

# US Delegation Again Joins Protests Against US Nuclear Weapons in Germany



The US delegation standing just outside the Büchel Air Base, and in front of inflatable mock B61 nuclear bombs, included from left, Brian Terrell, Andrew Lanier, Susan Crane, Cee’Cee’ Anderson, Ralph Hutchison, Richard Bishop, Cindy Collins, Kevin Collins, and John LaForge. Not pictured, Fred Galluccio and Dennis DuVall.

By John LaForge and *The Nuclear Resister*

BÜCHEL, Germany—A delegation of 11 peace activists from the United States arrived at the anti-nuclear action camp outside Büchel Air Base in southwest Germany July 5, to join protests against the US nuclear weapons held there and against plans for replacing them with new bombs.

The US group—with participants from Iowa, Georgia, Montana, California, Tennessee, Arizona, and Wisconsin—was coordinated by Nukewatch for the third year in a row. It joined the popular nation-wide campaign to rid Germany of the remaining remnant of US nuclear weapons, 20 Air Force B61 gravity-drop H-bombs. (In the 1980s there were over 6,000 US nuclear weapons in Germany.)

This third delegation joined hundreds of Europeans who participated in vigils, blockades, marches and other nonviolent actions against the nuclear weapons’ deployment. The German group Non-violent Action for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (GAAA) convenes “International Week” together with Nukewatch, and invites peace groups to come to peace camp conduct nonviolent actions highlighting three goals: 1) permanent ouster of the unlawful US nuclear weapons; 2) cancellation of plans to replace today’s B61s with new nuclear bombs; and 3) ratification by Germany of the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The US delegation came for “International Week” which was part of a 20-week-long series of actions against US nuclear weapons, the object of scores of protests for over 20 years. From March 26 to Aug. 9, members of dozens of peace and anti-nuclear organizations came to the camp to facilitate nonviolent protests against the nuclear war complex.

During International Week, July 7 to 16, activists from Germany, The Netherlands, the UK, Austria, and a two activist student groups with participants from around the world.

GAAA and now Nukewatch are part of the 70-member, nation-wide coalition called “Büchel is Everywhere! Nuclear Weapons-Free Now!” working to oust the last of the US H-bombs. The coalition began the annual 5-month series of nonviolent protests four years ago, calling them “20 Weeks for 20 Bombs.” The council is a coalition of peace and justice organizations that

have endorsed nonviolent civil resistance at the base.

## US Replacement Bombs Planned for Europe

The resistance campaign also calls for cancellation of US military production of a new B61 H-bomb (version 12), and its plans to replace the B61s now at Büchel and at five other NATO air bases in



From left, Brian Terrell, Susan Crane and Birke Kleinwächter used rhyme on a new banner while blockading the main gate.

Europe. Production of the B61-12 has been delayed recently by faulty components.

“In view of the 2017 treaty ban, it’s clear the world wants to abolish nuclear weapons,” said delegate Ralph Hutchison, coordinator of Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, in Tennessee. On July 7, 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. “To spend tens of billions replacing the B61s instead of eliminating them, when tens of millions need disaster relief, food aid, housing, and medical care, is a criminal waste,” Hutchison said.

## Nuclear War Preparations Called “Sharing”

Under a NATO policy called “nuclear sharing,” five NATO states deploy the US B61s: Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, and Turkey. All five countries and the United States are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which explicitly prohibits nuclear weapons from being transferred to, or accepted from, other countries. The governments claim that their nuclear



A bird’s eye view of part of the action camp.

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