

What we can do:

We believe that war profiteers must be confronted, and their activities stopped or impeded. One year, we deployed a 'clown army' that blockaded the entrances to Te Papa, where the conference was being held. This action stopped day one of the conference and caused Te Papa to cancel further bookings for the conference.

This year we would like to organise activities to get in the way of those who want to make a profit from killing and destruction. For that, we will need lots of people. The conference is headed to a bigger venue this year - one owned by the Wellington City Council. We don't think there should be weapons conferences anywhere in the world, and it is particularly shameful that it is happening in the nuclear-free capital of nuclear-free New Zealand with a Mayor who is the Executive Leader of the international Mayors for Peace.

Peace Action Wellington (PAW) likes to approach issues with a combination of humour and an uncompromising commitment to peace with justice and self-determination.

We are grassroots and community-based, and everyone with a passion for these issues is welcome to become involved. We work on a consensus basis and aim to value the input of all participants.

We are not aligned to any political party or other organisation. PAW is an independent organisation with individual membership, and it also functions as a united front for groups opposed to unjust war.

We meet fortnightly on Wednesdays at 17 Tory Street at 6pm. Get in touch or just come along. We hope to see you then.

Peace Action Wellington
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or find us on Facebook



What you need to know about the 2015 Weapons Conference

17-18 November, TSB Arena, Wellington

What is the Weapons Conference:

Each year, Wellington is host to 200 of the world's largest weapons and arms manufacturers. Under the name 'the Defence Industry Conference' these companies come to town to meet and plan how to make money from war. The event has been going on annually for the past 18 years.

This year, the conference is being held at the TSB Arena on 17-18 November. The theme is *Defence Security and Industry—Expanding our Horizons and Strengthening the ANZAC Relationship*.

Chief sponsors include:

Lockheed Martin is the world's largest weapons manufacturer. It describes itself as a "global security and aerospace company ... principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration, and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products, and services". It specialises in military aircraft, missiles and munitions and operates nuclear weapons systems in the US and the UK. Lockheed Martin make Trident D-5 nuclear missiles.

Babcock (NZ) have a partnering relationship with the NZ Navy to manage the Devonport Dockyard and maintain the NZ navy fleet. Overseas they are involved in the maintenance and development of nuclear-armed submarines for the British Navy, including managing Britain's nuclear submarine bases in Scotland, such as the Trident submarine base in Faslane. They also have contracts for weapon handling and launching contracts of various nuclear vessels from other countries, for example South Korea.

CAE has contracts with the NZDF to provide "life-support and maintenance service" for helicopters purchased by the NZDF from Kaman Corporation. Overseas CAE has the contract to train operators for the USAF Predator and Reaper drones. They also have the contract for maintenance and operation of F35s in Canada (F35s are described as one of the most lethal nuclear weapon-capable planes currently available.)

GHD (formerly Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey) is a company "dedicated to understanding and helping our clients achieve their goals in the global markets of water, energy and resources, environment, property and buildings, and transportation." In Australia they have won contracts to clean-up nuclear-testing sites; a quick online search links them with the unsafe disposal of nuclear waste in Maralinga, the atomic bomb test site in Australia.

Thales helps "governments, security agencies and critical industries protect citizens and places, sensitive data and assets. ...areas of strengths include data-encryption and cyber-security, border protection and customs controls, CNI and major public event security." NZ Greens have pointed it out as a company "intimately involved in the manufacture of cluster bombs and nuclear weapons."

SafeAir is a wholly owned subsidiary of Air NZ and works with Kaman and Lockheed Martin. They refurbished Indonesian war planes at the time of Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. They have been involved in a range of military contracts in the past for assorted air forces, primarily those of NZ and Australia, and have done some work for the Israeli air force.

Weapons of war & military services:

War making isn't just about weapons. The private military services industry has grown substantially over the past two decades. One particularly high profile example was the Blackwater mercenaries who were sent into the Iraq war. Arms production was concentrated and specialised during the 1990s and included expansion into military services, as part of the move to privatise (or outsource) government services. Some NZDF jobs previously carried out by soldiers are now done by private contractors.

Many military service providers are providers of ordinary civilian services. Toll Holdings, the company that up until recently owned and ran our rail service, provides support to the US Navy. Serco, the company that runs the new private prison in Auckland, is involved in the management of nuclear weapons in the UK.