



## Military Industrial Wisconsin

*Why is it so hard to “move the money”?*

by Pam Richards

The Military-Industrial Complex is embedded in Wisconsin’s economy, on both the military and the industrial sides. Milwaukee alone is home to roughly 500 defense contractors, holding \$5 billion worth of contracts among them, followed by Madison where there are 769 defense contracts worth over \$96 million.

Some of these contracts are for major military items such as trucks and ships, while others are with subcontractors or for supplies that have no lethal use. (Even the military buys toilet paper).

Our universities are big defense contractors. The University of Wisconsin System won defense contracts worth \$38,796,563 between 2000 and 2018. Marquette University, a Catholic Jesuit University, received \$17,086,037 in US Defense contracts from 2000-2017. Even Madison Area Technical College holds over \$54,000 in military contracts.

### What is done with this money?

Marinette Marine won a Navy contract in April 2020, worth \$5.6 billion to build ten frigates. This Lockheed Martin subsidiary also has orders to build four modified Littoral Combat Ships for the government of Saudi Arabia. (President Biden has promised to ban all offensive weapons sales to Saudi Arabia. Whether this order will be affected remains to be seen.)

Oshkosh Defense-Tactical Vehicle Manufacturer produces military vehicles and specialty trucks, with an income of \$7.7 billion in 2018. The company supplies various tactical vehicles across the services and was awarded several new contracts in 2020.

### Wisconsin is home to four major military bases:

General Mitchell International Airport, out of which the Air Force provides in-flight refueling to all US Armed Forces and allied nations’ aircraft to extend their flying range.

Volk Field Air National Guard Base, one of two primary locations for Patriot Warrior, the largest annual training exercise for Air Force Reserve Command. Volk Field also trains personnel to operate the RQ-7 Shadow Drone, which is an integral part of the United States drone program. US drone strikes are believed to have killed tens of thousands of people, including many children, with only 2% of the victims being actual intended targets.

Fort McCoy, with its more than 60,000 acres, has been a major mobilization site during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and for the global war on terrorism.

Truax Field in Madison is home to the Wisconsin Air National Guard’s 115th Fighter Wing and its F-16 aircraft. Already a frequent source of noise complaints and a contributor to air and PFAS pollution, the Wing is now under consideration to house F-35 Fighters as well.

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Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center in Wisconsin

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**In addition** to the Air National Guard, the headquarters detachment of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 64<sup>th</sup> Troop Command, along with the 54<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team, is based in Madison. There are three US Army Reserve Centers and US Naval and Marine Reserves components in the city. The Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs supports Guard units statewide and is also located in Madison.

While we are committed to demanding reductions in military spending, we need to be aware that the war budget pumps a significant amount of money into our economy. Wisconsin's *per-capita* annual defense spending *in the state* is estimated at \$488. (July 31, 2020.) The long overdue reduction in the war budget will have an impact. Planning for alternative uses of the capabilities of small businesses, such as those contained in the Green New Deal, will help ease the negative impacts of conversion.

## On-Line Panel Discussion **STOP the F-35 in Wisconsin**



**Wed., April 14, 7pm**

Panel of 3 Madison activists who are leading the struggle to keep F-35s from being deployed at Truex Field:

Roseanne Greco  
Eugenia Highland Granados  
Tom Boswell

**Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin**  
Watch for email with Zoom link.

## Peace Activist Joins Fast for Ever's Climate Budget

by Christy Breihan

Jill Ferguson, Peace Action of Wisconsin Steering Committee member, is one of seven area activists who, on March 5, began a 22-day fast to raise awareness and show support for the climate justice initiatives in Gov. Tony Evers' state budget proposal.

Led by Rev. Jonathan Barker of Kenosha, the group also includes Black Lives Matter activists Vaun Mayes and Justin Blake (Blake is the uncle of police shooting victim Jacob Blake), Kenosha County supervisor Andy Berg and former supervisor Joe Cardinalli, and activist Tory Lowe.

The group has six demands, but each participant has pledged to speak specifically on three of them. Peace Action's Ferguson has chosen:

- 1) Opposition to the War Industry
- 2) Making the planet healthier for ourselves and our children
- 3) Respecting the rights and honoring the stewardship of Native Americans

After 12 days of only water, Jill had to break her fast on the advice of the doctor monitoring them. The decision was "devastating," but she has pledged to eat only the food needed to maintain her health for the duration of the fast to show solidarity with the others still fasting. She urges all of us to make some commitment to action to save the planet.

In the end, Jill feels good about having taken this step to draw attention to the causes she cares about so deeply. Her message to us all is, "There is nothing worse than thinking you could have done better!"

