



Los Alamos Study Group

Nuclear Disarmament • Environmental Protection • Social Justice • Economic Sustainability

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United States to Radically Upgrade Nuclear, Conventional Missiles for “Prompt Global Strike”

PENTAGON ON TRACK TOWARD NEW “TRANSFORMATIONAL” OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE ABILITY TO STRIKE ANYWHERE ON EARTH FROM CONTINENTAL U.S. IN TWO HOURS WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY, TO HELP ACHIEVE “GLOBAL DOMINANCE”

Talks by Andrew Lichterman, Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF):

- Tonight, 11/18/03, Cloud Cliff Bakery Café, Santa Fe, 1805 2nd St., at 7:00 pm, and
- University of New Mexico, Student Union Building Lobo Room, Thursday 11/20/03, 6:00 pm, co-sponsored by the Campus Greens and the Progressive Student Alliance

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ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The U.S. is well on the way to revolutionizing the delivery systems for its nuclear and conventional weapons, with flight tests for new long-range “gliding” warheads expected as early as 2007, according to recent Pentagon documents obtained by Andrew Lichterman, Program Director of the Western States Legal Foundation, a disarmament research center in Oakland, CA.

Across-the-board accuracy improvements in *all* long-range missiles are scheduled for the next few years, enabling a new generation of nuclear and conventional weapons that will be able to detonate within a very few feet of their targets from thousands of miles away. This “transformational” change in technology has profound implications for arms control and for willingness to go to war. As recent Air Force strategic thinking cited by Mr. Lichterman makes clear, one of the expected “benefits” of these new technologies is to be able to wage war without time-consuming debate.

Mr. Lichterman has been researching nuclear weapons and delivery systems for two decades, and is one of the nation’s leading independent experts on the integration of nuclear and conventional weaponry and related policy issues. He will speak on these “Missiles of Empire,” which so far have been almost unreported except in a few trade publications, at the locations and times shown above.

The new missiles – which are to carry conventional explosives, low-yield nuclear warheads (“mininukes”), earth penetrating weapons, and sensor-equipped warheads semi-autonomous “seekers” for moving and “pop-up” targets – will not require forward basing, troop commitments, or associated vulnerabilities, but will be deliverable from launch vehicles located in the continental U.S. and from submarines near the target country. Nuclear capabilities are in many cases being masked within “conventional” weapons development programs, as Pentagon documents reveal. Some of the technologies involved are simple extensions of existing ones; others not.

Mr. Lichterman’s recent paper summarizing these developments and some of the issues they pose for our society and for democratic traditions is available at <http://wslfweb.org> and from the Los Alamos Study Group.

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