



Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peace flotilla to visit waterfront of Trident nuclear submarine base in Hood Canal on July 27, 2024

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Local activists will stage a **water-based nonviolent protest and witness for peace in Hood Canal at the Trident nuclear submarine base. Peace activists will travel along the Bangor waterfront where nuclear warheads and Trident missiles are loaded onto submarines and where submarines are resupplied for ballistic missile patrols in the Pacific Ocean.**

The witness for peace at the nuclear submarine base marks the 79th commemoration of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

What: Peace activists at nuclear submarine base waterfront. This is the third year since 2016 for the demonstration, called “Boats by Bangor.”

When: Saturday, July 27, around 9:30 am, kayaks enter Hood Canal south of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor at King Spit. Sailboats will come from various locations.

Where: Sailboats and kayaks will travel along the entire length of the waterfront of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, including the Delta Pier and the two Explosives Handling Wharves at Bangor where Trident submarines are maintained and nuclear warheads and Trident D-5 missiles are loaded upon submarines. Participants will not be risking arrest in Hood Canal.



The peace flotilla, titled “Boats by Bangor”, will include the original peace ship, the [Golden Rule](#), that set sail in 1958 to the South Pacific to stop nuclear bomb testing in the atmosphere. A **National Project of Veterans for Peace**, the *Golden Rule* continues to inspire many peacemakers and peace ships around the world.

The flotilla is part of a continuing effort by activists to lift the veil of [secrecy](#) involving nuclear weapons in Puget Sound.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor employs **the largest concentration of deployed [nuclear weapons](#) in the U.S.** and is the home port for 8 of the Navy’s 14 Trident nuclear powered submarines. More than 1,000

nuclear warheads are deployed on Trident [D-5 missiles](#) on [SSBN submarines](#) based at Bangor or stored at Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) at the Bangor submarine base.

One Trident SSBN submarine at Bangor is estimated to carry about 90 nuclear warheads. The [W76 and W88 warheads](#) at Bangor are equal respectively to 100 kilotons and 455 kilotons of TNT in destructive force. One submarine deployed at Bangor is equal to more than 1,400 Hiroshima sized nuclear bombs.

The nuclear warheads at SWFPAC and on submarines based at Bangor have the combined explosive power equivalent to more than 14,000 Hiroshima bombs.

Hood Canal is tightly controlled by the Navy with multiple [easements](#) from State agencies that restrict access and development near the submarine base, and with a series of federally established [security](#) zones that are enforced by Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel. Participants in the flotilla do not intend to enter the federally designated exclusion zone around the Bangor waterfront.

On March 11, 2016, the 10th bi-annual [Nuclear Deterrent Symposium](#) was held in Silverdale to discuss the future of U.S. strategic forces. Rear Adm. Charles Richard criticized opposition to the Navy's [\\$100 billion](#) plan for [12 new replacement SSBN](#) submarines, proclaiming, "*It's a matter of priorities.*" The new SSBNs would replace the submarines at Bangor. Rear Adm. Richards noted that the USS Ohio arrived at Bangor in 1982 to much protest, and stated, "*We have taken that [nuclear weapons] out of the national psyche.*"

The U.S. is currently spending more on [nuclear weapons](#) programs than during the height of the Cold War.

The U.S. currently plans to spend an estimated [\\$1 trillion dollars](#) over 30 years for rebuilding the nation's nuclear facilities and modernizing nuclear weapons.

The New York Times reported that the U. S., Russia and China are aggressively pursuing a new generation of smaller and less destructive nuclear weapons. The buildups threaten to revive a [Cold War-era arms race](#) and unsettle the balance of power among nations.

On May 27, 2016, [President Obama](#) spoke in Hiroshima and called for an end to nuclear weapons. He said that the nuclear powers "*...must have the courage to escape the logic of fear, and pursue a world without them.*" Obama added, "*We must change our mindset about war itself.*"

On July 30, 2016, the [mayors](#) of Hiroshima and Nagasaki sent a letter to the U.S. Embassy in Japan asking U.S. President Obama to step up his nuclear disarmament efforts.

The [Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action](#) was founded in 1977. The center is on 3.8 acres adjoining the Trident submarine base at Bangor, Washington. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action offers the opportunity to explore the roots of violence and injustice in our world and to experience the transforming power of love through nonviolent direct action. **We resist all nuclear weapons, especially the Trident ballistic missile system.**

Please see attached map and navigation chart for Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.