



# Peace Talk

*Building a Culture of Peace*

*Volume 31 No. 1*

## **21st Century Technology Makes War Obsolete: *It's Time to Beat Swords into Plowshares***

A recent Department of Defense report recommends the maintenance of nuclear weaponry to defend against threats of cyber warfare against US targets. This is a curious conclusion to draw from a report that also warns that cyber-attacks could potentially disarm or even redirect US weapons to strike targets here at home. An example of this threat was demonstrated during a recent drone hackers competition held in California. The winner of the competition was able to hack and take control of rivals' drones.

One logical conclusion by Department of Defense planners to their report on cyber threats might have sounded more like: "The age of nuclear deterrence is closing. The mere possession of nuclear weapons is a greater threat to our own population than to any conceivable adversary. Therefore, we call for the US to lead the world toward the abolition of nuclear weapons." But military logic is to logic like, well, military music is to music: often one dimensional. The advent of cyber war has implications far beyond the deployment of nuclear weapons. In fact, those implications have far reaching ramifications for weapons of every variety.

When SC Senator Lindsey Graham came to speak in Fayetteville last July with John McCain (AZ) and Kelly Ayotte (NH), he told his audience that: "When the next war comes, I don't want it to be a fair fight. I want the US to have every advantage" (paraphrase). Mr. Graham was parroting a conventional wisdom in assuming that the next war is around the corner, a tragic prophecy that is all too often self-fulfilling. But Sen. Graham also betrayed a delusion of technological and military superiority that we have learned by the most painful experience never lasts. The most obvious example is the brief monopoly the US enjoyed in regard to nuclear weapons. Every weapon ever devised has been eventually turned against its inventor. If anyone has any questions on that score, you might consult with Monsieur Guillotine.

We can press for the day when deterring aggression against our country is best accomplished by waging peace instead of war. By converting those of our industries that manufacture tools of aggression into building sustainable

communities where human services are provided, and renewable energy generation replaces the current planet-destroying practice of tearing down our mountains in order to burn coal, with catastrophic climate changing emissions.

The misappropriated resources of our militarized fossil fuel centric policies of the last half century have put us in a double jeopardy. We can simply not afford the expense, not when the cost of our decade long military expeditions is expected to rise over the next 40 Years, estimated at 4-6 trillion dollars, especially given the increasing needs to care for our wounded warriors. And as long as we continue to invest primarily in military solutions to issues of national security, we can guarantee the bankruptcy of our cities and towns.

This is a primary reason for the Bring Our War Dollars Home public forum held in Chapel Hill on April 6, and the campaigns that preceded this one in Durham, Raleigh, Burlington and dozens of cities across the US, including the US Conference of Mayors.

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## NCPA SUPPORTS MORAL MONDAYS

NC Peace Action Director John Heuer was arrested on May 20th during the 4th wave of Moral Mondays, challenging the current NC General Assembly and governor's office, in what appears like an attempt to roll back civil rights gains over past generations. In remarks during a press conference prior to his arrest, Heuer said "Peace Action works to build a culture of peace between and among nations, but also within nations, communities and the state of North Carolina. To build a culture of peace in North Carolina requires that we honor the directions of our founding documents, to establish justice and promote the general welfare." For more information on Moral Mondays. See [www.naacpnc.org](http://www.naacpnc.org).



**Above:** Daniel Woodham, Barbara Clawson, John Heuer and Anne Cassebaum in Burlington

## ORANGE COUNTY CAMPAIGN

Just as the total of US foreign military bases is not acknowledged (but thought to be about 1,000), our total "defense" budget is likewise unacknowledged. There are secret budgets for intelligence, and public budgets for the departments of Defense, State, Energy and Veterans Affairs which make your head spin. The sheer numbers are too vast to comprehend. But when translated into community trade offs, the calculations are striking. For example, **in 2012, the war in Afghanistan cost Orange County taxpayers:**

**\$36,600,000**

For the same amount of money, the following could be provided:

