

Not satire: "PEACE THROUGH ATOMIC STRENGTH" is the nuclear mission now

Allowable radiation exposure at LANL increased 5x to speed plutonium "pit" production for new warheads; no more treaty constraints on nuclear forces

Why are we doing these ads?*

* This and previous ads are at: <https://lasg.org/LASG-ads.html>.

Not just because the danger of catastrophic nuclear war is high, though it is. Not just because of safety and environmental concerns, though concern is warranted. Not just because this country is engaged in wars, economic wars (sanctions), and subversion over much of the world, though it is. Not just the eclipse of constitutional government by an entrenched "national security" complex that includes every branch of government, both major political parties, and most news media and academia. Not just the ongoing theft of trillions of dollars in the name of imaginary or self-created "threats."

"We are closer to a nuclear exchange than at any time during the Cold War."
(Admiral Scott Pappano, Principal Deputy Administrator, NNSA)

"We have had the bomb on our minds since 1945. It was first our weaponry and then our diplomacy, and now it's our economy. How can we suppose that something so monstrously powerful would not, after years, compose our identity?" (E.L. Doctorow)

We are doing these ads because the problem is *all of us*. We have allowed the nuclear-military-corporate state to shape and limit our public values and discourse. We have allowed our state's political and opinion leaders to remain addicted to the political heroin of nuclear weapons. These weapons have

become our economy and identity, and it shows in our governance and the resulting social and economic outcomes.

Our primary dependency is mental and political, not economic. **Northern New Mexico will never develop until we finally leave the Jornada del Muerto – until we realize the Bomb was a mistake, and begin building an economy based on mutual responsibility and fulfillment.**

Our lack of political gumption and self-respect is now also an invitation for other dirty, soul-sucking, resource-intensive but job-poor industries such as huge data centers. If not halted these will join weapons of mass destruction as controlling forces in our politics.

On the basis of long experience we would like to tell you one of the Bomb's biggest secrets. **Doomsday weapons are fairly easy to successfully oppose if and when we find the courage to actually do so, not just pretend.**



Our New Mexico delegation. Will they remain reliable votes for the nuclear-military industrial complex? This complex eats half the U.S. discretionary budget, undercutting human development even as it incurs unpayable debt and fosters foreign wars. Their loyalty to the labs comes at our expense.

(LANL's) mission justification once the absurdity of "winning" "small" nuclear wars is realized. On top of this, most of the work at the two redundant weapons physics labs lacks rigorous justification. Work expands gaseously in the available budget.

To nuclear weapons employees: we are not better than you, but we are all better than the system in which you find yourself. Quit, if you responsibly can. Your talents are needed elsewhere.

What *is* Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)?

Many people are confused about this, including people in the media and at LANL itself. According to the National Nuclear

What does LANL do? (NNSA, 2025)	
Weapons Activities	87%
Nuclear Nonproliferation	7%
Environmental Management	5%
Science, miscellaneous	1%

Security Administration (NNSA), which owns, funds, and directs LANL, about 99% of LANL's budget is devoted to designing, producing, and maintaining nuclear weapons, keeping others from getting nuclear weapons, and managing the resulting waste and contamination. With an annual budget exceeding \$6 billion, LANL is the best-funded facility for weapons of mass destruction in the world.

In 2018, LANL was given a weapons *production* mission in addition to its weapons R&D role. **One-third of LANL's work is now devoted to preparing to make plutonium warhead cores ("pits").** In other words, **LANL is now partly a factory. Pit production, not weapons "science," is now LANL's signature mission.**

Eight years in, NNSA's pit mission is still undefined

LANL has failed in this mission multiple times. From 2011 through 2025, LANL made exactly one certified pit. The number of pits LANL has made since then is classified, which is handy to avoid accountability.

Until mid-2025, LANL's pit program was not going well, as NNSA leadership admitted last month. Now, its status is "to be determined." NNSA hopes to make 30 pits at LANL in 2028 and gradually much more after that, until the bigger South Carolina pit plant starts up in the late 2030s.

Other NNSA sites may be tasked to help LANL do its job in the meantime, though NNSA officials claim not to know what that really means. **NNSA's 20-year, 6-site, \$50 billion pit mission is evidently still very much a "work in progress."**

NNSA "vastly different" under Trump

Prior to this administration the U.S. warhead budget, in constant dollars, had *already tripled* over Cold War levels and was rising fast. **This year, NNSA's warhead budget — Trump's budget — is the biggest in history — by far.**

We recently attended a Washington, DC conference of hundreds of nuclear weapons industry managers, where senior NNSA officials proclaimed the agency was **"moving faster than at any time in 30 years," "doing things we haven't done in 50 years,"** aiming at **"30 plus, 60 plus, 100 (pits per year)"** at LANL, with **"several warhead concepts under development," two of which are pending approval right now.**

Using new computational tools, AI, and streamlined testing, weapons schedules are to be shortened dramatically. "Stewardship" and "life extension" are giving way to "production." Special nuclear weapons are proposed to fill specific "deterrence gaps." "Two decades" of arms racing are foreseen.

