it"; and "all the green energy projects ever envisioned that could preserve life on earth would collectively cost significantly less than this pocket change of yours that has gone missing."

According to Paltrow's investigation, the latest IG report "affirms a 2013 Reuters series revealing how the [Pentagon] falsified accounting on a large scale as it scrambled to close its books. As a result, there has been no way to know how the [Pentagon]—far and away the biggest chunk of Congress' annual budget—spends the public's money."

Eric Pianin reported in *Fiscal Times* that the Pentagon "has never completed an audit of how they actually spend the trillions of dollars on wars, equipment, personnel, housing, health care and procurements."

In 2009 Congress set a deadline of Sept. 30, 2017 for the Pentagon to be audit ready, a requirement that it may fail to meet leading to unknown penalties.

—Reuters, Aug. 19, 2016; US Dept. of Defense Inspector General Report, July 26, 2016; *Fiscal Times*, July 31, 2016, & Mar. 19, 2015; Oregon *PeaceWorks*, Aug. 24, 2016; Reuters, Nov. 18, 2013

Global Warming Could Disperse US Rad Waste Buried in Greenland Ice

A recent study led by Canada's York University shows that radioactive and other hazardous wastes buried and abandoned by the US military in Greenland's melting ice cap could be exposed by 2090. Built in 1959 at a depth of up to 115 feet under the ice surface, "Camp Century" housed 200 military personnel in facilities powered by an on-site nuclear reactor. Code named "Project Iceworm," its mission during the Cold War was to determine whether the area could support launch sites for nuclear missiles aimed at the Soviet Union.

When the Pentagon decommissioned Camp Century in 1967, researchers estimate it left behind 52,800 gallons of diesel fuel, 63,400 gallons of sewage and other waste water, toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and an unknown volume of highly radioactive reactor coolant. According to a news source from Denmark—which controlled Greenland at the time—the US promised to clean up the site, but officials left the hazardous materials, assuming they would stay contained within the ice forever. Now Greenland's ice sheet is melting at a rate of 8,000 tons per second, or 280 billion tons of ice entering the ocean each year. Once the melted ice reaches the pollutants, it could potentially transport them to the sea.

Now that Greenland is a self-governing territory, determining state responsibility for the cleanup could cause political conflict between the three governments. While Denmark gave permission for the US to use the 136-acre Camp Century site near Thule Air Force Base, its post-World War II policy prohibited nuclear weapons on its territory—a rule that the US broke by keeping at least 50 nuclear warheads at Thule between 1958 and 1965.

—*USA Today*, Aug. 4; IANS (independent newswire, India), Aug. 5; *Copenhagen Post*, June 29 & Aug. 15, 2016

Drug Probe of Air Force Nuclear Weapons Base Nicks 5 More

Five more Air Force personnel have been charged with or convicted of drug "activity" at the FE Warren Air Force Base, near Cheyenne, Wyoming, the control center for 150 Minuteman III nuclear-armed missiles, the Associated Press (AP) reported. A total of 19 have now been investigated for illegal drug use, 16 of whom are members of the 90th Missile Wing "responsible for securing Minuteman 3 missile fields in Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska as well as the vehicle convoys that move nuclear weapons," the AP said. Ecstasy, amphetamines and cocaine are reportedly among the drugs that had been sold and/or used.

General Robin Rand, the four-star commander of all Air Force nuclear forces, told the AP the 14 ranged in rank from airman 1st class to senior airman.

In 2014, while then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was visiting the base, officials disclosed that a number of missile launch officers, known as missileers, were under investigation for illegal drug use. That probe led to the discovery that dozens of missileers had been cheating on proficiency exams at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, which also operates 150 Minuteman III missiles.

—Robert Burns, AP, June 15; and Andrew Tilghman, *Air Force Times*, March 18, 2016

Thousands Protest Reprocessing Plans in China

Thousands of protestors took to the streets and social media August 6 and 7 in Lianyungang, China, opposing plans for building a $15 billion MOX (mixed oxide) spent nuclear fuel reprocessing facility in Jiangsu Province. The demonstration is part of a larger movement to oppose the Chinese government's plans to expand the country's nuclear power and processing capacity. Chinese activists have already succeeded in halting plans for a fuel fabrication facility, as well as opposing proposals for new nuclear power stations.

