

SAMPLE LETTER

[your address]
February 24, 1993

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Defense Budget / SDI

Dear Mister President:

[Use your own words]

I fully support your intent to cut the defense budget, specifically the SDI program, and to plan and implement peace conversion.

I write today to urge you to stop the beginning of 10 years of Polaris missile-launches on Kaua'i for SDI.

I strongly oppose these launches because:

They would significantly **escalate** military--specifically missile--activity on Kaua'i and in Hawai'i.

The **TOURIST-BASED ECONOMY** is devastated by Hurricane Iniki, and is threatened more permanently by just one missile accident.

ENVIRONMENT. The Army acknowledges that freon released will deplete the ozone layer. The ozone layer has thinned over Hawaii, especially over Kaua'i, increasing the high potential for skin cancers, cataracts, and human immune system damage.

Other environmental & health hazards are not answered adequately in the Environmental Impact Statement.

FISHING & RECREATION AREAS. The Army wants 3-hour clearing of the "safety zone" 30 times per year. And how long in case of accident?

HAWAIIAN LAND: Barking Sands base is on Ceded Lands. Launch pad is on Nohili Dune burial grounds, the most sacred spot on Kaua'i, "the one point on all of Kauai considered the pathway to Eternal Life."

MISSILE TARGET: KWAJALEIN, Marshall Islands. Over 10,000 inhabitants of Kwajalein were forced off Kwajalein to 65-acre Ebeye Island--from successful subsistence to total dependence on U.S. handouts--Spam, beer, and--due to El Nino drought--even water has to be shipped in and rationed. Ebeye is now one of the most densely populated spots on Earth; alcoholism and suicide rates are high.

PUBLIC SUPPORT. Kaua'i united as it had not in decades! Large numbers of Kaua'ians, and scientists and others elsewhere, have struggled valiantly for up to five years to stop SDI on Kaua'i; time is running out. At the Army's March 1992 hearings, about 1000 of Kaua'i's 50,000 population attended the first night, about 500 the second; Over 200 signed up to testify. Virtually all those who supported the project were Base employees testifying that jobs were threatened, while the Army states there are no Kaua'i or Hawai'i jobs added or subtracted by this SDI project.

NAT'L "SECURITY" / COSTS

While I appreciate the concessions the Army has made regarding our local environmental, Hawaiian cultural, and safety and health concerns, I believe that we in Hawai'i, the U.S., and the world increase our peril by SDI testing and development.

Respectfully yours,

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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF HAWAII

Testimony to the U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii, March 24, 1992

The League of Women Voters believes that natural resource management policy-makers must take into account the ramifications of their decisions on the nation as a whole as well as on other nations.

The League works to limit reliance on military force in international relations, and gives priority to reducing the risk of war through support of arms control measures. Further, the League avers that the defense budget that the public and our debt are supporting should reflect the astonishing changes in world security.

The League has studied arms control. Its resulting support of arms control has focused particularly on stopping the Strategic Defense Initiative missile defense plan. Although not opposed to all defensive weapons research, the League *strongly* opposes the program as contrary to the purpose and provisions of the 1972 U.S.-Soviet ABM Treaty. SDI is an extremely costly and destabilizing program that undermines the very essence of arms control.

The original 1983 vision of President Reagan of SDI's "rendering...nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete" has gone, as the limits of science and federal funding were revealed and program goals became clouded and controversial. Some, including the former Soviet Union, see the SDI as offensive. And even if SDI were feasible, research giving way to development and testing of related missile defense technologies abandons the ABM Treaty.

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii to U.S. Army, 3/24/92, p. 2

We of the League of Women Voters of Hawaii are particularly distressed that Hawaii has been used in SDI activity and may be further enmeshed for ten years through the proposed STARS program that may specifically negate the ABM Treaty. Defiance of the ABM Treaty will cost \$billions sought for weapons that violate it, as well as the safer world we seek. And now you want an SDI system installation in Hawaii.

The U.S. must reduce its readiness for and use of military force in international relations in this special moment of opportunity to de-escalate the world arms race. If missiles, why space-based, which are far more expensive and more prone to disaster than ground-based systems like the Patriot? You know SDI has been nine years and \$30 billion of failures.

Since PMRF is on ceded Hawaiian land, and the nation of Hawai'i was obliterated with an illegal U.S. military act, why not use the \$160 million not to put our Island and our peace and health at risk, but to build homes for Hawai'ians who are homeless and those that have been waiting for years--as a Centennial reparation?

Thank you.

Deborah Kimball

HONOLULU ADVERTISER 2/27/93

Star Wars launch called success

Two arrested as Kauai protesters vow to fight on

By Joan Conrow
Special to The Advertiser

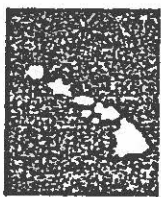
LIHUE, Kauai — The first launch of a Strategic Target System (STARS) missile from Kauai went smoothly yesterday morning as opponents vowed to continue their three-year fight against the controversial military program.

