



Reaching Critical Will

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The Dirty Dozen

Northrop Grumman and aerospace profiteering

1. Northrop Grumman's missile defense contracts increased fivefold from \$104 million in 2001 to \$534 in 2004, largely due to its acquisition of TRW, a major missile defense and space contractor. Now one of the top four missile defense contractors, Northrop Grumman is a major player in the emerging space weapons industry.

2. In June 2003, Northrop Grumman became the prime contractor on the eight-year, \$4.5 billion Kinetic Energy Interceptor project for the US Missile Defense Agency. Kinetic Energy Interceptors are intended to be launched into space to take out enemy missiles by smashing into them. Kinetic Energy Interceptors also have potential applications as anti-satellite weapons, because the same technology is necessary for an attack on satellites. Northrop Grumman's work on the Space Based Laser Integrated Flight Experiment, cancelled in 2002, could also be applied to the design of satellites capable of destroying objects in space by crashing into them. This laser experiment was intended to consist of a single satellite carrying a laser and beam controls; it would theoretically have been able to target missiles from space, rather than from the ground.

3. Northrop Grumman has supplied the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)'s missile attack warning system with satellites and sensors since 1970. Now, Northrop Grumman is developing a sensor for the Missile Defense Agency's Space Tracking and Surveillance System. The sensor will detect possible hostile satellites, and relay data to missile interceptors. The 2002 contract is worth \$868.7 million. As prime contractor, Northrop Grumman is responsible not just for the sensor but also for two satellites and engineering support. Northrop Grumman has also developed sensors for the missile-tracking Space-Based Infrared System. The system consists of a constellation of satellites capable of tracking ballistic missiles throughout their flight course. It is designed to operate worldwide 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Northrop Grumman is responsible for the program's design, and integration with the Ballistic Missile Defense system.

4. Along with Boeing and Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman is a member of the Airborne Laser team selected by the US Air Force. The Airborne Laser is intended to destroy hostile missiles right as they are launched, before the warheads separate from the missile. Northrop Grumman's task is to design and develop the system's Chemical Oxygen Iodine Laser and the Beacon Illuminator Laser.

6. Northrop Grumman also contributes engineering and analysis to the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Fire Control/Communications System, which guides the interceptors to their targets. Meanwhile, for the Missile Defense Agency's Joint National Integration Center, Northrop Grumman handles modeling and simulation for testing components of the US missile defense system.

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>