The Lianyungang protests broke out after rumors spread that China National Nuclear Corporation, in cooperation with French nuclear giant Areva, had chosen the area for a reprocessing facility they plan to begin constructing in 2020. The company's website indicated its managers had visited Lianyungang to "study the proposed site," which was one of six under consideration, and had not yet made a decision. The city is just 20 miles southwest of two operating reactors at the Tianwan nuclear facility, where plans are underway to build up to four new reactors. Giving voice to their opposition to the reprocessing plans, demonstrators chanted "no nuclear fuel recycling project" and "oppose nuclear waste, defend our home." —*New York Times*, Aug. 8; Energy Collective, Aug. 15, 2016

South Carolina Advisory Group Votes "No" on Rad Waste Imports

On July 26 the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board in South Carolina voted 'no' on two "position statements;" first, against any acceptance of German nuclear reactor waste at SRS, and second, against any US commercial waste fuel storage at SRS. Though resolutions by this state advisory board aren't binding, they reflect public sentiment and will likely impact DOE decisions on the two issues. Dozens of groups including the SC League of Women Voters, Don't Waste Aiken, Carolina Peace Resource Center, the Aiken Peace & Conservation Voters, and members of the Sierra Club worked to educate the board. The positions will be reviewed in one year, so the campaign will continue.

—Tom Clements, Savannah River Site Watch, July 27; and *Aiken Standard*, July 26, 2016

UK Parliament Votes to Replace Trident Subs, Labour Party May Seek Reversal

Hans M. Kristensen, of the Federation of American Scientists, writing in *The Intercept* last Feb. 23, said, "Both Russia and the United States are now officially and publicly using the other side as a justification for nuclear weapons modernization programs." Now add the British parliament to the equation. On July 18 it voted to build four new nuclear-powered submarines to carry US Trident missiles armed with modernized nuclear warheads.

Theresa May, the new Prime Minister, said July 17 that nuclear threats against Britain had "increased" and that saving the 31 billion pounds ($41 billion to be spent building four new submarines—and an additional $13.2 billion set aside as a so-called "contingency"—would be to take a "reckless gamble" with the country's "ultimate safeguard" or "insurance."

The US "leases" American-made Trident nuclear missiles to the British Royal Navy for its four large *Vanguard*-class submarines, the subs that Parliament has decided to replace. The US is the only state that spreads its nuclear weapons to other countries. This, in open violation of Article 1 of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Parliament's vote was an endorsement of the government's public promise to deploy nuclear weapons for at least another 30 years. Endorsing the massive spending spree, Defense Minister Michael Fallon said Britain's nuclear weapons were needed to deter threats from the Islamic State and terrorists. Critics from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Labour Party guffawed, pointing out that nuclear weapons had obviously never deterred either ISIS or terrorism.

Scottish National Party opponents of Trident replacement include 54 of 59 Scottish lawmakers in Parliament, and they contested the government's cost estimates. SNP leader Angus Robertson argued that the state's projections ignored annual operational fees; when included, the price of four new subs is actually in the hundreds of billions of pounds, he said.

Labour Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn argued that replacing the nuclear submarines violated Britain's legal obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which require a good-faith pursuit of nuclear disarmament. With strong opposition to Trident among Labour Party Members of Parliament, a Trident retirement and non-replacement motion may be adopted at September's party conference.

A formal anti-Trident party platform would mean that a future Labour government could stop the program before hundreds of billions are wasted on an unlawful and militarily useless weapon. In Sept. 2015 when he became the new leader of the Labour party, Corbyn shocked the pro-nuclear establishment by saying he would never use nuclear weapons if he were prime minister. "I am opposed to the use of nuclear weapons. I am opposed to the holding of nuclear weapons. I want to see a nuclear-free world. I believe it is possible." —*New York Times*, July 19, 2016 & Oct. 1, 2015; www.cnduk.org, "Labour activists prepare anti-Trident motion for party conference."

