



Nevada Desert Experience

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events!**
- **Activists Call to "Prohibit Nukes, Promote Hope" at Memorial Day event in Kansas City**

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events!



FALL

Nevada Desert Experience

2022

Justice For Our Desert
OCTOBER 14-16, 2022

October 2022
Las Vegas, NV

Dear Friends of Nevada Desert Experience,

In our 40th year, exercising both caution and hope, NDE is planning to resume its schedule of events in the coming months. Speaking out and acting to reverse the imminent threats of nuclear war and climate catastrophe has never been so urgent as now. Seeds of war and destruction have been planted in Nevada, by testing of nuclear bombs and waging war by remote control, and it is in Nevada that we endeavor to plant seeds of life and hope. Please join us in building our beloved community of resistance in the desert!

The following events are works in progress, subject to change due to the state of the COVID pandemic and perils unforeseen at this time.

Mark your calendars and look for further announcements. Let us know if you might join us, and we will keep you informed as plans develop.

*- With deep gratitude,
The Council and Staff of Nevada Desert Experience*

Justice For Our Desert - October 14, 15, 16, 2022

NDE will host a weekend event with a cultural happening in Las Vegas and an experience in the desert, including peaceful witnesses at two nearby sites of terrible injustice, Creech Air Force Base and the NNSS, the Nevada National Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site).

Creech AFB is the center of drone warfare and assassination for the US military and the CIA. NDE began protesting there in 2009 and since then, evidence is clear that war from a distance by remote control is an instrument of terror that exacts a horrific toll on civilians abroad and moral injury on troops at home.

The NNSS, established on land stolen from the Western Shoshone nation, was the primary testing location of American nuclear devices from 1951 to 1992; 928 announced nuclear tests occurred there, making it the most bombed place on earth. Today it continues as the site of “subcritical” nuclear tests and other research for new nuclear bombs and for the “life extension” of old ones. NDE has witnessed for justice at the test site for more than 40 years.

Both Creech and the NNSS are desecrations of the land, its people and other creatures in Nevada and represent a threat to all life on the planet.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Las Vegas - January 16, 2023

Once again, NDE will be building a float to join in the parade observing the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in Las Vegas!

“I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. When machines and computers, profit and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.” - Martin Luther King, Jr., Riverside Church, 1967

Sacred Peace Walk - April 1-7, 2023

The Sacred Peace Walk is an interfaith journey of approximately 60 miles along Hwy. 95 through the Great Basin Desert in Nevada, on the beautiful traditional lands of the indigenous Western Shoshone and Paiute peoples. We walk in the footsteps of our spiritual ancestors from many faith traditions.

Activists Call to "Prohibit Nukes, Promote Hope" at Memorial Day event in Kansas City



By Brian Terrell

Four months ago, two days before the civilized world celebrated one year since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force on January 22, officials here at the Kansas City National Security Campus hosted a virtual celebration of a different milestone with partners from across the National Nuclear Security Administration and U.S. Air Force. “With great pride and excitement,” they recognized the completion of the B61-12 bomb’s Life Extension Program’s first production unit. This plant is responsible for producing 39 major non-nuclear component assemblies of the B61-12.

The trillion-dollar program of extending the lives of nuclear weapons is at odds with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, ratified into law by the United States, flouting Article VI of the treaty, which requires “all Parties undertake to pursue good-faith negotiations on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race, to nuclear disarmament, and to general and complete disarmament.” In the nine years since the B61-12 Life Extension Program was put into action, the life expectancy of humans in this country has plummeted. Undaunted, the NNSA boasts that it has extended the life expectancy of the B61-12 by at least 20 years!

This new bomb will replace the old B61, the primary thermonuclear gravity bomb in the U.S. arsenal, also deployed with NATO allies in Europe as part of a “Nuclear Weapons Sharing Program”. One improvement is that these new bombs have steerable tail fins that make them much more precise and deployable. Their explosive force can also be dialed up or down from 1 to 50 kilotons, that is, more than

three times the power of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945.

“More precise and deployable” is another way of saying more likely to be used, and with these new weapons on hand, U.S. war planners are thinking up ways to use them. A June, 2019, report by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, “Nuclear Operations,” suggests that “using nuclear weapons could create conditions for decisive results (and) affect how commanders will prevail in conflict.”

I was in Europe last fall during NATO’s “Steadfast Noon” exercises, the annual event where the militaries from 14 NATO countries rehearse an invasion of Russia. These rehearsals explain how an expanding NATO armed with more precise and flexible nuclear weapons like the ones made right here in Kansas City might tip a precarious balance. Since the invasion of Ukraine, Russian commanders have likewise speculated on how their own more precise and flexible nuclear weapons could help them prevail.

“The United States would only consider the use of nuclear weapons in extreme circumstances to defend the vital interests of the United States or its allies and partners,” says the Pentagon’s 2022 Nuclear Posture Review. Russia, more modestly for its part, has abandoned its own no first use policy and “reserves the right to use nuclear weapons...when the very existence of the state is in jeopardy.” Nation states, their vital interests and their very existence are temporary. These threats to destroy the planet in their defense are insane.

It was believed that a doctrine of “mutually assured destruction,” that the horrific devastation wrought by a nuclear exchange would leave no winner, is what helped prevent a world war over the last decades. The growing delusion among war planners that a nuclear war can be won places the world in unprecedented peril. In this time of climate catastrophe, famine and pandemic, the waste of resources to build nuclear weapons is an unspeakable crime.

In 1949, early in the cold war with Russia, the monk and poet Thomas Merton wrote, "When I pray for peace, I pray God to pacify not only the Russians and the Chinese but above all my own nation and myself. When I pray for peace, I pray to be protected not only from the Reds but also from the folly and blindness of my own country. When I pray for peace, I pray not only that the enemies of my country may cease to want war, but above all that my own country will cease to do the things that make war inevitable. In other words, when I pray for peace, I am not just praying that the Russians will give up without a struggle and let us have our own way. I am praying that both we and

the Russians may somehow be restored to sanity and learn how to work out our problems, as best we can, together, instead of preparing for global suicide.”

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