- **200 Elementary School Teachers,**
- **400 Low-Income Recipients of Health Care,**
- **600 Fair Market Rent for One Bedroom Apartments,**
- **800 Households Converted to All Solar Energy,**
- **1,000 Scholarships for University Students,**
- **1,200 Head Start Slots for Children,** and more than
- **\$900,000 for Orange County Parks and Recreation.**

Data from National Priorities Project, <http://costofwar.com>, November 2012

In the *Bring Our War Dollars Home* public forum at the United Church of Chapel Hill on Saturday, April 6th, we discussed these costs of militarism versus community needs. **Chapel Hill's "Mayor for Peace" Mark Kleinschmidt** moderated a discussion that included 4th District US Rep. **David Price**, NC Senator **Ellie Kinnaird**, NC Rep. **Verla Insko**, Orange Co. Commission member **Renee Price**, Carrboro Alderman **Sammy Slade**, Board of Education member **Mia Burroughs**, Interfaith council Director **Chris Moran**, Executive Director of Community Home Trust **Robert Dowling**, UNC Student Power leader **Zaina Alsous**, Veterans For Peace President **Patrick McCann**, NCSU Professor of Sociology **Michael Schwalbe**, and NC Peace Action Director **John Heuer**.

Organized by the Orange County Peace Coalition, the public forum launched a campaign to pass local municipal and county board resolutions to *Bring Our Troops and War Dollars Home*. In his remarks to the 75 attendees, Heuer said:

*"What is sometimes called "municipal foreign policy" is the practice of local communities and state governments taking on matters of national and global import through the passage of non-binding resolutions. Some people mock such resolutions as being a waste of time, since local officials have no direct budgetary or legal authority over the issue addressed.*

*In fact, taking positions on key national issues is a fundamental responsibility of local governments. Local resolutions serve a critical democratic function. Municipal, county, and state elected officials have much closer relationships to the people than do Federal representatives—local officials are the most accessible. It is not surprising, then, that from the earliest days of the Republic, local governments have served as a key conduit for the people to express their views, and resolutions have been the mechanism of choice. Local government is the bridge between the people and their national government.*

In our last fall/winter newsletter, we pointed to the statements by President Obama indicating his willingness to reduce military spending in favor of funding human needs. The implied challenge with this, and with all his good intentions, is to "Get out there and make me do it."

And that's what our community forums are about. Building a consensus that our national security policies have put our community security and climate at great risk. There will be a tipping point when enough cities and towns demand a change in our security policies.



## PEACE ACTION ORGANIZING IN NC

In January, residents of **Haywood and Jackson** counties met in **Waynesville** to organize an affiliate chapter of NC Peace Action. Thanks to Jean Adams for bringing together a wonderful group of dedicated peace activists.

Also in January, the **Raleigh** Peace Action succeeded in their push for a Raleigh City Council resolution to Bring Our War Dollars Home. Raleigh was the *second* state capital council to pass a resolution to end the wars, reduce military spending, and build a new economy based on renewable, sustainable energy!

In February, John Heuer met with student activists at **Appalachian State University** in **Boone**, to coordinate efforts aligned with ASU's first Social Justice Week, which included bringing our resident 1/5 scale model Predator Drone to the campus for a protest of weaponized drones.

Also in February, we supported Students for a Democratic Society at **UNC Chapel Hill**, who partnered with Campus Libertarians on a drone protest.

In March we met in **Charlotte** with members of Quaker, Unitarian, and UCC congregations who voted to form an affiliate chapter of NC Peace Action. Thanks to Mimi Davis for her stalwart efforts.

In April, **Durham** Peace Action members Betsy Crites and Vicki Ryder led a national conference call to share tips with activists around the country about organizing a successful "letters to the editor" campaign.

**Alamance** Peace Action organized an April 15 Tax Day event in Burlington, drawing participants from **Alamance, Chatham, and Randolph Counties**.

Friends and allies in **Asheville, Fayetteville**, and **Greensboro** have also expressed interest in NC Peace Action training to organize a local *Bring Our War Dollars Home* campaign.