### Gov. Evers' Green Budget

The budget submitted by Governor Evers includes climate change-related initiatives, including renewable energy projects, electrifying transportation, clean water, programs for farmers, land conservation and establishing an Office for Environmental Justice to create a more just transition to a green economy.



# What Planet Is NATO Living On?

by Medea Benjamin and Nicolas J. S. Davies

February 24, 2021

Using Russia and China to justify more Western military buildup is a key element in NATO's new "Strategic Concept," called *NATO 2030: United for a New Era*, which is intended to define its role in the world for the next ten years.

As Michael Klare explains in a NATO Watch report on NATO 2030, every step the US is taking with NATO is "intended to integrate it into **US plans to fight and defeat China and Russia in all-out warfare.**"

The US Army's plan for an invasion of Russia, which is euphemistically called "The US Army in Multi-Domain Operations," begins with missile and artillery bombardments of Russian command centers and defensive forces, followed by an invasion by armored forces to occupy key areas and sites until Russia surrenders.

Unsurprisingly, Russia's defense strategy in the face of such an existential threat would not be to surrender, but to retaliate against the United States and its allies with nuclear weapons.

US war plans for an assault on China are similar, involving missiles fired from ships and bases in the Pacific. China has not been as public about its defense plans, but if its existence and independence were threatened, it too would probably use nuclear weapons, as indeed the United States would if the positions were reversed. But they're not – since no other country has the offensive war machine it would need to invade the United States.

Michael Klare concludes that NATO 2030 "commits all alliance members to a costly, all-consuming military competition with Russia and China that will expose them to an ever-increasing risk of nuclear war."

US and NATO's numerous violations of international law and leading role in the tensions fueling the renewed Cold War include:

- illegal invasions of Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq;
- the broken agreement over NATO expansion into Eastern Europe;
- US withdrawals from important arms control treaties;

- more than 300,000 bombs and missiles dropped on other countries by the United States and its allies since 2001;
- US proxy wars in Libya and Syria, which plunged both countries into chaos, revived Al Qaeda and spawned the Islamic State;
- US management of the 2014 coup in Ukraine, which led to economic collapse, Russian annexation of Crimea and civil war in Eastern Ukraine;
- and the stark reality of the United States' record as a serial aggressor whose offensive war machine dwarfs Russia's defense spending by 11 to 1 and China's by 2.8 to 1, even without counting other NATO countries' military spending.



**NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) keeps encroaching on Russia. At the end of the cold war in 1990, Russian leaders were given security assurances against NATO expansion from Pres. George Bush, and other NATO leaders. This promise has not been honored.

NATO originally, in 1949, had 12 member states. Today it has 30. Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States.

# War/Peace News

- **The New START Treaty has been extended!** “One of the first acts of the Biden administration was to extend the New Start treaty - that put a marker down about how important this portfolio is. It is the last bilateral nuclear arms control agreement between the two countries [Russia and the United States] that control 90% of the world’s nuclear arsenal.” *Former Secretary of Defense William Perry*

- **More Americans died from COVID** in the last year than in WWI, WWII and Vietnam combined. *New York Times*

**Vaccine Apartheid:** Israel leads the world in vaccinating its citizens against COVID but the 5 million Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank are excluded from access. (Unless they work inside Israel.) **The inequity** of the COVID-19 vaccine availability around the world is shameful. We support Code Pink’s call to make the COVID-19 vaccine a People’s Vaccine: a global public good, freely and fairly available to all, prioritizing those most in need here at home and around the world.

- **The War at Home.** Nearly 20,000 people died in the United States from gun violence last year — more than any year in at least two decades — according to the Gun Violence Archive. Gun sales also jumped by 64% in 2020, with some 23 million guns sold in the United States. *Democracy Now!* 3/25/21

Back-to-back mass shootings in Atlanta and Boulder brought the issue of gun control before Congress once again. It would require 10 Republicans to join all the Democrats in the Senate to have the required 60 votes to pass new gun control legislation. But, because the use of the filibuster by Republican opponents can block any action on gun legislation, it is almost impossible to see a change in the status quo. Thus, the current effort to end the filibuster.

- **The Pentagon is rethinking** how to position its forces around the world. They are reportedly looking at plans to focus more on Russia and China without retreating from our interests in the Middle East. The new Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has ordered

a new “global posture review.” Instead of closing all of the 800 major US military bases around the world and bringing our troops home, military commanders have been suggesting smaller groups of forces, easily moved and deployed and less detectable, as being more survivable. 2/18/21, *Associated Press*

- **Israel’s Nukes.** A large construction project taking place at Israel’s nuclear weapons facility in the Negev Desert near Dimona is causing concern about an expansion of its nuclear program. Israel has an official policy of “nuclear ambiguity.” It will not formally admit to or deny having nuclear weapons. It has never joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Israel is estimated to have at least 80 and up to 400 nuclear weapons. 2/26/21 *Associated Press*

- **Invest in Cures Before Missiles Act.** Democrats in Congress are calling for \$1 billion shift from weapons of mass destruction to funding a “vaccine of mass prevention.”

