Earlier this year, the Obama Administration transmitted its Fiscal Year 2016 budget request for nuclear weapons to Congress. It contains an 11.2% increase in funding for the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) nuclear weapons programs. At Livermore Lab, the budget request is for over a billion dollars, with more than 85% going into nuclear weapons activities. (Details at http://trivalleycares.org/new/2016Nuke_Budget and the blog above it.)

This funding level exceeds the peak years of the Cold War. The total number of warheads in the U.S. arsenal is now about 7,000. Make no mistake; the requested funds are not to dismantle them. The money will upgrade and “modernize” the warheads and the nuclear weapons complex that designs and produces them.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates this “modernization” will cost $348 billion in the coming ten years, with even higher costs to follow. Thus, the U.S. is planning to spend $1 Trillion over thirty years, including on new missiles, bombers and submarines to deliver the new warheads.

New Warheads & the Budget Request

Despite what the weaponeers want us to believe, the escalating cost of maintaining U.S. nuclear weapons is not due to the difficulty of the task or to excessive “aging” of the stockpile. Rather, it is caused by increasingly exotic elective changes that the NNSA is introducing into the nuclear arsenal through its Life Extension Programs (LEPs). LEP is the soothing name given to a program to create new ways to initiate a nuclear war, whether it ultimately occurs by accident, miscalculation or deliberate madness. Three LEPs, in particular, need scrutiny and congressional leadership to constrain their costs and roll back unnecessary design changes.

1. New Long-Range Stand Off Warhead: The Air Force has requested around $1.8 billion over the next 5 years to develop a new Long-Range Stand Off (LRSO) weapon to replace the air-launched cruise missile. The new LRSO missile will be capable of carrying conventional and thermonuclear warheads. According to reports, the nuclear-tipped version will be indistinguishable from the conventional one, a potentially destabilizing situation.

The new, radar-evading LRSO weapon will be able to launch a sneak nuclear attack from 3,000 or more miles from its unsuspecting target. This will be a potential first-strike weapon.

The NNSA is in charge of developing a new warhead for the LRSO, and Livermore Lab has been designated as the “lead lab” to design it. The warhead type has already been chosen. Dubbed the W80-4, the new weapon will be a variant of the W80 that sits atop current cruise missiles. The FY 2016 budget request asks for $195 million, up from $9 million in FY 2015. LRSO W80-4 warhead funding is slated to increase to $312 million in FY 2017, $407 million in FY 2018, and to continue on an upward trajectory.

Independent estimates of LRSO missile and warhead costs come in at about $20 billion. The FY 2016 budget request imprudently seeks to accelerate the development of the missile and warhead by around two years (after delaying it for three years in the prior budget).

2. New B61-12: This new bomb will combine three tactical or “battlefield” versions of the B61 with a strategic version, the B61-7, to create an “all-purpose” nuclear gravity bomb that will erase the distinction between tactical and strategic weapons. Los Alamos and Sandia are the “lead labs” in this effort. Of the approximately 480 B61s slated to become B61-12s, about 180 will be forward deployed at six bases in five NATO countries in Europe, with the remainder housed at four bases in the U.S. Currently, U.S. taxpayers alone are footing the bill.

The B61-12 LEP comes with a price tag upwards of $10 billion, which will make each bomb worth about twice its weight in solid gold. The NNSA FY 2016 budget request for the B61-12 is for more than $643 million. The LEP will top the $700 million annual mark by 2018, rising to more than $760 million in 2020. A guided tail-fin kit, being designed separately by the Defense Dept. will add another $1.8 billion overall, while creating a devastating nuclear smart bomb. Its continued forward deployment in NATO countries is also provocative.

3. Wholly New “ interoperable” Warheads: The NNSA’s overly ambitious and wrong-headed proposal is to redesign the entire U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile by creating three warhead types that could be launched from both land- and

Continued on Page 2...
lasers to conduct plutonium experiments, since we know the data will be useful in obtaining a nuclear weapon or improving one’s stockpile?

Livermore Lab documents we received under the Freedom of Information Act state that Lab management alone will decide whether to start plutonium experiments (and they made the decision in the affirmative in January 2015). Yet the Lab is thrusting the entire nation into a geopolitical quandary from which it cannot withdraw. The U.S. cannot “undo” plutonium experiments at NIF at some future date to complain about another country’s similar action.

And, what about the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), already reeling under a double-standard because the nuclear-armed states have done little to comply. Conducting plutonium shots in NIF will certainly worsen underlying tensions in the non-proliferation regime and may do permanent damage. Indeed, this may be NIF’s most harmful and enduring legacy.

There are immediate, positive actions that can be taken internationally and here at home.

Other country’s diplomats can question the U.S. delegation and raise objections at the NPT Review Conference, and beyond. The U.S. Congress can prohibit plutonium experiments at NIF. The laser can be taken away from the National Nuclear Security Administration and placed in the DOE Office of Science to be used solely for unclassified experiments. Indeed, housing NIF there could preclude the use of plutonium and avoid all negative environmental, health and proliferation outcomes.