### NC PEACE ACTION DINNER

NC Peace Action held our **Peacemakers Banquet and Awards Dinner** on May 16 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of **Raleigh**. The event "Afghanistan, What's Next" featured Matthew Hoh, former Marine Corps Captain and US State Department staffer who resigned his post in Afghanistan in protest of US policy of war and occupation of that country



**Above:** The May 16th banquet in Raleigh was well attended.

since October 2001. Mr. Hoh's letter of resignation and a video of his presentation can be seen at [www.ncpeaceaction.org](http://www.ncpeaceaction.org).

The Afghan dinner was provided by Unaabi Grill of Cary. The evening celebrated Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers, the Afghan Women's Fund and closed with a moving Afghan video, "A Love Letter Asking Forgiveness."

Peacemaker's awards were presented to "Distinguished Ally" American Friends Service Committee-Carolinas and our first "Peace Business Award" to Grassroots Press (Raleigh). Awards were announced in absentia to "Honored Public Servant" Congressman Walter Jones, and "Student Peacemakers" Andrew Wilkison, Ethan Lazo and Carl Fowler of Carrington Middle School in Durham, who were unable to attend the event.

### KHALILAH SABRA ON DEMOCRACY NOW

NCPA Board of Directors member Khalilah Sabra appeared on Democracy Now May 24, the day after President Obama delivered a speech on national security. Amy Goodman asked Ms. Sabra about the killing of Jude Kenan Muhammed, an American Muslim Khalillah knew growing up in Raleigh. Khalillah told Democracy Now that it was a dishonor to Muhammed's family that it took 2 years to learn from our government that he had been killed by a US drone strike. It was also a travesty of justice that our government has thus far refused to divulge any evidence that Muhammed, aged 22, who was living in Pakistan with his pregnant wife, was planning attacks against persons, or why he could not have been apprehended to face such allegations.

Ms. Sabra continued to describe the climate of fear and harassment Muslim children faced following the 9/11 attacks, as the primary reason Mr. Muhammed left his home in Wake County and returned to his ancestral home in Pakistan.

Khalilah Sabra is director of the Muslim American Society—Immigrants Rights Justice Center in Raleigh. See <http://masraleigh.org/>.

### SAM RIDES AGAIN

NCPA member Sam Winstead led his second annual Ride for Peace, bicycling 350 miles from Raleigh to Washington DC April 28—May 4th. Sam and his co-riders were met at Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House by Peace Action Executive Director Kevin Martin, Veterans For Peace President Patrick McCann, and a contingent of Korean Peace Activists Sam met at last year's Ride & Rally for Peace.

The WW II Marine combat veteran stayed in DC after the rally to visit with aides to Senator Kay Hagan, and Congressmen Howard Coble and David Price. Sam, who turned 88 on May 22, followed his 2nd epic bike ride by attending the Rotary International Peace Forum in Hiroshima, May 17 & 18. His visit to Japan was an extraordinary act of reconciliation for Sam, who fought the Japanese in the Pacific during WW II. Mr. Winstead's message to Rotarians was to treat war as a curable disease. For stories and video of Sam's 2013 Ride for Peace, see [www.ncveteransforpeace.org](http://www.ncveteransforpeace.org), and for those interested in joining the 2014 Ride for Peace, stay tuned.

## WALTER JONES INTRODUCES BILL

### H. R. 1238

To direct the President to submit to Congress a report on the long-term costs of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

Walter Jones, Republican Representative from NC's 3rd District, co-sponsored a bill with Iowa Representative Bruce Braley to determine the long-term war costs.

**All North Carolinians are urged to contact our senators and representatives to support the Braley-Jones House Resolution.** This is extremely important. Prior to the invasion of Iraq, Assistant secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz predicted that the War on Iraq would pay for itself with revenues from the sale of Iraqi oil. Mr. Wolfowitz' assertions were both wildly off the mark, and damning testimony about the avarice of U.S. intentions.

## BOMBING DOESN'T WORK: In Boston, Afghanistan, or Anywhere

by Matthew Hoh

If Americans, and our elected and appointed leaders in Washington, D.C., need any further proof that bombing does not work in terms of achieving a political objective, then they should listen to a packed TD Garden in Boston sing the National Anthem to open the Bruins-Sabres game Wednesday evening. (April 17, 2013)

Unless the Boston Marathon bomber's purposes were to simply cause personal suffering and enjoy a sick thrill, and not achieve any form of political objective, he failed.