The missile was launched at 9:45 a.m. from the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands. It traveled west on an 18-minute flight before landing in the ocean near the U.S. Army's Kwajalein facility, according to Peter McClaran, spokesman for the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization.

A payload was deployed from the missile's nose cone, and both the flight of the missile and the payload deployment were tracked and recorded by radar and sensors, he said.

The launch was intended to test the missile-tracking system of the "Star Wars" missile-defense program.

Military security arrested two people after they walked through the front gates of the missile range shortly before launch time yesterday. They were turned over to Kauai police for booking on trespassing charges and



NEIGHBOR ISLAND NEWS

were later released after being issued complaint and summons forms.

Nineteen people were arrested Wednesday morning on similar charges.

The launch initially was set for Wednesday, but was halted by a timing discrepancy between a ground launch computer and flight computer, McClaran said. Yesterday's scheduled 7:45 a.m. launch was delayed two hours until conditions in the upper atmosphere improved.

While military officials termed the launch a success, opponents vowed to continue their fight against the program that has been marked by lawsuits, numerous public hearings, Congressional intervention and the creation of three community groups.

The Rev. Kaleo Patterson, spokesman for the Nohili Coalition of native Hawaiian groups and individuals, said

the state will be challenged about its role in clearing campers from Polihale State Park before Wednesday's scheduled launch and the lack of clear regulations governing the closure of the park during launches.

"The memorandum of agreement (between the state and Army) is very vague," Patterson said.

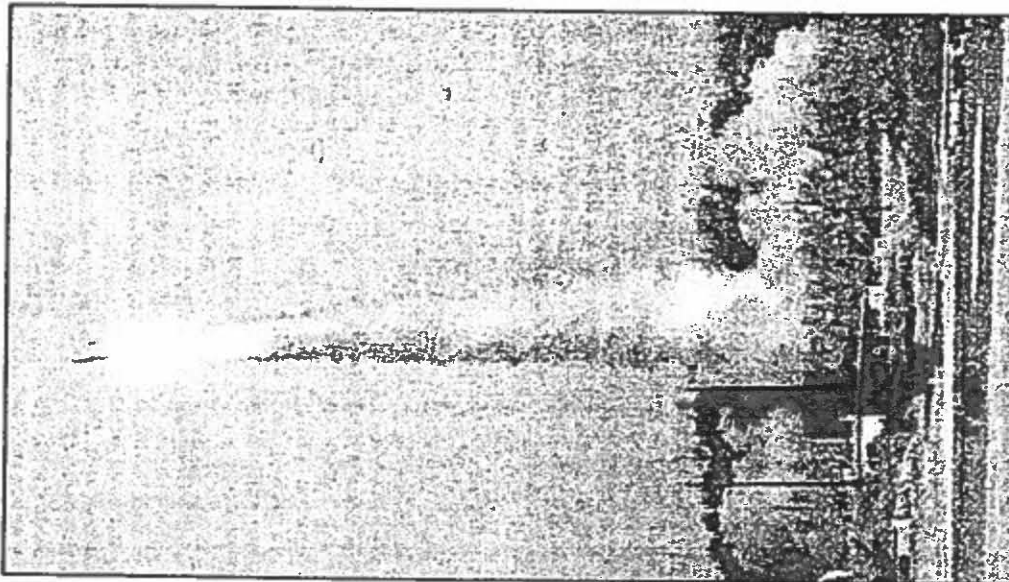
But Linda McCreery, public information officer for the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, said the department was satisfied with the provisions of the agreement. She also said Tuesday afternoon's enforcement of the camping ban at Polihale was no different than other sweeps that have been conducted in the area since the heavily damaged park was closed after Hurricane Iniki.

Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund attorney Denise Antolini said in a written statement that the Defense Fund also has concerns about the state's role in the launch and that legal challenges of the program will continue.

"We are confident that the first STARS missile launch will be the last," she said.

But McClaran said the Army and the Strategic Defense Command plan to launch one more missile this year and another in 1994.

Missile takes off from Kauai



By Lester Chong - Star Bulletin
A Polaris test missile heads to Kwajalein Atoll from Kauai's Pacific Missile Range Facility yesterday in the base's first launch for the Star Wars program.

170L STAR-BULLETIN 2/27/93

Kauai to Clinton: Cancel the launch pad

WASHINGTON — Everywhere he goes and people ask for more spending cuts, President Clinton replies, "Tell me where." The people of the idyllic island of Kauai can tell him.

They want him to say aloha to the crazy missile-testing program that is part of the increasingly senseless Star Wars system — a program that is threatening their little paradise with pollution and disruption and blowing a big hole in the side of Clinton's national budget.

The missile launch site is right over a burial ground for native Hawaiians, which is just another of many grating details.

The launch will be the first of a projected 40 that will be conducted at the rate of four a year over the next 10 years — to test against weapons that are headed for extinction under Star Wars. Each test will cost \$12 million, for a grand overall total of \$480 million.

