

# flunk the WAR MACHINE

# fact sheet

## hey, what's that nuclear bomb doing in the science lab?

or, *Why dedicating your brilliant young mind to science shouldn't have to mean dreaming up ways to kill people.*

**EVER WONDER WHERE OUR WARS COME FROM?** It's never just one thing--"just" a matter of international conflict, politics, or even defending ourselves. War is also driven by the **military-industrial complex**--large companies who profit from war by selling expensive weapons to the Pentagon. Currently, many powerful political figures (like Dick Cheney) have ties to these weapons contractors (like Halliburton). **S** These companies need a couple of different things to keep their stock prices up. **One:** They need wars. **Two:** Between wars, they need politicians who can be frightened (or financed) into spending nearly \$400 billion/year on defense (that's forty times what we spend on humanitarian assistance). **Three:** They need brilliant people to dream up new nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as conventional weapons. And they need a place to do this research. That's where you come in: Unlike many companies, weapons contractors get to do product development at American universities. This is the **military-industrial-academic complex**. **S** If you asked them what they'd most want their gifts and talents used for, the majority of students would probably **not** say "Blowing people up." But universities continue serve a critical purpose for weapons contractors, which only they can fulfill: providing access to bright young minds, research, and the legitimization of war and weapons as high and honorable pursuits. The Dept. of Defense has held close ties with America's universities since the creation of the atomic bomb at the end of WWII.

**CONTINUED ON THE BACK...**

I WANT YOU KIDS  
TO RIG ME UP SOME  
H A R D C O R E  
N U C L E A R  
W E A P O N R Y .



(Not Uncle Sam at his best.)

### POP QUIZ... Who said this?

"We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the **military-industrial complex**. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.... **Disarmament**, with mutual honor and confidence, is a continuing imperative."

- a) Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
(distinguished civil rights leader & peace activist)
- b) President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
(Republican President of the U.S., 1953-61)
- c) Some anonymous hippie radical

Answer: Surprise! It was Eisenhower. He saw it coming.

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## fact sheet: weapons contractors on campus

### quick stats



**\$1.2 billion**

The amount of university research funding that came from the Dept. of Defense (DoD) in 2003.

**58%**

The percentage of funds from the Office of Scientific Research and Development that was dealt out by the DoD. Compare to only 24% for health research and 2% for environmental research.

**68%**

Percentage of Computer Science funding that comes from the DoD.

**45%**

Percentage of Engineering Funding that comes from the DoD.

#### CONTINUED FROM OTHER SIDE...

**Why should you care?** Today, almost every major research institution in the US has science and engineering professors and students working on warfare technology. When university programs are funded by the Defense Dept., researchers must relinquish results to the military, putting science at the service of destruction instead of free inquiry or the benefit of humanity. **S** There are environmental and health risks, too, as in the case of Lawrence Livermore Labs in California, which distributed radioactive sewage sludge to the surrounding area. Like some plutonium with that glass of water?

### What can I do? How to find out if weapons contractors or the Dept. of Defense are funding research at your school

- 1 Check out your school's website for info on military funded research. Try these search terms: "DoD, DARPA, ONR, AFOSR, ARO, LLNL, LANL, Defense" etc. (acronyms for various labs and defense depts./projects). Surf the pages of researchers, professors, and labs at your university. Most often the funding agency will be listed somewhere on the page.
- 2 Use the National Science Foundation's (NSF) reports. The NSF Division of Science Resource Statistics website provides many search options to research a single institution or the nation as a whole. The website is [www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/stats.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/stats.htm). Of particular help are the "Academic Institutional Profiles" outlining the sources.
- 3 Go straight to the source. Every college and university has an office which oversees research and funding. The name varies: often it's called the Office of Sponsored Projects, Sponsored Projects Office, Office of Research Administration, etc.
- 4 Contact the organizations below to find out how to take further action.

#### WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFO

- \* Fiat Pax ("Let there be Peace") [www.FiatPax.net](http://www.FiatPax.net)
- \* Lawrence Livermore Watchdog group [www.TriValleyCARES.org](http://www.TriValleyCARES.org)
- \* The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation [www.napf.org](http://www.napf.org)
- \* University of Texas Watchdog group [www.UTwatch.org](http://www.UTwatch.org)
- \* Los Alamos Study Group [www.lasg.org](http://www.lasg.org)
- \* Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety [www.NuclearActive.org](http://www.NuclearActive.org)
- \* Nuclear Watch [www.NukeWatch.org](http://www.NukeWatch.org)
- \* Abolition 2000 [www.abolition2000.org](http://www.abolition2000.org)



## student peace action network

[WWW.STUDENTPEACEACTION.ORG](http://WWW.STUDENTPEACEACTION.ORG) email [span@peace-action.org](mailto:span@peace-action.org)  
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This fact sheet was created with the considerable help of Emily Hell from UC Berkeley, with additional facts and research from the organizations listed above.