The Investing in Cures Before Missiles (ICBM) Act, introduced in the House and Senate on Friday, March 26, would stop funding on a proposed new missile, known as the ground-based strategic deterrent (GBSD) which is projected to cost a total of \$264 billion over its projected lifespan, and discontinue spending on a linked warhead modification program.

“The United States should invest in a vaccine of mass prevention before another new land-based weapon of mass destruction,” Senator Edward Markey of Massachusetts, co-author of the bill, said. *The Guardian*, 3/26/21



# Earth Day - April 22

## People, Peace and the Planet



- **Global warming continues:** 2020 has been declared the hottest year on planet Earth since records have been kept.
- March 18 was the **10th anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster** in Japan where four out of six reactors were severely damaged by a large earthquake and tsunami. A hydrogen buildup resulted in explosions and melting of the nuclear cores. The remains of the Fukushima reactors still have to be constantly cooled and there is no permanent solution for the contaminated radioactive water which has entered the Pacific Ocean and triggered a large die-off of sea life.
- April 26 is the 35th anniversary of the **Chernobyl nuclear power disaster** in Russia, now Ukraine. A large area around Chernobyl is still uninhabitable and emitting radiation. The death toll has been estimated up to nearly one million. The nearby city of Pripyat is an abandoned ghost town. Fallout contaminated large parts of Europe, Russia and Belarus. Birth defects and cancers are common. There will need to be hundreds of years of radiation monitoring for both Chernobyl and Fukushima.
- **An Earth Day Climate Summit** has been called by President Joe Biden for April 22 and 23. Leaders of forty countries, including the world's largest economies, have been invited, including Russia and China. China is the No. 1 emitter of greenhouse gasses, the US is No. 2 and Russia is No. 3. It is essential that the three nations work together to cut emissions.

This Climate Summit will be all virtual and *publicly viewable* on livestream. The UN Global Climate talks will take place in Glasgow, Scotland in November.

- **Deb Haaland**, first indigenous Secretary of the Interior was sworn into office March 18. A member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, she is the first Native American to serve in a US presidential cabinet. This is a huge victory for indigenous people and for the struggle to save a livable planet. We expect Haaland to put the interests of people, indigenous land, and climate over fossil fuels.



Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior

- **Stop the Line 3 Oil Pipeline** is now the focus of climate and indigenous activists. Enbridge's Line 3 is to be built across some of Minnesota's most pristine waters, permeable soils, and best wild rice lakes. This route violates treaty rights, crossing over 1855 Treaty land where Anishinaabe people have the right to hunt, fish, and gather. Dozens of indigenous people have been arrested for their resistance. This is the new "Standing Rock." President Biden can stop Line 3.
- **Stand for a Livable Planet** is back on the corner of Water and Wisconsin in downtown Milwaukee at **12 noon every Friday**, joining climate action groups around the world. Peace Action is invited to join 350 Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Area Green Party and others in front of Chase Bank and Wells Fargo Bank, two of the largest financers of fossil fuel projects. Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground!

**"Act now. Time is not on our side."**

# PEACE CALENDAR

April/May 2021

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many peace events will be held online. Watch for the easy Zoom links on email alerts from Peace Action of Wisconsin.*

**Every Saturday Stand for Peace. 12 noon.** See ad for weekly locations. Organized by Peace Action of Wisconsin. Wear Masks - Social Distance!

**Every Friday Stand for a Livable Climate. Protest the Funding of Fossil Fuels - 12 Noon to 1pm** in front of Chase Bank & Wells Fargo Bank on Water & Wisconsin. They are the 2 largest funders of fossil fuels on Earth. Organized by 350.org Milwaukee. Endorsed by Peace Action. Wear Masks - Social Distance.

**Wed. April 7 China, The U.S. and the Risk of Nuclear War Webinar** sponsored by Committee for a SANE U.S.-China Policy and Western Mass. Back from the Brink. Experts will examine the dangers of a nuclear war erupting between the U.S. and China, and consider strategies for preventing war. Moderated by Michael Klare. **6pm CT on Zoom.** Open to the public. Registration is free. To register, go to [bit.ly/riskofwar](http://bit.ly/riskofwar)

**Sat. April 10 Global Days of Action on Military Spending - Protest at US Army Reserve Center, 4850 W. Silver Spring Dr., Milw. 12 noon - 1pm.**

**Wed. April 14 No F-35 in Wis.** Peace Action of Wis. hosts a **Panel Discussion with activists from Safe Skies/Clean Water Wisconsin**, fighting against bringing the F-35 to Wisconsin. 7pm on Zoom.