Sick Weapons Lab Worker Coverage Expanded

On June 3rd, the US Department of Health & Human Services approved an expansion of the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) for Livermore National Lab workers. While all Livermore, California nuclear weapons design lab workers can apply for benefits and compensation from the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, they must go through a cumbersome "dose reconstruction" process to determine if their radiation exposures were 50%-or-more likely to have caused the worker's claimed illness(es). Workers can avoid having to meet this requirement if they fit into a SEC, a class of workers for whom it is determined that the involved agencies cannot accurately "reconstruct" their radiation exposures, who also have one or more acknowledged radiogenic cancers (the government currently lists 22 such cancers). Livermore Lab's SEC was extended to cover all employees who worked at least one year (250 working days) between 1952 and December 31, 1989; the previous cut-off was Dec. 31, 1973. If you or a loved one would like more information about the worker compensation program, contact Tri-Valley CAREs' staff attorney Scott Yundtt, in Livermore, Calif. at (925) 433-7148.

—Citizen's Watch, Tri-Valley CAREs, Summer 2016

Additional Resources

***Beyond Nuclear**, 6930 Carroll Ave., #400, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-2209, Email: info@beyondnuclear.org; Web: beyondnuclear.org
***Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**, London, England; (020) 7700-2393; enquiries@cnduk.org; Web: cnduk.org
***Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility**, 53 Dufferin Road, Hampstead, Quebec, H3X 2X8 Canada; (514) 489-5118; Email: ccnr@web.ca; Web: ccnr.org
***Friends of Coldwater**, Minneapolis, MN; Web: friendsofcoldwater.org; Email: info@friendsofcoldwater.org
***Green Delaware**, 1110 West Av., Red Wing, MN 55066; (302) 299-6783; Email: alan@greendel.org; Web: allenmuller.com
***Greenpeace Canada**, 33 Cecil St., Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1N1; (800) 320-7183 or 416-597-8408; Web: greenpeace.org/canada; Email: supporter.ca@greenpeace.org
***Ground Zero Center for Nonviolence**,16159 Clear Creek Rd., Poulsbo, WA 98370; (360) 930-8697; Email: info@gzcenter.org; Web: gzcenter.org
***International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**, Genève, Switzerland; +41 (0) 227 882 063; Email: info@icanw.org; Web: icanw.org
*** Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER)**, 6935 Laurel Ave., Suite 201, Takoma Park, Maryland, 20912; (301) 270-5500; Email: info@ieer.org; Web: ieer.org
***Legalectric**, 1110 West Av., Red Wing, MN 55066; Email: overland@legalectric.org; Web: legalectric.org
***Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force,** 4587 Ermine Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89147; Web: nvantinuclear.org; Email: Judynwtf@aol.com
***North American Water Office**, PO Box 174, Lake Elmo, MN 55042, (651) 770-3861; Email: gwillc@nawo.org; Web: nawo.org
***Nuclear Age Peace Foundation**, 1622 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101; (805) 965-3443; Web: napf.org; Email: wagingpeace@napf.org
*** Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)**, 3411 W Diversey Ave., #16, Chicago IL 60647; (773) 342-7650; Email: neis@neis.org Web: neis.org
***Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS)**, 6930 Carroll Av. #340, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-6477; Email: nirsnet@nirs.org; Web: nirs.org
***PAX,** The Netherlands; +31 30 233 33 46; info@paxforpeace.nl; paxforpeace.nl
***Physicians for Social Responsility**, 1111 14th St, NW, #700, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 667-4260; psr.org;
***Savanah River Site Watch**, 1112 Florence St., Columbia, SC 29201; (803) 834-3084; Email: srswatch@gmail.com ; Web:srswatch.org
***Sustainable Economic & Energy Development (SEED) Coalition**, 1303 San Antonio St., #100, Austin, TX 78701; (512) 284-9589; Email: karendhadden@gmail.com; Web: seedcoalition.org
***Tri-Valley CAREs**, 2582 Old 1st St., Livermore, CA 94550, (925) 433-7148; Email: marylia@tricalleycares.org; Web: trivalleycares.org
*** Virginia Citizen's Consumer Council**, 4220 Northfork Rd., Elliston, VA 24087; Email: ileech@vt.edu; Web: consumerfed.org/virginia-citizens-consumer-council
***Women Against Military Madness (WAMM)**, 4200 Cedar Av. S., #3, Minneapolis, MN 55407, (612)827-5364; Email: wamm@mtn.org; Web: womenagainstmilitarymadness.org
***World Beyond War**, web: info@worldbeyondwar.org