Tri-Valley CAREs will diligently monitor NIF and act to terminate its use of plutonium. Join us! Come to our monthly meetings, sign up on our email alert list or check our website for regular updates.

An expanded version of this article will be published in a new report, The Growing U.S. Nuclear Threat, by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability and its member groups. The report will be distributed to diplomats at the NPT Review Conference and to Congress during our spring “DC Days.”
April 21, 2015

Dear Tri-Valley CAREs supporter,

Every day is a good day to stop nuclear bombs, but now is a particularly crucial time to support Tri-Valley CAREs’ work to abolish nuclear weapons globally and address the health and environmental harms that occur with nuclear development.

I am thrilled to tell you that Tri-Valley CAREs is preparing to speak truth to power in three tremendously important, and diverse, venues:

• we will speak at the United Nations this month as the world’s delegates review the nuclear states’ progress on disarmament under the Non-Proliferation Treaty;
• we will meet with Congress in May as our country’s legislators debate the nuclear weapons budget; and
• we will rally at the gates of Livermore Lab in August to mark the 70th Anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Can I count on your financial help? Let me tell you a little more about what Tri-Valley CAREs will accomplish with your generous donation.

As you may have heard, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is in a state of crisis, largely due to the U.S. government’s plan to spend $1 Trillion over thirty years to “modernize” its nuclear weapons stockpile. At the end of this month, the 189 states parties that have ratified the NPT, including the U.S., will gather at the United Nations in New York for a Review Conference to evaluate compliance with the treaty, including the legal obligation of the U.S. and other nuclear weapons states to achieve disarmament.

Tri-Valley CAREs will play a leadership role educating diplomats and others on U.S. nuclear weapons policy. As the group’s executive director, I will speak on a panel at the UN about the U.S. nuclear weapons budget and warhead development plans.

By cutting through U.S. nuclear hypocrisy with well-documented information, Tri-Valley CAREs’ participation in the Review Conference will support a more equitable enforcement of the NPT, thereby increasing its stability. But, we cannot do this without our valuable members and supporters like you!

As I write this, your Tri-Valley CAREs team is also hard at work getting ready for a remarkably effective annual event called “DC Days.” We are bringing powerful local voices to share with Congress our compelling stories of exposure, pollution, and risky nuclear activities at Livermore Lab.

(turn over)
We are undertaking this journey at an urgent moment in history. The Obama Administration’s budget request for nuclear weapons tops the worst monetary excesses of the Cold War years while much of the rhetoric likewise ratchets up the world’s nuclear dangers.

Congress is poised to hasten the development of a new Long-Range Stand Off warhead at Livermore Lab that could launch a sneak nuclear attack from a plane 3,000 miles or more from its unsuspecting target. And, the money needed to clean up toxic and radioactive wastes in our air, soil, streams and groundwater aquifers is in danger of being raided to pay for this new nuke.

We stand at a crossroad. Your Tri-Valley CAREs team is going to DC to join other activists to persuade elected officials and the administration to prioritize cleanup over bombs. If we can stop new nuclear projects from being started now, our country will not be spending $1 Trillion over the next 30 years to sustain and expand them. But, we must act promptly.

Let me introduce you to the dedicated team who will be representing you in DC. Our student interns Erin and Hayden will tell Congress why environmental funding is critical to the next generation. Jessica will take time from her legal studies to persuade Congress and administration officials to cut nuclear programs. And, Scott, our group’s veteran staff attorney, will both speak and team lead many of our DC meetings, as will I.

Tri-Valley CAREs is taking action locally. We are co-sponsoring a major rally this summer at Livermore Lab on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I invite you to read the flyer and to visit us on the web for more information about this event and other upcoming activities.

I promise you that we will work diligently to hold the government’s feet to the fire and to create positive change. In doing this work, I know we are also championing values of peace, justice and the environment that you, too, hold dear. And, I am asking for your gift of any amount to help us succeed. Thank you for everything you do!

In peace,

Marylia Kelley
Executive Director

P.S. Don’t risk putting this letter aside and losing it. Please mail your tax-deductible donation today. Or go to www.trivalleycares.org where we have a secure credit card donation site set up with Network for Good. MANY THANKS!
On the morning of August 6, 1945, the “Enola Gay,” a U.S. B 29 bomber, dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima. Three days later, a second American nuclear bomb incinerated Nagasaki.

On August 6, 2015, at 8 AM
Come to Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab
Vasco Road at Patterson Pass Road

People of all ages who desire peace and the true security of a world without nuclear weapons will gather to raise our voices for the global abolition of nuclear weapons.

Today, after 70 years, more than 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world continue to pose an intolerable threat to humanity. And, the danger of nuclear war is growing. Whether a nuclear conflagration is initiated by accident, miscalculation or madness, the radiation cloud will know no boundaries. The US plans to spend a trillion dollars over the next thirty years “modernizing” its nuclear arsenal. The human cost of this is astronomical—to our health, environment, ethics, and democracy, to our prospects for global peace, and to our confidence in human survival.