The mayor of Kauai, JoAnn Yukimura, can think of hundreds of ways to use that money on her hurricane-ravaged domain — Iniki hit pretty hard last September. Originally, she favored a one-year moratorium on testing, but she has now moved on to permanent elimination because "I have never seen any justification for it."

People are divided about the SDI's Strategic Targets (STARS) program. Some want to see it go. Others fear it would take the base at Barking Sands Beach — the longest white sand beach in the islands — with it.

But the leader of the launch opposition, Elizabeth Freeman, who fled the pollution of Los Angeles only to find herself facing more, has come up with a brilliant idea for an alternative use of the installation.



PEOPLE AND POLITICS

By Mary McGrory

The military behaved in a spectacular manner during the hurricane, she says, offering help and comfort and speedy response. Why not transform the Pacific Missile Range Facility into a disaster management center and depot for the Pacific Rim?

Freeman, who is founder and director of a protest group called Responsible Citizens for a Responsible Government, says that the testing does not employ that many people, although there is always a huge influx of officials who come to observe the launch — and sometimes stay on to play.

That's another thing. The Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO) has a travel budget that has caught the attention of Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Government Operations Committee.

In September, for instance, SDIO spent \$750,000 for lodging and transportation of "transient personnel" who gathered to watch a test on the Garden Island. A party of 64 is expected for this week's exercise.

Conyers has asked the Government Accounting Office to make a study of Star Wars personnel's travel habits and also to seek out a rationale for its budget-busting programs.

For the test launch this week, SDIO has refurbished a Polaris missile, which will be fired off near an ancient cemetery and will rendezvous with a replica of an SS-18. Conyers wrote a letter to Secretary of Defense Les Aspin in which he made the following point:

"Since the START I and II treaties eliminate multiple warhead missiles, it is questionable whether we need to test against this perceived threat. If we do not, then we do not need the STARS test launcher."

How is it, you may ask, that a congressman from densely urban Detroit is trying to protect a flowery Hawaiian island? Where are its own representatives?

Well, Sens. Dan Inouye and Dan Akaka insisted on an environmental impact statement before the tests were scheduled, and so did Rep. Patsy Mink. The Army did its own impact study, which, not surprisingly, was favorable. Inouye, who could stop the whole project single handedly — he's chairman of the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee — was content with postponing launches while Kauai was still prostrate from the hurricane. Apparently Hawaii's representatives feel that the survival of the base transcends all other issues.

But the president should look into it. Not that in his penny-pinching mode he should go for an inspection trip. But if he wants savings, he can save Kauai and its gorgeous beaches — not to mention billions of dollars — from the people who still have a Berlin Wall in their heads and think that reconstructing obsolete weapons, which they say might be fired from cellars in Beirut, is serious work for grown men.

Mary McGrory writes for the Washington Post.

DEFENSE WEEK

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Summer Tests Highlighted Serious Early Flaws In C-17

BY TONY CAPACCIO

Air Force and Pentagon testers concluded in late December that the C-17 has "notable deficiencies," which unless corrected would "degrade the military utility of the aircraft," according to documents obtained by *Defense Week*.

The test conclusions in combination with recent Inspector General findings have prompted Defense Secretary Les Aspin to privately express "great concern" about its program management and financial condition, said one top Aspin aide.

According to the aide, the C-17 will receive much attention from Aspin. The aide said the aircraft's program management will receive the type of concentrated focus given the B-2 bomber in recent years.

The test deficiencies were recorded last year during development and operational tests conducted be-

(Continued on page 12)

Navy Kills Engine Fly Off; Osprey, Helos, Missiles Cut

BY ERIC ROSENBERG

As part of its fiscal 1994 budget cutting, the Navy has offered up an engine competition for its newest bomber program, according to details contained in the service budget reduction package.

In the waning days of the Bush administration, Pentagon civilians required the service to develop a competitive strategy for a multi-billion dollar A/FX aircraft engine contract.

Arguing the decision would add years to the project and financial risk to the Navy because the engine would be government furnished, the service fought unsuccessfully to overturn the decision before Bush officials left office.

Navy officials are trying again to kill the competition. In a draft of major budget cuts, service officials assert that stopping the engine program would

(Continued on page 15)

Cheney Pentagon Concocted A Sweet Deal For Ex-DTSA Head

BY TONY CAPACCIO

Top defense officials in late October concocted a sweetheart deal with the Transportation Department and transferred the oft-criticized director of the Pentagon's top technology agency to a newly created job near his hometown, according to government

documents obtained by *Defense Week*.

The legal, if questionable, job shuffle shifted former Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA) Director William

(Continued on page 6)

Lawyers, Auditors Take Aim At Controversial System

BY JOSEPH LOVECE

In a first-ever cost assessment of a controversial "Star Wars" target system, an as-yet-unreleased congressional report said the price of the system, which is designed to mimic an intercontinental missile, may reach \$670 million, a Capitol Hill source said last week.

