



Oct. 14, 2022

Dear Senator King,

Peace Action Maine and allies recognize two existential threats: **Nuclear Proliferation** and **Global Warming**. October 16th marks 60 years since the start of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Right now is **the closest the world has been to a nuclear war** since then.

In joining the **Defuse Nuclear War Action Days** of Oct 14-16, we entreat Maine's Members of Congress to devote serious efforts to help revive negotiations for nuclear-weapons treaties and disarmament measures. Our asks (which reflect our support for ME PSR's Beyond the Brink work) are:

- End the Policy of "First Use"
- Rejoin Nuclear-Weapons Treaties the U.S. has left
- Take U.S. Nuclear Weapons Off Hair-Trigger Alert
- Get rid of ICBMs (land-based nuclear missiles)
- Support Congressional Action to Avert Nuclear War
- Move the Money to Human Needs, Not War

Nuclear proliferation impacts our environment/Climate in many ways and because the Pentagon is the world's largest single greenhouse gas emitter, we celebrate the 2022 US Peace Prize just awarded to **Costs of War**. The new book *"The Pentagon, Climate Change, and War"*, authored by Professor Crawford (Costs of War) points out that it's not too late to break the link between national security and fossil fuel consumption. With COP27 in a few weeks, as the U.S. military acknowledges and adapts to human-caused climate change, it resists reporting its own greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your consideration,
The Peace Action Maine Team and friends
Martha Spiess
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The Pentagon, Climate Change, and War

Charting the Rise and Fall of U.S. Military Emissions, a book by Neta Crawford (with Costs of War)

How the Pentagon became the world's largest single greenhouse gas emitter and why it's not too late to break the link between national security and fossil fuel consumption.

The military has for years (unlike many politicians) acknowledged that climate change is real, creating conditions so extreme that some military officials fear future climate wars. At the same time, the U.S. Department of Defense—military forces and DOD agencies—is the largest single energy consumer in the United States and the world's largest institutional greenhouse gas emitter. In this eye-opening book, Neta Crawford traces the U.S. military's growing consumption of energy and calls for a reconceptualization of foreign policy and military doctrine. Only such a rethinking, she argues, will break the link between national security and fossil fuels.

The Pentagon, Climate Change, and War shows how the U.S. economy and military together have created a deep and long-term cycle of economic growth, fossil fuel use, and dependency. This cycle has shaped U.S. military doctrine and, over the past fifty years, has driven the mission to protect access to Persian Gulf oil. Crawford shows that even as the U.S. military acknowledged and adapted to human-caused climate change, it resisted reporting its own greenhouse gas emissions.

Examining the idea of climate change as a “threat multiplier” in national security, she argues that the United States faces more risk from climate change than from lost access to Persian Gulf oil—or from most military conflicts. The most effective way to cut military emissions, Crawford suggests provocatively, is to rethink U.S. grand strategy, which would enable the United States to reduce the size and operations of the military.

Costs of War Awarded 2022 US Peace Prize

Prize awarded for crucial research to shed light on the human, environmental, economic, social and political costs of U.S. wars

On September 30, Costs of War received the 2022 US Peace Memorial Foundation's [US Peace Prize](#) for “Crucial Research to Shed Light on the Human, Environmental, Economic, Social, and Political Costs of U.S. Wars.” This award belongs to the wider community of Costs of War researchers, educators, and supporters and is an opportunity to celebrate our collective accomplishments.

US Peace Memorial Foundation Chair Michael Knox presented the prize at a workshop held at Watson Institute at Brown University. “The research and scholarly publications generated by Costs of War’s faculty and staff provide accurate data that can truly impact our public and foreign policy,” said Knox. “Your outreach to the media, lawmakers, and educators helps to build momentum towards reversing the entrenched patterns of U.S. militarism.”

Upon receiving the Prize, Costs of War’s Co-Directors, Drs. Neta C. Crawford, Catherine Lutz, and Stephanie Savell issued the following statement: “On behalf of our global network of over 50 scholars and experts, we’re thrilled to receive the US Peace Prize for the Costs of War and deeply honored to be included amongst the other exemplary awardees. This prize is a testament to the tireless hard work and creative vision of so many people, from the scholars who share their findings with the public to the many people who build Costs of War’s impact from behind the scenes; all of us share a passion for working against militarism.”



Past recipients of the Prize have included World BEYOND War, Christine Ahn, Ajamu Baraka, David Swanson, Ann Wright, Veterans For Peace, Kathy Kelly, CODEPINK Women for Peace, Chelsea Manning, Medea Benjamin, Noam Chomsky, Dennis Kucinich, and Cindy Sheehan.