We have known bombing does not work for decades. The massive bombings of Germany and Japan in WWII and of the North Vietnamese in the 1960s and '70s only served to strengthen national resolve and unify populations. We now see the same result occurring in southern and eastern Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen. As a result of American bombings and targeted killings, many of which have no real targets, but target clusters of individuals who have the profile of a militant: old enough to carry a rifle and brown, insurgent and extremist groups that previously held little popular support are now claiming larger constituencies due to the reflexive nationalist response of the population to politically motivated bombings (a dynamic that is, of course, exacerbated in its effect by the bombing being conducted by a foreign and dissimilar power).

I am proud of the resiliency and strength of the people of Boston and Massachusetts, a city and state that was my home for six years. However, to have empathy for our own citizens and marvel at how such a cowardly and barbarous act in one of our cities unites a people across our country, while ignoring or disclaiming the same effect in other populations, is not just morally weak, but incredibly unwise. War and violence are fool's options. It is well past time Americans accept this truth and incorporate it not just into our policies and culture, but also into our national soul.



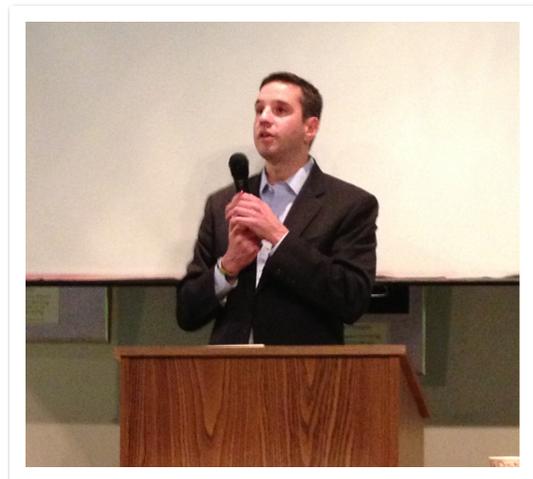
**Right:** Matt Hoh addresses attendees at the NC Peace Action Peacemaker Dinner event on May 16.

## STOP WAR GAMES, START PEACE TALKS

**The Korean War**, known in the US as "The Forgotten War," has never ended. Every year the U.S. stages a series of massive joint war games with its ally South Korea. These coordinated exercises are both virtual and real. Among other things, they practice live fire drills and simulate the invasion of North Korea—including first strike options. These joint war games are adding to the dangerous cycle of escalation of tensions on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea views these war games as an act of provocation and threat of invasion. South Korean activists also decry the role of these war games in the hostile perpetuation of the division of the Korean peninsula and are often persecuted for their protests under South Korea's draconian National Security Law. The annual war games, usually staged in March and August, typically last for months, and involve tens of thousands of US troops stationed in South Korea and deployed from the US, as well as hundreds of thousands of their South Korean counterparts.

In South Korea, peace and reunification groups have long opposed these war games. They have called for peninsula-wide demilitarization entailing the eventual removal of US troops. As one organization puts it, "Unless and until US forces are completely and permanently withdrawn from South Korea, it will be impossible to establish peace on the Korean peninsula."



## Time for Accountability

"A landmark nonpartisan report has confirmed it is 'indisputable' the United States tortured people after the 9/11 attacks and says the highest officials in the George W. Bush administration are responsible. The Constitution Project says never before in U.S. history had there been "the kind of considered and detailed discussions that occurred after 9/11 directly involving a president and his top advisers on the wisdom, propriety and legality of inflicting pain and torment on some detainees in our custody." The task force, led by two former congressmembers — a Republican, Asa Hutchinson, and a Democrat, James R. Jones — said it found no compelling evidence torture produced helpful information that could not have been found without it. It details how the CIA waterboarded not only al-Qaeda suspects but also at least one Libyan suspect, and says prisoners were slammed into walls, chained for hours in difficult positions and kept awake for days. The report also criticizes a lack of transparency by the Obama administration, saying its practice of hiding details about rendition and torture "cannot continue to be justified on the basis of national security." (source: Democracy Now!)