The project in question, the Strategic Target System (STARS), is a three-stage guided missile made from refurbished 1960s-era Polaris subma-

rine-launched ballistic missiles. Designed as part of the Star Wars missile defense program, the system will task anti-missile sensors and interceptors. The Pentagon plans to conduct 40 missile launches over the next 10 years.

The cost information comes on the heels of new grass roots-level legal activity designed to halt the target's first test launch in

Hawaii next week. The Sierra Club has filed suit, asserting the system is potentially unreliable and could fly off course into an adjoining national park. The cost data likely will give opponents more ammunition.

The legal imbroglio has drawn the attention of lawmakers including Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), defense appropria-

tions subcommittee chairman, and House Government Operations Committee Chairman Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich).

It was Conyers who asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to examine STARS. According to a Sept. 14 letter from Conyers to GAO Comptroller General Charles Bowsher, obtained by *Defense Week*,

(Continued on page 9)

Duel In The Courts Over STARS (From front)

Conyers asked the organization to study STARS' cost, likelihood of failure and whether newly de-commissioned Minuteman ICBMs could be used instead.

"In light of the potential environmental harm and financial expense involved we need to know, in short, are these launches really necessary?" asked the letter.

According to a congressional source, preliminary GAO findings put STARS development costs at \$145.8 million from fiscal 1985 to 1992. The cost includes refurbishing the old missiles, adding a new third-stage booster, launch site construction and development of the Operation and Deployment Experiment Simulator (ODES) payload.

ODES will provide STARS the ability to launch simulated MIRV payloads like the kind disallowed in the new START treaty. STARS is specifically excluded from START treaty restrictions, according to the Army.

For fiscal 1993 the GAO has determined that the cost of more ODES work is \$14 million and the cost of two launches is \$25.4 million, said the source. The fiscal 1994 cost for two target launches is \$25.4 million. If every two launches cost that amount, then 40 launches will cost at least \$508 million.

The GAO report is scheduled to be completed next month, the source said.

STARS Product Manager Lt. Col. Gus Manguso, in an interview last week, rebutted the GAO cost figures. He said the cost of each launch is \$5 million to \$10 million.

Grass roots organizations may use the cost of the target as ammunition to kill STARS. In the

latest chapter of the controversy, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund last week appealed to the Hawaii Supreme Court to block the first STARS launch next week.

The organization on Feb. 10 appealed to the state court asking it to reverse a Jan. 25 lower court decision. That ruling denied extending an injunction against the test launch, said Denise Antolini, the fund's staff attorney, in an interview last week. The Sierra Club has also asked the lower court for an injunction while waiting for the appeal, she said.

The Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii, has scheduled the first target launch between Feb. 22 and March 4, said range

spokesman Peter McClaran.

The original injunction, which had been in place since Aug. 13, barred the Hawaii from entering into an agreement with the Navy and the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO) for the use of public and private lands as ground hazard areas in case the target crashed.

At issue was an environmental impact statement to certify that there was no substantial risk to public land, including a state park. The Army's final report in May 1992 and a State of Hawaii environmental impact report last December both found no substantial risk. The court on Jan. 25 said the findings were adequate.

A Memorandum of Agreement among Ha-

waii, the SDIO and the Navy finally signed Feb. 9, McClaran said.

Last fall SDIO became so desperate to avoid further delays that it planned to have condemned hundreds of acres of land near the launch site in order to make any court action moot, said the congressional source. When Sen. Inouye heard the news, he complained last November to Dick Cheney, then-secretary of defense, to drop the plan, which he did (see sidebar).

The delay also prompted acting SDIO director Maj. Gen. Malcolm O'Neill last Nov. 25 to ask the Army Space and Strategic Defense Command to determine the expense of putting the system in long-term storage, ways to lower the delay costs and the possibility of using another launch site.

According to Manguso, the response was sent to O'Neill a week before Christmas. The Army found that long-term storage would be very costly "and potentially irreversible with both a loss of facilities and experience personnel," he said.

The Army also found that the "STARS target delivery capability must be preserved in the near term because of its unique and versatile capability for SDIO target delivery." Regarding whether an alternate launch site was feasible, the Army report said a different site could only meet some requirements.

Specifically, STARS will launch simulated multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles, or MIRVs. Although MIRVs will be outlawed by the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) II, SDIO still has a requirement to test their sensors and weapons against multiple warheads, said Manguso.

STARS may be the only U.S. missile legally allowed to carry MIRVs.

Inouye Comes To The Rescue

The Strategic Target System (STARS) has caused heartburn not only for Hawaiian citizens but for Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) as well.

Facing a court decision that could have derailed STARS launches, the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO) took desperate measures. Last fall the "Star Wars" office planned to ask a state court to condemn all the property in the contested missile hazard area, thereby making the court action moot, said a congressional source last week.

When Inouye, Senate defense appropriations subcommittee chairman, heard the news he went ballistic.

In a tersely written Nov. 17 letter to Dick Cheney, then the secretary of defense, Inouye requested that SDIO abort the plan.