NNSA's new motto is a throwback to the 1950s: "PEACE THROUGH ATOMIC STRENGTH."



LANL radiation exposure limits loosened five-fold

To speed up the entire nuclear enterprise, existing safety, security, and construction standards and internal regulations must be "streamlined," according to NNSA and LANL officials last month.

Some of this has already happened. More is coming.

At LANL, the maximum allowable radiation exposure per year has already been increased by a factor of five, from 1 rem/yr to 5 rem/yr, the maximum allowed (for now) under law. This means LANL workers

receiving the new maximum dose, on average, will be five times as likely to acquire cancer or die from it as before.

Goodbye ALARA (and more)

The Department of Energy (DOE) has already quietly removed the "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA) standard from at least some of its safety orders in accordance with a Jan. 9, 2026 memorandum from the Secretary, as reported by *E&E News* and *National Public Radio*. The approved new orders, which slash safety and security protections, have not yet been published.

To abandon the ALARA principle in all federal regulations will require formal notice and comment procedures, which have not (yet) begun.

Let's not forget: by July 2015, 1,599 LANL employees had died from occupational exposures and injuries, according to the Department of Labor. As of last week, a whopping \$2.45 billion has been paid to sick LANL workers and their surviving family members under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), weakened by the failure of successive administrations to appoint new board members, has not yet weighed-in regarding these changes.

To speed production, mental fitness requirements are also being loosened for 2,000 LANL employees by dropping "Human Reliability Program" (HRP) requirements.

Plutonium inventories have also been made less frequent, which NNSA says will provide an additional 6 weeks of pit productivity per year.

New START expired. Trump rejected weapons limits

As of Feb. 6, there are no longer any limits on how many warheads the U.S. and Russia may deploy.

There was no option to extend New START further, and now the U.S. has rejected Russia's offer to retain the Treaty's numerical limits for a year. While this was Trump's decision, Democratic statements that supported retaining the limits were mostly predicated on resuming on-site inspections, a

ludicrous fantasy while the Ukraine War rages, Russia's strategic forces and presidential home are attacked, and sanctions target Russia's economy. Get real.

Both countries could now more than double their respective numbers of deployed nuclear warheads if they chose to do so.

In the U.S. case this could be accomplished by "uploading" almost a thousand additional warheads onto Trident missiles on Ohio-class submarines and an additional 400-500 warheads onto silo-based missiles. In addition, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" mandated unsealing the 4 additional missile tubes available per submarine, allowing deployment of up to several hundred more warheads if available. There are also 50 unused ICBM silos on "warm standby," and 30 more B-52H bombers which could be nuclear-certified.

The U.S. has about 1,930 reserve warheads for these missiles, in addition to the 1,770 warheads and bombs already deployed. An additional 1,477 warheads are intact but not being maintained. On top of all this, some experts have suggested creating thousands of new tactical warheads from pits currently in storage.

These numbers are deceptive. If the electric grid were attacked by high-altitude detonations designed to create strong electromagnetic pulses over wide areas, only a very small number of warheads could utterly destroy this or any country. Most people would die of thirst, disease, and starvation. Just one fully loaded Ohio-class submarine could burn down the central areas of 192 cities the size of Santa Fe in unimaginably hellish firestorms with few survivors. A single Russian Poseidon intercontinental torpedo may carry a warhead big enough to burn down all of Los Angeles.

For its part, Russia has said it will monitor U.S. actions closely, taking no action to deploy additional nuclear weapons unless the U.S. does so. What will other countries do? No one knows.

LANL's gung-ho pit production and new warhead designs figure prominently in this unstable situation, both to supply new kinds of warheads and to "signal resolve," as NNSA put it last month. As for Sandia, it too is eager to deliver nuclear "capabilities" to the "warfighter."

Who will rein them in? Not Congress, which loves its nuclear pork and is "on the payroll." Not Trump. Not the Pentagon. Who, then?

A new generation will have to be taught a new way of harmony, mutual respect, common interest, and love for each other and the planet.
(Herman Agoyo, Ohkay Owingeh)

Yes, I want to help!

- The first step is to endorse the "Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production" if you have not already done so, by filling in the short form at stopthebomb.org. This gets you on our email lists for bulletins, meetings, events, and actions. Organizational, religious community, and business endorsements are particularly valuable.
- Many organizations and religious organizations are afraid to oppose LANL's pit mission, or even to oppose nuclear weapons. If they are not on the list at stopthebomb.org, you can help get them there.
- Reach out to your friends in any way you think is appropriate (in-person, phone, email, social media) and get them to join the Call and reach out to their friends.
- Donate to support these and other efforts if you can. Reach out to others on our behalf.
- If you feel strongly about this issue and want to help, volunteer. Talk to us. We need your help. If you have particular skills, let us know that also. Time is our most limiting resource.
- We will be hosting more community meetings, trainings, and webinars soon. So stay tuned. To do that, make sure you add your name and email address at stopthebomb.org if you aren't on our local alert list already.

Scan to join The Call!



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