After cutting through chain link and NATO wire fencing with 15 others on July 15, Marion, John and Ann unfurled a banner from DVG-VK (German Peace Society of War Resisters), the country's oldest and largest peace organization.

Delegation joins resistance in Germany

Continued from Cover

from the US, six from Germany, four from the Netherlands and one from England—cut through the perimeter fence in five places. They entered without interruption and walked around carrying banners, some for over an hour. One group got as far as the base runway before being apprehended. Three people, including Susan Crane, a Catholic Worker from California, walked through two unlocked interior gates and into a high security zone containing four suspected nuclear bunkers. The three climbed atop one bunker where they remained unnoticed for an hour. Guards finally took notice when they unfurled a banner: "Disarm B-61 Nukes"—a reference to the model number of the 20 nuclear weapons estimated to be there.

All 18 activists were eventually discovered, arrested, searched, ID'd and then released over four hours later with no charges, just an order to stay 100 meters away from the base for 24 hours. Their blockade of the gate 12 hours later brought no repercussions.

A Quakers' group action on July 23 involved timing and coordination. While some blocked the main gate in a routine way, others were poised for entry. On cue, a third group of three fence cutters went to work severing the wires, allowing a group of seven to walk through and get on the runway just as the Tornado jets that would carry the B-61s were to be taking off for practice. Once they'd cut the fence, that group slipped away to alert the base that protesters "are on your runway" and to stop the war games.

Those on the runway were detained, had their IDs checked and were released but were told they may face charges.

Later, a high-ranking air force pilot escorted by a local police officer came to the camp to complain. It was the first time in 20 years of the campaign that a pilot had ever approached the protest camp. With no sense of the irony, the officer scolded organizers, warning that the runway occupation action had endangered protesters and pilots.

At the air base's main gate, CeeCee Anderson from Atlanta, far left, joined members of the Youth Work Camp in displaying the 3-D illustration of a missile prevented from blasting off by chains of resistance.

"The base's 20 thermonuclear bombs that pilots are training to use are a threat to the entire biosphere," replied the campers, "so get your priorities in order."

Nukewatch coordinator John LaForge remarked, "Yes, it's hard to break into jail here in Germany. The civil police are so sophisticated that they go to extreme levels to pretend that nothing happened and that nuclear weapons bases are secure. Even German citizens who get prosecuted for 'trespass' and 'damage to property' (fences) have to refuse to pay fines at several levels to get a couple of days in the jug."

Two days later, Crane, LaForge, German organizers Marion Küpker and Gerd Büntzly went to the chief prosecutor's office in Koblenz, asking that the charge of trespass against Büntzly be dropped, unless the same charges are brought against the four Americans, including Crane and LaForge, who joined Büntzly for a go-in action to the nuclear bunkers in July, 2017. Last January, Büntzly was fined for the offense.

Crane and LaForge, equipped with a radiation monitor, made one last inspection for nuclear weapons on Hiroshima Day, August 6. They clipped through the perimeter chain-link fence and through a more secure razor wire fence inside to reach a set of previously uninspected airplane shelters. They spent an hour atop one of the shelters, recording measurements. After climbing down to inspect a second bunker, they were observed and detained by a large number of soldiers who forced them to lie face-down at gunpoint for about an hour until civilian police arrived.

"We hoped to confirm that the US has removed its nuclear bombs in compliance with the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, but our investigation was halted by the military," Crane said. "The extra razor wire around the bunker, the near access to the jet runway, and the massive heavily armed military reaction to us indicates the U.S. nuclear weapons are here," she concluded.

After having their identities confirmed by both military and civilian police, they were driven separately to the main gate. They waited in custody until their passports were returned, and then civilian police released Crane and LaForge at the gate.

For more information, visit nukewatchinfo.org and buechel-atombombenfrei.jimdo.com (German language).

—Reprinted with permission from* the Nuclear Resister *#189, Sept. 1, 2018, p.5. John LaForge contributed some reporting.

