



Reaching Critical Will

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The Dirty Dozen

Alliant Techsystems and aerospace profiteering

ATK's background in both weapon systems and space systems has made it a successful subcontractor in the missile defense and space weapons industry. It helps that an ATK board member, Admiral David E. Jeremiah, US Navy (ret.), was part of Rumsfeld's commission on national security uses of space. This commission produced a document arguing the US should avoid international agreements that limit the deployment of weapons in space, and that the US needs to "develop the capability for power projection in, from, and through space."

1. Alliant's Scramjet propulsion technology, already used by NASA, is now used in Department of Defense projects such as the Hypersonic Cruise Vehicle. This aircraft is a reusable unmanned vehicle that can travel at hypersonic speeds. It is an integral part of the Force Application and Launch from Continental United States (FALCON) program's goal "to provide Prompt Global Strike capability to any location in the world in under two hours."

2. ATK also provides rocket motors for space launch vehicles, strategic missiles, global strike missiles, satellites, and missile defense interceptors. In 2006, ATK received a \$90 million contract to provide rocket motors to the Ground-based Missile Defense program. ATK was also selected to support a study of the Kinetic Energy Interceptor project for the US Missile Defense Agency. Kinetic Energy Interceptors are to be used in the US Ballistic Missile Defense System to take out enemy missiles en route. They also have potential applications as anti-satellite weapons. The US Navy gave Lockheed Martin and ATK \$9.2 million to develop a rocket launcher suitable for the Submarine-Launched Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile System. Lockheed Martin and ATK demonstrated their launcher for the US Navy in January 2007.

ATK's website proclaims, "ATK's rocket motors represent a national asset, offering an affordable and sustainable way to implement America's new space exploration initiative."

Affordable? The Department of Defense requested more than a billion dollars from the US budget for fiscal year 2008 to fund space weapon and missile defense projects.

Not to mention the sad irony that ATK's rocket motors are used to launch missiles and other weapons that will inevitably destroy space infrastructure and clutter space with debris, preventing the exploration of space.

This fact sheet was prepared by Ray Acheson of Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, in coordination with the Secure World Foundation.

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/corporate/dd/ddindex.html>