According to the letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Defense Week*, Inouye wrote: "Although some members of the public in the state support the STARS program, there may be understandable resentment among all citizens toward federal circumvention of the state judicial process. In addition, further strain on the relationship between [the Pacific Missile Range Facility] and the public could occur."

"I believe it is in the best interests of the continued, effective operation of the Navy's range facility, and of the State of Hawaii, that these consequences be avoided. Thus, I request that you act to stop the filing of the condemnation petition...."

The congressional source said that shortly after the letter was sent, the land condemnation plan was dropped.

—JOSEPH LOVECE

Studies don't answer Star Wars safety questions

PLANS to launch Star Wars experiments from Kauai are continuing in spite of unanswered questions about potentially serious environmental impacts, the end of the Cold War, and the growing federal budget deficit.

(The testing, said to begin as early as next week, has been delayed for several weeks, possibly months, in the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki.)

A year ago the Strategic Defense Initiative organization (SDIO) and the U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command were refusing to do an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed launches. Pressure from Kauai residents and action by Hawaii's members of Congress persuaded them to do an EIS, which was completed in May. The first launch was scheduled for early August, but the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and the 1,000 Friends of Kauai obtained a court order halting the launch because the state had not done the required environmental assessment of the impacts on state lands adjacent to the launch facility.

THE Strategic Target System (STARS) program on Kauai would use refurbished Polaris missiles to launch a variety of SDI experiments toward Kwajalein. SDIO's decision to proceed is ostensibly based on the STARS EIS which, it is claimed, "demonstrates that the potential environment impacts . . . can be avoided or reduced to non-significant levels by mitigation measures." I believe that there are several aspects of the STARS program for which the information in the EIS is not adequate to justify this claim.

In addition, it is even more dubious whether the SDI experiments are worth the valuable resources they will consume. Finally, the long-term implications of an SDI program oriented toward deployment of the proposed GPALS (Global Protection Against Limited Strikes) system are especially important for Hawaii, which could be a site for an installation containing a large radar and dozens of missile inter-



OTHER VIEWS

By Michael Jones

ceptors. Regrettably, these issues have had almost no public discussion.

The STARS EIS is certainly an improvement on the initial Environmental Assessment (EA). The many Kauai residents and Hawaii's members of Congress who insisted that an EIS be done have performed a valuable service. Unfortunately, there are still several aspects of the STARS program on which the EIS is disappointing and inadequate. It is disappointing because these issues have been raised repeatedly in comments on the initial EA and on the draft EIS. Five are these issues are summarized below.

■ The reliability of the Polaris missile booster is still questionable. The EIS states, "The reliability of key flight components is far greater than 97 percent." It does not discuss the basis for this assertion or give the results of test launches of the Polaris boosters when they were first tested 20 years ago. In response to specific questions about estimates of the probability of a STARS launch failure, SDIO responded, "We are unable to cite the actual reliability of key flight components for national security reasons."

■ The hazard area around the launch pad may be too small to include debris if a missile must be intentionally exploded because it goes off course. Such a failure did occur for an Aries rocket launch from Cape Canaveral in August 1991. Newspaper accounts stated the burning debris hit the ground "a few miles from the launch pad." The radius of the STARS hazard area is slightly less than two miles.

■ The confused presentation of results from the two computer models used to predict concentrations of hydrogen chloride and carbon monoxide emitted by the Polaris booster indicate that an independent review should be done. The predicted concentrations by the model that is claimed to be more reliable increased substantially from the initial results presented in the EA supplement to those in the EIS.

■ International and state efforts to phase out use of ozone-depleting chemicals should have been considered more seriously in the evaluation of the significance of the ozone depletion that will result from the 90 kilograms of halon released directly into the stratosphere by each STARS launch.

■ Alternative launch sites have not been given adequate consideration. This is especially important for the two fuel-yent experiments that would use large quantities of hazardous liquid rocket fuel.

The Environmental Assessment required of the state provides an opportunity for a more detailed evaluation of these issues. Unfortunately, the six-page draft of this EA dated Aug. 7 does not contain any detailed evaluation and is little more than a table of contents for the STARS EIS.

Hopefully, public comments on this draft will persuade officials in the Department of Land and Natural Resources that more information and evaluation is needed before signing an agreement involving state lands affected by STARS launches.

Once the potential environmental impacts have been clarified and evaluated, the crucial judgment is whether the 40 SDI experiments to be launched by STARS over a 10-year period are worth the risks and environmental degradation. The STARS EIS indicates that the launches need to simulate the trajectories of intercontinental ballistic missiles, so the primary emphasis for the SDI experiments to be launched by STARS seems to be testing space-based weapons and sensors that would be part of the proposed GPALS system. Almost all of the ICBM's that would hit the

U.S. are in Russia. It seems to me that the best way to remove this diminishing threat is to help the Russians dismantle these missiles as soon as possible.

Moreover, the STARS program will contribute very little to developing a defense against shorter-range missiles like Scuds because defending against such missiles carrying a single non-nuclear warhead is much different from defending against a nuclear attack by multiple-warhead ICBM's. 12/92 STAFF

The end of the Cold War and the growing threat of proliferation of ballistic missiles and chemical, biological and nuclear weapons require a re-evaluation of the goals of SDI and plans to deploy the GPALS system.