Sponsored by dozens of Bay Area peace and justice groups. More info: Tri Valley CAREs, 925 443 7148, and Western States Legal Foundation, 510 839 5877
**RELATED ACTIVITIES & ACTION GUIDELINES**

**Tues., Aug 4th - Wed., Aug 5th**
**PEACE WALK**
**WALNUT CREEK TO LIVERMORE**

Peace walk starts at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek at 9 AM - August 4th. The first night, peace walkers will stay at the Danville Peace Lutheran Church. The night of August 5th, they will join the peace camp at Del Valle (see below). The walkers will then arrive with the rest of the peace campers for the opening of the program at Livermore Lab, 8 am - August 6th. Total distance for the walk is about 20 miles. Folks interested walking all or part of the way, contact Bob Hanson at (925) 934-1071 or doctoroutdoors@comcast.net.

**Wed., Aug 5th**

At Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore - Eagle View Group Camp. Check in anytime after 2pm (gates close at 11 pm). Join us for a swim in the beautiful reservoir and a meal provided by Food Not Bombs. Bring instruments, a tent (or just sleep out) and good vibes. This event is family friendly. Peace campers will arrive for the program at 8 am August 6th. Cost: $10 per person. RSVP required. For more information and/or to RSVP, contact Scott Yundt at Tri-Valley CAREs (925) 443-7148 or scott@trivalleycares.org

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**Thurs., Aug 6th - Sun., Aug. 9th**
**HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI FAST**

Chelsea and Marcus of the Catholic Worker Farm will lead a 70-hour fast. During daylight hours, fasters will be at the East Gate of Livermore Lab on Greenville Road. This is part of an international fast with participants in Los Alamos (NM), Kansas City (MO) Oak Ridge (TN) and military sites in France, England and Germany. Those wishing to fast or offer support during daylight hours, contact Chelsea and Marcus at (209) 728-2193 or farm@catholicworker.biz

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**Livermore Conversion Project**
**NON VIOLENCE GUIDELINES**

We agree to abide by the following guidelines in all of today’s actions:

- We will be open and respectful to everyone we meet;
- We will not use verbal or physical violence;
- We will not destroy property;
- We will not bring drugs or alcohol, except for medicinal purposes;
- We will not bring weapons;
- We will not run, which can cause panic;
- If arrested, we will not resist;
- If legal consequences follow our actions, we will treat all those we encounter in the process with openness and respect.

* Adopted by consensus of the planning group for the Aug 6, 2015 actions at Livermore Lab.*

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**Tri-Valley CAREs**
2582 Old First St.
Livermore, CA 94550

**YES! Here is my tax-deductible donation of**

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Livermore Lab’s hazardous waste permit is up for renewal. Once issued, it will govern the Lab’s hazardous waste activities for the next decade or longer. The Lab generates toxic, reactive, corrosive, ignitable, “mixed” radioactive, and other wastes. Your health could be endangered if the permit is vague, permissive or incomplete.

The agency in charge of the permit is the California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control. Contact our staff attorney, Scott Yundt (scott@trivalleycares.org), to join our “action alert” email list. We will send you “talking points” and other useful information prior to the Hearing.

Your participation makes a difference. Please attend!

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Nearly 20 years and at least $8.5 billion have been expended building and operating the National Ignition Facility (NIF) laser at Livermore Lab. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget request exceeds half a billion dollars for NIF. Of that, at least $322.5 million will be spent on NIF.

Attempts to achieve nuclear fusion ignition at NIF have failed. A pivot this year to zapping plutonium in NIF poses unacceptable new risks of local contamination and global nuclear proliferation.

For starters, Livermore Lab is beginning plutonium operations at NIF without fully analyzing potential health and environmental threats. According to documents we obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, plutonium-242 shots will be conducted without a working inner containment vessel to capture debris, and may “generate airborne contamination that exceeds the derived air concentration,” i.e., the legal limit. (For more on health and environmental impacts, see http://trivalleycares.org/new/PUNIF_PR.html & the blogs above it.)

The international proliferation risks may be more subtle than airborne plutonium particles wafting around, but they are nonetheless dangerous. Plutonium use invalidates the 1995 nonproliferation study that was a key component of the original “go-ahead” for NIF. That assessment linked use of plutonium with vertical proliferation; a situation it concluded could be avoided to make NIF’s proliferation risks “manageable.”

Using that same definition, the 2015 decision to use plutonium makes NIF’s proliferation risks “unmanageable.” Plutonium shots at NIF are specifically intended to yield information that is useful for U.S. nuclear weapons development. The purpose of the experiments is to study the behavior of plutonium under high pressures and strain rates, such as in a nuclear bomb. Any U.S. weapons design “improvements” based on NIF plutonium shots would be evidence of vertical proliferation.

Horizontal proliferation is, essentially, when additional countries acquire a nuclear weapon, or acquire detailed design information or materials needed to produce a nuclear weapon. Plutonium shots in NIF may cause, or contribute to, this proliferation. Plutonium experiments will be classified, however the data can be stolen, leak out abruptly or seep out gradually in scientific papers, conference proceedings and unguarded conversations.

Moreover, other industrialized countries have high-powered laser facilities (e.g., France, Russia) or may build them in the future. Will it be OK with the U.S. if other nations use giant laser plasmas to make their own nuclear weapons?