Speaking Out

Thurs., Nov. 15, 2018, Noon - 12:50 p.m.
"Land-Based Missiles: Dangerous, Useless, Expensive" — John LaForge, Univ. of Wisc. Barron County, "Thursdays @ the U," Blue Hills Lecture Hall (Ritzinger 234), 1800 College Dr., Rice Lake, Wisc. 54868

The Nukewatch Co-Director, and coeditor with Arianne Peterson of *Nuclear Heartland: A guide to the 450 land-based missiles of the United States*, reports on the instability of the Air Force's giant Minuteman III missiles, the scandals that have plagued missile field personnel, and the military chiefs that have called them unnecessary.

"Ousting US H-bombs from Germany"
With Marion Kuepker and John LaForge

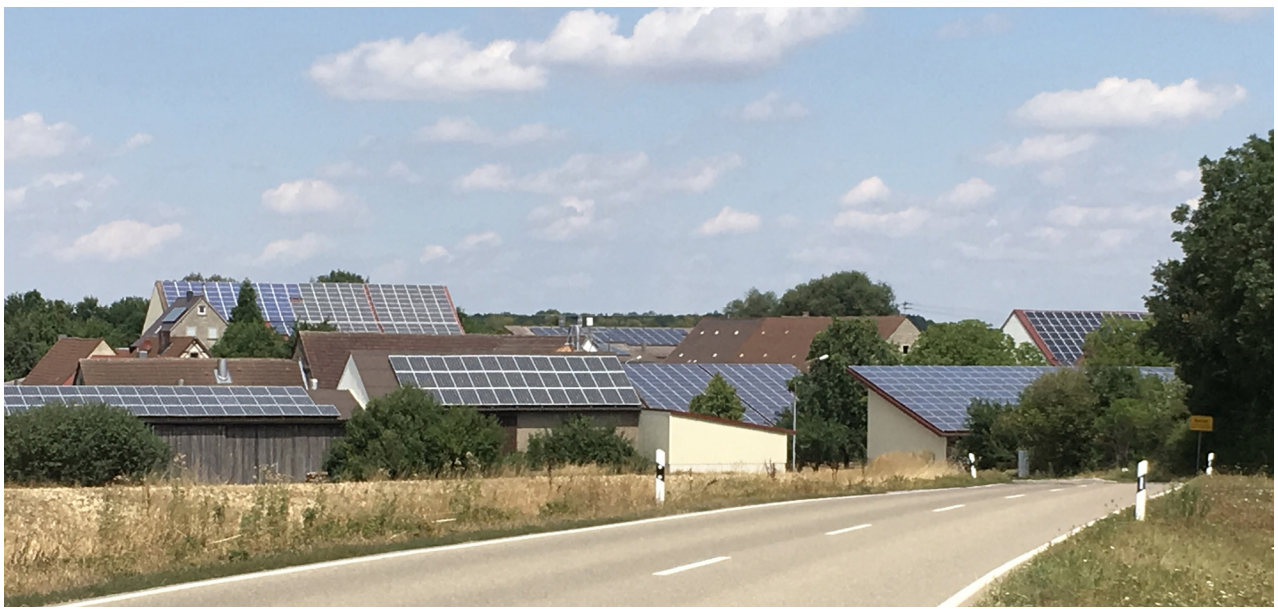
*Wed. Oct. 10: **San Jose Catholic Worker**, 7:30 p.m., 318 N. 6th St., San Jose, Calif.

*Fri. Oct. 12: **Protest Lockheed Martin** and "Keep Space for Peace," 12 noon - 1 p.m.; corner of N. Mathilda Drive and W. Java Drive, Sunnydale, Calif.

*Fri. Oct. 12: **Redwood City Catholic Worker**, 7 p.m., 545 Cassia St., Redwood City, Calif.

Thank You

Thanks very much to the Barrett Foundation and all the friends and supporters who responded so generously to our urgent appeal for financial help. You collectively allayed imminent cutbacks and thoughts of impending doom. We've won the battle, but the budget war isn't over. If you forgot to send a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or write to: Nukewatch, 740A Round Lake Rd., Luck, WI 54853



The Eifel region of western Germany, like the country as a whole, has wholeheartedly embraced the renewable energy program that will see the permanent closure of all its nuclear power reactors by 2022.