President Obama has stated that he wants to "look forward" and not backward, when it comes to accountability for officials who sanctioned torture and launched an unprovoked war of aggression. But as USAF Colonel Morris Davis says, "The United States cannot stand up for justice and the rule of law when it sits idly on its own record of torture," Col. Davis [wrote in March 2011](#). "It diminishes the weight of its moral authority to influence others around the world when it treats its binding legal obligations as options it can choose to exercise or ignore."

### **The Accountability Movement in North Carolina**

*North Carolina Stop Torture Now* is a grassroots coalition of individuals representing themselves and—through their involvement and witness to neighbors—a diversity of faith, human rights, peace, veteran, and student groups across the state.

"We aim to stop torture everywhere, and have [worked since 2005](#) to expose and end [North Carolina's central role](#) in the ongoing U.S. torture program.

"Our special focus has been on the "torture taxis" of Aero Contractors, Ltd. of Smithfield, nominally a private company linked to the operation of aircraft in clandestine support of the CIA's extraordinary rendition program. Extraordinary rendition is a phrase that disguises the kidnap, detention and torture of individuals alleged to be enemies of the United States, including those guilty of nothing other than being misidentified.

"Aero Contractors' headquarters is located at the Johnston County Airport near Smithfield, NC, and you can [view a partial list of detainees who were disappeared and subsequently tortured](#) at [www.ncstoptorturennow.org](http://www.ncstoptorturennow.org).

"We are particularly concerned that state and local government officials and individual citizens recognize their own complicity in the extraordinary rendition program and take steps to provide restorative justice to victims and survivors, to air a full account of human rights violations, and to demand top-down accountability for the authors and perpetrators."

### **The Organizing Committee for the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture**

P.O. Box 12584

Raleigh, NC 27605

(919) 834-4478 [oc.nccit@gmail.com](mailto:oc.nccit@gmail.com)

### **THE SHIFT**

We are on the cusp of an historic transition in societal norms that will rival the social change from the time when slavery and disenfranchisement of women held legal sanction in this country.

The Occupy movement has planted seeds that are sprouting in a coalescence of peace, social, and environmental justice movements that are putting the Military Industrial Complex on notice that their business as usual is coming to an end.

However, there are desperate attempts to shore up the military ethos in this country. The 10th anniversary of Shock and Awe in Iraq elicited a fictional narrative about the origins and effects of that misadventure. Likewise, the multi-year Vietnam War Commemoration project is a historical whitewash of that tragic era; and the April 25

dedication of the George W Bush Library in Dallas is testimony that not one high official has been held responsible for the crimes of

- Thousands of US service members killed.
- Tens of thousands wounded and maimed
- Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis killed
- Millions displaced from their homes
- A nation in ruins

all concocted on official deceptions about weapons of mass destruction and Iraq ties to the crimes of 9/11.



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TIME TO BEAT SWORDS INTO  
PLOUGHSHARES

## Special Mentions

### NC Peace Action's Board of Directors

- **David Harris**, Chair - Durham
- **Betsy Crites**, Vice Chair - Durham
- **Joe Burton**, Treasurer - Raleigh
- **Anne Cassebaum**, Secretary - Elon
- **Mia Austin-Scoggins**, Coordinator: Peace Booth and Media - Raleigh
- **Rachael Bliss**, Asheville
- **Mimi Davis**, Charlotte
- **Rukiya Dillahunt**, Raleigh
- **Kim Porter**, Durham
- **Sandy Irving**, Raleigh
- **Khalilah Sabra**, Raleigh
- **John Heuer**, Director – Pittsboro
- **Jenn MacCormack**, Director's Assistant, Durham

### NC Mayors for Peace Honor Roll

[[www.mayorsforpeace.org](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org)]

- **Bill Bell**, Durham
- **Mark Kleindschmidt**, Chapel Hill
- **Gavin Brown**, Waynesville
- **Mark Chilton**, Carrboro
- **Karl Pernel**, Louisburg
- **Darryl Moss**, Creedmoor

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

- **Margaret Mead**, US anthropologist (1901 - 1978)