AN April 1992 Union of Concerned Scientists study "Missing the Target: SDI in the 1990s," concludes that SDI should be redirected toward research on basic technologies and away from trying to develop weapons and sensors for deployment of a system oriented toward accidental or unauthorized ICBM launches from the former Soviet Union. The SDI budget could accordingly be reduced to about \$2 billion per year instead of the \$3.4 billion proposed by the Bush administration or the \$4.3 billion approved by the House of Representatives.

I believe the STARS EIS does not convincingly demonstrate that the environmental impacts are not significant. Hawaii's congressional delegates and state officials should request that STARS launches be delayed until more information is provided. It is also very dubious whether the SDI experiments that would be launched by STARS are worth the valuable resources that would be consumed. (The only benefit for Hawaii from STARS seems to be a minor increase in tourism from SDI program managers who, according to a recent Congressional report, seem to have a penchant for visiting luxury hotels here.)

Finally, more public discussion is needed about the goals and scope of SDI and the implications of the proposed GPALS system. I feel confident that the result of this discussion would be that there are less dangerous and more productive uses for the talented people and facilities on Kauai than STARS.

Michael Jones is a physicist at the University of Hawaii.

CORRECTIONS 9/22/92

■ The Bush administration has proposed budgeting \$5.4 billion for the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars program).

The amount given in an Other Views column Friday by CH physicist Michael Jones was printed incorrectly.

Computer woes nix missile launch

☐ Kauai police arrest 19 demonstrators who oppose the testing

By Lester Chang
and Peter Wagner
Star-Bulletin

BARKING SANDS, Kauai — A computer glitch canceled a scheduled "Star Wars" missile launch on Kauai this morning after weeks of intensive preparation for the inaugural flight.

Military officials said they'll try again on Sunday.

The converted Polaris missile, aimed toward Kwajalein Atoll to test missile defense systems, was to be the first of about 40 to be launched in the next 10 years under the Army's Strategic Targets Program (STARS), referred to by some as "Star Wars."

Kauai police arrested 19 demonstrators at the Pacific Missile Range Facility shortly before the 7:45 a.m. scheduled launch and charged them with trespassing.

The protesters, including members of Responsible Citizens For Responsible Government, were arrested as they marched through the front of the base. They were booked at a police station in Waiimea and later vowed to continue protesting future launches.

"This (the launch) is a waste of money and is deep threat to the environment," said Nancy Yokel, one of those arrested.

Protesters held a weekend vigil

outside the facility in a last-minute effort to stop the launch, and people were gathering yesterday in anticipation of the launch.

Peter McClaran, spokesman for the Strategic Targets Program, said the launch computer at an operations building by the launch pad malfunctioned and stopped the countdown. Workers are checking the equipment to make repairs.

The rocket's flight from Nohili Dunes at the base to the Kwajalein Atoll would take 17 minutes and cover 2,200 miles, McClaran said.

While military officials tried to keep the launch under wraps, announcing only a "window" between Feb. 22 and March 3 during which the liftoff would take place, dozens of people were on hand today to witness or disrupt the event.

Before this morning's scheduled flight, state conservation officers and more than 20 Kauai police officers scoured the two-mile hazard zone around the launch pad for trespassers. They found none.

Although the military ushered about 10 demonstrators off the base this morning, officials became concerned when some demonstrators warned stragglers were hiding around the site.

Helicopters carrying crew members with high-vision goggles searched Polihale State Park and the base. Security officers checked the beaches.

Opponents camped at the state park Monday complained about a practice sweep by security officers that day.

"A helicopter was sweeping the area, security people were around, frogmen in the water, and boaters were put up at the entrance to the park," said the Rev. Kaleo Patterson. "Who gave these

people the authority to move people out of the camping area?"

He complained signs weren't posted to close parts of the 1,700 acre park.

But McClaran said the base's security force and state officers had the authority to ask people to leave.

Ray Chuan of the Coalition Against Star Wars complained the Army was late in marking off the hazard zone.

"People could have gotten hurt if the launch went and people were still in the launch area," Chuan said.

McClaran said the boundaries of the hazard zone were properly marked.

Over the past several weeks, a crew of about 75 technicians from Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., was brought in to assemble the missile and ready the launch.

The Sierra Club, 1000 Friends of Kauai and Responsible Citizens for a Responsible Government filed a lawsuit to delay the program until its environmental impacts are known.

But a state judge last week turned away a last-ditch appeal, clearing the way for the launch.

Concerns include fragile shoreline ecosystems and archaeological sites in the area. Air pollution and the fear of a launch-pad explosion or other mishap were also cited.

Critics of the STARS program include U.S. Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations. Conyers last week asked Defense Secretary Les Aspin to reconsider the \$670 million program, which he said became obsolete at the end of the Cold War.

McClaran said worldwide missile proliferation makes the program important in spite of the Soviet Union breakup.