**Tues. April 20 Peace Action of Wis. Steering Committee meeting.** 7pm on Zoom.

**Wed. April 21 End the Wars Coalition meeting.** 7pm on Zoom..

**Sun. April 25 Lift the Blockade on Cuba Car Caravan.** Meet at **1pm** in Mitchell Park Domes parking lot. Organized by Wis. Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba. Endorsed by Peace Action of Wis.

**Thur. May 13 An American Dilemma: Runaway Military Spending** Watch the Code Pink Webinar with Cong. Reps **Mark Pocan** (D-WI) and **Barbara Lee** (D-CA). Followed by discussion. Sponsored by Peace Action of Wis. 7pm on Zoom.

**Tues. May 18 Peace Action of Wis. Steering Committee meeting.** 7pm on Zoom.

**Wed. May 19 End the Wars Coalition meeting.** 7pm on Zoom



Julie Enslow and Pam Richard on Capitol and Humboldt.

## 18 Years of War and Occupation in Iraq

On May 20, Peace Action of Wisconsin held a special Stand for Peace on the 18th anniversary of the beginning of the War on Iraq. Beginning on March 19, 2003, the war continues under the present US occupation. Over 7,000 American service members have died in the war zones of Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Hundreds of thousands more US and allied forces have been wounded in combat or have died indirectly as a result of injuries sustained in the war zones. The number of dead, wounded and refugees on the Iraqi side far exceed US victims. **BRING OUR TROOPS HOME!**



Mary Jo Travis (right) and Laura Kukor-Shea.



**12 noon every Sat.**

April 3 King/North (focus on Dr. King's assassination)  
 April 10 51st/Silver Spring (focus on Tax Day)  
 April 17 LaFayette /Lincoln Memorial Dr. (focus on Cuba)  
 April 24 Oakland/Capitol

May 1 6th/Mitchell (focus on immigration)  
 May 8 Howell/Layton  
 May 15 National/Greenfield  
 May 22 Sherman/North  
 May 29 Pt. Washington/Silver Spring

***Wear Masks/Social Distance***



War protestors in Milwaukee commemorate the 18th anniversary of the start of the Iraq War on March 20, 2021. *Photos by Sue Ruggles*

## Get on Our E-Mail Alert List!

**Don't be out of the loop!**

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**info@peaceactionwi.org**

## Contact Us

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Make checks out to Peace Action of Wisconsin

1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212

**Call office for information on monthly sustainers.**

**If you are not receiving our *Peace Action Email Alerts* please email us your email address so you can keep in touch with current activities.**

## Thank you Volunteers

- Mailing Crew- Mary Alice Martines, Marsha Vila, Mary Laan, Babette Grunow, Tom Neibler, Kai Smith, David Lindberg, Sue Cottrell, Jill Ferguson, Rosemary Huddleston, Barbara Markoff
- Office Help - Joe Radoszewski , Samir Moukaddam
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## The Mobilizer

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**End Military Intervention, Transfer Military Spending to Human Needs, Abolish Nuclear Weapons & Power. Oppose Racism & Sexism, Protect the Environment.**

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DATED MATERIAL

**Car Caravan to  
Lift the Blockade on Cuba  
Sunday, April 25**  
Meet at 1pm in the Parking Lot of  
Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd.



The Caravans to Lift the Blockade were started in Miami by Cuban American families who want to travel, trade, and have normal exchanges with their loved ones in Cuba. Only the US government stands in the way! Join us in saying, "After 60 years, it is TIME NOW to end the BLOCKADE!"

**Organized by the Wisconsin Coalition to  
Normalize Relations with Cuba.**

**[www.wicuba.org](http://www.wicuba.org)**

Endorsed by *Peace Action of Wisconsin*

Peace Action of Wisconsin presents a *Special Zoom Webinar*

**"An American Dilemma:  
Runaway Military Spending"**

Thursday, May 13, 7 pm

*Featuring a Code Pink Webinar with*  
**Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and**  
**Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)**



Followed with a discussion on the problem of egregious military spending and its impact on our lives.

Representatives Lee and Pocan are founders and co-chairs of the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus.

"We are facing a crisis in this country and billions of dollars in defense spending increases won't solve it... Year after year, we see taxpayer dollars line the pocket of defense contractors instead of supporting the American public." Rep. Mark Pocan

***Watch for a Peace Action of Wisconsin email alert  
with the easy zoom link for this special event.***