

**Friends Committee on National Legislation  
& The Nuclear Calendar**

*First Day Program - October 16, 2016*

**The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** is a lobbying organization in the public interest, founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends. It was preceded by the Friends War Problems Committee, a three-year temporary lobbying organization against universal conscription. FCNL works for social and economic justice, peace, stewardship of the environment, and good government in the United States.

*"FCNL gets to the root of problems by changing the systems and policies that drive them. We believe that Congress has immense power to effect positive change. It's our job to make sure they use it."*

***The World We Seek***, FCNL's policy statement, sets forth broad objectives for public policy. The General Committee, revises and updates the statement periodically. Legislative priorities for each Congress are drawn from the policy statement. The process of amending the policy statement and the priorities involves individuals, meetings, churches, and other Friends groups across the country. The policy statement is composed of four parts:

*We Seek a World Free of War and the Threat of War.*

*We Seek a Society with Equity and Justice for All.*

*We Seek a Community Where Every Person's Potential May Be Fulfilled.*

*We Seek an Earth Restored.*

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**TAKE ACTION**

Selecting "*Action*" on the main FCNL menu is an easy first step to becoming a lobbyist. The ONLINE ACTION CENTER provides all the information needed to engage in the most urgent issues. Put in your zip code and the *Congressional Directory* will provide all the information you need to write a letter, send an email, or talk on the phone with your Congressional representatives about the issues that concern you. Or you can start by clicking on "*Issues*" to find what FCNL recommends for action.

The FCNL website provides all the resources you need to research the issues and to contact your members of Congress, by email, phone or by letter.

**(It's Easy)**

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**#LOVETHYNEIGHBOR**  
(NO EXCEPTIONS)



FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION » [FCNL.ORG](http://FCNL.ORG)

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## Nuclear Weapons

### *Advocacy for Disarmament and Nonproliferation*

#### **A World Free of Nuclear Weapons**

*“With the end of the Cold War, many dared hope that the scourge of nuclear weapons would be ended once and for all. Yet, today, more than two decades later, the drive to build nuclear weapons by some governments continues, energized in no small part by the policies of the U.S. Government.”*

#### **The Nuclear Calendar**

Then FCNL Nuclear Calendar is a *“list of national and international events related to nuclear weapons and proliferation issues.”* It is revised weekly, a recent update contained about 50 events over a period of less than a month. Following are a few examples from a recent calendar. (Subscribe on the website.)

Sept. 30-Oct. 6 -- The screening of the Movie **Command and Control**.

*“From the director of the groundbreaking film Food, Inc., and the executive producer of the Oscar-nominated film Last Days in Vietnam, comes Command and Control, the long-hidden story of a deadly accident at a Titan II missile complex in Damascus, Arkansas in 1980. ”*

Oct. 3 -- **International Atomic Energy Agency**, board of governors meeting. Vienna.

*“The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.”*

Oct. 4-Dec. 13 William Perry, former Defense Secretary. **“Living at the Nuclear Brink: Yesterday and Today.”** A free online course from Stanford University, with a distinguished course staff of 11 experts. The history of nuclear weapons is reviewed, the dilemma of nuclear policy discussed, new dangers identified (including nuclear terrorism). All of that and more in the 10 week course outline.

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## Nuclear Winter

"Nuclear winter (also known as atomic winter) is a hypothesized global climatic effect most often considered a potential threat following a countervalue (or city-targeted), nuclear war, as a result of city and natural wildfire firestorms. It is most frequently suggested to manifest as a result of the combined combustion pollution from the burning of at least 100 city sized areas at firestorm-intensity. The term was specifically coined to refer to computer model results where this smoke remained for years, or even decades, and caused massive planet-wide temperature drops ("winters") for as long as it remained.

"The climate models in the public domain suggest that the ignition of 100 firestorms, comparable in intensity to that observed in Hiroshima in 1945, would produce a "small" nuclear winter. The burning of these firestorms would result in the injection of soot (specifically black carbon) into the Earth's stratosphere, producing an anti-greenhouse effect that lowers the Earth's surface temperature. The models conclude that the cumulative products of 100 of these firestorms would unmistakably cool the global climate by approximately 1 °C (1.8 °F), largely eliminating the magnitude of anthropogenic global warming for two to three years. The authors speculate, but do not model, that this would have global agricultural losses as a consequence." **Wikipedia**

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## The Doomsday Clock



*The Bulletin was founded in 1945 by Manhattan Project scientists who “could not remain aloof to the consequences of their work.” The organization's early years chronicled the dawn of the nuclear age and the birth of the scientists’ movement, as told by the men and women who built the atomic bomb and then lobbied with both technical and humanist arguments for its abolition.*

The Doomsday Clock is a design that warns people of the danger of some of our technologies and how close we are to the brink of destruction. The clock first appeared on the cover of The Bulletin in 1947 when it became a magazine. The initial clock was set to seven minutes to midnight, since then it has changed 21 times. The most recent change was in 2015 when it was changed from five minutes to midnight to three.

