

It's time to shut down the Nevada Test Site

To the editor:

I was enlightened by Keith Rogers' Monday article about proposed new activity at the Nevada Test Site, although his tone made many of the ideas and proposals sound like sure things rather than possibilities being "scoped" out by a public process between now and Oct. 16.

—Since the United States has been failing to lead the way toward nuclear disarmament, I'm not excited about any enhanced or prolonged activity at the NTS. New subcritical tests? How does that help us eliminate nuclear weapons?

International law has been damaged by our support for some regimes with well-developed and usable, rogue nuclear programs with deliverable weapons (India, Pakistan and Israel) while making serious threats against other states with far less developed programs and no way to use them (Iran and North Korea).

—We used the bomb in war and continued to injure and kill tens of thousands of others during tests with little or no apology.

Who are we to "ensure compliance with treaties" when this administration, like those before it, selectively ignores treaties that are the law of the land? I trust the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization to do their monitoring jobs objectively and effectively, more than our government, which pursues its own self-perceived interest and lets

allies off the hook while overstating the threat from others, whipping up fear, preventing prospects for peace from germinating.

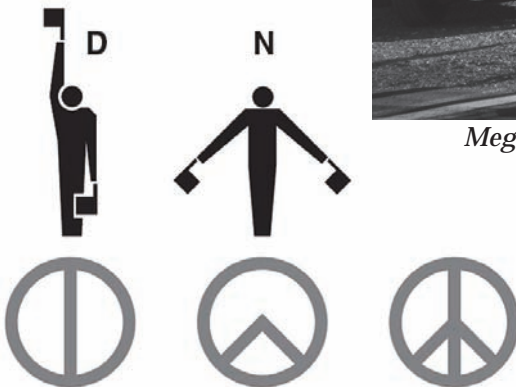
No more weapons work at the Nevada Test Site. Or even more, just close it down.

JIM HABER
LAS VEGAS

The writer is coordinator of the Nevada Desert Experience, which seeks to organize interfaith resistance to nuclear war and weapons.



Megan and Charlie at the NTS on Hiroshima Day



existed on the face of the Earth premises its national security on the threatened first use of nuclear weapons, why shouldn't we expect less powerful countries to follow suit? This is simply an unsustainable situation. It is time to throw away the outdated notion of "national" security premised on overwhelming military might, and replace it with a new concept of universal "human" and ecologically sustainable security.



-Jacqueline Cabasso, winner of 2008 Sean MacBride Peace Prize, interviewed by Thalif Deen for IPS News Agency
<<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=44845>>

In May, Mohamed ElBaradei, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, warned that the number of nuclear powers could double in a few years unless new disarmament is a priority.... Right now, however, the American nuclear landscape—little acknowledged or discussed—remains grimly potent. According to the authoritative Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the United States still maintains a nuclear stockpile estimated at 5,200 warheads—of which approximately 2,700 are operational (with the rest in reserve), while the Obama administration will spend more than \$6 billion on the research and development of nuclear weapons this year alone.

-Frida Berrigan, "64 Years Too Late and Not a Moment Too Soon,"
August 3, 2009
<<http://TomDispatch.com>>

By the Pentagon's own figures, the US military uses more fossil fuels than any other single entity. But the Pentagon's figures only take into consideration vehicle transport and facility maintenance.

Yet the US military isn't listed as one of the World Wildlife Fund's "footprint issues." Nor is it mentioned by the Natural Resources Defense Council or Sierra Club as the largest consumer of the "dirty fuels" both lobby against.

-Bryan Farrell, from "Green Camo: Seeing Through the Military's New Environmentalism," WIN Magazine, Spring 2009,
Published by the War Resisters League