HNL STAR-BULLETIN 2/24/93

Missile Range at Barking Sands, Kauai

Polaris missile test

- ☐ The launch: The first of 40 flights over the next 10 years as part of the Star Wars program.
- ☐ The flight: 17 minutes.

Kwajalein Atoll, 2220 miles away

the gate to the West Kauai facility an hour before today's launch. Two people were arrested for trespassing after they marched past the front gate, which is more than two miles away from the launch site, police said.

Shortly after 7 a.m. today, base security officers found two women hiding in the nearby Nohili Dunes, site of ancient Hawaiian burial grounds. The women had partially buried themselves in the sand and covered themselves with brush to try to escape detection.

Protester Jeff Chandler said more people would have shown up if they had known the launch would occur. Many thought the Army wouldn't attempt another launch until Sunday, he said. "They did it regardless of my native Hawaiian rights," Chandler said after the launch.

But protesters vowed to continue. "They got this one, but this is the last launch," said Ray Chuan, chairman of the Coalition Against Star Wars.

A second launch is scheduled for June, McClaran said. He said the protesters "put us through a ringer."

Rocket blasts off Kauai pad in test flight

☐ Only 5 protesters were on hand to watch the first of 40 flights

By Lester Chang
Kauai correspondent

BARKING SANDS, KAUAI — The Army successfully launched a refurbished Polaris rocket from Kauai to Kwajalein Atoll this morning, two days after scrubbing a scheduled flight because of computer trouble.

The inaugural missile flight at 9:45 a.m. went off without a hitch, said Peter McClaran, spokesman for the Strategic Targets Program at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.

"It looked beautiful, and preliminary indications are that it was a successful launch," McClaran said.

The launch was the first of 40 planned over the next 10 years as part of the "Star Wars" program. The 17-minute, 2,220-mile flights are intended to fine-tune anti-missile tracking systems.

This morning's launch followed protests earlier this week by native Hawaiian and environmental groups that claimed the launches would harm the environment and damage a scared burial ground nearby. Air pollution and fear of a launch-pad explosion or similar mishap were also cited.

Opponents, including 19 people arrested for trespassing before Wednesday's scheduled launch, said they were planning even larger protests.

But only five protesters stood outside

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN 2/26/93

"So today I encourage you who have your language, stories, ceremonies and rituals to hang onto them. To pass them onto your children and grandchildren. It is those stories told orally, these ceremonies you participate in, the language that you speak will keep our native people alive spiritually." "I run the Tahoma Indian Center in Tacoma, Washington. We service the homeless, alcoholic native people and we support those that are new to the city. We are building a sense of the community where we support one another in a good way. We are sharing our stories and native ceremonies and many have started to heal. Many of us are walking tall and proud of who we are. We know the gifts the Creator has given us as native people. Perhaps it is time that we as native people especially women to teach the church and this world what it truly means to be Christians to help heal this world.

Fr John Caswell, a Chippewa priest tells all women of the powerful medicine we possess as women - we are the life givers and we are the healers.. We need only to walk in the good way - using our power for the good of the people and our mother Earth who provides us with all that we need to survive in this world. It is our responsibility as women to create a better world for our children and grandchildren and future generations. We might destroy each other but mother Earth will continue to grow, birds will continue to sing. It is only we humans who must continue to struggle in order to survive."



Joan Staples-Baum, Chippewa Indian

HAWAII

Hawaii was represented by Sharon Pomroy. Sharon shared her experience on militarisation and the human cost.

"In 1990, the United States army announced that the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Mana, Kauai would become part of the Strategic Defense Initiative with the advent of launching the largest missile in Hawaii. This was to take place on the base on the western end of the island of Kauai. They were going to turn over a portion of the base to Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) to do this. The SNL would then build a missile launching platform at the base of the Nohili Sand Dunes also known as "Barking Sands".

The launch would take four times a year for 10 years. The missiles used will be refurbished Polaris missiles modified to be launched from land. These missiles were originally designed to be launched from submarines. They were between 25 and 30 years old. We, the native Hawaiians were told that the missiles will be refurbished and 'fixed' so that they could be launched from the land. We were told these missiles were so unstable that at least one out of 10 will become a catastrophic launch exploding on or shortly after launch. There will be a total of 40 launches. The US government has approximately 1,000 of these missiles in storage. If one out of 10 is in danger that means 100 of the 1,000 are at risk of a launch explosion or catastrophic launch. Who can tell if 40 of those 100 potentially harmful rockets are the 40 that will be sent to Kaua'i?

"The fuel used to boost the rocket are so harmful that a thimble full placed in a large room will kill everyone in the room within an hour. If this fuel is accidentally spilt, the ground cannot be cleaned up. It must be dug up and put into barrels then taken to a hazardous materials storage area and disposed off. The exhaust fumes will drift over the island and possibly get into the rainclouds over the mountains. This could lead to acid rain and pollution of ground water, fresh water flora and fauna. As the streams and rivers empty into the sea, this could have a detrimental effect on the ocean life, along the shoreline onto the reefs and elsewhere in the food chain cycle of the sea."