The Bulletin has been a reliable source of information concerning the dangers of nuclear weapons for nearly as long as such weapons have existed. Their website reveal the nuclear world from unusual perspectives like the article, “*Putin: The one-man show the West doesn’t understand.*” “*The nuclear Google*” provides a list of Google searches to “*for citizens and journalists to school themselves before the 2016 US presidential elections.*”

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### *Military /Warnings of Uncontrollable Escalation /Accidental Nuclear War*

*"What would you do if you suddenly were facing a gigantic Pearl Harbor? This thing isn't academic... I am talking about things you would have to do in 2 minutes, that is all."*

Dwight Eisenhower [President of the United States]\_Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Dwight D. Eisenhower 1954\_(1954) at 324, 57.



*"I do not see how one could deny this - that it would be unreasonable to constantly brandish the threat of nuclear retaliation and at the same time to assume it would never be necessary to carry it out. The war for which one prepares so as not to have to fight it, though sometimes called 'impossible', is possible just the same. If it were indeed physically or morally impossible, deterrence would cease to operate." Raymond Aron\_ The Great Debate\_ 1965, at 52-53.*

These are the first two quotations in a 45-page compilation of similar statements of world leaders and nuclear experts. From the earliest days of the Atomic Age through 2002. The full document is available at the website listed at the end of this document.

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## Attack Geometry

In the spring of 1960 I talked to an Air Force recruiter. He promised me a job in "Intelligence." I hadn't a clue what Intelligence was in the Air Force, but found what the word usually means to be appealing. I spent the 4th of July at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. By the time I finished basic training I was told that there were no jobs available in intelligence and that I was being assigned to electronics training at Lowry AFB, Aurora, CO, to become a Weapons Control Mechanic .

For about five months we studied the basics of electronics, then we turned to the weapons system that we would maintain. The MG-13 FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM (F-101B ACFT) was made airborne by the F-101B 'Voodoo' fighter interceptor, which carried two infrared missiles and two atomic rockets. The mission of the F101-B was to destroy attacking bombers, most likely of Soviet origin. In this training we were introduced to **Attack Geometry**. We wrote formulas with Greek letters. Delta ( $\Delta$ ) was used to mean difference,  $\Delta t$  (difference in time) was subtracted as a countdown to launch function. Like an hourglass time runs out one  $\Delta t$  at a time.

In 1961 I was stationed at Hamilton AFB in Marin County California, just north of San Francisco. In 1955 I had lived on a Kansas farm, without electricity or running water; now I was working on the radar and computers of an aircraft that carried nuclear weapons.

## The Cuban Missile Crisis

In October of 1962 all of our weapons were loaded, including the atomic rockets. President Kennedy addressed the nation about the missiles in Cuba. In the radar shop the teletype printed out a DEFCON (defense condition) alert, something I'd not seen before. Then a bit later another, DEFCON 3. The old timers told me that DEFCON 2 means war and that DEFCON 1 means nuclear war. They thought it would likely be a war and that nukes might be used. We went on 12 hour shifts.



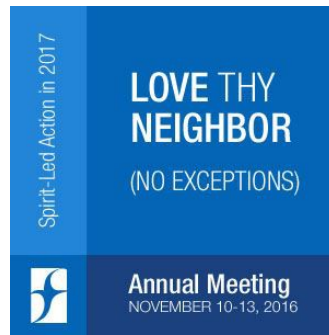
With the aircraft on alert and not flying the radar and computers were not in use and did not break. We had no work and time to think. I've had 50 years to think about it. My conclusion is that our nuclear strategy of mutual assured destruction (MAD) is just what the acronym says. All weapons systems have some form of Attack Geometry. Over time aircraft and missiles have become faster and more diverse, distances have been reduced by the use of submarines and cruise missiles. This reduces the time in the equations for decision making. There have been close calls, but so far we have been lucky.

Go to [www.helencorson.org/fcnl/](http://www.helencorson.org/fcnl/) for a web version of this program.

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**FCNL Annual Meeting**  
November 10-13, 2016



**SPIRIT LED ACTION IN 2017**

*Where will you be two days after the November elections?*

*In an election season where insults, vitriol, and polarization feed the media, the FCNL community engages with a listening ear and an inquisitive heart. Although this practice may be challenging in 2016, our Quaker faith gives us the courage to #LoveThyNeighbor. The results of our nonpartisan advocacy in the public interest help move us toward the world we seek.*

*Join hundreds of Quakers and friends from around the country in Washington, DC for four days of advocacy, conversation, and worship. In a critical moment of transition for our federal government, our time together in community and discernment opens us to the “fresh incursion of the Spirit.”*

*We’ll lobby together; we’ll learn what Friends across the country ask of us; we’ll lean in to the possibilities for our persistent, prophetic, and powerful advocacy. All are welcome.*

**BRINGING SENTENCING REFORM TO THE FINISH LINE**

*Our Annual Meeting will kick off a month long lobbying effort to make sure bi-partisan sentencing reform legislation is passed by Congress and sent to the president. On November 10, we will go into Congressional offices in Washington to urge lawmakers to #UnlockJustice.*

*We will ask congressional offices to support legislation to reduce several lengthy mandatory minimum sentences, give judges more discretion, and lower the population in federal prisons. You can see exactly what we will be asking of Senate members [here](#).*

*We’ll also request meetings with members of Congress in their home state or district on December 10 to make sure Congress finishes the job in 2016.*

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**Donate to FCNL** Your contribution to FCNL supports their lobbying and is not tax deductible. Gifts to their Education Fund are.

Friends Committee on National Legislation  
245 Second St, NE, Washington, DC 20002  
202-547-6000 800-630-1330 (Toll Free)