



This series of bulletins explores many aspects of the global arms trade, including its participants, its promotion, its victims, and some of the lessons of history. The information is very relevant to Canberra and its identity. Despite very welcome recent additions to the advertisements at Canberra Airport that promote some positive features of our beautiful city, significant weapons advertisements remain

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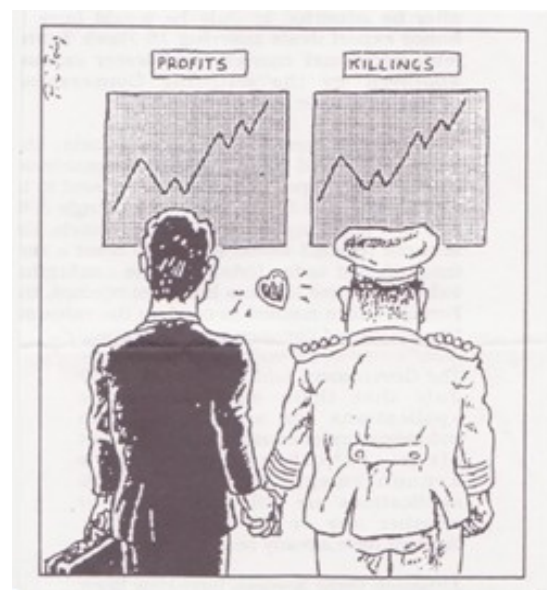
US election result.....good news for the weapons industry

Within 24 hours of the election on November 8 of Donald Trump as the next US President, stocks in US weapons companies rose. Defence One [reported](#) that on the morning of November 9 stocks belonging to the makers of ships, fighter jets, tanks and armoured vehicles were all up: Lockheed Martin by 4.8 %, Northrop Grumman by 5.2%, Raytheon by 6.2%, and so the list goes on.

While he has since [criticised](#) the inflated costs of some items such as the Lockheed Martin F-35, and sent stocks falling again, Trump's promise to "rebuild our depleted military" (had anyone noticed that it was depleted?) is expected to lead to significant increases in US military spending, which is currently around \$600 billion annually.

In 2011 the US Congress introduced the Budget Control Act, which placed caps on the federal budget for a decade, to 2021. The Pentagon wanted military spending exempt from the caps, but their efforts failed; the caps apply to all federal spending. William Hartung of the Centre for International Policy, [reports](#) that a network called the Sustainable Defense Task Force helped to reduce Pentagon budgets by hundreds of billions of dollars over the past five years by outlining possible major cuts in the Pentagon's 10-year defence plan that did not undermine security.

However Trump has called for repealing of the Budget Control Act, and for major increases in all arms of the US military. Forbes' writer Loren Thompson (who discloses financial links with weapons makers) outlined the president-elect's plans in an [article](#) "For the Defense Industry, Trump's Win Means Happy Days Are Here Again". While acknowledging that Trump's plans for massive tax cuts, and other factors, may limit weapons increases, Thompson states that some items are certain to go ahead. These include updating the US nuclear arsenal – its missile-carrying submarines, land-based missiles, and long-range bombers - in line with plans announced by President Obama.



As Trump stated frequently on the campaign trail that US allies should pay an increased share for collective “security”, his policies will probably boost exports of planes such as the Lockheed-Martin F-35 and Boeing’s P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, advertisements for which have featured recently in Australian media.

Regardless of the election result, the US weapons industry was likely to emerge as a winner. Hilary Clinton’s penchant for military interventions in the Middle East for starters would have stood the industry in good stead.

In this bleak landscape, Hartung [offers](#) a note of possible optimism: “One thing, however, does stand in the way of Trump’s current plans: reality. How in the world will Trump pay for his ambitious military, “security,” and infrastructure plans.....all against the backdrop of a [tax plan](#) that would cut trillions in taxes for the wealthiest Americans? The only possible way to do this would be to drown the country in red ink.”

Hartung continues: “If we can persuade people that diplomacy accomplishes more than force in terms of making the world a safer place, another pillar of the argument for high Pentagon spending will be removed.”

As in the US, the strong focus in Australia on increasing military spending has made us less secure rather than more so.

And for those companies that make soon-to-be-illegal nuclear weapons...

ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, welcomes the release of the 2016 edition of the report Don’t Bank on the Bomb by the Dutch Peace Organisation Pax.

The report, in its [Hall of Fame](#), lists financial institutions in Australia and elsewhere that have comprehensive policies prohibiting investment in nuclear weapons producers. They are responding to the growing stigma against these weapons, and are prepared for the legal implications of a ban on nuclear weapons that will be negotiated at the UN in 2017.

Don’t Bank on the Bomb also lists many of the companies that produce nuclear weapons, including companies that have advertised (or whose parent company has) at our national capital airport:

- * **BAE Systems** (UK)
- * **Lockheed Martin** (USA)
- * **Northrop Grumman** (USA)
- * **Raytheon** (USA)
- * **Thales** (France)

The report is available [here](#), and you can watch a short video about it [here](#).

A nuclear weapons ban treaty is coming. Canberra airport, and other places that accept advertising or sponsorship from the makers of these worst of all weapons of mass destruction, will need to decide whether they wish to continue promoting companies that produce illegal products that incinerate cities.

The No Airport Arms Ads campaign was formed because weapons advertisements are inappropriate at a major gateway to our national capital. They help to normalise warfare by presenting sanitised images of weaponry, and they sell short our city by presenting it as a place focussed on preparing for war. New advertising panels in mid-2016 celebrating Canberra’s 100% renewable energy target and our excellent educational institutions are extremely welcome. However significant weapons ads remain, and we look forward to their replacement also by more welcoming signage. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NoAirportArmsAds/>

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