



Challenging Robotic Warfare and Social Control: A Northwest Informational and Strategy Conference April 16-19, 2010 Riverside Community Church, 4th and State, Hood River, Oregon

The first conference ever organized to challenge robotic warfare and robotic social control technologies will be held from Friday evening April 16th through Monday morning April 19th, near Boeing's rapidly expanding Insitu military drone production complex, which will be the location of a concluding nonviolent witness action on the morning of April 19th.

Boeing's Insitu military drone aircraft, such as the ScanEagle, are designed to work as the robotic "eyes" of a system that includes missile delivery vehicles, such as the larger Predator and Reaper drones, which have killed hundreds of civilians near the Afghan-Pakistani frontier. Drones are now also being tested and deployed for domestic surveillance in rural and urban areas of the US.

The conference, titled "Challenging Robotic Warfare and Social Control," will explore what development of robotic technology means for both modern warfare and civilian social control. It will be held in the assembly and conference rooms of the Riverside Community Church at State and Fourth streets in downtown Hood River, in easy walking distance of restaurants and community gathering spots.

Friday and Saturday will be focused on educational presentations and discussion, while Sunday's events will concentrate on organizing a Northwest and national campaign to challenge robotic warfare in 2010 and beyond. The weekend will conclude on Monday morning with a nonviolent witness action at a nearby Boeing Insitu drone development factory for those who wish to participate.

The conference is being organized by the Columbia River Fellowship for Peace (CRFP) and the newly-formed national Alliance to Resist Robotic Warfare & Society (ARROWS). Its endorsers include, among others, Oregon Peaceworks, Physicians for Social Responsibility of both Oregon and Washington, veterans' groups, and Washington Peace Action.

Panelists, speakers and workshop leaders

Presenters and panelists at the conference will include:

- **Cindy Sheehan**, founder of Peace of the Action and Gold Star Families for Peace, whose son Casey was killed in Iraq;
- **Joe Roos**, co-founder and former Managing Editor/Publisher of *Sojourners* magazine, who currently serves as pastor of Pasadena Mennonite Church;
- **Dr. Marcy Darnovsky**, Associate Executive Director of the Center for Genetics and Society, which works to encourage responsible uses and effective governance of emerging technologies.

- **Dr. Tad McGeer**, founder and President of the Aerovel Corporation, a developer of miniature robotic aircraft, and founder of The Insitu Group;
- **Peter Lumsdaine**, lecturer and investigative reporter and a former Department of Energy contract researcher whose nonprofit work has taken him to the war zones of the Philippines, Iraq and Mexico; currently coordinating nationwide educational outreach for ARROWS, the Alliance to Resist Robotic Warfare and Society;
- **Susan Garrett Crowley**, retired Hood River attorney and mediator who initiated Gorge-area discussion of the ethics of Boeing/Insitu drone development;
- **Chuck Johnson**, Portland writer; former National Field Organizer for Physicians for Social Responsibility; former Executive Director of Nuclear Free America;
- **Tom Hastings**, Portland State University faculty member and Oregon Peace Institute board member); and
- **Terri Shofner**, ttrainer/facilitator for the U. S. Nonviolent Peaceforce Chapters Association.
- **Janet Essley**, muralist and Community Artist who leads collaborative art projects.
- **Katharine Ball** is co-curator of the SEA (Social Environmental Art) Change Gallery.
- CRFP coordinator **Trish Leighton** and Joe Roos will serve as co-facilitators of the conference sessions.

Endorsers

Conference endorsers at this time include Oregon Peaceworks, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Peace Action of Washington, Veterans for Justice, Veterans Against Torture, Greater Seattle Veterans for Peace (VFP 92), Squadron 13, Rural Organizing Project, Oregon Military Families Speak Out, Code Pink Portland, Vancouver for Peace, Goldendale Citizens for Peace, Whitefeather Peace House, and Recruiter Watch Portland.

Registration

To make this an economical and affordable event, the conference registration fee has been set at a very low sliding scale of only \$25 to \$65 per person. We do not want to turn anyone away for lack of funds, and therefore it is especially important for people who can make large, medium or small financial donations to the conference, in addition to their registration fee, help out in this way. Registration forms are now available at the website listed below.

Additional information

For more information, a registration form, or a downloadable poster on the conference, please visit WWW.ColumbiaRiverPeace.org, contact ResistRoboticWar@gmail.com or tierralinda@live.com; or call (509) 447-4250.