"The land that the base is on belongs to the native people of Hawaii, the na Kanaka Maoli. This land was stolen from the Kanaka Maoli by the US government. We have been trying to get back our land for many years. The US government said it does not deal with individuals, only with other governments. In 1959 Hawaii became the 50th state of the United States of America. All of the lands they held before statehood were turned over to the state government of Hawaii. The land that belongs to the Kanaka Maoli was turned over to the state government as well. The state government in turn leased our land back to the Federal government who then continued to do whatever they felt like with our land.

"At the site of the launch pad is the famous Nohili sand dunes. The oral history of that area tells us of the use of Nohili and nearby Polihale as burial sites for hundreds of years. In this area is also a Leina - a place where our spirit must leave this world to join with the spirits of our ancestors. There are only three areas on Kauai where this can happen. To risk potential destruction of this site is to risk condemnation of our spirits to wander this world forever. The response from the US army is that although they understand our concerns, they only deal in the physical world and not the spiritual world. They can only say they will do their best not to damage or destroy any of our sacred sites.

"The sand dunes of Nohili extend from Polihale to Kekaha, a distance of over 10 miles. Since the American sugar plantations and the US military have been here, we have almost eight miles of the dunes. According to oral traditions, these dunes were known throughout the Pacific and that many of the chiefs and priests and other high ranking men and women were buried there

"The land that is around the base is presently being used by the sugar plantations. Starting in 1995, the lease will end and the land which belong to the native people of Hawaii will be

returned to us so we can use it to raise our own food crops and livestock. This land was once a vast wetland estuary. It was home to many of the now endangered water fowls and flora of Hawaii.

"It is feared that because the military need more land to make this project happen, the US government may condemn our land and take it without any compensation. What they won't take may be turned over to us but we live in fear of catastrophic launches.

"Beside the STARS project, there are other projects to launch other missiles here also. Some of these are the EDX, ZEST and ARIES testing which could result to 12 launches per year. Everytime there is a launch the road, (there is only one road) will be closed to any traffic. The beaches will be closed. Police officers from the base will patrol the area and will remove anyone they find there. The majority of the base civilian security force are native Hawaiians and they carry guns. They have shot at people who did not want to leave or want to fish or gather seaweeds in so called restricted areas. They have been instructed to "detain and turn over to local police any protestors or demonstrators they apprehend at the base."

"So we today in Hawaii continue to challenge the rights of our government over the rights of the people. Much of what impacts us in Hawaii impacts all of the world. We seek the status of a sovereign nation with the right to become self-determining people. Much of the adverse impact on the Pacific nations can be turned around if we unite to form a united Pacific nation body similar to that of the United Nations. We must all stand up to military oppression and take those concerns to all peoples of the world. If everyone knows how badly we are treated by militarisation and illegal occupation of our lands by foreign nations, maybe we can force the exit of oppressors from our land..



Sharon Pomroy - Hawaii

FRENCH POLYNESIA

French Polynesia had two representatives - Beatrice Faua and Marama Faimano Moe. Mrs Faua, a minister's wife from the island of Bora Bora spoke of the effects of the tourism industry while Mrs Marama Moe from Moorea island represented the Evangelical Church of Polynesia

shared her concern over land deals and the fact that about half of the land has been sold to outsiders.

Mrs Faua said Bora Bora is a beautiful island of the leeward islands group. Bora Bora is also well known as 'paradise' especially by tourists. Nowadays, Bora Bora is a small island of 33 kilometres and has about 10 hotels. These hotels are giving job opportunities to people especially women. With quite a large amount of money but in the process the landowners lose their land and became landless people and have nowhere to go anymore.

"Because women are workers in the hotels, they leave their homes very early in the morning and go back late in the night. Children are left with the fathers and this causes problems. Women meet outsiders and this influence them. Their lifestyles change. Husbands do not like their wives to be out all day and this is one of the causes for broken homes. A lot of tourists visit the island and with them they bring in new ideas like drinking alcohol and drugs etc. And because of money people work on Sundays so as a result they miss Church services. However, the positive side of this is whenever there is a Church fund- raising the workers do contribute."

Mrs Moe said Moorea has been blessed by nature with beautiful trees and flowers. The island has five main districts with a population of 7,000. Out of that, 3.8 are women. The government has arranged and sold out half of the land to foreigners. As people of Moorea we are struggling against this because of the loss of our traditional land. Of course there is a lease of 60 years but even then what will be the future of our children and of ourselves because the land is our mother. Just as the land gives life so as we as women and mothers.

"We realise that as women, the land gives life so as we. We realise now that as people of Moorea we don't have any say even when we protest. We have fasted three times and other people have joined us for the same concern. We are still thinking of what will be the result of our action but it seems that nobody cares for that."

"We still acknowledge that land is important. It is our mother who gives us life and land belongs to God and not to men.



Beatrice Faun and Marama Faimano - Tahiti