



Trump tells Pentagon to resume testing US nuclear weapons

"Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately," President Donald Trump posted on October 30.

The meaning of this announcement was immediately unclear- with the exception of North Korea in 2017, no nuclear power has conducted explosive nuclear testing in over 25 years. The United States last tested in 1992, China and France in 1996 and the Soviet Union in 1990. Post-Soviet Russia, which inherited the Soviet nuclear arsenal, has never done so.



Trump's announcement obviously took his administration by surprise. On Sunday, November 2, Secretary of Energy Chris Wright (The DOE is the department responsible for maintaining the US nuclear arsenal, not the "Department of War") contradicted the president when he indicated the United States has no intention of conducting new explosive tests, and would simply continue its regular testing of nuclear components and systems to ensure they are working properly. "These will be nonnuclear explosions. These are just developing sophisticated systems so that our replacement nuclear weapons are even better than the ones they were before," Mr. Wright told Fox News.

No, Trump responded, his Secretary of Energy is mistaken. "They test, and we don't test. We have to test." "Are you saying that after more than 30 years, the United States is going to start detonating nuclear weapons for testing?" Trump was asked by CBS news. "I'm saying that we're going to test nuclear weapons like other countries do, yes," Trump answered.

On November 3, the New York Times quoted Matthew Bunn, a Harvard professor focusing on nuclear weapons, who said it was "distressing when the guy with his finger on the button" does not appear to be in conversation with his own administration on this topic. "It makes everyone afraid when the guy in charge of America's nuclear weapons doesn't appear to know what he's talking about."

Russian President Putin's response that if the US resumes explosive nuclear tests, Russia will follow suit comes as no surprise.

The "regular testing of nuclear components and systems to ensure they are working properly," the sub-critical tests carried on regularly at the Nevada National Security Site is dangerous enough. These are part of a \$2 trillion program of "stockpile stewardship" and "life extension" of weapons that the US is obligated by treaty to eliminate. Weapons which, if they "work properly," will exterminate most of the life on our planet. Resumption of explosive nuclear testing in Nevada will greatly increase the risk of nuclear war.

Join us in resisting all nuclear testing in the Nevada Desert!

Join NDE at the annual Martin Luther King Day Parade, January 19



"The principal objective of all nations must be the total abolition of war. War must be finally eliminated or the whole of mankind will be plunged into the abyss of annihilation."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The 2026 PARADE THEME is: "Living the Dream – Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future" and in that spirit, NDE and Code Pink

Las Vegas will once again bring Dr. King's urgent anti-war message to the event.

Contact [Karen Pettit](#) for more information

Join the Sacred Peace Walk, March 28- April 3, 2026 -Resist Nuclear Weapons and Drone Assassinations in the Nevada Desert



The Sacred Peace Walk is a seven day pilgrimage, a 70 mile trek through the Mojave Desert starting in Las Vegas on March 28, stopping at Creech Air Force Base and ending at the Nevada National Security Site on April 3, the day marked as Good Friday by many. Walking by snow covered mountain ranges, sleeping under the desert sky, participating in the ceremonies of the Western Shoshone friends who join in the walk and welcome us to their land, building community, listening and praying together, acts of resistance at the Test Site and

Creech, are cleansing for the spirits of all who participate and we hope, cleansing for our planet at risk.

Justice For Our Desert, 2025 Report



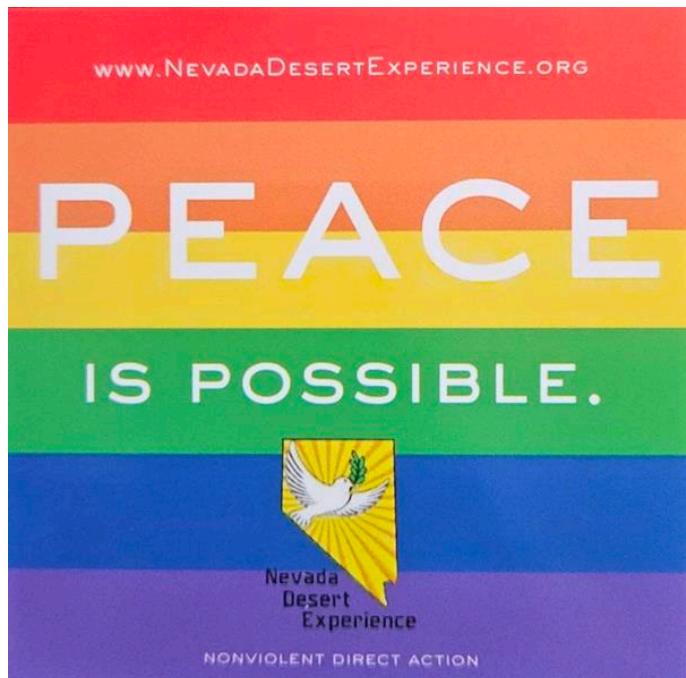
people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.” Protesting the nuclear test site operated by the US government on stolen Western Shoshone land was a most appropriate ceremony and activity to mark the day. **Dave's and Theresa's remarks to local and federal police “at the line” are recorded here** and **Brian's words are here**.

Justice for our Desert's original plan was to join with Code Pink Las Vegas friends leafletting the annual Las Vegas Pride Day Parade downtown. The parade was cancelled, though, by a last minute but shortlived deluge of rain. Some of us did stay around and distributed some of Code Pink's leaflets ("There is no Pride in Genocide") along with this sticker designed for the occasion by Vera Anderson to a wet downtown crowd.

From Friday, October 10 to Monday, October 13, a small band of NDE activists convened in the desert for our annual event, Justice for our Desert.

From our base in Las Vegas, we visited oases at Spring Ranch near Las Vegas and the Goddess Temple at Cactus Springs. We joined the powwow at the Snow Mountain Paiute reservation, vigiled for peace at Creech Air Force Base and participated in a traditional sweat lodge. We watched the classic movie, Broken Treaty at Battle Mountain, followed by a discussion led by Jeremiah Jones of the Western Shoshone. **A short video review is posted on Youtube here.**

In his effort to reclaim Indigenous Peoples Day, the second Monday of October, for Christopher Columbus, President Trump issued a declaration, calling “upon the



Why We Walk



Our friends Alan Winson and Rebecca McKean joined NDE's Sacred Peace Walk again this year and produced a 30-minute documentary of the event. They recorded scenes in parts of Las Vegas tourists rarely see as well as the majesty of the desert and actions of nonviolent resistance. More than this, they queried several of the walkers with the essential question, "Why?"

Please watch and share this beautiful film, [Why We Walk](#) and consider joining us next year.



1420 West Bartlett Avenue

Las Vegas, NV

89106

(702) 646-4814

info@NevadaDesertExperience.org

NevadaDesertExperience.org