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Pan-STARRS (Panoramic Survey Telescope & Rapid Response System) -- part of U.S. First-Strike Nuclear War Fighting

At the January 25, 2007 Scoping meeting held in Hilo for the Pan-STARRS Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Paul Kerwin representing the U.S. Air Force (A.F.) made a startling statement in the Q & A part of the program, but it went unrecognized as such by most present. Kerwin was asked what the Air Force will get out of the planned Pan STARRS telescope on Mauna Kea. His answer is recorded for the record as part of the scoping meeting. Kerwin said in part that the Pan STARRS telescope will photograph and provide data not only of asteroids but of SATELLITES. So what's the big deal.

The big deal is this. Satellites are military eyes in the sky. The ability to track and know the precise locations along with the ability to destroy those "eyes" is a key element of a blinding first strike nuclear attack. GPS (Global Positioning System) satellites are an example. GPS was a military development so that submarines could know their exact locations by getting a fix off the satellites in order to fire their missiles. Without the satellites the subs and many other weapon systems are blind. Satellites are no longer just the eyes either. More and more they have become the mouth, ears, and perhaps even the heart of modern war fighting capability. The ability to track and destroy satellites has become increasingly important for pre-emptive war fighting, which appears to be a U.S. specialty these days.

The American public has always been sold a bill of goods about so called "Star-Wars" being defensive in nature but that's simply been a disguise for developing a first-strike nuclear attack capability.

Haleakala on Maui presently has an Air Force satellite tracking station at the summit but it appears the Pan STARRS telescope on Mauna Kea would provide better and/or back up data. In any event, despite attempts by UH Institute for Astronomy director, Rolf Kudritzki, to disclaim military connections to the Pan STARRS project, the facts are that the A.F. is paying to build the telescope

and has complete access to all the data gathered. The UH is simply doing the work for the military.

Dr. Kudritzki, as a scientist of astronomy, knows, or should know, the role satellites play in war fighting and he knows (or should know) the value of this telescope to the military. He is being dishonest in not disclosing this role and value to the public as part of the EIS process.

It is especially disturbing because Dr. Kudritzki told me with pride at a prior NASA hearing that he had been a member of the Green Party which has a clear principled stance of peace and non-violence, certainly not a stance of being complicit with first-strike nuclear war plans. Dr. Kudritzki's Green colleagues would be very disappointed to know the role he is playing now.

Mauna Kea is sacred. Military related projects of any nature have no place there. What greater sacrilege can there be than to transform a sacred temple into a platform for launching a nuclear war and in turn to become a possible target of attack. The Pan-STARRS Air Force telescope must be stopped.