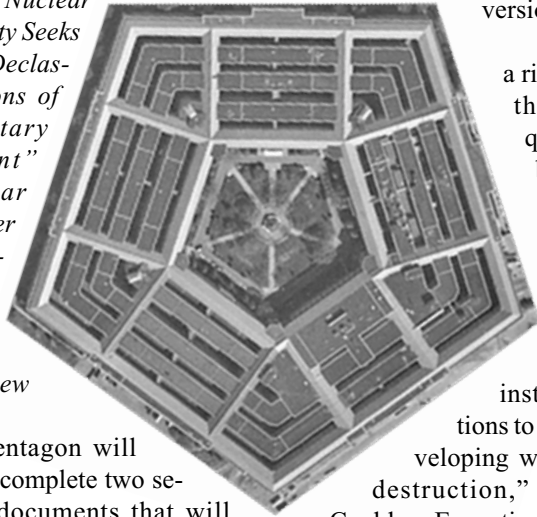


Secret Pentagon documents call for "usable" N-weapons

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability Seeks Release of Declassified Versions of New "Military Requirement" for Nuclear Bunker Buster and "Implementation Plan" for Nuclear Posture Review



The Pentagon will soon complete two secret documents that will spur development of a nuclear "bunker buster," according to senior Bush Administration officials who recently met with leaders of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA).

Dr. Dale Klein, Executive Director of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons council, a joint panel of top Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Energy (DOE) leaders, told an ANA delegation that the Pentagon is working up a "new military requirement" for a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), to be issued in "one month or months."

A separate report, delivered by DOD to Congress late last month cleared the way for the release of \$15 million in dedicated funding for RNEP research and development but fell short of containing a full military requirement for RNEP.

In addition, Dr. Klein told ANA representatives that an "Implementation Plan" for the Administration's controversial Nuclear posture Review (NPR) was nearly finished. That statement was confirmed to ANA by high-ranking staff at DOE's National Nuclear Security administration. The NPR expands potential nuclear targets from two countries to seven, including Iraq and North Korea, and prioritizes the destruction of "hardened, deeply buried targets" by nuclear bunker busters. Both documents are expected to be labeled "secret," but ANA is already working with Members of Congress to seek declassified

versions."

Taxpayers have a right to know that the Pentagon is quietly pursuing a brave new world of more 'usable' nuclear bombs and warheads at the same time it forcibly instructs other nations to abstain from developing weapons of mass destruction," explained Jay Coghlan, Executive director of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico (NWNM), a group that monitors DOE weapons laboratories."

These plans send a dangerous, contradictory message to the world about the military value of nuclear weapons," added Marylia Kelley, who lives across the street from DOE's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and has directed Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment for two decades. "They must be viewed in the context of implementing the policy shift to 'pre-emptive' strikes made public in leaked reports about the Bush Administration's nuclear posture. The result could further destabilize an already volatile world."

Coghlan, Kelley and more than five dozen other activists from communities near nuclear weapons sites around the U.S. spent three days in Washington last month meeting with Congressional and Administration officials as part of ANA's fifteenth annual "DC Days." In addition to the RNEP military requirement and the NPR Implementation Plan, ANA also learned from senior Congressional staff that the Pentagon has drafted legislation to overturn the nation's current prohibition against the research and development of "mininukes."

Source: Media Release, Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, April 3, 2003. <www.ananuclear.org/usablenukespr.html>

Senate Committee Agrees to Lift Ban on Small-Scale Nukes

The U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee voted to lift a ban on research and development of low-yield nuclear weapons. A provision repealing the 10-year-old ban was included in the 2004 national defense authorization bill, which the Senate committee passed on May 9.

The bill must still pass through the House Armed Services Committee, and the full House and the Senate.

The 1993 Spratt-Furse Amendment prohibits R&D leading to production of low-yield nuclear weapons (less than five kilotons). The bomb dropped on Hiroshima was 15 kilotons.

The panel approved \$15 million to

Tumbler Charlie, Nevada, April 22, 1952.



develop a new nuclear bomb to penetrate and destroy underground bunkers. This redesign of an existing nuclear weapon, would be six times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb,

The Los Angeles Times said.

The Senate committee authorized \$400.5 billion in military spending in fiscal year 2004, including \$9.1 billion for ballistic missile defense research, development and procurement. The panel also backed a provision requiring the Energy Department to "achieve and maintain the ability to conduct an underground nuclear test within 18 months, should it become necessary for the president to order such a test."

The committee was sharply divided on lifting the ban. "We have tried for 50-plus years to make these weapons unthinkable," Senator Jack Reed, a Democrat from Rhode Island, told *The New York Times*. "Now we're talking about giving them a tactical application. It's a dangerous departure."

Source: Agence France-Presse, May 10, 2003. <sg.news.yahoo.com/030510/1/3awan.html>